

Elgin Museum Update September 2020

Dear Museum Volunteers, Moray Society members and other friends of Elgin Museum,

Welcome to our September Update, bringing you all the latest news from Elgin Museum. If you missed last month's update, please [visit the website](#) where you can find previous issues of our monthly Updates as well as previous Moray Society Newsletters.

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Now and Next at Elgin Museum



Another month has passed, and we are still working towards a phased reopening (which we hope can be achieved before another lockdown is imposed!). The Risk Management Plan and Risk Assessment continue to be updated as and when changes are made to government and sector guidance. We are currently awaiting delivery of equipment from Moray Office Supplies to allow us to implement mitigation measures identified in the Risk Assessment. We are extremely grateful to Museums Galleries Scotland's Adaptation Fund which has provided a grant to cover the costs of much of the essential equipment required to allow our "phase 1" of reopening to progress.

Work is ongoing in the museum, to ensure conservation standards continue to be met and to ensure enquiries are being dealt with (amongst other things) as well as repair works such as the installation of functioning hot taps in all of our loos. There is still lots of work going on "from home" by the Exec Group, Board, EMMC and other volunteers, for which we continue to be extremely grateful – Museum work doesn't stop when the doors close!

We hope by the next Museum update that we will have started our “phase 1” reopening – watch this space!

As mentioned in our last Update, our Buildings Volunteer has stepped down from the role - so we have a vacancy! If you are interested in taking on this role, or would like to find out more about what the role involves, please contact us by email: curator@elginmuseum.org.uk

As with all the Museum's responsibilities devolved to volunteers, the role is defined in an agreement between the volunteer and the Management Committee. The key requirements in this case are for someone with an eye open for defects needing a remedy (eg new leaks, boiler servicing due, light bulb failure, paintwork needing a freshen) and following these through. This may mean liaising with and meeting with contractors, and if appropriate within our Health and Safety Policy and your skillset, hands on work.

Our "Virtual Museum"



Have you been keeping up to date with our YouTube Channel? Launched this month is a new series of short videos, [Elgin Museum Makes](#). These short, family-friendly films will show you how to recreate artefacts from the Museum at home. In [episode 1](#), learn about how jet was used in prehistory and create your Bronze Age jet necklace - from paper, cardboard, glue and string! Don't

forget to share your creations - we'd love to see how your jet creations turn out! If you haven't already subscribed, please do consider signing up and encourage your friends - and help us reach our target of 100 subscribers.

Over on our [Education page](#), we have two new activities for you all to try - will you choose make your own Japanese Uchiwa fan, a Pictish Chariot ...or both?

For more fun museum content, insights on our collections, and more, don't forget to check the [website](#), and find and follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#). Give us a like, share our posts, and help us to spread the word about Elgin Museum!

Quiz



To celebrate Scottish Archaeology Month, this month's quiz is all about Archaeology. As ever, let us know how you get on via Twitter, Facebook or by email.

Answers at the end - no cheating!

- 1: Over 5000 years old, Skara Brae is Scotland's only upstanding prehistoric village. But on which island is it located?
- 2: Which British archaeologist discovered Tutankhamun's tomb?
- 3: The Antonine Wall was constructed by the Roman Empire in AD 142. But how far did it span?
- 4: What year did the 'Battle of Bannockburn' take place?
- 5: What year did a volcanic eruption bury Pompeii?

