

## NEWSLETTER 34



[www.acfabaseline.info](http://www.acfabaseline.info)

May 2012

Where is the time going? Another newsletter already? Three months pass so quickly these days. This month we have a very erudite paper from Ian on crannogs to get you thinking and Ewen has been busy too. His description of the Skye survey will give those who were unfortunately unable to come, a flavour of what was a great week.

And at last after a lot of searching, there's a great place for our Anniversary field trip in October. Well done, everyone for finding somewhere so suitable.

The November edition of the newsletter is planned as an Anniversary Edition so any archival material, reminiscences, photographs, skeletons in cupboards, that you want to share can be sent to me for inclusion in Newsletter 36.

WR

### **February Bash - in brief**

Another good turn-out for the February dinner which was preceded by an update from Carol Primrose, ACFA Chair, about ongoing Committee discussions following up the strategy paper which was presented at the AGM. Heather James from Northlight Heritage then gave a talk on the work of Northlight which has been formed by a group of ex-GUARD staff. It is owned by York Archaeological Trust and more information can be obtained at <http://northlight-heritage.co.uk>. There may be scope for future collaboration between ACFA and Northlight in terms of advisory and /or technical services.

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Sue Bryson is in the process of compiling the class lists of all Certificate in Field Archaeology courses to date. Some of the later class lists are not complete so anyone who can help should contact Sue.

Time is wearing on with still no definite ideas for the ACFA anniversary trip this year. Views are sought regarding destination (even abroad!) and preferred length of trip. (This problem is solved – see below.)

\* \* \* \* \*

Dugie McInnes made a pitch for the attractions of surveying Glen Lochay and the ancient royal hunting forest of Mamorn, with some reminiscences of days of yore, including monumental base-lines at the original Tirai survey. Nothing quite on this scale is in the offing but there is the promise of sheepfanks, always a joy. A residential survey is arranged for Easter.

\* \* \* \* \*

Wendy Raine is gearing up for another foray to Rona in April 2013 and invited expressions of interest. Advanced planning is taking place for a survey of the northern township of Braigh.

\* \* \* \* \*

Anne Macdonald reported on a small survey of the Mains of Gask, a Clava ring cairn (38x42m approx). This scheduled site just happens to be conveniently situated in a field belonging to her son. There is public access to the site (though don't expect a cup of tea just because we know Anne).

\* \* \* \* \*

Ann Bray spoke about a small scale survey at Gare Loch and Loch Long prior to the creation of a Nature Reserve. The site had been a WW2 anti-aircraft installation. Anne highlighted the great benefits of having contemporary aerial photographs which showed the entire layout of the site at the time, as there is now virtually nothing left on the ground.

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Dorothy Gormlie announced that Coleen Batey is organising a conference in memory of Alex Morrison on Wednesday 2 May in the Gregory Building register. (For report on the day, see next issue 35).

EB

### **Catch Up On Crannogs**



Learg nan Lochan, Glen Lochay

We invite you to update your bedside reading with some recommended key articles to encourage quantitative (academic) easing and to really irritate your friends.

We've never found a crannog, you cry – well maybe not yet, but not for want of trying. Two 'probassible's' are on record – in Learg nan Lochan and the remote and fabulous 'Libby's Crannog', both somewhere in Upper Glen Lochay and west of Brigadoon – the truth is out there.

So now you know why Dugie keeps that set of thigh length waders in the corner of his 4x4 - not just to piggy his survey teams over the Lochay when he's worried it might be over the axles. It's for crannog wading.

I have not included some key texts on the Irish corpus which are essential in understanding the Scottish situation and point out interpretational and chronological difficulties in relating the two traditions.

