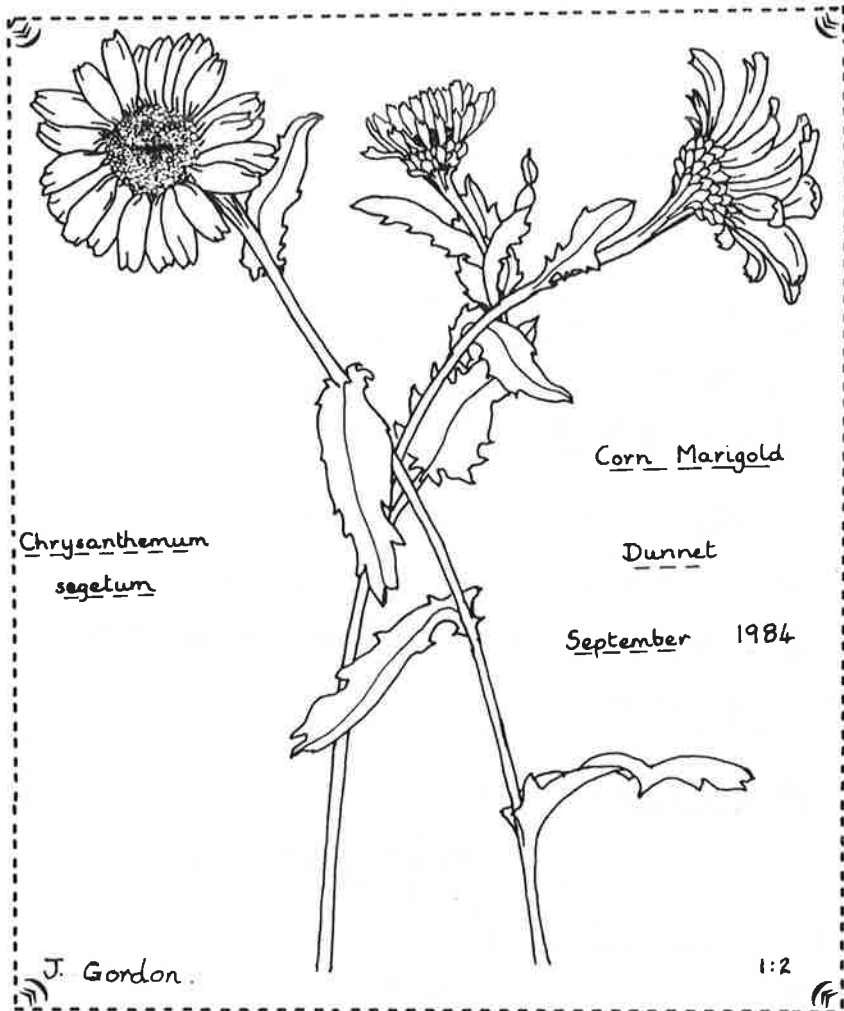


# Chrysanthemum segetum



Chrysanthemum  
segetum

Corn Marigold

Dunnet

September 1984

J. Gordon

1:2

the KIST 38



T H E K I S T  
The Magazine of  
The Natural History & Antiquarian Society  
of Mid-Argyll

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Hon. Secretary for Membership and Publications

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### THREE NATIONAL NATURE RESERVES

D.A.Batty, Warden

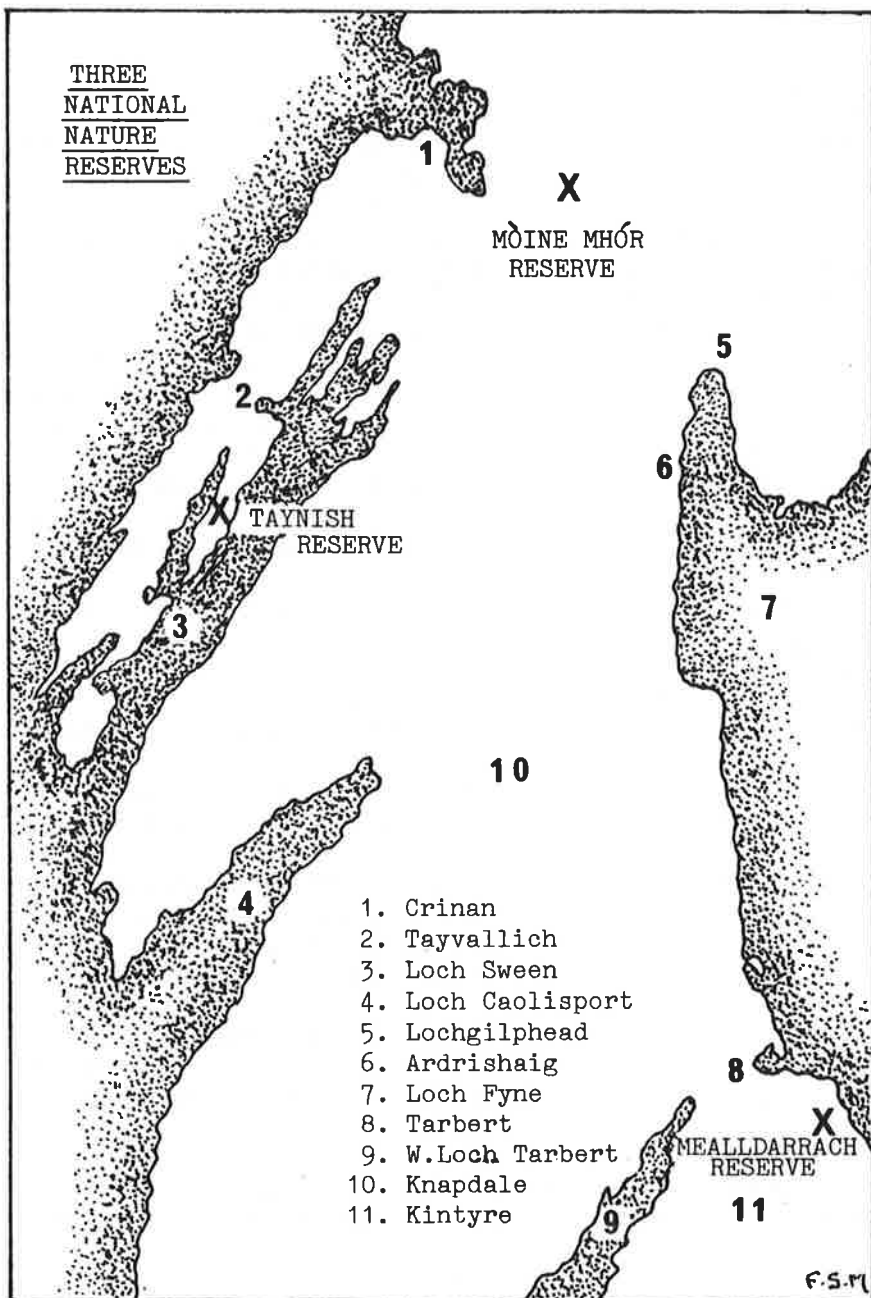
#### MÒINE MHÓR

Standing on Dunadd one looks down to the Mòine mór, or Great Moss, stretching westwards to the Crinan estuary and northwards from the Crinan Canal towards Kilmartin. This area is one of the most important bog sites, or more accurately Raised Mire sites, in Britain today. Many river estuaries on the west coast of Britain formerly had similar Raised Mires but few survive intact

The high rainfall and cool climate of the Crinan area produce conditions which lead to waterlogging. The Mire has developed over a basal layer of impermeable marine clays overlain with gravels which are exposed in places by the River Add and in some of the deep ditches. These factors have combined to produce changes in the vegetation which have led to the formation of a Raised Mire and are ideal for the growth of various species of Sphagnum Moss. These mosses contain many large empty spaces which can absorb and store water, acting as a huge sponge soaking up the rainwater. One has only to squeeze a handful to appreciate its storage capacity. This feature keeps the ground waterlogged, which in turn reduces the amount of air available to plant roots, making it difficult for them to grow. The soil organisms which normally break down plant and animal remains into humus do not thrive in these de-oxygenated and acid conditions, and so these remains fail to rot away completely but are preserved and the resultant layers of material build up and are compressed to form the familiar peat. Meanwhile the sphagnum and other bog plants grow on the top and gradually raise the surface and the water table above the surrounding land to produce a dome shape, the height of which depends on a variety of factors.

