

NEWSLETTER 43



www.acfabaseline.info

September 2014

Well, this is the last newsletter with me as editor and I'm very happy to say that Ian Marshall and Richard Anderson have volunteered to take over. I'm sure they'll soon be in touch with you all looking for items – 'pestering' was one of my less favourite tasks. Please give them your support. I know they'll have some fun along the way. For my part, I'd like to thank Elizabeth Bryson for all her support and suggestions over the 15 editions since I started as editor.

It looks like heads down for a wet and cold winter if you believe the forecasts so it's good we have next year's Skye survey and Tiree field trip to look forward to. Look for information in this newsletter.

And keep looking at the website. Janie, webmaster, works hard to keep it up to date with events, photographs and information. You'll see the recent survey report details there too.

WR

2014 AGM - In Brief

There was a lot of business to get through at this year's AGM. The Office Bearers reported on their work and that of the Committee as well as survey updates, which will be detailed in the minutes in due course.

The Certificate course in Field Archaeology is up and running once again, with Alan Leslie at the helm. ACFA will make contact with the students in the near future. Several of those who are on the course took part in the ACFA field survey taster weekend. Plans to extend to a diploma are still unclear.

The history of ACFA is going to feature in a new journal, the Journal of Scottish Community Archaeology and Heritage. Carol Primrose will be putting this together so look forward to a walk down memory lane.

Carol now steps down as Chair of ACFA and was thanked for all her work on behalf of the Association. Dugie McInnes has agreed to take over as Chair. Elaine Black and Richard

Anderson were proposed and elected to the Committee. This still leaves one vacancy, so don't be coy about offering your services.

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In his report, the Treasurer uttered the seldom heard words that "ACFA is in a reasonable financial position", certainly much healthier than a few years ago. Unfortunately he also uttered the words that he "will step down from his post next year" and so is on the look-out for a successor. He assured the membership that his job is a 'skoosh' (*sic*).

Yet again, this year's AGM provided voting opportunities, in respect of Resolutions 1 and 2. Both were passed and so ACFA is now a SCIO. (See page three). The Constitution was amended as required.

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One more change came when Wendy Raine said she would like to hang up her Newsletter Editor's hat. She was thanked for the work she has done to produce the Newsletter. Amazingly, with almost no perceptible gap, Ian Marshall and Richard Anderson volunteered to pick up the baton.

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Janie Munro demonstrated the Survey Director's Guidelines which are now on the website (qv).

In an aside, it was revealed that permatrace now comes *in a box of sheets*. This news appeared to cause some consternation among the members.

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Sue Bryson noted that members have been slow(er than usual) to submit entries for the photographic competition. She had already notified everyone that there were not enough entries to hold the competition this year. She hopes to re-instate the competition next year. So, from now on, cameras at the ready and get snapping.

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Anne Macdonald made a revolutionary suggestion about changing ACFA's social events from an evening to a lunch time. This will be discussed at the next Committee meeting but opinions would be welcome. Note: due to rocketing charges for the STUC building, an alternative venue may need to be found (how we would miss the underfloor music and mirth) - unless our Secretary can negotiate a discount. Again suggestions welcome.

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After dinner, Ian Marshall gave a talk about an area of Germany which he knows well, the island of Ruegen (just google it), part of the constituency of Angela Merkel and, at one time, the Hanseatic League. The island has a long and complex history with archaeology to match. We saw examples of massive dolmens in varying styles and also distinctive ring forts. A large number of sites are known to have been lost. There is current controversy in Germany surrounding the movement of prehistoric peoples into the area and different ethnic groups lay claim to the archaeological remains. Ian impressed the audience not only with his knowledge of the archaeology of the area but also with his mastery of those long multi-syllabic German words.

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And finally, Anne McDonald gave a rallying call to the troops to sign up for a new survey on Skye next spring, dates to be finalised. Judging by the response, this will be well supported. And more! Anne is also offering an "apprenticeship" to anyone who would like to co-direct the survey with her. Anyone who is interested – get in touch with Anne Macdonald.

