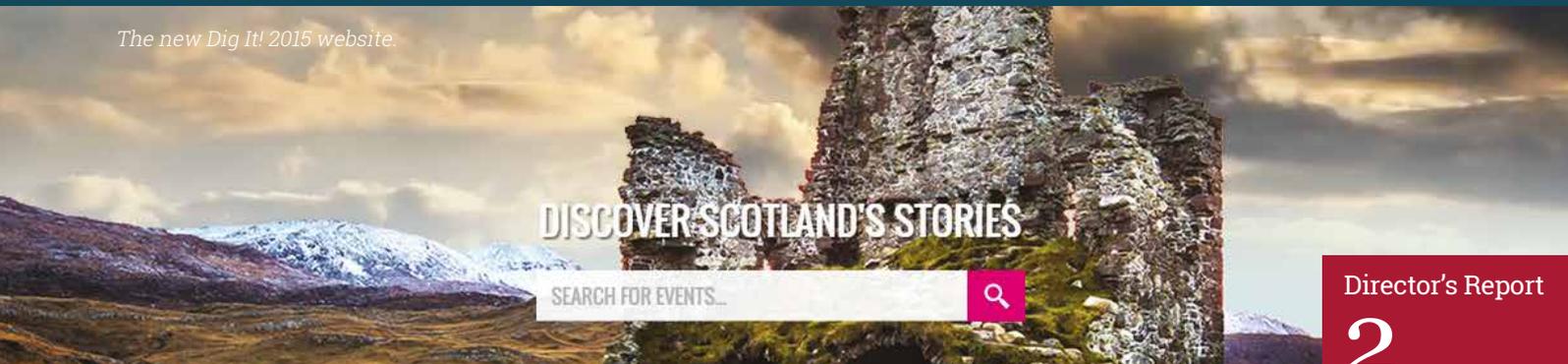




The new Dig It! 2015 website.



## The President's Letter

It is a great honour and privilege to be your new president. I am very conscious of the many able and distinguished presidents that I succeed, none more so than my immediate predecessor, Alan Saville, who has done so much for the Society in several years on Council and more generally in his professional career in National Museums Scotland for archaeology in Scotland. The Annual General Meeting on 1 December also marked the departure from Council of Brendan O'Connor, Vanessa Habib, Jim Mearns, Twin Watkins and Jonathan Wordsworth all of whom have also given excellent service to the Society.

I take over at an interesting time, with the Society involved in several major initiatives, not least in the year ahead Dig It! 2015, about which Jeff Sanders, its Project Manager, spoke so eloquently at the anniversary meeting. With the rest of Council and the Society's staff I now have the opportunity to implement the new governance structure, agreed by you at the AGM, which I believe will produce a better and more efficient organisation.

You also agreed at the AGM a motion from Council to raise subscription rates. Full details can be found on the Society's website, including information about how you can pay quarterly by Direct Debit. Council felt that the increases were necessary to continue to support the range and quality of activities undertaken by the Society, and it believes that the increases are in line with inflation since the last increase in 2008, and the subscriptions of equivalent organisations. A further proposal was made from the floor that Life Fellowship should be reintroduced, with no subscription fees for those having been a Fellow for at least 60 years. On the basis of a non-binding show of hands there was a marginal majority in favour of Council considering this. The matter has been remitted to our new Finance Committee to consider the financial implications of such a move and to propose an appropriate way forward.

Reflecting further on my new role, there are two things about the Society which I particularly appreciate. Firstly, we are a society, not an institute, and all that implies about Fellowship. We are a

mix of amateurs and professionals from many walks of life and that is not only a strength but a great opportunity to bring together and reflect the views and aspirations of a wide constituency. Secondly, we are all antiquaries, a term which has sometimes seemed rather old fashioned but of which we should be very proud. Next year will be the 200th anniversary of the publication by one of our early Fellows, Sir Walter Scott, of his novel, *The Antiquary*, which features the fictitious Jonathan Oldbuck in the title role. Scott claimed that Oldbuck was based on a friend of his father's, but there was perhaps more of Scott in the characterisation than he cared to admit: a man with wide interests, deep knowledge and considerable enthusiasm. We could all be happy to be seen as such.

The new season of lectures was kicked off by Tony Pollard FSA Scot who gave a thought provoking lecture on his sensitive excavation work on the Western Front. We were delighted to partner with Abertay Historical Society and the Great War Dundee project to present this opening lecture.

Alan Saville was scheduled to deliver his presidential lecture in November, but sadly was unable to do so through illness. In Edinburgh Alison Sheridan FSA Scot stepped in and gave a fascinating account of *Projet Jade*, the international study of the Neolithic axes and other artefacts made from rocks from the Alps and distributed widely across Europe. In Aberdeen, Neil Curtis FSA Scot spoke on pseudo Roman objects in the University of Aberdeen collections. We are most grateful to both speakers.

In December Anna Groundwater FSA Scot delivered a lecture in collaboration with the Scottish History Society on Ben Jonson's *Foot Voyage to Scotland, 1618*. Jonson's name will be familiar to many as a leading, London based, poet, actor and playwright, whose memory is now rather overshadowed by his much more famous contemporary, William Shakespeare. There may be less of an appreciation that Jonson claimed Scottish descent, and visiting his homeland was part of the motivation for his trip.

Underlying Anna's research is the remarkable

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## President's Letter

recent discovery of a hitherto unknown description of Jonson's visit written by an unidentified travelling companion. This allowed her to give a fascinating account of what he saw and did in Scotland and his impressions of that country. Like other visitors from England in the years after the union of the crowns in 1603 he was favourably impressed by Edinburgh and much else, and for Jonson a highlight must have been his stay with his fellow poet, William Drummond of Hawthornden. One of the fascinating strands that Anna drew out was the possibility that his trip also resulted from an official concern in London about simmering discontent in Scotland over the 'Five Articles' introduced in the General Assembly in Perth in 1618 requiring, amongst other things, kneeling at communion. This was total anathema to those of a Presbyterian persuasion and Jonson may have been expected to check for compliance with this royal requirement.

