

The Archaeological and Historical Section of Perthshire Society of Natural Science
(Registered Charity Number SC012718)

Agenda for the sixty-fifth Annual General Meeting, to be held at the Café of the A K Bell Library, Perth, on Wednesday, 20th March, 2013 at 7.30 p.m.

1. Domestics
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of previous A.G.M. (attached)
4. Matters arising from those Minutes
5. Secretary's Report (attached) [Constitution paragraph 41 a]
6. Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts for 2012/13 [Constitution 41 b]
7. Annual Subscriptions [Constitution 41 c]
8. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members [Constitution 41 e]
9. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts [Constitution 41 f]
10. Summer Outings 2013
11. Any other competent business [Constitution 41 g] :-
 1. In accordance with the Constitution, the Committee propose amalgamating Current Account No.2 (Publishing) and Current Account No.3 (Adopt-A-Monument) to create a new No.2 Account (Special Projects).

This requires a two thirds majority of the Members voting.

.....

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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION FORM

We, the undersigned, propose and second the nomination of

.....

as (Committee / Secretary etc).

Proposer

Seconder

Date



The Archaeological & Historical Section of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science

Minutes of the 64th A.G.M., held at the Perth Museum and Art Gallery, on Wednesday March 14, 2012 at 7.30 pm.

1. Domestics

The President, John Joyce, welcomed the twenty eight Members present, and read the Health & Safety Notice concerning the evacuation of the building in the event of the fire alarm sounding.

2. Apologies were received from Dorothy Alexander, David Bowler and Lois Lewington.

3. The Minutes of the 63rd A.G.M., previously circulated, were approved on the motion of Jean Kerr, seconded by Joyce Stevenson.

4. Matters arising from the Minutes - there were no such matters.

5. Secretary's Report, previously circulated, and attached, was accepted and raised no questions.

6. Treasurer's Report.

Patricia Matte presented the Accounts of the Section, and drew attention to the balance in the No.1 Account, used for everyday transactions, of £416.86, which was only up on the previous year because of donations from visitors and contributions for refreshments, with Speakers' expenses being the major outlay, and in the No.2 Account (Publications) of £1615.94, only up by £3 plus a little Interest, and in the No.3 Account (Adopt-A-Monument) of £459.30 with no transactions.

Questions arose (1) about what the initials CBA and CSA stood for - the Council of British Archaeology and the Council of Scottish Archaeology being the answers, membership for which the Section paid before being reimbursed by the Parent Body, and (2) how much the Section saved by not having to pay for the Accounts to be audited - the answer being up to £250.

The President signed a copy of the Accounts into the records.

7. Annual Subscriptions

These were agreed to remain the same as the current year, viz, Single £20, Joint £38, and Junior £1.

8. Election of Office Bearers and Committee

The President, John Joyce would be starting the third of his three year term.

Vice-President, David Bowler, proposed by Jennifer McKay, seconded by Patricia Matte

Secretary, John Lewington, proposed by Jennifer McKay, seconded by Richard Higginbottom

Treasurer, Patricia Matte, proposed by Colin McLeod, seconded by Jennifer McKay.

Committee Membership - Richard Higginbottom, Jennifer McKay, Colin McLeod and Graham Watson continue their membership, and Bill Grigg was elected to join the Committee on the proposal of Richard Higginbottom, seconded by Colin McLeod.

Mark Hall of Perth Museum and Art Gallery had agreed to continue in his role of Archaeological Adviser to the Committee.

9. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts

Lisa Ramsay ACCA had agreed to continue in that role.

10. Summer Outings 2012

The Secretary reported that the programme was not quite complete but would be as follows :

Wed April 18 or 25	The Laing Museum, Newburgh (TBC)
Sat June	A Scottish Medieval Church (Prof R. Fawcett) (TBC)
Sat July	The Antonine Wall II
Sun Aug	Forteviot
Sat Sep 1	Newton Castle, Blairgowrie.

A circular would be issued to Members when the dates were confirmed.

He drew attention to the parent Body's Outings as follows :

Sat May 12	To the Titan Crane and Riverside Museum of Transport in Glasgow
Sat July 28	A walk beside the Perth Lade
Sat Sep 8	To Leith Waterfront and the National Museum of Scotland

11. Any other competent business

i. Recruitment of new Members - the President asked those present to encourage at least one person they know to join the Section, or at least attempt its Talk programme - the future of the Section depended on its Membership growing (we had fallen from 68 Members in 2011 to 59 in 2012).

ii. Closure In closing the A.G.M. at 8.00 pm, the President thanked his fellow Committee Members for their efforts and support over the year, in particular Irene Green who stood down by rotation this year and who had served as Committee Member and Treasurer. He also thanked the Members present for their attendance and attention and handed the rest of the Meeting over to Jennifer Mackay, who issued a Members' Questionnaire, and then, with Graham Watson, conducted a Quiz based on slides taken of past Outings and parts of Perth both ancient and modern.

