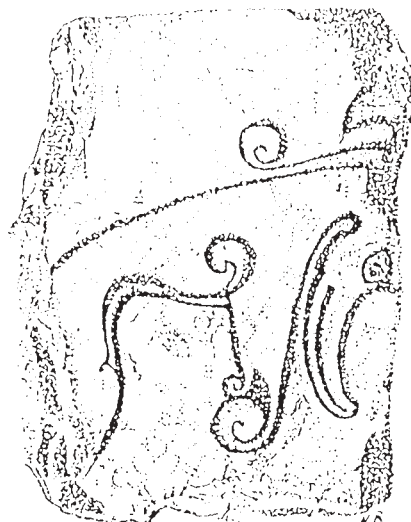


PICTISH ARTS SOCIETY

SESSION 1993/94

NEWSLETTER No. 1

SUMMER 1993



This is a very short Newsletter to start our Season. Our first three meetings are detailed and a tear off section at the foot of this letter is for our new subscriptions for 1993/94

At our A.G.M. in June, the following were appointed to our Committee:-

<u>Chairman</u>	Eric Nicoll, 35 Wardie Road, Edinburgh - 031-552 4574
<u>Vice-Chairman</u>	Tom Gray, 5 Clerwood Park, Edinburgh - 031-334 5523
<u>Secretary</u>	Eileen Brownlie, 24 Dean Park Mews, Edinburgh - 031-332 0277
<u>Treasurer</u>	Heather Richard, 9 Beresford Avenue, Edinburgh - 031-557 2967
<u>Subscription Secretary</u>	Edith Bowman, Department of Building Engineering & Surveying, Heriot-Watt University, Riccarton, Edinburgh 031-449 5111 (Ext. 4637)
<u>Editor</u>	Niall M. Robertson, 28 Fairies Road, Perth, PH1 1LZ ☎ 0738 25022
<u>Events Organiser</u>	Nick Simpson, 1F2 5 St. Peter's Place, Edinburgh, EH3 9PJ (from 15th September, 1993) - 031-228 3812
<u>Historiographer</u>	Dr. Jack Burt, Coachmans Cottage, Tanhouse Brae, Culross, Fife, KY12 8HY - 0383 881511
<u>Committee Members</u>	Ian Fisher Jim S. Macaulay Stuart McHardy

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INTERNATIONAL £20.00

P R O G R A M M E 1993

ALL MEETINGS IN THE SCHOOL OF SCOTTISH STUDIES
27 GEORGE SQUARE, EDINBURGH AT 7.30 P.M.

THURSDAY, 7th OCTOBER, 1993

Dr. Lloyd Laing, University of Nottingham
"The Role of Dalriada in Scotto-Pictish Art"

THURSDAY, 11th NOVEMBER, 1993

Dr. Graham Ritchie N M R S
"Recording Pictish Stones"

THURSDAY, 2nd DECEMBER, 1993

Peter Yeoman, Fife Regional Archaeologist
"New Light on Dark Age Fife"

Details of our other Meetings will be in a Syllabus which will be printed and sent out to you in the near future, together with another Newsletter.

We will also be sending you details of our June 1994 Conference in Dingwall
"WAR AND PEACE"

It's your Newsletter, so please send me news you feel should be included in the Autumn Newsletter

Thank you



Eileen Brownlie, Secretary

To: Edith Bowman,
Subscription Secretary, P.A.S.,
Heriot-Watt University,
Department of Building Engineering & Surveying,
Riccarton,
Edinburgh, EH44 4AS.

I enclose £ in payment of my 1993/94 Subscription
Cheques payable to "Pictish Arts Society"

.....Name
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.....

Pictish ARTS Society

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 2, APRIL 1993.

Welcome to this, our second chatty Newsletter! This is not going to be chatty and informative enough unless I receive some input from you, the reader. The Journal is to be retained for the more serious topics, which still wants contributions from the membership as well as from the professionals outside the Society, but this is the forum for news items and more lighthearted contributions.

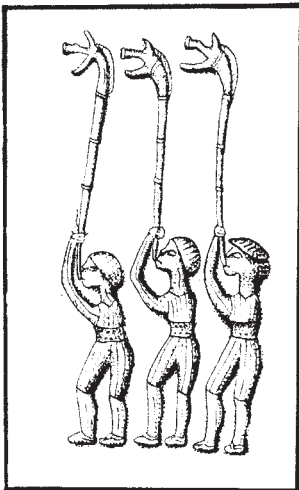
LOST INVERKEITHING STONE.

