

A TOUCH OF GAS

The Newsletter of the Glasgow Archaeological Society

Issue 70 – Autumn 2012



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

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[@GlasgowArchSoc](https://twitter.com/GlasgowArchSoc)

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

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

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2012/2013

2012

18th October *St. Andrews and the Geddy Map of 1530*: Edwina Proudfoot, (Chair/Director of St Andrews Heritage Services)

15th November *Ness of Brodgar, Orkney*: Nick Card, (Senior Projects Manager, Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology [ORCA])

20th December Members' Night

The Daer Project 2010-2012: Tam Ward, (Biggar Archaeological Trust)
GAS and Glasgow: Jim Mearns (GAS Archivist)

2013

17th January *Rediscovering the Archaeology of Bute*: Dr. Paul Duffy (Brandanii Archaeology and Heritage)

18th – 21st February **The Dalrymple Lectures** (see details below)

21st March *The Viking Boat Burial at Ardnamurchan*: Helena Gray (CFA Archaeology Ltd)

18th April **Annual General Meeting** – 7.15 pm start, followed by

Feasting with Latinus: Rethinking early medieval Whithorn
Adrian Maldonado (University of Glasgow)

All lectures are held in the Boyd Orr Lecture Theatre, University Avenue, University of Glasgow, at 7.30pm
Admission to all lectures is free of charge.

First Winter Excursion

Sunday 18th November

Glasgow City Police Museum and St. Andrew's in the Square.

We are trying out a Sunday Trip this autumn. Meet at the entrance to Glasgow City Police Museum, First Floor 30 Bell Street, Merchant City, Glasgow G1 1LG at 11.00 am for a conducted tour of the Museum dedicated to Britain's first Police Force.

Thereafter at 1.30 pm we shall be treated to a tour of nearby St. Andrew's in the Square Church, 1 Saint Andrew's Street Glasgow, Glasgow City G1 5PP. This will take around one to one and a half hours.

As charges are due for the guiding there will be a charge of £4 collected on the day.

Numbers are limited so please book your place with Margaret King (0141-334-5174)

Dalrymple Lectures 2012/13

Archaeology in the Shadow of Vesuvius:

Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, (Professor of Roman Studies, University of Cambridge and Master, Sidney Sussex College)

18th – 6.30pm *Archaeology and politics I: from the Bourbons to unification.*

19th – 6.30pm *Archaeology and politics II: from fascism to Tangentopoli.*

20th – 6.30pm *The crisis of Pompeii: archaeology, management and conservation.*

21st – 7.30pm *New hopes from Herculaneum.*

The venue for the Dalrymple Series will be the Sir Charles Wilson Lecture Theatre, University of Glasgow (Corner of Gibson Street and University Avenue)

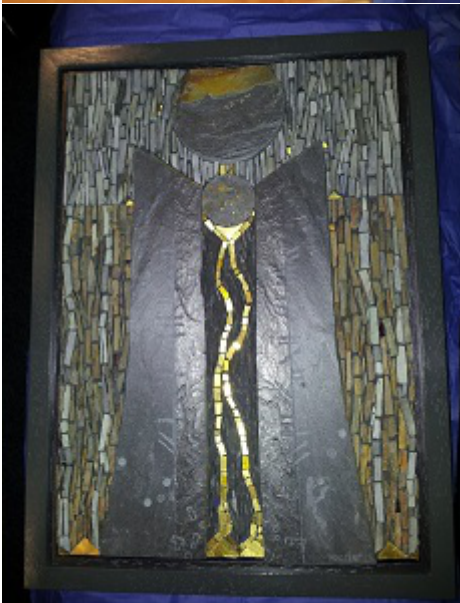
Annual General Meeting – 19th April 2012

This year's AGM saw two important events. Firstly Jim Walker, having served his three years as President retired in favour of Sue Hothersall. Jim has served the Society well as Junior and Senior Vice President and as President steered the Society through some difficult times. He delivered a fascinating talk entitled "My Life on the Antonine Wall". We wish him well in his retirement although his continued attendance and support demonstrates that his "retirement" is in name only. At the celebration Dinner afterwards he was presented with a cake. The members of the Student Society also presented a cake fittingly in the shape of the Antonine Wall.

