

# Annual Report for the year 1 July 2008–31 May 2009

## REFERENCE AND ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland is a learned Society founded in 1780 and incorporated by Royal Charter in 1783. It is a registered Scottish Charity No SC010440. The Society offices are at the National Museums Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF.

### **Elected Council (Society Trustees)**

(DATE OF ELECTION AND RETIREMENT IN BRACKETS)

#### *President*

ROGER MERCER, OBE MA FSA FRSE HonMifA (retired 1 December 2008)

BARBARA CRAWFORD, MA PhD FSA FRSE (elected 1 December 2008)

#### *Vice-Presidents*

JANE GEDDES, BA MA PhD (retired 1 December 2008)

ALISON SHERIDAN, BA MA PhD FSA AIfA

IAN RALSTON, OBE MA PhD FRSE FSA MifA

GEORGE DALGLEISH, MA (elected 1 December 2008)

#### *Treasurer*

Brendan O'Connor, BA DPhil FSA (re-elected 1 December 2008)

#### *Councillors*

STEVEN BIRCH, MA PIfA (retired 1 December 2008)

KENNETH BROPHY, BSc PhD (retired 1 December 2008)

SARAH GOVAN, MA MSc (retired 1 December 2008)

GEORGE HAGGARTY, FSA (retired 1 December 2008)

ANNETTE CARRUTHERS, BA DipMGS FMA

MARK HALL, BA FSA AMA MifA

RICHARD TIPPING, BSc(Hons) PhD

ALEX WOOLF, BA MPhil

IAIN BANKS, MA(Hons) PhD MifA

ALAN BRABY

SHANNON M FRASER, MA Dip.Post-Ex. PhD MifA

RONAN TOOLIS, MA(Hons) MifA

STEPHEN CARTER, BSc PhD MifA (elected 1 December 2008)

MALCOLM COOPER, BA MPhil DMS FSA FRSA MifA (elected 1 December 2008)

DEREK HALL, Cert.Pract.Arch MifA (elected 1 December 2008)

STRATFORD HALLIDAY, BSc (elected 1 December 2008)

### **Ex Officio Members of Council**

#### *Chair of the Aberdeen and North-East Section*

KEVIN J EDWARDS, MA PhD FRGS CGeog FSA FRSE (retired 11 May 2009)

CHRIS CROLY (elected 11 May 2009)

#### *Convener of the Publications Committee*

DAVID P BOWLER, BA MPhil MifA

#### *Convener of the Research Committee*

IAN A G SHEPHERD, MA FSA MifA (retired 25 February 2009)

SHANNON FRASER, MA Dip.Post-Ex. PhD MifA (appointed May 2009)

#### *Convener of the Fellowship Committee*

GEORGE DALGLEISH, MA (appointed 12 January 2009)

#### *Representative of the National Museums Scotland*

FRASER HUNTER, BSc PhD FSA

### **PRINCIPAL ADVISERS AND STAFF**

#### *Bankers*

Bank of Scotland  
38 St Andrew Square  
Edinburgh EH2 2YR

Royal Bank of Scotland  
36 St Andrew Square  
Edinburgh EH2 2YB

#### *Investment Managers*

Bank of Scotland  
Portfolio Management Service  
2nd Floor, 8 Lochside Avenue  
Edinburgh Business Park  
South Gyle  
Edinburgh EH12 9DJ

#### *Auditors*

Henderson Loggie  
Chartered Accountants  
34 Melville Street  
Edinburgh EH3 7HA

*Solicitors*

Tods Murray WS  
66 Queen Street  
Edinburgh EH2 4NE

## STAFF

*Director*

SIMON M D GILMOUR, MA(Hons) PhD FSA MifA

*Assistant Treasurer*

JAN PATERSON

*Administrator*

JACQUI CLABBY, BA

*Publications Production Manager*

ALISON RAE

*Managing Editor and Sales Manager*

ERIN OSBORNE-MARTIN, BA

*ScARF Project Manager*

JEFF SANDERS, MA PhD

## TRUSTEES ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1 JULY 2008 TO 31 MAY 2009

The Society changed its financial and reporting year to end on 31 May in the period under review. Future annual reports will cover 1 June to 31 May, but this report will cover the 11 months from 1 July 2008 to 31 May 2009.

## STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland was founded in 1780, and granted a Royal Charter in 1783. It has 18 governing Laws, which are published in the annual journal, *The Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*. The Society has five elected office-bearers: the President, three Vice-Presidents and the Treasurer. The governing body of the Society is Council, whose members act as Trustees, and which consists of the five office-bearers, 12 Fellows elected by the Society and four *ex officio* members, currently consisting of the Chair of the Aberdeen & North-East Section, the Conveners of the Fellowship, Publication and Research Committees (if not already elected members) and the representative of the National Museums Scotland (NMS), who must be a Fellow of the Society, nominated by the Trustees of the NMS.

Elected Vice-Presidents and Councillors (apart from the Treasurer) hold office for three years, and are not eligible for re-election until at least one year has elapsed. The Treasurer is elected for one year, and may stand for re-election annually. The elections are by ballot at the Annual General Meeting (Anniversary Meeting), from a list issued by Council for that purpose to Fellows at least 14 days before the meeting. New office-bearers and Council members are provided with a document outlining

their role and responsibilities, and are invited to an induction meeting with the President and Society staff before their first Council meeting.

Council, chaired by the President, normally meets five times a year, and there are three sub-committees for Publications, Research and Fellowship. The Publications Committee meets three times a year to discuss all aspects of the Society's publications, while the Research Committee meets only once a year to make recommendations to Council on allocation of research funds. The Fellowship Committee meets occasionally but communicates via email to assess the applications for Fellowship and ensure they meet the standards required for admission to the Society; the names are presented to the Fellowship for election at the Anniversary Meeting. A smaller Management Group (consisting of President, Treasurer, one Vice-President, Director and Assistant Treasurer – formerly known as the Executive Group) oversees day-to-day financial and management matters. It meets more frequently than Council and as required, bringing recommendations and information to Council as appropriate. The Management Group has delegated responsibility for risk management within the Society. Personnel matters are discussed by Management Group and lead by the Vice-President with responsibility for Staff Matters, consulting other Council members and/or staff as and when necessary.

The Director manages the staff and day-to-day activities of the Society and is delegated by Council to promote the objectives and organise the strategic development of the Society. The Director has some autonomy in the area of historic environment advocacy, because responses to consultations and reviews often have to be written to short deadlines that cannot wait for the next meeting of Council. However, a general steer is usually sought from Council on issues known to be coming up for consultation, to enable the Director to draft a response along lines already suggested by Council when the request for views is made. Whenever time permits, comments on draft responses are sought from Council members by email.

The offices of the Society are housed within the NMS as per the arrangements agreed in the Conveyance of 1851, which provided the Society and its collection with fit and proper accommodation, in the National Gallery on The Mound, as a condition of signing over its collection to the nation for the benefit of the public. This collection formed the core of the national archaeological collections now housed in the NMS, and other parts are now in the National Archives of Scotland, the National Library of Scotland or the National Galleries of Scotland, as well as the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS). The Library of the NMS receives 163 periodicals as exchanges from other societies and libraries in return for copies of the *Proceedings*, as well as publications donated by Fellows through the Society. Fellows are statutorily entitled to free access to the library of the National Museums Scotland through the National Heritage (Scotland) Act 1985 (Chapter 16 Part 1 Section 3(5)).

