



# CAIRT

Issue 17  
July 2010

*Newsletter of the Scottish Maps Forum*

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### SCOTTISH MAPS FORUM

The Forum was initiated by the National Library of Scotland in January 2002:

- ♦ To stimulate and to encourage multi-disciplinary map use, study and research, particularly relating to Scottish maps and mapmakers
- ♦ To disseminate information on Scottish maps and map collections
- ♦ To record information on maps and mapmaking, particularly in a Scottish context
- ♦ To liaise with other groups and individuals with map related interests
- ♦ To build on, and to continue, the work of Project Pont

### CAIRT

The newsletter is issued twice a year. "Cairt" is Gaelic & 17<sup>th</sup> century Scots for map.

For further information, or to be added to the mailing list, please contact:

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## Pont maps commemorated and on display

We are delighted to report that this summer, the Pont manuscript maps have been formally added to the UNESCO *Memory of the World* Register, in recognition of their unique cultural significance, and the importance of preserving them in the long-term. Partly in commemoration of this, during July and August, selected original Pont manuscript maps will be exhibited in the treasures display in George IV Bridge.

As many will know, the Pont maps represent the earliest detailed cartographic survey of Scotland, and are one of the Library's greatest historical and geographical treasures. Their author, Timothy Pont, was the second son of a prominent churchman, and he became minister for the parish of Dunnet in Caithness from 1601. For motives that are still debated, Pont undertook the first comprehensive survey of Scotland, sometime after his graduation from St Andrews in 1583, and before his death, sometime before 1614. Pont's maps and texts provide a magnificent cartographic delineation of late 16<sup>th</sup> century Scotland, her regions and their distinctive features. Pont's work formed the substantial basis for the first Atlas of Scotland, Joan Blaeu's *Theatrum orbis terrarum sive atlas novus* (Vol. V) of 1654.

The maps will be on display from **5 July - 29 August 2010** in the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh.

Monday to Friday: 10.00-20.00

Saturday: 10.00-17.00

Sunday: 14.00-17.00

UNESCO Memory of the World: <http://www.unesco.org/webworld/mdm/>



**Above:** Adv.MS.70.2.9 (Pont 33). "Renfrewshire" (detail)

**Top right:** Adv.MS.70.2.9 (Gordon 23). "Pont's map of Elgin and northeast Moray" (detail)

**Above right:** Adv.MS.70.2.9 (Pont 13). "Loch Eil and Loch Leven" (detail)

## A swing through time – NLS summer exhibition

The main NLS summer exhibition this year focuses on the history of golf in Scotland, and features several maps. Original items on display include John Geddy's bird's-eye view of St Andrews in the 1580s, maps of Gleneagles and environs in the 1820s, as well as an early 20th century photograph and fixture cards from John Bartholomew & Co's staff Golf Club.



The exhibition runs from  
**18 June - 14 November 2010**

Monday to Friday: 10.00-20.00  
Saturday: 10.00-17.00  
Sunday: 14.00-17.00

Further information can be found at:  
[www.nls.uk/exhibitions/golf/index.html](http://www.nls.uk/exhibitions/golf/index.html)

*Left: W & AK Johnston Ltd. "The Heart of Scotland – Gleneagles" 1925*

## Move of the NLS Map reading room

We are pleased to announce that our reading room will be moving later this year. It is hoped that the new room will open on Tuesday 21 September 2010. Confirmation of the date will be given closer to the time. We will remain in the same building, but move one floor down, to street level. The public entrance will move round the corner to Causewayside.

### **The move offers a number of advantages:**

As the new reading room will be at street level, we will have a fully accessible reading room – you will no longer need to climb stairs to reach us. The new entrance is very much brighter and airier than the current one, giving, we hope, a more welcoming feel. There will be seating areas in the entrance foyer where users can relax and we also hope to provide a hot drinks machine!



*The future Map Library foyer in Phase 2 of the Causewayside Building*

The move will also allow us to update the design of the new room more in line with 21<sup>st</sup> century needs. In particular, we will provide better computer access for users, making our digital maps more accessible. The move has also prompted us to review which materials are available in the reading room to meet current user needs. We will be reorganising our reference material following customer feedback.

### **Why the move?**

We are very keen to offer a more accessible and welcoming reading room, which we hope to achieve by the move. In the National Library of Scotland, there is always a need for more storage space and the move will allow the old reading room to be turned into a storage area, with rolling stacks for our ever growing collection.

