



NEWSLETTER 31



www.acfabaseline.org

August 2011

ACFA members have been very active over the last year and this edition of the newsletter contains a selection of what we've been doing, including information about some of our surveys for those of you who didn't manage to get along to the AGM last autumn. And of course the latest on the CFA course's fortunes from Sue Hothersall, our chair. It seems contradictory that in a time when community archaeology is so popular, as seen by Ewen and Carol's article, the certificate course should have been threatened.

Janie Munro, ACFA secretary, has given us some information about ACFA strategy discussions which will prepare you for the topic in the AGM. Please read and make your mind up what you think.

And we hope some kind person will respond to the appeal for another field trip. It's a good way to keep the society healthy and lively while recovering from a survey.

Lastly, don't forget the photo competition!

WR

Consultation or 'insultation.' The 'cuts' at Glasgow University and the future of the Certificate in Field Archaeology.

From ACFA's Chair.

For many of ACFA's members, taking the Certificate in Field Archaeology course was a life-changing event. Subsequent membership of ACFA has transformed our leisure-time activities, reading habits, social life and even – for some – marital status! So when, in early 2010, the possible impact of funding cuts began to be discussed, and we heard rumours that Glasgow University's future involvement in archaeology was in doubt, there was a serious sense of alarm.

The first threat was directed at GUARD, the University's commercial archaeology unit, which in recent years has provided most of the teaching for the (now 2-year) Certificate course. In April

2010, Jim Walker, President of Glasgow Archaeological Society, wrote a letter to express the Society's concern over the potential disbanding of GUARD; but by the end of the year it was confirmed that GUARD had indeed ceased to be. Formal notice of this was publicised by Archaeology Scotland on 1st February 2011.

Meanwhile ACFA's Committee had heard of concerns over the future of the Certificate in Field Archaeology, as the Department of Adult and Continuing Education (DACE) was incorporated into the School of Education and the status of its staff became increasingly uncertain. Janie Munro and I visited the current Certificate class in November 2010 to tell them about ACFA and to encourage them to join in our activities. At that time Alan Leslie assured us that the Certificate course was completely secure and that there were no plans (despite rumours to the contrary) to cut short the current, 2010-2011, course. Earlier that month, at the ACFA AGM, Lionel Masters had spoken about the threat to GUARD and his concerns about the future of DACE, and the members present had resolved to support the present course 'in any way possible'.

In February this year the Committee's attention was drawn to a paper produced by University staff working on the Adult Education Open Programme (day and evening classes). Entitled 'Adult Education in the University under threat?', it pointed out that the Senior Management Group of the University was to ask Court 'to investigate whether adult education should continue to have a place in the University'. Suddenly we became aware just how radical the effects of the 'cuts' might be, raising the possibility that whole areas of teaching might disappear. Not just adult education, but languages, Slavonic studies and nursing faced the axe, along with the Liberal Arts programme at the Dumfries campus and the Drug Misuse Research Centre. It was also proposed that the Archaeology Department be merged with History and/or Classics.

Equally shocking was the news that Alan Leslie and Gavin McGregor had been, in Alan's words, 'unceremoniously flung out of the University'. As part of their severance agreements, they were now disbarred from any teaching role in Glasgow University for a number of years; since they had been key figures in the delivery of the CFA course it was difficult to see how that course could now continue.

The Open Programme staff paper urged people to write to the Principal, Anton Muscatelli and to Anne Henderson, Head of College of Social Sciences, to protest against the proposed cuts and to explain 'how adult education has benefited you'. On 11th February your Committee wrote to the Principal to support the Open Programme of adult education, and in particular the Certificate in Field Archaeology.

We invited Alan and Gavin to the ACFA 'bash' on 26th February, and although they were unable to attend, we had a very lively discussion, several members speaking passionately about the need to defend the Certificate course, adult education and humanities education generally.

