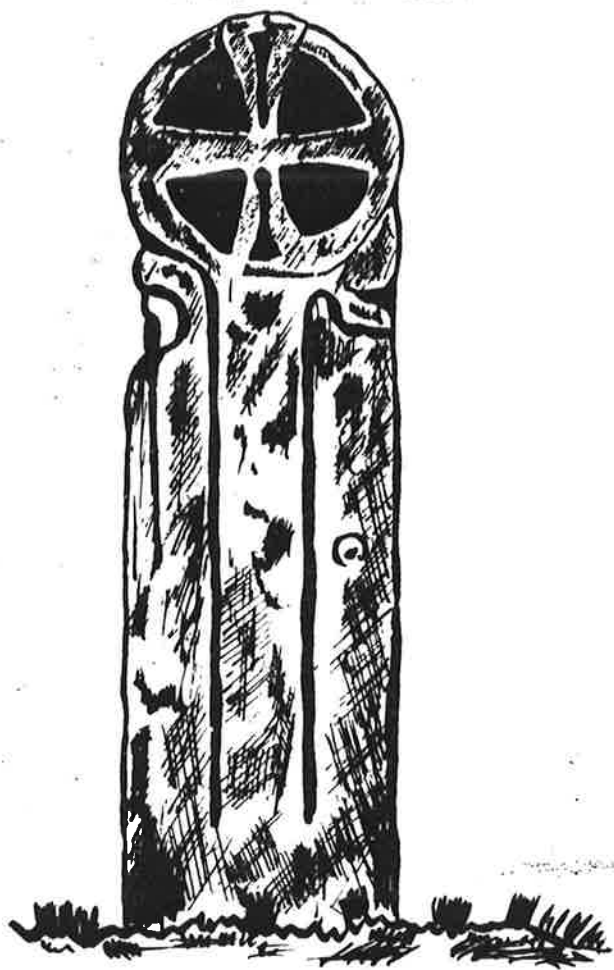


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# The KIST

THE KIST

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

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NUMBER TWO

MARTINMAS 1971

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EDITOR Marion Campbell of Kilberry FSA, FSA Scot.

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## EDITORIAL

Marion Campbell of Kilberry FSA, FSA Scot

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The first number of THE KIST was launched in some trepidation; the second number proves its success. We have had a splendid flood of contributions and a most encouraging series of letters congratulating the committee on the enterprise. As Editor, I hope very much that this is only the beginning, and that we shall have even more, and more varied, contributions for the next number. I shall be very glad to have your views and your contributions, long or short, as soon as you like. Mr Davis reports that there are still some copies of No 1 available, 10p to members, and that already a number of new members have been brought in as a result of reading it.

I must again apologise for some ruthless hatchet-work on contributions, but I hope the writers will forgive me if I have cut their work rather than omitting it. I am particularly grateful to Mr Graham for his short paper on Bellanooch - this is exactly what we would wish to have for every corner of this richly varied district. I am delighted, too, that our most eminent botanist, Mr Kenneth, has honoured us with a paper; but birds and flowers are not the whole of Natural History - where are the lepidopterists, conchologists, geologists et hoc genus omne? Come out from under your stones, all of you!

Perhaps some new members are mystified by

the series of TALES FROM AUCHINDRAIN; I hope to have an article on this, Mid Argyll's own Folk Museum, from its present Custodian Mr Littlewood, for our next edition - but it may be said here that Auchindrain is very much your Society's "baby"; the Society took the initiative in raising funds to preserve this group of houses and their outbuildings and is still closely linked with its development through the two Trustees it appoints to the governing body of the Museum. Great plans are afoot there, and perhaps by Whitsun 1972 we may be able to describe them more fully than we could do at present.

As I write, in September, we are in the lull between summer and winter activities, but soon the Winter Programme of meetings will begin.

A note at the end of Mr Fraser's paper on New Year invites you to recall old Christmas and New Year customs for next winter's number; but I would also be very happy to have any other notes of bygone ways - for example, Halloween customs - for future editions.

Congratulations to our "elder sister" the Kintyre Antiquarian & Natural History Society, on reaching the half-century mark this year.

May I end by wishing all our readers a Happy Christmas and a Good New Year when it comes;- or (if our members furth of Dalriada will accept a few words in the old language) -

Fàilte na Nollaige oirbh, agus Bliadhna mhath ùr dhuibh!