With so much of the plant and animal remains locked away in the peat, and with the relative lack of decomposer organisms, Mires are nutrient-poor systems. Sphagnum moss has no roots as such and depends for its survival on rainfall and on food produced by its leaves. Any large input of nutrients to the area can change the plant life markedly. Drying out of the peat allows the entry of oxygen.

THREE  
NATIONAL  
NATURE  
RESERVES



Because of their poor soil, waterlogging and resultant acidity, Mires are difficult places for wildlife to exist in, and only plants and animals specially adapted to these conditions can survive. Sphagnum mosses of various species are dominant, each having its own preferred place in the mosaic. Some form hummocks which grow up above the surface and can be relatively dry, allowing other plants to grow in them; others form wet cushions, and yet others float in the pools of open water. The Mire surface is dynamic, and over time the species of sphagnum and other plants in any area can change. These other plants are in the main Hare's-tail Cottongrass and Heather, but where the surface has been affected by draining, burning or grazing, Purple Moorgrass may be present. Over the open sphagnum lawns trail the inconspicuous stems of Cranberry, bearing lovely purple flowers in Spring and large red berries in Autumn. Both Cranberry and Small Cranberry are found. The Sundew survives by catching small insects with its sticky leaf hairs and then digesting them to obtain nitrogen and other nutrients not available from the peat. The vegetation of the Mire is not uniform but a mosaic reflecting variations in the degree of moisture and previous management such as grazing, burning and draining.

One of the major points of interest about the Móine mór is the graded transition in vegetation from the central acid Raised Mire to the Salt Marsh down by the coast.

The variety of animals found on the Mire tends to be rather limited owing to the restricted range of plants and also the physical conditions. With the predominantly wet nature and the presence of pools it is not surprising that Dragonflies are found. Ten species have so far been recorded, most of them breeding. The Reserve is also home for the nationally uncommon Large Heath Butterfly, whose caterpillars feed on the bog plants; the adults can be seen in June and July. Eight other butterfly species have been recorded.

Only a few birds use the actual open Mire itself; commonest are Meadow Pipit, Wren and Skylark. In Summer Curlew and an occasional Mallard breed. Hen Harrier and Short-eared Owl hunt the Moss for food. Where there are scattered trees or bushes one finds Stonechat, Whinchat, Sedge Warbler and Reed Bunting.

Roe and Sika Deer graze the Moss, and Otter and (un-

fortunately) Mink are associated with the River Add and the burns and ditches. Brown Hare occasionally use the peripheries. Adders are present and are most commonly seen lying in the sun in late Spring when they are torpid.

From Dunadd and also by driving around the area, one can see that the Mire was once more extensive than now. Much of the adjacent agricultural land has been reclaimed by removal of the peat. Its area has been reduced still further by the planting of exotic conifers, and it was the threat of more afforestation in 1980 which caused NCC to re-evaluate the area and rate the Mòine mhór as of high national importance for nature conservation because of its relatively intact system and the transition to saltmarsh.

The NCC opposed further planting, which precipitated long discussions over the future of the Moss between NCC and the local landowners. The outcome was that the owners of the various parts of the Moss agreed to sell to NCC. The first purchase was in 1981, and negotiations with five other owners were concluded, the final part being acquired in 1987. The 1200 acres were formally declared a National Nature Reserve in that year.

Although the area of original Mire has been greatly reduced it is considered that enough is left for the system to remain relatively intact hydrologically and to have the capability of becoming again an actively growing Raised Mire. The main requirement for success lies in its ability to retain water. Although the Reserve has been relatively little affected compared with surrounding areas, drainage, burning, grazing, tree planting and peat removal have all occurred. Drains lower the water table and allow quick removal of rainfall, causing the surface layers to dry out and vegetational changes to develop. Trees and shrubs can colonise, with birch and pine gradually covering the surface, inducing further drying and alteration to plant communities. Burning and grazing also affect the plants.

To conserve the Mire and improve it for its wildlife interest the loss of water has to be stopped by blocking drains and raising the water table. This should lead to more active sphagnum growth and also affect the spread of trees and shrubs. To avoid the problem of nutrient enrichment of the peat, the scrub is carefully burned or removed from the site. A large block of Rhododendron

ponticum is already encroaching on the Mire and if left would envelope a large area of the Reserve, so it is being cleared away. The branches, twenty or more feet long, are cut down and burned and the stumps treated with herbicide to prevent re-growth.

Unfortunately shelter belts of conifers were planted on some parts of the Reserve. As they would come to have a deleterious effect and be a source of colonising seedlings, they will have to be removed.

In addition to the Mire habitats of the Reserve there are small areas of woodland and one of improved farmland. The former will be managed for their native species, but as of secondary interest. The agricultural parts are deteriorating and becoming increasingly waterlogged, with resultant invasion by rushes. By cutting them, fertilisation and control of the grazing, NCC aim to encourage the presence of wintering geese and spring-breeding waders. Already during the first winter Greylag Geese have been noted there.

The Reserve by its very nature is a difficult and potentially dangerous place to explore. The ground is rough, with deep ditches and hidden wet holes. Great care is needed. The best place from which to see and appreciate it is from Dunadd; parts are also observable from the canal towpath near Bellanoch and from the public roads.

#### MEALLDARRACH

(Maol daraich = Oak Headland)

Hidden away on the west shore of Loch Fyne, between Tarbert and Skipness, is the 500 acre Mealldarrach National Nature Reserve, bought from the Forestry Commission in 1983 and declared in 1987. It is in two discontinuous parts, called respectively North and South Mealldarrach.

The Reserve comprises fairly inaccessible ground rising to about 400' which bears patches of scrubby birch reaching down to the rocky coastline. Beside the burns and in the small 'valleys' there is Oak, Rowan, Hazel, and Holly, with Ash and Elm in places. The slopes are broken by rock outcrops and their associated boulder scree, and there are several cascading burns in small steep ravines, which have the richest variety of flowering plants on the Reserve.

The main feature of interest is the extremely rich and luxuriant growth of mosses, liverworts and ferns, giving

parts of the Reserve the appearance of a tropical rain-forest. This lush growth has been made possible by the mild and moist climate of the area, accentuated by its sheltered maritime position aided by the woodland cover.

