# NEWSLETTER 46

www.acfabaseline.info April 2016.

***Langbank West Crannog*: *Another Clyde Mystery?***

*In 1901 - 1902, the antiquarian John Bruce excavated a crannog at Langbank, which he'd seen from the train on his daily journey from Greenock to Glasgow. It proved to be almost as rich in archaeology as Dumbuck.*

*But where is it? Is it, as seen above, at Langbank, being assessed by ACFA in February this year for SCHARP (Canmore ID 42420) OR, is it almost six miles to the east near Longhaugh Point. (Canmore ID 4344).*

***Longhaugh Point, Erskine.*** *To be assessed by ACFA this spring.*

See report within for discussion. Alex Hale has a theory!

*Another spring, another Newsletter. This issue is largely devoted to two splendid articles from Susan Hunter and Ewen Smith – many thanks to them both.*

*Susan's is a splendid accompaniment to the wonderful exhibition on tour from the British Museum to the NMS in Edinburgh – 'The Celts '. Definitely to be seen - any chance of a review from someone?*

*Ewen's is a short revue and update on a subject which is both dynamic and contentious, and which he has engaged with for many years – no not the balancing of ACFA's books – but the populating of the planet by a particularly acute, adept and violent primate species. In the words of Alfonso Xth, the mid AD13C, King of Spain: "If the Lord Almighty had consulted me before embarking on the Creation, I would have recommended something simpler."*

*Reports on work in progress and completed at Dun Knock hillfort, Dunning, a Mason's Mark survey in the West of Scotland, an assessment exercise on the Clyde Marine Crannogs and a piece by Janie Munro on Ludovick Mclellan Mann, accompanied by news of a recent excavation at the site of the Cochno Stone. and a recent excavation to assess its state.. Copy always welcomed.*

*Sumer is icumin in; Lhude sing cuccu – head for the hills!*

*Ian and Richard (editors).*

## 2015 AGM: In Brief.

Ian Marshall.

This meeting took place in our new venue, GCVS Albany Centre in Woodlands.

Reports on work and activities in 2015 – Survey of Kildonan deserted settlement on Skye, completion of the surveys of Doire na Guaileadh and An Acarsaid Mhor on Rona, volunteer participation in excavations at Thirlestane Cairn, West Lothian with Northlight, and at Crum's Mill in Thornliebank, Glasgow.

A workshop on recording Rock Art in Rouken Glen, participation in excavations on Tarbet Isle, Loch Lomond with Northlight, in excavations at Dunnock Hill, Dunning as part of the SERF Project, in a recording exercise of medieval mason marks in Crookston Castle and Paisley and Glasgow Cathedrals with Iain Wallace and survey of the former North Woodside Flint Mills on the Kelvin.

Social activities included a double night at Bridge of Lochay, with recording of the AD17C bridge on the river below it, and a very successful replacement meeting for the cancelled February bash at the Grosvenor Café, Glasgow.

Future projects mooted were a week long survey on Tiree as part of an Archaeological Week planned by Northlight, in conjunction with the Tiree community in April 2016 (perhaps a long term project), the initiation of survey work on the Kilsyth Hills, survey of a small settlement at Druim Liagairt, Glenlochay, the participation in further work at Mavis Valley and Lambhill Stables, and participation in an assessment exercise for SCHARP (Scottish Coastal Heritage at Risk Project) on three of the Clyde Marine crannogs.

The death of two members were regretfully recorded, much loved Anne Wood and a member from our early days, Robin Callander.

Elections of Committee: Libby King was elected to succeed Stuart Mackey as Minutes Secretary, the nomination of a Treasurer to replace Ewen Smith remained unfilled and the committee agreed

to pursue volunteers individually. Both Ewen and Stuart were heartily applauded for their unstinting devotion to their tasks over the terms of their responsibilities.

Brian Balmain was thanked for his work as an Independent Examiner and thanked for his services.

**An Iron Age journey from Hallstatt to Le Tene: Susan Hunter.**

On a September morning we made our way from Salzburg Airport through lush countryside dotted with wooden chalets dripping with red geranium flowers to the idyllic lakeside of town of Hallstatt. Hallstatt is famous for its salt mines (white gold) which were first discovered in the 18th century but date back to the Middle Bronze Age, (800 to 400 BC to present day, although not continuous). Artefacts excavated from more than 1,500 graves found at the site (cremations and inhumations) have given an insight into these early people's lives. Our guide was Professor John Collis the leading expert on Iron Age Europe. Other travelling companions who some of you will know were Brendan O'Conner, Bruce and Edwina Proudfoot, members of Glasgow Archaeological Society. Hallstatt is full during the daytime of Chinese, they like the town so much that they have made of replica at Huizhou in their own country.

