



TAYSIDE & FIFE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
COMMITTEE
TAFAC

Newsletter of the

Tayside and Fife Archaeological
Committee

Issue Fifty-two – April 2026

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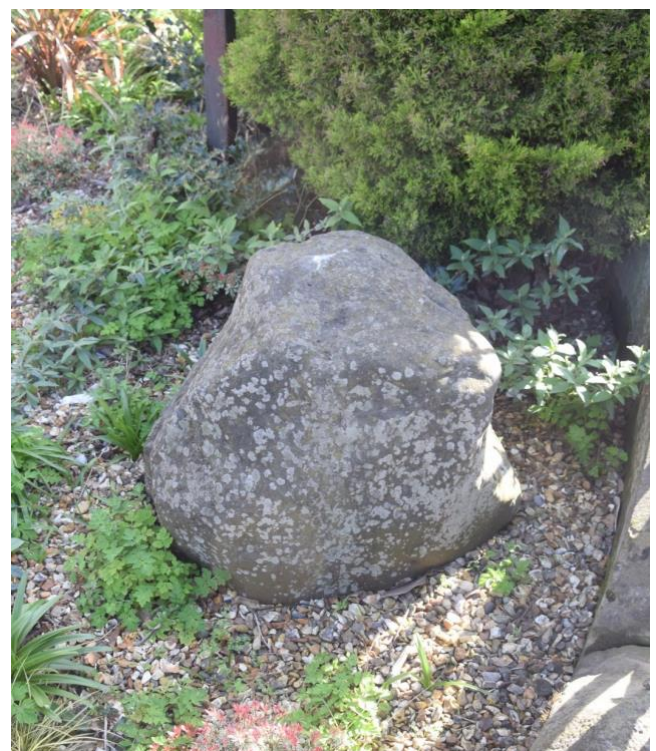
THE ST ANDREWS' 'BLUE STANE'

Steve Liscoe, Fife Council Archaeology
Service

Many readers will be aware of this stone, located at the south side the junction of City Road (formerly Windmill Path & Cow Wynd), Doubledykes Road and Market Street, aka St Mary's Place (see image top right). The 'Blue Stane' (bottom right) has been widely popularised and forms part of the folklore created about the city.

Several modern yarns have been told of it, none of which have any supportive historical evidence. They range from it being a 'pagan altar', a 'trysting place', the 'coronation stone of Kenneth McAlpin', a 'meeting place for witches or faeries', or the site of the muster point for the Fife pike men leaving for Bannockburn, who brought it back to St Andrews as a good luck talisman, etc. etc.

There is also a legend that it was thrown by a giant from Drumcarrow trying to hit St Rule's on the Kirkhill. In this respect, however, it parallels the myth attached to a similar dolerite 'Blue Stane' at Crail, said to have been thrown by the Devil from the Isle of May to hit Crail's kirk. It is highly probable that these are both iterations of the same tale, with appropriate local variation, which have been transposed from either stone to the other. All such stories can be found to post-date the earliest record of the stone.



A plaque alongside the stone mentions some of these tales and mistakenly states that it is shown on Geddes' 1530s plan of St Andrews, in Doubledykes Road, <https://maps.nls.uk/view/00001427>, whilst also saying that the stone has been moved around several St Andrews' locations. The plaque's reference to one former location being at the 'City Road' crossroads is bizarre as in fact that same junction is exactly where the stone is currently situated. The first reference found for any such legends associated to the stone is in Lang's "St Andrews" (1893) wherein it says "The Blue



Stone,.....which now lies within a railing, in the ground of the Alexandra Hotel; once, perhaps, it was a fetish, and noted later as a trysting place of witches and bogies. but of all these matters only fancy and vague rumour is reported". Which rather definitively implies that Lang considered all such yarns as a nonsense.

Such tales about the stone have been reiterated many times since in popular publications concerning the city, but they are conspicuously absent prior to the late 19th century. Grierson, in his 1807 'Delineations of St Andrews', which claims to give an account "of Everything Remarkable - and Other Interesting Objects in that Ancient Capital", makes no mention of the stone, and noticeably the stories are also absent from the first 1880s and '90s editions of Hay Fleming's prolific guides to the city. The folklore associated with the stone only appears later, in the early 20th century editions, and these guides seem to be the source used for all subsequent popular embellishments and accounts of the stone.

From a study of historical town plans, it can be seen that the corner plot where the stone resides, belonging to a Mr Berwick in 1820, had been open ground for centuries, as is shown on Geddy 1530, Gordon 1642, and Ainslie 1745. Then, on the OS 1854 town plan, it is depicted as a small walled enclosure of a formalised 'park' or garden. However, on the following 1893 plan, the same corner plot is occupied by the Alexandra Hotel (later the Station Hotel) which was constructed there in 1870.

