NEWSLETTER

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Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

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St Mary's Whitekirk Glass, St John © Lizzie Swarbrick

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Artist's impression of the heritage hub shopfront, meeting room and public event space and shop
The museum's name has been added for clarity. © Benjamin Tindall Architects

The President Writes...

As I write this in July, I am conscious of the celebrations marking the 250th anniversary of the American Declaration of Independence and the historical connections between Scotland and the United States. One of our close historical ties is through the founder of our Society, David Steuart Erskine, 11th Earl of Buchan, who was a friend of Benjamin Franklin and became concerned with Britain's 'foolish and oppressive conduct towards the colonies'. After the end of the War of Independence in 1783, he considered emigrating to the US to involve himself in this new 'sanctuary of truth and freedom'. Thankfully for us, he remained in Scotland but continued a long association with America, including corresponding with George Washington for many years.

Having decided to stay in Scotland, Buchan dedicated himself to his most memorable contribution to Scottish cultural life by pulling together a group of notable historians and antiquarians to form the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1780. This was one of a number of learned and cultural societies founded during this period of the Scottish Enlightenment in the late 18th century. You can read more about the foundation of the Society on our website.

As our own 250th anniversary approaches in 2030, we are pressing ahead with our fundraising activities to secure a permanent home for the Society and a national resource for Scotland, as outlined in my last President's letter in April. We are making good progress towards raising the funds required to purchase the former John Donald China shop building in Bristo Place, adjacent to the National Museum of Scotland.

In other news, our events programme continues to be varied and well-attended both in person and online. The Rhind Lectures this year took us into the world of art history. Professor Viccy Coltman FSAScot discussed the artistic representation of Scottish Officers and Highland Regiments during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars 1793–1815 and explained how these images would have been received and understood by contemporary audiences, firing up national pride and enthusiasm for 'our gallant troops'. The lectures were lively and well-illustrated, and I recommend this series which joins the Rhind Lectures from previous years to be enjoyed at your leisure on our YouTube channel.

We are also saying farewell to Mrs Jan Paterson our Finance Manager who retires as this edition is published. We wish her well and thank her for her service to the Society over the last 19 years!

Last, but not least, we are delighted to welcome the new Scottish Government Cabinet Secretary for Education, Culture and Gaelic, Màiri McAllan. We very much look forward to working with her through our engagement with the heritage sector, our independent advocacy and our public outreach activities.

– Diana Murray CBE MA FSA HonFSAScot FRSE FRSGS MCIfA, President

Scotland's Heritage Hub: Based in Edinburgh, Serving All of Scotland

Our Fellows have been at the heart of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland for nearly 250 years, and we are enormously grateful for the knowledge and support that you provide. However, many Fellows may not realise that the Society is much more than a membership organisation. We are also one of Scotland's oldest national heritage charities.

Enclosed with this mailing is our latest Impact Report, which demonstrates the national significance of the projects we lead and support. Across the country, we work with a vast range of heritage organisations, volunteers and community groups to increase understanding of the past, share knowledge and ensure that Scotland's heritage is accessible to everyone.



Artist's impression of the exhibition space within the heritage hub © Benjamin Tindall Architects

However, our sector is facing increasing pressures. Expertise and resources are often dispersed, while many community organisations and smaller charities are working with limited capacity, reduced funding and rising costs. There is currently no independent, visible national centre where the public, communities and the heritage sector can come together to collaborate, exchange knowledge and access support. Our current premises are inaccessible, and we are unable to welcome Fellows or use it to deliver in-person events and activities.

This is why the Society is seeking to create Scotland's first national heritage hub to provide a permanent, accessible home for our charitable work and create a national resource. Although physically based in Edinburgh, it will connect statutory bodies, heritage professionals, researchers, grassroots organisations, volunteers and enthusiasts across the country, as well as Scotland's global diaspora.

The hub will support collaboration, research, learning, skills development and knowledge exchange, while helping organisations share resources, reduce costs and build greater financial resilience. We are already in discussions with a range of heritage organisations, including Treasure Trove, Scotland's national system for recording, assessing and allocating archaeological finds to museums, which would like to use the heritage hub as a base for its public engagement. The hub will also provide a welcoming destination where people from Scotland and around the world can explore their Scottish roots and be guided towards heritage sites, archives, organisations and communities across the country connected to their own stories.

We have identified a B-listed building in Bristo Place, within Edinburgh's cultural corridor and UNESCO World Heritage Site, beside the National Museum of Scotland and close to major attractions including the Royal Mile and Edinburgh Castle, which collectively attract more than 10 million visitors annually. The property also includes six residential flats, providing a long-term income stream to support the heritage hub's financial sustainability.

This ambitious next chapter builds upon nearly 250 years of public benefit. Since its foundation in 1780, the Society has helped shape how Scotland's history is researched, preserved and shared. Its nationally significant collections were gifted to the state in 1851 and helped form the foundations of what is now the National Museum of Scotland. The heritage hub will build on this remarkable legacy, providing the accessible permanent home and national infrastructure needed to ensure that the Society can continue safeguarding Scotland's past for the next 250 years.

The campaign is gathering momentum, and we thank everyone that has donated so far, but we still need the support of our Fellows.

Visit www.socantscot.org/heritagehub to make a one-off donation or share the campaign through your networks. As part of our wider outreach, we will be travelling to the United States in October. Please do reach out to me at deborah@socantscot.org if you would like to meet with us during the visit or introduce us to someone within your network.

– Deborah Roe FSAScot, Head of Fundraising

Become a Heritage Hub Champion

Looking to make a regular donation to the heritage hub? For the cost of a few cups of coffee a month, you can help write the next chapter of Scotland's story.

If 1,000 people become Heritage Hub Champions and donate £20 a month, together we can raise £240,000 annually to support the heritage hub campaign and help sustain the hub's work for years to come.

As a Heritage Hub Champion, your support will be recognised in this historic campaign. You will be:

- Named in a special commemorative volume of the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, marking the Society's 250th anniversary
- Included on the Digital Honour Roll within the heritage hub
- Included on the online Honour Page on the Society's website

Become a Heritage Hub Champion today by visiting: www.socantscot.org/heritagechampions

ScARF and Dig It!



CVARF Symposium, Gamble Halls, Gourock
© Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

Thanks to an award from the Historic Environment Scotland Partnership Fund, the ScARF project is excited to continue our work to develop and maintain the national, regional and thematic research frameworks for the next three years.

New regional projects

In June, we welcomed three new staff members who will deliver the final two regional research frameworks. The North East Scotland Archaeological Research Framework will cover Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, Moray, Angus and Dundee, while the Forth Valley & Fife Archaeological Research Framework will address the Stirlingshire, West Lothian, Falkirk, Clackmannanshire and Fife areas. Research Manager, Hannah Boyd, will work closely with Research Officers Isobel Littlewood and Kath Page FSAScot to deliver these highly anticipated frameworks. You can visit the new project homepages on the ScARF website or follow them on Facebook and LinkedIn for the latest news.

Ongoing projects

The Clyde Valley Archaeological Research Framework (CVARF) and South West Scotland Archaeological Research Framework (SWSARF) are taking shape. The third CVARF Symposium and the second set of SWSARF workshops took place in June, and chapter drafts are being added steadily to the ScARF website for both projects.