### **Disruption to Map Services**

It is only the reading room that will be moving downstairs; most of our maps and other materials will remain in their current location. This will reduce the time needed to complete the move, and the level of upheaval to our services. While the move is underway, however, there may be some disruption and we would encourage you to contact us or check the NLS website for updates.

We look forward to welcoming you to the new reading room.

**Andrea Massey**

## Visualising Urban Geographies

This collaborative project between the University of Edinburgh and NLS map collection has gone very well, and we are now planning the final six months of work towards completion in December 2010.

The main aim of the project has been to create a website of easy-to-use tools relating to the history of cities by bringing together historical maps with historical data through open source applications.

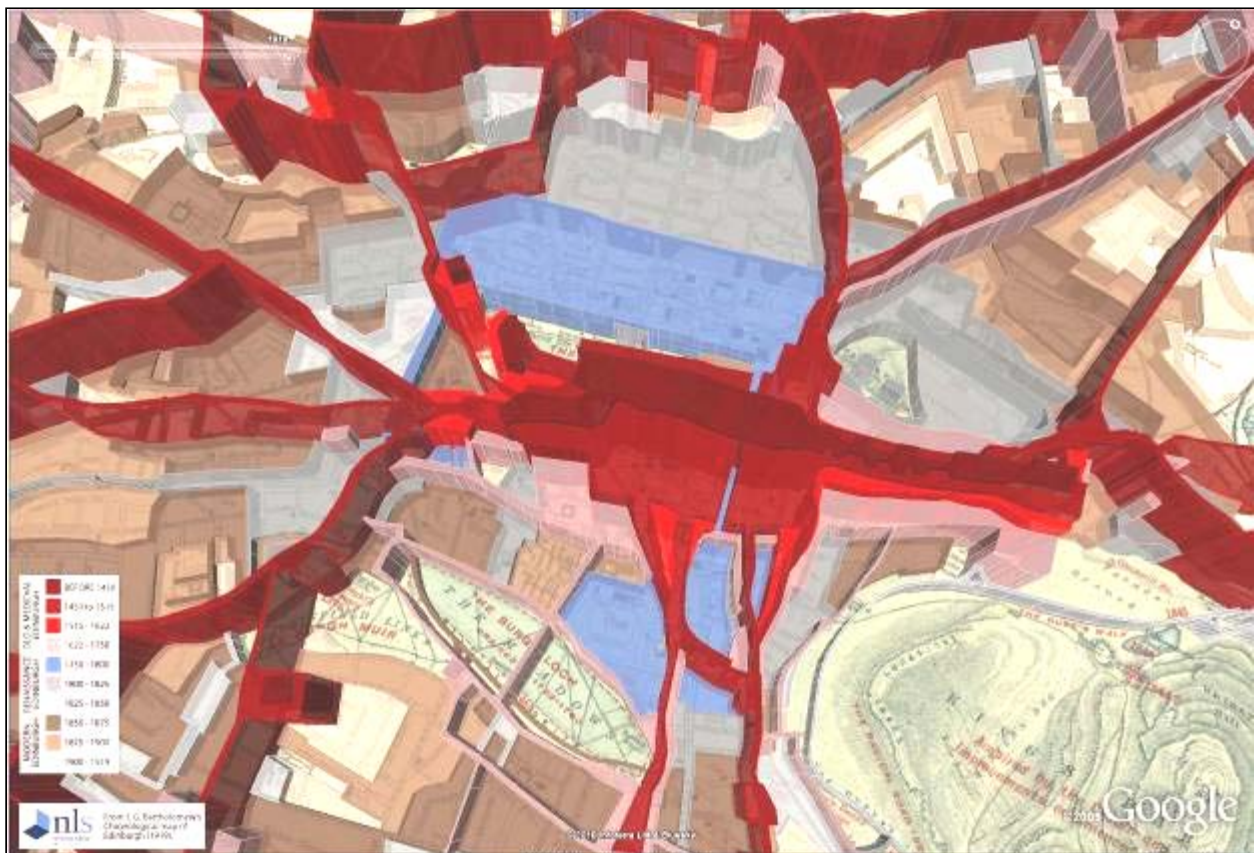
Sixteen of the most detailed maps of Edinburgh, dating between 1765 and 1950, have been geo-referenced and made available as Google map overlays. Boundaries of registration and sanitary districts and wards have also been captured, along with related census and statistical information. Through using open source tools such as the *Thematic Mapping Engine*, dynamic and striking choropleth maps can be easily created from this data, and presented upon relevant historical maps of the city.