Jonson's voyage raises other issues of identity, to what extent our ancestors in 1618 were different from the English or were perceived by themselves and others to be so. From that point of view there are many resonances with where we find ourselves today in the aftermath of a national debate on whether Scotland should have independence from the United Kingdom. Scottish identity, or rather identities, remains a big issue, one that should interest all

## Director's Report

One of the Society's biggest ever projects, Dig It! successfully launched in January. Organised in association with Archaeology Scotland, Dig It! will deliver a fantastic programme of events throughout 2015. The January to June programme is enclosed with this Newsletter; please contact the team with more events for the second half of the year. A key dates in the Dig It! calendar is the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) conference in Glasgow in September. The Society is proud to be sponsoring ten student bursaries to the conference and the Director sits on the national organising committee.

The 2015 Rhind lectures (24-26 April) will use Alexander Rhind's seminal 1858 publication: *British Archaeology: its progress and demands*, translated into topics aimed at setting an agenda for 21st century archaeology in Scotland. The lectures will follow a new format with speakers and panels addressing issues relevant to the forthcoming Archaeology Strategy for Scotland. The latter will go out to public consultation in March 2015 with the intention to launch at the EAA in Glasgow. The full programme is enclosed with your mailing. Our thanks to AOC Archaeology Group for sponsoring what promises to be a stimulating and thought provoking event.

We are pleased to announce that Council Trustee, Jane Ryder OBE FSA Scot, has been appointed Chair of Historic Environment Scotland (HES) by the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs, with our Fellow Professor David Gaimster, Director, The Hunterian, appointed as a Board Member. We wish both well in what Jane remarks is a daunting but thrilling opportunity for Scotland. This marks a crucial stage in the merger of Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. The Bill has passed Stage 3 in the Scottish Parliament and received Royal Assent on 9 December 2014. A Chief Executive will be appointed soon, and work is already underway on the Business Plan for the new organisation. The Society looks forward to continuing its mutually beneficial relations with the new HES.

us antiquaries. You can expect that it will figure largely in Dig It! 2015, and there may be opportunities for the Society to promote research on this topic. Our thanks to Fellow Sir Angus Grossart for generously supporting the 2014-15 Lecture Programme.

The Society's promotion of research is evident through its lecture programmes, grants and publications. The list of recent publications on the Society's website includes an impressive series of volumes, remarkable for their quality and the range of topics covered. The latest, launched in the splendid surroundings of Register House in Edinburgh in November, is Fellow Naomi Tarrant's excellent 'Remember Now Thy Creator' Scottish Girls' Samplers, 1700-1872. Readers will notice that many of the beautiful illustrations of samplers in it are drawn from a private collection, that of Leslie B Durst. It was access to this collection that allowed for such a comprehensive publication. We forget at our peril the important role played by collectors over the years in identifying, researching and making available corpus of material not well represented in public collections. Collecting has always been an important strand amongst antiquaries and it is good to see it still producing such worthwhile results.

- David Caldwell FSA Scot | President

The Society has been awarded several grants from Historic Scotland. One to ensure the efficient running of Dig It! with others to continue the legacy of our Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF) project. ScARF continues to draw active use and appreciation worldwide, and provides inspiration for new areas and fresh lines of research. One such group, working voluntarily with support from the Society, is developing a multinational project, entitled Boyne to Brodgar, to examine the Neolithic monuments of Scotland and Ireland. The Society successfully bid for a small grant to help facilitate the contacts and collaboration the project needs to apply for major grant funding. An additional Historic Scotland grant will employ an early career researcher to develop ScARF and actively support regionally focused research frameworks. Further information will be available on our website soon.

At the Anniversary Meeting Fellows agreed two changes to Fellowship types. One is the introduction of a new Under 26 or Student Fellow category for early career researchers and heritage professionals and full time students. The other is to change the Retired Fellowship to an Over 65 Fellowship, removing the ten year qualification period. Both new categories aim to broaden and strengthen the Fellowship. Please encourage friends, colleagues and family with an interest in Scotland's past to take advantage of these new opportunities.

Also announced was the Council decision to consult Fellows in the development of the new Society strategy. The current five-year strategy is coming to an end and the new governance arrangements provide an opportunity to reappraise the priorities and direction of the Society with the help of Fellows. A draft online strategy will be made available to Fellows in due course. We will keep you informed of developments via email and our website.

2015 looks to be a busy year for the Society. The support of our global Fellowship is key to our success.

- Dr Simon Gilmour FSA Scot | Director

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Cooking in a crannog  
©The Scottish Crannog Centre

## Dig It! 2015 has officially launched! [www.digit2015.com](http://www.digit2015.com)

Dig It! 2015 has officially launched, and with the celebrations come an updated website, thousands of pink programmes, exciting new partnerships and even a new art competition.

If you have visited the website in the last few weeks, you may have also noticed that things are looking a bit different – our homepage now features key events happening across Scotland. More importantly, you can now search for events according to your interests and location. Fancy some Crannog Stew, for example? Search “Food” and you will find details of the **Celtic Spring Food Festival** which takes place on 3 May at the Scottish Crannog Centre, Loch Tay. There are over a hundred events on the site at the moment, with new listings coming in every week.

Over 50,000 copies of the first Dig It! 2015 printed programmes are being distributed across the country. With an event list and map alongside bold colours and quirky illustrations, the leaflets are informative, easy-to-read, and very eye-catching! This first edition covers January to June, and the team has already started working on a second one, which will be released in the summer to cover July to December.

In addition to the shiny new website and programme distribution, the team is still jumping from one interesting project to the next. Our Youth Engagement Officer has been busy organising a series of resources, as well as Heritage Careers Fairs, Careers Crawls and “Unconferences” in order to support youth workers and young people. We’ve also been working with a lifelong educator and games-based

learning expert to develop a topographically accurate map of Scotland in the extremely popular block-building game of Minecraft. This resource, called Crafting the Past, will allow young people to recreate Scotland’s archaeology and explore their own heritage alongside actual archaeologists. In addition, we’ve recruited our first Fellow volunteer, Adam Cumming FSA Scot, to help us with our Lifelong Learning programme. He will be helping us develop a linked programme of learning resources across Scotland, starting with the Middle Ages in Aberdeenshire.