As of 31 May 2009 the Society has 3,048 paying Fellows and 22 Honorary Fellows. In 2008 the number was 3,378 Fellows and in 2007, 3,572 Fellows; down from a high of 3,605 Fellows in 2006. The loss of just under 600 Fellows since 2006 is mainly due to writing off bad debtors and erasing those who were not paying their subscriptions from the list of Fellows, as per Law 8. The average loss of Fellows each year is just over 100, with a net increase overall.

#### OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

The principal objective of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland is set out in Law 1: '... the study of the antiquities and history of Scotland, more especially by means of archaeological research'.

In May 2008 Council approved a five-year strategy document that sets out the above objective and amplifies it with the following Mission Statement:

*‘The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland will promote the research, understanding and conservation of the archaeological and historic environment of Scotland for the benefit of all. It will actively support research in the field and advocate good practice. It will promote the results of its research and that of others to the widest possible audience.’*

To achieve these aspirations the Society:

- encourages first-class research through grants to individuals, institutions and partnerships;
- disseminates the results of research and endeavour in the field of archaeology and history in Scotland through lectures, conferences and publications;
- furthers the cause of archaeology and history in Scotland by providing independent expert advice in discussions and consultations relating to the historic environment;
- recognises and encourages excellence throughout the whole community of interest in archaeology and history, by awarding bursaries, medals and prizes to students, non-professionals and professionals alike.

The Society website is regularly updated and enables Fellows to purchase Society books and other products. Fellows can also pay their subscriptions securely online.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

##### *Research Grants Awarded*

The Society received 18 individual applications totalling £24,605.00. However, to keep expenditure in line with income the Society had only £8,144.00 to disburse in grants this year and so this total was exhaustively whittled down to nine successful projects at the Research Committee meeting in February 2009. Of these, the award to Helen Bradley was to be paid from separate funds.

The Society is justly proud of its grant awards scheme, which, although presenting only relatively small sums, helps to initiate new projects and aims to contribute where the relatively small sums would make the greatest impact. Grants from the Society, rigorously scrutinised through the Research Committee, can also help projects get further funding from other sponsors.

This year, the Society awarded grants to a typically diverse group of projects, ranging from the analysis of the socio-legal understanding of, and responses to, serious non-fatal violence in England, Wales and Scotland between the mid-18th and the late 19th centuries, to a single radiocarbon date for a spearhead shaft from Perthshire. In providing these funds, the Society aims to encourage best practice in the research of Scotland’s past.

In March 2009 the Council ratified the following awards:

<i>Applicant name</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Amount granted</i>
Dr Rebecca Jones	Roman Camps in Scotland	£1,500
Dr James Barrett	Brough of Deerness Excavations 2009	£1,875
Dr Katherine Watson	Wounding: from mayhem to offences against the person	£680
Mr Mark Hall	Radiocarbon Dating of a spearhead shaft from Kinclaven, Perthshire	£290

<i>Applicant name</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Amount granted</i>
Miss Antonia Thomas	The Braes of Ha'Breck, Wyre: Excavation 2009	£500
Dr Jane Bunting	Providing Context for Orcadian Archaeology	£1,400
Mr Murray Cook	Hillforts of Strathdon	£695
Miss Fiona Tucker	Analysis of human remains from Iron Age Orkney and Shetland	£900
Helen Bradley	National Community Archaeology Conference 2009	£350
<i>Total</i>		£8,190

The Society invests entry fees paid by new Fellows for the restricted purpose of providing income for these grants and other awards. The Society welcomes donations, of whatever size, which can be restricted for use in providing funds for the grants scheme, thereby helping us to increase the amounts we can disburse and hopefully begin to match the numbers of deserving applicants.

The Society also supports Archaeology Scotland's Young Archaeologists' Clubs (YAC) by awarding an annual grant. The YAC network plays a vital role in reaching out and bringing young people into archaeology.

#### *Donations and Bequests*

The Society received no bequests in the year under consideration. However, the Society did enter into communications with Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) with regard to Gift Aid, and the provision of 'benefits' to Fellows. As a result the Society maintains records of discounted purchases and entry to conferences for each Fellow who is signed up to Gift Aid to ensure the 'benefit' received does not breach the rules defined by HMRC. We would still encourage all Fellows who have not done so, but who are eligible, to sign up to Gift Aid, which provides the Society with a substantial annual income from HM Government.

In addition to Gift Aid, there is also a Payroll Giving scheme that enables donations to be given to any UK charity, straight from gross salary (before tax is deducted); donors receive immediate tax relief of up to £4 for every £10 donated. We currently have one Fellow who contributed to the Society through Payroll Giving in this financial year. If you wish more information on how to give to the Society then check the website under 'Donations' and please do not hesitate to contact the office.

#### *The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF) Project*

The ScARF project was initiated in 2008 with funding from Historic Scotland. It aims to provide a framework for the development of research in Scottish archaeology by critically reviewing the current state of archaeological knowledge and considering the potential and practicability of future areas of research. In order to achieve this, panels of experts have been assembled to look at period and thematic issues. Now in its second year, ScARF has a number of active panels, including 'Palaeolithic and Mesolithic', 'Neolithic', 'Iron Age', 'Medieval', and 'Marine and Maritime' groups, while 'Bronze Age', 'Modern' and 'Archaeological Science' panels are currently being created. The framework

is being developed in partnership with all those involved in the archaeology of Scotland, from the academic, professional, commercial and voluntary sectors.

By the end of the project we will have in place an updatable framework, which will provide the context for archaeological decision-making, whether project design, curatorial, or funding based. This will enable anyone wishing to undertake research in Scotland to plan their work effectively in relation to the framework, thereby ensuring that future research is relevant, represents best value and effectively contributes to our understanding of the past. ScARF is also designed to raise research aspirations in Scotland by encouraging and enabling people to become research-active.

ScARF's findings will be published in a range of media, and fully available online. The framework will be kept updated as fresh research is undertaken so that it provides an enduring and relevant legacy for those involved in archaeological research. The framework will thus comprise both a structure to build upon and a set of research goals to aspire to.

## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

The Society provided the following events, including lectures at its regular Ordinary Meetings, conferences and special events.

Monday, 13 October 2008, Edinburgh

Tuesday, 14 October 2008, Aberdeen

PETER YEOMAN, FSA FSAScot MifA, Head of Cultural Resources, Historic Scotland

*Preserving Candida Casa: a centenary of State Care at Whithorn Priory*

(With support from Historic Scotland)

Monday, 10 November 2008, Edinburgh

Tuesday, 11 November 2008, Aberdeen

### **President's Address**

PROFESSOR ROGER MERCER, OBE FSA FRSE FSAScot HonMifA, President, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

*The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland: foundation, development and change*

Monday, 1 December 2008, Edinburgh

### **Anniversary Meeting**

Lecture: PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER MORRIS, FSA FRSE FSAScot FRSA FRHistSoc MifA, Chair in Archaeology, University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute

*Archaeology and the UHI*

Monday, 8 December 2008, Aberdeen

Tuesday, 9 December 2008, Edinburgh

MRS DIANA MURRAY, FSA FSAScot MifA, Secretary and Chief Executive, RCAHMS

*Recording Scotland's Places, Past, Present and Future: a lecture to celebrate the Centenary of RCAHMS*

