NEWSLETTER 52

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Winter 2019.

Lionel leads his disciples into the wilderness. (Image: Jim Mearns).

We shall not cease from exploration
And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And know the place for the first time.

Editors: Ian Marshall, Dr Janet MacDonald.

Welcome to the winter 2019 edition of the Newsletter

We are all aware that this edition of the Newsletter must record the sense of loss we have all felt at the death of the man to whom we owe everything for the inspiration, the pleasure and the path we share together today.

Another busy summer, two forays to both Tiree and Luing, our fourth year on the Hynish Boundary Project and on Luing, completing work north of Blackmill Bay and exploring Luing's islands and skerries.

Susan Hunter and the Eaglesham team continue work on the Mearns Farms, a week at Halterburn in the Borders with directors Dugie and Jean Hirst and several single targets from jetties on Bute to the reputed birth place of James of the Glens in Appin.

Also continuing participation in the Scottish Rock Art Project with Tertia Barnett and Maya Hoole at several sites – at Glenlochay, (new finds!), at Whitehill on the north side of the city with Kenny Brophy and locals and in Lanarkshire, plus a first training day with the EDM station and volunteers at Loanhill Long Cairn above Darvel.

Another very successful field trip was set up by Wendy based in Peebles and the Manor Valley with convivial evening meals, lectures and comfy beds at the Tontine Hotel in the Main Street.

In this issue: a precis of Professor Ruth Irwin's lecture from 2018 where Lionel was present, our Autumn trip to Peebles, brief reports on some surveys over summer 2019, a further report from Susan Hunter on archaeological travels in Spain and Portugal, an item from our small archaeological museums which are worth a detour series and some book reviews to finish with.

Happy browsing!

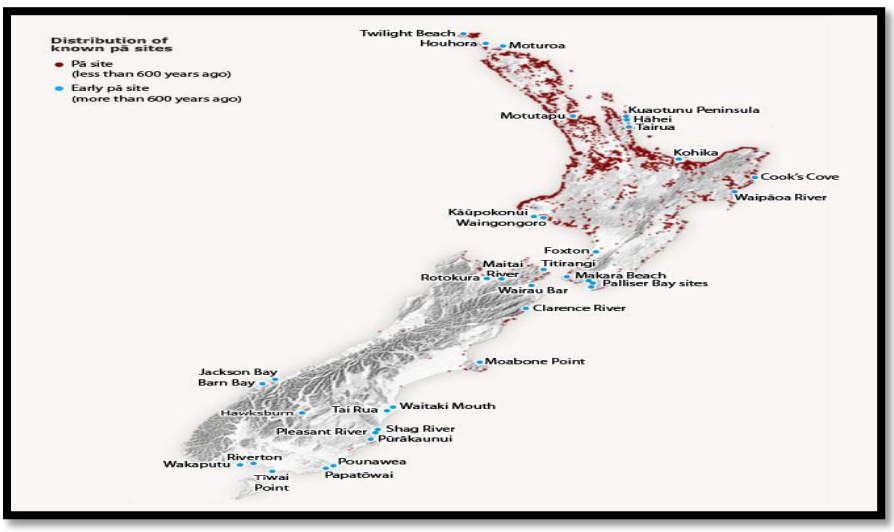
P.S. New font (Georgia) and left alignments instead of justified. Comments welcome.

New Zealand and the Maori: Professor Ruth Irwin

While working on the island of Luing, ACFA was fortunate to be joined by Professor Ruth Irwin from New Zealand who joined us on several surveys both on Luing and in Glenlochay.

During these activities we became aware of Ruth's wide scholarship and interest in many areas including global climate change, education, philosophy and anthropology, including the history of Maori culture and settlement in her native island.

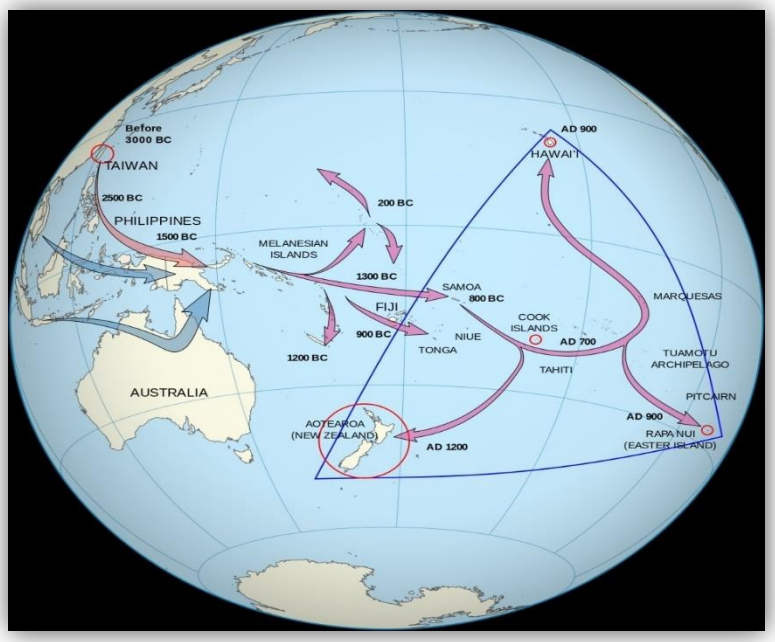
Recognising the wider interest this would have for many members – especially Lionel with his late interest in South Pacific colonisation and history – we invited her to talk to us at our March meeting and both he and all ACFA members present enjoyed a unique introduction to the Maori and the settlement of *Aotearoa*, the land of the long white cloud.



Professor Irwin's research was concentrated in a remote area at the west of North Island at *Mokau*. The native name of North

Island is *Te Ikao Maui* or the "fish of Maui"; interestingly, on the map it looks like a stingray.

Aotearoa is the last land to be settled by human beings. It was also the last part of Polynesia to be colonised from Europe.



