



## **'The Picts in Perth' Conference September 2004**

Our annual conference was held on 25 September in the AK Bell Library in Perth – the Fair City where even Safeway's store is adorned with Pictish motifs.

The meeting opened with Ron Dutton's 'Across Time and Space', an exploration of possible sources for some of the exotic motifs which appear on Pictish stones. Examples come from locations at the far end of known pilgrimage or trade routes in use in the early medieval period. Ron gave us a challenging and thought-provoking start to the day.

He was followed by Matthew Shelley, with 'Rebels, huntsmen and mighty lords – the role of Perthshire crannogs in the late middle ages and beyond'. Crannogs – built-up islands, either wholly or largely artificial – were an established feature of Scottish lochs by the middle of the first millennium BC. Use of some sites continued at least into the late-seventeenth/early-eighteenth centuries. Matthew described some of his work in researching the later history of crannogs from contemporary documentary references and from his underwater examination of sites. The two approaches are narrowing in on the use of crannogs in the Pictish period and in Pictish territory – an exciting prospect for anyone interested in constructing a picture of life in Pictish times.

Mark Hall (of Perth Museum) spoke on 'The Early Medieval Sculptures from Murthly, Perthshire: An Interdisciplinary Look at People, Politics and Monumental Art', a summary of the results of a collaboration between Mark, Isabel Henderson and Ian Scott. He compared the sculptures from Pittensorn, Murthly and Gellyburn and discussed their function, site context and wider landscape context, particularly the association of churches and sculpture with mounds of assembly.

The afternoon opened with Bob Will who gave an account of the excavations in the old church at Dull. Many of you will remember reading last year of the discovery of the 'becli' stone (Newsletter 30). Bob's talk conveyed a great deal of the excitement which that discovery provoked.

Sabina Strachan then told us of the long process whereby Historic Scotland came to place the Dupplin Cross in St Serf's church, Dunning. A salutary lesson indeed in the complicated logistics involved in moving, conserving, installing and presenting this magnificent stone to public view in a controlled environment. It is useful to reflect on the complexity of the problems involved in caring for our stones, and Sabina gave us some detailed information on how some of these can, with skill, patience and money, be overcome.

The afternoon was rounded off by Niall Robertson, who gave us an illustrated tour of 'The Crosses of Highland Perthshire', a prelude to Sunday's field trip. As we observed the thirteenth centenary of the death of St Adomnan, who was not only the biographer of St Columba and a notable Abbot of Iona, but had strong connections with highland Perthshire, Niall included a number of sites with Adomnan links.

Our six speakers covered a wide variety of themes. They had in common an infectious enthusiasm for their subjects. All produced well-structured, well-illustrated presentations that gripped our attention throughout the day. Our thanks are due to them all. *SH*

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## **Forthcoming PAS Conferences**

The Society will celebrate Dunnichen Day on the 21st May. In the morning, we will meet at the Meffan in Forfar, doors open 9.30am, and hold the AGM at 10.00. At 10.30 John Borland will talk about the St Vigeans stones followed by at least one other speaker on the same topic. In the afternoon, we will visit the church and museum at St Vigeans, to examine the stones in the collection there and explore the local area where this magnificent collection originated.

Our autumn conference will be held in the lecture theatre at the Stirling Smith Museum on 17 September. (Apologies to those who have already pencilled in the 10th in their diaries – that weekend the Smith celebrates the anniversary of the battle of Stirling Bridge.)

Full details of both programmes will appear in the next newsletter.

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## Perthshire Field-Trip

Our annual conference, held in Perth this year, was followed by a splendid day's outing on Sunday 26 September. Some 18 members visited sites in Perthshire including Dunkeld, Dull, Dunfallandy, Logierait, Staredam and Weem. Ably led by Niall Robertson, who pointed out much of interest, we examined some very interesting stones.

The trip also included a visit to Fortingall church, site of the ancient Yew tree. We were able to view the interior of the church, with its Celtic bell and early medieval cross-slabs, also the carved stones in the churchyard. Recent work by Perth & Kinross Council in clearing large amounts of ivy from the churchyard walls at Fortingall was rewarded by considerable excitement amongst those present when Niall felt along the underside of stones atop the wall and pronounced that he was certain he could detect an incised cross on one. In the presence of the church officer, who had by this time arrived, and with the considerable effort of several males, the stone was lifted off and turned over on the grass. This revealed the slab to have three separate crosses carved on it and proved to be another fine find for the Society. Carefully moved to a sheltered spot at the side of the church, and beside another recently-found triple-cross stone, the grave-cover was lightly cleaned and its three crosses admired by the group who were thankful for being present at this impressive discovery.