In January 1870 the St Andrews Literary & Philosophical Society expressed concern of the loss of many landmarks within the city and drew attention to the 'Blue Stane', at the southwest corner of the Market Street, being threatened by the construction of Alexandra Place. They proposed that before the building was completed there might be an opportunity for it to be incorporated into the corner of the completed terrace, and it is certain that this is why the stone is at its present location. The Society gave a supporting story of the stone being the trysting place for the Ancient Society of Whiplickers, or Carters, "who met there annually after the Lammas Market before a procession was made to the West Sands, where some hours were spent in racing. This is the earliest known record of the stone's

suggested civic significance. It is believed, from the accounts below, that previously the stone had only been a prominent external feature within the masonry wall that surrounded Mr Berwick's corner plot, and that during the building works in 1870 it was moved, by popular request, to be displayed on the corner outside the completed hotel as an attraction or curiosity.

The St. Andrews Citizen records an account from an 'old citizen' who said he "remembers when a wall stretched from the old house, near the West Port, right round to St Mary's Church in St Mary's Place. This wall had to be taken down when the houses and other buildings (Alexandra Place) were erected, and it was only through protest from a number of citizens that the Blue Stane was not removed and dumped on the foreshore." "The stone lay at the base of the old wall and was a familiar object to the citizens of those days." Another contemporary article informs that another 'old citizen' said that "the stone was a prominent object jutting out from the wall where the Station Hotel now stands."

Discarding the mythology associated to it, what is the true story of the 'Blue Stane'? Well, it is known for certain that it is a dolerite (an iron and magnesium-rich igneous rock) boulder that has its origin as a glacial erratic deposited when ice sheets retreated from Fife some 14,000 years ago. The stone may have been a prominent boulder in the early landscape of St Andrews and, like several similar individually prominent glacial erratics across Fife, it was a ready-made boundary marker, or march stone, that could easily be utilised as a territorial landscape feature. It may well have served as a medieval civic marker, or possibly as an even more ancient demarcation of a boundary. We simply have no record of the earliest ecclesiastical or secular significance of the stone, if indeed it was used as such.

What we do know is that by the 18th century any significance it had was forgotten, and it was used as masonry for building a wall around Mr Berwick's garden, where, because of its dissimilar appearance to the other stone it was a noticeable feature. This is supported by the eyewitness reports of the stone 'jutting out from the wall'. This suggests that at the time the stone was in a long-established location and that the wall was probably built over it, rather than the stone being built into the wall. If you refer again to Geddy's town plan you can identify Mr Berwick's corner plot as forming part of the western boundary of the mediaeval burgh. So was the 'blue stane' just a random boulder lying around in the landscape of Kilrymont to be later used by Maynard the Flemyng in the early 12th century as a handy reference point for lining out the new riggs of St Andrews when it was constituted as a Burgh by King David; and which then remained on the site otherwise unremarked for centuries?

I think that hypothesis is just as valid (because I made it up) as any of the 19thC yarns about the stone, but it has a better probability and more historical gravitas. Answers on a postcard.

Editor's note

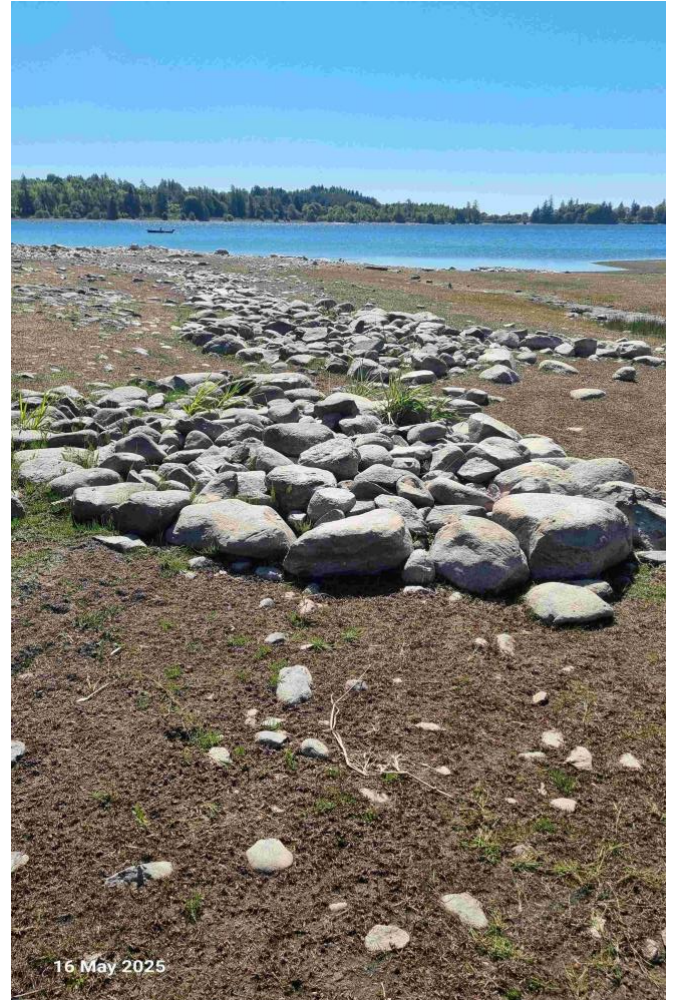
This edition of the TAFAC Newsletter is the biggest yet at 16 pages and your editor hopes that readers will appreciate the range of subject matter it contains. However, the success of the Newsletter is dependent on your editor receiving articles, snippets, photographs, etc. (you know what is required) from as broad a range of folk as possible.