### Pre – 1985 literature:

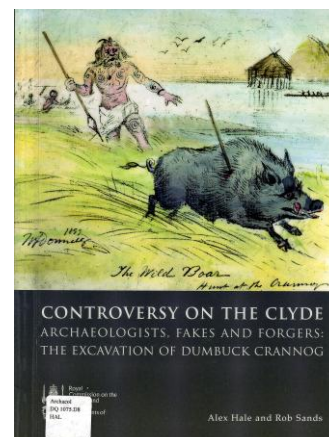
The following references are mostly for antiquarians, although for completeness, some may wish to start with the texts of the earliest workers :

- Munro Robert (1882) ***Ancient Scottish Lake Dwellings or Crannogs***: Edinburgh.  
(Available free E-read at [www.archive.org](http://www.archive.org) Put the article's title in the search box)
- Monteith, J et al (1937) '***The crannog at Lochend, Coatbridge***', Trans.Glasgow Arch. Soc. (1937) New Series Vol.9.
- Ritchie, J (1942) '***The Lake Dwelling or Crannog in Eaderloch, Loch Treig: its traditions and its construction***', PSAS Vol 76.
- Piggott C M (1955) '***Milton Loch crannog 1: A Native house of the 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD in Kirkcudbrightshire***' PSAS Vol 87.
- Fairhurst H (1969) '***A medieval island settlement in Loch Glashan, Argyll***' Glasgow Arch. J. Vol.1.
- Lang, A (1905) ***The Clyde Mystery, a Study in Forgeries and Folklore***: Glasgow. Freely available on line **\*Recommended**
- Bruce, J (1900) '***Notes on the discovery and exploration of a pile structure on the north bank of the River Clyde, east from Dumbarton Rock***' PSAS Vol. 34.
- Hale's 2000 article (see below) contains a full bibliography of earlier work.

A fuller and more balanced account, with many of William Donnelly's splendid watercolours, can be found in:

- Hale and Sands, A and R (2005) ***Controversy on the Clyde, Archaeologists, fakes and forgers: the excavation of the Dumbuck Crannog*** : RCAHMS Edinburgh.

This brief and accessible booklet brings the story up to date – gullible Victorian amateur archaeologists, willowy girls in seriously big bonnets, anonymous Irish navvies – 'Ned and John', and the mysterious local Chief Constable Charles McHardy, brought in to 'secure' the site but usually seen wandering and working at his favourite hobby - 'whittling'. Aha!



### Post 1985

Nineteen eighty five is the watershed for studying Scottish crannogs, with the publication of Ian Morrison's '***Landscape with Lake Dwellings***' which became the standard text for those of us on the 1980's CFA courses – and perhaps for some, the last book we read on crannogs?

- Morrison, I, (1985) ***Landscape with Lake Dwellings: the Crannogs of Scotland***. E.U.P. Accessible, readable and still relevant, it includes a review of the then patchy crannog research, theories of construction and, crucially, the first attempt to understand both the terrestrial and the lacustrine landscapes in which they appear.

Morrison was an avuncular, much loved and hirsute historical geographer and underwater diver.

He postulates that most crannogs were timber structures and attempts to explain the baffling stone capping which characterises so many of their underwater surfaces – these issues still remain highly contentious as a testimony to Morrison's recognition of the complex nature of the sites.

But it is his spatial analysis of relationships between the siting of structures and adjacent good agricultural land which was so influential.

**Verdict:** Interesting but now dated.

The field was then opened out by an American nautical archaeologist, Mark Holley.

- Mark W. Holley '**Loch Awe Crannog Survey 1999**' @ [www.crannogs.com](http://www.crannogs.com).
- Holley, Mark W (2000) **The Artificial Islets/Crannogs of the Central Inner Hebrides** *Brit Archaeol Report* : BAR Vol 303

His work from 1993 – 1997 addressed by both underwater and terrestrial survey the status of those many artificial and natural islets on the west with both timber and substantial elements. Are these crannogs and how do they relate to the loch varieties?

