

# A TOUCH OF GAS

The Newsletter of Glasgow Archaeological Society



Issue 85 – Spring 2020

Glasgow Archaeological Society, c/o Tho. & J.W. Barty, Solicitors, 61 High Street, Dunblane, FK15 0EH

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Glasgow-Archaeological-Society/106126069499502> click "like" to receive Society updates

@GlasgowArchSoc

There is now a Flickr account for members to download their photographs of Society events, moderated by Natasha Ferguson - <http://www.flickr.com/groups/gasmembers/>

Keep up to date with Society Activities on our website – [www.glasarchsoc.org.uk](http://www.glasarchsoc.org.uk)

## Annual General Meeting 2020

Members are reminded that the AGM will take place on

**Thursday 16th April 2020  
At 7:15pm (Note earlier time)**

This is your Society and your AGM gives you the opportunity to raise points that concern you or which you think will be of interest to the Society.

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Meeting of the AGM on Thursday 18th April 2019
3. Annual Report from the President, Dorothy Gormlie
4. Annual Report from the Treasurer, Stephen Stockdale
5. Election of Office Bearers and Council Members
6. A.O.C.B.

### *The Dalrymple Lecture Fund*

*Jointly with Glasgow University the Society administers The Dalrymple Lecture Fund, a generous bequest by James Dalrymple to finance a series of free public Lectures on European topics of historic and archaeological interest.*

*The first Lecture Series was delivered in 1907, and recent speakers have included, Dr Chris Stringer, Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe, Ian Hodder, Professor Mike Parker Pearson, Professor William Hanson and Professor Roger Stalley.*

*The Fund also generously supports the publication of the Scottish Archaeological Journal.*

### **The Dalrymple/Donaldson Fund**

In addition to the Dalrymple Lecture Fund, James Dalrymple left money in trust, later greatly augmented by Professor Gordon Donaldson, formerly Historiographer Royal, to provide funds to assist with the renovation and repair of buildings of historic or architectural importance.

Further details may be obtained from the Fund Secretary – Dr Anthony Lewis - [bletherer@hotmail.com](mailto:bletherer@hotmail.com).

Applications require to be submitted prior to commencement of works by 31 October in any year in which the awards are made.

## The Mystery of John P Gibson

At the end of the GAS outing to Hexham Abbey last year, the group I was with was asked by our guide Hugh if we knew anything about Mr John P Gibson of Battlehill, Hexham who he believed had been given Honorary membership of GAS in 1909. As archivist I said I would investigate, and it was relatively straightforward to confirm to Hugh that JP Gibson had indeed been given GAS Honorary Membership. As is usual in these cases, an initial question leads to follow-ups and Hugh asked me for further information:

*"Thank you very much indeed for taking the trouble to check on J P Gibson's association with the Glasgow Archaeological Society. I am delighted to hear that he was indeed an Honorary Member and that this was not some local exaggeration or mistake. It would be interesting to know why he was so honoured by your Society. JPG was a pharmacist, photographer, Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London, also curiously a freeman of the City of London. He was closely associated with Canon E Sydney Savage, the Rector, and Charles Clement Hodges, architect and antiquarian in the reordering of Hexham Abbey and the rebuilding of the nave to designs by Temple Moore. JPG's photographs are an important record of all that occurred from the late 19th century through until the Great War. He also wrote for Archaeologia Aeliana including a study of the Abbey's bells. He was described as 'late' by 1913 (but I hope we can be more precise about the date of his death). It is a bit confusing that his son, John, was also much involved with Hodges and Abbey and also a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London. His brother was the Great War poet, Wilfrid Wilson Gibson. The front of their shop survives with elaborate carvings by the same Belgian Great War refugee who carved the Abbey's font canopy. The interior of the shop was so spectacular that it was acquired for the Science Museum, London.*

*Much of their photograph collection is now in the Northumbrian Archives (formerly Country Record Office) at Woodhorn Colliery site between Newcastle and Morpeth. The photos, because so many were rescued by the heroic former Keeper, Robin Gard, are not well or comprehensively catalogued. It occurs to me, however, that the collection might include late Victorian photographs of Glasgow. If so, I suppose it is possible that the Honorary Membership could be related to photography. I will see if I can find anything.*

