



The Clava Cairns © ScARF

## The President writes...

I write these notes as your new President in the sleety greyness of early spring in eastern Scotland. Amidst talk of vaccination rates and the first, if still distant, prospects of life beginning to return to something approaching normality, the grip of the pandemic seems to be loosening. For the moment, however, the Society's activities remain primarily digital, and that, of course, includes our meetings, of which more in a moment.

I should begin by thanking my predecessor, Dr David Caldwell, who completed an unprecedented six-year period of sterling service and stewardship of the Society on St Andrew's Day. I am sad to report that two Councillors – Dr Sally Foster and Dr Dawn McLaren – have stood down due to other commitments, and thank them also for their contributions. We shall soon lose the advice of Dr Xerxes Mazda, the current National Museum Scotland Council representative, when he moves south to a new role in London. He goes to his new post with the Society's best wishes.

The benefit of delivering our lecture programme over the internet has undoubtedly been – assuming viable connections – that Fellows and their friends around the globe from Auckland to Vancouver have been able to take part 'live' in our events, even if at some cost to their normal daily routines. Our impression is that, a few 'wobbles' aside, the technology generally coped well. However, the Director would welcome any feedback about what might be done to further improve this service. Not being a politician, I am not going to make any predictions as to when we shall be able to resume live meetings. Whatever the timescale, the Society will ensure that – as far as possible – talks will continue to be accessible to our worldwide Fellowship.

It is impossible not to single out the six Rhind Lectures, delivered by our distinguished Fellow, Dr Alison Sheridan FSAScot, for especial comment. The lectures were a distillation of Alison's work over many years, not only in the National Museum of Scotland but also participating in projects and advising colleagues the length and breadth of the

country. She presented an authoritative picture of Neolithic and Chalcolithic Scotland, full of the latest insights from research and enhanced by fascinating detail from individual life histories to the definition of informative regional evidence. The lectures were picked up by Radio Orkney, and excerpts were reported in *The Scotsman*. For those of you who could not be present, the entire series is available on the Society's website and YouTube channel. Alison, moreover, has since made available online a full bibliography in support of the lectures.

Since then, 2021 has begun with two further excellent lectures. Professor Emerita Marilyn Palmer of Leicester University lectured on the impacts of new technologies on 'Comfort and Convenience in the County House' with examples from across Britain. Caroline Brown, Archivist at Dundee University, lectured on 'The Power of Archives' in a joint session with the Scottish Records Association, another new departure for the Society. Caroline highlighted many of the difficult issues faced by archivists in an increasingly digital world, and one which also seeks to safeguard voices from across our communities.

Council is now embarking on revising the Society's Strategic Plan of what we seek to achieve in the coming years. Both the Director and I are keen to receive any input from Fellows on topics, priorities, and indeed any aspect of concern. A more formal consultation of the Fellowship will take place in the summer, but early notice of key issues Fellows feel worthy of consideration would undoubtedly assist us.

I am keen that the Society provides new online services of benefit to Fellows, including drawing attention to new scholarly monographs authored by Fellows (beyond those produced by the Society itself) and in fields of interest to the Fellowship. Please send your notices to [fellowship@socantscot.org](mailto:fellowship@socantscot.org)

– Emeritus Professor Ian Ralston FSAScot | President

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## Director's Report

As I write this, we remain under lockdown, working from home, with home-schooling the norm. I hope that all our Fellows are keeping safe and well; you will appreciate that some communications with Society staff might be delayed under these circumstances.

Following the previous *Newsletter*, we did indeed have our first ever online Anniversary Meeting on St Andrew's Day, but it is unlikely to be our last! It was great to see so many Fellows attend, and from across the globe, so we will endeavour to continue an online aspect to all our events for those who cannot otherwise attend. We also introduced online voting for the first time, and I am very pleased to say this too engendered greater engagement from Fellows. It worked smoothly, seeing over 140 new Fellows elected, a new Treasurer, Dr Kenneth Aitchison FSAScot, welcomed, and a new President, Emeritus Professor Ian Ralston, elected in a very close-run contest. I would like to thank both excellent Presidential candidates for their agreement to a contested election, again a first for the Society in recent memory!

Our online events are attended by more people than is possible in the National Museum of Scotland auditorium. Continuing to deliver online engagement with our Fellows will be a high priority. It will require some infrastructure investment to create a hybrid environment between those attending in person and those online, but the benefits in terms of bringing our Fellowship together are already clear.

Donations to the Society during registration are

also helping to offset the impact on our income of the pandemic subscription discount. Remember, if you are having financial difficulties because of the pandemic, there is a 50% discount available on your 2020-21 Fellowship subscription. I am very grateful to those who have already donated and would encourage all Fellows to consider the Society as a charity worth your additional support beyond your subscription during this very difficult period.

We also have a new member of staff in the Society to help support and develop our Fellowship: Jade Dent who is introduced as our Fellowship and Events Officer in more detail later in the *Newsletter*. I am sure you will also have noticed that the Society is also benefitting more from the expertise of Sally Pentecost from the Dig It! project in improving our communications and the promotion of our events and other areas of Society business.

Finally, we are very grateful to the family of former Fellow Dr Euan W MacKie for funding a new grant in his name to support scientific analysis and reconstruction imagery of Neolithic and Iron Age sites in Scotland. See our Grants and Awards webpage for more details.

I hope that all of you are keeping safe and well, and look forward to seeing you in the non-digital world, hopefully soon, and perhaps even, for some of us, before the publication of our next *Newsletter*... or is that being too optimistic?

