

# 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

THE KIST

The Magazine of  
The Natural History & Antiquarian Society  
of Mid Argyll

KIST MAGAZINE - 01 - Whitsun 1971

CONTENTS

Editorial		1
Quern-Stone Quarry at Minard	Col P F Fane Gladwin	3
Bird Notes	Mrs Rainier	6
Tales from Auchindrain - 1	Rev A Fraser	9
Schools at Lochgilphead - 1	Rev J R Callen	11
Notes and Hews	Gordon Davis	14
Overseas Queries	Marion Campbell	17
Book Review	M Stewart, Mrs	19
Cover Design and Text Drawings	Mrs E M Hunter	

THE KIST

The Magazine of  
The Natural History & Antiquarian Society  
of Mid Argyll

KIST MAGAZINE - 02 - Martinmas 1971

EDITOR Marion Campbell of Kilberry PSA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Editorial		1
Stonefield Yair and Other Antiquities	F S Mackenna	2
Tail Piece	W B Walker, Mrs	3
Plants of Knapdale	Archibald Kenneth	5
Tales from Auchindrain - 2	Marion Campbell	8
Schools of Lochgilphead - 2	Rev J R Callen	11
Dropper-in, The	Traditional	13
Bliadhna Mhaith Ur Dhuit	Rev Alexander Fraser	14
Bellanoch - Part I	H Graham	16
Overseas Queries	Editor	18
Notes and News	Hon Secretary	19
Cover - About	Hon Secretary	20
Observing Birds	E A Ascherson, Mrs	21
Review	W B Walker, Mrs	23

THE KIST

The Magazine of  
The Natural History & Antiquarian Society  
of Mid Argyll

KIST MAGAZINE - 03 - Whitsun 1972

EDITOR : Marion Campbell of Kilberry, PSA, PSA Scot

CONTENTS

Editorial		1
Cist Cemetery at Ormsary		
	A Morrison MA, FSA Scot	2
Eileach an Naoimh	L B Patrick	5
Auchindrain 1972	A Littlewood	8
Shells of Loch Sween	R B Purvis, Miss	11
Peacock Butterfly	I D Jex Long	14
Research Enquiry	M Campbell	15
Lost Dominie	Rev A Fraser	16
Overseas Queries	Editor	19
Secretary's Notes	Hon Secretary	20
Book Reviews	Editor	21
Cover - About		22

THE KIST

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

KIST MAGAZINE - 04 - Martinmas 1972

Editor: F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Editorial		1
Entomological Note	I.D.Jex Long, FRPSL	2
Magnus Barefoot and The Treaty of Tarbert		
	Marion Campbell, FSA	3
Great Spotted Woodpecker and His Lady		
	Gladys Mackechnie	7
Butterwort	Marion Campbell, FSA	8
Little Things	A. J. Campbell, MB, ChB	9
Harvest and Halloween Customs		
	Marion Campbell, FSA, Beatrice Fonaan and Rev. Alex. Fraser, BD	10
Death of An Old Pioneer	Eleanor Campbell	14
Recovery of An Earth House		
	F. S. Mackenna, FSA	16
Entomological Note	Marion Campbell, FSA	20
Recording Old Stones		21
Secretary's Notes		23

THE KIST

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

KIST MAGAZINE - 05 - Whitsun 1973

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Editorial		1
Loch Awe Crannog Survey C.M.McArdle, M.A.,F.S.A.Scot. and T.D.McArdle, M.A.,Ph.D.,F.S.A.Scot		2
Bird Watching in Mid-Argyll	Air Vice-Marshal Gordon Young	13
Rough-legged Buzzard		14
Thoughts on H.M's Mails in The 1850's	I.D.Jex Long, F.R.P.S.L	15
Helen's Well	James Allingham	16
Bellanoch - 2	Hugh Graham	17
An Uncommon Fern	F.S.Mackenna, M.A.,F.S.A.	18
Come Away In	M. L. S. Sandeman, Miss	19
Secretary's Notes		27

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 06 - Martinmas 1973

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Editorial		1
Obituary - Gordon Davis, Hon.Sec. of Mid Argyll 'Antiquarians'		2
St Columba's Cave	M. Campbell FSA and C. J. Young MA	3
Cossack Street, Lochgilphead and The Cossack Inn	Alexander Fraser MA, BD, FSA Scot	13
Knapdale Swordfish	Editorial Note	14
Archaeology in 1842 - from Lord Cockburn's Journal		14
Gunpowder Manufacture at Furnace	E.M.Patterson, D.Sc, F.R.S.E	15
Forestry Commission Discoveries	George Iveson	19
Fraoch Eilean, Loch Awe	Ian M. Campbell, W.S.	22
Sabbath Breaker	Mrs Campbell of Glenfeochan	24
Clay Pipes Found in Argyll	John Carmichael	25
Book Review		27

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 07 - Whitsun 1974

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Editorial		1
Manx Shearwater Colonies on Rhum	Peter Wormell, L.I.Biol	2
Pennant's Tour - 1		8
Stronefield Mill	F.S.Mackenna, MA. FSA. FSAScot	9
Stronefield Mill	Rev. Henry Rogers of Ellary	12
Old Kilberry's Diaries - 1	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	14
Snuff Box Story	David C. Cargill, FSG. FSAScot. AIBS.	18
Dean Monro's Western Isles of Scotland		19
Old Scots Plant Lore	'An Lighiche Mor'	20
Pennant's Tour - 2		23
Birds of Mid-Argyll - A Check List	Air Vice-Marshal Gordon Young	24
Pitcur Sederunt Book - Extracts	The Editor	26

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 08 - Martinmas 1974

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Editorial		1
Nether Largie Standing Stones, Kilmartin	Professor A.J.Haddow, C.M.G., F.R.S., D.R.Hannay, M.A., M.B. D.A.Tait, B.Sc, Ph.E	2
Battlefield of Carse - A Knot of Knapdale Legends	Marion Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.	14
Jura - New CI4 Dates	John Mercer, FSAScot	20
When The Years Were Young - 1	Mary Sandeman, Miss	23
Old Kilberry's Diaries - 2	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	25

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 09 - Spring 1975

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Editorial		1
Inveraray : The Beginnings - 1	Donald Mackechnie, OBE. MA	2
Dorlach Dioghluim - A Gleaned Sheaf of Gaelic Weather Lore		
	Marion Campbell of Kilberry, FSA. FSAScot.	10
Thoughts on "The Dark Twin"		
	Professor A. J. Haddow, CMG. FRS	15
When The Years Were Young - 2	Mary Sandeman, Miss	17
Kilberry castle in 1857		
	Marion Campbell of Kilberry, FSA. FSAScot.	19
Wilson Family in Inverneil - Compiled by The Editor from notes by David C. Cargill, FSG. FSAScot. AIBS		20
Old Kilberry's Diaries - 3	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	25
Book Reviews		26

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 10 - Autumn 1975

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

A Mediaeval Jug from Loch Fyne	F. Severne Mackenna	1
An Enlistment in Tarbert	Col. P.F.Fane Gladwin, OBE	8
Bygone Natural History - Quotations		10
Campbells of Keills Ferry	George Campbell	11
When The Years Were Young - 3	Mary Sandeman, Miss	18
Beauty in Old Bottles	J. R. Carmichael	20
Old Kilberry's Diaries - 4	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	22
Book Review		27

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 11 - Spring 1976

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

North Knapdale - Studies in The Historical Ecology Dr Leslie Rymer Ph.D.	1
Kilberry Rent Roll 1750 - Note Marion Campbell of Kilberry	9
Elephant Hawk Moth - Entomological Note Iain D. Jex-Long, FRPSL	9
When The Years Were Young - 4 Mary Sandeman, Miss	10
Kilberry Parish Church and Extracts from Minutes Rev. William Eadie	12
Death of a Squirrel Rev. Alexander Fraser, BD, FSAScot	22
Bird Notes Air Vice-Marshal Gordon Young, CBE	23
Old Kilberry's Diaries - 5 Marion Campbell of Kilberry	24

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 12 - Autumn 1976

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Rock Carvings at Dunadd Marion Campbell of Kilberry	1
North Knapdale - Studies in The Historical Ecology Dr Leslie Rymer Ph.D.	8
When The Years Were Young - 5 - The Harvest Mary Sandeman, Miss	17
Inveraray : The Beginnings - 2 Donald Mackechnie, OBE. MA	20
Old Kilberry's Diaries - 6 Marion Campbell of Kilberry	27

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 13 - Spring 1977

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Charcoal Hearths v. Hut Foundations		
	Mrs E.M.Rennie, FSAScot	1
Choerocampa Elpenor - Moth Note		
	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	9
Scottish Heraldic Bookplates		
	Sir Hay Campbell of Succoth, Bart.	10
When The Years Were Young - 6 - High and Far Off		
	Mary Sandeman, Miss	18
Gannet - Bird Note	Air Vice-Marshal Gordon Young, CBE	21
North Knapdale - The History of Man - 1		
	Dr Leslie Rymer, Ph.D	22