EB

Certificate in Field Archaeology - Class of 2014

After two years 'off the books', the Certificate of Field Archaeology officially launched in September 2014. We've got 18 students enrolled, which is an excellent start. They come to the course from all sorts of backgrounds - some have never experienced archaeology directly, but have always been interested in it. Others have had some practical experience in the field and see the course as a way of putting their specific archaeological skills within a broader context.

It's been a pleasure to see these students finally get the chance to start their course - I've been in contact with many of them over the last couple of years. Many enrolled on the ACFA weekend field survey course earlier this year in the summer and were re-inspired through it - a big thank you to all ACFA members who've been involved in running that course. I hope to see it become a lasting feature of our programme.

The Centre for Open Studies has a new director, Stella Heath, who has plans for streamlining our curricula and opening up our periods of study to embrace the summer months a bit more fully. Now that we have Alan Leslie back in post as co-ordinator of Field Archaeology for us, we've begun to discuss possibilities for opening up some CFA courses for ACFA members. I'd received some expressions of interest from ACFA members in the Theory and Methods course that takes place in the second semester. The course is based on the latest techniques and theories underpinning modern field archaeology, so some members who achieved their CFA a number of years ago had been interested in it.

I'll let you know how our plans advance. And of course I'll let you know as our discussions develop around the creation of a Diploma in Field Archaeology.

Angela McDonald,
Subject Specialist and University Teacher - Archaeology, Classics and Egyptology
Centre for Open Studies,
University of Glasgow

SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (SCIO):

Report from the AGM

Members will recall previous discussions, including a Newsletter update, on this topic, as well as the papers circulated with the notice for the latest Annual General Meeting. At that AGM, held on 1st. November 2014, the case for changing ACFA's status from an unincorporated to an Incorporated Organisation was finally voted on, with a near-unanimous vote in favour.

The resolution (No. 1 on the Agenda), **"That the Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists converts its current charitable status to becoming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation"** had been proposed and seconded by your Committee, members of which had agreed *nem con*, at their meeting on 22 January 2014, that they wished to recommend such a switch. At our AGM, as Treasurer, I identified the key points at the heart of the proposal, full details of which had been distributed already. Those points were as follows:-

- the principles of charity law apply equally to SCIOs as they do to any other charity

entered in the Scottish Charity Register;

- the SCIO is a *corporate body* which is a *legal entity* having, on the whole, the same status as a *natural person*. This means it has many of the same rights, protections, privileges, responsibilities and liabilities that an individual would have under the law. Consequently, it should be recognised that the Charity can still be sued;
- crucially, because the transactions of the SCIO are undertaken by it directly, rather than by its *charity trustees* on its behalf, the charity trustees are in general protected from incurring personal liability, as is currently the case; in short, members of the Committee will no longer be solely responsible (and therefore personally liable).

So, the single most important implication of this change, of course, is that the **members** of the Association, rather than the trustees alone, are subject to some of the general duties of charity trustees. What are those duties? Members of a SCIO must a) act in the interests of the SCIO, and b) seek, in good faith, to ensure the SCIO acts in a manner which is consistent with its charitable purposes. If the members fail to comply with this duty, it may be treated as misconduct in the administration of the SCIO; **in short**, in future, as a SCIO, every member will share that responsibility (and liability);

However, OSCR recognises that members may not be in day-to-day management and control of the administration of the SCIO. In assessing whether SCIO members have met their legal duties, OSCR will look on a case by case basis at whether the members have properly exercised those powers given to them both by the SCIO's constitution and the 2005 Act. At a practical level, those powers are most likely to apply when members are a) considering changes to the constitution or b) taking part in elections of charity trustees.

The Committee having secured the over-whelming approval of those members attending the AGM (and one proxy vote in favour from a member unable to attend), we were then asked to discuss and vote on changes to our Constitution, to ensure that it is in full compliance with OSCR's requirements of SCIOs.

Once again, the **draft** Constitution, illustrating the proposed amendments to it, was circulated to all voting members in advance of the AGM. And once again, the Resolution was proposed, and seconded by the Committee, the members of which were unanimous in their support for it.

The Resolution read as follows:-

“That the Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists approves the amended Constitution, as the means by which the Association can convert its charitable status from an Unincorporated to an Incorporated Organisation.”