Please send all contributions to johnraesherriff@outlook.com.

The deadline for the next Newsletter is 30 June 2026.

Archaeology revealed at Lintrathen Loch

Your editor has been sent an interesting note of a discovery made as a result of the water level at the Lintrathen Loch reservoir being unusually low last year. Trevor Bradley, who regularly walks in the area, says that what usually appears as an island on the north side of the Loch is actually a promontory, and it is on this promontory that he noted various 'stoney' features. See photos below.

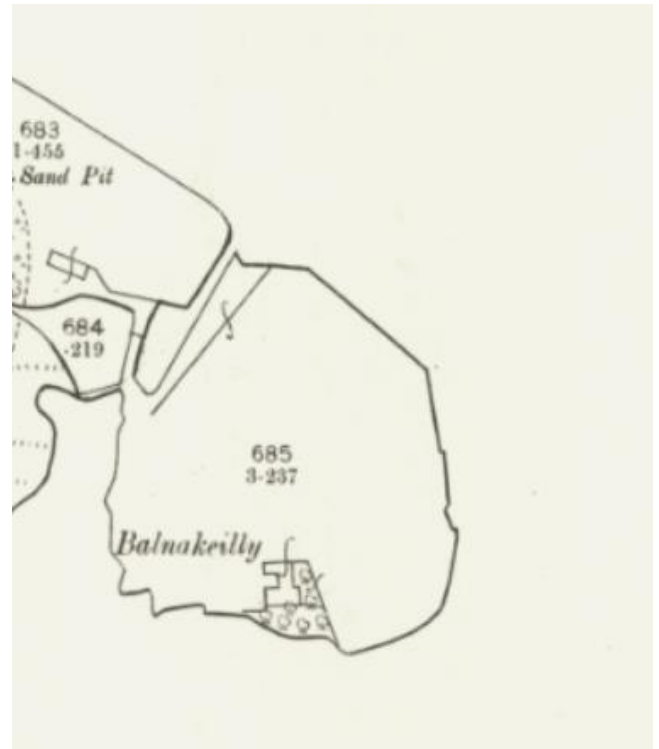
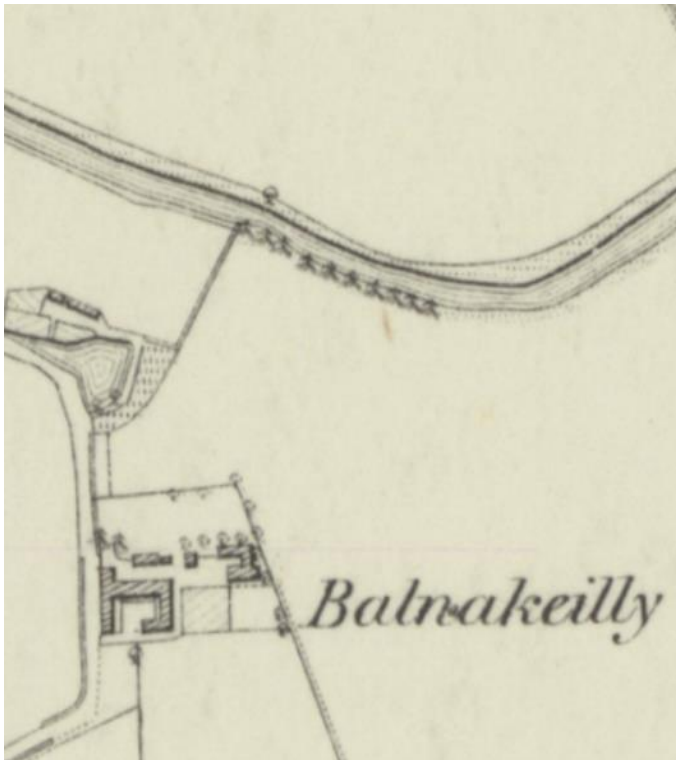


At first glance the piles of stone look like clearance cairns, possibly of prehistoric date, and there are plenty of good examples of these just 1km to the NE on Strone Hill. However, the proximity of the features to the site of a former steading suggests that they are perhaps more likely to be the remains of stack stands. 'Bencouly' farmsteading is depicted on General Roy's Military Map (1747-55) but it



is likely that its origins are much earlier than that. Roy's map shows the farmstead lying to the NE of the Loch of Lintrathen, with cultivated ground between it and the loch and to the E and NE. (Image on previous page courtesy of National Library of Scotland – Roy's Military Survey Strip 18 (Highlands): Fife, Forfarshire).