In places, on ground, rocks and tree trunks, there is a carpet of mosses and liverworts. Large clumps of tall ferns grow on the ravine sides and moist alcoves. The moss and liverwort communities are the best of their type anywhere in Britain, and two ferns, the Tunbridge Filmy and Hay-scented Buckler, are thought to occur in greater profusion here than elsewhere in Britain. The only comparable location would be the west coast of Ireland.

The animal life is what would be expected, with nothing of special interest, but Black Grouse are still present in small numbers along the edge of the woodland and moorland. A small rocky island, Eilean na Còmhraig, just off North Mealldarrach, has been known to carry breeding Terns, and the coast of the Reserve is well used by others.

The Forestry Commission planted the moorland above the Reserve ground with conifers, and there was a fear that the rest of the area would receive similar treatment, with only a small unplanted part remaining to retain a conservation interest and value. This was the NCC's reason for the acquisition.

The area of natural woodland along the coast will have fluctuated over the years. Charcoal platforms are found, presumably in connection with the iron-ore furnace much farther up the loch. Stone dykes and field boundaries, with the remains of farms, indicate a much greater level of use in the past. (See Kist 36 - Editor)

Prior to the FC's acquisition the area was probably devoted to sheep farming, but since that ended there has been considerable regeneration of Birch on the open moor and of Alder on the wet slopes. It is hoped that mixed woodland will spread and develop naturally in the future, supplemented by judicious planting of other native species such as Oak, Ash, Hazel and Holly.

Roe and Sika Deer are present in the area and may be expected to increase with the rising growth of cover.

Very little active management is needed to ensure the continued survival of the bryophytes and ferns; the conservation of the woodland cover should guarantee their well-being. Along the shore from Tarbert, close to the



northern edge of the Reserve, is a large patch of *Rhododendron ponticum* from which colonisation of the Reserve has already begun. As it is at an early stage it should be fairly easy to get rid of these invasive aliens. A limited amount of deer culling takes place.

The Reserve is not easy to reach or explore; there are no paths as such, and it becomes a matter of scrambling about, making use of vague 'sheep tracks', but there are hidden holes between boulders on the rough and steep ground and the ravines are deep and hard to cross. The use of a small boat might be considered but nothing should be done to delude would-be visitors into forgetting that only the well equipped and fit specialist has any justification for making the attempt.

#### TAYNISH

(? Taigh an Innis = House of the Island)

Taynish National Nature Reserve comprises nearly all of the Taynish peninsula near Tayvallich on the west side of Loch Sween. The conservation value of this large and important area was only discovered in the late 1960's; 895 acres were bought in 1973 and declared in 1977.

The Reserve is one of the largest remaining examples of the oak-dominated woodland along the west coast of Scotland, particularly in Argyll. The peninsula is formed of Dalradian schists and the topography is typical of Knapdale with long narrow rocky ridges running SW-NE, reaching their highest point at the Bàrr mór. In between the ridges there are Mires or grassy areas depending on the drainage. The knaps are densely covered by trees and the dales are open or have a few trees.

Oak forms almost pure stands in places and is dominant elsewhere. Where the soil is richer, with more lime influence, Hazel and Ash are found - sometimes in local concentrations; in more base-rich situations Wych Elm is present. The slopes of the knaps, as would be expected, are generally dry but where flat shelves occur and at the bottom of slopes, with the soil waterlogged, Alder flourishes. Throughout the wood are scattered Holly, Rowan, Willow and Hawthorn. Birch grows in a variety of sites both in and on the edge of the wood, forming large patches on the more acid heather-dominated soils. On the southern edge of the wood there is an area with Blackthorn, Hawthorn and

Gorse scrub.

Broad-leaved woodland comprising native species has occupied the area for thousands of years, since trees returned after the end of the last Ice Age. With this long history it is not surprising that many animals and plants have become associated, making them abundant wildlife sites.

The woodland plants reflect the richness of the soil, moisture, degree of shading etc., and therefore many different species are present. In Spring there are masses of Primroses, Violets, Celandines, Wood Sorrel, Bluebell and Stitchwort, contrasting with the still dull trees. With richer soil are found Sanicle, Woodruff and the grass False Broom, whilst in wet areas the pungent-smelling Ramsons occur. Many other plants are present both in and along the edge of the wood and in the other habitats of the Reserve. All these are a potential food source for insects. Therefore it is not surprising that Taynish supports a large and diverse range of them and other invertebrates. For example over 400 species of moths have been recorded and 20 kinds of butterfly. In the hot summer of 1984 thousands of butterflies - Peacock, Scotch Argus, Speckled Wood, Marsh Fritillary, Dark Green Fritillary and Green-veined White. Numbers have gone down since then, due to poor summers, but given good weather they will rise again.

A dramatic example of fluctuation in insect numbers is shown by the oak-defoliating caterpillars. These caterpillars of several species of moth eat young oak leaves and are present every year, but in some years there is a combination of factors causing a plague which completely strips trees and even whole woods. 1987 was a year when parts of Taynish were stripped bare by millions of these caterpillars, which then spun silk threads to reach the ground for pupation. Such epidemics usually take place in June, and other trees such as Hazel, Willow and Birch can be attacked. Birds take advantage of this huge amount of food - even large flocks of Hoodie Crows and Common Gulls have been seen. Such abundance enables small birds to achieve good breeding success, which in turn provides more food for predators such as Sparrowhawks. Despite their forlorn appearance the trees are able to survive - they simply grow another set of leaves and by the end of July this 'Lammas growth' as it is called, has restored

them fully though affected oaks can still be identified in high summer by their brighter green leaves when compared with the darker tone of the original foliage.

Spring is the time for the return of bird migrants. Willow and Wood Warblers, Tree Pipits and Redstarts all appear in the wood. Whitethroats, Sedge and Grasshopper Warblers, Tree Pipits and Redstarts are in the scrub and the Cuckoo is heard throughout the Reserve, looking for a nest to usurp. The resident Great Spotted Woodpeckers can be heard drumming in their territories and other residents are busy singing to advertise their territory - Robins, Blue Tits, Great Tits, Blackbirds etc. In the fading light of evening Woodcock are heard making their frog-like call as they fly round; they are resident but their numbers increase greatly in winter as incoming birds come to the milder west coast frost-free feeding areas.

The mammals of the Reserve are not so easily seen, but they leave very many signs. There are several colonies of Badgers and to judge from their size some of the setts must have been in use for years. Their paths are to be found in the woods and also places where they have been rooting for food. Deer are ever-present; three species recorded. Roe, the smallest of our native deer, are the commonest, whereas Red, formerly more plentiful, are only seen occasionally. Sika, a foreign species, have gradually spread up through Kintyre and Knapdale and beyond the Crinan Canal, being first seen in the Taynish region in the early 1970's. They have now become established in the Reserve and surrounding areas.

Taynish is much more than a mass of trees forming a Reserve. The woodland borders on to the coast, to bogs, fresh water and grassland, improved fields and scrub, and this juxtaposition of habitats means that the whole Reserve supports a diverse range of plants and animals.

The wet areas - bogs, pools and ditches - are the main sites for Dragonflies and Damselflies; the young stages live in water and are voracious predators of water life. The adult insects with their beautiful colours are expert fliers and perform aerobatics in search of food. Eleven varieties are found here, including the Golden Ring Dragon-

fly with its striking black and yellow patterning.