A torrent of correspondence and discussion was now underway. By 22nd February DACE had received 950 letters of support, and was providing up-to-date news on their website; students also set up a Facebook page. As the University's formal consultation drew nearer, DACE supporters were urged to contact their MSPs and to urge a debate in the Scottish Parliament. Glasgow Archaeological Society also wrote to the University expressing their concern over the possible closure of DACE. In March there were several student protest marches as the consultations began. The ACFA Committee spent some days, following a special meeting on 17th March, putting together our submission to the consultation, and we also contacted Archaeology Scotland, Historic Scotland, The Royal Commission, the Society of Antiquaries and our old friend Derek Alexander at the National Trust for Scotland, to drum up support for the Certificate course (and by implication the future of ACFA). Lionel Masters wrote an excellent letter, as did Eila McQueen of Archaeology Scotland – her text was included in ACFA's May Newsletter. Our submission to the consultation panel was sent on 31st May. With their knowledge of University affairs, Fred Hay and Ewen Smith were extremely helpful to us in shaping the ACFA submission and in keeping us in touch with

events. Fred attended a consultation meeting in respect of DACE on 23rd March, and Ewen was at a student meeting on the 24th. By this time DACE had received over 1500 messages of support, and it was clear that the University was taken aback by the level of protest.

Then, in late March, the Education Minister Mike Russell intervened and demanded that the University halt any plans for cuts until after the Scottish parliamentary election in May.

And then things went quiet. Following the election the consultation resumed, but there was little news about the deliberations.

The next we heard was on 23rd June, when the *Herald's* front page announced 'Fury as University goes ahead with course cuts: Ruling Court ignores campaign to save studies'. The Drug Misuse Research Centre, Slavonic studies, the Dumfries Liberal Arts programme, and social work courses were all to go. And 'grant support for the Open Programme' would be phased out, resulting in 'some evening and weekend courses' being 'scaled back'. Sandra White, SNP MSP for Glasgow Kelvin, while conceding that the University had taken note of some of the concerns raised, called the decision 'a serious step backwards'.

Where does this leave archaeology at Glasgow, and the Certificate course in particular? It is difficult to form a clear picture. On the one hand, GUARD is no more, and the University Department of Archaeology is smaller than before. On the other, it is instructive to see Sally Foster's reaction, circulated by Archaeology Scotland on 17th July:

'... the news for Archaeology is extremely positive...The University will not withdraw from, or combine, provision in [Archaeology and History]'.

She recommends looking at the Archaeology Department's (very glossy) Subject Response to the University's consultation on

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/archaeology/newslinks/archaeologyconsultation/>

and concludes that 'the end result is that Archaeology in Glasgow is in a much stronger position now than before the consultation took place'.

We also have signs, via an email to our Secretary Janie Munro, that DACE is alive and (at least reasonably) well. On 27th June, Angela McDonald of DACE, who was 'finalising the text of our [DACE's] coming session's brochure, asked Janie's permission to use a quotation from her letter to the University:

'I can honestly say that DACE changed my life...DACE was the only avenue open to me to pursue my interest in archaeology, gaining knowledge and practical experience which has allowed me to become...an amateur archaeologist operating at a professional level.'

Angela told her that DACE wants 'to acknowledge our students' wonderful contribution [to saving DACE]', and confirmed that the Certificate in Field Archaeology had been in danger of being discontinued. She added 'We're hoping that we can use all the testimonies of those who've taken the course...to keep it running. It's looking quite positive for the moment, I'm glad to say!'

Needless to say, Janie was delighted to give her permission. In her response, Angela said: 'I'll keep you informed about the future of the CFA. We're in a much stronger position to campaign for its survival now. It's been a flagship Certificate for us, and no one here wants to see it end.'

And finally...(at the time of writing) tucked away on the University's Department of Adult Education webpage, under the heading 'Certificate of Higher Education', you will find mention of the Certificate in Field Archaeology. 'This is a two-year programme...It is *hoped* (my italics) that a new cohort will embark

on the programme in September 2012.’ Full details of the course are given, together with the costs, ‘in the region of £700 for the 2012-2013 academic session’ (ouch!)

