

# EDINBURGH ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD SOCIETY

Scottish Charity No. SC006520

## News

Issue 217 – Spring 2022



### Society News

The Society's web-site is [www.eafs.org.uk](http://www.eafs.org.uk)

### Membership Subscriptions

Members are reminded that the 2022 subscriptions are now due.

These are as follows:-

|                                    |       |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Single                             | 20.00 |
| Family                             | 30.00 |
| Concession Single*                 | 15.00 |
| Concession ¾ of Single/Family rate |       |
| Concession Family**                | 22.50 |
| Country Single#                    | 15.00 |
| Country Family#                    | 22.50 |
| Institution                        | 50.00 |

\*Junior (under 19), Full-time Student, Unemployed and Senior Citizen

\*\*Where all members are eligible for the concessionary rate

#Country: over 25 miles from east end of Princes Street

We are very grateful that so many members of the society chose to renew their membership with us since due to Covid 19 restrictions during 2020-2021 we were unable to provide our usual lectures or regular updates on our fieldwork. We have lost around 20 members over the last couple of years and so to date now have a total of 66 paid-up members giving a subscription income of over £1000.

We recently created a new category of membership to allow ARCHSOC, the Archaeology Society of Edinburgh University to join as a group. This has allowed their members to assist us with excavations at Cammo Estate and they have been a welcome addition to our workforce. We were also able to welcome them to our first lecture since 2020 which was held at Cramond Kirk Hall.

Any member who is not sure whether they have paid their subscription but still wishes to be a member can check with me at [treasurer.eafs@gmail.com](mailto:treasurer.eafs@gmail.com)

## Chairman's Report and Update May 2022

Despite the very occasional bad weather stopping play, we have continued to hold our regular Monday work schedule. This year to try and accommodate people who are unable to join us through the week we have added a monthly Saturday open day. The next open day will be on the 18<sup>th</sup> June. All will be welcome to come and see what we are doing, to be shown the story of Cammo through Archaeology and to help clear the weeds from the upstanding buildings we have cleared.

So far, we have cleared 'the offices/cottages', the Steading, erroneously called 'the Piggery' on the 1980's plan and we are currently working on clearing the Stables. As well as this we are discovering the extent of the Glasshouses that were built onto the North Wall of the Walled Garden – the 'hot wall'. The Gardener's 'howff' has been cleared and we are preparing to investigate the potting shed beside it. Our weed clearance is part of a project that has been part funded by the Almond North West Local Community Grant Fund and is an outreach project to try and increase the number of volunteers interested in working at Cammo.

As well as local volunteers we have been working closely with the University of Edinburgh Archaeology Student's Society. A regular number of students join us on Mondays. We are also intending to increase their access to practical archaeological work which has been severely restricted due to Covid by running some training sessions for them. The first was a geophysics training day on the 19<sup>th</sup> March when we did a resistivity survey of the S.W. meadow adjacent to the Walled Garden and hope to follow this up with test pitting. All our training days are open to anyone interested as well as the students.

Throughout all this external work we have our research committee working on searching the records for appropriate background material to enhance the story of the Cammo Estate. In this 'the Year of Stories' we hope to get the Oral History part of our project off to a good start so would be interested in anyone who would be willing to be interviewed about their recollections of Cammo in the past.

Our Exhibition charting the 50 years of the Society has closed in the Museum of Edinburgh, but we are pleased to say that a smaller version of the exhibition is currently housed in Cramond Maltings, 6 Riverside, Cramond Harbour, Edinburgh EH4 6NY. It is open most weekends 2pm to 5pm and will be open every afternoon during the Edinburgh Festival.

We were pleased to hold our first lecture on April the 6<sup>th</sup>. We used Cramond Church Hall as the Cine Club has been undergoing renovations. It was a good venue and despite being out of town we had over 20 in the audience to hear about the History, Characters and current Archaeology of Cammo. It was very

pleasant to meet with members in person after so long. We plan to have more lectures in the Autumn once we can confirm place, speakers and dates.



