

Message from the President



The summer season is now in full swing. Articles in this newsletter will explain in detail the activities and work in which we are engaged. The good news is the number of "Young Marvels" we are currently entertaining and hopefully encouraging to learn and be involved in museums. Our visitor numbers continue to rise and there is a good feeling of interest and pleasure around the museum.

We are currently involved with Castle to Cathedral to Cashmere project which seeks to enhance the visitor attraction of Elgin. It is based on a walk from the Castle, at the top of Ladyhill down the High Street to the Museum, then to Elgin Cathedral and eventually Johnstons of Elgin where the Cashmere is. As I write this I have just attended the finale of the Saturday Sword Fire and Stone event in the Cooper Park, in which the Museum played a part. You will be pleased to learn the the Burghers of Elgin repulsed the Wolf of Badenoch after a tense bout of fighting. I was fortunate enough to meet a well-dressed "Burgher" who normally does a bit of Archaeology in his spare time at the museum. No names, no pack drill but he looked the part and for all I know may have done some carving on the Dandaleith Stone in his youth. (That is a hint!) And I know that more were involved. Great fun and it deserved a better crowd on a dreech day.

We continue with excellent art exhibitions. I was reminded of my youth when studying the wood cut art work. I wonder how many of you did "lino-cuts" in your early days. I did and it introduced my first experience of understanding printing. But it really was a very good exhibition and is now followed by a further exhibition by our 'Local Quines'.

Finally if you have not yet visited the Museum and seen the Dandaleith Stone and our other Pictish stones it is time you did. They are fascinating. Enjoy the rest of the summer and do call in to the museum,

Grenville Johnston

Hon President



Claire Herbert

Some of you may have seen me around the Museum and wondered who I am, so I thought I would take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Claire Herbert, and as well as being a Moray Society member, Board member and Museum volunteer, I am also one of the regional archaeologists for the Moray area. Based at Aberdeenshire Council HQ in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire Council Archaeology Service (ACAS) not only provide a service for Aberdeenshire Council, but also for The Moray Council, Angus Council and Aberdeen City Council areas (through Service Level and Shared Agreements).

ACAS has the role of locating, evaluating, safeguarding, and interpreting all archaeological sites within these four Council areas. This information is held in the Sites

& Monuments Record, which is publicly accessible online: <https://online.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/smrpub/>.

We also assess all planning applications submitted to Aberdeenshire, Moray, Angus and Aberdeen City Councils and advise when archaeological mitigation is required, as well as providing information, advice and guidance on SRDP, forestry schemes and utilities work.

We work closely with museums across our four areas, and help facilitate projects, support and promote events, as well as being able to provide background information on archaeological and historical sites in the regions.

You can find out more about what we do, get information on archaeology in the North East of Scotland, find out what's special about the area and get suggestions of sites to visit on our website: <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/leisure-sport-and-culture/archaeology/>.

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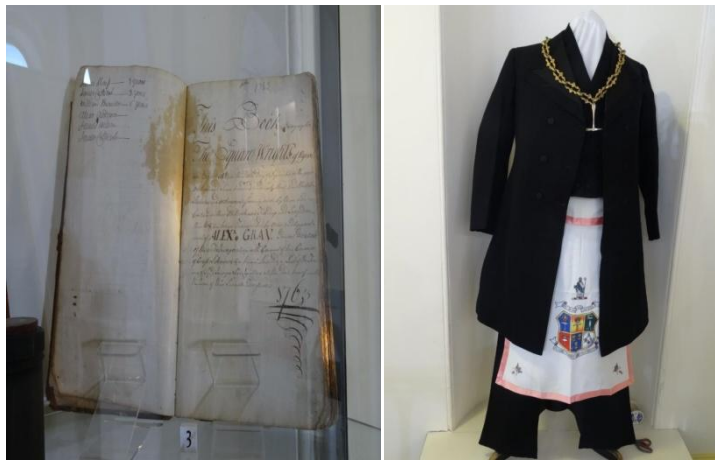
Education and Outreach August 2016

Young Marvels Trades Banners project

Our junior membership is new for 2015/16 and has over one hundred members. We have been running a special project for this group based on the theme of the 'Incorporated Trades of Elgin' which has involved the Young Marvels making modern day 'Trades' banners. The project ran for six weeks over the summer holidays and resulted in a 'March' around Elgin on 9th August 2016 to show off the

banners that were made. This was followed by a 'Trades Trail' for families in conjunction with the C2C2C Project.

