



Pictish Arts Society Notice of Annual General Meeting on 21 May 2005

The Annual General Meeting of the Pictish Arts Society will be held at the Meffan Institute, Forfar, on Saturday 21 May 2005 at 10.00am to consider the following business:

- 1 Apologies for absence.
- 2 Approval of the 2004 AGM minute.
- 3 Annual Report – President.
- 4 Honorary Secretary's Report.
- 5 Treasurer's Report: Presentation and Approval of Annual Accounts.
- 6 Appointment of an Independent Examiner.
- 7 Determination of Subscription Rates.
- 8 Other Honorary Officers' Reports:
 - (a) Membership Secretary.
 - (b) Editor
 - (c) Events Organiser
 - (d) Archivist

9 The committee wishes to seek the meeting's approval for the following amendments to the constitution: alteration of paragraph 6.2 of the constitution to read:

The President and other honorary officers of the Society shall hold office until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the Society after their election but shall be eligible for re-election provided that no honorary officer shall hold the same office for more than five consecutive years. On the expiry of such period two further years must elapse before any former honorary officer shall be eligible for re-election to the post from which he or she has demitted office.

and of paragraph 7.3 to read:

Election to the Committee shall be for one year initially and members shall be eligible for re-election for a further two years. After the expiry of five years one further year must elapse before any person shall be eligible for re-election to the Committee.

- 10 Election of Honorary Officers.
 - (a) President
 - (b) Two Vice Presidents
 - (c) Secretary
 - (d) Treasurer
 - (e) Membership Secretary
 - (f) Editor
 - (g) Events Organiser
 - (h) Archivist

11 Election of Committee (Minimum six, maximum twelve)

12 Any other competent business.

For further information and nominations please contact Sheila Hainey (PAS Hon. Secretary), Torr of Kedlock Farmhouse, Kedlock Feus, Cupar, KY15 4PY.

Copies of the 2004 AGM minute, Annual Accounts and copies of our Constitution will be available on 21 May. If you would like to receive a mailed copy, please send a large (A4) stamped, addressed envelope to the Honorary Secretary at the above address.

Dunnichen Day

Our annual Dunnichen Day meeting will take place on 21 May. We start with the AGM at the Meffan Institute in Forfar, at 10.00am. This will be followed by talks on the St Vigeans Stones, and at 2.30pm we will reconvene at St Vigeans to visit the museum and the church and kirkyard.

As a prelude to our trip, we are fortunate to be able to include the following paper by Norman Atkinson on the church and land-holdings of Arbroath Abbey. It appears that the status accorded to the Abbey by its founder William I in the 12th century reflects the importance of the earlier religious foundation of St Vigeans and its royal patronage.

Arbroath Abbey: Church and Land Donations during the lifetime of William I

When William I founded Arbroath Abbey in 1178 he clearly intended it to be the major monastery in north-east Scotland, and he richly endowed it with churches and lands throughout Angus, the Mearns and Aberdeenshire.

It was the sole ecclesiastical foundation of his long reign, 1165–1214, and it was beneath its high altar, dedicated to St Thomas Becket of Canterbury that he was buried, the only Scottish king to be laid to rest in north-east Scotland.

He encouraged other nobles also to endow churches and lands during his lifetime, notably Gilchrist, Earl of Angus and it is only by carefully examining these donations that we can appreciate the importance of the foundation.

No fewer than 35 churches were donated to the Abbey during William's lifetime, with the majority, 19 in Angus. 13 were donated from present day Aberdeenshire, and there were three outliers – Abernethy (Perth), Inverness, and Haltwhistle in England.

There were also 22 grants of land to the Abbey during William's lifetime, again with an Angus majority of 12, a further nine from modern Aberdeenshire, and one outlier, Auchterheadmuir (Lanark).

Significantly, the core of these foundations centred on Arbroath or Aberbrothock as it was then (*aber* = Pictish 'at the mouth of', *brothock* = Gaelic 'the boiling river').

At the heart of these was St Vigeans and the shire of Arbroath and it is likely that the ancient church, dedicated to St Fechin of Fore, certainly founded no later than the early ninth century, once held these churches and lands.