We also recently launched brand-new sections of the Future Thinking on Carved Stones (FTCSS) Framework, including five new case studies, at our Rock Art Gathering in Kilmartin, Argyll. The Archaeological Science Framework also has new sections and case studies focussing on human remains and the scientific techniques used to study them.

Remember, we always welcome updates and comments on our frameworks to help keep them accurate and relevant. Find instructions on how to do this on our website (www.scarf.scot/about-scarf).

Subscribe to the ScARF e-newsletter for regular project updates, visit the website (www.scarf.scot) or contact us by email (scarf@socantscot.org).

– Dr Jennifer Allison FSAScot, Research Officer



Potential uses of ogham illustrated in Carved in Stone
© Ilsa Zhang

We are thrilled that Historic Environment Scotland's funding award will also enable Dig It! to continue delivering on the Society's strategic aims by promoting Scottish archaeology, combating misinformation, reaching new audiences and hosting our year-round public archaeology event listing.

Ogham Award

We are also pleased to share that *Carved in Stone*, a beautifully illustrated and incredibly comprehensive guide to the Picts, has been awarded the 2026 Certificate of Achievement for Ogham Excellence for its depiction of this ancient writing system. Collaboratively launched last year, the project was led by Stout Stoat's Brian Tyrrell and Archaeoplays' Dr Heather Christie FSAScot in partnership with Dig It!. The certificate was awarded by the OG(H)AM project at the Universities of Glasgow and Maynooth, who noted that the creators 'have made a real contribution to furthering its enduring legacy.' Visit www.carvedinstone.scot to buy a copy.

Summer Archaeology

In June, the BBC, *The Herald* and others shared our annual summer fieldwork press release, which promoted free and low-cost archaeology opportunities for the public. The full list on our website included the chance to investigate features at Bannockburn House near Stirling, tours at the Burghead Pictish fortress dig in Moray, and volunteering opportunities and open days at the Cammo Estate excavation in Edinburgh.

Dig It! Articles

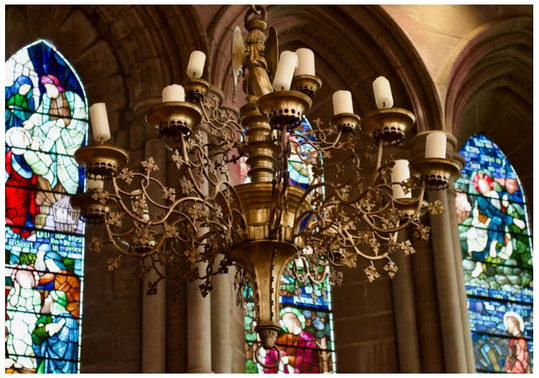
The team have also commissioned more online archaeology articles for the public, many of which were written by Fellows. Dr Megan Kasten explained the technique of photogrammetry, Kyle Armstrong shared his picks for Scottish island sites to photograph, Dr Rhona Ramsay presented archaeological discoveries made by Gypsy/Travellers, and Dr Nick Hannon gave the lowdown on geophysical survey. Visit www.digitscotland.com/discover to dive in.

Follow Along

Sign up to the monthly Digest on the Dig It! website and follow us on social media for more Scottish archaeology updates.

– By the Dig It! Team

ReACH and Make Your Mark



Brechin Cathedral © Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

The Research in Action on Church Heritage (ReACH) team has been busy visiting historic churches, speaking to hundreds of people about Scotland's wonderful ecclesiastical heritage and bringing experts and heritage professionals together for conversations about the challenges of church closures. The work of creating a lasting record of church heritage, and capturing the stories, memories, and practices relating to Scotland's churches, is no small task. Now in our second year, the ReACH team are right in the thick of it.

The team has grown, and together with colleagues from the Society, Scotland's Churches Trust, and the generous assistance of many others, we are shining a light on the community stories interwoven into the fabric of these much-cherished buildings. In July, we short-listed the churches we will visit for in-depth case studies. This autumn we will be exploring the heritage and social value of one of the first churches to be built after the Scottish Reformation; Burntisland Old Parish Church in Fife, a Thomas Telford Parliamentary kirk in Portnahaven, Islay, and the incomparable Brechin Cathedral in Angus.

One of the innovative aspects of the project is how we are bringing together the material culture and architecture of Scotland's churches with an exploration of how their communities have long used, remembered, and cared for them. Dr Emily Johnston FSAScot, ReACH Research Manager, presented on this subject at the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' conference, and the project's page on St Mary's Whitekirk, East Lothian, blends these approaches in a fascinating and emotionally powerful way. We look forward to seeing what unusual items and stories we will find at other churches as we continue our work.

Visit www.churchheritage.scot to learn more and sign up to our e-newsletter and follow us on social media for updates on upcoming ReACH events. If you have a particular interest in churches and would like to feed into the project, please get in touch (churches@socantscot.org).

– Dr Lizzie Swarbrick FSAScot, ReACH Research Manager

ReACH is coordinated by the Society in partnership with Scotland's Churches Trust and funded by The National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Pilgrim Trust.



© Historic Environment Scotland

The Make Your Mark Volunteering Campaign – the national campaign hosted by the Society to support everyone in Scotland to volunteer with history, culture and nature organisations – is entering an exciting new phase. We recently confirmed funding from The National Lottery Heritage Fund and Historic Environment Scotland, which will help a wider range of people volunteer at museums, historic sites, nature reserves, archives, parks, zoos and community organisations for the next three years. We will also be working with NatureScot to help bring new audiences to natural heritage volunteering.

Recent Scottish Household Survey results show volunteering increasing from 18% in 2023 to 25% in 2024. However, disabled people and those in lower-income households and deprived communities remain significantly less likely to volunteer, with cost-of-living pressures and limited time continuing to act as barriers. Volunteering in the heritage sector mirrors these national trends, with emerging skills gaps in digital, leadership and traditional and craft skills also an issue. This presents a challenge for history, culture and nature organisations, which depend on community engagement to maintain sites, landscapes, objects and stories.

The new funding will support work by the Make Your Mark campaign to improve access to volunteering as well as the quality of volunteer experiences. In autumn 2026, the campaign will launch a heritage skills development programme in partnership with Keep Scotland Beautiful and Access to Industry. This will support people facing complex barriers to employment to build skills, take part in structured learning and access supported volunteering experiences with organisations across Scotland's heritage sector.

Make Your Mark will also continue to help heritage organisations through inclusive volunteering guidance, training and peer support. This includes sharing good practice, improving approaches to volunteer recruitment and support, and carrying out research to better understand who is volunteering, and why or why not.

– Dr Jeff Sanders FSAScot, Head of Outreach



Witch's Grave (Leac-na-bana-bhuidseach), Uist
© Archaeology Scotland



Skara Brae beads currently strung as a bracelet
© National Museums Scotland

The Society is very pleased to continue to support high-quality research and publication relating to Scotland's past throughout Scotland and further afield.

