

# Annual Report for the year 1 July 2009–31 May 2010

## 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*

BARBARA CRAWFORD, MA PhD FSA FRSE (elected 30 November 2008)

#### *Vice-Presidents*

ALISON SHERIDAN, BA MA PhD FSA AIfA (retired 30 November 2009)

IAN RALSTON, OBE MA PhD FRSE FSA MIfA

GEORGE DALGLEISH, MA

LESLEY FERGUSON, MA (elected 30 November 2009)

#### *Treasurer*

BRENDAN O'CONNOR, BA DPhil FSA (re-elected 30 November 2009)

#### *Councillors*

ANNETTE CARRUTHERS, BA DipMGS FMA (retired 30 November 2009)

MARK HALL, BA FSA AMA MIfA (retired 30 November 2009)

RICHARD TIPPING, BSc(Hons) PhD (retired 30 November 2009)

ALEX WOOLF, BA MPhil (retired 30 November 2009)

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

MALCOLM COOPER, BA MPhil DMS FSA FRSA MIfA

DEREK HALL, Cert.Pract.Arch MIfA

STRATFORD HALLIDAY, BSc

GORDON NOBLE, MA PhD (elected 30 November 2009)

JULIE GIBSON, BA AIfA (elected 30 November 2009)

STEPHEN HOLMES, MA BD PGCE (elected 30 November 2009)

NYREE FINLAY, MA PhD MIAI (elected 30 November 2009)

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

*Chair of the Aberdeen and North-East Section*

CHRIS CROLY (elected 11 May 2009)

*Convener of the Publications Committee*

DAVID P BOWLER, BA MPhil MifA (appointed 2004)

*Convener of the Research Committee*

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

*Convener of the Fellowship Committee*

GEORGE DALGLEISH, MA (appointed January 2009)

*Representative of the National Museums Scotland*

FRASER HUNTER, BSc PhD FSA (appointed 2005)

### **PRINCIPAL ADVISERS**

#### *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 (to March 2010)  
Portfolio Management Service  
2nd Floor, 8 Lochside Avenue  
Edinburgh Business Park  
South Gyle  
Edinburgh EH12 9DJ

Rensburg Sheppards (from March 2010)  
Forsyth House  
93 George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 3ES

#### *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

### *Office Manager*

JACQUI CLABBY, BA

### *Publications Production Manager*

ALISON RAE

### *Managing Editor and Sales Manager*

ERIN OSBORNE-MARTIN, BA

### *ScARF Project Manager*

JEFF SANDERS, MA(Hons) PhD

### *Office Administrator*

VASILIKI KOUTRAFOURI, MA(Hons) PhD

## TRUSTEES' ANNUAL REPORT

### 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 five *ex officio* members, currently consisting of the Chair of the Aberdeen and 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. Fellowship Committee met several times in 2009–10 to discuss the issue of falling subscriptions and to develop a strategy going forward. A smaller Management Group (consisting of President, Treasurer, one Vice-President, Director and Assistant Treasurer) 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 exercises 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 which 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 (Section 3(5)).

We are pleased to note that the efforts of the Fellowship Committee have already begun to have an effect on Fellowship numbers and as of 31 May 2010 the Society has 3,096 paying Fellows, and 22 Honorary Fellows. At the same time in 2009 the number was 3,048 Fellows.

## 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 and non-Fellows to purchase Society books and other products and allows Fellows to pay their subscriptions securely online.

#### ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERFORMANCE

##### *Research Grants Awarded*

The Society received 16 individual applications totalling £21,161.50. However, to keep expenditure in line with income the Society had only £9,500.00 to disburse in grants this year and so this total was exhaustively whittled down to nine successful projects through the Research Committee meeting in February 2010. Of these the award to Richard Jones for conference support of £500 was referred to Council and thence to Management Group and 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 lithic artefacts from the earliest site in Scotland at Howburn to research in the Inveraray Estates and Castle archive to explore the interaction between communities on either side of the Irish Sea *c* 1550–1625. In providing these funds, the Society aims to encourage best practice in the research of Scotland's past.

In March 2010 the Council ratified the following awards:

<i>Applicant name</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Amount granted</i>
Ms Kate Anderson	Radiocarbon dating the ferrous spearheads of Northern Britain	£735
Dr Torben Bjarke Ballin	The Dun Eistean Gunflint Project	£500
Dr Torben Bjarke Ballin	The Howburn Project Phase 2	£2,000
Mr James Brown	Crossaguel Abbey Digital Documentation	£1,000
Dr Alison Cathcart	The Irish Sea World in a British Context <i>c</i> 1550–1625	£750
Mr Robert Legg	Investigation of the Norse-Crofting period landscape of Watlee	£1,110
Dr Alan Macniven	Dun Bhoraraic Preliminary Investigation	£1,250
Dr Oliver O'Grady	Geophysical prospection of Culdee Monasteries in Perth and Kinross	£1,000
<i>Total</i>		£,8345

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. In March 2010 Council agreed a grant of £2,500 annually for three years.

### *Donations and Bequests*

The Society received no bequests in the year under consideration, but did receive £2,150 in donations, for which we are very grateful. We encourage all Fellows to consider the Society an appropriate charity for your donations. The Society was investigated by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) with regard to Gift Aid, and the provision of 'benefits' to Fellows. The Society records and systems now meet HMRC's requirements and no action was required. We would encourage all eligible Fellows who have not already done so 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 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. ScARF now has a number of active panels, many of which will report in the next financial year. 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 on-line. 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.

