



# PAST

Peeblesshire Archaeological Society Times  
April 2016

## Annual Report 2015-2016

### Lecture summaries

The arrival of spring means that we have come to the end of our programme of talks by invited guest speakers – and as in previous years, this provides an opportunity to recall the wide range of subjects they have covered.

In September, **Gerard and Sue Bakker** introduced us to *Alahan – a masterpiece of Early Christian Architecture*. Over the period from 1962 to 1974, Gerard made seven visits to the site of Alahan in SE Turkey as part of a team recording the remains of this wonderful fifth century Christian complex. Sue also worked on the site for several seasons as an archaeologist, recording the small finds and documenting the many carved stones.

The precise nature of the site is still debated. However it consists of an early basilica, some two storey buildings including a Baptistry with a full-immersion basin fed by springs, and another church at the Eastern end of a limestone ridge. These buildings sit on the ridge alongside early tombs and caves which had been used as a church. The tombs include one dedicated to Tarasis the Elder, dated 462, who 'founded the hospice', and another to his son, also Tarasis.

Whether this site was a monastery, or only a site of pilgrimage, or perhaps both is as yet uncertain. While it has parallels locally it is of finer workmanship and has a particularly fine situation, sheltered from local North winds that sweep down from the Anatolian plateau. It is well supplied by water and close to an important route from the Mediterranean up to the Anatolian Plateau, though it sits 300m above the road and the local village. Evidence of glass mosaics and wall painting was found.

A bath house above the churches had some small finds, but elsewhere the site seems to have been emptied and abandoned during the turmoil after the end of the fifth century. The finds have added to the questions about the site, as they included African and Cypriot pottery, as well as local wares. With the rise of an Islamic state in the seventh century the site was used again only briefly, in the mediaeval period.

After clearance of the rubble, examination of the remaining standing construction and sorting of the carved stones, Gerard was able to prepare reconstruction drawings of the complex.



**Alahan: view towards East basilica**

These were included in the final report on the excavation which he prepared with the widow of the site director Michael Gough, who had died in 1973 before completing his analysis. The beautiful high relief carving on the extant portals and East church walls was probably done by local stonemasons, whose reputation was such they were employed later in building the wonderful Hagia Sophia in Istanbul.

In October, members enjoyed a spellbinding presentation from **Dr Alison Sheridan** on **Green Treasures from the Magic Mountains: the amazing story of Neolithic Jadeitite Axeheads**. Alison is Principal Curator of Early Prehistory in the Scottish History & Archaeology Department, National Museums Scotland. Her talk reported on the results of 'Project JADE', a major international research project led by Dr Pierre Pétrequin, which has revolutionised our understanding of Neolithic axeheads made from Alpine rock. Although several rock types were used (jadeitite, eclogite and omphacitite) it was the very hard green jadeitite that was most especially prized (in the same way as jade in China, nephrite in New Zealand, and similar stones elsewhere in the Pacific). Alpine axeheads have been found from Bulgaria to Ireland. In Bulgaria they are also found in rich tombs – showing the extent of these early networks of contact and exchange.

The axe was of utmost importance to Neolithic farmers, and a mythology doubtless developed around them. From tombs in the Gulf of Morbihan many fine axeheads have been recovered, some reground locally to be thinner and finer. Some are buried in pairs, blade uppermost. Carvings of axeheads also appear on menhirs (standing stones).

When the first farmers moved into Britain they brought with them not just work-a-day tools but special items made from rocks that would have taken over 1000 hours of patient labour to produce. The British examples are also often highly polished, as if extra preparation was used to enhance the value.

Analysis has shown that most of the original examples, from about 5000BC to 3600BC, come from two peaks in the Italian Alps. Two axeheads made from the same parent rock ended up far to the north - one in Scotland near Dunfermline, the other in Northern Germany!

In Britain the shapes of these prized early forms were later deliberately imitated - , for example by the makers of axes using rock from more local sources such as Langdale in the Lake District, Killin in Scotland and Antrim in Northern Ireland.



**Alahan: the site in its landscape setting**

Dr Pétrequin and his wife had worked as ethnographers in New Guinea, and knew axeheads there had special kudos when collected from the highest peaks. They believed that the theories of a French geologist M Damour, put forward in 1881 but then ignored, that European examples came from the high Alps, were possibly correct.

