



Scottish Group Newsletter November 2009

News

2009 Elections for Scottish Group Committee Members

Following the recent elections the Scottish Group Committee now comprises of

- Ellen McAdam, Culture and Sport Glasgow (Chair)
- Daniel Rhodes, National Trust for Scotland (Hon. Sec.)
- Kirsty Dingwall, Headland Archaeology Ltd (Treasurer)
- Dan Atkinson, Headland Archaeology Ltd
- Graeme Collie, Herriot-Watt University
- George Geddes, RCAHMS
- Candy Hatherley, Historic Scotland

As no-one stood for the role of Chairperson during the election, Ellen was co-opted into the post by the remaining members of the committee. She will hold the post until the 2010 elections.

Scottish Group IfA Annual General Meeting

The Scottish Group of IfA held its AGM on 23 October, followed by a seminar on the effects of the recession on Scottish archaeology. At the AGM John Sode-Woodhead handed over the position of Chair to Ellen McAdam, and Daniel Rhodes was elected Hon Secretary.

Following Kenneth Aitchison's presentation, which included the latest figures on job losses, Alan Leslie of GUARD gave an overview from the FAME perspective on how commercial archaeology is faring – put simply, not well. Unlike the situation in the south, there have been no major infrastructure projects in Scotland since the completion of the M74 project. Development-led archaeology is in such a difficult position that SUAT, the oldest commercial firm in Scottish archaeology (founded 1982), has ceased trading this year.

Phil Richardson's presentation was the one hopeful view of the day, talking about Archaeology Scotland's involvement with community archaeology as a rejuvenated area, with real potential for archaeologists to be employed in cross-over work to promote

professional standards. Ian Ralston reviewed the position from the four Universities that deliver archaeology degrees in Scotland, and considered that the recession has not yet had a full impact on Higher Education, but austere times are on the horizon. Noel Fojut's review from the perspective of Historic Scotland recognised that delivery budgets for all Government agencies will be constrained for the immediate future – which set the meeting up for the most significant paper of the day, Carol Swanson's view from local government, with chilling reminders of what local government budget cuts are likely to mean. Stephen Carter then led a vigorous debate, before participants adjourned to a neighbouring hotel for appropriate refreshments.

Continuing Professional Development

As part of the IfA's ongoing aim to promote professional standards within archaeology, CPD is now compulsory for all corporate members (PIfA, AIfA and MIfA). The aim is that by introducing compulsory CPD individuals and employers will become more motivated to increase their own and their staff's skills, resulting in a more skilled sector overall. A full IfA Guide can be found at

<http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/index.php?page=20>

IfA Council Sets Recommended Minimum Salaries for 2010-11

At its meeting on 5 November 2009 Council considered submissions from several Responsible Post-holders of Registered Organisations concerning IfA-recommended minimum salaries. Most drew attention to the difficult economic times: some argued that compliance with the IfA-recommended minima should remain a requirement of Registration; more argued that the requirement should be removed. Other members without responsibilities for Registered Organisations, aware of this item on Council's agenda, had also made

Scottish Group Newsletter - November 2009

representations. As a result the council discussed four key questions;

1. Should IfA be involved in matters relating to the remuneration of archaeologists?
2. If so, are salary minima the best way of effecting improvement?
3. Should compliance with salary minima be a requirement of Registration?
4. What should any recommended minima be for 2010-11?

The broad outcomes of this discussion were that yes, the Council believes that it is the responsibility of the Institute to work toward archaeologists being better rewarded for their work. In line with this it was decided that the IfA baseline pay minima would remain a requirement for Registered Organisations (ROs) but the IfA would also look harder at ways of assessing the overall employment packages (e.g. training and staff development plans) offered by ROs. Finally, in light of the current economic climate the Council decided that it would not recommend an increase in the current pay minima but confirmed its aspiration to improve salaries and employment conditions in the future as the economy stabilizes. Pay minima therefore stand at: PlfA grade responsibility £15,054; AlfA grade responsibility £17,534; MlfA grade responsibility £22,704. A full statement can be viewed at