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Secretary's Report 2012-13

Committee Meetings

The Section's Committee has met on seven occasions in the year 2012-13, with an average attendance of 85 %, with one Committee Meeting to come. The Committee has met in various venues, arranged by the President, and at no cost to the Section.

Summer Outings 2012

There were five Outings - to the Laing Library & Museum in Newburgh (on a Wednesday afternoon, poorly attended but much enjoyed), to Fowlis Easter (one of the Section's most successful Outings), to the SERF project, and to Newton Castle, Blairgowrie (one of the most enjoyable of our Outings). The Outing to the Antonine Wall had to be cancelled on the day because of lack of support. Most were reasonably well attended (between 8 and 18 Members + guests, including ones from Broughty Ferry and Belgium !!) and thoroughly enjoyed. Risk Assessments were completed timeously for each Outing.

Winter Programme 2012-13

The Committee thought that the Winter programme was up to its usual very high standard, with a range of speakers on a range of topics from a range of eras. The Section is most grateful to all those who addressed the Section. The highlight was the Inaugural Dr Margaret Stewart Lecture, in honour of the founder of the Section.

- Oct 17 Perth Museum's Photographic Collection
Paul Adair
- Oct 26 Mapping on the edge : recent discoveries on St Kilda
Ian Parker (to the full Society)
- Nov 21 The Inaugural Dr Margaret Stewart Lecture :
Supernatural power dressing in Britain & Ireland 2500 BC to 1500 BC
Dr Alison Sheridan
- Dec 5 Lost Perthshire
Ann Lindsay
- Jan 9 Recreating magnificence (Stirling Castle)
Peter Yeoman (replaced by Graham Ewart)
- Feb 20 The Scottish Tower-house Tradition
Prof Richard Oram

Already, dates and venues are in place for next session, which means that the shape of the Winter programme will remain as it has been in recent years i.e. the Section will meet on Wednesday evenings.

Weather had no impact this year - neither postponements nor cancellations - a great relief.

Summer Outings 2013

Regrettably, the Committee has decided to organize NO Summer Outings in 2013. The reason for this is lack of manpower on the Committee and other demands on the time of the Secretary (see below).

The Future of the Section

This was the sole topic of a special Committee Meeting, caused by the concerns of the Committee about its future, and whether it was headed in the right direction. It was agreed that the President would complete his three-year term at the AGM in March and that the Secretary and Treasurer were seriously considering their positions on the Committee and that there were no obvious replacements on the horizon.

The Archaeological & Historical Section of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science

Further, there was competition from other groups in the community for the interest and attendance of Members, and a malaise in the Society as a whole.

The Committee agreed that

- (i) it wanted the Section to continue, and flourish if possible;
- (ii) the organisation of Summer Outings be suspended pro tem;
- (iii) Committee members would stay on until replacements could be found ;
- (iv) the role of Publicist become a Committee post;
- (v) individuals be approached to join the Committee at the AGM ;
- (vi) other groups be approached with a view to closer ties.

Website

We have tried to add Reports of the Section's activities (Lectures and Outings) to the website, although they have not yet appeared, because the webmaster has had technical problems.

The website can be accessed at PSNS.org.uk.

Communications with the Council of the Society

Remain as in the past.

Section Library

We are little further forward in the maintenance of the Library and its contents.

Committee Membership

As usual, the Committee would like to see new faces elected, so a nomination paper is attached to the Agenda - these must be lodged with the Secretary not less than seven days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting, that is before March 13th 2013.

Nominees must be fully paid-up Members of the Society of at least 12 months standing, have shown an active interest in the affairs of the Section, and be proposed and seconded by fully paid-up Members.

There has been an unfilled vacancy on the Committee for a few years now, and I should very much like it to be filled.

I would add my thanks to my fellow Committee Members, who represented your interests at all times.

John W. Lewington
Section Secretary

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1. Domestics

The President, John Joyce, welcomed the twenty eight Members present, and read the Health & Safety Notice concerning the evacuation of the building in the event of the fire alarm sounding.

2. Apologies for absence were received from :

Dorothy Alexander, John Bennett, David Bowler, J D Gooch, Richard Higginbottom, Mark Hall, Jennifer McKay, Hamish & Elizabeth Nicholson, Jill Pontin, David Robertson, Rose Smith, Pam Still and Joyce Stevenson.

3. The Minutes of previous A.G.M. were approved on the motion of Bill Grigg, seconded by Irene Green

4. There were no Matters arising from those Minutes.

5. The Secretary's Report was accepted, although the lack of 'up-to-dateness' of the website was remarked upon - the Secretary reported that he was in the hands of our webmaster, who had had some technical problems and did the job in his own time, and it was stated that he wasn't always even in this country.

Patricia Matte added that part of the reason for the lack of Summer Outings in 2013 was because of lack of support from Members in 2012.

6. The Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts for 2012/13 were approved, and signed by the President.

The Treasurer pointed out that the Section's membership was static, with 8 new Members but 8 lost Members. She pointed out that the balance in the No. 1 Account was up on last year, partly due to the donations of visitors and partly from donations for Georgie Watson's excellent home bakes and refreshments. The major expense was the cost of speakers, who received a fee of £ 30 plus 40p per mile travel expenses.

