



Dig It! 2015 is a year-long celebration of Scottish Archaeology, coordinated by the Society of Antiquaries and Archaeology Scotland. For events, news and opportunities to join in sign up for the Dig It! 2015 newsletter at DigIt2015.com

Society News

Patrick Cave-Browne

One from the “Good News” desk and our congratulations to EAFS member Patrick Cave-Browne for his Scottish Heritage Angel Award for 2015 as Winner of Category E – Lifetime Contribution to Historic Environment, presented on 28th September 2015.



Patrick with his award pictured at Archaeology Scotland's AGM on Saturday 17 October

The Awards are supported by the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and run by a partnership of Scottish Civic Trust, The Scottish Government, RCAHMS, Historic Scotland and Archaeology Scotland.

Further details and videos are at <http://www.scottishheritageangelawards.org.uk/awards/winners-2015/>

Anthony Buxton

From the “Sad News” desk, we have to report that our treasurer, Anthony Buxton, is to move from Edinburgh to Moray and has indicated that he can no longer contribute to the Society in this role. Anthony joined the committee in 2012 and has been our treasurer since March 2014. We thank him for doing this and wish him well for the future.

Accordingly, we now seek a willing volunteer to take over the reins as our treasurer. This is not an onerous task as all the necessary procedures etc. are already in place and other members of the committee are there to assist in the handover.

Please volunteer to Ian Hawkins, Society Secretary - ihsc25293@blueyonder.co.uk - who will provide answers to any questions you may have.

Field Activity Updates

Mumrills Metal Detecting

On Sunday 11th October the Society assisted Geoff Bailey with a further metal detecting survey over the Roman Fort site at Mumrills. The survey produced 2 more Roman coins, a denarius of Antoninus Pius (photo) and a possible well-worn sestertius. A medieval bronze belt buckle was also found together with a Chape of a 17th century belt buckle, a bag seal (19th century), a Regimental button (20th Regt, c1840) and 2 lead musket balls. Several members attended on a day of fine dry weather.



Denarius obverse

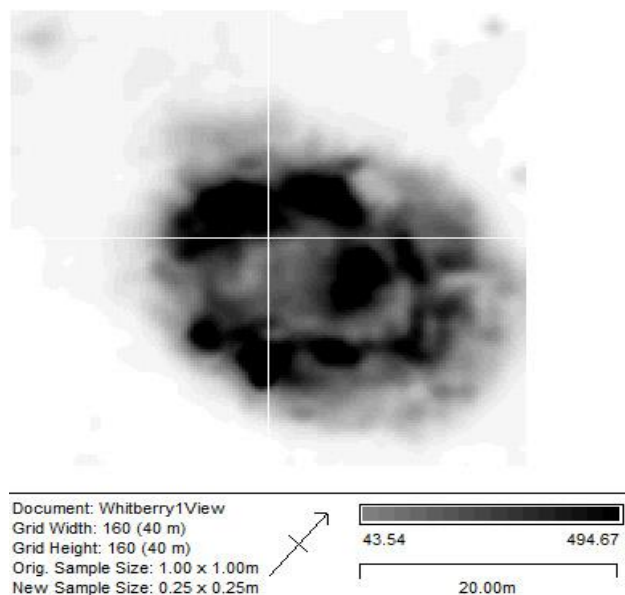


and reverse

Whitberry Point (St Baldred's Cradle)

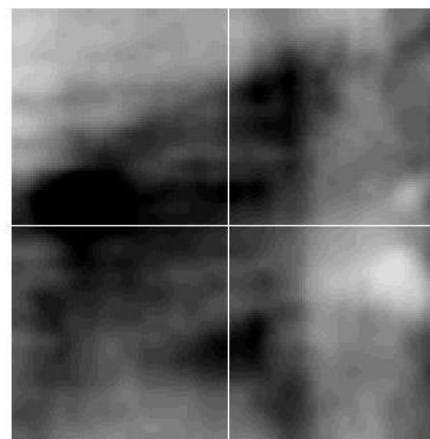
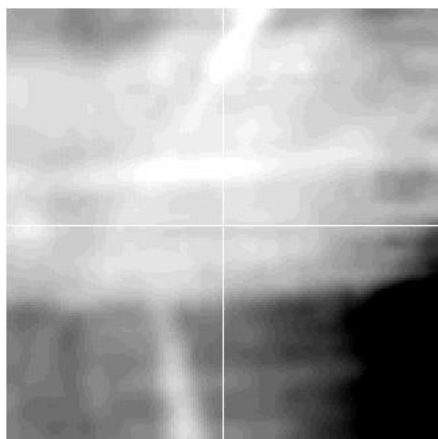
The Society surveyed a prominent mound at Whitberry Point (St Baldred's Cradle) in East Lothian on Saturday 29th August with David Connolly.

