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Front cover: Recumbent stone circle, Colmeallie, Angus (copyright Gordon Barclay).

Back cover: Polished axe from Bolshan Hill, Angus (copyright Marion O'Neill and National Museum of Scotland).

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Introduction

It is once again my pleasure to welcome readers to a further volume of the *Tayside and Fife Archaeological Journal*.

This fifth volume once again contains a rich harvest of the region's archaeology. It covers all points of the local compass as well as reaching one or two continental ones. Diversity is abundant once again with coverage ranging from prehistoric sites and finds to an early-nineteenth-century racecourse stand. Urban and rural themes are equally represented and there is a balance of synthesis and site report. Two of the papers deserve particular note. The one on Allt na Moine Buidhe and Allt Lochan nan Losgunn brings to a conclusion the publication of the backlog of the late Dr Margaret Stewart, for which Historic Scotland deserves every appreciation. The second paper is Liz Thoms' appreciation of the late Bob Buchan. I did not know Bob but it is clear from speaking to others that he was held in high esteem and was a highly valued member of TAFAC. It is fitting that the organisa-

tion he so keenly supported should remember him in the pages of its journal.

Finally I must record this year's thanks to all those who have helped to ensure the smooth and professional production of this edition of the journal. The team of Liz Thoms and SUAT Ltd who have kept everyone to a demanding but feasible time-table. The referees are too numerous to list but the contribution of their time and wisdom is greatly appreciated. Thanks once again go to Ross Samson's Cruithne Press. Finally, thanks to the various bodies who have aided the volume with grants: Historic Scotland, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, Angus Council, Fife Council, Hydro-Electric, Scottish Homes, Hall and Tawse, the National Museums of Scotland, and the Russell Trust.

Mark Hall
Chairman, TAFAC