Monday, 12 January 2009, Edinburgh

(Joint with the Edinburgh University Student Archaeology Society)

Tuesday 13 January 2009, Aberdeen

PROFESSOR JULIAN THOMAS, FSA FSAScot, Manchester University

*The Stonehenge Riverside Project*

Wednesday, 28 January 2009, Edinburgh

KRISTINA STANKOVSKI, Curator, National Museums Scotland

*Jean Muir: a fashion icon*

(Joint with the National Museums Scotland Members)

Monday, 9 February 2009, Aberdeen

Tuesday, 10 February 2009, Edinburgh

ALEX HILDRED, FSA MifA, Curator of Ordnance, Mary Rose Trust

*Playing with Fire: the weapons of Henry VIII's Warship the Mary Rose*

Monday, 9 March 2009, Edinburgh

Tuesday, 10 March 2009, Aberdeen

PROFESSOR THOMAS CLANCY, FSAScot, Department of Celtic, University of Glasgow

2009 Sir John Rhŷs Memorial Lecture in Celtic Studies: *Gaelic in medieval Scotland: advent and expansion*

(Joint with the British Academy)

Open Event

THE RHIND LECTURES

Friday, 3 April to Sunday, 5 April 2009, Edinburgh

EMERITUS PROFESSOR TREVOR WATKINS, FSA FSAScot, University of Edinburgh

*New Light on the Dawn: a new perspective on the Neolithic Revolution*

Open Event

Monday, 20 April 2009, Edinburgh

Tuesday, 21 April 2009, Aberdeen

PROFESSOR ALASTAIR DAWSON, University of Aberdeen

*Understanding the archaeological significance of Late Pleistocene and Holocene relative sea level changes in Scotland*

(Science Festival Lecture)

Open Event

Saturday, 9 May 2009, Edinburgh

*Late Roman silver and the end of the Empire: the Traprain Treasure in context*

Expert Seminar



Sunday, 10 May 2009, Edinburgh

*Late Roman silver and the end of the Empire: the Traprain Treasure in context*

Monday, 11 May 2009, Aberdeen

(This meeting is also the Aberdeen and North-East Section AGM)

Tuesday, 12 May 2009, Edinburgh

Dr Susanne Wilbers-Rost, Head of the Archaeological Department, Museum und Park Kalkriese, and Dr Achim Rost, Research Associate, University of Osnabrück

*The Battle of Varus (AD 9): An archaeological approach after 2,000 years*

Open Event

Saturday, 30 May 2009, Edinburgh

*Archaeological Research in Progress*

(In collaboration with Archaeology Scotland)

Open Event

Saturday 20 June 2009

*Summer Excursion to the Antonine Wall and the Hunterian Museum*

The evening lectures at Ordinary Meetings are free to Fellows and their guests, and held in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and in the MacRobert Building, University of Aberdeen. 2008–9 saw a very full programme, with no less than eight ordinary lecture meetings, the annual joint lecture with the NMS Members, the Anniversary Meeting, the summer excursion, an international conference and the Society's turn to organise the national Archaeological Research in Progress conference. A highlight was the video recording of the exceptional Rhind Lectures by Emeritus Professor Trevor Watkins on the dawn of Neolithic civilisation. The recordings are made freely available on our website. The six Rhind Lectures are an opportunity for a speaker to investigate a particular topic in more depth than would normally be possible, and Professor Watkins assembled a master-class in archaeological detail, social change, cognitive theory and wonderful story-telling that has been extolled by all who were present.

All of those events marked 'Open Event' are free to all and open to the public, including the Rhind Lectures. The day conferences were ticketed, but the cost is kept as low as possible, with concessions for students, to encourage attendance by younger people. However, rising costs, in respect of accommodation and refreshments at conferences, make it difficult to keep the ticket price as low as the Society might wish.

The international conference on Late Roman silver and the end of the Empire was a sell-out filling all 145 seats of the Wolfson Lecture Theatre on the Saturday. An excellent array of experts on Roman and later periods presented fascinating information on silver hoards from across Europe. This was followed on Sunday by a restricted expert session which allowed detailed discussion of material and theory which will be collated into at least one book; the Society is one of few organisations able to provide the environment, free of charge to the participants, for such international knowledge transfer, and we are proud to be instrumental in cutting-edge research such as this.

The 2009 Archaeological Research in Progress conference showcased projects from all over Scotland, from the earliest human presence to the medieval period. This event is hosted alternately

by the Society and by Archaeology Scotland. The Society usually holds the conference in Edinburgh and presents a wide range of projects from the whole of Scotland, while Archaeology Scotland takes the conference to other parts of Scotland and concentrates the presentations on the local area concerned.

The Society has a thriving Aberdeen and North-East Section. It is the tradition that each speaker from the Ordinary Meetings in Edinburgh travels to Aberdeen to give the same lecture there, and it is to the credit of the speakers that they were willing to give so freely of their time to visit both. The Section also organises its own additional programme of lectures and field trips.

### *Publications*

The Society published its first volume of *Transactions* in 1792, and has been publishing a regular journal since then. The *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, published annually, is now the national journal of record for Scottish archaeology. Volume 137 was published and distributed to Fellows and libraries in November 2008, and contains the customary mix of archaeology, history, architectural history and other areas of material culture.

*Scottish Archaeological Internet Reports* (SAIR ISSN 1473-3803) has seen the publication of seven reports in the year ending 31 May 2009:

- SAIR 26 *Quartz technology in Scottish prehistory*  
by Torben Bjarke Ballin
- SAIR 27 *Bruach An Druimein, Poltalloch, Argyll: excavations directed by the late Eric Cregeen, 1960–2*  
by Duncan Abernethy
- SAIR 28 *Early medieval settlement and ironworking in Dornoch, Sutherland: excavations at The Meadows Business Park*  
by Russel Coleman and Effie Photos-Jones
- SAIR 29 *A Bronze Age Burial from Pabay Mor, Isle of Lewis, Western Isles*  
by Rachel Barrowman and Lorna Innes
- SAIR 30 *Archaeological monitoring in the streets of Musselburgh: recent discoveries*  
by Michael Kimber
- SAIR 31 *Mesolithic and later sites around the Inner Sound, Scotland: the work of the Scotland's First Settlers project 1998–2004*  
edited by Karen Hardy and Caroline Wickham-Jones
- SAIR 32 *Archaeology of Landscape Change in South-West Scotland, 6000 BC – AD 1400: Excavations at William Grant and Sons Distillery, Girvan*  
by Iain Banks, Paul R J Duffy and Gavin MacGregor

All *Scottish Archaeological Internet Reports* are freely available online at [www.sair.org](http://www.sair.org) and the series is being permanently archived by the National Libraries of Scotland (NLS), because it is, in their

words, ‘an important part of our documentary heritage’. This will ensure the accessibility of *SAIR* in the future as part of the permanent collections of the NLS.

The Society has published two books in the year ending May 2009 and work continues on several further volumes.