## THE STONEFIELD YAIR AND OTHER ANTIQUITIES

F S Mackenna, FSA, FSA Scot

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Few people, even amongst those who are native to this part of Knapdale, seem to know of the existence in their midst of an ancient fish-trap or yair. It lies at the north-east head of the Bagh mo Deas (South Bay) at Stonefield, and is to be seen at low water as the remains of a dry-stone dyke of roughly semi-circular outline. In bygone days these fish-traps were of common occurrence in the British Isles, and almost exactly similar contrivances are still in use in many of the more backward countries of the world. In Britain they were often sited near river mouths and have fallen victim to reclamation schemes in addition to the normal hazards of tempest and silting until at the present time they are something of a rarity, surviving usually in remote areas. The first example which came to my notice, many years ago, is in Upper Loch Broom. It has been a very substantial edifice and a local tradition asserts that a surplus of about 1,000 baskets of herring were left in it on one occasion after all requirements had been met; the ensuing pollution was blamed for the well known and otherwise unexplained sudden absence of herring from the loch. The position of a yair was by no means a haphazard affair, and local knowledge of tides and fish movements was essential. An opening in the wall for the fish to enter was particularly critical as to siting, for obvious reasons. In operation this opening was secured at what was judged the right time by means of a wicker-work door or one made of netting on a framework. It is impossible to give an approximate date for the building of any yair, although the literature provides us with many attested and

dated instances of their being used as recently as sixty years ago. The Stonefield example, needless to say, far antedates the building of the present castle.

Another unrecorded antiquity of Stonefield is a fine specimen of a rock basin. It is situated on a natural outcrop at the very summit of the ground known as Cnoc a Breabadair (The Weaver's Hill) with extensive views ranging from Cruachan to the Ayrshire hills and Arran. It is understood that a habitation "belonging to a tailor" was formerly here, and of course the basin was used "for christening weans". Although the interior is now considerably ridged and rough by weathering it seems highly probable that it was intended, as were most similarly situated basins, for the grinding of grain.

I have been told by Mr Kennedy, on whose ground the basin is located, that there is a lost footprint on a stone in another of his fields. It is hoped to institute a thorough search for this when winter reduces the vegetation.

#### Tail Piece

They come in the Spring in cars, large cars,  
small cars, all cars,  
With a van if they can and they bring boats,  
big boats, little boats, speed boats,  
anything that floats,  
They dance in all rigs, buy poisoning cigs,  
They throw the packets around on the ground,  
Before winter they go.

## SOME PLANTS OF KNAPDALE

- - - - -

A difficult subject, this. Which plant can I write about in a non-scientific periodical such as "The Kist"? After some thought I decided that what might interest the average reader would perhaps be rather to outline some of the recent plant discoveries in Knapdale, than to attempt description of the floral characteristics of the entire region, and that the article ought to be as free from technical terminology as possible.

I will begin with the plants I have a particular weakness for - the Arctic Alpines, of which there are several on the highest hills of Knapdale. In recent years there have been two notable discoveries in this group. *EMPETRUM HERMAPHRODITUM* has been found growing in small quantity near the summit of Cruach Lusach. This close relative of the Common Crowberry can be distinguished from that plant by the fact that - as its name suggests - it has hermaphrodite flowers. The Common Crowberry is always unisexual. This plant - I mean *E. HERMAPHRODITUM* - is common on the higher hills, but here it occurs at 1400 feet, as low as I have seen it anywhere in Scotland. Nearby, another pleasant discovery has been a small colony of Alpine club-moss. This is on record also on Sliabh Gaoil, but only a single plant was seen there and it has not been sighted for a number of years.

Coming down from the summits, there are two interesting plants growing near the valley of the Lussa, Achnamara. The first is

Intermediate Wintergreen, *PYROLA MEDIA*, which is extremely rare and has when it deigns to flower, attractive spikes of small white bells. The other is worth giving a few details about. It is a Marsh-orchid whose somewhat forbidding Latin name is *DACTYLORHIZA TRAUNSTEINERI*. This is a small blueish-purple Marsh-orchid with strongly spotted leaves, and it has an earlier flowering season and different habitat requirements from the rather common Northern Marsh-orchid, *DACTYLORHIZA PURPURELLA*. This has also been detected in another Knapdale locality near Loch Arail, though the identification of the last colony is not yet officially confirmed. These appear to be the first records of this as a Scottish plant.