It was noted that, while the Charities legislation does not set out a standard format for a SCIO's constitution, it does require that each SCIO constitution contains certain basic information and rules which set out the minimum requirements of how the SCIO will be governed. Thus, as members of a SCIO, we may add further requirements to our constitution if we consider they would be useful to our Association's circumstances. In fact, while it was further noted how closely the existing Constitution already complies, some clarifications, together with the removal of ambiguities, made a few amendments desirable. In short, the changes we proposed appeared neither fundamental nor controversial, and had been kept to a gratifyingly small number, thereby ensuring both continuity for ACFA and closer alignment with OSCR's expectations of any charitable association in receipt of public funds.

Again, the key changes identified for members at the AGM (and drawn from the pre-circulated documentation), were as follows:-

- we have to have a Constitutional method for the removal, as well as the awarding of Membership (Clause D)
- Likewise, formal recognition of the delegation of authority to the Committee by the membership, to act on their behalf (Section 4; new introductory para)
- Several bits intended to ensure that the membership are kept abreast of what their Committee is doing (frequency of meetings, quorum, conduct, reporting, etc.) ... much of this already happens, but OSCR require that it be formalised for SCIO status

I am pleased to record that the members present (together with one proxy vote) approved the Resolution *nem con*.

It now remains necessary to provide appropriate documentation to OSCR, and obtain their approval of the steps we have taken to earn the support of the membership, and the amended Constitution. More on progress towards full implementation of the AGM's decisions in due course, and it will, of course, be circulated throughout the entire membership.

ES

Otzi – The Ice Man

Thursday 19th September, 1991, 3210 m above sea level in Otzal Alps, South Tyrol, Italy and hikers Erica and Helmut Simon from Nuremberg decide to take a shortcut down from the Finail Peak. As they walk past a melting glacier they spot something on the gully bed and Otzi the iceman is discovered.



The glaciers are long gone and Otzi now has his own museum in Bolzano/Bolsen and has spawned a new archaeological specialism – glacial archaeology. The journey to this endpoint is an interesting one, with two prolonged legal battles, one to ascertain national ownership of Otzi's remains and one to reach an agreed award to his finders. Although it was originally thought that his remains lay on the Austrian side of the Austria/Italy border, when the glacier finally melted it was ascertained that his find spot was 92m into Italy and so he has come to rest in Bolzano/Bolsen. Having asked for 300,000 euros, the Simons, or at least Frau Simon, now a widow, was finally awarded 150,000 euros in settlement in 2008 after a lengthy legal battle.

On a day off on our walking holiday in the Dolomites, we went to visit the Otzi museum in Bolzano. The story of his discovery, the examination of his remains and of subsequent excavations to uncover his kit, and of the later development of glacial archaeology are all documented and displayed in great detail as is a magnificent reconstruction of Otzi and his actual remains which are kept in carefully regulated conditions.

At the time of the discovery it took some days for the penny to drop that the body was prehistoric. Criminal proceedings were opened against an unidentified suspect in the belief that a crime had been committed. Eventually after several days and attempts he was successfully taken down from the glacier. The first try involved a pneumatic drill and caused damage to the body's hip. A later attempt used a nearby piece of wood to free the body. The stick later turned out to be a part of the Iceman's backpack frame. Eventually using ice picks and ski poles the body was freed and taken with a rubbish bag of surrounding objects down to be examined in Institute for Forensic Medicine, Innsbruck. Otzi's long bow could not be completely freed from the ice and was simply snapped off. At last, 5 days after the original discovery, Professor Konrad Spindler of Department of Ancient and Early History, Innsbruck University dated the find as at least 4000 years old. Subsequent carbon dating puts it at 3350-3310BC.

The finds

There were several additional finds during the original removal and later excavations at the scene uncovered more. The Iceman was fully clothed at time of death wearing cap, upper garments, a goat hide coat, leggings, a belt, a loincloth, shoes and a grass cape. These were mainly of tanned hide and grass with sinews used for sewing.

His kit included a quiver with arrows and a long bow, a hide backpack with a wooden frame, a hunting net, two cylindrical birchbark pots, one probably containing embers, charcoal and leaves ready to make a fire, a first aid kit of antibiotic and styptic birch fungus, a flint dagger with sheath and a beautiful copper blade axe.