So it seems that pressure and protest does work, sometimes. Let’s see how it goes.

Sue Hothersall

From the Committee

The way forward – the discussion begins.

Over the last year or so it has become obvious that the climate for archaeology in Scotland has changed. Development archaeology has been badly hit by the economic downturn and universities have reassessed their priorities. The world that ACFA came into has disappeared and in order to survive, let alone prosper, ACFA will need to adapt.

A strategy document has been prepared posing a number of questions which the committee will engage with at their September meeting. The aim is to produce a set of proposals to bring to the membership at the AGM on November 12.

Among the points to be considered are the consequences of Glasgow University’s review of DACE, the possible broadening of the membership, the potential of community archaeology involvement for ACFA’s activities and funding, and how ACFA can make its work more accessible.

The results of the committee’s deliberations will be circulated to members before the AGM to allow members to bring their varied and considered opinions to the meeting.

Janie C. Munro, Hon. Secretary

A New Project – Call for Volunteers

Abbey Craig, Stirling

ACFA members have been invited to take part in a new project headed by Murray Cook at Abbey Craig, Stirling. Abbey Craig is the hill on which the Wallace Monument stands and is also the site of an Early Medieval hillfort. Murray is proposing a management survey of the hillfort, a walkover survey of the hill, test-pitting and metal detecting on the slopes of the hillfort. The project will run initially between the 16th and 19th of September. If you would like to take part and haven’t already expressed an interest let us know by email to acfacommittee@gmail.com or by post to :- ACFA Secretary, 12, Struan Gardens, Glasgow G44 3BW.

Archaeology Scotland Promotion

Archaeology Scotland is doing a new member promotion at the moment which involves half bottles of Glen Morangie and Border Biscuits. Anyone who is not yet a member, and is interested (!) should look at their website – <http://www.scottisharchaeology.org.uk/> for details.

Mamore AA Battery, Argyll & Bute



In February a small survey was done of the site of a Second World War AA Battery on the Rosneath Peninsula across the Gareloch from Faslane Naval Base. It is on Ministry of Defence land which is being developed into a nature reserve by the MOD and local volunteers. We were asked to survey the very slight remains still visible.

This idea appealed to that section of ACFA members interested in battlefields and was rendered doubly attractive by the fact that there was not a shieling in sight!

The battery in wartime consisted of a gun battery, a radar ramp and a range of accommodation and stores huts. We searched in vain for the gun battery and radar ramp, crawling through rather boggy undergrowth, but much of the ground had been disturbed by the construction of the access road to Coulport. The concrete bases of the huts were visible and form the only drawings we have. We can fill in the picture from 1945 aerial photographs and published articles.

Ann Bray

Eaglesham Survey- The ‘Orry’

The common ground in the village of Eaglesham is known as the ‘Orry’. Janie Munro and I walked the area during the winter of 2010 and spring of 2011. We were able to trace some of the features on the *First Edition O.S. Map of 1856* including some of the very ruinous remains of the Orry Cotton Mill, originally built sometime between 1791 and 1796 but burnt down by 1876 and never rebuilt. The mill was built centrally within the ‘Orry’ and into the northern side of Moat Hill. A past writer wrote of Moat Hill that ‘a seat was placed on the flat top of the hill and it was here that sometimes a preacher would conduct an open-air sermon and gather a crowd around him. Guests at local weddings would celebrate by dancing on the Moat Hill’. Today the area of the Orry Cotton Mill remains can be seen as a hollow covered from spring to autumn with a dense array of trees, shrubs, high grass, nettles etc. To the east, dividing the ‘Orry’ is Mid Road which conceals two culverts, the northern one being the tailrace from the water wheel. The largest of these was 45 feet in diameter. The wheel pit is one of the best surviving features of the mill. The other culvert allowed the Eaglesham Burn to flow naturally under the Orry Cotton Mill especially when the water was not being diverted to the mill further upstream. These culverts were stepped to allow the water to flow freely.