Elsewhere on the Reserve are two small meadows which were cut for hay in the past and probably have never been improved by ploughing or the application of artificial fertiliser; consequently in summer they are a mass of different flowers and grasses, providing nectar for many of the insects.

Being a peninsula the Reserve possesses a variety of coastal habitat, most of which is woodland and scrub going down almost to high tide mark above a rocky shore, but at the southern end are found herb-rich coastal grassland and wet heath, with small areas of saltmarsh with its corresponding range of plants. Beyond the territorial boundary, under the sea, Loch Sween is a site of high marine conservation interest. The rapids between Taynish and Ulva are one of its best areas, where Starfish, Sea Urchins, Sea Slugs, Sponges, Corals and many other animals can be found. Loch Sween is a proposed site for Scotland's first designated Marine Nature Reserve.

With the range of habitat present and the rich variety of plants and animals it supports, it is not surprising that NCC purchased this area and declared it a Reserve.

Amongst its main attributes are the Mosses and Lichens. The mild moist climate and the ameliorating effect of the woodland make this area an ideal growing site; ground is carpeted, rocks and tree bases are covered. Species include the Large Lungwort Lichen. Lichens are very sensitive to air pollution and acid rain and their state gives an indication of the quality of the environment. Many of the mosses, liverworts and lichens are rare not only on a national basis but internationally. Taynish has about 250 species each of all three.

The same moist and cool conditions are enjoyed by ferns and Taynish has large colonies of the Hay-scented Buckler and the Tunbridge Filmy Fern, two western specialities.

Although Taynish shows mainly native trees, it is not entirely a natural primaeval forest and has been affected by man over the years. It is therefore best considered a semi-natural woodland. The effects of man in pre-history can only be conjectured, but the Knapdale woods must surely have been used for hunting, food gathering and

fuel. The presence of many duns in the area perhaps indicates a formerly well-populated locality. Comparison of the oldest available maps of Taynish with present day ones shows marked similarity in the position of woodland and large clearings. The peninsula was used for farming with a mixture of arable, pasture, wood etc. On the west slopes of Bàrr Mór there is evidence of arable farming, with the remains of what appears to be a corn drying kiln.

A major activity which shaped the wood into what we see today was the coppice system, used to produce oak bark for tanning of leather and wood for charcoal. Many charcoal platforms are found throughout the area. The charcoal was used to supply the iron ore furnaces at Bonawe and Furnace. Oak was preferred and other types may have been removed. With changes in smelting technology the charcoal furnaces were abandoned. Shoots from the last coppicing grew and produced the typical even-aged dense oak woodland now present at Taynish and elsewhere, the true origin being shown by the three, four, five or more stems rising from one stump. In places large mature oaks have been left which are 2-300 or more years old.

After the cessation of the coppice system grazing animals, both wild and domestic, must have been present, but in low numbers which allowed the trees to grow up. Later grazing by sheep and cattle occurred, which would produce and maintain the open woodland structure now so typical of the area; with the regenerating tree and shrub seedlings all grazed back there is a browse line and the woodland plants are inhibited from flowering. Ash may have been more plentiful where soil conditions favoured it but it has been preferentially felled because of its ability to burn well when green, unlike other hardwoods. The Reserve woodland is composed mainly of native trees but Sycamore and Beech, and to some extent Lime, were planted in the main at the southern end. These trees are not native to Scotland nor are they beneficial to our native animals and plants; furthermore Sycamore and Beech are capable of invading natural woodland and becoming dominant if given the opportunity.

With the acquisition of Taynish NCC obviously had some active management to carry out in order to maintain and enhance the conservation interest of the site. Domestic grazing animals were removed to allow regeneration to pro-

ceed. Seedlings of Oak, Ash, Holly, Hazel etc. are present but are still being prevented from growing to saplings by too many wild grazing animals. Deer are being culled to tip the balance between them and trees in favour of the latter. With Sika deer the aim is to eradicate them, whereas Roe deer are an integral part of a natural woodland system, at the correct density, and numbers are being reduced.

Over the greater part of the Reserve there is no active woodland management except for the removal of exotic trees and the culling of deer. The woodland is being allowed to develop naturally. This may seem a strange concept but there are few if any woods in Argyll which are being allowed to do this. It is actually harder to sustain this non-intervention management over the years than it is actively to manage a wood.

The southern part of the Reserve has more exotic trees which will gradually be removed and any natural regeneration encouraged by the use of growth tubes. Native species, such as Oak, Ash, Elm, Holly, Hazel, Hawthorn and Glean will be planted in place of the exotics. A variety of woodland management techniques including coppicing will be tried to determine their effectiveness.

The Bracken menace is being tackled, albeit on a small scale, e.g. cutting in late July/early August to reduce its vigour and density and to allow other plants to grow and flower. Results so far have been encouraging.

Although grazing is not desirable in the wood it is necessary on the flower-rich meadow and coastal sections to stop coarse grasses from increasing and becoming dominant. Autumn and winter grazing removes the summer's herbage and maintains the diversity whilst allowing the plants to flower and set their seed. Cattle are much more effective than sheep in tackling rougher vegetation.

People are free to visit and explore the Reserve at any time. There is limited parking at the end of the public road. The Reserve's track is not ideal for cars but is a good way to see the area on foot; eventually it leads through a variety of habitats to the sea at the southern end of the peninsula.

### KILMORY and the ORDE FAMILY

Reference to this subject occurs in Kist 27 (page 29) and we have received information from Mr Eric Pearson which indicates that we had too readily accepted current stories and had in consequence misled readers. The whole matter of the Kilmory Ordes is highly complicated and its elucidation lies far beyond the scope of Kist and must be left to specialists such as Mr Pearson; but one point can and should be cleared up here, namely the "killing of the child". This is now shown to be pure invention, for Mr Pearson has located various press reports from May 1871 which give a clear account of the matter, resolving it into an action against the then baronet for assaulting a child, whom he accused of throwing something at his tandem team, by inadvertantly lassoing him with his whip and dragging him some yards, to his very moderate physical damage. So much for the "killing" legend.

As for the other Orde stories mentioned in Kist, it should have been made more obvious to readers that they referred to more than one of the successive baronets.

### The ATECHUAN MEMORIAL

Dermid McGregor

This little-known monument is situated on a rock behind Atechuan House, Ardrishaig (NS849853). It can be seen from the road, just south of the gateway to the house, uphill past the north gable.

It is a narrow cairn of cemented stones, about 8 feet tall, with the remains of a weather-vane on top. On the S.E. side is a stone tablet - IN MEMORY OF LIEUT. ALLAN WILSON 1915. It was erected by Dr Wilson in memory of his nephew, who died in France on 25 August 1915 while serving in the Royal Engineers. He was 28 years old and died of pneumonia following appendicitis. Before his enlistment in October 1914 he had been a Civil Engineer employed at Parkstone during the construction of the Quay extension, after which he was transferred (in Feb. 1910) to Cambridge, where he remained until joining the Army.