In this issue you can read about projects we have recently funded, including a nationally significant dendrochronological research project to establish a tree-ring chronology for the early medieval period which will enable many key sites to be more precisely dated. We also supported the 2025 International Meeting of Field Runologists in Kirkwall, which allowed experts from across the world to meet, collaborate and visit some of the key rune sites in Orkney. Archival research has also been undertaken by one of our Early Career Fellows to shed light on Scotland's involvement in the 19th-century tea trade. Another Fellow has shared his research on pioneering town planner Patrick Geddes and the planning of the City of Dunfermline.

Audrey Henshall Legacy Fund

In 2024, we announced that Archaeology Scotland had received the inaugural award from the Audrey Henshall Legacy Fund for their project, Scotland's Earliest Megalithic Monuments Project, investigating early 4th millennium BC monuments in the west of Scotland. Over the past six months, excavation has taken place at two of the chambered cairns to be studied in detail: Achnacreebeag in Argyll and Leaval, Uist, in the Outer Hebrides. Alongside these excavations, a variety of workshops, talks and engagement events have taken place to both share the results of the work and celebrate the life of our late Honorary Fellow Audrey Henshall. We are particularly looking forward to the results of both radiocarbon and optically-stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating of samples from both sites. Photogrammetry and 3D models have also been produced of these and other chambered cairns in the west of Scotland, with complementary work taking place in Ireland. We look forward to sharing the results of all this work in due course/in our next issue.

Following the success of this first project funded by the legacy left by Audrey Henshall to the Society, we are planning to re-open applications for the Audrey Henshall Lagacy Fund this autumn. If you have a project in mind that involves fieldwork or other research on pre-Roman antiquaries in Scotland, then please keep an eye on our website for more news about how to apply to this fund.

Latest Grant Awards

In August, we were thrilled to announce our latest grant awards which support a wide range of antiquarian research. In this round, we funded projects which will:

- Date a Mesolithic site at Boatley's Farm on the River Don, Aberdeenshire
- Investigate the origins and significance of ancient Greek and Etruscan vases in Scottish country houses
- Support the publication of a book entitled The Estate and the Country House in Scotland: a case study of William Bruce's Hopetoun House
- Carry out a multi-isotope study of faunal remains from Dunollie, a fortified elite site from the early medieval kingdom of Dál Riata
- Continue the study of Scottish tea merchants and the China trade
- Record early medieval sculpture in southeast Scotland using a range of techniques, including photogrammetry, which will be used to create a new database of early medieval sculpture in southern Scotland
- Support the licensing of images in a new book entitled Politics of Highland Improvement: Annexation and the Landed Estate in Scotland
- Investigate how the production, use and circulation of bone ornaments shaped identity and difference at the Neolithic settlement of Skara Brae using microscopy, experimental archaeology and molecular analysis
- Radiocarbon date features found during excavations in Machrins, Colonsay.

We regularly add new research reports to our website, so you can keep up to date with the outcomes of Society-funded projects. The Society is incredibly grateful to our Fellows across the globe, whose subscription fees enable us to distribute these grants each year and support high-quality research into Scotland's past.

Please visit our website or email helen@socantscot.org for more information about how the Society can support your research through a grant or award.

- Dr Helen Spencer FSAScot, Head of Research



Judith (centre) and Jasmin (left) examine the Skaill stone with the assistance of Frederikke Reimer © Loraine Jensen



Maeshowe Neolithic chambered tomb with 33 Scandinavian runic graffiti inside © Judith Jesch

Re-evaluating Orkney's Runic Inscriptions

By Judith Jesch FSAScot FBA, Emeritus Professor of Viking Studies, University of Nottingham

The 7,000 or so inscriptions in Scandinavian runes created between approximately AD 160 and AD 1500 are significant as documents that are both contemporary and original. They attest to the spread of Scandinavian language and culture in the Viking Age, and their continued importance into the following centuries. The fifty-odd Viking Age and medieval inscriptions found in Orkney form the largest corpus of such runes in Britain and Ireland and new finds continue to be made. Orkney is also of interest for some modern, "fake", or imitation inscriptions found (or produced) there, and distinguishing these requires good knowledge of the older corpus. My current research, together with Dr Jasmin Higgs, involves an updated analysis of the Orkney inscriptions to re-evaluate their social, historical and linguistic implications.

Previous research has largely focused on linguistic and epigraphical aspects, but our work makes greater use of new research in saga studies, place-names and archaeology as well as new approaches to linguistic and epigraphical analysis of the inscriptions. Fieldwork was carried out in Orkney in October 2025, funded by the Society, during which we also organised a meeting of 20 field runologists from Scandinavia and North America. Knowledge exchange with other experienced runologists in the field is an important aspect of runological research, and the visiting runologists provided their perspective on the inscriptions we examined together and updated our knowledge of relevant Scandinavian parallels which may suggest better interpretations of the Orkney inscriptions. Some of these suggestions were aired by participants at a public engagement event in Kirkwall, the Rune Relay, attended by 50 people.

We carried out personal examination of the inscriptions on portable objects at UHI Orkney, where they had been brought from Orkney Museum, Skaill House Museum and Sanday Heritage Centre. We visited Maeshowe, Ring of Brodgar and Brough of Birsay to study inscriptions still *in situ*. It was also important to visit locations where inscriptions had been found, so we visited Orphir, Naversdale, Breckness, Bay of Skaill and Stackrue Broch. These sites were locations of political, social and religious interaction in Viking and Norse Orkney, and they provide essential context for understanding the impulses that led to this distinctive form of literacy.

The fieldwork provided an opportunity either to confirm previous readings of the inscriptions or to develop new readings and/or interpretations, which will be explained in detail in a forthcoming article. As many of the inscriptions are damaged, fragmentary or now illegible, closer attention to the physical and historical contexts of the inscriptions is essential to understanding their origins and chronology and should help elucidate their content. The research will therefore also take account of the most recent archaeological work as reflected in *The Earl's Bu, Orphir* by Dr Colleen Batey HonFSAScot et al (Historic Environment Scotland, 2026) and the forthcoming publication on Tuquoy by Olwyn Owen FSAScot, as well as the historical contexts suggested by *Orkneyinga saga* and related texts, translations of which I published recently as *The Saga of the Earls of Orkney* (Birlinn, 2025).

This work will help in the assessment of the extent to which the find sites of runic inscriptions are in fact the sites where they were produced and, if not, then help to identify other possible production sites. Recent work by Antonia Thomas and others on Neolithic carvings in Maeshowe will also feed into a re-evaluation of the impulses which led to the carving of runic graffiti on its walls.

Acknowledgements

Our warm thanks are due to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland for funding our travel and expenses and to Dr Ragnhild Ljosland of UHI Orkney and Dr Siobhan Cooke-Miller of Orkney Museum for facilitating the study day at UHI and a visit to the museum's store, Dr Colleen Batey for guiding us at Orphir, and Phil Hopkins and Historic Environment Scotland for allowing us research access to Maeshowe and Brough of Birsay.

Collect, Count, Keep: Tree-Ring Stories from the Archives

By Dr Anne Crone FSAScot

Dendrochronology, the technique of measuring tree-ring sequences to date wood from historic buildings, archaeological sites and objects, can provide startling insights into the past. By constructing such a precise timeline, we can link buildings with historic events and, in the prehistoric past, we can even begin to see events at the scale of human lifetimes.