Saturday, 20 June 2009

Summer Excursion

*The Antonine Wall and the Hunterian Museum*

Wednesday, 7 October 2009 to Saturday, 10 October 2009

International Conference

*Transatlantic Craftsmanship: Scotland and the Americas in the 18th and 19th centuries*

Winterthur Museum, Delaware, USA, and Philadelphia Museum of Art, USA

Joint with the National Museums Scotland and Winterthur Museum

Monday, 9 November 2009 – Aberdeen

Tuesday, 10 November 2009 – Edinburgh

Ordinary Meeting

DR TONY POLLARD, Director of the Centre for Battlefield Archaeology, University of Glasgow

*Landscapes of Loss: The Archaeology of Scotland's Battlefields*

Monday, 30 November 2009 – Edinburgh

*Anniversary Meeting* (Annual General Meeting)

4.30pm Monday

Monday, 14 December 2009 – Edinburgh

Tuesday, 15 December 2009 – Aberdeen

Ordinary Meeting

ÈAMONN Ò'CARRAGÀIN, MRIA, FSA, Istituto Nazionale di Studi Romani (Rome), Professor of Old and Middle English (retired), University College Cork

*The Ruthwell Cross*

Tuesday, 12 January 2010 – Aberdeen

Wednesday, 13 January 2010 – Perth

Ordinary Meeting

DR JULIE M BOND, AGES, University of Bradford

*The Viking Unst Project: researching Norse settlement in northernmost Britain*

(Joint with the Archaeological and Historical Section of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science)

Monday, 25 January 2010 – Edinburgh

PROFESSOR HUGH CHEAPE, University of the Highlands and Islands, Sabhal Mòr Ostaig

*Raising the tone: the bagpipe and the baroque*

Joint with the NMS Members

Monday, 8 February 2010 – Edinburgh

Tuesday, 9 February 2010 – Aberdeen

Ordinary Meeting

ALAN SAVILLE, FSA FSAScot MifA, National Museums Scotland

*Into the Ice Age: new light on Scotland's earliest prehistory*

Monday, 15 March 2010 – Edinburgh

Tuesday, 16 March 2010 – Aberdeen

Ordinary Meeting

PROFESSOR DR RÜDIGER KRAUSE, University of Frankfurt

*The Fürstensitz at Ipf in the Nördlinger Ries: high status in the European Early Iron Age*

Monday, 12 April 2010 – Edinburgh

Tuesday, 13 April 2010 – Aberdeen

Ordinary Meeting

LINDSAY ALLASON-JONES, CIAS, Newcastle University

*Urban Angst in Roman Britain*

Friday, 23 April to Sunday, 25 April 2010 – Edinburgh

The Rhind Lectures

PROFESSOR MARTIN CARVER, University of York

*Design versus Dogma: Reflections on Field Archaeology*

Monday, 10 May 2010 – Edinburgh

Tuesday, 11 May 2010 – Aberdeen

Ordinary Meeting

ROGER STALLEY, Professor of the History of Art, Trinity College Dublin

*Artistic identity and the sculpture of the Irish high crosses*

National Day Conference

Friday, 28 May to Sunday, 30 May 2010 – The Burrell Museum, Glasgow

*Archaeological Research in Progress*

(In collaboration with Archaeology Scotland)

Evening lectures at Ordinary Meetings are free to all and open to the public, and held in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and in the MacRobert Building, University of Aberdeen (unless otherwise stated). The year 2009–10 saw a full programme, with seven ordinary lecture meetings, the annual joint lecture with the NMS Members, the Anniversary Meeting, the summer excursion, an international conference and the national Archaeological Research in Progress conference. A highlight was the video recording of the Rhind Lectures by Professor Martin Carver



on the development and future of archaeological method and theory. 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 Carver developed a clear exposition of the need for design to be included in all archaeological projects, while simultaneously examining the audience for archaeology, and the techniques used, around the world.

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.

The annual Archaeological Research in Progress Day Conference was organised this year by Archaeology Scotland, and focused on recent research in Glasgow and the surrounding regions. The Summer Excursion travelled the Antonine Wall from east to west, ably guided by our Honorary Fellow Professor David Breeze, OBE, and Fellow Dr Rebecca Jones, ending with a visit to the Hunterian Museum hosted by our Fellows Jim Devine and Ewen Smith, the Director of the Museum.

The international conference on *Transatlantic Craftsmanship: Scotland and the Americas in the 18th and 19th centuries* was the first time the Society had organised a conference in the USA. It was considered by our co-organisers and attendees to have been exceptionally successful, set in the wonderful grounds of the Winterthur Museum and Country Estate in Delaware. On the opening Wednesday a site visit to Mount Pleasant colonial mansion was succeeded by an afternoon in Philadelphia Museum of Art where a keynote address was given by Professor Ted Cowan, University of Glasgow. An excellent array of experts on the period from Scotland and the United States were assembled to inform and entertain a full audience in the Copeland Lecture Hall at Winterthur over Thursday and Friday, culminating in an artefacts identification and discussion session on Saturday morning. It is hoped to publish the proceedings of this conference.

The Society also welcomed Professor Barun De, of the West Bengal Heritage Commission, India, and Dr Gautam Sengupta, Director of Archaeology and Museums, Government of West Bengal and Member Secretary of the Centre for Archaeological Studies and Training, Eastern India from 28 July to 1 August 2009. Collaborating with colleagues from the Kolkata Heritage Trust, National Museums Scotland and the Royal Botanic Gardens of Scotland, we hosted a lecture by Professor De on *Scots Bengali Connectivities – Past and Present*.

The Society was also proud to help organise and chair the day conference on Saturday, 15 May 2010 on *Scotland's Cluniac Heritage* in Paisley.