### Competition Coming Soon – Dig Art! 2015

Ready to show off your artistic side? Dig It! 2015 and Forestry Commission Scotland have come together to combine the world of art and archaeology. Scotland’s heritage will take centre stage as this competition for all ages kicks off in the spring of 2015. There are many different ways to enter and lots of prizes to be won, so grab your cameras, clay, paintbrushes and pencils and show us what Scotland’s past means to you. For further details, please keep an eye on the upcoming Society and Dig It! 2015 e-newsletters.

#### Get involved

We are keen to hear from you. If you know any museum, local history society or other organisation that might want their event on the website, please let us know by contacting [info@digit2015.com](mailto:info@digit2015.com)

## The Society has a new website: [www.socantscot.org](http://www.socantscot.org)



As we go to press the final stages of the website development are underway. The site provides improved online payment facility for subscription renewals, publications, merchandise and ticket sales, clearer navigation panels to allow immediate access to news, updates and online resources and an enhanced ‘Fellows Only’ area.

The Fellows’ Directory, in the password protected ‘Fellows’ Only’ area, is a new feature and includes full names, post nominals, geographic location (town/city) plus email addresses if currently on the Society database. **If you do not want to be listed in the directory please contact [info@socantscot.org](mailto:info@socantscot.org) as soon as possible.** We hope that a Directory will encourage Fellow to Fellow communication and strengthen the Fellowship around the globe.

Our thanks to Investec Wealth & Investment for sponsoring the website redevelopment. Funding was also awarded through the Heritage Lottery Fund Catalyst Small Grant scheme.



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**Did you know that all the Society's current publications can be purchased online?**  
There are more than 50 to choose from and members get substantial discounts.  
[www.socantscot.org/shop](http://www.socantscot.org/shop)



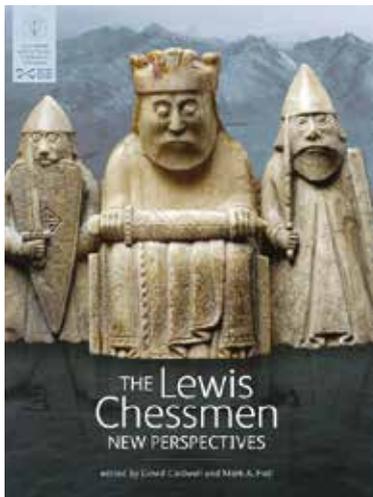
## COMING SOON: Scotland in Later Prehistoric Europe

Editors: Fraser Hunter & Ian Ralston  
ISBN: 978-1-908332-06-6



With contributions from a wide range of scholars (including Ian Armit, Barry Cunliffe, Colin Haselgrove, Flemming Kaul, Pierre-Yves Milcent, Rachel Pope, Richard Tipping and Eugène Warmenbol), this richly illustrated volume reviews Scotland's place in the context of European archaeology from the 2nd millennium BC to the Roman period. Themes discussed include: current perspectives on the debate about the Celts; summaries and new perspectives on recent work in Scotland; surveys of the archaeology of neighbouring areas; and the impact of the Roman world. In particular, the volume focuses on surveying recent Scottish work and providing useful comparison from neighbouring areas.

Expected publication date: Summer 2015 - keep an eye on our website for updates!

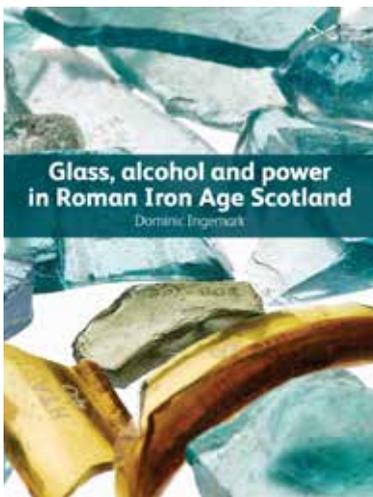


## The Lewis Chessmen: New Perspectives

Editors: David Caldwell & Mark Hall  
ISBN: 978-1-905267 85 9  
RRP £35 | Fellows' Price £25 + £5 postage (use code LCNP2014)

This book presents recent research and ideas about the Lewis Chessmen, a hoard of medieval ivory gaming pieces found on the Isle of Lewis, recognised both as outstanding examples of 12th-century art and as icons of the Scandinavian world. They also represent a key stage in the development of the game of chess. Different perspectives are offered by historians, art historians, archaeologists and scientists, and the possible location of the workshop where these chess pieces were carved is re-examined.

Order from National Museums Scotland - (0131) 247 4026 | [m.wilson@nms.ac.uk](mailto:m.wilson@nms.ac.uk)  
Fellows' offer ends 31 May 2015. Offer is not available online or at the NMS shop.  
Book may be collected at NMS offices in Chambers Street to avoid postage charge.



## Glass, Alcohol and Power in Roman Iron Age Scotland

Author: Dominic Ingemark  
ISBN: 978-1-905267 81 1  
RRP £35 | Fellows' Price £25 + £5 postage (use code GAAP2014)

This book offers a new view of the impact of Roman glass beyond Hadrian's Wall. The tiny surviving sherds have been overlooked in studies of the impact of the Roman world on its neighbours. However, analysis indicates they came from impressive vessels, primarily drinking vessels, and often of unusual types. The author argues that indigenous societies had a clear preference for spectacular and impressive forms and he discusses the use of this material in Iron Age society, and the question of what was drunk from them.

Order from National Museums Scotland - (0131) 247 4026 | [m.wilson@nms.ac.uk](mailto:m.wilson@nms.ac.uk)  
Fellows' offer ends 31 May 2015. Offer is not available online or at the NMS shop.  
Book may be collected at NMS offices in Chambers Street to avoid postage charge.