*It was great to meet you and the members of your group. Thank you again for your help.*

*Warmest good wishes from the Tyne valley*

*Hugh Dixon.*

*Chairman, Hexham Abbey Conservation Advisory Group"*

It was an interesting question, why would someone like JP Gibson be given honorary membership of GAS and it required a more detailed reading of the archives. Investigating further proved to be particularly interesting to me as it turned out that Gibson may well have been involved in the visit of the Newcastle Society to the Antonine Wall in 1908 and the subsequent return visit of GAS to Newcastle in 1909. As President in 2009 I had the privilege of welcoming our Newcastle contemporaries to the Antonine Wall in a centenary celebration of that first visit. David Breeze and I as Presidents of the respective organisations had the pleasure of cutting a celebratory cake!



I was therefore very pleased to be able to reply to Hugh with further information from our archives:

*"At a meeting of GAS Council in October 1908, it was noted that a visit of the Society of Antiquaries of*

Newcastle Upon Tyne to the Antonine Wall on Friday 10th April had been successful and the Societies resolved to exchange Journals. President George Neilson suggested the election of Mr J P Gibson of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle as an Honorary Member and the matter was continued for consideration till the next Council meeting. This took place on 21 December 1908 when the nomination was approved and it was resolved to recommend his election at the next meeting of the Society and to ask Mr Gibson to provide a paper. Mr Gibson wrote accepting the nomination on 21 January 1909 and subsequently gave a paper on "Recent Excavations in Northumberland on the line of Hadrian's Wall and Watling Street" (with 100 lantern illustrations) on 18 March 1909. In May of 1909 an invitation came from Newcastle for GAS members to take part in an excursion to the Roman Wall and Antiquities near Newcastle. During my Presidency of GAS (2006-2009) I arranged for a visit of the Newcastle Society members to the Antonine Wall to celebrate the Centenary of these earlier links.

It looks like Gibson was a senior figure in the Newcastle Society at the time of the visits and that may be why the honorary membership was given but Neilson wrote on the Solway and may have known Gibson for other work as well. Hopefully this has cleared up the little mystery you asked about when GAS visited the Abbey!"

Our archives are a wonderful resource for the Society but it was particularly pleasing to be able to help someone from another organisation solve a little mystery!

Jim Mearns February 2020

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## **Summer Excursions 2020**

### **First Summer Excursion - Saturday 13th June 2020**

On our first summer excursion members will visit **Arbroath Abbey**, the substantial remains of a Tironensian monastery, founded by William the Lion in 1178. After lunch we will head half a mile north of the town to St. Vigean. Here we will see the **St. Vigean Sculptured Stones**, a fine collection of thirty-two early Christian and Pictish stones which are housed in cottages in the village. Our last stop of the day will be **Edzell Castle**, located six miles north of Brechin. It is a remarkable and very beautiful complex with a late-medieval tower house incorporated into a 16th century courtyard mansion. We expect to be back in Glasgow by **8.30p.m.**

There will be two pick-up points for this excursion. The first will be **8:00 a.m.** from Milngavie Station. Our Allander Coach will then make its way to Glasgow University. The coach will leave from the foot of University Avenue (opposite the Boyd Orr Building) at **8:30a.m.**

**All sites visited on this excursion are under the guardianship of Historic Environment Scotland.**

**The cost for Historic Environment Scotland Members will be £23.  
The cost for non-members of HES £47 (adult) or £41 (concession).**

To: Ms. Margaret King, 1 Whittingehame Court, 1350 Great Western Road, Glasgow G12 0BG

**Saturday, 13th June 2020 – Arbroath Abbey, St. Vigean's and Edzell Castle**

Please reserve me .....seat(s) on this excursion at £23 each (HES Member)

Please reserve me .....seat(s) on this excursion at £47 each (non-HES Member - adult)

Please reserve me .....seat(s) on this excursion at £41 each (non-HES Member - Concession)

I enclose a cheque payable to Glasgow Archaeological Society for £\_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate where you wish to meet the coach:** Milngavie Station ☐  
Glasgow University ☐

From - Name ..... Phone No. ....  
Address.....

E-mail .....