From William's original grant, it is possible to reconstruct the original *paruchia* of the church, St Fechin of Aberbrothock. While no record of a religious community there survives, the large number of stone sculptures with ecclesiastics illustrated, no fewer than six of the known 33, is strongly suggestive. The presence of the inscription on the 'Drosten' stone, almost certainly the memorial stone of Urad or Voret, King of the Picts 837–839 AD, and also of a recently discovered fragment of an ogham inscription, among the magnificent collection of medieval sculpture dating from the 9th–12th centuries is strong support for this.



© Angus Council Cultural Services

The cross-face of St Vigeans 11

The inscription itself, and the presence of bird-headed spiral decoration on two sculptures, suggests a scriptorium on the site and therefore a community of ecclesiastics to provide such a service and to look after a church with a royal burial site.

From the layout of the William I grant, eight churches are listed in the first group, and with the exception of Haltwhistle in Northumberland, no doubt given by William himself from English territories he held, I think it is likely that they represent the *paruchia* of St Fechin's.

Athyn – St Murdoch's of Ethie. The shire is also included in the grant.

Dunnechtyn – St Causnan's of Dunnichen, along with its shire.

Kyngoldrum – St Meddan's church of Kingoldrum, along with its shire.

Sancte Marie de Vetri Munros – St Mary's of Old Montrose, now Maryton, which included the abthane. William I transferred the name Munros to the ancient burgh of Sallork, and Munros was given the 'old' tag. While in the Diocese of Brechin, it has been assumed that the abthane refers to the land of the Abbot of Brechin. I would suggest that it may, in fact, refer to the Abbot of St Fechin's of Aberbrothock. It was not

the only church given to Arbroath Abbey which was in the Diocese of Brechin, with both Dunnichen and Kingoldrum sharing this distinction, although most were in the Diocese of St Andrews.

Neutyl – The church of Newtyle, whose dedication is no longer known.

Benchoryn – The church of St Ternan of Banchory in the Mearns, the sole church outwith Angus in this group. Administratively, however, the Mearns or Kincardine is often linked with Angus in the early medieval period, so this is not surprising.

Glampnes – The church of St Fergus of Glamis.

For completeness, William I donated a further 16 churches, including another five in Angus – Inverlunan (now Lunan); Panbryde (Panbride); Fethmures (Barry); Monieky (Monikie); and Gutheryn (Guthrie).

From further north he donated Inverness; Aberchirder; Inverboyrdie; Banff; and Gamrie all in Banff; Tarves and Fyvie in Formartine; Coull in Mar; Nigg and Catterline in the Mearns.

Alone from south of Angus he donated Abernethy and its chapel from Strathearn.

During William's reign, various nobles also donated a further ten churches.

Gilchrist, Earl of Angus gave no fewer than four churches and the lands of Portincraig, with its fishings (now Broughty Ferry), for the building of a hospital. The churches, all in Angus, were Stradecty Comitis, the Earl's Stradicty (Mains); Monirfod, (St Rule's of Monifieth); Muraus (Murroes); and Kerimore (St Mary's of Kirriemuir).

The three other Angus churches were all donated by different people: St Marnoch's of Arbirlot by Roger, Bishop of St Andrews; St Macconoc's of Inverkeilor by Walter de Berkeley, William's Chamberlain; and Ruthven by Robert de Lundres, his illegitimate son.

The three remaining churches, all in Aberdeenshire were: Kinnernie by Thomas de Lundy the Dorward; Turriff by Marjory, Countess of Buchan and Inverugie; St Fergus by Ralf de Naym.

Turning to land grants, significant donations of 22 portions of land were donated to the Abbey during William's reign.

William granted no fewer than four whole shires which gave the Abbey a considerable land-holding in Angus. These were the shires of Aberbrothock and Athyn or Arbroath and Ethie, together with the territory of Athynglas, and the unlinked shires of Dunechtyn, now Dunnichen and Kyngoldrum, now Kingoldrum.

We are fortunate that an undated charter in the Registrum defines the boundaries of the shire of Dunnichen, which are considerably different to the surviving parish boundaries. This cannot be shown

to be the case with Kingoldrum, which is confused by later grants by Alexander II and Malcolm, Earl of Angus.

