



# Newsletter of the

Tayside and Fife Archaeological  
Committee

Issue Six - April 2009

## Dunnichen Society up and running

Having received a warm welcome when presenting an illustrated talk at Dunnichen Church in February, the editor is pleased to report that the recently formed Dunnichen Heritage Society is going from strength to strength.

The aim of the society is to bring people together to explore and record the rich heritage of Dunnichen parish, to highlight the importance of the church within the parish and to raise public awareness of Dunnichen as a centre of historic value.

To this end, the Society organises lectures, which are held in Dunnichen Church, and in July the members can attend a summer outing hosted by the Kinnettles and District Heritage Group (KDHG). Further details may be gained by visiting the Society's website at: [www.dunnichenheritagesociety.blogspot.com](http://www.dunnichenheritagesociety.blogspot.com) or writing to Anne Duncan, Sit-ma-lain, Bowriefauld, by Forfar, Angus, DD8 2LX, Tel: 01307 818142.

Forthcoming lectures include:

*Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2009, 7pm.*

Graeme Cruickshank - 'The Aberlemno battle-scene: a representation of the Picts' greatest victory?'

*Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> August 2009, 7pm.*

Paul Mitchell - 'The Buildings of Angus'



cManus Collections Unit, Barrack Street, Dundee

The McManus Collections Unit is the new permanent home for Dundee's History, Archaeology and Natural History Collections. The relocation of these Collections to this facility frees up more space in the McManus Galleries and Museum in Albert Square, for improved exhibition and visitor facilities.

Go along for a fascinating 'behind-the-scenes' glimpse of these Collections. All visits are on Fridays and Saturdays. Dates are:

10-11 April, 24-25 April, 22-23 May, 05-06 June, 19-20 June, 10-11 July, 24-25 July, 7 - 8 and 21- 22 August and 4 - 5 September

The tours, which last about one hour, start at 11am & 2pm – these will last about one hour.

Admission is free, but booking is essential as places are limited. Telephone 01382 432364.

## Conferences

Forthcoming conferences that may be of interest to readers include one organised by the Milestone Society, entitled '*Conference on Preserving Scotland's rich milestone heritage*'. The conference is being held in Aberfoyle on Saturday 30 May (10am – 4pm) and will comprise 4-5 talks on various aspects of the recording and preservation of milestones. The number of tickets, which cost £5.00, is limited to 40.

Anyone interested in attending this conference should probably first confirm that tickets are still available by telephoning Terry Keegan (Vice-Chairman of the Milestone Society) on 01299 832358. His address is: The Oxleys, Tenbury Road, Clows Top, Kidderminster, DY14 9HE.

Further details of the Milestone Society are available on their website:

[www.milestone-society.co.uk](http://www.milestone-society.co.uk)



One of the milestones erected on the Cape Wrath Lighthouse road in the 1830s and recently recorded by RCAHMS. ©RCAHMS.

## Community Archaeology

On 16 & 17 May 2009 East Lothian Council and the Council for Scottish Archaeology will host a Scottish Community Archaeology Conference at the new venue of Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh. Papers on the first day will provide a snapshot of community projects both from East Lothian and across the rest of Scotland. Workshops on the second day will be on the theme of how to develop a successful community project.

For more information contact Helen Bradley at Adopt-a-Monument Officer, Council for Scottish Archaeology (CSA), Causewayside House, 160 Causewayside, Edinburgh EH9 1PR, telephone: 0131 668 4189, email: [h.bradley@scottisharchaeology.org.uk](mailto:h.bradley@scottisharchaeology.org.uk).

## HEACS Conference

A conference to 'celebrate and promote Scotland's rich historic environment' will be held at Dynamic Earth, Edinburgh on Wednesday 20 May 2009.

The conference will review the work of The Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland (HEACS) and look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead.

The conference is free, but pre-booking is required. The conference starts at 9am and there will be a free buffet lunch.