*A Fragmented Masterpiece: Recovering the Biography of the Hilton of Cadboll Pictish Cross-Slab*

Heather James, Isabel Henderson, Sally M Foster and Sian Jones

ISBN 978 0 903903 42 4

*Inchmarnock: An Early Historic Island Monastery and its archaeological landscape*

Christopher Lowe

ISBN 978 0 903903 37 0

#### HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ADVOCACY

As the senior antiquarian body in Scotland, the Society is consulted by a wide range of organisations, from central government to academic funding bodies such as the Arts & Humanities Research Council, where it is considered a Subject Association. The Director is a board member of the Built Environment Forum Scotland (BEFS), an umbrella body which brings together non-governmental organisations working in the historic and built environment sector, and is convener of the Historic Environment Working Group of that Forum. The Society is a member of The Archaeology Forum, a UK-wide grouping of non-governmental organisations, and through this the Director is made aware of, and regularly contributes to, consultations and initiatives from outside Scotland, which may have an impact on the Scottish historic environment. Vice-President Alison Sheridan and the Director represent the Society on the Council of the National Trust for Scotland, which meets three times a year to discuss matters of policy, finance and forward planning. The Society is also a member of Scottish Environment Link (with Archaeology Scotland).

This year the Society has responded to consultations on Householder Permitted Development Rights, an English Heritage consultation on the reburial of human remains from Avebury and Stonehenge, a UK Government consultation on World Heritage Sites and attended seminars, workshops and meetings on the revision of Scottish Planning Policy, the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Management Plan and the National Parks Strategic Review. We also began to examine the draft Ancient Monuments and Listed Buildings (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill launched in late May 2009. In December 2008, HEACS (The Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland) published its report and recommendations into the infrastructure of the historic environment. The Society has been actively assessing and discussing the recommendations of that report, one of which is the creation of a bespoke intermediary body for the sector. HEACS went on to suggest that BEFS could take on this role, and, as a member of BEFS, the Society has been intimately involved in sectoral discussions on this proposal. In addition, the Scottish Government announced the abolition of HEACS, and the President responded, in November 2008, firmly asserting the need for an independent voice to help refine and develop heritage policy. Consultation responses and letters are available on the Society website.

The Society is also represented on the Archaeology Data Services Management Committee, the British and Irish Archaeological Bibliography Online Advisory Committee, the Antonine Wall Management Plan Working Group, the National Committee on Carved Stones in Scotland and

the Heritage Audit advisory group, while Fellows represent the Society on the National Museums Scotland Board of Trustees, Sir Henry Wade's Pilmuir Trust, the Mouswald Trust, the Donald Dalrymple Fund, the British Archaeological Awards and The Laws Advisory Group (previously the Traprain Law Advisory Group). Through all these organisations we are able to keep abreast of current news in the heritage sector and discuss and support the archaeology and history of Scotland.

## RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE

### *The RBK Stevenson Award*

RBK Stevenson was, for many years, the Keeper of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland and was President of the Society between 1975 and 1978. This award is made annually in recognition of the paper in the Proceedings that best reflects Robert Stevenson's own scholarship and high standards. The 2008 award of £50 went to the article in volume 137 on *Medieval Roxburgh: a preliminary assessment of the burgh and its locality* by Colin Martin of the University of St Andrews and Richard Oram of Stirling University. Both accepted the award in person at the Anniversary Meeting on 1 December 2008.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

As noted at the beginning of this report, the Society has changed its financial year end to 31 May. This allows the Society a short period of time to examine its end of year accounts prior to the subscriptions being due on 1 July – a period that often takes up a lot of time and resources. The Society's summary Income and Expenditure Account together with explanatory notes are presented to the Fellows at the Anniversary Meeting and in the *Proceedings*. The presentation style follows the required accounting standards for charities.

The Society's investments are managed by Bank of Scotland Portfolio Management Services who provide a half-yearly review and quarterly valuations. Our Investment Manager attends Council annually and has more frequent meetings with office-bearers. The Society's objective is to have a balanced portfolio subject to a medium degree of risk. Council maintained the current strategy to increase income while maintaining capital growth and maintain a proportion of investments in Government bonds as well as shares. Council considers it has sufficient procedures in place to oversee this process and manage the inherent risk in a portfolio of investments.

Some of the Society's investments are restricted in purpose, notably to the funding of research. For some time, income from entry fees has been used to fund research and we have begun to invest these fees to increase income that we can disburse in grants. We would also encourage Fellows and others to help us increase these restricted funds further by donations of any size: please do not hesitate to contact the Society.

ABBREVIATED ACCOUNTS FOR FELLOWS  
SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR 11 MONTHS TO 31 MAY 2008

	<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	<i>Endowment Funds</i>	<i>Total 2009</i>	<i>Total 2008</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>					
Subscriptions	184,304			184,304	143,276
Tax recovered on Gift Aid Scheme	12,783			12,783	14,277
Donations	5,224			5,224	3,879
Legacy				–	–
New Fellow Entrance Fees		4,220		4,220	1,260
Income from Listed Investments	21,985	8,513		30,498	33,112
Bank Interest Received	400	234		634	505
Income from Proceedings	–			–	15,750
Income from Monographs	47,458			47,458	57,195
Income from SAIR	8,960			8,960	10,000
Income from ScARF	38,772			38,772	8,862
Income from Lectures and Conferences	18,583			18,583	–
<b>Total Income</b>	338,469	12,967	–	351,436	288,116
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Grants, awards and donations	3,911	7,546		11,457	14,609
Lecture Programme	40,639	4,300		44,939	13,591
Proceedings	33,819			33,819	42,976
Monograph	26,145			26,145	59,149
SAIR	10,686			10,686	9,503
ScARF	13,954			13,954	
Salaries and Fees	106,737			106,737	86,070
Pensions Payments	8,016			8,016	8,110
Printing, Stationery, Post and Telephone	15,354			15,354	14,757
Office Equipment, Maintenance and Insurance	7,321			7,321	15,550
Miscellaneous	1,072			1,072	684
Investment Management Costs	2,568			2,568	3,427
Bank Charges	1,974			1,974	2,349
Depreciation	1,478			1,478	1,669
Bad Debt	22,405			22,405	5,934
Provision for doubtful Debt	14,175			14,175	–
Accountancy and Audit Fee	7,814			7,814	5,387
Council and Committee Expenses	960			960	1,449
Legal and other professional fees	–			–	–
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	319,028	11,846	–	330,874	285,214
Surplus[Loss] for year	19,441	1,121	–	20,562	0
Transfer from unrestricted to restricted	(4,015)	4,015	–	–	–
Realised gains (losses) on investments	(7,508)	–	–	(7,508)	(8,432)
Unrealised gains (losses) on investments	(45,795)	–	(19,833)	(65,628)	(123,404)
Balances brought forward	478,383	21,626	263,718	763,727	892,661
	440,506	26,762	243,885	711,153	760,825

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MAY 2009

	2009 £	2009 £	2008 £
Fixed Assets		1,089	1,992
Investments		701,297	776,020
		<hr/> 702,386	<hr/> 778,012
Debtors	67,668		59,819
Cash at Bank	31,020		8,176
	<hr/> 98,688		<hr/> 67,995
<i>Less</i>			
Current Liabilities due within one year	(89,921)		(82,280)
		<hr/> 8,767	<hr/> (14,285)
		<hr/> 711,153	<hr/> 763,727
Endowment Fund		243,885	263,718
Restricted Funds		26,762	21,626
Unrestricted Funds		440,506	478,383
		<hr/> 711,153	<hr/> 763,727

The figures above have been extracted from the audited accounts for the 11 months ended 31 May 2009, which carried an unqualified audit report, and which were approved by Council on 26 October 2009. The full Trustees' Report and Financial Statements may be obtained from the Assistant Treasurer at the Society's Office at the National Museums of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1JF, upon receipt of £5 UK and £10 elsewhere.