Geology



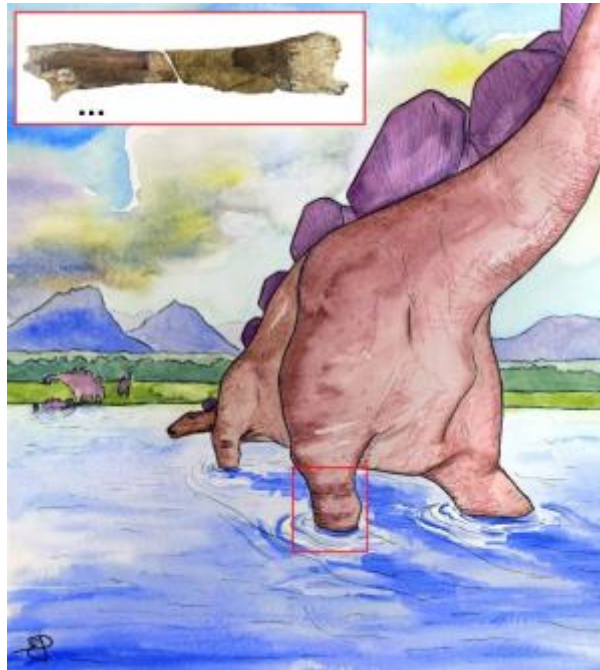
Dr Elsa Panciroli and the Eigg Stegosaur...StEiggosaurus

Readers of this Museum Update will surely have noticed that Dr Elsa Panciroli was in the headlines a few weeks ago with the publication of the discovery of a dinosaur bone she made on the Isle of Eigg in 2017. We have followed this story, and news of other discoveries made by Elsa, with interest since she has connections with Elgin Museum. Elsa has accompanied the Geology Group on a tour of our local quarries in 2017 and visited the Museum to study, and measure, some of our Permian dicynodont trackways. Because of her interest in the trackways, and the Museum, she is always “on hand” to answer some of our more technical questions and was an invitee to the cancelled Fossil Finders weekend which was to be held in the Museum this summer.

This discovery of a fragmented dinosaur leg bone on Eigg was remarkable really. She stumbled past the block while running and the block was on the opposite side of Eigg from where you might have expected to find vertebrate fossils. More importantly it was the first dinosaur bone found in

Scotland outside of the Isle of Skye. Coming from a type of Stegosaurus the animal quickly acquired the nickname *StEiggosaurus*! The story is told here on Elsa's [blog](#).

Dave Longstaff, Museum Geology Group



1 - Photograph of Stegasaurus leg bone and Elsa's depiction of the creature.

Scottish Geology Festival (12th September – 31st October)

There is a great lineup of virtual lectures on offer, including Elsa and Jurassic dinosaurs on 14th September, and Nick Fraser, NMS and a stalwart Elgin Museum supporter, on Triassic fossils (like our *Saltopus* near dinosaur) on 25th September. Visit the [Scottish Geology Festival website](#) to find out more.

Archaeology and Heritage



Did you know that September is Scottish Archaeology Month? This year, many of the events and activities are online, and Archaeology Scotland have created a [new online map](#) to help you explore Scotland's archaeology. Elgin Museum will be sharing some of our archaeology collection on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) as well as launching our [Elgin Museum Makes](#) video series on our YouTube Channel.

The annual [Highland Archaeology Festival conference](#) has also gone virtual this year - an excellent programme of free lectures is planned nightly between 25th September and 12th October. Visit their online [events calendar](#) for more details and to sign up.