A 12 cm long pointed wooden tool with a 6cm core of fire-hardened antler was a unique find and is thought to be a retoucheur, for detailed shaping and sharpening of flint blades.



All these items are beautifully preserved and show fine detail with the stitching of the skins and the making of the shoes spectacular. Because they were so well preserved at the

glacier site their scientific study has provided enormous amounts of information.

Study of the body

The body of the iceman has undergone detailed study. He was about 45 years old. His body showed signs of arthritis and atherosclerosis, old rib and nasal fractures. His teeth were heavily worn partly from his diet of stone ground wheat, containing grit, and partly from using his teeth as tools.

He had many small tattoos, clumps of short parallel straight lines, scattered mainly over joints where arthritis was present and thought to be an early form of acupuncture.

It is now thought he died from haemorrhage from an arrow wound to the subclavian artery. The arrow was shot from behind. He had a deep cut to his right hand probably indicating hand to hand fighting just before his death. Many theories have been offered to account for these findings but we will never know the truth. Was he a shepherd killed for the theft of his flock? Was it ritual with a ceremonial depositing of his possessions around the area?



Tattoos to left of spine.

Later Development

Studies of the ice man's body and possessions have continued as new techniques and knowledge become available. He now has his own museum. A reconstruction of his body and face stands there. He looks old and worn and it brings home to us soft 21st century humans what a hard life he must have had. His body is preserved in a cold cell kept at -6°C and 98% humidity, lying on a precision scale and with a thin film of ice on its surface. It is minutely observed – recently an eyelash was noticed for the first time on his right eye.

His stomach contents, diet and parasites have been studied, as have pollen studies, genetics, DNA studies not only of the body but also the bacteria, fungi plants and animal remains. Fingernails, teeth, body hair. The list is endless. In 2011 around 30 reports annually were being published by research teams all over the world.

Wendy Raine

References: **Otzi, the Ice Man** Angelika Fleckinger Folio, Vienna 2011
Otzi Museum website: www.iceman.it/en/node/226
National Geographic and **Nature** have various articles.

From a Rona rookie



I arrived on Rona knowing it was an uninhabited isle, but would this be a visit where the isolation and remoteness would create an eerie loneliness? Certainly the approach by boat revealed a stark landscape of rocky outcrops, boulders and an impregnable shoreline. Yet the warmth of sunshine and company on a scenic and still boat trip, arriving to curious seals and the smiling welcome of the caretaker Bill Cowie, made me quickly realise that this would be an exciting journey. The efficient transfer of our vast supplies from boat to accommodation and a welcoming dram made me feel comfortable very quickly in what on the surface appeared to be a foreboding and alien environment. The members of

our group who weren't Rona rookies kept me well informed on the locations of the various settlements across the isle. After an initial walk around Dry Harbour and then studying maps and learning what surveying was to be undertaken by us, I realised there was much to discover here.

The following week was one of surveying in the glorious sunshine. We were treated to fantastic cuisines of the world every night by Libby and Margaret. There was much laughter whilst sitting out on the deck enjoying a gin and tonic. We played ACFA's own unique brand of croquet, which involved negotiating around a dolmen, and I won! However, even with the skill and knowledge of Richard and Ian on my team, we had no luck in the creel competition: that elusive lobster was out there somewhere! A more dubious choice of evening entertainment was, after encountering hoards of ticks during the daytime, to watch a documentary of the life-cycle of the tick. Amid much scratching we saw enough to learn they are virtually indestructible, before the DVD player broke, as if a sign to make us go outside and view the stars. The lack of light pollution and warm cloudless nights made perfect conditions for star gazing.

We were incredibly lucky to have perfect weather for the whole stay. This allowed us to finish the surveying in record time and have the chance to explore the rest of the isle. With Richard, I have walked the whole isle, from the tidal islet of Garbh Eilean in the south, to the MOD base and lighthouse past Braig in the north, as well as the highest point, Meall Acarsaid for a tremendous view across all of Rona. The freedom to walk as we pleased from Church Cave back to Dry Harbour and also in the surrounds of An Teampuil revealed snippets of walling in the undergrowth and reflected that this was remote, a desolate and inhospitable landscape, but it was a home, and supported the livelihoods of many previously. Together with this exploration, reading Calum's Road by Roger Hutchinson throughout my stay, and meeting the grandson of one of the Raasay Raiders doing some caretaking work on the paths, reinforced that although it was a hard life, this was a home and community to many and exuded a profound warmth that would have tempered the isolation. There was no eerie loneliness to be experienced on this journey, but a lot of enjoyment and discovery amongst great company.