## 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 138 was published and distributed to Fellows and libraries in November 2009, 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 nine reports in the year ending 31 May 2010:

SAIR 33 *A Social History of 19th-century Farm Workers and their Families, at Jack's Houses, Kirkliston, Midlothian*  
by Stuart Mitchell, Fay Oliver and Tim Neighbour

- SAIR 34 *Two prehistoric short-cists and an early medieval long-cist cemetery with dug graves on Kingston Common, North Berwick, East Lothian*  
by Ian Suddaby
- SAIR 35 *Angus McEachen's house: the anatomy of an early 19th-century crofting settlement near Arisaig*  
by Ross White, Chris O'Connell and Fay Oliver
- SAIR 36 *STAC: The Severe Terrain Archaeological Campaign – investigation of stack sites of the Isle of Lewis 2003–2005*  
by Ian McHardy, Chris Barrowman and Mary MacLeod
- SAIR 37 *The Archaeology of the Streets of North Berwick and Implications for the Development of the Burgh*  
by Kirsty Dingwall
- SAIR 38 *Gazetteer of Arran Pitchstone Sources: Presentation of exposed pitchstone dykes and sills across the Isle of Arran, and discussion of the archaeological relevance of these outcrops*  
by Torben Bjarke Ballin and John Faithfull
- SAIR 39 *The Excavation of an Early Bronze Age Burnt Mound at Arisaig, Lochaber, Highland*  
by Ian Suddaby
- SAIR 40 *Artefactual, Environmental and Archaeological Evidence from the Holyrood Parliament Site Excavations*  
edited by Holyrood Archaeology Project Team: Gordon G Barclay and Anna Ritchie
- SAIR 41 *Excavations on the Site of Balmerino House, Constitution Street, Leith*  
by Ross H M White and Chris O'Connell

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 2010 and work continues on several further volumes.

*The Traprain Law Environs Project: fieldwork and excavations 2000–2004*

Colin Haselgrove

ISBN 978 0 903903 48 6

*On the Fringe of Neolithic Europe: excavation of a chambered cairn on the Holm of Papa Westray, Orkney*

Anna Ritchie

ISBN 978 0903903 47 9

In addition the Society collaborated with the Viking Ship Museum in Roskilde to publish the 2008 Rhind Lectures as part of the Maritime Culture of the North series:

*Archaeology and the Sea in Scandinavia and Britain: a personal account*

Ole Crumlin-Pedersen

ISBN : 978 87 85180 05 6

## 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 and Humanities Research Council, where it is considered a Subject Association. Our independence from government, university or agency allows us an impartial voice drawing on the wide range of experience from the Fellowship. 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. Most recently he has also convened the Historic Environment Bill taskforce of BEFS, which is working on bringing together the sector's consideration of the Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill introduced to Scottish Parliament on the 4 May 2010.

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. Ex-Vice-President Alison Sheridan and the Director represented the Society on the Council of the National Trust for Scotland, which met three times a year to discuss matters of policy, finance and forward planning, and of course contributed to the Reid Strategic Review of the NTS initiated in November 2009. The Society also shares membership of Scottish Environment Link with Archaeology Scotland.

This year the Society has responded to consultations on Permitted Development Rights for micro-wind turbines and air-source heat pumps, the Role and Governance of the National Library of Scotland, and the Technical and Research Strategy of Historic Scotland. We continued our own examination of the renamed Historic Environment (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill. The Society has been actively involved in sectoral discussions on the development of BEFS into an intermediary body for the historic environment. Society advocacy papers 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. 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 2009 award of £50 went to the article in volume 138 on *The later prehistory of 'black holes': regionality and the south-west Scottish Iron Age* by Dr Graeme Cavers of AOC Archaeology. Dr Cavers accepted the award in person at the Anniversary Meeting on 30 November 2009.

## FINANCIAL REVIEW

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.

During the 2009–10 financial year the Society, after a tendering process, moved its investment management from the Bank of Scotland Portfolio Management Services, which had been sold from the Bank of Scotland, to Rensburg Sheppards Investment Management Ltd. The new company has employed several members of staff from the Bank of Scotland and we have been able to retain the attentive advice of Kate Brown as Senior Investment Director while keeping management costs low and now being able to access our portfolio online for instant assessments as required. The Investment Director 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 compared with shares. Council considers it has sufficient procedures in place to oversee this process and manage the inherent risk in a portfolio of investments.

Those investments considered restricted in purpose, notably to the funding of research, have now been split from the unrestricted funds. This will allow the development of different strategies for each in future, and a more transparent indication of the funds available. Income from entry fees is used to fund research and we 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.

During this financial year the Council considered and agreed a revalorisation of the remuneration provided to staff which puts the staff salary structure on a more equitable basis and will be a solid foundation for salary progression until 2013 when it will be reviewed again.

### *Risk management*

The Society has drawn up a risk register to consider the major risks to which the Society is exposed. This is reviewed at Management Group meetings, and Council meetings where necessary, to ensure that the systems and procedures in place are appropriate to mitigate exposure to those risks.

### *Reserves policy*

The unrestricted reserves of the Society currently sit at approximately 16 months running costs and Council believes this is sufficient to meet the current activities of the Society.