The Europeans assumed the people were primitive because they had a Stone Age lifestyle, but in fact they had a sophisticated culture. For example, the native canoes were very fast and their manner of construction allowed them to operate in the same way as aeroplanes, drawing the canoe through the water, not pushing it through the water making them much faster than European boats.

Maori culture is rooted in their relationship to the land and the sea. They have the same name for 'placenta' and 'land' *Whenua;* in other words they are the land, not its owners or settlers but its children. Maori have a genealogical memory going back 28-30 generations including their relation not just to each other but to plants and animals. The first Maori settlers cleared the land of forests by fire which rendered many aboriginal birds extinct including 50 species of Moa.

Some present day New Zealand species are unique; a certain palm tree called the *nikau* was brought by the early settlers not for food but because it was excellent for thatching buildings and the *pohutukawa* tree, known now as the Christmas tree (because that is when it flowers), was planted along the cliffs to prevent erosion.

There were no native mammals except for seals but the Maori introduced *kiori* (rats), whether intentionally for food or as stowaways is not known.

There is not much stone in New Zealand so building tends to be wood and clay. The communities all had very large gardens where the people grew most of what they needed,

whether food or other materials. They had brought root crops such as sweet potato from South America and techniques which kept the soil warm even in the colder climate.

In the Auckland region there are about 50 volcanic calderas, many of which have been made into forts.

War between tribes was common. Each family in a tribe would develop a specialism which was treated as protected knowledge guarded from outsiders. This would give them access rights to certain areas. If tribes had occasion to migrate, one family would be left to protect the right of access by *ahi kaa, or* keeping the home fire burning. Tribes had a chieftain whose role was outward facing; to present communal decisions to others, not to make arbitrary decisions of his own. He acted to keep the peace by distributing gifts to other tribes who were expected to reciprocate. Records were memorised to ensure they did. The chief would usually be the first-born son of his predecessor but not necessarily; if he lacked the necessary qualities of wisdom and leadership someone else would be appointed.

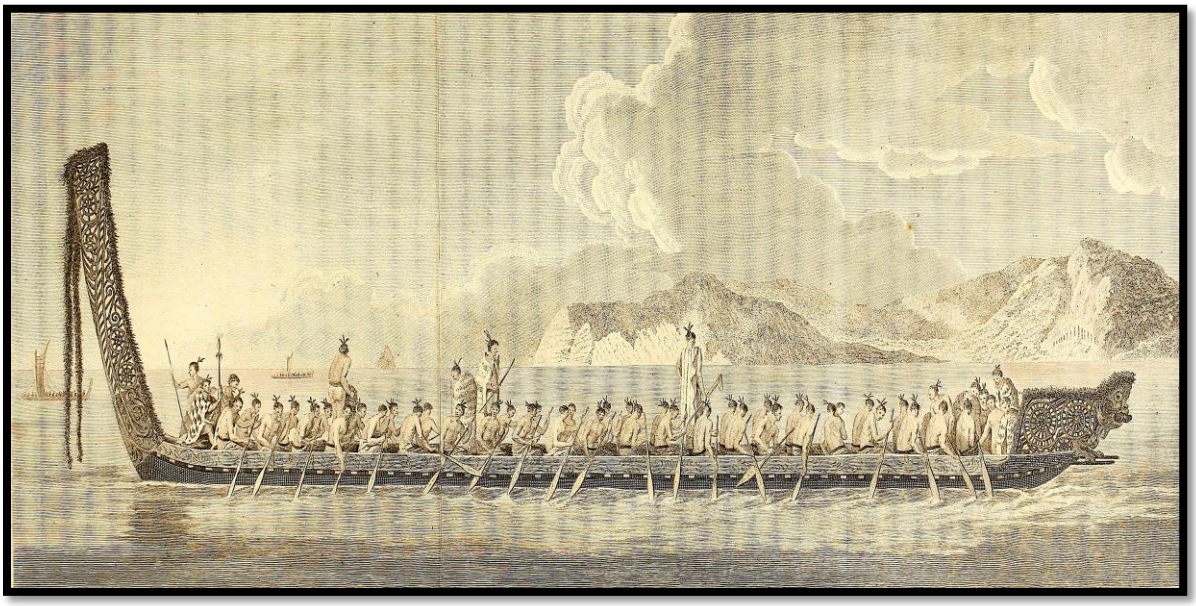
Religion was not regarded as something separate from normal life because people saw everything as sacred. Tribes had a Meeting House as distinct from a church. For the Maori, in the beginning there

were two gods, namely *Ranginui* the Sky god and *Papatuanuku,* the Earth goddess, who had a number of children. Their children found life difficult because there was no space between Earth and Sky. Then one of them, *Tane* the god of Forests, lay down and pushed with his feet at the sky to make room. The first woman was Earth since she was made of clay.

Land Wars arose in the 1860s sometime after European settlers arrived. The first Europeans to find New Zealand were probably the Spanish though the only evidence is one helmet found in Wellington harbour; there are no Spanish records of a ship discovering New Zealand but there are oral stories of Maori in the far north killing the crew of a large ship, so presumably they were all killed. Next came the Dutch, Abel Tasman and the British in the shape of Captain Cook who generally had a good relationship with the Maori. In 1835 and 1840 treaties were agreed with Britain whereby the Maori retained full rights and sovereignties under the British Crown. Governor Grey set up laws, and while there were a few land swindles, Grey maintained a reasonable peace. However, he was transferred to Africa and a much harsher regime of settler government established. Laws were introduced whereby land grabs were justified if the Maori fought back. The Maori at Parihaka responded by developing a passive resistance, sitting in their houses but not fighting. This approach inspired Gandhi in his stand against colonial rule in India.

