



Newsletter of the

Tayside and Fife Archaeological
Committee

Issue Ten - July 2010

New Head of Survey at RCAHMS

RCAHMS has just appointed Robin Turner as Head of Survey & Recording - replacing Jack Stevenson (below), who is about to retire after 36 years with the Commission. Jack joined RCAHMS straight from Cardiff University, first working on the Inventories of Argyll and Lanarkshire and later managing the rapid survey team initially sponsored by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.



As head of the National Archaeological Survey from the mid-1980s, Jack spearheaded a more overt landscape approach to recording and publication,

and the so-called 'new-style Inventories' of NE Perth, SE Perth, Eastern Dumfries-shire and Strathdon all earned rave reviews. In recent years, as Head of Survey and Recording, Jack has overseen the development of new methodologies for survey, including a greater involvement by the general public, and the introduction of new technology – actions which should ensure that RCAHMS will remain at the forefront of both archaeological and architectural survey.

Robin Turner was born in Edinburgh, studied archaeology at Southampton University (graduated 1977) and spent nine years as a field archaeologist with Essex Council before moving to West Yorkshire, where he was the Principal Field Archaeologist with the Council Archaeology Service for six years.

TAFAC members will best know Robin as the first archaeologist to be appointed by the National Trust for Scotland in 1993. For ten years from 1996 Robin was Hon. Editor of *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*. He is currently Vice-Chair of the Built Environment Forum Scotland and of the SCAPE Trust, and a trustee of the Historic Rural Settlement Trust. He has also been an *ex officio* member of the management team of the Council for Scottish Archaeology (now Archaeology Scotland) for the past 15 years and is a member of the Scottish Landscape Forum. TAFAC wishes Robin every success in his new job.

McManus Events

Dundee Museum is putting on a series of events during Scottish Archaeology Month. There is a children's workshop at the Collections Unit, Barrack Street, Dundee, DD1 1PG, on Saturday, 11 September 10.30am - 12:30pm

Roman around the collections

Tour the Archaeology store at the McManus Collections Unit and make your own craft object inspired by the collections.

Ages 8-12 years, free, but booking essential.

On Friday 17 September, 11am & 2pm

Guided Tour of the McManus Collections Unit

Go behind the scenes and delve into the City's fascinating collections of Archaeology, History, Natural History and World Cultures.

Free, but booking essential.

Saturday 18th September at The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum, Albert Square, 10am - 11am

Gallery Talk -- What Have the Romans Done for Us?

Join Christina Donald, Curator of Early History, on a tour through the galleries to highlight the legacy of the Romans in our everyday lives.

Free, but booking essential.

11:30am - 1:30pm and 2pm- 4pm

Roman stones and bones --- Drop-in handling session

Touch and handle bones, pottery and other objects from excavations around the UK. Try your hand at the ever-ever popular 'digging box' and speak with Catherine Smith, archaeozoologist.

This is a joint event between Alder Archaeology and Dundee City Council.



To book any or all of the events noted above please phone 01382 307217 or call in person at the McManus front desk.

Contact the editor at:
johnsherriff@hotmail.co.uk
Articles and other written submissions should be in Microsoft Word format. Digital images as jpegs less than 1mb in size please.

Blackford publication

A new history of Blackford, in Perthshire, produced by the Blackford Historical Society and the Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, was launched

A History of Blackford



Water to whisky and back again

on 28 April 2010. Published in full colour, *A History of Blackford* is a richly illustrated 36-page booklet that provides a vivid account of the parish and village from prehistory to modern times. Themes explored include the 19th century industries of 'boot and beer', the arrival of the railway, and the 'Legend of Blackford'.

The booklet also provides information about some of the more important prehistoric and medieval archaeological sites in the area.

The publication, which is supported by Perth and Kinross Council, The

Heritage Lottery Fund and Highland Spring Ltd, will retail at £3.00 and will be widely available in the village, at the AK Bell Library and the Museum in Perth.

Copies can also be obtained by post (add £1.50 for p+p) from the PKHT Offices at the Library Lodge, 4 York Place, Perth, PH2 8EP.

Margaret Evans

TAFAC members will be sad to learn of the death last year of Miss Margaret Evans, who lived at Kennoway in Fife and who regularly attended our annual conference for many years. A keen calligrapher, a skilled artist and someone with a deep interest in history and archaeology, particularly of Fife, Ms Evans combined all these traits to privately publish in 1998 *Stone Carvings & Carved Stones in Fife* (ISBN 0 9532294 1 6).