The Dendrochronology Research Framework for Scotland hosted by the Society's ScARF project provides abundant evidence for the value of applying dendrochronological research to Scottish history and archaeology, while the excavations at the Iron Age wetland settlement at the Black Loch of Myrton, Dumfries and Galloway, showcase the insights into settlement dynamics that can be obtained when large assemblages of long-lived timbers are available for study.

Unfortunately, in Scotland sizeable assemblages of wood such as that from Black Loch are few and far between. Often only a handful of timbers can be retrieved from a building or archaeological site because this is all that has survived, the rest lost either through natural decay, destruction or refurbishment. However, the size of an assemblage is often critical to the chances of successful dendrochronological dating; a chronology is made up of all the tree-ring sequences from individual samples that match well together and the more tree-ring sequences that can be incorporated into a site chronology, the stronger the climatic signal and the greater the likelihood of a successful match against other dated chronologies. A successful match would give us the calendar date of the chronology and also the provenance of the timber. Consequently, there are plenty of dendrochronological samples in our archives which remain undated. The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland have recently funded a number of projects which seek to date some of these old samples by building on technological advances and newly acquired data.

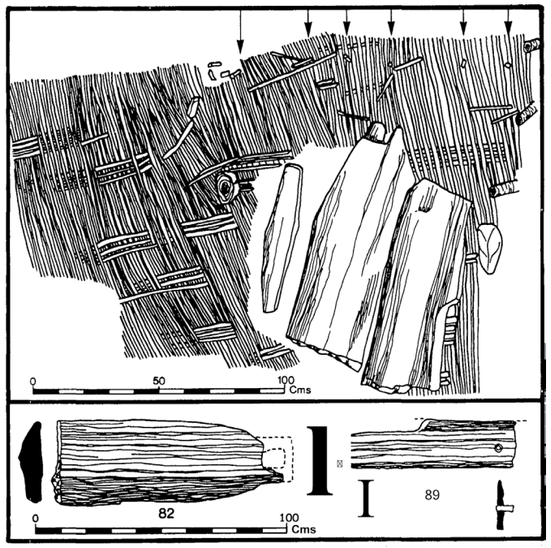
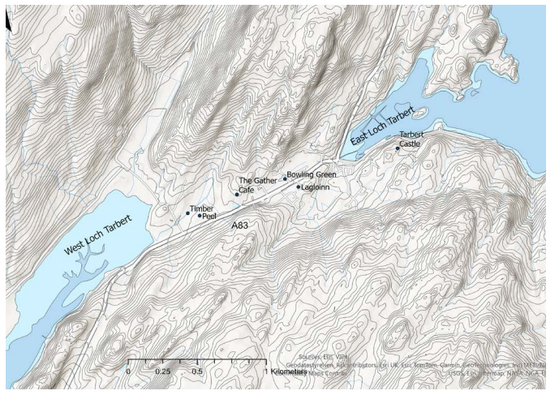


Figure 1 (above): Timbers from Dundurn, reproduced from PSAS 119 (1989, Alcock, Alcock and Driscoll)

Figure 2 (below): Map showing important sites near Tarbert © Shane McLeod



Dundurn, Perthshire (for Professor Gordon Noble FSAScot, University of Aberdeen)

Structural oak timbers were retrieved from the early medieval fortified site at Dundurn, Perthshire, during Leslie Alcock's excavations in 1976–7 (Figure 1); at the time two of these timbers were sent to Queen's University, Belfast for analysis but could not be dendrochronologically dated. Subsequently, using an advanced radiocarbon calibration method known as 'wiggle match dating', one of these timbers was dated to *c* AD 608.

As part of the Society-funded contribution to the Northern Picts project, the rest of the timbers in the Dundurn archive were assessed, and a further five candidates suitable for dendrochronological analysis were identified. Their analysis has resulted in the dendro-dating of two timbers and the inclusion of a third timber into the wiggle-match dated chronology. The results all confirm building activity at Dundurn in the early 7th century AD and represents the first advance in the development of an early medieval tree-ring chronology for Scotland for nearly three decades. The only dated early medieval chronologies come from southwest Scotland, from Buiston crannog and Whithorn, and although the results from Dundurn are not extensive, they do demonstrate that the tree-ring signal in the southwest Scottish chronologies is strong enough to enable the dating of assemblages from further north in Scotland.

An Tarbert, Kintyre (for Alexandra Sanmark FSAScot & Shane McLeod FSAScot, UHI)

The narrow, low-lying isthmus between West and East Tarbert in Argyll (Figure 2) is known to have been used as a portage, over which boats could be transported from one body of water to another; its use as a portage is recorded in the *Orkneyinga saga* when King Magnus Barelegs was drawn across the isthmus in a skiff in order to claim Kintyre for Norway in AD 1097. Traditionally, ships were hauled across using tree-trunks as rollers, so when deep ploughing c. 1990 revealed six large oak timbers, it was speculated that these might be part of the portage. All the timbers were measured but, despite ring-sequences of up to 188 years, they could not be dendro-dated at the time.

As a contribution to The Norse and the Sea: The Maritime Cultural Landscape of Scandinavian Scotland project, the Society funded the sampling and wiggle-match dating of one of the timbers. This produced a much earlier date in the Early Bronze Age, suggesting that the timber had been felled or had died sometime between 2455 BC and 2395 BC. This new date raises several possibilities; of course, the logs may not relate to the portage at all but given the historical evidence for the use of the area as a portage it seems more probable that it either represents a Bronze Age portage or that ancient bog wood was found and used in a later portage.

The Egg Boat Stems (with Aoife Daly, Dendro.dk and University of Copenhagen)

Two roughouts for boat stems, one of which has been radiocarbon-dated to the Viking period, were found on the Isle of Eigg in the 19th century and donated to the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh where they are currently on display. In 1996, an attempt was made to scan the ring-patterns of the stems using a medical CT scanner, an approach which avoided any invasive sampling of these rare objects. While it was possible to see the alignment of the ring-patterns the resolution was not good enough for tree-ring measurement. Since then, there have been significant advances in the use of non-invasive techniques to record ring-patterns for dendrochronology, in particular the use of high-resolution X-ray CT scanners (Bill et al 2012, Daly & Ebert 2021, Daly & Streeton 2017).

The scanning was made possible by a generous National X-ray Computed Tomography grant of two days of beam time at the µ-VIS X-ray Imaging Centre, Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, University of Southampton, while funding for the transport of the stems and museum staff costs for the long journey from Edinburgh to Southampton was covered by the National Museum of Scotland and The Norse and the Sea project (via Sven Kalmring, Swedish History Museum & Alexandra Sanmark, UHI).

Combined with generous funding from National X-ray Computed Tomography and National Museums Scotland, the grant from the Society allowed Aoife to supervise the scanning of the boat stems at the µ-VIS X-ray Imaging Centre, Faculty of Engineering and Physical Sciences, University of Southampton and ensure these scans were optimised for dendrochronology. This has produced high resolution images of the oak rings which will be measured and analysed in the next stage of this project, hopefully producing a precise calendar date and indicating the provenance of the oak, i.e. whether it was grown locally or elsewhere in the Viking world.