The date of New Zealand settlement by the Maori people is generally accepted to be c1200 AD when there was a world-wide climate window when the sea was particularly calm; this was the same period when the Vikings explored the north Atlantic. The Great Fleet of seven canoes came around that time, and most Maori tribes trace their genealogy back to one or more of these canoes. However, there are at least 48 canoes recorded in various genealogies, and many Maori will talk about other, ongoing voyages. In Polynesia, various groups, including Rarotongans and Fijians, talk of 'visiting' or 'raiding' New Zealand without necessarily settling there. Europeans assumed that canoes were poorly designed and that it was a miracle Polynesians made it to such remote land at all. But the Polynesian canoes were excellent craft, and their navigators were very knowledgeable. It is much more likely that New Zealand was part of a trade route over a long period before it became isolated for 500 years between about 1300 and 1800. The last great fleet arrived about 1200, and they met with people who already lived in New Zealand; the Maru. There is a Maori legend which suggests a much earlier settlement involving Polynesian people who

were unusually tall. Mokau is one of these early settlements and when the sea eroded the *urupa*, or graveyard, the ancient bones there were unusually long (*Te Haumoana White*).



Percy Smith describes these people as Polynesian but likely from an early branch of Polynesian migration, being western Lapita people (1910), with frizzy, more Melanesian hair. Evidence is sparse but we know there was a volcanic eruption at Taupo in 280AD. Under the ash layer from that eruption were found some Kiori rat bones in a cave near Waitara (Makere Harawira). So perhaps the history of New Zealand stretches back much further than current archaeological evidence proves.

(Text summary: Carol Primrose April 2019, images courtesy R.Irwin.)

ACFA Peeblesshire trip, October 1-4, 2019

Eighteen ACFA members assembled at the Tontine Hotel, Peebles on the evening of 1st October for a presentation by borders archaeologist Dr Chris Bowles on the archaeology of the Borders region. Chris showed some magnificent slides of a variety of sites, some of which we would later visit during our trip.

Our first full day began at Tweeddale Museum, Peebles, where curator Chris Sawers showed us round the splendid Chambers Room, with its plaster friezes based on those of the Parthenon, commissioned in the 19th century by William Chambers of publishing house fame. Then Chris and archaeologist Trevor Cowie displayed artefacts from around the area, including cross penny coin hoards; bronze pieces from the Horsehope hoard comprising socketed axe heads, terret rings and other pieces thought to be from a wheeled vehicle; stone axe heads from Manor Valley, believed to have been brought there from the Lake District by a series of exchanges; and the 'Coninie' stone, a late 6th-century grave marker commemorating a woman named Coninia, which had been found at Newholm Hope, where we would later pay a visit. We had the chance to handle some of the artefacts - always a great thrill.

Chris then took us on a guided walk around Peebles, taking in the unusual WWI war memorial in a mixture of Celtic and Moorish styles, a mural depicting the history of the local area, a riverside walk pointing out where the former railway line ran, the main bridge over the Tweed, much expanded over the years, the 'Cuddy' bridge and 'secret garden', and finishing in a vaulted cellar in a local pub!

After a soup and sandwich lunch in the Crown Hotel, we went out to Lyne where we stopped at the kirk with its Adam and Eve gravestone dating to 1712, and a good view of the old drove road opposite, before heading over to the Abbey Knowe early Christian long cist cemetery, excavated in 1998. Three small graves, probably those of young children, lie uncovered with their covers alongside.

L: Adam and Eve gravestone, Lyne church

Below:

Abbey Knowe cists

© Janet MacDonald

Nearby lies Lyne Roman fort, built in the Antonine period, where we had fun trying to identify the site of the stone-lined pit discovered during the 1901 excavations.

A short journey then took us on to Harehope neolithic cairn, much denuded of stone and now surrounded by forestry plantation, but with its two cists still visible. Greenknowe unenclosed platform settlement lies nearby; the two sites were excavated by George Jobey in the 1970s.

Greenknowe Unenclosed Platform Settlement © Janie Munro

About half the group decided to 'boldly go' on to Hog Hill defended settlement, worth the rather steep climb for the views from its ramparts over the surrounding valley.

Janie treading the bounds of Hog Hill defended settlement © Janet MacDonald

Our talk this evening was given by Margaret Fox, archivist of Traquair House, on the fascinating topic of "crimes of a heinous nature", recounting the activities of circuit judges such as Lord Cockburn, and other interesting titbits found in 18th and 18th century court records.

Day three found us climbing up through woodland and above the treeline to Pirn Wood fort, Innerleithen – again another spot with excellent panoramic views on all sides from the ramparts. Modern sculptured panels on plinths depicted the local history of the area.

On to Nether Horsburgh, and the remains of a 16th century tower house close to the recently renovated mill. After an excellent do-it-yourself lunch at Manor Village Hall, we explored some of the delights of Manor Valley, including Newholm Hope Burn, Kirkhope, where the earthwork remains of a tower house, buildings and terraces lie beside St Gordian's (or Gorgion's) cross, on the site of what is believed to be an early chapel dedicated to the rather obscure St Gordian, and near the find spot of the Coninie stone that we had seen in the museum. Also of interest is a font created from a cross-base of possibly tenth century date, brought to the spot at some point in the 19th century. Some stones with worn raised cross-hatch decoration had fallen from a field wall nearby, and may have come from one of the buildings on the site.

On to Posso, where we clambered over the remains of the tower house and the ancient sycamores, their gnarled and twisted branches reminiscent of Arthur Rackham illustrations. Then on to Woodhouse, passing Castlehill tower house on the way. Robert Barr kindly

allowed us access to the 'Black Dwarf's cottage' built for David Ritchie and immortalised by Sir Walter Scott, and yes, the door really was that low! Mind your heads, folks!

The Black Dwarf's cottage, Woodhouse © Janet MacDonald

Robert accompanied us to Glack Bastle house nearby – or what remains of it, the upper storey now gone and a pitched roof added, showing traces on the interior of the springings of the original vaulted roof of the ground floor level.

Home James! (or rather Flora!) to Peebles, and the culinary delights of the Tontine Hotel, where Wendy and Peter were thanked for their preparation of another wonderful and well-organised trip. On Friday we followed our own itineraries before heading homewards.

(Janet MacDonald 2019).