The annual subscription to the CSA of £55 per annum plus to the CBA of £ 35 per annum which had been paid in full by the Parent Body, we now had to pay half of. The balances in the No. 2 and No. 3 accounts were unchanged.

7. Annual Subscriptions

It was agreed that these remain unchanged for 2013-14, viz. £ 20 per Member, £ 38 for Joint Membership and £ 1 for Junior Membership.

8. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members

The following nominations had been received by the Secretary at least one week prior to the AGM in accordance with the Constitution :

President : John Joyce, proposed by John Lewington, seconded by Patricia Matte

Vice President : David Bowler, proposed by Jennifer McKay, seconded by John Lewington

Secretary : John Lewington, proposed by Jennifer McKay, seconded by

Treasurer : Patricia Matte, proposed by John Lewington, seconded by Jennifer McKay

Committee :

Bill Grigg, proposed by John Lewington, seconded by John Joyce

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David Perry, proposed by Jennifer McKay, seconded by John Lewington

The Archaeological & Historical Section of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science

Archaeological Adviser : Mark Hall had agreed to continue in the role

The Secretary welcomed the fact that there was no longer a vacancy on the Committee.

9. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts

Lisa Ramsay had agreed to continue in the role for one more year.

10. Summer Outings 2013

Their cancellation this year was regretted, but with a full Committee it was hoped that they would resume next year.

11. Any other competent business

1. The Committee proposal to amalgamate Current Account No.2 (Publishing) and Current Account No.3 (Adopt-A-Monument) to create a new No.2 Account (Special Projects), was approved unanimously, with the proviso that the Adopt-A-Monument money be ring fenced should it be require to be repaid.

2. The Secretary gave information about a Conference on Early Medieval Meigle in April, and agreed to circulate it to the Members.

3. He had been handed a note that evening from the Secretary of the Parent Body concerning its AGM on Friday March 22 and the appointment of the Council of the Society for 2013-14. There was no opportunity to nominate anyone else because those nominations would have had to be with the Secretary of the Society the previous week.

4. The Committee had agreed that retiring Member Graham Watson, who had given the Section unstinting support in virtually every role over many years, should have Honorary Membership conferred on him. He accepted the honour with typical modesty.

12. Closure

The Meeting was closed by the President at 8.00 pm with his thanks to his Committee for their support, especial thanks to Georgie Watson for the wonderful food which would follow the AGM, and asked that people's thoughts and prayers be with Committee Member Richard Higginbottom who was enduring a period of poor health. He also expressed his thanks to the Library staff who had provided the accommodation and technical facilities.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SECTION

The President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer remain unchanged

2013

Wednesday October 16 (MLH)

"Pictish Symbols - A re-interpretation" (Joint Meeting with the Pictish Art Society)
Martin Goldberg, NMS

Friday October 25 (MLH)

"Archaeological Measured Survey on Scotland's National Forest Estate"
Matt Ritchie, FCS Archaeologist

Wednesday November 20

Second Dr Margaret Stewart Lecture
"Dr Stewart's Finds"
Mark Hall, Perth Museum & Art Gallery

Wednesday December 11

"Wade's Roads"
J A Ingram

2014

Wednesday January 15 (MLH ?)

"The Black Watch Museum"
Alfie Iannetta, Black Watch Museum Trust

Wednesday February 19 (AKB)

"The site of Mons Graupius?"
Dr James E Fraser, University of Edinburgh

Wednesday March 19 (MLH)

AGM and Annual Quiz

(MLH) = Main Lecture Hall
(AKB) = Soutar Theatre at the A K Bell Library

Visitors and new members are welcome.

Annual Subscriptions - £20
Joint Membership - £38
Juniors - £1

(including subscriptions to the Parent Body)

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Picts Dr Gordon Noble, University of Aberdeen

The 2013 lecture series began with a joint meeting with the Pictish Arts Society who had invited Dr Gordon Noble of Aberdeen University to speak about his excavations at Rhynie.

Dr Noble is directing a project on the Archaeology of Fortriu. In other words, he is on the trail of the Picts. Until recently the accepted wisdom was that Fortriu, one of the seven kingdoms of the Picts, was located in east central Scotland. Dr Alex Woolf of St Andrews University has argued that it is further north and is centred on the inner Moray Firth.

Rhynie, in Aberdeenshire, is the focus of Dr Noble's attention given that eight Pictish symbol stones, including the well known 'Rhynie Man' have been found in and around the village. Aerial photographs suggested the existence of ditched enclosures and a palisade around the knoll on which the Craw Stane, another symbol stone stands.

