

A TOUCH OF GAS


The Newsletter of the Glasgow Archaeological Society


Issue 72 – Autumn 2013



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 <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 Adrian Maldonado - <http://www.flickr.com/groups/gasmembers/>

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

Lecture Programme 1314 – A Season of Anniversaries

2013

17th October 21 Years down the Drain – On-going Research at Paisley Abbey, 1163, Bob Will, GUARD-Archaeology

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

19th December *A Century of Isotopes, 1913-2013 – Fishy Business, from Alaska to Aberdeen: Exploring Ancient Diet Using Archaeological Chemistry* – Dr. Kate Britton, Aberdeen University

2014

16th January *Scotland's Iconic Battles I – Flodden 1513* – Dr. Christopher Burgess, Archaeological Manager, The Flodden 1513 Archaeological Project.

20th February *Newstead – A Century of Excavation 1911-2011* – Dr. Fraser Hunter, National Museum of Scotland

20th March *5000 years of machair settlement: Iain Crawford and the Udal, North Uist, Scotland 1964-2014* – Beverley Ballin Smith

17th April **Annual General Meeting** – 7.15 pm start, followed by *Scotland's Iconic Battles II – Bannockburn 1314* – Dr. Tony Pollard, Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, Glasgow University

All lectures (except the Dalrymple Series) are held in the Boyd Orr Lecture Theatre, University Avenue, University of Glasgow, at 7.30pm

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, Professor David Breeze and Professor Andrew-Wallace Hadrill.

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

Dalrymple Lectures 2013/14

Stonehenge & British Prehistory

Mike Parker Pearson, Professor of Later British History, University College London

18th – 6.30pm The origins and date of Stonehenge

19th – 6.30pm Durrington Walls and Woodhenge: houses and timber monuments

20th – 6.30pm The Beaker People and Stonehenge

21st – 7.30pm Stones, ancestors and astronomy: the purpose of Stonehenge

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

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.

WINTER EXCURSIONS

Saturday 16 November – House for an Art Lover

The House for an Art Lover was constructed between 1989 and 1996 based on a design of 1901 by Charles Rennie Mackintosh. The House is situated in Bellahouston Park and to gain access to the Car Parks members will require to take the entrance into the Park off Dumbreck Road.

Our group will meet at **11 am** beside the ticket desk and will then be taken on an hour long tour of the House built in the Art Nouveau Style and keeping as close as possible to the Mackintosh design. There are several chairs in the various rooms for the comfort of visitors.

After the tour members are free to visit the splendid walled gardens and the Heritage Centre. The latter is situated within the former stables and doocot of Ibroxhill House and the exhibits there tell of the growth of “Greater Govan” and of Bellahouston Park which housed the modernist British Empire Exhibition of 1938.

The cost of the Tour will be £4.00 to be paid on the day and members wishing to participate should contact the Excursions Convenor.

Saturday 12 April – St. Mary’s Cathedral and the Briggait

Full details to follow later. *Watch the website!*

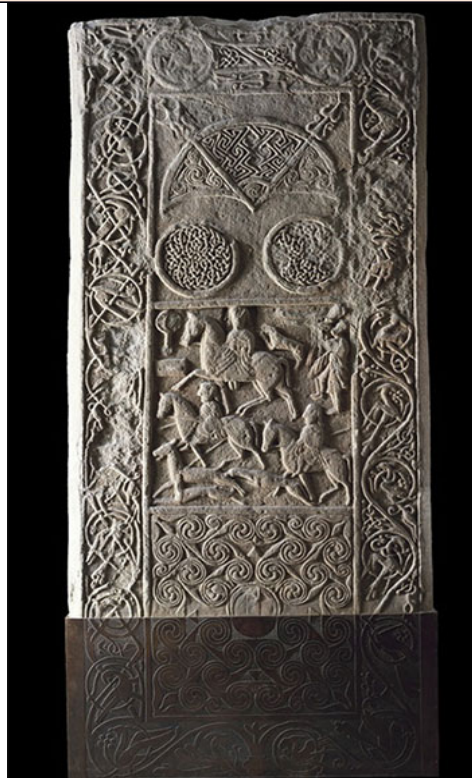
In Planning – A Walking Tour of Glasgow Green – *Watch the Website!*

Currently at the National Museum of Scotland until 23 February 2014

Creative Spirit – Revealing Early Mediaeval Scotland

http://www.nms.ac.uk/our_museums/national_museum/exhibitions/creative_spirit.aspx

Admission Free -



The Glenmorangie Research Project is casting new light on iconic objects from the time of the Picts and Gaels.