ACFA Summer 2019: What we did on our holidays.

Luing: February 2019:

A varied selection of sites were surveyed – around the massive hulk of Leccamore Dun, a cluster of platforms and settings and an enhanced survey of the enclosing walls and the interior which required the first ACFA tape off – set as a high wire circus act.

Down to the south end and vast vistas over Scarba, Jura with a skim of wild foam where the tide rips through the 'Grey Dogs' skerry. Here on the tip of long trap dyke, a banked platform, possibly a promontory fort as a sea eagle from Mull skimmed up the sky and an otter bobbed along the inshore current.

Dugie's final off set at Leccamore was only finally completed by standing on Chrissie's shoulders.

A final day was spent on the coast north of Blackmill Bay where the north flank of a prominent trap dyke is riddled with small rock cells, enclosures and the footings of a former unnamed pendicle settlement.

Whitehill Rock Art March 2019.

Continuing work on the rich rock art complex around the Cochno Stone with Tertia and Kenny Brophy's Faifley team on a day of mixed rain and sun, the former creating some interesting slippery shuffles while calculating which would be the best way to fall.

Tertia and Kenny's Faifley team with some students at Whitehill

This is an amazing site with possibly only a fraction of its potential either known about or found so far.

West Field Farm: Newton on Mearns: March 2019.

Westerton Farm: Newton Mearns

Some wintry days with Susan Hunter team surveying at this abandoned Renfrewshire long house and an architectural challenge to distinguish its multi – complications. Further surveys of smaller settlements such as **East Titwood,** a single small unit, possibly with associations to a vanished mill, rich evidence of the myriad survivals which can still be found huddled down hedge rows and along burn courses. Susan and team are now working with Stuart Nisbet on an amazing lime kiln complex at **Thorntonhall,** near East Kilbride.

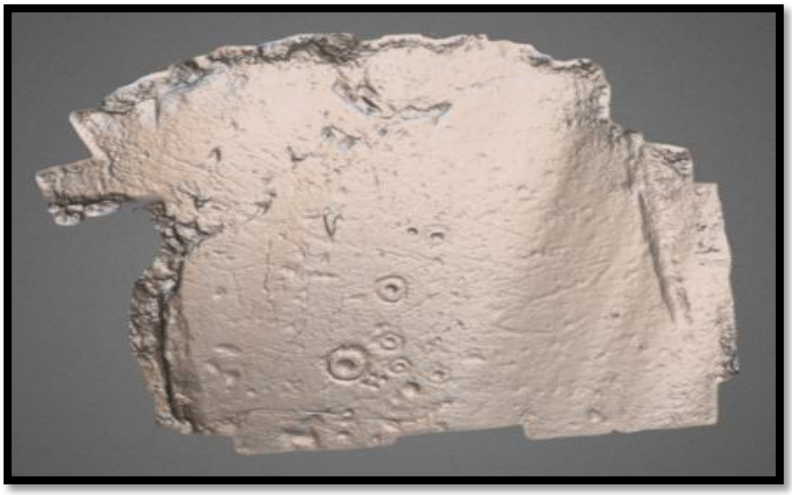
Glenlochay: April 2019 at Duncroisk.

The A Team at Duncroisk.

Wonderful things!

Another splendid weekend beginning the study and distribution of the known rock art heritage of 'oor' glen and brightened not just by the excellent company, the evening meals and the sunshine but five stars when new panels of art found almost as fresh as the day cut , all carefully recovered and restored to anonymity !

We found about half the motifs found by Cormack in 1949 but not the most complex ones, so further return planned in May 2020.



Duncroisk Panel 9A.

Tiree, *Tiriodh,Tir,Tyriag,Tyreig and a dozen more:*

Two expeditions this year in June and September, with more work on the Hynish Boundary Project and the launch of ACFA's first survey with 'paperless archaeology', including the deployment of I –Pads and tap entry from specific query sets

This has been only possible by the heroic work of Ailsa, Ed Smith and Fred Hay in providing a set peculiarly customised to potentially unravel the Gordian knot of the complex multi chronological time depths seen in this amazing landscape.

Both weeks enjoyed the best of this great summer and for this participant a first real appreciation of the variety of features – turf, turf and stone, pure stone dykes and the romantically named 'Dragon's Teeth', massive erratics connected by single monoliths which tantalisingly reach out to several very large, possibly multi – phase kerb cairns.

Recording without reams of paper context sheets was embraced by all regardless of technological expertise and as those present at the AGM know, enthusiastically recommended by Elaine Black for possible further ACFA investment.

Ed and Janie with I Pad survey of a 'Dragon's Teeth' boundary.

Traditional surveys and drawing complemented the work of the boundary teams with Dugie and team recording features at appropriate scale – the traditional skill of ACFA in this field amply evident in the many sites beautifully drawn in the launch of the Tiree Interim Report 2016 just published.

Dugie interrogates a Kerb Cairn.

Midsummer Day was memorable with an evening beach party laid on by Wendy which involved beach dancing at *Samraidh* and a fine day off when most of the party booked a supersonic boat trip to the Skerryvore lighthouse singing the ACFA anthem:

Oh our fathers were the keepers of the Skerryvore Light

And they met some mermaids one dark night

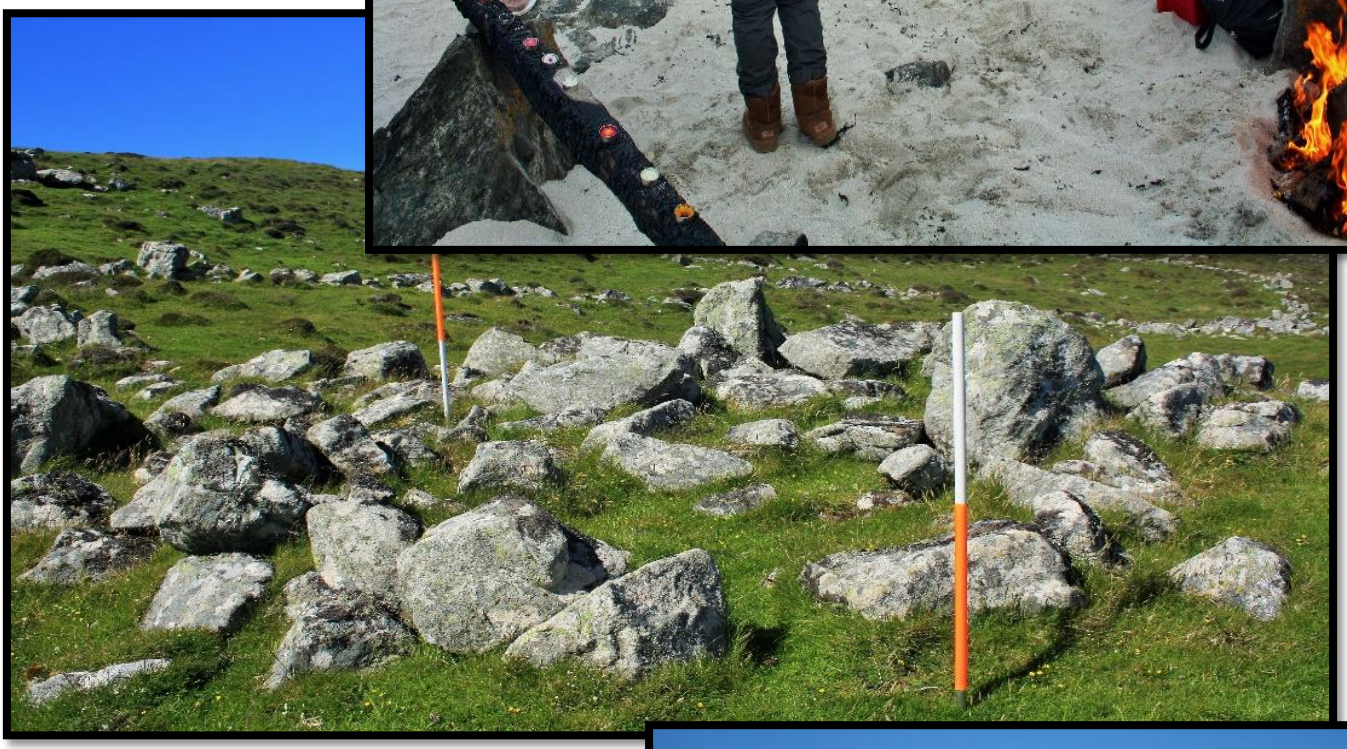
And the results of this were very soon seen

A kipper and a codling and the ACFA team.

Tiree Revels

Midsummer night.

June 2019.



Cairns and kerbs, Tiree 2019.

Luing: November 2019:

Return to Luing and an astonishing week of almost cloudless sunshine, the main survey being of the islands of **Torsa** and Fraoch Eilean lying on the east and west coast respectively, plus some of the small skerries

adjacent. No surveys of these have ever been done other than an RCAHMS plan of the remarkable tiny castle on a rock stack on its east side which guards the entrance to Cuan Sound. Remarkably like Brochel on Raasay.

Caisteal nan Con (Castle of the Dogs)

These are marginal places although there is evidence of up to four families once resident on Torsa and the possible sites of these settlements were recorded, including one on a now landlocked former Eilean na h- Eaglaise (*isle of the chapel)*.

The skerries and smaller isles were a challenge from landing to penetrating the ankle challenging dense primary shrub cloaking some of these but an insight into just what the postglacial landscape might have been like for first human settlers!

Great fun and shared with the cream of Luing Historical Society and welcome return of Richard 'Tidal Mills' Anderson, who was quickly put to the grindstone!

First wave ‘leap’ ashore on Omaha beach, Torsa !

Landing on Torsa. .

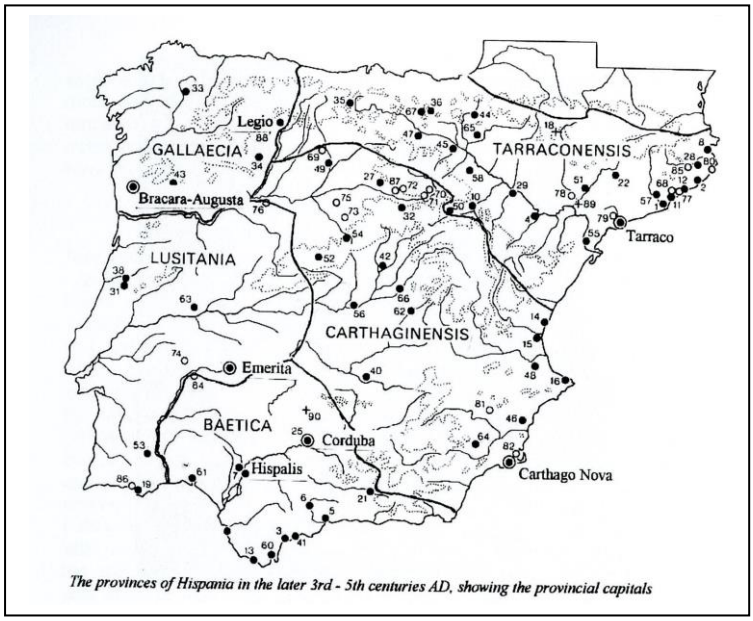
A further winter sortie is planned for February 2020 to attempt to reach the island of **Lunga** which is on the west coast and a few sea miles out in the Atlantic.

ACFA is recruiting as a result of recent information that a sizeable land mass has been seen to the west of Greenland by some Icelandic Vikings, notorious for their wild fabrications, but if so larger survey parties might be required.

Big Jarl McInnes claims director privileges.