Our first introduction to the salt mines was at Hallein, quite an experience, we had to dress up in brightly coloured sail-cloth suits, then straddle ones-self over a narrow wooden shaped piece of wood, and this was pulled along by a sort of train. After we alighted from this we walked for a considerable distance through tunnels. Our next interesting experience was moving down through the levels of the mine. Again we had to sit on a wooden slide with your legs dangling at your side, two at a time and be propelled downwards at a great speed down to the next level, terrifying; we went through this system twice. This visit was more an introduction to the salt mine and more a tourist attraction. The following day we went to the Hallstatt mine immediately above our hotel in the mountains, again we were kitted out with the fashionable suits along with hard hats. On this visit our group was taken up to the Mine and then escorted within by the head archaeologist Hans Reschreiter from the Museum of Natural History in Vienna into the along tunnels just wide enough for us to get through until we came to a wider area where our guide explained and showed us how the salt was

**Our party ready to enter the mine.**

mined using replicas of the picks, shovels and leather backpacks (later in their wonderful museums we saw original artefacts that had been preserved including shoes and hats). We then were taken in two groups to see an area that had been excavated and which showed artefacts still adhering

to the compacted excavated walls mostly old axe handles, pine tapers for lighting and coprolites giving information of health and diet. A highlight was the remains of one of the ladders which were used by the women and children to take the salt to the surface. The salt a natural preservative gave us a window back to prehistoric times of these people who lived in the mines and the valley. Judging by their burials they were wealthy due to the salt that was traded to adjoining areas i.e. Bavaria, Slovenia and Italy. Trade in goods coming the other way are witnessed in their grave goods including swords and bronze vessels. The settlement of the inhabitants has still to be found and large areas of the mines have still not been excavated. Over the years there has been land-slides etc. which have blocked up the galleries (earliest land-slide 1246BC). The mining technique consisted of sinking shafts to find deposits of salt, this would leave large caverns with steeply sloping floors, and because of this a ladder/staircase would be constructed for moving up and down as mentioned above. In the Bronze Age the way of extracting the salt was to hack out heart-shaped blocks of salt ready for trading. The mines have been undergoing extensive research over 40 years.


**Remains of the wooden staircase, tappers and remains of an axe handles adhering to the excavated tunnel**.

During the first few days we visited the Mondsee Lade Dwellings situated on the shore line, exceptional for their level of preservation of organic materials. Our next sites with very sparse remains were the oppidum of Kelheim (reconstructed gateway) and Manching which goes back to the 4th century BC. We visited its remaining south gateway and some defences. In 1950 the first large-scale excavations took place ahead of the reconstruction of an airfield and activities found on site included working areas of iron and bronze, glass, leather and textiles and coin minting. However this site has almost disappeared and is now mostly the home of the massive noisy DaimlerChrysler Aerospace AG. The third oppidum we visited was the Heuneburg Hillfort built around 600 BC positioned near the source of the Danube and is the most famous Iron Age site in Germany. A wet day I thought I was at home. This hillfort brought back memories for Edwina as she had dug here in her youth. First excavated in the 19th century when massive tumuli near the hillfort revealed rich burials with local and imported bronze vessels mainly from Italy. One of the mounds the Hohmichele contained a couple of burials dated to 600BC. This had two wooden chambers with four-wheeled wagons inside and a sequence of other burials. The only other two larger burial mounds in central Western Europe are the Magdalensberg in the Black Forest and a second on the other side of the Black Forest which is being kept secret. Back to the Hillfort, the 1950s excavations found that the defences had been frequently rebuilt in the 'box rampart' technique. However one phase was constructed in a completely foreign technique, a wall of


**Reconstructed walkways and wattle and daub buildings.**

sundried bricks resting on limestone foundations, something attributed normally in the Near East but also known later in the West Mediterranean. Another Mediterranean feature was a row of towers projecting from the front of the rampart thus allowing cross-fire against any attackers. Although dated to the 600BC the hillfort was built on the foundations of an earlier Middle to early Late Bronze Age fortification and the earliest Hallstatt rampart. Later excavations in the 1960s looked at the interior of the fort which found timber workshops some specialising in metalworking. Only 3 or 4 other sites fit the Heuneburg pattern (central defended site, together with rich burials and some open settlement with rich imported Mediterranean goods). Today the defences have been partly reconstructed in one section and covered in a limestone wash and walkways along the battlements as per archaeological evidence. Also in this area various wattle and daub buildings and workshops together with their artefacts have been reconstructed showing the visitor a snap shot into life inside the fort.

Our next billet was in the medieval and post-medieval German city of Konstaz with its painted buildings and many interesting and unusual statues made of bronze and stone. The city stands where the Rhine flows into Lake Constance. In the harbour is of a the rotating statue of 'La Belle Imperia' a 9m high statue of a woman, holding up in the palms her hands two naked figures, one a king, the Emperor Sigismund and the other Pope Martine V. The statue was created in 1993 but refers to the Council of Constance in AD 1414/1418. The short story of La Belle Imperia refers to the then Catholic clergy's morals at the Council, where Imperia seduced cardinals and princes attending.. Other statues are more bizarre like the one below situated in the centre of a duel-carriage way in the centre of the city.


**Statues seen in the city of Kontaz**

At all the places we visited there were numerous museums full of artefacts mainly from the Iron Age and this was the case when we reached the end of the trip at Le Tene. Here Bronze Age artefacts were first fished out of Lac Neuchtel in the 1850s. At the start of the 20th century excavations found many objects made of wood and iron, also bronzes of both weapons and tools along with human bones at a point in the River Thielle/Zihl where it flows out of the Bielersee and enters Lac Neuchtel. The site emerged with the lowering of the water table in 1860s. Today there is little to see just a bay with a caravan site to the left. However the museum shows site reconstructions of the area together with artefacts from the excavations.

