



'Coastal Kerb Cairn' by Gordon Doughty, Dig Art! 2015 competition entrant, "The current shape of Dun Fhuarlit Kerb Cairn at Kilmory Knap echos the Paps of Jura across the sound."

Director's Report

2

News

3

Publications

4

Looking back

5

Research

6

Fellows' pages

8

Fellowship

10

Events

11

Information

12

The President's Letter

As ever, there are a number of interesting and diverse events for Fellows to look forward to in 2015-16. A surprise development will be our return to National Museum Scotland in Chambers Street as the venue for our Edinburgh series of lectures. We have enjoyed our use of the Royal Society of Edinburgh's premises and have been very grateful to their staff for making us so welcome there. I would encourage those Fellows within travelling distance of our lectures to attend. A valuable aspect of Fellowship is the opportunity to meet together and share our enthusiasms.

Building on the success of the joint lecture with *High Life Highland* in March we will be returning to Inverness Museum and Art Gallery. We will also be, for the first time, collaborating with Glasgow Archaeological Society and the National Library of Scotland with talks in Glasgow and Edinburgh respectively. The Scottish Government has designated 2016 as Scotland's Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design, and our joint event with National Museums Scotland will be a multi-speaker event on exploring 6,000 years of architecture. I would also like to thank Fellow Sir Angus Grossart for his continued support which will enable us to record our lectures professionally improving the quality of our free online resources.

We also look forward to the Rhind Lectures in early May presented by Prof Rosemary Sweet, Professor of Urban History at the University of Leicester. 2016 marks the 200th anniversary of the publication of *The Antiquary*. To celebrate Sir Walter Scott's antiquarian interests, planning is underway on an international conference in autumn 2016. Further details will be announced in the next Newsletter.

The Society's Council is currently reviewing the

Society's strategy for the forthcoming years. We are keen to consult with Fellows on the way ahead, and intend to launch a Fellows' consultation at our Anniversary Meeting on 30 November. We also aim to communicate more effectively with our growing numbers of Fellows outside Edinburgh, many overseas, and to enable them to participate more fully in Society affairs. To that end, Council is looking to create the opportunity for the appointment of Honorary Secretaries for geographical areas where there is a clear demand for such posts.

At the last AGM Fellow Leslie Morgan proposed that subscription fees should be waived for Fellows with more than 60 years Fellowship. Subsequently Mr Morgan changed his proposition to those with over 65 years Fellowship. On examination of a list of Fellows compiled by year of election and length of service it is clear that offering free Fellowship would be increasingly costly to the Society and the lost subscription income unsustainable in future years. Council, however, would like to recognise long standing loyalty to the Society, such as those having served as a Fellow for 65 years or more, by offering a certificate and listing their names in the *Newsletter*.

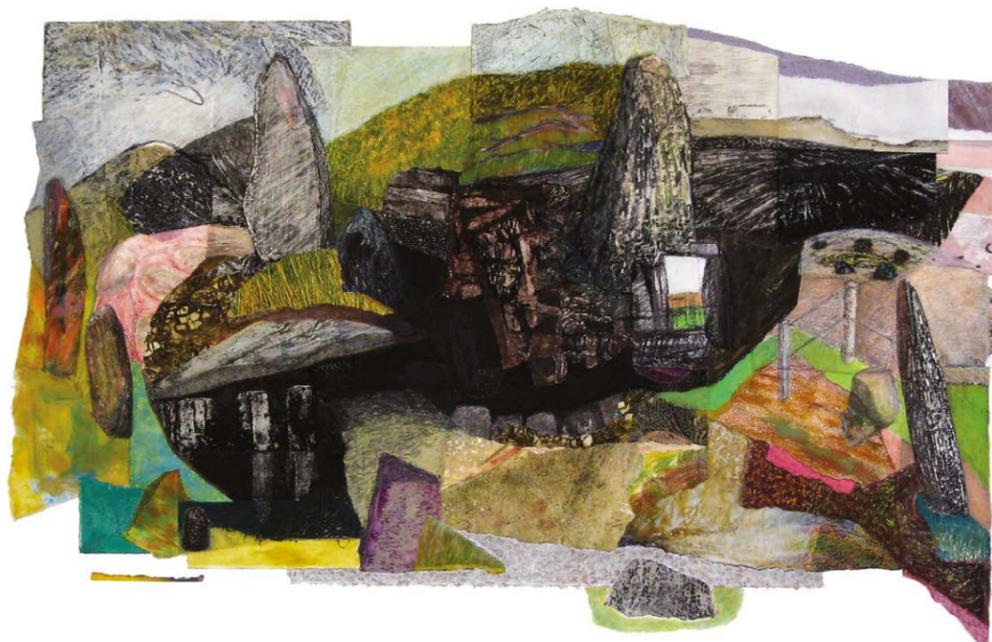
It is my pleasure to list our first long serving Fellows below and would like to thank them for their sustained interest and support of the Society.