The AGM also saw the presentation of the **President's Award**, given every three years for outstanding contribution to archaeology.

It was fitting that this was awarded to the late Alex Morrison, a much loved and missed friend of the Society and Past President. A full appreciation of Alex appeared in A Touch of GAS last year.

As always it comprised a plaque designed and created by Society Member Dougie McInnes. It was received by Alex's wife Sigrid.



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 Lord Colin Renfrew, Dr. Chris Stringer, Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe, Professor Ian Hodder and Professor David Breeze. Details of this year's Lectures are on Page 1.

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

MUST HAVE FASHION ACCESSORY!

The Society has a supply of quality enamelled badges bearing the Society's Crest. These are available at the ridiculously cheap price of £3 and on sale at Lectures.

New at Kelvingrove

(On loan from the British Museum) Tickets bookable online (timed entry)

PHARAOH

King of Egypt

Until 24 February 2013



A day course for beginners in archaeology: Isle of Bute 23rd June 2012

In 2009 GAS offered its first course for beginners in archaeology, an initiative by Jim Walker to reach members (and perhaps non-members) who were interested in archaeology but felt they would like to have a basic introduction rather than just attending a series of lectures on individual sites and themes. Ian Marshall ran a second course in 2011, and when I took over as President in April 2012 I wanted to extend the offer. Because I live on Bute, an island which is packed with archaeological sites, it seemed a good venue for a day out.

We advertised the course on our website and at our April AGM and lecture, and gradually the response built up. In the end 18 people came over to Bute, including 8-year-old Erin, daughter of one of the participants, and one Bute resident joined us for part of the day. GAS Council member Stephen Stockdale and his wife also came along in support.



After an unpromising start the rain soon cleared away and conditions stayed dry and pleasant thereafter. Our party had a good walk in the Scalpsie Bay area, where in the space of a mile or so we visited 'Thom's Cuts', an extant 19th century drainage system installed to supply Rothesay's cotton mills with water power; a post-medieval deserted settlement; and Scalpsie Dun, an Iron Age fort with World War II re-use. From the Dun we had views over a large ruined chambered cairn site and a recently re-excavated Bronze Age barrow. We then walked along the beach, passing clearance cairns and a cave with evidence of occupation, to reach the lime kilns at Ardsalpsie Point. We returned along the beach, passing another deserted settlement and mill site as we joined our transport.

In the afternoon we visited the remarkable site of St Blane's Monastery and medieval chapel at the south end of the

island, and here Paul Duffy, the Director of Archaeological Research within the Discover Bute Landscape Partnership Scheme, talked to us about the early church in Bute, the relationship of the monastic settlement to the existing power structure in the area, the chapel and its setting, and his plans for research excavations at St Blane's. Our final visit was to Bute Museum, where the curator Anne Spiers had brought out some finds from Dunagoil Fort for us to see and handle. The Museum also provided a welcome cup of tea, and our group had time to wander round and view the wide range of archaeological material on display.

A few members of the group took the opportunity to visit Rothesay Castle, just opposite the Museum, or to have a look round the town before setting off home.

We were very fortunate in having financial support from Bridget Paterson, the Director of the Discover Bute project, who quite spontaneously offered to pay for the bus transport and even provided cakes (an essential component of all Discover Bute events!) at the Museum. This meant that those attending the course had only to pay for their travel to Bute. A future event would probably not be supported in this way and so a charge would have to be made to cover costs.

I think everyone enjoyed the day, and I believe that we recruited several new members as a result. The Museum was pleased to have the group visit and Anne asked me to convey their thanks for a generous donation from our party.