All in all, a most satisfying day.

*Stewart Mowatt*

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## Pictavia Update – Update

At the end of Dave Rennie's article about Pictavia in the last issue, we included a late news snippet about Pictavia having received a Four Star Visitor Attraction Award from the VisitScotland quality assurance scheme.

The VisitScotland report praises the layout, cleanliness, and the staff at the attraction. The report also comments positively on the exhibition itself, stating: 'Interpretation on the whole provides an excellent experience, the information is repeated in various media, either audio or written, and the various static displays also add appreciably to the experience.'

It has also been revealed that recently The Pictish Arts Society had been nominated an 'Angus Ambassador' for the Society's work in promoting the county by focusing attention on its early history. Norman Atkinson and Craig Lafferty received the award on behalf of the Society at the Angus Ambassador Awards presentation in Town and County Hall, Forfar on 24 June 2004.

*DH*

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## Find in Neverland

### Kirriemuir No.18

On 23 February 1999, during the replacement of the central-heating system of Kirriemuir Parish Church Hall, plumbers found a fragment of sculptured stone, and the minister, Rev Malcolm Rooney, immediately telephoned me.

In view of the many discoveries made during the 1995 excavation prior to work on the drive access, I got there as soon as I could to investigate. The carved stone was lying on the kirkyard grass and, although covered with mud and badly marked by salts, it was instantly recognizable as yet another early medieval cross-slab and was named, rather unpoetically, Kirriemuir No.18. [Numbering of carved stones now tends to match the sequence of their discovery. Ed.]

Having taken a couple of photographs of the cross-slab, I took it in the back of my car to the Meffan, where we laid it on newspaper on the office floor and carefully removed most of the mud with an old toothbrush and some lukewarm water. It was, however, immediately obvious that professional conservation was necessary as some fissures in the stone, probably caused by frost damage and the surface salts, required attention. Again I took photographs of both sides before reporting the discovery to the Treasure Trove Secretariat.

The front of the slab is dominated by a fairly plain Latin ringed-cross, the arms infilled with interlace and with a central spiral formed of three bird-heads. Each side is decorated, the left with square key-pattern and the right with interlace. The back is very worn, probably resulting from having been used as a floor slab. However, at the top there is a diagonal key-pattern, below which is a diagonal design formed by four panels of the same bird-headed spirals as on the cross. The top has a most unusual piece of carving of what would appear to be an elongated object with two circular motifs with interlace.

An account for *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* was written in order to draw it to the attention of the archaeological world and the stone made its way to the National Museums of Scotland for both conservation and Treasure Trove consideration. It came as no surprise to me that it would be claimed as Treasure Trove (TT58/99), and we bid for it on behalf of Angus Museums. It was subsequently awarded to us in 2000 with a price tag of £500.

We were then well into the planning of the Gateway to the Glens Museum, and it seemed an ideal sculpture to exhibit at the beginning of the 'Kirriemuir Story'. The previous 17 sculptures – six fairly complete and eleven fragments were exhibited together in the Meffan Museum and early on we decided to leave them as they were. This was an easy decision to make as due to the lack of space in Kirriemuir Townhouse we would have needed the whole of the ground floor to exhibit all eighteen, leaving no room for anything else.

Since we opened in 2001, No.18 has been admired by many, including Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on 1 July this year. Significantly, it has been carefully studied by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) and brilliantly drawn by their draughtsman, John Borland. I was delighted also to be able to collaborate with John in the production of the broadsheet on the early medieval sculptured stones in the collections of Angus Museums.<sup>1</sup>

John's drawing was also of great use to Bruce Walker, who sculpted a miniature reconstruction of it for the Friends of the Gateway to the Glens Museum who presented it to the museum to mark the occasion of the visit by Her Majesty, who unveiled it that day. We are all absolutely delighted with it, and it will be a magnificent treasure in the Kirriemuir collection for future generations to admire.

But to return to the stone. It was also admired by others, including Tom Gray the expert photographer of Pictish stones. Although retired, he was very keen to make a comeback to photograph the stone following a short, illustrated article of mine in *Scottish Archaeological News*.<sup>2</sup> Isabel Henderson had also noticed it, and Tom's photograph was also copied to her.