Ethie, though joined with Inverkeilor parish sometime after 1574, is fairly easy to reconstruct. The Keillor burn is its boundary to the north, and the sea to the east. Ethie's southern boundary runs from Maw Skelly on the coast to the present farm of West Boghead, then skirts Ethie Castle by Lady Mary Ann's Butts. The Butts, the property of Lady Marion Ogilvie, to all intents and purposes the wife of the Commendator of Arbroath Abbey, David Beaton, are indicative of a strip of land by a boundary.

The boundary then skirts Rosehill and strikes east before joining up with the Corbie burn at Raesmill, referred to in the Registrum as Burnton of Ethie.

The highlands of Rosehill, Cairnton, East and West Newton, Burnton, Kinaldie, the ancient and lost farm of Muirdrum and perhaps Muirhouse, now known as Parkhill probably all form the territory of Athynglas, sandwiched between the shires of Ethie and Arbroath.

Turning to the shire of Arbroath itself, we have probably defined its eastern boundary with Ethie and Athynglas. We are fortunate to have a charter in the Registrum dated 1219 which is a perambulation of Kynblathmund, Adynglas and Aberbrothoc. Kinblethmont then stretched from the head of Magungie through Sythkerdun to Hatherbelath. These names are not as difficult as has been suggested. The head of the Magungie burn is still the parish boundary between Inverkeilor and St Vigeans and the present day estates of Kinblethmont and Parkhill. Sythkerdun would be the lands to the north of Kinblethmont, and I would suggest that these are the seat or hill of Gardyne. The lands of Gardyne certainly stretched at least as far as the farm of Border in 1615 when it was known as 'Little Gairdin'.

Hatherbelath is Arbirlot, whose lands probably stretched northwards of the present parish boundary and included the lands of Conon.

This large area to the north of the shire of Aberbrothock then, now within the parish boundary of St Vigeans was not part of the original shire. It has been confused by later donations, however, and precise boundaries are therefore difficult to unravel. The lands of Conon were granted to the Abbey in 1223 by Alexander II, and in 1283, Welandus de Seynclau, the Lord of Kinblethmont donated the land of Synkerdun or Glaufat to the Abbey.

These additions to the territory owned by the Abbey were adjacent to the original shire, and were simply added to the parish. This was a process which continued, since Letham Grange or "our new grange" was added as late as 1449 by William de Strachan, a burghess of Dundee who donated these lands adjacent to the regality.

The western boundary of the shire is perhaps the easiest to define. The Geordie burn is still clearly

recognisable and the siting of the hospital on the extremity of the Abbey lands here is a regular occurrence with medieval hospitals, which were usually located on the edge of or outside burgh boundaries. This boundary is shared with the neighbouring parish of Arbirlot, which even in the 16th century is referred to as the Bishop of St Andrew's lands.

While the shires were the large donations of lands by William to his new Abbey, a further 18 smaller portions of land were also gifted to the Abbey during the King's lifetime.

Achinglas or Athynglas and Portincraig with its fishings and the abthane of Munros I have already dealt with, but there were a further five pieces of land in Angus. While the lands of the ferryboat of Munros were donated, it is probably more significant that the Ferry itself was gifted to the Abbey. As I write, the third bridge over the South Esk is being built, but in the medieval period the ferry was the only way that goods could get in and out of Montrose from the south other than by sea. This would have been a revenue stream for the Abbey and was previously held by Helias, his clerk.

The other four Angus lands were donated by nobles: two ploughgates of land at Rossie by Hugo Malherbe; a davoch called Ballegillegrand at Bolshan by Donald, Abbot of Brechin; a toft, croft and two acres of land at Stracathro by Turpin, bishop of Brechin; and 13 acres of land at Barry beside the church by William Cumyn, William's sheriff of Forfar.

William also gave the Abbey the custody of the Breckenoch, the reliquary of St Columba, along with lands at Forglen in Banff for its upkeep, two ploughgates at Rath, Catterline by William Fitz Bernard; Monethan by Phillip de Malevill. The other lands mainly in the Mearns and Aberdeenshire, were also donated by nobles: Glaskeler, Catterline by John de Montfort; Mundorno, old Machar by Roger de St Michael's; a ploughgate at Kennethmont by his brother Earl David; Balfeith, Fordoun by Umfrid de Berkeley; a ploughgate at Balekelefan by Richard de Frivill; and a ploughgate at Mondynes on the Bervie, Fordoun by William de Munfort and Umfrid de Berkeley.