His forebears had Inverneil farm for a good number of years; they are buried in the old graveyard at Inverneil, as also is Dr Wilson. (See Kist 9)

## STADDLES to ELEPHANTS: An Obscure Progression

F.S.Mackenna

Visitors often note with interest the 'stone mushroom' in my garden but few can identify it as part of a once-normal arrangement for keeping stacks of unthreshed corn or even hay out of the reach of vermin. Admittedly it is an unusual type; it came from Pitcur Castle in Angus. It comprises three parts (normally only two), a square base, 16ins. high, the sides tapering from a width of 7½ ins. to 6. Surmounting this are two 3½ins. thick disc-shaped slabs, one 17ins. across, the other 13 - generally there is only one 'cap'. The separate portions are not united to each other. It is called a 'staddle' (sometimes rendered 'stathel'). A sufficient number of these stones were arranged permanently in the stackyard, usually in circles, to support platforms of branches, whins or broom, which allowed ventilation of the superimposed stack. Such an arrangement was utterly beyond the power of rats and mice to scale.

A well-managed stackyard was a delight to see; rows of round stacks with their conical thatched tops and neatly trimmed sides in perfect alignment. Indeed it was likely that a good farmer owed his reputation to two main aspects of his care - a well-ploughed field and a well-filled neat stackyard.

The harvesting of the grain, originally done by hand, but now only on broken ground, had in my young days been mechanised by the invention of a Binder. This highly complicated machine was employed when the grain was ripe. It was driven up and down the field by a pair of horses. The swath of standing oats or barley met with a long horizontally-placed oscillating knife and fell on to a wide endless canvas belt which took it sideways into the interior of the machine, whence every few moments a neatly bundled and tied sheaf was ejected. The fallen sheaves were gathered up by men and women, and propped in mutually supporting clumps called stooks to await carting into the stackyard.

The completed stacks remained for varying lengths of time, depending on the availability of the itinerant hired threshing machine. This elaborate contraption toured the



country under its motive power of a tall-chimney'd traction engine. In the stackyard thresher and engine were connected by a long figure-of-eight belt which was only one of the manifest sources of danger to inquisitive youngsters. In action the thresher produced a very satisfying deep booming sound as it swallowed the string-freed sheaves thrown down from the stack and delivered the grain into sacks at its rear and the straw and chaff from other parts of its mechanism.

The movement of a threshing machine round the country always meant hazards for other road users. Horses did not like them and were almost certain to react violently. It was bad to be caught in the brougham, completely shut in - for needless to say one was not allowed the delight of 'hanging-out' of an opened window to get a good view of the drama. Fortunately there was usually a groom beside the coachman, who could take control of the horse's head. A phaeton was almost equally frustrating, for a SIT STILL edict was sure to be uttered. Better was a governess car, with its unobstructed all-round view, but there was neither coachman nor groom at hand, and if the threshing machine had only its driver things could get decidedly alarming. Best of all was a dog-cart, for its height gave an uninterrupted view, though if one happened to be behind - people sat back to back on that sort of conveyance - and the horse began to back, one could be occupying a perch precariously high above a deep ditch. A threshing mill was not a good thing to meet with!

Another type of hazard was fortunately very rare - an encounter with a travelling circus. It befell me only twice, once in the days I am writing about (horses didn't seem to understand elephants) and again 40 or 50 years later, long after the horse-drawn era, when very early one morning, motoring near Beaulieu (of all unlikely places) a bend was rounded to reveal a string of three or four elephants approaching. Surprise and disbelief were the immediate reactions.

So elephants end a rambling story which started with staddles, as the title promised.

...oooOooo...

## VITRIFIED FORTS : A MID-19th CENTURY OPINION

In 1858 the scientific world was enriched by the posthumous publication of Hugh Miller's Rambles of a Geologist, in the course of which appeared remarks on the vitrification of the walls of some prehistoric defensive structures - an occurrence with which we are familiar in our area. The following extracts from these pages of Miller's serve to show that even a hundred and thirty years later there is still no agreement as to their mode of production - deliberate or coincidental. Editor.

"The vitrification of the rampart which on every side [of Knock Ferril, near Inverness] incloses the grassy area has been .... less satisfactorily accounted for than the luxuriance within. It was held by Pennant to be an effect of volcanic fire, and that the wall of this and all our other vitrified strongholds are simply the crater-rims of extinct volcanoes - a hypothesis wholly .... untenable.

Williams .... one of our earlier British geologists .... broached the theory .... that they are artificial structures, in which vitrescency was designedly induced .... Lord Woodhouselee advocated an opposite view. Resting on the fact that the vitrification is but of partial occurrence, he held that it had been produced, not of design by the builders of the forts, but in the process of their demolition by a besieging enemy, who, finding as he premised, a large portion of the ramparts composed of wood, had succeeded in setting them on fire. This hypothesis seems quite as untenable .... Fires not infrequently occur in cities .... where walls of stone are surrounded by much greater profusion of dry woodwork .... but who ever saw, after a city fire, masses of wall from eight to ten feet in thickness fused throughout?

The late Sir George Mackenzie of Coul .... held that the vitrification is simply an effect of the ancient beacon-fires kindled to warn the country of an invading enemy. But how account, on this hypothesis, for ramparts continuous, as in the case of Knock Farril, all round the hill? .... the bonfire lighted on the summit of Arthur Seat in 1842, to welcome the Queen .... particularly fused numerous detached fragments of basalt, and imparted, in some spots to the depth of about half an inch, a vesicular structure

to the solid rock beneath. But no fire, however powerful, could have constructed a rampart running without break for several hundred feet round an insulated hill top. "To be satisfied," said Sir George, "of the reason why the signal fires should be kindled on or beside a heap of stones, we have only to imagine a gale of wind to have arisen when a fire was kindled on the bare ground. The fuel would be blown about and dispersed, to the great annoyance of those who attended. The plan .... which would occur most naturally and readily would be to raise a heap of stones, on either side of which the fire might be placed to windward; and to account for the vitrification appearing all round the area, it is only necessary to allow the inhabitants .... to have had a system of signals. A fire at one end might denote something different from a fire at the other, or in some intermediate part. On some occasions two or more fires might be necessary, and sometimes a fire along the whole line ...." The theory of Williams, is, I am inclined to think, the true one in the main; (it) seems capable of being considerably modified and improved by the hypothesis of Sir George. ....when the roving Vikingr had become formidable, many of the eminences originally selected from their inaccessibility, as sites for hill forts, would come to be chosen, from their prominence in the landscape, as stations for beacon-fires. ....large fires, abundantly supplied with fuel .... and blown at times into intense heat by the strong winds .... kindled some six or eight times. At first the heat has failed to tell on the stubborn quartz and feldspar .... but each fire throws down into the interstices a considerable amount of the fixed salt of the wood, till at length the heap has become charged with a strong flux; and then one powerful fire more, fanned to a white heat by a keen, dry breeze, reduces the whole into a semi-fluid mass .... It could not fail being perceived by intellects at all human, that the consolidation which the fire effected on one portion of the wall might be produced .... on another portion .... in short that a loose incoherent rampart, easy of demolition, might be converted .... into a rampart as solid and indestructible as the rock on which it rested."

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FROM AUCHAGOYLE TO PENMORE  
A PROFILE OF ARCHIBALD MACNAB

Duncan Beaton

The surname Macnab first appears on record in the Lochfyneside part of Mid-Argyll in the 1750's. This was a period when many of the family names native to Perthshire and inland districts of Argyll drifted to the seaboard, or even further afield, to the cities or the colonies.

There is no evidence to suggest that the Macnab families which settled in the vicinity of Furnace and Minard came to the area as a result of agricultural change or population clearance. Close kinship between the leading families of Argyll and Breadalbane allowed for natural and free movement of clanspeople over the hill passes beyond the head of Loch Fyne.