Sue Hothersall

For the past few years we have been sending out E-mails to the many members who have subscribed to this service, reminding them of the forthcoming lecture and this has proved highly successful. The system also provides the facility to update members on items of interest that emerge between issues of *A Touch of GAS*.

I do not think there has been a single occasion when I have passed an issue to the printer only thereafter to be informed of an event that could have been included had I had more notice, such as conferences, lectures, etc! Very often the Society receives very short notice of events such as an open day at a dig.

These cannot be accommodated within the present format of twice-yearly issues of *A Touch of GAS*, but can within a system of *E-Bulletins*, and although publicised at lectures many members otherwise miss out on useful information.

A current example is the Lecture Notes which we used to include within *A Touch of GAS*. For various reasons, totally unrelated to the development of *E-Bulletins* these are not always available in time for an issue, but when they become available will be included within the electronic reminders.

We would urge members if possible to subscribe which can be done through the website, as Council hopes to develop this further in the future. 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.

First Summer Excursion - 2nd & 3rd June – Inverness Area

As dawn broke over Glasgow University (or so it seemed to those visibly shaken by the revelation that there are two eight o'clock's in the day) 57 members were levered into a charabanc and set off to explore the archaeological and historical fleshpots of Inverness. Dr. Tony Pollard, Society member and Director of the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, Glasgow University, had generously offered his services as guide to Killiecrankie and Culloden.

First visit scheduled was **Killiecrankie**, but a big bus and a wee lane meant that we could not reach the Visitor Centre; however a lay-by beneath the hills enabled Tony expertly to explain the evolution of the battle based on his most recent research. And then onto the highlight of Saturday – **Culloden**.

Ample time was allowed to explore the new Visitor Centre and cafeteria, before Tony conducted us on an extensive and scholarly tour of the battlefield explaining the true course of the battle. Many misconceptions beloved of shortbread tins were dispelled.



Late afternoon found us at the **Clava Cairns**. We were to be treated to a talk by Jim Walker, but that mysterious ailment, Past-President's Throat, meant that that honour fell to Ian Marshall (an unafflicted Past President), whose expert exposition belied its impromptu nature.

Overnight accommodation was provided at the Columba Hotel. After a delightful and highly sociable dinner some travellers went off in search of the aforementioned fleshpots while others repaired to the Columba Ceilidh. Discretion and the risk that this might be read before the watershed precludes further details.

On Sunday morning we took full advantage of the generous buffet breakfast ("there was a queue at the toaster so I just took a couple of Danish instead", anon.) Assembling outside we were greeted by rain, however as we cleared the

Kessock Bridge into the Black Isle so did the weather, and while overcast and threatening the weather was dry and kind. First stops were a fascinating talk at the **Groam House Museum, Rosemarkie** and then **Fortrose Cathedral**.



After lunch we proceeded to the wonderful **Fort George** with its outstanding fortifications. Unfortunately no sightings of seals, dolphins or whales were reported but the whole complex of the Fort more than made up for it.



Final stop, and perhaps the highlight of Sunday, was the astonishing **Folk Museum at Newtonmore**. Coach trips are always subject to the tyranny of timetables and closing times and much more time could easily have been spent exploring the fascinating and extensive complexes of restored buildings. I only managed the Farm and the School and am determined to return to visit the rest. This was my first visit to the Folk Museum. It will not be the last and I recommend it as a stop-over on any trip north.

This was the second of the Society's overnight trips, following the successful Hadrian's Wall in 2009 and all

agreed that not only was it a resounding success in its own right, but the overnight format really is worth continuing (unsubtle hint to the Excursions Committee!).

The Society extends its thanks to all the many people whose efforts in organising and supervising this trip ensured its

success, including Tony Pollard, Margaret King and her Committee, Paddy Desmond and Steven Stockdale, and of course our driver.