The only other land donation, outside the northeast of Scotland was of the lands between Ethkar and Kalledour, Auchterheadmuir in Lanarkshire by Thomas, Son of Thancard.

In addition to churches and land, William also donated a toft or tenement in each of his burghs – at the time being Forres, Aberdeen, Perth, Forfar (Hugo the chancellor's), Montrose, Dundee, Crail, Kinghorn, Inverkeithing, Stirling, Edinburgh, Peebles, Berwick upon Tweed and the village of Auchterarder.

He also granted fishings – a net on the Tay near Perth called Stok, and a net on the North Esk, near Montrose, thereafter known as St Thomas. Turpin,

Bishop of Brechin also donated the tiends of a net on the North Esk. The Earl of Strathearn, Malise gave half a mark from the Fishings of Ur on the Tay, and we have already mentioned the fishings at Portincraig, Broughty Ferry donated by Earl Gilchrist of Angus. Further north with the land donations the Abbey also had fishings at Banchory Devenick of salmon; salmon fishings on the Dee, known as Poldoun-Largat in the barony of Torry; a net at the Bridge of Dee, about at St Brandan's haven at Inverbondie; and rents from fishings at Inverness. Probably connected with the fishings, William also granted the abbey the saltworks in the carse of Stirling.

William gave the monks the right to timber in all his forests, which doubtless was a great benefit in the building of the abbey. Thomas de Lundin, his Durward also donated the wood at Trustach, Banchory, and John Abbe, son of Malise gave the rights to charcoal from the wood at Edzell.

This, then is a brief glimpse into the Abbey of Arbroath and the property it held from the original grant of its founder, King William I and his nobles during his lifetime, while some lands were added in later years, they did not add significantly to the total. This account hopefully demonstrates the size and importance of King William's foundation in the north-east of Scotland, and how it built upon the ancient Pictish church of St Vigeans.

Both churches were Royal burial sites, possibly with the founders of each laid to rest nearby their high altars, Uurad at St Vigeans and William at Arbroath Abbey.

Norman Atkinson

Crisis in Edinburgh.

Members who have attended the Edinburgh meetings over the past two years will be aware that audiences there have been very small. The committee are aware that much could be done by way of advertising and reorganising the schedule to avoid other meetings in the capital which are likely to appeal to a similar audience. Also, the costs of hiring a venue have been a problem since we had to give up our old 'home' at the former School of Scottish Studies. Unless we can get a few volunteers willing to take on the responsibility for delivering an Edinburgh programme that does not place an unjust burden on the membership, it will no longer be possible to offer a winter series there.

If you would like to be involved in running such a programme, contact the Secretary for details of what is entailed in the organisation and delivery of the series. The committee would lend its full support to any such venture.

Running the Society: can you help?

It is becoming increasingly obvious that the present committee structure is failing to meet the challenges of delivering the services that the Society promises to its members. It is possible to break down the processes involved in producing the Newsletter or the Journal, or collecting information for the website, into small chunks that could be parcelled out to volunteers – proof-reading, for example, or checking the availability of membership forms in local museums. We are in desperate need of people who are willing to serve on a panel of book reviewers; and of people who are prepared to feed information. For example, we would like to create a database of artists and craftsfolk whose work is influenced by Pictish art, and to make this available through the website.

Norman has long had the idea that we would benefit from a loose organisation of regional ‘mormaers’ – volunteers who could report via the newsletter to the membership any news about stones in their area, or details of local exhibitions or talks and who possibly could organise field trips. Such individuals could act as points of contact for local members (see below).

We would also love to expand the successful volunteer project at Pictavia (where we can offer to cover reasonable travel expenses). If you feel you could spare a few hours a month, or even a few minutes now and then to take notes on stones, or to let us know if you spot any ‘Pictish’ items for sale, or are happy to undertake any of the myriad little tasks that go into the successful delivery of any part of our programme, please send your name and contact details to the Secretary before the AGM, or speak to one of the committee members at the AGM or at any of the meetings. We have lists of all sorts of jobs that could be done by anyone with a little time to spare and which do not require the commitment that membership of the committee entails.

