

EDINBURGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SOCIETY

Scottish Charity No. SC006520

News

Issue 200 – Winter 2014



The Committee has agreed that the production of the newsletter be reduced from 6 to 4 issues per year as follows; the end of February [spring], end of May [summer], end of July [autumn] and end of October [winter].

We hope that this will still meet the balance between keeping up-to-date with ongoing projects and forthcoming events supplemented by the regular advance notices issued by the Secretary ad hoc.

The last issue [Autumn 2014] issued at the end of August was incorrectly numbered – in reality it was issue 199.

So, be formally welcomed to and celebrate the real 200th edition of your newsletter!

Society News

Winter Lecture Programme

The dates for the lectures before the next edition of the *News* are Tuesday 11 November 2014, Wednesday 14 January and Tuesday 10 February 2015.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 10 December 2014.

We will continue to use the venue at 23a Fettes Row, Edinburgh, and meetings start at 7.30pm.

Field Activity Updates



Newhailes: A secret garden revealed.

Between 18th and 22nd September, the National Trust for Scotland ran a small excavation at Newhailes Estate. It was open to both children and adults who enjoyed the search for traces of the early formal garden seen in this NTS photograph. They were rewarded by the uncovering of sections of some gravel paths which had survived over the years.

A geophysical survey was being done as part of the exercise and it will be interesting to compare the results with those obtained by the Society a number of years ago. It was interesting, too, to walk around the estate and see the improvements made by the Trust in recent years.

Dig Portobello

AOC Archaeology organised a community excavation at Portobello from 29 to 31 August on the grass area just to the south of the promenade between Pipe Street and Bridge Street. A series of 1m test pits were dug revealing masses of pottery and what appeared to be traces of a wooden trackway supported on bricks. This was located in three of the test pits so it presumably must have been a fairly extensive system, possibly used for dumping ash from kilns. George Haggarty was reported as being very excited by some of the ceramic finds.

In addition the Portobello Heritage Trust conducted tours of the local area to review some of the fascinating architecture and history of the area, including Hugh Miller's house, the two surviving kilns and the three restored Coade Stone Pillars. The two smaller pillars are identical to the chimneys of Dalmeny House.



Lady Kitty's Garden, Haddington

EAFS carried out a geophysical Survey in Lady Catherine Charteris' Garden (Lady Kitty's Garden) adjacent to St Mary's Church on Sunday 7th September as part of a weekend of events including a conference and guided walks. The survey revealed linear and rectangular anomalies which may represent traces of structures. Further work by David Connolly involving test pitting, and a resistance survey on the Sands is to be arranged.



The Green, Dirleton

Further excavation took place on the Green at Dirleton between 8th and 17th September organised by the Gullane and Dirleton History Society and East Lothian Council Archaeology Service. A larger area was opened revealing a surrounding ditch, possible wall foundations and fill and some worked stone comprising three approximately one metre long chamfered stones thought to be part of a plinth. More 12/13th century white gritty ware was also recovered.



Shootinglees

“Climb every mountain, ford every stream, when we go to Shootinglees, the archaeology is extreme”

This was certainly the case when we returned to continue the resistance survey at Shootinglees, near Innerleithen. Heavy rain had somewhat raised the level of the burn which we have to cross such that the normal plank bridge was not useable, resulting in a longer walk to a slightly safer crossing. After negotiating a very slippery wooden “bridge” there was a long uphill walk to reach the site. In addition heavy showers during the day and uneven terrain, trees and building remains made progress difficult. The high point of the day was a visit to the Peeblesshire Archaeology Society’s trench in the woods. This was the site of a large farmstead – a hearth and a central drain could be seen. We called it a day after completing four 20x20 grids and returned to the car parking area after another epic trek.



Community Archaeology Day in Falkirk with Geoff Bailey

Don Matthews reports that on 13 August one of our members helped Geoff Bailey with a small community archaeology day at Tamfourhill in Falkirk, in association with Tamfourhill community centre management and Barnardo’s. Two areas were investigated close to the line of the Antonine Wall’s Military Way and the fortlet at Watling Lodge, where it was hoped to find some Roman archaeology. Geoff had also taken along some previous finds for display in the community centre. In the event, nothing Roman was found in our trenches and it appeared likely that the area near the community centre had been stripped to the natural during the construction of the housing estate. The trench in the grounds of Watling Lodge discovered landscape garden features dating from the construction of the arts & crafts villa in 1894. Finds were prolific - in the form of sweet wrappers, which now form part of the on-site museum! Despite the lack of Roman archaeology, the day was successful in involving members of the local community, some of the

younger members who had started with the 1-3 pm session still being there at 8pm. Geoff hopes that the dig will promote an interest in a large project which will see improved access to the Wall and on-site interpretation.

Other Events & Exhibitions

Cramond Association History Section talks for 2014/5

Evening Meetings: All in the Millennium Room of the Cramond Kirk Hall, Cramond Glebe Road.

Meetings begin at 7:30 pm for the talk and questions; teas/coffee/biscuits and chat follow at about 8:50 pm in the Gathering Place.

Visitors welcomed - £1.00 per meeting.

Wednesday 15th October 2014	'Aberdour Castle' Speaker: Mr. Adrian Cox (Historic Scotland)
Wednesday 12th November 2014	'Go Home and Sit Still Scottish Women's Hospitals in World War One' Speaker: Ms. Chris Short
Wednesday 17th December 2014	Cramond Association's 'Carols by Candlelight', 7:30 pm
Wednesday 7th January 2015	'Templelands in Cramond and Scotland' Speaker: Ms. Norah Carlin
Wednesday 4th February 2015	AGM: followed by 'Scottish Emigration to North America' Speaker: Ms. Jenni Calder
Wednesday 4th March 2015	'Taking a Knight's Class – The Archaeology of the Old High School' Speaker: Mr. E. Bailey (Headland Archaeology)
Wednesday 15th April 2015	'Pictures of Old Edinburgh' Speaker: Mr. Simon Green (The National Monuments Records of Scotland)
The Outing:	To be arranged.

Next Newsletter

The next Newsletter will be issued at the end of February 2015. All Contributions welcomed.

Until then, enjoy your archaeology!

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(Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society, its Committee and Members, or the Editor).