

A TOUCH OF GAS


The Newsletter of Glasgow Archaeological Society




Issue 86 – Autumn 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

Lecture Programme 2020/21

15 th October	Kenny Brophy , University of Glasgow – Megalithic Overkill? The multiple stone rows of Caithness
19 th November	Adrian Maldonado , National Museums of Scotland – Scotland at 1000AD – an artefactual history
17 th December	Members Night – Eddie Stewart , PHD student, University of Glasgow – To and from the Earth; (Re)collecting place in the urban edgelands through the case study of Mount Vernon and Daldowie Louisa Campbell , LKAS Fellow, University of Glasgow – Flipping the script on Colonial narratives: replicating Roman reliefs on the Antonine Wall
21 st January	Ewan Campbell , University of Glasgow – A new Jerusalem at 'the ends of the earth' - new light on Columba's Iona
18 th February	Nicky Whitehouse , University of Glasgow – Prehistoric land-use history and food Production in early agricultural societies
18 th March	Seren Griffiths , MMU – Time – third and fourth millennium Ireland and Britain - a History of social change
15 th April	Presidential lecture – Dorothy Gormlie : Richard III, Knight and Commander

For the foreseeable future all lectures will be presented online via Zoom. To attend the first lecture on 15th October, you need to download Zoom (via <https://zoom.us/download>) to your device if you have not already done so. In order to receive the invitation and password for the event, please email, Kenny.brophy@glasgow.ac.uk before the event. You will be emailed a link, meeting code and password for the lecture on the day, which you can join from 7.15pm onwards on the 15th. The lectures will be recorded and placed on YouTube (with links from our website) after the event. If anyone has any concerns about this process or getting set up, please also email Kenny Brophy

HMS Trincomalee - A visit to Royal Navy Museum, Hartlepool

On Tuesday 11th June, 2019 GAS members left Durham, their base for the excursion to the North of England last year, and travelled 23 miles to the Royal Navy's Museum in Hartlepool.

This 18th Century restored Dockyard is home to HMS Trincomalee, a rare example of a British sailing frigate from the Nelson era. Built in India in 1805, she is famously the sister ship of HMS Unicorn, presently berthed in Dundee. Together, they and the equally famous HMS Victory, are among the last survivors of the Napoleonic wars. The difference between the sisters and the Victory being that she is still a serving warship, whilst the two Frigates have long been struck off charge. A further discrepancy is that the Victory is in permanent Dry Dock, whilst the two sisters are still floating in the medium they were designed for i.e. the sea.



HMS Trincomalee's home berth is surrounded by restored buildings from the period, each building displaying artifacts and information about the numerous tradesmen and suppliers who would have populated the harbour area. Tableaux and voiceovers explain what the different trades supplied, whilst revealing the difficulties and dangers that were all too real in the age of sail.

As to the ship herself, on entering Trincomalee's thick teak hull, the first impression to strike the visitor, in some cases literally, is the height of the ceilings. The average height of sailors in the 18th century was 5' 6". At 6' 3" I was at a distinct disadvantage and had to be very careful moving about tween decks. I soon learned to keep my head down.

Starting on the Gun deck, the Guide outlined the hardships of life as a 12-year-old boy, serving as a powder monkey to the ship's impressive array of 32 cannons. The ordinary sailors and boys lived, ate and slept amongst these huge guns, and although the deck is well lit now, at the time it would have been a dark, dingy and damp place, full of hazards for the unwary.

Accompanying the sailors would have been the animal and insect life that regard man as a source of food and a convenient host and the display showed the various methods used to alleviate them. The guide talked about the sailor's rations and contrasted their fare with that of the officers who dined in some style at a long table next to their small cabins in the ship's stern. The captain, however, lived in splendid isolation in a spacious cabin at the very stern of the ship, with a Royal Marine on guard duty just in case the crew turn nasty and attempted to upset the social order.

Gradually as we worked throughout the ship we began to gain some understanding of shipboard life in the 18th Century, in particular the many words and phrases of the time which are still in use today. Phrases like, "your number's up" is derived from the naval issue of a hammock to each sailor. Each hammock had a unique number and if the sailor died at sea, he was sewn into it with his feet at the number end and then thrown overboard, hence "his number's up".

In the bowels of the ship we saw the storage of the items required to feed the crew and repair and maintain the

vessel. No space was wasted but in the darkness of the hold it could easily be understood how food and water could be contaminated by water and pests.

On the gun deck, however, this open area of the ship was dominated by the huge cannon, 30 of them on this deck alone. Here, the bulk of crew lived, slept and ate. Our guide explained the method of loading and firing the guns and demonstrated the noise of one gun going off. The noise during a battle must have been horrendous.