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 14 - Autumn 1977

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Old Crinan	George Campbell	1
North Knapdale - The History of Man - 2		
	Dr Leslie Rymer, Ph.D	6
Multum in Parvo : An Expedition to Keills		
	Mrs D.M.Hooton, B.Sc, Dip.Hort.Swanley	9
Travelling in 1740 - Part of A Letter from Simon, Lord Lovat		12
Cover Note : A Stone from Cladh Bhile	The Editor	14
Scottish Heraldic Bookplates : A Footnote		
	Sir Hay Campbell of Succoth, Bart	15
When The Years Were Young - 7 - The Big Wash	Mary Sandeman, Miss	16
Loch Fyne Ring-Netting : Some Early Episodes and Folk Tales		
	Angus Martin	20
Last Fox Hunt of Allan MacIntyre	Ian MacDonald, CDA. NDA	26
Argyll, The Enduring Heartland - Book Review - J. S. Andrews, FSAScot		28

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 15 - Spring 1978

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

North Knapdale - The History of Man - 3	Dr Leslie Rymer, Ph.D	1
Cover Note	The Editor	13
When The Years Were Young - 8 - The Smiddy	Mary Sandeman, Miss	14
Old Tarbert Well Recovered	F. S. Mackenna. FSA	16
Skiff Fishermen of Kintyre	Angus Martin	17
Meteors at Kilberry	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	21
Unrecorded Armorial Stone	F. S. Mackenna. FSA	22
Orchids in Mid-Argyll	Mrs D.M.Hooton. BSc. Dip. Hort. Swanley	24

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 16 - Autumn 1978

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Brainport Bay, Minard - Discoveries	Colonel P.F.Fane Gladwin, OBE. FSAScot	1
Vitrified Fort - An Early Reference from Pennant's Tour, 1769		15
Parental Troubles of Simon, Lord Lovat		16
18th Century Dispute	F. S. Mackenna, FSA	19
Old Crinan - A Footnote	Dr Leslie Rymer Ph.D	22
Gloaming	Mary Sandeman, Miss	24
Correction for Kist 13 - from Dr Leslie Rymer, Ph.D		24
Early Scottish Nationalism	The Editor	25
Orchids - Further Notes on Marsh and Spotted Orchids	Mrs D.M.Hooton, B.Sc, Dip.Hort.Swanley	25
Old Kilberry's Diaries - Further Extracts - 1	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	26

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 17 - Spring 1979

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Early Roads in Mid-Argyll - 1	F. S. Mackenna. FSA	1
Glow Worm Sighting	Robert W. Smith. MA	7
North Knapdale - The History of Man - 4	Dr Leslie Rymer, Ph.D	8
Well - View of the Re-Discovered Well at Tarbert		15
Clan Campbell Heraldry - from "The Clan Campbell" 1977	Sir Hay Campbell of Succoth, Bart	16
When The Years Were Young - 9 - Old Hugh and His Kingdom	Mary Sandeman, Miss	22
Old Kilberry's Diaries - Further Extracts - 2	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	27
Cover Note	The Editor	29

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 18 - Autumn 1979

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Auchindrain - A Fresh Look	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	1
Highland Brooches : A Note on the Cover	F. S. Mackenna MA. FSA. FSAScot	10
Keills Chapel, Knapdale - Excavations	Miss C. M. Brooks, MA. FSAScot	11
Dolphin - An Uncommon Dolphin at Kilmory Knap	Mrs D. M. Hooton, B.Sc, Dip. Hort. Swanley	16
Early Roads in Mid-Argyll - 2	F. S. Mackenna, MA. FSA. FSAScot	18
Cart Wheels - Making Cart Wheels in Jura	C. Stewart Sandeman, J.P., M.B., Ch.B	24
Old Kilberry's Diaries - Further Extracts - 3	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	25

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 19 - Spring 1980

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Boar Hunt	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	1
Archaeological Notes : Kilmory Knap, Dunadd and Kintraw		5
Brainport - Thoughts on the Use of The Brainport Bay Structures	Colonel P. F. Fane Gladwin, OBE, FSAScot	9
Cover Note		19
Volcanic Dykes - Stop and Look	J. S. Andrews FSAScot	20
When The Years Were Young - 10 - The Seventh Day	Mary Sandeman, Miss	24
Helleborine - A Discovery	Mrs D.M.Hooton, B.Sc, Dip. Hort. Swanley	28
Health - Annual Reports of The Medical Officer of Health for Argyll - 1	Dr Ruth Cammock, MD, FSAScot	29

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 20 - Autumn 1980

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Early Crosses at Keills, Loch Sween	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	1
Milestone Anomaly - Editorial Notes		8
Long-Finned Tunny - Editorial Notes		9
Watchman Stone at Barbreck	Dr F.S.Mackenna MA. FSA. FSAScot	10
Kintraw - Excavations, 1979	Trevor Cowie MA. FSAScot	18
Clapper Bridges : A Postscript	Murdo MacDonald, MA. DAA. FSAScot	21
Cover Note		21
Cnocan Uamhach Megalithic Chambered Cairn : Preliminary Report	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	22
Old Kilberry's Diaries - Further Extracts - 4	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	26
Prehistoric Rock Art of Galloway and The I.O.M. - Review		29

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 21 - Spring 1981

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Doide, Loch Sween		
Mrs D.M.Hooton, BSc. Dip.Hort.Swan. & Miss A.T.Lewis	1	
Nadders and Ewts - Useless Information	5	
Mid-Argyll in 1773 - A Professional Visit		
Marion Campbell of Kilberry	6	
Foxes, Eagles and Kilmichael Tryst - Minute Books 1760 - 1662		
Murdo MacDonald	8	
Herring Gulls' Range - Ornithological Note		Major Basil MacNay
Camasserie and Loch Gair - Some Minor Antiquities	10	
Dr F. Severne Mackenna FSA	11	
Royal Route		Dr A. J. Campbell, MB. Ch.B. D.P.H.
	16	
Old Kilberry's Diaries - Further Extracts - 5		
Marion Campbell of Kilberry	21	
Cairn - Another Kind of Cairn		Marion Campbell of Kilberry
	23	
Early Roads : A Postscript		Dr F. Severne Mackenna, FSA
	25	
Kilberry Family Notes		Miss Rosa Campbell 1842 -1918
Herself : Miss M. E. M. Donaldson - Review	27	
	28	

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 22 - Autumn 1981

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Alexander II - The Western Voyage	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	1
Watchman Stone : A Postscript	The Editor	8
Flora of Kintyre - Additions	A. G. Kenneth	9
Crinan Canal with Horse and Tracker	From an old notebook	12
Jura - The Paleolithic & Mesolithic Occupation	John Mercer FSA	15
Wheatears Hovering	Rev. A. R. Duncan-Jones	19
Health - Annual Reports of The Medical Officer of Health for Argyll - 2		
Dr Ruth Cammock, MD, FSAScot		20
Cover Note : Bealach an Fhuarain		
F. S. Mackenna, MA, FSA, FSAScot		22
Loch Awe - Two (or Three) Islands	Ian M. Campbell, W.S.	26
Old Kilberry's Diaries - Further Extracts - 6		
Marion Campbell of Kilberry		28

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 23 - Spring 1982

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

New Inverneill Hill Road - 1846 -1847 G. V. Turner BA, MRTPI, FRMETS	1
Tarbert By-Names Anon.	10
Mid-Argyll Contract of Fosterage - 1655 F. S. Mackenna MA, FSA, FSA Scot.	12
Reflections of an Amateur Excavator J. C. Purdie FSA Scot.	16
Aspects of Industry in Mid-Argyll Marion Campbell of Kilberry	19
Crinan Canal : An Additional Note Mrs Richard Smith	25
Cover Note : Carved Stone at Daltot F. S. Mackenna MA, FSA, FSA Scot.	26
Exploring Arran's Past - Review	29

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 24 - Autumn 1982

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Editorial	1
Domestic Animals and The Law in Early Times Marion Campbell of Kilberry	2
Skye Rebellion and 'Old Kilberry' <sup>1</sup> The Editor	4
Sailors' Graves F. S. Mackenna MA, FSA, FSA Scot.	6
When The Years Were Young - 11 - A Right Stramash Mary Sandeman, Miss	8
Renewal of Upper Raslie Professor J. A. McIntyre	12
Maritime Obituary F. S. Mackenna MA, FSA, FSA Scot.	15
Jura - Wild Life Notes : 1981 Rev. Peter Youngson	17
Trysting Brooch Eilidh Scobbie	21
Bealach an Fhuarain : A Postscript	25
Handled Crosses - A Supplementary Note	27
Cover Note	28