Stuart Mackey

Rona 2014.

Doire na Guaile (*'the wooded shoulder'*), is the last of the three townships which ACFA began to survey on the Island of Rona with Acarseid Thioram and Braig already published.

It lies at the extreme south of the island, requiring a walk in and out of an hour, over a rough but formerly reasonably metalled track – currently being improved by the island's owners. The 1879 OS map records 8 roofed and 2 unroofed buildings, 2 enclosures and a head dyke: when re-visited by the OS in 1961, 12 unroofed houses, 8 outbuildings, 2 enclosures and assorted dispersed lazy beds were noted – and on the 1968 1:10560 map, 1 roofed (alas no more) and 23 unroofed buildings (2 with attached enclosures) and a head dyke are marked.

Rona has seen possibly intermittent human occupation for 8 millennia, but the visible, recorded archaeology probably represents c. 4% of this time depth – a single rock shelter, a cave, a completely isolated AD 12C chapel, three settlements entirely documented as having been occupied and abandoned from c1840 to 1924 – and a lighthouse and submarine tracking station at the north end. Just seven small daubs of paint on a huge Dugie MacInnes mosaic 8 miles high by 3 miles wide – with 90% of the mosaic of solid gneiss.

Blessed with seven days of calm sunshine, light breezes and no midges (the message failed to get through to the ticks), we managed to survey all the visible structures and enclosures at 1:100 over three days, plus walkovers of Eilean Garbh, tidally accessible just off An Teampuil, and the lighthouse area at the north end, which suggested that there is still stuff to mop up, to allow a clearer understanding of human settlement on Rona.

Two further sites were discovered and surveyed, one of which may represent an elusive older stratum of occupation.

Three teams of surveyors were deployed with Dr Heather James (Northlight) as peripatetic boldly goer, photographic recorder and context sheets:

Libby King, Margaret Gardiner and Richard Anderson.

Dugie and Anne MacInnes and Stuart McKay.

Ian Marshall, Sue Hothersall.



The settlement is largely sited on the south side of a sheltered E-W running valley, which offers rough grass and pasture on the valley bottom (drainable, but now reverting to woodland shrub and bog), and small sheltered gullies of potentially arable soil for lazy beds and enclosures.

The available land was parcelled out in three clusters of buildings, a smaller cluster to the west of the track, and two almost conjoined clusters to the east – the lower one looking down into the valley, a higher group climbing to a sheltered plateau with spectacular views south and then dipping down to the east coast.

What preliminary issues have emerged from our surveys? These are only my thoughts and all contributions from participants are welcome.

1: Where is the occupation to fill the historical void – is it visible in the existing settlements?

2: What is the structural history of these settlements – the main structures in each cluster are

built with elements of cut red freestone and local basalt. The remainder are of rough dry stone. Are these earlier or contemporary with the former? Where did these come from, who built them and when?

3: Some of the structures in Dry Harbour and Doire seem to be multiphased but many structures have evidence of reworking and repair – butt walls etc. Is it realistic to attempt a biography of individual structures, have we recorded them completely, what does it mean anyway?

4. What was the staple for realistic survival on an island such as Rona?

Early accounts record black cattle. What is the extent and potential of the small areas of lazy bed clearly evident around the structures? Can this be assessed?

7: If they were growing grain, where are the kilns? Only two small possibles have been identified, one at Doire, the other at Braig.

Rona offers a stark contrast to the complexity and comparative wealth of Raasay, and yet both are inextricably linked, by geology, land ownership and a rich native Gaelic community which latterly became iconic in the annals of community resistance in the Inner Hebrides.

Rona, Raasay and Braes on Skye – all areas intensely surveyed by ACFA - are in essence a 'Bermuda Triangle' of cultural resistance and dissent from the Crofter Commission till the 1960's, in Gaelic Scotland. This could be pursued. Perhaps a collaborative conference on "*The Archaeology of Resistance: Skye, Raasay and Rona*" between ACFA, Sabhal Mor Ostaig; the historical communities of the three areas; a certain archaeological unit and the RCAHMS (or its successor), with a nice book to bring it all together might be a way forward?

