



NEWSLETTER 49.

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South Luing: October 2017.

*"Sing as we go and let the world go by
Singing along, we march along the highway
Say goodbye to sorrow
There's always tomorrow to think of today"*

Welcome to the winter issue of the Newsletter and reports from the hills of northern Galilee to Corsica, from the Upper Clyde Valley to the southern tip of Luing in Argyll.

A busy summer for many of us, with work at Inchinnan, Blackhill Fort, Castle Qua, the upper Irvine Valley, the Carron Valley, the island of Luing and the launch of a new HES Project to record and review the corpus of Scottish Rock Art.

We thus have some fine reports from Willie Dougan, Susan Hunter, Carol Primrose on the Kirkudbright trip and brief reports from the summer work and two new review sections for which I would be delighted for contributions. Short reviews of recent or older archaeological books or texts which you found particularly exciting and a 'tripadvisor' type section on major local museums, exhibitions which you have come across in your travels.

Also a new Agony Inset Box for any technical problems or queries for advice.

Best wishes for returns to Luing and Tiree and to everyone in the New Year.

Ian Marshall, editor.

Ba'ram National Park, Israel: April 2017.

Willie Dougan.

An ancient Synagogue in the mountains of Upper Galilee.



The synagogue at Ba'Ram: façade.

At the end of April and the beginning of May this year, I went on a pilgrimage to Israel and the Occupied Palestine Territories (OPT), arranged by The Church of Scotland World Mission Council, in order to see the work done by the Church of Scotland and its partners in Israel and the OPT.

Bir'am is well known in Israel as it is part of a National Park in northern Israel, less than four kilometres from the border with Lebanon which contains the remains of two celebrated ancient synagogues, well preserved and displayed.

I would recommend it as there is a picnic area beside the remains of the most upstanding synagogue, with the remains of the abandoned village of Kfar Ba'ram – a most tempting site for a sun kissed ACFA survey in fact!

The village name has two different names, in Palestine as Kfar Ba'rem, the Aramaic word *bar*** or *son* and in Israel as Kfar Bar'am with the Hebraic *am* or *people* or an alternative derivation indicating *cleanliness, purity*.

Excavations by Lipa Sukenik (1889 – 1953) in 1928, dated the structure to AD 3C on basis of an excavated relief, but current archaeology supports at least a century earlier. The



larger synagogue is unusual in that it has a six, originally eight columned portico on Attic bases and three dimensional sculptures of vines, grapes an animal relief, carved friezes and stone lions with three aisles and an ambulatory. There is a triple door façade facing Jerusalem and alternative interpretations might suggest a Classical temple origin, although it appears that similar classical decoration was accepted in some synagogues by those Jewish communities which accepted Roman occupation after the crushing of Judea in 66-70 CE.

Bar'Ram synagogue or Roman Temple ?- reconstruction

Local tradition is that the synagogue was originally a Roman temple which has then been adopted by a Jewish community.

A second smaller synagogue nearby, not now visible, offered a finely carved lintel with Hebrew inscription, now in the Louvre.

There are on - site inscriptions to 'Barahu Elazar bar Yadan' as the builder and a record of 1522 CE. by Rabbi Moses Basula claims that the owner was Simeon bar Yochai', an intransigent survivor of the Second Temple War in 132 -35 CE.



Abandoned by the Jewish community between the 7-13CE with the Muslim conquest in mid - 7 CE. The Ottoman Registers of 1596 CE record a village of 114 Muslim households, but by the 1922 census, during the British Mandate the village was made up of 500 Maronite Christian.

The Maronites are a Syrian Christian sect who found refuge around Mount Lebanon during the Ottoman era (and still currently c. 22% of the Lebanese population) and an interesting reference notes that '...if the Messiah were to return as a human, theirs is the only language he might be able to follow'.

The Maronite Church at Kafr Be'rem still in regular use.

As to the village, there are records of Jewish pilgrimage from the 12 CE records to supposed burial sites of the Mosaic period including the military commander Barak, the prophet Obadiah, and Queen Esher, the Jewish queen of the Persian king Xerxes These pilgrimages were during Purim when the last readings of the scrolls of Esther, were read, according to Murray's 1868 *Handbook to the Holy Land*.

The site included the adjacent village of Kafr Bar'im and was affected by damaging earthquakes in 1837 CE which levelled the synagogues and further destruction during the

first Arab-Israeli war in 1948 and in subsequent military actions from 1958-1953.



The village was last recorded as a Palestinian village during the British Mandate before passing to Israeli military control in 1948 to counter the movement of insurgents from nearby Lebanon and preventing any return to the village by its former population. The only upstanding structures are the former church and its bell tower, which is still the centre

of the village.

