

A TOUCH OF GAS

The Newsletter of the Glasgow Archaeological Society


Issue 76 – Autumn 2015



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 2015-16

2015

15th October **Dunragit: the Prehistoric Heart of Galloway** - Warren Baillie, *GUARD Archaeology*

16th – 19th November **The Dalrymple Lectures** (see details below)

17th December **MEMBERS' NIGHT –**
Carmahome to Kilpatrick: ACFA Field Surveys on Arran 1993-2015 – Ian Marshall, *Past President*
Water Management Systems at Roman Sites in Scotland – Ross Wallace, *Glasgow University*

2016

21st January **Waterloo 1815-2015** – Dr. Tony Pollard, *Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, University of Glasgow.*

18th February **A Founder's Workshop from the Bronze Age? Excavations in the shadow of Hunterston** – Thomas Rees, *Rathmell Archaeology Limited* - **Joint Lecture with the**

Society of Antiquaries
of Scotland



17th March **Broken sword: The excavation of a ritual deposit of Bronze Age metalwork on the Isle of Coll** – Natasha Ferguson and Trevor Cowie, *National Museums of Scotland*

21st April **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 7.15 pm start**, followed by
Scotland's Earliest Silver (AD 400 – 800): Phase Three of the Glenmorangie Research Project, 2015–2017 – Alice Blackwell, *National Museums of Scotland.*

All lectures (except the Dalrymple Series) are held in the Boyd Orr Lecture Theatre, University Avenue, University of Glasgow, at 7.30pm – Admission to all lectures is free of charge

Glasgow Archaeological Society is supporting **DigIt!2015 Discover Scotland's Stories**
A year-long Programme of events celebrating Scottish Archaeology

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 Ian Hodder, Professor David Breeze, Professor Andrew-Wallace Hadrill and Professor Mike Parker Pearson.

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

Dalrymple Lectures 2014/15

John C Barrett, Emeritus Professor of Archaeology, University of Sheffield
Social Evolution

16 November 6.30 - The definition of the evolutionary process and the rise of human society

17 November 6.30 - From hunter-gatherers to agriculturalists: economic evolution?

18 November 6.30 - From Stone Age to Bronze Age: the evolution of the political economy?

19 November 7.30 - The Iron Age and the evolution of social diversity

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 the Membership Secretary from whom Gift Aid Forms are also available.

FIRST WINTER EXCURSION

Scotland Street School Museum – **SUNDAY, 8th November, 2015 – 1.00pm – 2.45pm**

225 Scotland Street, Tradeston G5 8QB

(The museum is directly facing Shields Road Underground and a multi-storey carpark)

Scotland Street Museum is a museum of school education. It offers a fascinating insight into school life during the Victorian Era, the Second World War and the 1960's respectively, in three reconstructed classrooms.

The museum is located in a former school, designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh between 1903 and 1906.

Our group will meet in the foyer of the museum and will then be taken on a conducted tour of this fascinating building.

As numbers are limited, it is ESSENTIAL, that members wishing to participate in this trip book beforehand by contacting the Excursions Convenor.

PRESIDENT'S AWARD 2015

At the Annual General Meeting in April the President's Award was presented jointly to

John MacDonald and Scott Wood.



This award, initiated by Dr. Alex Morrison is presented at the end of a President's term of office, to someone who is considered by the Society to have made a significant contribution to archaeology in the West of Scotland. This year we recognise two members who have organised a large number of archaeological surveys, both separately and together, over many years. Those of you who are members of ACFA (the Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists) as well as of GAS will know them well. From a limekiln in Arran in to an ice house in Castlemilk, a ruined mill near Lochwinnoch to a survey of the island of Little Cumbrae, the number of projects they have carried out and published is truly remarkable – and all in their own time and with only the bare minimum of financial support. But it is for their work on the island of Raasay that they should perhaps be most recognised. The ACFA surveys on Raasay began in 1995, and finished in 2011. At least 20 published reports resulted

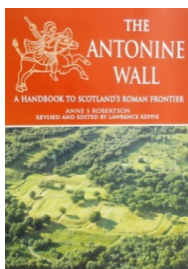
from this work, and it must be the most comprehensive archaeological survey of a Scottish island ever undertaken by unpaid volunteers. These two gentlemen always supported by their equally hardworking wives, organised surveys year after year, but also revisited the island frequently to carry out more research and to add further material to the record. The Society is very proud to recognise their work with this award.

As usual, the pieces of artwork presented comprised mosaics on an appropriate theme *Sunrise on Raasay* and *Sunset on Raasay* by Dugie MacInnes.

☞ See our website for a photo-feature by Sue Hothersall on Dugie's Exhibition on the Island of Luing ☞

The Antonine Wall: A Handbook to Scotland's Roman Frontier

☞ New Edition Now Available ☞



Our signature publication written by Professor Anne S. Robertson was first published in 1960. Professor Lawrence Keppie took over the editorship with the Fourth Edition in 1990 and he has now produced this new and completely updated Sixth Edition, lavishly illustrated in colour reflecting the wealth of new excavation and survey work. The Antonine Wall was recognised by UNESCO in 2008 as part of the Frontiers of the Roman Empire World Heritage Site.