By the middle of the 19th century the steading comprised a number of buildings, including a courtyard range and these are depicted on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map - Perthshire 1867, Sheet XLIII. (image below left). A pond to the N of the range supplied water to turn a wheel, most likely to power, amongst other things, a threshing machine. The contemporary OS Name Book (Forfarshire, Book 14, p.62) describes the farm (spelled Balnakeilly) as 'A fine farmhouse and offices, the property of the Earl of Airlie'. At that time, it was occupied by a Mr Adam.



The farmstead's fate was sealed soon after when the decision was made to turn Lintrathen Loch into a reservoir to supply water to the City of Dundee. A dam was built (1875 – enlarged 1912), the water level rose and the farm was largely drowned. The OS 25-inch map - Forfarshire 1901, Sheet XXX.12, (above right) shows the roofless remains of what was probably the farmhouse, but the site of the steading to its W was beyond the edge of the loch. The mill pond was still there but the formerly roofed building on its N side had been abandoned.



Lintrathen Loch view from the E. The site of Balnakeilly farmstead lies on the wooded promontory projecting from the opposite side of the loch. Image Copyright: Gerry and Michael Smith

Further improvements to historic Inverkeithing

Work on repairing, renovating, replacing or repurposing buildings and structures within the historic core of Inverkeithing has taken another major step forward with the re-erection of the market cross on or close to its original (medieval) position at the NNE end of the High Street. The cross dates to around the end of the 14th century but it was moved in 1799 to a site in front of the town hall. In 1974 it was moved again, this time to a location at the junction of Bank Street and High Street.



View of the recently conserved head of the cross.



View of the octagonal socket stone set on a two-tier circular plinth. Both photos copyright: JR Sherriiff

The conservation work on the cross was undertaken at the Graciella Ainsworth Sculpture Conservation workshops in Ratho. New gnomons have been fabricated and set into the faces of the sundial and the painting regime that has been undertaken is based paint fragments that were analysed at Lincoln University.

The repair of the cross and its replacement to its original site was funded by The National Lottery Fund, The Muirdean Trust, Historic Environment Scotland and a private donor.



Pictured left is an 1853 watercolour of the market cross by James Drummond – part of the Collections of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland (SAS 386) [this image courtesy of HES (DP203348) negative no. C 32713 P]. At this time the cross was located outside the town hall and the angle of the ground surface indicates that the view is from the north – from the front of the town hall.

What your editor finds particularly interesting about this illustration is that it provides evidence that the cross remained a focal point in the burgh even after it was removed from the market area at the N end of the High Street. The configuration of the masonry around the base of the shaft is clearly intended to provide seating and there is even an entrance gap. The question one must ask though is whether this ‘seating arrangement’ was an innovation constructed when the cross was moved in 1799 or was it part of the structure that stood in the market place? Your editor prefers to think that it was the latter, and it is not hard to imagine Inverkeithing worthies of old sitting around the cross, smoking their pipes and hammering out deals.

Situated at the entrance to the courtyard of No. 8 Bank Street, just a few meters from the site of the original cross, are four sections of octagonal pillar, two at the outer (street) end of the pend and two at the inner end, that have been set up as bollards – protecting the corners of the respective walls from damage inflicted by the iron-tired wheels of carts and carriages. Given that it is highly unlikely (in your editor’s opinion) that bollards would be octagonal in section or that their faces would be dressed with shallow horizontal droving, it seems credible to suggest that these four fragments of pillar probably once formed the shaft of the market cross – either that or a similar monument that stood close by.



A little piece of Angus history

Seonaid McGurk

During the construction of a new cycle path and meadows at the Esplanade in Broughty Ferry, Dundee, in 2023 a historic landfill site dating from Victorian/Edwardian times was disturbed resulting in an enormous amount of material being displaced, most of which was sadly destroyed. Many people rescued what they could at the time.

I found this lovely stoneware bottle at the bottom of a 6-foot hole. It was manufactured by Buchan, Portobello, Edinburgh. Murray and Buchan were listed as stoneware manufacturers in the 1869 Post Office Directories list. Production at Portobello ended in 1972 when the company relocated to Crieff before finally closing in 2000.