Ba'ram synagogue: Jewish pilgrims 1930's

Here, in a microcosm, are the challenges and problems which face many sites throughout the near and Middle East or wherever different communities live in land known to both sides as 'The Holy Land'. Each community has a slight change in the name of their village confirming their right to occupation and an archaeological record too often adapted to confirm the cultural views of their own community – legal disputes between the state and the minority communities can be traced for decades across such territory.

When the Holy Land became a battleground between Israel and the Arabic nations around her, it became for one, the War for Independence, for the other the *Nakba* , 'the catastrophe', a confrontation of nationhoods, whose modern roots can be traced to the Balfour Declaration made exactly a hundred years ago this month.

Archaeology is a construct built on the views of the people who study it, but its valuation and spirit is too often under attack from politicians, states and fanatics who publicly destroy monuments like Bamilan or Palmyra which offer a different prospect to their narrow or dismissive views of history and attempt to mould the archaeological record to suit that of their civil society's view.

When people read official display boards at historic sites, always read them carefully. Very carefully.



Bar'am synagogue interior.

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Autumn in Kirkcudbright: A thirtieth birthday party.

Carol Primrose.



McLellan's Castle, Kirkcudbright.

The Selkirk Arms Hotel, Kirkcudbright was invaded by an ACFA delegation at the end of September. Friday afternoon was devoted to finding and comparing rooms, which ranged from minuscule to a penthouse suite with a sitting room and 2 bathrooms. The fact that the latter was assigned to an office bearer was purely coincidental I am assured. At 5pm we gathered to hear County archaeologist Andrew Nicholson. After the customary wrestling match with the technology we were treated to a whirlwind tour of Dumfries and Galloway archaeology from Mesolithic to very recent indeed, including the battle with the nighthawks over the recent Galloway hoard find spot; neighbours keep an eye out and call the police if they see anyone suspicious looking. Scruffy ACFAists beware.

After a truly delicious dinner (chocolate profiteroles to die for!!!) and a little pre-bedtime chat, the weekend began on Saturday morning with a walk round Kirkcudbright led by local man George Wishart. The safe harbour near the mouth of the Dee was the original source of the town's prosperity. The Romans may have been here though the evidence is scanty (1 coin found in 1888). In mediaeval times it was sufficiently important to have royal burgh status conferred in 1455 and the locals were prosperous, the substantial ruins known as McLellan's castle being in fact a prestigious town house rather than a defensive structure. Pressure of population led to the building of the new town though some of the houses are bowed in the middle in consequence of the very boggy nature of the ground.

In the late 19c and early 20c the town became a magnet for artists with Charles Oppenheimer, Jessie M King and Edward Hornel all taking up residence in the High Street. Also in the High Street was the Heid Inn said to have the best wine cellar in the south of Scotland and much patronised earlier by the local exciseman - one Robert Burns. Dorothy L Sayers also lived here while writing her novel *Five red herrings* about murder in the

artists' colony. The plot depends heavily on an intimate knowledge of railway timetables. It couldn't be written today – no railway, alas. Various features were pointed out as having been incorporated into *The Wicker Man*: now a cult film.

The walk terminated at the Stewartry Museum with a host of interesting exhibits including terrets (for steering horses pulling chariots), an hour-only clock (no minute hand), an 1897 petrol car, quantities of firearms including a pepper-box revolver of 1840 and the story of an ancient who lived to be 120 years old in spite of (or perhaps because of) being married 17 times

And so to Gatehouse of Fleet and lunch in the Masonic Arms.

Thereafter some people went to Trusty's Hill Iron Age Fort, some to Cally Motte and some walked around the town. The town walk was very pleasant with a delightful garden where the town Hall used to be, though there was a curious dearth of people.

Turned out they had all gone to a fair at the cricket ground but we found out about it too late to join in.



Trusty's Hill Fort: the consequences of the Pictish symbol copyright dispute

A group of the more adventurous set off to explore the recently excavated Trusty's Hill led by David Steel a volunteer at the excavation. He turned out to have many strings to his bow since beside his knowledge of Trusty's Hill, he was the author of a book about Galloway artists and gave us much interesting information about Galloway on our

way up. The Pictish carvings were not particularly rewarding being heavily covered in moss and algae but the view from the top of the hill on such a fine day was spectacular.

The publication of the excavation report has reached a contentious conclusion– that some features and finds suggest a high-status nucleated fort like Dunadd and argues for the possibility that the capital of Rheged was not in Cumbria but here.



Cally Motte: Girthon, Dumfries and Galloway

Further sites visited were Cally Motte, a well upholstered AD12C mound with an impressive wide ditch and a low bank around the mound perimeter and Palace Yard moated settlement site. This site had a broad wet ditch; various members experienced both its breadth and wetness at first hand. A large rectangular building, clearly mediaeval and associated with Edward I was visible at one end of the area delineated by the ditch.

Sunday dawned wet. Nothing daunted ACFA sallied forth. Wendy took a small party to Dunrod sites including a moated manor house which was the focus of a now non-existent village, mediaeval chapel and graveyard with a font stone in the bank of a burn. It was a very wet and muddy site including hair-raising climbs over the graveyard wall.