**Site of Le Tene and reconstruction of the site in the museum.**

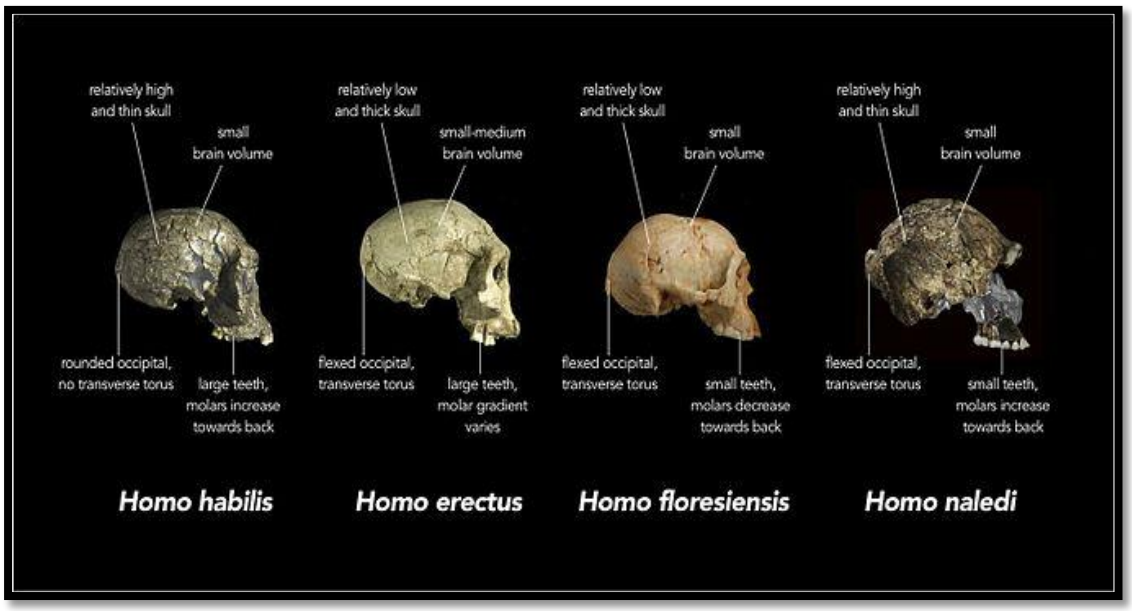
If anyone would like more in depth information regarding the above sites and the museums visited, I will be happy to share pictures and provide information - Susan Hunter.

# Populating the World:
# New people, and new genes, or new interpretations?

A review of current popular literature

Ewen Smith.

Doubtless, many members will have learned recently of the astonishing discoveries in South Africa, of near-whole skeletons, at the Rising Star cave. (There is a very accessible account of these discoveries in the October 2015 edition of National Geographic.) Named as *Homo naledi* this "new" hominin is described as being "even closer to modern humans than *Homo erectus*". In short, "an animal on the cusp of the transition from *Australopithecus* to *Homo*". Quite a claim, especially as the bones are formally undated as yet, despite media speculation suggesting anything up to 5 million years old (and against a best academic guess of age closer to 2 million years).




As a fan of Chris Stringer's "The Origin of Our Species", I look forward to learning more of his thoughts on some of the developments in the study of human evolution that seem to have emerged with increased frequency of late. So far, he describes the recent discovery by the University of Witwatersrand as " … a very important discovery … " and "what we are seeing is more and more species of creatures that suggests that nature was experimenting with how to evolve humans, thus giving rise to several different types of human-like creatures originating in parallel in different parts of Africa. Only one line eventually survived to give rise to us …"

So, what is to be made of this most recent discovery, in the context of previous learning? The widely accepted theory (except in some Southern states of the USA) under-lying the populating of the world, is known as the "out of Africa" theory. Specifically, it postulated that *Homo* migrated from East Africa, and that there is no evidence of any other *Homo* species anywhere else on the globe. I know of nothing to contradict this migration theory, but the exact direct ancestor species and where it came from in Africa is now less well understood, and subject to far greater critical assessment than previously.

Homo habilis.

Now, to *H. habilis, H. erectus, H. heidelbergensis* and *H. rudolfensis,* we can add, potentially, a new *Homo*, and this one from South Africa, un-suspected but contemporaneous with each of the foregoing.

First, a little more context … 40 years ago, a good fossil was discovered in East Africa that was likened to, but different from *Homo habilis*. A debate began as to whether there were two *Homo* species living contemporaneously, or just one, with the new fossil simply a demonstration of physical variation within that species. But which was the original and which the variant? So far, so consistent with Stringer's point about experimentation in the evolutionary process. (Those who believed in two species named the 1972 discovery *Homo rudolfensis*, after the former Lake Rudolf, near where the fossil was discovered.) More recent fossil discoveries appear to confirm that *H. rudolfensis* did indeed exist, and apparently at the same time as *H. erectus. H. heidelbergensis* and *H. habilis*, some 2 million years ago. Into this evolutionary primordial melting pot has now emerged *Homo nadelis*. Five species, and counting, probably with contemporaneity between them.

