



Peeblesshire Archaeological Society

July-August 2023 Newsletter

Welcome to the latest Peeblesshire Archaeological Society newsletter! We hope that you are enjoying the Summer!

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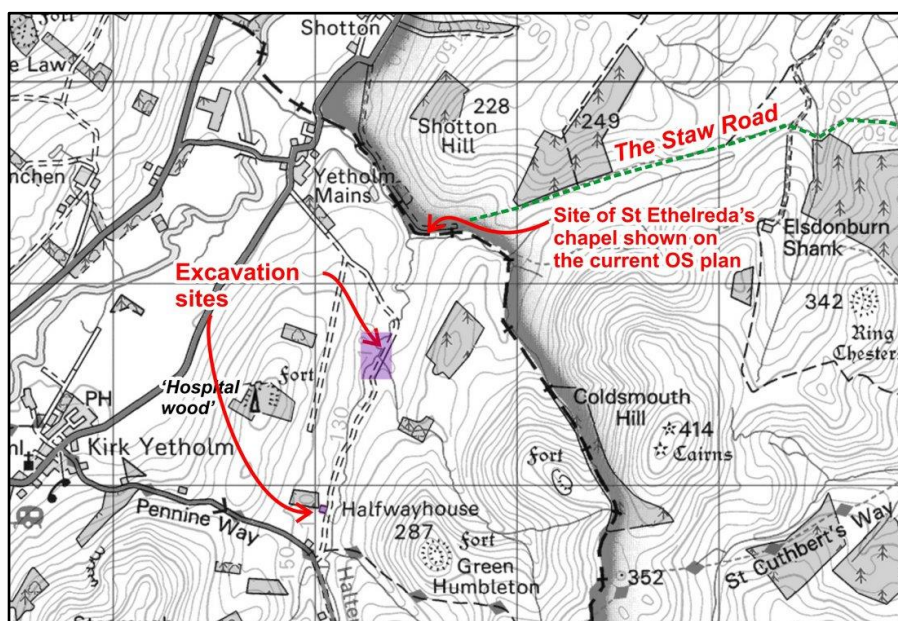
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Invite to dig at St Ethelreda's chapel at Halterburn

As previously notified on 25 July PAS members have been invited to join Tillivas, Borders Archaeological Society and The Yetholm History Society as they continue their search for St Ethelreda's chapel at Halterburn.

The location of a chapel dedicated to the 7th century St Ethelreda, who

spent a year as a novice at Coldingham Priory between 671-672 AD, has long been debated and several sites were suggested in a survey of sources carried out with the



St Ethelreda's chapel fieldwork location map (2016). Courtesy of the Flodden 1513 Ecomuseum website at <https://www.flodden1513.com/project/the-campaign/22-ecclesiastical-establishments-in-the-scottish-borders-potentially-associated-with-the-battle-of-flodden>

benefit of detailed knowledge of the local landscape by Yetholm resident and Flodden volunteer, Tom Broad. In his exhaustive examination of the sources (*A Halter Burn Chapel: the search for St Ethelreda's, Berwick upon Tweed: BAS*) Tom suggests that the chapel may have been built as a place where the faithful could rest and pray on their way to Lindisfarne.



Stone wall footings below linear earthwork feature (2016). Courtesy of the Flodden 1513 Ecomuseum website at

<https://www.flodden1513.com/project/the-campaign/22-ecclesiastical-establishments-in-the-scottish-borders-potentially-associated-with-the-battle-of-flodden>

In May 2016 a search was made for the site on the ancient Staw Road in the Halterburn valley near Yetholm. Exploratory excavations on a raised mound in the narrow flood plain uncovered structural remains and medieval remains, suggesting it was a possible site of the chapel or an associated residence.

This year's dig runs from **6-18 September** (not 11) from 10am to 4.30pm daily. As

places are expected to get booked up quickly we emailed PAS members in July to avoid disappointment. We recommend members yet to register their interest should contact [Heather Waldron \(TillVAS Archaeology Coordinator\)](#) at nordlaw76@aol.com at the earliest opportunity. Everyone is welcome, irrespective of excavation experience as training will be given and all equipment provided.

Participants will be asked to pay £4 per day to contribute towards the costs of the dig unless they are a member of one of the societies named above.

All further enquiries regarding the dig should be sent to Heather.