Palace Yard AP image (Canmore)

The majority followed Ewen to Drummorie Hill Fort. This involved a hill, bracken, gorse, fences and mud plus interested bovine spectators. Scouts had to be sent out to find the best way up. However the hill fort was worth it with high ramparts and a possible beast herding area outside the innermost rampart. Thereafter we walked to Drummorie Stone Circle which originally had 9 stones according to Ewen now reduced to 4 distinctly unimpressive wee stones. From now on I think we have a new term for highly dubious stone settings: "a Ewen".

A longish drive took us to the Motte of Urr. After the season's rain the putative ford was practically a raging torrent so a detour via a bridge was needed. At this point your correspondent decided it was not necessary to climb it, having been some years previously. Others testified that it was very, very steep and very, very slippery but really impressive once you got there.

Lunch was at Laurie's Inn, Haugh of Urr. The door opened to reveal a long low room with log fires at each end. There ensued a period of vigorous elbow work as everyone tried to get close to a fire.



Buittle Tower

Warmer, if not much drier, we travelled to Buittle, a historic motte and bailey on a promontory and mediaeval tower house to be met by the excavator Alastair Penman and two gentlemen in flowing black robes (of whom more later.) The excavation took place from 1992 to 2002. The promontory shows evidence of occupation since Mesolithic times. There are Roman coins from about AD300 with some evidence of a civil settlement possibly based on tanning.

One artefact indicates an Anglian presence. Devorguilla, widow of John Balliol, assigned the original tower to his foundation, Balliol College, Oxford in 1282. In the later mediaeval period the bailey was well used. Excavation revealed an ancient chapel with evidence of much military activity, many of the troops being Irish. One body was recovered - now stored in a box in a warehouse.

The eminently attired gentlemen turned out to be the new owner of the tower house and his cousin. The present building dates from AD1323 built from the stones of the original castle destroyed by Robert the Bruce. Occupied in turn by Douglasses and Maxwells until the AD 19c.

The new owners bid fair to continue an eccentric history. He bought it, sight unseen, to develop it as a religious retreat, the religion in question appears based on the Russian Orthodox Church, the rational for which is his ancestry – White Russian aristocracy on his mother's side, Scottish aristocracy from his father (he believes he is descended from Devorguilla). He certainly has more recent aristocratic links being related to the Duke of Devonshire. He kindly gave us a tour of the house with permission to look anywhere we liked. He has collected a number of pictures and furnishings of note, including a large

portrait of Cardinal Beaton and a wooden table combining remnants of furniture owned by Beaton and John Knox (cue synchronised turning in graves.)



Palnackie Harbour

The last stop of the day was Palnackie Harbour, now tidal and very silted up. Few vessels can use it but it has its charms, notably an old warehouse now a craft centre called Quetzal Trading, a bus converted to a home with the destination sign 'No11 Nowhere'. Sadly we were there at the wrong time for the International flounder trampling competition.

Back at the hotel, the fortunate among us had a long hot soak in a bath, the rest having to make to with a shower, before yet another wonderful meal.

A short speech by yours truly reminded members that this was our 30th Year; thanks were expressed to Wendy and Ewen, not forgetting the sterling contributions of their spouses, for organising the trip; absent friends were remembered and we raised a glass to ACFA and its "onlie begetter" Lionel.

The Agony Box:

Probably too late for this, but I wonder if there's a wee space for a request that I would like to make of members ... specifically, I would find it helpful to have a GPS app on my 'phone, as I don't normally carry my GPS thing with me, and wondered if others might be able to recommend a particularly useful app. Something along the following lines ...

I would be keen to equip my cell-phone with an app that provides GPS information. As part of the ACFA ScRAP team, it would be useful to have such a facility when I'm out walking, and stumble upon rock-art panels. Has any member got such a facility, and able to recommend it, please?

Thanks, Ewen

All replies to Ewen Smith at e- mail as on the acfabaseline members list.

Corsican Castellu, Torra, Menhirs , and Dolmen

Susan Hunter.

Corsica became part of France in 1769 and is the fourth largest island in the Mediterranean and the seventh most populated. The island over the centuries has been ruled by Carthaginians, Etruscans, Romans, Byzantium, Lombardy, Pisa, Genoa and Aragon. The archaeological sites of Corsica are not well known and are rarely visited; therefore visitors generally get the sites to themselves, although sometimes they are difficult to access. The island's landmass is comprised of granite and this material has been instrumental in the construction of its famous Statue-menhirs. The island is the most mountainous island in the Mediterranean with magnificent scenery and known for its rich flora and fauna. At the beginning of the 20th century the island had a rich pastoral economy which ran from the valley bottom up the hillsides, however today most of this farmed area has reverted to.



trees and scrub as per the photo below Castellu or hill fort (**Cucuruzzu** above right) (**Arraghju** below) were built in the Bronze Age, more than 100 are known but most are situated in the southern end of the island in difficult to reach locations overlooking valleys and on the margins of fertile lands. They were constructed because of protection and to protect key economic resources.