Additional tools for geo-referencing maps, and for geo-coding address data are also in preparation, allowing other maps to be included, and versatile dot distribution maps to be quickly created by following simple workflows.

*Visualising Urban Geographies* is already linking with and supporting other projects on Edinburgh's early maps, including *AddressingHistory* (see over the page) and the *Edinburgh Historic Town Atlas* project. However, the aim is to apply the benefits of the project more broadly. Edinburgh's maps and resources are intended as an exemplar, and the tools and techniques will be applicable to any other city. Before December we hope to complete work on the tools, and to publicise them at a number of meetings and seminars.

**Richard Rodger, Stuart Nicol (University of Edinburgh) and Chris Fleet**

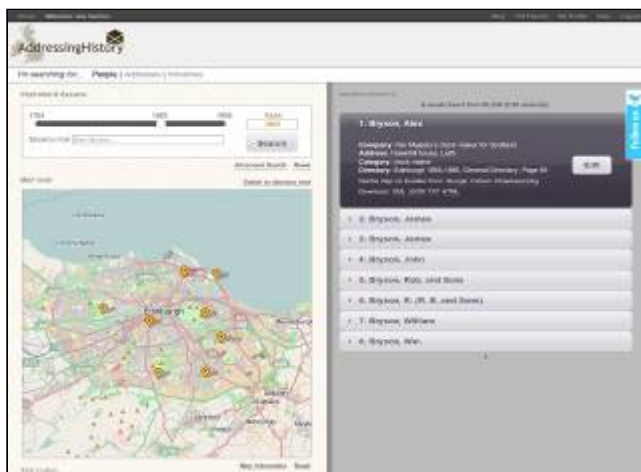
View maps and tools under *Examples* at: <http://geo.nls.uk/urbhist>



This shows JG Bartholomew's famous "*Chronological Map of the City of Edinburgh...*" (1919) as an overlay within Google Earth. Following the geo-referencing of the original map, the boundaries of each colour zone were traced and the resulting layer can now be dynamically presented with a range of different styles and backdrops, allowing new ways of visualising the expansion of Edinburgh over time.

## AddressingHistory - maps, people, and Post Office Directories

A new collaborative project between the National Library of Scotland and EDINA (a National Data Centre delivering web services to the Higher and Further Education community) has received funding from JISC. The *AddressingHistory* project (running between April and September 2010) will create an online tool which will enable a broad spectrum of users (particularly local history groups and genealogists), to combine data from digitised historical Scottish Post Office Directories with contemporaneous historical maps.



The aim is to facilitate the development of engaging ways to discover the history of the city through people, professions, addresses and maps. The work takes advantage of the current NLS and Internet Archive mass digitisation of Scottish Post Office Directories, and the Library's geo-referenced historical street mapping.

Crowd-sourcing through the *AddressingHistory* tool will, it is envisioned, lead to a fully geo-coded version of the digitised directories thus providing significant added-value to the general public, local historians and specialist researchers across multiple disciplines.

The website will present and encourage interaction with pilot user interfaces and tools, using a set of three directories and maps for Edinburgh - 1784-85, 1865-66, and 1905-06. However the technologies demonstrated will be scalable to the full collection of digitised materials which include 400 directories and associated maps covering the whole of Scotland.

Chris Fleet

<http://addressinghistory.blogs.edina.ac.uk/>

## New Great Britain historical map mashup application

A new map website application, launched in May, allows anyone to include geo-referenced maps of Great Britain in their own websites. This collaborative application has been developed with Petr Pridal of Klokan Technologies GmbH. Sets of Ordnance Survey mapping relating to Scotland, England and Wales, dating from the 1920s to 1940s, have been seamed together and geo-referenced, so that they overlay directly at the right location. The maps have been made available under a Creative Commons Attribution License, allowing free use and adaptation of the mapping, provided it is attributed to the Library. This new way of making available our digital collections takes advantage of Web 2.0 technologies, allowing our material to be embedded in external websites, which automatically display the NLS logo and link to the NLS website.

The maps can be used for many purposes – they can be integrated with other mapping, used for research purposes, used as a backdrop for bespoke markers or mapping data, or used to create other derivative maps (such as OpenStreetMap).

