



Hospitalfield House © Louise Coupa



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## The President writes...

The Society's summer trip this year was to St Vigeans and Hospitalfield, two contrasting experiences enjoyed by a bus load of Fellows. The new museum at the former is not the easiest place to access despite its superb collection of Pictish sculpture - explained for us by Prof Jane Geddes of Aberdeen University who has been undertaking a detailed study of the collection - all from the church and burial ground towering over the museum. Jane set us all a task to find and identify other pieces of early sculpture incorporated in the fabric of the church, a ploy which helped us appreciate the beauty and history of the place.

Nearby Hospitalfield House was a revelation to many of us, your President included. It is a large Scottish baronial house decorated and furnished inside in Arts and Crafts style. It was bequeathed by its owners, Patrick and Elizabeth Allan-Fraser, for the support of artists and education in the arts, becoming a residential art college in 1902. Patrick Allan-Fraser was a Fellow of our Society and also President of the British Academy of Art in Rome in 1873. Over the years many of Scotland's most significant artists have had residencies at Hospitalfield House. The timing of the visit was especially apt for us, just weeks away from our conference commemorating the publication of *The Antiquary* in 1816 by our Fellow, Sir Walter Scott. Hospitalfield was the model for Monkbarrow, the home of Jonathan Oldbuck, the hero of Scott's book.

The weather for these visits was much kinder than the previous outing enjoyed by your President on behalf of the Society. On Sunday 12 June, along with our Honorary Fellow, Neal Ascherson, I participated in the Patron's Lunch in the Mall, London. The pouring rain did not

manage to dampen the enthusiasm of the many representatives of charities and organisations that have the Queen as a patron and who were there to celebrate her 90th birthday.

As a Society we also have much to celebrate, including another outstanding year of lectures, in Edinburgh, Aberdeen and elsewhere, all well attended and offering a wide range of topics reflecting the interests of Fellows. Much of this success is down to the generous funding provided by Sir Angus Grossart, who has agreed to continue supporting our lecture programme, including having the speakers professionally filmed, for a further year. We are also most grateful to AOC Archaeology for funding this year's Rhind lectures which were presented by Prof Roey Sweet on the subject of the invention of historic towns. The lectures were well received by the large audience that attended. AOC have generously agreed to fund next year's Rhind lectures as well.

Sadly, we must report in this *Newsletter* the untimely passing of my predecessor as President, Alan Saville. Alan was a good friend and colleague in National Museums Scotland, and I owe him a great deal in encouraging me and offering advice when I took over my current role. He will be sadly missed by the whole archaeological community in Scotland and further afield.

2017 will be the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology, designated by the Scottish Government. We will all have our part to play in this, and much to get out of it. The Society, with your support, will as ever be one of the leading players in promoting our past. Watch out for further announcements on our website and in future *Newsletters*.

- David Caldwell FSA Scot | President

The Society is already looking to 2017 as the Scottish Government focus year of History, Heritage and Archaeology with great anticipation! Dig It! 2017 looks to be a key component of making the year a success, and we'd welcome any and all thoughts and ideas on the opportunities provided by a yearlong focus on Scotland's past. The year fits well with the Society's remit described in our Royal Charter, "...to investigate both antiquities and natural and civil history in general, with the intention that the talents of mankind should be cultivated and that the study of natural and useful sciences should be promoted."

The Society has also embarked on its new Strategic Plan 2016-2021 to fulfil the intentions of the Charter following consultation with Fellows. Both the revised Plan and a short report on the valuable responses we received are available on the website in the Resources section and the Fellows' page. The original draft was revised in the light of the responses from Fellows and the final Plan implemented as of the 1 June. One of the key initial aspects of this new Plan is the requirement for Fellows to advise whether they wish to receive the *Proceedings* as a hard-copy. A separate reminder and instructions are included below.

Since the last *Newsletter* we've also been busy appointing new members of staff and I would like to introduce Andrea Kaszewski as our new Fellowship and Development Manager, and Roza Dimitrellou, our new Publications Officer. Andrea is full-time and most recently worked for the charity, Children in Scotland, having previously worked with Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the World Development Movement (WDM) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and has a background in geology and interests in history, art and science. Roza also works full time and comes to us from Cambridge University Press as an Online Publishing Assistant with their online journals. She

has worked on several major projects there, including the online database for the Anglo-Saxon England Bibliography and the digitisation of the 'Africa' journal bibliography. She has broad experience in academic publishing and has already proven an invaluable asset for the Society, especially in the absence of Erin who left to work for Wiley Blackwell in Oxford in June. We have therefore also just appointed Catherine Aitken as our new full-time Managing Editor and she comes to us from Routledge (Taylor & Francis Group), where she was Senior Editorial Assistant and previously Editorial Assistant. She has a background in history, and her area of expertise in Routledge is medieval and early modern history books, where she has also been working on a forthcoming "Medieval Portal". In addition, we welcomed Anna MacQuarrie to the ScARF team from Fife Cultural Trust and previous to that she helped to develop the new archaeology, geology and land management displays for Museum nan Eilean in Stornoway as well spending time as the cultural heritage officer for Ionad Chalum Chille Ìle, Islay. She will be working part-time on the ScARF Museums Project, more on which elsewhere in the *Newsletter*.

