

# A TOUCH OF GAS


The Newsletter of the Glasgow Archaeological Society




Issue 77 – Spring 2016

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

**Keep up to date with Society Activities on our website – [www.glasarchsoc.org.uk](http://www.glasarchsoc.org.uk)**

*🌀 Launching of the new website is imminent 🌀*

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are reminded that the AGM will take place on

**Thursday 21 April 2016**  
**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:**

**Scotland's Earliest Silver (AD 400 – 800): Phase Three of the  
Glenmorangie Research Project, 2015–2017**  
*Alice Blackwell, National Museums of Scotland.*

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Meeting of the AGM on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2015
3. Annual Report from the President, Dale Bilisland
4. Annual Report from the Treasurer, Stephen Stockdale
5. Election of Office Bearers and Council Members
6. AOCB

## Lecture Programme 16/17

Work is complete for next year's Lecture Programme which will be launched at the AGM.  
We can confirm the Dalrymple Lectures 2016 as follows.

**Professor Roger Stalley**, Fellow Emeritus of Trinity College Dublin.

### Ireland and the art of stone carving in early medieval Europe

14 November 6.30 - **The sculptor and his craft:**

15 November 6.30 - **The search for meaning**

16 November 6.30 - **Artistic Identity**

17 November 7.30 - **Stone carving in the early medieval world**

#### **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 Dr. Chris Stringer, Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe, Ian Hodder, Professor Andrew Wallace-Hadrill, Professor Mike Parker Pearson and Professor William Hanson.

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 more details.

Applications require to be submitted prior to commencement of works by 31 October in any year in which the awards are made.

## **Second Winter Excursion – Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 2016 Visit to the Titan Crane and Clydebank Library & Museum**

**Meeting Place:** Titan Crane Ticket Office, off Cart Street, Clydebank

**Time:** 10.30 a.m.

**Directions:** From Dumbarton Road, Clydebank, members should turn into Cart Street and follow the signs for 'Titan Ticket Office'. There are parking spaces across from our meeting point. After our group has gathered, a coach will take us to the Titan Crane & Visitor Centre.

In 2005 work began to open the Titan Crane up to the public as a visitor centre and heritage attraction. This 'Category A' structure was opened to the public in July 2007 one hundred years after it was first completed. From the top of the Titan members will gain magnificent views of the Clyde and surrounding area.

**There will be a charge of £3 per person (a group rate and discount on the individual rate).**

In the afternoon we shall visit Clydebank Library & Museum, where we'll be taken on a guided tour and also have the opportunity to view the archaeological exhibits on show.

Lunch may be enjoyed in the excellent café within the Library complex or at one of the local restaurants.

**Numbers are limited so prior booking is essential by contacting Margaret King – 0141-334-5174**

### **SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL JOURNAL**

Volume 38 (2016) is has been issued to members. If you have not received your issue by say the middle of April and believe you are entitled to a copy please contact Margaret Gardiner, Membership Secretary. This brings "SAJ" fully up to date and it is intended that it will now be published in March/April of each year. We all owe Jim Mearns a huge vote of thanks for his efforts in bringing us back on schedule.

Members are entitled to access back issues online from the EUP website. This requires an **Access Token**. The previous one has expired and a new one is available from Margaret Gardiner. This facility is only available to members of Glasgow Archaeological Society.

### ***Membership Issues***

There are a few unidentified Bank Standing Orders; if you are in doubt that you are fully registered as a member please check with the Membership Secretary.

If you pay by Standing Order please check that it is still paying the correct amount. This saves otherwise unnecessary expense following up underpayments.

- Ordinary Membership – £25
- Associate Membership – £10 (Associate members are partners of Ordinary members)
- Student Membership – £10 ( to qualify, students must be in full time education and may only be student members for a maximum of 4 years)

### **Charles O'Neill**

The Society regrets to record the sudden passing of Charles O'Neill. Charles had been a long-standing member of the Society, serving previously as Excursions Secretary and was again serving on Council. Although illness curtailed his activities it did not prevent him attending Meetings, Council and our Excursions. The Second Summer Excursion to Northumberland was planned by him and is a fitting tribute to a loyal member of the Society.

## SUMMER EXCURSIONS 2016

### **Musselburgh, Tantallon Castle & Preston Mill – Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

The coach will leave from outside the **Boyd Orr Building at 8.30a.m** and after a short stop *en-route* we should arrive in **Musselburgh** by mid-morning. Gavin Wilson, one of our GAS members, will lead us on a guided 'battlefield walk' making us aware of the main events of the **Battle of Pinkie Cleugh**, which was fought on the banks of the River Esk on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 1547. It was the last pitched battle to be fought between England and Scotland before the two kingdoms became united in 1603.

The coach will then proceed to **North Berwick**, where we'll have a lunch break (own arrangements) before heading a few miles along the coast to **Tantallon Castle**. The castle is a semi-ruined mid-14<sup>th</sup> century fortress, which sits atop a promontory opposite the Bass Rock, looking out onto the Firth of Forth. It was the seat of the Douglas Earls of Angus, one of the most powerful baronial families in Scotland. Tantallon served as a fortification for more than three centuries and endured three sieges.