144 pages; 75 Illustrations - £9.95 (£8.95 to members) [£11.50 (£10.50 to members) including postage in the UK]

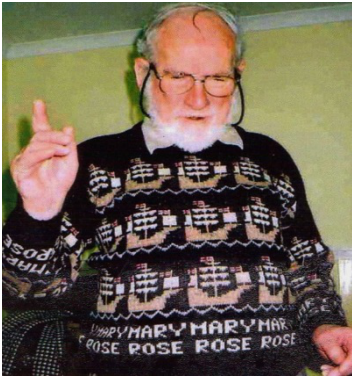
Available at Society Meetings or via the GAS website.



Honorary Membership – As agreed at April's AGM, Honorary Membership has been awarded to Alison Brown, Dr. Dorothy Lunt and James Thomson in recognition of their support to the Society as members for over sixty years.

We regret to note the passing of two loyal members –

Norman James Brown (1927 – 2015)



It is with sadness we report the death of Norman Brown, a member of the Society for over fifty years and a stalwart presence at lecture programmes and excursions with his wife Alison, who we all know as one of our most enthusiastic and long serving Excursion Convenors for many years. Norman was the faithful chauffeur who provided transport for the meticulous reconnaissance required for these and as those of us who remember them it is another debt of gratitude.

Indeed it was Alison who introduced Norman to the Society after their marriage and, with our past President Dorothy Lunt they were a close band of friends within and out of the Society.

Norman was a man of many interests and knowledge as those of us who will remember that at one time no meeting was complete without a question from Norman which revealed the extensive range of his knowledge. On providing a short car ride home from the Boyd Orr to Rutherglen with Norman beside you, topics could cover the lecturer, the meeting, an obscure Burnsian text (on whom he was an expert), a significant archaeological site in Galloway and the constitution and doctrines of the Swedenborgian Society, of which he was a member.

He was a man of unfailing generosity and kindness as I can testify as a fellow Ruglonian where he could be spotted regularly conveying frailer neighbours and friends to appointments and meetings and will be much missed by them and us. Even though his own frailty grew over the last few years, his cheerful nature, dry humour and company was always a pleasure and a happy memory.

We extend our sympathies to Alison and his family.

Ian Marshall.

Anne Wood (1936-2015)



Anne was born in Kilmarnock in 1936 to a family whose roots were sunk in Ayrshire and its traditions and history. Anne was educated at Kilmarnock Academy and went on to study for a BSc in Maths and Physics at Glasgow University.

Anne's father instilled in her a love of nature and of history, particularly the history of Ayrshire. Her enjoyment of plants and birds and a love of the great outdoors led on to a passion for mountain climbing and a love of mountains and wild places remained with her to the end of her life. In 1978 she applied to do the Certificate in Field Archaeology at Glasgow University and archaeology became for Anne the main interest in her life. After she gained her certificate Anne spent several years, along with Gerry Hearn and Jim Mair, walking all over the Irvine Valley, eventually publishing a report in 1996. She was a member of GAS and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and when, in 1985, Lionel Masters instigated the setting up of the Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists Anne was a founder member. She was a committee member twice, serving for one term as the Secretary of ACFA.

While having an interest in all forms of archaeology, Anne was particularly interested in Mediaeval or Later Settlement and spent many happy hours tracing field systems and dykes! She was involved with the ACFA survey of the Isle of Raasay and walked all over the island recording all traces of earlier settlement and land use. Along with Scott Wood, her second husband, she surveyed many sites in Arran which was a place very dear to Anne.

Anne Wood devoted many years to history and archaeology and was a weel-kent face at excavations, surveys, conferences and lectures. She was particularly proud when Scott was given the GAS President's Award for his services to archaeology but Scott averred that the award was as much for Anne as it was for him as she had been with him every step of the way. We will all miss her.

Anne Macdonald

SCOTTISH CHURCH HERITAGE RESEARCH LTD
PLACES OF WORSHIP IN SCOTLAND PROJECT

A Report from Susan Hothersall

I am pleased to say that the Glasgow group of volunteers helping with the SCHR project is getting back to active life, after a period of some months when I was unable to arrange meetings.

Helen Maxwell is helping me to organise future meetings and I would like to assure any actual or potential volunteers that we are keen to hear from you if you are interested in taking part in recording activities (contact details below).

The Advisory Board for the SCHR project – also known as Places of Worship in Scotland – held its AGM on 3rd September at St Andrew's and St George's, Church in Edinburgh, followed by a visit to the impressive interior of the church. Edwina Proudfoot, the Chair, reported that there had been prolonged and serious problems (now resolved) with the IT equipment used by the project; accordingly there was a large backlog of reports to be processed and a number of volunteers had left, compounding the problems of data entry, but work was now resuming.