From the records kept by Archibald Campbell of Knockbuy (1693-1790), which his descendant Miss Campbell of Kilberry has kindly allowed the writer to inspect, the early Macnabs in Minard may be traced. The first was John Macnab in Douner (Lower) Shirdruim from 1758. He later lived at Brainport, and appeared paying rent until about 1770. Then a James Macnab was mentioned, also at Douner Shirdruim, from 1774 to 1789. He had a daughter noted as Knockbuy's dairymaid in 1785-6. Also of the same period was Patrick Macnab at Douner Shirdruim, 1780-82. The last to appear in Knockbuy's records was Donald Macnab, who was a tenant at the Limefield Douner Shirdruim from 1784 to 1786, and then lived at Brainport.

From the 1780's on there are numerous baptismal entries for Macnabs in the Glassary Old Parochial Registers. However, this is not the story of the Lochfyneside Macnabs - interesting though it may be - but of one particular member of the family.

Archibald Macnab was born at Auchagoyle, Minard, on 20 January 1806, to James and Catherine Macnab living there. The parents were both Macnabs by birth, and had married on 18 January 1795, when James was given as living in Shirdruim and Catherine in Goatfield.

Archibald was the 6th child and at least two more were to follow. From this family most of the Macnabs and a good many other Minard folk descend. If the list be widened to include those from further up Loch Fyne, the name of the writer of this paper may be added.

No mention of the son, Robert, but the household also includes a governess, 4 servants and a lath splitter. Living at nearby Dail were Archibald's aged parents, James Macnab, retired farmer, aged 80 and Catherine Macnab, also aged 80, both born in Glassary Parish.

The Death Certificates of these two parents within the following decade take the genealogy back a further generation. James, who died at Blarbuie on 27 April 1856, was the son of James Macnab and Mary McCallum, with the occupation of this James also given as farmer. Catherine, who died at Auchagoyle, Minard on 31 January 1859 was the daughter of John McNab, also a farmer, and Margaret McKellar. The age of James was given as 85 when he died, and Catherine was 88. Unfortunately the Glassary Old Parochial Register does not give their baptisms c.1770, but it is possible that James and John the respective fathers were two of the Macnabs listed in Campbell of Knockbuy's records.

Returning to Archibald, the Index to the General Register of Sasines shows that his Cairnbaan property including Dunamuck was acquired on burden of £500 by James Maclean, sometime merchant in Tobermory on 12 May 1854. In 1856 he purchased a piece of land in Ardrishaig while living at Gracefield Lodge in the village, and in May 1857 the £500 burden on Dunamuck was discharged.

This was another turning point in Archibald's career, and in November 1857 he had a sasine of the lands of Penmore (or Pennymore) in Mull from the Trustees of Hugh Maclean of Coll and his creditors. Hugh Maclean had himself had sasine of Penmore in May 1817 from George William, Duke of Argyll.

Although there was a fine house at Penmore Archibald and family continued to live in or around Ardrishaig, The younger daughter, Catherine, was given as living at Inverneill when she married James Campbell, a seaman aboard the Fishery Protection vessel H.M.S. Jackal at Ardrishaig on 22 June 1865. James was the son of the late Captain William Campbell and later himself became Captain and Paymaster R.N.

Mrs Janet Macnab, nee Mackechnie, died at Ardrishaig on 30 June 1870, at the age of 58. Her father was named on the certificate as Robert Mackechnie, farmer, and her mother as Christina Thomson. Unfortunately the Inverkip Old Parish Record does not reveal anything of this family.

Nothing much is known of Archibald Macnab's early years. He left his native district and married Janet Mackechnie from Inverkip Parish prior to 1834, when their daughter Christina was born. Later records show this birth to have taken place in Glasgow, but to date no entries for it or the marriage have been found.

On 31 July 1837 a second daughter Catherine was born. By this time Archibald was a Spirit Dealer in Glasgow and the birth was recorded in the City Parish Register, with Archibald Crawford and William Rose as witnesses. Using this reference to his trade, the Commercial Directories were searched, and an Archibald Macnab, vintner in Partick, was found in Pigot's 1837 edition. However a search of the Partick (then in Govan) Parish Records failed to reveal any family details. The 1841 Glasgow Post Office Directory showed Archibald to be operating as a coal agent at 4 Wood Lane, and that he continued until 1844. The 1841 Census for the City Parish confirms that he was our man.

No.4 Wood Lane (between 24 and 30 Broomielaw)

Archibald McNab - Coal Merchant      Aged 30

Janet McNab      Aged 25

Christina McNab      Aged 6

Catherine McNab      Aged 3

Catherine McKechnie - F.Servant      Aged 15

Later that same year the City Parish Register recorded the last member of Archibald's family - Archibald McNab Coal Agent & Janet McKechnie a son Robert bo. 22 July 1841. Witnesses Charles Leitch and Hugh McKellar.

After 1844 the P.O.Directories make no mention of the Coal Agent at Wood Lane. From the Indices to the General Register of Sasines it is apparent that Archibald's life took a new direction. Between 18 November and 24 December 1844 Archibald, "formerly Merchant in Glasgow, now Inn-keeper in Cairnbaan" acquired the 2 roods and 6 poles of the farm of Dunamuck on the estate of Shirvan from the Trustees of John Graham Campbell.

The Macnab household was listed in the 1851 Census as follows:-

Archibald Macnab - farmer 3,000 acres with 5 shepherds

Janet Macnab wife,      Aged 39      born Inverkip

Christina Macnab      Aged 15      born Glasgow

Katherine Macnab      Aged 12      "      "

However they are interred in Greenock Cemetery, not far from notables such as James Watt and Burns' great love, 'Highland Mary' Campbell.

With the Mackechnies there is another Inverneill connection, as Archibald Macnab's brother-in-law Robert Mackechnie, who died on 26 April 1867 aged 43, is recorded on the headstone as "of [the] P & O Service at Inverneill, Argyll".

It is fairly apparent from surviving correspondence that Archibald was working closely with the Campbell family of Inverneill at this time. He wrote letters from Inverneill about 1870, and when John Tweed published his book The House of Argyll and Colateral Branches of the Clan Campbell in 1871 it was acknowledged that the elaborately printed Campbell of Craignish family tree and other materials had been supplied by Archibald Macnab of Penymore. This connection with the Inverneill Campbells, who had also hailed from Perthshire, although with an earlier link to the Craignish branch of the Clan, has led to a belief that there may have been a connection through marriage. However, although there were many Macnabs related to the Campbells while they were still in the vicinity of Killin, and some did move with them to Mid-Argyll, the writer can find no evidence to substantiate this belief.

In the 1871 Census the recently-widowed Archibald, now aged 65, was living at Glenburn House, Ardrishaig, with his daughter Christina, as yet unmarried. In 1872 Archibald Macnab of Penmore, "residing in Ardrishaig", had 718 acres on Mull, with a gross annual value of £282-10/-.

Christina married John Clarke, Free Church Minister at Minard, on 23 February 1874. From the inscription on the family tombstone at Killewin she apparently died sometime in April 1885 at the age of 50.

Archibald's son, Robert, who had been a doctor in Bury St Edmunds, lived at Penmore in his later years. He is remembered as a kindly old gentleman who would allow some of the local children into the orchard at Penmore House to pick fruit. The family used the local Dervaig Parish Church, to which they would ride in a carriage on Sundays. It is in this church, with its unusual tower, that a brass plate commemorating Archibald Macnab was installed by his daughter Mrs Catherine Campbell.