**Homo Heidelbergensis.**

So, from which of these (possibly) distinct species did *Homo sapiens* (and other moderns) emerge? Or was that from another, as yet undiscovered, *Homo* species?

Which brings us to somewhat more up to date theories, concerning the actual spread of humankind out of Africa. There is evidence that *H. neanderthalensis* (sons and daughters of *erectus*?) left Africa, perhaps as much as 200,000 years ago. Even this has come in for some questioning recently, with some arguing that it was *H. erectus* who migrated, and evolved, westwards to become *Neanderthals* and eastwards to become *denisovans* (and *floresiensis*? But that's another story).

Homo Floresienses.

*H. floresienses* is now believed to have become extinct 50,000 BP, not 30,000 as previously believed, and very much alive around the time *Homo sapiens* is thought to have arrived in the region.

Leaving that argument aside in the meantime, Colin Barras presents an argument that is independent of where precisely *H. neanderthalensis* evolved. He suggests, quite persuasively (in the 4 July 2015 edition of New Scientist), that the traditional view of *H. sapiens* invading and over-throwing *H. neanderthalensis*, in Europe was actually a much more long drawn-out process than has generally been assumed, with perhaps more inter-breeding than has been traditionally thought. He argues further that it took as many as three invasions, over perhaps 40,000 years before *neanderthalensis* genes were almost completely eradicated from the *sapiens* species. *H. sapiens* is believed to have arrived in Europe c. 45,000 years ago, and *H. neanderthalensis* was extinct just 6,000 years later. [Note that the accepted view has been that *neanderthalis* persisted in Europe until c. 30,000 years ago, about the time of the last glacial maximum, so there is some arithmetic difference here.]

Into this melting pot might be added further recent discoveries, reported in the October 2015 edition of Nature magazine. Specifically, the discovery of a hoard of ancient human teeth in a Chinese cave indicates that modern humans must have left their African homeland and reached southern China more than 80,000 years ago, as compared with their arrival in Europe only 45,000 years ago. Were our early ancestors migrating from Africa prevented from turning North and West into Europe, and finding easier expansion eastwards? Perhaps unsurprisingly, the case is made for the presence of Neanderthals at the southern edge of their European domain; experienced hunters and gifted foragers, they had controlled Europe for hundreds of thousands of years. Anthropologist María Martinón-Torres, from University College London suggests that they were better equipped to survive, and were therefore able to keep us at

**Homo neanderthalensis.**

the edge of Europe for 40,000 years. “It was not a matter of physical confrontation, however. It was a matter of who was best able to exploit resources. They had much more experience of the harsher, colder conditions that existed in Europe”. Only with climate change and diminishing numbers of *neandertals* were *sapiens* able to occupy Europe.

A new DNA study appears to confirm that skeletons from the Sima de los Huesos site in Spain are of the earliest known *Homo Neanderthalis* individuals, And they are about 430,000 years old! By this time the *neanderthal* gene pool must have diverged from *Homo heidelbergensis* and denisova.

In any event, both species (*neanderthalis* and *sapiens*) were, broadly speaking, cave-dwelling hunter-gatherers, (with possible rudimentary building skills evidenced amongst the newcomers). However, some 9,000 years ago, a second influx of *H. sapiens* arrived from the mid-East; lighter skinned and, crucially, with a markedly different culture, these people were farmers, accustomed to a more settled life-style, with a “village” mentality and more developed crafts. With “property” to protect, there was both conflict and inter-breeding, with the hunter-gathering lifestyle substantially diminished. Finally, the Yamnaya arrived from northern Eurasia (essentially the area between the Black and The Caspian Seas); herders and horse riders, they had a more nomadic existence, which worked as a form of transhumation. The October 2015 Nature article goes on to provide an analysis of the breakdown of DNA, ostensibly showing these three streams, and their incidence across various parts of Europe. [In Scotland, we are apparently c.25% hunter-gatherers (though how split between *H. sapiens* and *H. neanderthalensis* is not made clear), c. 25% Neolithic farmer type, and c. 50% Yamnaya. Well, so claims the article.]

Curtis Marean (in the August 2015 edition of Scientific American) approaches human development from an entirely different angle. He notes that *Homo sapiens* appears to have left Africa, successfully, around 70,000 years ago, asks why then, and why successfully? In short, in what way were they different from their predecessors at this point? His answer is that it was their dual traits as ruthless competitors and peerless collaborators. What he calls their “hypersociability” is not a learned, but a genetically encoded trait. If so, then why were these traits selected? Because, Marean argues, “Groups that have higher numbers of prosocial people will work together more effectively and thus out-compete others and pass their genes for this behaviour to the next generation, resulting in hypersociability.” Thus, as mankind moved from foraging/hunter-gathering to farming, we moved simultaneously to dependence on a resource (food production) that was defensible, and such defence promoted prosocial behaviour and its subsequent selection.

Moving on, and an article in the December 2015 Edition of Nature (by Mathieson *et al*) suggests that the migration of the Yamnaya people into Western Europe was as recent as 6,500 years ago.