Burghead, Moray (for Professor Gordon Noble FSAScot, University of Aberdeen)

During excavations at the Pictish fort at Burghead in Moray in 2024 and 2025, carbonised timbers from the timber-laced ramparts were retrieved (Figure 3). Measuring carbonised wood is notoriously difficult because the charcoal is fragile, invariably breaking up into small fragments and it is hard to obtain clear surfaces on which the ring-pattern can be seen. But we have very few chronologies in Scotland covering the early medieval period and so these timbers provided an opportunity that could not be missed. The Society has funded the dendrochronological analyses, and so far, 12 timbers have been measured, which has resulted in the construction of two chronologies, 157 years and 92 years in length. It has not yet proved possible to date these chronologies; as described above, the only contemporary chronologies are geographically far distant, but the Burghead data will provide the building blocks for the eventual development of an early medieval chronology for northeast Scotland.



Figure 3: Burghead; one of the burnt timbers in situ *within the fire-reddened rampart of the seaward part of the upper citadel © Gordon Noble*

The lesson to be learnt from these stories is that it is always worthwhile collecting, analysing and archiving any timbers that are viable for dendrochronology because even if they cannot be dated at the time, new techniques and new data will make that dating possible in the future. Collect. Count. Keep!

Further reading

For more information on the use of high-resolution X-ray CT scanners in dendrochronology the following papers are recommended:

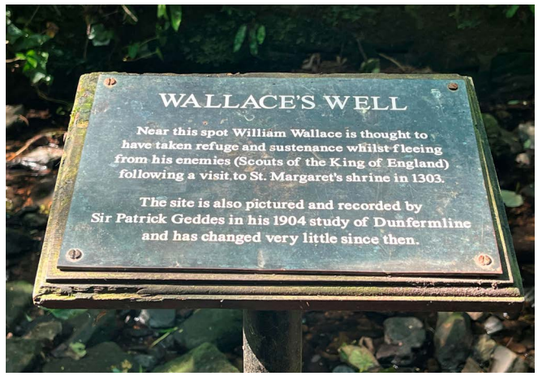
Bill, J, Dalen, K S, Daly, A & Johnsen, Ø 2012 'Dendro CT – dendrochronology without damage', *Dendrochronologia* 30, 223–230. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dendro.2011.11.002

Daly, A & Ebert, B, 2021 'Non-invasive dendrochronology – Pushing the boundaries of the technique', in *Transcending boundaries: integrated approaches to conservation*. ICOM-CC 19th Triennial Conference Preprints, Beijing, 17–21 May 2021, ed J Bridgland, Paris: International Council of Museums., Paris. https://doi.org/10.5281/ZENODO.5163718.

Daly, A & Streeton, N L W, 2017 'Non-invasive dendrochronology of late-medieval objects in Oslo: refinement of a technique and discoveries', *Applied Physics* A, 2017, 123:431, 12 pp. https://doi.org/10.1007/s00339-017-1019-x



Pittencrieff Park by Ivar Struthers CC BY-NC-SA 2.0



Wallace's Well Plaque, Pittencrieff Park, Dunfermline
© Eleanor Hubbard

City Development: Patrick Geddes and Dunfermline

By Dr Tom Hubbard FSAScot, former Honorary Fellow of the University of Edinburgh and the University of Glasgow

As a Fifer, I take a parochial interest in sympathetic outsiders. A pioneer of people's museums, Patrick Geddes (1854–1932) was not Dunfermline-born, but is surely worthy of posthumous adoption by the "Auld Grey Toun". He was primarily a botanist by profession, but above all a polymath. His book *City Development, A Study of the Parks, Gardens, and Culture-Institutes: A Report to the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust*, was published in 1904. In it, his vision for the town's material renewal, while radical, does not attempt to be the imposition by a busybody outsider but a proposal by an imaginative adviser. He respects existing conditions and contours and would rather develop these than enforce a rigidly preconceived scheme. In his suggestions for the city's Pittencrieff Park, which incorporates the locally popular Glen, he demonstrates that he has identified closely with the community – 'our' city, he calls it, and with affection rather than presumption.

The phrase "town planning" now has vastly more negative accretions than it had in Geddes's day. He preferred the concept of "city design", involving a synthesis of arts and sciences. Geddes's suggestions for Dunfermline are extremely detailed, yet they are, after all, suggestions. His text is well illustrated; Geddes had been editor of the periodical *The Evergreen*, which featured work by contemporary Scottish artists.

Scandinavian Influence

East of the historic abbey and Pittencrieff Park, Geddes proposes a crafts village, a large history building, an art palace, a nature palace and museum; botany and zoology are featured strongly. The emphasis is on hands-on experience for members of the public: at the south-east of the park, an artificial loch and its shore would have an open-air (and open-access) primitive village complete with cave, crannog and broch. Geddes had learned from the open-air museums of Scandinavia. It is notable that he displays an entirely unstuffy, even compassionate attitude to it all; his emphasis is on community, to families and to their children.

Japanese Influence

Turning toward the western side of the park, he offers a Japanese tea-house and museum. Geddes, the professional botanist, proposes the planting of Japanese irises. He would surely have commended the recent restoration of Sha Raku En, the Japanese garden near Dollar, some ten miles from Dunfermline.

Geddes suggests a 'Scottish rock garden', with its youngest visitors very much in mind: 'Children will always run up and down the rocks of a rock garden, and it should, therefore, be constructed from the first with paths and steps sufficiently broad to admit of their doing this without injury to the plants or themselves. Hence my roomy and winding rock paths, nearly one-third of a mile, with occasional pools and masses of shrubbery, are arranged so as to give continual variety and fresh points of view and interest.' (*City Development*, 57)

Fife and Beyond

Geddes's 'city design' for Dunfermline was tantamount to an open university, based in what had been a *de facto* ancient capital of Scotland. 'Hence, then, the need in our historical museum to express our past relation with the culture of other countries, and to recognise the increasing possibility of renewing them; so that Scotland may once more recover her place, as the small Continental countries have already done, among the European Powers – of Culture. In this movement our Dunfermline Hall of History would play a worthy part.' (154) Sadly, Geddes's report was rejected by the Carnegie Trustees.

He may not have been altogether grandiloquent when, in the course of *City Development*, he speculated that were certain of his schemes carried out, 'whoever would see the world should now come to Dunfermline'. (164) That city has its own stunning views from the eminences of the abbey and Pittencrieff Park; it awaits a sustained revival of Geddes's vision.

Geddes, P, 1904 *City Development: A Study of Parks, Gardens and Culture-Institutes; A Report to the Carnegie Dunfermline Trust*. Edinburgh: Geddes and Company



Consulting Chinese-language records from the Jardine Matheson Archive at Cambridge University Library



A public engagement event at the University of Edinburgh.
Both images courtesy of Huirong Cheng

Following the Tea Trade: Tracing Scotland's Global Connections with China

By Huirong Cheng FSAScot, PhD Candidate in Economic and Social History, University of Edinburgh

When people think about Scotland's global past, tea is probably not the first thing that comes to mind. Yet for more than two centuries, Scottish merchants, family firms and trading houses played an important role in importing, marketing and selling Chinese tea. Their activities linked Scotland with China through commercial networks that stretched across oceans, connecting producers, merchants, consumers and communities in ways that remain little known today.

