



Perthshire Society of Natural Science

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SECTION

(Registered Charity Number SC 012718)

Newsletter June 2015

Parent Body's Summer Outing

There are still spaces on the coach for the Parent Body's Summer Outing on Saturday 27th June to Kinneil House and Blackness Castle. Contact John Lewington 01738 620375 for further information

Section summer outings programme 2015

Please note the change of date for our next outing, the SERF Open Day, from Sunday 5th July forward to **Saturday 4th July**

Departing from Broxden Park and Ride at 1.30pm

Saturday 19th September - Visit to see the Tay Landscape Partnership's "Hillforts: Seats of Power" project community excavation at Moredun Top, Moncrieffe Hill departing Broxden Park and Ride at 12.45pm. Parking on that Saturday will be very limited at Moncrieffe Hill north car park so we will attempt to take as few cars as possible. There are good paths all the way of the approximately 30 minute walk from the car park but as always dress appropriately for the weather, with sensible footwear, and water etc if, as we hope, the weather is clement. They have had some very interesting results of their first two seasons of excavation of the other "fort" on Moncrieffe Hill so we hope for more from "the big one"

Contact Eva Bennett 01738 850489 mobile 07778 619665

Please note that all Members, their relatives and friends of the PSNS attend excursions at their own risk, and that every reasonable precaution will be taken by the Section to ensure your health & safety.

Winter programme 2015 - 2016

The Winter 2015 – 2016 programme opens on Wednesday 14th October with Dr Anthony Hellen speaking to us about German POW camps in Britain. This will be held in the Soutar Theatre in the A K Bell Library in Perth.

Those who attended our AGM in March will remember John Lewington explaining that due to the museum refurbishment Gallery 1 is no longer going to

be available for lectures. We had the choice of changing our meeting night or moving to the Soutar Theatre. After some discussion those present voted almost unanimously to keep to the Wednesday meeting night and move to the Soutar Theatre. This winter five of our seven meetings will be held there. Full details will be in the syllabus to be circulated in September.

Report on the Monzie Castle outing

David Perry

On Saturday 16th May, 16 members of the Archaeological and Historical Section of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science visited Monzie Castle near Crieff. The weather was sunny with occasional showers, but cold and windy.



The castle is the home of Mrs Maitland Makgill Crichton and her son David, who showed us round. The castle actually comprises two buildings: an L-shaped laird's house, built about 1634 for James Graham of Monzie, who was killed at Philiphaugh in 1646, and an adjoining Georgian three-storey castellated mansion with four round corner towers built in the late 18th century for General Alexander Campbell of Monzie. The architect for the latter was John Paterson, who built St Paul's Church in Perth. The castle was gutted by fire twice, in 1817 and 1908. After the latter fire, Sir Robert Lorimer was commissioned to restore the castle. The castle sits on the Highland Boundary Fault (and contains the evidence!). The interiors of both parts of the castle are



the work of Lorimer. The Georgian house contains the state rooms with ornate plaster ceilings, the older 17th-century house a domestic wing. The cast-iron railing of the main stairway is the work of Thomas Hadden.

The castle contains a rare heraldic relic from Scotland's past: above the entrance and in the entrance hall are armorial panels of General Campbell of Monzie who built the Georgian mansion. In the centre of the Campbell arms is an escutcheon of the arms of 'The Company of Scotland Trading to Africa and the

Indies' (the Darien Company), containing an elephant, a camel and, in the base, a 'Peruvian sheep', presumably a llama (none of which are native to Darien!). This augmentation had been granted to the general's grandfather, Captain (later Lieutenant-Colonel) Alexander Campbell of Fonab/Finab, who had secured a temporary victory over the Spanish at Toubacanti in Darien. (There is a portrait of him in Balhousie Castle, Perth.) The panel above the entrance looks older than the Georgian mansion and may have been brought there from elsewhere.

In the lawn around the castle are visible the terraced remains of an earlier (medieval or 17th-century) garden. Beyond the garden to the rear of the castle is a pond, on the edge of which are two larches planted in 1738.

Visible from the driveway to the east of the castle are a prehistoric standing stone and a stone circle. The latter was excavated in 1938 by Alison Young and Dr Margaret Crichton Mitchell, who as Dr Margaret Stewart founded our Section in 1948. The report was published in the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, vol 83 (1938-9), pp62-70.



All photos thanks to David