The application will also run on many mobile devices, including the iPhone, iPad or Google Android based phones. The web page provides simple instructions for how to embed the mapping in websites, and use it with the most popular free web-mapping services, including Google, Bing, and Openlayers.

Chris Fleet

<http://geo.nls.uk/maps/api/>



## New Acquisitions

### Unique and unrecorded: a new “Coasting Pilot” arrives!

A previously unknown sea atlas has just arrived in the Map Collection. It was found in a market in France and identified by the enterprising map dealer as the precursor of a unique atlas already in the Collection. The atlas, in an unprepossessing brown leather binding, is a collection of sea charts by John Thornton, hydrographer, a chart maker of the Thames school working out of London in the 1690s. Sea charts and pilots guides were working documents and have a poor survival rate, so the discovery was especially serendipitous.

As well as a dozen charts of the North Sea area, the atlas or “Coasting pilot” includes the earliest known typesetting of the “Description of the east coast from Barwick to Bokkanais...” by John Marr, mariner of Dundee, who wrote Scotland’s first, and desperately needed, instruction book for navigation “Navigation in coasting: or a seaman’s instructor”.

Most trade at the time was by coasting vessels and it became clear that the existing charts, much copied from older Dutch charts, were outmoded. Sailing with an out of date chart is a dangerous business, when one big storm can radically change the sand banks and shoals around the coast. Indeed Marr is perhaps better known for just such a shipping hazard – “Marr bank” at the mouth of the Tay.

The coasting pilot already in NLS was produced by John’s son Samuel Thornton, who is not known for his originality, usually just altering his father’s copper plates to include his own name. It was not a great leap to imagine that John must have produced a collection of charts before him, but it could not be proved. Little did we expect the atlas to come to light, or indeed become available to add to the Collection. Even more exciting was the inclusion of Marr’s description as well as a rare printed sea chart of the east coast possibly based on a survey by Marr.



**Above:** Part of “A Chart of the east coast of Scotland” by John Thornton, ca. 1690.

There are a number of Dutch sea charts attributed to Marr’s survey as well as Grenville Collins’ chart of the approaches to Dundee, dedicated to the magistrates of the city of Aberdeen and with the attribution “the sea coast from Fiffnesse to Montros was surveyed by Mr. Mar, an ingenious marriner of Dundee”.

We are indebted to the watchful dealer for making this unique work available to us.

**Paula Williams**

### Recent map publications

Duncan, Jeremy, ‘The Early Maps of Perth, 1715 to 1902’, *Journal of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science* XVIII (2010), 10-62.

This excellent, fully illustrated carto-bibliography of the mapping of Perth fully updates the earlier work of Thomas McLaren and Kenneth MacAlpine. Copies of the Journal can be obtained from The Secretary, Perthshire Society of Natural Science, c/o Perth Museum and Art Gallery, George Street, PERTH, PH1 5LB, by sending a cheque for £9.00 (£7.50 for the Journal, plus £1.50 postage and packing) made payable to “PSNS”.

Ewart, Gordon and Dennis Gallacher, ‘The fortifications of Fort George, Ardersier, near Inverness: archaeological investigations 1990–2005’, *Post-Medieval Archaeology* 44/1 (2010), 105–134.

Waterston, Charles D., ‘Archibald Rutherford (1743-c.1779), Land Surveyor and Artist: His Life and Connexions – Part One’, *The Scottish Genealogist* LVII (June 2010), 55-63

## Bartholomew Archive Project Update

Since the last Bartholomew update in **Issue 14** (January 2009), the Bartholomew Archive Project has continued to go from strength to strength and we are pleased to be able to report a number of new developments.

We are delighted that we have just received confirmation from the John R. Murray Charitable Trust of a further three years of funding, giving the project a new end date of November 2013. The funding will continue to be divided between the cataloguing and preservation of the Printing Record but also allows for new conservation work to begin on the Maps and Plans section too. To date, thanks to John R. Murray Charitable Trust funding we have conserved 90 Printing Record volumes covering 1877-1939 and catalogued 40 volumes covering 1877-1906. We are extremely grateful to the John R. Murray Charitable Trust for its continued and ongoing support.

In related news, the Printing Record search interface has now gone live and can be found via the Bartholomew website ([www.nls.uk/bartholomew](http://www.nls.uk/bartholomew)). Although still at the early stages of development, it enables access to the 11,000 items which have been catalogued to date.