On 3–4 April 2003, experts gathered in Edinburgh to attend the 'Able Minds' seminar, marking the centenary of the publication of *The Early Christian Monuments of Scotland*. I was



© Angus Council Cultural Services

*Kirriemuir 18*

flattered to have been asked to contribute a paper on the role of a local museum service, and, naturally, I illustrated the Kirriemuir discoveries. More significantly for No.18, however, was that Dr Henderson also included it in her paper, which discussed the significance of the many fragments of sculptured stones. She highlighted the importance of the bird-headed spiral design in the middle of the cross on No.18 and on other monuments, and suggested that the design had come to sculpture from a scriptural source.

In short, the early church of Kirriemuir may well have had a scriptorium, or at least the sculptor(s) working here had access to material from a scriptorium. This did not come as a surprise to me, since Kirriemuir had a hereditary priest who also held the royal position of Judex, an ancient legal office. Now with 18 sculptures, some of high quality, dating to the period AD 850–1100 having been discovered at the site, Kirriemuir's church was clearly of some importance in early Alba.

Without wishing the church to fall down, I am looking forward to finding No.19!!

*Norman Atkinson*

<sup>1</sup> *Early Medieval Sculpture in Angus Council Museums* (=RCAHMS Broadsheet 11), 2003.

<sup>2</sup> *Scottish Archaeological News*, 32, 2000

## Journals and Proceedings

Journals 1, 2, 5, 11, 12 & 15; Field Guides 3 & 5; and Proceedings: 'Stones, Symbols, Stories' are out of print. Only a few copies of 'Ancestral Voices' are left.

Could any member who has tried to e-mail the Secretary to check availability or order PAS publications please try again as she has had some computer problems. Postal requests marked 'Journals' to PAS address (see p.8).

## Aberleminfo

Each of the four protective boxes concealing the Aberlemno stones from October to May is now adorned with a large interpretation panel displaying information about the stone within it with colour photographs and details of its carvings. This is a welcome innovation by Historic Scotland and it will go some way towards appeasing disappointed visitors who have the misfortune to arrive during the six months of the year when the stones are under cover. Such is the quality of the photographs, that people should get a good impression from them of the concealed sculpture – probably even better than they might be able to do when seeing the stones themselves, as it is rare for casual visits to coincide with optimum viewing conditions.

DH



ANNUAL ACADEMIC LECTURE 2005

### A Period of Picts

by

Patrick Ashmore

Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments  
& Head of Archaeology at Historic Scotland

on

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm

Venue to be confirmed

£1.50 (£3.00 non-members)

Please note that the Museum is closed  
until 5 March 2005. Arrangements can  
be made to visit by phoning  
01381 621730

High Street, Rosemarkie, Ross-shire, IV10 8UF

## Rosemarkie Resurrection

On 15 October last, Tim Blackie (co-author of *The Sculptured Stones of Caithness*<sup>1</sup>), who happens to live in Rosemarkie High Street, came across an inconspicuous mud-covered stone in the neighbouring kirkyard. Cleaning off the dirt he recognised some carving on one of its surfaces.



© Susan Seright

*The latest Rosemarkie churchyard discovery*

The sculptured fragment is of pink sandstone and measures 285mm high x 225mm wide x 75mm thick, and the main face contains an almost complete quadrant of an incised ringed cross-head. It could be of 9th-century date but, for the time being, it is simply described as a 'medieval fragment'.

Congratulations to eagle-eyed Tim for his discovery, aptly made during Highland Archaeology Week. The carved fragment has been claimed as Treasure Trove, but was temporarily displayed at Groam House Museum, where, hopefully, it will find a permanent home in that important collection.

DH

<sup>1</sup> Blackie, T and Macaulay, C *The Sculptured Stones of Caithness*, Balgavies, Angus: Pinkfoot Press, 1998

## Picts and Bobs

Recently investigators began work at **Traprain Law** in East Lothian after a major fire in 2003, which damaged some historical remains and endangered others. The experts called in to carry out a full assessment made a number of finds, including 5,000-year-old Neolithic rock art and Bronze Age axes.

**Kilmartin House** – back on the map after a very shaky year. A package of funding has now been agreed which will support the museum until 2007. However they will need support – please call in sometime for a bowl of soup or a chunk of shortbread – highly recommended by me.