Two small nameless lochs near Loch an Dobhrain are worth a mention as they have fine colonies of the rare Least Yellow Water-lily (*NUPHAR PUMILA*). This plant really has very small flowers indeed. A curious occurrence is the hybrid of this with Common Yellow Water-lily, which is known as *NUPHAR X SPENNERANA*. This grows in Loch Barnluasgan, and as far as I know neither of its parent species are now present there. It must be assumed that in the not too distant past both species occurred together in order to allow hybridisation to occur.

While we are on the subject of water plants this seems the right time to mention two species of Pondweeds recently discovered - *POTAMOGETON FILIFORMIS* which grows in shallow water, Loch na Fuair Bheinn; and *POTAMOGETON OBTUSIFOLIUS* from Loch Coille Bharr. These inconspicuous plants are to the keen botanist every bit as interesting as more attractive and eye catching species.



I must mention at least one fern. This is Parsley Fern (*CRYPTOGRAMME CRISPA*). Plentiful enough in many hill areas of Britain, it is an extremely rare species in Knapdale, where it has been noted on Cruach a'Phubuill and Meall Beag. Its appearance is excellently described by its English name.

Because of the unusual interest of the plant, I may perhaps be excused for ending with a moss. There are in Britain a very few bryophytes known collectively as "Copper-mosses" whose presence is a reliable indication of mineral-rich conditions. The plant I am at present talking about is one of these, *GRIMMIA ATRATA*, and it makes dense colonies of blackish stems at considerable altitude. We have it growing in some quantity on mineral-rich rock in a gulley near the summit of Sliabh Gaoil.

I would be grateful for any records from Knapdale as I am collaborating with Miss M Cunningham in the production of a Check-list of the flowering plants and ferns of Knapdale, Kintyre & Gigha. If you come across a rare plant, please let me know its exact locality. Meantime, I need a locality for Common Yellow Water-lily and if any reader knows of this plant south of the Crinan Canal I should be very grateful for the information.

## TALES FROM AUCHINDRAIN : II

### THE LAST WOLF

Marion Campbell



feàrsaid

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Every Highland community had its own tale of the passing of "the fierce dog", MADADH ALLAIDH; "the wailing dog", MADADH GUL; or MADADH GLAS, "the gray dog". Sometimes they called him only "the beast". It was as MADADH GLAS that Auchindrain remembered him when winter winds swept the thatch and turned the peat-reek back down the wicker chimneys. It was up there, they said, just where the hill road to Loch Awe leaves our own path to Brenchoille - yes, as near as that it was that the last Grey Dog died, with his last victim beside him.

She had been over to Braesvallich, they said, to visit her own people in case she could not get back if bad weather came at New Year. Her Loch Awe kinsfolk had seen her set off home, going up the hill "in health and cheerfulness" as the Minister was to record later, and spinning as she walked through the winter day. A six mile walk was nothing to her, on the trail soon to be worn deep by the hooves of ponies trotting with charcoal to the Furnace ironworks. Down at Brenchoille they decided, when the early dusk

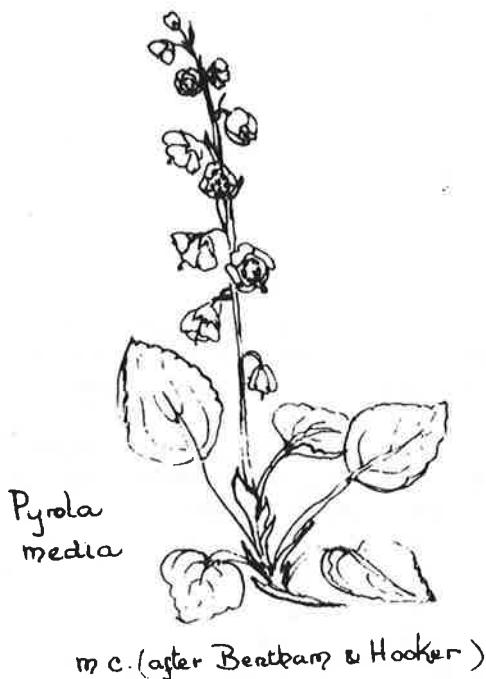
drew in, that she must have stayed an extra day with her parents. It was next day that they decided to walk up to meet her.