The 2011 digging season uncovered material from the fifth and sixth centuries AD. The 2012 excavation revealed more material of this period, including a piece of a late Roman (sixth century) amphora from the Eastern Mediterranean which had probably been used for the transportation of wine to north-east Scotland. This is the only find of its type ever found in Scotland; all other similar finds are confined to south-western Britain and Ireland - it is highly unusual and suggests that the find spot is part of a high status or royal settlement. The name Rhynie may mean 'a very royal place'. Finds such as bronze pins and a brooch mould suggest this was a metal-working centre. A pair of metal workers' tongs bearing a strong resemblance to a symbol incised on one of the Rhynie stones was also found. Another significant and intriguing find was a metal pin which, on being x-rayed, turned out to look very like a miniature version of the axe the Rhynie Man carries on his shoulder. It has been suggested his axe was for the ceremonial slaughter of livestock.

In 2013 the focus of investigation moved from the Craw Stane field to the outskirts of the village. A 1996 aerial photograph shows crop marks suggestive of two square enclosures 16 to 18 metres across. This is a cemetery with square barrows. There are few parallels, but Forteviot has Pictish burials in central graves, surrounded by a ditch. These remains could be from the Iron Age or possibly earlier. The first barrow had contained a wooden coffin and only the space it filled survived. The second barrow contained a cist burial and, surprisingly, the skeleton was partially preserved; these are the first Pictish bones to be found in the area. It is highly unusual to find bone from this period as Scottish soils are extremely acidic.

Dr Noble commented on the enthusiasm of the local community for the dig. The most recent talk he gave in the village attracted an audience of 130 souls. The community organised guided walks to the site for the many visitors and opened a community café. The group even produced its own Rhynie Man gingerbread.

Archaeological Measured Survey on Scotland's National Forest Estate
Matt Ritchie, Forestry Commission Scotland Archaeologist

Scotland's National Forest Estate covers nearly 9% of its land mass - over 650,000 ha - and it comprises forest, woodlands and open ground.

Thus the Forest Estate covers nearly 9% of Scotland's archaeological sites, historic structures and cultural landscapes, which have to be identified and assessed to inform conservation and management.

Matt Ritchie's Talk dealt with some recent archaeological measured surveys of the Estate, ranging from plane table survey using alidade and tape to laser scans located using GPS satellite technology, all united in their efforts to present the results in an attractive and coherent manner. Some of the images displayed to us were in themselves works of art, as well as works of science !

Archaeological sites rarely remain the same from construction to abandonment, so disentangling the sequence of damage and repair, demolition and re-building, expansion and contraction, is critical to our understanding of the past.

Like a jigsaw, the larger picture must be painstakingly built up from these small pieces of evidence. The individual fragments are fragile and easily disturbed and once lost they are gone forever. While protection and conservation often simply involves the avoidance of damage or the removal of scrub vegetation, positive action can also include the creation of a baseline record for targeted survey.

The process of interpreting the results of archaeological measured survey is akin to the process of archaeological excavation; first we must gather the evidence and then analyse the results.

The importance of archaeological measured survey for sustainable historic environment conservation should not be underestimated. Historic environment conservation management requires a baseline knowledge of the resource - such as an overall estate register, thematic and site-based surveys, individual site-based records and an appreciation of the wider context.

It also requires an understanding of the differing objectives and requirements of protection, conservation and presentation. And it requires a framework for achieving the priorities and opportunities that such conservation entails. Sustainable conservation management balances environmental, social and economic objectives by seeking to deliver best practice.

LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) is an aircraft-mounted survey system that can fire a laser in very rapid pulses - thousands of times a second - towards the Earth below. When the laser strikes a solid object, such as a building, it is reflected back to a detector on the aircraft. Because light travels at a known speed, differences in the reflected signal time to the aircraft flown at a constant altitude directly relate to changes in the height above ground below, or objects on it. Sophisticated navigational and flight sensors onboard continuously measure the pitch, roll and location of the aircraft. When combined with the times collected for the reflected laser pulse, the data allows 3D co-ordinates to be calculated for the reflected surfaces below. Millions of these co-ordinates can be joined together to form 3D models of the landscape.

When LiDAR is used over a light-porous surface, such as woodland, some of the laser energy is reflected back from the canopy and used to create a Surface Model. Some of the energy also passes through, creating reflections from the forest floor below.

The LiDAR detector onboard the aircraft records the series of reflected signals from every single laser pulse emitted, and the combined data can be analysed to filter out the tall vegetation and other above-ground points to create a 3D model of the forest floor - known

as a Terrain Model. At high resolution, archaeological features previously hidden from aerial reconnaissance can be revealed.

The technique can also be used to accurately plot larger archaeological features, such as hillforts, and even investigate wider landscapes. The results can highlight archaeological structures and earthworks, and can be displayed as interpretative images or animation alongside historical map evidence and aerial photographs. Such surveys, and their terrestrial counterparts, also inform future conservation management.

Plainly this technique overcomes any invasive investigations.