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 25 - Spring 1983

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Dr David Livingstone : The Romantic Story of The Forefathers	P. A. Macnab	1
Jura - The Trial of John McSwine of Jura	Rev. Peter Youngson	5
When The Years Were Young - 12 - April Showers	Mary Sandeman, Miss	8
Shira Glen - The Small Lairds	Duncan Beaton	14
Kilberry Puzzle	The Editor	21
Jura - Wild Life Notes : 1982	Rev. Peter Youngson	24
Cup-and-Ring Marks - Re-Discovered	J. A. Johnston	26
Thane of Cawdor's Expenses - 1591		28
Cover Note		29

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 26 - Autumn 1983

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Eighteenth Century Excambion	G. V. Turner BA. MRTPI. FRMETS	1
Tree Planting	Mrs C. M. N. Hall	7
Ornithologist Moves to Kingston, Ontario	Air Vice-Marshal Gordon Young, CBE	8
Three Crannogs and An Island Refuge	Ian M. Campbell WS	12
Curious Present		16
Luing - Kilchattan (Luing) Graffiti - An Addition		17
Dugald Campbell, Minister of Kilmartin and The Campbells or MacIvers of Ardlarach	Duncan Beaton	20
Craignish Carved Stones		22
Cover Note		25
Gille Buidhe	Hamish MacKenzie	28

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 27 - Spring 1984

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Kilmalieu - Some Stones	Donald Mackechnie O.B.E., M.A	1
Major-General Dugald Campbell - Inventory of The Personal Estate Duncan Beaton		10
Argyll's Contribution to Scots Law	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	12
Jura Notes - 1983	Rev. Peter Youngson	17
Rocks of Mid-Argyll - Their Story	Professor E.M.Patterson, D.Sc, F.R.S.E.	20
Upper Achnaba and The Cossack Inn - An Expedition	Colin Fergusson and The Editor	21
Two Nineteenth Century Drawings	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	23
Crinan Canal in Purple Prose	from Mrs M. J. Smith and The Editor	26
Cover Note	The Editor	29
Note from The Past	Mrs Noel Hall	29

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 28 - Autumn 1984

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Cover Note		1
Mortsafes : A Local Modification ?	Colin P. Fergusson	4
Kilberry Archives : A Letter of 1772		6
Knapdale Forest - Diarmid's Grave	Anon.	11
Leac an Duine Chòir, Craignish		12
Bass Rock, Gull's Vision and Skua Report	Dr F. S. Mackenna	14
Kilmartin Stone - Recorded	Dr F. S. Mackenna	15
Gardener's Reflections in Autumn	Helen Martin, Miss	17
Lord Cockburn's Circuit Journeys - Extracts		19
Barvreck - The Families	Duncan Beaton	20
Eilean na Circe, Caol Scotnish	Michael Vyatt Wheeler MA	22
Homing Instinct in Cattle		24
Old Inveraray - Two Notes	Donald Mackechnie, OBE. MA	25
Review of Publications		28

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 29 - Spring 1985

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

18th-century Dykers	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	1
Auchentiobart and The Macarthurs	Duncan Beaton	5
Pre-1855 Inscribed Gravestones in Knapdale - 1	Dr F. Severne Mackenna MA, FSA, FSA Scot	8
Leathery Turtle in British and Irish Waters	G. L. King	15
Eilean na Circe : First Impressions and Second Thoughts	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	19
Mid-Argyll Stances	Colin F. Fergusson	23
Kilmartin Stone - Footnote to Kist 28	Dr F. S. Mackenna	26
Cover Note		28

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 30 - Autumn 1985

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Psalms and Protests	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	1
Jura - Early Place-names	Malcolm McArthur	3
Pre-1855 Inscribed Gravestones in Knapdale - 2	Dr F. S. Mackenna MA, FSA, FSA Scot	6
Dun Alasdair : An Old Tarbert Site	Dr F. S. Mackenna MA, FSA, FSA Scot	13
Stranger in Our Midst	Dr F. S. Mackenna MA, FSA, FSA Scot	16
Jura - A Wintry Day	Rev. Peter Youngson	17
Killevin - The Cross-Shaft	Dr F. S. Mackenna and Colin F. Fergusson	20
Bird Watcher by West Loch Tarbert	Colin F. Fergusson	22
Barnakill and Cladh Bhile : Two Notes		25
Trials and Tribulations of Ancestor Hunting	M. J. Whitten, Mrs	26
Cover Note		29

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 31 - Spring 1986

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Kilmichael of Inverlussa : A Notable Discovery		
	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	1
Pre-1855 Inscribed Gravestones in Knapdale - 3		
	Dr F. S. Mackenna MA, FSA, FSA Scot	5
Neill Malcolm - Slave	Information from Mrs C. M..N.Hall MA	11
Oil Beetle found in Tarbert	E. S. Clark MA, FSA Scot	12
Inveraray - Removals from The Old Town	Duncan Beaton	13
Crinan Canal Again	Information from Mrs Stout	21
Tarbert Ship Canal	Ian Y. Macintyre	22
Kist 30 - Erratum and Addenda		
	Dr Lome Campbell PhD., The President and The Editor	25
Islay - A Sepulchral Oddity		27
Brainport - Review	J. G. Scott MA	27

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 32 - Autumn 1986

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Aird Public School, Castleton	Dr Malcolm Shaw	1
Crinan Canal Cup-marked Stone		7
Charitie of the Boxe	Dr F. S. Mackenna MA, FSA, FSAScot	8
Kilmahumaig Stone	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	13
Tarbert Baker <sup>1</sup> 's Day Book 80 Years Ago		16
Auchindrain's Loom	Dr Ruth Camnock MD, RIBA, FSA Scot	17
Clapper Bridges : A Further Note		23
Criticism of West-Highland Series - No.13 : The Land of Knapdale		23
Fungus Tuber maculiferun in A Mid-Argyll Garden		26
By The Way	Colin F. Fergusson FSA Scot	27
Twelve Ships A-Sailing - Review		29

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 33 - Spring 1987

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Gaelic Alphabet - Cover Note	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	1
More in the Net	Mary Sandeman	2
Baravalla	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	5
Inveraray Notes by Donald Mackechnie - Review		7
Lorn - Two Old Villages	Mary McGrigor	8
Book of Kells - A Meditation	Dr F. S. Mackenna FSA	18
Tarbert in The Past		18
Rustic Life in Galloway - 1700		21
Termon Crosses and Girths	Dr F. S. Mackenna FSA	22
Ardrihaig Mystery	Colin F. Fergusson, FSA Scot	25
Royal Visit Preparations in 1617		27

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 34 - Autumn 1987

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Robert I and Tarbert Castle	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	1
Tarbert's 'Peel' Is the site now identified ?	C. F. Fergusson FSA Scot and F. S. Mackenna FSA, FSA Scot	9
Blacksmith's Beam Drill-Press	Alan Campbell of Glenfeochan MA. MSc.	11
Kippers - What is a Good Kipper ?	Forsyth Hamilton	13
Enigma - An Inscribed Boulder		14
Phalacrocorax aristolelis	E. A. T. Wright with commentary by C. F. Fergusson	15
Mining Enterprises in Mid-Argyll	A. G. Rankine MA	17
Aftermath of The Rebellion against James VII - 1	The Editor	23
Kipper House Tales - Review		28
Lore of Highland Trees - Review		28

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 35 - Spring 1988

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Aftermath of The Rebellion against James VII - 2 Argyll's Rising : 1685 and After	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	1
Two Old Letters		5
Cover Note on The Drawing		8
Fairy Isles Nature Reserve	G. V. Turner B.A. , F.R.Met.S	9
Unpublicised Link With The '45	F. S. Mackenna	10
Kilmory Gardens - Their History and Development	Mervyn Kessell	13
Latin Word-Square	Mrs A.O.M.Clark M.A.Glas., B.A.Cant	18
Glendarroch Distillery, Ardrishaig	Sir Hay Campbell, Bt	20
Kilberry Castle Archives - Stray Items	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	23
Book Reviews		27
Long-Finned Tunny - Another		29
Our Library - Book List Available By Post		29

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 36 - Autumn 1988

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Duns - A Study of Six Duns in Mid-Argyll in 1987	Mrs A.O.M.Clark M.A.Glas., B.A.Cant., F.S.A. Scot.	1
Birds of The West Loch	Colin Fergusson F.S.A. Scot.	15
Local Spear or Arrow Head		17
Making of Flint Arrow Heads	Quoted from The Uttermost Part of The Earth by Lucas Bridges	18
A Highwayman Outwitted	The Editor	19
Allt Beithe (pronounced AWLT BAY)		
- The Desertion of A Settlement	John Smith, Glendarroch	20
Aftermath of The Rebellion against James VII - 1	The Editor	25

