

NEWSLETTER 42



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May 2014

Still not clear what the summer's going to bring this year. I hope it's a repeat of last year's beautiful weather. The Rona team certainly landed lucky with a whole week of perfect weather (and no midges!) And they've knocked off another survey in record time.

I found another little clay pipe stem while I was digging the potato plot the other day. Got me wondering what the owner was doing when he lost his pipe. Maybe digging his potatoes while having a fly puff. Finding something in the ground connects you to the past in a way that reading about it doesn't. Which reminds me that Forteviot is coming up soon. Has anyone been digging somewhere interesting? Why not send us a report? The deadline for the August newsletter is end July.

Now, a plea – we need a new newsletter editor. Anyone with ideas or interested in developing the newsletter in their own way, please step up.

Have a good summer, everyone.

WR

Field Archaeology Studies at the University of Glasgow

Members of ACFA will be well aware of the struggles we've had at the Centre for Open Studies to maintain our Certificate in Field Archaeology programme over the last couple of years. With the closure of GUARD, we lost access to a number of key tutors, including our programme co-ordinator. This year, we are once again in the position of being able to

re-instate the programme, although we have a few administrative hurdles to clear in the next few months. We're currently in the process of putting together an advert for the permanent post of programme co-ordinator. All being well, once the post is confirmed, the study of Field Archaeology at the Centre for Open Studies can not only pick up where it left off two years ago, it can also grow and develop.

Plans are underway to recruit a new cohort of students at the end of August to start their studies in September. I've received over 30 notes of interest in the course in the past two years. I have every confidence that Field Archaeology studies will be able to thrive once more in Glasgow University. Once again, let me thank all of you for your continuing support, especially the members of the ACFA committee. Watch this space.

In the meantime, I'm delighted to report that we have 12 students participating in the ACFA Field Survey taster weekend at the end of May in Pollok Park. We were incredibly lucky with the weather last year - wouldn't it be lovely to see that become a recurring trend! I'm delighted that we've created such a successful and popular way to introduce ACFA to potential members for the future, and to promote both the work that ACFA has done and continues to do, as well as the potential contribution to Scottish field archaeology that future graduates of the CFA can make. May the sun continue to shine on our joint endeavours!

Dr. Angela McDonald,

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

Historic Environment Scotland – the draft Bill!

Members will doubtless recall that, back in 2012, the Scottish Government began the consultation process which may be leading towards the merger of the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historic Monuments Scotland (RCAHMS) with Historic Scotland (HS). As part of that initiative, a Strategy for the whole Historic Environment was outlined (on which ACFA contributed comments, still available on our web-site), and we now are moving towards the presentation of a Bill. The draft of that Bill is available, at:

[http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Historic%20Environment%20\(Scotland\)%20Bill/b47s4-introd.pdf](http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/S4_Bills/Historic%20Environment%20(Scotland)%20Bill/b47s4-introd.pdf)

Once again, your Committee has responded to the request from the Scottish Government for interested parties to comment on this draft Bill, viewing this as both an opportunity to retain ACFA's profile, and conforming to our Constitution's commitment to “*advance education in all aspects of archaeological field survey in Scotland and elsewhere and in furtherance of this shall seek to co-operate and liaise with relevant*

authorities and also other recognised charities that have the same or similar objectives". Our submission is also to be found on our web-site.

Others have, of course, submitted their own observations, and these may be read at:

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/75668.aspx>

In particular, I found the differences between the approach taken by, say, the Institute for Archaeology and The Law Society Scotland, of considerable interest. Sometimes it is fruitful to look at Scotland's archaeology from an entirely different perspective; the Law Society is clearly interested in the Bill as a piece of legislation, while our sector is concerned, correctly, with the Bill as an over-arching statutory provision for the archaeological heritage of Scotland. And, of course, there is not a single view about the latter across the sector!

In any event, the Bill is currently at Stage 1 in its three stage progress, and is unlikely to become law until 2015.