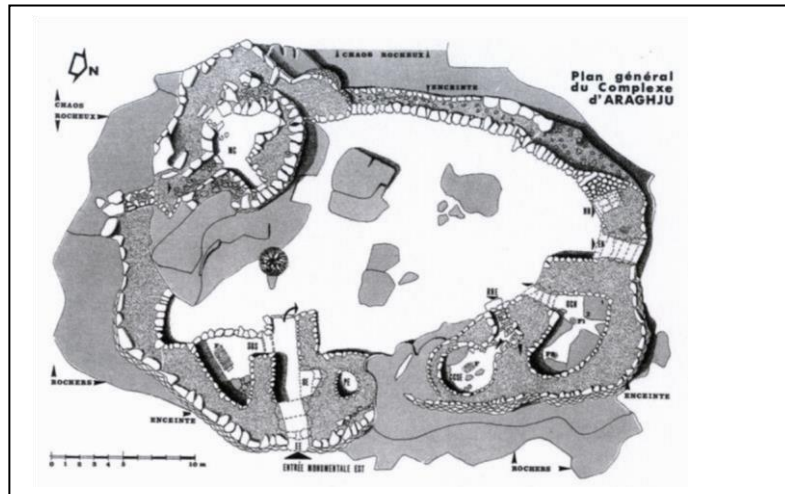


The site at **Cucuruzzu** in the Alta Rocca region was discovered in 1959 hidden under dense vegetation and was excavated from 1964 to the 1990s and to date this work forms the crux of what is known of this monument type at present. The site was acquired by the state in 1975 and listed as an historic monument in 1982. It was also added to the list of the 100 most important historical sites of communal value in the Mediterranean. A torra also lies in the same area surrounded by a 6m high and 6m wide wall made of large granite blocks in which several calls have been built.

Three huts on the left of the entrance of the settlement have been investigated and contain evidence of having been used for craft activities. One was used for pottery production, one for spinning wool and the third as a butchery. The walls are of stone with ventilation holes, the roofs are thought to have been formed by wood which was then plaster with clay and the floor was of beaten earth. The cells left in the wall are thought to be storage areas, while a circular covered space in front of two the cells was probably for threshing cereal. The excavators are of the opinion the torra and the huts in the settlement were constructed first, with the encircling wall being built later. On artefactual evidence different parts of the site were in use between the Late Neolithic/Chalcolithic and the Iron Age

Arraghiu lies at the top of a very long steep rough path, not for the faint hearted. The site overlooks the coastal plain below with magnificent views all round. It comprises massive fortifications as shown by its external details and thick walls. Excavations were undertaken here in 1967. The site covers an area of 450m and comprises a 130m long curtain wall of 4m in height which was once accessed by steps 2m wide, now missing. It is entered by a 10m long tunnel through the thickest part of the enclosing wall.

Half way along the tunnel is a guard house to control access and opposite the entrance is a torra at a higher level. Evidence of household activities was found such as milling and the storage of food which would suggest that this site may have been a habitation site or place of refuge. C dates on charcoal in hearths gave results of 1420-380BC and further dates came in at 4250-3650BC from another area of the site.

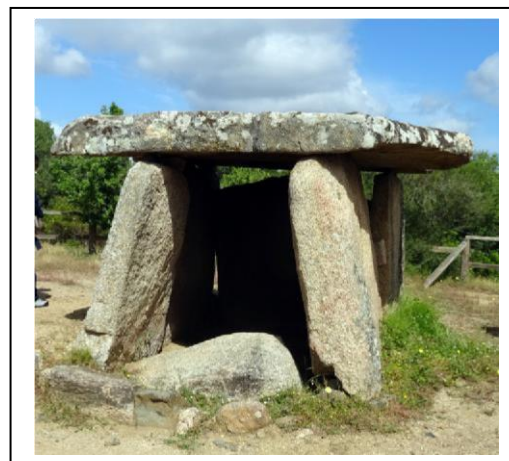


The other early sites in the island came in the form of stone alignments. At the **Cauria** plateau three historic sites are emblematic of Corsica. A pathway leads one round these sites.

Firstly the **Stantari statue-menhirs** erected between the end of the Neolithic, Bronze Age and into the Iron Age. This site once had 30 menhirs of two groups running northeast/southwest and north/south. Although stone cannot be dated other methods are used such as earlier occupation levels, ditch fillings, and packing materials. Also elements in the sculpture may give clues to age such as carvings on the menhirs. Carvings seen include belts, loincloths, arms and hands and cup-shaped hollows either side of the head and it is thought that these may have contained horns at one time.

The only other place in the world so far identified with sculptured stone alignments is Ethiopia.