## Fellows Evening

Tuesday 18 November 2014 | McManus Gallery and Museum, Dundee

Fellow Christina Donald, Curator of Early History, welcomed Fellows to the McManus Art Gallery and Museum for our Fellows' Evening. Vice President Ann MacSween chaired the formal part of the evening which was followed by a private view of the recently refurbished "Landscapes and Lives" gallery. Fellow Lisbeth Thoms reports:

“Amazingly within the space of a few weeks last autumn Dundee hosted no less than three Society events. The first was the excellent talk by Tony Pollard at the start of the new lecture programme and the second was another excellent talk, this time by Alison Sheridan as the Buchan Lecturer giving the keynote address at the annual conference of the Tayside and Fife Archaeology Committee. The third event was a Fellows Evening designed this time to let Fellows, along with Society staff and Council members, do the talking at a gathering at the McManus Gallery and Museum.

This was a timely opportunity to discuss, in advance of the Anniversary Meeting, the proposals to change the form of governance of the Society and revisions to subscription rates and types. I therefore considered it disappointing that only 14 Fellows took part but the small number did allow for easy discussion with the five staff and Council members present. By and large the major issues facing the Society were appreciated and understood and the proposals to be put before the Anniversary Meeting were supported.

What an organisation can achieve depends very much on the resources available to it and two financial 'issues' were raised at the meeting. Concern was expressed at what appears to be the extremely tiny proportion of the Society's quite considerable annual income going towards one of its prime objectives, research. The cost of production of

the Proceedings was seen as very high and while a quality publication is desirable it was suggested that ways should be explored to reduce the production costs and perhaps alter the size and format yet still maintain high standards. It was felt that many Fellows saw the Proceedings as 'all that they got' for their subscription but this attitude should change if Fellows saw that their subscriptions are also a way of contributing to and supporting the aims of the Society. Towards this end, once governance and subscription changes have settled, the Society perhaps needs to undertake a review of all expenditure and reconsider the distribution of its resources.

There was considerable support for the idea of holding further local meetings and for establishing links with other groups/organisations which share similar or complementary objectives. Live performance screenings in cinemas by arts organisations are becoming the norm and it doesn't take a great leap of the imagination to perhaps think of Society lectures in future being viewed and then discussed in a number of venues across the country. The 'Dundee evening' was most enjoyable as well as positive and constructive. I very much hope that the Society and Tayside based Fellows will capitalise on this and ensure the legacy of what might become a sustainable 'area group'.

- Lisbeth Thoms MBE FSA Scot

### Are you Tayside, Angus or Fife based Fellow?

We want to know if you are interested in taking part in local initiatives for Fellows. What type of activity would you like to see? Please contact [vina@socantscot.org](mailto:vina@socantscot.org) or (0131) 247 4350 to share your thoughts and ideas.



THE EUROPEAN  
ETHNOLOGICAL  
RESEARCH CENTRE

## Ethnology Crossroads Conference Report

Saturday 6 December 2014 | Royal Society of Edinburgh, George Street, Edinburgh

One of the President's first duties after taking up office was to open Ethnology Crossroads. The one day conference was a joint initiative of the Society and The European Ethnological Research Centre. Conference sessions will be available to view online soon at [www.socantscot.org/resources](http://www.socantscot.org/resources)

“Nowadays, the beauty about being an antiquary is that it does not label us in a narrow way as, for instance, an academic or curator, or as an historian or archaeologist. We should not need to remind ourselves that the Society has always been a broad church and many of the enduring achievements of our Fellows have depended on an interaction between different disciplines. An important strand present in the interests of our Fellows since 1780 is what is now generally known as ethnology. It was good to see the Society, in association with the European Ethnological Research Centre in Edinburgh University, mount a conference on the Ethnological Crossroads in Edinburgh on 5-6 December. This event marked the 25th anniversary of the EERC and the recent completion of its 14 volume Compendium of Scottish Ethnology – a truly remarkable achievement. It was also, as the conference title indicates, an opportunity to review the place of Scottish ethnology within the wider European context and assess the new directions which the subject might take in the future.

Nobody at the conference was in any doubt that the main figure in the story of ethnology in Scotland was our late Honorary Fellow, Professor Alexander 'Sandy' Fenton, the man whose vision, hard work and persistence created the Compendium of Scottish Ethnology. Sandy was a man of many talents, a lexicographer, linguist, curator, academic and teacher, but it is as an ethnologist that he will chiefly be remembered. In the latter part of the 20th century he was largely responsible for putting Scotland on the map, ethnologically speaking, and it was good to see distinguished guests at the conference from elsewhere in Europe to honour his memory.

So whether ethnology in Scotland? It is too early to say, but it is clear that it is alive and well and the conference provided a lot to think about. As antiquaries we should take pleasure in that, and whether or not ethnologists ourselves, hope to learn from the work of Sandy Fenton's successors.

- Dr David Caldwell FSA Scot | President

## The Invisible Women

Fellow Dr Mairi Davies FSA Scot shares her research into early female Fellows of the Society.

*"If I am not good enough to sit down at your table, I am too good to stand in the hall."*

Miss Christian Maclagan to the Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (attrib).

“ Women have remained strangely absent from discussion of our Society’s history. Indeed, the 1981 volume published to mark the 150th anniversary makes not a single mention of them. The Society’s website has for several years included portraits and brief biographies of the founding Fellows, but no mention of the Lady Associates (admitted from 1870) or the first Lady Fellows (admitted in 1901).

Yet, as in the history of so many disciplines, one only has to scratch the surface to discover a small but intriguing number of female scholars. The Society’s first Lady Associates were Lady John Scott (née Alicia Anne Spottiswoode, 1810-1900), admitted in 1870, and Miss Christian Maclagan (1811-1901), admitted the following year.

