

Eaglesham History Society carried out a **Community Geophysical Survey from the 5th to the 9th June**. Pupils from Eaglesham Primary School, Williamwood High school and Mearns Castle High School took part in workshops throughout the week. Each workshop lasted one hour and was conducted over three days. The geophysical survey workshop for the pupils took place on the Orry ground in front of the Wishing Well Tearoom. In 2011 the remains of a large house together with yards and ancillary buildings were found and it was decided by Peta Glew of Northlight Heritage that this was an ideal area for the students to learn about the theory and principles of geophysics as well as seeing and taking part in scientific demonstrations. The survey allowed pupils to get practical hands-on experience of geophysics, an opportunity not always available in the classroom. Geophysics also provides an opportunity for interdisciplinary learning as it involves the stem subjects of science and mathematics. Students also learnt about laying out grids for archaeological excavations and how to use a total station. Six students from Glasgow University helped with the training of the pupils. Unfortunately the weather conditions were not ideal during these first three days, ranging from very heavy rain and swarms of the midge to dry slightly sunny weather on the Tuesday. However apart from these issues the pupils appeared to have enjoyed themselves and judging by the interest shown by the pupils it was a worthwhile project.



At the same time training was taking part in Lodge Eaglesham 1265. We were most grateful for the members of Lodge Eaglesham 1265 for their support in allowing the workshops to be set up in their premises for the pupils. The workshops were conducted by professional archaeologists from Archaeology Scotland allowing the pupils to handle artifacts from different periods. A second workshop examined aerial photography and what could be identified by these aerial photographs.



Amanda Robb from East Renfrewshire Heritage Service set up a workshop talking to the pupils about the social history of the parish and in particular Eaglesham House. We also conducted Heritage Walks around the village for the pupils to show them what was on their doorstep.



Questionnaires were handed out to the teachers and pupils at the end of each day. These have been collated and the results show that the program overall was a great benefit to the pupils understanding and knowledge of their local area through the workshops, exhibition and heritage walks. It was highlighted by one of the teachers that the hands on outdoor learning activities using geophysical equipment, the total station equipment and the laying out of survey grids provided the pupils with a deeper understanding and opportunity to experience something that could not be taught within the classroom. Another interesting point was that the project has helped develop better links between different departments within the secondary schools which will in future lead them to work more closely together. Again the teachers thought that this kind of event brought together a closer partnership between the schools and the local community within Eaglesham and the surrounding area. Archaeology brings together all sorts of disciplines from History, Science, Geology, and Botany to Zoology etc.

Displays were set up by Eaglesham History Society for the pupils and the local community. The display boards were kindly loaned to us by Glasgow University. The information in pictorial form focused on the social history of Eaglesham, communication systems throughout the Parish, the cartography of the area, early documents and building present and past showing the built heritage of Eaglesham allowing the community and schools to become informed about their local area. The exhibition in the Eaglesham Lodge was visited by the local community as well as visitors coming from Ayrshire, South Lanarkshire and other areas of East Renfrewshire. Some of the comments noted in our visitor's book were as follows, very informative, interesting, helpful, well presented and that the exhibition helpers were very knowledgeable about Eaglesham Village. It is hoped that the project provided several social as well as economic benefits to the community, allowing people the opportunity to get involved with the heritage of the area and become more knowledgeable about it.

The Additional aim of the Eaglesham Orry Community Survey was to try and identify the possible existence of the pre-planned village remains prior to 1769 below today's turf in front of Eaglesham Church and the area to the right, below the Wishing Well tearoom.

We are waiting the final outcome of what is under the ground to the north of Eaglesham Church from Peta Glew of orthlight Heritage who ran the geophysical survey during the 8th and 9th June. This will give us an idea of possibly what the village looked like before the planned village of 1769. When this is to hand the members of Eaglesham History Society will be given a summary of the report.



Ken and I are grateful for help from Peta Glew of Northlight Heritage, students from the University of Glasgow, the University of Glasgow for providing survey equipment, members of the Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists (Janie Munro, Ian Marshall and Dugie McInnes), Staff of Archaeology Scotland, Amanda Robb of East Renfrewshire Heritage Service, local residents Ann Hughes, Joan Stewart, Marlyn McInnes and Russell Peggs who were in attendance for most of the week if not all of the week. We are also indebted to John Alexander who was our resident photographer throughout the week in sometimes very trying weather conditions. Eaglesham Orry Community Geophysical Surveys could not have been run without their help.

We would also like to thank the following organisations for their generous support:

AOE Community Wind Farm
Dig It! 2017
East Renfrewshire Small Grants Trust
Lodge Eaglesham 1265
Linn Products Ltd.
MacTaggart and Mickel Building Communities
Scotmid Community Fund
Waitrose Newton Mearns Community Matters
Whole Foods Market, Giffnock

Susan Hunter