If, however, you have rather more time to spare, certain committee posts do need to be filled. Even if the committee structure changes dramatically, the roles of Treasurer, Secretary, and Membership Secretary are likely to remain essentially the same, and we need people with time and enthusiasm to ensure that these functions can be carried out. Do consider if you can help out, and don’t hesitate to contact any committee member before or at the AGM.

Provincial Mormaer Network

The committee has given considerable thought to the thorny problem of keeping in touch with events and members throughout Pictavia. While the committee itself has members from various areas of the country, it is not possible to fully represent these areas given that the committee has many other tasks which it must undertake to keep the society functioning.

We decided to introduce a system of provincial representatives, or mormaers – not a new idea! What is envisaged is that each Mormaer of a province will be the eyes and ears of the society in his or her patch, keeping an eye on stones in their area, reporting events regularly through the newsletter, and liaising with local societies and organisations.

We would like this set up to relate fairly closely to Pictavia itself, especially given the distribution of sculptured stones. Although we cannot accurately replicate the administrative structure of Pictavia, we would suggest that we have a Mormaer to cover each of the following areas, which survived into the medieval period:

Fife & Fothruff; Atholl & Gowrie; Strathearn & Menteith; Angus & Mearns; Mar & Buchan; Moray & Ross; Caithness

Precise boundaries of these provinces are not available, but in the event of disputes the committee will be guided by the stones!

If you feel that you would like to fulfil this role, and, most importantly live in one of these areas, please do get in touch. The committee will announce the new Mormaers in the next newsletter.

Norman Atkinson

Books in print

Several members have asked recently if we could produce a list of books about the Picts or about Pictish Stones which are still in print. It came as something of a shock to realise that we have not reviewed new publications for quite some time, and that there would be a deal of work in catching up.

When we can persuade some individuals to undertake the task, either as new committee members or simply as volunteers from among the membership, then publication of an extended list, rated for reliability and readability, will be one of our aims. Until that happy day, we

can only offer an occasional set of suggestions. A major feature of the carvings, especially the symbols, is that they provoke all sorts of theories as to their meanings. Over the years, some academics have made a study of the stones their life's work. Impassioned amateurs, from the gentlemen antiquaries of the nineteenth century who elevated the study of the past into a serious pastime to the new-age visionaries who see all sorts of messages in the stones, have fallen under the spell of these enigmatic stones. So far, while a number of plausible theories have been advanced, we still do not know for sure what the symbols represent nor why the symbols were carved, not only on stones, but also on a range of portable objects. While there are a number of books available which offer 'explanations' of the stones, these often raise more questions than they purport to answer. This issue, we suggest a couple of books that should be of interest to most of our membership.

For a straightforward guide, easy to use and to carry on expeditions, Alastair Mack's *Field Guide to the Pictish Symbol Stones* (published by The Pinkfoot Press, price £14.50) is still the best around. The introduction and the chapter on the symbols is a useful guide to the shorthand nomenclature which is used to describe the stones. The meat of the book lies in the dozen chapters which describe the stones, grouped by their present locations. The format is ideal for planning a day (or a longer holiday) around seeing stones in their natural environment or in museums. Directions to sites are clear, and well supplemented with maps. Mack also includes a chapter on lost stones: stones which have been recorded but which have disappeared. (Anyone with any information on the current whereabouts of any of these treasures should contact us and their local council archaeologist.)

Sally Foster's *Picts, Gaels and Scots: Early Historic Scotland* (Batsford/Historic Scotland, price £14.99), first published in 1996, has recently appeared in a revised edition. It comes as a pleasant shock to realise how much has been discovered about this period in the space of barely ten years, and how much has been incorporated in the new edition. This book is highly recommended, giving a clear and well illustrated account of the current state of knowledge of the history of Scotland in the Pictish period. It is sometimes easy to forget that the Picts were not an entirely mysterious people, living isolated from their neighbours.

In Picts, Gaels and Scots we can grasp something of the changing world that they inhabited. For those who wish to learn more, there is a useful set of references. SH

Around the Museums

Groam House, Rosemarkie (tel. 01381 321730)

Groam House goes onto summer opening times from 1 May:

Monday to Saturday, 10.00am–5.00pm,
Sundays 2.00–4.30pm.