Careful modern scientific analysis has now confirmed this. Also charcoal from the working sites they found has allowed dating and a typology to be established. As only two of the British examples have been found in dateable locations this has shown that those brought by the first farmers were often hundreds of years old before arriving here. The axehead found in the Cairnholy Tomb (dated 3800BC) is of a form quarried about 4300BC.



**Jadeitite axhead found at Greenlaw, Berwickshire © NMS**

British examples are often found in rivers or wetlands, but also hill tops, gorges etc. Some have been ritually broken and burnt before being deposited. Dr Sheridan also told various tales of how these beautiful objects have been treated after finding – it seems the fascination they hold remains unbroken. A follow up to Project JADE, JADE2 is looking more closely at the many new finds in Eastern Europe. Who knows what further stories will unfold?

In January, we had an enjoyable presentation from **Dr Margaret Collin** on **Old Melrose – past and present**. Margaret is an historian, President of the Melrose Historical and Archaeological Society, and Chairperson of the Old Melrose and Environs Archaeology Project. This community project has the stated aims of rediscovering, interpreting and accessing St Cuthbert's first monastic house and its environs. This is being greatly aided by the land owner, Mr William Younger, who is keen to promote access to the estate on which the monastery was situated. Beginning in 2012, a summerhouse has been converted to an interpretation centre for use by schools, paths have been opened up, and once a month (from Easter through to the autumn) a guided walk takes in all the interesting areas, including those not normally accessible around the current house.

The original abbey of Mailros was founded c635AD, by monks from Iona and Lindisfarne, and lies about 2 miles from modern Melrose Abbey (founded in 1136 by Cistercian monks). Mailros sat on a peninsula formed by a loop of the river Tweed where it cuts into Bemersyde Hill, opposite Scott's View. The neck of the peninsula is about 1,000 feet wide, cutting off about 60 acres. The remains of a vallum (ditch and palisade) cross this, possibly formed in the Iron Age and reused for the monastery. The site of the abbey and an associated chapel is situated at the east end of the peninsula, just north of the 19<sup>th</sup> century house and garden of Old Melrose. There are few extant remains, though there is a mound where the chapel stood.

The site is however described in documents, such as those written by the Venerable Bede, and it is where the young St Cuthbert was accepted as a novice by St Boisel, Abbot of Mailros, in 651AD. In 849AD the monastery was burnt down by Kenneth McAlpin, but restored as it is mentioned as a place of refuge from Viking raids. By 1074 it was in ruins again, though in 1119 Earl David gave the remains to Selkirk abbey. In 1136 it was given to the



newly founded Melrose, whose monks chose a different site, probably because they hoped to expand further than the peninsula would allow.

By 1321 the abbey had been destroyed during the Wars of Independence. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century it was officially closed during the reformation, and the stone on the site was used to build a Pele house. Now that access is available, aerial surveys, including LIDAR data from a SEPA study of the Tweed have identified underground features, including round houses that may be monastic cells. It is hoped funding can be found for some excavations this summer.

February marked our joint meeting with the Tweeddale Society, when members were privileged to hear from **Dr Nick Fraser** Keeper of the Natural Sciences Department, National Museums Scotland about remarkable fossil finds from the Borders which have resulted in a breakthrough in the study of evolution. National treasure Sir David Attenborough has described the new fossil finds as “wonderful and exciting”.

In his talk ***One Small Step for Amphibians, but a Giant Leap for Life on Earth***, Nick described the results of an exciting Scottish based research programme, the TW:eed project (Tetrapod World: early evolution and diversity [www.tetrapods.org](http://www.tetrapods.org)).

The Triassic period (250-201 million years ago) is a critical period in earth's history as it saw the origin of many of the major groups of modern animals, (including mammals, crocodiles, turtles and true flies) and is renowned as the time when the first dinosaurs walked the planet.

Nick showed us discoveries which have helped to fill a "missing chapter" of the evolution story. There seemed to be little evidence of life on land between around 345 and 360 million years ago (the so-called 'Romer's Gap'. However, through painstaking research and the appliance of science these new discoveries from the Tweed Basin suggest that a wide range of amphibians, plants, fish and invertebrates all existed during this 15 million-year period.