On April 6<sup>th</sup> it was also my pleasure on behalf of all the members to present Val Dean with Honorary Membership of the Society in recognition of her long-standing membership, her outstanding contribution to our Society and to Scotland's Archaeological knowledge and discourse in general.

### **The Stables at Cammo (interior view)**



The 'New Stables' that you see today were built in 1811. They were constructed for James Watson to the design of Robert Reid, who was the last person to hold the title of 'Master of Works to the Crown of Scotland'.

The U-shaped building housed two pavilions at either end for carts or carriages. The Stable block had stalls for 7 horses and post holes and drainage holes connected to the stalls have been uncovered. There was also a Harness Room.

The inside was floored in flagstones with the outside of the building finished in settled cobbles. Between 1836 and 1839 a cast iron boiler system and water pipes were installed.

The Central Doorway, where the grille is currently, would have led into the Forge where replacement shoes for the horses would have been made and fitted. From here stairs led to a circular room upstairs with the Clock Tower above. The central stone is inscribed jw.i8ii denoting James Watson had it built.

Several volunteers have helped to uncover the flagstones and cobbles. A stone drinking trough has been discovered in the rear of the Central Pavilion and a fireplace in the Forge area has been cleared. JH

### **Marion Inglis, 'an envious, banning, flyting woman' of Cammo**

Recent EAFS excavations at Cammo have mostly been concerned with Cammo House and later habitations on the estate, but the story of Marion Inglis, who was accused of witchcraft in Corstorphine in 1649, gives us a glimpse of 17th century Cammo as a neighbourhood or agricultural community. Marion was arrested on suspicion of witchcraft in Corstorphine in May 1649 because she had been named as an associate by two Corstorphine women who were also arrested. During her four-month imprisonment she was searched for the devil's mark by the notorious witch-pricker John Kincaid; but a second search demanded by the Edinburgh presbytery found no evidence of any insensitive spot, as Marion 'cried pitifully and the place where the pin was put in issued with blood a little.' A call put out by

the Corstorphine kirk session for information against her from other parishes produced evidence of Marion's quarrelsome relations with neighbours.

Several Cammo witnesses told the kirk session that they knew Marion as 'an envious, banning, flyting woman' — envious, cursing and quarrelsome — a reputation typical among the thousands of 'ordinary people accused of impossible crimes' under the Scottish Witchcraft Act of 1563 according to *Witches of Scotland* (see below).

Beatrix Gardiner testified that when she lived in James Wilkie's house in Cammo he had rented his milk cows to Marion, and when one of them proved to be in calf, she refused to pay the rent for that one because it produced no saleable milk. Marion had then threatened that the cow would 'shoot to death' by evening — an old expression for killing animals by witchcraft (also found in *Tam o' Shanter*). Another of Wilkie's cows coincidentally took ill, and a third 'took the shots the first had', though the one allegedly cursed by Marion suffered no ill effects.

Other accusations concerned Marion's recent residence on Corstorphine Hill, but Agnes Campbell recalled a quarrel between Marion and the farmer's wife at Pilton when she and Marion's daughter had been in service there together eight years earlier, and Agnes was given milk to sell in Edinburgh that had been promised to Marion's daughter. Agnes claimed that witnessing this row had made her ill, but since all the evidence only amounted to the fact that she feared Marion because 'she was called not sonsie' (i.e. she was bad luck) the Corstorphine kirk session were sceptical.

It seems no further action was taken against Marion, though five of the seven people accused of witchcraft had died in the Corstorphine witch hunt that year, three of them executed by strangling and burning, one by suicide, and one, who was nearly 80 years old, from sustained sleep deprivation. But Marion Inglis and one other, who was released under pressure from her husband, a substantial farmer, to have survived. We don't know whether Marion remained on Corstorphine Hill, moved on elsewhere, or returned to Cammo.