Ewen Smith

Mavis Valley: an update



Survey work has been completed here and the report should be ready very soon. The survey was originally intended as a contribution to the local authority's project to commemorate the centenary of the Cadder pit disaster of 1913. Six of the men who died lived in Mavis Valley. East Dunbartonshire Council has now cleared some of the undergrowth from the site, put steps up to the path from the canal towpath and erected a finger post sign.

A storyboard featuring our plan, some photographs and a brief account of the village's history has been erected at the canal bridge (beside a busy road to try to discourage vandalism). This was officially unveiled by the Provost on the 17th April followed by coffee and scones in the sports centre.

I'll be meeting with the Lambhill community group, representatives of Glasgow museums outreach, Jeff Sanders of Dig It and possibly a representative of Scottish canals to discuss future developments. There may be a small survey of the school at Lochfauld although most of it is too smothered in trees to do the whole village completely. Glasgow outreach would also like to do some test pitting and field walking in both villages. This is dependent on soothing the qualms of the landowner that we won't be engaging in slash and burn and digging up the whole area. The irony is that they didn't even know they owned it until I contacted them and they certainly had



no plans to do anything with it especially since there is no road to either of them.

The area beside the canal was a local centre for the mining industry which was the dominant industry in this northern part of the Lanarkshire coalfield yet there is very little in the way of tangible remains; Mavis Valley and Lochfauld villages are the only ones not obliterated by later development. Given that coal was the source of energy which drove the industrial revolution which ultimately shaped the world we live in now, it is important to keep its history alive.

Carol Primrose

Stop Press -Tiree Field Trip

We're starting afresh with the arrangements for a field trip to Tiree, with the more realistic date of May, 2015. It was too much of a rush to get all the information and money together to make a confirmed booking of the accommodation for May 2014 so we lost the slot.

The question now is – do folk want a field trip to Tiree in May of next year?

Details: Accommodation is Alan Stevenson House, Hynish, Tiree. Group accommodation, comfortable, listed building (see photo on front of this edition). BYOB

Dates : To be booked, but would be Tues – Friday in May.

Cost : Accommodation about £40 per person per night, full board. Then ferry (about £20 return), cost of travel to Oban and a share of the car ferry tickets for transport on Tiree.

We need 14 folk to commit and pay a deposit soon, in order to get a booking next May. Please let me know soon if you would like to come. I have the previous list of interested folk but would like everyone to respond again.

Wendy Raine

Donald Frederick McKay (1923 – 2014).

On the 11th March 2014 we lost one of the 'founding fathers' of ACFA with the death of Donald McKay, in the Southern General Hospital. A member of ACFA's very own 'First Settler's Project' of 1976 – 79, he has been an elder statesman and a much loved friend and colleague to many of us for nearly 40 years.

Donald was born in London, the family shuttling between Surrey and the city for some time. As the Civil Service exams for which he was preparing, were cancelled for the duration of the war, he worked at a local sawmill for a year, his responsibilities being the office phone, recording and conveying messages, measuring felled and sawn timber,

checking invoices and distributing the staff's wages – all for a pound a week minus stamp. He then got a job with Southern Rail electrical department, gaining the skills which became his professional career – at a wage of two pounds a week minus stamp.

In 1940 he elected to join the Royal Navy and was posted after training to the new light cruiser HMS Argonaut at Scapa, one of the new Dido Class Cruisers rapidly constructed for the war. He participated in convoy duties on the notorious Murmansk run, before being despatched with the powerful H Force covering convoys on the North African landings and subsequent interdictive operations against the Axis convoys to the Africa Corps.

During these operations the Argonaut had both bow and stern blown off by an Italian submarine and limped across the Atlantic via the Azores and Bermuda for repairs in the Philadelphia Navy Dockyard where he spent 18 months repairing wireless and radar equipment, while enjoying occasional visits to New York for classical music and theatre concerts. Returning to the UK he finished the war in Newcastle and Glasgow while training as a Radar Mechanic.