Finally, I just wanted to record my personal sadness at the recent passing of Alan Saville. Alan was the third President I worked under and unfortunately become ill towards the end of his Presidential term and was unable to complete some of the ideas he had for the Society, as well as missing his own Presidential lecture. However, during his period of office we developed and launched both ScARF and Dig It!, two of our most successful projects, and he was a fierce supporter of the Society and its values. He was also a kind and supportive President and I very much enjoyed working with him - he'll be missed.

- Dr Simon Gilmour FSA Scot | Director



Green screen fun on World Heritage Day.



## Dig It! 2015 is dead, long live Dig It! 2017!

With only a few months until the Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology begins, it's been full steam ahead for the Dig It! 2017 team.

Thanks to funding from Historic Environment Scotland, we've ditched the "2015" and been reborn as "Dig It! 2017". Our mission, however, remains the same: to encourage the discovery of Scotland's stories (through archaeology, of course). We'll keep experimenting and trying new things, whether it's tattoos or video games, while continuing to assemble and promote all of the amazing archaeology that happens across Scotland. We're also placing a particular emphasis on inclusivity and young people, as we'd like to capture the imagination of the next generation while ensuring that archaeology really is for everybody. But we're getting ahead of ourselves...

Life as Dig It! 2017 started with a sprinkling of stardust as we attended the Scottish Rural Awards at Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh, where Dig It! 2015 was nominated under two categories (and we were overjoyed to make the shortlist for our work in education). We also brought a bit of green screen fun to visitors from across the globe at the World Heritage Day celebrations in the National Museum of Scotland and the VisitScotland Expo, a massive travel trade event. People jumped at the opportunity to adopt their favourite persona from Scotland's past by dressing up with bonnets, swords and even a St Kilda puffin!

When we're not bouncing between the Society and Archaeology Scotland offices, we can be found spreading the word about the archaeology celebrations. In April, the Project Manager spoke at the world's first "archaeogaming" conference in Leiden and brought an "Archaeology of Beer" session to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists conference in Leicester. Our Communications Officer has been helping to coordinate the Scottish Heritage Social Media Group to bring people together from across our sector to discuss hints and tips for promotion, with meetings taking place in Glasgow and Edinburgh so far. Our Youth Engagement Officer was also whisked off to Cairo in May by Durham University to talk about on-site archaeology sessions for children, young people and community engagement, and how this could be translated to an Egyptian context.

Dig It! TV, our very own YouTube channel, has been going from strength-to-strength. We now have three fantastic hosts (one each for history, heritage and archaeology) and are uploading a new video every fortnight. We've been

working with partners across Scotland to cover as much of the past as possible, including medieval castles, LGBT history and a Victorian mausoleum – with many more to come.

As for 2017, lots of exciting events and initiatives are already popping up, ranging from illicit whisky performances to pyrotechnic Viking festivals. It's going to be a year where science, art, food, music, sports and everything in between come together to celebrate Scotland's stories – and we can't wait to show you!

### Find out more

If you'd like to follow along with our monthly e-newsletter or social media, or get involved, please visit [digit2017.com](http://digit2017.com)



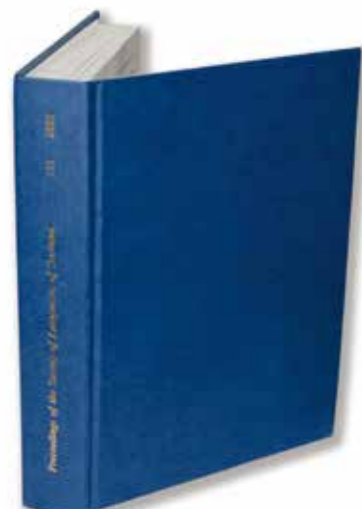
Digging it in Egypt.



On set with Dig It! TV.

## Hardcopy Proceedings – Final Reminder!

Following the Strategic Plan consultation Council Trustees are requesting that all Fellows indicate whether they wish to continue receiving a hardcopy version of the *Proceedings*.



Having considered the responses to the Strategic Plan consultation carefully Council Trustees have examined in detail the issue of digital publishing and the way the Society communicates and educates through its journal. The cost implications of printing and posting the hardcopy journal are considerable, and Council Trustees wish to invest greater funds in sustaining and developing the broad range of charitable activity the Society undertakes, including enhanced digital resources and grants. For this reason they are urging Fellows to consider forgoing their hardcopy.

To continue to opt-in to a hardcopy please contact [info@socantscot.org](mailto:info@socantscot.org), write to the office referencing "Hardcopy Proceedings" or you can register your preference online in the Fellows section of the website.

**We must receive your preference in advance of 10 October 2016**, when we need to make a decision on how many copies of the next Proceedings to print. If you have not opted in to a hardcopy by that date, you will receive access only to the digital version of the Proceedings. A limited number of hardcopy versions will be printed so there is no guarantee that those who do not respond by the deadline will be able to secure a hardcopy.



Left to right: Susan Buckham, Sally Foster, Stuart Jeffrey, Katherine Forsyth – the editorial team of the Future Thinking on Carved Stones in Scotland Project. © Susan Buckham

## Scottish Archaeological Research Framework



The ScARF project is pleased to announce that we now have the much anticipated ScARF Museums Officer in place. Anna MacQuarrie started with us in June and although Fife Cultural Trust were sad to see her go, we are very pleased at her appointment.