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 37 - Spring 1989

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

West Coast Sea Routes - Their Origins and Decline		
	Colin F. Fergusson, FSA Scot.	1
Craignish Minister and The '45	The Editor	8
Death of an Ardrishaig Fisherman	Dermid MacGregor	11
Birds - More Examples of Curious Bird Behaviour		17
Oronsay Shell Middens - Recent Excavations		
	Dr Paul Mellars Ph.D.	18
Rev. Robert Fullarton - Some Biographical Notes		
	Duncan Beaton	20
Sheep Droving - A Nonagenarian's Memories		
	Recorded by Mr Jack Campbell	23
Cover Note		26
Book Reviews		28

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 38 - Autumn 1989

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Three National Nature Reserves	D. A. Batty	1
Kilmory and The Orde Family : A Correction		13
Atechuan Memorial	Dermid MacGregor	13
Staddles to Elephants : An Obscure Progression		
	F. S. Mackenna	14
Vitrified Forts : A Mid-19th Century Opinion		16
Auchagoyle to Penmore: A Profile of Archibald Macnab		
	Duncan Beaton	18
Haste Post Haste	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	22
Jacobite Sign - A Rare Location	F. S. Mackenna	24
Chrysanthemum Segetum : 'The Stranger Flower'		
	Joanna Gordon B.A.(Cantab.)F.S.A.Scot	25
Latha Seachanta na Bliadhna		28
Honey Stealing at Haddington, 1704		29

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 39 - Spring 1990

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Marion Campbell of Kilberry - Resignation		1
Cup and Ring Carvings in Argyll : Thoughts on Their Origins and Development	Col. P F Fane Gladwin OBE, FSA Scot	2
Barking Fishing Nets	Ronald Johnson	10
Birds - Collective Nouns		11
Highlands and Lowlands Defined in 1787		12
Carnasserie Castle	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	13
Idolatrous Images	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	17
Bird Notes	Colin Fergusson FSA Scot	18
Saddle Querns : A Note	Dr F S Mackenna FSA	21
Rights of Way and Trespass		23
Archibald Graham Kenneth of Stronachullin : Three Tributes		27
Kenneth's Hawkweed		26
Dunadd Boar : An Artistic Evaluation	Dr F S Mackenna FSA	28

THE KIST

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

President : Dr Lamont McNab JP, MB, FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 40 - Autumn 1990

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Tarbert - Skipness Track : Its Destruction		
	F. S. Mackenna	1
Cautionary Tale		
	Mrs A O M Clark MA Glas. BA Cantab	5
Night The Sea Came In	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	8
Rhododendrons : Beautiful but Deadly	F. S. Mackenna	10
Concomitant of The 1745 Rebellion		13
Crinan Canal - Towing Through	D E McD	16
How I First Met Our Editor	G H Bignall	20
Irish Way of Doing Things		22
First Steamboat	Tom Baird	23
Gentle Hint		25
Cover Note		25
Book Reviews		26

THE KIST

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

President : Mrs Anne M. Kahane, MA, FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 41 - Spring 1991

Editor : F. S. Mackenna M.A., F.S.A.

CONTENTS

Dr D. LamontMcNab - Obituary		1
Limekilns in Mid Argyll	Anne M. Kahane, MA, FSA Scot	1
Mainly for Newer Members		11
Visiting by Sea 180 Years Ago		13
Inishail, Loch Awe - The Pilgrim's Island	Mary McGrigor, FSA Scot	15
Ardchonnell Mill, Loch Awe	Mary McGrigor, FSA Scot	19
But Yesterday	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	22
Carnasserie Castle : A Footnote	Rev. A. R. Duncan - Jones	25
Meaningful Coincidences	John Graham	26
Cover Note - An Anaglyph		28
Book Reviews		29

THE KIST

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

President : Mrs Anne M. Kahane, MA, FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 42 - Autumn 1991

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Change at The Top		1
Brainport - The Former Ferry Site	Col. P. Fane Gladwin, OBE, FSA Scot.	2
Gaeldom - One of the Three Curses		10
Rhododendron Garden at Dun Alasdair	Dr F. S. Mackenna MA, FSA	11
Inishail - A Footnote (Kist 41)	Mary McGrigor, FSA Scot	15
Ardchonnell Mill, Loch Awe (Kist 41)	Mary McGrigor, FSA Scot	15
Mediaeval Galleys	Denis Rixson	16
Cover Note - Dunadd		21
Marine Biology in Mid-Argyll - Aspects	Dr James D. Robertson, Sc. D, Cantab.	22
Good Old Days in The Highlands		25
House That Baxter Built	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	26

THE KIST

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

President : Mrs Anne M. Kahane, MA, FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 43 - Spring 1992

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Cover Note - Mealdarroch Settlement		1
Portsonachan Ferry c.1314 - 1953	Mary McGrigor, FSA Scot	2
Temple Wood - A Note on The Spirals	Rev. A. R. Duncan - Jones	8
Lobelia Dortmanna - Water Lobelia		
	Joanna Gordon B.A.Cantab., FSAScot.	10
Recording in Old Graveyards	Alan Begg	16
Corrections to Kist 42		21
Book Reviews		21
Irish Sheilings in The 1930's	J. Alan Stewart	25
Midges Again		26
Whelks	Denis Rixson	27
Summer Expeditions 1991		28

THE KIST

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

President : Mrs Anne M. Kahane, MA, FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 44 - Autumn 1992

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Small Ferries of the West Loch	Hilary Giles	1
Kilmory Graveyard	Allan Begg	7
Beldarroch		10
Correction to Kist 43		10
Tarbert Harbour Before 1925	Duncan MacDougall	11
Melodious Swan	Rev. A. R. Duncan - Jones	18
John Damsone's Acre	Margaret I. MacPhee Smith	19
Kilberry Pipers	James Campbell MC, TD	21
Cover Note - Tarbert 1900		25
Grass	Denis Rixson	26
Taynish Nature Reserve		28

THE KIST

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

President : Mrs Anne M. Kahane, MA, FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 45 - Spring 1993

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

John Munro - Notable Descendants	Duncan Beaton	1
West Loch Ferries - Further Notes	Duncan MacDougall	7
Portinnisherrich Ferry, Loch Awe	Mary McGrigor, FSA Scot	9
Old Settlements of Kilmartin and Glassary- A Tour - 1	Allan Begg	13
Beldarroch		18
Cup and Conundrum Marks	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	19
Trigger Fish	Alexander Ascherson	22
Killevin Burial Ground - Cross-Shaft	Anne M. Kahane MA, FSA Scot.	23
Buff Tip Moth	Peter Wormell	24
Crinan Canal - Automatic Water Waster	Alec Howie (British Waterways)	26
Summer Expeditions 1992		28

THE KIST

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

President : Mrs Anne M. Kahane, MA, FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 46 - Autumn 1993

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Faint Footprints - 1	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	1
Brainport Bay Solar Alignment - Adopt-a-Monument Scheme	Anne M. Kahane MA, FSA Scot.	6
William John McCallien (1866-1947)	Mary Smith	7
Note on Kist 45	Allan Begg	10
Resettlement of a Colony	Edmond S. Clark MA, FSAScot.	11
Book Notes		12
Beldarroch : Field Survey - Association of Certificated Field Archaeologists		13
Old Settlements of Kilmartin and Glassary- A Tour - 2	Allan Begg	18
Lysichiton Americanum	Dr F. S. Mackenna MA, FSA	23
Dickies' Boatyard, Tarbert	Duncan MacDougall	26

THE KIST

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

President : Mrs Anne M. Kahane, MA, FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 47 - Spring 1994

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Cover Note	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	1
Faint Footprints - 2	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	8
Old Settlements of Kilmartin and Glassary- A Tour - 3	Allan Begg	18
Rowans - and Archaeology ?	Edmond S. Clark MA, FSAScot.	11
Tarbert - Old Shops	Duncan MacDougall	13
Durran Road	Mary McGrigor FSA Scot.	18
Stonefield Bronze Age Axe	Fiona Campbell Byatt FSA Scot.	22
Brenchoille Bridge - The Repairing	Jim Riley	24
Rare Birds in Argyll	Colin Fergusson FSA Scot.	25
Dickies' Boatyard, Tarbert	John Pinkerton	27
Air Vice-Marshal Gordon Young CBE	Obituary	28
Summer Expeditions 1993		29

THE KIST

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

President : Mrs Anne M. Kahane, MA, FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 48 - Autumn 1994