Donald was not one to talk lightly about his war. As for many, it only reinforced his revulsion and distaste for all matters military, including a life-long commitment to the anti-nuclear cause. Two episodes were related – a sombre run to Spitzbergen to pick up the survivors of the notorious PQ17 convoy across a sea frozen like mirror glass, and a more light hearted reply to an enquiry if he had ever experienced sea-sickness. He said only once

when, during a prolonged U –boat alert with all personnel sealed into action stations for two days, the door was briefly unlocked to throw in three tins of bully beef for consumption. As he opened the first one a nauseating green gas filled the compartment and he discovered that the tins were of First World War vintage.

On demob he returned to Southern Rail and with promotion moved to Kent and Hampshire. However, Donald had always been drawn to his Scottish roots – the family had moved south in the mid nineteenth century with a background as quarry and mason men – and he had already embarked on the long genealogical studies he pursued for the rest of his life.

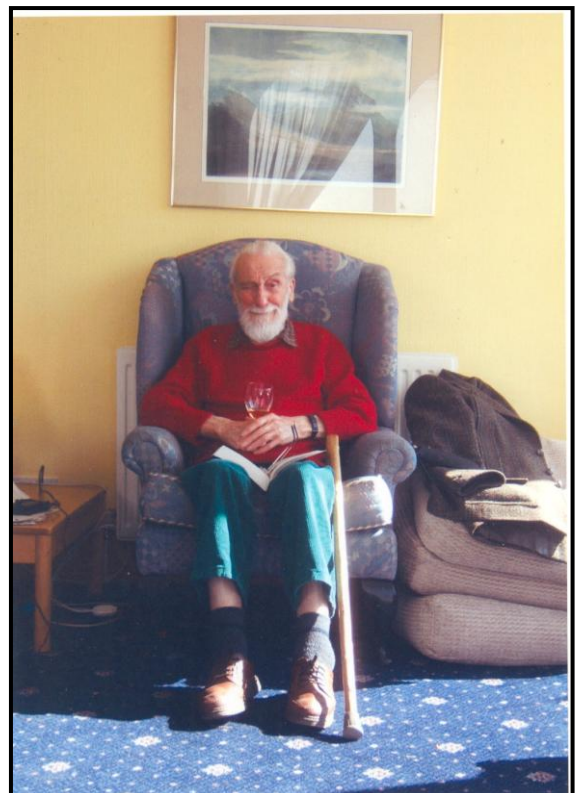
Hearing that Scotland was about to begin its electrification with the 'Blue Train' service, he manoeuvred for a promoted post to Glasgow in 1960, where he was a key member of the team which, after several early setbacks, operated the West Coast Electrification programme of the north and south Glasgow routes, the Gourock and Ayrshire lines and then south over the border to Tebay to connect with the south.

It was through his love for Scottish Country Dancing, first pursued in England that in the same year, Donald met his wife June who had also been transferred within the BBC from London to Glasgow. He would often reminisce with affection of early years in the cottage in Eaglesham where they made their home, and many happy holidays cycling, camping and exploring Scotland with their son Angus.

As June noted Donald was 'fanatically interested in all things Scottish' and this can be verified by anyone who got to know the depth and range of Donald's Scottish historical knowledge, or who viewed his extensive library of Scottish and archaeological literature. Indeed she records that his Scottish work colleagues would refer any queries about Scottish history to 'Donald the Englishman' for final judgement.

After completing the Certificate Course in 1979, he was a natural to join the fledgling ACFA and participated in most surveys, from Dalmellington in 1989 to Tuerichan in Glenlochay in 2006. His patriarchal bearded figure in a red anorak with his trousers tucked into his socks clambered over countless dykes and over many a pile of stones from Skye to Gleniffer Braes. He was also a Committee member, a valued Treasurer of ACFA for many years and a "weel kent" member of Glasgow Archaeological Society, seen at most meetings in the second row with one hand cupped round an ear as the years went on.

