

A TOUCH OF GAS

The Newsletter of the Glasgow Archaeological Society



Issue 68 – Spring 2012

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are reminded that the AGM will take place on

Thursday 19 April 2012

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.

The meeting will be followed by:

The President's Address

My Life on the Antonine Wall

James Walker

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Presentation of President's Award for 2012
3. Minutes of the Meeting of the AGM on Thursday 17th April 2011
4. Annual Report from the President, Mr James Walker
5. Annual Report from the Treasurer, Mrs Ann Bray
6. Report from the Journal Editor, Dr. Ellen McAdam
7. Election of Office Bearers and Council Members
8. AOCB

The Dalrymple Lectures 2012/13

The Dalrymple Trustees are delighted to announce that this Lecture Series will be delivered by Professor Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, on a classical theme to be confirmed.

18-21 February 2013

Exhibition News – National Museum of Scotland



11 February 2012 – 27 May 2012

This major exhibition features treasures from two of the world's great Ancient Egyptian Collections – our own National Museum's and that of the Rijksmuseum van Oudheden in the Netherlands.

This is a ticketed event and tickets are available online - <http://www.nms.ac.uk/mummies> - or by phone 0300 123 6789

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Oswald Street Bookshop</i></p> <p>This Bookshop has recently opened at 27 Oswald Street, Glasgow, G1 4PE</p> <p>Their Stock includes Archaeology, Antiquarian, Maps, etc and is well worth a visit.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://www.oswaldstreetbookshop.co.uk</p>	<p>Why not combine a trip to the Bookshop with a visit to The Lighthouse in Glasgow –</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Foundation – Glasgow: The story of a city</i></p> <p>A unique and fun journey through time telling the story of Glasgow, the place, its people and its history</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://www.foundationglasgow.co.uk</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>The Scottish Castles Association</i></p> <p>Dedicated to the preservation/restoration of Scottish Castles they have a lively programme and in 2012 will have two day outings to Fife and Aberdeen and a four day trip to castles in France. An advantage of the SCA is that they gain admittance to properties normally closed to the public. Also, if there is someone interested in acquiring and restoring a tower house they have the experience.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://www.scottishcastlesassociation.com</p>	<p>Philip Graham is starting a series of free monthly training sessions open to the public, which will be held in the Search Room at the Royal Commission.</p> <p>The first three sessions are basic introductions demonstrating who RCAHMS is, what they hold in their collections, their online resources, and how people can start using it all. Future sessions will cover more detailed parts of their work, collections and specific subjects.</p> <p>Full details can be found at:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/guides/make-more-of-mondays</p>

Keep up to date with Society Activities on our website - www.glasarchsoc.org.uk

James Walker Retiring President



Jim at Ardoch during the Society's Excursion

At this year's AGM in April Jim Walker will come to the end of his term of office as President, which began in 2009. It has not been a tranquil time for the Society. The financial crisis of recent years has caused a dramatic drop in its income from capital, leading us to suspend grants for fieldwork. At the same time, costs have risen inexorably; Jim has had to negotiate energetically with the University to keep the price of lecture theatre hire affordable; he has encouraged savings through the use of electronic mail for distributing publicity and our newsletter, *A Touch of GAS*; and he has begun a review of the cost of publishing the *Scottish Archaeological Journal*, now under the editorship of Dr Ellen McAdam.

In the same period, changes within Glasgow University have meant that the Society has lost its long-standing relationship with the Archaeology Department. Jim has had to find us a new official address as well as a new home for backnumbers of our *Journal*!, and we no longer have automatic access to accommodation for our Council and sub-committee meetings. The disbanding of GUARD, the archaeological contractor affiliated to the University, has seen many old friends of the Society moving away to new work environments.

But our President, well described by Jim Means as 'indefatigable', has not been content merely to cope with crises. He began his term of office with an initiative - a questionnaire sent out in August 2009, designed to identify what members looked for from the Society. What kind of lecture topics and excursions did they want? Would they like to participate in conferences, short courses or fieldwork? Could they help with publicity? Would they accept correspondence by email? What did they think of the Society's website? Jim used the responses to this questionnaire to shape policy throughout his term of office. In Summer 2010 he introduced and ran the first day class for 'beginners

in archaeology'. In September 2009 the Society had its first weekend excursion, to Hadrian's Wall, a hugely successful event in which Jim's expert knowledge of all things Roman was a major element. A day conference, 'What's New in Roman Scotland?' followed in October 2010, hosted by GAS and held at the St Mungo Museum. This was a sell-out and has encouraged us to plan future conferences, building on a closer relationship with Glasgow Museums which Jim has fostered since Dr McAdam came onto GAS Council.