<http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/icontent/in/Pages/docs/archaeologicalsalaries.pdf>

Training Course Funding for Scottish Residents

ILA Scotland is a Scottish Government scheme that helps individuals pay for learning and training courses. It is for people who have an income of £22,000 a year or less and offers between £200 and £500 toward the cost of learning. Further details can be found at

<http://www.ilascotland.org.uk/ILA+Homepage.htm>

Government News

The consultation on Historic Scotland's guidance notes *Managing change in the historic environment* (www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/about/consultations/current) closes on 8 December. IfA will be responding to some of the issues covered, as will Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS). Contributions by the end of November will be very gratefully received by Tim Howard

(tim.howard@archaeologists.net). BEFS will be querying why the deadline for responses cannot be extended, pointing out that this is a massive consultation that exceeds the sector's capacity to address in the detail it deserves.

Drafting of the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill (www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/index/heritage/environmentbill.htm) continues apace. If it is presented to Parliament as planned in March or April 2010, it will overtake its counterpart for England and Wales, for which there remains no timetable to present to the Westminster Parliament. It is reported that Historic Scotland has taken on board many of the points made by IfA and others at consultation workshops, but not the policy goal of a statutory responsibility for local authorities to maintain or have access to a Historic Environment Record. This objective may have to be pursued through political channels, with a view to amending the Bill as it passes through the legislative process.

A second consultation has just closed on the revised Scottish Planning Policy. This explicitly asked for new comments on the revisions rather than repetition of points made in submissions to the initial consultation exercise. Tim Howard restrained himself from such repetition in the IfA response (Web link to SPP consultation is <http://www.archaeologists.net/modules/news/article.php?storyid=455>), and therefore only alluded to the fact that we continue to hold the view that by virtue of its highly compressed nature the SPP fails to deal adequately with the management of the historic environment via the planning process. IfA commended improved statements on sustainable development in the revision, which make more explicit reference to the historic environment. IfA has also emphasised its position that the removal of much of the former planning guidance affecting archaeology means that revision of Planning Advice Note 42 is now urgent – and that we wish to input professional practitioner expertise at the formulation stage, not merely to respond to a draft guidance note once it has been prepared by HS.

ScotlandsPlaces Website

A new website has been launched that allows users to search information from both RCAHMS and the National Archives of Scotland in a faster and simpler way, using interactive maps and an easy to use gazetteer. More information is available at

<http://www.rcahms.gov.uk/scotlandsplaces-launch.html>

Archaeological Science data to Historic Environmental Records: Guidelines

The aim of this document is to enable entry of relevant terms relating to archaeological science data into a Historic Environment Record (HER) in a way that is compatible with other archaeological entries and is searchable. The objective is to help specialists choose the right terms for their data in the first instance and to provide the information in an appropriate form for direct entry to the HER. For more information visit

<http://www.helm.org.uk/upload/pdf/ArchSciDat.pdf>

Regeneration Trends in Scotland

Drivers Jonas LLP has published a report on regeneration projects in Scotland and how they are holding up in light of the recession. The report provides an overview of the market for urban regeneration projects in Scotland at present. It outlines the total number and volume of urban regeneration projects in Scotland by council and it notes the increase in public funding of regeneration projects and public private partnerships. The report also outlines alternative sources of funding for regeneration projects that are available: local asset backed vehicles; JESSICAs; the Vacant and Derelict Land Fund (VDLF); the Town Centre Regeneration Fund; the Fairer Scotland Fund; the Heritage Lottery Fund; Historic Scotland; and Tax Increment Funding and Supplementary Business Rates. For more information visit

<http://offlinehbpl.hbpl.co.uk/misc/2LP/PL2-Resources-Documents/Scotland%20Regeneration%20Report%20-%20final.pdf>

Project Roundups

Discover Bute Landscape Partnership Scheme (George Geddes, RCAHMS)