Sites covered :-

Early Prehistoric

Na Clachan Aoraidh - an unusual early Bronze Age stone circle above Loch Tummel

Ord Hill - a complex prehistoric landscape above Lairg

Late prehistoric

Dun Deardail - an Iron Age vitrified fort above Glen Nevis

Caisteal Grugaig - an Iron Age broch on the headland of Totaig

Skelbo - a broch and outworks in Sutherland

Cracknie - a well-preserved Iron Age souterrain in Sutherland

Dun Boredale - a well-presented Iron Age galleried dun on the Isle of Raasay

Carn Mor - a dun on the Black Isle

Rubha an Fhaing Dhuibh - a later prehistoric dun on Loch Shiel

Medieval

Moat Park - a 12th century motte at Gatehouse of Fleet

Nether Horsburgh - a 16th century tower house in the Scottish Borders

Post medieval

Leitir Fura - a cleared township on the south east coast of Skye

Post medieval and later

Loch Arklet - the 18th century military road networks in the Trossachs

Wester Drumclair - an 18th century farmstead near Slamannan

Culbin Sands - World War 2 anti-glider defences

Wilsontown - an 18th century industrial landscape in Lanarkshire

Woodmuir - late 19th century coke ovens in West Lothian

Lossie - World War 2 coastal defences along the Moray coast

Further details of these sites are available in the booklet "Archaeological Measured Survey on Scotland's national forest estate", published by Forestry Commission Scotland in December 2012.

John W. Lewington

The Second Dr Margaret Stewart Lecture

Held on Wednesday, 20th November, 2013 at Perth Museum and Art Gallery

The speaker was Mark Hall of Perth Museum whose topic was 'Dr Stewart's Finds'. Perth Museum holds an archive which contains several photographs of Dr Stewart and we were shown photographs taken at Dr Stewart's graduation, her wedding, in a trench 'near Comrie', in a cellar in George Street and so on.

The location of the Comrie trench is unknown and Mark invited anyone who recognised the site to let him know where it was.

Mark had laid out a selection of finds from various Margaret Stewart excavations on a large table in the lecture hall. Some of Dr Stewart's finds are held at the National Museums of Scotland. It was explained that nowadays assemblages are not split and scattered and would be kept together, either in a local museum or at the national museum.

There was plenty of interest. The finds were arranged by find spot and Mark's explanations were effectively a brief history of Dr Stewart's excavating career in Perthshire. Dr Stewart was a pre-historian whose main interest was the Bronze Age and most of her work was done in the area to the north and west of Dunkeld.

However, she also worked on sites at Almondbank, Scone and Moncrieffe.

Several of the finds on display were urns, some of which had contained cremated bone. For example, at Almondbank there was a cist cemetery with 8 burials and the museum holds skulls and teeth from this excavation. Other finds such as 2 jet necklaces, a flint knife and beads are held at the National Museums. From the excavation at Moncrieffe which was necessitated by the building of the M90, we were shown a bone pin and bone toggles. There was also a chunk of metal working slag which is about to be studied by a PhD student in an effort to determine whether it is of prehistoric or medieval origin.

In a departure from her usual sphere of interest Dr Stewart excavated a post medieval site at Allt na Mhoine. In this she was ahead of her time in that the archaeological establishment at that time did not regard sites of this nature to be worthy of investigation. The site was a late eighteenth century ferm toun near an Iron Age cairn. The ferm toun excavation produced parts of a child's leather shoe, pieces of clay tobacco pipes, shards of glass and fragments of iron work. The cairn which was partly excavated revealed a length of shale bangle which was late Iron Age or early medieval. We were also shown a small blue glass bead which from its colour, shape and method of perforation had been recognised as an eighteenth century Dutch trade bead, huge numbers of which were manufactured, mainly for trade in the North American colonies.

Members enjoyed the opportunity to take a close look (without touching!) at finds which were not in a glass case, to discuss them and to ask questions of the speaker. The experience reminded us of how much Dr Stewart had contributed to archaeology in Perthshire.

Anyone who would like to read up on the excavations will find reports in the TAFAC Journals numbers three and five. The recently published book by Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust on the excavations at Black Spout was recommended as a source of further information.

Notes on the talk to the PSNS A & H Section on Tuesday 14 January 2014

Emma Halford-Forbes, Museum Manager, The Black Watch Castle and Museum

Ms. Halford-Forbes had been with the museum for 6 years. Her talk firstly covered the history of the Black Watch itself and secondly described the museum including an account of its recent developments and current position.

The Black Watch emerged as a regiment in 1739 from 6 independent companies created on the recommendation of General Wade to help "police" the highlands. The first muster was at Aberfeldy and an annual reunion is still held there. The opening years were not auspicious and a mutiny when the Regiment was moved to London led to 3 people being shot at the Tower of London. The role of the Regiment at the battle of Fontenoy in 1745 however established its reputation as a formidable fighting force.

The Black Watch saw service across the globe including action in the French/Indian and revolutionary wars in America, Egypt, Quatre Bras before Waterloo and the Crimea. For their role in the Battle of Alexandria in 1801 the Regiment was granted the honour of showing the sphinx on their badge. The original Black Watch was the 42nd regiment and a complimentary 73rd regiment was formed which in 1881 became the second battalion of the Black Watch. The 73rd regiment had gained renown for their role in the disastrous wreck of HMS Birkenhead in 1852 when 56 from the Regiment died and as a result of which the famous "Birkenhead Drill" was established.

The talk was illustrated by images of various objects including a painting of Colour Sergeant Gardner winning his VC in India in 1858.