- Rev John Scott MA FSA Scot, Essex. Elected 1940
- Neal Ascherson FSA Scot, London. Elected 1949
- Dr David Baird FSA Scot, Canada. Elected 1949
- James Carruthers MA FSA Scot, Leicestershire. Elected 1949

- David Caldwell FSA Scot | President

Director's Report

'In Memorium' by Clare Yarrington, Dig Art! 2015 competition entrant, "A visit to Cairnpapple Hill inspired this work, which explores how archaeological remains blend into our modern landscape and present us with a doorway to the past. As an archaeologist I pieced together fragments of ancient pottery to bring the past to life again – now, as an artist, I piece together fragments of previous works to visually evoke the strong relationship between the traces left above ground and the remains buried below. I was working on this picture when my Father died and it is named in his memory."



Fellows will likely receive this Newsletter between two of the biggest events in the 2015 heritage calendar. On the one hand there is the gathering of over 2,000 international archaeologists in Glasgow for the European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) meeting in early September. On the other hand there is the final stage of the creation of Historic Environment Scotland (HES – the merged RCAHMS and Historic Scotland) in October. The Society has been involved in the development of both, the former as a member of the national organising committee and the latter as an advocate during discussions on the proposals and the required legislation. We will continue to monitor and support the development of this new body as it progresses, and we are pleased to have its new Chair, and our ex-Council member, Jane Ryder OBE FSA Scot present her vision for HES at our Anniversary Meeting on St Andrews Day.

Of course both these events are occurring within our Dig It! year and the second programme, highlighting events to December, is enclosed with this Newsletter. New events are being added to the comprehensive online calendar all the time so please visit the Dig It! 2015 website or contact the team for more information. Our other major project, the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF), has also been revived, and you will find a short note on this elsewhere in the Newsletter, please feel free to contribute to both!

In response to news that Scottish tourism bucked the UK trend and saw an increase in both visitors and spending last year, a recent Tweet to the Society said "Tourism's doing well, economy's up, unemployment is down. Obviously we're about to be hit by a meteor!". Well, yes, we may well be, or at least the public sector is: the recent budget made clear that austerity is here to stay with regard to public finance, and those who will face some of the most difficult decisions over the coming years will be local authorities. A lot of excellent heritage work and resources lie in the hands of Local Authorities, from museums, archives and libraries to expert advice on planning applications. The Society has stated its mission is to promote the research, understanding

and conservation of the historic environment of Scotland for the benefit of all. It will actively support research in the field and advocate good practice, so Fellows are urged to not only make the Society aware when this ethos comes under threat locally, but also to make their voice heard at the local level. They can help make explicit the positive value our historic environment, and the expertise of those who help to steward it, provides to Scotland. Consider that ten percent increase in tourism revenue last year. All the statistics point to the importance of our historic environment, including museum collections, in driving visits. The Society will do all it can to support local authorities during what are certainly going to be pressurised times ahead.

I would like to remind Fellows about the new Fellowship types, one for students / people under the age of 26 and the other for people 65 years old and over. With our new website it is now possible to submit electronic as well as hard copy application forms (www.socantscot.org/joinus). In turn the reduction in administration has allowed the deadline for application to move to 1 October rather than 1 September. Please actively consider nominating friends and colleagues for election this coming November.

Supporting the Society through Fellowship ensures the organisation remains independent and can continue to deliver active support to high quality research, understanding and conservation of Scotland's heritage. We continue to promote these values through our programme of events which is included in this Newsletter. We are continuing to develop additional events throughout the year. Please ensure we have your email address so we can keep you up to date with our monthly e-newsletter!

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible over the coming programme and in particular our more far flung Fellows. To this end we continue to host and fund lectures outside Edinburgh and Aberdeen. We are aiming to set our programme of activity further in advance so that Fellows can plan ahead and hopefully catch an event live!

- Dr Simon Gilmour FSA Scot | Director



Dig It! 2015 is in full swing!

The celebrations have been going strong as the Dig It! 2015 team has been jumping between a nation-wide art and photography competition, island archaeology, and the development of an exciting new storytelling campaign. The second printed programme has also gone out across Scotland, providing a taster of the fantastic events happening throughout the country from July to December.

The Dig It! 2015 team's busy summer began when we teamed up with Forestry Commission Scotland to run an archaeology, art and photography competition called Dig Art! 2015. It was a great success, with participants ranging in age from 5 to over 70. Their submissions reflected the wide variety of archaeology in Scotland, and included modern landscapes, Celtic crosses, iconic lighthouses, and even underwater archaeology. The winners will be displayed in September during EAA Glasgow 2015 as massive banners and in thousands of the conference's 'Our Place in Time' Arts Festival booklets.