Anna will be working in partnership with Orkney Islands Council and Aberdeenshire Council museums. Both museum services have excellent archaeological collections and there is great scope for research to be undertaken on those objects which will make a valuable contribution to the wider research aims and objectives of ScARF. Work has already started with museum staff at Orkney Islands Council on how to take this new MGS and HES funded project forward. During September, Anna will be based in Orkney, which will provide an excellent opportunity to work with local museums staff and others to benefit both ScARF research objectives and the museums own research. Fellows based in Orkney who wish to contact Anna about ScARF, or might wish to meet with her during September, can email [anna@socantscot.org](mailto:anna@socantscot.org)

Since the last Newsletter, a third of the ScARF panels (Science, Marine and Maritime and Bronze Age/Chalcolithic) have reconvened and begun work on the updates to their archaeological content. A further two panels (Roman and Medieval) are meeting later this year. Please get in touch with Emma ([emma@socantscot.org](mailto:emma@socantscot.org)) if you wish further information.

It is heartening to see that frameworks and ideas that ScARF helped to create and nurture are beginning to bear fruit. The *Future Thinking on Carved Stones in Scotland* project mentioned in the Newsletter should now be available to view as part of ScARF by visiting [www.scottishheritagehub.com/content/future-thinking-carved-stones-scotland](http://www.scottishheritagehub.com/content/future-thinking-carved-stones-scotland)

The framework was coordinated by Fellows Dr Sally Foster (University of Stirling) and Dr Katherine Forsyth (University of Glasgow) but involved around 50 contributors

from a range of backgrounds. The resource contains over 50 case studies as well as hundreds of images, which the authors hope will stimulate further research into all aspects of carved stones in Scotland. The *Regional Archaeological Research Framework for Argyll (RARFA)* is making great progress with Fellows Sharon Webb and Biddy Simpson at the helm and this project is hoping to publish a framework as part of the ScARF website in Spring 2017. If Fellows wish to comment on the draft RARFA then please get in touch with Emma ([emma@socantscot.org](mailto:emma@socantscot.org)) for further details on receiving a copy of the work in progress. Such object and regional specific frameworks provide a local and nuanced means of both addressing existing ScARF research recommendations and adding new ones.

One of the aims of the *ScARF Student Network* is to help enable students to attend conferences that will help them carry out their research into aspects of Scottish archaeology. A total of ten reports from bursary recipients can now be read online via the Student Reports section of the ScARF website at [www.socantscot.org/category/student-report](http://www.socantscot.org/category/student-report) They cover a diverse range of topics including prehistoric beekeeping, Iron Age object deposition, re-evaluation of insular metalwork from Pagan-Norse graves, Medieval cetacean consumption and Iron Age equestrianism - so most Fellows should find something of interest! Work on these topics and more will be fed into future ScARF updates, helping to keep the research the resource contains current and truly reflecting what areas are being studied by early career researchers and future Fellows.

### Find out more

You can find out more about ScARF by visiting [www.socantscot.org/research-projects/scarf](http://www.socantscot.org/research-projects/scarf) and you can get in touch by emailing [scarf@socantscot.org](mailto:scarf@socantscot.org) or via our Twitter account [@ScARFHub](https://twitter.com/ScARFHub). In addition, there is a dedicated monthly e-newsletter for ScARF, which you can sign up to at [eepurl.com/bCFibT](http://eepurl.com/bCFibT)

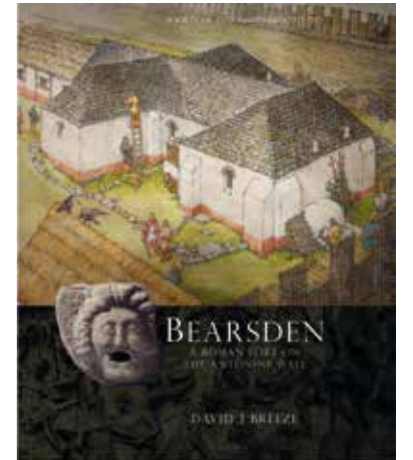
We are delighted to present our latest titles across a wide chronological and thematic range. All Society publications can be purchased at our online shop: [www.socantscot.org/shop](http://www.socantscot.org/shop).

### Bearsden: A Roman Fort on the Antonine Wall by David J Breeze



ISBN 9781908332080  
Hardcover | 24.5 x 30.8 cm  
440 pages | more than 270 illustrations  
RRP £30.00 | Fellows £24.00

The demolition of Victorian villas in the 1970s led to the excavation of the Roman fort at Bearsden, near Glasgow, on the Antonine Wall, and the discovery of a Roman bath-house and latrine. During ten summers from 1973 to 1982 a substantial portion of the Roman fort was examined and its history traced. Of particular importance was the discovery of sewage from the latrine, which provided intimate details about the life of the soldiers at Bearsden, including their diet and hygiene. The excavations were led by Professor David Breeze, the principal author of this detailed and richly illustrated report. Bearsden was launched in Glasgow University's Hunterian Museum, where some of the artefactual material from the excavation is on display, and has attracted wide media coverage and public interest.