Entry to the museum is free.

As well as the permanent exhibition which includes the Rosemarkie stones, an exhibition entitled 'Our Royal Burgh 1455–2005' features a number of items borrowed from other archives and museums, as well as from Groam's own collection. The summer lecture series has moved venue to Fortrose Community Theatre (at Fortrose Academy, off Deans Road, Fortrose) and the programme is as follows:

20 May — Annual Academic Lecture
A Period of Picts *Patrick Ashmore*

16 June — Fortrose and Rosemarkie before
the charter of 1455 *Ross Mackenzie*

21 July — Bishop Elphinstone and Kings
College Chapel: the Renaissance in North-
East Scotland around 1500
Dr Jane Geddes

Date and title to be confirmed
Dr Suzanne Miller

15 September — A Cross-Slab Revealed:
recent work at Edderton *Ian Fisher*

The museum shop at Groam House carries a good range of gifts, many with a Pictish theme, and a selection of books on the Picts, including Groam's own series of publications, based on past annual academic lectures.

Elgin Museum.

Elgin Museum opened for the new season on 2 April and will soon be displaying the 'Birnie Hoard'. A number of members were lucky enough to hear Fraser Hunter describe how a find of Roman coins in a field at Birnie led to an excavation which uncovered two hoards of Roman coins in the remains of a settlement site. This later prehistoric and medieval site is only 300 metres from Birnie church. A very worn symbol stone, bearing an eagle and rectangle and

Z-rod stands near a gate in the west wall of the kirkyard, and four lost fragments of cross-slabs were recorded here. The church is also home to the Ronnal Bell, an iron Celtic bell which suggests that there was an early Columban church here. The hoards found at Birnie point to an early centre of wealth in close proximity to this important Pictish ecclesiastical site.

The museum also hopes to include in its display a Pict, dressed in materials available in the Pictish period.

McManus Galleries.

The McManus Galleries in Dundee will be closing this autumn for an expected period of two years. Those of you familiar with the McManus will know that it is in serious need of refurbishment and repairs to the building. However, this means that the stones currently on display in the Galleries are unlikely to be available to view during the closure period. *SH*

Angus Strapline

A new marketing ploy adopted by Angus Council has sparked a deal of controversy within the county. The slogan, 'Angus: Scotland's Birthplace'* will appear on road signs at the county's borders. Quite what it means has not really been explained and it is open to interpretation, but it will surely mystify those unacquainted with the early history of Scotland, and certainly many people, particularly in other parts of the country, will find it contentious. However, by way of authentication, Angus Council have had the claim validated by Ted Cowan, Professor of Scottish History at the University of Glasgow, who, apparently, received a sizeable fee for so doing, and which at least one opposition councillor has described as 'a waste of resources'.

If the new slogan is displayed by the A92 at the county's north-eastern frontier, it will hardly detract from a rival one clearly visible from the road – an old, painted graffito on the parapet of the former railway bridge high over the North Esk which proclaims, 'Angus the dog's bollox'. It seems that this controversial statement has survived there for years without endorsement from any cash-strapped academic. *DH*

* Whatever may have been true in the distant past, maternity provision in Angus is nowadays almost non-existent and most of the county's children are born at Ninewells hospital in Dundee.

Picts and Bobs

In case you were hibernating (which I would recommend) *The Scotsman* 8 February had an article 'Reign of the House of Alpin'. It contained a clear diagram of Scottish monarchs 834–1290 with a note: There is some dispute as to some on the dates and names of the earlier kings of Scotland'. I think this is a topic for discussion amongst you Picts over a pint or two.

A new resource that provides an overview of Orcadian archaeology has just been published – **The Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site**

You can download a copy at <www.historic-scotland.gov.uk/orkneyresearch> or call 0131 668 8638 for a hard copy.

The weather is warming up for those of you who like to get out and about. Here are a few events to excite you:

A new display of the early medieval carved stones at the **Whithorn Priory Museum** in Dumfries and Galloway opened at the end of March. This display includes the Latinus Stone.

