

Pictish Arts Society Programme

Thursday 7th March, 1996

Stuart McHardy

"The Picts in Place"

Thursday 4th April, 1996

Edwina Proudfoot

"Abernethy and Mugdrum in context"

Thursday 2nd May, 1996

Irene Hughson

"Horses in Pictish Society"

All PAS meetings held in the School of
Scottish Studies, 27 George Square,
Edinburgh, at 7.30 pm

THE PICTS IN FIB (FIFE)



This year the PAS is to hold its annual conference on the weekend of May 25-26th, at Watts in Cupar, Fife. The Saturday line up, which is still to be confirmed, will follow the usual format of a series of talks by prominent speakers in the field of Dark Age Studies. On Sunday there will be a field trip "In and Around Fife" which will give everyone a chance to visit some of the many varied Pictish sites and Stones of the area.

Field Trips 1996

There are still a couple of places left on the field trip around Lothian on **Saturday, 27th April, 1996**, which will feature a visit to the Cat Stone (which stands within the runway pattern at Edinburgh Airport). The trip will also include visits to Currie Kirk and other sites around Lothian. The estimated cost for the day will be about £5 (bring your own packed lunch) and will depart from the School of Scottish Studies, George Square, Edinburgh. Anyone who is interested in attending should contact -
Sheila Fraser 0131 449 6592 or
Eileen Brownlie 0131 332 0277

Plans to visit the NE of Aberdeenshire and the Isle of May excavations are still being finalised - details will be announced as soon as they are known.

Out & About

Laurencekirk

Mearns Academy in association with University of Aberdeen Dept. of Continuing Education.

Wednesday, March 6th, 1996

Marian Nagahiro

"Legends of the Stones"

Aberdeen

A series of lectures to be held at the Marischal Museum to coincide with the exhibition **Barbarians Entwined, the Vikings and the Picts**. Meetings start at 7.30pm and cost £3.50.

Tuesday, March 26th, 1996

Dr. Anne Johnstone

"Viking Age Settlement in the Western Isles"

Tuesday, April 23rd, 1996

Dr. Colleen Batey

"Life & Death: Pictish/Norse settlements & graves"

Abertay Historical Society

Thursday, 14th March 1996

Dr. Brian Moffat

"Medicines from the Mud - a report on the recent investigations at the "once powerful" Soutra medieval hospital"

Thursday, 28th March 1996

Dr. Anna Ritchie

"Abertay to Muckle Flugga: Picts in Shetland"

For details contact - The General Secretary, Abertay Historical Society, Archives Dept., University of Dundee, Dundee DD1 4HN.

SWACS -

Save Wemyss Ancient Caves Soc.

Wednesday, 27th March 1996

Marianna Lines

"A Symbolic Pictish Journey through East Fife"

Followed by coffee after. To be held at 7.30pm in the church beside the East Wemyss Interpretation Centre and Local School.

Editorial Note

Then turn on the power (said the manual)...

Flip the switch...

Whir...grind...beep...beep...whir...beep...grind...beep...crash...

Ah, I see, I think we may have a problem here.

Lets try again...

Whir...grind...beep...beep...whir...beep...grind...flash...

Wow...we definitely have a problem here!

So here I am surrounded by two half working computers and a pile of cards and components that would baffle all but the hardy. As a result of the recent upgrading and the subsequent sudden demise of my computer systems the PAS Newsletter has had to be out on hold. Which is a pity since there was a lot to tell you about... the Dupplin Cross Inquiry, an Archaeolink update as well as other interesting news from the north, an update on the Blackford deer and news from SWACS, Groam and Friends of Grampian Stones.

So until the engineer phones to say everything's OK you'll just have to hold your breath...well not literally.

Letter from the Chairman

Dear Member

The PAS is now in its eighth year and continues to expand. We now have over 400 members and our publications are widely respected in the field of Dark Age Studies. We have held annual conferences for the past 5 years which have attracted enthusiastic support and have provided a platform for the most up-to-date research. Last year's publication of the Pictish Panorama in conjunction with the Pinkfoot Press was a milestone in the history of the Society and now seems to be the right time to take a look at where we wish to go in the future. Having started out with just a half dozen members the growth of the society has been remarkable and it is impossible to say whether we are merely taking advantage of growing interest in the Picts or whether we have in fact stimulated it.

This last year has seen several new publications on the Picts and a new Pictish interpretation centre is currently being planned for Brechin in Angus. The major dig at Tarbat has already been a spectacular success and there seems little doubt that interest in Scotland's Dark Ages peoples will continue to grow. In order to meet with the demands of certain scholars the Committee have adopted a policy of having Occasional Papers academically refereed. This will allow scholars to have work recognised for academic purposes while letting the PAS Journal to carry on as before

Although our annual lecture series continues to meet with success, not all members can attend them in Edinburgh. The last year has seen a dropping off in our field trip activities, mainly due to Niall Robertson's departure to Germany. However field trips are firmly back on the agenda with one planned for Lothian and hopefully a mass visit to the Pictish exhibition in Aberdeen later in the year

The activities of the society have been kept up by the dedicated actions of a couple of handfuls of committed members and the feedback we get on the committee is almost always positive. However because much of the decision making is made by a small central group it is all too easy for us to think we are doing well and just carry on as we have done in the past. I would therefore I would now like to ask each individual member whether they are happy at the way the Society is going and if they have any particular suggestions as to future activities. The questions below are intended to try and find out how you, the membership, would like the society to develop. We are also open to any new suggestions as to activities we should be involved with.

Stuart McHardy (Chairman).

Questionnaire

To be filled in and returned to Stuart McHardy PAS, 52 Brunswick Street Edinburgh EH7 5HY by 31st March 1996

Should we be thinking of holding lecture series in other parts of the country?

If yes, where would you like them to be held?

Should we devote more time and energy to field trips?

Please enter any sites you would like to visit as part of field trip.

Should we have local meetings in other parts of the country on a regular basis?

If yes, where would you like such meetings to be held?

Are you prepared to help organise PAS activities,

- a) as a committee member
- b) in your own area
- c) at the annual conference
- d) with the Journal or Newsletter
- e) with fundraising activities ?

If yes to any of the above please include your name and address below.

Is there anything the PAS is not doing that you think we should be doing?

If yes, what?