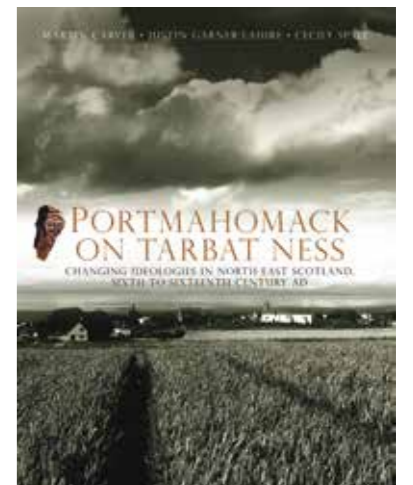


### Portmahomack on Tarbat Ness: Changing Ideologies in North-East Scotland, Sixth to Sixteenth Century AD by Martin Carver, Justin Garner-Lahire and Cecily Spall



ISBN 9781908332097  
Hardcover | 24.5 x 30.8 cm  
552 pages | more than 400 illustrations  
RRP £30.00 | Fellows £24.00

Portmahomack on the Tarbat peninsula overlooking the Dornoch Firth is a fishing village with a 1,500-year-old history. Having been a sixth-century 'cemetery settlement', an eighth-century monastery, a ninth-century trading farm, a twelfth-century parish church, a thirteenth-century fishing village and a fifteenth-century township, Portmahomack was rediscovered by archaeologists in the 1980s, and from 1994 to 2007 it saw one of the largest research excavations in Scotland's history. This outstanding publication presents the archaeological discoveries made at and around Portmahomack and considers their significance. Professor Martin Carver discussed the excavation at Portmahomack at a sold out event at the Edinburgh International Book Festival in August and will also be speaking in Edinburgh and Inverness during April 2017 as part of the Society's 2016-17 lecture

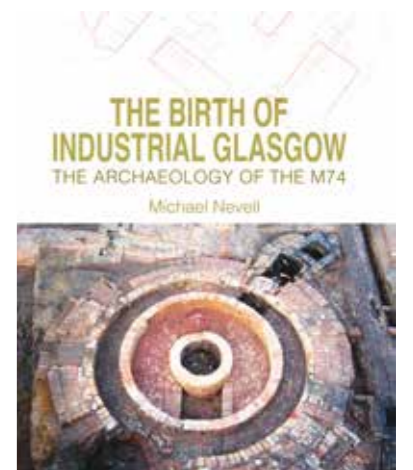


### The Birth of Industrial Glasgow: The archaeology of the M74 by Michael Nevell, edited by Andrea Smith and Frank Meddens



ISBN 9781908332103  
Hardcover | 24.5 x 30.8 cm  
216 pages | more than 140 illustrations  
RRP £25.00 | Fellows £20.00

This lavishly illustrated book gives the authoritative overview and synthesis of one of the largest archaeological projects to be carried out on Scotland's industrial heritage, and marks a milestone in studies of the mid-nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries. The excavations examined massive complexes such as the Govan Iron Works and the Caledonian Pottery as well as engineering works, foundries, lime works and a textile mill. Many different types of housing were also investigated, from purpose-built workers' rows to 'Greek' Thomson tenements. The world-famous industrial might of Glasgow in the form of businesses large and small, wide-ranging and specialised, and the homes of the people involved, is here described in detail in the archaeological reports and set in context by the principal author Dr Michael Nevell.





## Silent footprints of musical activity: Archaeo-musicological adventures with the High Pasture Cave lyre bridge

**Barnaby Brown** is a doctoral student at the University of Cambridge. His thesis 'The craft of a Scottish Gaelic piper' has a companion website [altpibroch.com](http://altpibroch.com) and a CD *Spellweaving*, both launched in May 2016. The website includes images from one of the Society's manuscripts and the CD builds on a recording of Scottish harp music, *Silva Caledonia*, funded by a grant from the Society in 2008.

“It is all very well having beautiful instruments, made by world-leading artisans in sympathy with the aims of experimental archaeology. But when the instrument arrives in your hands, what do you do with it? Is there a scientific basis for making music in a way that can honestly claim to have anything to do with the culture of medieval or Iron Age Scotland?”

The approach I have taken producing the CDs, *In Praise of Saint Columba* (2014) and *Spellweaving* (2016), is twofold: to present multiple alternative solutions and to synthesise the widest possible range of evidence types. I depend heavily on an interdisciplinary team to assemble and avoid contradicting all the clues – material, literary, iconographic, notational and ethnographic. Synthesis requires intuition and speculation, but as with the trireme *Olympias*, certain things about the past are only revealed when you have a go. Both CDs give voice to the High Pasture Cave lyre bridge, reproduced and set up by Simon Chadwick with strings in gold, silver, brass and iron. I used its little hole to attach a plectrum that in rehearsals went astray, but Graeme Lawson has since come up with a better solution: another project beckons. On *Spellweaving*, we contrasted its sound with that of a gut-strung lyre with amber bridge (Figure 1). Instruments with four, five or six pitches can look to the notations of 216 epic pieces in Highland piping sources. Discovering how easily these transfer to the lyre persuades me that we should discard the idea that pibroch came from harp music.

It helps to keep the wider musical landscape in mind. The way I play the lyre is informed by the Welsh and Gaelic harp traditions presented in *Silva Caledonia* (2008) and *An Introduction to Playing the Wire-Strung Harp* (2012). The ninth-century cross slab at Ardhattan Priory represents

Figure 1 (above): Two lyre bridges (front) by Guy Flockhart after an eighth-century find at Broa, Halla, Gotland, and (rear) by Simon Chadwick after an Iron Age find at High Pasture Cave, Isle of Skye.