**Witches of Scotland** is an organisation campaigning for justice for the victims of historic witch hunting.

See and hear more about it at <https://www.witchesofscotland.com/podcast>

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### **Tax records in 18<sup>th</sup> century**

From the tax records in the National Records of Scotland, digitised on Scotland's Places, further details of Cammo or New Saughton estate are available. The earliest record is of the poll tax in 1694 (ref E70/8/6/19)

Window tax (E326/1) was introduced into Scotland in 1748 and ran until 1851. These rolls list the number of windows and occupiers of property covering the period 1748-1798. The early records are fragmentary in the county of Midlothian and several rural parishes are omitted. Initially tax was paid on houses which had 10 windows or more. This was reduced to over 8 windows in 1762 and 7 windows or more from 1766. A surcharge was levied in 1758 by an Act of George II and this was removed when the duty was raised in 1767. Initially the tax was levied twice yearly but this was combined into an annual tax in 1767-1768 when the rate of tax was increased.

In this period Cammo is recorded as having 61 windows in 1758, 58 from 1759 to 1790.

From the information in the records James Watson was liable for the tax from its introduction until the year 1778-1779. James is designed as being of Cammo or New Saughton presumably at the whim of the Surveyor. Cammo paid £1-9-0 + 14/6 surcharge from 1760-1766, twice yearly. From 1766 the annual charge for the house was £5-16-0.

The male servant tax (E326/5) was levied on the households employing 'non-essential' male servants from 1777 onwards. The tax was aimed primarily at the wealthy in town and country who could afford domestic or personal servants (such as cooks, butlers, valets, grooms, gardeners, and coachmen). The tax schedules (National Records of Scotland, E326/5) cover the years 1777-1798. The records are organised by parish, listing each household liable for the tax and usually the name and designation of each servant.

In the period 1777-1779 James had two male servants, Thomas Dickie, a household servant and James Matthie, his driver. He paid 15/- tax on each one in the first year and 21/- the following year.

Charles Watson had a gardener, William Hosie from 1785 to 1794. Two footmen were employed, Robert Jackson and Peter Raeburn from 1785 to 1795. In the same period, he had 2 different coachmen William Liddle and Robert Jenkison and there was a helper in the stables. This was one of the taxes levied to pay for the American and French wars. During the late eighteenth-century taxes were levied on female servants (E326/6) for the period 1785-1792. Charles Watson was paying tax on generally 3 or 4 female servants who are named but unfortunately there is no indication as to their duties.

Due to these wars several other taxes were imposed. Charles Watson paid tax ranging from 15/- to £8.0.0 on his 4 wheeled carriage in the years 1785-91. He also paid tax on the 5 horses he owned in the period 1787-1798 ranging from £1-2-6 to £4-0-0 per annum. In the year 1797-1798 Charles Watson also paid tax of 8/- + surcharge of 20% for his 4 farm horses. A tax of 5/- was payable for each of his 3 non-working dogs in 1797-1798. These were in addition to the window tax of £5-16-0 payable until 1790 when Charles Watson made alterations to the house and the number of windows increased to 64 with a proportionate increase in tax.

From 1797 taxes were payable to a single consolidated fund. These were entered on a single schedule, which included houses and windows, inhabited houses, male servants, carriages, riding and carriage horses, horses used in husbandry and trade and mules, and dogs. The consolidated schedules survive for the year 5th April 1798 to 5th April 1799 only.

In 1798-99 Charles Watson Esq. of Saughton paid £60-18-8 in total.