Along with these achievements, Jim has continued to address the twin concerns of publicity for the Society and the problems of increasing and retaining member numbers. There have been many meetings to revamp the GAS website, to discuss advertising and raising awareness of the Society, and to consider what can be done to make GAS more attractive to members.

The office of President traditionally involves membership of other bodies on which GAS is represented: Jim has chaired the Dalrymple-Donaldson Trust which gives out grants for the repair of historic buildings, and sat on the Dalrymple Curators committee which arranges the annual Dalrymple lecture series. The Dalrymple connection resulted in a typical Walker initiative in 2009, when concern was raised about the state of the Dalrymple family grave in the Auld Aisle Cemetery in Kirkintilloch. Feeling that the Society owed a debt of gratitude to James Dalrymple, and finding that no funds were forthcoming for restoration of the grave, Jim - with other members of the Society - tidied up the grave himself and arranged for the repair of the railings.

Everyone who has attended the Society's lectures, Council meetings or other events will be aware of Jim's meticulous attention to organisation, his energy, and his kindly, cheerful and enthusiastic leadership of GAS. His will be a hard act to follow.



Sue Hothersall, February 2012

Summer Excursions 2012

First Summer Excursion – Inverness Area – 2nd/3rd June

Since the proposed tour was announced at Society Meetings there has been a very positive response and at present all seats have been booked. However, there is a waiting list to which members may add their names: please contact Margaret King.

Second Summer Excursion – Saturday, 25th August

Dumfriesshire

The coach will leave outside the Boyd Orr Building at 8.30am and head south towards **Dumfries**. Our first visit of the day will be to **Dumfries and Galloway Aviation Museum**, which was established in 1977 with the goal of preserving our aviation heritage.

The next stop on our itinerary will be the picturesque village of **New Abbey**, where our group will have the opportunity to visit **Sweetheart Abbey**, founded in 1273 by Lady Devorgilla of Galloway in memory of her husband, and the **New Abbey Corn Mill** – both Historic Scotland sites. During our visit to the carefully restored water-powered corn mill we shall be given a demonstration and learn how flour was produced.

The coach will then travel on to **Caerlaverock Castle**, another Historic Scotland site, where we shall have lunch. A picnic area is available and there is also a café, which provides refreshments and delicious home baking! After lunch members will have time to explore the castle, an imposing edifice, which was a Maxwell stronghold during the medieval period. The visitor centre nearby with its video and displays informs visitors of the castle's turbulent history.

Our last stop of the day will be **Ruthwell Church**, where the 7th century Anglo-Saxon Cross is on view.

The coach will then make its journey north again stopping briefly at the Johnstonbridge Services. We should arrive back at the University at approximately 7.30 pm.

The Cost of the Excursion –

£12.50 for Members of Historic Scotland (including entrance to Dumfries and Galloway Museum of Aviation)

£26.00 for Non-Members of Historic Scotland (Full Adult Rate)

£23.00 for Non-Members of Historic Scotland (Concession Rate)

✂

To: **[Redacted]**

Saturday, 25th August, 2012 – Dumfriesshire

Please reserve meseat(s) on this excursion at £12.50 each (Member of Historic Scotland)

Please reserve meseat(s) on this excursion at £26.00 each (Non-Member of Historic Scotland Full Rate)

Please reserve meseat(s) on this excursion at £23.00 each (Non-Member - Concession).

I enclose a cheque payable to **Glasgow Archaeological Society for £.....**

From Name Phone No.
Address

Please return by Wednesday 1st August 2012, and enclose a return stamped addressed envelope.

Excursions 2011

Our first summer excursion took place on **Saturday, 4th June, 2011**, when fifty-four members and friends joined the coach and headed eastwards. Our first stop of the day was **Kinross**, where we boarded Historic Scotland's ferries for the short journey over to Castle Island on Loch Leven. Margaret Lumsdaine, President of the Marie Stuart Society, was a very informative guide and gave us a fascinating insight into Mary Queen of Scots' imprisonment there in 1567 and the events which led to her dramatic escape one year later.

After lunch we travelled south to the Royal Burgh of Culross and were extremely fortunate in having very knowledgeable guides from the National Trust accompany us on a tour of the historic buildings. In spite of the icy temperatures it was a very enjoyable and successful trip.

Peebles and the surrounding area was the destination for our second summer excursion which took place on **Saturday, 27th August, 2011**. Tam Ward, founder of the Biggar Archaeology Group, was our guide as we toured around the Scottish Borders.

Our first stop of the day was Moat Park Heritage Centre, the flagship of Biggar Museum Trust. En route to our next venue we travelled through part of the area of BAG's ongoing project, which aims at determining the true nature of the early landscape. In the late morning we visited the Lyne Kirk, dating from the 17th century and then headed to the pretty Border town of Peebles for lunch.