**Yamnaya Man.**

Examination of ancient DNA from the largest data set of such material yet assembled, indicates first the arrival of Anatolian Neolithic farmers and a subsequent admixture from Samara (probable Yamnaya). The Anatolian farmers interbred with the Western European hunter gatherers they encountered, particularly in Central and Northern Europe (but later also as far as Spain)

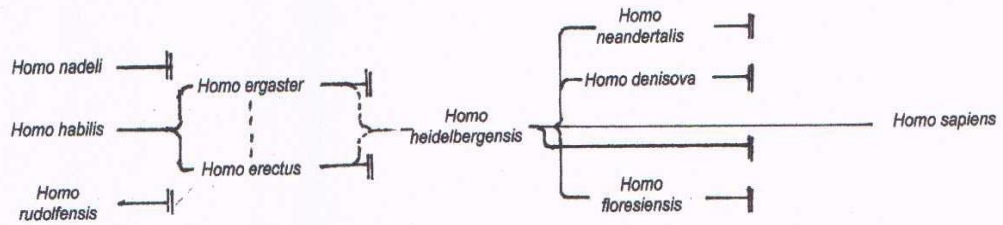
For me, the accuracy and interpretations within these articles are of less importance than the fact that they demonstrate both how little we yet know, and how our technological advances combined with a renewed interest in our origins, are revealing previously unimagined histories. One crucial advance that may yet serve to increase dramatically our knowledge of our origins is to be found in the analysis of ancient DNA. Perhaps an article for a future edition of our Newsletter.

With special thanks to Catherine Converse for drawing my attention to various articles.

**Ewen Smith. 2016**.

*Why are we the last Homo species standing and how did we*, *Homo sapiens, emerge from this fruitful family tree?* Carly Hilts. Current Archaeology issue 313 April 2016.

In an effort to understand better the evolution, and initial migration of the human genus, I have made the following attempt and representing the process graphically. However, this badly needs suggestions of amendments and corrections from colleagues. ***Please advise!***




All of which prompts more questions than it answers. For example ...
a) were *H nadeli*, *H habilis* and *H rudolfensis* all contemporary?
b) big question ... were *H ergaster* and *H erectus* contemporaries, or was *ergaster* the ancestor of *erectus*, as some have argued? Were they even one and the same species, as others have postulated?
c) From which, if either, or from any other (perhaps still undiscovered) ancestor, did *H heidilbergensis* evolve?
d) If representatives of *H heidilbergensis* emigrated from Africa (Out of Africa 1), did *H neandertalis*, *H denisova* and *H floresiensis* evolve outside Africa, while *H sapiens* evolved in Africa and then migrated (Out of Africa 2)?

DNA analysis seems to indicate that emigration was unidirectional; that is, there was no return to Africa, until modern times. However, such analysis cannot yet answer the questions above, nor tell us how many "Out of Africa" migrations there were, far less why *Homo sapiens* has been the only species of the genus Homo to have survived to this day.

The final word on this fascinating subject must be from two of our most senior members who encountered the following rather tacky diorama in the Neanderthal section in the Gibraltar Museum and forwarded it to the editor, with appropriate comment some years ago.


*"Shall I just sit here and wait for my dinner then?*

## Works in Progress: 2015-16.

**1: Dun Knock Hillfort : June 2015**. Ian Marshall.

The ACFA Forteviot contingent participated in a week of excavations at Dun Knock hillfort above Dunning – previous excavations in 2008-9 had revealed collapsed earth ramparts revetted with timber and stone. A focus for intense settlement in the Early Iron Age (700-400BC), significantly modified with massive ditches, but possibly of short duration in this monumental form.

**View of Dunning and Strathearn from the rampart excavations on the right.**

The 2015 excavations were on the west side of the hill where an earlier trench had suggested that the ramparts might not have been continuous, and, from the volunteer's impressions this year, this appears as if this was indeed the case. However, the sun shone and the digging was easy – a strange context of almost pure silty sand, which required constant manicuring and hopes for a shower to catch anything archaeologically visible

Features began to emerge on the upper hill; a stone wall meandering down the hill slope suggested a much later post – medieval dyke, but overlay a gravelled, small pebbled surface similar to some of the surfaces seen in 2009 on which the prehistoric ramparts appear to have been built.
Above this a ditch with evidence of burning along its upper bank.

All results and speculations await analysis as always – interest heightened by the recovery of a fragmentary metal bowl. Hopefully with lug handles, removed as a block for iderntification and dating.

**Dun Knock – view of vertical trench down the hillside.**

SERF weeks have also developed over the years with associated community and professional fun days, annual toy duck races down the Dunning Burn – and this year, a conceptual art installation in the old schoolyard with the videoed construction of a hillfort plan in coloured sand, the material industrially barrowed down the hill from the spoil heap single handed by Steve Driscoll.
Passers-by and skiving volunteers were then roped in to have their responses to this artwork recorded.

**Libby, Margaret, Wendy and Alison with a perfect section!**

The contribution of Messrs Marshall and Hearns (practiced skivers) to this baffling object were duly video recorded , and despite erudite references to van Gogh's ear and an inability to relate it to the plan of any hillfort either of us had seen around here, appears to have gone down well and we were assured will be available for viewing, with others contributions in either the Guggenheim in Barcelona or a Milngavie Art Club Show very soon.

