

# Scotland's Democracy Trail

*This short bibliography reflects the books which I've found most useful in devising the tour. All of them are available for loan or for reference from Central Library, Edinburgh Public Libraries, George IV Bridge.*

**Jean Bareham, Greenyonder Tours**



## Useful Reading

### General

*Scotland's Democracy Trail* by Stuart McHardy and Donald Smith, Luath Press, 2014.

*Calton Hill: journeys and evocations exploring the history and folklore of Edinburgh's Hill of Light* by Stuart McHardy and Donald Smith, Luath Press, 2013.

*Road to Referendum* by Iain Macwhirter, Cargo Publishing, 2013 A handy, popular general history of democracy in Scotland up to the eve of the Independence Referendum.

*Disunited Kingdom: How Westminster won a referendum but lost Scotland* by Iain Macwhirter, Cargo Publishing, 2014 A short, thoughtful consideration of the build up to, and the aftermath of Scotland's Independence Referendum in September 2014.

### Topics

*Sir David Lyndsay's A satire of the three estates*, by Corbett, John, 1959-; Association for Scottish Literary Studies, 2009. One of the Scotnotes series of study guides to Scottish literature.

*A History of the Scottish Theatre* ed by Bill Findlay, Edinburgh University Press, 1998.

*John Knox, Democrat*, by Roderick Graham, Robert Hale, 2001.

*Popular Disturbances in Scotland 1780 - 1815* by Kenneth J Logue, John Donald, 1979.

*The Scottish Enlightenment: the Scots' invention of the modern world* by Arthur Henman, Fourth Estate, 2002.

*The Liberty Tree: the stirring story of Thomas Muir and Scotland's first fight for democracy*, by Murray Armstrong, Word Power Books, 2014.

*A Guid Cause: the women's suffrage movement in Scotland* by Leah Leneman, Mercat Press, 1991.

*A Petrol Scented Spring* by Ajay Close, Sandstone Press, 2015 A novel about the force-feeding of Arabella Scott and other suffragettes in Perth Prison.

### AND ON THE WEB ....

Several online services which keep you up-to-date with debate in Scotland:

<http://bellacaledonia.org.uk>

<https://commons.scot>

<https://weeingerdug.wordpress.com>

<http://wingsoverscotland.com>



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## A Short Timeline



**1320** The Declaration of Arbroath asserted that kingship in Scotland was conditional on the monarch performing his or her duties.

**1554** The poet David Lyndsay's *Ane Satyre of the Thrie Estaitis* is performed in Edinburgh on Calton Hill to an audience of all classes including the Queen Regent. The play suggests that all three 'Estaitis' - the clergy, aristocracy and merchants - need reforming to respond to the needs of ordinary people. The play was banned during the Reformation and was not performed in public again until 1948.

**1560** The 'Reformation Parliament' formally legislated for the break with Rome. The Scottish Reformation, John Knox (c1513 - 72), responded to European ideas and local corruption in the Church, overthrew Catholicism and introduced Presbyterianism into Scotland.

**1603** Union of the Crowns. James VI (James I of England) and the Scots court move to London.

**1638** The National Covenant is signed throughout Scotland, calling for resistance against the imposition of essentially English religious practices.

**1639 - 51** Religious and political disputes in Scotland, England and Ireland. 'The killing times' in Scotland.

**1690** Student Thomas Aikenhead was the last person in Britain to be hanged for blasphemy. In the same year, an education act establishes a school in every Scottish parish not already equipped with one.

**1707** Union of the Scottish and English Parliaments.

**1715** First Jacobite Rising fails to restore the exiled James VII.

**1729** Frances Hutcheson becomes Chair of Moral Philosophy at Glasgow University. Considered a precursor to the Scottish Enlightenment.

**1745 - 6** Further unsuccessful Jacobite Uprising led by Prince Charles Edward Stuart, or 'Bonnie Prince Charlie'.

**c1750 - c1800** Scottish Enlightenment. Intellectual giants including Adam Smith and David Hume make Scotland a centre of rational thought in Europe.

**1790s** Radical ideas spread in Scotland, England and Ireland, inspired by the ideas of Thomas Paine and the French and American Revolutions.

**1792** The Convention of the Societies of the Friends of the People meets in Edinburgh to agree action for electoral reform. Civil disorder throughout Scotland in July (the King's Birthday riots) as well as planting the Tree of Liberty.

**1793** Show trials of the Scottish Radical Martyrs and others for sedition. Thomas Muir and four others sentenced to 14 years transportation to Botany Bay. The authorities, led by Henry Dundas, clamp down viciously on dissent.

**1800 onwards** Expansion of the British Empire. Mass emigration from Scotland. Highland Clearances.

**1832 - 4** Passage of Reform Acts by Westminster end blatant corruption in elections and marginally extend the franchise.

**1848** Chartist riots demanding further electoral reform.

**1893** Keir Hardie elected as first socialist MP.

**1949** The Scottish Covenant. Two million Scots sign this petition for Home Rule.

**1979** Referendum for a Scottish Assembly. Although there is a 'Yes' majority of those who voted, the result is vetoed by a Labour MP amendment that 40% of the full electorate must support it.

**1979** Margaret Thatcher's Conservative government comes to power. The Conservative party goes on to win the next four elections, with decreasing support in Scotland.

**1989** The Scottish Constitutional Convention formed, bringing together politicians, churches, voluntary organisations and community groups to discuss proposals for a Scottish Parliament.

**1992** Conservatives win general election with no Conservative MPs returned in Scotland. Vigil for a Scottish Parliament founded on Calton Hill.

**1995** Scottish Constitutional Convention publishes its blueprint for a Scottish Parliament.

**1997** Labour wins general election. Referendum for a Scottish Parliament: Scotland votes Yes for a Parliament (74%), and Yes for minor tax-raising powers (64%). Turnout 60%.

**1999** First election of the Scottish Parliament which meets in the Church of Scotland General Assembly Hall on the Mound.

**2004** Opening of the Scottish Parliament building.

**2007** SNP form minority government at Holyrood.

**2011** SNP form majority government at Holyrood.

**2014** Independence Referendum asks 'Should Scotland be an independent country?' Scotland votes No by 55% to 45% Yes. Turnout 85%. 16 and 17 year olds given the vote for the first time.

**2015** UK General Election: Scotland elects 56 SNP MPs, one Conservative, one Labour and one Liberal Democrat. The Conservatives win an outright majority over the rest of the UK.

**2016** Scottish Parliament election. SNP returned with a reduced majority. 16 and 17 year olds given the vote for the first time in a Scottish general election.

**2016** UK referendum votes to leave the European Union. Leave win by 52% to 48%. In Scotland 62% vote to Remain.



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