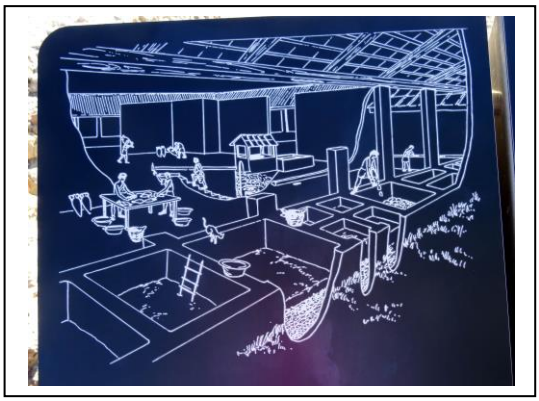
Roman Lusitania (Spain & Portugal)

This area was called ***Provincia Hispania Ulterior Lusitania*** during the reign of Emperor Augustus and before. It lies in the central western areas of Portugal and Spain. After the defeat of Carthage, Rome set up two provinces in Spain based on the Mediterranean coast. It is thought the indigenous people were Celtic.

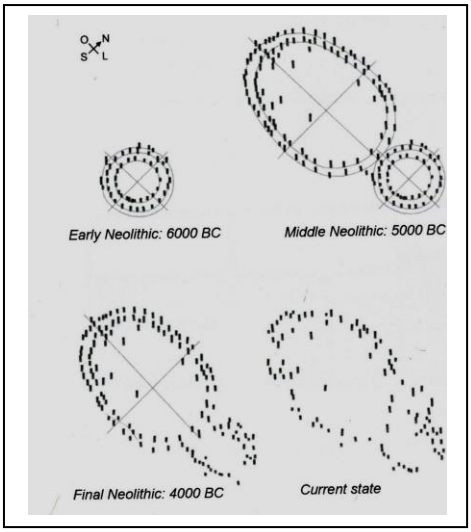


The provinces of Hispania in the later 3rd - 5th centuries AD, showing the provincial capitals

The coastal area was famous for salt-fish works, *garum & liquamen* a delicacy in the Roman Period. At Troia across the river Sado there are the remains of the largest fish-salting production centre in the Roman World which had a total of 52 factories consisting of 3,000 processing tanks between them in addition to the remains of a bath-house. The area was in antiquity an island. Production began in the 1st century AD and continued mostly into the early 5th century when the island was possibly struck by a tidal wave. The site appeared to have been abandoned in the Visigothic Period. The sauce was used as a seasoning and was made by fermenting the bodies of small fish such as anchovies, then covering them in salt and leaving them out in the sun. Apparently it tasted like Tai fish sauce. Only a small part of the area has been excavated.

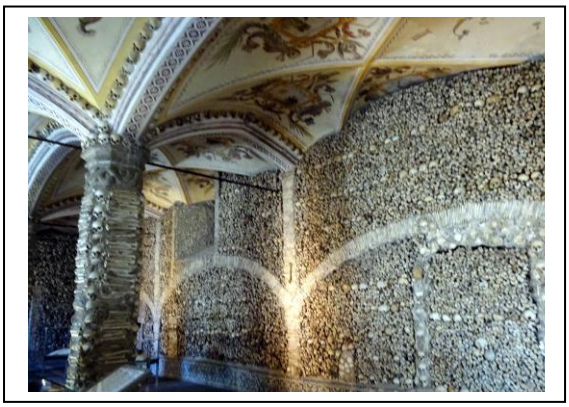


The two stone circles (cromlech) at **Almendres** of different sizes and style are the largest megalithic assemblage in Portugal. Ninety - two stones still remain out of an original estimated 100 stones arranged on a gentle slope in a double-ringed stone circle joined to a larger double-ringed ellipse of standing stones. The eastern double-ringed circle on lower ground is much smaller than the adjacent second larger double-ringed one to the west. The stones today are a bit haphazard in nature. Several of the stones especially in the larger ellipse have enigmatic engraved patterns on their surface including cups, circles and swirls. The site was built in several phases between 5,000-4,000 BC. A single standing stone is located c.1.5m across the valley and is known as '**the Menhir of Almendres'** and appears to be aligned with the circle.



The other c.4000 BC site in the area is the gigantic **Zambujeiro burial chamber.** It is the largest prehistoric burial chamber in the Iberian Peninsula. The stones in the central chamber have been placed in a circular design and reach 25 feet in height. The chamber is reached by an east-facing corridor which was covered in a massive long capstone. Excavations in the 1960s discovered a group of 15 adults along with a range of artefacts including necklaces, copper objects, ceramics, carinated bowls and small slate plaques inscribed with zig-zag and geometric patterns. Dynamite was used in the removal of the earth mound and capstone. The site today is protected above by a cover.

A bizarre building in **Evora is the Chapel of Bones** '*we the bones that are here await yours'* is the greeting visitors to the Chapel of Bones are met with. The chapel is the final resting place of 5000 individuals exhumed from the city's graveyards during the 16th century. By the Late Medieval period Evora's cemeteries were so overcrowded that skeletonised remains had to be exhumed and removed to a new site to make way for new bodies to be interred. The monks decided to put the remains on display for society 'to meditate of the transience of life and to remind everyone that death comes to all'. As seen by the photograph the bones are placed in patterns with skulls and long bones separated into sections.



Other sites in Evora town are a granite and marble temple which has Corinthian columns on all sides. This is an unusual design for Roman architecture as opposed to Greek temples suggesting that it was built at the end of the 1st century AD; it is also the date of the town's forum. There is an impressive aqueduct built by Francisco de Arruda which runs through the town, sometimes turning corners and at one point disappears under a street in the centre of the town. He also is credited with finishing the building of the aqueduct in Elvas and the Belem guard tower in Lisbon.

Over the border in Spain is the town of **Merida** which was founded as a roman *colonia* in 26 or 25 BC and was a settlement for discharged veteran soldiers. Among the Roman remains is the world's surviving longest bridge from ancient times, over the Guadiana River, 577m long with 62 spans. Also within the town is the Temple of Diana (possibly a temple of the imperial cult), a large amphitheatre, theatre, circus, forum and a number of rich houses

with mosaic floors. The cosmological mosaic from the house of Mithrea presents a grand allegory of the civilised world.

