

# A TOUCH OF GAS


The Newsletter of Glasgow Archaeological Society




Issue 79 – Spring 2017

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](http://www.glasarchsoc.org.uk)**

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are reminded that the AGM will take place on

**Thursday 20 April 2017  
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:**

***Life and death of Oetzi, the Tyrolean Iceman, 25 years after the discovery***

Professor James H. Dickson

### AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the Meeting of the AGM on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2016
3. Annual Report from the President, Dale Bilsland
4. Annual Report from the Treasurer, Stephen Stockdale
5. Election of Office Bearers and Council Members
6. AOCB

## Lecture Programme 17/18

Work is nearing completion for next year's Lecture Programme which will be launched at the AGM.  
We can confirm the Dalrymple Lectures 2017 as follows.

**Professor Roger Wilson, University of British Columbia**

### The Archaeology of Roman Sicily

13 November 6.30 - **Setting the scene: *provincia Sicilia***

14 November 6.30 - **Philippianus and his rural estate: recent excavations at Gerace near Enna**

15 November 6.30 - **Living in luxury: the late Roman villa at Caddeddi on the Tellaro**

16 November 7.30 - **Dining with the dead: life and death in an early Byzantine village at Punta Secca near Ragusa**

#### ***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 Mike Parker Pearson, Professor William Hanson and Professor Roger Stalley.

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 – Professor Richard Fawcett, 61 Loughborough Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY1 3BZ

[richard.fawcett@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:richard.fawcett@hotmail.co.uk)

01592653911

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

## **Margaret Alexander 1934 - 2016**



Margaret Alexander was born in 1934 and, although she was a Yorkshire lass she was educated at Edinburgh University where she studied History. For all of her professional life Margaret was a history teacher and she completed her career as assistant rector of Clydebank High School. She was married more than once and had one son, one stepson, four grandchildren and one great granddaughter who was the light of her life.

One of the great interests in Margaret's was classical music and opera - particularly opera which she enjoyed regularly. True to her Yorkshire roots Margaret was an avid fan of cricket - if unable to watch the match live, she would record it for watching later, and woe betide anyone who revealed the final score before her viewing! However her great sporting love was rugby and she did know all the songs. For many years she was very active in the administration for the junior teams in the West of Scotland Rugby Football Club.

Of course, the area of Margaret's life in which we all shared was her love of archaeology. She attended GAS Lectures from the early 1990's and was a member of the Council from 2002 to 2010, serving as Minutes Secretary. She laterally acted as one of the Independent Examiners.

We will remember Margaret for her humour and grace and her caring thoughtful nature. She will be much missed.

Cathy Gibson

### **Andrew Gemmell**

Council was shocked, as will be the membership, to learn of the recent and sudden death of Andrew Gemmell. Although only recently joining Council he had already made his mark with his enthusiasm, imaginative ideas and wealth of contacts in the archaeological world. He had re-established liaison with the Student Society and had many ideas for working with them. He was also looking forward to continuing his studies. Our thoughts are with Lynda and his family and friends at this time. The world, not just archaeological, is a poorer place for his passing.

## **SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL JOURNAL**

Volume 39 (2017) 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 the Membership Secretary.

Members are entitled to access back issues online from the EUP website. This requires an **Access Token** which is available from the Membership Secretary. This facility is only available to members of Glasgow Archaeological Society.

GAS members are also entitled to discounts on EUP Publications – 20% on Books and 10% on Journal Subscriptions. Again a different **Access Token** is required is available from the Membership Secretary, who can be contacted via the GAS website – <http://www.glasarchsoc.org.uk/>

The Scottish Archaeological Journal is published by the Society. It is the latest title of a series of journals which have been published continuously by GAS since 1868. The editor welcomes all submissions, which are then professionally reviewed for publication. Members will be aware that the Journal also publishes Book reviews and Museum reviews and the editor welcomes submissions in these categories. The standards required for publication are listed at the back of the Journal and in the Journal's listing in the website of our publisher, Edinburgh University Press. Anyone thinking of writing for the Journal is welcome to contact the Editor, Jim Mearns, for information/advice contact Jim via the GAS website – <http://www.glasarchsoc.org.uk/>

The Truckell Prize is awarded by Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society for an original unpublished research paper on a human or natural history topic relating to the former counties of Dumfriesshire, Kirkcubrightshire and Wigtonshire.