ABBREVIATED ACCOUNTS FOR FELLOWS  
SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR YEAR TO 31 MAY 2010

	<i>Unrestricted Funds</i>	<i>Restricted Funds</i>	<i>Endowment Funds</i>	<i>Total 2010</i>	<i>Total 2009</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Income</b>					
Subscriptions	173,337			173,337	184,304
Tax recovered on Gift Aid Scheme	18,741			18,741	12,783
Donations	1,189		1,000	2,189	5,224
Legacy				–	–
New Fellow Entrance Fees		1,798		1,798	4,220
Income from Listed Investments	20,094	12,836		32,930	30,498
Bank Interest Received	–	53		53	634
Income from Proceedings	12,250			12,250	–
Income from Monographs	40,234			40,234	47,458
Income from SAIR	16,049			16,049	8,960
Income from ScARF	44,859			44,859	38,772
Income from Lectures and Conferences	10,238			10,238	18,583
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>336,991</b>	<b>14,687</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>352,678</b>	<b>351,436</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>					
Grants, Awards and Donations	4,542	6,030		10,572	11,457
Lecture Programme	32,803	3,039		35,842	44,939
Proceedings	33,926			33,926	33,819
Monograph	48,230			48,230	26,145
SAIR	11,092			11,092	10,686
ScARF	13,970			13,970	13,954
Salaries and Fees	128,557			128,557	106,737
Pensions Payments	11,289			11,289	8,016
Printing, Stationery, Post and Telephone	6,753			6,753	15,354
Office Equipment, Maintenance and Insurance	8,661			8,661	7,321
Miscellaneous	2,259			2,259	1,072
Investment Management Costs	1,914			1,914	2,568
Bank Charges	1,792			1,792	1,974
Depreciation	3,797			3,797	1,478
Bad Debt	2,562			2,562	22,405
Provision for doubtful Debt	–			–	14,175
Accountancy and Audit Fee	9,770			9,770	7,814
Council and Committee Expenses	1,697			1,697	960
Legal and other professional fees	–			–	–
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>323,614</b>	<b>9,069</b>	<b>–</b>	<b>323,683</b>	<b>330,874</b>
Surplus[Loss] for year	13,377	5,618	1,000	19,995	20,562
Transfer from unrestricted to restricted	(2,618)	2,618	–	–	–
Realised gains (losses) on investments	13,464	–	–	13,464	(7,508)
Unrealised gains (losses) on investments	26,576	–	11,331	37,907	(65,628)
Balances brought forward	440,506	26,762	243,885	711,153	763,727
	<b>491,305</b>	<b>34,998</b>	<b>256,216</b>	<b>782,519</b>	<b>711,153</b>

## BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MAY 2010

	2010 £	2010 £	2009 £
Fixed Assets		10,556	1,089
Investments		739,519	701,297
		<hr/> 750,075	<hr/> 702,386
Debtors	109,361		67,668
Cash at Bank	17,596		31,020
		<hr/> 126,957	<hr/> 98,688
<i>Less</i>			
Current Liabilities due within one year	(94,513)		(89,921)
			<hr/> 32,444
		<hr/> 782,519	<hr/> 711,153
Endowment Fund		256,216	243,885
Restricted Funds		34,998	26,762
Unrestricted Funds		491,305	440,506
		<hr/> 782,519	<hr/> 711,153

The figures above have been extracted from the audited accounts for the year to 31 May 2010, which carried an unqualified audit report, and which were approved by Council on 18 October 2010. 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 18 October 2010.

#### **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 2010.

HENDERSON LOGGIE  
Edinburgh  
18 October 2011

## 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 reports expected to be launched in the next year. 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 2010–11 has been decided by the end of June 2010. 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 2013 Rhind lecturer. The 2011 Rhind Lectures will be presented by Dr Stuart Needham on *Material and spiritual engagements: Britain and Ireland in the first age of metal*. A conference with the University of Edinburgh celebrating 100 years of the Munro Committee entitled *The Lake Dwellings of Europe* will take place in Edinburgh from 22 to 23 October 2010. The Society will organise and host the *Archaeological Research in Progress* conference on Saturday, 28 May 2011. In addition the President will partake in Medieval Week in collaboration with the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the British Academy, discussing *Monuments in Motion* with Honorary Fellow and Emeritus Professor Rosemary Cramp on 15 November 2010.

### PUBLICATIONS

The Society is committed to annual publication of the *Proceedings*, and work is already nearing completion on volume 139 to be published in November 2010. Intending contributors please note that there is a deadline of 1 November for papers to be submitted for the following *Proceedings*. We have many SAIR projects in various stages of completion and a number of books in various stages of production.

The Society has completed a busy and exciting year, with many new developments including the conference in the USA. A stimulating programme of activities is already in place for next year, including the introduction of Fellows' evenings to help re-engage the Society with the Fellowship. In the meantime, the Society continues to be 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*

20 September 2010

## 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, 30 November 2009 in the Wolfson Lecture Theatre, Royal Society of Edinburgh, 22–26 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PQ starting at 4.30pm, Dr Barbara Crawford, 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 Graeme Cavers.

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 those 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 2010) highlighted with an asterix.