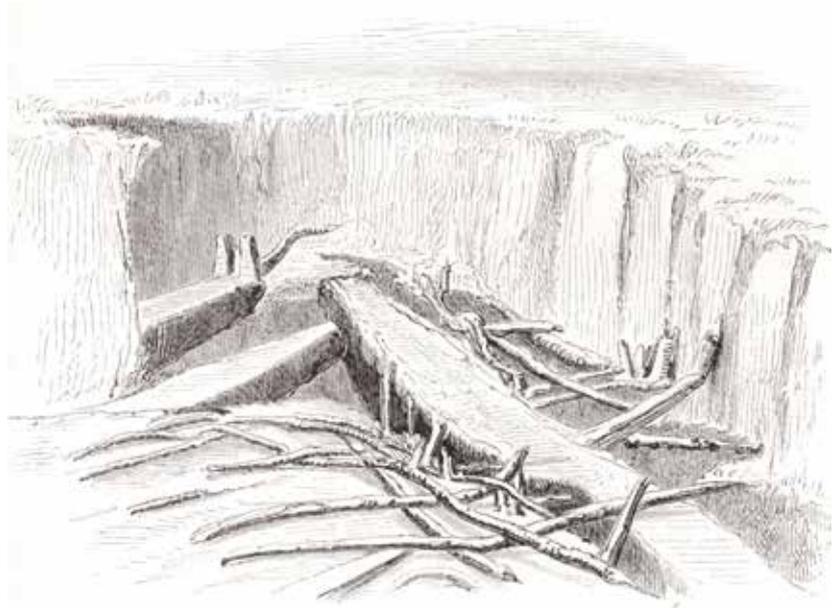
Lady John is undoubtedly best known for her poetic and musical works although her antiquarian interests stretched beyond that, across the Scots language, architecture and archaeology. She is often credited with authorship of the ballad ‘Annie Laurie’, although in fact she took the reputedly 17th century poem by William Douglas, rewrote parts of it and set it to her own music, which has since become the standard tune.

Lady John was also a collector of antiquities and her collection is now held in the National Museum of Scotland. It includes objects spanning the prehistoric, Roman and mediaeval periods, including bronze axeheads and spearheads, a Roman patera and Neolithic flint tools.

In November 1863, Lady John oversaw excavations at two barrows on the Spottiswoode Estate and while the paper published in Vol 5 of our Proceedings was clearly written by

her, it is recorded as “Communicated by Prof. J.Y. Simpson”. The date is significant; it marks Lady John out as one of the very first female field archaeologists. In the next volume of Proceedings, John Stuart reports on an excavation directed by Lady John of tumuli at Hartlaw. Stuart compares these to the graves reported in Vol 5 and in passing mentions that on that site, Lady John was assisted by a Mrs Warrender. The same Mrs Warrender is also mentioned as having examined a group of cists on her father’s estate of Newhall. In 1868 (Vol 8), Lady John reports on wooden structures uncovered in a boggy plantation next to Whiteburn Moss, illustrating her article with her own sketches.

Miss Maclagan published numerous books and articles on the ancient monuments and sculptured stones of Scotland, in the 1870s, 1880s and 1890s. She also carried out an excavation on the hillfort at Mither Tap o’ Bennachie, Aberdeenshire; she reported on this at a meeting of the Society in 1877 and in print in 1881 but the dig seems to have taken place somewhat earlier. So, remarkably, our first two Lady Associates both initiated archaeological excavations at an extraordinarily early date. Maclagan’s work covers the whole of Scotland and beyond including Sardinia and Brittany, to which she travelled to make comparative studies of the ancient monuments, firmly believing that archaeological sites in Britain were best understood in their European context. What is particularly notable about her work on prehistoric sites is her caution in describing the monuments she wrote about as fortifications or attributing them to the Romans.



Above left: Sketch of Lady John Scott. Above right: Sketch by Lady John Scott of a wooden structure discovered at Moss of Whiteburn, Berwickshire published in the Vol 8 (1868-1870) Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

*Below right: Sketch by Miss C Maclagan of "Roman Sculptured Stone Recently Discovered At Cumbernauld". She reported, "I also offered to purchase the stone for the Museum, but was told that "The Laird" was making a collection of such things, and of course the farmer must esteem his claim as the first. A few months ago, it was still in the milk-house of the farmer." Volume 9 (1870 -1872) Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.*

Miss Maclagan seems to have had a troubled relationship with our Society. Certainly, she was openly resentful of the discrimination she endured as "...a woman, and therefore unworthy of being a member of any Antiquarian Society...". In addition, she does not seem to have been afraid of openly criticising her male contemporaries, making scathing criticisms of, amongst others, Pitt Rivers himself. However, there is some evidence that her efforts were treated with rather more respect than has been sometimes been assumed. For instance, when the Royal Archaeological Institute held its annual meeting in Edinburgh in 1891, our Society hung the walls of the hall in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery with Maclagan's remarkable rubbings of sculptured stones for the occasion. Despite some sources claiming that she had, or wished to, resign, Maclagan remained a Lady Associate until her death in 1901, aged about 90. Around this time, the first female Fellows were elected to the Society. The laws of the Society did not need to be altered to make this possible; all that was required was a sea-change in attitude. While this may seem tardy, we should remember that the Society of Antiquaries of London did not admit women until 1921!

What unites these ladies is privilege. In the case of Maclagan, the combination of inherited wealth and independent, unmarried status enabled her to forgo the usual path of women of her class and quite literally, do what she liked. Similarly, it seems no coincidence that Lady John Scott's archaeological excavations apparently began in earnest shortly after her husband died in 1860, leaving her with no children. It is easy to dismiss these women as minor or irrelevant players in the development of our Society but their significance is that they were there at all, in the case of Lady John and Miss Maclagan, at the very birth of archaeology as a discipline.

I will continue the story of women's involvement in our Society with a discussion of our first female Fellows, in the autumn issue.

- Dr Mairi Davies FSA Scot



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**Jill Harden** was appointed in late 2013 to the new part-time post of reserves archaeologist for RSPB Scotland, using a start-up grant from Historic Scotland. Here she provides a background to this major environmental charity and outlines its current historic environment work.

