# NEWSLETTER 37

www.acfabaseline.info February 2013

*Rain, wind, snow, more rain. Is anyone else feeling cooped up? Thoughts of holidays, ACFA surveys, field trips? They're all mentioned in this newsletter to brighten up your winter days and get everyone in the mood for 2013's ACFA activities. Please keep the articles coming. It was good to have some unsolicited items this time round so many thanks to everyone who contributed. WR*

## 2013 February Bash - In Brief

Lionel Masters started off the evening with a tribute to the late Roland Golightly. His tribute is printed on Page 7 of the Newsletter. Lionel also thanked all concerned for the retirement gifts and good wishes which he and Margaret have received.

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Angela McDonald from the Centre for Open Studies, reported on the situation regarding the CFA which she is still hopeful will run again. Meanwhile nine people have already signed up for the 2-day archaeological survey course in May organised by ACFA.

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Our pre-dinner speaker was Dr Jim Cassells who delivered an entertaining and informative talk on Birds in Archaeology. He managed to cover periods and cultures from the Jurassic to the present and from the Hittites to the Picts. He looked at the relationship between humans and birds in terms of a resource to be exploited (down to the last feather) as well as the predictive function of birds for seasonal change and also various symbolic and totemic functions. Note: chickens are the most numerous birds in the world - a useful pub-quiz fact.

* *

After dinner, the business of the EGM was conducted. This related to aspects of funding grants, copyright and ISBN numbers. Fuller details will be in the minutes of the EGM. (NB Minutes of Committee meetings are posted on the ACFA website as soon as they have been approved.)

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Members were reminded that the question of charitable status for ACFA is going to be re-considered. Views from the membership, in terms of both pros and cons, are welcomed and the matter will be discussed fully at the next AGM.

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Carol Primrose gave notice of a survey of a deserted miners' village in Mavis Valley, by Bishopbriggs. This may just require a weekend. Those interested should contact Carol who will email further details.

* *

Wendy Raine is planning to re-visit Auchendrain as there are details similar to sites on Rona. If any members wish to join in, this will go ahead as a day trip on April 13th. (See separate item).

* *

The next Rona survey, this time to record Braigh in the north of the island, will take place at the end of April and all nine places are taken up. If anyone else is very keen, contact Wendy in case someone has to drop out.

* *

Some discussion was held about this year's trip options for September. Mull is proving problematic for logistical reasons. East Lothian's archaeological heritage found favour as an alternative so a 2-night stay will be investigated. Further details will follow.

* *

Norman Newton gave an update on Groam House Museum, Rosemarkie, which has had some tribulations but is back on track and doing well. (ACFA always welcome) As an aside, linked to our earlier ornithological talk, Norman noted that the value of a hen was used as a unit of currency in Pictland to calculate the value of Pictish brooches. In later times, Dugie MacInnes informed us, hens (reek hens) were part of the rental where a house had a hearth. (*That's enough hen facts – Ed*).

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To finish off, Dugie MacInnes gave an update on the Glen Lochay survey, showing the extent that has now been covered. He thanked all who have turned out to support the survey and also thanked those who are helping with the archival transcriptions. He reckons that the survey will continue for another two years. (But there's always another glen, Dugie)

EB

## ACFA Course - An Introduction to Archaeological Field Survey

I'm delighted to announce that the course ACFA is offering for the Centre for Open Studies - an Introduction to Archaeological Field Survey - is almost fully subscribed. While the Certificate in Field Archaeology is not running (although I'm hoping that will not be the case for too much longer), this short course is a wonderful way to engage potential students' interest. Let's hope the weather stays fair!