We also spread the Dig It! 2015 celebrations to Shetland, where we met with various heritage organisations and museum teams, who wowed us with their engaging displays, events and resources. On the last day of our trip, Fellow Jenny Murray from the Shetland Museum very kindly volunteered to take us around to some of the must-

see sites, including the beautiful Catpund Steatite Quarries, where you can still see the tool-marks left by Vikings.

The Western Isles were then painted pink, as we hopped between Lewis, Harris and North Uist to meet with enthusiastic heritage workers and volunteers. By the end of the trip, we had learned that geology and genealogy should team up more often, Harris Tweed looks great on Nike shoes, and creative WW1 poppy projects can spark curiosity in an entire community.

In addition to supporting networking events such as #DrinkingAboutMuseums, launching 'Discovering the Clyde' with RCAHMS, and co-ordinating a Roman "flashmob" in Kirkintilloch, we've also teamed up with the Scottish International Storytelling Festival for 'Dig Where You Stand'. This campaign is bringing storytelling and archaeology together across the country from September until the end of November. As you can tell, there is never a dull moment in the Dig It! 2015 offices!

Find out more

If you'd like to know about any of these projects, please contact info@digit2015.com or visit www.digit2015.com to find an event near you.

Scottish Archaeological Research Framework



Can you believe it has now been three years since the launch of www.scottishheritagehub.com, the website of the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF)? The initial aim of the project was to reflect the current state of knowledge regarding Scotland's past as it stood in 2012. It was hoped that as our understanding of the past changed, so too would ScARF. It was envisaged as a living document that would be constantly updated, edited and improved.

Three years on, the Society is seeking to undertake a review of what the Framework has achieved so far, and how it has helped shape Scottish archaeology. If you have used ScARF in any way, either for work or pleasure, please get in touch. A short survey will be sent out in the coming weeks to all panel contributors, but we are seeking the views and experiences of as many people as possible, including Fellows.

If you have used ScARF professionally, then in particular we would like to know what you found useful about the panel reports and the archaeological data they contained – have they helped shape your everyday work and research? Did the Research Recommendations help focus your existing

projects or provide ideas for new ones? The ScARF website allows registered users to leave comments and add work – have you taken advantage of this aspect of the project or know someone who has?

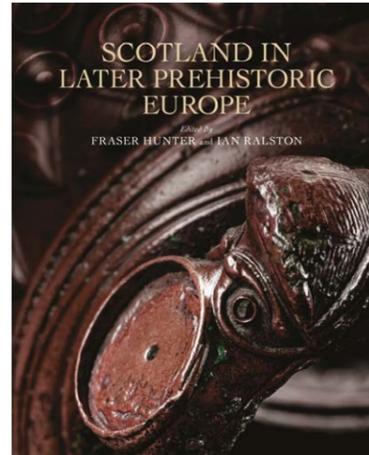
If your involvement with ScARF was more for fun than work, then what did you think of the popular account that took the form of a graphic novel? That publication found its way into museums and libraries across the country and there is even a Gaidhlig version available, which proved popular with Gaidhlig schools. Did this innovative and fun way of discovering Scotland's story appeal to you? Are there new and exciting projects out there that have sprung from reading the graphic novel rather than the online reports?

Tell us what you think

No matter what your involvement with ScARF, we would love to hear your thoughts on the last three years of the project: www.surveymonkey.com/s/socscarfis3
For more information email emma@socantscot.org



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



Scotland in Later Prehistoric Europe

Editors: Fraser Hunter and Ian Ralston
£60 RRP £48 Fellows
ISBN: 978-1-908332-06-6



How did Scotland relate to wider European patterns in later prehistory? This key topic is addressed by the papers in this richly illustrated volume, which review recent work on the Scottish later Bronze Age and Iron Age in the light of its neighbours. Authors use the explosion of recent data to investigate settlements and domestic architecture, art, craft, beliefs and environmental change. Comparative studies from southern Scandinavia, the Low Countries, Atlantic France, Ireland and northern England provide perspectives which feed into much larger topics, such as the changing balance of Atlantic versus Continental connections, how societies responded to climate change, and how significant an issue this was. There are fresh insights into models of later prehistoric society, the nature of craft production, changing land use and settlement patterns.

You can see the table of contents, read the introductory chapter and purchase the book through our website (www.socantscot.org/product/silpe) or by contacting our distributor, BookSource (email orders@booksource.com quoting the Fellows' discount code Buchan1780).