After lunch we travelled to Stobo Church and then we headed back to Biggar, passing on our way the 16th century Tinnis Castle, the village of Broughton where the John Buchan Museum is located and the village of Skirling. On our return to Biggar we visited the Covenanters' House, where an assemblage of artefacts tells the story of the Covenanters' struggle for religious freedom.

Throughout the day Tam was an enthusiastic and knowledgeable guide, who gave a running commentary on the coach, pointing out numerous archaeological sites as we travelled through the rural countryside. His input contributed to the fifty-five members of the group having a very interesting and memorable day.

Saturday, 5th November, 2011 – The Riverside Museum was the venue for our first winter excursion. Twenty-five members and friends joined the visit to Glasgow's recently opened Museum of Transport and Travel. Bob James and his fellow guides took us on guided walking tours of the themed displays spread over the museum's two floors. All agreed that it had been a very enjoyable and informative afternoon due to our enthusiastic and knowledgeable guides.

CONFERENCE NEWS

A Conference in Memory of **Alex Morrison**, our much loved and greatly missed Past President of the Society is being organised by Dr. Colleen Batey and co-sponsored by Glasgow Archaeological Society, Archaeology at Glasgow University and the Centre for Scottish and Celtic Studies (*Ionad Eòlas na h-Alba is na Ceiltis*) Glasgow University on –

Wednesday 2 May 2012

**Lecture Theatre, Gregory Building, Lilybank Gardens, University of Glasgow
9-30 to 5-00**

Featuring talks by many of those whom he mentored.

There is no charge but you **must** pre-registered with Colleen Batey by 25 April 2012 on - colleen.batey@glasgow.ac.uk

Paisley Development Trust presents

Renfrewshire Witch Hunt 1697

A Conference to study the cause and effects of the Witchcraft accusations of 16th & 17th Century Scotland, in relation to the Bargarran Accusations of 1696/97 in Renfrewshire.

Saturday 9 June 2012 9.00 – 12.30

**The Panel Room, Place of Paisley,
Abbey Close, Paisley**

Cost £5.00 including tea/coffee and biscuits

www.thepdt.org.uk

The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and Archaeology Scotland will jointly be hosting the Annual Archaeological Research in Progress Conference on

26th May 2012

The MacRobert Building, University of Aberdeen, 593 King Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5SP.

Further details available on the website – <http://www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk>

DAY CLASS FOR BEGINNERS IN ARCHAEOLOGY – Jim Walker

Once again this year we decided to include a day class for beginners in archaeology in our Summer Programme. This class is run for the benefit of members and anyone who is interested in learning more about the practical aspects of the subject. The class is offered free of charge to all participants.

This year's class was held on Saturday, 18th June in Pollok Park, Glasgow and was organised and run by Ian Marshall, a past president and Mark Mitchell who was involved in running the society's excavation in Pollok Park.

The morning session was held in the Park Ranger Centre at the Stable Block, where an

introduction to surveying methods, techniques and equipment was given. After a break for lunch, the group set off to the North Woods area of the park to look for and recognise archaeological features. The class was split up into small working groups and the surveying methods and techniques from the morning session were applied.

The class attracted twelve participants, many of whom took part last year. Each year a different theme is selected to give those taking part a greater insight to the subject. Next year we hope to run a small training excavation for the benefit of those who have taken part in the earlier classes.

Our thanks to Ian & Mark and the

Park Ranger Service for the use of their centre and for the opportunity to carry out our training exercise in Pollok Park.



STOP PRESS – Plans are well in hand for a further class in the summer of 2012 on BUTE and provision will be made for indoor and outdoor activities depending on the weather! If you are interested contact Sue Hothersall or through the Website

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 Professor Richard Bradley, Lord Colin Renfrew, Dr. Chris Stringer, Dr. Patrick Wallace, Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe, Ian Hodder and Professor Roberta Gilchrist.

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 – see the GAS website for details.

Applications require to be submitted before October in any year, when the awards are made.

Member John Russell and his wife escaped to the sunny climes of Malta for the winter and sent us these photos of the ***Dwejra or Victoria Lines*** on Malta – defensive lines built along a natural fault line on the island. For further information we suggest you go to - <http://www.victorialinesmalta.com> – but be careful how you “google” or you will end up on the London Underground! (thanks, John)



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 purposes 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 Susan Hunter, the Membership Secretary

CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions are published in good faith. Views expressed by individual contributors are not necessarily those of The 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 CD is preferred (Word) to save retyping! A hard copy would be appreciated with a CD. Photographs and drawings are welcome (preferably in "pdf" format).

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