

Beltane Twilight: FAO Year of Soil and Dig It 2015! Archaeology
Wednesday 1 April 2015, 16:00 – 18:00
Patrick Geddes Room, John Hope Gateway, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

<i>Agenda</i>	
16:00	<i>Registration and refreshments</i>
16:30	<i>Update from Beltane team</i>
16:40	<i>Guest speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sutherland Forsyth, Community Engagement Office, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh: “The RBGE archaeology dig of the long lost Leith Walk Botanic Garden and old Botanic Cottage site.” • Jeff Sanders, Dig It! 2015 Project Manager: “Dig It! 2015 - Discover Scotland's Stories, coordinated by two charities - the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and Archaeology Scotland.”
17:00	<i>Two-minute wonders</i> Very short, informal and PowerPoint-free presentations from anyone who is planning to or has run Soil or Archaeology-themed engagement events <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bruce Ball, Scotland’s Rural College: “How can we increase our awareness of soil so that we can learn to care for it and thereby conserve it?” 2. Andrew Kelloe, The James Hutton Institute: “The Strategic Research Programme” 3. Ali Floyd, National Museum of Scotland 4. Andy Bicket, Wessex Archaeology: Their charitable aims and community & Education work
17:15	<i>Table discussions – opportunities in more detail</i>
18:00	<i>End of Twilight</i>
<i>Further info, including map showing venue:</i> https://bt-soils-2015.eventbrite.co.uk	

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Attendee list

First Name	Surname	Email	Affiliation
Bruce	Ball	bruce.ball@sruc.ac.uk	Scotland's Rural College
Andrew	Bicket	a.bicket@wessexarch.co.uk	Wessex Archaeology
Dee	Davison	dee.davison@ed.ac.uk	Beltane Public Engagement Network
Karen	Dobbie	Karen.Dobbie@SEPA.org.uk	Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Ian	Edwards	i.edwards@rbge.ac.uk	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Ali	Floyd	a.floyd@nms.ac.uk	National Museum of Scotland
Sutherland	Forsyth	s.forsyth@rbge.ac.uk	Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh
Andrew	Kelloe	Andrew.Kelloe@hutton.ac.uk	Strategic Research Programme / The James Hutton Institute
Nikos	Kourampas	nkouramp@ed.ac.uk	University of Edinburgh/University of Stirling
Kat	Przybycien	K.E.Przybycien@hw.ac.uk	Heriot-Watt University
Heather	Rea	h.j.rea@ed.ac.uk	Beltane Public Engagement Network
Juliet	Ridgway-Tait	jridgway@ed.ac.uk	Midlothian Science Festival
Jeff	Sanders	2015@socantscot.org	Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
Elizabeth	Scanlon	elizabeth.scanlon@ed.ac.uk	Beltane Public Engagement Network
Michelle	Wilson	michelle.wilson@hutton.ac.uk	Strategic Research Programme / The James Hutton Institute

Update from Beltane team. Beltane started as a culture change project and is a network providing a range of opportunities to engage. With a culture change project, we believe the best work is done when we are being sociable. You'll find a warm welcome at all our events and usually some food too. However we also challenge people to continually raise the bar when it comes to engagement and to go beyond their comfort zone. At Beltane, our approach is to Meet, Learn, Try, Reflect, Share and Celebrate. Forthcoming events include:

- 26 May Annual Gathering – call for ideas open now until 27 April.
- 27 May Beltane Networking event -Twilight – Media Liaison @ **Dynamic Earth**
- 18 June Beltane Networking event - Breakfast – Parliamentary Engagement (**Westminster & Holyrood**) @ **The Ashworth Labs, Kings Buildings**
- July: Evaluation & Reporting Twilight @ Edinburgh Napier University
- September: Citizen Science Breakfast
 - As details are confirmed, they will be posted on <http://www.beltanenetwork.org/news-blogs-reports/beltane-news/breakfasts-and-twilights-2015/>
- Beltane training programme to include workshops on: storytelling, video blogging, film festival.