Donald was also very interested in environmental issues and a keen gardener, with a special interest in fruit trees which he inherited from the small orchard he had tended with his father in Surrey in his youth, and with strong views on vegetables – when I mentioned last year that we had just put our early potatoes in at our allotment, he started in his chair and muttered "... very reckless Ian". He was also, until age prevented him, a keen beekeeper, which he took up as "I thought it might help with my gardening – this is doubtful but the honey is great!"



It is a great privilege for us all to remember Donald and his beloved collie dog 'Lady'. He was a gentleman – courteous, amiable, good natured, knowledgeable and, just occasionally, endearingly obstinate.

In July 2012 Donald moved from his home in Largie Road to the Three Bridges Care Home around the corner in Carmunnock Road, a new build, ironically on the site of the former allotments which lay behind his workplace.

Here many of us visited him as he sat at his window muttering imprecations at the occasional squirrel raiding the birdfeeder just outside his window, sometimes asleep with a book in progress and two more stacked in the pipeline. He was well looked after and respected by the staff for his erudition and interests, despite tea made with teabags and his suspicions that the milk had been added afterwards.

He is buried where he planned to be - in Delliefure Natural Burial Ground, in the Middle Glade above the Spey, just off the B9102 Granton to Rothes road, near to his beloved Sutherland from which a Donald MacKay emigrated south seeking work and to which another Donald MacKay returned to work and reinvigorate his roots 150 years later. We will all miss him.

'Here he lies where he longed to be;

Home is the sailor, home from the sea,

And the hunter home from the hill.'

Ian Marshall (with thanks to Mrs June McKay and others).

Hillfort Day Update



Ramparts, Whiteside Hill

On 23rd March a group of seven ACFA stalwarts attacked a clutch of hillforts in Peeblesshire and tested out the recording forms of the Atlas of Hillforts project (see Newsletter 41 and website, www.arch.ox.ac.uk/hillforts-atlas.html), armed with copies of the RCAHMS Peeblesshire Inventory plans. Since the task we were set was to record anything which has changed from the very comprehensive 1967 plans, we had it easy and spent a very pleasant if somewhat windy day in the Border hills.

The forms themselves are quite lengthy and ask for fine detail and we were advised that they did not lend themselves to windy hilltops! A notebook, GPS, camera and pencil would have been adequate. Good explanatory notes were provided which served as a refresher course for thinking about the structures. Our information and findings were then uploaded to the website later.

Of course, being ACFA, we were also looking to see whether we could take this further and develop a project to work on in the west. No one had much interest in just checking on other hillforts, duns or the like, which have already been surveyed adequately. However, there must be many sites around in the west which have been recognised but

haven't had the RCAHMS treatment and which would offer a more challenging project for ACFA to record. Anyone interested? Over to you. And of course, for those who couldn't manage 23rd March, I'm happy to repeat it, maybe with different sites. Just let me know.

Wendy Raine

Relocating Fortriu.

Revolutionary developments in Pictish Studies

There is no field of Scottish history more esoteric than Pictish studies, in which a very small band of scholars pick over the scanty evidence in an attempt to shed a glimmer of light on the 'Dark Ages'. In an instructive example of the power of vocabulary and terminology, those Dark Ages themselves mutated into the more neutral and vague 'Early Historic Period' and now to 'Early Medieval Period'.

Since the sum total of all the scanty evidence would fit into a metaphorical thimble, albeit an exceedingly esoteric one, there has always been plenty of scope for academic nit-picking, so it is rather amazing to find the academic specialists lining up to espouse a rather dramatic reinterpretation which has turned our understanding of the early history and development of 'the Kingdom of Scotland' on its head – a potentially toxic outcome in these politically fractious times.

Inevitably there is still a little quibbling around the edge, but increasing acceptance of the central tenet of the new view of Pictland – that its core and heartland, the province of Fortriu, traditionally located in Perth and Angus, was in fact in what scholars still call 'the North'.

There have been dissenting historical rumblings in 'The North' for some time, not so much as regards Pictland but certainly spilling over into the role of the North, specifically Andrew de Moray and his supporters, in the Wars of Independence, where Highland mediaevalists are beginning to counter Central Belt bias in order to boost the claim of northerners and to counter the role of Mel Gibson in securing Scottish independence in the 14th century.

