



# Newsletter of the

Tayside and Fife Archaeological  
Committee

Issue One - July 2007

## First Newsletter

The Tayside and Fife Archaeological Committee welcomes all to the first issue of its newsletter. A recent assessment by the Committee of the topics covered at business meetings means that fieldwork reports will no longer be routinely reported and therefore they will not appear in the minutes sent to Corresponding Members.

The Committee felt that since fieldwork reports were of great interest to those receiving the minutes, it was appropriate to find an alternative way of giving out the information.

In addition to news about fieldwork, it is intended that the newsletter contain information about the annual conference, special conferences and events, and publications. It will also contain information from the local authority archaeologists, SUAT and PKHT, museums, local societies and groups, and RCAHMS and Historic Scotland.

Further, the Committee hopes that everyone will view the newsletter as a medium not just for receiving information, but for relaying it. If anyone knows of a conference, event, publication or excavation that would be of interest to other newsletter readers, please pass on the information to the Committee via the email address below.

[johnsherriff@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnsherriff@hotmail.co.uk)

The newsletter will appear about six weeks after the regular business meetings of the Committee, appearing in March, July and October each year. The deadlines for copy are the end of February, May and September respectively.

## TAFAC Web Site

Work is currently being undertaken to re-host and redesign the TAFAC web site. Initially it will look much as it has done in the past, but the short-term aim of the Committee is to update all the information it currently contains.

The long-term aim is to redesign both the look and the content of the site to make it more attractive and rewarding to use. The Committee would welcome any suggestions about how this might be achieved.



Silver long-cross hammered penny of Robert II, Found during this year's fieldwalking programme in Kinnettles parish, Angus. See end page for further details.

## 2007 Conference

The 2007 TAFAC Annual conference will be held in St Andrews University (North Haugh) on Saturday, 3<sup>rd</sup> November. Confirmed speakers to date are:

SUAT -- on the recent work of the trust;  
Steve Timoney (PKHT) -- the Heritage Lottery Funded Exploring Perthshire's Past project.

John Sherriff (RCAHMS) -- the results of five years field-walking in Kinnettles parish, Angus.

Steve Liscoe (Fife Council) -- recent work in Fife.

John Lewis (Scotia Archaeology) -- Excavation and survey at Balmerino Abbey, Fife.

Moira Greig (Aberdeenshire Council) -- Recent aerial survey in Angus.

Alex Woolf (St Andrews University) -- on archaeological research in the early Medieval period.

Oliver O'Grady (Glasgow University) -- Further geophysical survey at Scone Palace

Alan Kilpatrick and Richard Craig (RCAHMS) -- Understanding the landscape in Fife: the Historic Land-use Assessment project

The conference will commence about 9.45am and finish about 4.30pm.

Tickets cost £12.00, and this price includes morning and afternoon refreshments, but not lunch.

Tickets can be obtained from the middle of September by sending the conference fee and a stamped, self-addressed envelope to:

John R Sherriff, RCAHMS,  
16 Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh,  
EH8 9NX.

Bookings will be accepted at any time on receipt of the fee and an S.A.E, but tickets will not be sent out until September.

## Two new books

The conference in November will see the launch of two new TAFAC publications. Volume 13 (2007) of the annual journal will contain the usual mix of papers, reflecting the diverse range of work that is being undertaken in Tayside and Fife.

Monograph 5 sees the publication of the results of work undertaken under the auspices of the Edinburgh University Field School at the Caterthun hillforts in Angus.

The price of each book at the conference is £10.00. If both volumes are purchased together the total price is just £15.00.

Anyone wishing to purchase the volumes by post, please note that the cost of the individual volumes is £10.00 plus £2.50 p+p.

If bought together, the price for both volumes is £15.00 + £4.00 p+p.

## Angus Glens

A programme of fieldwalking in Glen Clova and Glen Prosen, designed primarily to gather evidence for Medieval and post-Medieval settlement, has revealed remains from much earlier times.

Archie Dick, the project leader, reports that the fieldwalking got off to a tentative start last year, but really gathered pace this spring.

Although the targeted fields showed little sign of weathering, medieval redware and white gritty ware pottery was recovered along with several items of flint, including a Neolithic leaf-shaped arrowhead.

# Exploring Perthshire's Past

## Volunteers needed at Scone and Forteviot

### Scone Palace

Steve Timoney has a limited number of places for volunteers to be involved in this summer's geophysical survey at Scone Palace.

The survey, which is being carried out by Oliver O'Grady (University of Glasgow) and Peter Yeoman (Historic Scotland) is designed to locate the site of the Abbey of Scone.

Volunteers will need to commit to a minimum period of one week on the project, but no previous experience is necessary as training is given. The dates are 9th-13th July and 16th-20<sup>th</sup>; all enquiries to Steve at The Lodge, York Place, Perth. PH2 8EP  
Tel: 01738 477080  
mailto: STimoney@pkc.gov.uk

### Forteviot

The Department of Archaeology, University of Glasgow, are starting a long-term project, based at Forteviot, this year. The Strathearn Environs and Royal Forteviot project (SERF) will last at least 5 years and provide a number of opportunities for local people to become involved.

