



THE ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND
STRATHCLYDE GROUP SUMMER STUDY DAY

THREE AYRSHIRE CASTLES

Dundonald, Hunterston & Portencross

Coach Tour on Saturday 23rd July 2016 from Glasgow

The AHSS is a Registered Scottish Charity (No SCO 007554 REG)
The Society is a Company Limited by Guarantee: SC356726

Dundonald Castle

This fortified tower house was built for Robert Stewart probably on his accession to the throne of Scotland as Robert II in 1371 and was used as a royal residence by him and his son, Robert II. The castle is owned by Historic Environment Scotland, and both it and the Visitor Centre at the foot of the hill are run by The Friends of Dundonald Castle who will be giving us a guided tour. We will be having morning coffee/tea in the Visitor Centre; this is included in the price below. For non-members of Historic Scotland an entrance charge of £3.50 will be taken on the day.



Hunterston Castle

The former home of the Hunters of Hunterston. Although the earliest reference to the Hunter family is in 1116, the oldest part of Hunterston Castle, the pele tower, probably dates to the 13th Century when it replaced a timber fortress; the extension containing the Great Hall was built in the 17th Century. The Hunter family moved out of the castle at the beginning of the 19th Century, when nearby Hunterston House was built. The castle was restored and altered by Sir Robert Lorimer in 1913. Hunterston Castle is now the headquarters of Clan Hunter. We will also be visiting the walled garden, and the lawn in front of the castle will provide a spacious venue for our picnic lunches (weather permitting!)



Portencross Castle

Another castle associated with Robert II—a stopping-off place on his way to Rothesay Castle—the building of Portencross began in the mid to late 1300s by the de Ross family. When abandoned as a family home in the 17th Century, the old building was used as a store for nets and other fishing equipment by the many fishermen based at the nearby harbor. In 2005 ownership of the castle passed to Friends of Portencross, who commenced a programme of conservation, and the castle was finally opened to the public in 2010. The Friends will be providing us with a dedicated guide.



Please note all of the castles have narrow, steep and sometimes uneven stairs, although the ground floor of Portencross is easily accessible. The Friends of Dundonald are happy to present an illustrated talk in the Visitor Centre for anyone unable to climb up the hill to the castle.

The cost of the full-day tour is £36.00 per person, to include coach travel, entry to Hunterston and Portencross Castles and morning coffee. Remember to bring your Historic Scotland Membership Cards for entry to Dundonald Castle; £3.50 entrance charge for non-members of HS.

**Please send your booking form, SAE if you do not have an email address, and cheque for £36 per person made out to "Strathclyde Group - AHSS" to :
Iain Wotherspoon, Flat 3, 60 Great George Street, Hillhead, Glasgow G12 8RP by 1st May, 2016**

Photographs by "Otter" via Wikipedia, Gazetteer of Scotland & Iain Wotherspoon



**AHSS STRATHCLYDE GROUP STUDY DAY
Dundonald, Hunterston and Portencross Castles
Please return booking form no later than 1st May 2016. Early booking is advisable.**

NAME(S) _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____ TELEPHONE (Day) (Evening) _____

EMAIL _____ OR ENCLOSE SAE

Number of Persons () at £36.00 per person (CHEQUE PAYABLE TO STRATHCLYDE GROUP-AHSS).

Amount Enclosed £ _____

Iain Wotherspoon, Flat 3, 60 Great George Street, Hillhead, Glasgow G12 8RP by 1st May, 2016