



**Perthshire Society of Natural Science**  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SECTION  
(Registered Charity Number SC 012718 )

**Newsletter October 2016**

**A & H Section Winter programme 2016 – 2017**

Just a reminder that our first meeting is on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2016 at 7.30pm with Adrian Cox talking about “Archaeological Work at Tantallon Castle”. All our Section meetings will be held at the Soutar Theatre, A K Bell Library.

This session the dates of the Archaeological, Botanical and Ornithological Sections have been arranged so that they do not clash, which means that those that so wish can attend all of these Sections meetings. If you wish to take advantage of this and join more than one Section just send your Parent body subscription of £17 **plus** Section subscriptions of Archaeological & Historical £5, Botanical £3 and/or Ornithological £3 to David Perry, 29 Balhousie Street, Perth, PH1 1HJ. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope for your membership card and receipt. Archaeological and Historical Section subs of £22 or joint £42 can still be paid to Graham at our meetings.

Membership cards will be required for attendance at the Friday evening “Curious Minds” lecture series if you wish to claim your members’ discount.

**The Fair Maid’s House: The story of a building a trade, a city and a fair maid**

Several of our members have been involved in the research for this booklet, published by Perth U3A in association with the RSGS, and copies should be available for sale price £3.00 at our first meeting or can be ordered from Philip Bryers, 15 Spoutwells Place, Scone, PH2 6NY (£4.30 including p&p)

**PSNS Website**

[www.psns.org.uk](http://www.psns.org.uk) The Society now has a new-look website thanks to Tom Ryan. It is still under development but the Sections’ programmes and other information is already online.

**Reports of the last two Section Summer 2016 Outings**

***Whitefriars excavations***

On a rainy Wednesday evening on 3<sup>rd</sup> August Derek Hall gave 25 PSNS members and friends a tour of his excavations at Whitefriars in Perth. He told us of his previous excavations here in 1982 and 2008 and of the present excavation that he has been working on mostly single-handedly since 2014. He showed us the foundations of the earlier Carmelite church and the evidence of the

later extension by the Bishop of Dunkeld. He also pointed out two mason's marks on the corner of the original church, built 1262, one of which matches a mason's mark found by SUAT in 2004 at the Horsecross excavations in the area of the Blackfriars grounds.

He has also uncovered the West range and pointed out what he believes is a drain and an anvil site.

Derek is giving the Section's January talk "This is ane koull of Tullilum! - excavations at Perth Whitefriars 2014-2016".



*Derek pointing out the mason's marks to some of the group*

### ***Moredun Top Hillfort Excavations***

On Thursday 22 September five members of the Section and three guests attended the excavations at Moredun hillfort on Moncreiffe Hill being conducted under the auspices of the Tay Landscape Partnership. We were shown round by Sophie Nicoll of TLP on a dry, sunny but blustery day.

Following on from last year's excavations on Moredun, four trenches were being excavated by volunteers and members of AOC Archaeology. Trench A on the summit was across two, possibly three hut circles; a wall-face of one was being uncovered. Some squared blocks were among the stone tumble, along with a cup-marked stone. Trench B was across another possible hut circle a short distance away.



*Trench A looking over trench C in the background*

Trench C revealed the most spectacular discovery of the excavations: a broch or dun first found last year. The wall followed the contours of the natural bedrock and contained a reused cup-marked



stone. The entrance into the structure had been found and the bedrock in front of the wall had been stepped.

*Trench C, the dun entrance with Tony laying down on the job!*



*Trench D with Sophie and Dr Cathy McIvor of AOC explaining the features of the trench*

Trench D was located over the presumed 'well' to investigate whether it was a cut feature. Two concentric alignments of stones, possibly for enclosures around the 'well' were uncovered.

Finds include shale offcuts suggesting shale working in the fort as well as jet bracelet fragments, animal bone and teeth, including burnt bones, and Iron Age pottery.

*Report thanks to David Perry*

### **Doors Open Days 24 & 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016**

The Society took part in Doors Open Days with PSNS Council members manning a display of items from the collections and promotional material about the Society. The event, held in Perth Museum & Art Gallery Library, had just under 200 visitors over the weekend and several of these took away application forms.

As ever, if anyone has any queries about anything please don't hesitate to get in touch and I'll do my best to answer them.

I look forward to seeing some of you at the forthcoming meetings,

Eva

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