It's a real piece of artwork with beautiful lettering and the illustration of the bell placed on the Inchcape Reef at the behest of a 14th century Arbroath abbot to warn ships of the danger of the reef.

"The Inchcape Rock" poem by Robert Southey which was published in 1802 tells of the exploits of a pirate called Ralph the Rover who cut the rope holding the bell to spite the abbot. It was a decision which literally came back to haunt him.

The Bell Rock Lighthouse was constructed between 1807 and 1810 by Robert Stevenson and has the accolade of being the world's oldest working sea-washed lighthouse.

David and Thomas Robb founded the Bon-Accord drinks company in 1903 which was originally sold under the Robb Brothers name. Karen Knowles, a great-great granddaughter of one of the Robb family founders, relaunched the Robb drinks business in 2016. It was acquired by 71 Brewing in September 2025.

It might, on the face of it, just be a stoneware bottle but the history behind it is so much more.

Ed. For more on Buchan pottery see [here](#).



Image copyright: Seonaid McGurk

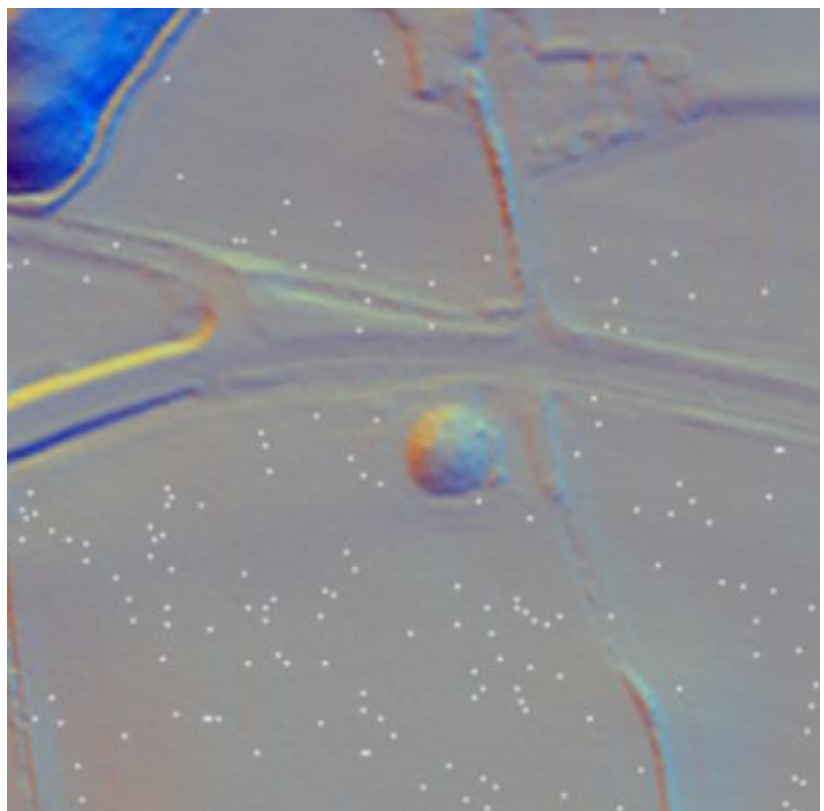
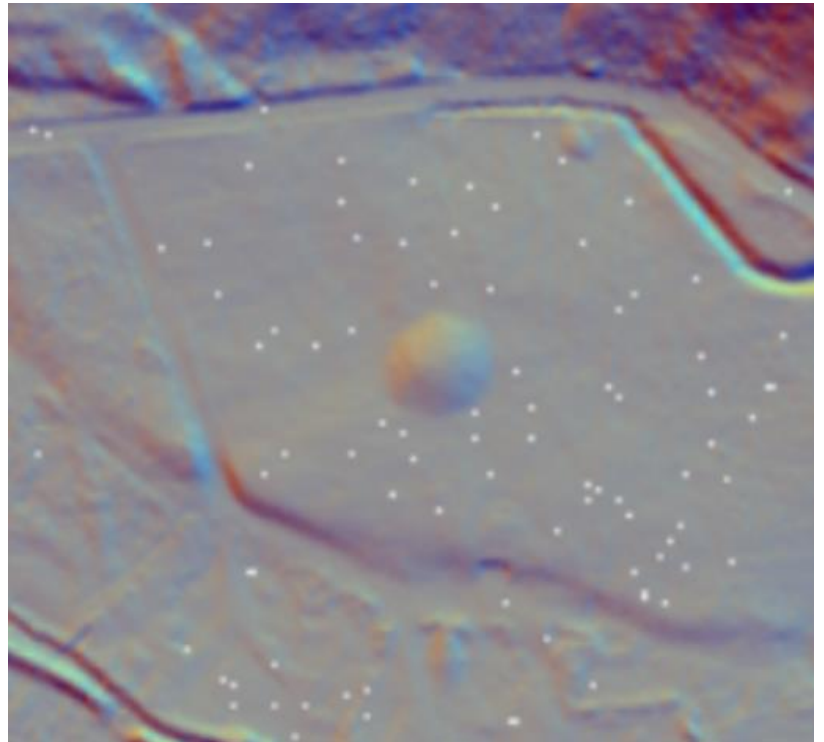