The core of this work was the survey of previously unexamined sites in Islay, Mull, Coll and Tiree - survey plans and extensive spatial analysis of basal areas, internal access, shape, distance from shores, water hydrography and lochbed geologies.

Heavy going for the casual reader but provides the only plans (actually too basic) and descriptions of sites for any visitor to these islands with a discussion about the relationship of the artificial islets of the west to the classic loch crannogs of the mainland and SW Scotland – still an open and controversial question in an area lacking serious study, excavation or modern dating.

These structures are of stone rather than timber with many sites on consolidated areas of lochbed or natural islets. Timber is restricted to causeways and Holley proposes a more defensive 'feel' at many sites. At Dun Anlaidh on Coll, a tilting sub-surface stone still managed to tip him three times into the loch and there is evidence of stone barriers flanking and blocking causeways at several sites.

Also he notes the 'rogue' sites – Loch Allellaidh/Islay and Loch Sgubain/Mull on high, environmentally harsh sites, which could hardly have been 'defended farmsteads'.

**Verdict:** Useful if you intend visiting the sites, but clearly a published PhD and poses more questions than answers.

Also of note :

- Armit, I., Campbell, E. & Dunwell, A.J. (2008) '**Excavations of an Iron Age, Early Historic and Medieval settlement...at Eilean Olabhat, North Uist** : PSAS Vol.138. Full publication of the Bhaltois peninsula work is still outstanding, volume 1 only available.
- Harding, D. ( 2000) '**Crannogs and Island Duns**' :Oxford J. Arch. Vol 19.3.

The late nineties also restarted work on the Lowland Crannogs after 40 years of neglect, with John Barber's and Anne Crone's surveys in the southwest.

- Barber JW and Crone, BA (1993) '**Crannogs: a diminishing resource? A survey of the crannogs of southwest Scotland and excavations at Buiston Crannog**' : Antiquity, Vol. 67.
- Crone, A (2000) '**The history of a Scottish Lowland Crannog: excavations at Buiston, Ayrshire 1989-90**' STAR monograph 4.



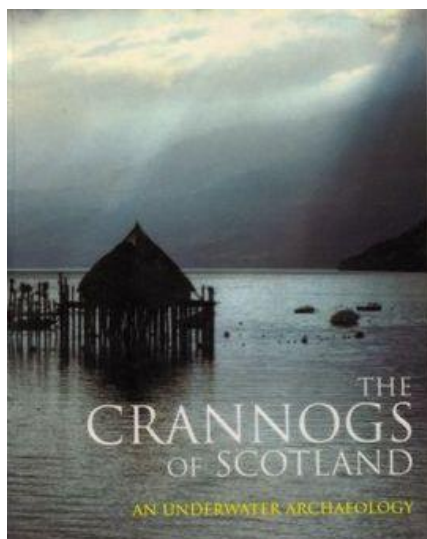
This work culminated in the important re-excavation at Buiston Crannog in Ayrshire and even more significantly, the introduction of dendro-dating allowing the identification of episodes of construction and reconstruction at sites – at a greater level of accuracy than ever before.

Field survey continued with Jon Henderson's work on the central Scottish crannogs at Lake of Menteith.

- Henderson, Jon C (1998) '**A Survey of crannogs in the Lake of Menteith, Stirlingshire**': PSAS Vol.128.

Nick Dixon's excavations at Oakbank Crannog near Fearnan on Loch Tay have been the springboard for Scottish crannog studies. Only interim reports are currently available. Indeed it seems to be intended that further excavation is still planned when funding becomes available, perhaps to answer the problems of the interpretation of constructional sequences which, despite the most rigorous archaeological underwater techniques deployed, remain contentious.

In the meantime, Nick Dixon's 2004 book still remains the most approachable as an introduction for the general reader.



- Dixon N. (2004) **The Crannogs of Scotland: An Underwater Archaeology** : Tempus

A thorough introduction and revue of crannog studies and sites up to 2004, from Munro's work at Buiston, Lochlee and Lochspouts (1882), to Mathew Shelley's Perthshire Survey of mostly medieval sites (2004).

