



## Joint Report from the President and Honorary Secretary

By any measure, the last year has been a good one for the Pictish Arts Society. Membership has increased again and we are pleased at the current number of 122 members. We are unable to determine exactly what spurs people to join PAS. But there has been quite a lot of Pictish coverage by the UK media, also our Facebook page is a lively, well-visited advertisement for PAS, and more students choose to research Pictish topics. Whatever your reasons for joining PAS, we're glad you're with us.

The 2018 conference in Elgin was a resounding success. When we arranged a private view of Inverness Museum on the Friday evening before the 2016 conference, 16 people signed up for it; 36 members and friends signed up for the Friday evening private view of Elgin Museum last year. With wine and nibbles laid on, it proved to be a convivial affair. Old acquaintances were renewed and the museum's fine display of Pictish sculpture scrutinised and discussed.

The 2018 conference was a sell-out, a fact which caught a few late applicants out. We say it every year: book early to avoid disappointment! The capacity crowd enjoyed a packed day of excellent papers.

The Sunday field trip was another sell-out, even after we upgraded to a larger bus. We enjoyed a largely fine day, weather-wise, travelling around Moray and Highland Region. As ever, the itinerary included a number of stones in private ownership which are not readily accessible. And the highlight for many was getting inside the glass box of Sueno's Stone for a close-up view of that huge monument.

As a result of the good turnout, the 2018 conference turned a profit. This allowed PAS to donate £500 to our gracious hosts Elgin Museum, to help them keep on doing what they do so well. Thank you everyone at Elgin Museum!

This has also been an excellent year for the autumn and spring lectures in Brechin Town House Museum. All 7 lectures (we had an extra one in February) were well attended. In fact we had the pleasant task of having to put out extra chairs on several occasions. It seems that we now have a sizeable contingent of local non-members attending each month, as well as members regularly travelling from as far away as Edinburgh and Auchterarder. This keeps the events financially viable, while a full room creates a much better atmosphere for all concerned. During the Q&A sessions after each paper, there was a discernible buzz

in the audience and hearty debates ensued. Your support makes a real difference so keep coming if you can (and bring a friend)!

The PAS website also saw some updates this year with a new batch of past newsletters being uploaded.

The PAS Facebook page remains as popular as ever with thousands of visits every week. There is always much being discussed and shared here but it comes into its own when exciting new discoveries are made, such as the symbol stone found on the outskirts of Elgin back in February, and the symbol stone found in the River Don near Dyce in August 2018.

The latest discovery of a cross slab with symbols in Easter Ross hit the headlines in late August 2019, although the stone was actually found back in March. PAS participation is described elsewhere in this issue and as members you can feel duly proud that PAS funds aided by your subscriptions helped to save this important piece of Pictish sculpture.

But that is just the beginning. The next task will be to raise a much more substantial amount of money to pay for the stone's conservation and eventual display in Dingwall Museum. Watch this space.

So all is well but we still need your support and input. Many of the main roles within the PAS Committee are taken on by a small number of individuals, with some of us multi-tasking. Moreover, many of those individuals have been carrying out said roles for a number of years. This is not a sustainable model. We desperately need some reliable people to get involved. We can offer an initial period of job-sharing, if you feel uncertain about taking on a task for the first time. And it need not be a life sentence. Taking on a task for even a year or two would afford the current incumbent a break from it.

If you would like to get involved but don't want to become the centre of attention at the forthcoming AGM by sticking your hand up, please get in touch by email in advance to discuss how you can help: <[john.borland@hes.scot](mailto:john.borland@hes.scot)> *JB & ER*

### PAS Newsletter 93

The deadline for receipt of material is

**Saturday 16 November 2019**

Please email contributions to the editor:

**[john.borland@hes.scot](mailto:john.borland@hes.scot)**

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**PAS Annual Conference**  
**Friday 4 – Sunday 6 October 2019**  
**Reid Hall, Castle Street, Forfar, DD8 3HX**

PROGRAMME

**Friday 4 October — Private view of the Meffan Institute, 20 West High Street, Forfar DD8 1BB**

19.00–21.00 An opportunity for conference delegates to mingle and enjoy exclusive access to the Meffan’s superb collection of Pictish sculpture from around Angus. Refreshments included. Advance booking required.