1873 saw the Queen's Barracks in Perth being established as a permanent depot for the Regiment and from 1881 the main recruitment area was established as Angus, Fife, Perthshire and Dundee. The late 19th century also saw the development of local volunteer units which became territorial units associated with the Regiment. The Black Watch saw action in various theatres of the First World War and lost approximately 9,000 dead in the conflict. The Regiment was similarly involved in the Second World War; whilst many of the 1st Battalion surrendered at St Valery en Caux in 1940 and spent the rest of the war in POW camps in Germany and Poland, other Battalions were involved in North Africa, Italy, Greece and the post D Day campaigns.

The Regiment saw a variety of service after the Second World War and in 2006 became the Black Watch Battalion, part of the Royal Regiment of Scotland and currently based at Fort George.

Balhousie Castle which houses the museum was a tower house which was extended in the 1860s. It had various uses and became the regimental HQ when the Regiment left the Queen's Barracks in the 1960s. In 2008 the Trustees launched an appeal aiming to establish an independent and sustainable home for the Black Watch, to embed the Black Watch in the community and to provide learning opportunities and to create a top class museum. Carefully planned and designed work saw the site re-open in 2013 and it includes increased display areas, an education room, a modern shop, toilets and café and lifts.

The layout of the museum was described. It begins with an introduction to the Regiment and then provides a series of galleries outlining the history of the Regiment chronologically. The final galleries are themed and include a feature on daily life in the Regiment and one on the royal Colonels in Chief. There is a Remembrance Room and Roll of Honour.

John Lewington thanked Emma Halford-Forbes for her presentation. It had been informative, educational and entertaining.



The Archaeological and Historical Section of Perthshire Society of Natural Science
(Registered Charity Number SC012718)

Agenda for the sixty-sixth Annual General Meeting, to be held at Perth Museum & Art Gallery,
Perth, on Wednesday, 19th March, 2014, at 7.30 p.m.

1. Domestic
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of previous A.G.M. (attached)
4. Matters arising from those Minutes
5. Secretary’s Report (attached) [Constitution paragraph 41 a]
6. Treasurer’s Report and Annual Accounts for 2013/14 [Constitution 41 b]
7. Annual Subscriptions [Constitution 41 c]
8. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members [Constitution 41 e]
9. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts [Constitution 41 f]
10. Summer Outings 2014
11. Any other competent business :
In accordance with the Constitution, the Committee propose changing the wording of paragraph 8, from ‘Junior membership’ to ‘Student membership’ and paragraph 10 from ‘Junior Membership et al ’ to ‘Student membership is open to persons who are in full-time education whether at school, college or university. Student Members shall not be entitled to vote at General Meetings of the Section, nor to stand for election as an officer nor as a member of the Committee.

Both of these require a two thirds majority of the Members voting.

.....

The Archaeological and Historical Section of Perthshire Society of Natural Science
(Registered Charity Number SC012718)

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION FORM

We, the undersigned, propose and second the nomination of

.....

as (Committee / Secretary etc)

Proposer

Seconder

Date

The Archaeological & Historical Section of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science



The Archaeological and Historical Section of Perthshire Society of Natural Science
(Registered Charity Number SC012718)

Minutes of the sixty-fifth Annual General Meeting, held at the Café of the A K Bell Library, Perth, on Wednesday, 20th March, 2013, at 7.30 p.m.

1. Domestic

The President, John Joyce, welcomed the twenty eight Members present, and read the Health & Safety Notice concerning the evacuation of the building in the event of the fire alarm sounding.

2. Apologies for absence were received from :

Dorothy Alexander, John Bennett, David Bowler, J D Gooch, Richard Higginbottom, Mark Hall, Jennifer McKay, Hamish & Elizabeth Nicholson, Jill Pontin, David Robertson, Rose Smith, Pam Still and Joyce Stevenson.

3. The Minutes of previous A.G.M. were approved on the motion of Bill Grigg, seconded by Irene Green

4. There were no Matters arising from those Minutes.

5. The Secretary's Report was accepted, although the lack of 'up-to-dateness' of the website was remarked upon - the Secretary reported that he was in the hands of our webmaster, who had had some technical problems and did the job in his own time, and it was stated that he wasn't always even in this country.

Patricia Matte added that part of the reason for the lack of Summer Outings in 2013 was because of lack of support from Members in 2012.

6. The Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts for 2012/13 were approved, and signed by the President.

The Treasurer pointed out that the Section's membership was static, with 8 new Members but 8 lost Members. She pointed out that the balance in the No. 1 Account was up on last year, partly due to the donations of visitors and partly from donations for Georgie Watson's excellent home bakes and refreshments. The major expense was the cost of speakers, who received a fee of £ 30 plus 40p per mile travel expenses.

The annual subscription to the CSA of £55 per annum plus to the CBA of £ 35 per annum which had been paid in full by the Parent Body, we now had to pay half of. The balances in the No. 2 and No. 3 accounts were unchanged.