The screenshot shows the 'The Bartholomew Archive' website. At the top left is a logo with two stylized leaves. The title 'The Bartholomew Archive' is in the center, with the NLS logo on the right. Below the title is a search form titled 'Search the Bartholomew Printing Record'. The form includes a search box, a 'Submit' button, and several input fields: 'Place', 'Start Year', 'End Year', 'Creator', 'Title', and 'Format'. A 'SELECT' dropdown menu is next to the 'Format' field. To the left of the search form is a navigation menu with links: Home, Background, Contents & access, Highlights, Family and firm, All projects, Resources, and Visit / contact. Below the search form, there is a small note: 'Images available from the Library of Scotland 2008' and 'National Library of Scotland, www.nls.uk | NLS Map Library'.

The interface allows searches to be constructed in a number of ways including place, publisher, format, title and date, or a combination of these. Often the records are for sheet maps, or maps within volumes which have not been catalogued by any other library.

The Bartholomew Archive has enjoyed its fair share of publicity in 2010. At the beginning of the year, RSGS magazine *The Geographer* ran an article on the Bartholomew Archive as part of its 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations. In March, BBC Radio 4's series *On the Map*, presented by 'map addict' Mike Parker, included interviews about the Archive, and the latest issue of *History Scotland* (July/August 2010) is running a small piece on Sir Harry H. Johnston's map *Black, White & Yellow British Africa*.

We are also extremely excited by the launch of the Bartholomew Oral History Project, in collaboration with Professor Sian Reynolds from the Scottish Working People's History Trust and publisher Collins Geo. The project aims to produce an authoritative book focusing on the personal stories of cartographic production at John Bartholomew & Co. Ltd. We hope to begin interviewing in August and whilst a number of former employees have already expressed an interest we are very keen to hear from anyone who has not already done so.

The interviews will be quite informal and will include a display of material from the Archive. We will, of course also provide refreshments. Please be assured that nothing will be put into the book that has not been approved and all names will be anonymised, unless agreed otherwise. We are interested in all perspectives, from all departments and the more diverse the interviewees the better the finished product will be. If you are a former employee and are interested in sharing your experiences, or know someone that you think might be, please contact Karla Baker or Chris Fleet at the Map Library - contact details on the front page.

**Karla Baker**

### Map research

We are very pleased to report that Carolyn Anderson was successfully awarded her Ph.D in March for her research on the Board of Ordnance military maps of Scotland. We hope to incorporate her union carto-bibliography of military mapping of Scotland in the 18th century onto the NLS website soon.

Julie McDougall and Amy Prior have now spent nine months actively researching the Bartholomew Archive, and have successfully completed the first year of their Ph.D programme with the University of Edinburgh. Under a broad theme examining the construction and representation of the British Empire, Julie is focusing on educational atlases and publications, whilst Amy is focusing on the 'imperial' and 'colonial' mapping of Africa for domestic audiences in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

## Forthcoming Talks & Events

### Public talks

**2 August, 10.30am** – Lauriston Castle - *Maps, plans and views of Edinburgh, Lauriston and environs over five centuries*, by Chris Fleet

Further details under Lauriston Lectures 2010: [www.edinburgh.gov.uk/](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/)

**11 September, am** – Perth Concert Hall - *Perth on the map – a cartographic voyage through time*, by Chris Fleet Part 2 of the Perth: a Place in History conference to celebrate Perth800

Further details: [www.pkc.gov.uk/](http://www.pkc.gov.uk/)

**14 September, 2pm** – Inverness Public Library - *Mapping the Highlands from the earliest times to the present day*, by Chris Fleet. Part of NLS Roadshow to Inverness

### Views of a nation - *The Times Atlas of Britain* launch event

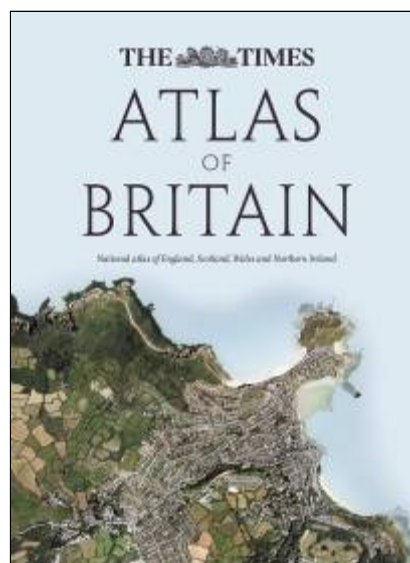
**28 September, 6pm** - George IV Bridge