“ The Society for the Protection of Birds (SPB) was founded in 1889 by women who wanted to halt the slaughter of birds for their plumage. Victorian fashion demanded a huge range of feathers to decorate hats. The decimation of certain species in the UK had led to taking such birds being made illegal by 1880. But the trade in foreign plumes flourished anyway, with the wide-scale slaughter of colourful birds across the globe.

The SPB's lobbying was recognised in 1904 when it was granted a Royal Charter. Nevertheless, success was slow in coming and it wasn't until 1921 that a UK plumage act was finally passed and the trade here ceased. The RSPB didn't stop there; it had already started to broaden its lobbying to seek the protection of other wild birds. It wasn't until the 1930s that the society decided to acquire its first reserve at Romney Marsh, Kent. Even then, in-house land management wasn't seen as a major part of its work until the 1970s/80s, when habitat protection and creation increasingly became *de rigueur*.

Nowadays the RSPB is involved with the management of some 70,000 hectares in Scotland. The reserves vary in size from less than 100 hectares, as at Loch Ruthven, to some 21,000 hectares at Forsinard. Some are coastal mudflats, like the Inner Clyde, others are farms, such as the reserves on Islay, many are moors and woods, like Abernethy. Monitoring and managing these lands for conservation involves a vast range of tasks on the ground, from controlling invasive species to organising guided walks and much in-between.

But reserve management isn't the only work of the organisation. Some staff work as conservation scientists, gathering the peer-reviewed evidence that underpins the charity's work. Others provide advice to farmers as to how they might manage their lands in a more environmentally-friendly way. There are some that lobby or comment on government and local authority policy and planning matters, while others are involved in education, media and fundraising. Advising on the historic environment of reserves is thus a small element of a much broader whole.

The range of landscapes, areas and sites of archaeological and historic interest and significance in Scotland is considerable. Reserves tend to be on less intensively farmed land where preservation is more likely, or in ecotonal areas which have often attracted past human activity. It is therefore a challenge to ensure that reserve staff are

well-informed about what survives, the significances, management needs and opportunities for visitor and volunteer engagement. Until recently reserve management has focussed on designated sites, using data from Historic Scotland. For other features and areas they have either relied on information gathered locally by enthusiastic reserve staff or, if they were aware of it, resources like Canmore or Pastmap. But now, with the support of RCAHMS and local authority archaeology services, we have incorporated historic environment layers into the RSPB's in-house GIS.

We've adapted the information linked to the maps so that staff on the intranet can see at a glance what a site is and its period, along with a summary description of what is still there. There are also desk-based assessments of significance and management needs, and links to more detailed sources of site information. Associated papers for scheduled monuments, listed buildings and designed landscapes are accessed via a link to specific servers. Archaeological reserve visits enable some checking of the input, as well as photography. The resulting images are added to the servers so that staff can feel more confident about what it is they should be managing.

The GIS-linked information is not just useful when considering on-site interventions, such as new fencing, tree-planting or hydrological works. It's a great resource for the quinquennial reserve management plans that reserve managers have to draw together on a regular basis. In the past the plans have usually listed designated sites, but now they can include the full gamut of other archaeological features. In addition, an overview of the significance of the historic environment and a summary of the environmental history of the reserve is being provided as each plan is reviewed. This plan work also provides an opportunity to highlight appropriate actions and possible projects that the reserve could take forward. These are important pieces of work, acting as a legacy for future understanding.

To underpin the new RSPB resource base, a series of guidance notes and case studies have been produced. They range from general information on the historic environment of Scottish reserves, to the need to control scrub and bracken over sites, and an exploration of the topic *'Have you found anything interesting recently?'*. The latter should be of value to reserve staff and external bodies, for it is the people on the ground who know most about the existence of lumps, bumps and artefacts. If nature conservationists

*Opposite: The RSPB has already started to work with volunteers to survey vernacular buildings. As part of an HLF project on Orkney we did a basic recording exercise on an 1870s farmstead on one of our reserves. © RSPB*

start to input data that will subsequently find its way into all layers of Pastmap then the historic environment will clearly benefit.

By ensuring that staff know what features are on their reserves, enhanced land management is bound to follow. For example, the historic significance of the landscape at Baron's Haugh in Motherwell has always been known. But in-house guidance has enabled a better understanding of the principles of managing change on such sites. Planned works in 2015 have benefitted from a range of studies. A résumé of the known development of this historic landscape was produced in-house, along with a heritage impact assessment of possible works. Using information from map regression, the re-creation of the curling pond will now cover the original site rather than the much larger current extent of waterlogging and flooding. Working with volunteers we have found some of the features of the pond including its outflow sluice (we still haven't found the inflow) and the fact that it wasn't clay lined. A tree age and species survey was also undertaken to ensure that appropriate types are chosen for additional plantings. Where to plant is being guided by the 19th century design, so the avenues will be re-established and small copses too. There are still features in this landscape that we don't fully understand but the RSPB is working to fill these blanks.

The natural environment is obviously the focus of the RSPB's work but a broader view of our reserves does offer great opportunities. Just one example will suffice. In the future we hope to start work in partnership with organisations, other charities and local people to record a range of ruinous buildings on our reserves. Many vernacular buildings are run-of-the-mill structures that provide fabulous habitats for lichens, birds and insects. But there are some that seem to be particularly significant. There is an 18th century Orkney farmstead, a pre-improvement farming landscape near Newton Stewart, and a series of 19th century cottars homes on Islay – and they're just the tip of the iceberg. Local community volunteers may be interested in checking census records, old maps and photos, or even making recordings of people who have memories or traditions associated with these places. The RSPB is certainly recognising the added value of the historic environment in its work on nature reserves.