Excavations in progress on the Whiteadder Water © NMS

**Visit the NMS Exhibition:  
Fossil Hunters: Unearthing the Mystery of Life on Land  
until 14 August 2016**

<http://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/whats-on/fossil-hunters/>

Finally, what has been another excellent lecture series was brought to a close in March with a talk from **Stephen Gordon**, Head of Applied Conservation, Historic Environment Scotland on **Kirkmadrine – conserving and re-displaying the carved stone collection**. In 2014 a project to conserve and display the stones from Kirkmadrine was completed. The site is a small extension to a private mortuary chapel standing on an exposed part of the Rhinns of Galloway coast. It is however on the site where an early daughter church of St Ninian's church at Whithorn, founded in 397AD, was built. The principal carved stones are three crosses dating from the mid 6<sup>th</sup> century. These are among the earliest Christian monuments in Britain, and two commemorate by name some of the early priests of Kirkmadrine. The inscriptions are in Latin, and appear beside an early form of cross symbol formed from the Greek letters Chi Rho, the first two letters of the word Christ.



**Kirkmadrine stones as depicted by John Stuart in his *Sculptured Stones of Scotland* 1856**

Kirkmadrine was eclipsed by Whithorn as early as the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> century, but was used sporadically thereafter. A 12<sup>th</sup> century church replaced the early foundation, and this was reused by Presbyterians after the reformation. By 1845 the graveyard was still in use but a Victorian church then replaced the old structure, and two of the early cross stones were reused as gateposts!

In 1861 these were recognised for what they were, and from 1877, for the next 40 years, the incumbent minister searched all over his parish for the other stone – ‘the lost stone of Kirkmadrine’. When a stonemason was employed to rebuild the large cylindrical gate posts to the manse, he hauled a large stone out of the middle, and started to break it up for reuse. It was only when he turned a fragment over he saw some carving, and recognised what he had done – found the lost stone, and broken it in a dozen pieces!

These pieces were saved, however, and have been reassembled with modern conservation materials to form part of the new display. The materials used to piece together the broken stone can be dissolved far more easily than the earlier mortar repairs, which took painstaking effort to remove without damage to the stone. Although not the full original height (it was probably broken to fit into the gatepost) the carving is almost complete. The three stones, together with a few other smaller pieces, were displayed in an open porch attached to the end of the church (now privately owned and used only as a family mortuary chapel). In the 1960's a glass screen was added to protect the stones from the weather, but with no heating and ventilation the porch suffered from water ingress and condensation. Moulds were obscuring and damaging the stones.

Stephen explained how the stones were carefully removed, cleaned and recorded using the latest laser scanning techniques. Ventilation was added to the porch and the glass screen reworked to give better access for maintenance, and better viewing for visitors. Special steel brackets with neoprene pads secure the crosses, as Historic Environment Scotland has had such carved stones stolen in recent years. The brackets are removable with a specific tool however, should further work on them be required.

Although remote, these rare stones are now well displayed which should encourage more visits and recognition.

**Jeff Carter**

**Thanks go to Maureen Erasmuson for masterminding our programme – and to Jeff Carter for his very excellent reports. Our 2016-2017 syllabus is already taking shape – watch this space! Ed.**

# Treasurer's Report

There is not a great deal that requires comment. While the income from members' subscriptions is up this reflects the increased fees rather than a rise in numbers. Very occasionally in addition to the fee we pay speakers some have outlays that require to be met and this was the case in the 2014/2015 Accounts.

One of our meetings had to be cancelled last autumn and these two factors resulted in the fall in this item of expenditure together with a reduction in room hire.

The annual outlay in respect of the website has not appeared in previous accounts as it only came to the Committee's attention at a Committee Meeting last summer that Gordon Stephen, who previously looked after our Website, had been covering the attendant costs personally. His generosity is very much appreciated.

I should like to take this opportunity of thanking Fergus Brown for once again examining the Annual Accounts.

**Peter Barclay**  
Treasurer

## Analysis of Income & Expenditure 1 April 2015 – 31 March 2016

	Income		Expenditure		
	2015	2016	2016	2015	
Subscriptions	£450.00	£ 525.00	Insurance	£189.47	£191.92
Sale of Books	32.00	40.00	Speakers	95.00	200.00
Visitors	81.00	71.00	Hire of Room	97.00	106.00
S.B.C. Grant	500.00	1134.00	Carbon Dating	1134.00	
Sale of Projector	15.00		Hire of Equipment		30.00
			Agricultural Show		39.00
			Equipment	115.88	
			Refreshments	33.72	50.37
			Syllabus	29.00	28.00
			Subscriptions	65.00	65.00
			Website	38.26	
Excess		27.33	Stamps		12.72
Expenditure			Surplus Income		354.99
	<u>£1078.00</u>	<u>£1797.33</u>		<u>£ 1797.33</u>	<u>£1078.00</u>
Balances at 1 April 2015			Balances at 31 March 2016		
General Account		£1390.60	General Account	£1376.00	
Cash Account		54.29	Cash Account	41.56	
		<u>£1444.89</u>	Excess Expenditure	27.33	
				<u>£1444.89</u>	

### Examiner's Report

The Income and Expenditure Account and Abstract of Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2016 are in accordance with the Books and Vouchers presented to me and appear to give a fair and accurate position of the financial state of the Society.