They had not far to go; MO THRUAGHE, it was within reach of safety that she lay in the first thin snow of winter, not a bowshot from the meeting of the ways, with the fear on her face and striped DROGAD apron wrapped round her left arm, and the Beast himself lying a yard away with the spindle in his ribs.

They back-trailed him as they took the news to Braevallich; here he had snuffled and quartered; here, settled to pursuit; here, at the top of the last steep pitch, she had begun to run and he had loped round to head her off - a three mile nightmare ending in despair, when she had known that only one hope remained, and had turned to meet his charge with that muffled arm and struck back with her only weapon, the needle sharp FEARSAID. God between us and harm! And the brave heart had failed on her. But never you fear, bairns, for the Beast is not in it now, and yon howling is but the wind's voice.

That was the way they told it, although the Minister put it in grander words for the Statistical Account of 1793. He said, decent man, it was a penknife she had - but what would she be doing with the like of that? I know it was a spindle, for I heard the story before I knew the English for MADADH GLAS or FEARSAID; I shook with half remembered terror when I heard of the spindle that pricked the Sleeping Beauty; and not long ago,

when I read Volume XIII of the FIRST  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT, I was shaken again while  
a vision of a kitchen table higher than my  
head, and the echo of two Gaelic voices,  
replaced the desk where I worked and the  
murmur of other researchers.



## SCHOOLS IN THE QUOAD SACRA PARISH OF LOCHGILPHEAD (II)

The Revd John R Callen BD

- - - - -

The Education (Scotland) Act of 1872 brought changes in the local pattern of education. H M Inspectors took over from the committee of two or three Ministers who had examined pupils in both religious and general knowledge, though a local Minister was appointed by the new locally elected School Board to examine in prescribed parts of the Bible and Catechism. (The 1918 legislation, which abolished School Boards, gave religious instruction an assured place in the curriculum and empowered Ministers to give instruction if the Headmaster agreed).

The earlier schools were gradually absorbed; the Penny School at Kilmory transferred its last pupil to the Board School in 1887 (it had been criticised in 1881 for "imperfect grounding" of pupils). Miss Stewart's Girls' School, at 71 Argyll Street, survived to 1876, taking a few boys as well; and there were Miss Iron's School until 1878 and Mr MacPherson's to 1879. Miss Stewart later taught in the Kilduskland Episcopal School (to 1885); she and her sister Mrs Sinclair were "daughters of the Manse" and descendants (like your editor) of the Revd Dugald Campbell of Glassary, one of the 17th century Gaelic translators of the Bible.

Aird School (near Lingerton) and Castleton charity school were superseded by Aird Public School, opened 1st September 1876 and closed again until 6th, for lack of books. In 1883 it had 24 pupils, with room for 50; in 1939,

only 8. Its logbook records, 5th May 1883, "Teaching English difficult and discouraging because of habitual use of Gaelic"; and in a happier vein on 20th June 1934, amid the visit of H M Inspector, "a monster 37 ft long has been cast ashore at Castleton, so the children were allowed away for dinner at 12 noon (low tide) to see this creature". The school teachers at Aird were Miss Thomson (1875), Miss Bella R Cromer (1879), Catherine McArthur (1895), Miss McIntyre (1908), Miss Annie Blue (1910), S Cameron (1929), Christina B Ferguson (1931), Miss M E A McNeill (1935) and Miss Margaret Fletcher (1938).

The School Board built its first school facing Manse Brae and Cossack Street (the building survives) and opened it in 1873. Children under nine were still taught in the Manse Brae School (formerly a Free Church School) now in use as a branch of the County Library. The Headmaster of Manse Brae, Mr Robert Stewart, took over the new school. Its buildings were enlarged in 1890, 1906, 1912, and 1947-8, until in 1966 it moved to a new site. The author offered the Prayers of Dedication at the opening, on 19th September 1966, by Mr Bruce Millan, Joint Under-Secretary of State for Scotland.