2 November saw the launch of Julian Cope's book *The Megalithic European*, his second after *Modern Antiquarian*. Suggested recently by Janis Forsyth on Radio Scotland, it even looks like a standing stone. A wee look at a copy in Borders was enough to whet my appetite for all rocks carved – Europe here I come – does anyone want to join me?

And more in Europe: the **Nebra sky disc** (3,600-year-old image of the cosmos) is on show as a centrepiece of the biggest Bronze Age show in Europe. It takes place in the German town of Halle until April next year. Does anyone have a relative nearby that I could stay with?

OK back to Scotland and Picts – the **Rhynie man** is back. He was off to have a wee clean. You can see him in Woodhill House, Aberdeen. Viewing is during office hours (9–5 Mon–Fri). Telephone 01224 664 723 for more information. And let me know how he looks after a wash.

For information and events at **Archaeolink** (Aberdeenshire) see <<http://www.archaeolink.co.uk/Archaeolink-Events.html>>

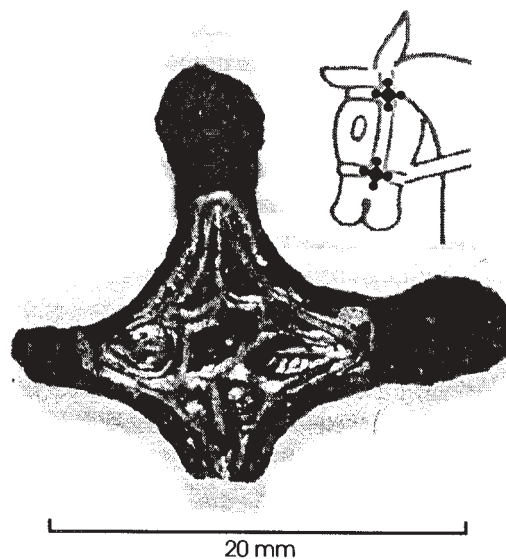
Historian Alex Woolf says Kenneth McAlpine was a Pict – *The Scotsman* Saturday 2 October 2004. See <<http://www.scotsman.com/>> for the full story.

Finally – **Rock Art Café No 1**. How about meeting a few of you one afternoon to talk about carved stones. I plan to start in Edinburgh on a Sunday in February. We can meet in a café somewhere in the centre of Edinburgh at 3 pm for a coffee and a wee chat. If you would like to join in, e-mail or call 01506 650 953, and help me find interesting snippets for this news article.

*Sheila Fraser*

<[Sheilafraser@btinternet.com](mailto:Sheilafraser@btinternet.com)>

## Anglo-Saxon Harness Mount



This important find from South Leckaway farm near Forfar has recently been awarded to the Meffan Museum, Forfar, where it is now displayed. It was discovered on 7 February 2003 during one of a series of field-walks organised by John Sherriff of RCAHMS on behalf of the Kinnettles and District Heritage Group.

Unusually, for a small metal artefact, it was spotted on the surface and not by metal-detecting, and it is fortunate that it lay in a sector being searched by experienced amateur archaeologist, Archie Dick, who is known for his many excavation reports to TAFAC conferences.

Missing parts of two of its terminals, the copper alloy cruciform strap-junction fitting bears the gilded design of a quadruped, of typical 6th-century Anglo-Saxon style. Originally it would have been fixed to a bridle at the crossing of the cheek strap with the nose band or brow band.

Similar examples are known from Easington, Co Durham; Braemore, Hampshire; and Lakenheath, Suffolk, where one of the graves in the large Anglo-Saxon cemetery there contained a high-status male and his horse, complete with its harness and fittings.

The South Leckaway find is one of only three or four pieces of 6th-century Anglo-Saxon metalwork to have been found north of the Forth, but it is the first incidence of an early medieval horse fitting in Scotland. One dare not mention the proximity of the findspot to Dunnichen for fear that someone might cite the discovery as evidence of Anglian cavalry activity in the vicinity.

DH

## Between the Covers

*'Michael, what are you doing? That hurts!'*

*'Making you an honorary Pict.' He traced a serpent on her shoulder, digging his nail in slightly, so the weal shone, fading slowly. 'Bless you, Jess.' He kissed her forehead. 'May the serpent protect you from all evil. Bring you wisdom. Rebirth.'*

*She tried to answer lightly.*

*'I bet you say that to all the girls.'*

This passage is taken from a recently-published novel<sup>1</sup> which has come to my attention only because it has a Pictish theme running through it, and, believe me, *symbollocks* doesn't get much better than this!

