

A TOUCH OF GAS

The Newsletter of Glasgow Archaeological Society



Issue 82 – Autumn 2018

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 2018/19

2018

- 18th October **Euan MacKie** - The Broch and the Empire: Re-assessing the work at Leckie, Stirlingshire, in the 1970's
Geoff Bailey - Rediscovering the Roman fort on the Antonine Wall at Falkirk
- 15th November Dalrymple celebrates MacKintosh - **Roger Billcliffe** – MacKintosh & the Four: The origins of the Glasgow Style
- 20th December Members' Night - **Lawrence Keppie**: Pontius Pilate: The Scottish connection
Jim Mearns & Gavin McNae: Droning over the Antonine Wall

2019

- 17th January **Murray Cooke** – Later Prehistoric settlements of the Forth Valley (Brochs, Duns & Hillforts)

The Dalrymple Lectures 2019

- 18th - 21st February **Gavin Lucas: The Archaeology of Time**
- 21st March **Stephen Harrison** – Viking burial practices in Britain & Ireland
- 18th April **Bob Will** – St Kilda

Admission is free. Lectures are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm from October to April in the Boyd Orr Building, University Avenue, Glasgow University with the exception of the April lecture which, due to building work, will be in the St Andrews Building Lecture Theatre 213. The Dalrymple Lectures on February 18th to 21st are at 6.30pm but on the 21st at 7.30pm in the Sir Charles Wilson building.

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.

Dr. Euan Mackie

At the April meeting President Dale Bilsland presented Dr Euan Mackie with the Presidential Award.

The Presidential Award was the inspiration of Past President, Dr. Alex Morrison in 2000 to recognise and celebrate some of the outstanding personalities and individuals who have contributed to the life and work of the Society, and/or to the regional and national world of Scottish archaeology. It is awarded every three years at the end of a President's Term of Office.

President Bilsland said that Euan was best associated with his ground-breaking work on Brochs, expanding knowledge of these remarkable features not just in themselves but as part of the entire historical landscape.

Euan studied archaeology at St.John's College, Cambridge from 1956-1959 before joining a Cambridge expedition to British Honduras, to excavate Maya sites. His methodology reports on Xunantunich caught the attention of many academics, and he became one of the rising stars of this revolutionary period in archaeology.

After a brief spell in the Department of Ethnography in the British Museum he was appointed as Assistant to the Hunterian Museum in 1960, laterally as Deputy Director, where he remained until retiring in 1998.

His list of publications numbers 134 from 1961 to the present, with number 135 in preparation. He is a past President of Glasgow Archaeological Society and also served as Editor of our Glasgow Archaeological Journal.

Dale Bilsland

SCOTTISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL JOURNAL

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 via the contact form on the GAS website – <http://www.glasarchsoc.org.uk/index.php/contact-us>

Members can access the early Transactions of the Society through JSTOR which in turn can be accessed through university library systems

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.

Women in GAS

In this year of celebrating the emancipation of women it is interesting to look back and see how women were involved in GAS. The archives are quite clear, women were present on excursions almost from the very first at Glasgow Cathedral in 1857. The rules and regulations make no mention of gender simply mentioning members and membership but there is no record of a woman joining the Society until 1907.

In that year, fifty years after our founding, GAS welcomed five women into membership. The Report by Council 1907-08 states "Thirty-seven members were admitted during last session including several ladies". The Membership list in this report gives:

- Miss E Alexander
- Miss Dreda Boyd
- Mrs Edwards (her husband John Edwards FSA Scot is listed as a Council member and life member who joined in 1891).
- Mrs Spencer
- Miss Spencer

Miss Alexander and Miss Boyd went on to become members of Council in 1919. Both remained for three years but whilst Miss Boyd retired by rotation in 1922, Miss Alexander remained for another year when she was "retired by vote".

Of these women, Miss Dreda Boyd seems to have been the most active and interested in antiquarian matters. As well as joining GAS in 1907, she also asked to join the Old Glasgow Club and at their annual meeting in May 1908 they debated the entry of women into membership and the resolution was carried by 30 votes to 22. Having made her point, Miss Boyd remained a member for only one year. Miss Boyd became highly active in the Provand's Lordship Society, for many years being the Director of their Social events and ultimately becoming President. The members of the Provand's Lordship Society admired her work so much they presented her with an antique oak carved chair in 1926. She was quite a character, being a regular on radio giving talks about antiquarian matters, she wrote plays and books and in at least one reference seems to have been a suffragette. She died in 1975 at the age of 96.

The earliest article to be written by a woman and published by GAS was one about "Painted Wall Cloths in Sweden" by Mrs Frances Murray, published in TGAS NS Vol4 (p87-94) it is the text of a lecture she gave to the Society on 21st April 1898.