*Dr. Angela McDonald,*

*Co-ordinator of the CertHE Programme,*
*Subject Specialist and University Teacher - Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology*
*Centre for Open Studies,*
*University of Glasgow*
*To view our online brochure visit www.glasgow.ac.uk/centreforopenstudies*
*The University of Glasgow, charity number SC004401*
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# Chile's Atacama Desert

Considerable research has been conducted on the Inca and earlier pre-Colombian civilisations of Peru; surprisingly little on the indigenous population of Chile. Insofar as it has, the research has focussed primarily on Rapa Nui (Easter Island) and secondly on desert living on a world-wide canvas, of which the Atacama Desert is simply one example. So, it was from a position of more than usual ignorance that we went to the Atacama in November 2012; to our considerable good fortune, however, we had a first-class scholarly guide (Professor Calogero Santoro) with whom to visit sites, and from whom we benefitted hugely from several lectures.

*Map courtesy of wikipaedia*

First, however, it may be as well to locate the Atacama Desert; starting on a coastal shelf on the Pacific, it rises eastwards to an altitude of c. 8,000 feet before reaching the Andean plateau region just west of the High Andes (from where, crucially, snow-melt provides river water all the way to the coast). The desert plateau extends some 600 miles south, from close to the border with Peru (the border itself being a bit of a moveable feast, currently under debate at the International Court of Justice), to c. 30 degrees South.

Generally regarded as the driest place on Earth, where there has been no rain for centuries, it is this very climate that has ensured the preservation of great archaeological treasures, including geoglyphs, adobe settlement structures, and mummies which pre-date their Egyptian equivalent by several thousand years.

Though occupation of the Atacama region dates back roughly 11,000 years, the settlement we visited at Tulor is from just c. 3,000 years ago, and is, all things considered, in a remarkable state of preservation. The local tribes survived and initially flourished in this hostile environment by concentrating in agricultural settlements serviced by the canalised distribution of water. Today, it is 'managed' in a joint venture between central government and the local indigenous community. This system has ensured that there is a strong pride in the site, which communicates itself in the care and knowledge that the local guides provide. Fascinating. For us, the similarities with Skara Brae were striking (building materials apart), and suggestive of a communal living which both helped to shape the architectural style and was in turn probably reinforced by that architecture.

*Tulor*

So dry is the region that marks made in the surface of the landscape remain, largely unchanged, for centuries. (Though dating is complicated, these marks are believed to date back some 1,000 to 1,500 years.) However, while these geoglyphs persist, their full significance and meaning are lost. Are they directions (proliferating at valley entrances)? Are they delimiters of territory (each symbol representing a particular tribal authority)? A shopping list .'don't forget to fetch a haunch of llama for lunch, dear'. Imagine an archaeologist in, say, 5,000 years time

*Geoglyphs*

coming across an abandoned Macdonald's symbol … would it be interpreted as a sales point for hamburgers? What is certain is that these signs, depicting camelids, felines, humans and complex geometric patterns (and including the world's largest prehistoric representation of a human figure), were very meaningful to the contemporary people of the desert, and excite the viewer today with their mystery.

Clearly, not all sites were occupied continuously in the pre-Columbian period, with some measure of population concentration commencing c. 5,000 years ago, the reasons for which remain under debate. This process, however, accelerated in the face of external challenges. By way of example, the fortress of Quitor grew as a population centre, including the migration of the people of Tulor around 1,200 AD. Here, they were able to withstand most challenges, including that of the Inca tribes who arrived in the area, in 1,496. That success was short-lived, however, as Quitor and the nearby Inca settlement Pukara, fell to the Spanish forces under Pedro de Valdivia, in 1547.

*Quitor*

Our trip to the Atacama ended by coming more up-to-date, with a visit to the town of Chiu Chiu. Here we were able to explore the oldest Christian church in Chile, which dated to 1611, and was constructed using much the same materials as the indigenous people had been using for millennia … essentially, wattle and daub, and with exceptionally hard and rugged cactus "wood".

At one stage, Chiu Chiu had been an important Spanish administrative centre, but with the arrival of the railway and, paradoxically given its name, Chiu Chiu's determination that it not cross their lands, the power moved elsewhere. Pretty much the history of the whole region.