There have been twelve headmasters from 1872; Mr Stewart, John Sloan (1875), William Winton (1877), William Stewart (1878), James Corrigan (1880), Thomas Shearer (1882), William Robertson (1883), Alexander Gardner (1907), James Mitchell, MA, B Sc - the first graduate Headmaster - (1913), James Stewart, BSc (1936), HCY Scobbie MA (1958) and DG Cross, MA (1965).

The first alterations in 1890 consisted of "partitioning the senior room and enlarging the classroom"; the 1966 building contains 16 secondary and 8 primary classrooms, a gymnasium, a large assembly hall with stage and lighting, a library, dining room and kitchens. It has been designed for further enlargement if plans to upgrade it to Senior Secondary status are carried out. The former school now houses County Council offices, community centre and further education centre, while an embroidery factory occupies two huts added in 1947.

To complete the educational picture, there are plans for a special school for handicapped children, appropriate in a community where excellent hospital services are available. Lochgilphead will thus have an ideal range of educational services, evolved in the humble but important ways indicated in these articles. .

The author wishes to thank all who helped him with information, and Mr D G Cross M A for the loan of old registers and logbooks. He is indebted also to the article on "Education in Lochgilphead" in the Burgh Centenary Booklet of 1959, based on "History of Education in Lochgilphead" by Mr James Stewart B Sc (for the Festival of Britain, 1951).

#### THE DROPPER-IN

'Bheir a Calluinn a coiseachd dith'

(Her Hogmanay will make a cripple of her; literally, "Her New Year will bring her walking to destruction") quoted in Dwelly's Gaelic-English Dictionary as having been said "of a woman much given to visiting her neighbours".

## BLIADHNA MHATH UR DHUIT

The Revd Alexander Fraser BD

- - - - -

New Year is celebrated in the West Highlands to-day in ways different from those practised a hundred years ago. A note of former customs may be of interest.

In the last century, the twelfth of January was regarded as New Year's Day by the majority of people in Mid Argyll. On that day, the hours of daylight were occupied by a game of Shinty (CAMANACHD), played on some suitable park of a large farm. Two teams were fielded from the district or parish, with as many as forty players on each side. The one team might be captained by the local doctor, the other by a gentleman farmer. Around the field were the wives, sweethearts and children, all assembled to watch the game. The rules were first proclaimed, which forbade all quarrelling, swearing, drunkenness and coarseness; all striking, tripping or unfairness of any kind. Then the first stroke to the ball was given, and the contest began in earnest.

The game went on till dusk, and the losing side gave a bag of oatmeal for the poor. There was many a shin which was black and blue, but there was neither hate nor grumbling.

In the evening a Grand Ball took place in any suitably large building, such as a barn, a store or a Drill Hall. This was attended by a large crowd of youth and beauty and the



dancing was kept up with unflagging zeal till six o'clock next morning. Music was supplied by the stirring strains of the bagpipes and not less inspiring notes of the violin.

At length the company parted, wishing one another BILADHNA MHATH UR DHUIT, a good New Year to you.

#### Note by the Editor

This short account stirs many memories (and not "of last century", though 1938 sometimes seems as far away); perhaps for next winter's number I may jot down some of the minor variations that formed part of the Old New Year at Kilberry. (Nobody who has not danced an eightsome on newly-raked gravel can claim to know the full rigour of these celebrations). Meantime, who else remembers The Old New Year? And can anyone record any CHRISTMAS customs surviving from the times before Prince Albert introduced Christmas Trees and enterprising publishers produced the first little greetings-cards? Food and drink of any special kind, First-Foot customs, observances about making up the fire on New Year's Eve, opening the door to welcome the New Year - surely every family had its own ceremonials. And was it only because my mother was English (with a strong Welsh-Marches influence) that I was taught to listen for the cattle lowing as midnight struck on Christmas Eve? (I may say that almost invariably they do so). Let me have your notes, short or long, before "the head of the year" comes round again.

## BELLANOCH

H Graham

- - - - -

The village took its name from the horse ford over the river Add. (1) The ground floor of the first building, "Braeface", was the village store supplied by sailing vessel which came alongside in front of the shop.

Passing the school, one time three teacher, now threatened with closure, we come to Smiddy house. Here a blacksmith and apprentice were kept busy shoeing horses, repairing ploughs etc, fitting iron rings to cart wheels, and attending to the metal needs of woodmen. Now there is nothing to show that Bellanoch ever had a smiddy.