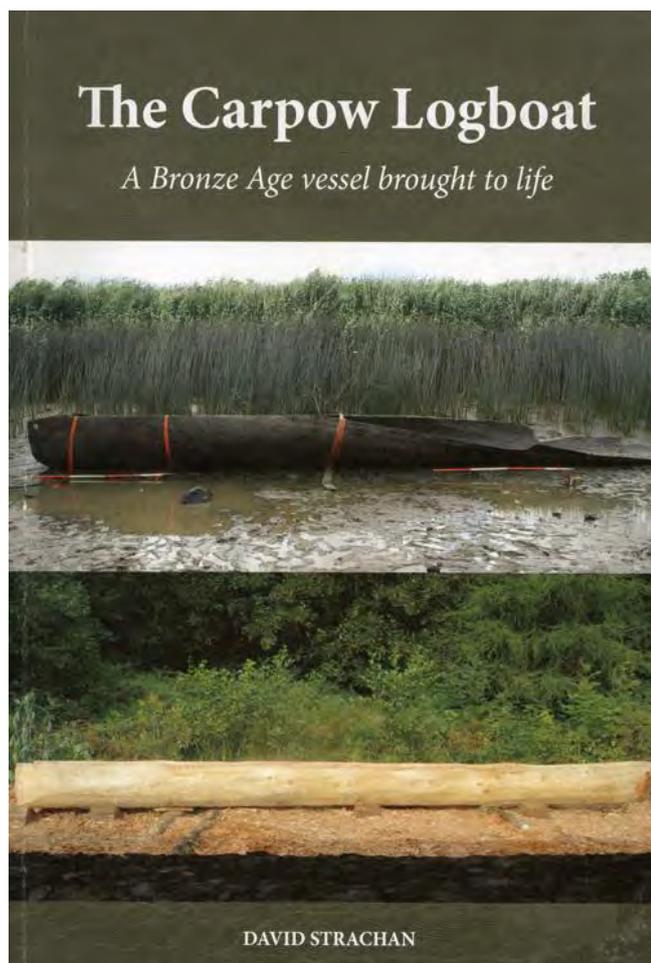
Although a staunch supporter of TAFAC, Ms Evans was never reticent about informing the Committee about aspects of the annual conference she thought could be improved, particularly when it concerned the infirm and/or elderly. She was never wrong, and the continuing success of the event is partly down to the Committee taking on board her observations.

In her will Ms Evans bequeathed the sum of £500 to TAFAC. There are no conditions attached to the use of this money, but members may be assured that it will be put to very good use.

Logboat booklet

The Carpow Logboat: A Bronze Age vessel brought to life by David Strachan, published by the Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust. 60pp, numerous colour and b+w photos and line illustrations
ISBN 978 0 9564427 2 7.

Written by David Strachan, Manager at PKHT, this excellent booklet starts by asking 'What are logboats? A concise answer is providing before details are given about the discovery of the Carpow vessel in 2001. This is followed by an account of the eventual recovery of the boat, its transport from the Tay to Edinburgh and its conservation in



the National Museums of Scotland Then follows a do-it-yourself guide to building your own logboat, which is an interesting and informative

discourse that looks at choosing a suitable tree, the techniques and tools that are required, and how these vessels were managed on the water.

The final part of the booklet attempts to contextualise the logboat by looking at the Late Bronze Age landscape and the people, metalwork finds from the Tay, the use of water courses as travel routes, and what the boat might have been used for. This is the least happy part of the booklet and it might have been better had the information contained in it been part of the introduction that would have provided readers with a fuller insight into logboats before learning about its discovery, recovery, conservation and how it was built.

Notwithstanding these minor reservations, *The Carpow Logboat* is an excellent read that will appeal to a broad audience. Scholars will certainly want to get hold of David Strachan's monograph – *Carpow in Context: A Late bronze Age Logboat from the Tay*, published by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. The rest of us, however, should be more than satisfied with the detail contained within its smaller companion volume.

The Carpow Logboat: A Bronze Age vessel brought to life was published on 30 June. It is available from the AK Bell Library and Tourist Offices, price £5: it can also be bought by post (add £1.50 for p+p) from the PKHT Offices at the address noted on the previous page. For details on how to obtain the monograph, please refer to the Antiquaries website at: www.socantscot.org.