There are also sections on the introduction of modern underwater techniques consequent on Ulrich Ruoff's revolutionary excavations at the Lake of Zurich in the 1960's and their continental development.

And naturally he included an extensive review of the Loch Tay survey and the revelatory but complex work at Oakbank, including the amazing recognition of individual woodworking 'signatures'.

**Verdict:** Slightly dated and biased towards the Central Scottish evidence – Alex Hale's work (see below) on marine crannogs was almost contemporary – but Dixon remains the one book for the Scottish scene if that's your limit for crannog interest.

In 2004 crannog studies took a quantum leap with the publication of Alex Hale's PhD work on marine crannogs.

- Hale A G C (2004) '**Scottish Marine Crannogs**' **Brit Archaeol Rep** : BAR Vol. 369

This work began in the estuary of the Beaulieu Firth with a resurvey of the three 'crannogs' known there and some excavation of the most accessible and least environmentally damaged at Redcastle.

This triggered an extensive programme of re-survey of other recorded estuarine examples from the Clyde to an interesting outlier at An Doirlean in the Sound of Eriska in Argyll.

The report offers a comprehensive review of work at these marine sites and is of particular relevance to any student of the Clyde Estuary, bringing together all the records of previous investigations from the notorious excavations at Dumbuck and Langbank to the 1985 survey of Erskine by Professor Bill Hanson and ACFA's John Macdonald.

**Verdict:** Essential and comprehensive introduction to a feature whose corpus and function(s) still remain somewhat of a mystery.

Also of note are:

- Hale A (2000) '**Marine crannogs: previous work and recent surveys**' : PSAS Vol. 130.2.
- Crone A. and Clark C. (2005) '**A programme for wetland archaeology in Scotland in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**' : PSAS Vol.135.
- Mowat R J C (1996) '**The logboats of Scotland, with notes on related artefact types**' Oxbow Monograph series, 68 (Oxford).

The most recent synthesis is by Graeme Cavers (Universities of Edinburgh and Nottingham) and currently Head of Survey and Geomatics with AOC Archaeology.

- Cavers G. (2010) '**Crannogs and Later Prehistoric Settlement in Western Scotland**' *Brit Archaeol Rep* : BAR Vol. 510.

Cavers and Anne Crone have been digging annually at the complex site of Cults Loch in the Machars since 2008, but this work is essentially his PhD publication.

This is the widest and most current review of the relationships between 'crannogs' and other types of contemporary settlements on the western seaboard, particularly in Argyll, Bute and SW Scotland.

It has illuminating discussions and images of how the distinctive appearance of the two main crannog types may have formed – the 'packwerk' mounds of brushwood, timber posts, peat and turf of the classic lake crannog (Buiston) and the distinctive 'stone and timber' Highland structures of the west (Ederline Boathouse).

*"The problematic issue is...for all the potential offered by organic preservation...it has never been absolutely clear what a 'crannog' actually looked like."*

He does not shirk the many complex problems which remain outstanding, such as why this relationship between people and water seems to have begun in the late Bronze Age, and then fluctuated continuously for the next two thousand years, with a powerful 'event horizon' flourishing in Scotland from 800 – 500BCE.

He also addresses the wider Atlantic European context of Iron Age occupation and, in particular the thorny question of the apparent confusion of Irish and Scottish chronologies – Irish lake settlement apparently disappearing at the LBA/IA frontier, just when it is proliferating in Scotland, and its then 'rebirth' as a hierarchical mix of royal sites (Lagore) and lower order sites (Craigwarren) in the Early Historic. This may be an example of the deliberate referencing of ancient monuments seen in the later first millennium as proposed by Professor Steve Driscoll. Is this a real 'black hole' or the result of insufficient critical investigation?