Full details are available on the Society's website – [www.dgnhas.org.uk](http://www.dgnhas.org.uk)

## FORTHCOMING EXCURSIONS

### Saturday 9th September: Antonine Wall

As part of its 150th Anniversary celebrations the Society arranged a series of outings to the Antonine Wall starting with the Eastern section in 2005, central section in 2006 and concluding with the Western section in 2007. A decade on we are ready to revisit the Wall but in a more concentrated single outing. The trip will take in **Watling Lodge**, which has the best preserved section of the frontier; **Rough Castle Fort**, **Bar Hill Fort** and the **Bathhouse at Bearsden Fort** whose excavation was recently published.

The leaders for the trip will be Geoff Bailey of Falkirk Museums and Jim Walker, Past President of the Society. They will provide both interesting information on the sites visited but will also update members on recent work on the Wall over the last decade. This trip will involve quite a bit of walking to and from the fort sites, mainly on the level but including a climb steep in parts up Bar Hill. Weather appropriate clothing and terrain appropriate footwear will be essential.

There will be an extended lunch stop at Castlecary House Hotel, which offers a range of snacks or meals. Alternatively there will be facilities to eat packed lunches.

*The coach leaves from the **University Main Gate, University Avenue at 8.30a.m** and should return around 6.30 pm.*

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

### Visit to Douglas – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017

Our visit will start with a look at the street architecture of Douglas which retains most of its historical buildings due to the lack of modern development that changes so many towns and villages. We shall be visiting the **Earl of Angus's statue** which marks the spot in 1698 where the Cameronian regiment was raised; **St. Brides** a late 14<sup>th</sup> century church which contains many tombs of the Douglas family; the **Polish Wartime Camp Memorial** and the remains of 18th century **Douglas Castle** where there will be a talk on events from the original castle in early 1300s involving Sir James the Good Douglas. We then return to Douglas village to end the day with a visit to **Douglas Heritage Centre**.

For people with cars meet at Happendon Services (Southbound) on M74 at 11.00 taking exit 11, pass straight through the roundabout and the services are on the right at the top of the hill.

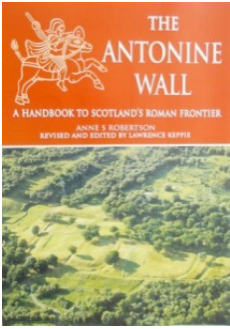
Alternatively, by train take the Dalmuir to Larkhall train arriving at Larkhall at 10.26. Cars will be waiting to take you to Happendon *if you have pre-arranged this*. This train runs through the west end and leaves Glasgow Central Low Level at 9.47.

Arriving at Douglas at 12.00 noon, the walk will take approximately 2 hours.

***It is essential that you advise Margaret King in advance if you intend to join in this Excursion, and particularly confirm if you require transport from Larkhall. Because of the logistics involved this Excursion is available to members only.***

✂ .....