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Beldarroch - The Deserted Settlement	Mrs A.O.M. Clark MA, FSAScot.	1
Trees in Former Economies	Dr F.S. Mackenna MA, FSA	7
Cover Note		10
Correction to Kist 47		10
Kilneuir - The Old Parish Church	Mary McGrigor FSA Scot.	11
Clan Mackellar - The Early History - 1	Duncan Beaton	15
Where Have All The Wild Things Gone ?	Alan Campbell	24
Pre-1855 Inscribed Gravestones in Clachan	Dr F.S. Mackenna MA, FSA	25

THE KIST

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

President : Mrs Anne M. Kahane, MA, FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 49 - Spring 1995

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Poltalloch "Jet" Spacer Plate Necklace	Alison Sheridan & Mary Davis, NMS	1
Megaliths and Prehistoric Rock Carvings in Switzerland	Andreas Trottmann	10
Alexander Campbell, Surveyor at Inveraray - Three Tales	Frances Wilkins MA	15
Port Askaig to Feolin Ferry	Walter Weyndling BSc, MRINA	21
Cover Note	Mrs Anne Kahane MA, FSA Scot.	25
After Culloden: Jacobite Prisoners in Barbados	Gloria Siggins, FSA Scot.	26
Macphersons in The West of Scotland & Ireland	James Macpherson	29
An Tairbeart : The Portage	Summary of Report by AOC Scotland Ltd.	31
Book Review : A Naturalist in the Highlands 1767 - 1777		34

THE KIST

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

President : Mrs Anne M. Kahane, MA, FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 50 - Autumn 1995

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Clan Mackellar - The Early History - 2	Duncan Beaton	1
Loch Awe Legends : Fact and Fiction	Mary McGrigor, FSA Scot.	7
Cup-and-Ring Carvings and The Brocken Spectre	Ian Purvis	11
Pre-1855 Gravestones in Barbreck Burial Ground	Mrs A.C. Pitt	14
Emigration - A Different Experience	John Black	15
Close Encounters of The Bird Kind	Edmond S. Clark MA, FSA Scot.	19
Tarbert Garden Findings		21
Summer Expeditions 1994		22
Home Front, Tarbert 1939 - 1945	Margaret Campbell McDougall	23
Book Reviews		23

THE KIST

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

President : Mrs Anne M. Kahane, MA, FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 51 - Spring 1996

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Kilmahumaig and The Mystery of New York	Michael Murray	1
York Buildings Company	A. K. Elliot	9
Cover Note		11
Achnasavil	Gloria Siggins	11
MacPheigh The Carpenter	Alan Campbell	16
Correction to Kist 50		20
Pre-1855 Gravestones (II) - Cladh Mhicheil, Gartnagrenach	F. S. Mackenna MA, FSA	21
Summer Expeditions 1995		23
Arran 1995	Ms Rebecca Pine	24
Book Reviews		26
Kilmartin House	Christopher Maddox	28

THE KIST

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

President : Mrs Anne M. Kahane, MA, FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 52 - Autumn 1996

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Dunmore School	Mrs Hilary Giles	1
Plus Ça Change	Murdo MacDonald	7
Rooky Wood	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	9
<b>Reprints of Kist</b>		11
A Tour in The Highlands and Western Islands 1800	Dr John Leyden	12
Prophet of Kilmalieu	Rae MacGregor	17
Brocaire Legend	John A Berrecloth	20
Why "Hell's Glen" ?	Angus McLean	27
Book Reviews		28

THE KIST

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

President : Mrs Anne M. Kahane, MA, FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 53 - Spring 1997

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Alan Campbell of Glenfeochan - Obituary		1
Kilmahonaig Journal - 1	Michael Murray	2
Kilmartin Glen	Robert Gordon	10
Leckan Muir	Duncan Beaton	15
Unseen Neighbours	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	20
Military Road Through Glenaray	Mary McGrigor FSA Scot.	22
Training Excavation in The Scottish Borders		
	Mrs Adeline O.M. Clark, MA, FSAScot.	24
Feuds of The Clans	Anon. from "Argyll Colony Plus"	27
Summer Expeditions 1996		28

THE KIST

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

President : Mrs Anne M. Kahane, MA, FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 54 - Autumn 1997

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Dr F.S. Mackenna - Obituary		1
Dunderave Castle in The 1900's	Michael Davis	2
House and A Ship of The Same Name	Dr Krishna Goel	6
Clan Mackellar - Part 2	Duncan Beaton	8
Cover Note		13
Kilmahonaig Journal - 2	Michael Murray	14
Book Reviews		21
Coll - N.H.A.S.M.A. on Coll	Members of The Society	23
Coll - A Glimpse in Earlier Days	Lorne MacEchern	29

THE KIST

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

President : James Purdie FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 55 - Spring 1998

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Mrs Anne M. Kahane - Resignation		1
Sheep, Goats and Wolves in North Knapdale	Dr Leslie Rymer	1
Clan Mackellar - Part 3	Duncan Beaton	6
Local Defences	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	10
Sir John Orde of Kilmory		
Michael Davis, Local Studies Librarian, Argyll and Bute Council		13
Corn Marigold : A Footnote	Rev A. R. Duncan - Jones	18
Kilmartin House	D. J. Adams McGilp	20
Kilmahonaig Journal - Notes		22
Acres, Castleton		
Murdo MacDonald, Archivist, Argyll and Bute Council		23
Boccaird - Ghost Village of Glenaray	Mary McGrigor, FSA Scot.	24
Cover Note		28
Summer Expeditions 1997		28

THE KIST

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

President : James Purdie FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 56 - Autumn 1998

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Lichen Flora of Argyll Kirkyards		
Prof. and Mrs Norman Hammond		1
Candlemass - A Note		
Murdo MacDonald, Archivist for Argyll & Bute		9
Kilmartin Castle	Thomas K. Clarke	10
Medicinal Mushrooms	Dr Krishna Goel	14
Integrated Public Transport 1887	Mrs A.O.M. Clark	16
Archives of Argyll and Bute Council		
Louise Logue		22
Inveraray - No. 1 Combined Training Centre (Inveraray)		
James Jepson		23
Molly Milloy	Marion Campbell of Kilberry	24
Reviews		26

THE KIST

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

President : James Purdie FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 57 - Spring 1999

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Behind the Monument - Charting of The Largs Channel - 1 Dr William Laing	1
MacArthurs of Tirevadich Mary McGrigor, FSA Scot.	10
Gold Is Where You Find It Gloria Siggins	15
Necessary Study Murdo MacDonald	18
Traffic Hazard of The 30's James Davidson	20
Lady's Seat Revisited Mrs Sheena Carmichael	21
Early Fishing Industry in The West Highlands Denis Rixson	23
Reviews	25
Summer Expeditions	28

THE KIST

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

President : James Purdie FSA Scot.

KIST MAGAZINE - 58 - Autumn 1999

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Pre-1855 Gravestones - St Brandon's Chapel, Skipness	1
Integrated Public Transport - Kist 56 - A Note Mary McGrigor, FSA Scot.	6
Behind the Monument - Charting of The Largs Channel - 2 Dr William Laing	7
Timber Bridges in Argyll Murdo MacDonald	14
MacCorquhodales of Kilchrenan Mary McGrigor, FSA Scot.	15
Kelp Industry in North Knapdale Dr Leslie Rymer	19
Book Review	23
Tiree - N.H.A.S.M.A. on Tiree Members of The Society	24

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Lynne Farrell

KIST MAGAZINE - 59 - Spring 2000

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

History of The Fishing Vessel "Nancy Glen"	Henda MacDougall	1
MacCorquhodales in Inveraray	Mary McGrigor	4
Old Achnaba - Notes	Miss Agatha Lewis	9
500 AD and All That	Dr Francis Blacklay	12
Tobago's First Excavation	Gloria Siggins	13
James Watt senior, a Merchant of Greenock	Dr William Laing	18
Editorial Appeal		24
Book Reviews		25
Candlemas - A Further Note	Murdo MacDonald	27
Summer Expeditions 1999		28
Award		29

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Lynne Farrell

KIST MAGAZINE - 60 - Autumn 2000

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Marion Campbell of Kilberry - Obituary	Joanna Gordon	1
Kilmartin Linear Cemetery - Landscape, Topography and Prehistoric Monumentality	Duncan Abernethy	3
Clan Mackellar - Part 4	Duncan Beaton	10
Kilmelford - The Fasting Man	Mrs Brenda Parry-Jones	16
MacCorquodales in Oban, Kilmore and Kilbride	Charles Hunter	18
Cheese Presses - A Note on The Cover Drawing	Mrs A.O.M. Clark	20
Uproar in Inveraray	Peter MacIntyre	22
French Invasion of Kintyre	Peter MacIntyre	22
Point of Knap - A Bloomery	D. A. McCallum	25
Book Review		28