Figure 2 (right): Ninth-century cross slab at Ardhattan Priory, Argyll. Photo: Keith Sanger



Figure 3: Eighth-century horn found in the River Erne, near Enniskillen. Photo: Maria Cullen O'Dwyer. By courtesy of the Fermanagh County Museum.



three monks playing musical instruments (Figure 2). The upper two are clearly playing harp and triplepipe, but the third instrument is badly weathered; other iconographic evidence and the warrior in the panel below might suggest a horn. Thanks to John Purser, an eighth-century horn found in the River Erne was reproduced by Simon O'Dwyer in 2001. We used this on the CD, *In Praise of Saint Columba*. This collaboration with Geoffrey Webber and the Choir Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, explores uses of the triplepipe and approaches to the performance of Iona's Latin poetry (Figure 3).

The highest mountain peak we tackled on this adventure is the *Altus prosator*, described as 'the finest poem of the first 500 years of the Hiberno-Latin tradition'. Our decision to accompany the choir with lyre and two horns was prompted by an image in the eighth-century Vespasian Psalter and the Last Judgement scene on Muiredach's High Cross, Monasterboice. The horns enter when the choir sings *Tuba primi archangeli strepente admirabili...* 'At the blast of the First Archangel's wonderful trumpet, the strongest vaults and tombs shall break open, the chill of the men of the present world melting away'. The horn players use circular breathing to provide a spellbinding drone and weave a geometrical pattern in the *responsio*, taken from the earliest known list of the 24 measures of *cerdd dant* (c. 1480). According to medieval Welsh historians, these cycles were 'drawn out of music' by a council of master musicians in twelfth-century Ireland. One of their characteristics is the use of binary complements like 1011 0100 – a kind of

musical interlace.

Similar patterns are found in pibroch, the subject of my doctoral research. I am grateful to the Society for permission to make available high-resolution images of three variation sets in the 'MacFarlane Manuscript' (Figure 5). The fiddler David Young prepared this collection for the chief of Clan MacFarlane in about 1740. It contains the earliest notations concordant with the source materials of pibroch. The digital library [altpibroch.com](http://altpibroch.com) – a collaboration with David Hester – has made exploring and interpreting these materials much easier by linking all concordant notations 1740–1840. We currently present 24 sources by 17 individuals, containing 843 settings of an Úrlar or more and 71 fragments. These are mapped to 313 pibrochs, the titles of which commemorate events in Scotland from the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries.

As well as images of musical notation, this website presents a range of audio materials. 367 Gaelic titles are beautifully pronounced by Allan MacDonald. With the input of John MacInnes and Ronald Black, we have reached better solutions for many obscure source spellings. Keith Sanger has helped to fill gaps in the image library and the end result builds on a monumental research base left by the late Roderick Cannon. David Young's variation sets challenge us to think about how this wealth of musical evidence relates to the practice of an earlier period.

- Barnaby Brown  
[barnaby@pibroch.net](mailto:barnaby@pibroch.net)



Figure 4: The Choir of Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, with Geoffrey Webber (director) and Barnaby Brown (triplepipe).



Figure 5: 'A Collection of Scotch Airs with the latest Variations. Written for the use of Walter Mcfarlan of that ilk by David Young W[riting] M[aster] in Edinburgh'. NLS ms 2085 (c. 1741).

### Further Listening

*Spellweaving: ancient music from the Highlands of Scotland*. European Music Archaeology Project Vol. 1 (Delphian DCD34171, 2016)

*In Praise of Saint Columba: the sound world of the Celtic church* (Delphian DCD34137, 2014)

*Silva Caledonia: Scottish harp music of the 17th century* (Siubhal 3, 2008)

*An introduction to playing the wire-strung harp* (Siubhal DVD 01, 2012)

**Maya Hoole** MA MScR PCIFA FSA Scot is an early career researcher who, in her free time, manages an independent research project known as the *Achavanich Beaker Burial project*.



“As one of the youngest and newest members of the Society, I'm honoured to have been asked to share my research project with the rest of the Fellows. The research project that I run, known as the Achavanich Beaker Burial project, focuses on a Bronze Age cist burial that was accidentally uncovered in the late 1980s during road improvement works at Craig-na-Feich, Achavanich in Caithness. The burial consisted

of an incomplete skeleton accompanied by a short-necked beaker, a bovine scapula, two flint flakes and a flint thumbnail scraper. The cist is unusual in being one of only a handful of its kind known from the Scottish Bronze Age inserted into a rock cut pit.

The original post-excavation work carried out in the late 1980s and 1990s consisted of:

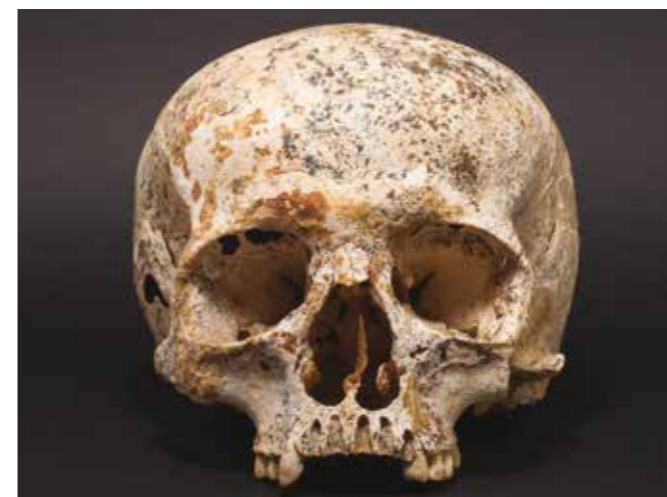
- radiocarbon dating as part of the British Museum Beaker dating project to 3700±50 BP (BM-2590, 2200-2020 cal BC at 68.2%, 2280-1940 cal BC at 95.4% probability);
- an osteological examination identifying the individual as a woman aged between 18-22 years of age, and;

- pollen residue analysis indicating the potential for surviving archaeobotanical remains. The excavator of the site, Mr Robert Gourlay of the then Highland Regional Council Archaeology Unit, unexpectedly passed away a few years later. For the better part of three decades the site was mostly forgotten and, until now, not subject to any further research.