**Saturday 5 October — Conference and AGM**

- 09.00–09.30 Registration (with tea/coffee)
- 09.30–09.40 Welcome
- 09.40–10.20 *Dr Rebecca Jones*  
Rome’s North Western Frontier: The Antonine Wall
- 10.20–11.00 *Dr Neil McGuigan*  
Cats, Orcs and Irishmen: the Northern Pictish Church after AD850
- 11.00–11.30 Tea/coffee
- 11.30–12.10 *Dr Cynthia Thickpenny*  
The Pictish Seat: Rider Position in Relief Carved Equestrian Scenes
- 12.10–12.50 *Dr Alex Woolf*  
Picts and Other Britons: Ethnic Identity in Roman and Late Antique Britain
- 12.50–14.00 Lunch  
Bring a packed lunch or dine in one of Forfar’s many eateries
- 14.00–14.40 *Jamie Barnes*  
Hogbacks and/or kindred monuments
- 14.40–15.30 *Dr Barbara Crawford*  
The Hirdmen in Orkney, and an early recorded use of the term ‘handsel’
- 15.30–16.00 Tea/coffee
- 16.00–17.00 *Norman Atkinson*  
The Picts: Angus and Gowrie
- 17.00–17.15 Closing Remarks
- 17.30–18.00 AGM

**Sunday 7 October — PAS Conference Field Trip - Around Angus**

09.00–c17.15 Coach departs Myre Street car park, Forfar at 09.00 sharp and aims to return there by 17.15. Stones included on the itinerary are Glamis Manse, Eassie, Brechin Cathedral, St Vigeans, the Camus Cross and Pitmuies. A number of these stones are in private ownership and are therefore not readily accessible to the public. Participation in the field trip is by coach only. Spaces are limited and we recommend early booking. Delegates are advised to bring appropriate footwear, waterproofs and a packed lunch although there will be an opportunity to get something to eat in Brechin.

A **Conference booking form** is included in this *Newsletter* or book on-line at:  
<[www.thepictishartssociety.org.uk](http://www.thepictishartssociety.org.uk)>

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## Notice of PAS AGM 2018

The Annual General Meeting of the Pictish Arts Society will be held in the Reid Hall, Castle Street, Forfar, DD8 3HX on Saturday 5 October at 17.30 to consider the following business:

- 1 Apologies for absence
- 2 Approval of the 2018 AGM Minutes (see *PAS Newsletter* 89)
- 3 President's and Secretary's Joint Report (see this *Newsletter* p.1)
- 4 Treasurer's Report: Presentation and Approval of Annual Accounts
- 5 Appointment of an Independent Examiner
- 6 Other Honorary Officers' Reports:
  - a) Membership Secretary
  - b) Editor
- 7 Election of Honorary Officers:
  - a) President
  - b) Two Vice Presidents
  - c) Secretary
  - d) Treasurer
  - e) Membership Secretary
  - f) Editor
  - g) Events Organiser
  - h) Archivist
- 8 Election of Committee: minimum six, maximum twelve
- 9 Any other competent business

**Note: Business will begin at 17.30 prompt**

Please send nominations for committee, and notes of any matters you wish to raise, to the Honorary Secretary, House of the Glens, Cortachy, Angus DD8 4QF. Alternatively, email: <info@thepictishartsociety.org.uk>

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## It's membership renewal time again!

Our Annual Conference will soon be upon us, as will our Autumn Lecture Series in Brechin Town House Museum. So that can mean only one thing: membership renewal!

This edition of the newsletter contains full details of the 2019 conference, a booking form and a membership renewal slip (for members who receive a pdf newsletter, these forms may appear as separate attachments).

Please help us by renewing promptly. Chasing up late renewals is time-consuming and costly and no one likes to receive a final notice that their membership is about to be terminated.

And if you do plan to come along to the conference, booking up early for that helps us too! *JB*

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## Stonelines Designs

I am not entirely sure exactly when Marianna Lines started her imaging company, probably in the late 1980s I suspect. From the very start, her Pictish images appeared on cloth hangings, cards, T-shirts, scarves, bags, table mats, coasters and even cassette and CD covers. Her family have decided not to continue the business, so production ceased with Marianna's death last June.

I have taken on the task of distributing Stonelines cards. We have agreed that in the first instance these will be offered to charities for fund raising purposes. To this end I have made deliveries to the local Maggie Centres at Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy (where Marianna received treatment) and Ninewells Hospital, Dundee where she often ran art courses to support cancer patients and their families.

Many of you will have bought cards and may still have some in your possession. Until now there has been no complete list of all the designs that Marianna produced.