Celebration of the Summer Solstice: **Tuesday 21 June: Concert in the Crannog** (Loch Tay)

Launching a summer music series, soak up the Iron Age atmosphere around a log fire listening to one or more regional artists playing Scottish music. Places limited so book early. Time: 8.00–9.30pm; Meet: The Scottish Crannog Centre; Charge: £7.00. Tickets – tel: 01887 830583.

Now as I have a solstice birthday this sounds like a good night out.

And a bit later in the year – **Harvest Home** at Archaeolink in Aberdeenshire on 2 October – celebrating the taking in of the harvest, pre-historic cooking demonstrations, talks on what kind of crops ancient people grew, how they harvested them and the manner in which they were stored. Archaeolink's 1st annual 'Garioch Porridge Competition' will invite the public to bring in their best porridge recipes to be judged. Also featured will be Archaeolink's 'Prehistoric Ready-Steady-Cook' where local chefs and cookery students compete to prepare delicious dishes using only ingredients and cooking techniques available to the ancient Celts and Romans.

Pictish music and food what more could you ask for – "Ale!" I here a few of you cry!

Canongate Jerseys & Crafts 164–166 Canongate, Edinburgh, Telephone 0131 557 2967. Now stock our Pictish Rulers and Pictish Beastie key rings amongst lots of other Pictish and Celtic crafts. Now this is the good bit, with your Pictish Arts Society membership card you can have **10% discount**.

Finally the next **Rock Café** in Edinburgh will be on Sunday 5 June at 2.30 in the Elephant House in George IV Bridge. Please give me a call or email me if you would like to join other Picts to talk about carved stones.

Picting cheerfully, *Sheila Fraser*

<sheilafraser@btinternet.com>

Tel: 01506 650 953 (usually my answer phone)

Pictavia Lectures 2005/6

Please put the following dates in your diary. All are Friday evenings, beginning at 7.30pm. Speakers and their subjects will be confirmed in a future newsletter.

21 October; 18 November; 16 December;
20 January; 17 February; 17 March.

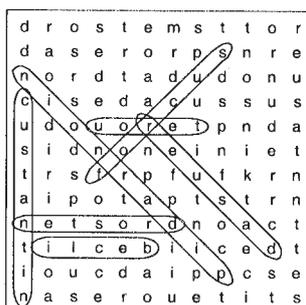
Dunnichen Festival

After a long shutdown the 'Electric Temple' (aka Letham Village Hall) will light up again on 20 May to accommodate a two-day celebration of the 1320th anniversary of the Battle of Dunnichen. Robbie the Pict is reviving the event which was first held in May 1985 and which for a while became a successful annual event.

Bands lined up to play include Shooglenifty, Baby Isaac, Box o' Bananas, and Mr Big Stuff's Blues Band. <www.dunnichengathering.org>

Some of you will recall that in May 1992 Letham Village Hall was the venue for the first-ever PAS conference.

Name Search Solution



Solution to the Name Search in PAS News 34:

becli
custantin
drosten
forcus
pidarnoin
reusad
uoret

Aphasia rules! – Not one entry was received.

Heritage Ticket



JOHN SWINNEY, MIKE WEIR, ANDREW WELSH
THE TEAM THAT WORKS FOR ANGUS

The main photograph in the recent Angus SNP election leaflet features the local Parliamentary Candidate (now MP again) with MSPs at Aberlemno.

Is this political exploitation of a Pictish cross-slab, or perhaps Aberlemno has something to do with 'Scotland's Birthplace', or have the politicians just gone there to pray?

Write a fresh caption and send to 'Caption Competition' by 30 June (address below). PAS T-shirt to the winner (please indicate size required: S/M/L/XL).

Photo reproduced by kind permission of Mike Weir MP

Contributions

All contributions for the PAS Newsletter can be sent to the address below, or e-mailed to:

<pasnews@btconnect.com>

Late News

J N G Ritchie MA, PhD, FSA

It is with shock and great sadness that we report the sudden death of Graham Ritchie on 27 April. The Society extends its deepest sympathy to Anna Ritchie and family.

Ian G Scott writes:

The fact of the death of Graham has been announced but not yet comprehended: So unexpected was it that it will be some time before any proper tribute can be composed.

Meanwhile we mourn the passing of a friendly face from public archaeology.

He will be sorely missed.