Fergus Brown  
Accounts Examiner



# Fieldwork

## Shootinglee progress report

The 2015 season saw us moving on to Building 2 further down the row of buildings. This has proved to be a far more substantial structure with clay-bonded walls 1.2m wide at the N end. Inside this wall there is evidence of burning on two levels, one about 10-15 cm above the other. At the S end there is a wall 1m thick with a curved E end overlying cobbles and inside a paved floor with evidence of burning but, as yet, no formal hearth. We have done some work in trying to establish if the N and S walls are associated with the same structure. During this we found an E-W drain from which a sherd of fine unabraded medieval pottery was recovered indicating that there could be an earlier occupation level. The west wall has been uncovered but not the east and an entrance is still eluding us.

Other interesting finds of this past year have been: two more sherds of medieval pottery; two 17th century pipe bowls; a possible 17th century copper coin; an early horseshoe; a conical lead weight and one piece of dressed stone.

There has been some discussion amongst ourselves as to what type of building we are uncovering. Should we just refer to it as a pele-hous, a pele-tower, a pele or something else? It is certainly a fortified farmhouse of the type prevalent in the Borders in the 16th century due to the unsettled times. The ones which survive best are those built with lime mortar called *bastle-houses*: Building 2 is built with clay mortar.

Over the winter the Shootinglee group had two field trips. The first was to Old Tinnis in the Yarrow Valley. Old Tinnis was a forest stead like Shootinglee but much more extensive with the footings of a possible tower and around 8 buildings as well as extensive cultivation remains. The second was to Mervinslaw Tower and Slacks Tower south of Jedburgh. These are two pele-houses up-standing to gable top and similar to Shootinglee in that they are clay-bonded and have the footings of other buildings nearby.

**Joyce Durham**



**Shootinglee: view of Building 2 in course of excavation. Photo: J Durham.**

# “The Day we went to Biggar O”

## A visit to Biggar Museum ...

*...or at least that's how it started out - then it sort of...grew...like Topsy. Let me explain...*

Biggar Museum re-opened to visitors on 28th July 2015 following a move to a new purpose-built home, which brought the contents of a number of diverse buildings under one roof. Worth a visit! Also if we timed our visit right, i.e. on Sunday 18th October, Biggar Gasworks would be operational as part of the "Biggar Little Festival". Definitely worth a visit! Ask Maureen to do the guidey bit. Day out sorted!

A dozen or so discerning PAS members headed off (scenic route) to Biggar, parked in Burnbraes Car Park and headed for the town centre. Walking through Burnbraes Park we noted the home of the former **Covenanters Museum**. Maureen pointed out the site of **Biggar Motte and Bailey**, built by Baldwin, a Fleming, in AD 1150. The family lived there till the 14th C when they were given land on the outskirts of Biggar to erect Boghall Castle (now a ruin). The Flemings were people of importance in the area, one of the daughters being one of the "Four Maries" who accompanied Mary, Queen of Scots to France.

Biggar grew up as a **medieval market town** with a broad High Street, but sadly no medieval buildings survive. Its origins however date to much earlier times, with the earliest Scottish **Palaeolithic tools** being found at nearby Howburn. The town and its environs have also traces of the Iron Age, the Romans and every shade of Scottish history since.

The **Biggar Burn** running through the Park was once a hub of industrial activity, powering corn milling, bleaching and dyeing cloths, weaving and brewing. In 1831 half of Biggar's workforce were weavers, but by the turn of the century none remained.

Arriving at the **Gasworks** it was good to see it so busy. The knowledgeable and enthusiastic staff explained the process from the arrival of the coal to the distribution of the gas ... and Jack even got to blow the whistle! The Gasworks were operational from 1839 to 1973 and it is the only preserved gasworks in Scotland. It comes under the wing of Historic Scotland, albeit managed by Biggar Museum.

It was good to see all the machinery in such good condition and it's obviously a labour of love.

We then crossed the **Cadger's Bridge** which according to the tale, was named after William Wallace who crossed it disguised as a "cadger"(beggar) on his way to where the English were camped near Biggar.