BARBARA CRAWFORD, *President*

#### **Independent auditors' statement**

We have examined the summarised financial information which is prepared for the Society's Fellows.

The Council is responsible for the preparation of the financial information. We have agreed to report on its consistency with the annual accounts on which we reported on 26 October 2009.

#### **Basis of Opinion**

We have carried out the procedures we consider necessary to ascertain whether the abbreviated accounts are consistent with the annual accounts from which it has been prepared.

#### **Opinion**

In our opinion the abbreviated accounts are consistent with the annual accounts for the year ended 31 May 2009.

HENDERSON LOGGIE  
Edinburgh  
26 October 2009

## FUTURE PLANS AND COMMITMENTS

### *Research*

Research grants are central to the Society, and we will continue to consider grant applications. The deadline for applications remains the Anniversary Meeting (30 November). The Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF) will continue to develop over its agreed period of funding to 2012, with several of the chronological and thematic panels concluding their research phase and reporting in the next year, and the final panels starting up. ScARF now has its own web presence to keep everyone up to date with what is happening, and to provide information on how to get involved.

### *Programme*

The lecture programme for 2009–10 has been decided by the end of June 2009. The Rhind Lectures are such a major undertaking that the speakers require at least two year's notice, and currently we are considering an invitation to the 2012 Rhind lecturer. A conference with the NMS and Winterthur Museum and Country Estate entitled *Transatlantic Craftsmanship: Scotland and the Americas in the 18th and 19th centuries* will take place in Winterthur, Delaware, USA from 7 to 10 October 2009. It is Archaeology Scotland's turn to organise and host the Archaeological Research in Progress conference for 2010.

### *Publications*

The Society is committed to annual publication of the *Proceedings*, and work is already nearing completion on volume 138 to be published in November 2009. Intending contributors please note that there is now a deadline of 1 November for papers to be submitted for the following *Proceedings*. We have no less than 20 SAIR projects in various stages of completion and a number of books in various stages of production.

From this report it can be seen that the Society has completed an exceptionally busy and exciting year, with many new developments and excellent events. A stimulating programme of activities is already in place for next year, particularly in the area of events and publications, and the staff are very grateful for the continued support of both you, the Fellows, and the Council members, who put a lot of voluntary time and effort into the organisation and running of the Society.

BARBARA CRAWFORD, MA PhD FSA FRSE

*President*

3 September 2009

## ANNIVERSARY MEETING REPORT

The Anniversary Meeting is held, as per Law 16, on St Andrew's Day, except where this falls on a Sunday. The meeting is also the Annual General Meeting of the Society. It was held on Monday, 1 December 2008 in the Lecture Theatre of the Archaeology Department, University of Edinburgh, Old High School, Infirmary Street, Edinburgh EH1 1LT starting at 4.30pm, Mr Roger Mercer, President, in the chair.

The minutes of the last lecture meeting were read and approved. Reports were received from the Director, Treasurer and Managing Editor and were approved. The ballots were closed and counted by the scrutineers. The RBK Stevenson Award was presented to Colin Martin and Richard Oram.

The results of the ballots were as follows:

## BALLOT FOR FELLOWS OF THE SOCIETY

The Ballot for Fellows of the Society lists all those put forward and elected at the meeting itself (in accordance with Laws 3 and 4), but strictly these are not automatically Fellows until they have paid their subscription and entry fee (Law 7). The list printed here details those elected at the Anniversary Meeting, with those who have still to pay their subscription and entry fee by the end of the financial year being reported on (here 31 May 2009) highlighted with an asterix.

ALASTAIR BECKET, MA(Hons), AIfA, Glasgow, UK  
 DAVID GEORGE BERGER, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, USA  
 BEVERLY PATRICIA BERGMAN, MB ChB, FFPH, FRSH, FCMI, Camberley, UK  
 ROSIE BISHOP, BSc(Hons), Glasgow, UK  
 ALICE BLACKWELL, Glasgow, UK  
 CHRISTOPHER RICHARD BOWLES, BA, MSc, PhD, Blackwood, Lanarkshire, UK  
 JOHN WILLIAM JEFFREY BROTHERSTON, S.B.St. J, Dumfries, UK  
 ANTONY DAVID BROWN, London, UK  
 JAMES DAVID BRUHN, BA, MA, Edinburgh, UK  
 STEPHEN PHILIP CARTER, Edinburgh, UK  
 BRIAN CLARK, BSc(Hons), Fauldhouse, UK  
 SCOTT CROSSETT, MBE, CENV, MCIWM, Largs, UK  
 CARMEN CUENCA-GARCIA, BA, PDip, PIfA, ISAP, Glasgow, UK\*  
 JAMES ANTHONY DEVINE, MA(Hons), Glasgow, UK  
 EDWARD C DITTUS, Woodbury, Connecticut, USA  
 THOMAS JAMES DOWDS, BA(Hons), MLitt, Dip Ed, ACP, Cumbernauld, UK  
 CATHY STEWART GEIGER, Dothan, Alabama, USA  
 ROCHELLE GEROFKY, Ocala, Florida, USA\*  
 W BRUCE GILLIS, QC, Nova Scotia, Canada  
 DAVID MARTIN GOLDBERG, Glasgow, UK\*  
 NEIL GREGORY, Edinburgh, UK\*  
 SUSAN HEWER, Kirriemuir, UK  
 JOHN HOETKER, MPA, Schenectady, New York, USA  
 MALCOLM ANDREW IRVINE, MA, Bristol, UK  
 PETER BELL IRVING, MA(Hons), Edinburgh, UK  
 THOMAS ALAN KERR, Edinburgh, UK  
 HUGO LAMDIN-WHYMARK, BSc, PhD, MIfA, Oxford, UK  
 WAYNE ARTHUR LAURENCE, Whangarei, New Zealand  
 CHARLES GLENN LAWSON, Tullahoma, Tennessee, USA  
 JULIE LOCHRIE, MA, MLitt, Edinburgh, UK  
 KENNETH MACRAE, MA MEd FRSA FLS FRGS FRSH F.Coll T, Vordingborg, Denmark  
 MHAIRI LOUISE MAXWELL, MSc, Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, UK  
 MARGARET MCCARTNEY, PhD, PIfA, Edinburgh, UK  
 BRENDEN EDWARD MCDANIEL, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA  
 R ANDREW McDONALD, PhD, Vineland, Canada  
 KIRSTEN MCKEE, Edinburgh, UK\*  
 MICHAEL ROBERT MIDDLETON, BSc(Hons), MIfA, Cupar, Fife, UK  
 PAULA MILBURN, PhD, MSc, Edinburgh, UK