– Dr Simon Gilmour FSAScot | Director

*Below: artist Li Caswell-Sou's reimagining of the recently rediscovered gravestone at Kirkmichael in the Black Isle being carved. Read the update from the Dig It! team opposite to find out more. © Li Caswell-Sou 2020*





In July 2020, the Kirkmichael Trust confirmed that they had uncovered a gravestone dated 1577. © Andrew Dowsett



The deserted farmstead which inspired Diansangu's poem, 'nuhin new unner the sun'. © Galloway Glens

## Gravestones, Gaelic and poetry: an update from Dig It!

Archaeology is all about discovering Scotland's stories, and the Society's Dig It! project has been busy finding new ways to tell them.

### Reimagining 2020 discoveries

Much of last year's community-led archaeological activities were postponed or cancelled due to Covid-19. However, several groups managed to resume their work with safety regulations in place when restrictions eased. We captured these moments through our Scotland Digs Digital campaign, which gathered online and offline events for members of the public, as well as providing live updates from groups across the country with the #ScotlandDigsDigital hashtag. At the end of the campaign, we revealed a collection of some of the most intriguing finds from the summer, which were digitally recreated by artists, designers and illustrators (including one Fellow).

One of the discoveries was made by the Kirkmichael Trust in the Highlands who uncovered a 450-year-old gravestone, possibly the oldest dated gravestone ever recorded in the Black Isle. Using a surveying technique called photogrammetry, they confirmed that the weather-worn inscription on the slab reads "5th of February 1577", and it commemorates "IHON MAKOLLICH", or John MacCulloch. The comic by Li Caswell-Sou FSAScot reimagines the stone carver at work in 1577 and a blind child learning through the tactile nature of the carved stone. The scene mirrors the Trust's own encouragement of visually impaired people in the local community to experience their newly carved medieval stones by touch. All of the digital artwork and information about the discoveries can be found on the Dig It! website by searching "2020 summer dig season".

### Rùraich seulachdan na h-Alba le Dig It!

In 2019, we launched Dig It's Gaelic Language Policy which cemented our commitment to platforming Gaelic in the project. Archaeology is the understanding of experiences, and in order to fully appreciate the experiences of Scotland's past inhabitants through their material remains, we must incorporate native languages.

After committing to using Gaelic place and personal names, we turned our eye to translations of our Scottish archaeology articles. The Dig It! website currently hosts over 100 of these short articles which have been written for members of the public by historians, archaeologists, researchers and others.

Earlier this year, we announced that we'd secured funding from Bòrd na Gàidhlig to translate 12 of them, including several written by Fellows, such as Dr Joana Valdez-Tullett FSAScot who co-wrote 'Scotland's Rock Art: Discovering Prehistoric Carved Landscapes' and Dr Natasha Ferguson FSAScot who wrote 'Of Grave Concern: The Archaeology of Burials on Scotland's Battlefields'. Our long-term aim is to have a bilingual (or multilingual) online presence, with the ability to translate the website from English into Gaelic (and Scots) at the click of a button. In the meantime, head to [DigItScotland.com/Discover](https://DigItScotland.com/Discover) to check out the articles.



### An Ode to Archaeology

In January, we also commissioned Mae Diansangu to produce a poem inspired by a Dumfries and Galloway site linked to the Can You Dig It (CYDI) community archaeology programme. Mae is a spoken word artist and performer based in Aberdeen whose work centres on anti-racism, intersectional feminism, and LGBTQIA+ rights. They worked closely with Claire Williamson, an archaeologist from Rathmell Archaeology, who provided the details to help bring the story to life. Mae was inspired by CYDI's investigation of a deserted farmstead called Upper Gairloch along Raiders Road in Galloway. In use as a steading since the 17th century, the surviving remains consisted of a farmhouse rebuilt in the late-18th or early-19th century and a kiln barn of similar date.

The site is particularly special as the CYDI team were able to marry up the archaeological record with written sources to piece together the lives of the people who once lived there. A stylus, for example, was found on the site of the farmhouse which may have been used by the children of Elizabeth McQueen who was recorded in the census record of 1851. The poem was released in March to coincide with StAnza 2021, Scotland's International Poetry Festival, and can be read or listened to on the Dig It! website by searching "StAnza poem".

Want to follow along with the 2021 summer dig season, find your next online event, or enjoy year-round Scottish archaeology updates? Visit [DigItScotland.com](https://DigItScotland.com) or follow @DigItScotland on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram (@DigItScotland).

– Dig It! Team



Read all about the work of Scotland's Rock Art Project in Argyll and Bute on the ScARF website. ©SCRAP/HES



A bridle bit and other objects from Middlebie, 1st-2nd century AD © National Museums Scotland

## Scottish Archaeological Research Framework



### Regional Research Frameworks

As many Fellows will be aware, the recent focus of the ScARF project has been to create regional research frameworks to enhance and update our national framework and establish new priorities for archaeological research in Scotland. We are delighted to announce the *Highland Archaeological Research Framework* is being finalised and will be launched this summer! Thank you to all involved, including those who attended the opening symposium in June 2018 and subsequent events, individuals who took the time to review and comment on the draft documents, and especially the key contributors. Upon completion, the Highland framework will be available on the ScARF website at [www.scarf.scot](http://www.scarf.scot)

The *Perth and Kinross Framework* has also entered its final year. Following successful events and workshops, lots of work has been going on in the background, with multiple key contributors feeding into live documents to produce draft period chapters, case studies and sets of research questions. Look out for consultation events over the summer if you would like to get involved.

Details will be available soon of the final symposium of the *Scotland's Islands Research Framework* project based on Orkney later this year. In addition, we are currently working on setting up new projects in other regions of Scotland to complete the country's coverage by 2026, as a key part of Scotland's Archaeology Strategy.