Forthcoming books

We have a wide range of books coming out in the next year! Fellows can look forward to seeing the following in 2015/2016:



Portmahomack on Tarbat Ness - Family Estate, Pictish Monastery, Trading Farm and Medieval Township by Martin Carver, Justin Garner-Lahire and Cecily Spall



Living and Dying at Auldham, East Lothian: the excavation of an Anglian monastic settlement & medieval parish church by Anne Crone and Erlend Hindmarch, with Alex Woolf



The Birth of Industrial Glasgow: the archaeology of the M74 by Michael Nevell



The Roman Fort on the Antonine Wall at Bearsden: excavations 1973-82 by David Breeze

Plus many more to come! You can find the most up-to-date information about all of our forthcoming books on our website or by subscribing to the Society's e-newsletter.

go to 1	go to 2	go to 3	page 4	go to 5	go to 6	go to 7	go to 8	go to 9	go to 10	go to 11	go to 12
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Archaeological Research in Progress

Saturday 30 May 2015 | Royal Society of Edinburgh

This annual conference showcases recent and ongoing projects from across Scotland and is a collaboration with *Archaeology Scotland*. This year it was our turn to host the event and Dr David Caldwell shares his thoughts on a very successful day.

It would be difficult not to be impressed by the quality and variety of work being undertaken in Scotland, despite limited resources. The range of topics from Mesolithic to Modern, from fieldwork and excavation on land and underwater to refining radiocarbon dating and artefact studies, was wide, and the quality of the presentations and the underlying research high. It is clear that much of what we were treated to is really pushing forward our understanding of the past, whether in detecting Mesolithic occupation in the Cairngorms (Caroline Wickham-Jones), using microarchaeology to understand life at the important Neolithic site at Ness of Brodgar in Orkney (Lisa-Marie Shillito), or discovering Iron Age burials in the Western Isles (Martin Cook).

Reinterpretations of well-known monuments and finds also featured. New research presented by John Reid made a case for the Roman forts adjacent to the native fort at Burnswark in Dumfriesshire being evidence for a real siege about AD 126-130 rather than, as often assumed, a training exercise. Martin Goldberg reported new interpretations and research on the Pictish hoard of silver from Gaulcross, Banffshire, comparing it with the Norrie's Law hoard from Fife, and placing both in a wider context of late Roman 'hack silver', as represented by the Traprain Law Treasure. As a retired museum curator I particularly appreciate the questioning and revaluation of famous discoveries from the past.

**The Rhind Lectures
British Archaeology: its progress and demands**
Friday 24 April - Sunday 26 April 2015 | Royal Society of Edinburgh, George Street, Edinburgh

The Rhind Lectures provided a thoroughly stimulating weekend of thought provoking sessions. Our President reports:

We departed from the normal one speaker/six lectures format this year. Instead we had several speakers and panel discussions, all on the theme of British Archaeology, its progress and demands. This title echoed an 1858 publication by Alexander Henry Rhind himself. It shows how critical he was of bad practice in his day and keen to find the best way forward, largely through careful survey and excavation of early remains. Indeed, many of the challenges Rhind identified are still with us. No doubt he would have been as enthralled as this year's audience by the opportunities presented by our panel of palaeogeneticists to collaborate in new areas of research involving the recovery and analysis of DNA. On the basis of a new study of the man, presented by Margaret Maitland, he would have relished concepts presented by other speakers like the importance of resilience, engagement with the wider community and the empowerment provided by knowledge.

We were fortunate in securing a distinguished and very

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Excavating in the Cairngorms. © University of Aberdeen

As a previous president of the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology I was also pleased to have reported by Warren Bailie his excavation of an 18th century drovers' inn at Tigh Caol near Strachur in Cowal. It is remarkable how much archaeology has to contribute to such relatively recent and well-documented times. There is clearly no risk that we will run out of worthwhile projects, no matter the period or place. Let us hope that the resources can be generated to allow them to be undertaken. It remains one of the Society's key ambitions to provide more and larger grants for research projects.

I would also like to thank all our sponsors Forestry Commission Scotland, Historic Scotland, AOC Archaeology, CFA Archaeology, National Museums Scotland, GUARD Archaeology, SUERC and the University of Aberdeen for supporting this successful event.

- Dr David Caldwell FSA Scot | President



The Society's President introduces the Rhind Lectures.

able group of speakers to guide and lead our thoughts and discussions, but the undoubted success of the weekend depended as much on the participation of our Fellows. Well done to everyone present and our thanks to AOC Archaeology Group for their generous sponsorship.

For those who could not attend please do view the sessions online at www.socantscot.org/resources. We are encouraged to consider repeating this format on future occasions.

- Dr David Caldwell FSA Scot | President

The Invisible Women

Fellow Dr Mairi Davies FSA Scot continues her exploration of early female Fellows.



Portrait of Miss Ella Christie taken in 1909.
© Sir Robert Stewart



Ella Christie arriving in an "arba" (horse drawn cart) at Novy Urgench, Uzbekistan.