Jess, a journalist, is sent to cover a Pictish conference in Edinburgh, where she falls for one of the speakers, Michael Hurt, 'archaeologist and Pictish expert':

*His area is Picts, he is passionate about them; dazzled, dazzling. Jess finds this touching.*

Within hours of making love together, Jess suffers a horrific accident which renders her amnesic and aphasic – her memory and language lost – presumably just like the Picts:

*'...There's so much no-one knows. If it hadn't been an oral culture, if they'd written more down.. all we have are the stones, the ever more intricate carving, the religious ideology obviously changing. Very few words.'*

Fortunately, to fill this void, a book appears within the book – Michael's *magnum opus* – *The Riddle of the Picts*, which, through its pictures of symbol stones, rather than its 'complex text', plays a big part in Jess's recovery. Thus the Pictish thread interlaces with what is essentially a medical narrative – a rare combination only partly explained by the author being a hospital doctor living within a stone's throw of Groam House Museum.

Her barely-disguised place-names Tarvat and Portnahurach may tempt some readers to imagine that the character, Michael, the Pictish-obsessed archaeologist, is modelled on the esteemed excavator of Tarbat/Portmahomack. So much for surviving in symbols! Read on, if you must!

DH

<sup>1</sup> *The Blue Moon Book* by Anne MacLeod is published by Luath Press, Edinburgh, price £9.99.

## Early (?Christian) Cemetery near Forfar

At the last TAFAC Conference in November, Lindsay Dunbar of AOC Scotland reported on Historic Scotland funded excavations at Laird Bros sand and gravel workings at Auchterforfar near Forfar.

In April 2004 workers there reported that they had exposed some bones and stones at the top of the face they were digging. Archaeologists examined the find and thought it was a cist with human remains, but, as it was right on the lip of the working face, it could not be excavated safely so it was lifted out whole and hand excavated in the bucket of the digger. A few fragments of bone were recovered from what was believed to have been an isolated prehistoric short-cist burial aligned N–S.

A few months later and in a different but nearby area of the workings, four cists became visible in section at the top of the quarry face. Another excavation followed and more burials were discovered. A total of 20 long cists were revealed, all constructed of thin sandstone slabs with 13 of the cists aligned E–W, the rest NE–SW. Remains of 17 individuals were recovered including those of two children.

Machine removal of the topsoil prior to the working of the sand and gravel beds had damaged the tops of the cists, but five had capstones in situ and were well preserved. Two were without base slabs and one of the children's cists had a pebble floor. There were no grave goods or grave markers, nor were any of the graves inter-cut. It is thought that the burials represent several generations, but the bone assemblage is now being analysed and dated. Meanwhile it is proposed that the cemetery dates to the 5th–9th centuries AD.

DH

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## Kilduncan – Opportunity Knocks

The Kilduncan stone, rediscovered in November 2001, is now displayed in the upstairs gallery of St Andrews Museum. Following a period of acclimatisation in the museum's basement, the stone was sent to Edinburgh where conservation work was carried out by Graciella Ainsworth.

On partition screens behind the stone there is some information about it and several photographs of aspects of its conservation.

To overcome the lack of space in this area of the museum, a mirror has been resorted to for viewing the main cross face – always an unsatisfactory ploy when avoidable (eg St Madoes stone in Perth Museum), but here disconcerting too, as the curious mirror, comprising three joined ogee-sided mirrors, with its wavy edges looks rather as if it had been discarded from a sideshow at the Lammas Fair. There is no actual distortion in the reflecting surface but its image of the stone is segmented by the horizontal joins of the mirror's components, converting it to a vertical triptych.



© Ross Trench-Jellicoe

The main cross face of the Kilduncan slab

Sitting on a new moulded base (which is too truncated to represent the missing part of the stone), the cross-slab is secured at its top by two clamps, which are fixed to a supporting frame of square-section stainless steel set into a shallowly-bevelled broad base of the same material, which sits on the floor.

However, the supporting uprights are too close to the edges of the slab to allow satisfactory examination of the carved side panels, and one has to get down on bended knee to view the accessible main face. In other circumstances, genuflecting before a cross might be an appropriate action, but here better that the stone itself was elevated to a more comfortable viewing height, and also perhaps placed at right-angles to the partition (à la Meffan display) to allow unincumbered viewing of both main faces.

