St Andrews University Community Heritage Conference

**Abstract**

The Cateran Ecomuseum is an outstanding new cultural destination in Scotland’s Tay Country.

A museum without walls set in the beautiful and dramatic landscapes of Cateran Country, all of the Ecomuseum sites are outside. Designed to reveal the hidden history of Cateran Country by the community who live here, it tells the story of its people, places and landscapes from pre-history to the present day. Situated on the 500-million-year-old Highland Boundary Fault – the great geological feature that divides the Scottish Highlands from the Lowlands – the Cateran Ecomuseum’s human history stretches back through 6 millennia with sites identified from Neolithic times. There are Pictish Stones to excite your curiosity, unknown stories from the legends of King Arthur and the Irish Giant Finn mac Cumhaill, contemporary histories of the Scottish Traveller Community, important events linked to the great Jacobite rebellions and fables of the Caterans themselves, the Highland clan warriors who came to be associated with cattle raiding.

You can discover the history of Scotland’s Berry Capital, Blairgowrie, and visit the site of its Victorian Textile Mills, walk a part of the Highland Boundary Fault in Alyth and enjoy its well preserved old town centre. A hike along the Cateran Trail, one of Scotland’s great long distance footpaths will take you across magical Glenshee to the small villages of Kirkmichael and Glenisla, offering you spectacular views through huge landscapes sculpted by glaciation and traversed by old drove roads and ancient rights of way.

You can visit and enjoy Ecomuseum sites through a series of itineraries that have been locally designed for walkers, cyclists and those visiting by car, visit [www.cateranecomuseum.co.uk](http://www.cateranecomuseum.co.uk) to find out more.

Clare will speak about the genesis of the Cateran Ecomuseum and what has been achieved during its pilot phase as well as outlining plans for the next stage of its development as Scotland’s first ‘Museum of Rapid Transition’.

**Biography**

Clare has worked in the field of arts and culture for almost 40 years in a variety of roles. She currently described herself as an independent producer, most recently co-producing [Cateran’s Common Wealth](https://commonculture.org.uk/) and the new [Cateran Ecomuseum](https://www.cateranecomuseum.co.uk/). With her sister, she also operates businesses in two other domains, tourism and public health. She is a member of the Local Action group for the Perth & Kinross European LEADER programme and the new Perth & Kinross Rural Economic Development Board which has been set up as a legacy of the LEADER programme. She was born in Tanzania and lived there until the early 1980’s.