DONALD BECK ADAMSON, MLitt, Edinburgh, UK  
 JOHN C ALEXANDER, Lake Mary, Florida, USA  
 MICHAEL PATRICK BARNES, London, UK  
 JAMES ELTON BELL, BS, Tucson, Arizona, USA  
 DAVID JOHN BILLING, Cockermouth, Cumbria, UK  
 NICOLAS BOYES, Edinburgh, UK  
 DONALD E BRUCE, Stillwater, Minnesota, USA  
 ANTHONY BUXTON, Edinburgh, UK  
 RACHEL CADELL, MA, Edinburgh, UK  
 JOHN CAMERON, MBE, Blair Atholl, Perthshire, UK  
 ROSS DONALD CAMERON, MLitt, Glasgow, UK  
 JAMES RODGER CASEY, DipEd, Edinburgh, UK  
 ROBERT ANDREW CLARK, BA(Hons) MSc FMA, Crawfordjohn, Lanarkshire, UK  
 ANDREW STANLEY COOK, FRHistS, Newport-on-Tay, Fife, UK  
 MITCHELL R FENTON, Lebanon, New Jersey, USA\*  
 LYNN FRASER, Tore, Ross-shire, UK  
 ROBERT MICHAEL FRIEL, BSc, Bradford, West Yorkshire, UK  
 FREDERICK GEDDES, DA, FRIAS, Inverness, UK  
 LARRY HAYES GIBSON, Chatsworth, Georgia, USA  
 MEGGEN M GONDEK, PhD, Chester, UK  
 CAMERON DOUGLAS GOODALL, BA(Hons), Lasswade, Midlothian, UK  
 JOAN ELIZABETH GRAHAM, Dalkeith, UK  
 MARGARET ELIZABETH GRANT, Elgin, Moray, UK  
 JOHN WILLIAM IRVINE, Bridgefoot, Angus, UK  
 RODERICK NEIL JOHNSON, BA MBA, Roseville, Minnesota, USA  
 BOB JOHNSTON, BD, Campbeltown, Argyll, UK  
 ALLEN JONES, Henley on Thames, UK  
 LOUISE VIRGINIA BRUCE LANGE, Kingwood, Texas, USA\*  
 CHRISTINE DOROTHY LEEMING, Edinburgh, UK  
 ROBERT DONALD LENFERT, BA, MA, Nottingham, UK



JOHN ANDREW LLOYD, Edinburgh, UK  
 BRIAN C MACK, BA, Estes Park, Colorado, USA  
 JAMES B MARPLE, MRCP, Edinburgh, UK  
 JAMES EDWARD MATTERN, Escondido, California, USA  
 JOHN MAVOR, MPhil FRSE FEng, Edinburgh, UK  
 SUSAN MAVOR, Edinburgh, UK  
 RICHARD ANDREW McALLISTER, MA, Edinburgh, UK  
 NORMAN McFADYEN, CBE, Edinburgh, UK  
 DAVID JAMES McGEACHIE, Livingston, West Lothian, UK  
 JOHN CHARTERIS McGREGOR, Edgewater, Florida, USA\*  
 BARRI STEWART MILLAR, BSc ICIQB, Edinburgh, UK  
 DOUGLAS LYNN MURRAY, La Planta, Maryland, USA  
 JENNY MURRAY, BA(Hons), Brae, Shetland Isles, UK  
 A L BRYAN NICOLSON, Consett, Co Durham, UK  
 JASON O'FLYNN, Glenlyon, Perthshire, UK  
 IOANA ADINA OLTEAN, PhD, Exeter, UK  
 GREGORY RICHARD MAURICE ROSS, Perth, UK  
 URSULA MARIE ROTHE, PhD CAS CBA, Edinburgh, UK  
 JOHN STEWART SCHAFER, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA  
 HAMISH MARSHALL SCOTT, FBA FRSE, Glasgow, UK  
 IAN JAMES SKONE-REES, BA, Studio City, California, USA  
 JULIA M H SMITH, FRHS, Glasgow, UK  
 ALICE STEVENSON, BA MA MPhil PhD, Oxford, UK  
 EOIN STEWART, Seattle, Washington, USA  
 JOHN LYMAN TAGGART, Charlotte, North Carolina, USA  
 STEPHEN TAYLOR, MA, Aberdeen, UK  
 NICHOLAS A ULFIK, Glasgow, UK\*  
 BLAISE E VYNER, FSA, Middlesborough, North North Yorkshire, UK  
 JOHN WELLS, BSc MSc DPhil CRadP FSRP, Armadale, West Lothian, UK  
 ROSEMARY WELLS, BA PgCertEd, Armadale, West Lothian, UK  
 DANIEL GARETH EDMUND WILLIAMS, PhD FSA, London, UK\*  
 PETER RICHARD WILSON, BA PhD FSA MIFA, Walton, North Yorkshire, UK  
 ALLAN DENE WRIGHT, MA(Hons) MLitt, Glasgow, UK  
 MICHAEL ROBERT YOUNG, PhD, London, UK\*

#### THE ROLL

The deaths of Fellows listed below were intimated to the Society during 2009–10. The dates in the right-hand column represent the year of election as a Fellow.

ALEXANDER ADAM, Aberdeen, UK	1984
RICHARD ANDERSON BAIGRIE, South Queensferry, UK	1979
JOHN W M BANNERMAN, Balmaha, Stirlingshire, UK	1965