The museum had 7 children and 5 adults attending the initial session. One of the museum volunteers – Sara March - took the children to see the Trades exhibition and gave a talk on the basic history of the Trades.



Some of the exhibits from the 'Incorporated Trades of Elgin'

The children were then shown the 'Hammermen's Banner' that was in the process of being photographed and conserved as part of the usual conservation routine of the museum. Heather then gave a talk on the role of conservation in the museum and what was happening with this particular item.



Conservation and documentation of the 'Hammermen Banner'

The children then spent some time considering modern day trades – with the help of their parents – and came up with five 'Trades' that they considered would be a good basis for the project:

- Military – some of the parents involved are from the local RAF/Army bases
- Medical – the area has a large base of medical personal, both military and civilian
- Sport – the local football team and sport venues in the area are popular
- Engineering – links with military and civilian engineering work
- Elgin Museum – the children thought that this was a good opportunity to showcase the museum itself

The first session was followed by a trip to Elgin Cathedral and for this session we had fifteen children and thirteen adults attend. Historic Environments Scotland (HES) very kindly allowed the visit free of charge – the museum works closely with HES on a number of linked projects. The aim of this visit was:

1. To allow the children to look for imagery linked to the 'Incorporated Trades' on the various gravestones around the Cathedral grounds
2. To consider other 'Trades' that were linked to Elgin – Stonemasons, Gravediggers etc – and look for evidence
3. To use the links made by the museum with HES to further the relationship

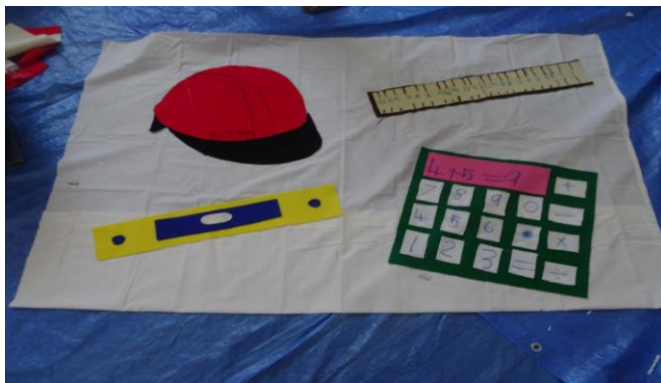
The visit also showed that whilst almost all the attending children had visited the cathedral at some point through school visits, only one parent had visited the Cathedral in the past 15-20 years. Many of the children stayed longer than the time allotted for the visit, and parents enjoyed seeing the newly refurbished areas of the Cathedral.



Looking for imagery on gravestones



The next three sessions involved the children making the banners – with some impressive input from the parents! We were amazed by the creativity of the children, with some wonderful ideas coming out. These sessions had around 15 children and 10 adults attending – with various bits and pieces scattered around on the floor of the main gallery along with sprawling children and adults!



The 'Engineering' banner coming along nicely.



Some of the children at the Plainstones on the final march

On Tuesday 9th August, the children marched along the High Street from the Museum to the Plainstones accompanied by the replica of the Town Drum, which was used, historically, to herald town parades as well as for use as a timekeeper for trades people up to the 19th century.

In other news, it has been a busy year for outreach visits, with Housing Association groups, BALL groups and schools all involved with a variety of sessions. We ran a very successful Teacher's Day, with local teachers coming along to the museum to see what we could offer to support curriculum planning. As a direct result of this we have plans to work with two local secondary schools next term.

Our 'Festival of Museums' event this year 'The Picts – Uncovering our Past' was very well received by visitors. Attendance was lower than expected but those that did attend thoroughly enjoyed the experience. We would like to thank 'Battlescar' re-enactment for providing some wonderful activities and entertainment on the

day but most of all we would like to thank the volunteers who gave up their time to make this event a success.



One of the wonderful 'Battlescar' actors making wooden pendants.

We would like to thank all of the volunteers who have been involved with the activities, groups, outreach and events so far this year. Without this support we would not be able to offer all of the things that we do.