Following the Archival Trail

My doctoral research at the University of Edinburgh explores these connections through the history of Scottish tea merchants and the China trade. Rather than concentrating primarily on political events or diplomatic history, I am interested in the people and businesses behind the trade: the merchants, firms and commercial communities that helped move Chinese tea from Canton (now Guangzhou) to Scotland and beyond. By bringing together Scottish business history, global history and material culture, I hope to understand more clearly Scotland's place within this wider history of global exchange.

In autumn 2025, a grant from the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland enabled me to undertake my first major archival research trip to London. Working in repositories including the British Library and The National Archives transformed the early stages of my doctoral project into a much richer programme of research. More importantly, those visits showed me that the history of Scottish tea merchants was scattered across archives throughout Britain rather than preserved in a single collection.

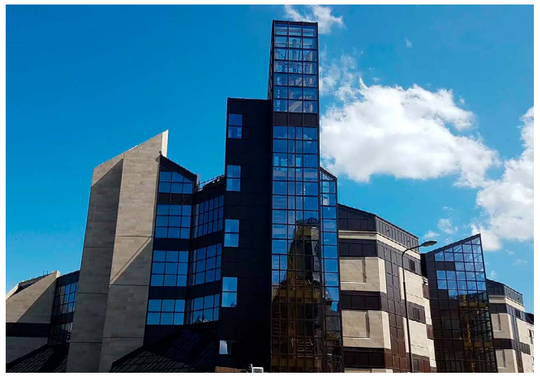
Since then, the project has continued to grow. At Cambridge University Library, I consulted the Jardine Matheson Archive, which preserves the business records of a major China trading firm founded by two Scots. Its Chinese-language commercial records offered another perspective on the networks connecting Scotland, China and the wider world. Work at Edinburgh City Archives revealed a more local side of this global story through trade journals, advertising material and records relating to Scottish family firms. Every archive has offered another fragment of a much larger history, allowing me gradually to connect collections, places and people across Britain and China.

One of the greatest pleasures of archival research is that every visit raises new questions. Each collection encourages me to think differently about Scotland's commercial past and reminds me that history is rarely contained within one archive or one city. A further Society grant in 2026 is enabling me to continue this journey through additional archival research and public engagement. In the coming months, I hope to follow further traces of Scotland's tea trade through repositories in Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen.

Sharing the Story

Research does not end in the archive. Sharing these histories has become an equally rewarding part of the project. Alongside my archival work, I have presented my research at conferences and postgraduate workshops across Britain and introduced the global history and culture of tea through public engagement activities at the University of Edinburgh. These conversations have strengthened my research and shown me how much interest there is in Scotland's historical connections with China.

Looking back, it is remarkable how much this project has developed since that first Society-funded archival visit. What began as an investigation into a little-known aspect of Scotland's commercial history has become a broader exploration of Scotland's place within global history. I am deeply grateful to the Society not only for its financial support, but also for welcoming me into a community that encourages Fellows to discover, share and celebrate Scotland's past. Every archival visit reminds me that Scotland's history extends far beyond its own shores. By continuing to follow the tea trade, I hope to bring another chapter of Scotland's global history more clearly into view.



The National Library of Scotland on Salisbury Place in Edinburgh © National Library of Scotland



The National Museum of Scotland Research Library © Neil Hanna

Welcome everyone, including all 103 new Fellows who were elected to the Society in April this year. At the time of writing, there are over 2,750 Fellows in the Society from more than 20 countries around the world.

We hope you continue to enjoy being part of the Society, learning more about Scotland's past and making the most of the opportunities available through Fellowship. These include early digital access to the most recent volumes of the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland* (PSAS), invitations to free Fellows-only events, discounts on Society merchandise and publications, and more – read on.

Free Tickets for Fellows to Roman Scotland Exhibition

To celebrate our shared history, Fellows of the Society benefit from free entry to ticketed Scottish history or archaeology-themed exhibitions at the National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh, which includes Roman Scotland: Life on the Edge of Empire.

Running from 14 November 2026 to 18 April 2027, this exhibition will reshape our understanding of Scotland's relationship with the Roman world. It will bring the military communities of Rome's most northern frontier to life through new research, significant loans from across Europe, and previously unseen archaeological discoveries.

Fellows can use the promotional code **FSAScot** to get a free ticket to the exhibition. Fellows may redeem a free ticket in person by quoting the promotional code at any of the National Museum of Scotland reception desks in the entrance hall or exhibition area (subject to availability for the desired timeslot). Book in advance either online via the National Museums Scotland website or over the phone by calling 0300 123 6789 any day of the week from 10am to 5pm (UK time). This is an exclusive benefit for Fellows of the Society. **Please do not share the promo code.** For more information, please contact events@socantscot.org .

Noticeboard

Good news: the online Fellows noticeboard is back. Here, in a password protected part of the website, Fellows can read notices about items of interest shared by Fellows and Society staff. Information about this new webpage was sent in the July 2026 e-newsletter. Please contact fellowship@socantscot.org to enquire about posting an item relating to Scottish history or archaeology on the noticeboard.

Fellows-only Events

Since the previous newsletter, we have organised several exclusive online and in-person events. These included Online Fellows' Meetings with talks by Dr Alex Fitzpatrick FSAScot on her work to digitally reunite the distributed archaeological collection of John Garstang; by Dr Dirk Brandherm FSAScot on Bronze Age hillforts in Ireland and their connections to Scotland; and by Dr Julie Holder FSAScot on her research into Scottish disability histories. In addition, the third Online Writers' Retreat last May, which helped Fellows working on a structured writing task, was a success, with one participant calling it 'very productive and useful'.

We also organised group tours for Fellows at the National Library of Scotland Maps Reading Room, HES Search Room & Library and the National Museum of Scotland's Research Library. Another highlight was a tour in July for Fellows of Dunblane Cathedral and Leighton Library; this was hosted and led by Fellows Malcolm Wilson and Alastair MacDonald. One attendee remarked: 'I really enjoyed the tour in Dunblane, the first time I have attended a [Fellows-only] tour. Our hosts were fantastic, knowledgeable and engaging. Your organisation of the day perfect. I'll be looking out for future Fellows' events, thank you.'

At the time of writing, plans for several other new and exciting Fellows-only events scheduled for September, October and November 2026 are being developed.

The Society has been informed and notes with sadness the following deaths of Fellows over the past few months and offers its deepest condolences to their family, friends and colleagues:

Reverend Alexander Lamb FSAScot
Dr Anna Ritchie HonFSAScot
Mr David Murray FSAScot
Dr Denis Smith FSAScot
Mr Doug McMillan FSAScot
Mr Federick Carson FSAScot
Professor Hugh Montgomery FSAScot
Mr John McMillan FSAScot
Mrs Kathleen Dalyell FSAScot
Mrs Loretta Hutchison FSAScot
Professor Robert Beveridge FSAScot
Mrs Rosemary Meldrum FSAScot
Mr Stuart Macbeth FSAScot

These include the 2026 Summer Excursion to Dundee, more Online Fellows' Meetings and a tour of the Govan Stones in Glasgow.