I was interested to find some of the earliest productions. Some of you may have a set of N1–N6, all based on artwork by Niall Robertson issued in 1990. But before that there was the P series, mostly photographic images of Marianna's cloth impressions taken from the original stones.

However, the earliest image I have traced in the Stoneline series is an image of the Mugdrum cross, the work of wildlife artist Derek Robertson. (This appears to be a very scarce item, so if you have one keep it as its value can only increase.) I wondered how this came about, so I spoke with Derek Robertson and learnt that Marianna had flown back to Edinburgh from a trip to the US, and read an article in the *Scotsman* that there was to be a private view of Derek's Diploma work that very day. The exhibition included pieces based on Pictish art. Marianna gatecrashed the event, claiming friendship with the artist (although, of course, they had never met before). They remained friends ever since. Derek couldn't recall if he gave permission for his image to be used on the card or not!

To date I have identified about 100 different images, but some of these are revisions and re-issues of earlier designs and there is some confusion in the coding Marianna used. There are three missing images I have yet to find: if you have copies of cards E1, E12, P7 I would be pleased to hear from you.

It may be possible to donate some of Marianna's cards to the PAS for fund-raising purposes – I am sure she would have approved.

*Pete Kinnear*



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## An exciting new discovery in Easter Ross

PAS members will no doubt have seen the recent news coverage of an exciting discovery in Easter Ross. Anne MacInnes of the North of Scotland Archaeological Society (NOSAS) was carrying out a graveyard survey back in March when she discovered the top section of a large Pictish cross slab just under the surface, complete with double disc and Z-rod and probably a serpent and Z-rod.

She immediately notified Highland Regional Archaeologist Kirsty Cameron, who in turn notified Historic Environment Scotland. HES recorded what was visible of the stone in early April and it was then re-covered. Due to the nature of the discovery it was decided that the stone could not be declared Treasure Trove. Therefore the usual sources of grant to cover its safe removal were not available. Indeed this meant that there was no legal right to recover the stone at all.

However everyone who had seen the stone felt certain that it was a discovery of national importance and it was evident from the stone's condition that leaving it in the ground would lead to continued deterioration.

Kirsty Cameron then set about formulating a rescue plan, bringing together NOSAS and PAS who, between them, pledged sufficient funds for the stone's safe removal by professional conservators. She then met with the landowner and successfully persuaded him of the significance of the find. With his approval, the stone was successfully lifted on August 22nd news of its discovery released on the 23rd. The precise location of the find will remain secret for the time being to preserve the landowner's privacy.





Aspects of the figurative carving accompanying the symbols appear to have a strong connection with southern Pictland but much more research and analysis is required. Early photographs of the cross show it to be equally startling.

The next stage is to raise the substantial funds required for the stone's conservation and display in Dingwall Museum. To that end NOSAS and PAS hope to continue their partnership and launch a crowdfunding appeal. Look out for further information on that and for a more detailed description of the stone itself.

*John Borland*

- 1 *The new Pictish stone*
- 2 *Cleaning the stone*
- 3 *Preparing the stone for uplift*
- 4 *Removal of stone using gantry*
- 5 *Removal of stone*



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## The Loch Sheil bell

The lamentable disappearance of the early copper-alloy hand-bell from Eilean Fhianain (St Finan's Isle) in Loch Shiel, Inverness-shire, in late June or early July 2019 prompts me to offer a gentle correction to Ron Dutton's article, 'Quadrangular bells', in *PAS Newsletter* 84 (Autumn 2017), 13–16. The author was kind enough to refer to my lecture on the subject to the 2012 PAS conference in Perth but mis-represents what I said about both the Loch Shiel bell and its counterpart at Insh near Kingussie. I never said that they are late replications (but did say as much of the bell at Forteviot, Perthshire) although it is certainly true that they were made by the same hand. In fact both bells are classic examples of their 9th- or 10th-century type and both are documented in my catalogue of early medieval hand-bells for Ireland and Britain that is to be published soon (I hope) by the National Museum of Ireland.

It is a sad coincidence that Ron's article was followed by the note from David Henry on the theft of the iron bell from the church at Fortingall in September 2017. This is another great Scottish treasure and we must wake up to the reality that such things outside museums are now the specific target of thieves.