The amphitheatre was first constructed at the time of Augustus 1st century BC and gives an example of a monumental venue in a distant Roman colony with a capacity of 15,000. Most of the upper sections have disappeared but the lower ring of seating survives, in addition to the foundations that supported the seats on the upper levels. In the centre are traces of an underground pit that may have been used to suddenly introduce gladiators and wild animals into the arena, similar to the *hypogeum* at the Colosseum.

The Roman theatre has been restored and is quite spectacular; this was first constructed by Agrippa in the late 1st century BC. The circus which held up to 30,000 spectators is well preserved although the bulk of the *cavea* (seating) has disappeared although some of its foundations can still be seen. The *Spina* (central section) is still in evidence. The starting and turning areas can still be identified and the race traces dimensions are 1310 x 314 feet.

Merida had three aqueducts. From the Proserpina dam it entered the town from the north and crossed the Albarregas Valley the water channel was carried on slender pillars, with three tier or arches, built of alternating granite and brick courses. A stretch of around half a mile long is still preserved and is known locally as 'Los Milagros – the miracle'. The acqueduct from the Cornalvo reservoir is known as the Aqua Augusta and ended at a castellum divisiorum now buried beneath the bull-ring close to the House of the Mithrea. The third aqueduct, all the San Lazaro, was about a mile long and was fed by springs. Some of the arches are visible near the Roman circus, and the channel is visible running underground in the basement of the archaeological museum in Merida. The one we visited was the ***Los Milagros.***

There are many other interesting sites in this area including Badajoz which although had traces of prehistoric and Roman settlement is better known for its connection with the Peninsular Wars.

Bibliography

Andante 2018 - *Spain & Portugal Roman Lusitania Field Notes* & Guide Andrew Souter, University of Reading.

Site leaflets.

(Susan Hunter 2019.)

WICK HERITAGE MUSEUM

The museum is located in three adjoining houses in Pulteneytown which is the old fishing village area of Wick on the south side of the river beside the harbour.

The museum has displays of typical rooms and workshops covering every aspect of life in Wick over the last three centuries. Alongside the farm machinery, the compositors' room, the school room there is the lighthouse (full size) from Noss, a kippering kiln, a cooperage and all things to do with the fishing industry from model boats to a full size boat and a video of fishing lasses gutting herring.

The museum also houses the Johnston Collection of photographs. The Johnstons were three generations of photographers recording life in Caithness from 1860. When he retired in 1975 Alexander donated all the negatives and prints to the Wick Society. As well as studio pictures they catalogued every aspect of

life in Wick from street scenes to agriculture and, of course, fishing.

The photographs can be viewed online under 'Johnston Collection'.

The address of the Museum is 18-27 Bank Row. KW1 5EY for the satnav.

After your visit a short walk to the harbour takes you to a good café, 'Wickers World'. With a bit more time to spare Wick also boasts a very good French restaurant, 'Bord de l'eau'.

(Anne Bray 2019).

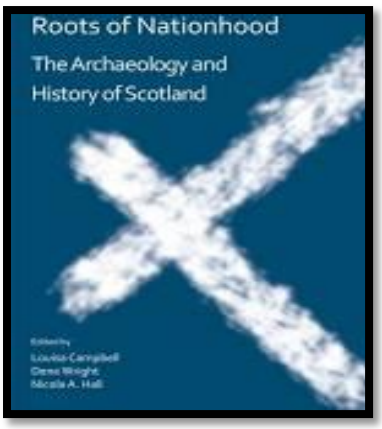
Wick Heritage Museum Garden.

Book Reviews:

"I have always loved books and I always will. If it was legal then I probably would have married one."

Roots of Nationhood: The Archaeology and History of Scotland

Edited by L Campbell, D Wright and N Hall (2018).



The Editors have pulled together a dozen papers providing evidence for the roots of Scottish nationhood, and are at pains to distinguish between "the search for national identities and the dynamic processes of identity formation" (p.2). Different contributors approach this from a variety of angles, some with more success than others, but putting aside the individual papers, collectively the book succeeds in its intent.

I won't review each of the contributions separately, but focus instead on insights drawn from across the board.

For example, at the macro level, Steven Timoney reminds us that "Identities are not fixed in time or space, but rather are socially constructed, and are constantly being evaluated at multiple levels" (p.141). An invaluable general insight that reduces the temptation to "make sense" of archaeological sites and artefacts from the archaeologists' cultural contexts. More specifically, as Dene Wright states "It is unsustainable to suggest that the roots of nationhood and Scottish identity are evident in the earliest pre-history of Northern Britain" (p.27). Notwithstanding that, however, he later

suggests that “It is in the Mesolithic where it is possible to … distinguish Northern Britain from Southern Britain” (p.31). Not the contradiction one might first think if nationhood is viewed as distinct from space.

Ann MacSween considers whether identities can be traced, in the later Neolithic, from the ceramic record (p.55), and concludes that while regional preferences in design varied greatly, they nonetheless also appear to have “their own strong site-based identities” (p.68). An identity, therefore, but of its time, not of ours (as Timoney would doubtless comment).

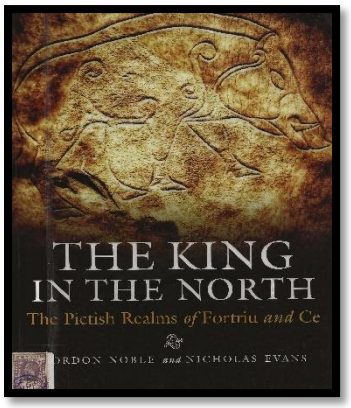
Elsewhere, chapters covering Romans, Vikings, the clergy, colonial connections, even the very name “Scotland”, add useful muscle to the Nationhood discussion. In essence, the various contributions draw attention to societal and geographic changes … examples of each would be (Society) nationality, identity, history and culture; (Geography) space, place, border and frontier. Of course, these overlap, with, for example, land ownership a societal construct that can impact dramatically on geography, and cultural acquisition no respecter of borders. But does geography shape society or *vice versa*? This book (The Roots of Nationhood) does not resolve that question, nor even address it head on, but it does represent an invaluable starting point for that discussion.