The evidence for a northern Fortriu was famously first pulled together by Alex Woolf of the University of St Andrews in his seminal paper in *Scottish Historical Review* in 2006: 'Dun Nechtain, Fortriu and the geography of the Picts' (*SHR* 85 (2006), 182-201). He subsequently developed his thoughts in his contribution to 'The New Edinburgh History of Scotland', in *From Pictland to Alba: 789-1070* (EUP, 2007). James E. Fraser of the University of Edinburgh developed this further in his own volume in the same series, *From Caledonia to Pictland: Scotland to 795* (EUP, 2009). Then, in his Groam House Museum Annual Academic Lecture in 2013, Dauvit Broun of the University of Glasgow took us through all the evidence again, focusing on both ecclesiastical and secular administration, and concluding that it might not be too far off the mark to say that with Fortriu now securely located in the North, what became 'Scotland' was in fact a province of Fortriu, with the 'Northern Picts' playing a central role in the emergence of statehood in the first millennium AD.



Loch Insh and Dunachton

The clinching piece of evidence for a northern Fortriu is of course the location of the Battle of Dun Nechtain (Nechtansmere) in AD685. If the battle was fought near Forfar at Dunnichen, what are we to make of Bede (not an eyewitness) describing the location as *in angustias inaccessorum montium* ('in defiles of unapproachable mountains')? The description fits better the other Dunachton, near Loch Insh

and Kingussie in Badenoch. The battle scene on the Aberlemno cross-slab remains tantalising.

One response to all this has been that the University of Aberdeen has established a three-year research project Entitled 'Northern Picts: the Archaeology of Fortriu'. This project, they say, 'will investigate the secular and religious power centres of northern Pictland and the impact of statehood on northern landscapes and people. Ultimately the project will track the social and political trajectories that led to the rise and ultimate fall of the northern Picts as a major power player in first millennium AD European society'.



*University of Aberdeen study areas:
Easter Ross and Burahead*

No shortage of ambition! They have begun to map 'all known first millennium AD sites and monuments in northern Pictland using GIS and a project database'. Initial survey work was carried out on the Tarbat peninsula in Easter Ross, on which is located the Pictish monastic site at Portmahomack, excavated over a decade by Martin Carver (and others). They are carrying out geophysical surveys around Pictish stones in the landscape and looking again at previous finds from the area now in museums in Edinburgh, Inverness and Tain, as well as at the material now in the Tarbat Discovery Centre in Portmahomack.



Discovery Centre Portmahomack

They are also carrying out excavations at 'enclosed settlement' sites (mostly duns and hill-forts), hoping to find contemporary Pictish settlements: 'by tracking the evolution of these defended settlements it is hoped that a clearer picture will emerge of the secular landscape of the peninsula preceding and during the establishment of these political and ecclesiastical centres'. Unfortunately the work done so far has produced mostly Iron Age archaeology and

dating, but research continues. More promising perhaps is re-examination of Pictish cemetery sites and of material recovered from first millennium AD burials in Inverness Museum, with isotopic analysis and radiocarbon dating planned on the remains.

The choice of study area implies a Burghead-Portmahomack axis of power, with political administration centred in Moray and ecclesiastical centres in Easter Ross. Needless to say, supporters of Groam House Museum in Rosemarkie were a bit miffed to find the Black Isle initially excluded, as the putative Pictish monastery at Rosemarkie (of which nothing visible remains) and the choice of the Bishops of Ross of neighbouring Fortrose for their mediaeval see and cathedral surely stakes a claim too to be a Pictish centre of ecclesiastical administration. The discovery of a possible Pictish barrow cemetery at Tarradale on the fringes of the Black Isle near Muir of Ord has however attracted the interest of the Aberdeen project, and they are also now talking about including Pictish hoards from Gaulcross (near Fordyce in Banffshire) and Croy (between Nairn and Inverness) in their researches.