Archibald Macnab died at Seaside House, Ardrishaig, on

23 August 1882, one year earlier than the date on the Der-vaig plaque. The Executors of his estate included fellow farmers and also Macnab kinsmen as well as bankers, Glasgow merchants and a Campbell of Breadalbane offshoot. That he was well connected in business there can be no doubt; whether some of these connections may yet be confirmed as blood ties is of continued interest to genealogists such as the writer.

This story came to light through a routine recording of Macnab inscriptions in Killewin Cemetery, Crarae. Most of the stones were easy to read, until a sandstone obelisk was encountered through rusting railings and an overgrown laurel bush. Previous research had established the significance of James and Catherine Macnab in the writer's own family tree, and Archibald "of Penmore" fitted in with known baptismal information. The rest was wrought from the sometimes reluctant staff at the Registrar General's Office in Edinburgh and the extremely helpful staff of the Mitchell Library in Glasgow and that of the Scottish Record Office in Edinburgh.

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#### HASTE POST HASTE

Marion Campbell.

A postal network of a kind existed in Scotland before the Post Office Act of 1695, but it remained advisable to send 'Express Messengers' with urgent or secret mail, even though this brought other problems - "Old Duncan is falln ill - I was forc'd to chuse him for fear of the Press [Gang]"

Knapdale had a post-of-sorts by 1736, when Duncan roy McMillan was allowed a rent-rebate for 'your Son's Bosting of letters for the Lady Kilberry'. At 1762 the postman was Duncan dall McTavish (dall = blind. Partially-sighted people were often chosen as postmen, for obvious reasons, in a widely literate community).

By April 1814 the Manager at Carse writes to his laird, then near Dover in the Army - 'I must say that your let-



ters to me Sir are sometimes ten days after date before I receive them. I presume it proceeds from the want of a post coming this way - the Post Master in Tarbert who is McIntyre has been ready I think in sending all my letters by any good opportunity to me ... shall regularly after this have my reports ready on Sunday in hopes that the Post woman will call for them.'

In the 1850s, John Campbell of Kilberry often took his wife 'and the bairns' to Ormsary in the gig twice a week on summer afternoons 'to look for letters', excursions explained by a tenant's apology for delay in dealing with business:- 'Clachbreck is 9 miles from the nearest Post Office at Ardrishaig from which the Post carries the letters across country to Achoish where he leaves them at his own house, and there they lie until the people of the district chance to call for them.'

By the time John's son, the Diarist, returned from India there was a mail service to Kilberry from Tarbert; he was an avid correspondent and got to work to improve it.

'Kilberry.

23 September 1871

It is understood that the Post Office authorities will very soon authorize an addition to the Salary of the Kilberry & Tarbert postman on the condition that he carries the letters daily. In order to do this he will require to keep a Spring Cart and two horses. The additional Salary will not cover the extra expence but it is believed that by carrying parcels and one or two passengers he will be able to make up the deficiency. The great difficulty in starting this cart will be the price of it and of the extra horse. In order to remove this difficulty it is proposed to start a subscription for the purpose of defraying these expenses and it is hoped that all those who will benefit by this daily post will contribute something. Subscribers are requested to write their names and Amount of their subscriptions on this paper.'

Fourteen lairds and tenants subscribed amounts from £10 to 10/-, with some guineas, to a total of £44.6s. The horse was bought in Glasgow for £26, with £10 for the cart and £4.4s. for harness, and expenses of £1.16s. for 'carriage of horse and cart; stabling the horse; putting the horse on Steamer.'

A brass letterbox, inscribed CLEARED AT 6A.M., was built into the Castle hall, and a locked leather satchel

was carried daily between the castle and Tarbert. (The satchel long outlived the system, but was in use between the castle and Kilberry PO until about 1946). Some two years later, after many battles with neighbours who opposed the erection of telegraph-poles (dangerous to the grouse) the Diarist could record triumphantly that 'Today Kilberry was connected to the world', and the Porter of his London Club could be instructed to wire important news, such as the winner of the Derby or the outcome of the Tichbourne Claimant Case.

#### A RARE LOCATION for a JACOBITE SIGN

F.S.Mackenna



The Jacobite Cause gave rise to a number of cryptic signs intended to serve as identification between sympathisers. Amongst these devices occurs the Oak Leaf, in reference to the Boscobel Oak which had been of such use to an earlier Monarch. It is most usually but always rarely, found as part of engraved ornament on wine glasses,

but it seems quite possible that the wreaths of foliage which encircle the foot of a few early Chelsea oval fluted dishes, made about the 1745's may have had a significance beyond that of pure decoration. Such a suggestion inevitably provokes opposing opinions but there can be no ambiguity in regard to the implications of part of another Chelsea decoration. It occurs on two very early small jugs which have been widely illustrated though until now without any particular notice being taken of their pro-Jacobite leanings, nor had this interpretation occurred to me when my three Chelsea books were published in the 1950's. The main part of their enamel decoration, copied from a Chinese original, shows figures in a garden, but on the 'back' there is a single group of stylised flowers and here lies the coded message, for at the base of each group we see four undoubted oak leaves which most certainly were not present on the Oriental prototype which the Chelsea artist was copying.

## CHRYSANTHEMUM SEGETUM

Bileach choigreach : The Stranger Flower (1)

Joanna Gordon

*Chrysanthemum segetum*, a large bright yellow daisy, loved by children and much disliked by farmers, was once a common flower of the corn fields. That was before a recent agricultural revolution changed the face of Argyll by the use of 'clean' seed and effective weed-killers. Today *C.segetum* is hard to find in most areas of Britain, and a stock plant is grown among the endangered species in the Conservation section of the University Botanic Garden in Cambridge. Of its remaining stations, the best the writer observed in 1988 was in a field on the N.W. outskirts of Lochgilphead, between the Badden Burn and the old route to Cairnbaan. The purpose of this note is to plead for its protection there, and wherever it may survive without significant harm to crops. The field noted above was under pasture, and the plant would probably survive in such conditions for some years, though it truly belongs on ploughed land, among corn. The illustration depicts specimens from a field in Caithness, where a crop of potatoes was almost drowned in *C.segetum*, after many crops of oats in the recent past.

Antiquarian interest attaches primarily to its place in the history of plant classification and nomenclature. It is, in fact, the original *Chrysanthemum* of the Western world. The word means 'golden flower' in Greek and it has been used to describe our yellow corn daisy since at least 100 B.C. (2), when Dioscorides mentioned *chrysanthemum* in his Materia Medica, though including under the one name the species *segetum* and *coronarium*. *Segetum* means 'of the cornfields'. The leaves of *C.segetum* are less divided than those of *C.coronarium*, and it lacks the ring of blotches on the ray florets which give *C.coronarium* its name.