This image is reproduced by kind permission of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society www.rsgs.org

“ Women were finally admitted to the Society on the same terms as men in 1901. Miss Isabella (Ella) R. Christie (1861-1949), one of the first two female Fellows, is rather better known than the other lady antiquaries. She inherited her wealth but had to fight for it in court after her father left it to charity in his will. Like the first lady associates of the Society, independent means, coupled with the death of relatives, effectively released Miss Christie from the social constraints of women of her day.

She was, first and foremost, a traveller and explorer and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society (RSGS) in 1911. Miss Christie, along with Marion Newbiggin, was one of the first women to sit on the RSGS's Council, in 1923, and from 1934 until her death, served as Vice-President.

Miss Christie's parents, Alison Philp and John Christie (a coal mine owner) seem to have been well travelled and she and her sister recall in their memoir being taken to France, Belgium and Italy as children. Her father had strong opinions on children mastering at least one foreign language and learning through travel. Ella therefore learnt German, Italian and Spanish from governesses, French from a Swiss maid and later learnt Swedish so that she could translate the fairy tales of Zach Topelius for publication in English. Her language skills, of course, were essential in her travels. Another glimpse of an important influence on Miss Christie's life is the account of a governess, a well-to-do lady who had fallen on hard times, who took her and her sister on scrambling walks, which required the removal of Miss Semple's crinoline!

Ella's interest in foreign lands and antiquities seems to have been piqued at a young age. As she recalls, "From a child the glamour of the East seemed to cast a spell over my life. Whenever I met a child stranger, my first question always was: 'Were you born in India?'...Anything to do with Egypt possessed for me the same attraction, and I rebelled at being taken to a museum unless I could be assured of seeing a mummy as part of its treasures." (Christie and King Stewart 1940, 175).

As an adult, she travelled far beyond Europe, first with her father and then with a friend, to Egypt, Palestine and Syria. After her father's death, she went still further, sailing to Bombay on conclusion of the sensational court case mentioned above. She went to India, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), Burma, Japan, Korea, China, Hong Kong, Khiva, India, Tibet, Nepal, Russia, the United States of America and Cuba, and published an account of her travels through central Asia to the heart of Turkestan. She is said to have been the first British woman to have visited the state of Khiva, in what is now Uzbekistan and the first Western woman to meet the Dalai Lama, in Nepal in 1911. Miss Christie took a maid on some journeys, Prudence Humphries, and encountered and befriended fellow lady travellers, although she actively avoided travelling with them. Ella donated her photographs to the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and some of these can now be seen online at www.geos.ed.ac.uk/~rsgs/ifa/gemellachristie.html.

It is perhaps no surprise to learn that Ella was friendly with Flora and Louisa Stevenson of Edinburgh among



Photograph of Miss Ella Christie in her Japanese garden at Cowden Castle Estate, taken in 1934. © Sir Robert Stewart

others involved in the campaign for women's rights in Scotland in the late 19th century. A chapter in her memoir is devoted to recollections of these "remarkable women" as she called them. Miss Christie saw active service during WWI, running canteens for servicemen in France, first in Bar-sur-Aube and then in Mulhouse, Alsace. She was acutely aware that she had lived through a period of unprecedented social change, as noted in the joint memoir she published in 1940 with her sister Alice. This volume is full of anecdotes and Ella seems to have had strong sense of the weight of the past upon the present. She gathered many souvenirs from her travels, as her father had done before her, but the most singular is perhaps her effort to recreate a bit of Japan in Scotland. Miss Christie was captivated by the gardens she saw whilst travelling in Japan, writing home to her sister about them. On her return, she created a Japanese-style garden, *Shāh-Rak-Uen*, ('the place of pleasure and delight') on the Cowden Castle Estate, Dollar, with Taki Handa (then studying at Studley College,

England) and Professor Jijo Susuki and later acquired a Japanese gardener, Shinzaburo Matsuo, to help her tend it. The garden is now on the Inventory of Gardens and Designed Landscapes and, having been badly vandalised in the 1960s, is in the process of being restored. You can find out more about the project and make a donation at: www.fineartcommissions.com/cowden

Mrs Eleanora (Ella) Agnes Kennedy-Cochran-Patrick (1872-1959), also elected Fellow in 1901, has proved somewhat more elusive. She was the daughter of eminent Fellow, R. W. Cochran-Patrick, the numismatist, but I have so far been unable to find any information on her antiquarian interests, which seem likely to have been piqued or encouraged by her father. I would be delighted to hear from any Fellow who has more information.

- Dr Mairi Davies FSA Scot
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Sir William Gibson-Craig



Charles Cowan



John Piper



Robert Moubray



James Baird



Major Henderson

Who were the curlers?