FRIEDWART BOCK, Aberdeen, UK	1973
ANDREW BROWN CHISHOLM, Broughty Ferry, UK	1973
ADELINE O M CLARK, Tarbert, Argyll, UK	1984
EDMOND S CLARK, Tarbert, Argyll, UK	1984
IAN GEORGE COGHILL, Peebles, UK	1983
STANLEY M DAVIES, Hemel Hempstead, UK	1951
LAURENCE DRAPER, Dingwall, UK	1996
ANTHONY DU GARD PASLEY, Moffat, UK	1993
THOMAS ELLIS, Galashiels, UK	1974
AGNES FRASER, Edinburgh, UK	1965
RANALD GOURLAY FARQUHAR, Aberdeen, UK	1977
JOANNA GORDON, Cambridge, UK	1964
NEIL GOW, Mauchline, Ayrshire, UK	1965
JOHN HAY, Cumbernauld, UK	1988
ELIZABETH M HENDERSON, Dundee, UK	1991
GUNNAR HENNI, Edinburgh, UK	2000
THE RT HON LORD HOGG OF CUMBERNAULD, Ballater, Aberdeenshire, UK	2002
GEORGE DOUGLAS HOLMES, Donaghadee, Co Down, Ireland	2004
JOHN HOOPER, Peebles, UK	1946
MARGARET KAY, Oban, Argyll, UK	1965
ROBERT KING, Inverness, UK	1990
IAIN ROBERT LAMBIE, Perth, UK	1967
KATHLEEN MARY LAMBIE, Perth, UK	1989
JOHN HOLMES LAWRIE, Motherwell, UK	2001
NEIL LIVINGSTON, Tayport, UK	1980
IAN MACFARLANE, Dunfermline, Fife, UK	2003
GORDON KEITH MACLACHLAN, Thurso, UK	1991
IAN MACLENNAN, Port Glasgow, Renfrewshire, UK	1991
IAN RODERICK MACNEIL OF BARRA, Edinburgh, UK	1979
ROSA LAIRD McDONALD, Delaware, USA	1983
JOHN MILNE, North Berwick, UK	1963
IAIN G MILLINGTON, Nova Scotia, Canada	2001
DONALD OMAND, Caithness, UK	1973
PETER JAMES PAGE, Dereham, Norfolk, UK	2008
IAN WHITELAW PURVIS, Tarbert, Argyll, UK	1989
WILLIAM A R RATTRAY, Ellon, Aberdeenshire, UK	1999
ELIZABETH B RENNIE, Dunoon, UK	1965
JAMES PHILIP RIBIAT-FINLEY, California, USA	1995
ARTHUR HENRY STAMP, Llandudno, UK	1955
JOHN HOWARD STANDING, California, USA	1993
ALAN HUGH ATKINSON STEWART, Glasgow, UK	2002
MARJORIE ANNE STEWART, Burntisland, Fife, UK	1986
ROBIN STEWART, Garmouth, Morayshire, UK	1996

LLOYD GEORGE VAN SYCKLE, New Jersey, USA	2006
THOMAS ALEXANDER WATT, Sandwick, Shetland, UK	1986
BARRY C WILDE, Salford, UK	2006
JAMES WILLIAMS, Dumfries, UK	1965

#### BALLOT FOR MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

The following were elected to Council as per the Laws of the Society.

##### *Vice-President*

**Lesley Ferguson** has an MA in Prehistoric European Archaeology from Edinburgh University and is currently Head of Collections in the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS). She has over 25 years' professional experience working with archaeological archives and information, with an emphasis on opening up access to these resources. She was a Council Member between 2002 and 2005 and was Secretary of the Council for Scottish Archaeology between 1999 and 2001. Research and publications have focused on historic archaeological archives and antiquarians, and include a recently published volume *Wanderings with a Camera in Scotland: The Photography of Erskine Beveridge*.

##### *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*

**Gordon Noble MA PhD** is Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Aberdeen. After graduating with a degree in the History of Art at Aberdeen, Gordon went on to a Masters in Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London and then studied for a PhD at Reading University on the Neolithic monument traditions of Scotland, supervised by Professor Richard Bradley. He then held a temporary lectureship at Durham, followed by a three-year post-doctoral position at Glasgow University funded by the British Academy. Gordon was appointed at Aberdeen in July 2008 and is helping create the new undergraduate programme in archaeology at the University. He is one of the directors of the Strathearn Environs & Royal Forteviot Project (SERF) investigating the Early Medieval Royal centre and prehistoric monument complex at Forteviot, Perthshire. He has published widely including two books, *Neolithic Scotland: Timber, Stone, Earth and Fire* (Edinburgh University Press) and the co-edited volume *Scottish Odyseys: The Archaeology of Islands* (History Press).

**Julie Gibson BA AIFA** gained her degree in Medieval Archaeology at University College London. This was a lot of years ago, and followed some years of undertaking rescue archaeology in the English Midlands. Since then she has lived in Orkney where for the last dozen years she has been County Archaeologist, working for the Islands Council. Julie was instrumental in Orkney College creating the Department of Archaeology that now leads the subject in UHI, and where she is also a part-time lecturer. The uses of archaeological research in sustainable development of rural areas and the

benefits of knowledge transfer are a theme in much of her work. Julie was a contributor to the *'Heart of Neolithic Orkney' World Heritage Area Research Agenda*, and is the author of the illustrated book *Rising Tides* that refers to one of her main interests – the problem of coastal erosion.

**Stephen Holmes MA BD PGCE** studied at the universities of St Andrews and Cambridge (Corpus Christi) and at the Maryvale Institute in Birmingham. He has degrees in medieval history and divinity and is currently working for a doctorate at Edinburgh University on the interpretation of liturgy in Scotland in the 16th and 17th centuries. After Cambridge he worked from 1988 to 1990 as a history teacher at Downside School and was then a Benedictine monk at Pluscarden Abbey for 18 years where he was Master of Novices, Librarian and a lecturer in theology for the Maynooth degree course at the Maryvale Institute. He has written and published books on early Cappadocian monasticism and Pluscarden Abbey as well as a number of articles. At present he is preparing for publication David McRoberts' 1970 Rhind lectures on church furnishings in late medieval Scotland and also articles on relics and Scottish identity and on 16th-century Scottish marginalia. He is a volunteer member of staff in the National Library of Scotland manuscripts division working with medieval liturgical manuscripts, a member of the Scottish Medievalists and is on the committee of the Scottish Church History Society.