At the moment the project is looking for volunteers to take part in excavations that are running from 6th-25th August (Open Day 19<sup>th</sup> August). No experience is necessary as training will be given. There will be a 6-day working week with Mondays off. Spaces are limited and volunteers will be allocated on a first come basis.

More information from the project website,

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/archaeology/projects/serf/index.html>

## New Leaflet

Steve Timoney has also announced that the new Exploring Perthshire's Past key events leaflet, which outlining the various activities that will be available to EPP participants, is now available in Tourist Information Centres and local libraries.

## Experimental Logboat

The Scottish Crannog Centre on Loch Tay is undertaking an interesting experiment in log boat construction. The Crannog Crew will first practice on trees that were rotten and needed to be removed in the interests of public safety, before using replica bronze age tools on long sections of Douglas Fir to create an 'authentic' Bronze Age logboat. The finished result will be based on two genuine logboats, one discovered in Loch Tay and one in the river itself. The trees have been provided by Dunkeld Hilton House Hotel estates, Arboretum International, and the Forestry Commission.

## Logboat Conference

Please look out for details of a conference that is being planned around the discovery of the Carpow logboat. The conference will be held on the last Saturday in September; final details will appear in the local press, the PKHT website, or contact PKHT manager David Strachan closer to the time.

## Fieldwalking in Kinnettles

The fifth year of fieldwalking by the Kinnettles and District Heritage Group (KDHG) took place in February and March this year. The walks are part of a long term strategy to examine the whole of Kinnettles parish while giving the residents of the parish (and interested others) opportunities to become involved in researching their history. The walk on East Ingliston farm in February proved unproductive but two later walks in a field close to Kirkton resulted in over 100 flints being found. Other finds included a small amount of medieval pottery, lots of later crockery and glass, and a silver long-cross penny of Edward I or II.

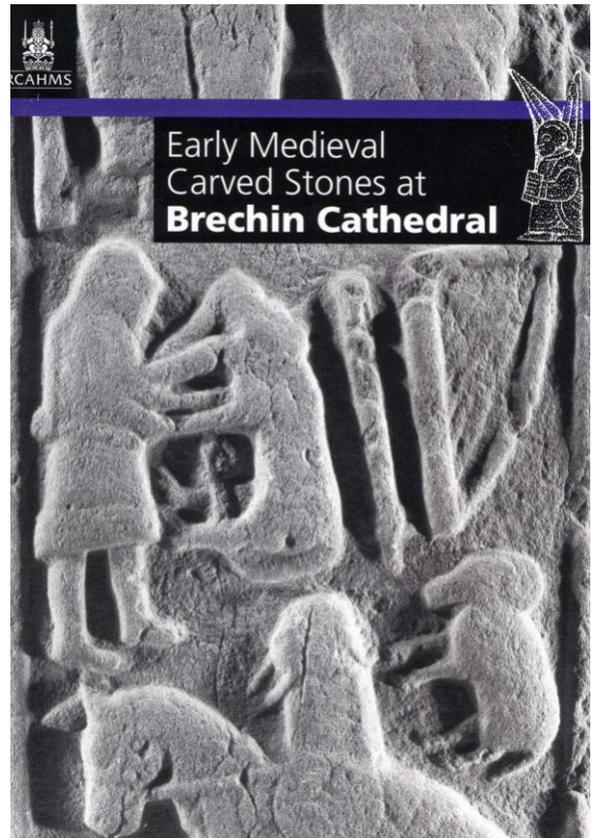
The group was assisted this year by a party of metal detectorists from Dundee. The metalwork found included musket balls, buttons, numerous coins, mostly copper, a 19<sup>th</sup> century flax bale seal from Majorca (see photo below), and a fine Robert II (1371-90) silver penny (see illustration on front page).

The fieldwalking at Kinnettles is organised by Dr David Walsh, Chairman of the KDHG, and anyone interested in the activities of the group should contact him at: The Whirlies, Kinnettles, Angus, DD8 1XF. The next planned walk is February 2008.



Lead seal from a flax bale. Probably early 19<sup>th</sup> century in date.

## New publication from RCAHMS



Front cover of new booklet, showing detail on rear of the Class II stone from Aldbar, Angus.

Anyone with a specific interest in early medieval sculpture, the Picts or even just a general interest in archaeology will want to see this new booklet from RCAHMS. With a clear concise text, superb line drawings and excellent photographs, the booklet illustrates all of the early sculpture at Brechin Cathedral, including that around the doorway to the round tower and the Class II stone from Aldbar, which can be seen on display inside the Cathedral.

The booklet contains twelve pages and is priced at £2.00 (+ 50p p&p). It is available at various outlets in Angus and also by post from:  
RCAHMS, 16 Bernard Terrace,  
Edinburgh, EH8 9NX

For further details of RCAHMS publications see [www.rcahms.gov.uk](http://www.rcahms.gov.uk)