**Please return by Monday, 1st June 2020**

## **Second Summer Excursion – Saturday, 29th August 2020**

Our first stop of the day will be **Blackness Castle**, a fortress on a promontory in the Forth estuary. Built in the 1440's it was massively strengthened in the 16th century. We will then make our way to the town of **Linlithgow** where an experienced and knowledgeable guide will take us on a walking tour of the historic town. After lunch we will travel to **The House of The Binns** in West Lothian, the seat of the Dalrymple family, which dates from the 17th century. We expect to be back in Glasgow for **7.30p.m.**

There will be two pick-up points for this excursion. The first will be **8:00 a.m.** from Milngavie Station. Our Allander Coach will then make its way to Glasgow University. The coach will leave from the foot of University Avenue (opposite the Boyd Orr Building) at **8:30a.m.**

The cost for GAS Members who have membership of Historic Environment Scotland AND The National Trust will be £22.

The cost for GAS Members who have membership of The National Trust ONLY will be £28 (adult) or £27 (concession).

The cost for GAS Members who have membership of Historic Environment Scotland ONLY will be £32.50.

The cost for GAS Members who are neither members of Historic Environment Scotland nor The National Trust will be £38.50 (adult) or £37.50 (concession).

To: Ms. Margaret King, 1 Whittingehame Court, 1350 Great Western Road, Glasgow G120BG

### **Saturday, 29th August 2020 – Blackness Castle, Linlithgow and The House of The Binns**

Please reserve me....seat(s) on this excursion at £22 each (**HES and N.T. Member**)

Please reserve me....seat (s) on this excursion at £28 each (**N.T. Member ONLY** - adult)

Please reserve me...seat(s) on this excursion at £27 each (**N.T. Member ONLY** - concession)

Please reserve me...seat(s) on this excursion at £32.50each (**HES Member ONLY** -adult/concession)

Please reserve me...seat(s) on this excursion at £38.50 each (**Non-member of NT and HES** – adult)

Please reserve me...seat(s) on this excursion at £37.50 each (**Non-member of NT and HES** – concession)

**Please indicate where you wish to meet the coach:**

Milngavie Station ☐

Glasgow University ☐

I enclose a cheque payable to Glasgow Archaeological Society for £\_\_\_\_\_

From - Name .....Phone No.....

Address.....

E-mail .....

**Please return by Saturday, 8th August 2020**

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## **SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL JOURNAL**

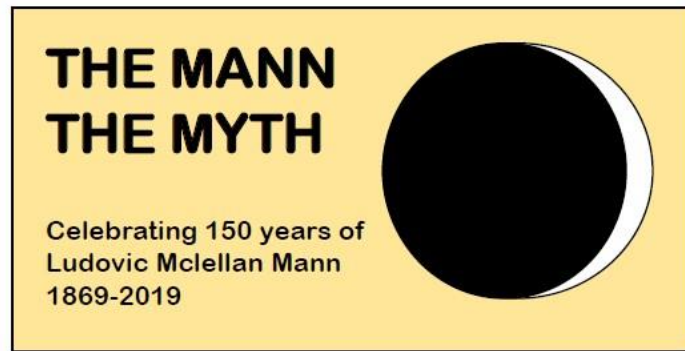
The latest edition of the Scottish Archaeological Journal is about to be published and if any member has not received it by the end of April they should contact the President.

Members are entitled to access back issues online from the Edinburgh University Press website. This requires an exclusive **Access Token** which has changed and the previous one is no longer valid. This facility is only available to members of Glasgow Archaeological Society, and can be obtained from the Membership Secretary.

GAS members are also entitled to discounts on EUP Publications – 20% on Books and 10% on Journal Subscriptions. Again a different **Access Token** is required is available from the Membership Secretary.

Margaret Gardiner, "Rigghead", Foulpapple Road, Newmilns, Ayrshire, KA16 9LB (01560-320022)  
[jimpy60@yahoo.com](mailto:jimpy60@yahoo.com).