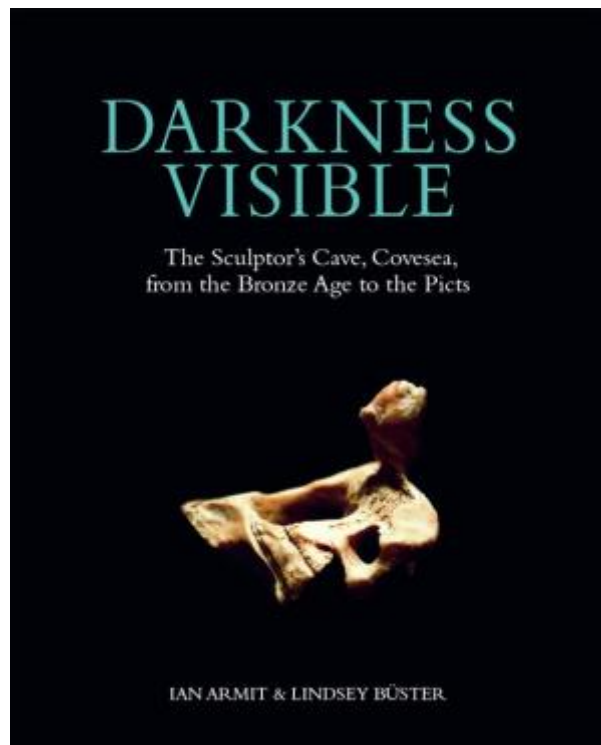
Also in September are the [Scottish Civic Trust's Doors Open Days weekends](#). In [Moray, Doors Open Days](#) is on Saturday 19th September - this year, with a focus on online content so you can explore some of Moray's fascinating buildings from the comfort of your own home! Visit the [Moray Doors Open Days webpage](#) to find out more. Elgin Museum's contribution will be a new video on our YouTube Channel, which will go live on 19th September - check in on the [Museum's Doors Open Day webpage](#) on Saturday 19th September, or subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#) to be notified when the

video is live. As well as online content, if you're out and about in Elgin stop by No.3 High Street (next door to the Museum) where you can see our window display of old photos of Elgin.

We're delighted to share the news that the much anticipated publication on The Sculptor's Cave, Covesea, by friends of Elgin Museum Ian Armit & Lindsey Büster, will soon be available to purchase. *Darkness Visible* tells the story of one of the most enigmatic prehistoric sites in Britain. Excavated in the 1920s and 1970s, new analysis of the archive has revealed a complex history of funerary and ritual activity from the Late Bronze Age to the Roman Iron Age. Using innovative methods and new techniques, this volume re-examines the results of earlier excavations and places the site in its wider British and European context.

The publication is available to buy from 22nd September 2020, RRP £30. It can be purchased direct from the [Society of Antiquaries of Scotland](http://www.societyofantiquariesofscotland.org.uk), available to Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries at the reduced price of £24 plus P&P.

If you are not a Fellow, or would like to support Elgin Museum with your purchase, we will be able to offer copies of the book at the reduced price of £25 plus P&P. To register your interest in purchasing the book from Elgin Museum, please email us curator@elginmuseum.org.uk



Historical Recipes



This month's historical recipe brings us forward in time to the Victorian era, and is just in time for this year's apple harvest! Let us know how the recipe turns out on Twitter, Facebook or by email.

Apple Batter Pudding

Ingredients

2 Bramley apples

A small orange

2 eggs

A handful of currants

1 teaspoon of ginger

1 teaspoon of cinnamon

100g flour

milk

Method

Pre-heat the oven to a moderate heat, gas 4 / 180 C

Core the apples using an apple corer and place them in a small baking dish.

Cut the orange in half and squeeze the juice into the centre of the two apples. Cut off two pieces from one of the orange halves and place to one side.

Add some currants to the middle of the apples and add a small amount of the spices in the top (leave some of the spices for decorating the dish later).

Add the flour to a separate bowl and make a small well in the centre. Add the two eggs to the well in the centre of the flour, add a little milk and mix with a fork until you have a stiff batter. Add a little more milk and whisk, adding milk as necessary until you have a fairly thick batter that drops off the spoon.

