



Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society

Young Researcher Competition



Background of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society (DGNHAS)

- Please don't be put off by our name – it reflects the language of the Nineteenth Century when we were founded (1862). We are also known as '**D&G Heritage**'
- We are a group of people interested in and committed to the archaeology, history and natural history (wildlife, ecology and landscape) of South-West Scotland
- We hold lectures and organise outings for our members. We also publish the prestigious journal **Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society** each year
- We care about our future and want to encourage a new generation of young people who share our interests
- With this in mind, we have, for the last two years, organised a Young Researcher Competition
- We'd like to encourage **you** to enter this competition



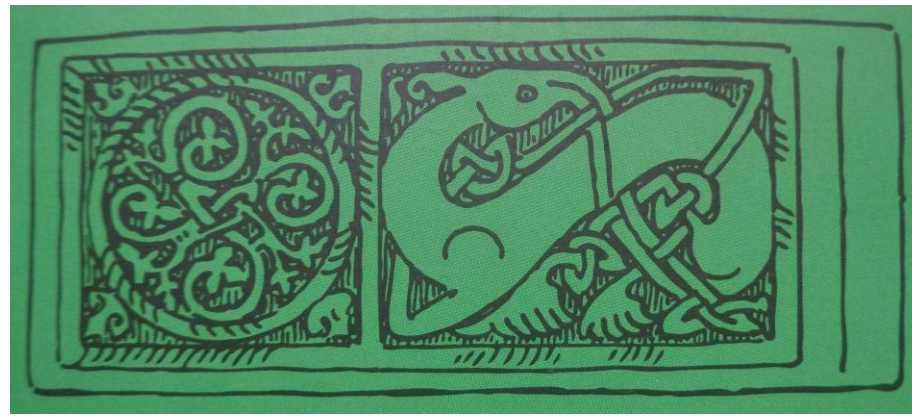
What we offer you!

- The winning essay will be awarded a **£250 prize**
- The winning essay will be posted on the Society's website which can be used as research by people all over the world
- All entries of merit** will receive a **certificate of achievement** and expert feedback from the Society's panel of assessors, to help you improve your skills
- You could include your participation in your personal statements for University applications. This could be valuable with University Admissions staff looking out for additional evidence beyond examination grades of a student's enterprise and achievement
- Researching and writing your essay will help you develop skills of value to you in your future academic career
- We hope you will develop a life-long interest in the area in which you live



What we want from you

- You need to **register with the Society** an interest, including proposing a subject that you'd like to research and write about
- Your topic should deal with an aspect of the history or natural history of South-West Scotland
- The winning essays in the last two years have dealt with:
 - (a) the story behind a death mask on display in Dumfries Museum
 - (b) the story behind a ruined cottage in the village where the student lives
- Other entries have looked at such varied topics as a cholera outbreak in Nineteenth-Century Dumfries and the problems of beekeeping in South-West Scotland
- You might find it possible to write an essay that in some way relates to your project work for Higher Examinations, eg a local study growing out of a broader historical / natural history project
- You will need to submit an original essay based on your own research (1,500-2,500 words) by the end of **October 2025**. We hope that this timetable will enable you to seek advice from a relevant teacher, carry out preliminary work during the summer holiday, write the essay during the autumn half term and discuss any loose ends with your teacher before submitting the essay.



Contact and Further Details

The Society's website has full details of the competition including the registration form and terms & conditions

<https://dgnhas.org.uk/>