New Neolithic barrow

Readers may remember that in Newsletter 49 last year your editor posted a lidar image (right) of a possible cairn somewhere in highland Perthshire. Having at last undertaken a road trip to check a number of sites that are visible on lidar (data layer available on the National Library of Scotland [website](#)), your editor is happy to report that the site at Dalcroy, Tummel Bridge, is indeed a burial mound and it appears to be undisturbed. Now situated within a horse paddock (image above), it measures about 25m in diameter by 1.2m in height.

In the early 1960s a mound of very similar size and low profile was excavated at Pitnacree some 16.3km (10mls) to the SE in Strathtay. (lidar image bottom right). The mound there was found to be of Neolithic date and this led to speculation that other large mounds with similarly low profiles may also be Neolithic. Until further excavation of these mounds has taken place the jury must remain out as far as that theory is concerned. Meanwhile, fieldwork can and is usefully adding to the corpus of possible sites.

Both lidar images are reproduced courtesy of the National Library of Scotland



ST ANDREWS TALK

by
Tom Addyman
(Addyman
Archaeology,
Simpson and
Brown
Architects)



Hall of Clestrain, view from south. Image copyright: Addyman Archaeology

The Hall of Clestrain, which is situated on Orkney, was built in the 1760s and was the childhood home of the arctic explorer John Rae. It is an exceptional survivor of Georgian architecture and is currently being restored for a new future by the [John Rae Society](#). The archaeological team is being led by historic buildings archaeologist Tom Addyman who will be talking about unravelling the history of the hall through analysis of the building itself and archaeological excavation.

Tom will give his talk on Thursday, 14th May (6pm – 7.30pm) at School 1, St Salvators Quadrangle, St Andrews, Fife, KY16 9AL

Free guided Perth walk

--Mark Hall

Ever wondered how you tell the difference between a vennel or a gate or a close? If you want to find out the PSNS have organised a guided tour of some of Perth's vennels on the evening of 16 June. These narrow street ways go back to the medieval period and under the guidance of Dr Mark A Hall of Perth Museum we will explore some of them and the story they tell about Perth's urban fabric.

The walk coincides with Perth Museum's summer exhibition,

Vennels – Perth's Little Streets, running from 29 May to 6 September 2026. The exhibition explores the history and archaeology of the vennels, focusing on Meal Vennel, and celebrates the new art commissions which will be installed in some of them, a partnership project with 'Perth UNESCO City of Craft and Folk Art'.

Non-members welcome Meeting Tuesday 16th June 6.30pm at Perth Art Gallery

For more information contact psns1948@yahoo.co.uk.



Photograph of Meal Vennel in the 1950s. Copyright Perth Museum, Culture Perth & Kinross

PSNS Archaeological and Historical Section Summer outings



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

Place	Date & time	Meet at	Cost
Kinnoull Graveyard tour	27 April (6.30pm)	Cemetery gates	Free
Tour of Perth Vennels More information here	14 June (6.30pm)	outside Art Gallery	Free
Tour of Lindores Abbey Excavations More information here	22 June (11am)	Broxden at 10.15am	Free
Tour of East Lomond Excavations More information here	11 July	tbc	Free
McManus Museum Collection Unit More information here	29 August	Barrack Street, Dundee, DD1 1PG	£15 (assuming 10 participants)

- In case catering establishments are not available please bring a packed lunch and drinks for daytime outings.
- Remember to bring sunscreen and/or insect repellent if conditions warrant.
- Transport will generally be by private cars sharing petrol expenses or by minibus.

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 and safety.

Tayside and Fife Archaeological Journal 2026

Readers will be interested to know that the papers that will be included in TAF AJ 32 this year (published in November).

‘Dunning Roman Camp’ - Ewan Campbell, Steve Driscoll and Joss Durnan (SERF)

‘The Balgay jet beads: new light on old jewellery’ - Lisbeth Thoms, Christina Donald and Alison Sheridan.