*Cormac Bourke*



- a *Eilean Fhianain*
- b *Forteviot*
- c *Irish bell*

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## Archaeology Scotland Summer School

Thainstone Hall Hotel Inverurie  
19 – 22 May 2019

The first evening lecture of the Summer School was by Kirsty Dingwall of Headland Archaeology. She talked about the excavations ahead of the Western Peripheral Route around Aberdeen. Focusing on the Milltimber area, she told us of the evidence of 15,000 years of human activity, with finds from hunter-gatherers to post medieval times. The area is on a broad plain on the River Dee with steep slopes to the north and south. On the northern edge below the slope, on what would have been a flat terrace, there are Mesolithic pits dating from 8220-4500 BC. The pits contained silt and charcoal, were not in a straight line, and may have been either calendar pits, created to mark the different phases of the moon, or animal traps. There were also flint scatters at the bottom of the slope, possibly from repairs to hunting equipment. – The stone for these lithics is not found locally. The nearest possible site is close to Peterhead, but they were most likely to have come from Doggerland, a now submerged area of land that once joined Britain to Continental Europe. There were also Paleolithic hearths and postholes for a structure, thought to have been a drying rack.

The Dee at this time would have been slow-moving and multi-channelled with many islands. Later the river changed into a single channel, leaving a dry terrace where post holes were found one of which contained a beaker burial. The site may have had a ceremonial use at this time. Roman bread ovens were also found. There were 90 in total in a line, with charcoal deposits. Five had been raked out for re-use. They had narrow necks and then opened up and went 30 inches into the bank. They were probably used for feeding troops arriving in boats for the Agricola Campaign and were dated from 90BC–AD321. There is a known Roman camp at Kintore. (For a more detailed account of this particular aspect of Kirsty's talk, see *Newsletter* 87.)

The second lecture of the evening was by Dr Michael Stratigos of the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre. Michael talked in detail about the crannogs of Loch Kinord (which we had visited earlier in the day), comparing them with other crannogs located in Scotland, Ireland and Wales. He was involved in the underwater exploration of these sites and was able to talk from personal experience about the conditions under which the archaeological examination was conducted. As he is now working on crannogs in Loch Tay, he was able to use this experience to outline similarities and differences between the two sites. He discussed in detail the construction of the crannogs in Loch Kinord, using beams, piles and stones. On Prison Island, he was

able to identify a system of oak piling, with piles arranged in three rows set at a distance of two and half feet apart with a framework of horizontal beams interlacing them. The piles were set almost perpendicular, except at the side facing open water, where they were inclined slightly inwards to better resist the shock of the waves. Once the beams were in place they were covered in stones. Three horizontal beams were found in position. The beams were also made of oak, about seven or eight feet in length and with a diameter of around eight inches. Loose stones provided a rough causeway. Castle Island may have had a timber causeway.

The final lecture, by Alison Cameron of Cameron Archaeology, was on Mesolithic Deeside, based on finds of flints and lithics found along the river near Nether Mills of Crathes (another site we had visited earlier in the day). Alison expanded on what we had been told on site, describing the makers of the flints as hunter-gatherers visiting the area 10,500 years ago at the end of the Ice Age and living mainly on the coast or along the river valleys. She described the finding of thousands of flints – rhyolite, agate and quartz – along the river's edge from Banchory to Maryculter. She also described Doggerland, across which the hunter-gatherers are thought to have come, following herds of animals. Now submerged, this was once a grassy plain crossed by many rivers. Alison also spoke of a pit alignment dating to 7260-6690BC, another possible lunar calendar. Found in the pits were copper, silver and gold imported from higher up the Dee. Finds along the river include scrapers, knives and microliths that would have been attached to a shaft with resin to make tools.

Each day there were excursions to visit sites of historical interest, covering stone circles, prehistoric settlements, a hunting tower and Pictish symbol stones. A brochure provided detailed information of all the sites and archaeologists and historians pointed out the important features during each visit.

### Day 1 excursion

The first stop was Tomnaverie Recumbent Stone Circle, the first of several stone circles visited. It was investigated in 1999 and 2000. Quarrying activity has damaged part of this site and some stones have been lost. Thankfully quarrying has now ceased. The circle consists of 11 of the original 13 stones. There are cup marks on the recumbent stone and on two other stones. The circle has two components, an inner cairn surrounded by a kerb and the outer circle. Three fallen stones have been re-erected. One of the reinstated stones was found on the quarry floor. It is thought that the cairn was the site of a funeral pyre from before the building of the stone circle. There is evidence of further burning in the centre of the cairn, after the construction of the circle, from 1000BC, with the presence of cremated bone fragments. A few sherds of Beaker pottery were found near the outside

of the cairn, opposite the recumbent stone. The fill of a small pit below the rubble foundation for the recumbent stone, produced radiocarbon dates centred on the 25th century BC. Late Bronze Age plainware sherds and worked stone and flint blades were also found.