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Lynne Farrell

KIST MAGAZINE - 61 - Spring 2001

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Corn Drying Kilns	Mrs Anne M.Kahane	1
Bracken	Dr Leslie Rymer	5
Job Description	Archivist for Argyll and Bute	15
Cheese	Archivist for Argyll & Bute	16
Bloomeries in Argyll - Notes	Dr William Laing	16
Early Iron-making in Scotland	D. A. McCallum	19
Caisteal na Nighinn Ruaidhe	Mary McGrigor	21
Book Reviews		24
Fungus Foray in Eredine Woods	Lynne Farrell	25
Fungi - Names, Books and Identification	Peter Simson	26
Summer Expeditions 2000		27
SHOREWATCH	Dr Simon Gilmour	29

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Lynne Farrell

KIST MAGAZINE - 62 - Autumn 2001

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Hugh MacFarlane : A Selection of Stories	Angus Martin	1
Know Your Carrots	Lynne Farrell	7
Lady's Seats in the Kilmartin area	Anne Kahane	9
Inveraray - Town Officer Baldy Mor	Neil Munro	14
Register of Births and Baptisms in The Free Church of Scotland, Lochgilphead, 1843-1855		
A Note from The Archivist for Argyll & Bute		17
Rock Carvings of Valcamonica	Andreas Trottmann	18
Cup and Ring Carvings - An 1830 Opinion		20
Bloomery Research - A "Bloomer"	Dr William Laing	21
Ford - Nature Note	Sheena Carmichael	22
Eigg - N.H.A.S.M.A. on Eigg	Members of The Society	23
Kilmartin Glen - Bruach an Druimein	Duncan Abernethy	28
Argyll, The Enduring Heartland - Third Edition		28

THE KIST

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

President : Miss Lynne Farrell

KIST MAGAZINE - 63 - Spring 2002

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Cover Note		1
Tarbert Castle	Mrs A.O.M.Clark	2
How the Tarbert Lands Passed from The Macalisters to The Campbells	Duncan Beaton	4
Find The Lady	Michael C.Davis	9
Lochgilphead - The Fountain on The Front Green		
	Murdo MacDonald	12
Coll - A Winter Holiday - 1899		
	Miss Margaret MacEchern	13
William Douglas, Writer	Brian D. Osborne	17
Loch Awe - Some Sites of Ancient Foundation		
	Mary McGrigor	19
1st Argyll & Bute Royal Garrison Artillery (Volunteers)		
From a document in the Easdale Island Museum		23
Book Reviews		26
Summer Expeditions 2001		29

THE KIST

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

President : Mrs A.O.M. Clark

KIST MAGAZINE - 64 - Autumn 2002

Editor : Mrs A.O.M. Clark, MA, FSA Scot.

CONTENTS

Taynish Mill	Mrs A.O.M. Clark	1
Eoqhann MacColla, Bard Loch Fin, 1808 - 1898		
	Michael Davis	4
Wild Flowers and Medicinal Plants at Eredine		
	Dr Krishna Goel	7
General Douglas MacArthur - The Ancestors		
	Duncan Beaton	11
North Knapdale Woods in The 18th Century		
	Dr Leslie Rymer	13
Keills - Remembered Childhood in The 30's		
	Mrs Mary McKellar	19
Glassary Parish - Deserted Settlements - Book Review		20
Colonsay - N.H.A.S.M.A. on Colonsay		
	Members of The Society	21
Accessions to The Library		27
Resignation of President		27
Colin Fergusson - Obituary		28

THE KIST

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

President : Dave Batty

KIST MAGAZINE - 65 - Spring 2003

Editor : Edward Tyler MA, PgD

CONTENTS

Editorial		1
The Canon and The Dean	Mrs Adeline Clark	2
Kilmartin House - The Marion Campbell Library		
	Martin Murphy	7
Water-mills and The Sources for their Stones		
	Mrs Anne Kahane	11
Lost Mills of Tarbert	Jonathan Arnot	14
Earth-Walled Houses	Michael Davis	18
Ancient Wood Pastures in Argyll	Peter Quelch	20
Book Reviews and Letters		26
Summer Expeditions 2002		28

THE KIST

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

President : Dave Batty

KIST MAGAZINE - 66 - Autumn 2003

Editor : Edward Tyler MA, PgD

CONTENTS

Editorial		1
Correction to Kist 65		1
Another Admiralty	William Laing	2
James Coats and The Scotia's Antarctic Voyage		
	Fiona Campbell Byatt	10
Steaming Up Loch Awe	Michael Davis	14
Whales and Dolphins in West Scotland	Chris Parsons	15
Dolphins on Your Doorstep	Phil Johnston	19
Barra - N.H.A.S.M A. on Barra 2003	A. O. M. Clark	22
Colonsay - N.H.A.S.M.A. on Colonsay 2002		
	John Dymont	26
Days On Barra	Rebecca Pine	28
Letter on Colonsay	A. O. M. Clark	29

THE KIST

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

President : Dave Batty

KIST MAGAZINE - 67 - Spring 2004

Editor : Edward Tyler MA, PgD

CONTENTS

Editorial		1
Learanahension - History of The Bridges Over The Waters		
Rona Campbell Byatt	1	
Mesolithic - Neolithic Transition in Argyll		
E. Tyler	8	
Knapdale - 16,000 years of Sea Level Change		
Ian Shennan	14	
Scottish Bryophytes and Their Tropical Affinities		
Ben Averis	18	
Judge's Seat on Dartmoor	C. Studd	22
Neil Munro's First Published Poem ?		
Brian D. Osborne	23	
Summer Expeditions	A. O. M. Clark	27

THE KIST

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

President : Dave Batty

KIST MAGAZINE - 68 - Autumn 2004

Editor : Edward Tyler MA, PgD

CONTENTS

Editorial			1
Leatherback Turtles in West Scotland	E. Tyler		2
Puffins off Port Ann ?	I. D. Teesdale		7
Ardrishaig to Crinan via Canal - 1852	M. Davis		8
The Fight between Bran and Foir	Scot anSgeulaiche		13
Sword Motifs on Medieval Graveslabs	Fiona Campbell Byatt		16
Keillisleat or Caolisleat	Ian Macdonald		20
Victorian Highway Code	Murdo Macdonald		22
Tarbert to Tarbert - and Beyond	Rebecca Pine		25
Rolling Scottish Road			28
Bird List - Harris 2004			29
50th Anniversary Dinner - Monday, March 7, 2005			29

THE KIST

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

President : Dave Batty

KIST MAGAZINE - 69 - Spring 2005

Editor : Edward Tyler MA, PgD

CONTENTS

Editorial		1
Mid Argyll Survey	J. N. Graham Ritchie	2
A Society is Born	E. Tyler	14
Kilmartin House: Recent Acquisitions - 1	S. Webb	18
50 Years of Ecological Change	D. Batty	20
Summer Expeditions	Various contributors	26
Fish and Fisherfolk of Kintyre, Lochfyneside, Gigha and Arran by Angus Martin - Book Review	E. Tyler	28
MacDougall Collection		29

THE KIST

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

President : Dave Batty

KIST MAGAZINE - 70 - Autumn 2005

Editor : Edward Tyler MA, PgD

CONTENTS

Taynish Charcoal Platform Excavation	J. Atkinson	2
Pont and The Magic of Maps	F. Campbell Byatt	7
Loch a Bhaillidh Crannog	F. Campbell Byatt	12
Crannog Survey in Argyll	E. Tyler	14
Kilmartin House: Recent Acquisitions - 2	S. Webb	16
NHASMA Reminiscences	A. O. M. Clark	20
NHASMA Anniversary Talks	G. Ritchie / P. Wormell	22
J. N. Graham Ritchie : Obituary		24
Summer Outings		26
Orkney - The Wise and The Howes of Orkney	Rebecca Pine	27
Bugs and Anoraks		28

THE KIST

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

President : Dave Batty

KIST MAGAZINE - 71 - Spring 2006

Editor : Edward Tyler MA, PgD

CONTENTS

Editorial		1
Knapdale - Coille Bharr Mill	Scot AnSgeulaiche	1
Knapdale Forest Archaeology	R. Regan, S. Webb	5
Medieval Rural Settlements	H. James	14
Pine Martens	A. Keharne	18
Basking Sharks	E. Tyler	22
Lost Argyll by M. Pallister - Review		28
Kilmartin House - The Marion Campbell Library		29

THE KIST

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

President : Dave Batty

KIST MAGAZINE - 72 - Autumn 2006

Editor : Edward Tyler MA, PgD

CONTENTS

Editorial		1
Bird List - Shetland 2006		1
Corrections to Kist 71		1
Barnluasgan Dun and Enclosure - 1	R. Regan, S. Webb	2
Highland Spindle Whorls	C. Bowd	11
Pytheas the Greek	F. Campbell Byatt	16
Basking Shark Conservation	M. Gore	22
Sunshine and Moonscape: Shetland 2006	Rebecca Pine	26