Earlier this year I was delighted to discover that my application for funding to the Society had been approved. Funding was requested to support new investigative research of the archaeological assemblage from Achavanich. One of the key objectives of this research project was to develop our understanding of this site, but also to determine if new information from the excavated material that had been shelved for several decades could be uncovered. The project also had the potential to investigate multiple research recommendations made by the 'Chalcolithic and Bronze Age' and the 'Science' panels of the Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF) as well as further the aims of Scotland's Archaeology Strategy.

One aspect of the research for which funding was granted involved Dr Jane Evans and her team at the NERC Isotope Geoscience Laboratory. As the surviving skeletal remains were in a well-preserved state we thought that there could be a high chance of producing good results through stable isotope analysis. The strontium and oxygen isotopes taken from the tooth enamel of a second molar were analysed to investigate childhood origins. The carbon and nitrogen isotopes taken from a sample of bone collagen from a rib bone gave evidence of the diet of this individual.

The result for the strontium isotope value gave a slightly



The surviving cranium from the individual buried at Achavanich © Michael Sharpe



The reconstruction image that helped spread the story around the world! © Hew Morrison

elevated reading for the predicted range of the Achavanich area, which is underlain by Old Red Sandstone. However, the areas directly to the south and west, underlain by older rocks, could produce this value. The result for the oxygen isotope composition sits well within the expected range for the east coast region of Britain. The most unusual reading for the analysis came from a very low carbon value relative to most available data from the British Isles. This is likely due to a diet exclusively consisting of terrestrial materials and freshwater fish, potentially excluding most or even all marine resources.

The results of the isotopic analyses suggest that this individual could have spent their early childhood in what is now geographically defined as the Caithness region of northern Scotland. If this is the case, then the young woman buried at Achavanich may be the earliest identified individual from the area. A preliminary review of the existing literature would suggest that no other individuals have been subject to isotopic analysis from this, or earlier periods, from the Caithness area. The success of this analysis could indicate that other identified sites and known archaeological assemblages, containing well-preserved human remains, may also have the potential to further inform our understanding of the movement and diet of the Bronze Age communities of the northern Scottish mainland.

The second piece of work the Society has supported is to fund the involvement of Dr Scott Timpany, an environmental geoarchaeologist and pollen specialist, from the University of the Highlands and Islands. Dr Timpany has taken multiple samples of residue from the interior and exterior of the short-necked beaker. We hope this analysis will further expand on previous results from a preliminary examination undertaken in the early 1990s.

The future developments of the project over the coming months are highly anticipated. As well as carrying out the research outline above, I have been working with multiple specialists and collaborating with other research projects taking place across the country to further develop our understanding of this site. With thanks to Dr Alison Sheridan of National Museums Scotland, a full skeletal

re-examination was carried out by freelance osteologist Angela Boyle, and the skeletal material was included in an ancient DNA analysis Wellcome Trust funded research project led by Professor Ian Barnes at the Natural History Museum. Hopefully this study will provide information on the ancestry of the individual from Achavanich and, if the sequence of DNA code survives, about aspects of their appearance. In addition, Dr Tom Booth of the Natural History Museum has been examining the rate of bacterial decay of the bones, a study known as bone histology, which may reveal more about how soon or how long after death this individual was buried and in what manner. Lastly, a collaboration with forensic artist Hew Morrison, a graduate of the Forensic Art MSc programme at the University of Dundee, to create a facial reconstruction of this individual (first featured on the BBC News) has proven popular on a global scale with an estimated reach of tens - if not hundreds - of thousands of individuals around the world.

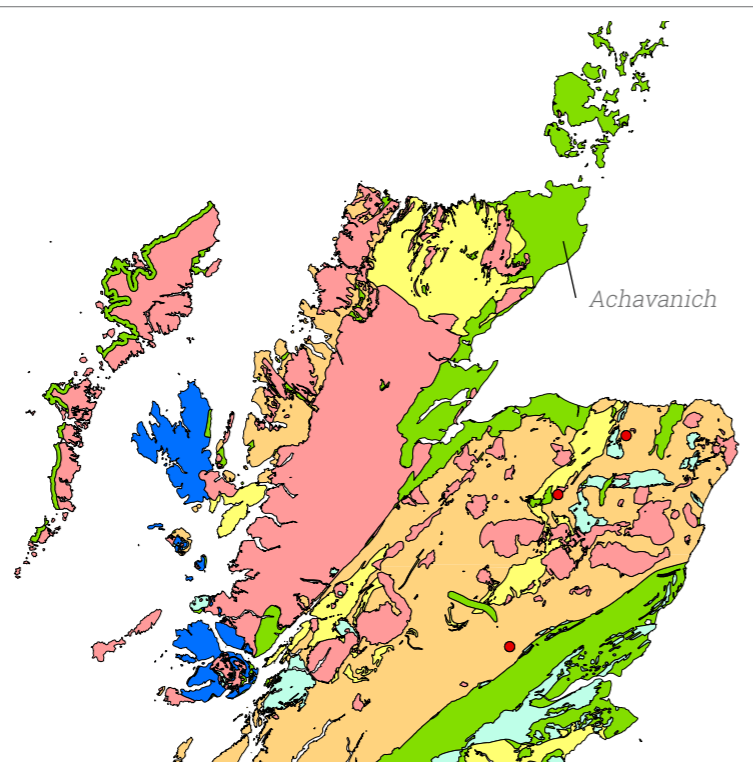
- Maya Hoole  
mayahoole@googlemail.com

A reconstruction depicting the burial layout © Maya Hoole



## Isotope Packages

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Above: the short-necked beaker is cared for by Caithness Horizons Museum along with the rest of the finds © Maya Hoole