RCAHMS has recently completed the principal phase of a tripartite survey project on the Island of Bute, in tandem with the Discover Bute Landscape Partnership Scheme (DBLPS) and the local community. Bute has a strong history of local archaeological enthusiasm stemming from the efforts of the Marshall family who excavated many of the most significant sites on the island. The current group of local archaeologists, many of whom have an intimate knowledge of the island, played a positive role by helping to locate and interpret archaeological sites. Two fieldwork teams covered the island by foot and in a 4x4 vehicle and used a Trimble GeoXT handheld data logger, with sub-metre dGPS and Arcpad GIS software. We were able to consult GIS information onsite including current and historic mapping, Canmore records, and information from Historic Scotland. This project has proved to be a rewarding shift to a more efficient and rapid archaeological survey, focusing on revising the large amount of information already available for Bute, and beginning a partnership and two-way dialogue between local and national organisations, and amateurs and paid archaeologists where we can focus on providing accurate and consistent information on archaeological sites for the purposes of research, management and promotion.



RCAHMS staff discuss a Neolithic burial chamber at Dunagoil (DP066390 Copyright RCAHMS)

**The Black Spout Iron Age Homestead:
research through community excavations
(David Strachan, Perth and Kinross Heritage
Trust)**

Since 2005 Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust has carried out community excavations at an Iron Age site near the Black Spout waterfall, Pitlochry, as part of the annual Perthshire Archaeology Month. The site-type consists of circular enclosures, around 20m in diameter, with substantial stone-built walls 2-4m thick. Their distribution has a noticeable concentration in highland Perthshire. The Black Spout excavations have revealed many architectural features, such as a scarcement ledge and intra-mural cell, more commonly associated with brochs. Radiocarbon dates suggest occupation from c.250BC to c.AD50, and finds include numerous fragments of rotary querns, loom weights and a toggle, made from re-used Roman bottle glass. One of the querns had been placed in front of the entrance to the intra-mural cell and had a small rounded stone fixed in place over the feed-pipe, within which was a deposit of burnt material, interpreted as a possible votive deposition. Few of these sites have been excavated, however, and only two have previously provided radiocarbon dates. The Trust hopes that this project, based on offering life-long learning opportunities for volunteers, will address this neglected area of Perthshire's archaeology, and provide an interpretive legacy for visitors to the community woodland in which the site lies (for images see

<http://www.pkht.org.uk/Projects/Black-Spout-Homestead-Pitlochry>).



*Excavation of the Iron Age site at Black Spout
(Copyright Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust)*

**20th-Century Defences in Scotland
(Gordon Wilkie)**

Although mainly interested in defences, I have spent the last few years trying to identify and record WW2 Scottish prison camps. I took the English Heritage *Prisoner of War Camps 1939-1948 Project* report as my starting point, and have since identified another 30 or so camps, bringing the total for Scotland so far to around 70. Most camps were constructed from 1942 onwards for Italian prisoners brought here to work on the land, as there were very few Germans here before D-Day. The vast numbers of prisoners taken after D-Day dictated an expansion. This included the reuse of redundant military facilities, and buildings and individual farm huts were also used. I'm interested in the layout of individual camps, the type and number of huts used, ancillary buildings, and how these may have evolved during their brief lifespan. I try to record which ones have survived and their current use or status, but most camps have now been destroyed. I am also interested in the work prisoners performed and how this was managed, their interaction with locals, and the experiences of British guards and civilians. If any other members are engaged in similar project(s), please feel free to get in touch at the_historian@talk21.com



*Cultybraggan Camp No. 21 in Comrie, Perthshire.
Currently the centre of a bid by villagers for this
former MoD site, the camp was famous for the
1944 murder of a PoW thought to be a British spy.
(Copyright Gordon Wilkie)*

The Newbarns Project 2009.
(Elizabeth Penman)