I missed a chapter weaving all the many threads together. Given the use/abuse of history for political advantage by diverse groups over time, such a chapter could have been invaluable. However, re-visiting the Editors’ opening observations, perhaps we should not be looking for a national identity derived from the past, but for one whose on-going formation both reflects today, and strives to offer benefit to the near future, rendering such a chapter obsolete. Notwithstanding that, I’ll give Kenneth Brophy the last word … “it is possible to argue that Scottish identity could be shaped by how we understand our prehistoric past today” (p.50). A neat way of interpreting the dynamic process, but only if prejudice is removed from that process.

(Ewen Smith 2019)

The King In The North: The Pictish Realms of Fortriu and Ce.

Gordon Noble and Nicholas Evans (2019).



For many ACFA volunteers in the early days of excavation at Forteviot and SERF the presence of Gordon Noble and Meggen Gondek was annual, Gordon was present and I think, one of the first of the small group who gingerly lowered themselves into the great cist as the cap stone was lifted before a hushed audience and we glimpsed the green glint of the dagger in one corner.

Then, both were gone or intermittent visitors and we heard that they had gone north where a major site at Rhynie in

Aberdeenshire was being opened up, little realising the upheaval that was to ensue in Pictish studies.

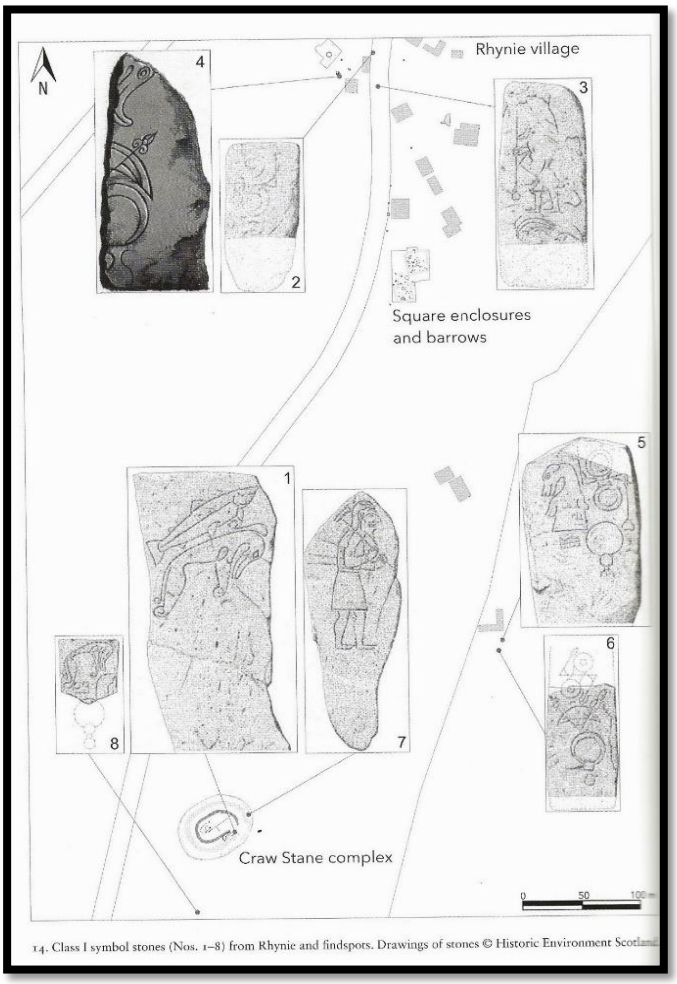
The site awaits finite publication but this book prepares us for important advances in our understanding of the Picts, "*the last major ethnic identity in the British Isles to become extinct*"

A series of essays by Gordon Noble, Meggen Gondek, Nicholas Evans, Juliette Mitchell and Martin Goldberg (another young student at Forteviot) are matched by older authorities on the subject – Ewan Campbell and Simon Taylor – and others.

They cover such subjects as where Fortriu/Fortrenn one of the most powerful of the Pictish kingdoms was situated, confirming its placement in the north as first postulated by Alex Woolf a decade ago and not the south as once accepted. Other chapters cover monumental cemeteries, fortified settlements, the development of the Pictish symbol system here convincingly proposed as centuries earlier than traditionally thought and, with ogham, in a context that makes Roman contact a probable factor in their origin.

The key site is around and in the little village of Rhynie in Strathbogie, a place one might drive through in a moment – subject to the hoary Aberdeenshire joke about the Station Hotel in Rhynie, the joke being there isn't one *"but they were aye hopin' for one"*. However, Rhynie has long been recognised as having the largest number of Class 1 sculpture in any one location in Scotland and the work on the site has revealed it as one of the more important power centres in northern Britain. With origins in the AD 4C and flourishing to AD 510 560 it is the first major non-hillfort secular site identified in Pictland so far. A bit like an early Amazon distribution centre, 'stuff' flowed in here from imported Late Roman amphorae to Continental glass and the large scale production of personal jewellery with unique motifs and presumably flowed out again to nourish other sites here in the heart of Fortriu beneath the huge Tap o' Noth hill fort.

Did they have 'Black Fridays' at the winter solstice?



14. Class I symbol stones (Nos. 1–8) from Rhynie and findspots. Drawings of stones © Historic Environment Scotland

Drawing of stones C. Historic Environment Scotland.

This is only an early accessible insight into what will probably be a real leap forward into understanding the Picts when it is brought together with the publication of Forteviot and SERF, an absolutely massive task in which as we know many of our friends in the University of Glasgow are gamely battling on with at this moment.

Highly recommended. (Ian Marshall 2019)

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