Marianna Lines tells us that Alan Reid of Strathmiglo is carving a life size replica of the lost Inverkeithing Stone (described in PAS Journal 2, 5-10), for a new heritage centre to be situated in the Abbot's House, Maygate, Dunfermline. Member Jack Burt is also involved in preparing literature on the Picts of "Fib" for the new Centre, and has been party to the discovery of some interesting Medieval stones found during the renovation of the building.

WOODCARVER'S ACHIEVEMENTS.

Marianna also tells us that member Jill Adron, wood carver of Maryfield Woodshop, Banchory, has won a design competition for the new Banchory Museum, and will be creating a set of carved door panels for it based on local historical and natural motifs, and John Adron has won a top prize in a woodworking magazine for his beautifully turned woodwork.

DESKFORD CARNYX AND REPLICA.



The three nattily dressed wee men above sounding carnyxes, the Celtic war trumpet, come from the famous cult cauldron found at Gundestrup in Jutland, and dated possibly 3rd century BC. The Deskford Carnyx was found near Banff in 1816, is dated 100-300 AD, is in the Royal Scottish Museum, and looks virtually identical to those on the Gundestrup Cauldron. The Museum commissioned a replica after a good deal of research by several people, and both original and replica are on show in Chambers Street until the end of May, where one can pick up a phone to

hear the range of notes the replica can produce. The photo above (courtesy The Scotsman) shows the modern replica being played by modern man, not so smartly dressed, but more in keeping with the northern climate! You will be able to hear recordings of the warlike notes of the carnyx in action at our Conference at Bridge of Earn on 22nd May, and with luck you may also hear the more peaceful sound of the ancient Forteviot Celtic bell, among other goodies from John Purser.

FORTEVIOT APPEAL.

Forteviot Church is looking for a vast sum of money for the restoration of the church, which of course is in a historic setting, one-time capital of a Pictish kingdom, and close to the site of a Pictish palace. An appeal has been launched, and donations should be sent to Mr J R Heiton, Cloch-na-Hill, Tayview, Luncarty, Perthshire, PH1-3HE, cheques to Forteviot Restoration Appeal. A worthy cause for Pictophiles.

GROAM HOUSE MUSEUM.

The official opening of the extension to the Museum will be performed by Dr Anna Ritchie on Saturday 1st May at 12 noon, and this will reach you too late for you to participate, but we wish the Museum well in its new and improved form, don't miss it if you are in the area.

THE DIRT DETECTIVE.

I hope you watched TV on Thursday, 22nd April, when there was an excellent programme on the Picts. Ian Shepherd, Dr Anna Ritchie, Robert Beck (horses), Rev Greaves of Glamis, and Marianna participated. A great number of stones were shown, and in considerable detail. There is little doubt that the Celtic revival is gathering pace.

THE JARROW LECTURE 1993.

This will take place in St Paul's Church, Jarrow, on Friday 28th May 1993, at 7.30 pm. The lecture 'Bede the Poet' will be delivered by Dr Michael Lapidge, Department of Anglo-Saxon, Norse, and Celtic, University of Cambridge.

WHITHORN FIELD TRIP?

I mentioned Professor Leslie Alcock's Whithorn Lecture, Saturday 18th September 1993, in the last Newsletter. If you are interested in a field trip around the area ^{that day} on ~~the~~ Sunday will you drop a note to Niall Robertson, 28 Fairies Road, Perth, PH1 1LZ, he needs figures to do a bit of sensible planning.

BRIDGE OF EARN CONFERENCE.

Do remember, we need enthusiastic helpers, it's your Society.

T E Gray, Sec.

pictish arts society

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 1, MARCH 1993.

In a recent conversation with a member, she commented that as she was a very busy person she took a long time to get through the Journal, and suggested that she would find a gossipy newsletter useful. The suggestion is a good one and we may attempt to get a slip-in Newsletter into each issue of the Journal. Every posting to the membership costs around £50, so we must try to avoid a separate posting.

This time around there are a few events to draw to your attention, in chronological order for your diary.

GROAM HOUSE LECTURE.

First, on Friday April 30th, in Gordon Memorial Hall, Rosemarkie, 7.45 pm, Dr Anna Ritchie, Pictish authority, will be giving the Fifth Groam House Lecture, "Perceptions of the Picts: from Eumenius to John Buchan", details from Groam House Museum, High Street, Rosemarkie, Black Isle, Easter Ross, or telephone 0381 20961. Your winter programme for PAS suggested a possible field trip in conjunction with this event, but as there is a strong likelihood that there will be an official opening of the refurbished Groam House Museum that weekend, we have decided to abandon the field trip. We would hope to hold one at some future date.