For more information about upcoming Fellows-only events, please visit the Events area of the Society website and look out for details in e-newsletters. Also, if you have ideas of new guided group tours and online talk topics you and other Fellows would be interested in, or if you are interested in organising a Fellows Dinner or Fellows Meet-up in your area and would like some tips from Fellows who have done this before, please email Andrea Kaszewski (andrea@socantscot.org).

NMS Research Library

In recognition of the Society's important role in founding and enriching Scotland's national collections, the National Museum of Scotland has for many years warmly welcomed Fellows to its Research Library. While members of the public are welcome to use the Research Library for reference, Fellows enjoy borrowing privileges which are otherwise not extended to the public.

The founding library collection dates back over 240 years, with roots in the Society's collections, including its own records archive. As such, the library holds the Society's historical archives dating back to 1780: these include minute books, communications, letter books, financial records, newspaper cuttings and correspondence relating to its administration, museum and library. The manuscript collections include the Daniel Wilson scrapbook, nine volumes of Robert Riddell's Collection of Scottish Antiquities and the correspondence and papers of Edinburgh printer, naturalist, and antiquary, William Smellie.

The Research Library is located on Level 3 of the National Museum of Scotland and can be accessed by appointment. The library team is on hand to welcome you and assist with research enquiries in advance of your visit and can be contacted by email (library@nms.ac.uk).

New Staff Member

In April, Fellowship and Administration Officer, Lucy Gibbons, left the Society for a new job in East Renfrewshire and we wish her all the very best for the future. In June, Astrid Bridgwood was appointed to this post. Astrid moved from the USA to Edinburgh in 2024 to pursue an MSc in Modern and Contemporary Art: History, Curating, and Criticism at the University of Edinburgh. Latterly, Astrid worked in Edinburgh's commercial art sector where she developed an interest in Scottish abstract and modern artists.

Thank You

A big thank you to you, our Fellows, for your continued support of the Society – be it sending ideas and feedback, taking part in Online Fellows' Meetings and other events, paying annual subscriptions and making additional donations to the Society. Your support is much appreciated and integral in helping the Society deliver for both heritage and people.

Fellows are the bedrock of this charity, so if you know someone with a keen interest in Scotland's past, please mention the Society to them and ask them to consider applying to join.

– Andrea Kaszewski, Fellowship & Development Manager



Excavations at the Knowe of Swandro in Rousay, Orkney © Alex Fitzpatrick

Fellows' Reflections

Alex Fitzpatrick FSAScot, a Society Trustee, writes:

'It's hard to believe that 2026 marks a decade of being a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland! I made my first trip to Scotland in 2014 as part of an undergraduate study abroad programme with the University of Bradford to excavate the Knowe of Swandro, in Rousay. The impact of these four weeks abroad was immense – not only did I end up moving to Bradford from New York to undertake my MSc studies, but I also decided to continue researching and working in Scottish archaeology. My MSc research focused on analysing fish bones from the Swandro excavations, which ultimately led me to return to the Orkney Islands for my first ever academic conference in 2016.

To attend, I applied for a bursary through ScARF following a recommendation by my supervisor. Attending this conference was huge for me, as it built up my confidence as a burgeoning researcher and allowed me to meet so many others with similar research interests. At the end of the conference, I wrote up a report for ScARF, marking the first of many publications I would write for the Society and its associated initiatives.

Having had such a positive experience with ScARF, I decided that it would be useful to become a Fellow of the Society. And this decision has really paid off in so many ways – from receiving a research grant that supported my PhD research on the Covesea Caves of northeast Scotland to being invited to contribute to various Dig It! articles. Becoming a Fellow has not only enhanced my skills as a researcher and writer but has also given me so many opportunities I would not have gotten elsewhere. In 2025, I was co-opted as a Council member of the Society, which still feels incredibly surreal as a "full circle" moment for me! I can only hope that in this new position, I can provide the Society with as much as it has given to me over the years.'

Events

Public Events Programme

Since our Spring 2026 newsletter, the Society has been proud to present several public events. In May, we partnered with Archaeology Scotland to deliver the annual **Archaeological Research in Progress** conference, featuring ongoing research from around Scotland which investigated diverse subjects including Dumfriesshire's Bronze Age burial practices and Scotland's first skate park.

In June, the Society was honoured to host Professor Viccy Coltman FSAScot for the **2026 Rhind Lectures**. Across six lectures, Professor Coltman explored 22 years of near-continuous warfare between Britain and France, focusing on how Scottish officers and Highland regiments were culturally celebrated.

We are now excited to announce our next annual series of public events starting this autumn. These events would be impossible without the support of Fellows and sponsors. We thank you for enabling us to promote wider understanding of Scotland's past and hope you enjoy the 2026–27 programme.

Our annual public event programme is offered in a hybrid format (in-person and live-streamed online) and remain free and open to all. These events are held at **Augustine United Church**, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh, EH1 1EL. Demonstrating our commitment to promoting emerging scholarship about Scotland's past, many of these events will feature a ten-minute talk by an early career researcher on a related subject.

History In Our Bones: Uncovering Stories of Disability Through Time

By Professor Alison Beach

Thursday 15 October, 6pm

This event is a joint lecture with Scottish History Society.

'Sumptuous' Rosslyn Chapel: Pious Experience in Late Medieval Scotland

By Dr Lizzie Swarbrick FSAScot

Monday 30 November 2026, 4pm

The Society's 2026 Anniversary Meeting (AGM) will take place before the lecture.

Darkland Tales: Crafting Scottish Fiction from Historical Fact

With authors James Crawford, Val McDermid, Jo Sharp and Graeme Macrae Burnet

Thursday 10 December 2026, 6pm

Debate: Let It Go? Curated Decay and Alternative Futures for the Historic Environment

Chaired by Professor Ian Baxter FSAScot

Thursday 14 January 2027, 6pm

The Smell of Scotland: History, Heritage and Practice

By Dr Xuelei Huang

Thursday 11 February 2027, 6pm

Visible Invisibles: Women in Roman Archaeology

By Dr Rebecca Jones FSAScot and Dr Tatiana Ivleva

Thursday 11 March 2027, 6pm

Prehistoric Britain: A Decade of Archaeogenetic Research

By Dr Tom Booth

Thursday 15 April 2027, 6pm



Above: Rosslyn Chapel – looking up at the north-east © Lizzie Swarbrick and Rosslyn Chapel Trust

Below: Anne S Robertson at Croy Hill on the Antonine Wall. With kind permission of Lawrence Keppie, held by the Glasgow Archaeological Society



Explore Our Archive of Recorded Talks

Our public events are recorded and uploaded to our YouTube channel, with over 300 videos currently available to watch. Subscribe to receive updates when new content is released.

Recommend a Future Speaker

Have someone in mind you would like to hear from at a Society public event or an Online Fellows' Meeting? Or do you have new research you would like to share with our global audience? We welcome suggestions from Fellows for potential speakers on any Scottish history, heritage or archaeology topic. Please contact the Society (events@socantscot.org).