What a fantastic trip, and how inadequate this short article is in conveying our surprise and delight on learning about these desert communities! We couldn't recommend it too highly … and that was just the desert; Rapa Nui lay ahead of us.

*Ewen Smith*

***Further reading***


- **Cultures of the Chilean Desert: 10,000 Years of History**; Calogero M. Santoro
- **The geoglyphs of the north Chilean desert in archaeological and artistic perspective**; Briones, Antiquity 80, 9 – 24
- **23 Degrees South**; Smith, Mike and Hesse, Paul, 2005

## A Big Thank You

I was somewhat overwhelmed by the kindness and generosity shown by ACFA members over my 70th birthday and retirement from teaching extra-mural courses. It was great fun wielding the sword and cutting the cake during our Argyll visit in October 2012 ( good practice for slashing the tropical forest undergrowth in Polynesia ) and the cheque presented at our AGM in November has been put to good use. I'm now the proud owner of a Canon EOS 1100D SLR camera so I've now gone digital and once I've found out how to work it, watch out for those powerpoint presentations.

Margaret and I were very pleased to be able to welcome so many of you to my retirement party in Doune and thanks to those of you who brought gifts and sent cards and letters. There's still some Macallan left and plenty of wine too so if you are passing do drop in. Lionel Masters

## Raasay News

Those of us with fond memories of Raasay will be interested to hear that the mill is at last being renovated. The plans were for a Heritage Centre. Rebecca has sent these photos of the work in progress and look, the sun is shining!

*Photos courtesy Rebecca MacKay, Raasay Heritage Trust.*

# 25 Years of ACFA Field Trips

(by popular request)

| YEAR | DESTINATION | TIME | ACCOMMODATION |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1988 | KELSO | Spring | Cross Keys Hotel |
| 1989 | ARRAN | Spring | Blackwaterfoot Hotel |
| 1989 | EIRE | Autumn | Dublin – St Andrew's Hotel, Sligo – B/Bs |
| 1990 | ANGUS | Spring | Brechin |
| 1991 | WOOLER | Spring | Loretto B/B |
| 1992 | THE GARIOCH | Spring | Insch Hotel |
| 1993 | BUTE | Spring | Bayview Hotel |
| 1993 | BATTLE GROUP TO EAST LOTHIAN | May | |
| 1993 | STONE CIRCLES OF CUMBRIA | Autumn | Clifton Hall Hotel, Lonsdale House Hotel |
| 1995 | APPIN AND LISMORE | Spring | Pierhouse Hotel |
| 1994 | CUMBRIA REVISITED | Autumn | Angus Hotel Carlisle |
| 1995 | NORTHUMBERLAND | Autumn | Alnmouth Inn |
| 1996 | ANGUS AND THE MEARNS | Autumn | Montrose/Forfar |
| 1997 | KINTYRE | Spring | |
| 1997 | N CYPRUS | Autumn | |
| 1998 | WESTERN ISLES | Spring | Doune Braes Hotel, Carloway |
| 1999 | JURA (COLONSAY,ISLAY) | Spring | Jura House |
| 1999 | MENORCA | Autumn | Calan Porta |
| 2000 | BADENOCH | May | Kincraig |
| 2000 | LEEDS ARMOURY | June | Marston Moor |
| 2000 | HADRIAN'S WALL | Sept | Ryehill farm |
| 2001 | MAR LODGE | Spring | Mar Lodge |
| 2002 | INVERNESS | Spring | Riverside Hotel |
| 2002 | PERTHSHIRE | Autumn | Amulree |
| 2003 | GIGHA | Spring | Factor's House and Hotel |
| 2004 | SUTHERLAND | Autumn | Ann Bray's cottage |
| 2005 | COLL | Spring | Hebridean Centre ,Coll |
| 2006 | ARDNAMURCHAN | 27/29th May | Strontian Hotel and Ben View Hotel, Strontian |
| 2007 | KINTYRE | 5/6 May | Hunting Lodge Hotel |
| 2007 | CAINHOLY | 22/24th September | Bruce Hotel, Newton Stewart |
| 2008 | BORDERS | Autumn | Buccleuch Arms |
| 2009 | ? | | |
| 2010 | BLACK ISLE | 17/19 September | Old Brewery, Cromarty |
| 2011 | | | |
| 2012 | KILMARTIN GLEN | 7 Oct | Lunga House. |

Thanks to Sue Bryson and co. Anyone who can fill in gaps please let us know.

