

# The KIST

## *The Magazine of The Natural History & Antiquarian Society of Mid-Argyll*

In 1954 The University of Glasgow, the West of Scotland Extra-Mural Committee and the Argyll County Council Education Committee appointed Eric Cregeen, previously Assistant Director to the Manx Museum, as Resident Tutor in Adult Education in Argyll to encourage extra-mural studies throughout the county, including the islands.

An ethnographer and historian well-versed in using oral history and archives, his work made important contributions to the social history of Argyll. Eric Cregeen, at the heart of the county, in Ardrishaig, began developing adult education by encouraging and helping local groups to create or re-invigorate archaeological and natural history societies, three new 'Natural History and Antiquarian Societies' soon coming into being - Mid-Argyll in 1955 and those on Mull and Islay in 1959.

A report in "The Argyllshire Advertiser and Lochfyneside Echo" of 20th April, 1955 informs us that "Those interested in the Antiquities and Natural History of their country will be glad to know that, following a well-attended open meeting held in Lochgilphead on 7th ult., a new society has been formed - **The Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid-Argyll**. The Office-bearers are - Hon. President, His Grace The Duke of Argyll; President, Miss Marion Campbell of Kilberry, F.S.A. (Scot); Joint Hon. Secretaries, E. R. Cregeen, M.A., University of Glasgow and Hawthorn, Ardrishaig; Dr. Macnab, Aros, Lochgilphead and Hon. Treasurer, J. M. Rattray, Bank of Scotland, Lochgilphead. The committee of management is representative and various parts of Mid-Argyll.

"The objects of the society are to promote interest in the antiquities, folklore, geology and natural history of Mid Argyll. Its activities will include excursions in summer, with experts as guides and meetings in winter. It is intended, when funds permit, to publish 'transactions', so as to place matters of interest and valuable research on record. A constitution has been adopted and excursions planned for this summer to Crarae (garden and excavation of Neolithic grave), Kilmartin antiquities and other places of interest. Member's subscription, 7/6 per annum".

The educational aims of the Mid Argyll society were to be apparent from the very beginning, as evidenced by the announcement, in 1956, of a history competition for those under 18 years of age. When the competition details were published in 1957, we can see the concern to promote "living" and oral history.

For example, one of the subjects that could be written about was "local crafts and industries" and including in the notes is the following : "If, for example, you choose to do fishing, get information, not only in books, but talk to fishermen in your locality".

It was this concern to bring history to life, coupled with Eric Cregeen's knowledge of Creagheash Folk Museum that would later act as some of the catalysts for the founding of the **Auchindrain Museum**, which opened in 1975.

With the arrival of the 1970's came the the magazine, the Mid Argyll society's "KIST" magazine, which started life at Whitsun 1971.

Copies of "The Kist" magazine and other books of Kintyre and local history interest can be obtained from -

**Ian Y. MacIntyre**, Tobacconist, Harbour Street, Tarbert, Argyll PA29 6UD  
**Telephone** + 44 (0) 1880 - 820310 **E-mail** ianymacintyre.310 (at) virgin.net

**Argyll Book Centre**, Unit 2, Lorne Street, Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8LU  
**Telephone** + 44 (0) 1546 - 603596 **Fax** + 44 (0) 1546 - 600081  
**E-mail** rona (at) argyllbooks.demon.co.uk

Though many magazine editions are now no longer available, it may be possible to obtain some of the 'back-numbers' from Phil Holt, Membership and Publications Secretary, Glasvaar Cottage, Ford, By Lochgilphead, Argyll PA31 8RG and other enquiries can be addressed to Ed Tyler, Magazine Editor, Daisy Cottage, Big Brae, Tarbert, Argyll PA29 6UQ **E-mail** tyleredward (at) hotmail.com

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