Updates and Changes

Current details of Society events are available on the events page of our website, with booking via Eventbrite. We encourage Fellows to check it regularly alongside reading the monthly e-newsletter.

To receive the e-newsletter, we need an up-to-date email address. If you would like to subscribe or update your details, please contact Astrid (fellowship@socantscot.org).

– Astrid Bridgwood, Fellowship & Administration Officer

Publications

Proceedings (PSAS)

The following articles from the forthcoming Volume 155 have been made available online as Advance Online Publications ahead of the printed volume's publication in November 2026:

- 'The Treasury and the care of ecclesiastical and historic Crown buildings in Scotland, 1832–79' by Ian Levitt, https://doi.org/10.9750/PSAS.155.1433
- 'Early medieval iron production at Glenlee, Dumfries and Galloway' by Lindsey Stirling and Gemma Cruickshanks FSAScot, https://doi.org/10.9750/PSAS.155.1392
- ''The poor battered image': Eagle Rock, the Roman relief and its setting' by Ben Russell FSAScot, https://doi.org/10.9750/PSAS.155.1444
- 'Bronze Age *béton brut*: the display and interpretation of Cairnpapple Hill, West Lothian, Scotland' by Gordon J Barclay FSAScot and Kenneth Brophy FSAScot, https://doi.org/10.9750/PSAS.155.1455
- 'Questions of Scottish medieval kinship: the ties of Isabel Stewart to the families of Mar, Balliol, Barclay and Ross' by Timothy Gordon Barclay, https://doi.org/10.9750/PSAS.155.1451
- 'Making and marking in 16th-century Edinburgh: Robert Ewyn, notary and Thomas Ewyn, goldsmith' by Margaret Connolly FSAScot and Rachel Hart FSAScot, https://doi.org/10.9750/PSAS.155.1452
- 'Three medieval sites and a charter associated with pilgrimage and the MacPhedran ferrymen and artisans in Mid Argyll: initial discovery and investigation' by Kenneth D MacTaggart and Andrew McLean, https://doi.org/10.9750/PSAS.155.1431



Eagle Rock in 2025, facing west © Ben Russell

Keep an eye on our Fellows e-newsletter throughout the year for notifications of more articles as they are published online.

The login details to access locked content are – Username: *psas* / password: *Buchan1780*

Back Copies of PSAS for Sale

Are you missing any volumes from your collections of the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*? Are you a recent Fellow who wishes you could have started receiving the journal sooner? Or perhaps you have an article published in PSAS and you would like a hardcopy of the volume for posterity?

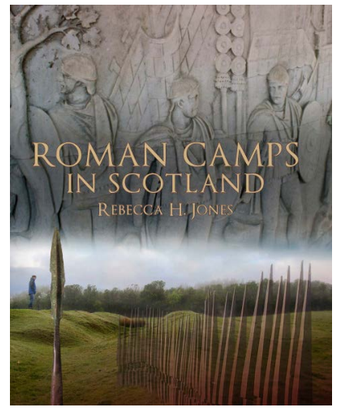
The Society is pleased to offer Fellows the opportunity to purchase back copies of the *Proceedings* (subject to availability) at a discounted price of **£5 per copy plus postage**. Please contact the Editorial Manager for details of available volumes and shipping costs.

Expanded Publication Offering

The Society is pleased to announce that we are expanding our online publication, the *Scottish Archaeological Internet Reports* (SAIR), to include historical research, henceforth becoming the *Scottish Historical and Archaeological Internet Reports* (SHAIR).

SHAIR will continue to specialise in longer, more extensive reports and will publish new open access issues continuously throughout the year. We are now inviting submissions from any authors interested in submitting their work on Scottish historical topics to SHAIR. We welcome analytical papers on historical topics that are over 10,000 words in length.

If you would like to submit a paper to SHAIR, or if you have any questions about whether your paper would qualify, please email the Editorial Manager (editor@socantscot.org).



Roman Camps in Scotland by Rebecca H Jones © Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

E-books

With the publication of our most recent e-book, *Radar in Scotland 1938–46* by Ian Brown FSAScot, the Society's e-book platform now has a total of 21 open access e-books available for anyone to read free of charge. Other e-books uploaded in 2026 include:

- *Rhynie, A Powerful Place of Pictland: The development of a landscape of Pictish royal power from the Roman to the early medieval period* by Gordon Noble FSAScot (simultaneously with print publication)
- *Atlas of Scottish History to 1707* by Peter G B McNeill and Hector L MacQueen FSAScot (on behalf of The Scottish Medievalists)
- *Roman Camps in Scotland* by Rebecca H Jones FSAScot

– Kate Bailey FSAScot, Editorial Manager

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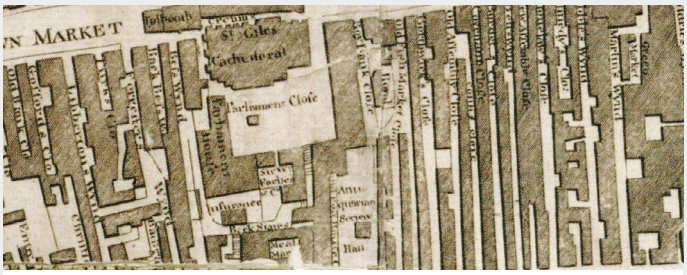

Subscription Categories and Rates

Annual subscriptions are due on **1 July** each year. Subscriptions form the Society's core income with which we undertake the Society's charitable purposes and actively support the study and enjoyment of Scotland's past. Fellowship subscription categories and rates are found on our website (www.socantscot.org/join/subscriptions).

How to Pay Subscriptions

If you have any questions regarding payment please contact the Finance Manager (details on left).

- **BACS** – If you prefer to pay by BACS, please contact finance@socantscot.org for details
- **Direct Debit** – Direct Debit Instruction forms are available on the Society website (www.socantscot.org/join/subscriptions) and are for Fellows with a UK bank account
- **Standing Order** – Contact your bank to amend your payment (N.B. The Society cannot amend your Standing Order on your behalf)
- **Online** – Using your credit card or by PayPal
- **Cheques** – Should be made payable to the 'Society of Antiquaries of Scotland'. This is particularly important for Fellows in the USA due to US Banking regulations
- **Overseas Fellows** are advised to pay by credit card via the website (see above) – please do *not* send credit card details through the post, it is not safe. We do take foreign cheques, but this is becoming increasingly expensive. We also do *not* advocate sending cash or cashier cheques through the post. Please see the Society website for current exchange rate details

Gift Aid

The Society can recover an extra 25p per £1 on subscriptions and donations from UK taxpayers. Gift Aid forms are available on the Society website (www.socantscot.org/join/subscriptions). If you are no longer eligible to pay UK Tax, please let the Society office know so we can cancel the Gift Aid declaration.

Help Your Society Thrive

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

- **Encouraging colleagues and friends to join the Society** and enjoy the benefits of Fellowship
- **Donating online** – please visit the Society's Donate webpage www.socantscot.org/support/donate
- **Donating by post** – send a cheque payable to the 'Society of Antiquaries of Scotland'
- **By remembering the Society in your Will**

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