**☞ Sixth Edition Now Available ☞**



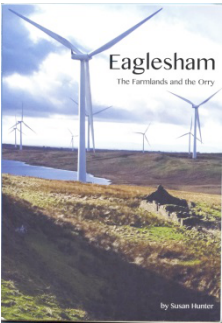
Our signature publication written by Professor Anne S. Robertson was first published in 1960. Professor Lawrence Keppie took over the editorship with the Fourth Edition in 1990 and he has now produced this new and completely updated Sixth Edition, lavishly illustrated in colour reflecting the wealth 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 from Mrs. Elaine Shearer via the contact form on our website <http://www.glasarchsoc.org.uk/>



**Eaglesham, The Farmlands and the Orry,**



This book brings together eighteen Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists (ACFA) Occasional Papers recording fieldwork carried out over twenty years by Susan and Robin Hunter in the Parish of Eaglesham. The book includes cartographic, historical and genealogical information along with the fieldwork and surveys carried out. This book encompasses the information from the Occasional Papers into one book that is easily read and easy to store on the bookshelf. The author Susan Hunter has been a member of Glasgow Archaeological Society for many years and was for seventeen years the Membership Secretary. She is a graduate of Glasgow University in Ancient Studies covering Archaeology, Egyptology and Celtic civilization.

Available at GAS Meetings at special members' price of £10.00 or from Waterstones and the Eaglesham Gift Shop (£13.00) or from ACFA website –

<http://www.acfabaseline.info/index.php/news/262-launch-of-eaglesham-the-farmlands-and-the-orry>

**A Pride of Presidents!**

In December, President Dale Bilisland hosted the annual Past Presidents' Dinner - a "full house", clockwise from the left – Jim Mearns, Sue Hothersall, Dale Bilisland, Carol Primrose, Ian Marshall, Euan MacKie, Lionel Masters, Dorothy Lunt, Jim Walker, Lawrence Keppie



**The Panopticon – See page 5**



**The New website looks great and our thanks go to Ann and Chris Gormlie for their hard work, but... it would benefit from members' input!. Please send articles, items of interest (Sites, Museums, Buildings, Events, etc) and photographs to the Webmaster per the website and make it truly a Members' Website!**

## Society Excursion to the Glasgow Panopticon – Alan Gifford



Last November a group of GAS members enjoyed a memorable, if very cold, couple of hours at the Panopticon in Glasgow. Located on the south side of Trongate in Glasgow just west of High Street, it is "The World's Oldest Surviving Music Hall".

Its story as a Music Hall began around 1852 when two young architects, Thomas Gildard and Robert H M MacFarlane, looked at an old warehouse on Trongate. By 1857 they had created a "temple to classical design", with an ornate frontage comprising cherubs, carved swags, arched windows and an inscription

beneath the apex MDCCCLVII (1857). Originally conceived of as a department store by its completion it had turned into a music hall, which was thought to be more suitable "in that part of town".

Following its "re-discovery" by field archaeologist Judith Bowers in 1997, The Friends of the Britannia Panopticon was established. This became The Friends of Britannia Panopticon Music Hall Trust SCIO in 2016. Their long-term goal is to buy the building and in the meantime, they are trying to improve and conserve the building. Consequently, at present it is somewhat lacking in modern amenities... such as heating. Hence on a cold November morning it seemed to be colder inside than it was outside. However, what it lacked in heating it more than made up for in atmosphere.

You could easily pass it, as I have done on many occasions, and never be aware of its existence. This anonymity is exacerbated by the fact that the entrance is off the lane next to it through an unremarkable door (pictured). You then climb unremarkable stairs before going through a door and stepping "Narnia style" into another world. Suddenly you are in a music hall which is little changed from when it closed its doors, to be forgotten about for sixty years, in 1938.

One can see the balcony along with the wooden lattice ceiling which is pierced with four portholes which have been cut to allow, possibly gas lighting. The unaltered decoration, dirty and peeling as it is, is very evocative and it really did feel as if the last patrons might just have left.

A volunteer from the Friends gave us an amusing talk about the history of the music hall (which could hold 1500 people, with benches for those that could afford it) including the various uses it has been put to, the habits of the Glasgow audiences and the acts which have graced the stage over the years. The audiences seem to have been in the great Glasgow tradition of "hard to please" and were not slow to show their disapproval by throwing things at the acts including vegetables, rivets and the "presents" left in the street by the then numerous horses. Those in the balcony also took out their displeasure with the acts by relieving themselves in the direction of the stage (there were no toilets).