### Updated Science Framework

We have started work on updating the ScARF *Archaeological Research Science Framework*. Technology has moved on considerably since the creation of the original framework in 2012 with many new and improved scientific techniques and multidisciplinary approaches. Some techniques that were barely used ten years ago are now considered a standard part of archaeological work. The new science panel includes scientists who have worked on cutting-edge archaeological science projects across the country. The updated framework will incorporate lots of new and exciting case studies, highlighting new research questions and how scientific techniques can be used to answer them.

### Students

ScARF is dedicated to supporting students and Early Career Researchers (ECRs) attend events such as

conferences and workshops. We were pleased to be able to sponsor the Bioarchaeology Early Career Conference 2021 by offering bursaries to cover the registration fee. We still have a limited number of Covid-19 bursaries up to the value of £250 each to help students and ECRs with additional costs due to the pandemic. For example, this could support access to research material and digital resources, programmes, new software, training, and membership fees. Further information about our bursaries can be found on the Students section of our website.

We are keen to support ECRs further by providing a platform to showcase new research. A brand-new page dedicated to exciting new research has just been launched on our website – if you are an ECR with some exciting research to share, let us know!

### ScARF website

Launched last June, our new website continues to be used as an important research resource. This year we will be delighted to integrate two more Regional Research Frameworks and sections of the new Archaeological Science Framework, to update and enhance our existing national, thematic and regional frameworks. Work continues behind the scenes to collaborate with other research frameworks across the UK to enable users to cross boundaries and search over a wider geographical area. In time, the ScARF website will automatically be updated with results from *OASIS* and *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* to update research questions as new results are reported. This will make the new website a truly updatable and current resource accessible to all.

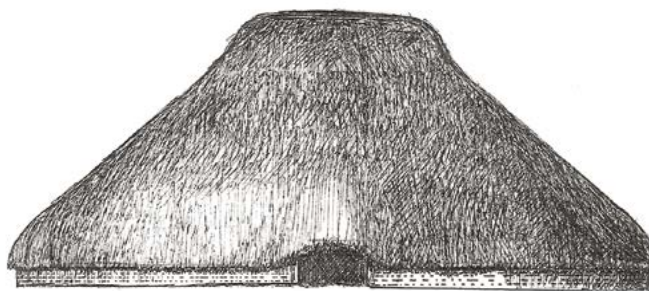
### Scotland's Archaeology Strategy

ScARF continues to be a fundamental part of Scotland's Archaeology Strategy by delivering on AIM 2 – to enhance understanding by promoting and supporting research and making knowledge accessible. A five-year review of the work of the SAS was launched earlier this year – to take a look, head to the website [archaeologystrategy.scot](http://archaeologystrategy.scot)

### Find out more

Keep up to date by following us on Twitter (@ScARFhub) and also on Facebook and Instagram (@ScARF\_scot). Please get in touch with Helen ([helen@socantscot.org](mailto:helen@socantscot.org)) if you would like to know more about any of our projects.

– Dr Helen Spencer | ScARF Project Manager



Left: the excavation team on the completion of House 4.  
Above: a reconstruction of House 10/3 that approximates the appearance of large ring-groove roundhouses.

All images on this page © Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd

## Note from the Managing Editor

The Society's office remains closed and we are still working from home. Thank you for your continued patience. If you are among the Fellows who have been waiting on the hard copy or sets of *Proceedings*, we will send them out as soon as we can return to the National Museum. The Society's books are available to purchase online with shipping as normal.

## Coming soon

A hardback edition of *Culduthel: An Iron Age Craftworking Centre in North-East Scotland* by Candy Hatherley and Ross Murray is currently in production. Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd began excavating the site at Culduthel Farm, on the south side of Inverness, in 2005. What started as a small-scale excavation of a palisaded enclosure quickly turned into a major discovery when the works revealed an Iron Age settlement of 17 roundhouses. Not all the structures had domestic functions and remarkable workshops with iron-smelting furnaces and multi-purpose hearths were found alongside other industrial remains. The evidence recovered at Culduthel paints a vivid picture of an Iron Age community engaged in highly developed and sustained craft production in prehistoric northern Scotland.

Forthcoming in summer 2021 with funding support from Historic Environment Scotland. Keep an eye on the monthly e-newsletter for further details.

Right: an unfinished harness strap mount found at Culduthel.



## Proceedings 149

The latest volume of the *Proceedings* (149) was published in November 2020, and it is now available online at [journals.socantscot.org/index.php/psas](https://journals.socantscot.org/index.php/psas). The following login details can be used to access the papers: username: *psas* / password: *Buchan1780*

The winner of the **RBK Stevenson Award** in *PSAS 149* was Dr Clarisse Godard Desmarest FSAScot, Lecturer in British History at Université de Picardie Jules Verne, for her paper 'John Ritchie Findlay (1824–98): architectural patron and philanthropist'.

## Reader favourites

Since relaunching the *Proceedings* online in 2018, we have started collecting data to understand which papers are in demand. The most popular paper of the *PSAS* online archive comes as no surprise: Maya Hoole FSAScot et al's 'Ava' (*PSAS 147*) has been downloaded more than 7,000 times and counting. You can find the current list of the top ten most popular *PSAS* papers in the 'Featured Articles' section of the journal website: [journals.socantscot.org/index.php/psas/featured](https://journals.socantscot.org/index.php/psas/featured)

## Scottish Archaeological Internet Reports

Published since the last *Newsletter*.

**SAIR 91**– <https://doi.org/10.9750/issn.2056-7421.2020.91>

Woodley, NC, Lochrie, J, Sheridan FSAScot, A, Cowie FSAScot, T and Christie FSAScot, C 2020 'The Excavation of Neolithic Pits and a Bronze Age Burial Site at Ness Gap, Fortrose'

The excavations at Ness Gap provide insights into prehistoric activity on the Black Isle, with evidence signalling a shift in burial practices from short-cist inhumation in the Early Bronze Age to cremations in the Middle Bronze Age in Scotland.