The second site in this area is called **Renaghji** here 60 menhirs existed around 4500BC and increased in number to 180 by the first millennium BC. This was the first menhir site that the archaeologists were able to date almost accurately due to occupation levels identified at the site from 5700BC - 50BC. The last site on this route was the Funtanaccia Dolman which sits on top of a natural hillock. It is Corsica's best preserved dolman. The roof consists of a large single stone slab 3.4m x 2.9m placed on 6 vertical orthostatic stones, 3 on the western side and 2 on the eastern side but using two different types of granite, coarser grained for the vertical stones and a finer stone for the roof. It dates from the second millennium BC. The entrance was originally sealed by a stone slab.



Filitosa the best known archaeological site in Corsica was a highlight to the tour. It was the first of the islands sites to be investigated using modern archaeological methods and also because of intensive work carried out between 1955 and 1975 and up to recent times.

Remains of Early Neolithic to the Medieval period have been found here, but the majority of finds are of the Bronze Age date when occupation was most intensive and covered an area of 6000m. The first archaeological feature on the site is a wall made of large granite blocks which encloses a hill and within it are three Bronze Age structures (Filitosa IV, IX and XXII). Although the wall is also likely of Bronze Age date, it is likely that the builders were enclosing an earlier settlement as Early Neolithic Cardinal pottery has been recovered from *taffoni* on the site. Two of the internal structures have an approximately circular plan, while the third is sub-rectangular. Further smaller and less well-preserved structures lie between and these are thought to be houses.

The central structure is a torra (below) and it is built of large granite blocks, but it also reused 45 pieces of menhir, including 13 statues-menhirs (**Filitosa** VI-XI, XIII-XIX). The menhirs are concentrated in the outer part of the torra wall, and no pieces have yet been found in the interior. These menhirs are not in their original position and have been subsequently reerected. It is unclear where they originally stood. However all over this site which is fairly large there are around 30 statue-menhirs and additional menhirs are known beyond the site boundary area.



A further structure (below) to the west has been built into an enclosure wall; this has an elliptical plan and is likely to have stood 5m in height. Spiral stairs within the thickness of the western wall would have given access to higher floors, while the ground floor has a number of chambers. This structure has been interpreted a small defensive tower.

Returning back to the massive granite stone menhirs of this site, these are usually rectangular and have realistic representations with clear shoulders, and sometimes arms. The face is well drawn, the eyes and mouth are open and represented as hollows, the nose and chin are produced in relief, but ears are rare. Five of the statues at this site carry weapons, while the backs of several of the statues have depictions representing helmets and upper body armour. However due to weathering over the years some of these features are not easily spotted immediately when viewing the statues today. The menhirs in this site however show probably features that have now disappeared at the other sites mentioned above. This site has its own museum, shop and is well publicized and organized as a tourist attraction unlike the other menhir sites visited which had their own charm about them being in isolated locations.



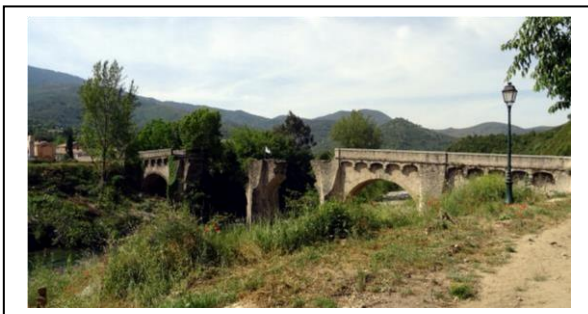
Although the above mainly relates to the earlier period Corsica has the ruins of later classical site at **Aleria**. Aleria along with Mariana make up the two largest known Roman settlements on the island now showing their stone foundations. Aleria was populated between 81 and 32 BC and went into decline from 4AD onwards.

The largest towns of Corsica are interesting to visit and steeped in history. Lying on the eastern coast facing Italy are Bastia (founded by the Genoese in 1380), **Aleria** and **Porto Vecchio**. **Ajaccio** is on the western coast. **Bonifacio** (below left) in the south, this has massive fortifications and wonderful beaches. From this town you can see Sardinia in the not too far distance. **Corte** (below right) a charming city lies centrally within the island.



Corsica is also famous as the birthplace of Napoleon although he appeared to not show any favouritism to this island and except for a week's stay in Ajaccio in 1799 on his way back from Egypt, he never returned to Corsica.

Remains of the Genoese occupation are evidenced by watchtowers and various other structures like the Genoese bridge below and an interesting modern sign on the road not far from the bridge.



If anyone would like more information on the sites in Corsica especially the classical sites mentioned above and later historical information, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will only be too happy to give you more information.

Summer Surveys, Excavations and future Plans 2018:

Blackhill Fort and Settlement: Lesmahagow and Castle Qua Promontory Fort, Lanark:



Blackhill Fort and settlement – looking west.