**Verdict:** Excellent and recommended – an essential update of the last 20 years of work, with all of the stimulating insights of youth.

For the latest updates on Cavers' exciting work at Cults in the Machars, see:

[www.aocarchaeology.com](http://www.aocarchaeology.com) for their web reports on the last three seasons,

[www.socantscot.org](http://www.socantscot.org) for its role in the Scotland's Wetlands Project of the RCAHMS

[www.dgleader.co.uk](http://www.dgleader.co.uk) for the work of the Cults Community Heritage Project.

Cults is also a site for anyone who is attracted to volunteer dig on a wetland site. Contact above.

## Conclusion

With about 370 confirmed sites in Scotland, 44 of which are reliably dated, and further inferential evidence from a further 60 sites, it would seem that a single definitive text comprehensively reviewing the current status of Atlantic maritime and lake sites would be available.

There is none - and even for Scotland this remains only an aspiration, where basic questions of taphonomy, chronological relationships and function remain unanswered, and the full publication of key sites is still outstanding or ongoing.

However, for the interested enquirer, I would recommend Nick Dixon, Alex Hale and Graeme Cavers texts as fundamental.

Ian Marshall

### **ACFA 25th Anniversary Trip**

October 6, 2012

The arrangements for the October Trip are well in hand. The itinerary will take us through Auchendrain, Achnabreck Cup and Ring Marks and Carnasserie Castle on the Saturday with lunch booked at the Kilmartin Inn.

We will be staying at Lunga House in twin rooms. Singles may not be available. Dinner will be a grand affair at the house.

On the Sunday, with Lionel to guide us, we will visit Kilmartin Valley.

The list of interested members is now full and regrettably only ACFA members can be accommodated.

There is an option to stay a second night at Lunga House.

**Could those people who expressed an interest in the trip please contact Sue Bryson ([s.bryson@ntlworld.com](mailto:s.bryson@ntlworld.com) or 0141 587 4675) to confirm their intent to join the trip as soon as possible.**

### **Adopt-a-Monument – Archaeology Scotland's Project**

August 2011 saw the re-launch of Archaeology Scotland's Adopt-a-Monument Scheme – a scheme which helps facilitate local communities who wish to play a leading role in conserving Scotland's Cultural Heritage. Funded for the next five years, this new AaM scheme will build on the experiences gained by Archaeology Scotland, who have run the programme for the last 20 years. Many archaeological sites and monuments across Scotland are in need of care but few have owners with the resources to make this happen. Equally, there are people who wish to step in to do something to help protect and interpret these monuments.

This new phase of AaM is centred on developing a 'ground-up' approach to projects – we focus

on increasing skills, understanding and confidence amongst participants, but all ideas regarding projects originate from the community. The new scheme is open to all, with no limits placed upon the choice of monument adopted - within the bounds of practicality and health and safety. The scheme reaches out to a large and diverse audience, and will also work with schools, informal education groups, charities and other heritage professionals.

We can help groups in a variety of ways – from training in archaeological fieldwork to assistance with funding applications for larger scale works. Despite the scheme only starting in August, we already have approximately 20 Adopt-a-Monument projects, with a further 40 projects on our waiting list. The projects currently being considered range from a chambered cairn in Ross and Cromarty, a souterrain on Skye and a castle in Argyll – there really is no limit to what communities can adopt!

One of our projects is based on Mull, and below is an account from the participants:



A recent survey workshop at Kilbride Kirkyard, near Oban.

‘Kildavie, an under-investigated ruined township on our doorstep, awoke interest in visiting archaeologists. It spurred the development of the 100+ member Mull Archaeology Interest Group. Kildavie has an atmosphere and challenges emanating from it, crying out to be researched. The enthusiasm of four local schools, three SWRI groups and many island visitors gives credence to exploration of this magical place’.

Bill Patterson, Suzanne Patterson & Kevin Luscombe – Comhlan Croag

Kildavie is just one of our projects, but by the end of the scheme we hope to have completed 40 Adopt-a-Monument projects, and 15 Outreach projects.

