

## 2021 SVBWG Conference report

*Niall Logan*

For a second year, on account of Covid-19, the SVBWG Conference and AGM were held by Zoom. Following the success of last year's conference, 'Working from Home in the Vernacular Period', with speakers from around the UK, it was decided to take full advantage of the online format and have an international conference. Papers from that conference would then be published in *Vernacular Building* in 2022, coinciding with the SVBWG's 50th anniversary. The theme chosen was 'The Scottish Diaspora', to focus on some of the places where Scots settled overseas and the kinds of buildings in which they would have lived and worked. Hugely instrumental in fulfilling this ambition were the ideas of Geoffrey Stell, and it was his enthusiasm that drove the conference's organisation. Speakers were sought from around the world – inasmuch as time-zone constraints would allow – and it was decided that invited papers in *VB* would cover those parts of the world that could not be represented in the Conference. The event was held in the evening of Tuesday 9 November 2021, with over 50 registrants, and contributors speaking from Scotland, Sweden and the USA: 'From mud hut to White House; the Baldernock-Roosevelt connection' by Niall Logan (SVBWG); 'The Stockholm Scots: the architectural heritage of an early modern diasporic community' by Steve Murdoch (University of the Highlands and Islands, but speaking from Stockholm); 'Some port towns of the southern Baltic' by Kathrin Zickermann (University of the Highlands and Islands); and 'The relocation of an early 18th-century colonial house in New Jersey' by John Chambers, Karen Kelley and Steven Golisano (Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society). The talks were followed by a question-and-answer session. Dorothy Kidd hosted the meeting and Niall Logan chaired; it occurred to the latter on the night that the whole concept was rather ambitious, but it went off remarkably smoothly.