Next "Dolphins", previously "Inn Farm" and in my youth referred to as "The Temperance". This was once an inn, the eye-bolts to which the thirsty travellers hitched their horses are still in the wall.

Turning left here and walking up towards the church we come to a partly demolished building. This was the school before the present one was built.

Up past the church to the top of the climb, on the left, a path goes up to Barndive. (2) I mention it for place-name enthusiasts - Bealach-na-Beek (spelt as pronounced). (3)

On the right, up on the Common, first a fort, I think, then 300 yards along the same

ridge a stone circle, (4) further on and lower to the left is "Iac-an-Tigh-Skol", School house hollow. The ruin is there still. One wonders why a school in such isolation.

Over the wall, through the trees to another stone circle. (4) Immediately below on the left a convenient forest road leading to the Tayvallich road, and to Oib gate or the entrance to Kilmory with its Holy Well and Standing Stone now alas badly weathered.

Sixty yards from Oib gate on the left another Stone Circle. (5) Then, to complete the tour, about a mile further on Druim-an-Duin with its fort, from there over the Tuar (6), a right of way, the Hydro line is your guide, past Lechnabeen down into Bellanoch.

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#### Notes (Editor)

1. ie "Beul-an-eich", The Horse's Mouth, or opening?
2. Barr an Daimh, Height of the Ox, or Stag.
3. Pass of the Bucks?
4. These are not what are usually known as "stone circles", ie monoliths, but something much less common - rings of small stones, possibly the remains of prehistoric huts and/or stock enclosures. The six-inch map marks four, and I have seen more on the ground. The "fort" is the largest, perhaps a hut and a stock-enclosure within a faint outer wall.

5. This, however, is a boulder-setting on an artificial (?) platform, which must have had an extensive view to the east before afforestation.
6. ie "Tuathair", northern exposure, north facing land?

#### OVERSEAS QUERIES

Our first two enquiries have met with some success. Colonel Malcolm proposes for CRAIG FETTACH, Creag an Fitheach on the south side of the Kilmartin-Oban road at the top of Kintraw near Salachry Farm. (But of course there are many "Craigs of the Raven", and some additional check would be necessary to decide if the Carmichaels went from here to Canada).

The second query, from Miss Eleanor Campbell in Toronto, is a success story. Miss Campbell visited Kintyre this summer and not only saw Achmacarnan, Dippen and Drum, but also located ancestral graves in Kilchenzie Churchyard. The remaining puzzle-names in her family records - "Barhmavulla" and "Conanby" - are provisionally identified by our Member, Dr A J Campbell, as possibly Ballivuline (grid ref 712224) and Corranbuie (842659).

I hope that when the first number, and this one, have made their way overseas, we may have a stream of similar queries and that we may be equally successful in answering them.

## NOTES AND NEWS

Gordon Davis Hon Secretary

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The summer in Mid Argyll has been gloriously hectic, so many visitors, and how pleased we are to see them at our meetings. The weather has been very kind to us, the summer still continuing at the end of September.

In fact the trip to the Garvellachs had to be postponed once because of storms, but the voyage was made in perfect conditions and the "Isles of the Sea" could not have looked more romantic; I doubt if any of the 40 members and friends will ever forget the day. It was particularly fortunate that we could show our Canadian visitors the notorious "Corry Vrechan" (Coire Bhreacain) whirlpool. Our grateful thanks to Mr Geoffrey Turner and Dr Patriok for telling us the history of the islands; we look forward to a paper by Dr Patriok in our next edition, on his further researches.

We were glad we did not leave Miss Purvis marooned on the island, because we would have missed the enjoyable evening she provided for us when we explored the Iussa Glen.

Members were more vocal than usual in their praise for Mr Aitken's talk on the early iron industry, followed by the excavation of a bloomery at Cairnbaan - a first venture into Industrial Archaeology for many of us. Not least valuable was Mr Aitken's explanation of the vitrification of Vitrified Forts.

The discovery of more bloomeries near Escart, West Loch Tarbert, is a valuable addition to the picture of iron workings in the district. We are lucky to have members like Mr F S Mackenna to arrange excursions such as our visit to Stonefield and Escart so efficiently; no one could miss the well-buoyed course.