An earlier cotton mill once stood to the southwest of the ‘Orry’ and north from the Picketlaw Reservoir which also serviced the Orry Cotton Mill. On the *First Edition O.S. Map of 1856* a corn and barley mill is shown at the eastern end of the ‘Orry’ together with a related dam and lade. These had disappeared by the *Second Edition O.S. Map of 1895* and only the area of the dam can be detected now. The area of the upper dam can also be seen together with the sluice. Unfortunately

the lade above the dam to the Orry Mill was demolished by the Council when enlarging a footpath in the 1990.

The Orry Cotton Mill survey team consisted of Janie, Ian and me. We chose great weather for the start of the survey. No sooner had we put out



the base line on the northern side of the mill remains when the sleet started, but in true ACFA style, sleet was not about to stop a survey. We had to carry out the survey at the beginning of the year before the undergrowth started to regenerate so time

was of the essence. The second day of survey commenced with wondering where to put the base line in order that the poles could be seen between the trees. We knew where we wanted to go so, with the aid of secateurs and a hand saw we cut a way through the undergrowth and had a base line covering the western end of the mill remains. Thank goodness the locals did not see what we were up to. The third, fourth and fifth base lines followed the same procedure hacking through the undergrowth. Ian was the person in charge of the drawing board and he did a fantastic job as after the first two base lines he had to do the drawings from difficult angles off the original base line.

Once the mill remains were drawn the next job was the Moat Hill. This was done by EDM survey the week after the mill's survey. We were expecting a clear run at this, but when we got to the 'Orry' we found that spring was definitely upon us and the trees on the hill had suddenly blossomed with their new leaves. Not deterred we managed with difficulty to get this feature surveyed.

The 'Orry' survey is now finished with just the final stages of writing up to be completed.

Susan Hunter

Bute – a different kind of survey

The small island of Bute has seen a lot of archaeological activity in the past three years. A complete record revision by RCAHMS staff, a Scotland's Rural Past project (building on earlier deserted settlement survey work by the Bute Natural History Society), three community excavations, geophysical surveys, environmental, flint-knapping and pottery workshops, a Scottish Society for Northern Studies conference, and visits by a number of specialists. All of these events, co-ordinated by Paul Duffy, have been part of an archaeological research programme, which itself is part of a 4-year project, the Discover Bute Landscape Partnership Scheme. (www.discoverbute.com) Living on Bute myself, I was keen to see if ACFA could contribute to the archaeological work; as the Raasay survey was drawing to a close, it seemed a good opportunity for us to use our island expertise on a closer, rather less rugged target.

Paul's suggestion was that we should record the archaeology of the island's coastal strip. There is plenty of substantial archaeology along the coast, notably small forts (including the justly-famous site of Dunagoil) and early Christian chapel sites, but there are also less well-noted features: small



harbours, jetties, boat noosts and landing-places for boats, fish-traps (often elusive!), cultivation traces, slight remains of old settlements, lime-kilns, caves and wartime defences. Even when these are known, they have generally not been planned or



photographed. The geology of the island, with a conspicuous raised beach and fossil cliff along much of the coastline, allows this coastal strip to be easily defined and (relatively) easily walked.

In late 2009 we began work on the first stretch of the shore, tackling the lesser-known features of a very rich archaeological landscape around Scalpsie Bay. In March 2010 we had a large party out for a long weekend, and covered a great range of territory and monument types, from a large fish-curing house to a promontory fort. Numerous smaller sorties filled the gaps in the record for a length of coast from Ettrick Bay in the north to Stravannan Bay in the south. It is an essential element of the Landscape Partnership work that we involve local people as far as possible, and so members of the Buteshire Natural History Society and other interested individuals are always invited to come along. The local knowledge of people and places has been invaluable in both the survey work and subsequent report writing.

By late 2010 a report was largely complete, and we were fortunate that RCAHMS staff, on a return visit to the island, took an interest in it. George Geddes proofread the draft and made helpful criticisms. He also suggested some ways in which future ACFA reports could be more readily exploited by the Commission and other users. Paul Duffy was impressed enough to make some additional funding available (beyond the financial support he had already provided) so that the report could have colour photographs throughout and a higher standard of binding and production than we can generally aspire to. It was finally published in March 2011.