John Burnett, formerly principal curator of Scottish Modern History at the National Museums Scotland, has a particular interest in the social history of sport in Scotland. Here he shines a light on some of the characters in this wonderful sporting painting.

“ A huge oil painting, “The Grand Curling Match on Linlithgow Loch, 1848”, by Charles Lees (1800-80) went on display in the Scottish National Portrait Gallery (SNPG) in the spring of 2015. In 1898 it was bought at auction by James Law, an extraordinary man who was General Manager of the *Scotsman* for 64 years, and a curler. He immediately sold it to the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, which has now lent it for exhibition in the SNPG – whose building was largely paid for by Law’s colleague, J.R. Findlay, effectively owner of the *Scotsman*.

The artist was born in Fife, at Cupar. He trained in Edinburgh, and was a competent professional who led a largely unremarkable life there, producing mostly portraits and scenes by moonlight. When chose other subjects, he was liable to criticised. His ‘Grouse – A Study from Nature’ was displayed at the Royal Scottish Academy, and the *Scotsman* said sourly that it should have been titled, ‘a study from the pantry.’ The one colourful incident in his life occurred when he eloped with the daughter of a laird, Captain Christie of Baberton. After escaping to London, the young couple were married at Gretna Green.

Lees was a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, as was the painter of another famous curling image also on show in the SNPG, Sir George Harvey. Lees included two fellows in his Linlithgow picture, William Gibson Craig of Riccarton and Charles Cowan of Valleyfield.

When the painting was engraved in 1861, it was sold with a key that identified the subjects, who sound like stolid lairds, like Major Henderson of Westerton and Robert Moubray of Cambus. This, however, is not the case. Yes, many were landowners, but they were also the kind of men who were driving Scotland’s economic growth. John Henderson’s estate was at Bridge of Allan, which he was developing as a spa. Moubray was a distiller, like John Haig and Adam Dawson, whose St Magdalene distillery still looms above Linlithgow. The wealthiest man in the picture is probably James Baird of Gartsherrie, ironmaster in Coatbridge and plutocrat. Gibson-Craig was a Tory MP, advocate, and Treasurer of the Highland & Agricultural Society, and Cowan was also in Parliament, an advanced Liberal as well as a successful papermaker in Penicuik. The Licencing Act of 1853 is remembered as ‘the Forbes Mackenzie Act’

“The Grand Curling Match on Linlithgow Loch, 1848”, by Charles Lees (1800-80).

This image is reproduced with thanks to the National Galleries of Scotland.

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after the MP for Peebles who introduced it into the House of Commons. The Act, though, was framed by Lord Kinnaird, an active politician and improving landlord, who was not an Antiquary in 1848, but later became a Fellow. He is in the back row of the portraits.

One curler and one spectator were not, in Victorian terms, gentlemen. The grinning enthusiast who is leaning forward to get a better view is John Piper, haberdasher in the North Bridge, Edinburgh. He bought the picture, paid Lees half of the price, exhibited it in his shop, and went bankrupt. Lees was never paid in full for his work.

The other is John Palmer, schoolmaster of Currie. He had come from Galloway to Midlothian in the late 1820s. He was sufficiently highly regarded for a letter in praise of his teaching to be published in the *Scotsman* in 1833. It was signed by various luminaries, including Henry Cockburn, the Solicitor-General. After the Grand Caledonian Curling Club was set up in 1838 – arguably the first national sporting association anywhere in the world – Palmer was a notable committee man. He is the skip who in the painting is leaning forward to direct a vital shot, wearing a light blue cap. His headstone stands beside Currie Kirk, a few yards

from the school in which he taught, and two streets in the village are named after him.

In the 1840s curling was growing. In the Lowlands, it was already the most popular sport for men to play, and the number of curlers was increasing. The men in the painting were the leaders in what was on the surface a sport and underneath, a social movement.

‘We have ever maintained, that the higher and lower orders, however close their location, learn more of each others’ natural character in one spiel at Curling, than during many years of cold and constrained neighbourship. Kindly condescension must ever originate and foster love and esteem, but we deny that it will every lessen respect.’ Thus an anonymous curler in 1844. Many feared that industrialisation was breaking down British society into classes which had no contact with one another. Curling was an antidote, and Lees’s painting shows the leading curlers trying to create a more comfortable nation, and the engraving of it made it one of the standard images of the national sport.

- John Burnett FSA Scot
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Meet Will Wyeth – Student Fellow

The Society delighted to be sponsoring ten student bursaries for early career researchers at the European Association of Archaeologists meeting in Glasgow 2-5 September. Here William Wyeth FSA Scot, one of our bursary awardees talks about his current research and what the Society support means to him.