7. Annual Subscriptions

It was agreed that these remain unchanged for 2013-14, viz. £ 20 per Member, £ 38 for Joint Membership and £ 1 for Junior Membership.

8. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members

The following nominations had been received by the Secretary at least one week prior to the AGM in accordance with the Constitution :

President : John Joyce, proposed by John Lewington, seconded by Patricia Matte

Vice President : David Bowler, proposed by Jennifer McKay, seconded by John Lewington

Secretary : John Lewington, proposed by Jennifer McKay, seconded by John Joyce

The Archaeological & Historical Section of the Perthshire Society of Natural Science

Treasurer : Patricia Matte, proposed by John Lewington, seconded by Jennifer McKay
Committee :

Bill Grigg, proposed by John Lewington, seconded by John Joyce

Richard Higginbottom, proposed by John Lewington, seconded by John Joyce

Jennifer McKay, proposed by John Lewington, seconded by John Joyce

Colin McLeod, proposed by John Lewington, seconded by John Joyce

Donald MacPherson, proposed by John Lewington, seconded by John Joyce

David Perry, proposed by Jennifer McKay, seconded by John Lewington

Archaeological Adviser : Mark Hall had agreed to continue in the role

The Secretary welcomed the fact that there was no longer a vacancy on the Committee.

9. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts

Lisa Ramsay had agreed to continue in the role for one more year.

10. Summer Outings 2013

Their cancellation this year was regretted, but with a full Committee it was hoped that they would resume next year.

11. Any other competent business

1. The Committee proposal to amalgamate Current Account No.2 (Publishing) and Current Account No.3 (Adopt-A-Monument) to create a new No.2 Account (Special Projects), was approved unanimously, with the proviso that the Adopt-A-Monument money be ring fenced should it be require to be repaid.

2. The Secretary gave information about a Conference on Early Medieval Meigle in April, and agreed to circulate it to the Members.

3. He had been handed a note that evening from the Secretary of the Parent Body concerning its AGM on Friday March 22 and the appointment of the Council of the Society for 2013-14. There was no opportunity to nominate anyone else because those nominations would have had to be with the Secretary of the Society the previous week.

4. The Committee had agreed that retiring Member Graham Watson, who had given the Section unstinting support in virtually every role over many years, should have Honorary Membership conferred on him. He accepted the honour with typical modesty.

12. Closure

The Meeting was closed by the President at 8.00 pm with his thanks to his Committee for their support, especial thanks to Georgie Watson for the wonderful food which would follow the AGM, and asked that people's thoughts and prayers be with Committee Member Richard Higginbottom who was enduring a period of poor health. He also expressed his thanks to the Library staff who had provided the accommodation and technical facilities.

The Archaeological and Historical Section of Perthshire Society of Natural Science
(Registered Charity Number SC012718)

Secretary's Report 2013-14

Committee Meetings

The Section's Committee has met on five occasions in the year 2013-14, with an average attendance of over 80 %. The Committee has met in various venues, arranged by the President, and at no cost to the Section.

Newsletters

I have produced three Newsletters for the Members, and distributed them by e-mail (which is the most cost-effective) in person, and by post.

Summer Outings 2013

There were no Summer Outings during 2013.

Winter Programme 2013-14

The Committee thought that the Winter programme was up to its usual very high standard, with a range of speakers on a range of topics from a range of eras. The Section is most grateful to all those who addressed the Section, especially to Emma Halford-Forbes who stood in for the published speaker. The joint meeting with the Pictish Arts Society was a novelty we would wish to repeat. The only disappointments were the enforced cancellation of the February Talk, due to the uncertain availability of the speaker, and the change of day in January, which didn't suit as many Members as usually attend.

- Oct 16 Uncovering the northern Picts : work at Rhynd, Tarbat and beyond
Dr Gordon Noble
- Oct 25 Archaeological measured survey on Scotland's national forest estate
Matt Ritchie (to the full Society)
- Nov 20 The Second Dr Margaret Stewart Lecture :
Dr Stewart's Finds
Mark Hall
- Dec 11 Wade's Roads
J A Ingram
- Jan 14 The Black Watch and its Museum
Emma Halford-Forbes
- Feb 18 Cancelled
- Mar 19 A.G.M.

Already, dates and venues are in place for next session, which means that the shape of the Winter programme will remain as it has been in recent years i.e. the Section will meet on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 pm, and it is expected that all the Talks will be held in the Perth Museum and Art Gallery.

Weather had no impact this year - neither postponements nor cancellations - a great relief.

Summer Outings 2014

In responses to the wishes of some Members, the Committee is organising three Summer Outings in 2014. To ensure their continuation, the membership really has to support them. The dates and venues are as follows :-

- Sat May 3 Gleneagles House
- Sun July 6 SERF
- ? Bandirran, one of the Section's adopted monuments

Website

The website can be accessed at PSNS.org.uk, and on it have been placed as many of the Papers of the Section as I have been able to do. The papers from the current year will be placed there at the conclusion of the year (after the AGM). These will contain the reports on each of the Talks during the winter.