Some of the greatest acts of music hall history played the hall over the years; Marie Loftus, Dan Leno, George Leybourne, The Great Vance, Jenny Hill, Bessie Bellwood, Harry Champion, WF Frame, Marie Lloyd & Harry Lauder. Whilst some of these names may not be remembered today, their songs may still be familiar; "*The Man Who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo*", "*I'm 'Enevry the Eighth I Am*",

"*Champagne Charlie*", "*Daisy (Give me your answer do Bell)*", "*Boiled Beef and Carrots*", "*The Man on the Flying Trapeze*", "*My Old Man Said Follow the Van*", "*TaRaRaBoumDeay*" and "*The Boy I love is up in the Gallery*".

The Panopticon moved with the times and when in 1896 electricity became widely available in Glasgow, it was amongst the first in the city to have it wired in, enabling the management to show the latest marvel of the era; Animated Pictures. The initial engagement was for just one week but that one week proved such an enormous success that by January of 1897 the animated picture had become a regular feature on the programme.

Electricity also afforded the audience an opportunity to see another marvel of the age, Dr Walford Bodie M.D. who used electricity to astounding affect. He would connect himself to huge electrical coils which buzzed and hummed with flashes of blue lightning when his assistant threw the switch. He would stand with his arms dramatically thrust up into the air, teeth gritted, head flung back and his body tensed as thousands of volts of electricity coursed through him. His fingertips crackled with blue lightning. Courting couples would then be invited on the stage and asked to kiss, but as their lips drew closer, electric sparks would pass between them preventing the pouting lips from touching.

By 1905 people were flocking to the sparkling new palaces of entertainment like the Pavilion, Coliseum and Kings Theatre, and the Panopticon closed for a while. When, in May 1906, it finally reopened the attic had been turned into a carnival with various games including Love in a Tub, Aunt Sallies, Hook 'Em Up, Bogie Men, Pipe Breakers, Coconut Shies, Electric rifle ranges, fortune-telling machines and hooplas. There was also a collection of waxworks including the British Royal family and the latest person to be executed at the Duke Street Prison (this exhibit was changed frequently). In addition, other rooms contained characters from the world's smallest man, to the world's tallest man, Sleeping Beauty, a leprechaun and numerous others who would entertain the gaping public.

The basement was converted into a zoo where, in addition to an assortment of birds, reptiles, monkeys and a bear, distorting mirrors, paintings by Hogarth and medieval etchings of Chinese torture could also be viewed.

It was now advertised as The Grand Panopticon which is a name derived from the Greek terms Pan meaning "everything" and Opti meaning "to see". However - it was a name that no-one in Glasgow could remember, spell or pronounce - so locally it became known as The Pots and Pans.

Soon after the reopening of the Britannia in its new guise as the Panopticon, a young man aged sixteen approached the owner and asked him if he might have a chance to perform on the stage. He was given a slot on that coming Friday's amateur night. His name was Arthur Stanley Jefferson, better known to the world today as Stan Laurel.

The Panopticon is well worth a visit and they have a programme of events over the summer to help raise both funds and the profile of this great survivor of a lost age.

For more information:

Glasgow's Lost Theatre: The story of the Britannia Music Hall by Judith Bowers, Birlinn, Edinburgh 2014

<https://www.britanniapanopticon.org/>



## GENERAL COUNCIL 2016-2017

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Council Members	Dr. Anthony Lewis, Helen Maxwell, Andrew Gemmell, Alan Gifford, Gavin Wilson
Correspondence	Direct Correspondence to the Appropriate Official via the Website or to the President

### 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 Margaret Gardiner, 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 to future issues should be sent to the Newsletter Editor via the website –

<http://www.glasarchsoc.org.uk/index.php/contact-us>

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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