If you would like to learn more about the scheme, have a look at our website at [www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk](http://www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk) and if you have an idea for an Adopt-a-Monument project, contact the team on 08458723333 or at [adopt@archaeologyscotland.org.uk](mailto:adopt@archaeologyscotland.org.uk)

### **From ‘Digging up the Past’ by Sir Leonard Woolley.**

‘The prime duty of the field archaeologist is to collect and set in order material with not all of which he can deal at first hand. In no case will the last word be with him; and just because that is so his publication of material must be minutely detailed, so that from it others may draw not only corroboration of his views but fresh conclusions and more light....It is true that he may not possess any literary gifts, and that, therefore, the formal presentation of results to the public may be better made by others; but it is the field archaeologist who, directly or indirectly, has opened up for the general reader new chapters in the history of civilised man; and by recovering from the earth such documented relics of the past as strike the imagination through the eye, he makes real and modern what otherwise might seem a far-off tale.’

Sir Leonard Woolley **Digging up the Past**, Penguin Books, 1950

Sent in by Ann Bray



## On Finding a Neolithic Polished Stone Axehead on Knock Scalbert,

3<sup>rd</sup> November 2001

Gracing the scree-streaked hillside  
below the wind-scoured tumbled fort  
its definition sparkled elation  
and I cried to the dog I'd found an axe.

He too was charged with high emotion  
without the least of comprehension,  
and I held it to him, my hands the first  
in some four thousand years to nurse  
its concentrated weight, exquisite smoothness.

I wrapped and placed it in my bag  
watched by a skyline string of sheep  
like shaggy-coated tribesmen frozen  
somewhere between fear and consternation.

Angus Martin, Campbeltown

From *Paper Archipelagos and other poems* 2011: Private printing

Sent in by Susan Bryson

## Achnahannait, Skye, March 2012

Nineteenth of March 2012, ACFA and spring arrived in Skye, almost simultaneously. In fact, Spring was delayed by 24 hours to allow Winter a late, savage flourish. Not for the first time, therefore, our Association could fairly be represented as an harbinger of better times.

There were 24 participants (plus dogs, albeit not even Associate members of ACFA, yet), staying in accommodation ranging from hotel (Sligachan), through self-catering, and all the way up to camper van. The objective of our combined exercise was to complete a survey of a site known, variously, as Achnahannait or Ach-a-na-Hannait (or Field of the Mother Church, we were reliably informed) Grid Ref. NG 510 380. The work had been prompted by Rebecca MacKay known from the days of the Raasay survey, and her encouragement had been taken up by Macdonalds and Woods aplenty. Specifically, John Macdonald became Survey Director, and he was quickly in touch with a local enthusiast, Graham Ross, a crofter keen to learn as much about the history of the site as possible.

An appropriate survey methodology was adopted. The area was divided into its eight crofts, and three areas of common pasture, and the first six crofts were each allocated a survey team of three. As a croft was finally recorded, teams and individuals could move on to the five unallocated areas. Meantime, a final team of four was responsible for conducting an EDM of the entire site.

Outcome? Well, the weather held sufficiently to allow the site work to be completed very satisfactorily. The enthusiasm of participants and, of course, the close proximity to the road, also contributed significantly to the successful completion of our work. However, perhaps the most telling contribution was made by John and Anne Macdonald, and Scott and Anne Wood, in the preparatory work undertaken; this allowed a speedy start to the work, with all participants knowing from the start to which crofts they had been allocated, and the team members with whom they would be working. No excuses, therefore, and none needed.