Our "adventure" walk to Castle Downie was well attended and we were fortunate to have the guidance of Mr Hugh Graham, who knows the area better than anyone. Our President also spoke on the significance of the "Castle"; we must take more care of her in future and not lose her again.

(Your President had her own adventure and "bushed" two other members, due to ignorance of the new network of Forestry roads that has opened up North Knapdale since her "Field Survey" days.)

#### THE COVER

The Cover is Designed by Jim Allingham from a photograph supplied by the Royal Commission on the Ancient Monuments of Scotland, of a Cross at Kilmaha (Rudh na Fidhle: Fiddlers Point) Loch Awe. Since the photograph was taken the head of the cross has been removed, and the Forestry Commission is anxious to recover the missing part so it can be re-united and cared for.

The Lettering is from the Celtic Alphabet of the late 7th Century.

## OBSERVING BIRDS

Mrs E A Ascherson

- - - - -

To be interested in birds is an unending and lifelong pleasure; to be interested in the birds of a particular area during a period of fifty years and more is fascinating, instructive, baffling and infinitely rewarding.

My particular interest began on Crinan Moss one day in early summer long ago. My Father offered the enormous sum of one shilling to the child who first found a bird's nest and could say to which bird the nest belonged. I won with an easy pheasant which rocketed up from under my feet. By the end of that day I had found ten assorted nests and was a bird enthusiast for life.

This has been a strange bird year from the casual observer's point of view. The inexplicable invasion of Collared Doves which arrived this year in dozens, and which sat about on fences, in trees, on roofs and even on the roads in a way which I have never seen in Mid Argyll before - what brought them in such numbers?

Along the shores and over the fields adjacent to the shore there has, this year, been a noticeable absence of Oystercatchers both early in the season when they run along the shore near their nesting places, and later on when they fly in packs bleep-bleeping overhead. Where have they gone? What has either disturbed them in this area or attracted them elsewhere?

Then the Terns. For countless years at a

given area hereabouts they have arrived punctually between 14-16 May, and left punctually between 14-16 August each year. This year, however, Terns were still fishing and flying around well into the first week in September in Loch Craignish, and even later I saw a pair well out to sea when crossing to Islay.

In the small plantation beside my house, a plantation of ash, sycamore and a few scrubby larches, I have seen this year Tree Creeper, Spotted Flycatcher, the tits, Chaffinches, Greenfinches and all the more obvious birds as well as a large flock of Starlings among which was one strange coffee-coloured starling (1) with white primaries which enabled me to identify this flock as it flew from field to trees, and round to other trees over the months.

In the field in front as soon as the grasses begin to seed an invasion of finches arrives every year: Greenfinch and Chaffinch, Goldfinch and Yellowhammer, with here and there a Linnet. They stay for a week or so and disappear more or less overnight. The ground is alive with them, and they sway about on the slim grass-stems as they feed.

In September the bracken on the hillside shelters flocks of wagtails on migration, and Loch Craignish becomes the collecting area for a great company of swans, often exceeding fifty, to be joined later by a few Whooper Swans. These latter mix freely with the Mute Swans although there are usually only three or four of them.

Today, September 29th, I have seen the first small skein of geese heading south across the loch - winter is on the way.

(1) Possibly an immature Roseate Starling? If so, an addition to the Society's List. (Ed.)



## A FUTURE FOR THE PAST

By Moultrie R Kelsall and Stuart Harris  
Oliver and Boyd 1961

- - - - -

This is still a stimulating, useful and particularly apposite book advocating the restoration of old property. The writers are not primarily concerned with buildings of outstanding architectural merit because there is evidence of a growing public opinion opposed to their destruction. They are immediately concerned for the ever more rapidly diminishing body of humbler and simpler buildings which, though lacking individual pretensions, are collectively a monument no less important to a once strong Scottish building tradition which has been virtually lost.

They review the advantages of reconstruction as a local and national policy and discuss the technique of reconstruction with examples, contending that reconstruction is neither the impractical nor the uneconomic undertaking it is commonly alleged to be.

I found recently that Moultrie Kelsall has copies available at The Leigh Coffee House, Hanover Street, Edinburgh @ £1.05.

Mrs W B Walker

The review on "Lochfyneside" has been omitted because the Editor is already sold out.