Dale Bilsland

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Membership Renewals</u></p> <p>Subscriptions are now due and early renewal helps the Society. If you have not already done so change your Standing Order arrangements at your Bank and ask Margaret Gardiner for a Gift Aid Form!</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Oswald Street Bookshop</u></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>
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SCOTTISH CHURCH HERITAGE RESEARCH LTD PLACES OF WORSHIP IN SCOTLAND PROJECT

St Andrews Heritage Services (SAHS) was unusual. It was set up in the late 1970s, without funding from Historic Scotland, the Fife Council or the University, to enable me to run the long cist cemetery, on the outskirts of St Andrews as a Job Creation Project, because no other funding was available. Initially I ran it from a disused school, where the Hallowhill post-excavation work was also carried out. I was asked at this time to take over a University project started by James Kenworthy, then Archaeology lecturer in St Andrews - to develop the Fife Archaeological Index, (an early sites and monuments record) and that brought me in contact with the University, in an Honorary position.

Through the good offices of the late Professor Donald Bullough, I was allocated an office in the University, from where I could run the Fife Archaeological Index (FAI). I also taught Adult Education courses, helped the Student Archaeological Society - and worked as unofficial Regional and Local archaeologist. Sites and Monuments Records were in their infancy and Ian Shepherd had only recently been appointed to set up an SMR for Aberdeen and Grampian, the first in Scotland. I talked with him and set to work, again with funding from the Job Creation Programme. We developed a paper-based record, as we had no funds to buy computers. We checked existing records, gathered new information and carried out fieldwork. The records eventually were donated to Fife Council, where they became the foundation of the Fife Sites and Monuments Record.

I tried to persuade Historic Scotland to set up SAHS as a Unit to work in St Andrews, where virtually no excavations had taken place since the early 1970s. Lionel Masters had set up his Certificate Course in Glasgow and, working with him, I tried to set up a similar course in St Andrews, for the many adult students who had been looking for more courses, but the university did not support this project, and it was many years before there was change. Many short cist excavations and a great deal of field work was carried all over Fife. Short cists at Upper Kenly Farm, at Belliston Farm, and on a housing site at Dalgety Bay, were among the early work – all staffed with one or two students. Newark Castle, near St Monans was an amazing site, where SAHS worked in partnership with John Lewis and several students. The Fordhouse Barrow at the NTS House of Dun ran over four seasons, supervised by the SAHS team of Research Assistants and using many volunteers. SAHS even excavated a few urban sites, including Crawford's

Bakery on Market Street, and behind the St Andrews Preservation Trust Museum in North Street. The most spectacular site was 'Reg Burns', previously a barber's shop on South Street. As had happened throughout St Andrews the frontage had been extended forwards, – and now was separating from the older building. This proved an important site for several reasons, including interpretation of the John Geddy map, which we began to use to help understand St Andrews better. SAHS also looked for opportunities for people to carry out non-excavation projects on their own. Of these the surveys of milestones and wayposts, of doocots, horse engine houses and ice houses were the most important. Many individuals worked on the doocots, photographing those still standing and researching many others, now demolished.

SAHS has been overtaken by time; no students, digging or field work now, but there are excavation reports and books to complete for publication. Although SAHS is not formally involved now, other work has been developed, including Scottish Church Heritage Research, which has developed from a Council for Scottish Archaeology Project. The website, www.scottishchurches.org.uk showcases the places of worship in Scotland and the work of numerous volunteers.

Last, but not least SAHS must boast about the huge numbers of volunteers who have worked on all the excavations and other field projects, a few of which have been mentioned. Without these amazing people none of this would have been begun, far less finished.



Edwina Proudfoot, October 2012

Edwina Proudfoot delivered a fascinating lecture on 18th October 2012 on the Geddy Map and Mediaeval St. Andrews and recruited several volunteers for the Project. Anyone interested should contact her at –

edwina@scottishchurches.org.uk

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

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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

CONTRIBUTIONS

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Material can be supplied by "hard copy" but electronic is preferred (Word) to save retyping! Photographs and drawings are welcome

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