Members of the Aberdeen University project team have been very active in recent months in 'community engagement', engaging local volunteers from NOSAS (North of Scotland Archaeological Society) on surveys and excavations and delivering talks to local groups and societies. The project team is led by Gordon Noble, along with Kate Britton, Sally Foster, Oskar Sveinbjarnarson and Candy Hatherley, with Martin Carver as an adviser.

Having heard Dauvit Broun in his Groam House Museum lecture unravelling all the evidence and then knitting it all together again in a new interpretation, what all this means for the people running the Pictavia centre in Angus is anybody's guess, but I would not be surprised if in ten years time a new Pictish interpretative centre emerged in the North.

I also think it is intriguing that Andrew Moray's castles were at Petty (clearly a Pictish place-name), near Inverness Airport and Avoch on the Black Isle (just along the road from the Pictish monastery at Rosemarkie), though there is nothing to suggest that he and his Anglo-Norman supporters had any awareness at all of the importance of these areas in the creation of the state whose survival they were defending.

Norman Newton

Book Review

A guide to the pleasure tours in Scotland, with a map, and six charts, of the courses of the steam and canal boats, Edinburgh and London smacks &c.

Edinburgh: Lindsay, 1825.

Working on mining sites in Bishopbriggs has meant that the Forth and Clyde canal has played quite a prominent role in my life recently so I was intrigued to discover this little

book on my bookshelves, especially since a little research in library catalogues revealed it was very rare. The author apparently recognised the potential of this very new method of transport (the first steam passenger ship sailed in 1812) in conjunction with the rise of a relatively leisured middle class, although he was not first in the field and borrowed freely from an 1820 publication called *The steamboat companion*. However, despite this modern outlook, the literary style and social attitudes displayed in this guide hark back to earlier travel writings.

It is a very small guide (6" by 4" with 34 pages of text), but the author manages to cram in a remarkable amount of information. As you would expect, he describes the scenery. In places he takes a very Romantic approach: Tarbert castle sits on a 'sullen crag'; from the top of Ben Lomond



Clyde paddle steamer

'nature in her wildest and most awful form is here to be contemplated; mountains rise upon mountains in all the dignity of irregularity, till the eye is lost in the vastness and astounding variety of the prospect'; from Ben Nevis the prospect extends across the kingdom while sea lochs and lakes 'intersect the land in all directions and form a combination not less beautiful or interesting than it is sublime and wonderful'. But elsewhere he admires the pleasing effect of ribbon development. The scenery along the Firth of Forth is 'extremely fine, the country on both sides being populous and highly cultivated, and exhibiting a succession of elegant modern mansions'. When the elegant mansions are occupied we are always given the owner's name and rank, with dukes and earls jostling for position. Dinnybirsal is a seat of the Earl of Moray (though I cannot identify it); Broomhall is the property of the earl of Elgin and apparently the 'exact model' of the Elgin marbles. At Inverary visitors can get 'an order for seeing the interior of the castle' from the chamberlain, rather as Elizabeth Bennett and her friends were shown round Pemberley in *Pride and Prejudice*.

Many ruined castles feature, sometimes with snippets of interesting information, for example Rosyth Castle once owned by the Stewarts; Oliver Cromwell's grandmother was born there, a connection which made him a distant relative of Charles I. In Loch Lomond, the small island of Elen-a-Bhu boasts a hermit living in 'the remains of an old castelet' 'who keeps a calendar of passing events but in such hieroglyphical figures as are only known to himself'. Rothesay Castle, though ruined since 1685, is deemed to be of great significance because of its royal connections. Of course some violent events in Scotland's history were relatively recent as evidenced by the fact that both Fort William and Fort Augustus are still garrisoned.