# ROLAND GOLIGHTLY

An Appreciation

Roland Golightly, one of our first cohort of CFA students, died in mid December of last year. Born in Whitley Bay, Northumberland, his family soon moved to Scotland and it was here that he spent the rest of his life. By profession a soil scientist, I well remember interviewing him for the CFA, thinking what a catch for a field archaeology course and so it turned out to be. With his expertise in soils and ability to read the landscape he was an outstanding student, and one who was more than willing to share his knowledge not only with his fellow students, but with his tutor. Roland was my soil expert during the excavations at Camster Long. His detailed, hand-written report (in multi-coloured inks), provided me with an excellent appreciation of the former potential of the surrounding land, and the land surface beneath the cairn.

His presence on ACFA surveys was invaluable, including our first survey at Chalmerston, Dalmellington, where the section on "Topography and Geology" owes everything to his work. And what a survey that was. I recall visiting the site on several occasions; on one particularly foul day with snow falling and visibility reduced to a few feet, there was Roland dancing about, enthusiastic as ever, wanting me to walk over a mile to see something he had just found at East Chalmerston Farm. It was, needless to say, worth the effort. Many survey directors have benefitted from Roland's skills, perhaps nowhere more than Raasay, where a complete ACFA Occasional Paper (No. 58) is given over to the soils and geology of that island. But it wasn't just on surveys that Roland shared his knowledge. We sometimes managed to slip in a meeting on soils in the CFA courses, so some ACFA members were introduced to soil terminology at an early stage. After retiring Roland and his wife Sheila, who was also a student in that first cohort, spent holidays visiting Africa; many of us will recall the slide-shows of his safaris at ACFA meetings. It made a welcome change from those humps and bumps.

My happiest memories of Roland include visiting his house in Symington (Ayrshire) for dinner and the unbelievable home brew, which sometimes necessitated an overnight stay. Then there was walking round Camster with him during his soil survey. At frequent points a little pit would be dug, out would come the trowel and a small sample of soil would be removed. Transferred to the palm of his hand, it would be kneaded and squeezed, sniffed and then spat on. Further kneading would follow and then Roland would pronounce "Its got stick". Fortunately by this time, I knew what he meant.

We offer to Sheila all our sympathy in her sad loss. Knowing Roland was never dull.

Lionel Masters

# Cueva de la Pileta (The Pileta Caves)

In July 2012 my wife, Anne, and I, on holiday in Andalucia, visited the national monument of the Pileta Caves situated near the village of Benoajan to the southwest of Ronda (fig 1.). The cave entrance is set fairly high on a precipitous rock face and is reached by climbing a series of steps. These lead to the 'ticket office', no more than a small wooden hut and a shaded seating area where we waited over an hour for more tourists to arrive at this family-run business, the same family, in fact, of the discoverer of the caves in 1905, José Bullón Lobato.

Tourists only get to see about a quarter of the cave system but this is well worth a visit, for there is a real treat in store to those who make the effort.


*1. Location of Benoajan. Google Maps*

After climbing numerous steps, we waited beside a wee hut until more tourists arrived. This took over an hour as the number of visitors to Andalucia had, we were told, halved in 2012, compared with the numbers in previous years.

The entrance is not the original one, the latter being a small fissure higher up the mountain. Lobato had been looking for bat guano and had entered a pothole known as Las Grajas (meaning The Rooks, strangely enough). He descended for about thirty metres and found, to his utter astonishment, that the floor was covered in fragments of pottery and bones. Continuing his search of the caves, he came across markings on the walls, confirming his suspicion that there once had been people there. In the days that followed, he discovered a place full of human and animal bones and yet more pottery. In a chamber behind what is now the entrance, he found a human skeleton in foetal position.