The survey was well supported by EAFS volunteers and results were very interesting with clear high resistance anomalies, although only excavation would reveal which anomalies are potentially prehistoric or WWII in origin.

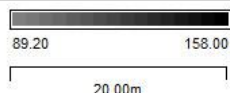


Hedderwick

A survey on 12th September of a recently harvested field at Hedderwick which had produced metal detector finds was less successful revealing anomalies that were most probably geological. The weather was less kind to us but it did stop raining after lunchtime.



Document: Hedderwick1View
Grid Width: 480 (120 m)
Grid Height: 160 (40 m)
Orig. Sample Size: 1.00 x 1.00m
New Sample Size: 0.25 x 0.25m



Tantallon Castle

The excavations at Tantallon Castle from 2 – 13 September with Adrian Cox of Historic Scotland (as was) and Gordon Ewart of Kirkdale Archaeology were again very successful. Two trenches in the Outer Ward revealed a large wall foundation with associated stone paving and much animal bone. There was also a wide stony bank traced running through both trenches. Finds included some enigmatic metal items. Two trenches in the Inner Courtyard discovered the usual spread of clay and possible buried turf. A final trench was opened to define the profile of the large ditch feature on the western perimeter of the site. On the final weekend there was a very well supported open day despite rain on Saturday with re-enactors and much weaponry and artillery.



We await the post-excavation results with interest.

Other Activities

Digit! 2015 Cramond Event

Cramond Association and Cramond Heritage Trust are holding a Digit! 2015 Storytelling Event at Cramond on Sunday 25 October from 2pm till 5pm. Walks round the sites of the Roman fort and its bathhouse, also the Mesolithic hunter gatherers settlement. Knowledgeable guides will give short talks at each of these sites. <http://digit2015.com/events/dig-it-2015-at-cramond/>

Cramond doors open day and Scottish Archaeology & Heritage festival event

This again was a successful event on 26 and 27 September, with nearly 300 visiting The Maltings over the two days. The hands on events were popular, with excavation finds sorting, ceramic vessel reconstructing and writing on Roman tablets or using quill pens (if anyone can provide *large* feathers we would love to have some). Walks were taken around Cramond village and its archaeology and along the River Almond to the former iron mills. We even had good weather!

Cramond Roman Fort

The conference on 60 years of Roman Cramond was held on Saturday 3rd October when a very high quality line up of speakers and their topic were

Dr Rebecca Jones on the Antonine Frontier,
Martin Cook on Cramond Excavations,
Nick Holmes on the numismatic evidence,
Dr Fraser Hunter on the Cramond Lioness,
Dr Dawn McLaren on the Charlie Hoy archive,
Paul Bidwell on the pottery,
Dr Adrian Maldonado on early British history sources
Dr David Breeze - Discussion and Closing Remarks and
John Lawson (who organised the conference) on the Cramond Bath house bodies.

A further report will appear in the next issue of the newsletter.

Treasures found: archaeology from the East of Scotland

Museums in Fife, Edinburgh, West Lothian, East Lothian and Scottish Borders have come together under the umbrella of the East of Scotland Museums Partnership to create an exhibition of items obtained through Treasure Trove; the process under Scottish Law which allows ownerless objects found by chance to be claimed from the Crown.

This is a touring exhibition of a selection of recent archaeological finds which shed light on the archaeological history of the area. It was in the Museum of Edinburgh at Huntly House until recently and was well worth a visit. Do go and see it if it's in your area.

The exhibition will be displayed as follows:

21 September - 15 November: National Mining Museum Scotland, Midlothian

23 November - 10 February: Kirkcaldy Galleries, Fife Cultural Trust

Spring 2016: East Lothian Council Libraries and Museums- exact venue and dates tbc.