WILLIAM LAMBERT MITCHELL, BA, AIEMA, Cumbernauld, UK  
 RODNEY THOMAS MOONEY, Andover, Connecticut, USA  
 GEOFFREY PETER MORLEY, PifA, Crabble, Kent, UK  
 IONA MARY CAMPBELL MURRAY, PhD, Airth, UK  
 STEVEN ROBERT MURRAY-WOLF, Littleton, Colorado, USA  
 STEPHEN R K NIMMONS, EUR ING, MBCS CITP, CENG, FRSA, FIMIS, FIAP, MIET, Witham, Essex, UK  
 PETER JAMES PAGE, Dereham, Norfolk, UK  
 GILLIAN PATRICIA ANNE PAGET, MA(Hons), Edinburgh, UK  
 CATRIONA PICKARD, MA, PhD, Edinburgh, UK  
 STEPHEN GRADY QUILLIN, Durham, North Carolina, USA  
 DOUGLAS JOHN REID, BSc, BARCH(Hons), RIBA, ARIAS, Glamis, UK  
 ZACHARY REYNA, Palos Heights, Illinois, USA\*  
 PETER ROBERTSON, FRSA, Buenos Aires, Argentina  
 CLARE BUCHANAN ROGERS, Alloa, Clackmananshire, UK  
 J EDWARD SCHOFIELD, BA, MSc, PhD, Aberdeen, UK  
 JOSEPH SOMERVILLE, MA(Hons), MSc, AIfA, Glasgow, UK  
 PHILIP TONNER, PhD, Glasgow, UK  
 NICOLA TOOP, BA, MA, PhD, York, UK  
 JOYCE ALEXANDER WHITE, Williamsburg, Virginia, USA  
 LYN WILSON, PhD, Glasgow, UK  
 LUKE WORMALD, BA(Hons), MSc, Edinburgh, UK

## THE ROLL

The deaths of Fellows listed below were intimated to the Society during 2008–09. The dates in the right-hand column represent the year of election as a Fellow.

JOHN MICHAEL ADAMS, Glasgow, UK	2001
BRIAN LAURENCE BURTT, Bonnyrigg, UK	2003
JOHN ALEXANDER CHALMERS, Edinburgh, UK	1986
GIFFORD CHARLES-EDWARDS, Oxford, UK	2005
GEORGE RONALD CURTIS, Isle of Lewis, UK	1971
JULIE ELIE-GAGNON, North Chelmsford, MA, USA	1998
THOMAS McMENEMY FINNIE, Isle of Arran, UK	1977
FREDERICK GLEN, Inverness, UK	1962
ALEXANDER GOURLAY, Surbiton, UK	1984
JAMES MAX HALL, Orlando, USA	2003
ALBERT H HAMILTON-HOPKINS, Cambridge, UK	1989
JOHN A HYMAN, Williamsburg, Virginia, USA	1991
DAVID LOVELL ERIC JAMEISON, Edinburgh, UK	1994
WILLIAM WAYNE JOHNSON, Ontario, Canada	1998
HENRY KELLY, Glasgow, UK	1965
ROBERT FREDERICK LEYS, Glasgow, UK	1966
CHRISTOPHER J LOWE, Sulby, Northampton, UK	2006
D G A D LUMSDEN OF CUSHNIE, Prestonpans, UK	1984

JOAN JANETTA MACKENZIE, Fochabers, UK	1998
KENNETH G P MACKENZIE OF BADACHRO AND CROBEG, UK	1957
JAMES MACLAINE, Smyrna, Georgia, USA	1986
M. TORQUIL MACNEILL, Edinburgh, UK	1960
R I MCCALLUM, Edinburgh, UK	1997
HUGH MCFADZEAN, Stirling, UK	1986
WILLIAM M MCKILLOP, Greenock, UK	1990
THOMAS BRYAN MCKIRGAN, Glasgow, UK	2004
MISS I S MILLER, Stirling, UK	1993
SIR DAVID NICOLSON, THE LORD CARNOCK, Ivybridge, UK	1993
HELMUT FRANZ GUNTHER PETZSCH, Edinburgh, UK	1965
ELIZABETH ELLEN PRINGLE, Edinburgh, UK	1995
N V QUINNELL, Exeter, UK	1986
RICHARD KENT RAMSAY, Oxford, UK	1964
JUDITH NICOLA ROBERTSON, Stromness, Orkney, UK	1993
ROBIN T A ROSS, Pitlochry, UK	1989
ANDREW D SAUNDERS, Kent, UK	1988
JAMES DESMOND SCARLETT, Tomatin, Inverness-shire, UK	1968
PHILIP ANDREW SCHREIBER, Lochwinnoch, UK	1988
IAN ALEXANDER GEORGE SHEPHERD, Aberdeen, UK	1971
JENNIFER MARY SHIELS, Edinburgh, UK	1999
BRIAN DAVID TITCOMB, Kilcreggan, UK	1994
ROGER WHEWELL, Aberfeldy, UK	2001
NORMAN E WHITE, California, USA	1996

#### BALLOT FOR MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The following were elected as members of Council of the Society in accordance with Laws 11 to 14.

#### *President*

**Barbara Crawford** MA PhD FSA FRSE is Honorary Reader in Medieval History at the University of St Andrews and is continuing to pursue her researches into the history and archaeology of the Scandinavian settlements in Scotland, and into historical contacts across the North Sea in the Middle Ages. Her study of these settlements, *Scandinavian Scotland*, was published in 1987, and the results of her own excavation of a medieval log-timbered building that belonged to the kings of Norway on the island of Papa Stour, Shetland, was published in 1999. She is a Member of the Norwegian Academy and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and is now working as Honorary Director of the Strathmartine Centre for Scottish History in St Andrews, founded by an independent charitable trust established by the late Dr Ronald Cant before his death in 1999, for supporting research and education in Scottish History. She has been a Council Member and Vice-President of the Society and Commissioner of the RCAHMS, and also served as Chair of the Treasure Trove Advisory Panel from 1993–2003.

#### *Vice-President*

**George Dalgleish** MA was born in Galashiels and educated at Edinburgh University, where he gained and MA in Scottish Historical Studies. He joined the staff of the then National Museum of Antiquities

of Scotland in 1980, and is currently Principal Curator, Scottish History, in the Scotland & Europe Department of the National Museums Scotland. He was involved in the creation of the 18th and 19th century displays of the Museum of Scotland, and more recently curated the exhibition *Silver: Made in Scotland* in the NMS. He is an expert advisor to the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art, a Member of the Incorporation of Goldsmiths of the City of Edinburgh and a Member of the Incorporation of Hammermen of Edinburgh. He was previously Deputy Editor of the *Proceedings* from 1983 to 1991, a Society Council member from 1992 to 1995, a member of the Publications Committee between 1991 and 2007 and has been a member of the Research Committee since 1995. His special interests include Scottish ceramics, clocks, Jacobite relics, pewter and silver on which he has published extensively.

#### *Treasurer*

**Brendan O'Connor** BA DPhil FSA has been active in archaeology for 40 years. After studying at Nottingham and Oxford he moved to Edinburgh to work in the Scottish Office from which he retired in 2001. His thesis was published in 1980 and he has published extensively on Bronze Age metalwork in Scotland (often in collaboration with Trevor Cowie), elsewhere in Britain and abroad. From 1995 to 1998 Dr O'Connor was a member of the Society's Council and also served on its Finance and Administration Committee. He has been Treasurer since November 2006.

#### *Council Members*

**Stephen Carter** BSc PhD MifA was, until recently, a Director of Headland Archaeology Ltd, based in its Edinburgh office. Doctoral research in Environmental Archaeology at the University of London Institute of Archaeology was followed by a move to Scotland in 1989 where he initially worked on specialist analyses of archaeological sediments. With the creation of Headland Archaeology in 1996, his role shifted to archaeological project management, focusing on Environmental Impact Assessment, and business management with a particular interest in professional development. He is currently the President of Archaeology Scotland (the Council for Scottish Archaeology) and a Trustee of the Council for British Archaeology.