These two little understood monuments were the target for preliminary excavations this summer in a joint venture between the Northlight CAVLP project and the Department of Archaeology at Glasgow University. Both were community supported, with Dr Paul Murtagh and Peta Glew representing Northlight Archaeology - Peta at Castle Qua, Paul at both sites, and with Dr Adrian Maldonado at Blackhill. ACFA teams were represented at both sites but more so at Castle Qua.



At **Blackhill**, a putative BA Cairn 18.0m in diameter and almost a metre high carries a trig point with one of the most extensive vistas in southern Scotland, this is surrounded by a single collapsed stone wall enclosing 155.0 x c.100.0m of apparently empty hilltop. Attached to the SE side of this circuit is a secondary (?) settlement with double ditches and roundhouse stances.

Blackhill was surveyed by ACFA in the very first outing for the EDM by John and Scott

First day at Blackhill on perimeter wall

Wood for the NTS and thus is of some significance to us.

Castle Qua is a double ditched promontory fort of 28.0m diameter high above the Mouse Water and until the present work almost impenetrable, with interpretations ranging from the Iron Age – early antiquarian howking claimed the presence of ‘..artificial caves or arched ways..’ in the interior, possibly attempts to describe a souterrain. Other speculations were as a medieval motte of the local Locard of The Lee family.

Both sites are now at post- excavation stage and results of dating are eagerly awaited, however some informal speculations are that at Blackhill, the BA Cairn may be more complex than thought with three internal radial walls suggesting either a stepped cairn or even the construction of a massive roundhouse.



The ditches around the settlement are deep and the inner one carried a large palisade – but further trenches through a large stone mound on the south side of the perimeter wall may be another cairn, and details of this wall construction in a trench on the west side await interpretation.

Discussions are in progress to invite some of the professionals involved to our post – Xmas bash on March 3rd next year which should be fascinating – either a breakthrough of light or a switch turned on and then off again !

Blackhill Settlement ditches.

Achnacraig Rock Art Site, Old Kilpatrick:



Achnacraig Rock Art site at Cochno.

At the spring meeting ACFA was approached by Dr Tertia Barnett, who heads the first major research study focusing on British rock art funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and hosted in Scotland by Historic Environment Scotland. Now in its second year of a five year project she has been recruiting community teams and societies with the aim of locating, re-visiting, recording and imaging with photogrammetry all the known rock art sites in Scotland. This will be c.2000 of the 2400 known, about 650 per annum for three years. Ambitious?

An enthusiastic ACFA team of 18 (another 8 as associates) began a training day at Skyeptail Faifley in north Glasgow, followed by a perfect afternoon in the Cochno Stone area, training on the what at first seemed rather unpropitious overgrown moss covered boulders in deep undergrowth with spatulas and brush, to reveal panels of wonderful rock art. Not Achnabreck but better than a possible cup in a dyke on a wet day.

Three geographical groups have been loosely formed North Glasgow South Glasgow and Lanarkshire, to try to cover an area from Lanarkshire, Renfrewshire, Cunningham and Ayrshire.

A preliminary list of 123 sites has been forwarded to us in these areas by Tertia and equipment is now lodged with Ewan Smith, Ian Marshall and Ed Smith. The details of the how, when and where are being considered.

A second training day is planned for the end of January when we will be given licenses and software for the photogrammetry programme, but already members are sniffing out areas to give the recording sheets a try out – sites will of course vary in the numbers required for the recording and information will be circulated on plans and progress.

Watch this space.



Carlin Crag on Bonnyton Muir, Eaglesham.

Museums, Exhibitions Revues.

Most members never miss an opportunity to dive into both small and large museums throughout Europe and the UK at a drop of a hat to see the Archaeology section, often to the dismay and resignation of their partners. Indeed some members have been known to have never got beyond the first or second room of major museums to rejoin their disgruntled spouses some hours later in the caff.

Here is a spot to briefly enthuse or complain about both the best and some lesser known gems which you have come across.

Some Danish Pastries:

Ewen Smith.

A recent trip to Copenhagen provided the opportunity to visit some museums, and think about how they compare with those in a similarly sized nation. Or, simply to enjoy them for themselves. I've chosen the latter.



First, the **Roskilde Viking Boat Museum** ... Roskilde was the former capital of Denmark, and the town with its cathedral merit a visit in its own right. However, it was the museum that had drawn us there, and that's where we began. To a significant extent, it is an open air museum, but we began with the original ships, displayed and maintained in an appropriately climate-controlled environment. Well done, with good text panels, and ample

space even on busy days to get close. Certainly in that regard it was better than its Norwegian equivalent. The panels describe not just the boats themselves, but the story behind their discovery and preservation. Fascinating, and inspirational in the impact it has had on the development of marine archaeology techniques around the globe. Then, outdoors, there are the very busy "workshops" where you can view construction of new long-boats, to scale, using copies of the original tools and techniques that would have been used; tar manufacture; rope making; and so on. Great for all ages. And travel from Copenhagen by train and bus could not have been more straightforward. Or cheaper.