**SAIR 92** – <https://doi.org/10.9750/issn.2056-7421.2020.92>

Hatherley, C 2020 'Doune Roman fort, Stirlingshire: excavations in 1999, 2008 and 2010'

The Roman fort lies on a low promontory formed by the River Teith and the Ardoch Burn, close to the medieval Doune Castle. The excavations provided supporting evidence for the Flavian date given to the fort during its initial discovery and revealed details of everyday life on the frontier.

Happy reading!

– Adela Rauchova | Managing Editor

## The real Peggy Piggott

By Mairi H. Davies <sup>FSAScot</sup> and Rachel Pope <sup>FSAScot</sup>

Many Fellows will have watched the recently-released Netflix film, *The Dig*, based on John Preston's 2007 novel of the same name, and starring Ralph Fiennes, Carey Mulligan and Lily James. The story is set on the eve of WWII, during the 1939 excavation of the seventh-century ship burial at Sutton Hoo, Suffolk. James plays Peggy Piggott, depicted in the film as an archetypal ingenue, bumbling and inexperienced and married to a much older academic. The real Peggy Piggott was a rather more interesting character, who by 1939 was already a well-regarded, highly-skilled, qualified archaeologist, married to her contemporary, Stuart Piggott. Her career in archaeology spanned 60 years, including a decade in Scotland, and was defined by high field standards and rapid, high-quality publication. She produced 50 archaeological publications, and is most recognised for her field-leading research into prehistoric settlements (hillforts and roundhouse architecture), burial traditions, and artefact studies (most notably on glass beads of the Iron Age, Roman, and Anglian periods).

Peggy was born Cecily Margaret Preston on 5 August 1912, in Kent, to Elsie Marie and Arthur Gurney Preston. As a child, she had a keen interest in Roman coins which brought her into contact with the ground-breaking archaeologists, Mortimer and Tessa Verney Wheeler. In the early 1930s, Peggy trained with Eliot and Cecil Curwen and the Wheelers, and by 1935, was already referred to in the press as "an expert". She obtained a postgraduate diploma from the Institute of Archaeology in London in 1936 and her first major publication, with Wilfrid Seaby, on the rescue excavation of an Early Iron Age site at Southcote (Berkshire) appeared in the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society* in 1937. That year, at the age of 25, she also directed her first excavation, at the Bronze Age barrow and urnfield cemetery at Latch Farm (Hampshire), publishing the site the following year. In 1938, she excavated 18 Neolithic-Bronze Age barrows on Crichel and Launceston Downs (Dorset) with her husband, for the government, and published the ceramics from Iron Age Theale (Berkshire). In 1938-39, she worked on The Prehistoric Society's first research excavation at the Early Iron Age type-site of Little Woodbury (Wiltshire), directed by Gerhard Bersu. In 1939, she published a further Early Iron Age site at Langton Matravers (Dorset), greatly enhancing knowledge of the period.

Peggy arrived at Sutton Hoo, with her husband Stuart, as a well-trained and experienced excavator, part of a select team led by Charles Phillips, with whom she had already worked. She is shown in the Sutton Hoo site photographs with short hair and wearing practical digging gear such as overalls and boots. The 1965 BBC documentary on the site credits Peggy with changing the whole character of the excavation, for it was Peggy who first struck gold, uncovering the two stunningly beautiful pyramidal mounts from a sword harness, exquisitely crafted in gold, garnet and glass. She can also be seen in site photographs excavating the great gold belt buckle, as W.F. Grimes and Piggott look on.



*Portrait of Mrs Cecily Margaret Piggott by Frank Griffith, painted in c.1938. © Wiltshire Museum, Devizes [wiltshiremuseum.org.uk](http://wiltshiremuseum.org.uk)*