PAS BRIDGE OF EARN CONFERENCE.

Next in date is our own PAS Conference, to be held in Bridge of Earn, near Perth, on Saturday, 22nd May, and NOT 23rd May as appeared in "The Scotsman" recently. Programme is included herewith, get your booking in quickly, it is going to be a very popular event. Note that for the energetic types there will be a Ceilidh in the evening, starting around 8 pm.

We hope to do a field-trip on the day following the Conference, those interested should give their names NOW to Niall Robertson, 28 Fairies Road, Perth, PH1 1LZ, tel. 0738 25022. We need to know what size of bus to hire. If it can be arranged you may get to see two stones in private estates, among others more easily accessible.

We are much in need of helpers before, during, and after the Conference. Specifically, a van plus driver would be very useful indeed for transporting heavy PA equipment to and from the event.

PAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Will be held on 17th June 1993, at 7.30 pm, in the School of Scottish Studies. Full details later.

WHITHORN LECTURE 1993.

Much further ahead is the 1993 Whithorn Lecture, at 7.30 pm on 18th September at St Ninian's Priory Church, Whithorn. This year the speaker is Professor Leslie Alcock, and the subject is "Whithorn and the Wider World: the early centuries". Full details can be had from the Hon. Secretary, Friends of The Whithorn Trust, Mansefield, Whithorn, Wigtownshire, DG8 8PE.

Would those interested in a field trip around Galloway to coincide with this function please get in touch with Niall Robertson, 28 Fairies Road, Perth, PH1 1LZ, tel. 0738 25022.

OTHER POINTS OF NOTE.

Some of you may have heard member Stuart McHardy's half-hour spot on BBC Radio on 11th January discussing Pictish stones with Ian Fisher of RCAHM, Norman Atkinson, Angus Museums Curator, Edwina Proudfoot of St Andrews Heritage Services, Ron Greer, a naturalist, and Nick Simpson, graphic artist. Scotland on Sunday's "Spectrum" said of his talk, "Animals in stone was mercifully free of the usual nonsense about the Picts indulged in by the more romantic sort of Scottish nationalist. McHardy, a relaxed, understated presenter, allowed the facts to speak for themselves, the listeners to draw their own inferences."

Stuart also had an article in The Scotsman on Saturday 13th March in which PAS got an excellent plug, and in the same issue there was a double page spread by another writer on the sound of the carnyx, the Pictish war horn. If we are lucky the reproduction carnyx may be demonstrated by John Purser at our Conference at Bridge of Earn.

NEW BOOKS.

Look out for the newly published "Picts and Scots" by Lloyd and Jenny Laing. Look out also for two others which should appear soon which have material to interest Pictish enthusiasts. First, Editor Professor Martin Carver, "The Age of Sutton Hoo", which contains a paper by member Sally Foster of Historic Scotland entitled "The State of Pictland in the Age of Sutton Hoo." Next is an Edinburgh University Press publication on Animals in Insular Art by member Carola Hicks of Cambridge University. Last but far from least is founder member Marianna Lines book, "Sacred Stones Sacred Places", published a month or three ago. There are others in the pipeline, watch this space. our Editor hopes to have reviews of all of these in the Journal in due course.

MEMBERSHIP.

Numbers are increasing fast, from 180 around November, we are now over 230, and climbing. There was a tremendous Celtic revival in Ireland in the late 19th century which happened to a lesser degree in Scotland.

Without doubt there is another Celtic revival in Scotland at present, concerned with a sense of nationhood and with a deep desire among many people to know more about their roots. You have only to note the flood of books on the Celts and related peoples to see some of this, and your Society is well placed to play its part in this revival.

So now is the time to get your friends to join. Pick up a few brochures next time you are at a meeting and pass them around. With your help this year we could break the 300 barrier, at a time when some societies are seeing falling membership.

T E Gray, Secretary.

pictish arts society

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 1991-92/4, (July 1992)

STOP PRESS! SEE PAGE 2 FOR THE AUTUMN LECTURE PROGRAMME!

The past year has been a very successful one for the Society. You will know from the programme you received that we had the most prestigious series of speakers we have yet had the pleasure of hearing in the history of the Society, and all meetings were well attended, several full to overflowing!