The next stop was Loch Kinord with a visit first of all to the Kinord Cross Slab. Originally the slab was on the bank of the loch before being moved in the mid-19th century to the grounds of Aboyne Castle. In 1959 it was returned to, approximately, its original site. There are remains of a building that may have been a chapel, 70m east of the stone. The stone is carved with an elaborate ringed cross, filled with continuous interlace. Outlined with a prominent moulding, the cross has spiral terminals on the arms, head and shaft. It has been dated to the eighth or ninth century.

We then went down to the loch to view the crannogs of Castle Island and Prison Island. Castle Island, the larger of the two, lies approximately 80m from the north shore and dates from AD880-1020. A castle was built on the island in the 14th century (hence the name) but there are no visible remains. Prison Island crannog dates from AD710-940. It lies further to the east and is 170m from the shore. Its name may indicate that it was used as a meeting place as it was originally called Tollbooth Island and a Tollbooth can mean a place where a council takes place as well as a prison.

Diving surveys in 2011 confirmed that both islands were artificial and that there was what may have been a jetty or walkway associated with them. Artefacts found in the loch include five log boats, a paddle, bronze vessels and a Roman perfume bottle.

Still at Loch Kinord, we went on to see the settlement sites of Old and New Kinord. The two sites are 500m apart and share a number of features. They both contain exceptionally large roundhouses which have walls with stone bases and turf higher up, as well as souterrains. The floors of the houses are recessed into the subsoil. There are other circular features that may be enclosures. Field boundaries, trackways and clearance cairns in the surrounding woodland may be associated with the settlements. Archaeological excavation of the sites originally took place around 1903. However the trenches at Old Kinord were reopened in 2016/17 and both sites were resurveyed using the latest technology. There is evidence of some of the roundhouses at Old Kinord overlaying earlier structures. Dates for these structures cover the period of 200-55BC to AD25-145. Another similar settlement close to the loch is called the Claggans.

The next stop was Mivgie Church to see its Pictish Cross Slab. The church is dedicated to St Finan and was granted to the priory of St Andrews in the late 12th century. The cross slab stands in the graveyard. It is similar in design to the one at Kinord but with

the inclusion of Pictish symbols. On the front, above the left arm of the cross is a double disk and Z-rod and above the right arm an arch and V-rod. On the left of the cross shaft is a pair of shears and on the right a man on horseback, although the rear of the horse is missing. On the opposite face of the slab is another man on horseback. The workmanship on the cross is not of the same quality as the Kinord Cross. It may be that the cross was carved on an existing symbol stone and made to fit in the available space. It probably dates to the 9th century.

Inside the church is an early medieval grave marker bearing an incised cross and other curvilinear marks. It was originally in Cromer Church, Tarland. There is also a fragment bearing two pairs of incised Pictish legs and another fragment of a symbol stone with a notched rectangle and Z-rod and a crescent and V-rod. Taking centre stage is a modern four-sided chair sculpture, carved with biblical texts, Pictish symbols and Ogham script. There are new stained glass windows, biblical texts, poems and portraits of early saints on the walls. The kirk doors are decorated with a carving of the Pictish Cross in the churchyard.

The final visit of the day was to the Peel of Lumphanan. It comprises a motte on which stand the remains of a 15th-century manor house, Ha'ton House. There is a record of a castle on the site in the 13th century belonging to the De Lundins or Durward family, hereditary door keepers to the king. It is thought that this is where Sir John de Melville submitted to Edward 1 in 1286. The motte was surrounded by a moat. The results of excavations from 1975-1979 have been disappointing as changes were made to the surface of the mound in the 19th century covering previous remains to a considerable depth.

#### **Day 2 excursion**

The first stop was at Midmar Church to see the Recumbent Stone Circle in its graveyard. This circle now sits in a landscaped setting with a neatly manicured lawn at its centre, set into a surrounding path. Originally it had 11 stones of which only 5 now remain. The recumbent stone is covered by historical graffiti, in the form of names, dates and Masonic symbols. The flanking stones are taller than the rest. It is likely that a substantial amount of cairn material survives under the grass and gravel path. Some of the stones were moved and one was repaired around 1914 when the trees in the churchyard were removed to provide a burial ground. We noticed other stone circles across the field from the Church but did not visit them.