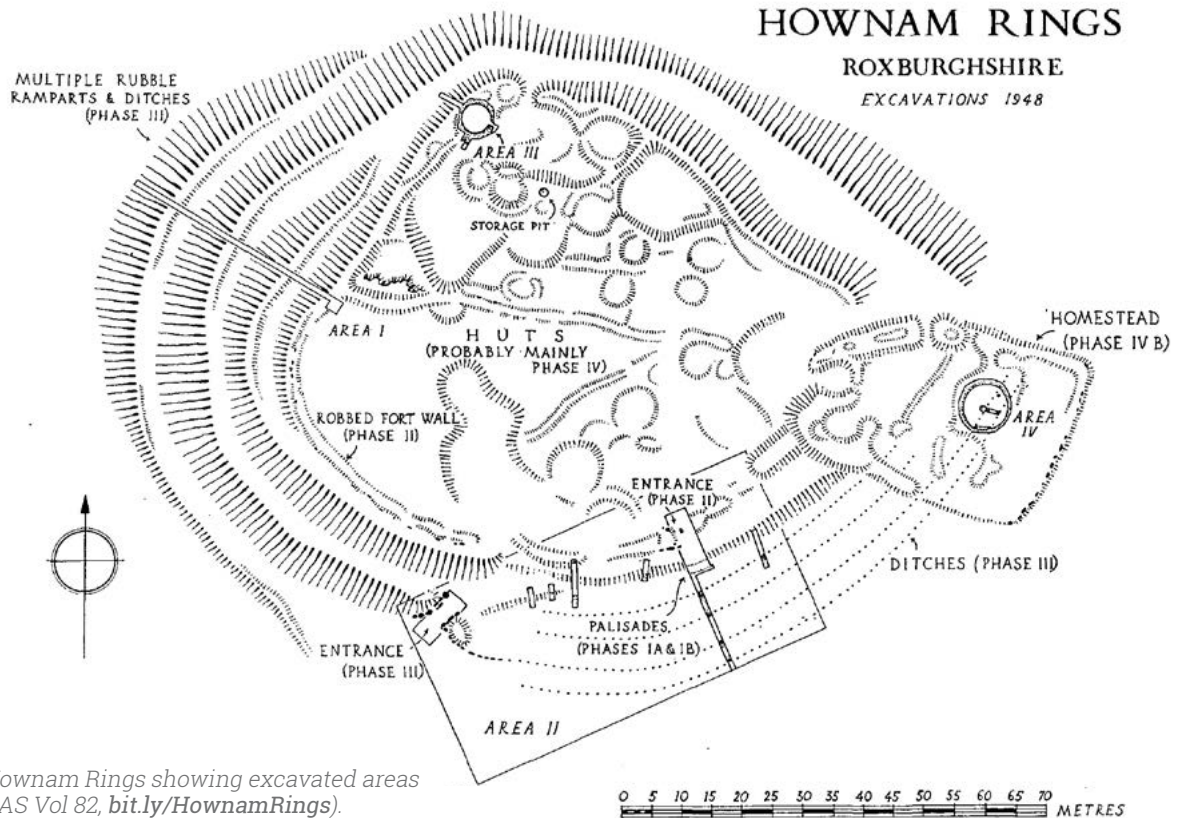
During World War II, Peggy directed numerous rescue excavations for the Ministry of Works, on sites commandeered for defence purposes. On the strength of her contribution to British Prehistory, she was given the considerable honour of being elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 1944 and Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1946. Stuart Piggott's appointment to the Abercromby Chair of Prehistoric Archaeology following the War brought the couple to Edinburgh, and she was able to support Stuart financially in his part-time post whilst continuing her own research. Together, they set out to modernise the practice of archaeology in Scotland and agreed to split prehistory between them: Peggy focusing on the later period. She began elucidating a sequence for Scottish prehistory, publishing in the *Proceedings of our Society* on a range of sites: from duns and standing stones (on Colonsay and Islay) to Castle Law (Midlothian) and Craig's Quarry hillforts (East Lothian).

In the late 1940s, our Society awarded Peggy funding to test the model of Iron Age settlement development in southern Scotland. This was in response to a Council for British Archaeology (CBA) policy statement regarding the misleading nature of settlement classification from surface remains, and provided an early attempt to move settlement archaeology beyond surface typologies. In her upland excavations of Hownam Rings in 1948, Hayhope Knowe in 1949, and Bonchester Hill in 1950 – each site published in the same year it was excavated – she tested and refined the CBA model, providing a relative chronological framework for later prehistoric settlement in southern Scotland. In the era before the application of radiocarbon dating to archaeological settlements, this was a huge leap forward for British prehistoric studies. A Hownam volunteer described her as "incisive, practical, brisk in execution ... the complete professional", undeterred by the high upland conditions, with an

# HOWNAM RINGS

ROXBURGHSHIRE

EXCAVATIONS 1948



Above: Plan of Hownam Rings showing excavated areas (C.M. Piggott, *PSAS Vol 82*, [bit.ly/HownamRings](http://bit.ly/HownamRings)).

Below: Peggy Guido in the early 1980s. © Wiltshire Museum, Devizes

outstanding capacity for manual work. Towards the end of the 1940s, Peggy began to focus on the Late Bronze Age and started producing specialist artefact reports, most notably a comprehensive study of British razors. It is at this point too that she began to develop her specialist interest in glass beads.

This period of Peggy's career, in the late 1940s and early 1950s, marks her out as one of our most important British prehistorians of the 20th century. She excavated no less than six hillforts, and it is her work in the field of hillfort studies which has often been considered her most influential. Hownam Rings (1948) became the type-site for hillfort development, known as the Hownam Model, remaining valid to this day. At Hownam, she discussed archaeological survival, recognising for the first time the problems of erosion on slopes and the vestigial nature of timber features – observations and an attention to archaeological detail in the field that was to set the tone for northern prehistory in the 1960s and 1970s – in particular the thinking of Richard Feachem and George Jobey. In the early 1950s, and working with Stuart, having already excavated four hillforts, she went on to excavate a further two: Castle Law and Braidwood Fort (Midlothian). By the early 1950s, Peggy was already working towards what we now consider an understanding of everyday life in prehistory: recording finds positions on plans and considering ritual deposits.

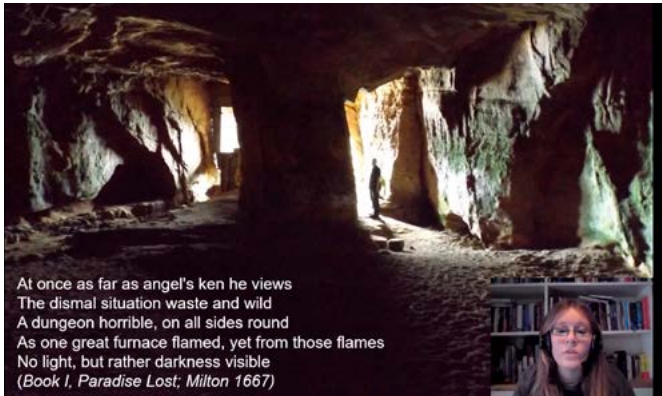
Arguably Peggy's most technically skilled project was a large area excavation of the wetland site of Milton Loch crannog (Dumfries and Galloway) in response to the site's visible deterioration. It is in her work at Hownam Rings, Hayhope Knowe, and Milton Loch that we can really see the flowering of modern prehistoric settlement

archaeology in Britain – in particular with regard to her targeted area-excitation strategy, her "hugely influential" work on hillfort development, on roundhouse reconstruction, and in her consideration of archaeological survival.