**Old Schoolyard at Dunning :conceptual art installation,** **Gerry Hearns prior to his critical response.**

**Recording medieval mason marks:** Iain Ross Wallace.

Members have been assisting Ross Wallace, a colleague from GAS and the Field Certificate Course, with his Master's Project on recording mason marks from medieval, ecclesiastical and castle sites in the Clyde Valley, with surveys in progress in Paisley and Glasgow Cathedrals and Crookston Castle.

This has been an appealing and interesting activity for winter days – unless of course, he appoints you to the exterior walls – as one encounters not only the marks, but the surprising amount of other graffiti which has accumulated over the centuries and allows access to the parts of these buildings which are normally out of bounds to the public.

While the mason marks illuminate an extensive repertoire well recorded throughout medieval Europe, the graffiti are occasionally even more baffling, many appearing the intermittent calculations and fragments of the mason himself explaining a problem or plan for his own or colleague's enlightenment?

**Margaret King and Historic Scotland Master Mason, in clerestory of Glasgow Cathedral.**

**Graffiti (?) in the Chapter House.** **Mason's Mark immediately below above.**

**SCHARP Assessment Exercise: Clyde Marine Crannogs. 2015/2016.** Ian Marshall

At the AGM a call was passed to us from SCHARP (Scottish Coastal Heritage at Risk) for the assessments of three marine crannogs on the Clyde foreshore, which had not been assessed for some years – the well-known site of Dumbuck, the most westerly of the two crannogs at Langbank, and the 'ghost' crannog at Longhaugh Point, which has appeared and vanished in the literature for over a hundred years now.

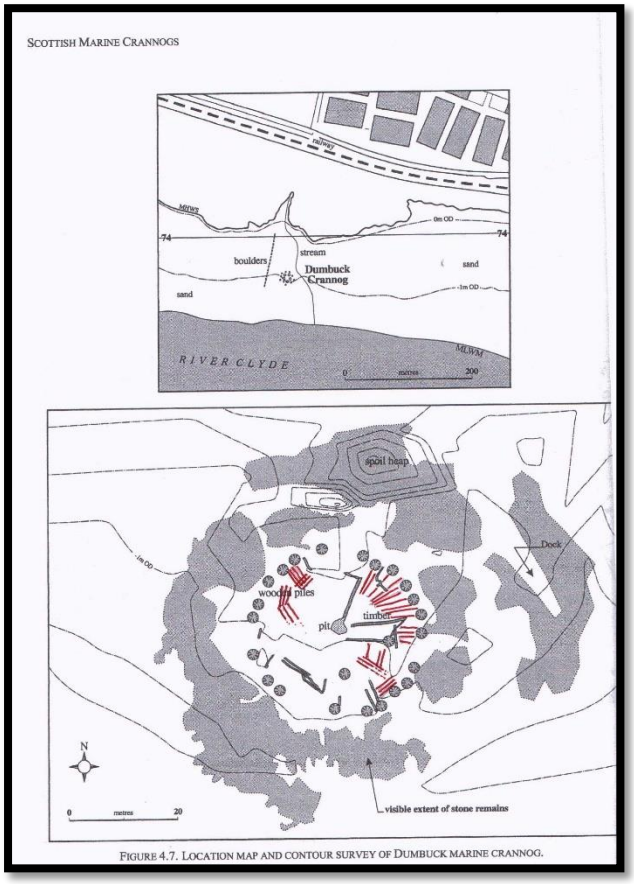
A team of volunteers visited Dumbuck on a brisk November day last year, including some who had last seen it 17 years previously when Alex Hale and Anna Crone had surveyed and cored some of the timbers for dates. This site is renowned of course for one of the most entertaining controversies in Scottish antiquarian history, with the clear 'salting' of the artefacts by 'strange things' and the search for suspects associated with the site.

William Donnelly at the rail bridge access to foreshore 1902.

ACFA team at same site 2015.

The site still has a remarkable amount of timber still exposed, indeed to some from the earlier survey, even more than seen in the previous assessment (see estimate image below) which may indicate a continued erosion of the site, but the dynamic nature of these sites urge caution in a simple interpretation. Certainly Donnelly's plans show three layers of flooring, the upper and lower of radial timbers and, as seen below, currently only a layer of the central circular platform, overlying the lower radial timbers appears to have survived.

Image from south east circuit with the timbers of the circular platform overlying a layer of radial timbers.




Plan of Dumbuck Crannog, 1998 and in 2015.

Alex Hale's plan of the 1998 survey with the ACFA estimate of areas of visible timber and orientation in 2015.

What is indisputable about Dumbuck – and at the site at Erskine across the river is the substantial timber remains which are still extant at these sites – you suspect that if these sites had the attention and publicity attached to celebrated wet land sites such as Flag Fen or on the Somerset Levels then they would have a much greater public profile than they have – but then the conundrum. Perhaps their relative obscurity and their daily immersion has been more of a protection – and what kind of display or public presentation is possible without destroying the sites completely?