## The Mann the Myth conference

A very successful day conference, sponsored by GAS and the archaeology department of the University of Glasgow, was held on Saturday 5th October 2019 in the Glasgow University Union debating chamber. We also benefited from support by the archaeology department student society, and Glasgow Life. The conference was organised to mark the 150th anniversary of the birth of Glasgow's great eccentric antiquarian and amateur archaeologist Ludovic Mclellan Mann (1869-1955). A controversial figure during his lifetime, Mann nonetheless carried out important (or at least popular) excavations, and for a time in the 1930s was president of GAS. This was a chance to explore a range of examples of his diverse interests and writing, and evaluate his legacy.

The conference was attended by almost 70 delegates, and they were treated to a day of fascinating talks about a wide range of aspects of the life and times of Ludovic Mann. This was kicked off by with an emotional and insightful talk by George Applebey, whose father of the same name was a friend and colleague of Mann. George was able to share personal memories of Mann, who he met as a child, as well as some of the other characters that worked with Ludovic. Following this Katinka Dalglish, of Glasgow Life, was able to share her broad knowledge of Mann's life and works, based on her own research of Mann's collections held at her museum and in other archives.

Throughout the rest of the day contributions covered an eclectic range of topics, as one would expect in relation to the research of Mann, from the supposed Covenanter jacket found in a peat bog at Cambusnethan, to prehistoric weights and measures. GAS archivist Jim Mearns explored Mann's work through newspaper clippings (of which thousands were produced). Other speakers addressed Mann as an early public archaeologist, and the original rescue archaeologist, and overlaps with the work of Harry Bell, another well-known character to GAS members, were touched on by several speakers. The yew trees and wee Celtic heids of the Clyde Valley were weaved into the Mann narrative, alongside an exploration of some rather weird Pictish symbols. The day ended with a touching performance of an original piece of writing about Mann by Gavin MacGregor, and a panel discussion on Mann's legacy chaired by Stuart Jeffrey.



**Stephen Mullen**



**Stuart Jeffrey**

All delegates who attended were given a one-off zine (a small hand-made comic) designed for the occasion, as well as the usual conference pack, with GAS members getting access at a reduced bargain price of £5. The conference organisers (Kenny Brophy, Katinka Dalglish, Jim Mearns) are at the time of writing starting the editing process to produce a special edition of GAS with papers from the conference and other Mann material, hopefully to be available by the end of 2020.

K Brophy

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions to future issues should be sent to the Newsletter Editor – Alan Gifford, 33 Crawford Avenue, Lenzie, G66 5HW (0141 578 1285) [alangifford@ntlworld.com](mailto:alangifford@ntlworld.com)

Contributions are published in good faith. Views expressed by individual contributors are not necessarily those of Glasgow Archaeological Society or its Council. It is assumed that Contributors have obtained all necessary consent from other parties or Organisations to whom reference is made.

Material can be supplied by "hard copy" but email attachment is preferred (Word) to save retyping! Photographs and drawings are welcome (png or jpg format).

## GENERAL COUNCIL 2019-20

President	Dorothy Gormlie, 20 Arthurlie Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, G78 2EL <a href="mailto:gormlie@ntlworld.com">gormlie@ntlworld.com</a>
Vice-President and Lecture Secretary	Kenneth Brophy
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Independent Examiners	Susan Hunter & Maureen Langford
Council Members	Helen Maxwell, Gavin Wilson, Stephen Harrison, Philip Toner
Correspondence	Direct Correspondence to the Appropriate Official via the Website or to the President

## Data Protection Act

Members are reminded of the Society's Policy under this Act.

Members' details are held electronically in computer and are used solely for administrative purposes of the Society. Details are not provided to any outside body other than Edinburgh University Press for the purpose of distribution of the Scottish Archaeological Journal.

Any member who wishes to exercise the right to have his or her name excluded from the database should contact Margaret Gardiner, the Membership Secretary

## Electronic Communication

It is our Policy to use E-mail communication where possible reminding members of the forthcoming lecture, other events of interest and to distribute *A Touch of GAS* and inform members of events that arise between issues.

We would urge members if possible to subscribe which can be done through the website. Council accepts that members may be either unable or unwilling to receive *E-Bulletins* (it is astonishing how quickly one's "Inbox" fills up!) and that is their right. We can assure members that they will not be disadvantaged by not subscribing inasmuch as they will continue to receive twice-yearly Newsletters.

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