**Nyree Finlay MA PhD MIAI** studied Archaeology at Edinburgh University and worked in the commercial sector before a move to Reading University to undertake research on the social dimensions of lithic technology as part of the Southern Hebrides Mesolithic Project. A three year lecturing post at University College Cork followed before joining Glasgow University as a lecturer in 2000 where, amongst other things, she has developed the taught postgraduate programme in Material Culture and Artefact Studies. She has over 20 years' experience in both commercial and academic archaeology and has published widely on the Mesolithic period in Scotland and Ireland, lithic studies as well as aspects of archaeological theory. Her most recent international volume is *Skilful Stones: Approaches to Knowledge and Practice in Lithic Technology* (with Douglas Bamforth). Particular research interests include gender, archaeologies of children and disability issues. She co-edits the *Scottish Archaeological Journal* and is on the editorial board for *World Archaeology*.

#### PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

The Presidential address was delivered by Barbara Crawford as follows:

Fellows and Guests, May I wish you all a Happy St. Andrews Day.

I can hardly believe that it is a year since I was sitting where you are when Roger made his last Presidential Address, before I was elected to be his successor as President of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland! It was a very proud, if rather daunting, moment for me, and the past 12 months have in no way diminished the pride, although I do now feel less daunted! The main reason for that has been the warm reception I have had from all of you, and the help and support I have received from the office staff and above from the Director. Simon has been always there, always courteous, always proactive, and always far more politically aware than me!

The whole of this past year has seen the Society holding its lectures and most of its conferences in the RSE building in George Street which now feels very familiar as our regular venue, and which, I believe, has certain attractions as our meeting-place. You must tell us how you feel about our meetings here, which we will continue to use for the foreseeable future, while the National Museum's development goes ahead. And I would like to publicly thank the Royal Society for its welcome and the use of its well-appointed facilities.

The past year's Lecture Programme has been varied and fully worthy of the 'antiquarian' tradition. It started off with The Secretary and Chief Executive of RCAHMS, Diana Murray's celebration of the Commission's Centenary, with a stunning presentation of some of the photographic record which the Commission care for so zealously. We next heard Professor Julian Thomas on the Stonehenge Riverside Project, which continues to hit the headlines, as it unveils new discoveries about the ritual landscape in the area. Then we had the joint lecture with NMS given by Kristina Stankovski on Jean Muir's contribution to 20th-century fashion, which was an unusual addition to our 'antiquarian' syllabus! Very much in tune with that tradition was Alex Hildred's lecture on the weapons of Henry VIII's warship 'Mary Rose'; and that was followed by the definitely inter-disciplinary topic presented as the 2009 Sir John Rhys Memorial lecture by Professor Clancy on 'Gaelic in medieval Scotland'. Next we heard about the Late Pleistocene and Holocene relative sea level changes in Scotland from Professor Alistair Dawson and their archaeological significance, which was made more explicable to the non-scientists among us with his wonderful PowerPoint images and display (just showing the possibilities of PowerPoint, if any of us had doubted it). The last lecture of the session was a joint presentation by Dr Susanna Wilbers-Rost and Dr Achim Rost on the Battle of Varus (AD 9) and the remarkable archaeological project which they have led (mostly independently) to excavate and display the findings of this dramatic encounter between the might of Rome and the force of barbarian tribal society. This current topic of battlefield archaeology – but nearer home – was the subject of the first lecture this autumn by Tony Pollard.

We also came nearer home with last year's Rhind lecturer, Emeritus Professor Trevor Watkins, who spent most of his teaching and researching career in the Department of Archaeology at Edinburgh University. But the theme of his lecture series *New Light on the Dawn: New Perspective on the Neolithic Revolution* was very far from home. We were treated to a magisterial overview of the economic, social and cultural revolution in Man's development from hunter-gatherer to farmer, and a close-up view of the sites in the Middle East and Near East which have been explored, and which have revealed such remarkable evidence about social organisation in the 10th and 9th millennia BC. As the climax to this we were introduced to the newest ideas about the emergence, or development, of the modern human mind, when *Homo Sapiens* became *Homo symbolicus*. We all came away from this weekend the richer in our understanding of what the Neolithic revolution is now known to be about; and, as an added new experience, the whole gamut of this exposition can be relived and enjoyed again online, for the lecture series was video recorded, and without too much technical trouble loaded onto the Society's website. That was a first in many respects.

The principal Conference of the year was jointly organised by the Society and National Museums on *Late Roman Silver and the End Of Empire: The Traprain Treasure in Context* which brought together many archaeologists and numismatists/metallurgists for a weekend of presentations, followed by a workshop, on the fascinating topic of hoards, and especially focusing on the significance of the Traprain Treasure and the story of its recovery. The initiator and lead organiser was our Fellow Dr Fraser Hunter, who should be congratulated on this successful event, which many of you enjoyed (80 Fellows and 37 non-Fellows).

The Society's annual Conference on Archaeological Research in Progress brought us all up to date with what is going on archaeologically around the country, from the Mesolithic shell middens of Oronsay to Bronze Age bodies and weapons, to Roman Cramond, wetland archaeology, and two early historic Scotland (or dare I say Dark Age Scotland?) projects. We welcome the co-operation between the Society and Archaeology Scotland in this event, and look forward to next year's event to be organised furth of Edinburgh by Archaeology Scotland.

Finally the summer's field trip was, appropriately enough, to the Antonine Wall, which has just given mainland Scotland its first archaeological World Heritage Site. And even more appropriately it was led by our Fellow and past President, David Breeze, who had successfully spearheaded that campaign to have the Antonine Wall included among the numbered WH sites. Along with Dr Rebecca Jones, the two led an enthusiastic group of Fellows to the main sites in the central portion of the Wall on a relatively fine summer's day, ending with a visit to the Hunterian Museum for which we must extend thanks to Jim Devine and Ewen Smith.