**Malcolm Cooper** BA MPhil DMS FSA FRSA MifA graduated from the University of Birmingham before moving to complete an MPhil in Computers and Archaeology and a Diploma in Management Studies. He worked as a County Archaeologist for the Hereford and Worcester County Council and then joined English Heritage in 1993 where he held various posts including Planning and Development Director (North) from 2004 to 2005 before moving to Scotland to take up his present post as Chief Inspector at Historic Scotland. He manages the Inspectorate division comprising over 100 staff responsible for identification, statutory protection and the consents process for Scotland's historic environment on behalf of Scottish Ministers. This division is also responsible for archaeology and ancient monuments grants programmes and conservation and photographic teams, and he has published widely on the management of the historic environment. His interests include sport and playing classical guitar, with a particular interest in renaissance and baroque guitar and lute music.

**Derek Hall** Cert.Pract.Arch. MifA studied at the Dorset Institute of Higher Education where he gained a Certificate in Practical Archaeology. From 1976 to 1980 he worked on archaeological sites throughout Scotland and England, including one of the first urban rescue excavations in Scotland in advance of the Elgin Relief road. In 1980 he joined the Urban Archaeology Unit, the predecessor of

SUAT. From 1982–5 he was a Senior Supervisor for SUAT on several major excavations before being appointed Field Officer. In 1996 he was seconded to Historic Scotland as an Inspector of Ancient Monuments, before returning to SUAT as Depute Director. He has extensive research interests in Scottish medieval pottery, medieval hospitals and monastic granges and is currently journal editor for the Medieval Pottery Research Group. He is also assistant editor of the Tayside and Fife Archaeology Committee journal. He has written and published two books *Burgess, Merchant and Priest-burgh life in the medieval town* and *Scottish Monastic Landscapes* for Birlinn and Tempus respectively.

**Stratford Halliday** BSc studied at University College Cardiff and spent time early in his career as a research assistant to Professor Colin Burgess before taking up a post as Field Surveyor for the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Field Survey, managed by the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) from 1977–81. From there he moved into the RCAHMS starting as a Field Investigator. With 30 years of active fieldwork and research in northern Britain he has developed from a Border counties prehistorian to a national landscape historian. He is a key author and project manager of RCAHMS projects, many of which have been brought to publication, including *South-east Perth: an archaeological landscape* in 1994 and the recently published volume *In the Shadow of Bennachie, a field archaeology of Donside, Aberdeenshire* published jointly with the Society last year. His present role focuses on the development of corporate recording policies and research objectives in the RCAHMS.

## PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Presidential address was delivered by Roger Mercer as follows:

As one about to demit office after three years of satisfying, stimulating activity, it is probably appropriate to begin my address by congratulating our Director, Simon Gilmour, on the arrival of his very beautiful daughter Caitlin, who entered the world of material culture on 2 October 2008 weighing something over seven pounds. Dr Gilmour was also elected a Fellow of our sister Society of Antiquaries of London in January of 2008.

Our own Society's Fellowship, standing at 3,284 appears to have shrunk slightly in our formal count for the Anniversary Meeting. This shrinkage is something of an illusion created by a substantial rationalisation that has been undertaken to remove names from our fellowship, as prescribed under Law 8, that are in subscription arrears. Due to recent changes in staffing this situation had gone unattended to and has now been put right with consequently exaggerated immediate effect. The 'bad debts' in our accounts represent these unpaid subscriptions – so please don't be unduly alarmed. Meanwhile, names appear before you for ballot this evening having been recommended to you by our Fellowship Committee.

An excellent lecture series has characterised this year, which Professor John Coles began by speaking on Scandinavian Rock Carvings. This was followed by our joint celebration with the London Antiquaries of their Tercentenary with the consequent lecture on 'the Dawn of Civilisation' by Professor Lord Renfrew. Professor Oliver Rackham's wonderful exposé on the nature of Scottish woodland; Louise Campbell's memorable account of the architect Sir Basil Spence, a major exhibition of whose work, partnered by RCAHMS and the National Galleries of Scotland, opened this year; Katie Stevenson's quite provoking account of the pastimes and pleasures of the Royal Courts of James II–V; Dr Harold Mellers' stunning description of the recovery and study of the Nebra Bronze Age 'Sky Disc' and Ray Mackenzie's revelatory account of the multi-

memorialisation of James Watt all followed. Finally, Dr Storsletten brought us the fascinating story of the precise dating and sequence of Stave Churches in Norway in the Lindsay-Fischer Lecture. The counterpart to Dr Storsletten's lecture, which was given in Edinburgh and Aberdeen, as well as in Kirkwall (thanks to generous support from the Strathmartine Trust) was a visit to Norway (again supported by the Strathmartine Trust) by Ian Fisher, our Fellow, who gave a total of five lectures in Oslo and Bergen on 'Stone Crosses in Western Norway, the Hebrides and Shetland' and 'Iona Abbey; a Hebridean monastery in the province of Nideros'.

If it was not enough to preside over such an international and interdisciplinary programme, what can be said of our Rhind Lecturer this year, Professor Ole Crumlin-Pedersen of the Viking Ship Museum, Roskilde. His theme was one never far distant from concerns with Scotland's material past – the sea. His life study, the history of ship design over a period of at least four millennia in the Baltic and North Sea, has revealed and documented a detailed account of the development of the sewn plank, nailed carvel and nailed clinker-built ships of the region, together with their means of wind propulsion and their steering. The summation of a life's work, we hope to publish this compendium jointly with Roskilde Maritime Museum in the coming year.

Next year we look forward to Professor Trevor Watkins looking at issues that link societies across Southwest Asia (part of the world we used, ethnocentrically, to call the Near East) during the period of early farming development.

This year has also seen a full conference programme. The joint Archaeology Research in Progress Conference was, this year, arranged by Archaeology Scotland and took place at Lybster in Caithness with papers covering a wide range of topics and a local field visit.

The principal event was the international conference 'Scotland in Later Prehistoric Europe' held on 19–21 September. It gives me enormous pleasure to acknowledge the excitement (and instruction) that this event gave me, and to pay full tribute to the team who organised the event – with Ian Shepherd, our Research Convener at their head, Dr Fraser Hunter and Prof Ian Ralston – this was indeed a 'gude ship skeely skipper'd'.

In a seemingly short weekend, language, ethnicity, symbolism, societal organisation, warfare, economy, environmental impact, industry and art were considered in a series of lectures and discussion sessions. Memories are rich. Sir Barry Cunliffe painted a seascape that was commanding. Some worked to an insular model, while others spoke from a continental perspective. All focused upon the changing perceptions that characterise almost every aspect of our view of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age society during the last half century. The outcome was a revolutionary view of the period at the sharp edge of the advance of knowledge, yet, I think, fully comprehensible to Fellows who had no specialised knowledge of the period.

A day field visit was held in Perthshire in August and the opportunity was taken to visit the SERF landscape project of Glasgow University at and around Forteviot and Dunning in Perthshire. Professor Stephen Driscoll and Dr Kenneth Brophy guided us around the project and during our visit to the Cleaven Dyke and to them we must offer full thanks. The visit was innovative in that Fellows from the NE Section joined those from Edinburgh and Perth in a well-attended event.