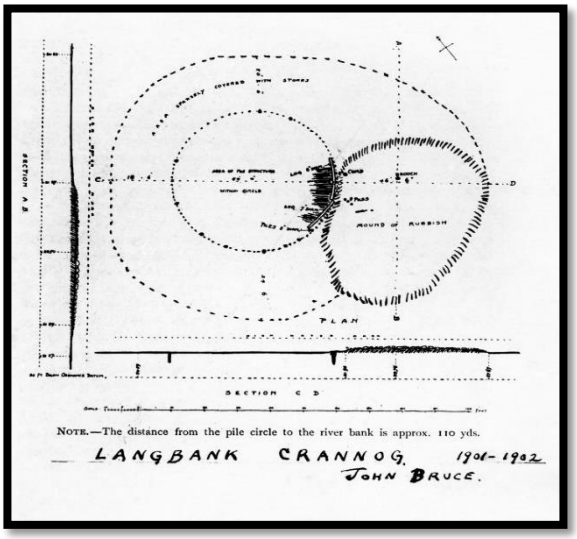
The second site assessed has been that of Langbank West – in February this year, two teams were out to assess both Langbank West (as requested by SCHARP) and with Langbank East thrown in gratis by ACFA.

At Langbank West, the low but extensive mound remains largely as surveyed by Alex Hale in 1998, although only one of the three small perimeter posts he recorded was found in 2015.

The question which arises is whether this is the site which Bruce excavated in 1901 – 02, where, as can be seen in his plans, a fair amount of timber decking was exposed in the east circuit, of which absolutely nothing can be detected at the present day – and how this relates to the placing of this site at Longhaugh Point in some records today. The simple answer to this is that this is the site, noting that he recorded it as being visible from the rail line, which Longhaugh Point is certainly not

The former peninsula on which Langbank West formerly stood has been drastically modified by the construction of the M80 with consequent dynamic tidal silt changes in its vicinity.

At Langbank East, the 2015 survey confirmed the 1998 survey, including the enigmatic and possibly unrelated post and stone alignments which relate it to the shoreline.
The assessment, however, was enlivened by Libby's discovery on the surface of the site of a small loom or fisherman's weight almost as soon as we arrived




John Bruce's plan of Langbank Crannog 1901 - 1902.

The assessment of Longhaugh Point, which is on quite a remote area of the foreshore and of the Erskine Crannog is planned for a window to get tide, volunteers and weather together.

Langbank East Crannog with small loom or fish line weight ?

While researching the crannogs for his own interests, we are grateful to Willie Dougan for the following contribution on the impending impact of the Draft Proposals from the European Archaeological Site Safety (Field Survey Sub-Committee), Maastricht Area 14 Cultural Cognitive and Ethical Issues (Reference Historic Environment Scotland sub – committee Minutes 12/12/2015 p.213 - 256).

*The European Commission draws member's attention to several incidents throughout the Community which require the issue of authoritative guide lines (to be supported by agreed legal parameters from verbal warning and scales of fines to criminal prosecution for repeat offenders).*

*These recent disturbing incidents formed the basis for the proposals:*

*In 2013, in Romania, a number of archaeologists surveying Roman limes in NE Transylvania came under fire by local hunters who thought they were large deer, (although subsequent police investigations suggested they were actually hunting bears to extract paws for the Chinese medicinal market or that they thought they were migrants trying to find an alternative route to Germany).*

***Proposal:*** *All persons on field survey must wear high Vis jackets with the word ARCHAEOLOGIST printed on it.in both national and minority languages (cf. memo HES Scotland sub – committee 12/12/15 memo14 p 234: investigate Gaelic, Lallans and Anglo – Saxon lexicons for respective words for "archaeologist" ).*

***Proposal: Drones and Field Survey****: Any drone flying above 20m must have a direct link to the local Air Traffic Centre (ATC). This references to ground level and so even if the drone is flying below 20m in the air, this must be correlated to any ground levels above 20m and below the contour line and incorporating the depth of any excavated sections (see clarifications in Site Excavation Safety section p 312).*

*HES memo, meeting 12/02//16, memo18 p 129: Re: "…reports of groups of people seen recklessly walking on the Clyde Foreshore have been received.*
*Consider mandatory licensing and wearing of wet suits, Coast Guard assistant surveillance, and standby Zodiac boats at both low and high tides for any such activity"*
*To be considered urgently at proposed March meeting, as probable European Directive Enforcement Date to be actioned April 2016.*

*Willie Dougan.*

And thank you Willie.

## Ludovick McLellan Mann and the Cochno Stone.

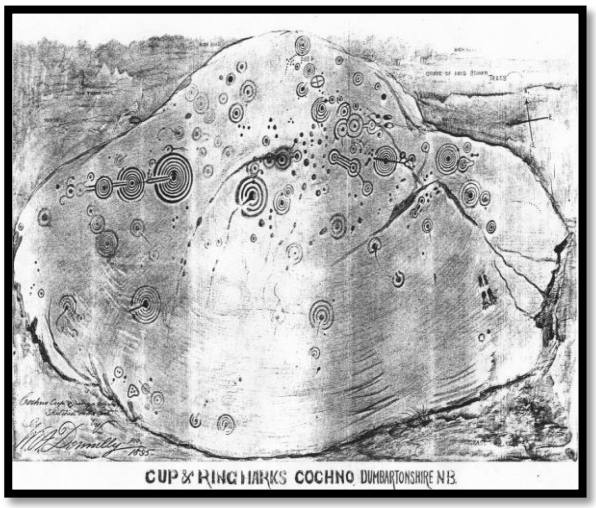
**Site of the Cochno Stone 2015.**

As some of you may have heard, a small exploratory trench was authorised in September 2015, in order to assess the condition of the famous Cochno Stone at Whitehill above Faifley. It was opened by students and post – grads from the University Archaeological Department, to assess the state of the stone, with a hopeful intent to 3D scan the surface with a view to creating a cast for erection at the site.