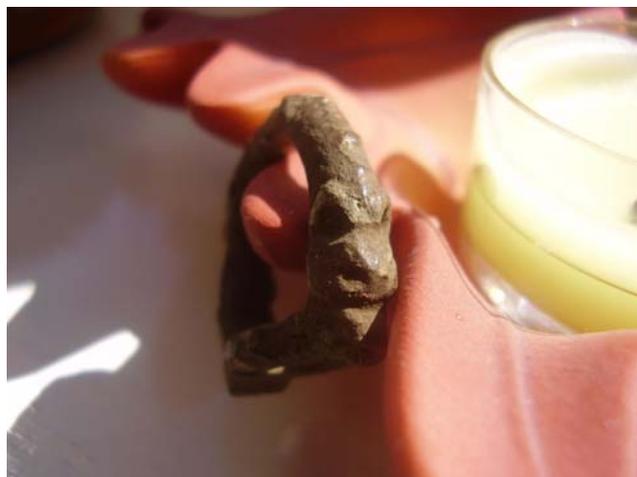
The Stewartry Archaeological Trust is now undertaking its eighth year of excavation, thanks to the participation by volunteers and students from Britain and overseas. To date three kerb cairns have been recovered from the old loch site of Newbarns Loch (formerly Barnhourie Loch), two of which are approximately 35 metres in diameter and the third one 15 metres in diameter. Constructed of erratic granite and some shale boulders the cairns have been built up on a deposit of boulder clay covered with aggregate and then another layer of clay has sealed the boulders on place. The two larger cairns each exhibit a damaged Neolithic Passage Grave evidence of the depredation of the Victorian house builders who used the cairns as a quarry source. All three features contain numerous stone-lined cremation burials containing either one or two small tea-cup sized pits where the original deposits of ashes were made. There is no evidence of surviving ashes due to the vagaries of the water table over several thousands of years and no trace of a funerary receptacle has survived and this must point to these having been of organic material. One large boat-shaped burial produced a barbed and tanged arrowhead and another yielded a flint blank for a similar. Later Iron Age burials are also in evidence.



The volunteers at Newbarns recording the location of a burial site. (Copyright Elizabeth Penman)

Ingleston Motte Excavation
(Elizabeth Penman)

A twelfth season of excavation of this site by selected veteran volunteer diggers and some mature students has cleared the summit of this medieval motte and exposed most of the outer stone and timber defences and the burnt remnant of two phases of square timber defensive towers destroyed during the tenure of the Lords of Galloway c.AD1185 and 1235. Dating evidence has been recovered from numerous sherds of green galena-glaze pottery of the 12th/13th centuries and a silver long cross penny of AD1217 was found at the bottom of a post-hole. Artefactual evidence includes part of a padlock, a gilded ring catch and numerous fragments of examples of medieval weaponry. Large numbers of iron clinch and fiddle-key head nails set into charcoal have been to the fore. The defences comprised stone based timber towers joined by double wattle-walled constructions filled with rubble. A paved area separated the defence line from the timber towers which would have been either two or three storeys in height. A lot of conjoined broken pottery was recovered from the basement of the most recent tower. Excavation of this site is ongoing.



A gilded bronze animal head found at Ingleston. (Copyright Elizabeth Penman)

A Roman Road at Shielhill North, Perth and Kinross

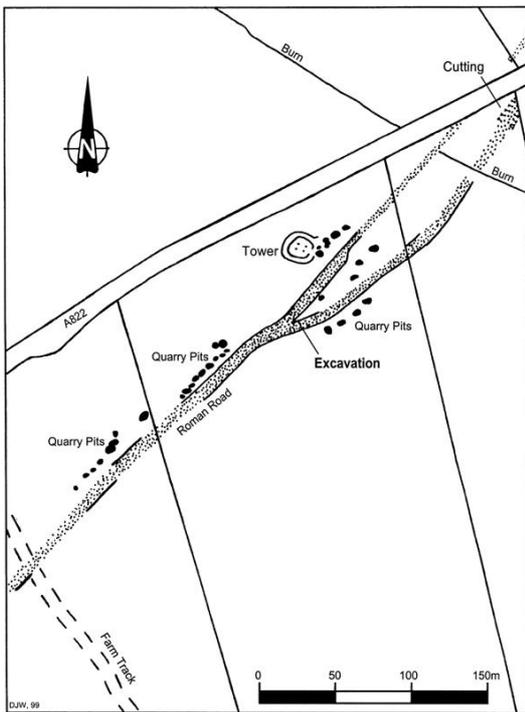
(Brigitta Hoffman, Roman Gask Project)