Left: map showing the location of the burial and the different isotope packages for the north of Scotland © Jane Evans, NERC



Murray Dickson from the 'Old Gala Club'

### Archaeological Research in Progress (ARP) Conference 28th May 2016, Galashiels

Earlier this year we welcomed over 100 delegates and speakers to the annual ARP Conference. Run jointly between Archaeology Scotland and the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, it was the first time ARP has been to Galashiels and the programme reflected this venture into Borders country.

Opening remarks from Councillor Sandy Aitchison made everyone all feel very welcome while Beverley Ballin Smith, President of Archaeology Scotland and Dr David Caldwell, President of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland chaired sessions that included Dr Chris Bowles, Scottish Borders Council archaeologists, and the Adopt-a-Monument team. Anne Crone from AOC Archaeology gave a talk on the work at the Black Loch of Myrton and Matt Ritchie of the Forest Enterprise Scotland spoke about recent survey work in the Tweed Valley Forest Park.

We crossed over the Border with a look at the route ways to Flodden, the Peregrini Lindisfarne Community Archaeology project, *Life and Death before and after the Romans*, and *Rediscovering the Barrowburn Mill in Coquetdale*. Two local projects that were reported on included the Shootinglee dig and a very moving account of the loves and losses linked to George Sutherland's family. The account was given by the great granddaughter of the man who set up the business for which they

were well known - monumental sculptors in Galashiels. A great lunchtime walk, organised by Murray Dickson from the Old Gala Club and his colleagues, gave us a chance to stretch legs and see more about this historical burgh. Thank you to all who attended on the day and to our sponsors, Historic Environment Scotland, GUARD Archaeology, Forestry Commission Scotland and Scottish Borders Council.

### Rhind Lectures, 6-8th May 2016, Edinburgh

Over the first weekend in May earlier this year the Society proudly and warmly welcomed Professor Roey Sweet, University of Leicester, to present the annual Rhind lectures. The weekend programme on 'Antiquaries, Archaeologists and the Invention of the Historic Town' was packed with interesting facts, findings and features, from Romans and Saxons through to the 'Antiquarian world of 1700-1860' and the 'Architecture of olden time' around Britain. More than 150 people attended and many more watch the lectures online. The recorded lectures can be accessed online at [www.socantscot.org/resources](http://www.socantscot.org/resources) by searching the

video library by date. This year the Rhind lectures were sponsored by AOC Archaeology Group and are part of the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design 2016.

### Sales Preview evening, 11th August 2016, Edinburgh

Last month we collaborated with our friends Lyon & Turnbull to offer Fellows the opportunity to attend an event. Three experts (Fellows of the Society) discussed their areas of interest (weaponry, glass and silver) with a focus on Scottish design and material culture. Almost 100 people attended the event and enjoyed a preview of Scottish Silver & Applied Arts auction items.

## Events

### Special Event: Conference in Memoriam Alan Saville

Saturday 17th June 2017 | National Museums Scotland Auditorium, starting at 9am

A one day conference in honour of Alan Saville, past President, related to the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic occupation of Scotland, focused on the possible dwellings and 'houses' that have been excavated over the past few years.

**Our 2016-17 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 very pleased to be also visiting Glasgow, Inverness and Kirkwall. Please help spread the word about the new events programme to friends and colleagues who may also enjoy attending and continue forwarding suggestions for topics and speakers to [director@socantscot.org](mailto:director@socantscot.org)

### Booking options

Lectures are free and bookable on a first come first served basis. Tickets for some of the Society's other events, such as the two day conference this October on Scott the antiquary, have a fee. Please book online via [www.socantscot.org/events](http://www.socantscot.org/events) or by calling 0131 247 4133.

### Online recording

We are pleased to be able to work with Mallard Productions again to professionally record the 2016-17 lectures. This will greatly enhance the online viewing experience for those Fellows unable to attend in person, or indeed to watch a given lecture again after attending. The filming has been made possible through generous support from Sir Angus Grossart QC CBE DL LLD DLitt FRSE FSA Scot.

### Updates and changes

From time to time opportunities arise for private views and events which, owing to print deadlines, we cannot feature in our biannual *Newsletter*. You can keep up to date by regularly checking the Society's website or through 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!

### Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology



The Scottish Government through EventScotland has designated 2017 the year of history, heritage and archaeology. This is an opportunity to celebrate Scotland's complex history through many new and exciting activities and events.

Scotland has a wealth of riches in history, heritage and archaeology. From World Heritage Sites to ancient monuments, listed buildings to historic battlefields, cultural traditions to myths and legends. As part of the year's celebrations EventScotland and their heritage partners are looking to create and increase opportunities for locals and visitors alike to discover and learn more about Scotland's past.

The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, ScARF and DigIt! look forward to running events and activities to contribute to this initiative, working with friends at Historic Environment Scotland, Archaeology Scotland, the National Museums Scotland to name but a few.

To help organisations add to the portfolio of existing events celebrating history, heritage and archaeology Scotland already offers, new funding is available for

additional exciting events and learning programmes in 2017 which benefit heritage and people, as well as boost local tourism.

If you have an idea for a new event or series of events which focus on Scotland's history, heritage and/or archaeology more information on funding and other support for 2017 can be found at [www.eventscotland.org/funding/year-of-history-heritage-and-archaeology-2017](http://www.eventscotland.org/funding/year-of-history-heritage-and-archaeology-2017)

This includes a new time-limited funding stream from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) as a partner in 2017's Year of History, Heritage and Archaeology. HLF has allocated funds, raised through the National Lottery, available for exciting new projects to help people up and down the country to explore, enjoy, and share the heritage we all care about. HLF is offering grants of £3,000 to £10,000 to projects that engage a new and wider range of people with their history through the new Stories, Stones and Bones fund. [www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/what-we-fund/community-heritage/stories-stones-and-bones](http://www.hlf.org.uk/looking-funding/what-we-fund/community-heritage/stories-stones-and-bones)

There are two deadlines to apply to Stories, Stones and Bones. The first deadline is Friday 30 September 2016 (decisions in November 2016) and the second is Tuesday 31 January 2017 (decisions in March 2017).

### New book published marking the 70th birthday of Prof David V. Clarke

*Ancient Lives: Object, people and place in early Scotland*, edited by Fraser Hunter FSA Scot and Alison Sheridan FSA Scot, includes 19 papers covering the Neolithic to the Medieval period, and from modern museum practice to ancient craft skills. David V. Clarke FSA Scot is the former Keeper of Archaeology at the National Museums Scotland and the publication reflects many of his areas of interest. For more information and to order visit [www.sidestone.com/bookshop/ancient-lives](http://www.sidestone.com/bookshop/ancient-lives)

## International Fellows

Dr Martin Goldberg, one of the curators responsible for the blockbuster Celts exhibition at National Museums Scotland, is the lucky recipient of the travelling scholarship to attend 'Memory and Foresight in the Celtic World' – the 9th Australian Conference of Celtic Studies.

The Society has collaborated with our friends in Celtic Studies at the University of Sydney, the Scottish Australian Heritage Council and the Sydney Society for Scottish History to make this scholarship possible, with the generous support of several of our Australian Fellows, and a donation from our Honorary Fellow, Professor Vincent Megaw. The conference will take place in Sydney, Australia from Tuesday the 27th to Friday the 30th September 2016 and Dr Goldberg will be speaking about his research stemming from the Celts exhibition entitled "Ultimate La Tene? The use of different artistic heritages in Early Medieval Britain and Ireland".

On the evening of the 28th September as part of the Conference rare books exhibition at the Fisher Library, Sydney University, there will be a joint meeting of the Scottish-Australia Heritage Council and Sydney Society for Scottish History, where Dr Goldberg will reflect on the award-winning partnership between National Museums of Scotland and the Glenmorangie Company.

For nine years, this partnership has generously supported a research project focussed on delivering new insights into Early Medieval Scotland. Lecture highlights include new discoveries from the current exciting phase of research examining the use of silver in the first millennium AD, and its transformation from a new (to Scotland) late Roman material into the main symbols of power used in the following centuries.

### Fischer-Lindsay lecture:

**Ian Lindsay & the Modern Conservation Movement – A personal perspective from Scotland**  
Thursday 15th September 2016 | Oslo, Norway

Dr James Simpson OBE FRIAS FSA Scot will present the Fischer-Lindsay lecture with the Fortidsminneforeningen and the Riksantikvaren (Directorate for Cultural Heritage).

# Important Information



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## Help your Society thrive

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](http://www.socantscot.org/resources). Thanks to support from Fellow Sir Angus Grossart - for the third year running - we can record this season's lectures professionally and make them available online for more people to access and enjoy. Happy viewing!

You can support the Society by:

- **Donating online** - using our secure online giving portal [www.socantscot.org/product/donation](http://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 Andrea Kaszewski if you would like further information on supporting the Society.



## Fellowship Categories & Subscriptions

- **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.

There is now an online version of the Society's Fellowship Application form:

[www.socantscot.org/join-us/apply-online](http://www.socantscot.org/join-us/apply-online).

This has streamlined the process and has made it easier for prospective Fellows around the globe to apply and simpler for existing Fellows to support applications. The system also reduces administration. Please encourage friends and colleagues to consider joining the Society and note that **the deadline for applications is fast approaching, 1 October.**

## Contact us

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## Access to Research Library

With the opening of 10 new galleries in the National Museums Scotland in July, the Research Library is once again open to the public. It is located on level 3 adjacent to the Technology by Design gallery. The library has a significant collection of Northern European archaeology and also holds the Society's archive of minutes, correspondence, manuscripts and papers. All of the collection can be searched on the online catalogue (<http://libcat.nms.ac.uk>) and Fellows have unique borrowing privileges.

Please contact the library at [library@nms.ac.uk](mailto:library@nms.ac.uk) or (0131) 247 4137 to discuss your enquiry with staff and to reserve items in advance of your visit.

## 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](http://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, bank and service 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.