**Jill Harden** FSA Scot  
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## International Fellows

### Report of the Second Dinner of the Society in Australia

“ Fellows and guests from across Australia attended the Second Society Dinner at the Royal Automobile Club in Melbourne on 17 February. Many of the 21 people attending travelled long distances in order to be there with double the number attending compared with the 2014 dinner. This was largely due to the fact that Dr David Caldwell, Society President, had kindly agreed join us and give an after dinner presentation. The conversations that took place around the tables were animated and engrossing, indicating a warm involvement of those attending, and providing an excellent foundation for future gatherings. We were honoured to meet and converse with the President

and keen to learn about the activities in particular the Society's vision to involve Fellows living overseas in a more meaningful way. The Toast to the Society was proposed by Mr David Rampling, South Australia, and the Vote of Thanks given by Dr Joe Johnson, Australian Capital Territory. For us Australians, living so far from the centre of the Society's activities in Scotland, the dinner offered a first-hand opportunity to meet other Fellows and guests, and build a closer relationship with the Society that we love belonging to. Everyone was well-pleased with the success of the evening.

- **James Donaldson** FSA Scot | Convenor of the Second Dinner



*Dr Jeff Sanders meeting Fellow Anne Kennedy in Washington.*

### Dig It! in Washington

Dr Jeff Sanders, Dig It! 2015, Project Manager met up with Fellow Anne Kennedy during a holiday visit to Washington. Anne, who has a great love of Scottish archaeology heads up the Living Legacy of Scotland charity ([livinglegacyofscotland.org](http://livinglegacyofscotland.org)). The charity recently supported the Ness of Brodgar excavation in Orkney.

### North American Meeting Update

Fellow Ian Greig is continuing to explore the feasibility of a meeting for Fellows in Tampa, Florida during the winter of 2015/16. The meeting will take place on a weekend with a programme covering a wide range of Scottish history, from pre-historic onwards with a focus on Scottish-North American connections. It will also include a social element with a proposed dinner and opportunities to meet fellow Fellows. Fellows who have already expressed interest in the event will be kept informed as plans proceed. If you have not been in touch with Ian please contact him as soon as possible by emailing [greig.history@gmail.com](mailto:greig.history@gmail.com) (please copy in [vina@socantscot.org](mailto:vina@socantscot.org)) or by writing to the Society.

## Viking Hoard, Galloway

In September 2014, metal detectorist Derek McLennan uncovered Viking objects buried in the soil in a field in Galloway. He immediately called Treasure Trove, who then mobilised colleagues to help with its recovery and deal with on-going work. An archaeologist from Dumfries and Galloway Council arrived and systematically excavated and recorded the items. It became apparent that two hoards were buried in the same location, separated by a few centimetres of soil, but the time period between the two has not been established.

Historic Scotland (HS) became involved through dealing with the emergency conservation of the artefacts, which include silver and gold jewellery and ingots, a silver enamelled cross, a gold pin in the shape of a bird and a silver vessel of Carolingian origin wrapped in textiles. That the vessel is full of further objects has been revealed by a scan, and its contents will be carefully excavated shortly. HS also funded a geophysical survey of the field and environs and small-scale excavation around the hoard site to try to gain greater understanding of the context of the hoard and character of the surrounding remains. In the immediate vicinity of the hoard were the remains of at least one building and a wider enclosure, although their relationship to the hoard is not yet determined; historical sources suggest that there may have been an early Christian ecclesiastical foundation nearby. The field surrounding the hoard has now been scheduled as a monument of national importance.

On-going work has been a collaboration between a number of organisations and individuals. In particular, the local landowners and tenants have been extremely helpful in facilitating access and the metal detectorist and his



Scan of Carolingian silver vessel  
© Borders General Hospital

colleagues have helped at all stages

Archaeologists from Dumfries and Galloway Council, Treasure Trove, HS, RCAHMS, National Museums Scotland, University of Glasgow and AOC Archaeology are all working together to ensure that hoard and site are appropriately investigated and protected. Numerous Viking experts have given their time and expertise. There is still much more to uncover about this exceptional find and site.

- Dr Rebecca Jones FSA Scot | Historic Scotland

# 2

September

## The 21st Annual Meeting of the European Association of Archaeologists Wednesday 2 - Saturday 5 September University of Glasgow, Glasgow

The European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) represents archaeologists and heritage professionals from across Europe. The Annual Meeting has become established as the premier archaeological conference in Europe and the 21st Annual Meeting will be hosted at the University of Glasgow with around 2,500 delegates expected to attend. Six key themes define the framework for the meeting: archaeology and mobility, reconfiguring identities, science and archaeology, communicating archaeology, legacies and visions, and Celtic connections. There will be a number of pre- and post-meeting excursions conducted by leading archaeologists including trips to some of Scotland's World Heritage Sites, lowland castles, museums, Pictish stones and prehistoric landscapes as well as historic buildings, battlefields and distilleries.

The Society is delighted to be sponsoring ten student bursaries (now all awarded) to encourage attendance by early career researchers, from across Europe, with an interest in Scottish themes and topics.



Fellows model garments made from specially commissioned tartan at the EAA launch event - Rebecca Jones, Historic Scotland; Louisa Campbell, EAA Glasgow 2015; Stephen Driscoll, EAA Glasgow 2015; and Diana Murray, RCAHMS.

For more information and to register visit [www.eaglasgow2015.com](http://www.eaglasgow2015.com) or contact Dr Louisa Campbell by email [louisa.campbell@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:louisa.campbell@glasgow.ac.uk) or phone 0141 330 2809.

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13  
April

**Lecture: 'Antiquaries and archaeologists in the depiction of the hard edges of time'**

**Straford Halliday FSA Scot, University of Edinburgh**

**Monday 13 April 6.00pm**

Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22-26 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2PQ

**Tuesday 14 April 7.30pm**

Regent Building Lecture Theatre, Regent Walk, Aberdeen, AB24 3FX

Free and non-ticketed

The Society has a long tradition of archaeological fieldwork, creating drawings that chart the evolution of survey and investigation in the field over the last two hundred years. What has been recorded and how has changed considerably and this lecture will explore what this means for archaeologists working today. Generously supported by Sir Angus Grossart QC CBE DL LLD DLitt FRSE FSA Scot.