‘Powmyre Quarry’ – CFA Archaeology

‘Wemyss Bay burials’ – Stuart Wilson (AOC Archaeology)

‘Seagreen Wind Farm, Carnoustie’ – Headland Archaeology (April submission)

‘Excavations at Cushenquarter Farm, Plean, Stirling Council’ - Cullen Cockburn (AOC)

East Lomond Community Excavation 2026

Following on from the success of last year's East Lomond dig, which was chosen to be shown on the BBC's Digging for Britain programme, the team are back in action the Falkland estate in 2026.

This year once again, a community dig is being organised on East Lomond led by Falkland Stewardship Trust Chairman Joe Fitzpatrick and Professor Gordon Noble of Aberdeen University. The dig dates are from Monday 6th July until Friday 18th July and the team hope to reveal more about the hill's Pictish and Iron Age past.



View from SW of the East Lomond. Excavations have concentrated on the large terrace on the right-hand side of the image. Copyright: Bill Harrison.

The excavation is holding an Open Day on Saturday 11th July when visitors can come up to the trenches for a tour of the site.

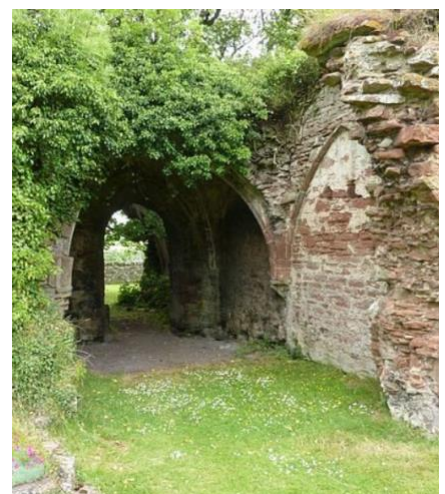
There will also be a talk and a look at some of the artefacts from previous excavations on display on the evening of Friday 10th July in Falkland Community Hall. All are welcome.

Joe Fitzpatrick FSA Scot
Chairman
Falkland Stewardship Trust

Lindores Abbey Excavations 2026

Readers will be interested to learn that the excavation team are returning to the abbey for another season's exploration of the medieval remains. The dates are Monday 1st June to Saturday 4th July, but the first week will see the site prepared for students arriving on the 9th of June.

This year's Open Day will be Thursday 2nd July.



Museum of Abernethy: summer season 2026

In the tranquil surroundings of School Wynd, the Museum of Abernethy is a hive of activity as we gear up for our 2026 season. We're lucky to have some new – and some expanded - exhibits this year, documenting women's fashions through the ages, from Victorian bereavement clothing through to Carine Clow's shop, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Thanks to the sterling work of a group of local ladies, our exhibit commemorating the three local women executed as witches has been greatly enhanced by some beautiful pieces of wool and fabric art. The work they've created helps us to draw a direct line from the old Burgh industries of flax growing and weaving through to the present day, and acknowledges the powerful contributions and sacrifices made by local women through the ages.

As if that wasn't enough, we've also got a packed programme of events throughout the summer. Kicking off on Saturday 2nd May at 1pm, when we open for the summer season, we're lucky to have two highly regarded special guests to help us get our year off to a good start. David McGovern (Monikie Rock Art) who carved our witches memorial stone, will be in the museum garden throughout the afternoon offering demonstrations of stone carving. No need to book, just pop in to see a master at work and have a chat! From 1.30-2.30pm, we're delighted to be hosting Dr. Louise Yeoman, of the Survey of Scottish Witchcraft, who'll be giving a talk on the history of the Scottish witch hunts. The talk is FREE, but you will need a ticket to attend – book now on our website (www.museumofabernethy.co.uk).

In June, we have our first kids' workshop of the season on the 13th, and on the 26th an evening with bestselling author Olga Wojtas who'll be telling us more about the adventures of time travelling librarian Shona McMonagle.



GRAND OPENING 2026

Saturday 2nd May

Louise Yeoman

The Histories of the Scottish Witch Trials

Kirk of St Bride 1.30-2.30pm

Tickets: museumofabernethy.co.uk

David McGovern

Stone carving demonstrations

Museum of Abernethy 1-4pm



Dates for your diary 2026

SAT 4TH & SUN 5TH
APRIL

SPECIAL EASTER OPENING!

SAT 2ND MAY

OPENING DAY 2026!

SAT 13TH JUNE

CLAY CREATIONS FOR KIDS

FRI 26TH JUNE

AN EVENING WITH OLGA
WOJTAS

SAT 22ND AUGUST

SPUDFEST!

SEPTEMBER

DOORS OPEN DAY: DATE TBC

FRI 30TH OCTOBER

AN EVENING WITH ELAINE
THOMSON

SAT 31ST OCTOBER

GUISING AT THE MUSEUM



Full details on our socials
throughout the summer!



Abernethy's first **Spudfest** will be happening in August, as we celebrate the humble tattie – ours once fed the world, you know!