This exhibition of re-creations made using innovative technology and traditional craft skills brings back to life objects which did not survive or are badly preserved.

The Glenmorangie Research Project began in 2008 and takes its inspiration from the stunning Hilton of Cadboll stone on display in the Museum's [Early People](#) gallery. The stone was found near the Glenmorangie distillery in Tain, Easter Ross and has been incorporated into the company's brand logo.

The Early Medieval period (around AD 300 – 900) is a very important moment in Scotland's past – coming just after the Romans and before the Vikings, marking the arrival of Christianity and emerging powerful elites.

The Glenmorangie Research project has been generating exciting new research on the partial archaeological evidence which has survived from this time in collaboration with contemporary craftspeople and artists. In order to reveal these objects' stories and the communities behind their making we have embarked on a journey of discovery through recreating objects using traditional methods and innovative technology. The process of recreation adds to our understanding – often in unexpected ways. This exhibition showcases these historical recreations.

SCOTTISH CHURCH HERITAGE RESEARCH LTD PLACES OF WORSHIP IN SCOTLAND PROJECT

A call for volunteers – Sue Hothersall, President

This remarkable and long-running project, which aims to record all known places of worship in Scotland, is led by Mrs Edwina Proudfoot with her husband Professor Bruce Proudfoot and has its offices in Cupar, Fife. Edwina would very much like to expand the project into the Glasgow area, where there are known to be over 700 churches and other places of worship. She has asked Glasgow Archaeological Society for help in this, and last October we collected the names of some 16 volunteers and began organising some training sessions, to explain what is required and how to go about doing the recording work.

Unfortunately we have had some setbacks: the original list of volunteers has gone astray and some attempts at organising meetings were not successful. It is clear that we need a co-ordinator in Glasgow to ensure that things run smoothly, and for the time being I will undertake this role.

There is a well-established method of work for this project, which involves sketching the layout of buildings, recording the architectural and internal features and furnishings, and taking photographs. If you visit the website www.scottishchurches.org.uk you can search the database to see examples of the record for a church still in use (e.g. Brechin Cathedral) and for one which is in ruins (e.g. Airlie Old Parish Church) (both in the Tayside section of the database) as well as the names and outline information for many churches which have not been recorded by the project. The work is very interesting and enjoyable and, once trained, volunteers will be able to work independently, in pairs or small groups and feed their records direct into the SCHR database.

We would like to re-establish a group of volunteers in Glasgow, to be known as the Glasgow Recorders, and we will be organising a training session in November at a church in Glasgow – probably in the West End. If you would like to

take part, or just to find out more, please send me your details (contact details on Page 6) and I will contact you with the arrangements for our first session. If you have already expressed an interest or been involved, please still send in your details, as we are 'starting from scratch' with a new contact list.

I look forward to getting this initiative off the ground during this season of activities.

A Personal Impression – Stephen Stockdale

Intrigued by Mrs Edwina Proudfoot's Lecture Appeal for volunteers to assist her Scottish Church Heritage Programme I and a few other GAS members found ourselves outside the imposing north front of Kelvinside Hillhead Parish Church in Ashton Road, Glasgow on a cold but sunny morning in April waiting for the good Doctor to appear.

The purpose of this Church visit was a training session and Mrs Proudfoot was here to explain what information she required in order to catalogue the Church for inclusion in her extensive Church records. There are approximately 3,000 Churches and religious buildings in Scotland and most of these have never been documented. Whilst many may be quite plain and ordinary there are features in most that are unique to the individual building, and which may not have been replicated elsewhere.

With the decline in attendance of organised religion in the UK many Churches have been closed and although some have been converted to other uses, many are lying derelict or even demolished, their architectural features and fittings lost forever.

For some thirty years now Mrs Proudfoot has, almost single-handedly, carried out her Research Programme. Such is the enormity of the task, however, that she has decided to recruit members of the public, with or without architectural expertise, to help her in her project, hence her appeal to GAS and my visit to Hillhead on a sunny spring morning.

The session lasted for several hours, since once you settle down to record the salient features of the Church and describe in detail what you are actually looking at you find that it is quite time consuming. Pictures alone are not enough; there is no substitute for describing what the picture shows and where the feature is in context. Sometimes the features are hard to label, so the purchase of a book on architecture proved a worthwhile investment.