Of course, the **National Museum of Denmark** was a must-visit. Home to a first class collection, it was the archaeology section in which we were most interested, and then most impressed. From the start, there was a space for orientation, between the entrance lobby and the exhibition itself; it is a great shame that more museums don't have such a facility, allowing some measure

of visitor preparation. We knew we were on to something thoughtful, with a visitor perspective as important as the curatorial one. Lay-out was chronological (not always my favourite method), but the key was the "logical" element of the display. Lay-out, lighting and labels were all excellent. Perhaps most useful was an indication of the quantity of material on display ... plentiful found items illustrated perfectly the population density and distribution in the area that would become Denmark, as well as providing an insight to the amount of communication there was between people. Single finds can sometimes imply isolated communities, but the displays here demonstrated that was far from the case.



Finally, we visited the **Ny Carlsberg Glyptotek**. Established from an individual's private collection, it is now funded by the company which the original owner established. Honestly? I found it rather disappointing, particularly after the others we had visited. In stark contrast to the National Museum's archaeology display, this looked old-fashioned and unimaginative, at best. In all probability, it suffers by comparison because the

National has probably seen recent investment, and perhaps that's all that's required of the Glyptotek. Well, that and some imaginative thinking about how to display artefacts in a manner that draws and informs the visitor. And draws them back again and again. Perhaps if Carlsberg could be as outstanding in their museum as they are in their lager ... ?

Some Cypriot Churros.

Ian Marshall.



A back street gem in the town everyone thinks is just an airport, the **Pierides Museum, Larnaka**.

Forget the seething hordes, the tourist bus parks, the strip search, the overpriced head set for correct thoughts about the exhibits and the locker key you can't find after that vaguely disappointing two hours.

This small private museum established in 1839 consists of only six rooms in the former home of nine generations of this rentier family who arrived here when the island was still an Ottoman outpost.

The rooms are simply lined with exquisite examples of Cypriot Neolithic to Cypro-Archaic ceramic, Greek and Roman glass, luscious post- medieval wood carvings, embroidery and AD14C sgraffito chalices and plate with designs so modern looking you'd believe a Picasso signature. The door is open, the charge is 3E, it's cleanly displayed in English and Greek, it's usually quiet, often empty and cool - and you can sit out in the little garden, sip a cold Keo beer and nibble a syrupy lokma from the kafeneio across the street.



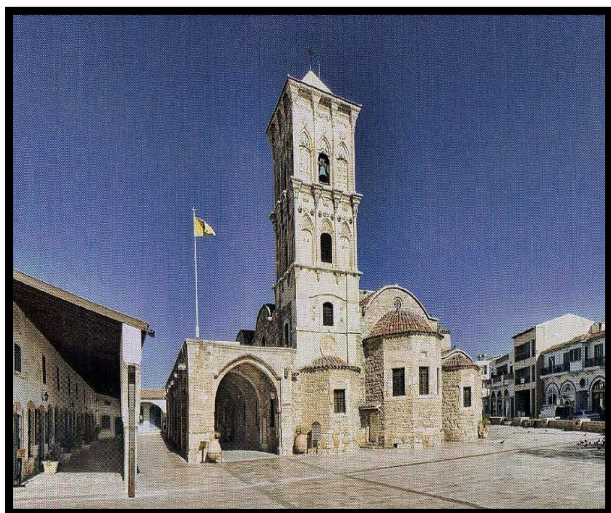
Terracotta, Chalcolithic Period – from Souskiou, Paphos.

"You just put the wine in and the vintage goes round and round, and it comes out here".



Clay chalice with sgraffito of the Lion of Lusignan Late AD14C.

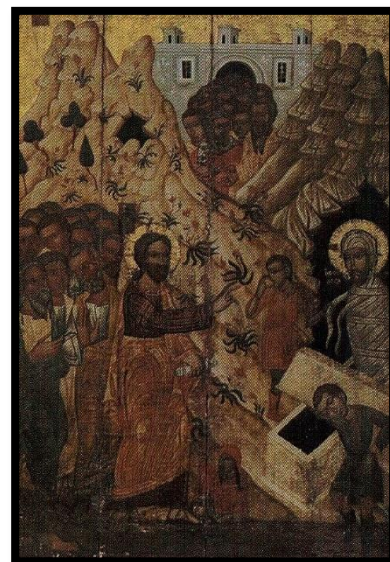
The Byzantine Museum of Saint Lazarus, Agios Lazarus, Larnaka.



On the edge of the old Ottoman quarter of Larnaca and in the complex behind the medieval church, a small museum of gilded and glittering vestments, silver chalices, patera, fonts and icons (including a wonderful one of the raising of Lazarus (honoured in Islam as a pious friend of Jesus) in which one of the workers lifting off the grave cover is reeling back holding his nose

at the ensuing
stink !