I put out a call to the Glasgow volunteers in August, with a view to setting up a church visit, and although only a small number were able to attend the meeting which we held on Wednesday 9th September, a good number of people responded and I was pleased to hear that there is quite a lot of work going on. In particular the sub-group set up by Carol Primrose in Bishopbriggs has surveyed several churches in Kirkintilloch, and one of the members, David Graham, came along to our meeting at New Kilpatrick Parish Church in Bearsden. This is a very rich church with a wealth of stained glass and other treasures. It is structurally complicated, having been extended and reorganised internally many times, and we agreed that a further visit will be needed to record it.



Before this meeting I had heard from Ian Holland, a group member who has done a huge amount of documentary research on Glasgow churches and has also photographed the exterior of many of them. He has compiled several databases, including a street index of churches and lists arranged by denomination. Carol Primrose and I had a meeting with Ian on 18th September to discuss what has been achieved so far and what our next steps should be. I now have copies of Ian's research results and have passed some additional information over to him. As a result of our discussions, we are making the following recommendations:

1. That anyone undertaking a church survey should check with Ian or me first to find out what information is already held by us. This should save duplication of effort and also help us to keep tabs on what group members are working on.
2. In the light of the difficulties experienced by the SCHR headquarters, that we should hold locally a digital copy of information compiled by the Glasgow volunteers (survey reports, photographs and other research) as well as passing reports on to the SCHR office for eventual inclusion in the national database. This should provide a useful backup and also reassure volunteers that their contributions have not been lost or overlooked if they do not receive a response from the SCHR office. We will arrange to purchase a suitably-sized storage device to accommodate present and future records. I already have some 17GB of data!

Please let me know if you would like to take part in our work of recording places of worship, or would like more information about the project.

You can contact me on 01700 503835 or (mobile) 07717744345 or email me at susan.hothersall@btinternet.com

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>

Cradle of Scotland

3 September 2015 – 3 January 2016
Hunterian Art Gallery
Admission free

Cradle of Scotland is a major new collaborative exhibition which reveals the dramatic discoveries made by the University of Glasgow's Strathearn Environs and Royal Forteviot (SERF) Project. The project, which focuses on the historic Forteviot landscape in Perthshire, has resulted in a number of remarkable archaeological finds. *Cradle of Scotland* combines these original artefacts with replicas and visualisations, creating a stunning exhibition that explores the archaeological history of Scotland.

Forteviot has a special place in Scottish history and archaeologists from the University of Glasgow have been exploring the area since 2006. The death of King Kenneth macAlpin, one of the first Kings of a united Scotland, was recorded at the 'palace' of Forteviot in AD 858 when the site was a major royal centre in the fledgling Scottish nation. Forteviot is also the location of one of the most extensive concentrations of early prehistoric ritual monuments in mainland Scotland.

Cradle of Scotland also showcases the latest advances, technologies and discoveries in Scottish archaeology. Visitors will learn about the modern archaeological process in Scotland, and about the application of latest investigative and reconstructive methods.

The exhibition is jointly curated by The Hunterian and Perth Museum and Art Gallery. It will go on show at both venues currently open at The Hunterian and then Perth Museum and Art Gallery in Spring 2016.



Cradle of Scotland is supported by Museums Galleries Scotland (Strategic Investment Fund).

Image: *The Forteviot Dagger.* This recent find dates to the Early Bronze Age and was found on the SERF project. The dagger is crafted from a variety of materials but its gold decoration is one of earliest uses of gold in Scotland. Dated somewhere between 2100 BC and 1950 BC, it was found in a burial site that had survived in a remarkable state of preservation.

The Wrecks of Newshot Island Part 2 – Stephen Stockdale

As I have said, Mud Punts were locally built and completely unremarkable in style and shape. Looking at the half submerged wreck in front of me, which I had now to plan and draw, it was difficult to decide which was front and back, as it was most definitely not boat shaped. It wasn't helped by what appeared to be a loading ramp lying at one end, and which didn't seem to be attached to anything.

I scraped away some of the mud and weed to expose a section of the timber, and was amazed to find the wood, though saturated, was still firm to the touch and appeared to be in good shape. Though scratch built by shipyard Joiners, it seems they used the best wood available.

I am afraid I had to leave the question of the boat's orientation to another day. Despite clearing both ends of weed I was no nearer to finding an answer to that question. Perhaps, they were simply what they appeared, large wooden rectangular tubs.

It was then decided that while the tide allowed, it might be an idea to visit the second and third groups of boats. The second group lies on the west bank of the Newshot creek where it joins the Clyde, and consists of 8 mud punts, 2 schooners, and then, approximately 50m to the west a third schooner. A fourth schooner sits in the middle of the channel, submerged and inaccessible.

Fortunately, we know something about the schooner wrecks...

WEBSITE

Apologies that the new website is taking longer than anticipated to construct and get up and running but soooooon (honest!)

Perth and Kinross Trust has a new Website - www.pkht.org.uk

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.

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 the Membership Secretary.

CONTRIBUTIONS

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

© The Glasgow Archaeological Society, 2015

Glasgow Archaeological Society is a Scottish Registered Charity – SCO 12423