Year 2 of the survey aims to cover the south end of the island, from Stravannan Bay on the west coast, going round the southern coast and ending at Kilchattan Bay on the east side. The first major



The coastline south of Dunagoil

feature is Dunstrone fort, a small dun on a steep rocky knoll, with an extensive system of fields and enclosures (of unknown date) at its base. A plan to produce an EDM survey of this largely unrecorded site – as a training exercise for ACFA and local



Glencallum Bay

people – ran into problems of finding a suitable date, and later into bracken; but it may be possible to do this next spring. For domestic reasons I had to abandon work on the current survey for some time this spring and summer, but things are now back on course. There is less archaeology than in the previous area; the most conspicuous site is that of Dunagoil and Little Dunagoil, which have received plenty of attention in recent years and do not need us, but there are other features, including the traces of a former ferry service to Arran, nearby. Much of the southern coastline is rocky and seems to have little trace of activity, but my preliminary fieldwalking confirms that there are walls, areas of cultivation and landing-places to record. And then, at Glencallum Bay, there is an old inn, a Bronze Age cairn or two and a lighthouse.

Do come and take part in this survey. There is quite a bit of walking involved (but not by Raasay standards!), the views are spectacular and the weather is usually kind. We have funding for this year and probably a further tranche for another section next year.

You can reach me on 01700 503835, mobile 07717744345 or email s_hothersall@yahoo.com

Sue Hothersall

Mains of Gask Clava Cairn



Over the last year my son and his wife had been busy converting the barns and stores of their house near Inverness into self-catering properties and in the spring of this year they opened for business. In one of their fields is a ring cairn of the Clava type – Mains of Gask. I decided that I would try to put together information about the cairn to make it a feature of interest for the guests so, in April, the Woods and the Macdonalds duly went north to test out the facilities at the self-catering units and to survey the cairn. The

weather was fairly kind to us (i.e. it didn't rain ALL the time and it was quite sunny some of the time) and, ably assisted by 2 small children and a pair of inquisitive ponies, Scott drew up the cairn at 1:100 in fairly short order. We allowed ourselves time to go and visit the eponymous Clava cairns and regret that 'antiquarians' in the 19th century had felt the urge to explore Mains of Gask, thereby howking out chunks of the interior, finding nothing of interest and leaving it so disturbed that the inner kerb can no longer really be traced.

The Mains of Gask cairn is the largest of the Clava-type ring cairns, measuring over 30m in diameter overall, and has had an outer ring of (probably) 9 standing stones. The tallest standing stone is, in common with most of the Clava cairns, at the SW and is an enormous slab of dark red sandstone 3.30m high but slightly less than 0.25m thick. At some time in the 19th century a field dyke has been built along the edge of the field very close to the large monolith and probably constructed mainly of material from the cairn ring and the surrounding platform. As a result the platform can only be traced as a low rise under the turf and the ring is now little more than 1m above the surrounding platform and all covered in turf.



Professor Richard Bradley excavated the cairns at Balnuaran of Clava and also did extensive field research into the rest of the cairns in the type, looking at their positions in the landscape and their composition. He has studied the Balnuaran cairns closely, looking at the geology of the stones used and the way in which they have been placed in the structures. He concludes that the laying out of the stones has not been random but the standing stones and those of the outer kerb and the inner kerb have all been carefully positioned in a way which presumably meant something to the cairn builders. Bradley also considers that the smaller material in the rings was placed to reflect the colours of the larger stones. Geology is not my strong point (nor really that of any of the other three). The colour of some of the stones is obvious but many are covered with lichen and look pretty much to be grey to me! Norman Newton has kindly put me in touch with a couple of amateur geologists from Farr (the village in which Gask lies) who are coming up to meet me at the cairn and tell me what each stone is and what colour it would originally have been – watch this space! Unfortunately, as I have said, the ring material has been robbed and what remains is covered in turf. However, a walk along the field dyke reveals a very high concentration of dark red stone – similar to the largest monolith. If this is indeed material from the cairn the appearance must have originally been of a deeply glowing red monument with perhaps some stones with quartz and mica inclusions to add a bit of bling!