Communications with the Council of the Society

Remain as in the past, but with the election of this Section's Secretary to the Presidency of the Council it is expected that things will improve.

Section's Papers

As a result of Committee Member Jennifer McKay's investigations prior to the Inaugural Dr Margaret Stewart Lecture, the Committee thought that the Papers of the Section should be available to anyone who wished to refer to them. However, the location of the Papers of the Section, dating from 1948-9 has proved a problem, on which the Committee are still working. Committee Member Colin MacLeod has produced a list of the Section's Papers from 2001 and their locations. Any information from Members would be most gratefully received by any Committee Member.

A receptacle for the Section's Papers has been acquired and will be held by the Secretary.

Section Library

We are little further forward in the maintenance of the Library and its contents, although some action has been and will continue to be taken.

Committee Membership

As usual, the Committee would like to see new faces elected, so a nomination paper is attached to the Agenda - these must be lodged with the Secretary not less than seven days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting, that is before March 12th 2014.

Nominees must be fully paid-up Members of the Society of at least 12 months standing, have shown an active interest in the affairs of the Section, and be proposed and seconded by fully paid-up Members.

Since some Committee Members, notably the Secretary and Treasurer are standing down, and others have to retire having completed their three-year terms, I am keen that Members step forward to join the Committee, because only by so doing can the Section retain its health.

I would add my thanks to my fellow Committee Members, who represented your interests at all times, and to the Members who have been a source of humour as well as support. Particularly can I add my thanks to our caterer, Georgie Watson who has over the years added much to my enjoyment of Wednesday evenings.

John W. Lewington
Section Secretary



The Archaeological and Historical Section of Perthshire Society of Natural Science
(Registered Charity Number SC012718)

Minutes of the sixty-sixth Annual General Meeting, held at the Perth Museum & Art Gallery, on Wednesday, 19th March, 2014, at 7.30 p.m.

1. Domestics

The President, John Joyce, welcomed the twenty two Members present, and read the Health & Safety Notice concerning the evacuation of the building in the event of the fire alarm sounding.

2. Apologies for absence were received from :

John Bennett, David Bowler, Mark Hall, Lois Lewington, Donald MacPherson, and Joyce Stevenson.

3. The Minutes of previous A.G.M. were approved on the motion of David Perry, seconded by Bill Grigg.

4. There were no Matters arising from those Minutes.

5. The Secretary's Report , circulated with the AGM Papers, was accepted.

6. The Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts for 2013/14 were approved, and signed by the President.

The Treasurer pointed out that the Section's membership had decreased by two over the year, with six new Members but eight Members lost.

She pointed out that the balance in the No. 1 Account was up on last year, partly due to the donations of visitors and partly from donations for Georgie Watson's excellent home bakes and refreshments. The major expense was the cost of speakers, who received a fee of £ 30 plus 40p per mile travel expenses.

As agreed at last year's AGM, the other two bank accounts had been merged.

7. Annual Subscriptions

It was agreed that these remain unchanged for 2014-15, viz. £ 20 per Member, £ 38 for Joint Membership and £ 1 for Student Membership.

8. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members

President : John Joyce, begins the second of his three year term

Vice President : David Bowler, begins his 27th year on the Committee, proposed by Patricia Matte, seconded by John Lewington

Secretary : no nominations

Treasurer : no nominations

Committee :

Bill Grigg, begins the third year of his three year term

Donald MacPherson, begins the second of his three year term

David Perry, begins the second of his three year term

Richard Higginbottom, having completed his three year term and having to stand down, was co-opted back onto the Committee

Colin McLeod, begins the first of a new three year term, proposed by David Perry, seconded by John Lewington.

That leaves one vacancy on the Committee.

Archaeological Adviser : Mark Hall had agreed to continue in the role

9. Appointment of Examiner of Accounts

Mr. Hamish Breckenridge, Treasurer of Scone Historical Society, was appointed on the nomination of the Treasurer.

10. Summer Outings 2014

Jennifer Mackay announced that the Outings this year would be :-

on Sat May 3, to Gleneagles House

on Sunday July 6, to the SERF project

on Saturday July 19, to Bandirran and Collace Church

Members would meet at 1.30 pm at Broxden for the first two, but the Scone Park & Ride for the third Outing.

11. Any other competent business

1. The Committee proposals to amend the Constitution, as outlined on the Agenda for the AGM, was passed overwhelmingly.

2. The Secretary gave information about the Summer Outings of the Stirling Field & Archaeology Society, the Parent Body Outing to Edinburgh, and the Perth Civic Trust Outing to Blairadam & Dunfermline on Wednesday June 4.

3. Eva Bennett asked Members if they would like to be involved in work this summer at Arngask Old Parish Church churchyard, to let her know.

12. Closure

The Meeting was closed by the President at 8.00 pm with his thanks to his Committee for their support over the session, he extended especial thanks to Georgie Watson for the wonderful food which would follow the AGM and Quiz, and members of the Committee who were standing down, viz, John Lewington, Patricia Matte and Jennifer McKay.

He also expressed his thanks to the Museum staff who had provided the accommodation and technical facilities.