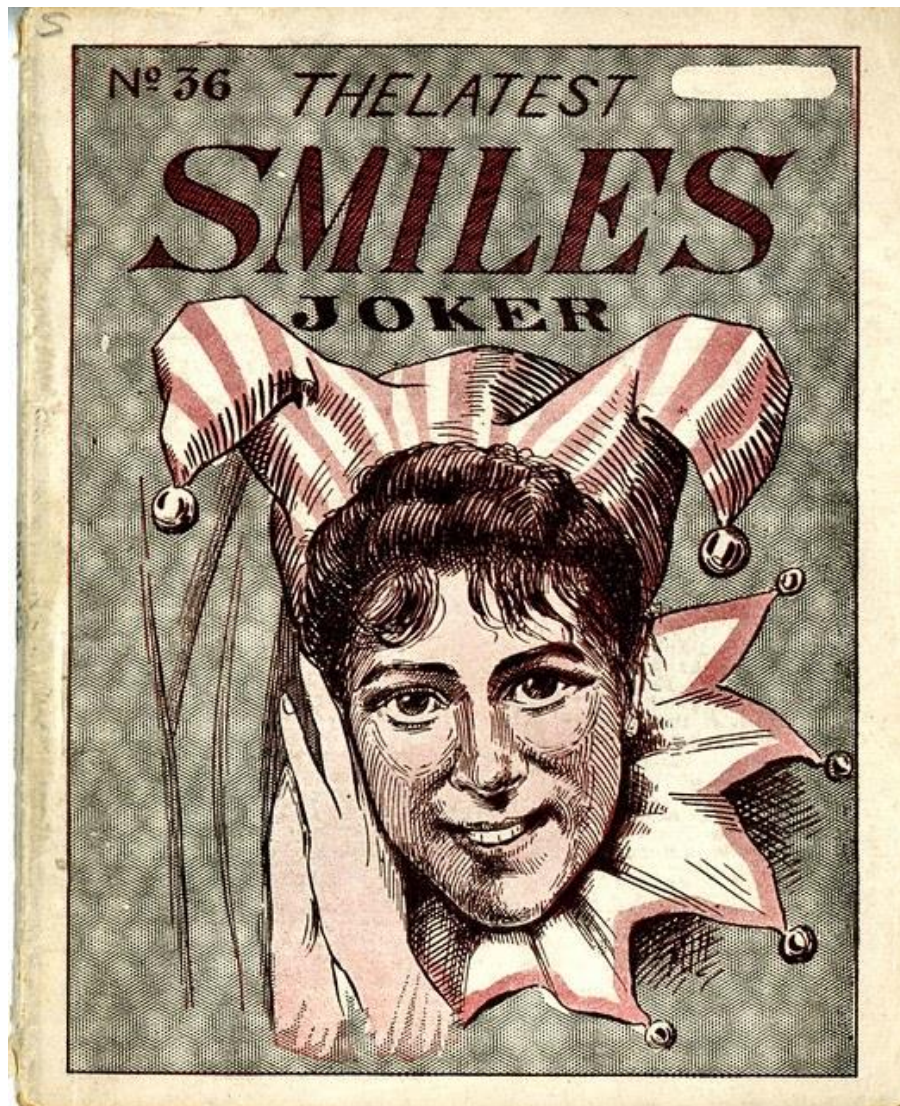
Pour the batter around the two apples then add the two orange pieces to the top of the apples.

Bake in a moderate oven for about 40 minutes.

Remove from the oven and sprinkle the remainder of the spices over the top, then serve.

For more historical recipes, visit the [Museum Musings](#) blog!

Janet's Jokes



Janet's back this month with more jokes...

Vandals have attacked the National Origami Museum in Tokyo!

We'll keep you updated as the story unfolds....

The Scrabble museum was robbed last night!

The curators are at a loss for words...

Heard the police caught a guy trying to steal all the head statues from the museum...

Apparently he got busted!

As I was leaving the Museum, the alarm went off...

Am I really that old?

I told my friend I went to the waxwork museum and they had a waxwork of a medieval knight wielding his weapons.

"Tussauds?"

"Nah, he was holding a mace."

Art at Elgin Museum



Although the Museum remains closed to visitors, we're still aiming to hold our Friends of Elgin Museum Exhibition this year - an exhibition of artwork from Museum Volunteers and Moray Society members.

We have a number of exhibitors lined up already, but if you would like to participate there is still time take part. There are no restrictions on what type of art or craft you submit: anything from

painting, drawing, photography, sculpture, jewellery, textile, printing, glass work, wood work, metal work - and beyond! Ideally, any pieces submitted should be available for sale (with 20% of sales going to the Museum, to help secure the Museum's future, and an optional further 20% of sales going to the NHS), but these are not essential criteria for submissions.