Now to the other important arm of the Society's activities, our publications. The *Proceedings* for 2008 (Volume 138) has arrived with most of you – and those who haven't yet received this newest volume in the series will find that it has a rewarding collection of articles ranging from excavations at a multi-period site in North Uist, at Garnhall on the Antonine Wall, to a discussion of a new Pictish symbol-bearing slab from Shetland, as well – to my appreciation – as a good collection of medieval, and later, discussion papers.

Two new monographs have been added to the list of magnificent Society publications. These are *The Traprain Law Environs Project* by Fellow Colin Haselgrove and *On the Fringe of Neolithic Europe* by Honorary Fellow Anna Ritchie, and the list of *SAIR* online publications is too long to read out, as you could see from the Director's presentation, increased by 10, up now to number 35. These online reports of excavations, past and recent, as well as more historical/cultural topics are proving to be a very successful development of the Society's internet expertise and wider outreach.

Since 1 October 2002 when the *SAIR* service began until October 2009 there have been over 325,500 successful requests for *SAIR* downloads, steadily increasing year on year from 1,000 in 2002 to over 82,000 in 2009. There was a substantial increase in downloads when the Scotland's First Settler's project was mounted (*SAIR* 31 – June and July 2009), which alone represents 7.5% of requests from over 35 *SAIRS* online. Recently there have been over 2,000 requests per week for *SAIR* reports.

Downloads for the online *Proceedings* have been similarly robust; for example, between August to October 2009 (3 months), there were 603,944 requests, which represents over 38% of all data transferred from the Archaeology Data Service, who host the online *Proceedings*, and are a national repository for digital data for both England and Wales.

I hope that Fellows are able to tune in to the Society's website to see how the digital revolution is revolutionising our own advertising of our activities to a very wide world. The website statistics tell us that since the website started in November 2007 there have been over 41,000 visits, from over 25,000 unique visitors in 136 countries across the world; the majority from the UK and then the US, but also from South Africa, Iran, Venezuela to the Cote d'Ivoire and Vietnam. We have over 1,000 people registered on our website, including 670 Fellows, who have spent over £25,000 through the shop and paying subscriptions.

As part of our outreach programme I should briefly report that the Winterthur Conference which was held in October in Delaware and Philadelphia was a great success. A very good collection of papers on Scottish Craftsmanship in early North American colonial society were delivered, and we hope to publish them as a Society monograph. It also provided the opportunity to meet some of our Fellows in North America and to meet many others whom we hope will apply for Fellowship. Almost one-third of our Fellowship is from North America and thanks to the co-operation and enthusiasm of curators at Winterthur and in the Philadelphia Museum, as well as curators from NMS, we were able to extend the Society's activities across the Atlantic, in the first joint Conference held outside the UK. There is much enthusiasm for putting on another joint Conference to be held in Scotland next time and in a few years' time. We would like to especially thank Ronald Haggarty for his very kind financial contribution to the conference, which means that the cost to the Society is not going to be too onerous. We received a Message of Support from the Minister for Culture, External Affairs and the Constitution to take to this conference in the United States.

Outreach is a theme I have raised in one of the *Newsletters*, specifically with regard to trying to make our lecture meetings more accessible to Fellows who live outside Edinburgh. So I hope you will have noticed that one of the events in this year's programme is to be held in Perth Museum in January, in association with the Archaeological and Historical Section of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science. The speaker is Dr Julie Bond of the University of Bradford, and the date is Wednesday, 13 January, and I hope very much that we will get a good attendance from our Fellows who live in and around Perth.

Now it is time to say thank you to those members of Council who are demitting office after having served in different capacities. First of all Dr Alison Sheridan, who as Vice-President for Staff Matters has brought her expertise as a Curator in NMS to bear on the important matter of the employment of the Society's office staff, and who has always been ready to shoulder some of the Presidential burdens. Next, the members of Council who have served their time, and first of these is Professor Kevin Edwards who has finished his three-year term as Chair of the Aberdeen and North-East Section and who is now succeeded by Chris Croly. Also we thank Council members Annette Carruthers, Mark Hall, Richard Tipping and Alex Woolf for their time and contribution to the good functioning of the Society through attendance at Council meetings.

I cannot let this part of my address go by without mentioning the great loss to the Society and to Scottish archaeology in general when Ian Shepherd died earlier this year. Ian was a major force in many aspects of the Society's activities, above all, as Editor of the *Proceedings* and latterly as Chair of the Research Committee for many years, both of which he guided sagely and effectively. His absence from Society events and Conferences

is keenly felt by us all, and especially by members of the North-East Section. The memory of his contribution remains fresh in our minds.

Finally, I would like to mention the issue which I raised in the last *Newsletter* about the inclusion of Scottish history in the new Curriculum of Excellence being prepared by the Scottish Government. This is very much an issue of the moment which I am trying to keep up to date with. There was a debate in Parliament last week on '*Learning about Scotland and its History*', and I attended the launch of the new Scottish Government history website a couple of weeks ago. Meanwhile there is a debate on BBC 1 tonight at 10.30 with Sally Magnusson chairing a discussion on 'Scotland's History: the Debate', which should be interesting. I will try to keep abreast of developments in this vitally important area of Scottish Education, which our Society should be concerned about, as we are all 'Guardians of intellectual standards in the interpretation and understanding of Scotland's past'.

#### ANNIVERSARY MEETING LECTURE

Barbara Crawford then introduced Professor James Crow, Chair of Classical Archaeology and Head of Archaeology, University of Edinburgh School of History, Classics and Archaeology, to present a lecture entitled 'On the Move – Archaeology at Edinburgh University: the present and the future'. A wine reception was then held for Fellows and guests.