For more information contact Pat Stables at HEACS Secretariat, Longmore House, Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH9 1SH, tel 0131 6688817, email [patricia.stables@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.stables@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

All correspondence regarding this newsletter should be sent to the editor: [johnsherriff@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:johnsherriff@hotmail.co.uk)

# Perthshire Archaeology Month

From its comparatively humble beginnings as 'Perthshire Archaeology Week' in 2003, the annual celebration of archaeology in Perth and Kinross, now known as 'Perthshire Archaeology Month', has developed into an excellent programme of events and activities that is designed to cater for all tastes.

Perthshire Archaeology Month (June 2009) is funded and organised by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust ([www.phkt.org.uk](http://www.phkt.org.uk)), with the events being provided by a consortium of organisations including Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, the Scottish Crannog Centre, Perth Museum and Art Gallery, Historic Scotland, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, and very importantly, local history and archaeology societies.

## Opportunities for volunteers

The Exploring Perthshire's Past programme, run by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, offers several opportunities for members of the public to become involved in a variety of archaeological activities this year, including archaeological excavation and field-walking, geophysical survey, site clearance and conservation, and historic building recording. Volunteers do not require previous experience as training will be provided.

**Archaeological excavation:** There are opportunities this year for volunteers to take part in excavations at the Black Spout homestead, Pitlochry, the Strathearn Environs and Royal Forteviot (SERF) project in Strathearn and the Roman Gask Project.

**Historic building recording:** Historic building recording involves the detailed study and accurate recording of historic buildings by photography and measured-drawings. There are opportunities to take part in projects with PKHT.

**Archaeological field-walking:** Field-walking involves the organised collection of archaeological objects from the surface of ploughed fields. There are opportunities to take part in fieldwalking with SERF and PKHT.

**Geophysical survey:** Archaeologists use a number of geophysical survey techniques both to map out the detail of known sites, and discover new features. In 2008, volunteers assisted in geophysical survey on the Moothill and Abbey Scone (MASS) project.

**Site clearance and management:** The clearance of overgrown on archaeological sites and historic buildings is commonly carried out in advance of excavation or conservation work. There are opportunities to take part in site clearance and conservation with PKHT.

**Getting Involved:** If you are interested in taking part in any of the activities, please contact Steven Timoney [STimoney@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:STimoney@pkc.gov.uk) Pre-booking is essential for all of these events.



Fieldwalking Group members Dave Henry and Archie Dick at Brighton, Kinnettles, the location of the two fieldwalks undertaken by the Kinnettles and District Heritage Group this year.

## Kinnettles Fieldwalking

The 2009 field walking season in Kinnettles got off to a belated start on Sunday 1st March after two sessions scheduled for the middle of February were cancelled because of lying snow. The site of the two walks that were successfully completed on a bright sunny day was a field at Brighton, which contains the remains of a formal walled garden. Aerial photographs taken by the RAF in 1946 and 1954 show the garden in all its splendour, with neatly laid out paths, small vegetable and flower beds, and fruit trees.

The glass-houses at Brighton have gone and the field is now given over to grass. Ploughing last autumn in advance of re-seeding provided a rare opportunity to inspect the soil. About a dozen people, complemented by several metal detectives from Dundee, walked an area measuring about 1.7ha in extent. As well as the usual modern finds, such as china, bottle-glass and fragments of flower-pot, seventeen flints were recovered, including two thumbnail scrapers and one edge-scraper. Several sherds of medieval pottery were also found, including pieces of 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century gritty ware. Among the metalwork discoveries was a very corroded 'Turner' coin, probably of 17<sup>th</sup> century date.

### Finds disposal

Over the course of the last few months all the finds from the 2007 walks at Ingliston and Mains of Kinnettles, the latter site producing over 100 flints and two silver medieval coins, have been awarded to Angus Museums by the Finds Disposal Panel in Edinburgh. The artefacts were delivered to Montrose Museum by the editor in December.

### Fieldwalking 2010

Planning for next year's fieldwalking sessions is now taking place. Anyone wishing to take part should contact Dr David Walsh, The Whirlies, Kinnettles, Angus, DD8 1XF, Tel: 01307 820367 or email: dbwal@lineonenet.