Other antiquities are not neglected; Inchcolm and Iona monasteries are mentioned; there is a Tower of Leven near Gourock 'of such antiquity that all traces of its history are lost'. This is probably Leven Castle which would be ruined in 1825 though restored in the twentieth century. At Loch Striven there are 'the tumuli of Norwegians who perished on the coast about 700 years ago'; Dunollie castle was originally a Danish fort; Dunadd has an ancient beacon on top (no mention of a footstep carved in the stone). Despite having, besides the castle, a vitrified fort, a Romish chapel and a number of (chambered) cairns, Bute derives from Rothesay Castle 'a degree of grandeur and interest ...which otherwise it would not possess'. The Romans are not overlooked; the Trossachs marked the most northerly penetration of the Roman armies, they being unable to fight through the mountains passes; looks like the author hadn't read his Tacitus. At Duntocher there is a Roman bridge 'perfectly entire'. And Ardoch is recognised as 'the most entire remains of a Roman camp to be found in Britain'.

The author does make mention of some more industrial activities: Valleyfield has a coal mine, water engine and pier where vessels take in coal. Kincardine is noted for shipbuilding; there are salt pans at Grange and a distillery at Kilbagie. Curiously, Islay is noted for its mineral products – no mention of whisky.

Besides sight-seeing, tourists are offered sea bathing, for example at Gourock, mineral springs for taking the waters as at Dunblane; those who fancy mountaineering can hire guides to Ben Lomond and Ben Nevis. Nonetheless, the tourist is not expected to rough it. Callander is 'a neat clean village possessing all the comfort which a traveller may require' while at Inverness 'the tourist will find accommodations offering every necessary comfort, a genteel and highly cultivated society'.

The tours described largely relate to the rivers Forth and Clyde and the east and west coastal waters including passage to Liverpool and London. All the canals are mentioned but only the Caledonian Canal in any detail. However, the excursion from Edinburgh to Glasgow via the Great Canal serves to summarise how much easier and more comfortable travel has become with the advent of steam power. 'These vessels are fitted up solely for the conveyance of passengers, each having two roomy cabins, with every accommodation, including books, and other sources of amusement. Refreshments are also to be had; and the fares are considered moderate. The excursion ... is performed in a day; and being both economical and pleasant, is much resorted to by all classes of people.' Sounds like an improvement on Scotrail.

Carol Primrose

Dates for the Diary

ACFA / CFA Field Survey Training Weekend, Pollock: Sat/Sun 24th and 25th May

Archaeology Scotland Summer School, Brora, Sutherland: 16th-19th May 2014 . See AS website

First Millenia Study Group Day Seminar: Reconsidering the Archaeology of the Early Church, Tuesday June 24th, Meadows Lecture Theatre, Department of Archaeology, Edinburgh. Info from Wendy Raine

Archaeological Research in Progress Conference – Steeple Church Centre, Dundee, 31 May 2014. Information from Archaeology Scotland

‘Forteviot’ SERF Glasgow University dig : June 21 - July 11 2014. Open day during this - see SERFwebsite.

Somerled and the Battle of Renfrew Conference, Renfrew Town Hall, 4th of October, 2014. 850th anniversary of the battle. Booking form from Helen Calcluth or Stuart Mackay, ACFA secretary

Two day courses from York Archaeology Trust / Northlight

An Introduction to Human Osteology 7th June, 30th Aug, 8th Oct 2014

Soils, Seeds and Snails; an Introduction to Environmental Archaeology: 4th June, 6th Sep, 4th Oct 2014
£100 each. Quote code VOL14 for 10% discount

York Archaeological Trust
The Dickson Laboratory for Bio-archaeology
Block 2.01, Kelvin Campus
West of Scotland Science Park
2317 Maryhill Road
Glasgow
G20 0SP

To register interest or for further information, please contact Ruth Whyte tel.: 0141 258 3597
email: rwhyte@yorkat.co.uk

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 asked. And there's now guidance in the members area on our website under 'Survey Directors Guidelines'.

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.



Title page photo: Alan Stevenson House, Hynish, Tiree. Photo by Wendy Raine

Back page photo: What does this photo show? Needs close inspection.

Suggestions for next newsletter. Photo by Dugie MacInnes

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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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