September brings **Doors Open Day** (the theme for 2026 hasn't been announced at the time of writing), and even though we'll be closed for the season by then we've some great things lined up for Hallowe'en.

On **Friday 30th October**, we're delighted to be hosting bestselling author Elaine Thomson, and on

Saturday 31st, as is now traditional in the Museum HQ calendar,



we'll be opening our doors to local guisers to help us keep on top of the pesky museum ghosts. Have your neeps at the ready!

More details will be posted on our socials over the course of the summer – you can find us on Facebook, X, and Instagram, we're @museumabernethy on all three. We're also very lucky to be able to continue working with the now renowned Ladies of the Kirk Session again this year; their lovely homemade cakes and hot coffee have fuelled many a museum event! They don't charge for this, but if you're able to do so, a wee donation to their funds is always much appreciated.

Finally, a wee word about parking. Abernethy is a small village, and parking is very much at a premium. We'd ask that if you're coming to our events, you consider taking public transport, or car sharing if you can. If you do need to bring the car, please be respectful of our neighbours when parking and don't block the roads (it's more easily done than you'd think!) – emergency vehicles and the bin lorry can and do need to get through.

We're very much looking forward to welcoming you all this summer!

The Museum of Abernethy Events Team

Milestones and Finger Posts

Your editor's road trip to record features visible on lidar also afforded a great opportunity to note three previously unrecorded late-19th century milestones and two finger posts dating from the first half of the 20th century.

The two images to the right are of the same stone on the northern verge of the A924 public road linking Pitlochry with Kirkmichael. Milestones were traditionally painted white with information highlighted in black. The modern rendition on this stone indicates the distances in miles to Pitlochry (4) and Blairgowrie (21). However, the 2nd edition of the OS 6-inch map (Perth & Clackmannan 1900, Sheet XXXI.SE) indicates that the milestone probably indicated the distance to Kirkmichael (8¼ miles).



Another milestone on this road lies one mile to the W of that noted above. Pictured right, it now bears no information, but it confirms that probably all of the stones on this particular route were of the same form, having two finely dressed flat faces angled towards the road, a rounded rear face, less well dressed, and a top that sloped away from the road. No milestones are depicted along this road on the 1st edition of the OS 6-inch map which means they were set up sometime between 1863 and 1899. Milestones of a more familiar form to those travelling in highland Scotland were set up in the second half of the 19th century beside the roads that ran along the S and N banks of Loch Rannoch, between Pitlochry and the W end of loch. These stones also have two dressed faces and a rounded rear, but the top slopes towards the road and, where the evidence exists, we know this relatively small triangular facet also contained information. Very few of these milestones still survive but there is one at Dalcroy, close to the probably Neolithic round barrow noted on page 9 above. Difficult now to photograph within a thorny hedge, it can, nevertheless be seen to bear part of the coat of white paint on which, in black lettering the distances in miles to Pitlochry (12) to the E and Tummel Bridge (¾) to the W can only just be seen.





Your editor has recently noted two previously unrecorded fingerposts in Angus, bringing the number now known to survive in the county up to six. Three of these have been listed (Category C) by Historic Environment Scotland – at Bridgend of Lintrathen (LB 51611), Wellford (LB 51612) and Tigerton (LB 51610). A fourth, at Northmuir, Kirriemuir was recorded by your editor in 2020. All of the posts are identical in form, having a cruciform shaft with a twisted rope design at its centre rising to a narrow neck to which the finger boards are attached. Above the boards is a small ball finial.

In May 1940 the Government issued the *Removal of Direction Signs Order*, enabled by the Emergency Powers (Defence) Act 1939, and Council highways departments were ordered to remove or obscure all signs that could aid a potential German invasion. The two recently recorded fingerposts are located at Justinhaugh Bridge and Murthill which, like the one at Wellford, are situated within Tannadice parish. It is difficult now to judge whether the three examples in the parish were retained in place during WW2 – perhaps because the roads in the area are a nightmare for strangers (personal experience), or that they were re-erected after the war but are now the only survivors of what must have been dozens throughout the parish, and hundreds across the county. Some County Councils, for instance Fife, were good at ensuring that milestones were replaced and others, for example East Lothian, were good at replacing finger posts.

The example pictured above is that at Justinhaugh Bridge. Other examples of this style of finger post indicate that the bas relief hand with a pointing finger is an original feature and we would expect to see one at the end of each of the finger boards. Here, however, the hand on each of the two boards referencing the main (Tannadice to Kirriemuir) road has been replaced by a small plaque bearing the road number 'B957'. Because road numbering was introduced in 1922, we can deduce that the erection of this form of finger post took place before then.

N.B. All images in this article are by JR Sherriff who has not claimed copyright.