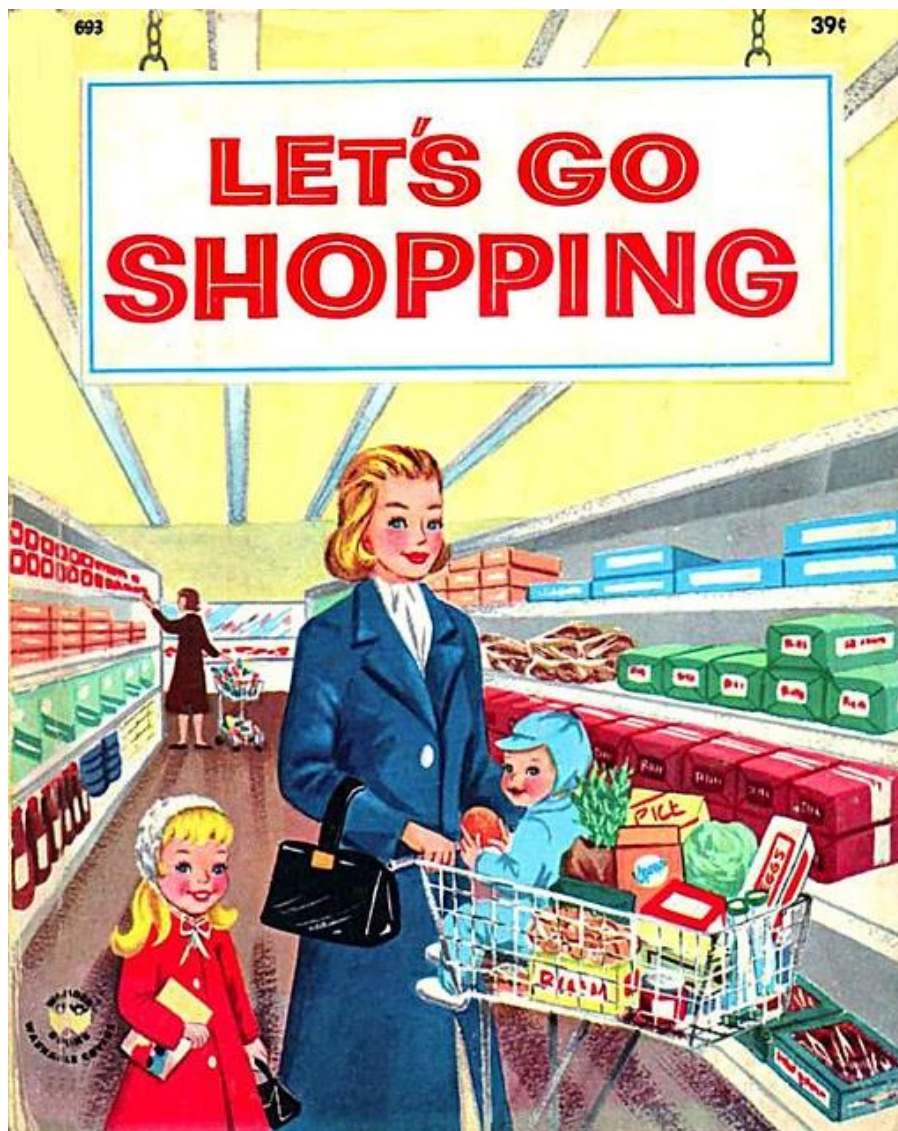
In terms of size of work, for 2D works (e.g. paintings, photographs, drawings etc) these should be framed, and no larger than 42 x 59.4cm. For 3D pieces, these should be no larger than 60cm in any direction.

We would also encourage participants to consider incorporating or reflecting the Scottish Government's theme year for 2020-21, Coasts and Waters, in their work.

The working "deadline" for submission of artwork is 1st November 2020. Once all artworks have been received, a "virtual" online exhibition will be created and shared, with the opportunity for online sales.