On our way To Biggar Kirk, we passed reputedly the **Oldest House in Biggar**, no.47 High Street. Once an inn, its very distinctive low red door hides the story of retreating Jacobite Officers being billeted there in 1746.

**Biggar Kirk** is a handsome kirk, built on a hill with commanding views. There had been a wooden church in Biggar from the 6th or 7th century. The first stone-built church dates to 1164; the present building dates to 1546, with restoration work carried out in 1935. Here in 1638 some 200 parishioners signed the National Covenant and from here Lord Fleming took a troop of men to join the Covenanting army against the king.

In the porch of the church stands a pre-Reformation tombstone of very early date, incised with a floriated cross. The vestibule houses a Repentance stool (1694 date carved on it) - a sure sign that Presbyterianism had arrived! In the south wall of the chancel there is a fine stone basin or font, discovered when the plasterwork was stripped away in the 1935 restoration work. The Kirk has a very light and airy feel to it, enhanced by some very beautiful stained-glass windows, the most recent a stunning window by Crear McCartney dating to 1991.

The **Kirkyard** is interesting in itself. A stone dated 1707 shows a rudimentary and long-legged skeleton - possibly Death itself (memento mori). There is a fine Adam & Eve stone, dated 1709 - 1759, commemorating John, Janet and James Bertram. There is also a table stone commemorating 19 members of the Gladstone family, including the forbearers of William Ewart Gladstone, 4 times Prime Minister of Britain during the period 1868 1894. Somewhat more recent is the poignant





**'A great day out...'**

**Biggar & Upper Clydesdale Museum**  
<http://www.biggarmuseumtrust.co.uk/>



Part of the displays include an encounter with 'Thankerton Man'. Scientists from Dundee University recreated the face of a young man of about 18-25 whose skeleton was discovered in a cist at Boatbridge Quarry in Thankerton in 1970. His remains were radiocarbon dated to between 2460 BC and 2140 BC (Early Bronze Age).



**Gladstone Court**

millennium obelisk, a simple post incised with the hope "May Peace Prevail On Earth".

A short walk took us to **St. Mary's Hall**, not quite the highlight of the day but a very welcome seat, black coffee (with refill), and delicious scone with cream and jam. Bring on the Museum!

We walked through the town in pleasant sunshine to the building now housing the refurbished **Biggar Museum**. We were met by museum staff and in the Special Exhibition Room we were treated to a presentation on how the new museum came about; from the defined need of a multiplicity of buildings in need of repair, to the vision for a new museum under one roof and the funding challenges that arose. This was very much a community project, with over £500,000 being raised from the local community alone.

We then wandered through the new facility, so light and spacious compared to what had gone before. The museum includes the Special Exhibition Room, the Main Gallery and Gladstone Court.

The Main Gallery is arranged thematically, and includes **Land & People** including lots of geological specimens, **Scotland's Earliest People**, the story of the people and their flint tools who lived 14,000 years ago at nearby Howburn, and the later Mesolithic hunter-gatherers. **Neolithic Farmers, Copper and Bronze Age** and **Iron Age** displays showed fine pottery and tools, Beaker pottery, the reconstructed skull of Thankerton Man and models of hillforts, brochs and crannogs to complete the prehistory section.

**Biggar and House of Fleming** takes us from the Flemings 12th C origins, to their home in Boghall Castle and tells of how they were inextricably caught up in the saga of Mary, Queen of Scots; **17th Century Upland Farmers** and **Rural Life in the 19th Century** covers models of Bastle Houses to the rise of the Clydesdale Horse; **Religious Protesters** is a collection centred round the 17th C Covenanting period of Scottish history; **Crimean Heroes** exhibits 2 patchwork table covers by Menzies Moffat, a Biggar tailor at the time of the Crimean War showing a wide range of 19th C life and culture; **Polish Soldiers** tells the tale of the 1st Polish Brigade HQ in Biggar during WW2 and the links forged between soldiers and locals.

My favourite however is still **Gladstone Court**, which is a shopping arcade covering 150 years. It includes the Apothecary, Bank, Grocer, Ironmonger, Bootmaker, Toyshop, Printer, Clockmaker, Dressmaker and not forgetting the Telephone Exchange. It's a salutary sign of imminent old age when you remember more and more of the stock and ephemera and signs and adverts that populates this area! Very atmospheric though.