It was helped by the fact that this Church was quite spectacular. From looking fairly ordinary outside you entered from a rather dull Vestry into the Nave which was a pool of bright white and coloured light produced by 17 full height pointed arch windows. There were other features, too many to reproduce in this article which were simply delightful and unimagined when looking at the building outside.

At the end of the day we all felt confident that we could compile the information required with some accuracy and Mrs Proudfoot seemed pleased with our progress. Plans are afoot for GAS to co-ordinate research activity within the Places of Worship Project, and I look forward to visiting my next Church and compiling its features for the Project.



Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust

'The Hidden Heritage of a Landscape – Vengeful Vikings and Reckless Rustlers'

'The Hidden Heritage of a Landscape: Vengeful Vikings and Reckless Rustlers' is a project run by Arrochar and Tarbet Community Development Trust, and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Argyll and the Islands LEADER. It aims to uncover more about the history of the strategic strip of land connecting Arrochar on Loch Long with Tarbet on Loch Lomond. It's widely known that the Vikings dragged their boats across the isthmus to Loch Lomond just before the Battle of Largs in 1263, but the project is using a combination of documentary research, surveying and excavation to shed light on some of the many other people who have used the landscape over the centuries, both before and after the Vikings.

Although this community heritage project hopes to find new archaeological evidence for past occupation and use of the area, it also places great emphasis on training local people in the techniques needed to investigate this historic landscape. By providing hands-on experience of archaeology, together with a whole variety of stimulating activities, the project hopes to raise awareness of the area's important cultural heritage, and aims to use the information gathered to promote the area to visitors.

The project kicked off with a range of workshops held in the Three Villages Hall in Arrochar, on topics including documentary research sources and techniques, gathering information from old maps and plans, and how to use geographic information systems and aerial photography. Dr. Simon Taylor (Glasgow University) generated enough enthusiasm at his workshop on place names to prompt the formation of a local Place Name Group, now committed to producing a comprehensive list of local place names. In March, internationally renowned Viking expert (and local resident) Dr. Colleen Batey (Glasgow University) presented 'The Vikings in Scotland: Myth and Reality' to an enthralled audience who felt privileged to be allowed to handle genuine 1,000-year-old Viking artefacts. Members of the re-enactment group Glasgow Vikings also generously gave their time and loaned costumes and replica items for the day.

Adult volunteers and school children took part in a major walkover survey of the area coordinated by archaeologists from Northlight Heritage. Following on from this, over 70 volunteers helped to excavate several sites during four weeks in May, 2013: a deserted rural settlement called Creag an't Serrach, Arrochar Primary School's playing field in Tarbet, circular enclosures near Ballyhennan Church and some mysterious mounds near Arrochar. More information about the results will be posted on the website (<http://hiddenheritage.org.uk/>) and Facebook page.

Engaging local schools in the history of the landscape and the process of archaeology is a major focus of the Hidden Heritage Project. Both primary and secondary school pupils have been involved in the survey and excavations (managed by Northlight Heritage), as well as in learning how to use old documents to research the past, and how to record features using simple survey techniques. The excitement of the local Viking connection has been celebrated by primary school pupils through Viking culture workshops with Glasgow Vikings, a chance to handle Viking finds with Dr. Batey, and making Lewis chessmen and replica Viking longboats. A poetry book, drama workshops (Scottish Youth Theatre), and Viking boat-themed playground musical equipment (GalGael Trust) still to come!

A memorable Open Day at the excavations on May 25th was visited by over 150 people, who came to hear about the archaeology, listen to Norse fiddle music, taste some venison stew, try some traditional rural crafts and drink some Haakon Viking Ale!

The digging is about to come to an end, but there is plenty more to do. Finds processing, analysis and publications will follow, and brochures and posters will be designed to promote the area and encourage locals and visitors alike to explore its beauty and history, while appreciating the need to care for and protect the landscape.

A final conference will take place in May 2014 to disseminate the results of the surveying and excavations, and to celebrate the many aspects of the project.

hiddenheritagevikings@gmail.com



Excavating Creag an't Serrach 'Place of the Foal', a deserted rural settlement on the isthmus



Strategic connection between the sea and freshwater

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.

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.

Oswald Street Bookshop

Situated at 27 Oswald Street, Glasgow, G1 4PE their Stock includes Archaeology, Antiquarian, Maps, etc. and is well worth a visit.

<http://www.oswaldstreetbookshop.co.uk>



Some photographs from the recent work at Dunning



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 Margaret Gardiner, 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 electronic is preferred (Word) to save retyping! Photographs and drawings are welcome

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