“ In October 2013 I embarked on a PhD looking at Scotland's early stone castles. The aim of my thesis was to revisit our knowledge and understanding of these monuments of the medieval past, to suggest new ideas for their emergence, development, role and differences – areas identified as in need of attention by the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (www.socantscot.org/research-projects/scarf).

Zooming forward to today, this has led me across the country and the sea to share my experiences of Scottish castles. I have to date visited over 60 castle sites in the UK (the vast majority here in Scotland) and participated in the recording with the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) of a dozen sites. In the process of this I have gained the thing I cherish most: practical experience in archaeology. I have presented at seminars, poster sessions and symposia, most recently at an international medieval and Renaissance conference at St Louis University in Missouri. I am currently refining two journal articles for publication, one on Norse castles in Scotland and the other on timber motte towers. The latter will form the topic of a paper I will present at the European Association of Archaeologists' (EAA) meeting in Glasgow



this September, for which I have very generously been supported by the Society.

I feel especially lucky because the EAA award includes a year's Fellowship, which I have already benefitted from both in terms of networking and knowledge exchange. The Society's value to me as a new researcher is not only in material support for forging a career in research, but especially because its Fellowship includes a vast array of expertise and interest in the kind of things I work with. In this sense, the Society's offering of special Fellowships for students and under-26s is a fantastic opportunity for sharing ideas. On a personal level, it is reassuring that the Society is willing to support the work of newcomers and new research; it is extremely encouraging!

- Will Wyeth FSA Scot

Meet Neal Ascherson – Fellow

Neal Ascherson FSA Scot has been a Fellow for 66 years. Here he shares what the Society has meant to him over the decades.

“ I was sixteen years old in 1949, when I became a Fellow. On summer holidays on the Isle of Coll, I used to collect flints and scraps of pottery around the hearth-sites uncovered by shifting sandhills. Back in mainland Argyll, I showed them to my mother's old friend Marion Campbell of Kilberry. Archaeologist and antiquarian combined, romantic patriot, novelist and landowner, Marion was a personality straight out of the cultural and political upsurges of 19th-century central Europe. She instantly proposed me for Fellowship of the Society, although I was still a schoolboy, and recruited me into some of her own operations. Knowing the hills of North Knapdale well at that age, I remember guiding some of her guests – R.B.K. Stevenson among them – across difficult country to the Iron Age fort at Doune, perched on a ridge above the Sound of Jura.

I became a journalist rather than an archaeologist, though I remember chill, drookit days excavating the Antonine fort at Whitemoss (in the last hour of that dig, I found the key dating sherd in a rock-cut ditch). But Marion's sense of archaeology as a political and cultural activity stayed with me. That was why I became involved in supporting the late Peter Ucko against the firestorm of professional outrage over his role in the founding of the World Archaeological Congress (WAC) at Southampton in 1986. In 1998 I joined him at the Institute of Archaeology UCL, setting up and editing the journal *Public Archaeology* for the next ten years. In that job, the work of the Society in recording the conflicting theories and personal dramas of Scottish archaeology over the past two centuries was invaluable.

Long live the Society, which gave me joy and understanding as a teenager and still widens my horizons today!

- Neal Ascherson FSA Scot

New Fellowship Application Deadline & Online Application Form

We now have an online version of our Fellowship Application form: www.socantscot.org/join-us/apply-online. We hope this will streamline the process and make it easier for prospective Fellows to apply and easier for existing Fellows to support applications. The system will also reduce administration which allows us to change our deadline from 1 September to 1 October for applications to be considered at our Anniversary Meeting on the 30 November. Please actively encourage friends and colleagues to consider joining the Society.

Tampa Meeting: Scots and the Americas through time 8-9 January 2016

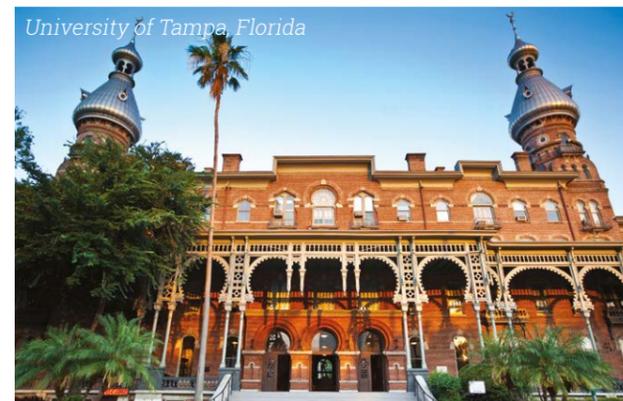
Fellow Ian Greig FSA Scot (Greig.History@gmail.com) is convening a meeting in Tampa, Florida on 9 January 2016 to encourage discussion and scholarship among North American Fellows. The event is sponsored by the University of Tampa, Florida and will be the first Fellows' meeting to be held in North America.