After the terrors of the gun deck, we found ourselves out in the open air looking up at the dizzy height of the mast and web of rigging attached to them. I could only marvel at the bravery and skill of the men and boys who had to climb the rigging to put out or bring in the sails. Hard enough in fair weather, a nightmare in a storm.

It was fitting, therefore, that we ended our tour at the bow where the toilets were located. Not that we delicate souls would have recognised them as such. If you had 'to go' in this ship, you were required to climb over the side and make your way along a lattice of ropes attached to the bow sprit. Here, you would wedge yourself into a seating position and try not to slip through the gaps and fall 20 feet into the sea. Tricky!

I thoroughly recommend a visit to HMS Trincomalee. The guides were interesting and informative, and nothing was too much trouble. The ship's decks were easily negotiated and there were lifts for those struggling with the stairs. If nothing else, the visit highlighted just how safe and cosseted we are on modern yachts and cruise liners.

HMS Trincomalee can be found at the National Museum of the Royal Navy, Maritime Avenue, Hartlepool, TS24 0XZ. The Museum is open most days between 10:00 am and 5.00pm. The Museum can be contacted at tel.no. 01429860077, or on the web at <https://www.nmrn.org.uk>ourmu>.

Stephen Stockdale



Barrow Magazine was founded in 1968 by the Glasgow University Archaeology Society and was published intermittently till 1988. In that original form it was organised and published by the student society and brought together articles by students on current theoretical and practical debates, as well as jokes, poems and digging songs.

Since 2018 the Glasgow University Archaeology Society has published new issues of Barrow twice a year, bringing together articles by student and guest contributors, interviews and more. In its new digital form today Barrow magazine provides a forum for students to gain experience in writing articles for a general audience on a mixture of subjects within archaeology from practical methods, theoretical debates and the role of Archaeology in Society to artefact, site, museum and conference reports. Our interview series has over the course of our current issues explored the careers of archaeologists across Scotland and beyond.

Our most recent issue, launched in September 2020, centres on the theme of Archaeological futures exploring both the current trends, changes and challenges to the archaeology sector, and considering creatively how contemporary material culture might be interpreted in future. Included in this issue we have discussions of decolonising heritage practices, an introduction to the MERC Manifesto, interviews with Dr Daniel Rhodes and Prof. Ian Hodder, and explorations of the archaeology of thrift stores.

To explore our most recent issue, follow the link:

<https://barrowmagazine.files.wordpress.com/2020/09/barrow-volume-4.pdf>

Eddie Stewart

Visit to Bowes Museum



During our excursion to the North of England last year members also visited Barnard Castle in County Durham. Not far from the Castle and Town Centre lies the impressive French style Chateau that is the home of the internationally renowned, Bowes Museum. This magnificent building, set amongst beautiful gardens and parkland, was built in the 19th century by the wealthy industrialists John and Josephine Bowes, to house their priceless collection of artefacts and objet d'art.

Related to the Bowes Lyon family, John was born in 1811, the product of an illicit relationship between his Father, also John, the 10th Earl of Strathmore, and one of his estate workers. Despite this, his Father married his Mother on his deathbed in 1826, and his now legitimate son John inherited most of his estate. Despite his acceptance by the family the social stigma of his birth was to haunt him all his life.

After attending Eton College in 1826, he studied at Cambridge University where he befriended the novelist William Thackeray. Accompanied by Thackeray he toured Europe on his vacations and began collecting fine art. A career in politics followed, until in 1847, he moved to Paris, buying property in Montreux, and later, the fashionable Theatre de Varietes in the Boulevard Montmartres. It was here he met his future wife, an aspiring actress by the name of Josephine Delorme.

Despite the Theatre closing in 1848, the couples romance blossomed, and they married in 1852 and left Paris and set up home in Louveciennes, a large Chateau in which they continued to add to their burgeoning collection. It was here that the idea of building a Museum to house their collection took root, and in 1862 they made their decision to sell their house in France, move to Britain and set up their collection in a new, purpose built building in Barnard Castle.

They commissioned the noted Architect Jules Pellechet to design and build the Museum, and in 1869, Josephine laid the foundation stone. She remarked to her husband as she did so that, "I will lay the bottom stone, Mr Bowes, and you will lay the top stone". Sadly, this was not to be. Neither of them lived to see its completion. Josephine died in 1873, and John followed her in 1885. The completed Museum opened on the 10th June 1892.

The museum is divided into three floors, each containing a number of galleries. All the galleries can be reached by an ornate marble staircase, though there is a set of lifts located at the entrance hall. The Ground floor contains galleries featuring archaeology, toys, and curiosities, with the rest of the floor containing an excellent café/restaurant, and a gift shop.

Ascend the stairs to the first floor and here you will find Galleries displaying fashion and textiles, English Interiors and furniture and European decorative art. This floor also contains a gallery which tells the visitor the story of the Bowes family, and their amassing of a collection which spans five centuries and contains such wonderful treasures.