By 1954, the Piggotts' relationship had ended, and the annulment of their marriage in 1956 marked the end of Peggy's excavations in Scotland. She married Luigi Guido in London in 1957 and, after several years focusing on Italian archaeology, turned again to glass beads. In 1978, she published her first volume on ancient British glass beads, a pioneering, comprehensive work covering both prehistoric and Roman periods (dedicated to the memory of Tessa Verney Wheeler). From the 1970s onwards, she produced dozens of specialist reports on beads, research that saw her driving a campervan across Europe during the 1980s. Work on the companion volume, on Anglo-Saxon glass beads, continued, and was published posthumously in 1999. Peggy co-founded the Bead Study Trust in 1981, and the Peggy Guido Fund for research on beads. In 1987, Stuart Piggott joined Guido in shared tenure as President of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society – offices they each held until their deaths. In her final years, Peggy regularly visited Stuart, who had retired to West Challow (Berkshire).

Peggy Guido died on 8 August 1994, aged 82, in Devizes (Wiltshire). Her name lives on in the Margaret Guido Charitable Trust, which provides grants to charities and voluntary bodies, largely those to do with the arts. A bequest to the National Trust helped them to acquire the meadow land surrounding Silbury Hill – a fitting tribute to a woman who had done such an extraordinary amount to enhance our understanding of later British Prehistory.





Dr Lindsey Büster FSAScot presented an online lecture on the subject of 'Darkness Visible: The Sculptor's Cave, Covesea'.

## Welcome

Welcome everyone, and in particular all newly-elected Fellows. We hope you enjoy being part of the Society and make the most of the opportunities membership provides. As you may already know, the Society celebrated its 240th anniversary last December, and this year and in the years ahead, together we look forward to supporting further study and enjoyment of Scotland's past.

## New staff member

A warm welcome also to our newest staff member, Jade Dent, Fellowship and Events Officer. A graduate of the University of Lincoln with an MA in Culture and Heritage Management, Jade joined the Society in January from her previous role in the membership department at the Victoria & Albert Museum in London. Please contact Jade by email ([fellowship@socantscot.org](mailto:fellowship@socantscot.org)) if you have any Fellowship administration and Society event-related enquiries.

## Email addresses

At present, the Society does not have email addresses for around 20% of Fellowship. If you have not yet given us your email address or if you have recently changed email address and do not receive the monthly e-newsletter – this is packed with exciting information, news and updates from the Society – please email Jade so that the Society records can be updated and you don't miss out on monthly e-newsletter updates and the ability to vote online.

## Elections

The Society is introducing multiple election rounds, currently one in spring with the election of new Fellows in late April in addition to the usual Anniversary Meeting elections on St Andrew's Day in November.

All Fellows will receive instructions on how to vote in the late April elections. In April all Fellows will receive instructions on how to vote in the new Spring elections. The results will be announced at the Society online lecture on Monday 26 April.

Fellows are the foundation of our Society, so if you know someone with an interest in Scotland's past, please encourage them to apply to join the Society this year. More information about the application process is available at: [www.socantscot.org/join-us](http://www.socantscot.org/join-us)



Silver gilt pin badges and a signed certificate were sent to the 22 Fellows who reached 50 years Fellowship last year.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to the 22 long-standing Fellows who last year reached 50 years continuous Fellowship since their election in 1970. This achievement was acknowledged at the Society Annual Meeting last November. To celebrate their fantastic support, a silver gilt pin badge and signed certificate were sent to each long-standing Fellow.

## New online Fellows' meetings

Would you like to meet other Fellows and share your interests online? If you would like to take part in either a local or a specialist interest group meeting of Fellows, please contact Andrea Kaszewski, Fellowship and Development Manager, by email ([andrea@socantscot.org](mailto:andrea@socantscot.org)).

One of the few positive aspects of lockdown is the use of video conferencing platforms such as Zoom to bring together people who previously wouldn't have been able to attend meetings.

Last spring and summer, we hosted several small online meetings for Fellows to discuss areas of Scottish historical and archaeological interest, to share ideas about Fellowship and the Society, and to listen to a short presentation by a Fellow on their recent research. Five such hour-long online Fellows' Meetings took place in 2020. Three were held for Fellows in the island of Ireland, one for Fellows in the USA, and one for Fellows in Australia and New Zealand. The meetings were arranged and hosted by Andrea Kaszewski and chaired by the Society's President.

Following positive feedback, we plan to arrange more online Fellows' meetings for small groups organised around geographic locations and/or special interest groups focussing on a particular area of Scottish history and archaeology, including "meet the author/excavator/researcher" style meetings.

Additionally, if you would like to volunteer and apply to be an Honorary Secretary for Society affairs in the region or country where you live and/or if you would like to organise an online meeting of Fellows near you (e.g. online breakfast meeting, coffee morning and/or annual dinner) to help build the Fellows' network in your area, then please get in touch with Andrea who will guide you through the process. And don't forget, the Fellows' Directory in the Fellows area of the Society website lists all Fellows by name, country and email address.





*The Society's Fellowship Tartan, designed by Ruari Halford-MacLeod FSAScot.*

## Reflections

*We invited Ruari Halford-MacLeod FSAScot, winner of the Society Fellowship Tartan design competition, to reflect on his Fellowship and interests:*

Ruari has been a Fellow of the Society for over 40 years and has always enjoyed receiving the *Proceedings*. He has attended meetings, but for many years was living out of reach of Edinburgh. Ruari's home was in Harris, and after his marriage, he was fortunate to live in Orkney and then Shetland, with so many historic sites. Ruari also ran his own touring company for 30 years specialising in visiting the Scottish islands.