Date for the diary: First talk of the Autumn programme

Members will be delighted to know that we will be sharing the Autumn-Winter talk programme in the next newsletter (September) but we are pleased to announce the date for the first meeting so that you can mark this in your calendar.

On **Thursday 21 September** we will be joined by [Jessica Lowther \(Headland Archaeology\)](#) at the St Joseph's Neighbourhood Centre in Peebles who will be speaking about the [Lammermuir Community Project: Morham Castle and Bothwell Water Sheepcote](#). Full details will appear in the next newsletter.

Walk at Portmore Loch, Eddleston

On **Sunday 24 September** PAS Chairman **Trevor Cowie** will be leading a walk at Portmore Loch, Eddleston.

The day will start with a morning coffee at the Scots Pine Café to set everyone up for a guided walk

through the wooded policies of Portmore House and around nearby Portmore Loch, stopping at selected points to hear about the development of the House and its associated designed landscape; to visit the well preserved Iron Age hillfort at Northshield Rings; and to take in other points of archaeological or historical interest along the way.



View of Portmore Loch. Image courtesy Trevor Cowie



Northshield Rings: view of the ramparts and ditches. Image courtesy Trevor Cowie

Meet at the **Scots Pine Café at 11am** for morning coffee. The walk will start at 11.30am for return by 2.30pm.

Length of walk: approx. 6 miles. This will mostly be on easy estate tracks with some uphill sections.

Numbers limited to **20** maximum. No dogs please.

Cost: **£7.50** payable on the day (to cover morning coffee, scone/traybake & printing of field guide).

To register, please email **Trevor Cowie** (trevor.cowie@btopenworld.com) and copy **Andrew Jepson** (theandyjepson@hotmail.com). Further details will be sent to participants nearer the date.

Talk by Dr Nick Card – *Building the Ness of Brodgar*



View over the Ness of Brodgar site, with the Stones of Stenness and Barnhouse beyond the bridge (© Scott Pike)

As reported last month PAS members will be delighted to know that we will be welcoming [Dr Nick Card \(UHI Orkney\)](#) to Peebles on **Thursday 19 October** to speak about '[Building the Ness of Brodgar](#)'. This follows last year's cancellation due to Covid-19 complications.

This is a fantastic opportunity to hear the results of recent research on this internationally important prehistoric site on Orkney.

Set in the midst of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site, Ness of Brodgar is renowned for some of the most impressive buildings of the Neolithic period in NW Europe. In this talk various aspects of their architecture will be considered, from the initial choice of the site and the procurement of materials to their construction and how they were roofed. Exciting new discoveries from recent fieldwork will also be revealed!

Since moving to Orkney over 30 years ago, Nick Card has directed and managed a wide range of projects for the Orkney Research Centre for Archaeology within the

University of Highlands and Islands Institute of Archaeology. His interests lie in all aspects of the prehistory of Britain and the Highlands and Islands with particular reference to the Neolithic. Since 2004, Nick has directed the campaigns of fieldwork at the Ness of Brodgar - a project that has achieved international recognition (including the distinction of being a *National Geographic* cover article!) and that has been the recipient of several national and international archaeological awards.



Ness of Brodgar Structure 12 (c) Hugo Anderson Whymark

Please note that as this talk will be held at the Eastgate Theatre in Peebles it will be necessary to charge for tickets - however, as you are a PAS member you will get a discount and a priority booking period before tickets go on general sale.

Venue: The Studio, Eastgate Theatre

Date: Thursday 19 October

Time: 7.30pm, doors 7pm

Ticket prices:

PAS members **£6** - priority booking for PAS members from **Monday 31 July to Friday 11 August**. Please state that you are a PAS member when speaking to the Box Office.
Non-members **£8**.