It is interesting to note that although the Bowes were wealthy, they were thrifty in their buying habits, often buying items for less than £10. Many of the items bought cheaply have since soared in value, as fashions and interests change through the years.

Finally, we arrive at the Second floor. Here is the picture gallery, featuring works by, amongst others, Canaletto and El Greco, and the ceramics gallery and the music room. Two other items are situated here. Both are considered to be the gems of the collection.

The first is the automated Silver Swan. This wonderful life-sized Swan seems to come alive, swimming for 20 seconds along a silver stream. It was made in the 19th century and is operated every day at 2.00pm. The second is another automaton, a small Mouse. Made in gold and decorated with seed pearls, its antics can be viewed on an accompanying video screen.

Unfortunately, due to travel constraints, it was not possible to spend more time at the collection. Nor I'm afraid, was it possible to spend time in the wonderful gardens surrounding the house. For the whole experience, a day at least, is required. It is the kind of place that you could visit several times and still see something fresh.

Opening hours are 10:00am till 5:00pm, and it is closed only on the 25th and 26th December, and 1st January each year. The Museum is very easy to find in Barnard Castle, its Postcode being DL12 8NP. Alternatively, you can phone 01833 690606 or look online at the www.bowesmuseum.org.uk.

Stephen Stockdale

Loss of military lives – Armed forces deaths between 1920 and 1940



Glasgow Archaeological Society members may be able to assist with this South Lanarkshire Council project.

They are looking for men and women who died in armed service and who resided in Glasgow and Lanarkshire between 1920 and 1940. If you have any information you can provide, they hope to have them added to local war memorials (if possible, with name, rank and service number).

All information will be treated with the strictest confidence and should be passed onto: D. Maxwell, South Lanarkshire Council Bereavement Services email bereavement.services@southlanarkshire.gov.uk or to Mr. J. Alan, 94 Franklin Place, Westwood, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 8LS.



Bamburgh Castle



GAS members who made the trip to Durham last year will remember the visit to the clifftop site that is the impressive Bamburgh Castle.

Due to time constraints our visit concentrated largely on the fortress itself, and so there was little focus on the Bamburgh Research Project which has been running since 1996. The castle, which features prominently in the earliest historical records of the early Kings of Northumbria, has had a series of excavations aiming to provide information helping to interpret the use and structure of the site throughout its long history..

Recent activity in the West Ward of the castle has unearthed finds such as pattern welded swords, loads of styca coins, and a gold mount with zoomorphic designs nicknamed the "Bamburgh Beast", all thought to be dated from the 7th and 8th Centuries,

At the beginning of September this year, however it was announced the discovery of the foundations of a Romano British Roundhouse, almost 2000 years old. Members of the Project are excited to have discovered the 40ft structure with such a state of preservation, a rare find in the North of the country indeed!

Further information can be had at <https://bamburghresearchproject.co.uk/> or you can follow their Blog at <https://bamburghresearchproject.wordpress.com/>.

Excavator

Scottish Archaeological Journal

It is anticipated that the next volume of the Scottish Archaeological Journal, which will be a Supplement on the Ludovic Mann conference held last year, will be published in November.

Jim Mearns

PRESIDENTIAL AWARD 2019-2021

This year will again be one in which the Society presents a Presidential Award. This award was the inspiration of our Past President, Dr. Alex Morrison to recognise and celebrate some of the outstanding personalities and individuals who have contributed to the life and work of the Society, and/or to the regional and national world of Scottish archaeology. It remains a fitting tribute to Alex and his commitment to Archaeology and this Society.

In previous years this has taken the form of a mosaic plaque by the outstanding Scottish mosaicist, Dugie MacInnes.

The terms of the award are –

1. The Award will be to an individual who has forwarded the study of and rendered conspicuous services to archaeology in Scotland.
2. The individual must be a member of the Society.
3. The award will be presented in the final year of the President's term of Office, and the ceremony will normally precede the final lecture of their term of Office.
4. Nominations for the Award may be submitted by a Society member on prepared Nomination Forms and notice of the Award will be advertised during the President's final term of office.
5. The final decision will be made by a simple majority of Council Members; the President casting the deciding vote if there is no majority.

The form below should be e-mailed to Dorothy Gormlie – gormlie@ntlworld.com – or posted to Dorothy Gormlie, 20 Arthurlie Street, Barrhead, East Renfrewshire, G78 2EL by **31st December 2020**.

Although not essential nominees are welcome to include a brief endorsement of their candidate.

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Nomination Form for the Presidential Award 2019-2021

I/We would like to nominate for the 2019-2021 Presidential Award of the Glasgow Archaeological Society.

Name

Membership Renewals – Subscriptions are now due and early renewal helps the Society. Please return your Renewal Form to Margaret Gardiner from whom Gift Aid Forms are also available.

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

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).

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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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