- **Voyage of Discovery | Celebrating, Inspiring and Exploring Community University Engagement in Edinburgh. 26 May 13:50-20:00, Out of the Blue (the Drill Hall), Dalmeny Street, Leith.** Join us on our Voyage of Discovery celebrating the projects in which the community and universities in Edinburgh come together through research and student community engagement. Our voyage of discovery will help inspire you to try new approaches to engagement and explore how to find new collaborative partners. <https://cued15.eventbrite.co.uk>
- **Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas (CODI) 2015 programme of 24 shows at the Edinburgh Fringe, performed 3-4pm daily in The Stand in the Square (A yurt in St Andrews Square), between Friday 7 and Sunday 30 August.** http://www.beltanenetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/CODI-2015-List-of-shows-for-Beltane-website_fini.pdf
- **Explorathon - European Researchers' Night Scotland, Friday 25 September 2015.** The programme of afternoon and evening events is being developed. Join us for this Scotland-wide celebration of all things scientific. Meet real researchers and find out what cutting edge discoveries are being made by our nation's world-class scientists. Ask questions, see some surprising sights and maybe even take part in their experiments.

Explorathon '14 – what happened last year?

Friday 26th September 2014 was a chance for members of the public in over 300 European cities to meet researchers and find out what they really do. Here in Scotland, the universities of Aberdeen, Strathclyde, Glasgow and Edinburgh worked together to deliver 'EXPLORATHON' – a nationwide programme of events designed to engage the public with research. In Edinburgh, over 2,000 people flocked to sixteen different events. During the afternoon, families had a go at research-inspired activities at Our Dynamic Earth, the National Museum of Scotland and the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh, while audiences fancying a quiet cuppa and a chat joined doctoral students for *PhD in an Hour* events at cafes around the city centre. As the evening fell, Explorathon Edinburgh took on a distinctly grown-up feel, with debate raging at the Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas and a post-apocalyptic world being unveiled at Steampunk Science.

[Join our Mailing list](#) or [Follow us on Twitter](#) to receive information about our events. Find out about up-coming events: www.beltanenetwork.org/opportunities/calendar

Sutherland Forsyth, Community Engagement Office, Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh:
"The RBGE archaeology dig of the long lost Leith Walk Botanic Garden and old Botanic Cottage site."
 The Botanic Cottage is being re-built on the current RBGE site 250 years after it was first built. They will be moving into the new building in 6 months' time. There was a volunteer dig last summer and a further dig 4 weeks ago that revealed new things from the 1820s about the old garden. There will be a series of talks in the cottage when it opens this summer.

Jeff Sanders, Dig It! 2015 Project Manager: *"Dig It! 2015 - Discover Scotland's Stories, coordinated by two charities - the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and Archaeology Scotland."*

- Archaeology caricatures - when you hear 'archaeology' do you think Indiana Jones; Lara Croft or the Time Team?
- Dig It! 2015 is run by 2 charities with 150 partner organisations and is keen for more! Dig It! 2015 is working with organisations that have not worked with archaeology before.
- Dig It! 2015 is about **Identities** (people and place) and encouraging active involvement in telling local stories. It has 2 target groups - in particular 16-24s and adult lifelong learners.

- This involves some of the things you would expect plus some you wouldn't e.g. food and drink, virtual reality etc. There are 4 themes: Arrivals, Festivals, Future and Recent Past. A annual programme is constantly being added to full of events and cool projects with different organisations, including the arrival of the Romans; Festival of Archaeology; Careers Fair; Rhind lecture; storytelling events; Forth Bridge (hopefully due to become a World heritage site); Minecraft; Tay Landscape Project and Clayfest.
- Dig It 2015! can help with the 3 Ps: **Promote** stuff you do, **Put** people in touch, **Provide** ideas for something that you want to flesh out. Relevant events can be added to their website & the deadline is 8 May for inclusion in their next flyer.