The carving on this stone is fairly easy to 'read', but made unnecessarily difficult here as



© Ross Trench-Jellicoe

Kilduncan cross-slab reverse. Both photographs were taken prior to cleaning and conservation of the stone.

it is poorly lit. It would help if some analytical drawings of its bold design were provided for guidance. Although it is welcome that the Kilduncan stone is now housed in an easily accessible local collection, one has to wonder whether it was worth the effort and expense of conservation and mounting while it is not being displayed to advantage. DH

Museum opening times: Apr–Sep: daily 10.00 to 5.00;  
Oct– Mar: Mon–Fri 10.30–4.00, Sat–Sun 12.30–5.00

## Pictish Name Search

d	r	o	s	t	e	m	s	t	t	o	r
d	a	s	e	r	o	r	p	s	n	r	e
n	o	r	d	t	a	d	u	d	o	n	u
c	i	s	e	d	a	c	u	s	s	u	s
u	d	o	u	o	r	e	t	p	n	d	a
s	i	d	n	o	n	e	i	n	i	e	t
t	r	s	f	r	p	f	u	f	k	r	n
a	i	p	o	t	a	p	t	s	t	r	n
n	e	t	s	o	r	d	n	o	a	c	t
t	i	l	c	e	b	i	i	c	e	d	t
i	o	u	c	d	a	i	p	p	c	s	e
n	a	s	e	r	o	u	e	t	i	t	s

Aphasic? Lost for words? Find seven other names – all from early inscriptions. Send entries marked **Name Search** to Pictavia address by 31 March 2005. First correct solution opened wins a copy of *The Blue Moon Book* (see p.6).

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## Beyond the Gododdin: Dark Age Scotland in Medieval Wales

The **Eighth St Andrews Dark Age Studies Conference** will be held in the Purdie Building, North Haugh, St Andrews on Saturday 19 February 2005. Speakers include Thomas Clancy, Katherine Forsyth, Nerys Ann Jones, John Koch, and Oliver Padel. The fee of £15 (Conc.£12) includes coffee, sandwich lunch, and tea. Application forms and full programme from:

<aw40@st-andrews.ac.uk>

or:

Committee for Dark Age Studies  
Dept of Medieval History  
71 South Street  
St Andrews  
Fife, KY16 9AL

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## Scottish Archaeology Fair

The Council for Scottish Archaeology's sixth **Scottish Archaeology Fair** will take place in Perth City Hall on Saturday 30 April from 10 am to 4pm. A large number of organisations will be there, presenting a range of exhibits featuring many aspects of archaeology in Scotland. There will also be a number of hands-on activities.

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## Camera – Lost, Found, and Lost

A camera was found at Edderton following the PAS Easter Ross field-trip on 7 September 2003. Unclaimed after six months it was awarded to the local finder, who has since sold it, however, the transparency film it contained was processed and the resulting slides have now found their way to Doug Scott, who will be happy to forward them to the original owner. Contact Doug at his shop in Tain – Tel: 01862 894 297.

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## Remaining Winter Programme 2005

All meetings start at 7.30pm, with doors open from 7pm, and usually finish around 9pm, with tea/coffee available after the talk and question session.

**Edinburgh** – Tuesday evenings – Society of Friends (Quaker) Meeting House, Victoria Place

1 March Fraser Hunter *Rome and the origin of the Picts*

**Pictavia** – Friday evenings – Pictavia Visitor Centre, Haughmuir, Brechin

25 February Dr Alasdair Ross *The creation of parishes in Alba: evidence from the north*

18 March Fraser Hunter *Rome and the origin of the Picts*

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## Perthshire Archaeology Week

Runs from 28 May–5 June, with a series of walks, talks, exhibitions and children's events. Check the programme at:

<www.perthshire.co.uk/archaeologyweek>

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## Appeal for Contributions

PAS has a widespread membership of over 300 and we need to keep everyone informed of what is happening around the country (and elsewhere). We want to encourage more contributors to future newsletters, so please send us any INFORMATION, ARTICLES, PICTURES, PRESS-CUTTINGS about EVENTS, TALKS, WALKS LECTURES, CONFERENCES, BOOKS, EXHIBITIONS, TRAVELS, DISCOVERIES or anything else of interest going on in your area.

Electronic copy and graphics files can be sent as e-mail attachments to:

<pasnews@btconnect.com>

or items marked 'PAS News' can be posted to the Society's address below.

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## Caption Competition

Winning entry submitted by Allan Webster.



*I've just noticed an ogham inscription on the edge.  
It says "mind yer breeks on the barbed wire".*

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