We have been very happy to work with HarperCollins this year in supplying images of county maps and towns from a century ago for their forthcoming *Times Atlas of Britain*. To commemorate this publication, Mike Parker (author of *Map Addict*) and Mick Ashworth (consultant editor to *Times Atlases*) will be revealing the history behind national atlases, explaining what they are and looking at the latest version to be published. The talk will be followed by drinks, a chance to view copies of the Atlas, and talk to those involved in its production.

Further details at: <http://www.nls.uk/events/>

The talk and launch event is free, but please book your place at:

<https://auth.nls.uk/events/>



## Map Collections user survey

During December 2009, a detailed survey of Map Library users was undertaken by the external market research agency, Scotinform. There was an excellent response to this with 1005 questionnaires completed in less than a month. This has allowed us gather information on satisfaction levels, users, and services. We would like to thank everyone who took part.

The general feedback was extremely positive: 96% of users were 'very' or 'quite satisfied' with using the map collections, and 94% said that the map collections were 'an important part of Scotland's history and heritage'. Unprompted remarks were also very supportive: "The quality of service which the Map Library staff are able to give is never dumbed down. There is nothing like it in Scotland: it is quite exceptional". We are very grateful for the many complimentary responses.

A number of useful suggestions and constructive criticisms were received on the services provided by the Map Library, which have all been carefully noted.

How is the National Library of Scotland responding to these? We received several useful suggestions of items to be digitised, and will consider these for future digitisation projects. Comments on the ease of use, navigation and viewing of maps will inform the development of our website.

Respondents were strongly in favour of the current drop-in admission system, and we will continue to welcome anyone to visit the Map Library without prior appointment. When you contact us with an enquiry, we aim to respond as quickly as possible, and will always try to help you meet a deadline.

Finally, many respondents said that they would like to receive online information from the National Library of Scotland. If you would like to receive the NLS e-mail news bulletin, our quarterly magazine *Discover NLS*, or be added to the NLS events mailing list, please let us know.

Laragh Quinney

## NLS shop - map items for sale

The National Library of Scotland shop now stocks a selection of map-related items. There are various map posters and postcards, as well as a selection of greetings cards based on adverts and posters taken from the Bartholomew Archive.

Posters presently for sale include John Thomson's views of mountains and rivers of Scotland from his Atlas of Scotland, both of which are proving to be very popular, as well as various maps of Scotland and views of Edinburgh, Glasgow and St Andrews. Map stock is changed periodically so do call in (or telephone 0131 623 3700) to see what is available.



If you are unable to visit the shop, printouts of these maps, or any of the maps on our website ([www.nls.uk/maps](http://www.nls.uk/maps)) can be ordered through the Map Library – please contact us for more information.

The NLS shop is in the main entrance hall of the George IV Bridge Building.

**Opening hours:**

Monday to Friday: 09.00-20.30; Saturday: 09.00-17.00; Sunday: 14.00-17.00

Jenny Parkerson

### Would you prefer to receive Cairt by e-mail?

Some of our readers have asked if it would be possible to receive Cairt only in an electronic format, in order to save paper and postage costs. Indeed it is, and past and present versions of Cairt can all be read as PDFs with pictures in glorious technicolor at: <http://www.nls.uk/collections/maps/subjectinfo/cairt.html>. If you would prefer to be notified by e-mail when the new edition of Cairt is out, and to stop receiving it on paper, please just drop us a line through the contact details on the front page, remembering to include your email address!

### Wordsearch

HarperCollins have kindly donated a couple of extra copies of their "Times Concise Atlas of the World", in lieu of permission fees.

If you would like to be the recipient of this fine world atlas - and have a few moments to spare in idle contemplation of the jumble of letters to the right - just send us a list of as many names of Scottish cartographers as you can find in the box (there are 20 names hidden).

Please send us your answers (along with your name/address) by **30 September**. Those who have spotted the most names will be entered into a draw and a winner picked at random.

Our address and contact details are on the front page.

**Good luck!**

C	L	V	A	K	I	T	C	H	I	N	O	U	A	H	N
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