Broughty Castle book

Broughty Castle and the Defence of the Tay by Sir Francis Mudie, David M Walker and Iain MacIvor. Published by the Abertay Historical Society. Softback, 134pp, several b+w photos and line illustrations. ISBN 978 0 900019 47 0.



This book tells the story of the role played by Broughty Castle, Dundee, in local and national affairs from the late-15th century to the Second World War. It traces the fortunes of the Gray family, who played an important part in the Anglo-Scottish wars and the upheaval of Reformation and the Regencies in the mid-16th century, and, later, a central role in negotiations regarding the fate of Mary, Queen of Scots and the Union of the Crowns. It then

follows the castle's pioneering restoration and its reconstruction as an artillery fort defending Dundee against bombardment by the French navy in the mid-19th century and the Germans in the 20th.

This publication is a revision and enlargement by David Walker of the original, which appeared in 1970. It provides the reader with vital information that anyone visiting the castle would wish to have to fully appreciate the role the site has played in Scottish history. But anyone hoping that the contents would fulfil the role of guide-book to the tower, will be disappointed, but this was never its intention.

The book is an easy read and a must for anyone interested in the history of not only this part of the country but Scotland as a whole. Minor criticisms include the lack of colour photography, but this has presumably kept the cost down. Also, there might have been some images of the interior of the castle and the detail in one or two of the line illustrations is difficult to make out. Several of the illustrations have been reproduced at a scale that is simply too small.

TAFAC Conference

The Editor apologises for the double entry in Newsletter 9 of a short notice about this year's conference in St Andrews. Clearly I had a subconscious feeling that the conference is going to be so good that everyone would want to know about it twice!

There is a change in venue this year. Lack of an entertainment licence at any of the St Andrew's University's North Haugh venues means that none of them allows organisations to to sell tickets 'on the door' on the day of the conference. However, every cloud has a silver lining

and this year the conference is being held in the Younger Hall, North Street, which is the University's Music Centre and where graduation ceremonies and concerts are held. It is a magnificent venue, the auditorium is large, the audio-visual equipment top-notch and there is ample space around the rear and sides of the seating area for bookstalls and exhibitions to be set up.

Further to my last announcement, I can confirm that in addition to Gordon Barclay speaking about the WW2 Defence line in Fife and Perthshire and Lindsay Farquharson talking about 18th century bridges, Trevor Cowie will speak on a recently identified 'lost' bronze age pot from Fife and Alan Saville, his colleague at the National Museums of Scotland, will tell us about some very interesting prehistoric quartz tools from House of Dun in Angus.

Tom Dawson from the SCAPE Trust will tell us about the work of the Trust, including the recently completed Angus coastal survey, and the laser scanning survey of the limekilns at Boddin, a little south of Montrose. David Strachan will provide an update of the Carpow logboat project and copies of his excellent booklet (see above for review) will be on sale on the day.

Edwina Proudfoot will be telling us about a three-year project that will see redundant churches in Angus recorded. Derek Hall will speak about Sirling University's Deer Parks Project, which has involved excavation at the Buzzart Dykes, north of Blairgowrie.

The conference is on Sat. 6th Nov.

Perth Conference

September 2010 will see a major two-day conference that sounds too good to miss. Part of the Perth800 celebrations, *Perth: a Place in History* will be held at Perth Concert Hall and will explore the history and development of the royal burgh from its earliest times to the present day. Twelve distinguished speakers will talk about various aspects of Perth's archaeology and history, with day one (Fri 10th Sept) investigating Perth from before it achieved burgh status to the Enlightenment in the 18th century. Day two (Sat 11th) covers the development of the burgh from the late-18th century and concludes by glimpsing possibilities for the future.

Professors Archie Duncan and Chris Smout chair the two days and the speakers are:

David Strachan (PKHT); Derek Hall (Archaeological consultant); Richard Oram (Univ of Stirling); Alan McDonald (Univ of Dundee); Mary Verschuur (ex-Univ of Nebraska); Christopher Whately (Univ of Dundee); Chris Fleet (Nat Library of Scotland); Charles McKean (Univ of Dundee); Rhoda Fothergill (Local Historian); Alia Campbell (Diageo); Jacqui Seargeant (John Dewar & Son); Susan Payne (Perth Museum) & Roland Bean (Perth & Kinross Council). Provost John Hulbert will open the conference with a welcome and provide some farewell remarks.

Tickets for each day of the conference cost £10. A ticket covering both days will cost £15. Booking is recommended and tickets can be obtained from the Horsecross Box Office on 01738 621031 or online at www.horsecross.co.uk.