Anyway, any more for any more?

Ian Marshall 2014.

Europa Nostra



Citadel of Alessandria, Italy

I came across an interesting web-site recently, which listed seven of the most endangered monuments and heritage sites in Europe. You can quibble with the Committee's choice, but the idea seems sound. My pick of their bunch would be the Citadel of Alessandria, in the Piedmont region of Italy. Built in the second half of the 18th. Century, this important hexagonal fortress was one of the most important in Napoleonic Europe. It later represented a focus for the revolution in support of the Constitution during the Risorgimento movement for unification in Italy. The threats it faces are broadly three-fold: a lack of necessary expertise to maintain the site; destructive invasive plant life undermining and breaking walls; and the fact that the municipality in which it is located is in serious financial straits.

The full list of endangered sites can be found at the following web address:-

<http://www.europanostra.org/news/483/>

In their own words, Europa Nostra 'campaigns against the many threats to Europe's cultural heritage. When monuments or sites are in danger by uncontrolled development, environmental change, neglect or conflict, we raise our voice. Cooperation and solidarity

between heritage organisations and activists are vital to ensure that witnesses of our past are here to enjoy today and in the future.'

I believe that ACFA contributes to this mission, by identifying and thereby helping to protect archaeological sites, essential assets to Scotland's history and identity and massively important to our country's future.

In that spirit, I wonder what list of sites the membership of ACFA would produce for Scotland. For my part, suggesting one only, it would probably be the settlement lying approximately half-a-mile to the North of the more famous Knap of Howar, on Papa Westray (and not just because I visited it most recently and my memory is not what once it was!). The Knap of Howar is itself at some risk and, as perhaps the oldest standing building in Europe, is clearly worthy of care. Also nearby to the east is the pre-reformation St Boniface Kirk, recently beautifully restored. But the site which took my eye particularly, as the photograph demonstrates, is (now!) immediately on the shoreline and subjected to the vagaries of Orkney weather and associated coastal erosion. No rescue work has been started; perhaps Orkney suffers from having just too many fantastic archaeological sites, but if this site (known to evidence pre-historic to mediaeval activity) was anywhere on mainland Scotland it would have had considerable care and on-going study and attention. A site survey, anyone?

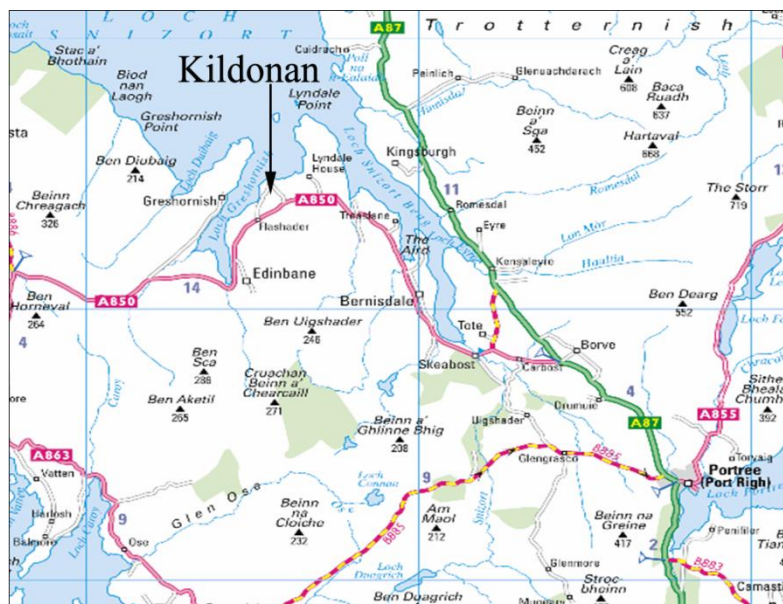


Papa Westray site

Ewen Smith

SPRING INTO SKYE

A survey in early spring, 2015



I am planning just one more survey before I accept that I really am too old for all this.