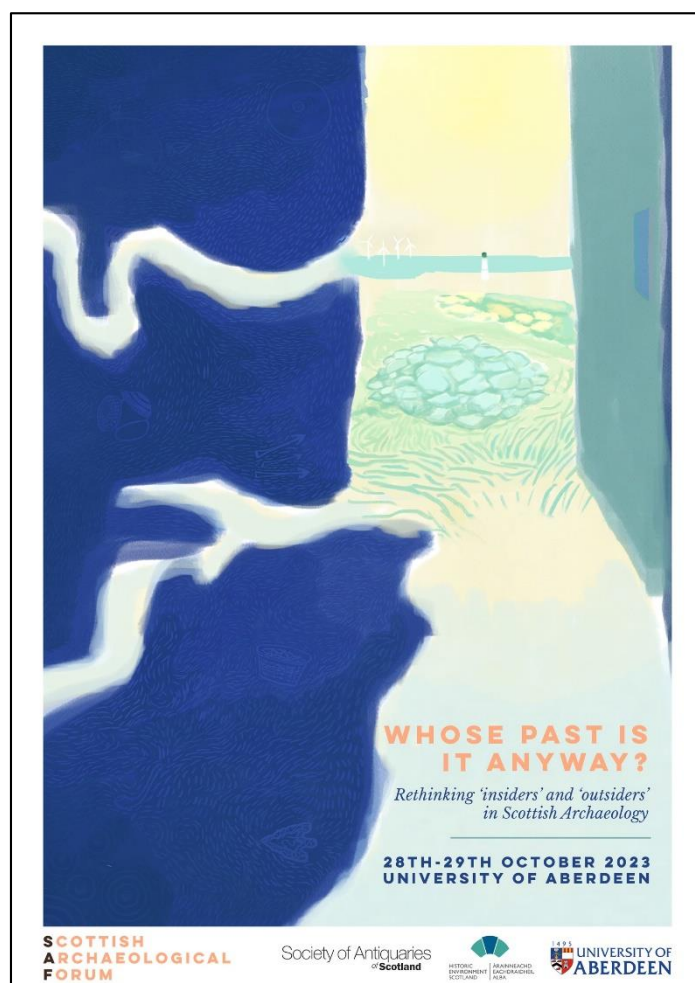
Following the dedicated PAS member booking window tickets will go on general sale to the public from Monday 14 August on a first come first served basis.

To purchase tickets please contact the Eastgate Theatre Box Office, either in person (Monday-Saturday, 10.00-17.00) or via telephone (01721 725 777). Please note that the talk will not appear on the Eastgate's website until after the member priority booking period.

Note

Members who are in possession of a credit voucher for 2022's talk should contact the Box Office as soon as possible. Credit vouchers themselves will not gain entry to the talk and must be converted to a ticket. Those still in possession of a ticket from last year should also contact the Box Office to exchange it for a 2023 ticket.

Scottish Archaeological Forum 2023 Conference



The next [Scottish Archaeological Forum](#) conference will take place from **28-29 October**. This hybrid event will be hosted at the University of Aberdeen and online.

Through the theme of 'insiders' and 'outsiders' [Whose Past is it Anyway?](#) will look to highlight efforts to address the under-representation of certain groups within archaeology, both in representation of Scotland's heritage and in current archaeological practice. Whilst archaeological evidence shows Scotland's past to have always been one of multiple communities, there is an increasing awareness of inequality remaining within modern archaeological discourse. This year's conference will present

initiatives which challenge pre-conceptions, spotlight marginalised voices and aim to make Scottish archaeology more accessible to the wider community.

The Scottish Archaeological Forum was established in 1969. Its main purpose is organising conferences and workshops furthering and promoting archaeological research in Scotland. The Forum is currently run by a committee of postgraduate and early career archaeologists.

Please continue to check <https://www.scotarchforum.com/saf2023> in the coming weeks for updates on registration and the conference programme.

Report on Shootinglee in the *Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology's* Spring 2023 newsletter

Piers Dixon has shared the Spring 2023 edition

of the **Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology's** newsletter. Please see the attachment. It includes a report on Shootinglee that he submitted on the results of work undertaken with the Society's first grant of money in 2001 (pp.8-10).



The Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology Spring 2023 newsletter

A spot of national limelight for Kirklands graveyard, Innerleithen

As many PAS members will be aware, [Stephen Scott](#) and [Neil Crawford](#) are in the process of carrying out detailed survey and recording of the historic burial ground at Kirklands, Innerleithen (Canmore ID 53167). Their progress report for the latest volume of ***Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*** was accompanied by an eye-catching photo of one of the supporting panels on a fine 18th century table tomb in the graveyard.

After spotting Stephen's excellent photo, the editors of ***Post-Medieval Archaeology***

recently got in touch to ask if they could use it in their own annual round-up of recent fieldwork on sites all across Britain, Ireland and the Channel Isles. Published on behalf of The Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology, it is the main national journal for this period and covers all kinds of research on post-medieval archaeology and material culture.