In 1799 William Pitt introduced income tax to pay for the war with France This was levied on a sliding scale for people who had an income in excess of £60.0.0 and increased to a maximum of 10% on incomes of £200.0.0 plus. It was abolished in 1816, a year after Waterloo (UK Parliament – taxation, Wikipedia). Unfortunately, these records are not yet digitised. Cammo Estate details have been extracted from Scotland's Places and these are available on request. ABK

**Retirement** Geoff Bailey was Keeper of Archaeology and Local History for Falkirk District for 38 years until his retirement on 28th April. Geoff was a great friend to the Society over many of these years. Our first contact with him was at an excavation at East Bonhard, between Linlithgow and Bo'ness. We were subsequently invited to dig with Geoff initially at Weedingshall, and latterly at many sites on the Antonine Wall including Carriden Fort and Annex, Mumrills Annex, Castlecary, Kinneil and in many gardens surrounding the Fort in Falkirk, which Geoff rediscovered in 1997. His annual "Summer" digs were a particular highlight. A steady supply of jam doughnuts and mild sarcasm was always present. Geoff also provided opportunities for fieldwalking and latterly even employed Geophysics with some success. At the easing of the Covid pandemic Geoff helped us at Cammo for several weeks Geoff was the author of numerous books on various local historical subjects. his latest work on Excavations on the Antonine Wall in Falkirk District was well received, and many of his "wall nuts" received a complimentary copy of his weighty and comprehensive volume. Geoff will still be around to provide excavations, the next one most probably for two weeks this summer in Laurieston. IH

After many years of producing our Newsletter Graeme Bettison has decided to retire from the position. We would like to thank him for all his contributions to the society and wish him well in the future.

**Publication by an EAFS Member** Greek Secrets Revealed - Book 1 – Edinburgh

A surprising number of Greek inscriptions from post-reformation times can be found in Scotland. Each tells a story. In this work Ian McHaffie translates and explains the Greek inscriptions in Edinburgh. In teasing out the background, much emerges about life, religion, politics and social conditions in Scotland. This is probably the first time these Greek inscriptions have been collated and explained. This is not a dull list, but the uncovering of aspects of Scottish history which would

otherwise remain hidden and could become lost. Ian and his wife have been members of EAFS for many years. Copies can be ordered at a cost of £12.50 by contacting Ian on [mchaffie@icloud.com](mailto:mchaffie@icloud.com) IH

### **Walled Garden**

Work is proceeding apace uncovering the foundations, extent and heating systems for the glasshouse on the north wall. Recent finds include metal labels for grapes and a large stretch of pipe.



### **Future Events**

**Skateraw** We had made initial plans for a re-visit to the Chapel site at Skateraw with Richard Gillanders, but various complications meant that the dig has had to be put on the back burner.

**Haddington** We finally completed our 2014 survey at Abbey Mill Farm in February but could not add much to our earlier plan. We may be able to return to carry out a survey of the burial ground later this year, and we should also have a survey at the Episcopal Church in Haddington with Jon Cooper in September. IH

**Rhind Lectures** Unearthing the African Diaspora on 10-12 June 2022 by Professor Theresa Singleton. This will be held in the Augustine United Church, George IV Bridge and online.

### **Past events**

The Scottish Society for Northern Studies and The Pictish Arts Society jointly organised a virtual conference using Zoom Webinar across the afternoons of 5-6 March in honour of Dr Anna Ritchie.

**Common Ground** re-examined some of the richest veins of research discourse contributed to by Dr Ritchie. In the 1970s she directed excavations at three major archaeological sites in Orkney - the Pictish and Viking farmstead at [Buckquoy](#) in [Birsay](#), the [Neolithic](#) farmstead of [Knap of Howar](#) on [Papa Westray](#) and a Neolithic [chambered cairn](#) on the [Holm of Papa Westray](#). As well as publishing widely in academic journals and books,<sup>[5]</sup> Dr Ritchie wrote extensively for more popular publications covering such topics as Scottish Prehistory, [Picts](#), [Vikings](#), early Medieval sculpture and longer works on the archaeology of Iona, Orkney, Shetland, and Bute. The conference topics ranged from: 'The Ogham Inscriptions of Orkney' thru 'The Aberlemno Environs Project' together with a further six papers on different aspects of recent research in Scottish Archaeology. AC

### **Next Newsletter**

The next Newsletter will be issued later this year. All Contributions welcomed.

### **Until then, enjoy your archaeology!**

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