Dugie MacInnes met a couple in a bar (!) in Tighnabruach who, on hearing about his interest in archaeology and about ACFA, announced that they have a croft in Skye with 'lots of things' on it. The upshot of all this is that I agreed to go and have a look at it as a potential Site of Special ACFA Interest'. John and I went up to Skye in late October and looked over the area.

Unfortunately, John - technical and logistics assistant (fired) - forgot the camera so we have no pretty pictures to show but it is a beautiful part of Skye.

The site is the settlement of Kildonan which lies roughly half-way between Portree and Dunvegan on the east shore of Loch Greshornish and there are indeed lots of interesting things on it. Dun Flashader, a broch which lies at the south end of Kildonan, is already known but a 'pile of stones' which lies close to the croft house is potentially a prehistoric burial cairn which has not previously been recorded, so far as we can determine. In

between are the usual array of pre-clearance and clearance settlement and at least three lovely boat noosts. For anyone interested, there is really good and clear coverage of the site on Google Earth.

At the AGM I presented the project and asked for volunteers for the survey and also a volunteer to act as a co-director. Potential surveyors who put their names on the list numbered 25 and a co-director has stepped forward in the shape of Ewen Smith. I am very grateful to Ewen for offering to take this on and am once again amazed by the number of people who are apparently willing to tramp about the soggy bogs of Skye at their own expense and with little reward beyond a 'thank you' and their presence acknowledged in the report. Anyone not at the AGM with an interest in joining the survey should get in touch with me.

Planning is still in the early stages but the survey will probably take place in early April. Accommodation is being looked at which will probably be in Portree. Inevitably some volunteers will have to withdraw but if the numbers remain over 20 we will look at extending the site southwards to give everyone plenty to do.

Once Ewen and I have had a preliminary meeting and are clearer on the details I will contact those who have volunteered with more information about the dates, accommodation and the potential cost before we ask for a firm commitment.

Anne Macdonald

Veronica Anderson (1949 – 2014).

Veronica Anderson was a much loved member of the third intake of the Field Course from 1981 – 84. This was not a large intake with only eleven names on the current Class List and too few of us left active in ACFA.

My earliest memory of us all is in the small basement classroom in Oakfield Avenue, perched around a large table piled with Lionel's plans, surveys and exotic text books, with a precarious screen against a wall on which 'wonderful things' were projected.

Veronica was very attractive, very bright and very quiet – the first time I remember her silencing the company was when Lionel asked us where we might like to stay in Galloway during the first field trip (no-one really knew much about each other's circumstances of course) and after a pause, Veronica suggested we might go camping. In Galloway, in early April! There was a collective pause, Lionel imperceptibly quivered and Veronica said that she supposed she would just have to put up with us in a hotel.

She and Helen Maxwell became particular friends as 50% of the female intake for the class in the face of a mixed bag of 'Allsorts' among the men, and the pair rapidly exerted almost complete control of proper classroom conduct and total control of banter in the field and at the bar.

She was wonderful company and a great companion to survey with – very competent, enthusiastic, mischievous - sharing her love of novels, cinema, teaching, the ways of schoolchildren and many hilarious anecdotes about the oddities, the quirks and occasional institutional insanity of the 'heidies' she had encountered. Veronica's gentle demeanour belied a surprising resilience and will – she worked in some challenging inner city schools – at St. Margaret and Mary in Castlemilk and then at Trinity High in Rutherglen and I can independently confirm the love and the regard in which she was held at both. Meeting a former pupil in another context recently and learning that he had been at Trinity in the 1990s, I enquired if he had known Veronica and he informed me that she was the best English teacher he had ever known and had actually got him to enjoy both Emily Bronte and Kurt Vonnegut. She eventually became Head of Guidance at Trinity and another former pupil attested to me her influence in raising the bar in his ambitions for himself.

She was word perfect at put downs of preening members of the male species (personal endorsements here) but did have her sentimental side as I remember her once telling me, while giving her a lift somewhere, that one of her favourite pastimes while ironing was watching old films on afternoon TV and having a good sniffle at Bette Davis or Casablanca.