There is a Nut of Desolation in this seldom visited gem as its finest icons disappeared in the bear pit of communal violence which engulfed Larnaca in 1963 -64, when they were being stored in the tiny Medieval Fort a few hundred yards away.



The Resurrection of Saint Lazarus.

On the 29th May AD 1453 the Janissaries of Sultan Mehmet the Conqueror broke through the Walls of Constantinople at the little sally-port known as the Kerkopoporta. The city fell.

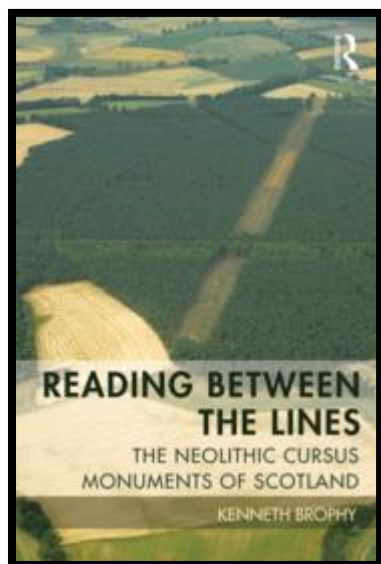
On the anniversary of this disaster an annual commemoration is held in the evening outside in front of the apse of this little church, conducted by bishops, clergy, and local choirs and communities, which I slipped in to watch. I was told that some of the chants were those that were being sung in those last hours in Saint Sophia as the terrified population gathered around the nobility and the imperial family. Before the service ended, last Emperor of Byzantium, Constantine XI and his bodyguard left the congregation to disappear in the howling streets outside trying to stem the assault. His body was never recovered.

It was an hour long, strange, incomprehensible (in Greek) and a very moving ceremony'

The Book Corner:

Reading Between the Lines: The Neolithic Cursus monuments of Scotland. Kenneth

Brophy (2016).

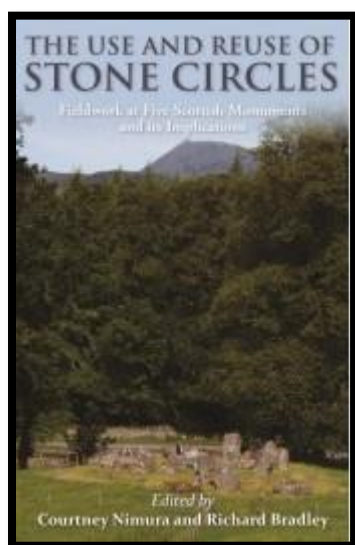


“Exercises in gigantism”, magnified versions of Early Neolithic halls, “roads to nowhere..” and - Richard Bradley “the ley liner’s Cresta Run..”

Here at last a magnum opus on one of the least understood prehistoric monuments in the UK as seen in Scotland – the long alignments of either timber or earthworks, now reasonably RC dated to c.3900 – 3400 BC. Kenny Brophy has spent about twenty years thinking about cursus and is still baffled by aspects and meanings. But you will not find a clearer or more honest account of his own journey or another more succinct review of all the known evidence for a generation.

Read carefully, it’s a substantial text, but essential.

The Use and Reuse of Stone Circles: Fieldwork at five Scottish monuments and its implications. Ed: Richard Bradley and Courtney Nimura. (2016).



This book completes a quartet of definitive studies of the major cairns and stone circles of NE Scotland and of two decades of excavation, analysis and reflection of these seminal monuments of Scottish archaeology.

With the publication of ***The Good Stones: a new investigation of the Clava Cairns. (2000); The Moon and the Bonfire: an investigation of Three Stone Circles in NE Scotland (2005)*** and ***Stages and Screens: an investigation of Four Henge monuments in Northern and North – Eastern Scotland (2011)***

Professor Bradley has produced a body of work which is essential study for our understanding of Bronze Age Scotland.

In this work he draws together the relationships between the Clava Cairns, the Recumbent Stone Circles and settings and their powerful presence in the landscape during the third millennium BC and beyond.

His work with Alison Sheridan on the re-interpretation of Croftmoraig Stone Circle, and the implications – a site visited by ACFA many times – is a must.

Access to these books is probably only possible via a Special Readership visa to the University Library for the average punter – this will cost you £60.00 pa. ie £5.00 per month. For this you will be able to browse 3.1 million books and 53000 journals.

Is that value or is it not – forget Black Friday!

CODA: Gleanings from the Archives:



The 'onlie begetter' in full flow, "Now boys and girls, **this** is Rock Art ". Newgrange, Ireland (1989



?).

South Luing: October 2017. Alerts on another breakout from the Asylum were rife.

Mary Braithwaite, Julia Shuff, Dugie McInnes (ringleader, do not approach), Beau Topfer and Andrea Wallace.

Registered Scottish Charity number: SC 007099