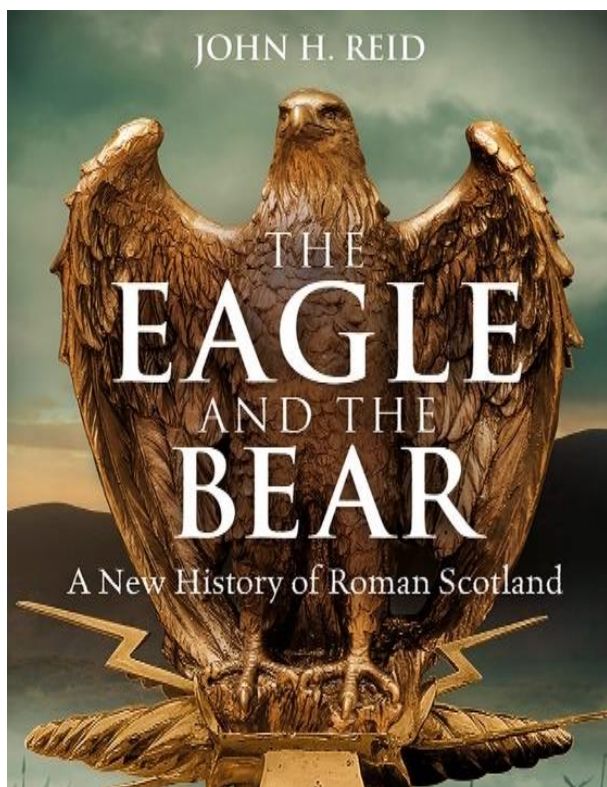


Kirklands Graveyard Survey: among the monuments in the graveyard is a fine table tomb erected in memory of Euphan Gray, spouse of George Clark, who died in August 1743. The panels supporting the tablestone are carved with various symbols of mortality, including this lively skeleton holding a spade (© Stephen Scott)

Kirklands and this charming detail on one of its historic gravestones are therefore in line to receive a nice bit of UK-wide exposure!

Trevor Cowie

New book *The Eagle and the Bear – A New History of Roman Britain* by Dr John Reid, Chairman of the Trimontium Trust



The Eagle and the Bear – out now!

Members will be delighted to know that [Dr John Reid](#)'s new history of Roman Britain was published by Birlinn on 6 April 2023.

For over three centuries, the inhabitants of North Britain faced the might of Rome, resulting in some of the most extraordinary archaeology of the ancient world.

The Eagle and the Bear is a richly illustrated new history of Roman Scotland that explores the complex, often tumultuous and frequently brutal interaction between the world's first superpower and the peoples who lived north of Hadrian's Wall.

With reference to the latest research and featuring all the key sites, it offers thought-provoking re-assessments of many aspects of the story of the Romans in Scotland, from the loss of the IXth Legion and the reasons for building and maintaining Hadrian's Wall, to considering what spurred at least four Roman emperors to personally visit the edge of the empire.

John has had a lifelong fascination with Roman Scotland. He co-directed the Burnswark Project in Dumfriesshire, the ground-breaking archaeological dig of the only known Roman siege in Britain and has been Chairman of the Trimontium Trust in Melrose for the last 25 years. He has appeared on BBC TV and radio, is a regular speaker at major archaeological conferences and has been published widely in the academic and popular press.

Undiscovered Scotland state that the book is "*superbly researched, accessibly written and thoughtfully and convincingly argued.*"

The Scotsman said that *The Eagle and the Bear* "*offers a thought-provoking new examination of what we know about Scotland in the Roman period.*"

The Eagle and the Bear – A New History of Roman Scotland by Dr John Reid is available to purchase from Birlinn for **£17.99 plus delivery**. An e-book version is also available for **£12.99**. Head to <https://birlinn.co.uk/product/the-eagle-and-the-bear/> for further information. Please note that other stockists are available!

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you soon.

Andrew Jepson

Secretary, Peeblesshire Archaeological Society

Email: theandyjepson@hotmail.com

PAS Website: www.peeblesarchsoc.org.uk/

PAS Twitter: [@PeeblesArchSoc](https://twitter.com/PeeblesArchSoc)

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