He began to discover paintings on the walls. Some of these represented animals (figs. 2 and 4) but others were of strange black markings, some of them with the likeness to a comb (fig 3.).

*Fig. 2. The 'Pregnant Mare'*

*Fig.3. Comb-like markings*

In his exploration of this vast cave system, Lobato had to wade a pool to cross it, getting wet in the process. '*When he reached the other side he was astounded when his lamplight*

*seemed to suddenly disappear. There was nothing wrong with his equipment, however, he realized, to his amazement, that the light didn't reach the far walls of the cave. He was in the largest, highest chamber he had seen so far. Many of the symbols he saw painted on the wall there were now beginning to seem familiar to him, but not so the "Great fish"* (fig 4.) *which, for its size and realism, left him breathless, making him wonder once again, about the people who had once lived there*.'

The 'Great Fish', for me, was the highlight of the tour. It depicts what appears to be a flatfish, executed in charcoal and it measures an astonishing two metres wide.

One interesting aside, the Beatles visited the caves to hear the "Organ Pipes' a convoluted wall of ribbed calcite, the individual ribs, when struck, result in a deep booming sound, each rib having a different tone. The guide demonstrated this 'music' to us and I must say that being in the semi-darkness and deep under a mountain, the sounds that reverberated around the cavern were haunting to say the least.

The caves are not as well known as others, but because it is a family run affair, there is a certain intimacy about the site, one that I thoroughly recommend.

If any ACFA member would like to have my copy of the 75-page guide then let me know.

Dugie MacInnes

## Field Trips

**Auchendrain** **www.auchendrain.org.uk**

*A group of ACFA is revisiting Auchendrain Township Museum near Inverary, on the morning of Saturday 13th April. We will move on to another site (yet to be chosen) for the afternoon. Names of interested folk to me please.*

**Mull**

*I'm sorry to say that it's unlikely we'll go to Mull this autumn. It's proving very difficult to get appropriate accommodation at a reasonable price. After discussion at the February Bash, it was agreed to look at a* ***2 night visit to East Lothian*** *from 27 – 29th September instead. Mull is being put on hold until we have researched it more. Please let me have names of interested members for the East Lothian trip.*

*Wendy Raine*

# Book Review

## Across Atlantic Ice: the Origin of America's Clovis Culture

If Stringer's book ("*The Origin of our Species*", reviewed in a previous edition of the ACFA Newsletter) concerned itself with the evolution of *Homo erectus* to *Homo sapiens* and the latter's spread across the globe, Dennis Stanford's complements that model with its own version of how mankind arrived in North America. It also complements the controversy Stringer's book generates, because it calls into question the "accepted wisdom" that the Americas were first peopled from Asia, across the Beringian land bridge. Essentially this theory is based on the principle that a combination of glaciers and a corresponding lowering of sea levels allowed people to walk from north-east Asia into present-day Alaska.

So ingrained was this theory that contradictory evidence tended to be tailored to "fit". Thus, the discovery of projectile points amongst mammoth bones, far to the South and East of the continent, apparently indicating that the two species co-habited the Americas (though mammoths were believed to have become extinct before the Beringian land bridge was accessible) was explained either as a result of disturbed stratigraphy, or as a short period of over-lap (some 13,000 to 13,500 years ago), when people arriving from Asia were able to expand Southwards at a remarkable pace, because of the abundance of game animals (albeit an expansion more rapid than any seen elsewhere).

Research to prove the use of the land-bridge as a route for people into the Americas has failed thus far to provide conclusive evidence. Further, Stanford and Bradley argue that the land-bridge would have been too inhospitable an environment to attract Asian people to make the crossing. But what is the alternative if, as was widely accepted, people were not using watercraft at the equivalent time?