Of course, there will be a full and detailed report to follow, but sufficient here to note that, in addition to the structures one would expect to find on croft lands, also recorded were boat noosts on the shoreline, a Bronze Age cist, and a cuddy pound ... this last is perhaps a little prosaic, but it is included here both because I like the sound of it, and as an example of the value of local knowledge in identifying features on the ground. In the process of recording, drawing and photographing one feature, the croft owner, Norman Bruce, approached us and advised that he himself had built it, for his donkey. One less use of “possible” as a pre-fix in the final list of structures. (Image attached, without cheap comment.



**Cuddy pound or donkey shed on croft 6**

There were other outcomes to note, however. Specifically, training for less experienced participants, and a more general sense of ACFA's ability to pull together a large team of highly competent and enthusiastic volunteers, and thereby make an important contribution to knowledge of this part of Scotland's heritage. This didn't happen by chance, and I am bound to commend this further example of the careful and conscientious planning that such survey work requires, and I know that your Committee is actively exploring means by which training of new survey directors might be accomplished.

Perhaps a measure of the objective value others place on ACFA contributions is the award of £500 from the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (SAS), in response to a grant application from Scott Wood. This will go towards meeting the cost of general expenses incurred in conducting the survey, and the SAS has also requested that we send a summary report, with colour images, for inclusion on the Society's own web-site. Good publicity is a further good outcome from this survey.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to record the excellent company and appalling jokes, both strangely enjoyed by all ... that also says something striking about the members of our Association. Long may that continue!

Ewen Smith

## The Origin of our Species : Book Review

The subject matter of Chris Stringer's "*The Origin of our Species*", published in 2011, is examined with ambition and not a little controversy; ambition, because of its breadth of research, and controversy because its picture of the directions of global expansion of *Homo sapiens*, from Africa, and to a recent timescale, will be disputed hotly by other palaeo-anthropologists.

Interestingly, his book has a different title in the US of A, where it is known as "*Lone Survivors: How We Came to Be the Only Humans on Earth*". (Having heard Chris speak at Glasgow's "Aye Write" festival, I know he believes that "survival" sells better in America than does Darwinian allusions to "origin".) In essence, however, this is a clear and authoritative description of the evolution of our species to date, with some speculation on where we might be headed next. His starting point is *Homo erectus*, from where he moves through *heidelbergensis*, *neanderthalensis* and ourselves, with reference also to *floresiensis* and *Denisovians*. Despite my own unfamiliarity with much of the topic, I was engrossed from the outset.

To his credit, Prof Stringer is honest about the culs-de-sac and errors his own life's work has encountered and committed, but he is unafraid nevertheless to nail his colours to the mast of the theory of Recent African Origin, while acknowledging (and describing) both alternative theories and the pace of change dictated by emerging knowledge as technological advances provide more answers ... and still more questions. In short, a still image of knowledge to date, albeit within a moving picture.

Of particular value, to me, is the setting of theories within an historiographical context, from Darwin onwards. I struggled somewhat with the science (but that's just me), and with the use of initials (despite some years working in the Open University), but the straightforwardness of his story is highly engaging, at times entertaining, and always educational.

This is an important book, but also a fascinating read. His concluding sentence is apt in illustrating that fascination ... "Sometimes the difference between failure and success in evolution is a narrow one and we are certainly on a knife-edge now as we confront an over-populated planet and the prospect of global climate change on a scale that humans have never faced before ... ". Whether you agree or disagree with that view, the book does provide a model of human evolution that has faced various setbacks, and survived in part, but is still a work-in-progress.

Chris Stringer. *The origin of our species* Allen Lane, London, 2011. ISBN 978-1-846-14140-9

Ewen Smith

### **Dates for the Diary**

**ACFA AGM** Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October 2012

**ACFA 25th Anniversary Field Trip** Saturday/Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October 2012

**Archaeology Scotland Community Heritage Conference**, Birnam. Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2012



## CALLING ACFA MEMBERS!

### Surveys

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

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

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



**Surveying's a serious business - Photographer unknown**

Title page photo : ACFA at work in Glen Lochay. Photo by Dugie MacInnes

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

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