



Society News

The Society's new web-site is now up and running at www.eafs.scot

Membership Subscriptions

Members are reminded that the 2019 / 2020 subscriptions are now due.

Remaining lectures for 2019

Grant More	Barnton quarry	15 May
Derek Alexander	New evidence of Bronze Age inhabitants of Staffa	16 October
Natasha Ferguson	Project Reveal	13 November
AGM	Project Updates	11 December

Lectures and the AGM are held at 7.30pm in the Edinburgh Cine and Video Society,
23a Fettes Row, Edinburgh, EH3 6RH

Patrick Cave-Browne (1926 – 2019) remembered.



Major Patrick Norman Rose Cave-Browne passed away on 5 February 2019 aged 93.

Patrick was born in India on 5 January 1926, the son of Major Horace Cave-Browne and Alice Rose Weir. The Cave family has a very long lineage traceable back to the 12th century. Patrick married Mary Davy Cobbold on 3 November 1950 and had two daughters, Margaret and Ann.

On his return to the U.K, as his ship left the Suez Canal and entered the Mediterranean his Father took him to the stern of the ship where he threw his Foreign Service (pith) helmet into the sea, signifying a conclusion to his service in India. Not to be outdone, Patrick did the same. Patrick attended several preparatory schools in England before becoming a boarder at Charterhouse School in Godalming. His military service, where he gained the rank of Captain was in the Seaforth Highlanders and Rhodesia and Nyasaland Staff Corps and he was promoted to the rank of Major in the North Rhodesia Regiment. During his time in Africa he became very much involved in the care and treatment of the blind which he continued on his return to the UK as an Orientation and Mobility Instructor with the Royal Blind School.

Patrick had a keen interest in ancient technology and has published works on Fire making as a Survival Skill. He also had an interest in lithics, wood friction and steel tools for creating fire. He was a volunteer with CSA, later



Archaeology Scotland, and at the Crannog Centre on Loch Tay, giving demonstrations of various ancient technologies at Archaeology Fairs and other events. In September 2015 Patrick was presented with a well-deserved Scottish Heritage Angel Award for Lifetime Contribution to the Historic Environment. <https://vimeo.com/140293664>

Patrick joined EAFS in 1987 and was on the EAFS committee from 1991 – 1996 and was Vice Chairman from 1997 – 2000. Patrick was very much involved with the EAFS excavations at Cramond from this project's start in 1988. He was very 'hands on' and came up with many useful methods and tools to deal with the many and varied situations which arose. He was also active on geophysical surveys at Woodlands House (the Society's first resistivity survey), Cramond and Old Pentland amongst many others. His wife, Mary was responsible for making the cloth carry cases for canes and ranging rods which are still in use today.

During Scottish Archaeology Month he would bring his traditional equipment down to Cramond Heritage Trust's Maltings centre. Visitors would be cajoled into making nettle string and creating a flame from wood friction or from flint and steel. They would go away amazed at what they had achieved.

Another item of interest of which Bill MacLennan has reminded us was that Patrick was a cousin of Joanna Lumley, (but a far better archaeologist).

Patrick was cared for in later life, after Mary passed away in 2012 by his family and his grandson Stuart. Patrick is survived by two daughters, eight grandchildren and one great grandchild.



Field Activity Updates

1. Cammo Estate.

Reports on the progress of the excavations at Cammo have been made in each newsletter since edition 208 in the spring of 2017.

The latest round of fieldwork commenced towards the end of 2018 when work at the annex at the NE end of the Offices was resumed and a start made on the clearance of the vegetation on the piggery

Another good day on Monday 11th February the full extent of the stone flagged floor in Trench 1 (the lobby?) was established.



4 sash weights which might indicate a good standard of window were found and excavation of trench 4 (NE door) revealed a stone step outside and finds included a horse shoe, bits of iron drain pipe or gutter, 2 metal gutter brackets and a quantity of pottery.