Air photography had suggested that the Roman Gask frontier road divided just to the south-west of the Shielhill North watchtower and then

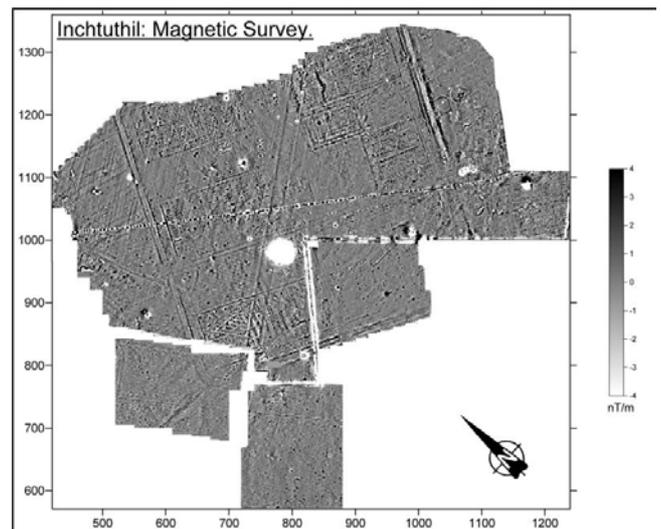
reunited a few hundred meters to the north-east, on the far side of a burn valley. A small trench was opened at the point of divergence, which confirmed the aerial indications and found the road in an excellent state of preservation. No firm dating was obtained for either line. A fragment of Victorian glazed pottery was found over the diverging branch, but in a dark earth layer that appeared to have formed after the road had gone out of regular use. The diverging branch was, however, noticeably less well built, being a relatively loose layer of fist-sized stones, whereas the main route was of more normal Roman construction and extremely cohesive. It did though, follow much easier gradients which had been further moderated across the burn valley by the use of slight cuttings and embankments. Archive searches suggest that the 'Roman road' or a course very similar to it remained in use as the road from Braco to Muthill until the mid 19th century.

**Survey at Inchtuthil, Perth and Kinross
(D.J. Woolliscroft, P Morris and B. Hoffmann,
Roman Gask Project and Blairgowrie
Geophysics)**

A c.37 ha magnetic survey was undertaken covering almost the whole of the Roman legionary fortress and significant areas to its east and west. In addition a c.16 ha resistance survey was conducted of the area surrounding the fortress, and field walking was undertaken in plough land to the south. The magnetic data showed the basic internal layout of the fortress to be much as shown in Richmond's plan derived from trenching in the 1960s, albeit with one large new structure found in the northwest. However, when seen in full, rather than narrow test trenches, the buildings proved to be less neatly rectangular. To the east, the surveys revealed a large oval feature just outside the fortress gate and the known barrow field proved to be more extensive than surface and aerial excavations had shown. To the west, a series of pits might represent a cemetery or settlement, and the resistance work located what may be concentric rectangular features. To the southwest, the surveys confirmed aerial indications that an area of dense pitting extends well beyond the confines of the long known temporary camp, right up to the fortress defences, and the fieldwalking found Roman finds and copious signs of lead working in the same area, which may suggest external industrial activity and, possibly, settlement.



*Plan of the Shielhill North excavation
(Copyright Roman Gask Project)*



*Magnetometer survey of Shielhill North
excavation (Copyright Roman Gask Project)*

**Blackfriars Friary, Schoolhill, Aberdeen
(Alison Cameron, Aberdeen City Council
Archaeological Unit)**

Work by Aberdeen City Council's Archaeological Unit during re-landscaping of a courtyard as part of extensive building works at Robert Gordon's College, Schoolhill, Aberdeen, revealed evidence of the Blackfriars friary. Two wall foundations, one with an adjacent line of stone roof tiles were uncovered and recorded. Medieval finds included pottery, floor tiles, mammal, fish and human bones. It was not necessary to destroy these features and so they were recorded by archaeologists and then re-covered. This friary has not been investigated by archaeologists before, but there are records of remains being found during early building works. In 1833 The Aberdeen Journal reported the finding of