Plan of the Broch of Lingro (1870)  
© Courtesy of RCAHMS. Licensor  
www.rcahms.gov.uk

14  
April

**Rhind Lectures 2015**

**Friday 24 - Sunday 26 April**

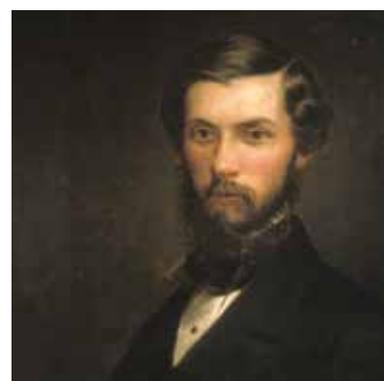
Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22-26 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2PQ

Free and non ticketed

'British Archaeology: its progress and demands', was published by Alexander Rhind in 1858. Taking this key work as the overarching theme sessions will explore a range of topics through an engaging programme of talks and panel discussions. Speakers include **Professor Audrey Horning**, Queen's University Belfast, **Professor Richard Bradley**, University of Reading, **Dr Jacqui Mulville**, Cardiff University and **Professor Ian Baxter**, University Campus Suffolk.

For full details please see the flyer issued with this Newsletter.

Sponsored by:



Alexander Rhind  
© Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

24  
April

30  
May

**Archaeological Research in Progress**

**Saturday 30 May, 9am-5pm**

Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22-26 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2PQ

Our national conference examining recent and ongoing archaeological projects in collaboration with Archaeology Scotland. The programme includes sessions reflecting best practice and new research findings covering a breadth of chronological periods and projects from across Scotland as part of Dig It! 2015.

Supported by Historic Scotland & The Royal Society of Edinburgh.

Sponsored by AOC Archaeology, CFA Archaeology, Forestry Commission Scotland, GUARD Archaeology, National Museums Scotland, SUERC, University of Aberdeen.

For full details please see the flyer issued with this Newsletter.



Excavations at Broich Road, Crieff  
© CFA Archaeology

30  
August

**Summer Excursion - A Day in the Borders**

**Sunday 30 August, 9.30am-6.00pm**

Distinguished architectural historian **Professor Richard Fawcett** FSA Scot, University of St Andrews, will be our guide to the medieval ruins of Dryburgh Abbey, burial place of Society founder Earl of Buchan. A visit to Stobs Camp and training ground, near Hawick will be led by expert **Allan Kilpatrick** FSA Scot, RCAHMS. Opened in 1903 and finally closed in 1959, the substantial remains are arguably the best in the UK. Our tour will focus on examining the PoW camp and the surviving buildings, as well the cemetery and even a practice trench system. **Dr Chris Bowles** FSA Scot, Archaeology Officer at Scottish Borders Council, will be our guide *en route* through the Borders countryside.

Full details and booking available at  
[www.socantscot.org/events](http://www.socantscot.org/events) or call Jacqui on (0131) 247 4133



Stobs Camp, near Hawick  
© Courtesy of RCAHMS. Licensor  
www.rcahms.gov.uk

# Important Information



## Help your Society thrive

*'Remember Now Thy Creator' Scottish Girls' Samplers, 1700-1872, is a beautifully illustrated book by Naomi Tarrant FSA Scot, that looks at how samplers blend together artistic expression, teaching tool and historical document.*

Publication of this fascinating research was only possible thanks to generous support from a donor. We have a wealth of ideas for publications, conferences and events - a donation can help the Society turn these ideas into reality.

You can support the Society by:

- **Donating online** - using our secure online giving portal [www.socantscot.org/support-us](http://www.socantscot.org/support-us)
- **Donating by post** - please send a cheque payable to "Society of Antiquaries of Scotland"
- **By remembering the Society in your Will** - the gift will cost nothing in your lifetime but will make a lasting contribution to the future study and interpretation of Scotland's past.

Please contact Dr Simon Gilmour or Vina Oberlander if you would like further information on supporting the Society.



© Chris Mackinnon

## Changes to Fellowship Categories & Subscriptions from July 2015

- **Ordinary Fellow** - £72 per annum
- **Family Fellow** - £36 per annum. For Fellows who normally reside at the same address as an Ordinary Fellow. Digital-only versions of the Proceedings of the Society of the Antiquaries of Scotland and Newsletters
- **Over 65 Fellow** - £54 per annum
- **Under 26 or Student Fellow** - £20 per annum. Students must be full time and provide proof of matriculation. Digital-only versions of the Proceedings of the Society of the Antiquaries of Scotland and Newsletters.
- **Quarterly Direct Debit** now available.

Please encourage colleagues and friends to join the Society. Application forms may be downloaded from our website. **Deadline for applications: 1 September 2015.**

## Contact us

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## Access to Research Library

Work to create new galleries for National Museums of Scotland Science & Technology and Art & Design collections is well underway. While work is ongoing, access to the Research Library from the public galleries will not be possible until summer 2016. The library is still available to visit and the library has full access to all of its collections and free wifi access. Fellows wishing to use the Research Library are asked to make an appointment and to request material in advance of visiting: (0131) 247 4137 or [library@nms.ac.uk](mailto:library@nms.ac.uk)

## How to pay

- **Direct Debit** - Direct Debit Instruction (DDI) forms are available on our website
- **Online** - Using your credit card or PayPal (electronic invoices can be sent on request). Log in to your Fellows Account area at [www.socantscot.org/fellows](http://www.socantscot.org/fellows)
- **Standing Order** - Please contact your bank to amend your payment. N.B. The Society cannot amend your Standing Order on your behalf
- **Cheques** - please make payable to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
- **US Dollar payments** - Rates will be calculated to allow for exchange rates and bank charges. You will be advised of the correct amount in your renewal letter
- **Gift Aid** - The Society can recover an extra 25p per £1 on subscriptions and donations from UK tax payers. Gift Aid forms are available to download at [www.socantscot.org/fellows](http://www.socantscot.org/fellows)

If you have any questions regarding Fellowship types or payment please contact Jan Paterson by email [finance@socantscot.org](mailto:finance@socantscot.org) or call (0131) 247 4135 (Monday to Wednesday) who will be happy to help.