Di Hannan

Archaeology report

Treasure Trove

The Museum was recently granted, by Treasure Trove, an assemblage excavated at Rothes Golf Club, which includes an Early Bronze Age beaker as well as some pottery sherds and a lithic artefact (flint). David Marquardt will be giving a half hour lunchtime talk on the beaker on Tuesday 4th October – see forthcoming events.



Rothes Beaker

Visit by The Skeptics Society, July 2016

In the end we had two coach loads of 40 arrive (15 mins apart), some of whom had pre-ordered sandwiches (set out in the Side Hall by Café Muse next door) which meant that the groups naturally divided on arrival. Don Prothero, a mainstream American palaeontologist, was scientific leader of the tour which comprised mainly American (one from Elgin, pronounced "Eljin", Illinois) members of The Skeptics Society, augmented by a few Canadian, Australian and German members and a Swede.

The 17 day tour, costing each participant the best part of £4000, focused on UK sites of "scientific and sceptical interest". They'd been to Cornwall (tin mine), Sussex (Gideon Mantell's quarry), Lyme Regis and the Jurassic Coast, South Wales (coal mine), numerous museums (Oxford, Cambridge, NHM, NMS, Down House), supplemented by historical sites including Stonehenge and Edinburgh Castle and, on leaving Elgin, Culloden. Next day was Loch Ness (and the monster?), Loch Lomond and the flight home.

Don had prepared information for the group in advance so that they knew what to expect on arrival – in fact they seemed very glad to see for themselves some real fossils to illustrate the evolutionary theory lectures en route. We had out the 3D skull model of *Gordonia traquairi*, Stephen Caine's model of *Saltopus elginensis* (the proto-feather interpretation was particularly well received!) and original letters from Hugh Miller and Charles Darwin, which all generated a lot of interest. Most were happy to explore the museum for themselves, with Geology Group volunteers Alison Wright, Dave Longstaff, Sue Beardmore (visiting for a few days) and myself providing information if required.

Our impression was the visitors had enjoyed the experience and thought highly of the Museum and their reception. Amazing that at this stage in their whistle stop tour they were still formulating questions and even listening to the answers. One chap not only wanted "Who were the Picts?" but also "OK, then who were the Celts?"



JT

Exhibitions Update

The John Shanks painting is now back from the conservators in Edinburgh and has been placed back on display in 'The Burgh'. The painting was conserved thanks to a grant from Woodmansterne art conservation awards.

Work has just begun by John Barrett on the archiving of the Incorporated Trades papers and Heather and Louise Hanwright have been accessioning all the Incorporated Trades items. This has been complicated since the items were donated at different times by various people and it can be difficult to differentiate one from the other other.

French researcher Thomas Brochard returned to continue his project on our **1500-1700 AD charters**; We have photographed the charters whilst out of the exhibition cases and we have requested a copy of his research once complete.

Karyn McGhee, National and International Partnerships Officers for NMS, has asked us to compile and submit a brief description of our **East Asia collection**, concentrating on China, Japan and Korea. Milan Ardis is compiling the list and the information will add to NMS knowledge of East Asian artefacts held in Scottish collections.

Heather Townsend, Museum Assistant

A PICTISH TRAIL (and a mooch around some interesting things)

Sunday 23rd May 2016 saw volunteers', staff and even a member of The Friends of the Falconer Museum come along for a wee tootle along the Aberdeenshire countryside looking at Pictish Stones. The day out was a thank you to the volunteers at Elgin Museum who do such a fantastic job, giving up their time to

come in and engage with the public, work on the collections, make banners, sew fine seams, dress up and generally do anything and everything asked of them.

Our guide, Claire Herbert, Archaeologist from Aberdeenshire Council (whilst suffering from a dreadful cold that eventually robbed her of her voice), did a wonderful job of telling us all about the stones and we started with the Maiden Stone at Chapel of Garioch a pink granite monolith, erected in the 8th century AD.

It shows a round headed cross with a possible cavalry scene, two fish like beasts, a square panel with a disc containing a spiral motif and knotwork patterns filling in the corners. On the reverse there is a centaur, a notched rectangle and Z-rod, a beast, a mirror and a comb. The edges show knotwork and keywork patterns. Folklore tales of maidens and the devil and biblical stories of Jonah and the Whale exist around this particular stone.