" foundations of an ancient building about 60 feet in length and of uncertain breadth, strongly built and cemented together. On the east end of this, and stretching in a south east direction, were discovered about 6 feet of a leaden pipe, about one-eighth of an inch thick, 1½ inches in diameter, and of very rude workmanship. In all parts of the grounds human remains have been disinterred in immense numbers. From their appearance there is every reason to think they had been very carelessly buried. In one place, and within about two feet square, were dug up the remains of four bodies, which it was evident could never have been interred in the usual manner. "

No burials were found during this current work but a small pit had been filled with disarticulated human bones: they had presumably been found during building works and reinterred. The house of the Blackfriars, or Dominicans, is said to have been founded by Alexander II sometime between 1222 and 1249. As well as the church and the usual residential and domestic buildings, which presumably existed, the friary complex included a barn, a kiln, a dovecot and a garden and orchard. By 1503, the complex housed a prior and 13 friars. It was destroyed by the Protestant reformers in 1560.



Excavations at the Friary at Robert Gordon College, Aberdeen. (Copyright Alison Cameron)

Opinion

Outsourcing Local Authority Archaeology Services in Scotland

(Thomas Rees, Director & Consultant Archaeologist, Rathmell Archaeology Ltd.)

Since early 2009 outsourcing has delivered for the first time whole Scotland coverage of archaeological advice into our planning authorities. This coverage is an essential precursor for the sound treatment of the archaeological resource within the planning process.

Recession driven falls in tax revenue continue to pressure local authorities to contract non-statutory functions, such as our archaeology services. This may be through indirect processes such as employment freezes or more direct actions. How should our profession respond where curatorial posts are lost or positions left unfilled?

Outsourcing is an established procedure for local government, the provision of archaeology services being no exception. Through outsourcing the Local Authority agrees to procure services from the supplier, with service provision and performance defined by a Service Level Agreement (SLA). Local Authorities have used outsourcing to address a range of issues including:

Cost – possible lower overall cost, especially where service need falls short of a full-time post. Fee structures can be based on activity, hence coarsely matching activity levels within the planning process;

Scottish Group Newsletter - November 2009

Contract – legally binding contract with penalties can provide a clear remit; and

Quality – potential for improvement in quality through a carefully defined SLA while the Supplier has the potential to provide greater access to intellectual property, best practice, experience and knowledge.

While some suppliers are within the voluntary sector (Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust), others are from industry (Rathmell Archaeology Ltd). The essential element of all suppliers is their exclusivity of service to the individual planning authority.

The loss or unfilled status of an essential curatorial post should not be the end to the pressure placed on planning authorities to maintain access to archaeological advice. Alternative options such as temporary outsourcing should be advocated to sustain the hard-won whole Scotland coverage of archaeological advice into our planning authorities.

Events

Scotland: Building for the Future, Bonar Hall, University of Dundee, 24 November.

The one-day conference aims to promote discussion on the protection of Scotland's post-war architectural heritage, and will be opened by Michael Russell, the Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution, as well as including a gathering of distinguished speakers and panellists. The conference costs £15/£10 which includes lunch and can be booked online through the website. To find out more go to www.celebratingscotlandsarchitecture.org or contact Fran Caine on 0131 668 8074 or at Francis.Caine@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Icon Scotland Group 12th Annual Harold Plenderleith Memorial Lecture, 25 November.

Icon Scotland Group has announced that its 12th Annual Harold Plenderleith Memorial Lecture will be given by Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum - Objects of History: Things and Ideas in the British Museum. The lecture will be followed by a wine reception and will be held on 25 November at The National Galleries of Scotland Weston Link, Edinburgh - 6:15pm (Doors open 6pm) . Further details are available on the Icon website at

http://www.icon.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1085&Itemid=16

Roots of Nationhood Conference, University of Glasgow, 28 – 29 November 2009.