Congratulations to Biggar Museum Trust. The upheaval, sourcing of funding etc must have been very disruptive. The end result however is superb and they have a new museum they should be rightly proud of. If you haven't yet visited, please do so. You will so enjoy!!

Onwards and upwards however, and the PAS contingent then got back in their mini-charabancs and headed for the **Gladstone Ruin**, some 2 miles out of Biggar. A short walk from the road brought us to this very ruinous small cottage, which was the early home of the Gladstones, and the beginning of a story of rags to riches and fame for that family.

Thomas Gladstone was a Wine Merchant then Corn trader in Leith prospering as both a wholesale and retail merchant. His eldest son John was in the family business before moving to Liverpool and becoming a prosperous trader in his own right. He traded in corn with the USA and cotton with Brazil. He acquired large sugar plantations in Jamaica and Demerara, and on the abolition of slavery in 1833, he received the equivalent of £83m in compensation for freeing 2,500 slaves. Having traded extensively with Russia and India he eventually returned to Scotland a multi-millionaire. He bought the huge Fasque Estate and Castle in Aberdeenshire (can be hired for Weddings and Bar Mitzvahs for £9,000 per day!) and was created a baronet in 1846 by the outgoing prime minister, Sir Robert Peel. Of his 6 children, number 4 was William Ewart Gladstone, 4 times Prime Minister of Britain. Then we went home!

A huge, huge vote of thanks to Maureen for a great day out. She researched and organised all of the above, made sure we were where we were supposed to be, when we were supposed to be, and best of all, black coffee (with refill), and delicious scone with cream and jam! Magic!

**Jack Boughey**

# Visit to RCAHMS

On 23rd November 2015, a dozen or so members of PAS headed off to Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh, the home of the former **Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland**, and now part of **Historic Environment Scotland**.

The object of the visit was to give PAS members an opportunity to see the nature and range of search and research facilities offered by the Royal Commission.

We were met by Dawn Evers, Access Manager Collections, and a number of her colleagues and taken first into the **Print Room**. Already set out for us was a virtual cornucopia of everything Tweeddale - what Howard Carter would have described as "Wonderful Things!" - from rare books and early maps to beautifully executed early large scale detail drawings of Borders architecture. Superb!

Afterwards we split up with some members being shown the general research facilities in terms of available reading, drawings, plans etc, while other members engaged RCAHMS staff

on detailed research queries, while a number of members were particularly interested in the discussions on digital surveying, remote sensing and the curation of archaeological data using GIS. This demonstration ended on a high note when the PAS members were shown a selection of aerial images and 3D reconstructions of the landscape derived from photogrammetry and LIDAR data.

Finally Dawn gave PAS Members a demonstration on how RCAHMS employs cutting-edge digital technologies both to expand our knowledge of Scotland's archaeology and to disseminate information to the wider community via the Canmore website.

A most enjoyable morning was had by all – many thanks to Dawn and her team for the detailed and thoughtfully arranged displays, videos and the helpfulness of her staff. First Class!

**Jack Boughey**



The front façade of the former RCAHMS in Bernard Terrace, Edinburgh. RCAHMS is now part of Historic Environment Scotland. ©



# Dates for your diaries

## AGM & Members Evening 21 April 2016

Venue:  
Community Centre,  
Walkershaugh, Peebles  
Commencing at 7.30pm

The final meeting in our 2015-2016 lecture programme will follow its established format of short presentations preceded by a brief AGM and followed by refreshments

### Speakers:

- Joyce Durham: *The Shootinglee Project: an update*
- Dr Chris Bowles: *Recent archaeological work in the Borders*
- Dr Piers Dixon: *Current survey work at Hume, Berwickshire*

Guest/non-members welcome  
(small charge towards expenses)

## Visit to Celts Exhibition National Museum of Scotland 17 May 2016

With an introductory talk by Dr Fraser Hunter, Principal Curator, Scottish History & Archaeology Department

Further details will be available at the AGM and will be circulated by email

If you wish to reserve a place please contact Trevor Cowie  
([trevor.cowie@btopenworld.com](mailto:trevor.cowie@btopenworld.com))  
as soon as possible

Numbers limited – book early

## Field Trip to the Kingussie area Saturday 17 June

The destination for our summer field trip this year is the Kingussie area, where our guide will be Dr Piers Dixon of Historic Environment Scotland. The excursion will include a visit to the Highland Folk Museum, with its reconstructed township, and some of the deserted sites in Glenbanchor.

Further details will be available at the AGM and will be circulated by email.