Cup marks are also a feature of Clava type cairns. In Victorian times one antiquarian saw dozens of cup-marks on the stones of the outer ring at Gask but it is now generally accepted that these ‘cup-marks’ are natural – except for 3 hollows on a red sandstone monolith, which is now lying flat in the grass at the north side of the ring. The stone is large, about 2m x 1.3m at the widest point, and it was not possible to turn it over to see if there were any cup marks on the other side.

Once I have done some more research and got the findings of the geologists, the research, along with Scott’s drawings and some photographs and descriptions, will come out as an ACFA Occasional Paper – hopefully before the end of the year

Anne Macdonald

Rona Survey –the story so far

I want to say the second Rona survey took place in brilliant sunshine in May this year, but it



Arriving

didn’t. Unfortunately the weather was against us and this year so were the midges. So I’m really proud to say we have finished the survey of Dry Harbour Township and it should be written up before the turn of the year. Only six of us made the trip though and we had to work very hard to get things done, fortified by good companionship, log fires and great food. Thanks Kath.

Ian Marshall advised us that EDMing Dry Harbour would be very difficult, especially in the winds we were experiencing, so thinking hats will have to go on to produce a plan of the settlement. Scott Wood is working on that, having already inked up our survey drawings. Thanks Scott.

We took a trip down to the other end of the island to start the next stage of the project, the little chapel. An Teampuill is a beautiful site, tantalising in the absence of documentary evidence and recorded as possibly mediaeval in Canmore. Ian came up trumps again, working at a beautiful set of elevation drawings, but unfortunately time ran out and we will need to go back to finish, to do it justice. No hardship in my mind, and maybe we can persuade someone with expert knowledge to accompany us to look it over. At the moment the trip is being planned for a few days in October, and this might also allow us to take a quick look at Doire na Guaile, the other main township at the south end, in preparation for a survey there next spring.

But this depends on ACFA's members wanting to support the survey. We will need 9 people to commit to one week filled with discussing (!) joking, eating, drinking (and some walking and drawing) in spring 2012. I hope you will think it's worthwhile.

Wendy Raine



Leaving

Scotland's Rural Past Conference-2011

The fourth and final Annual Conference of the Scotland's Rural Past project was held at the Birnam Arts Centre and Blair Castle in Perthshire over the weekend of 18 – 19th June. In attending we were meeting a variety of objectives including learning what the future for this project might hold, what we could learn for mutual benefit with ACFA, and hearing the final report from the High Morlaggan excavation on which some ACFA members participated. In addition, we heard more about HLF support opportunities and touched base, again, with Tom Dawson from SCAPE, to the benefit, hopefully, of our greater understanding of some structures on Rona.

The Conference was a considerable success, and was managed extremely well. Talks, posters and stalls were all hugely informative, with some aspects which ACFA might do well to copy. But with SRP funding now exhausted there was clearly, a valedictory feel to the event and some well-deserved congratulations. For example, the number of people who had participated in training exceeded by 300% the target set when applying to HLF for funding support. Similarly, the number of volunteers who engaged on the 65 projects exceeded that target by 600%. SRP has clearly mined a seam and with the demise of SRP, these people have few opportunities to continue their archaeology in a structured manner. Consequently they look like a resource which ACFA could, perhaps should, exploit for mutual benefit.

There is, however, an SRP legacy that may be of particular use to members in the shape of the video record of different field survey techniques; this may be found at www.rcahms.gov.uk/news/archaeology-by-video

Conference highlights included a key-note address by Richard Oram (Professor of Medieval and Environmental History at Stirling University), a copy of which can be made available to any interested members by contacting Ewen Smith (at EwenSmith14@gmail.com) We also learned of a

resource which ACFA, I believe, has not used before ... the Scottish Mountaineering Club has a fantastic photographic archive of early images.