On 25th February finds included a door lock with both handles, an Ironmongers trade plate, a weight for a set of scales inscribed “80”, a pitch fork head, a hinge and the usual ceramics. An unusual find was a 14x14cm square section of marble with dowel holes [which may be part of a cutting board] and a decorated section of tile.



This standard 750ml champagne bottle still has traces of the glue for the foil at the neck. Going by the depth it was found at it is most probably not a modern discard. This suggests a better lifestyle than looking after horses etc. and may be the 1911 Cammo cottage.



Excavations during March included trench 2 at the SW doorway and the paved area outside the NE door was also recorded. This “ante room” now appears as if it has a complete split-level stone floor with some patching with brick, and also a brick course under the large stone in the wall at the left side outside the doorway which might indicate rebuilding or repair. The virtually full extent of the West room was cleared including a second doorway which was obscured by a large carved stone lintel which we were able to move.



Trench 2& 2A

Stone doorway lintel



Field Wall



Doorway 2nd from west



Other interesting bottles were Veno's Seaweed Tonic. "Inman's Fruit Cough Linctus" and also the base of a Mellin's infant's food jar. We also found a Victorian green-ribbed poison bottle, inscribed "NOT TO BE TAKEN" Our latest bottle find was a base inscribed "Horse Shoe Bar" which was in Cockburn Street and run by Alexander Kessack.



We had a very successful open weekend on 2/3 March when we were visited by over 150 people. In addition we have now determined the full extent of the stone flagged floors in the West Room as well as excavating all the doorways on the South side of the building. Other notable finds were an infant's charm bracelet and a perfume bottle as well as a 1931 silver 3d.

2. Port Dundas Pottery

We found an almost complete port Dundas Pottery stoneware jar with a pouring lip possibly for Jam or Honey. Research revealed that the Pottery had 5 machines turning out 30,000 jars a week.



Seton Castle

We had been invited to return to Seton Castle to survey the area of the medieval village on the North side of the Burn and we await further details from Gordon Neil.

Kinneil House

Geoff Bailey will be excavating over our geophysics results to the North of the drive at Kinneil in July.

Other Activities and Reports

1. Visit to National Museums Scotland Collections Centre, Edinburgh.

On Wednesday 6th February EAFS members visited the NMS Collections Centre in Granton. We were guided by Dr Alison Sheridan on a fascinating tour of the facility. The first sight to greet us was a baby elephant in a glass case guarding the entrance hall. We then proceeded to a laboratory area where there was a demonstration of high resolution finds imaging by electronic microscope. Thereafter it was on to one of the storage areas for a view of the Museum's collection of prehistoric artefacts, including bronze and polished stone axe heads, stone discs, lithics including flint arrowheads and knives and carved stone balls. One of the stone balls was a replica that had been created and donated by Society member Dave Jones, along with his notes on its preparation. Dave's family has now given their permission for the notes to be published by NMS. In addition there were many examples of carved stones, querns and rock art on shelves including casts of some which been lost by quarrying at Traprain.

We then had a view of some ongoing conservation work including some examples of textile from Sillerholes. Thanks to Val Dean for organising the visit and to Dr Alison Sheridan for her expert guidance and knowledgeable commentary.



Other Publications, Events & Exhibitions

Rhind Lectures 10-12 May in the NMS Lecture Theatre, Edinburgh. Prof David Breeze on the subject of Hadrian's Wall. Booking essential

FMSG Day Seminar, Tuesday 12 June in Meadows Lecture Theatre on "Exploring the Senses"

Archaeological Research in Progress – day conference

Royal Society of Edinburgh (RSE), 22-26 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2PQ, Saturday 25 May 2019 (9am - 5pm).

Next Newsletter

The next Newsletter will be issued in the autumn 2019. All Contributions welcomed.

Until then, enjoy your archaeology!

Editor: Graeme H Bettison, 7 Chapelhill, Dirleton, EH39 5HF. graeme.bettison@uwclub.net
(Opinions expressed in this Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Society, its Committee and Members, or the Editor).