At the end of the Classical period there was a departure from Dioscorides' usage. Two kinds of buttercup, *Ranun-*

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(1) J.Cameron. The Gaelic Names of Plants 1883 Blackwood

(2) Liddell and Scott Greek - English Lexicon 1883 OUP

culus repens and R.sceleratus, were given alternative Greek names, being referred to as Frog or Golden Flower (Chrysanthemum) in a work of the pseudo-Democritus. (3) By 1578 our yellow corn daisy was back in possession of its Greek title, with the Latin addition of 'segetum'. The Oxford English Dictionary gives that date for the earliest appearance of that usage in a work in English. Much later, H.C.Watson, the father of plant geography in Britain, wondered about C.segetum in his Cybele Britannica (4) "Has it any genuine English name? Corn mari-gold can scarcely be so considered, but 'Yellow Bozzum' (?Bosum) may be, though not of very ancient sound." Watson's rejection of Corn Marigold is not explained. It is, perhaps, more likely to have arisen from dislike of possible confusion with Marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*) or even with the garden *Calendulae* commonly called Mari-golds, than from suspicions of mariolatry. No doubt there have always been many local variants, such as the 'Yellow Camomil' of 1578. Gerard's Herball (5) treats 'Of Corne Marigold, Chrysanthemum or Golden Corne Flouer'. Gerard and other herbalists contributed to that "perception of natural affinities among plants, which, in the 15th and 16th centuries was gradually in a dim instinctive fashion arising in men's minds." (6) Linnaeus built upon this tradition, publishing his system of classification in the scientific form characteristic of the 18th century and still in use alongside contemporary developments in taxonomy. Linnaeus not only kept the description *Chrysanthemum segetum* for our yellow corn daisy, but also used the word *chrysanthemum* to name an entire genus of the order of composite plants, No.18 in Tribe 5 (*Anthemideae*) of

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 (3) Oxford English Dictionary

(4) H.C.Watson Cybele Britannica 1847-9 Longman vol2 p125

(5) J.Gerard The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes

1597

Arber (see note 6) shows that Gerard's work was seldom original. He translated and preserved earlier works, and his Herball is now much more readily accessible than are his sources. The edition kindly made available for me to study by the Cambridge University Botanic Garden was that of 1636, in which the reference to *C.segetum* is in ch.256, p.743.

(6) A.Arber Herbals 1912 C.U.P. p.148

the sub-order Tubuliflorae (7) We are, thus, concerned with the preservation of the botanical anchor of an enormous group of plants including some of the most beautiful and famous in the world. It is a far cry from a threatened wild flower in Argyll to the Chrysanthemum Throne, but the connection is scientifically clear.

Further reference to Gerard's Herball may help to explain the high repute of his 'Golden Corne Flouer' in earlier times, and as part of the background to Linnaeus' transfer of the Greek word in its name to the genus Chrysanthemum as a whole. Gerard preserved in his Herball the memory of an ancient belief, that like cures like. Naturally, then, he prescribed C.segetum for jaundice. There are times when jaundice fades quite quickly if the sufferer stops eating his usual diet, or indeed anything much at all. Drinking an infusion of C.segetum would not delay such improvement and could easily get credit for it. Hence, I believe, the friendly tone of Gerard's entry: "Corne Marigold or Golden Corne flour has a soft stalke, hollow and cut into diverse sections and of a greene colour, whereupon do grow great leaves, much hact and cut into diverse sections, and placed confusedly or out of order: upon the top of branches stand fair flat star-like flours, yellow in the middle, and such likewise is the pale or border of leaves that compasseth the soft ball in the middle, like that in the middle of Camomill floures, of a reasonable and pleasant smell. The roots are full of strings. The place .... among corne, or where corns hath been growing."

The "reasonable and pleasant smell" is one of the most distinctive characteristics of C.segetum, but neither that nor anything mentioned so far suggests an explanation of its Gaelic name, the 'Stranger'. An oral tradition tells of its introduction to Britain by mediaeval monastic landowners. The vernacular name Marigold harmonizes well with this supposition. The monks could have given it a place in their gardens for its beauty, or, more likely, for its supposed medicinal property. Perhaps they imported it with seed corn from mainland Europe. Watson rather apologetically suggests that it came from the Continent, and

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(7) C.A.Johns Flowers of the Field 31st ed. 1905 SPCK  
pp 376 and 389.

classifies it with those plants, the 'Colonists' which are "seldom found except in places where the ground has been adapted for its productions by the hand of man".(8)  
 ...."It may appear to others an excess of scepticism to substitute the term 'Colonist' in place of 'Native' for the civil claims of this very abundant species; and yet my inclination decidedly is towards holding it an importation. Its aspect and affinities are those of a more southern latitude, and it is more susceptible to frost than many others of our corn weeds. This may explain its comparative infrequency in the winter-sown wheat crops." (9)  
 The related species, *C. coronarium*, is noted by R. Good among those known to have reached Britain from the Mediterranean lands. (10) So it may be that early waves of agricultural improvement, as these spread through Scotland, brought about the eventual appearance of *C. segetum* in our area. Would it have acquired a Gaelic name -Bileach choigreach - if this had occurred only at the time of the 'improvements', which were not widespread in Scotland until after the Rebellions? Or did it indeed come to us (perhaps by way of Melrose) several centuries earlier? It would, in any case, be a sad loss if the agricultural improvements of our own time were to render extinct one of our prettiest wild flowers, stranger though it be.

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- (8) H.C. Watson op.cit. Vol.1 p.63  
 (9) H.C. Watson ibid. Vol.2 p.125  
 (10) R. Good Geography of Flowering Plants 2nd ed. 1953  
 Longman.

(Editorial note: The drawing on the cover is by Miss Gordon)

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### LATHA SEACHANTA NA BLIADNHA

Many readers will know that this translates from the Gaelic as 'the avoiding day of the year - the ill day', but it may be that some do not know the meaning of the term and no one, so far as we can find out, has any real idea of its origin, still less why May 3rd should be the day thus stigmatised. Yet in Highland areas in the old days it was a recurrent occasion to be carefully kept in mind and suitably observed; for on this day it was highly

chancy - indeed almost forbidden - to commence any enterprise, from a journey to some other extra employment, even down to common domestic activities such as a blanket-wash. All but the simplest and most routine jobs had to be completed by that day or postponed until it was safely past. It was unwise too to commit any crime, for there was no hope of forgiveness. So it was a day to be watched with circumspection. As to the reason for this choice of date, we have heard of only one possibility - 'it was the day the Angels fell'. No doubt others have been suggested.

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#### HONEY STEALING at HADDINGTON, 1704

At hadington the 12 day Janry 1704  
The whilk day in presence of Richard Millar sherrife substitute of the Sherrifdome of hadingtoun. Compeared personally Helen Wood born in Woustershyre now spous to James Wood vagrant and hes not residence and as she says hes been in and about this country these three years bygon who being apprehended at the abay bridge of hadingtoun with acane and stoupe full of hony bies and hony combys. Confest that she and her husband quartered in the dwelling house of James Darling fermorer in Linnplume for two nights tyme and that about nyne a clock at night ane munday she went to the country and came to Garvald Kirk where she stealled out of ane yaIRD thear two bies sceps with hony combs and bies quharof are in the cane and stoupe.

20 Janri 1704

The Shereff having considered ye above confessioun ordains the above Helen Wood to be taken from the Tolbooth (quhair she is prisoner) to the Mercatt Cross of Hadintoun by the hand of the hangman. There to stand with ane old bee skep on her head for half ane hour, about twelve o clock of ye miday and afterwards to be scourged threw the toun and banished the Shyre never to returne under ye pain of burning and scourgeing.

From THE SCOTTISH HISTORICAL REVIEW 1905

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