



Day Conference

Saturday 13 April, 2013: Kinloch Memorial Hall, Meikle, PH12 8SD

EARLY MEDIEVAL MEIGLE

- 10.00–10.30 *Coffee/tea and registration*
- 10.30–10.35 Chairman's welcome
- 10.35–11.15 Mark Hall (Perth Museum):
'The Meikle Stones: A Biographical Overview'
- 11.15–11.55 Nick Evans (University of Edinburgh):
'Meikle in its Pictish and Viking Historical Context'
- 11.55–12.35 Peter Drummond (University of Glasgow):
'Medieval Meikle: The Place-Name Evidence' (drawing on research by Simon Taylor)
- 12.35–13.45 *Light lunch*
- 13.45–14.25 Elizabeth Pierce (University of Glasgow):
'Hunting Hogbacks: Seeking Archaeological Context'
- 14.25–15.05 Martin Goldberg (National Museums of Scotland):
'Pictish *Adventus* Ceremonies'
- 15.15–end Anna Ritchie (Independent Scholar):
Visit to Meikle Museum, Kirkyard and Sculptured Stones
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Conference fee (includes coffee/tea and light lunch):

SSNS Members: £18; Non-Members: £23; Registered Students: £8

Fee includes entry to Meikle Museum: Friends of Historic Scotland might like to bring their membership cards.

Please complete the slip and post with cheque to arrive **by Saturday 30 March 2013** (a few later applications may be possible)

to: Gillian Zealand, 6 Kirk Road, Fowlis, Dundee DD2 5SB (tel.01382 581152)

Email: agzealand@btinternet.com (No acknowledgement will be sent unless SAE enclosed)

I/we wish to attend the SSNS Day Conference in Meikle on Saturday 13 April 2013.

Name(s): _____ Mobile: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____ Landline: _____

Cheque enclosed for £ _____ (made payable to the 'Scottish Society for Northern Studies')

- Vegetarian? Vegan? Food allergies? Please specify:
- Any assistance required for access? Please specify:

Details can also be found on the Society's new and developing website: www.ssns.org.uk – to which the former website (www.northernstudies.org.uk) automatically transfers.

BACKGROUND/ABSTRACTS

Mark Hall: 'The Meigle Stones: A Biographical Overview'

Mark Hall is History Officer for Perth Museum & Art Gallery, where he is chiefly responsible for curating the archaeology collection (notable for its medieval excavation assemblages from Perth). His interest in medieval material culture principally focuses on early medieval (Pictish) sculpture, play culture (particularly board and dice games), the cult of saints and reception studies (especially cinematic portrayals of the medieval past and archaeology generally), on all of which he has published widely in several journals and books.

Nick Evans: 'Meigle in its Pictish and Viking Historical Context'

Nick Evans studied Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic at Cambridge with a Ph.D. (Glasgow) on the early medieval Irish chronicles. He held a research fellowship in Celtic Studies at the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies before returning to Scotland in 2006 to work at the universities of Glasgow, Strathclyde and Aberdeen. He currently teaches Celtic Studies at the University of Edinburgh, and has researched and published on aspects of Pictish history and the Irish chronicles. In his paper he will discuss how the important but largely undocumented early medieval site of Meigle fits into our understanding of Scottish history. He will focus on Meigle as a political and ecclesiastical centre in the era when the Pictish over-kingship was developing, as well as the impact of the transition from a Pictish to a Gaelic society, analysing the potential role of the Vikings in that process.

Peter Drummond: 'Medieval Meigle: The Place-Name Evidence'

Simon Taylor had hoped to present material he has researched for Historic Scotland but will be in Germany at the time of the conference and has generously made available the material for today's lecture. Peter Drummond is close to completing a Ph.D. on place-names (of the parishes between the Campsie and the Clyde) with the University of Glasgow's Celtic and Gaelic Department. He was awarded an M.Sc by Research (on southern Scottish hill-names) at the University of Edinburgh in 2006. He is the author of *Scottish Hill Names* (2007), *Place-Names of the Monklands* (1983) and *Pentland Place-Names* (2011, with John Baldwin), as well as several articles in academic and popular journals.

Elizabeth Pierce: 'Hunting Hogbacks: Seeking Archaeological Context'

Elizabeth Pierce is a field archaeologist at Northlight Heritage as well as an affiliated researcher at the University of Glasgow as part of the 'Creating Material Worlds: Theorising Identity in Archaeology' project. Hunting Hogbacks is a community archaeology project run by Northlight Heritage which seeks new archaeological and environmental evidence which can give some context to hogback stones in central and southern Scotland. Local volunteers from both Dalsell and Luss have participated in this project.

Martin Goldberg: 'Pictish Adventus Ceremonies'

Inherited from the Roman imperial past, *adventus* ceremonies structured the reception of bishops, nobles, kings and even relics throughout medieval Europe. The relationship between lordship and subject communities could be defined by these important moments of arrival. Distinctive forms of *adventus* imagery can be recognised on some Pictish cross-slabs, with notable examples from Meigle. These suggest an *adventus* inspiration for the rider and hunt imagery, one of the most common forms of figurative art on Christian sculpture in Pictland. The social and ideological implications that result from the identification of Pictish *adventus* iconography give rise to several new theories about the role of these monuments – not just the circumstances that lead to the creation of these Pictish cross-slabs, but also the ceremonies and liturgical performances that continued to surround them. Martin Goldberg is Curator of the Early Historic and Viking collections for National Museums Scotland. He works on the Glenmorangie Research project, exploring new approaches to the archaeology and particularly the material culture of Early Medieval Scotland. The first results have recently been published in *Early Medieval Scotland: Individuals, Communities and Ideas*.

Anna Ritchie: Visit to Meigle Museum, Kirkyard and Sculptured Stones

Anna Ritchie is an archaeologist with a long-standing interest in the Picts. She wrote the Historic Scotland guidebook to the carved stones in Meigle Museum (1997), and earlier, inspired by the work done at Meigle by RCAHMS for its volume on *South-East Perth: an archaeological landscape* (1994), she wrote a paper on Meigle and lay patronage in Tayside (1995). She will lead a guided tour of Meigle Museum and the kirkyard in which most of the carved stones were found.

TRAVEL

Public Transport (Stagecoach 'Strathtay' Bus Route 57). Please check times:

- **From Dundee:** Leave Dundee Bus Station 08.55 & 09.55, arriving Meigle 09.32 & 10.32 respectively.
- **To Dundee:** Leave Meigle 16.23 & 17.33, arriving Dundee 17.02 & 18.12 respectively.
- **From Perth:** Leave Perth Bus Station 09.00, arriving Meigle 10.23.
- **To Perth:** Leave Meigle 16.47 & 17.47, arriving Perth 18.06 & 19.05 respectively.

KINLOCH MEMORIAL HALL (Meigle Village Hall, PH12 8SD)

- Situated in the village, on the Dundee road (B954).
- From A94, turn right (from Perth) or left (from Aberdeen) in the centre of the village (signposted Dundee).
- The Hall is about 0.5km on the left. Parking available on the roadside.