Finally, the Conference also saw the launch of the new SRP publication, *Scotland's Rural Past: Community Archaeology in Action* (copies available for consultation from the committee). As well as outlining the history of SRP, it showcases the work of a large number of the volunteer projects. It will be a great pity if the inspiration and training provided by SRP to groups of enthusiasts not dissimilar to the ACFA membership is lost, the more so when ACFA's own long-term future may be under threat.

The guest speaker at the conference dinner was Fiona Hyslop, Scottish Parliament Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs. In a short presentation, she joined other speakers in marvelling at the extraordinary success of the SRP project, hoping that its influence would continue to encourage interest in Scottish heritage amongst the widest possible range of participants. She affirmed her belief that Scotland's most important feature is, and always has been, its people, hence the value of a project which increases our knowledge of how they lived in the past.

Ewen Smith, Carol Primrose

A Trip to the East – A GAS Field Trip

We set off on Saturday, 4th June to visit Loch Leven Castle and Culross on a cool and windy morning hoping for brighter weather in the East. We arrived in good time to be transported in small boats to the island in the middle of Loch Leven, complete with castle. Our guide was Mrs. Margaret Lumsdaine, President of the Marie Stuart Society. We were glad of the shelter provided by the retaining walls of the castle and tower house as it was still windy.

Mrs Lumsdaine gave an interesting talk about Mary Queen Of Scots and her stay on the island. She first visited Loch Leven as a guest of Sir William Douglas in 1561 when she was still Queen. However her last stay in 1567-1568 was as a prisoner of the same man. The Queen was forced to abdicate in favour of her infant son James VI. In May 1568 she escaped across the Loch and was on her way to Langside, defeat and exile in England.

After our boat trip back across the Loch a visit to the Bistro was very welcome, hot soup and sandwiches all round. On then to Culross, a well preserved burgh of the 17th & 18th Century in the care of National Trust of Scotland.

We were given a comprehensive tour of the Town House, Palace and the town itself by the NTS guides. This took about 1 hour. We were then free to investigate the Abbey which was reached by a walk through the town and up the hill. On the way some members were able to buy plants for their gardens, which pleased our gardening sub-section. The Abbey was well worth going to see with music in the background which turned out to be a band rehearsing for a concert in the evening.

A walk round the town looking at the distinctive architecture finished the day. It was time to board the bus back to Glasgow –a good day was had by all!

Helen Maxwell

Dates to remember

Photo Competition Closing date – 20th September 2011 Details on website

AGM 6pm Saturday, 12th November, 2011 – STUC Buildings, Glasgow

Glen Lochay Dates August to December 2011

These may be subject to change. Could you please let Dugie know by the Saturday night at the latest if you intend going out on a particular date. Meet at the Capercaillie Restaurant in Killin 9.30-10.00 am. All the dates are Sundays.

21st August, 4th September, 2nd October, 16th October, 30th October, 13th November, 27th November, 11th December.

September 16-18th - Great big Camping Expedition 3. We will be camping at Tirai fank again. The farmer usually takes us up and has offered to take all our gear back down, so no humphing of gear. Weather permitting.

Calling ACFA Members- Field trips and surveys

We haven't had a field trip since last September, and there's none in the pipeline. Please let the committee know if there's somewhere you'd like to go, or even better, if you'd like to organise one. You'd get support from the committee and it would be very welcomed by the membership.

And of course if you have an idea for a survey, no matter how small, please feel encouraged to get started. Contact the Committee if you are thinking of proceeding since there are many people who will be happy to advise if required. So, if you have come across an old farmstead or a kiln or a WW2 air raid shelter or any unusual feature in your walks, consider rallying a few of the members, drawing it up and writing a short report.

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



Back page photo : Glen Lochay team tea break. Photo by Dugie MacInnes

Title page photo : Cultivation remains, Skye. Photo by WR.

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