The Maiden Stone



Now cared for by Historic Environment Scotland

Brandsbutt Stone



Nan Fettes having a good look

The next stop was Brandsbutt Stone in Inverurie; signposted at north end of the town and the stone is at the corner of Gordon Terrace AB51 4G. This stone is a restored Class I, incised with a crescent and V-rod above a serpent and Z-rod with ogham script reading out the word IRATADD OARENS, translating to Eddarnon, which is a possible rendering of St Ethernanus (local saint). The sun decided to come out at this point.

We then made our way to Inverurie Kirkyard at the south end of the Inverurie by-pass, turning onto the B993, beneath the railway and to the stones to be found in the west end of the cemetery, near the Bass (motte). It was a great opportunity to see the Bass as well as those fantastic early Pictish stones.

There are four stones here; the tall pillar shows an incised crescent and V-rod, a disc and rectangle serpent and Z-rod, and a double disc with Z-rod. On the smaller slab there is a disc and a rectangle, and an arch symbol. This symbol has been interpreted as a mirror case or even a man holding a sun disc over the top of his head. The third stone shows an incised double disc and Z-rod and the fourth stone has what is known as the only occurrence of a single incised horse on a Pictish stone.

Inverurie Kirkyard and Bass



Some of us even had a wee climb up to see the view from the top, which was pretty spectacular!

After lunch we headed towards Kintore Kirkyard and a good look at the Kintore Class I Pictish stone; dug up in the churchyard, it may have come from the motte at Castle Hill. It has two sculptured faces, one showing a crescent and V-rod over a beast of some kind, whilst the other has a fish over a cauldron.

Pictish stone at Kintore Kirkyard



Broomend of Crichtie



A bonus stop was to see the stone at Broomend of Crichtie. This is a Class I granite stone, incised with a beast (elephantine) and a crescent and V-rod. It was originally at the centre of a Bronze Age henge. (The stones were moved during development work).

According to <https://canmore.org.uk/site/18621/broomend-of-crichtie>

“there was a concentric circle of six stones, of which only two remain, at the base of each of which was found a cremation burial; one of these was accompanied by a decorated perforated stone hammer, 4 1/2 inches long and 3 1/2 inches broad, another was in a small cist, and two more were within inverted urns.

In the centre of the circle was found a deposit of burnt bones overlying a conical pit 15 feet in diameter at the top and 10 feet in diameter at the bottom, filled with small rounded stones, underneath which was a cist containing an inhumation and a cremation burial.

Two more cremation burials, one in an inverted urn, were found elsewhere in the circle. There appeared to be small animal, possibly bird, bones mixed with the various cremation deposits.”

A fascinating place and well worth a meander through the grass.

However, the weather wasn't particularly favourable so anywhere that had an inside to hide from the intermittent rain quickly became very welcome, and what would become our last stop at Monymusk Church, gave us shelter and a good nosy around the interior of the church, having a proper look at the stone, the stained glass windows and for some, there was even a guided tour upstairs to look at the church bell.

Monymusk Pictish stone; stained glass windows and bell.



We were going to continue to Rhynie but rain and the loss of Claire's voice, led us instead to the Grant Arms Hotel across the road from the church where we drank coffee, discussed what an eventful day it had been and watched HT play with the guillotine in the front.



Heather Townsend hoping the blade doesn't fall



Ready to go home

Finally we were back at Elgin Museum, a full and interesting day covering 123 miles and much tramping around the Aberdeenshire countryside. Many thanks to Claire Herbert for taking the time to go round and inform us about the stones, and thanks to all who took and contributed photos of the day and also to Janet, who having realised she was on a mystery tour and most definitely wasn't being told where she was going, settled back and had fun with the rest of them! Final thanks to the Reverend Glenn and his son... and their parishioner Dot who let us in to see what was hidden behind the church door at Monymusk.