The authors suggest that Clovis projectile points offer one clue, acknowledging within their developing thesis that "*mainstream scholars have accepted the logic of Clovis people being the first inhabitants of the New World*". Nevertheless, the authors claim that the Clovis culture "*was in fact well established in North America by at least 13,000 years ago*". In short, while "mainstream scholars" have argued that early Clovis technology developed very rapidly as people moved southwards from Beringia, Stanford and Bradley research the possibility that the technology saw a longer period of development, beginning on the eastern sea-board, during the Last Glacial Maximum (LGM)

Central to their argument (but not their only point) is the question of knapping techniques. Consequently, considerable focus in the book is placed on that technology, in chapters that Stanford describes as a "primer" on flaked stone manufacturing techniques, especially bi-faced and fluted. What does that mean? It means I now know more about knapping than I can possibly use in the rest of my life.

But it also means a comparison can be drawn with the only other closely related technique, and it is one which is to be found in South-Western Europe. In essence, what they describe as the Solutrean hypothesis "*is that during the LGM, sometime between 25,000 and 30,000 years ago, members of the Solutrean culture in the southwest coastal regions of Europe were led by subsistence behaviour appropriate to their time and place to exploit the ice-edge*

*environment of the polar front across the North Atlantic and colonize North America to become – after several millennia – what we know as the Clovis peoples* … ". In short, not a South and East expansion from Beringia c. 13,000 years ago, but a North and West expansion from the mid-Atlantic sea-board c. 30,000 years ago.

Evidence is next presented, for both the Beringian and Solutrean hypotheses, though the paucity of the former compared with the abundance of the latter makes it clear where Stanford's and Bradley's research is leading.

In essence, their time lines argue as follows:-

a) Traditional theory has argued that the Clovis culture developed with the arrival of the first Americans, c. 14,000 years ago, from Asia, across the Beringian land-bridge into Alaska, then travelling South and East
b) It has also been shown that mammoths died out c. 2,000 years before then
c) Projectiles, tools and evidence of butchering associated with mammoths indicate, therefore, that there must have been a pre-Clovis occupation of America, and that the Clovis culture was not the first
d) The authors next present their Solutrean hypothesis, suggesting an earlier influx of humans to America, from South-Western Europe to the mid-Atlantic seaboard, followed by migration North and West across America
e) None of which rules out some influx from Asia subsequently, once the Beringian corridor became available (a relatively short period, until c. 13,500 years ago), nor indeed by other routes.

The authors conclude from the evidence that, as the butchers of mammoths at sites in Wisconsin *inter alia* were clearly in America before the Beringian corridor was open (as paleoecologists and geologists now suggest), their ancestors could not have traversed this crossing. From this point, the authors look for more evidence, and specifically for evidence demonstrating how people migrated into North America. Quite quickly, they highlight the absence of evidence supporting a Beringian source, and ask "*Since the Beringian evidence includes no suitable old enough archaeological assemblage that might have given rise to pre-Clovis and Clovis technology, … where in the Paleolithic world was there a technology that shared enough traits with them to suggest a historic relationship?*", and we begin to see the case for a European origin. Specifically a case is made for the Solutrean culture, but it is still weakened somewhat by the shortage (not complete lack) of evidence, and the necessary resort to speculation. What is known is that those people lived c. 25,000 – 16,500 years ago, in south-western Europe, principally in Spain and southern France, and what is argued is that they were able to develop ropes, probably sails and possibly boats, and to exploit the rich maritime environment that emerged locally as a result of the LGM. Some artefacts appear to support that view, but the most convincing evidence is presented through lithic technology and flaked stone tools from which to draw comparison with a pre-Clovis technology.

The book's emphasis then switches from a focus on the Paleolithic Peoples of America, to the Solutrean Hypothesis, and this begins with chapters comparing Quantitative and Qualitative Cultures; the former argues that Clovis technology is of such sophistication that it could not have emerged fully-fledged, and there follows consideration of three potential sources of a pre-Clovis technology. Each is examined, and the flaked stone traditions of

south-western Europe emerge again as the most likely source. This is reinforced when making qualitative comparisons, not simply with stone tools but now also with behaviour patterns (as demonstrated through artistic expressions, shelters, mortuary practices, etc.). In sum, the authors argue that "*the technological, behavioural, and dating evidence overwhelmingly support the theory that the fluted point traditions in North America derived from a regional and chronological variant of the Solutrean cultures of south western Europe*".