An interdisciplinary two-day conference at the Western Infirmary Lecture Theatre (WILT). As Scotland celebrates the Homecoming in 2009, we can expect to see many claims made on Scotland's archaeology and history in support of discourses of national identity and distinctiveness. In the fifteen years since the Scottish Archaeological Forum debated the subject of Archaeology and Nationalism, how have accounts of Scotland's past informed the ongoing political debate over devolution and independence? Does archaeology reveal the roots of nationhood or are other themes of diversity, discontinuity and far-flung connections and allegiances just as compelling?

Further details are available at our website <http://www.scottisharchaeologicalforum.org.uk/html/2009conference.asp>

First Millennium Studies Group.

All lectures are held on a Tuesdays at 5.30pm in the Lecture Theatre, University of Edinburgh Archaeology Department High School Yards, Edinburgh and also one in the Boyd Orr building lecture theatre B, University of Glasgow (adjacent to Archaeology Department). The current programme includes:

- 1 December: Euan Mackie, Clickhimin and the oldest brochs, or how a heap of rubble changed everything.
- 12 January: Nick Hodgson, The Iron Age on the Northumberland coastal plain: new discoveries and perspectives.
- 3 February: Katherine Forsyth, The Insular epigraphy in the Fifth-to-Seventh centuries AD: Observations and speculations (or Celtic inscriptions as crisis symptom).
- 2 March: Chris Barrowman, Almost the Iron Age – palimpsest landscapes in Ness and their role in interpreting the past.

Further details are available at our website <http://www.arcl.ed.ac.uk/firstmillennia/>

Edinburgh and Lothians Archaeology Conference, Queen Margaret University, Musselburgh, 5 December.

Scottish Group Newsletter - November 2009

This is an annual conference organised by the City of Edinburgh Council and East Lothian Council. It provides an important opportunity to hear and discuss first hand accounts of the archaeological fieldwork and research being undertaken in Edinburgh, East and Mid Lothian.

Further details can be found at

http://www.eastlothian.gov.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?documentID=929

Training

Traditional Mortars for Repair and Conservation, 8 December 2009, Penicuik House, Penicuik.

This seminar will give you confidence to specify traditional mortars and includes an introduction to investigation and basic analysis techniques for existing mortars. We will look at appropriate mortars for a range of masonry conditions and the recognition and diagnosis of typical failures are also covered. Repair techniques including mixing, placing and curing, costings for remedial works are considered. Cost: £65 + vat including lunch.

Introduction to Masonry Repair in Traditional Buildings, 26-28 January 2010, 24-26 March 2010, Penicuik House, Penicuik.

This 3 day workshop aims to provide an introductory guide to the use of a range of binders for the effective conservation and repair of traditional masonry buildings. A combination of lecture and practical teaching this course gives an understanding of traditional building technology. By the end of the workshop you will be able to recognise vernacular and historic finishes to masonry buildings and understand the performance characteristics of lime binders and sands. You will also gain an understanding of building diagnostics including defects and be able to determine specifications in relation to exposure, season, substrates and the nature of masonry repair including repointing, external lime finishes, internal plastering and limewashing. This course is suitable for building and heritage professionals and owners of historic buildings who need to be able to determine best practice for the effective conservation and repair of traditional masonry buildings. Cost: £225+Vat.

Masonry Building Conservation - Principles and Techniques, 9-11 December 2009 or 29-31 March 2010, Penicuik House.

Already completed P1? Why not return for this follow on 3 day workshop covering more complex masonry repairs to traditional buildings. This workshop provides sufficient underpinning and practical knowledge to enable effective specification, application, supervision and snagging of conservation works. Topics covered include - Development of repair strategies, advanced mortar manufacture, tile/stone repairs and stitching techniques, surface repairs to ashlar and profiled stone, re-pointing ashlar, replacing stone including full and partial indent, consolidating delaminating stone, shelter coats, advanced lime washes and re-pointing traditional brickwork.

Cost: £225+Vat.

For further information on all the Penicuik House courses or to book a place please visit

www.scotlime.org or contact Tel: 01383 872722

Email: admin@scotlime.org

For more information on the IfA's Scottish Group or to make a contribution to forthcoming additions of the Newsletter please email:

drhodes@nts.org.uk