Morag MacDonald

HERITAGE COFFEE MORNING



**Whether you come by Aitkenhead's bus or by car
you will be welcome at**

**Elgin Museum Heritage Coffee Morning
in Moray Bridge Club (ex Austin's Tearooms)
South Street, Elgin
On Saturday 17th September 2016
10am to 12 noon**

This event is part of Doors Open Day Moray: Other properties in Elgin which are open are St Giles and St Columbas Churches (10.30-4), Greyfriars Chapel (12-3) Sheriff Court (10-2), Fire Station (11-3Musical Evening) and Anderson's Institution (2-4).



Elgin Museum is delighted to present, once again a

MUSICAL EVENING

by Bel Canto

in Elgin Museum
on Friday 30th September

Details to follow – watch Elgin Museum website – letter to members to follow

The Moray Society Lecture Series: Winter 2015/16



**Underneath the Scottish Sahara:
The Culbin Sands and Maritime Havens in Earlier Prehistoric Britain
Professor Richard J. Bradley, Reading University
7.30 pm, Thursday 13th October
(Doors open at 7 pm)**

Venue: The Williamson Hall, Duff Avenue, Elgin
Entry: £3, members £2, students £1.50



The Real Macbeth
A talk by Cameron Taylor
Elgin Museum Hall
Friday 18th November 7pm for 7.30pm

Moray Society Prize Draw

The Prize Draw has now been running for fifteen years and during that time has diverted almost £15,000 into the Moray Society current account. This total includes donations submitted through the Prize Draw fund but does not take into account any further income accrued from Gift Aid generated by eligible donations. This has been of considerable benefit to our daily running expenses and continues to be so, given the huge inflationary price rises on all our utility bills.

Tickets for the draw are only available to Moray Society members due to current legislation. I would like to ask any member who does not have a ticket to consider the benefits derived by the Society from those sales. There is no limit to the number of tickets available.

The price of the tickets remains unchanged and at present there are 78 tickets in circulation at £10 each. These are all eligible for the 12 prizes during their lifetime (1 year/4 draws with 3 prizes each).

All income generated by the draw goes directly into Moray Society funds apart from the prize money paid to the lucky ticket holders.

Please address any questions or applications to me at the Museum (or email mabritch@keme.co.uk, or tel 01309 673597)

Moray Society Prize Draw

Please allocate me tickets in the Moray Society Prize Draw @ £10.00 each.

*I enclose my payment of £.....

*Please forward me a standing order mandate

Name.....

Address.....

Post Code..... *please delete if inappropriate

Please address any questions or applications to me at the Museum (or tel 01309 673597).

Ritchie Mabon,
Prize Draw Co-ordinator

Dates for Your Diary

- Tue 9th August to Fri 16th September: Local Quines exhibition
- Sat 17th September: Heritage Coffee Morning in 'Austin's Tearooms'
- Fri 30th September: Musical Evening with Bel Canto
- Tue 20th September to Fri 29th October: Raymond Clive art exhibition
- Thu 13th October: 'Underneath the Scottish Sahara: The Culbin Sands and Maritime Havens in Earlier Prehistoric Britain' A lecture by Prof. Richard Bradley. To be held in The Williamson Hall, Duff Avenue, Elgin.
- Fri 18th November: 'The Real Macbeth' A talk by Cameron Taylor.

Family events with our Education/Outreach Worker:

- Mon 10th Oct 12-2pm: Make a Roundhouse
- Wed 12th Oct 12-2pm: Make a Pictish/Roman brooch
- Fri 14th Oct 12-2pm: Make an armorial seal

In conjunction with Highland Archaeology Festival, October 2016

Lunchtime talks (12.30pm to 1pm) by Museum volunteers about their favourite objects.

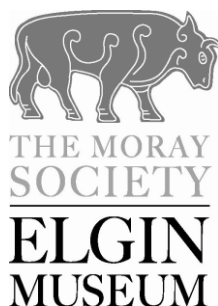
Mon 3rd Oct: "From accessioning to display: my three favourite Treasure Trove objects"; Morag MacDonald

Tues 4th Oct: "Beakers, Burials and Beanfeasts"; David Marquardt

Wed 5th Oct: "A Logboat from the Spey"; Anne Anderson

Thurs 6th Oct: "The Verdun Crucifix"; Mary Shand

Fri 7th Oct: "More news from the Sculptor's Cave, Covesea: 'our' finds in context"; Janet Trythall



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