So how did it reach North America? The authors show that people living around what is now known as the Bay of Biscay had lived adjacent to the ice front of the LGM for c. 3,500 years, and that they had certainly adapted to that environment, and were well able to exploit it. In fact, the ice edge was/is a remarkably productive area in which to hunt, the more so when expanding ice forces life into smaller areas and higher density. Further, though evidence for watercraft at this time is scarce to the point of absent, the authors are content to argue that marine travel is evidenced elsewhere from c. 60,000 years ago, and that absence of evidence is not proof that watercraft were not in use. In addition, it is noteworthy that the ice cap actually lowered the sea level, so chains of islands, and land-mass that today is underwater provided the opportunity for shorter sea crossings than we can now envisage (as well as leaving settlement and watercraft evidence off-shore and many feet below sea level today).

Overall, this is an intriguing book, which I thoroughly recommend. Though the story may not yet be finished, and the authors content themselves simply by stating "*that the archaeological evidence that Clovis predecessors were immigrants from south western Europe during the LGM is stronger and more compelling than the evidence that their ancestors … came out of north eastern Asia*", it is a very important stage in that story, and is all we are likely to have until some of the genetic modelling discussed by Stringer *et al* becomes available. (Happy to lend my copy to interested members.)

> ***Across Atlantic Ice****: the Origin of America's Clovis Culture*"; Dennis Stanford and Bruce Bradley; published 2012. Ewen Smith

## *Dates for the diary*

**Saturday 9th March 2013 2pm** Govan Old Parish Church Annual Lecture Prof. John Hume (Chair RCAHMS) *: Govan Shipbuilding – disentangling the evidence*.

**16th – 17th March 2013** ACFA Mavis Valley Survey. Contact Carol Primrose.

**Saturday 13th April 2013** ACFA Auchendrain Field Trip

**Friday 3rd – Sun 5th May 2013** RCAHMS Edinburgh : Rhind Lectures Professor Richard Fawcett OBE FRSE FSA FSA Scot, University of St Andrews : *Scottish Late Medieval Church*

**17th – 20th May 2013** Arch. Scotland Summer School Nairn

**Saturday 25th May 2013** Archaeological Research in Progress Conference, Edinburgh

**Sat – Sun 25- 26th May 2013** ACFA Introductory Field Course, Pollock

**Fri – Sun 27 – 29th September 2013** ACFA East Lothian Field Trip

**Saturday 26th October 2013** ACFA AGM

## CALLING ACFA MEMBERS!

### Surveys

ACFA members are encouraged to undertake field survey, not just at a landscape level but also on a smaller scale for perhaps just one building or feature. These can be sent to RCAMHS and kept as a collection of ACFA Site Reports in addition to the Occasional Papers.

Contact the Committee if you are thinking of proceeding. There are many people who will be happy to advise if required. So, if you have come across an old farmstead or a kiln or a WW2 air raid shelter or any unusual feature in your walks, consider rallying a few of the members, drawing it up and writing a short report.

ACFA does of course promote the larger scale survey where a team of volunteers labour over many weeks / months / years. The costs of printing can be considerable depending on the size of the final report but the Committee will assist survey directors in applying for grants and also advise on a combination of in-house printing and electronic publishing.

***What's happening here? – Suggestions to editor***

**Title page photo :** Kilmartin Glen. Photo by Peter Raine

**Disclaimer** - The views and opinions of authors published in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of ACFA.

**Submissions** - It would be appreciated if submissions were sent in Word format with photos sent separately as JPEGs. Please note that the Editor reserves the right to shorten and generally edit articles, as required.



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