The next stop was Finzean water-powered wood-working complex. This is a rare survivor, still being used to produce a variety of timber products. Managed by Birse Community Trust, it consists of three sites along the Feugh Water: the Bucket Mill,

the Saw Mill and the Turning Mill, all run by water power. The Saw Mill dates from the early 1820s and is a Grade A listed building. It still manufactures fencing posts, stakes, posts, rails, and boards. The nearby Turning Mill, built in the 1830s, originally produced herring barrel bungs and brush heads. Now it produces various domestic utensils including rolling pins and spurtles. On the eastern end of the building is a kiln. The Bucket Mill is a further 1km upstream and was not visited. It too is a Grade A listed building and, as the name suggests, produced wooden pails. It has an adjacent kiln and bothy.

The third visit of the day was to another Recumbent Stone Circle, known as Eslie the Greater. It lies in a patch of rough ground on a saddle of land between Knock Hill and the ridge rising to Mulloch Hill. It measures 24m in diameter and originally consisted of 12 stones but 4 are now missing. There is a ring cairn in the interior, forming a flat topped mound, 0.8m high and 18m in diameter with an outer kerb of slabs and boulders. In the centre is a central court 6m in diameter with surrounding kerb graded to increase in height towards the south. A cist was discovered in a pit in the centre of the court during excavations in 1873. Across the fields are other stone circles including 9 Stanes Recumbent Stone Circle in Mulloch Wood. Each of the Circles we visited had noticeable differences.

Next we went to Nether Mills of Crathes where we were shown the field-walking sites where thousands of lithics had been found. In the early 20th century Hilda Pattison discovered flints on the terraces above the south bank of the Dee and its confluence with the Water of Feugh. By 1935 she had a sizeable collection including a microburin, the distinctive waste material left over from the production of lithic tools. At this time, it was thought that microliths were absent from Scotland. As a result of these finds an excavation was conducted close to the spot where the flints had been found. More flints were found including another microburin.

Between 1973 and 1977, field-walking near Nethermills Farm located more flints and resulted in an excavation that took place between 1978 and 1981. This identified the site as a Mesolithic hunter-gatherer camp, with evidence of a circular structure. However publication of the excavation was never completed. This was rectified in 2017 when a paper was published on analysis of the original samples and a number of stratified features were excavated and recorded together with a lithic assemblage of over 3000 pieces. The excavated remains included a number of cut features interpreted as post holes and stake holes as well as pits. Radiocarbon dating indicates a spread of activity from the late 6th millennium to the 1st millennium BC. In recent months test pitting has begun across the fields to assess potential. About 55volunteers dug over 100

test pits. Mesolithic flints were recovered and it is estimated that the fields could contain over 500,000. Radiocarbon dating of soil samples is awaited.

The final visit of the day was to Hallforest Castle, a 14thcentury tower that is one of the first built in northern Scotland. It may have been built around 1324. It was probably abandoned after the Civil War. Today only the remains of a rectangular tower are visible in an arable field. In 2001 possible traces of a ditch or moat on the north-west and an enclosing wall on the north were detected. The principal entrance was at the level of the hall floor at the south-east angle, where an aperture can still be seen. The window openings in the basement are typically small and there is no evidence of a door at this level. The function of the basement was probably storage. On the mezzanine above there was a kitchen at the east end with a fireplace in the gable. An oven is visible beside it in the corner on the left. The tower measures 14.6m by 9.1m with walls 2.1m thick. There are two great barrel-vaults inside the tower. One forms the floor of the hall and the other supports a chamber above. There may also have been a roof vault. Originally the tower may have had six or seven floors.

#### **Day 3 excursion**

This was an optional extra visit to Keith Hall to see Caskieben moated site and a Pictish symbol stone. The motte was impressive, a large flat area, surrounded by a deep ditch. It is thought to be medieval.

In the centre stands a Pictish Symbol Stone containing the worn features of a double disk and Z-rod, a salmon, a mirror and comb, probably dating to the 6th or 7th century. The stone was originally discovered in 1853 in the nearby River Don and taken to its present site. *Barbara Thompson*

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## **Forthcoming Events**

### **Autumn Lecture Series Brechin Town House Museum**

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Friday 20 September

*Dr Alan Macniven*

The Vikings in the Northeast?  
A contextualised overview

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Friday 18 October

*Dr Alex Woolf*

Rethinking the disappearance of the Picts:  
From Pictland to Alba 12 years on

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Friday 22 November

*Dr Jane Geddes*

Those other stones at St Andrews Cathedral:  
90 silent witnesses to a dark period

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