THE KIST

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

President : Dave Batty

KIST MAGAZINE - 73 - Spring 2007

Editor : Edward Tyler MA, PgD

CONTENTS

Editorial		1
Corrections to Kist 72		1
Tarbert Castle Conservation	C. Bowd	2
Kilmartin Glen Rock Art	S. Beckensall	9
Killean - Decorated Stone	E. Tyler	12
Cile Bhride, North Kintyre	E. Tyler	15
Filming The Snow Leopard	M. Smith	18
Bottlenose Dolphin Project	E. Tyler	22
Book Reviews		26

THE KIST

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

President : Dave Batty

KIST MAGAZINE - 74 - Autumn 2007

Editor : Edward Tyler MA, PgD

Sub Editor : Philip Fox-Denham

CONTENTS

Kilmartin House Museum	Sharon Webb, Director and Curator	1
Biographies In Stone	A. Jones, University of Southampton	4
Barnluasgan Dun and Enclosure - 2	R. Regan, S. Webb	2
North Uist 2007 - NHASMA Summer Expedition	Members of The Society	25
The Moyrus and The Barkenter		26
Birds Seen on North Uist Trip June 2007		29

**THE KIST**

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

President : Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 75 - Spring 2008**

Editor : Edward Tyler  
Sub Editor : Philip Fox-Denham

**CONTENTS**

Baravalla Gardens, by Tarbert - Their History Gillian Mackie Campbell	2
Ford - Recent Archaeological Discoveries Clive Bowd	5
Murder Trial at Inveraray Court, 1705 Michael Davis	8
Iron Milestones Fiona Campbell Byatt and Ed Tyler	11
Orange Tip Butterflies Ed Tyler	12
Letters by The Packet, edited by Marion Campbell - Review	13
Yesterday was Summer : The Marion Campbell Story M. Pallister and D. Adams McGilp - Review	14
Birds of Argyll, Argyll and Bute - Ian Allan 2007 - Review	17
Dalriada Community History Project Scot An Sgeulaiche and Samandia Corrigan	18
Editorial	23

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 76 - Autumn 2008**

Editor: Edward Tyler  
Sub/Picture Editor: Phillip Fox-Denham

**CONTENTS**

Achnabreck Ill Flock Art Excavation S. Webb & R. Regan	1 - 5
Ormaig Rock Art Site C. Ellis & S. Webb	6 - 10
Seashores of Argyll in a changing world R. Harvey	10 - 14
NHASMA Summer Island Expedition June Rebecca Pine	15 - 18
Bird list from Islay June 2008 M Barker & M. Rae	19
NHASMA Summer Excursions 2008	20 - 29
Visit to Baravalla Garden - 20 April - R Holt The Leacainn Muir Forest Drive to Loch Awe - 19 July - C. Mitchell	
Forthcoming Excavation Project	30
Book Reviews and Letters to the Editor	

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 77 - Spring 2009**

Editor: Edward Tyler  
Sub/Picture Editor: Phillip Fox-Denham

**CONTENTS**

Carnassarie Farm Archaeological Survey	Sharon Webb & Roddy Regan	1 - 3
Kilbride Farm Survey	Sharon Webb & Roddy Regan	6 - 10
Greenland White-Fronted Geese in Mid Argyll	Pat Batty	7 - 11
The Last High Court Trial at Inveraray	Bruce Weir	12 - 18
Seashores of Argyll in a Changing World (part2)	Robin Harvey	19 - 23
NHASMA Outing to St Conan's Church and Kilchurn Castle 2008	Charlie Mitchell	24 - 26
Book Review - Kintyre Birds	Angus Martin	27 - 28

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 78 - Autumn 2009**

Editor: Edward Tyler  
Sub/Picture Editor: Phillip Fox-Denham

**CONTENTS**

The Tobhlaren Bell and its shrine	C Márkbus	1 - 10
European Beaver Field Trial, Knapdale	J Holden	11 - 18
Excavations at High Pasture Cave, Skye	S Birch	18 - 29
Summer Island NHASMA visit to Skye 2009	Rebecca Pine	29 - 31
Over to Skye (poem)	Rebecca Pine	32 - 34
Bird List	V Barker and M Rae	34
Book Review - 'The Place-Names of the Parishes of Campbeltown and Southend'		35 - 36
Letter to the Editor		36

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 79 - Spring 2010**

Editor: Edward Tyler  
Sub/Picture Editor: Phillip Fox-Denham

**CONTENTS**

Kipper House Tales	Forsyth Hamilton	1 - 7
A Dalriada and Natural Heritage Snapshot	Will Self	8 - 9
European Beaver Field Trial, Knapdale (part 2)	Jenny Holden	10 - 19
It's a Far Cry from Loch Awe	Charlie Mitchell	19 - 27
A Tribute to Ted and Adeline Clark		28 - 31
A Tribute to Creena MacKenzie		32
Book Reviews:		
Buildings of the Land: Scotland's farms 1750-2000		
Campbeltown Museum: A catalogue of star objects		

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 80 - Autumn 2010**

Editor: Edward Tyler  
Sub/Picture Editor: Phillip Fox-Denham

**CONTENTS**

Marion Campbell	Marion Pallister	1 - 10
Kilmartin Museum - a History	Sharon Webb	5 - 15
Wildlife - 40 Years of Change	Dave Batty	15 - 18
Tarbert Castle Conservation	Robert McPhail	19 - 23
Red Squirrels of Argyll	Ed Tyler	24 - 26
From Eigg to Eigg - the Barker Years / Bobbersmacky	Rebecca Pine	26 - 30
Book Reviews:		31 - 32
Stronefield & Other Deserted Townships - J Macleod		
Dalriada: A Twentieth Century Kingdom - M Pallister		

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 81 - Spring 2011**

Editor: Edward Tyler  
Sub/Picture Editor: Phillip Fox-Denham

**CONTENTS**

Stone in Mid Argyll: Links between Geology, Archaeology and Architecture Roger Anderton	1 - 8
Folklore - The Bodach Hugh Ffe	9 - 12
Loch Fyne Skiff - Heritage Project Robert McPhail	13 - 19
Biodiversity is Life - on Land and Sea Charlie Mitchell	20 - 22
Morlaggan Dig Phase 2	22
Anne Merrilees Kahane 1923 -2011 Clare Thomas & Sheena Carmichael	23 - 25
Kathleen Caskey (Nee Russell) - 1941 - 2001 Ann Thomas & Robert Smith	26 - 31
A Brief History of the Moine Mhor Dr Ewan Campbell	31 - 32

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 82 - Autumn 2011**

Editor: Edward Tyler  
Sub/Picture Editor: Phillip Fox-Denham

**CONTENTS**

The Appin Head Sharon Webb	1 - 2
Hazel Woods Gordon Gray Stephens	3 - 8
Elephants in Argyll Jim Gray	9 - 11
Stone in Mid Argyll: Links between Geology, Archaeology and Architecture (part 2) Roger Anderton	12 - 20
Searching for a Medieval Settlement at Glennan, Kilmartin, Argyll Heather F James	21 - 23
Mull 2011 Rebecca Pine	24 - 29
Mull and Iona Bird List June 2011 Valerie Barker and Morag Rae	30
Book Reviews: Kintyre Families - Angus Martin Kilmartin Parish Kirk: A Brief History - Murdo MacDonald	31 - 32

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 83 - Spring 2012**

Editor: Edward Tyler  
Sub/Picture Editor: Phillip Fox-Denham

**CONTENTS**

Auchindrain	Piers Dixon	1 - 7
The People of Auchindrain	Jill Bowis	7 - 11
Auchindrain and Agricultural Improvement	Bob Clark	10 - 19
The Last Century or so of Farming at Auchindrain	Gavin Sprott	19 - 27
Achdh an Droighinn	Professor Hugh Cheape	27 - 31

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 84 - Autumn 2012**

Editor: Edward Tyler  
Sub/Picture Editor: Phillip Fox-Denham

**CONTENTS**

Recent ideas and Research on Vitrified Hill Forts and Duns in Argyll	Fiona Campbell Byatt	1 - 5
Kilmartin House Museum - Future Developments	Ailsa Raeburn	6 - 8
Argyll's Correspondence Tuition - Dalton Plan Scheme	Murdo MacDonald	9 - 11
Algal Blooms and Red Tides / Basking Sharks Tagging Project / Lampreys	Ed Tyler	11 - 19
Arran 2012 / Bird List	Rebecca Pine	19 - 26
Letter to Editor / Book Reviews: In the Footsteps of Kings - Sharon Webb Atlantic Hazel - Gordon Gray Stephens		26 - 28