"Participating in Beltane Twilight provided a great opportunity to raise awareness of our project in an entertaining and engaging way, while learning about a host of activities and events. The networking session was a huge plus and I left with some amazing contacts and great ideas which will be very useful as Dig It! 2015 progresses."

Dr Jeff Sanders, Dig It! 2015 Project Manager

Two-minute wonders

- **Bruce Ball, Scotland's Rural College:** Soil Care. They have developed a guide/system for the visual evaluation of soil structure and have used this with schools, farmers and eco groups. They have written a book "The Landscape Below" – the story of soil. "Caring for soil is like caring for ourselves. It leads to happier and more sustainable lives." They want people to look at 'dirt' in a different way and get emotional about soil. They are running events with Climate Camp and Eco Groups.
- **Andrew Kelloe, The Strategic Research Programme.** Partners in The Scottish Government Strategic Research Programme include: The James Hutton Institute (where Andrew and Michelle are based); the Rowett Institute; the Moredun Institute; Biomathematics & Statistics Scotland; Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh and Scotland's Rural College. There are funding opportunities available and encouragement for partnerships. The steering group has 5 sub-groups which may be of interest.
- **Ali Floyd, National Museum of Scotland.** Ali 'has a museum!' While his work focus is Biomedical Sciences (as his post is Wellcome Trust funded) this can be interpreted broadly and he is open to ideas and is planning events 6 months in advance, including Science Saturdays.
- **Andy Bicket, Wessex Archaeology,** Senior Archaeologist – Coastal & Marine Team, Edinburgh. They undertake geo-archaeology work off-shore and are always looking for avenues for outreach and collaboration.

Relevant links

Beltane Public Engagement Network (To join: www.beltanenetwork.org/discover-beltane/join-us/)

1. Opportunities calendar <http://www.beltanenetwork.org/opportunities/calendar/>
2. Annual Gathering: "Voyage of Discovery: Celebrating, Inspiring and Exploring Community University Engagement in Edinburgh", Tues 26 May 2015 from 1.30-8pm, Out of the Blue (The Drill Hall), Dalmeny Street, Leith Walk, Edinburgh. Hash tag: #cueEd15. **Call for ideas** <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/cueEd15>

The Botanic Cottage Project

www.rbge.org.uk/the-gardens/edinburgh/the-botanic-cottage-project?searched=botanic+cottage&advsearch=exactphrase&highlight=ajaxSearch_highlight+ajaxSearch_highlight1

Dig It! 2015

www.digit2015.com

The Rhind Lectures 2015 24-26 April @ The Royal Society of Edinburgh

<http://digit2015.com/events/the-rhind-lectures-2015-british-archaeology-its-progress-and-demands/> (The name commemorates AH Rhind's bequest to the [Society of Antiquaries of Scotland](#) society fund this lectureship.)

Bruce Ball, The Landscape Below

www.ionabooks.com/the-landscape-below.html

The Strategic Research Programme

www.knowledgescotland.org/strategic-research.php

- The James Hutton Institute (formed when the Macaulay Land Use Research Institute & Scottish Crop Research Institute merged in 2011): www.hutton.ac.uk
- The Rowett Institute of Nutrition & Health, the University of Aberdeen: www.abdn.ac.uk/rowett
- The Moredun Institute: www.moredun.org.uk
- Scotland's Rural College: www.sruc.ac.uk
- Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh: www.rbge.org.uk
- Biomathematics & Statistics Scotland (BIOSS): www.bioss.ac.uk

National Museum of Scotland

<http://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-scotland/>

Wessex Archaeology news

<http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/learning>

International Year of Soils

Karen Dobbie from the Scottish Environment Protection Agency was unable to attend the Beltane Twilight event but let us know about the webpage below which brings together information on the wide range of activities happening in Scotland as part of the IYS. If you would like any events publicised through this please let Karen know via Karen.Dobbie@SEPA.org.uk
<http://www.environment.scotland.gov.uk/international-year-of-soils-2015/>