Of course, arguably the most significant woman in the Society's history and our first woman President was the late Prof Anne S Robertson (1910 – 97). Professor Robertson became a member of the Society in 1937 whilst working in the Hunterian Museum. In the 1940s her post was part funded by the Dalrymple Lectureship fund and she became President of the Society in 1954, serving through the period of our Centenary celebrations in 1956-57. In 1965 she became one of two Honorary Secretaries of the Society and served in that capacity until 1972. A numismatist, she also carried out major excavation works on the Antonine Wall and elsewhere in Roman Scotland. The Society dedicated the fourth volume of the Glasgow Archaeological Journal to her. Her memory is kept alive within the Society

through the publication of the “The Antonine Wall – A Handbook to Scotland’s Roman Frontier” which she initially published in 1960 and is now in its sixth edition.

GAS has had friendly links and members in common with both the Old Glasgow Club and the Provand’s Lordship Society and it is fascinating to think what an afternoon in the company of Miss Boyd and Professor Robertson would have been like as they must surely have met in their active decades of work on the history and archaeology of Glasgow.

Jim Mearns

A day out in Kirkcudbright

A wet Saturday morning at the very start of September found GAS members on their way to the south west of the country for a day trip to Kirkcudbright, which was established as a Royal Burgh in 1455. The day began, after a short coffee break - obviously, with a guided walking tour, conducted by George Wishart, of the many of the fine buildings in Kirkcudbright including MacLellan’s castle, the tollbooth, the Stewartry museum and the harbour.



MacLellan's castle



Broughton House

After lunch members visited, Broughton House and gardens, where we also had a guide. Broughton House is an 18th century house in the centre of Kirkcudbright and was the home of the Scots Impressionist artist and renowned ‘Glasgow Boy’, E.A. Hornel. The artist bought the property in 1901 and lived there until his death in 1933. The museum is dedicated to Hornel’s life and work and many of his works hang in the house alongside those of his contemporaries. A year in Japan, left Hornel with a love of oriental flora and led him to create a beautiful and peaceful Japanese inspired garden, which overlooks the River Dee and even on a damp overcast day there was much to enjoy.

Our final visit of the day was to Dundrennan Abbey. Although the Abbey is in a ruinous state, it was a most accomplished piece of medieval workmanship, and is the best preserved 12th century Cistercian architecture in Scotland. Dundrennan Abbey was established in 1142 by Fergus of Galloway, King David 1 of Scotland and the monks of Rievaulx Abbey in Yorkshire and was described by Abbot Aelred as ‘everywhere peace, everywhere serenity, and a marvellous freedom from the tumult of the world.’ It was at Dundrennan 450 years ago, that Mary Queen of Scots spent her last night on Scottish soil before crossing the Solway to England and imprisonment.



Dundrennan Abbey

Our visit was much enhanced by a very knowledgeable guide who was happy to talk at length not just about his speciality area of stone masonry but also more generally about the history of the Abbey. All in all, another very successful and enjoyable day out.

Calling all armchair archaeologists

If you have always wanted to contribute to archaeology from the comfort of your own home here is your chance.

MicroPast Home Contributors Projects Community Data Learning Research Blog Sign in

Crowdfuelled and Crowdsourced archaeological data

You can assist existing research projects with tasks that need human intelligence, such as the accurate location of artefact findspots or photographed scenes, the identification of subject matter in historic archives, the masking of photos meant for 3D modelling, or the transcription of letters and catalogues. Other tasks might require on-location contributions by members of the public, such as submitting your own photographs of particular archaeological sites or objects. By contributing to a MicroPast project you will:

- Have a direct impact on research in archaeology, history and heritage
- Help with tasks that computers cannot do
- Develop skills that interest you
- Produce results that will be open and freely usable

To start contributing, just choose one of our Featured Projects below or visit our full list of ongoing [Projects](#).

THE BRITISH MUSEUM SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF LONDON

MicroPast: Crowd-sourcing is a website which allows anyone to help with research projects where human intelligence is required in areas “such as the accurate location of artefact findspots or photographed scenes, the identification of subject matter in historic archives, the masking of photos meant for 3D modelling, or the transcription of letters and catalogues”.

However, for those who prefer being out and about there are also other tasks which might require on-location contributions, such as submitting your own photographs of particular archaeological sites or objects.

Taking part means you can have a direct impact on research in archaeology, history and heritage and it may help you develop skills that interest you.

For further details, or to take part, visit <https://crowdsourced.micropasts.org/> and choose one of the Projects that interests you.

New exhibition at the Hunterian Art Gallery



A new exhibition has just opened at the Hunterian Art Gallery allowing visitors to see the scale and quality of Hunter's collections all in one place, including paintings, ethnographic objects, anatomical and natural history preparations and items from Hunter's library and great coin collections.

Hunter was a student at the University of Glasgow before moving to London where he prospered as a successful professor of anatomy and physician. His success allowed him to build up a vast private collection which he bequeathed to the University in 1783, along with money to build a suitable museum which he hoped would communicate knowledge and help ensure that his ideas, as well as his collections, would be available to posterity for the research and teaching

The Hunterian opened its doors in 1807 making it the first and oldest museum in Scotland. It was his wish that the new museum should deliver what 'shall seem most fit and most conducive to the improvement of the Students of the said University of Glasgow'

The exhibition runs from 28 September 2018 - 6 January 2019. Admission is free.

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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.

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