The Committee have been very active on your behalf on a number of issues. We corresponded with the National Trust regarding the two Pictish stones housed at Falkland Palace in a cellar there, and in answer they pointed out that damp penetration in the area would have to be eradicated before purposeful use could be made of the cellar. Nevertheless your Secretary has noted on a recent visit that they have put up wire mesh over an opening to prevent birds getting in, the cellar has been cleaned, and the stones will certainly come to no harm there. A polite request to see the stones was cheerfully allowed.

Our founder member Marianna Lines had some correspondence with National Museums of Scotland over the way the Hilton of Cadboll stone has been mounted in the rearranged Dark Age gallery, with most of the bottom panel obscured. Briefly, in answer Dr Mike Spearman replied that this had to be done for safety reasons, but that something would be done when the stone was moved in the future to the new museum.

We were in correspondence with Ian Shepherd, Grampian Region Archaeologist, regarding access over a rickety bridge to the Logie stones in Grampian, pointing out also that a small tree may be endangering one of the stones. The local authority have decided that the carpark by the main roadside should be used, with signposting for walkers to the stones, a sensible solution. The matter of the tree is being investigated by Historic Scotland's local representative.

You will have read the piece by Rev Irene Miller in PAS Journal No 1 on the Logierait stone, a PAS find. We repeat her plea for donations to enable them to properly display this fine stone, cheques to Pictish Stone Account, Strathtay Manse, Pitlochry, PH9 OPG.

Your Secretary noted on photographing the Dunachton stone near Aviemore, that it has fallen and lies face up in the grass. This was reported to Jill Harden of CSA who has suggested that she may try to involve the local historical society under the CSA's Adopt-a-monument scheme.

The Angus Field Trip took place in April, led by Niall Robertson. A highly successful event, marred only by the fact that for once Niall failed to find any new stones!

The biggest and most successful event of the year was undoubtedly the Dunnichen Conference in May, organised by Stuart McHardy and Nick Simpson. Dr Isabel Henderson came all the way from Cambridge to give us

an excellent talk, and three of our own members also gave first class contributions. A much praised event, to be repeated annually.

It has to be reported that our attempts to attract some extra funding have so far been not too successful. A couple of advertisers in the Journal have helped, and Pict Oil gave us a good contribution. But approaches to several others got a negative response. Your Committee keep trying, the money is needed to maintain and improve the Journal.

So much for the past, now for some news of future events, full details hereunder. Please try to let organisers know in advance if you are attending, because it makes their task that much easier, and money in advance helps our slim funds!

WHITHORN FIELD TRIP

This field trip is intended to coincide with the first WHITHORN LECTURE on Saturday 19th September, given by Professor Charles Thomas, the title, "Whithorn's Christian Beginnings: When? Where? Whence and by Whom?" The lecture will take place in St Ninian's Priory Church, Whithorn, at 7.45 pm (admission free). Before attending the lecture in the evening we will visit the Whithorn dig, the newly discovered Dark Age rock carvings at Garlieston, and probably some of the other archaeological sites in which the area abounds. Weatherproof gear and stout shoes or boots, and bring picnic lunch.

Minibus to be driven by Niall Robertson. Meet at the School of Scottish Studies, 27 George Square, Edinburgh, at 9.30, for departure at 10 am SHARP. Minibus fee £6. Call Niall on 0738 25022, or write to him at 28 Fairies Road, Perth, PH1 1LZ, to book a place on the minibus. Back in Edinburgh about midnight.

SOCIAL EVENING, CHESSIE STEVENSON'S.

This will be held at Chessie's home, 18 Royal Circus, Edinburgh, on 26th September, 5 to 8 pm. Write to Tom Gray, 5 Clerwood Park, Edinburgh, EH12 8PW, if you are attending, to give Chessie an idea of numbers for the necessary arrangements.

AUTUMN LECTURE PROGRAMME

All talks take place in the School of Scottish Studies, 27 George Square, Edinburgh, at 7.30 pm.

Thursday 1st October 1992. Jill Harden of the Council for Scottish Archaeology, on "The Picts of Easter Ross".

Thursday 5th November 1992. Norman Atkinson, Angus District Museums Curator, on "Pictish Animals re-observed".

Thursday 3rd December 1992. Dr David Clarke, Keeper of Archaeology, National Museums of Scotland, on "The New Museum".

The full winter programme will appear in PAS Journal No 2, to be published in the autumn.