Dunfermline big dig

In EAFS Newsletter Issue 196, January 2014, it was reported that an archaeological dig had been conducted on the site of an extension to Dunfermline Carnegie Library. The site was for a new museum and gallery, to be attached to the existing building, and within what was part of the monastic precinct of Dunfermline Abbey. The contract was awarded to Rathmell Archaeology and involved the support of the local community. Thus for five weeks in August and September 2013 some 80 volunteers took the opportunity to try their hand at uncovering something of Dunfermline's past.

The archaeology report for the dig has just been published by Rathmell Archaeology and consists of eight specialist reports. The report runs to 58 pages and an email copy of the full report may be obtained from: Lesley.mcnaughton@onfife.com

A summary report of 12 pages may also be obtained from the same email address together with an overall assessment of the dig by Douglas Speirs, the Fife Council Archaeologist. The summary report may also be obtained from: alancalder@btinternet.com

Cambuskenneth Abbey update

On 8 September 2016, Murray Cook gave a quick update on the dig at Cambuskenneth reporting that the: we have the harbour and Watergate gate wall had been exposed and that they were now on the lookout for boats!

At the same time he advised that are just about to expose the big boundary ditches were about to be exposed. At that stage it was suggested that these boundary ditches were possibly the 12th century boundary ditches of the Abbey or perhaps the defences around Bruce's baggage train in the Battle of Bannockburn or perhaps they may be the defences around the 17th century siege of Stirling Castle....or perhaps all 3!

Other Publications, Events & Exhibitions

Remember to book your place at the **Edinburgh, Lothians & Borders Archaeology Conference 2015**,

Saturday 21st November 2015 9.00am - 4.45pm at the Queen Margaret University, Musselburgh

Scottish Rock Art Project - Future Thinking on Carved Stones in Scotland

EAFS attended the third of four workshops which took place as part of the Future Thinking on Carved Stones in Scotland project. The main outcome of this event is to be a research agenda for carved stones in Scotland, a thematic Scottish Archaeology Research Framework (ScARF). As this was the first ever gathering of the wider carved stones research community, of specialists and non-specialists, the emphasis was on networking - on identifying research ideas and possible synergies. To stimulate discussion of shared interests, all attendees were asked to bring an A3 poster concisely summarizing their ongoing and future research interests. The theme chosen by EAFS for their poster was 'Recording Rock Art', the main subject being the Society work on Tormain Hill, Ratho, Midlothian.

The Carved Stones project, running from February 2015 to April 2016, is a strategic effort to link, inspire, mobilize and help direct the efforts of all those with an interest in or responsibility for carved stones in Scotland. The aim is to stimulate research into all aspects of carved stones in order to promote an increased awareness of the interest, significance and value of this important aspect of our heritage. This in turn will help improve handling of their care, for wider public benefit.

In order to achieve the aims of the project it will be necessary to take stock of existing and ongoing research both in Scotland and internationally and to this end leading practitioners from England, Ireland and Sweden are being involved. The end result should enable Scotland to establish a benchmark against which all future recording, preservation and research can be measured. Already two specific areas have been identified for particular study, the digital recording of carved stones (RSE Workshop 1) and carved stones associated with churches (RSE Workshop 2).

References: www.stir.ac.uk/cehp/projects/futurethinkingoncarvedstonesinscotland/

Workshop 1 - Digital Recording of Carved Stones for research: where are we and where can we go.

Workshop 2 - At the door of the church? Research and Carved Stones at Ecclesiastical Sites.

Workshop 3 - New Thinking on Carved Stones in Scotland

Workshop 4 - Future thinking: SCARF for Carved Stones in Scotland

Other Links

Archaeology Scotland's "Out and About" list of events can be accessed at www.archaeologyscotland.org.uk

SCRAN

This database has nearly 400,000 images. It can be used with a library card free. Go to libraries.scran.ac.uk and log in using your library card number.

European Association of Archaeologists Conference, Glasgow, 2015

Video recordings from selected sessions at the EAA conference in Glasgow 2015 are now available at <http://e-a-a.org/Glasgow2015video.htm>. The list of recorded sessions will be growing as the film material is processed and uploaded, so please check the site regularly.

Next Newsletter

The next Newsletter will be issued at the end of February 2016. All Contributions welcomed.

Until then, enjoy your archaeology!

Editor: Graeme H Bettison, 18 The Promenade, Port Seton, EH32 0DF. graeme.bettison@tesco.net
(Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society, its Committee and Members, or the Editor).