Our *Proceedings* Volume 137, after running well up to time throughout the year was fatally set back by the discovery, cosmetic but nevertheless critical, that they had been bound in the wrong colour cloth. Their return for rebinding has led to serious delay so that Fellows have not yet received their volume. They exist but are currently being reglued in a factory in Slovenia and will, of course, be despatched to Fellows as soon as possible. A veritable feast awaits you including, among many others, the account of the total excavation of the Iron Age enclosure at Braehead, Glasgow by

Claire Ellis and others and a remote sensing survey and analysis of Mediaeval Roxburgh by Colin Martin and Richard Oram et al.

In addition to our *Proceedings*, four more monographs have been added to the Society's output. In order of their appearance, we have the Report of Excavations undertaken in advance of the construction of the Scottish Parliament building and its incorporation of Queensberry House, produced by the Holyrood Excavation team. The volume presents a 'cameo' examination of this hitherto unfashionable part of old Edinburgh, at least after the 17th century, which has been so enlivened by its new role.

*The Lands of Ancient Lothian* by Olivia Lelong and Gavin MacGregor is an account of the excavations conducted during the upgrading of the A1 main road between Edinburgh and Berwick upon Tweed (and historically, ultimately London – it is the successor to 'the Great North Road'). The results reflect five millennia of activity in the East Lothian plain, one of the most fertile areas of Scotland.

*Inchmarnock* 'a proper habitation for one in Love with Hermetical Life' examines a small island monastery off the west coast of the Island of Bute that flanks the west side of the outer limits of the Firth of Clyde. This volume by Chris Lowe of Headland Archaeology examines, in particular detail, the role of literacy and inscription in this early monastic settlement.

In the final week before this Anniversary Meeting there arrived with a sonorous thump the much anticipated volume *A Fragmented Masterpiece: Recovering the Biography of the Hilton of Cadboll Pictish Cross-slab* by Heather James, Isobel Henderson, Sally Foster, Sian Jones et al. In it our Honorary Fellow Dr Isabel Henderson draws together, in descriptive catalogue form, the nearly 7,500 pieces of this much fragmented masterpiece. She has also undertaken a chapter in which, with characteristic authority, she traces the insular and non-insular 'art-historical context' of this extraordinary monument. The biography of the Stone, a veritable pilgrimage, is tracked down by Sally Foster and Sian Jones while Heather James explains the complex series of excavations around the monument. The book is rendered beautiful by Ian Scott's drawings and a range of carefully selected images.

In addition there have been two *SAIR* (*Scottish Archaeological Internet Reports*) publications. The first, published in September 2007, *SAIR 24*, is the account of Cist Burials and Iron Age Settlement of Dryburn Bridge, Innerwick, East Lothian by Andrew Dunwell et al – a very full account of an important site excavated in the 1970s. Preceded by Mesolithic activity and pit digging associated with Neolithic impressed wares, the principal period of occupation commenced c 500 BC with a palisade enclosure settlement of three, then four circular ring-groove defined houses associated with small rectangular structures and some pit-graves. In a final phase, probably of Roman Iron Age date, a settlement of four (?) houses of ring-ditch type was apparently unenclosed.

*SAIR 25*, *The Excavation of a Bronze Age Funerary Site at Loath Road, Sanday, Orkney* is a fascinatingly detailed account of two cist burials of cremations accompanied by steatite (of Shetland origin) and pottery vessels – the cremations being of an adult and an infant, and a proxy study of the pyre and the MO of cremation.

If I may turn to business, your Council has been much occupied, and our Treasurer, Brendan O'Connor deserves especial recognition, as much of our attention has focused upon finance. After raising the subscription last year we also have conducted a major financial review identifying any possible area for economy. The introduction of Direct Debit subscription payment has been a great benefit and the Society has reviewed banking arrangements and has changed its auditors as well as moving the financial year end by one month from end June to end of May in order to even out the pressure of tresorial work. A review of investments has been undertaken (a fortunate one in view

of recent events), although, of course, the Society's capital investments have not entirely escaped the impact of these events.

Much attention has been given by our Director to the formulation of the Society's first Business Plan and the production of *Standard Operating Procedures*, *Employment Guidelines* and a *Manual of Governance* to comply with OSCR requirements and to serve staff and Council in the future.

Our Director has also been heavily committed in arranging for alternative facilities for our lecture and conference programme during this period of refurbishment of the Royal Museum Project. We are most grateful to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, to the National Galleries of Scotland and to the University of Edinburgh for assisting us in this regard, and to Fellows for observing their programmes with notification of changing venues so closely! I hope Fellows are also managing with the temporarily restricted access to the Library brought about by the same cause.

A further challenge has been offered by the very welcome funding committed to the Society by Historic Scotland for the management, implementation and publication of a Scottish Archaeological Research Framework (ScARF). Dr Jeff Sanders, the Project Manager, has been appointed and the project is now well under way.

The new website, which has been a considerable success, forms a highly potent vehicle for all Fellows to follow and enter the debate that flows from this very exciting project as it rolls forward over the next four years.

Council has also been closely involved in the initial stages of the organisation of our first conference, to be held jointly with the Winterthur Museum, Delaware, USA, on the topic 'Scottish Material Culture'. The Winterthur Museum is set in the most splendid country house and estate and comprises the collection of 17th- to 20th-century furniture and other artefacts accumulated by Henry F du Pont and the conference will focus upon the Scots' contribution to that extraordinarily fecund tradition. I do hope that our American Fellows will flock to this occasion in Winterthur and make it the success it certainly deserves to be. My successor will be very eager to meet them. The conference is due to be held from 7–10 October 2009 and my thanks go to George Dalgleish and George Haggarty, as well as to David Caldwell of the National Museums Scotland, for their hard work in putting together the Scottish dimension of this joint venture.

This is the point where I must say hail and farewell – fortunately to relatively few people this year. We say farewell to Dr Jane Geddes in her role as Vice-President, thanking her for all her efforts on our behalf as chairman of the newly established Fellowship Committee. In her place we warmly welcome George Dalgleish, Principal Curator, Scottish History in the National Museums Scotland.

We also say farewell to four of our Councillors to all of whom I extend my warm thanks for their support and advice, Sarah Govan, Stephen Birch, Kenneth Brophy and George Haggarty. In their place we welcome Stephen Carter, Malcolm Cooper, Derek Hall and my old colleague Strat Halliday.

Finally I have to offer the Society's sincerest thanks to two beneficiaries:

Dr Peter Murray, former chairman of our NE section, for an ongoing donation in memory of his late wife, Mary, to establish a prize for 'the best paper in our *Proceedings* on an historical topic'.

The McMillan Trust: £5,000 has been donated to the Society for its general use by this Trust. The Trust makes donations to worthy Charities throughout Scotland and is not the first such donation made to this Society.

And perhaps, beyond finally, I say my own farewell. I thank the Fellowship for their tolerance of my mistakes (particularly with reference to the signing of the minutes) and I thank our splendid officers and staff for their support and absolute commitment. I couldn't have wished to work with, or for, nicer people!

Roger Mercer then stepped down as President and the chair was taken by Barbara Crawford, the newly elected President, who spoke briefly to thank her predecessor for his contribution to the Society, in particular with the resignation of the previous Director and the appointment of the present one.

#### ANNIVERSARY MEETING LECTURE

Barbara Crawford then introduced Professor Christopher Morris, FSA FRSE FSA Scot FRSA FRHistSoc MifA, Chair in Archaeology, University of the Highlands and Islands Millennium Institute, to present a lecture on 'Archaeology and the UHI'. A wine reception was then held for Fellows and guests.