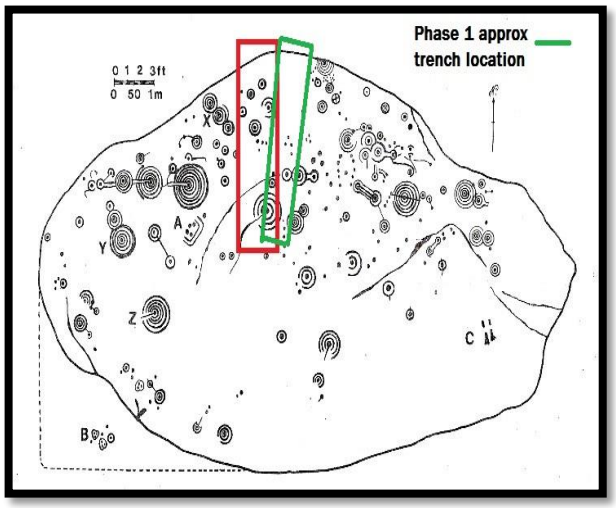
This site was discovered by the Reverend Patrick Harvey in 1885, the biggest and most impressive of 17 Rock Art panels ever recorded around Glasgow. It was discussed by our

crannog man, John Bruce in a PSAS report of 1896 with a plan by William Donnelly, and again by Ludovick Mann, when he infamously painted in the designs with white paint, previous to a GAS excursion he conducted there in 1937.
Oh dear – what a lot that society has to answer for!

In 1964, the site was buried under a metre of earth to protect it from the ceaseless vandalism which ran for years from "..a town nearby". Clearly Edinburgh.




As drawn by W A Donnelly in 1896.




Approximate area of trench I 2015.

The best report on this 2015 excavation is available at www.theurbanprehistorian.com a blog on the Cochno Stone excavations, with a scholarly and full report on its history from which these images are taken.

Janie came across this wonderful example of Mann's 'lunatik' theories for our delectation.

**Total Eclipse of the Rock Art** **Janie Munro**

Many a happy hour has been spent speculating on the function and interpretation of cup and ring marks, but none of our theories have been expressed with quite the confidence and certainty of an amateur archaeologist from Glasgow I discovered. Whilst doing some research in Giffnock Library I came across a transcript of an article from a 1930 issue of the Glasgow Herald on the subject of cup and ring marks. The author was Ludovic MacLellan Mann who held somewhat eccentric opinions none of which had stopped him from becoming President of Glasgow Archaeological Society in the year of the article's publication.

***Reading the Markings***

*A cup-marked surface furnishes the index-marks of invisible geometric dials or clock-face. The markings, indicating certain days, hours and years usually take the form of small cup-like hollows.*

*To read the markings we must first find the centre of the scheme, and then restore the framework of the dials and the position of their 'clock hands'. Each long cycle checks the reading given by the others. They involve the periodicities of sun, moon, modes, and five planets.*

*The Langside and Cleuch stones commemorate chiefly – one and the same event – an eclipse of the sun seen in Glasgow district in the year 2983BC, at three o'clock in the afternoon of the sixth day after the spring equinox (March 27th in our modern reckoning).*

His obituary in the Glasgow Herald when he died in 1955 at the age of 86 noted that Scottish archaeology had lost one of its most colourful personalities, mentioning among his many and varied interests his role in retrieving and re-creating Celtic designs for war memorials, before regretting “that the powers of mind which he brought to bear on the problems of the bronze age should have been less factually evident in his later work”, criticising his failure to produce formal reports of his many excavations. Despite being described as “a man of magnetic personality, of amazing and prolonged vigour…” it concludes with “Mr Mann was unmarried.”


Presentation of the Quaich for best photograph for 2016 to Janie Munro from Chairman Dugie McInnes.

Next issue, we hope to have copy on the results of the April survey on Tiree, on the McFarlane Project in Arrocher Parish with Northlight and reports on the February bash - with Lionel’s splendid lecture on the Archaeology of Polynesia, and which was preceded by an almost more exciting event - the Great ACFA Lift Rescue

We hope to include some personal interviews with the survivors “… the escape hatch was quite small but nae bother and sclimming up the wire shaft a doddle – just like the parallel bars in the school gym…” (80 year old pensioner).

“..Unparalleled coolness and courage of the first order …” (Glasgow Senior Fire Master).

Plus a recent archival discovery of the submitted suggestions for ACFA’s logo by the members in 1987 – mind- blowing!

Richard Anderson and Ian Marshall 2016.