Later in the afternoon we'll head for our last visit of the day, **Preston Mill and Phantassie Doocot**. The watermill is on the River Tyne at the eastern edge of East Linton. A stunningly picturesque mill – the present buildings date from the 18<sup>th</sup> century although there has been a mill on this site since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The mill was used commercially until 1959 and our group will still be able to experience the working machinery on our guided tour. A short walk from the mill is the beehive-shaped Phantassie Doocot, with its French style horseshoe parapet, built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century to house 500 pigeons.

Our coach will then set out on the homeward journey, arriving back in Glasgow approximately 7.30p.m.

***Members of National Trust and Historic Environment Scotland must bring their Membership Cards.***

Places on the coach are limited and priority will be given to Society Members although non-members can be accommodated subject to a modest supplementary charge.

### **Saturday, 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2016**

#### **Cragside House and the Anglo- Saxon Site of Maelmin, Northumberland**

The coach will leave from outside the Boyd Orr Building, University Avenue at 8.30 a.m. After a brief stop *en-route* we should arrive at **Cragside House**, approximately 12 miles south of Alnwick, in time for lunch.

Members may bring their own packed lunch or enjoy a meal or snack in one of the tearooms in the Visitor Centre. In the early afternoon we shall begin our tour of Cragside House, the extraordinary home of the Tyneside industrialist and innovator Sir William Armstrong. In 1878 it was the first house in the world to be lit by hydroelectricity.

Cragside House is now in the ownership of the National Trust and after a tour of this fascinating house members will have the opportunity of exploring the extensive grounds including woodlands, formal gardens, lakes and rocky crags.

Later in the afternoon our coach will head for the modern day village of **Milfield**. Here, in Anglo-Saxon times was the royal township of **Maelmin**. At this site we'll be able to view a series of reconstructions of local archaeological structures.

We should arrive back in Glasgow approximately 8.00 p.m.

Sturdy shoes are recommended.

***Members of National Trust must bring their Membership Cards.***

Places on the coach are limited and priority will be given to Society Members although non-members can be accommodated subject to a modest supplementary charge.

Booking Forms are attached or are available to download from our website – [www.glasarchsoc.org.uk](http://www.glasarchsoc.org.uk)

## Dig Cochno Stone: uncovering Dunbartonshire's most enigmatic rock-art site

Kenny Brophy



In September 2015, a small team of students from the University of Glasgow were amongst the first to see the surface of the Cochno Stone for half a century. Located in a park on the edge of Faifley, West Dunbartonshire, this rock-art panel is closely linked to Ludovic Mann, and is one of the most spectacular examples of prehistoric rock-art located at the foot of the Kilpatrick Hills. The huge 'gritstone' outcrop measures 13m by 8m and its undulating surface has inscribed upon it scores of cup-marks, as well as elaborate cup-and-rings marks, with more unusual motifs such as spirals and a pair of four-toed footprints, not all of which may be prehistoric. After Mann's successful awareness raising campaign, and the painting of the symbols white in advance of a visit of the *Glasgow Archaeological Society* in 1937, the Cochno Stone came under increasing threat of damage from visitors walking on the surface of the stone and graffiti, and so it was decided, in 1965, to bury the stone beneath up to 1m of soil to protect it, work paid for by the Ministry of Works.

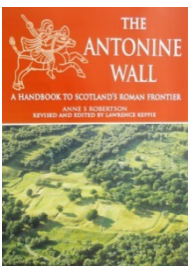
In 2014, a proposal was put forward by the Spanish digital heritage company, Factum Arte, to uncover the Stone, and laser scan it, to allow an exact replica to be created and placed in the landscape near where the original site is. The small-scale excavation we undertook last year was just the start of this much more ambitious and exciting project, with complete excavation and laser scanning planned to happen, hopefully, in 2016 and 2017. During the excavation we were joined by Ferdinand Saumarez Smith of Factum Arte, and Richard Salmon, stone-conservator, who was on hand to assess the condition of the stone. The process was documented by film-maker May Miles Thomas, and work was carried out with the permission of Historic Scotland and West Dunbartonshire Council.

Over three days we opened by hand a trench measuring just 4m by 1m across the northern side of the Stone location, and we quickly came down upon the surface of the Cochno Stone, which is in a good condition considering its burial. We recorded a number of deeply incised cups, and cup-and-rings marks, although no trace of Mann's white paint had survived. It was quickly evident why the decision was taken to bury the Stone: in this small trench we uncovered graffiti and black paint damage. It was also evident that a small dry-stone wall which surrounded the Stone had simply been pushed over onto the Stone during burial, which may have caused additional damage. At the end of the three days, the trench was back-filled by hand. During the excavation we were visited by many members of the local community, all of whom were excited at the prospect of the Cochno Stone being uncovered once again.

For more information on the project, visit my Urban Prehistorian blog post where you can read the full interim report (<https://theurbanprehistorian.wordpress.com/2015/09/27/the-cochno-stone-exposed/>).

### *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.**

**VOLUNTEERS WANTED** – If anyone is interested please contact me – Dale Bilisland

We are always looking for volunteers to help run the Society, particularly to serve on Council. In addition –

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR** – There is a certain “shelf life” and the time is right for a fresh approach. I shall not be continuing as Newsletter Editor much longer and indeed under the Constitution am precluded from continuing when my term as President expires.







### **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 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.

### **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 email attachment is preferred (Word) to save retyping! Photographs and drawings are welcome (png or jpg format).

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