YOUR NEW OFFICE BEARERS

Three of your office bearers dropped out this year, having contributed magnificently to the smooth and successful running of the Society for more than their allotted span, the Constitution says two years, but they have probably aged much more than that! They were Deirdre Nolan, Membership Secretary, Heather Richard, Treasurer, and Stuart McHardy, Press Officer.

Your new committee, established and new members, is as follows -

David Clement, Chairman,
96 Morningside Drive,
Edinburgh, EH10 5NT.
Tel: 031-447-3113.

Graeme Cruickshank, Lithohistoriographer
21 Warrender Park Terrace,
Edinburgh, 9.
Tel: 031-334-5523.

Iain Macmillan, Treasurer,
24 Druid's Road,
Scone, PH2 6LQ.
Tel: 0738-51512.

Niall Robertson, Journal Editor,
28 Fairies Road,
Perth, PH1 1LZ.
Tel: 0738-25022.

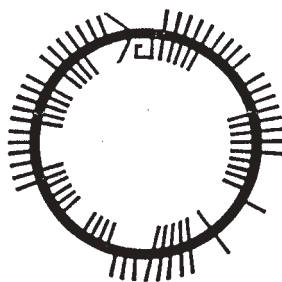
Eileen Brownlie, Membership Sec,
24 Dean Park Mews,
Edinburgh, EH4 1ED.
Tel: 031-332-0277.

Nick M Simpson, Events Organiser,
25 St Patrick Square,
Edinburgh, EH8 9EY.
Tel: 031-662-0562.

Eric Nicholl, Archivist,
35 Wardie Road,
Edinburgh, EH5 3LJ.
Tel: 031-552-4574.

T E Gray, Secretary,
5 Clerwood Park,
Edinburgh, EH12 8PW.
Tel: 031-334-5523.

The Society has on offer a very attractive T-shirt, Pictish beast on the front, PAS ogham on the back, drawing herewith. This sells at £9 and is available from Nick or Eileen at the above addresses. Excellent value.



Finally, Nick is looking at the possibility of having a PAS conference and craft fair in Aberdeen in the run-up to Christmas. Details of this should appear in Journal No 2 in the autumn.

T E Gray

T E Gray, Secretary.

PICTISH ARTS SOCIETY, NEWSLETTER NUMBER 1991-92/3

Here are some details of a forthcoming field trip, together with a list of events of real interest and value to members.

ANGUS FIELD TRIP

This takes place on Sunday 12th April, visiting most or all of the following sites: Pitcur souterrain (largest in Scotland), Keillor symbol stone, Lundie Kirk, Foulis Easter Kirk (most complete Medieval parish kirk in Scotland), Ardestie souterrain, Laws of Monifieth (hill-fort and broch), Carlungie souterrain, Arbirlot carved stone and St Vigean's museum.

Stout shoes and waterproof clothing are recommended in case of inclement weather. Bring a picnic lunch. A torch will also be useful for the souterrains.

Minibus to be driven by Niall Robertson, tour led by Norman Atkinson, Angus District Museums Curator. Meet in Perth on Tay Street (beside the river), opposite the Court House at 9.30 am for departure at 10.00 am sharp. Minibus fees £6. Call Niall on 0738 25022 to book a place on the minibus. Back in Perth early evening.

If members book a place and find they cannot come, or if they discover they will be late in arriving at the starting point, they are requested MOST STRONGLY to let Niall know BEFORE the day of the trip.

TALKS AND EVENTS

Plans for our two day conference at Dunnichen on 23rd and 24th May are well advanced, full details to come. Isabel Henderson will head a list of distinguished speakers.

A very important talk, 'The Early Christian Period in Angus', will be given by Norman Atkinson, Angus District Museums Curator, on Friday 27th March in Dundee University Tower Extension at 7.15 pm. This event has been organised by Abertay Historical Society, not to be missed.

The Rhind Lectures details can be had from the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, c/o Royal Museum of Scotland, 1 Queen Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1JD. They are held in Royal Museum over the weekend of 27th-29th March. Professor Richard Bradley of Reading University will present a series of lectures entitled 'Altering the Earth: the origins of monuments in Britain and Continental Europe.'

The Whithorn Trust have organised a lecture by Professor Charles Thomas on Saturday 19th September at 7.45 pm, in Whithorn. Details from the Lecture Secretary, 3 George Street, Whithorn, Wigtownshire, DG8 8NS. Pictish Arts Society are in the process of organising a field trip to the area to coincide with this lecture, details to follow.

T E Gray, Secretary.