Our President, Dr David Caldwell will chair the meeting and deliver the keynote paper on recent historical and archaeological research in Scotland. Additional papers will be delivered by Fellows with the main focus on Scottish links and interests in North America, from earliest times to the 19th century. The weekend will begin with an evening reception on the Friday 8 January with the 'Scots and the Americas through time' meeting on Saturday 9 January followed by a dinner in the evening. We do hope as many Fellows as possible will support this initiative.

The programme and booking information will be available in mid-September – so keep an eye on your inbox and www.socantscot.org for full details.

Honorary Secretary for Australian Affairs: Rev James Donaldson

Earlier this year President Dr David Caldwell had the pleasure of meeting Australian Fellows at their second Society Dinner in Melbourne. Organised by Fellow Rev James Donaldson FSA Scot, the dinners have been a great



success bringing people together to celebrate Fellowship and share interests. The Fellows present suggested that a new honorary post should be considered as a way of recognising the work done at a local level on behalf of the Society by individuals like James. The Council agreed that a framework should be developed to create honorary posts and, with the support of Australian Fellows, we are delighted to announce that James has been appointed the first Honorary Secretary for Australian Affairs.

Is there an individual in your area who could act as a champion for the Society? For full details of the Honorary Secretary framework and guidelines please contact director@socantscot.org

Lecture Programme

Our 2015-16 Lecture Programme (enclosed in the mailing) promises a rich range of topics and expert speakers. As well as our regular Edinburgh and Aberdeen lectures, we are particularly pleased to be visiting Glasgow and returning to Inverness. In Edinburgh the move to the Auditorium at the National Museum of Scotland will provide improved access facilities and a greater audience capacity. We look forward to welcoming Fellows, old and new, and encourage you to spread the word to friends and colleagues who may enjoy attending.

Work on the 2016-17 programme is now underway. Please forward suggestions for topics and speakers to director@socantscot.org.

New booking system

Lectures are free and bookable on a first come first served basis. Please book online via www.socantscot.org/events or by calling 0131 247 4133. While booking is not essential it will guarantee you a seat!

Online recording

We are particularly pleased to be able to work with Mallard Productions to professionally record the 2015-16 lectures. This will greatly enhance the online viewing experience for those Fellows unable to attend in person. This has been made possible through generous support from Fellow Sir Angus Grossart QC CBE DL LLD DLitt FRSE FSA Scot.

Up and coming events

From time to time opportunities arise for private views and events which, owing to print deadlines, we cannot feature in our Newsletters. You can keep up to date by regularly checking our website or receiving our monthly e-bulletin. To receive the e-bulletin please make sure we have your up to date email address. If we do have your email address, please check your Junk folder to ensure our e-bulletin is not ending up there!

Visit the Society's website for the latest news and events

Since the launch of the new website we are delighted to report an increase in the number of visits to the site and to the length of time people spend exploring the site. We hope that you are finding the online payment, shop and events booking system easier to use. Logging in as a Fellow allows you to access Fellows' Only news items and offers, including discounts on our books through the online shop. The Fellows' Noticeboard feature allows us to post short blog-style articles on recent activities and research being done by Fellows. In one recent item Fellow Adam Cumming shares his experience of working with the Dig It! team on developing lifelong learning resources. If there is a research interest or query you would like to share with Fellows on the Noticeboard please contact vina@socantscot.org

Important Information



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Help your Society thrive

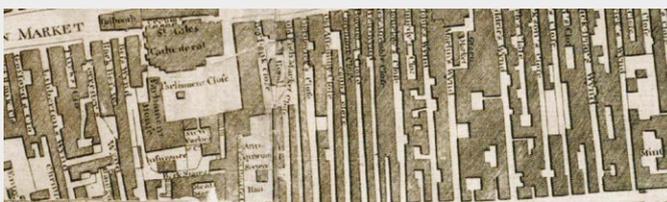
Our "library" of online lectures is a wonderful resource. You can listen to a wide range of engaging speakers and fascinating topics at any time, any place in the world for free by visiting www.socantscot.org/resources. Thanks to support from Fellow Sir Angus Grossart we can record this season's lectures professionally for the first time. Happy viewing!

Sir Angus said "The Society is a key element of the intellectual infrastructure which binds us together in Scotland. The marvellous work of the Society, and the members, deserves support."

You can support the Society by:

- **Donating online** - using our secure online giving portal www.socantscot.org/product/donation
- **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.



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 October each year.**

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

How to pay

- **Direct Debit** - Direct Debit Instruction (DDI) forms are available on our website
- **Online** - Using your credit card or by PayPal. Simply log in to the Fellows area www.socantscot.org/fellows and click the 'Pay Subscription' button.
- **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

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