If you would like to take part, or for more information, please email Claire (curator@elginmuseum.org.uk).

100 days to Christmas (almost!): shopping to support Elgin Museum



Do you shop online through Amazon? Did you know you can support Elgin Museum while you shop? [AmazonSmile](#) is a service set up by Amazon that allows shoppers to donate to a chosen charity when shopping. Every time you shop on [smile.amazon.co.uk](#), Amazon donates 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) of eligible purchases to the charitable organisation of your choice. AmazonSmile is the same Amazon, but is accessed via a different website – same products, same prices, same service, but you get [help Elgin Museum](#) every time you buy!

If you shop in Amazon, please consider [signing up to support us](#) by selecting "The Moray Society" as your chosen charity (this is our registered Charity name, not Elgin Museum).

You can also still [purchase books from our Museum shop](#) to enjoy at home. There are a variety of publications to choose from, whether your interest is in local history, archaeology, geology or the natural world.

Visit the "shop" page of [website](#) for details of titles available (with books suitable for all ages!) as well as information on prices. Payment can be made via Paypal or by cheque, and books will be

posted to you within 5 working days. If you are interested in purchasing any of our books, and for details of P&P charges, please email us at curator@elginmuseum.org.uk

Monies raised from the sales of books helps fund the day-to-day running costs of Elgin Museum - so it's a great way of helping us out!

Pictish Fashion

Professor Gordon Noble, Aberdeen University, well known to many of you through his digging at Burghead and his projects "Northern Picts" and "Comparative Kingship", has kindly given us a number of T shirts to sell in aid of Elgin Museum.

One features the Rhynie Man and the other features the Burghead Bulls. They are 100% cotton, and described as a loose fit. They come in sizes (approx chest measured across the armpits): Small: 90 cm, Medium: 98 cm, Large: 108 cm, XL: 120 cm.

We are offering the T shirts at the bargain price of £10 inc P&P. Orders can be placed via the Museum's email: curator@elginmuseum.org.uk. Supplies are limited and this will be on a first come, first served basis. For this reason, please do not attempt to pay until you have received confirmation that we can supply. Payment can be made via cheque payable to The Moray Society or via the Museum's website Paypal button for which you do not need a Paypal account.

So take your "pict" - will you be "Team Rhynie Man" or "Team Burghead Bull"?

Unfortunately, Gordon's excavation activities are on hold with Covid-19 restrictions but you can follow Gordon and his projects [online](#), via [facebook](#) and on [twitter](#).



The Moray Society



The Moray Society is a membership society which owns and operates Elgin Museum. New members are always welcomed, with any membership subscriptions received going towards the day to day running costs of Elgin Museum, collections care, and more. This year more than ever we'd encourage you to consider joining The Moray Society, to show your support for Elgin Museum and to help ensure the Museum's future. With a large part of our regular income coming from visitor donations, 2020 may be a challenge financially!

Our 2020 introductory offer means that from as little £15 per year (for single membership) you can help to make sure Elgin Museum can stay open for all to enjoy. More details on how to join can be found on the [website](#).

That's all for this Elgin Museum Update!



We hope you enjoyed our September Update, and will take the time to explore Elgin Museum From Home!

Our thanks to you all for your continued support of Elgin Museum - and a request that you keep in touch! Let us know if you have any ideas for online content or fundraising activities, or if you would like to contribute to the next Update or our Museum Blog.

Thank you!

All the best from the Museum Emergency Executive Committee

Please feel free to contact us by email, and do let us know if you enjoyed this Update! Don't forget to visit the [website](#), find and follow us on social media - and why not tell a friend about Elgin Museum online?

Elgin Museum

www.elginmuseum.org.uk

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QUIZ ANSWERS:

How did you do? Let us know, by email or on [twitter](#) or [facebook](#)!

1. Orkney
2. Howard Carter
3. 39 miles
4. 1314
5. 79AD