Veronica was present at nearly all the early year surveys, with hosts of memories – from Chalmerston (where she absolutely terrified me by inadvertently walking out onto the unsupported edge of a recently opened sink hole – no H&S then !) to Meall Darroch ('Why are my feet wet ?' 'Because you've tucked your waterproof trousers into your willies, Veronica'), to giving her a piggy back across a burn in the Meldons when we were rashly persuaded by Strat Halliday in torrential rain to check out a hut circle 'just up the hill here'.

She was also a regular at the weekend jollies, from Dublin to Donegal, from Coll to Minorca and became loved for her plaintive enquiries as to the site's proximity to a decent National Trust gift shop or at the very least a decent coffee shop – and had no one ever considered roofing a stone circle?

When ACFA was launched, our little group, which we had set up ourselves to continue survey and enjoy each other's company, joined in the bigger and constantly growing life which then developed, new friends and new surveys and Veronica became a part of it. She came to us as a second time singleton and nothing was more enthusiastically welcomed than when she and Richard began to be seen together, despite her discovery of such little known but ancient Shetland love tokens as placing a sheep's skull under your beloved's coverlets at night (but she was a game girl- she came out and knocked his lights out).

They were so finely made for each other – and we all noted the change in Richard's bachelor ways and opinions – Veronica's liberal and radical beliefs never wavered, as we found in his whispered references to her in his loving byname for her – 'Red Vera'.

'Richard, what's got into you?' 'Sssh! Red Vera!'

After their marriage, there was an interval, when we saw a little less of them, with full lives and careers to pursue, other than at ACFA meetings,. They were clearly very happy but contact was always kept up – and with retirement looming we know that they planned to come back. The news of her initially undiagnosed illness and its nature at first seemed to be treatable and temporary and it was thus a terrible shock to all her friends when the intractable and progressive nature of her condition became manifest.

With her passing, we have lost a great spirit and one whose full return would have been an immense pleasure to those who knew her and to those who would have met her for the first time.

We are pleased to see Richard back with us - his devotion and care of Veronica, was evident to all of us who witnessed his provision of a calm and loving environment for her in such an ordeal for them both.

We will miss her very much.

*"She was a rare thing fine as a bee's wing
So fine a breath of wind could blow her away..."*

Ian Marshall

Veronica's surveys:

Chalmerston, Gleniffer Braes, Meall Darroch, Coalburn, Tirai, Cathkin Braes, Ben Lawers Nature Trail, Bail' a Mhuilinn, Queen's Park, Milton of Lawers, Raasay (Balachuirn, Balmeanach, Inbhire and Brae), Craigmaddie Muir, Raasay (Glame, Manish More, Brochel & Doire Domhain), Raasay (North and South Screapadale), Loch Restil and Glen Croe, Raasay (Manish Beg).

Apologies that there may be some missed out.

Dates for the Diary

Fri 6th December 2014 SAS and European Ethnological Research Centre joint conference
Ethnology Crossroads Royal Society Edinburgh.

Tuesday 10th December 2014 Royal Philosophical Society, Strathclyde University
Nick Card. *Excavations at the Ness of Brodgar – the true Heart of Neolithic Orkney*

28th February 2015 ACFA February Bash

April 2015 *ACFA Rona Survey*. Details from Ian Marshall and website.

Fri 24th – Sun 26th April SAS Rhind Lectures 2015: *British Archaeology : its progress and demands*. Various speakers

April 2015 (Date to be decided) *ACFA Field Survey, Kildonan, Skye*. See inside.

Tues 5th May 2015 Edinburgh University First Millenia Study Group Day Seminar :
Understanding Landscapes of the First Millenia Info from Wendy Raine This group also meets monthly on the first Tuesday of every month. Jan : Burials Roundup. Feb: Native/Norse Transitions. March : The Northern Picts Project – Gordon Noble. April : Recent Work on Roundhouses

26th – 29th May 2015 *ACFA Field Trip Tiree* Info from Wendy Raine

2 – 5 September 2015 21st Annual Meeting, European Association of Archaeologists, to be held in Glasgow. Details to come.



Title page photo: Drumwhirn Cairn, Wood of Cree, Galloway. Photo by Wendy Raine

Back page photos: Rice drying racks, Honshu, Japan Photo by Wendy Raine
Hay drying rack, Dun Croisk, Glen Lochay. Photo by Dugie MacInnes

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