His particular interest is in the Jacobite Rising of 1745. He visited the Huntington Museum in California in 1979, spent six weeks reading the Loudoun Papers, 1745-1749, and published two papers with the Gaelic Society of Inverness. After 40 years, he has just finished a 500-page handlist of the papers!

From 1980 onwards, he was involved with the Scottish Tartans Society. In 2008 he designed an *arisaid* tartan for the wedding dress of his daughter. He has run kilt-making classes.

During lockdown, he has managed to finish writing a history of Lord Loudoun's Highland Regiment, 1745-1749, worked on St Clement's Church at Rodel, in Harris, and the Highland Society of Scotland Piping Competitions, 1781-1844, as well as designing the Society's Fellowship Tartan! He's also been investigating the houses and inhabitants of the High Street, Auchtermuchty, for his local Muchty Heritage, which runs summer pop-up exhibitions.

*We would welcome similar reflections from other Fellows across the globe for publication here!*

## Silver lapel pins

By purchasing a silver lapel pin, you will own an item steeped in heritage while demonstrating your support for the Society and its aims. The Society's silver pin badges are solid sterling silver, handmade in Scotland, hallmarked in Edinburgh and created using techniques hardly changed in centuries. Pin badges can be purchased online at [www.socantscot.org/shop](http://www.socantscot.org/shop)

## Research grant funding available

Are you looking for funding to help cover the cost of research you are planning to undertake next year?

The Society's research grants are available to anyone on a competitive basis for high-quality research relating



*Excavation at Dun Fhinn, Isle of Islay, funded by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. © Steve Mithen*

to Scotland's past. Grants are generally made on the recommendation of the Society's Grants and Awards Committee and the approval of the Society's Council. Most grant applications need to be addressed to the Director of the Society ([director@socantscot.org](mailto:director@socantscot.org)) and arrive on or before 30 November this year.

The Grants and Awards Committee meets early in the next year, and their recommendations are considered by Council at the next available meeting. Applicants can expect to hear whether their funding application has been successful by the following March or April. Updates and more information on grant guidelines, eligibility criteria and how to apply are available at:

[www.socantscot.org/grants-awards](http://www.socantscot.org/grants-awards)

There is also information on the Society website of over 30 exciting research projects supported by Society funding at: [www.socantscot.org/research-projects](http://www.socantscot.org/research-projects)

## Thank you

Finally, a big THANK YOU to everyone for your wonderful support over the past year during lockdowns – be it sending good wishes to Fellows and Society staff and Trustees, volunteering time and services to bolster the Fellows' network, paying annual subscriptions on time, or making additional monetary donations to the Society. This support is much appreciated and makes a huge difference. It helps make possible all the great things the Society achieves and delivers for heritage and for people.

– **Andrea Kaszewski** | Fellowship and Development

Due to the global pandemic and safety measures, all Society events (lectures and conferences) will be held online via Zoom. Even when people are allowed to gather indoors in lecture venues in the future, we plan to stream Society events online so that more people can continue to attend and take part no matter where they are in the world. *For further information about these events, and to book your place, please visit our website.*

## **April Lecture: “The Knights Templar and Historical Revisionism in the Modern Era” by Dr Rory MacLellan**

*Monday 26 April 2021 (6pm GMT)*

The Knights Templar are among the best-known elements of the medieval period. They were the first of the military-religious orders and important players in the Crusades. Their dramatic end as accused heretics has since spawned endless conspiracy theories, and the Templars, or groups inspired by them, have repeatedly featured in films, novels, comics, and video games. But this fame has also led to darker appropriations.

This event will feature the first election of new Fellows to the Society outside of our Anniversary Meeting on St Andrew's Day for a long time. Information on the applicants and how to vote in this election will be placed on the Fellows Area of the website and emailed to Fellows in April. We will also send ballots out to those Fellows for whom we do not have an email address.

## **Archaeological Research in Progress Conference** *Saturday 29 May 2021 (Times to be confirmed)*

The annual day conference for archaeological research will be hosted online in collaboration with Archaeology Scotland. Topics, timings and technology still to be confirmed.

## **June Lecture: “The Public and Private Worlds of Sir Walter Scott” by Dr Iain G. Brown FSAScot and Kirsty Archer-Thompson FSAScot** *Monday 28 June 2021 (6pm GMT)*

A joint lecture delivered online by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in collaboration with the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Part of the official public programme taking place this year to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Sir Walter Scott.

## **2021 Rhind Lectures: “Untimely Ends” by John Hunter OBE BA PhD FSA FSAScot MCIFA FCSFS, Emeritus Professor of Ancient History and Archaeology, University of Birmingham**

Archaeologists have always been fond of the dead. Their study enables us to learn about past societies and gives us free rein to air views and theories about what went on, what people believed in, and how the dead were disposed of, commemorated and remembered. It takes place at arm's length from reality, the past is a distant place, and the main artefact of death (the individual) is often anonymous. Working with police forces throughout the UK and overseas locating and excavating buried murder victims generates a more cynical view of the archaeological process and interpretation. There are some interesting comparanda when it comes to excavating murder victims, applying archaeological techniques to formal exhumations in churchyards, interpreting evidence for genocide in mass graves or pulling bodies out of cellars. It is difficult to believe that abuse, drug warfare, trophyism, or marital disharmony could be so archaeologically interesting and informative, but it can be. It would seem that we think about the past in a completely different manner to how we think about the present. This series of lectures will try and explain why, linking the two together in an unusual way. *Sponsored by AOC Archaeology Group.*



© John Hunter

*Due to the uncertainties driven by the pandemic, we don't yet know if it will be possible to hold the 2021 Rhind Lectures in person or online. These uncertainties mean the dates are still to be confirmed, however, it is likely to be held in autumn this year at the earliest.*

## **Summer Excursion: Isle of Bute**

Due to the global pandemic, we now expect that this highly-anticipated weekend excursion to the Isle of Bute will run in 2022. It will be an opportunity to see, explore, and learn more about Bute's fascinating heritage, including several outdoor sites and a visit to Bute Museum. Places will be limited to a maximum of 30 people.