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 85 - Spring 2013**

Editor: Edward Tyler  
Sub/Picture Editor: Phillip Fox-Denham

**CONTENTS**

Mid Bronze Age Domestic Settlement in Kilmartin Glen, Argyll, Scotland	Clare Ellis	1 - 5
Strange Happenings	Clare Ellis	5 - 10
Tarbert Castle Conservation	Robert McPhail	10 - 13
Hibernation Wake Up	Dave and Pat Batty	13 - 15
Dun Mhuirich Kist (Part 1 of 2)	Roddy Regan	15 - 28
New Butterfly for us in Mid Argyll	Dave and Pat Batty	29 - 30
Obituary - Geoffrey Matthews (1924-2013)		30 - 32

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 86 - Autumn 2013**

Editor: Edward Tyler  
Sub/Picture Editor: Phillip Fox-Denham

**CONTENTS**

Kilmartin Update (June 2013)	Bill Young	1 - 10
Dun Mhuirich Kist (Part 2 of 2)	Roddy Regan	4 - 13
Yerllow Bartsia	Dave and Pat Batty	14 - 15
The Little and Large Orchids of Mid Argyll	Dave and Pat Batty	16 - 18
Orkney 2013	Rebecca Pine	19 - 25
Bird List	Valerie Barker and Morag Rae	26 - 27
Obituaries:		31 - 32
Sheena Carmichael (1929-2013)		
Ian MacDonald (1919-2013)		

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 87 - Spring 2014**

Editor: Edward Tyler  
Sub Editors: Moira Young & Phillip Fox-Denham

**CONTENTS**

Biological Recording in Argyll	Carl Farmer	1 - 9
Bog Iron Smelting in Argyll A Bloomery at Carse	Fiona Campbell Byatt	8 - 16
The Woolf Stone	Ed Tyler	16 - 20
Are there Elephants in the Garden? Some interesting moths from Kilmartin, Mid Argyll	David Jardine	20- 28
The Mysterious Case of the Meadow Thistle	Dave and Pat Batty	29 - 32
Good Year for butterfly Orchids in Mid Argyll	Dave and Pat Batty	33 - 36

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 88 - Autumn 2014**

Editor: Edward Tyler

**CONTENTS**

The Coats Farthing: the story of a coin	Fiona Campbell Byatt	1 - 5
Cetacean Update	Ed Tyler	5 - 7
The "Wolf Stone" from Personal Memories	Duncan Beaton	8 - 9
NHASMA 2014 - The Summer Isles	John Dymont	10 - 15
Summer Isles I Cumen in	Rebecca Pine	16 - 18
Altandhu Bird List (30 May - 6 June 2014)	Valerie Barker and Morag Rae	19 - 21
Walking through Old Poltalloch	Ed Tyler	22 - 24

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 89 - Spring 2015**

Editor: Edward Tyler

**CONTENTS**

Excavations at Upper Largie Quarry..New light on the prehistoric ritual landscape of Kilmartin Glen Martin Cook, Clare Ellis & Alison Sheridan	1 - 13
Dragonflies of Mid Argyll Pat and Dave Batty	14 - 20
Roll Call of Previous Editors Ed Tyler	21 - 23
Excavations in Kilmartin Glen (your chance to take part)	24
Book Reviews:	
The Royal Castle of Tarbert - Robert McPhail	25 - 26
Place Names of Kintyre Parishes (3 x booklets) - Angus Martin	27 - 28

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 90 - Autumn 2015**

Editor: Edward Tyler

Sub/Picture Editor: Phillip Fox-Denham

**CONTENTS**

A Novice Botanist at Largiebaan, 2015	Angus Martin	2
The Galloping Brae and Jock Fyne's Gate	Duncan Beaton	8
A New Hawkmoth Record for Argyll - Bedstraw Hawkmoth	David Jardine	9
From Russia to Lochgilphead: the Keirs in the 19 <sup>th</sup> Century	Fiona Campbell Byatt	13
NHASMA 2015 - Ireland	John Dymont	22
Poem	Rebecca Pine	27
Birds in Northern Ireland	Valerie Barker	30
Book Review: Another Summer in Argyll - Angus Martin		31
Editor's corrections		32

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 91 - Spring 2016**

Editor: Edward Tyler

**CONTENTS**

Editorial	Ed Tyler	2
Unfolding Argyll's Archeological Story A Snapshot of the Symposium	Sharon Webb	3
Cetacean Sightings	Conor Ryan	8
Recent Excavations at Carnassarie Mor	Roddy Regan	11

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 92 - Autumn 2016**

Editor: Edward Tyler

**CONTENTS**

Editorial	Ed Tyler	2
Coll Hoard	Trevor Cowie	4
Beaver Trial in Knapdale	Oly Hemmings	7
Hydro Schemes	David Jardine	13
Ferry Wood	Ed Tyler	15
NHASMA Summer Expedition 2016	John Dymont	17
Portpaddy	Rebecca Pine	25
Book Review: A Third Summer in Argyll - Angus Martin		26

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 93 - Spring 2017**

Editor: Roddy Regan

**CONTENTS**

Editorial		2
The Lady, the Rock and the Legend	Roddy Regan	3
William MacLachlan, Minister of Kilmartin	The Editor	16
Query on Animal Nicknames	The Editor	31
Carnasserie Castle: Beyond the Bishop	Kilmartin Museum	34
20 Years of Kilmartin Museum	Sharon Webb	36

**THE KIST**

**The magazine of the Natural History & Antiquarian  
Society of Mid Argyll**

President: Dave Batty

**KIST MAGAZINE - 94 - Autumn 2017**

Editor: Roddy Regan

**CONTENTS**

Editorial		1
Monarch Butterfly in Mid Argyll	David & Janet Jardine	2
John Dubh MacConnochie	Roddy Regan	4
Narrow-leaved Marsh Orchid in Mid Argyll	Dave & Pat Batty	22
The Black Isle of Nhasmafree	Rebecca Pine	25
The Excavation of Two Prehistoric Burial Cists at Carnasserie	Roddy Regan	28

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**CONTENTS**

Editorial		2
NHASMA in the Black Isle	John Dymont	4
In Memory of Phil Holt	Ed Tyler	11
Some Uncommon Coastal Plants in Mid Argyll	Dave & Pat Batty	12
Artic Alpines near Ardrishaig	Dave & Pat Batty	14
The Coll Hoard: An Update	Trevor Cowie	18
James Campbell of Ardkinglas	Roddy Regan	23
Kilmartin Museum Spring-Summer Events		44
NHASMA Summer Programme 2018		48

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Editor: Roddy Regan

**CONTENTS**

Editorial		2
Knapdale Beavers: Nine years on	Pete Creech	3
NHASMA Summer Holiday: North Uist		10
Musical Instruments and Archaeology in Argyll or 'Keils is alive with the sound of music'	Roddy Regan	15
The Seeds of the Red Roots of Dunoon: Part I	The Editor	29
A Pair of Viking-age Strap Ends from Colonsay	Caroline Paterson	43

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**CONTENTS**

Editorial		2
Cover Note: Nettles		3
A Bead's Tale	Roddy Regan	5
Beautiful Demoiselle	Pat Batty	9
A Field in Mid Argyll	Dave & Pat Batty	11
The Seeds of the Red Roots of Dunoon: Part II	The Editor	20
Trump News	The Editor	38
Kilmarrtin Museum Events: Spring/Summer 2019		39
NHASMA Summer 2019 Programme		41

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**KIST MAGAZINE - 98 - Autumn 2019**

Editor: Roddy Regan

**CONTENTS**

Editorial		2
Mr Macauley's Gentian	H R Macauley	3
Clamp Lime Kilns in Mid Argyll	Dave & Pat Batty	6
Some New Moths in Kilmartin	David Jardine	10
Knocking Stones in Mid Argyll	Dave & Pat Batty	13
Further Thoughts on Stone Basins in Argyll	Roddy Regan	20
The Seeds of the Red Roots of Dunoon: Part III	The Editor	28
NHASMA Summer Holiday: Islay 2019	Rebecca Pine	38
Birds Spotted on Islay June 2019		41
NHASMA Winter 2019-2020 Programme		45

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**KIST MAGAZINE - 99 - Spring 2020**

Editor: Roddy Regan

**CONTENTS**

Editorial		2
Argyll, Rich in Martens	Peter Creech	3
A Lead Seal Matrix from Dunyvaig Castle		
	Steven Mithen, Darko Maricevic & Roddy Regan	10
Expedition to Malaysia	James Urquhart	28
The Seeds of the Red Roots of Dunoon: Part IV	The Editor	31
Kilmarrtin Museum Events: Spring/Summer 2020		43
NHASMA Summer 2020 Programme		45