## **Online recording**

We are pleased to be able to continue to record, hold and place Society lectures online thanks to the generous support of Fellow Sir Angus Grossart QC CBE DL LLD DLitt FRSE FSAScot.

To watch one or more of the Society lectures given over the past five years, visit the resources section of the Society website ([www.socantscot.org/resources](http://www.socantscot.org/resources)), tick the 'videos' option in the list in the search facility on the right-hand side of the webpage, press 'search', choose from the list of videos and press play to watch a lecture of your choosing online. The filmed lectures can also be found on YouTube.

## **Updates and changes**

The most up to date information on Society events can be found on the Society website events pages, so please check the Society website regularly and read the monthly e-newsletters. To receive the e-newsletter we need your current email address. At present, we have email addresses for around 78% of Society Fellowship.

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## WEST HIGHLAND NOTES & QUERIES



Journal of the Society of  
 West Highland and Island  
 Historical Research

The Society, founded in 1972, encourages research into the history of the West Highlands and Islands. Our journal is published three times a year and the latest issue is due out in March 2021.

Articles include *Gamal, Steward of Carrick*, by Ronald Black, *the Macdonalds of Glengarry* by James Scott Petre, and *the Mackays in the Small Isles* by Ian S. Mackay. Back copies are available.

Subscriptions cost £18, worldwide.

For details, please contact

[jamespetre@btinternet.com](mailto:jamespetre@btinternet.com)

### Interested in advertising in *Newsletter*?

The *Newsletter* is sent to all Fellows of the Society twice a year. It is distributed to over 2,500 people across the globe but, as there is often more than one person in a household, readership is estimated to be in the region of 5,000. The *Newsletter* includes information on a wide range of topics related to Scotland's past, the Society's activities, and news of interest to Fellows.

If you are interested in advertising in the next issue please contact the Society by **18 June 2021**.

More information and full terms and conditions can be requested by emailing us at [info@socantscot.org](mailto:info@socantscot.org)

### Advertising rates

The content/topic of an advert and insert should be relevant and in keeping with the Society's charitable purposes: to support the study and enjoyment of Scotland's past.

#### Adverts in the *Newsletter*

	Full page	Half page	Quarter page
Orientation	A4 – portrait	landscape	portrait
Dimensions	210x297mm	180x125mm	88x125mm
Fellows	£200	£100	£50
Non-Fellows	£300	£150	£75

*Loose inserts* – 2,500 required per issue

Prices from £100 for Fellows and £150 for non-Fellows.

# Important Information

## Contact us

*Staff are working from home, please use email as the main means of communication.*

**Address:** Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, National Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF

**Director** Dr Simon Gilmour  
director@socantscot.org

**General Enquiries & Fellows' Enquiries** Jade Dent  
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**Finance** Jan Paterson (Mon-Thurs)  
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**Publications and Sales** Adela Rauchova  
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**Project Manager, ScARF** Dr Helen Spencer  
helen@socantscot.org

[www.socantscot.org](http://www.socantscot.org)



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## Help your Society thrive

Thanks to the generous support of Fellow Sir Angus Grossart QC CBE DL LLD DLitt FRSE FSAScot you can view a wide range of engaging speakers on fascinating topics online anytime, anywhere with internet connection, simply by visiting [www.socantscot.org/resources](http://www.socantscot.org/resources) and searching for 'videos'.

You can also support the Society in a variety of ways, including:

- **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 the 'Society of Antiquaries of Scotland'
- **Volunteering your time and expertise** to help the Society on a given project or task
- **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
- **Encouraging colleagues and friends to join the Society** and enjoy the benefits of Fellowship

Please contact Andrea Kaszewski (Fellowship and Development Manager) if you would like more information on supporting the Society.



## Fellowship categories and subscription rates

Application forms can be downloaded from our website or filled in online ([www.socantscot.org/join-us](http://www.socantscot.org/join-us)).

The deadlines for Fellowship applications are 1 September and 28 February.

From 1 July 2021 the annual subscription rates are:

- **Ordinary Fellow** – £76 per annum
- **Family Fellow** – £38 per annum (normally reside at the same address as an Ordinary/Over 65 Fellow)
- **Over 65 Fellow** – £57 per annum
- **Under 26 or Student Fellow** – £21 per annum
- **Early Career Fellow** – £38 per annum

## How to pay

If you have any questions regarding payment please contact Jan Paterson (details on left).

- **BACS** – If you prefer to pay by BACS please contact Jan Paterson who will provide relevant details
- **Direct Debit** – Direct Debit Instruction forms are available on the Society website and are for Fellows with a UK bank account. For more information visit [www.socantscot.org/join-us/fellowship-types](http://www.socantscot.org/join-us/fellowship-types)
- **Online** – Using your credit card or by PayPal. Visit the Fellows area [www.socantscot.org/fellows-login](http://www.socantscot.org/fellows-login). Log in, click the the word 'Fellows' (top banner), and use the 'Pay Your 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** – Should be made payable to the 'Society of Antiquaries of Scotland'. This is particularly important for Fellows in the USA due to new US Banking regulations
- **Overseas Fellows** are advised to pay by credit card or via the website (see above) – we do take foreign cheques, but this is becoming increasingly expensive. The renewal letter shows current rates that have been calculated to allow for exchange rates, bank and service charges

## 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-login](http://www.socantscot.org/fellows-login). If you are no longer eligible to pay UK Tax, please let the office know so we can cancel the Gift Aid declaration.

## With thanks to our partner organisations:

