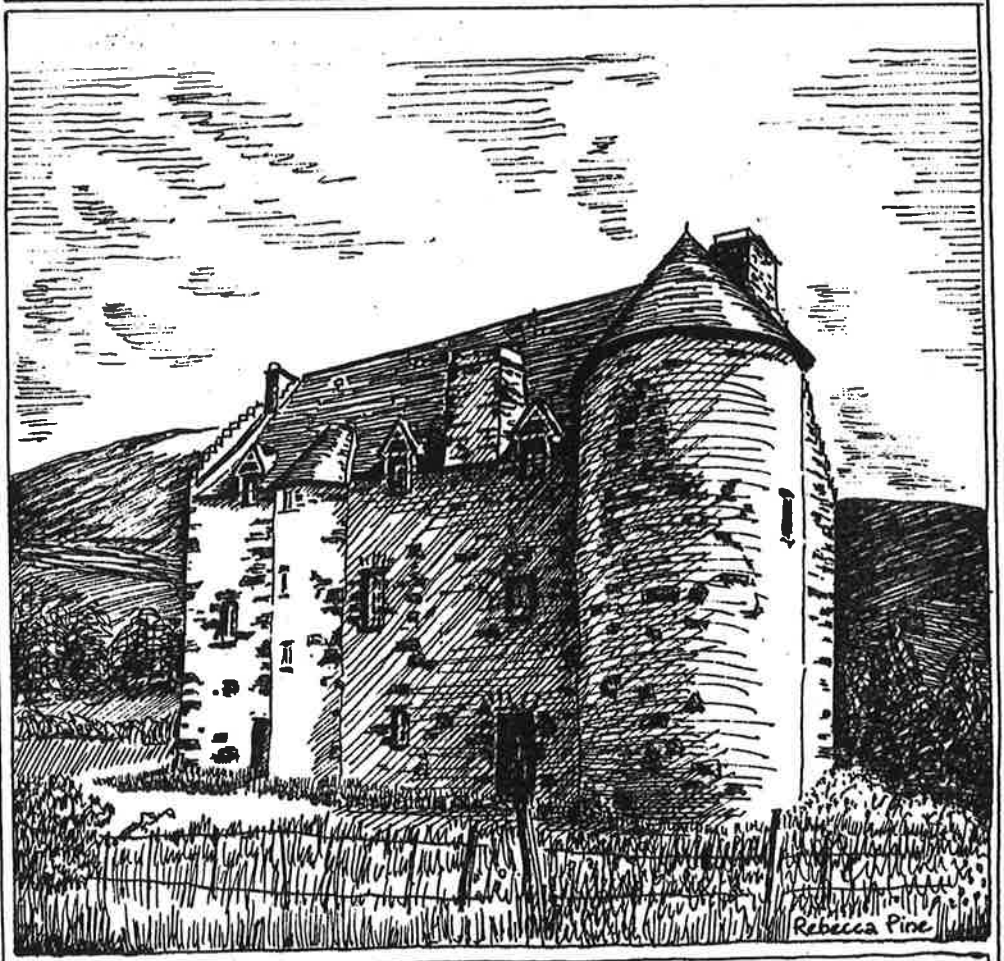
# Kilmartin Castle
1998




# The KIST :: 56

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CONTENTS



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# THE LICHEN FLORA OF ARGYLL KIRKYARDS

Norman and Florence Hammond

The fascinating kirkyards, scattered in their profusion in every nook and corner of the region, have long been of much interest to historians, as well as veneration. Everywhere the village kirks, some humble, others dignified, and their counterparts hidden about our populated towns, are to their parishioners the shrine of their history, where their forefathers came in their day to be baptised and married, and around whose walls, their roles fulfilled, they have slept down the centuries in the midst of the scenes they knew.

Some of the kirks have mediaeval connections, while most have benefited in no small degree by the fact that the cunning 'jerrybuilder' of today was unknown in those times. Building materials were natural and not synthetic, had all been well tested with time, and would last for ever with good care. Their great enemy has been our climate, especially humidity due to much rain and often too little sunshine to dry things out quickly before deterioration begins. However that humidity has also had its advantages, for spread throughout the region from Dalmally in the east, west across to the Isle of Gigha, it has been beneficial generally to very small fascinating plants which, along with the fabric of many of our kirks, have witnessed the often tumultuous and violent times over many hundreds of years. These plants are lichens, some of which we see today at Machrihanish and Skipness, for instance, may also be the very same plants to have been seen by the Vikings.

Roughly half the Scottish lichen species grow on stone, but in contrast to lowland Britain with virtually no natural rock outcrops and where churchyards are the only significant areas of old permanent stonework upon which lichens can grow, Argyll abounds in rocky outcrops, mountain sides, screes and an extensive network of drystane dykes, all of which have provided home to these specialised plants through centuries of culture and local history. Many kirkyards and burial grounds are areas of semi-natural vegetation that have remained comparatively unchanged since they were enclosed, usually quiet and unfrequented. They are seldom visited by naturalists, yet most are potential nature

reserves and therefore provide a different niche in the natural history ecology chain from their counterparts in lowland Britain, the most important being as readily accessible monitoring sites for environmental changes using lichens as indicator mechanisms.

There are many infinite subtleties for kirks, kirkyard walls and memorials which often contain the most ancient stones in a parish. Some are of a different geology to that locally and the lichens which colonise them are among the most ancient specimens of long-lived plants in the county. Some of the kirks are built of sandstone. Sandstone colonisation varies according to the grain bonding which is either by a lime or silica mineral cement; throughout Argyll, many are of granite or slate, and this means an acidic substrate. Most surfaces, including brick and tiles, after years of weathering, become colonised by lichens.

Over the years, kirk walls may have been modified or cleaned and those lichens growing disturbed, and so kirk wall lichens are rarely as old as the kirk itself. Nevertheless they frequently include species not found on memorials or on natural local stone, and are probably one of the best places to study the ecology of lichens with different patterns of colonisation on vertical and horizontal surfaces and/or east/west aspects. The seemingly inhospitable surfaces of gravestones and tombs are very rewarding for the lichenologist.

Generally, kirks are built on an east-west axis, and their walls face roughly due north, south, east and west, with each aspect having its own type of lichen flora. The varying materials with which kirks are built also each support a characteristic range of lichens. The kirk 'dressings' i.e. door and window frames, lintels and cills, are often of red, or yellow sandstone; the main walls being of local granite (or greywacke). Some kirks/burial grounds, as at Carsaig Bay near the Sound of Jura coast, have walls built with sea-washed shoreline boulders and rocks; a few have limestone or slate. All these geological combinations provide a lichen flora typical of that rock type, which is often untypical of the area. Mortar, cement and concrete, more modern materials too, provide sites for specialised lichens, as do roofs which may include slate, sandstone flags, or in a few cases lead or other metal.

Memorial stones are to be found in a variety of materials.

Some kirkyards may be seen as a 'forest' of large red sandstone memorials; in the west that 'forest' may be dominated by local slate as at Kilmartin, and occasionally limestone. Also included in the kirkyards are various marbles, Argyll slate, pink granite, Shap flowery granite and a mixture of grey granites from Central and South Scotland, Norway etc. Some old memorials may be local whinstone or micaceous schist, and relics of a more industrial age are to be found at Lochgilphead Parish Church and Southend with cast iron headstones - a short-lived fashion. All face in different directions, generally open to good sunlight as at Kilchousland, the superb coastal cliff site, 3.5km N/E of Campbeltown, overlooking Kilbrannan Sound, or sometimes in the deep shade of yew and holly trees. A wide variety of lichens find home on the tall vertical faces of these headstones, on the horizontal flat expanses of 'thruch stanes', chest or raised tombs and in the crannies of inscriptions, many of which are enriched by the droppings of perching birds.

The lichens which colonise acidic sandstone and granite are usually quite different from those growing on calcareous substrate, such as marble and limestone. With the many variations and combinations in materials used for memorials, both calcareous and acid-loving species are well represented across the county, with subtle changes in species diversity from sea level up to the highest in Scotland.

The majority of our kirkyards are exceptionally rich in lichens; many support more than 120 species, compared with 40/50 species in the Borders or East England. Despite a number of lichens which may seem impossible for the beginner to recognise, and which might discourage many people from attempting to identify members of this often very beautiful and certainly interesting group of plants, many species to be found in kirkyards are so distinct in appearance that with but little knowledge and a good guidebook one can make a positive identification. At the very least, a 10X magnification hand lens is required; this is adequate to see the tiny intricacies of these fascinating plants quite vividly.

Two species providing bright splashes of orange on brick or stone walls, or walls that may be harled, and on the tops of marble/slate memorials are Xanthoria parietina and Xanthoria calcicola. At first they may appear quite alike; except that with close examination X.calcicola will be seen to have a mass of small crusty, rod-like outgrowths that are

absent from X.parietina, and few of the flat fruiting discs ('jam-tarts'). The lobes of both are more leaflike than those of the 'caloplaca' species, and a simple test will remove any doubt, e.g. if the margin of the lichen is easily lifted with a finger nail, it will be 'xanthoria'; if it cannot, and the margin is fixed tightly to the stone, it is 'caloplaca'. X.parietina, being yellow-green when wet, and bright orange when dry, was in the past used as a cure for jaundice.

Other colourful species generally found on the sunny side of sandstone and/or marble memorials are Caloplaca flavescens, one of the most eye catching of our lichens, with its deep rich orange, and lobes of its margins slightly domed; this is a close relative of Caloplaca aurantia (generally a lowland species) being paler and more yellow in colour, with flat spreading marginal lobes that hug the stone. Very old plants may have rosettes several centimetres across. As the plants age they often die back at the centre, leaving a circle or semi-circle of orange. In some of the kirkyards the older marble or limestone memorials are brilliant with a mass of such small sunsets. They may also be smudged with the cloudy white species Verrucaria hochstetteri, finely dotted with tiny black fruiting bodies.

On the tops of many of the older sandstone memorials and often on limestone and marble, where bird droppings have had a nutrifying effect over a long period, grow nitrogen-hungry lichens such as Physcia caesia. This lichen has a very neat bluish-grey rosette and off-white encrustations on the lobes. Quite similar, slightly darker, but with a more greenish tinge, is Phaephyscia orbicularis, which when wetted turns a bright green, or in some cases green-brown.

A distinctive grey species and quite common, which may also be found on the trunks of sycamore trees, is Physcia adscendens, with raised marginal lobes, hooded tips and obvious bear bristles. The large lime-green Parmelia caperata, which can form lobed discs up to 25cm across is usually found as a saxicolous lichen on sandstone, and is often extensive as a corticolous species on the trunks of large mature trees such as sycamore.

Some powdery lichens are commonly found in urban surroundings, usually away from the coast, and with some degree of shade. Yellow-green powdery Psilolechia lucida coats the damp parts of memorials and boundary walls, north walls of

kirks etc. with a green luminous sheet (similar to green emulsion paint). It is often found growing inside the incised lines of the inscription, picking out the words in lichen green.

Lepraria incana grows in a loose soft, blue-grey powdery, crust, and is to be found in the dry shady places of walls and memorials; it will not grow in wet areas subject to rain or open to direct sunlight.

Lobaria pulmonaria (Tree Lungwort), one of the largest and most handsome of British lichens, is a common species throughout Argyll and many headstones support fine specimens.

A lichen which positively thrives in polluted conditions is Lecanora conizaeoides (the 'pollution lichen') first discovered in 1860 and now widespread in eastern, southern and central England in all major cities, but absent throughout much of rural Argyll. It is easy to recognise with its grey-green scruffy 2-3mm thick cracked crust and fruiting bodies (pale green 'jam tarts') with greyish margins. These 'jam tarts' are of great assistance in distinguishing various lichen species, especially the 'lecanora' genus. Lecanora campestris has 'milk-chocolate jam tarts'; Tephromela atra has large but slightly distorted 'blackcurrant tarts' whilst crust-like discs of the grey Ochrolechia parella are to be found on south facing sandstone kirk walls or vertical headstones. With its often extensive coverage, particularly near the coast and with good open light, it has pale grey sugar-dusted 'Bakewell tarts'. Some of these small headstone micro-lichens will be growing at a rate of about 0.6mm or so a year.

Forming an irregular mustard-coloured crust, usually on the top of sandstone/granite memorials, the small Candelariella vitellina, requires an acid substrate that is enriched with nitrogen (bird droppings). Common in our kirkyards, it is unusual in that it can survive in both polluted and clean air conditions. The yellow dye extracted from this lichen was used to colour candles for use in kirks.

Dirinia massiliensis f. sorediata is usually a native of shaded limestone sea cliffs, but has spread to kirkyards as grey powdery sheets on north facing calcareous walls, and marble headstones.

An interesting lichen is the attractive Rhizocarpon geographicum (the map lichen) which looks like a green map

outlined and subdivided with black lines. It is abundant throughout much of Argyll and on suitable sunny situations along our coastal rocky outcrops and very common on sandstone, granite and slate memorials throughout the area. The yellow-grey Haematomma ochroleucum (so named because its fruiting bodies resemble bloodstains) and Opegrapha saxatilis (often described as being like bad Chinese writing) are regular finds on north facing kirk walls and chest tombs, with close Atlantic or Sound of Jura maritime influence.

Several lichens have been used in medicine or perfume. The ground-loving species 'peltigera' are often abundant, with fine swards, among the close cut grass in many kirkyards, as at Skipness, Lochgilphead, Kirkton and many more, while in the older parts of several cemeteries extensive areas are to be found. It looks like fronds of dark red-brown or grey plastic and was used to cure rabies, the patient taking it with black pepper, being bled and then plunged into a cold bath every morning, for a month - without breakfast.

A few kirkyards have fine specimens of Lasallia pustulata (Rock tripe). Medium to dark brown when dry, but when drenched with rain in cool weather will change colour to light green and writhe, twitch and bloat; the skin stretches and becomes smooth and shiny. Arctic explorers in days gone by used this for food, and for dyeing wool.

Often around the tops of headstones or base of sandstone pedestal tombs, and associated with moss may be several species of 'cladonia' - tiny, greeny-grey shrubby lichens, utilised by model railway enthusiasts to make miniature trees or hedges. Some 'cladonias' have been used as a cure for intermittent fever and whooping cough.

The frond-like strands of Ramalina siliquosa are associated with granite obelisks, and walls of kirks open to regular maritime aerosol sea mist influence. The walls of the ruined 13th century old parish church of Kilchattan, dedicated to St Cathan, on the Isle of Gigha support fine swards of Ramalina siliquosa. Other 'ramalina' species are normal, along with, in many places, the long branches, fronds and spidery hairs of exotic 'usneas'. Usnea subfloridana (the beard lichen) forms wiry pale green tufts, at times quite large, on the trunks and branches of many deciduous trees and also near the tops and sides of old large sandstone/granite memorials. Principally on trees or posts, but also

on sandstone or slate memorials, the flattened pale yellow forked fronds of Evernia prunastri is a frequent find, growing in tufts up to 6cm long and often mixed with other similar species. Sometimes known as 'Oak moss' it was widely used for the extraction of an excellent perfume and is a favourite nesting material of the Long-tailed tit.

The state of health of a lichen flora is closely related to the long term air quality and climate in that region; the general standard test for air pollution being the absence or presence of certain species, together with overall species diversity, as different species are in varying degrees sensitive, particularly to sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide.

In polluted kirkyards where old memorials once supported a thriving lichen growth, some of these species still manage to survive, but are unable to form new plants. Caloplaca flavescens is to be found in virtually all our rural kirkyards, but is almost absent from similar urban sites. A comparison of our rural kirkyards throughout the open countryside with the urban kirkyards in major towns will readily illustrate the benefits of good air quality to be found throughout Argyll.

In the shade of many evergreen trees, with very acid bark, especially the yew, which blocks out the light throughout the year, the lichen flora diminishes with usually the only plant cover to be found being the pea-green veneer of the alga Desmococcus, which thrives in the moist environment and is able to tolerate the limited light.

It is sometimes considered more difficult to become acquainted with lichens than either wild flowers or birds, due to the general lack of a suitable range of field guides. However they are without doubt one of the most important forms of wildlife that the kirkyard shelters, and there is a wealth of specialities of considerable interest in store for the enthusiastic observer.

With the abundance of lichens to be found throughout Argyll it is natural that the questions are often asked: "What are they?" and "Do they do any damage?" It was in 1867 that Simon Schwendener, a German botanist, discovered that these hardy and adaptable plants, which adhere to rock, wood or soil were in fact two plants in one, a partnership, or union, between an alga and a fungus. Top British lichenologists considered this rubbish and would not accept it. However lichenologist and author Annie-Lorraine Smith from

Halfmorton, near Canonbie, in Dumfriesshire came down firmly on the side of Schwendener. She was later to become a senior lichenologist at the Natural History Museum in London.

The visual appearance of lichens on kirkyard masonry, apart from being pleasing to the eye, is more important than the direct physical effects, which are generally small when compared with weathering caused by the elements such as heat, rain and frost, and air pollution, especially sulphur dioxide. In our extensive rural region the whole appearance of kirkyards is enhanced and beautified by lichens, which colonise the wide variety of masonry surfaces, the trees and soil, giving colour and character, ensuring that they all blend in with their natural surroundings. However they also frequently obscure inscriptions and carvings. The cleaning of memorials and statues is a controversial subject, as physical cleaning, which is abrasive, often removes both the lichens and inscriptions, and opens up that part of the memorial to the serious side effects of modern day pollutants; especially if the memorial is of yellow or new red sandstone or whinstone, it will deteriorate rapidly, thus destroying the memorial (which is the property of someone) and the lichens which grow freely on it. To destroy some species, covered by Schedule 8 of the Countryside and Wildlife Act 1981, is an offence.

Scottish kirkyards contain a wealth of culture unusual in the UK as a whole, with wide ranging 'craft' stones; 'Adam and Eve' stones; the 'covenanters' stones, usually large flat sandstone raised slabs. The retrieval of an inscription from such lichen-encrusted memorials today requires the same care, patience and skill as the original mason used hundreds of years ago, to avoid permanent damage to the memorial. The British Lichen Society will readily advise in any instance where cleaning is considered necessary. Unfortunately a few kirkyards bear witness to much careless/thoughtless cleaning where many memorials have been damaged beyond repair and are today simply eroding blocks of (usually) sandstone whose message is lost to history.

Useful books for further reading:-

The Observers Book of Lichens. K L Alvin
F Warne, London 1977 ISBN 0 7232 1566 9
Lichens - an illustrated Guide to the British & Irish Species
F S Dobson. Richmond Publishing Co Ltd 1992 ISBN 0 85546 145

Wildlife in Church and Churchyard. Nigel Cooper. 1995 Church House Publishing, Church House, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3NZ. ISBN 0 7151 7574 2

Limited space precludes the listing of other books suggested by the authors, but further information can be obtained from them at: 39 Outgang Road, Aspatria, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA5 3HS. Tel 016973 20440.
Sources of further advice are The British Lichen Society, c/o British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Rd, London, SW7 5BD, and The Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, EH3 5LR

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## CANDLEMASS - A NOTE

Murdo MacDonald

Two examples of the ancient observation of Candlemass in Mid Argyll being carried on well into Victorian times are to be found in the log books of two schools. The date of Candlemass is 2 February but in the two references found it is clear that the people were adhering to the traditional date of Candlemass (Old Style).

The first example is from the Log Book of Craignish Parochial School, Ardfern, where the teacher recorded on 12 February 1867 "Candlemass - no lessons - children attended with small offering for the teacher". The offering of gifts to the teacher was a widespread custom in both Highland and Lowland areas, but this is the only direct reference to it that I have found in Argyll so far.

The second example comes from the Log Book of Minard School. Here the teacher recorded on 14 February 1872 "Wednesday. Attendance below an average owing to an Old Custom of this being a holiday - Candlemass". In Minard by this time the custom had obviously decayed into a vague memory of a holiday. The creation of the School Board of Glassary in the following year soon put paid to all frivolity and no more is heard of Candlemass in Minard thereafter.

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# KILMARTIN CASTLE

Thomas K. Clarke

Kilmartin Castle 1988

Eight miles north of Lochgilphead in the village of Kilmartin there stands Kilmartin Castle, shown on the map (ref. NR 835991) with below it in brackets thus (Remains of). It was built in the latter half of the 16th century, being on a Z plan, with diagonally opposite circular towers, and the addition of a smaller stair tower in the west wall. It is three storeys high and constructed of local rubble; there are pistol loops in the angle towers. It was at one time attributed to Bishop John Carswell, the builder in the 1560s of Carnasserie Castle, but its building is now assigned to Neil Campbell, rector of Kilmartin from 1574 to 1627 and Bishop of Argyll from 1580 to 1608. In style it is later than Carnasserie Castle, being more a "middle-sized semi-fortified residence" (Argyll Inventory 7). This branch of the Campbells held the castle until the 1670s when it was acquired by a Campbell of the Inverawe branch whose family held it until the mid 18th century. In 1800 the "flat"

(?first floor) of the castle was used for the parish school; in 1826 it was "the residence of a female pauper". In 1844 it was described by the parish minister as a ruin.

On the ground floor is a vaulted passage into the vaulted kitchen; there are two more vaulted rooms leading off the passage. A stair leads to the second storey and the principal room measuring 26 ft X 17ft. On the same floor is another room. This stair leads to the third storey, which is lit by three dormer windows.

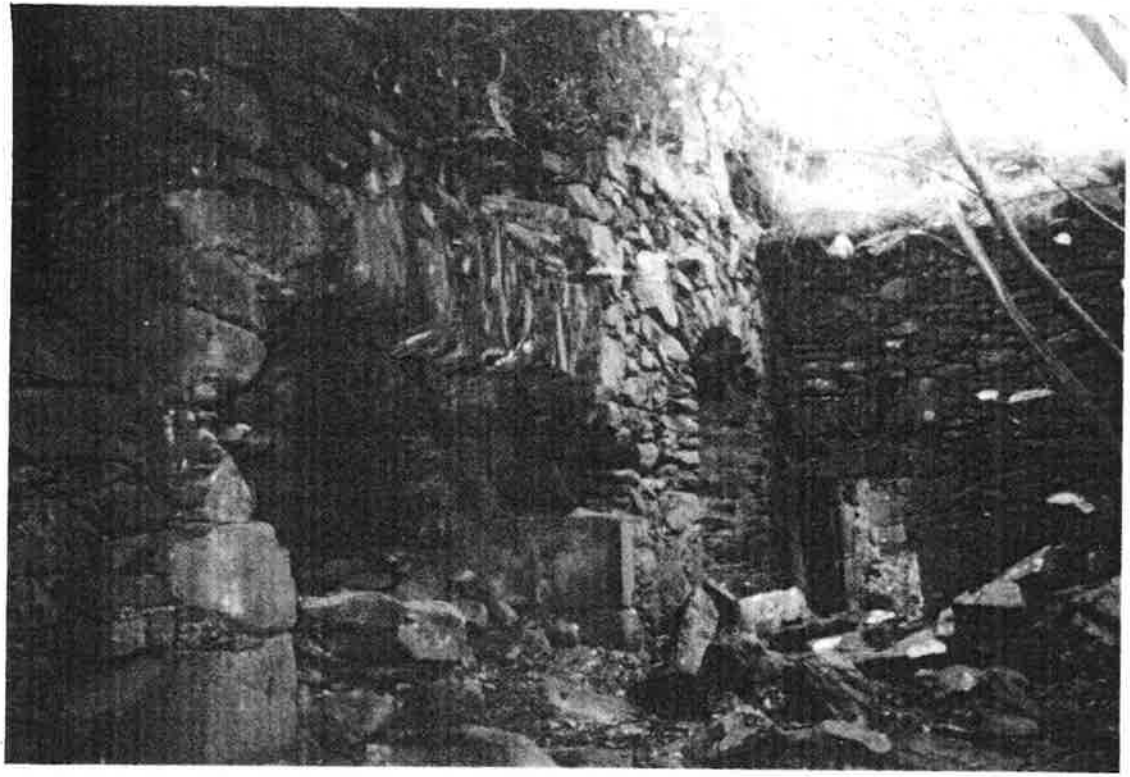
I bought the place in 1988, a ruin without planning permission; this was subsequently obtained, for the which I am grateful to Argyll and Bute Council. An architect from Oban drew the plans in conjunction with Historic Scotland. This procedure took three years, after the which, helped by my wife, I set about the clearance work. We estimate we moved 200 tons of rubble; the collapsed masonry had fallen inwards, the collapse of the north gable bringing down the barrel vaulting in the kitchen.

I must say we did the stone rebuilding ourselves. The building work included the reinstatement of the barrel vaulting in the kitchen, followed by the rebuilding of the north gable. I am pleased to say that all the original stone was there, except three lintels and a window jamb. The towers were full of ivy; the main hall was a forest of trees, an ash tree by the chimney being a foot thick. After the rubble and vegetation were cleared from this room we discovered the broken lintel of the fireplace, which, on the advice of Historic Scotland, we mended and reinstated. This room now has an oak boarded floor and an oak beamed ceiling. After clearance there was no evidence of any stone floor flags, but we have installed a flagged floor to the passage and to the kitchen. (Illustrations overleaf).

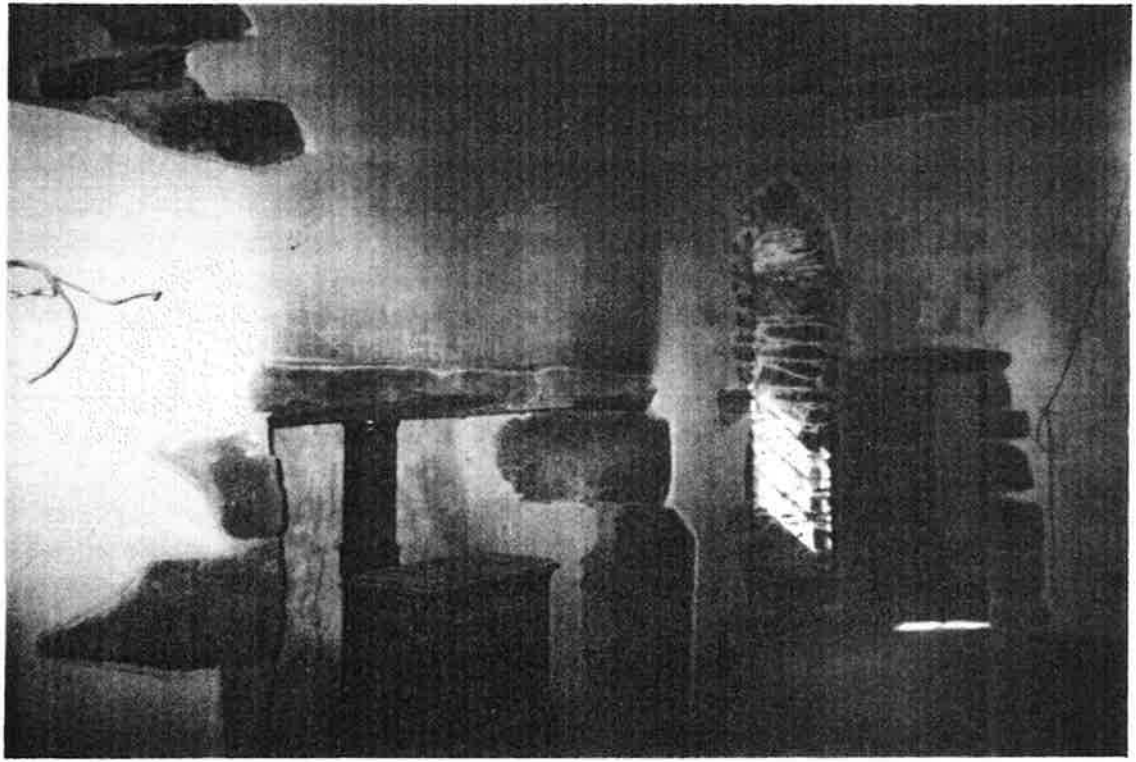
I have made thirteen oak doors - as I am a farmer I have grown the oak on the farm, plus the pine for the other pine floors.

I am grateful to a local builder who placed a roof on the building, and to a local plumber and electrician.

I have to have cast iron gutters - the ones to the towers are expensive. At present my nephew is doing the interior plastering. We are hoping the restoration will be completed by the end of this year. We have often been tired and wet, and at times have felt discouraged. I do not visualise any monetary gain, but all my life I have wished to repair and



The Great Hall 1988



The Great Hall 1998

conserve these ancient places. It is not a big castle; but it is now arranged as a comfortable house - with three bedrooms and three bathrooms en-suite!

There are also the grounds to landscape. I do hope that my remaining physical powers will be equal to the task.

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Editorial note

Earlier in the year a few members of our Society were privileged to see the work in progress, as Mr and Mrs Clarke kindly showed us round. We were amazed at how warm and welcoming the castle seemed even in its unfinished state, with a huge wood-burning stove in the great hall. A large cooking stove awaited installation in the kitchen, along with other equipment, and plumbing work had been in progress.

The arrangement of rooms remains as it was in the original castle, even the largely rebuilt (internally) third storey as far as it could be deduced. Mr and Mrs Clarke are true conservationists.

Mr Clarke has omitted to mention that he lives in Cumbria and the work has been done largely in "holidays".

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## MEDICINAL MUSHROOMS

Krishna Goel

Since prehistoric times mushrooms have fascinated mankind because of their beautiful colours, unusual shapes and therapeutic effects. It is interesting that they appear today and have vanished by tomorrow. Mushrooms have been mentioned by classical Greek and Roman writers including Hippocrates the "Father of Medicine" for their medicinal values. Also in traditional oriental and folk medicine various mushrooms have been used as remedies for cancer. However, since the fortuitous discovery of penicillin by Sir Alexander Fleming in 1928 in London, a product of the mould Penicillium notatum, numerous antibiotics have been derived from various fungi.

In Autumn the mushrooms are at their best as they proliferate in the woodlands at Eredine on the shores of Loch Awe

because of the right combination of warmth and moisture of the soil being ideal for their growth. Most of the mushrooms can be recognised readily without microscopical examination, although sometimes spore-print and chemical tests are essential for their identification.

For centuries in Chinese traditional medicine Fu Zheng (supporting the normal) and Chei Shei (getting rid of the abnormal) herbal medicines have been used for cancer therapy and for the treatment of other diseases. It has been suggested that mushrooms used as Fu Zheng medicine, e.g Ganoderma lucidum and Cordyceps sinensis may have a prophylactic role against ageing and geriatric diseases.

In China and Japan the most popular edible mushroom is "shii-take" or lentinan (Lentinus edodes). Recently this mushroom has drawn a considerable medical interest due to its antitumour properties in patients with advanced and recurrent stomach and colorectal cancer; also it is supposed to have antiviral and rejuvenating properties, and helps control of cholesterol and blood pressure. However those suffering from hay fever should avoid eating edible shiitake mushrooms during the spring season.

The mushroom Phallus impudicus (stinkhorn) grows freely in Eredine woodlands. This well known mushroom exudes an unpleasant nauseating odour resembling that of a dead animal. Following the "Doctrine of Signatures" it has been used as an aphrodisiac because of its resemblance to the afflicted part of the human body.

From time immemorial "magic mushrooms" (psychoactive mushrooms) have been used in Central America for religious and healing ceremonies. These days four dung-inhabiting mushrooms (Agarics) containing hallucinogens psylocybin and psylocin are the most common group of "magic " mushrooms used for recreational purposes. The deliberate use of "magic" mushrooms is especially popular among teenagers and young adults. "Magic" mushrooms are eaten either fresh or dried. The deliberate users of "magic"mushrooms usually mix them with milkshakes, soups, tea or other beverages. The hallucinogenic symptoms produced by eating fresh " magic" mushrooms usually manifest within 30 minutes of ingestion and may last for 4-6 hours. Sometimes psychological problems may result from accidental or intentional use of "magic" mushrooms and may require medical treatment. In some countries "magic" mushrooms are cultivated in clandestine fashion

and are available for sale to tourists.

The hobby of mushroom picking for culinary purposes is becoming popular in many parts of the globe. A serious hazard, however, of this recreational pursuit is the risk of mushroom poisoning. Therefore it is vital to be absolutely certain of the identification of a mushroom prior to its consumption.

A stroll through the Eredine Woodland Garden in Autumn gives the opportunity to enjoy the splendid tapestry of colours of the season, as well as the "mushroom walk" when the mushrooms are at their best.

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Editorial note

It was hoped to append to Dr Goel's article a list of mushrooms to be found in the Eredine Woods, but this has not come to hand. It is scheduled for Kist 57.

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## INTEGRATED PUBLIC TRANSPORT 1887

A.O.M. Clark

One of our members, Mrs Dilys Hooton, has kindly lent to the Editor a copy of "Summer Tours in Scotland: Glasgow to the Highlands. Published by David MacBrayne, 119 Hope Street, Glasgow" in or before 1887 (the date established by a hand-written inscription on the flyleaf). It is nicely bound in hard covers, blue cloth with gilt lettering and decorated on the front with an illustration, also gilt, of one of the steamers of the time, identified by Mr Colin Fergusson as probably the Columba, possibly the Iona - two funnels pouring out smoke, three triangular pennants at the mast top, ensign at the bow, apparently lots of cabin and deck accommodation, passengers lining the rails. It contains details of tours available in the "summer season" (May to October) and an excellent Guide, illustrated with engravings, to each tour. This neat and rather elegant publication cost one shilling.

One tends to think that, before the days of the (now ubquitous) motor car, visiting the remote parts of the Highlands would have been a very difficult, slow and even

hazardous proceeding, to be undertaken by those with considerable resources. Not so, when David MacBrayne came on the scene. His was a shipping company, but he saw a gap in the market.

In those days Scotland was blessed with a railway network serving not merely the larger towns but also small villages, operated mainly by the Caledonian Railway Company and the North British Railway Company, with connections also with the Great Northern and Great Eastern Companies. There was as well a system of horse-drawn coaches (mailcoaches and others) between places not connected by train or steamer. David MacBrayne worked out itineraries whereby travellers could make journeys and circular tours using possibly all three means of transport, booked at one time on a single ticket. These were not "package tours" in the modern sense, although one's luggage "if properly labelled" would be conveyed from one steamer to another, e.g. from the Columba at Ardrishaig to the Linnet on the Crinan Canal, or to train or coach. (No doubt anxious eyes kept open at transfer points in case one's "properly labelled luggage" somehow did not appear). Hotel accommodation was not included, but "First-Class Sleeping Accommodation" was available on steamers sailing to the Islands.

In this small book (one cannot call it a 'booklet' or a 'time-table') after the 'Contents' page comes a general introductory page, reproduced overleaf, which repays study in detail; then comes a list of "Swift Steamers Tourist Fares from Glasgow", tickets issued on board, with permission to break journey at any place on the route - there are 41 destinations. Single or Return; Cabin or Steerage; Cabin and 1st Class; Cabin and 3rd Class; Steerage and 3rd Class. If one did a round trip via Loch Awe, coachman's fee was included even for Steerage passengers who also travelled Cabin on the Loch Awe steamer. This round trip was a popular ingredient in many tours: one might travel to Oban via Ardrishaig and Crinan, returning by rail to Loch Awe station, along Loch Awe by steamer to Ford and by coach back to Ardrishaig; or do the trip in reverse. The flexibility on all tours was remarkable. The next two pages contain details of Circular Tourist Tickets in connection with the Caledonian Railway Co., and in connection with the North British Railway Co., again with "liberty to break the journey at any station on the route".

# SUMMER TOURS IN SCOTLAND.

## THE ROYAL ROUTE.

# GLASGOW AND THE HIGHLANDS

*Via Crinan and Caledonian Canals.*

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ROYAL MAIL STEAMERS

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From Glasgow to Ardrishaig and Back (180 miles)

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The Route is through scenery rich in historical interest and unequalled for grandeur and variety These vessels leave Glasgow every Monday and Thursday about 12 noon, and Greenock about 5 p.m., returning from Stornoway every Monday and Wednesday.

The Steam-Ship CAVALIER will leave Glasgow every Monday at 11 a.m. and Greenock at 4 p.m., for Inverness and Back, (via Mull of Kintyre) leaving Inverness every Thursday morning; Cabin Fare for the Trip, with First-class Sleeping Accommodation, 30/; or including Meals, 60/.

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*Time Bill, Map and List of Fares, sent free on application to the Owner,*

DAVID MACBRAYNE, 119 HOPE STREET, GLASGOW.

Introductory page to "Summer Tours in Scotland: Glasgow to the Highlands". Actual size. Reproduced here by courtesy of Messrs Caledonian MacBrayne.

The next six pages are devoted to Programmes which "can be accomplished in ONE WEEK during July, August and September" leaving Glasgow on each day of the week (except Sunday), a different programme each day. Monday's is reproduced below.

## LEAVING GLASGOW ON MONDAY.

*The following Programme can be accomplished in ONE WEEK during July, August, and September, and the* £3 Six Separate Day Tickets *are available for any of the Routes. For May and June Sailings, see bills.*

Monday, **Glasgow to Oban**, by Steamer "Columba" or "Iona" *via* Kyles of Bute. Ardrishaig, and Crinan (or if *via* Lochawe, Coach 5/. Train 3/8 extra).

Tuesday, **Oban to Gairloch**, (Ross-shire) by Swift Steamer *via* Loch Scavaig and Portree.

Wednesday, **Gairloch to Inverness**, by Coach to Tollie, thence steamer "Mabel" on Loch Maree, Coach to Auchnasheen, and rail to Inverness; Tickets available by steamer "Mabel" on Loch Maree. (Coach and Train fares extra.)

Thursday, **Inverness to Oban**, by Steamers, *via* Caledonian Canal and Loch Linnhe.

Friday, **Oban to Staffa and Iona**, and Back.

Saturday, **Oban to Glasgow**, by Steamers *via* Crinan, Ardrishaig, and Kyles of Bute.

—OR—

Monday, **Glasgow to Oban**, by Steamer "Columba" or "Iona" *via* Kyles of Bute, Ardrishaig, and Crinan, (or if *via* Lochawe, Coach 5/, Train 3/8 extra).

Tues., Wed., Thurs., **Oban to Stornoway and Back to Oban**, by Swift Steamer to Loch Scavaig and Portree, and from Portree by "Claymore" or "Clansman" to Stornoway and Back to Oban. Fare includes first-class sleeping accommodation on board "Claymore" or "Clansman" from Tuesday till Thursday.

Friday, **Oban to Staffa & Iona, or Oban to Ballachulish, Ft.-Wm.** and Back

Saturday, **Oban to Glasgow**, by Steamers *via* Crinan, Ardrishaig, and Kyles of Bute.

—OR—

Monday, **Glasgow to Oban**, by Steamer "Columba" or "Iona" *via* Kyles of Bute, Ardrishaig, and Crinan (or if *via* Lochawe, Coach 5/, Train 3/8 extra.

Tuesday, Wednes., **Oban to Stornoway**, by Swift Steamer to Loch Scavaig and Portree, and from Portree by Steamer "Claymore" or "Clansman" to Stornoway. Fare includes first-class sleeping accommodation in "Claymore" or "Clansman."

Thursday, **Stornoway to Inverness**, by Mail Steamer to Strome Ferry, and Train to Inverness (Train 11/11 extra).

Friday, **Inverness to Banavie, Fort-William, Ballachulish, or Oban.**

Saturday, **Banavie, Fort-William, Ballachulish, or Oban to Glasgow**, by Steamers *via* Crinan, Ardrishaig, and Kyles of Bute.

—OR—

Monday. **Glasgow to Oban**, by Steamer "Columba" or "Iona" *via* Kyles of Bute Ardrishaig, and Crinan (or if *via* Lochawe, Coach 5/; Train 3/8 extra).

Tuesday, **Oban to Gairloch**, by Swift Steamer to Loch Scavaig and Portree (Skye).

Wednesday, **Gairloch to Oban**, by Swift Steamer *via* Portree and Sound of Mull.

Thursday, **Oban to Inverness**, by Steamers *via* Loch Linnhe and Caledonian Canal.

Friday, **Inverness to Banavie, Fort-William, Ballachulish, or Oban.**

Saturday, **Banavie, Fort-William, Ballachulish, or Oban to Glasgow**, by Steamers *via* Crinan, Ardrishaig, and Kyles of Bute.

—OR—

Monday, **Glasgow to Oban**, by Steamer "Columba" or "Iona" *via* Kyles of Bute, Ardrishaig, and Crinan (or if *via* Lochawe, Coach 5/, Train 3/8 extra).

Tuesday, **Oban to Stornoway**, by Swift Steamer to Loch Scavaig and Portree, and from Portree by Steamer "Claymore" or "Clansman" to Stornoway.

Wednesday, **Stornoway to Portree**—Fare includes first-class sleeping accommodation in "Claymore" or "Clansman" from Portree to Stornoway and Back.

Thursday, **Portree to Inverness**, by Steamer to Strome Ferry, and Train to Inverness. (Train 11/11 extra).

Friday, **Inverness to Banavie, Fort-William, Ballachulish, or Oban.**

Saturday, **Banavie, Fort-William, Ballachulish, or Oban to Glasgow** by Steamers *via* Crinan, Ardrishaig, and Kyles of Bute.

☞ *The Six Separate Day Tickets at £3 are available on board the Lochawe Steamer, and by "Claymore" or "Clansman" via Mull of Kintyre.*

☞ *Passengers from Inverness can remain over night at Ballachulish (for Glencoe), and join the Staffa and Iona Steamer at Oban next morning.*

There are similar tours starting from Oban. Other excursions are offered, such as Glasgow to Inverness and back, via Mull of Kintyre, "in the Splendid Screw Steamship Cavalier" with goods and passengers; this took from Monday "about 11am" to "Friday afternoon"; Cabin Fare with First-Class Sleeping Accommodation, 30s; or including meals, 60s". -"Breakfast, Dinner, Tea, &c., served in First Class style in Cabin of All the Steamers (with the exception of the Linnet on the Crinan Canal)"; charges included the Steward's Fees, and were: Breakfast, 2s, Dinner 3s, Tea (with meat) 2s; Dinner for some reason was 6d less on the Glasgow and Ardrishaig, and Crinan and Oban steamers; and on Swift Steamers meals were also served in the Fore Cabin at 1/6 each, presumably for 3rd Class and Steerage passengers and for those economically inclined; there was still meat with tea, however; the menu may have been more limited, or the First-Class style reduced a little.

Passengers are assured that "A supply of Notepaper, Envelopes, Pens and Ink is kept on the Writing Table of each Steamer".

The Guide to the Tours is excellent and could be used today as far as the identification and description of geographical features, the notes on history and tradition and literary allusions are concerned. The style is clear and factual and very seldom resorts to the purple patch. There is of course a reflection of the Victorian interest in great houses, and also lesser mansions, and in who owned them; and the Danes figure rather largely, as was the accepted wisdom of the time - modern archaeological discoveries were still in the future. The author (alas we do not know who he was) allows himself a gentle joke at the expense of antiquarians when describing the Clach nan Con, the Dog's Stone, a pillar of conglomerate on the shore on the north of Oban, to which, tradition says, Fingal tied his huge dog Bran: "Those who believe this legend can in proof thereof point to the very considerable abrasion of the pillar at its base, just what might have resulted from it having been used in the manner asserted. Doubtless Bran like any other dog occasionally broke his chain, and could some zealous antiquary only succeed in unearthing one link - the missing link - aye, even half a link, of Bran's chain - surely all doubt of the authenticity of the legend would be forever set at rest".

The first pages of the Guide deal with the sail down the

Clyde that begins the Tour "Glasgow to Ardrishaig and Oban" - and most of the other Tours as well: "the far-famed Swift Passenger Steamer Columba or Iona sails during Summer from Glasgow every morning, (Sunday excepted), at 7am, and from Greenock about 9am, in connection with express trains from London, Liverpool, Manchester, Preston, Birmingham, Sheffield, Leeds, Bradford, York, Newcastle, Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c. The Steamer can be overtaken at Greenock by trains which leave Glasgow about an hour later, but the sail down the river will, on a fine morning (especially if it should happen to be high water), amply repay the tourist for getting up an hour earlier than is strictly necessary". There is a poignancy in being told "The Harbour of Glasgow is fully two and a half miles long ... we can closely inspect the shipping on each side" and "As the steamer proceeds, we have an excellent view of the shipbuilding yards on both sides of the river". Such nostalgia-producing notes are fascinating for the local historian, but the value of this Guide lies in its descriptions of the wonderful Highland scenery, which remains the same, and the clear identification of natural features - sometimes with tactful little asides, e.g.when mentioning the volcanic dykes at Craignish noting that one "rising high above the surrounding strata, is often mistaken by tourists for a fragment of some feudal fortress". On the Thurso route the guide notes that the Island of Handa is of great interest to geologists, and also gives a list of the birds to be seen there, including the white-tailed eagle; adding the remark that the local boatmen called the great skua "Dirty Allan". There is an engraving rather schematic, of Handa and its crowding, wheeling birds.

Quotations from the poets range from Ossian through Scott and various Victorians to an unknown visitor to the Inn at Drumnadrochit; in fact the Guide is full of beguiling things - it would be no bad thing if Messrs Caledonian MacBrayne could see their way to re-publishing it!

Before we are tempted to enthuse about the low fares and low price of the Guide and of the meals we would do well to remind ourselves that in 1887 the average wage of a working man, on which he was expected to bring up a family, was about £1 (20s) a week, rather more for a skilled man, rather less for an unskilled, and that the 1s for the Guide would have bought five 2lb loaves. A comparison with the modern price gives a more realistic picture.

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## NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES OF ARGYLL & BUTE

Currently Louise Logue, the Archivist's assistant, is working on a project to computerise the Poltalloch Rent Rolls. These rentals cover large parts of the parishes of North Knapdale, Glassary, Kilmartin, Kilchrenan and Dalavich. The project involves making a database which can then be accessed by anyone who is enquiring about their forebears from these areas. When completed, the database will cover most of the thirty years from 1798 to 1828.

The database already holds 3,000 records. Each record gives the Christian name, Surname, property rented, year of rental, occupation or profession of the tenant and any family details that were gleaned from the payment notes. The database can be searched for any word or number, for instance all the tenants whose surname is Campbell can be listed - hundreds; or a much more specific search can be done - anyone called Ann MacIntyre who lived in Shirvan in 1826, for example. Each search takes a matter of seconds and can be printed out immediately.

Taken from a different perspective - the database can be used to look at a specific community and give an insight into the way of life nearly 200 years ago. Bellanoch is a good example of this. There was a thriving business community as well as residential flats. Listed in the rental in 1823 are 2 wrights, a coppersmith, a pilot, a schoolmaster, an officer of excise,a shoemaker,a cooper and a seamstress. In other years an innkeeper, a blacksmith and a merchant are listed. The coppersmith rents a shop and the merchant rents a salt cellar. Several people rent rooms in the big "slated house".

Some of the notes written in the rental make interesting reading e.g. "This man went to America" - the following year that property had a different tenant. Quite a number of tenants were fined for smuggling - anything from 50/- to £20. Her favourite comment comes from the rental of 1828/29 describing a tenant from South Lecknaban, one Duncan Smith: "This man will be 83 years of age in about ten days hence, he still works the one fourth of his farm in great good health & spirit".

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## No. 1 COMBINED TRAINING CENTRE (INVERARAY)

James Jepson

Shortly after Dunkirk in the dark days of 1940, a new Command, known as Combined Operations, was formed. Its function was to unite Army, Navy and Air Force personnel into one combined Assault Force.

In order to preserve secrecy, away from air reconnaissance and air attack, No. 1 Training Centre was set up at Inveraray in the autumn of 1940. During World War II it is estimated that 250,000 Allied troops trained here between 1940 and 1945, British, American, Canadian, French, Polish, Norwegian, Dutch and even Russian.

The Training Centre was composed of seven camps and a naval base. There were camps at Glen Shira, Castle and Duke's Camp in the Castle grounds, Town and Avenue camps behind Inveraray, and two known as Kilbride and Chamois camps that were situated behind H.M.S. Quebec, the naval base, which is now the Argyll Caravan Park. The camps were built by Royal Engineers, Pioneer Companies and the firms of Messrs James Carmichael and Messrs Cowieson of Glasgow. While the camps were being built ships were pressed into service as floating camps for the men, so that no training time was lost. The present Loch Fyne Hotel became Headquarters; it was known as Admiralty House and became home to its first Commander, Vice Admiral Sir Theodore J. Hallett and his deputy, Brigadier Cyrus Greenslade.

A cinema was built in the grounds of the Castle, and a NAAFI (Navy, Army and Air Force Institute) on the site of the present Youth Hostel. The WVS (Women's Voluntary Service) opened a canteen in the St. Malieu Hall.

Hospital ships St. David and St. Andrew were anchored off the town until the Jubilee Hall at the Maltlands was converted into a military hospital complete with operating theatre and X ray department. Training was very realistic; live ammunition was used, and so it was not unusual to have casualties with wounds and crush injuries sustained in the seaborne assault exercises on the many beaches around Loch Fyne. The early Commandos trained here with the Infantry of the line, supported by Armour and Artillery. Landing techniques were perfected, landing craft trialled, and vehicles waterproofed.

During 1941 King George VI and Winston Churchill both visited Inveraray. Many famous individuals were said to have passed through Inveraray, amongst them Sir Alec Guinness, James Robertson Justice, James Doohan, better known as "Scotty" of Star Trek, and Mr. Pierrepoint who held the position of Public Hangman.

A black event of 1942 was the cruel murder of Wren Gertrude Channing.

John Frost who led the raid on Bruneval trained here with his men. The 29th Independent Brigade left Inveraray for the shores of Madagascar, as did many of the troops bound for the "Torch" landings of North Africa and those bound for the ultimate D-Day.

With the surrender of Germany and Japan HMS Quebec was finally paid off on 1st June 1946; but Inveraray has certainly written its page in history. I wonder how many of those who fell on foreign beaches learned their trade on Loch Fyne?

The Combined Operations Museum at Inveraray is dedicated to their memory. It is open April to mid-October, 11am to 6pm, Sundays 1pm to 6pm, but closed on Fridays. Sadly the number of visitors has declined of late - perhaps the 1939-1945 War has become unfashionable with the passing of the years and the dwindling number of people who remember it. But as an assemblage of first-hand and contemporary evidence it is quite remarkable; the addition of scale models of ships and landing craft aids the visualisation of the events at Inveraray over fifty years ago.

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## MOLLY MILLOY

Marion Campbell

Once upon a time, when Grandfather was a boy, there lived an old lady named Molly Milloy. Her little round face was as rosy as a well-polished apple, her white hair peeped out from under a snowy frilled cap, and a black knitted shawl was wrapped around her shoulders. Her apron was striped across with leftover homespun colours, and her stiff homespun skirt covered the tops of her little black boots. In general outline she was rather like one of those Russian

dolls that nest inside each other.

Every day from spring to autumn Molly drove cows to graze on the hillside - her own cow and yearling along with the neighbours' beasts. She would toddle up the brae after them, take her accustomed seat on a rock by the waterfall, and bring her knitting out of the capacious pocket of her skirt. There she would sit, a sock growing steadily under her fingers while she looked about her and listened to the larks and the thrush by the pool. Sometimes she sang softly to herself and tapped her toes as if she were dancing.

When the time for the evening milking came near she would call the cows "Trobhad, Canach, trobhad, Blarag, trobhad! Trobhad!" and they would draw together and drift downhill on the road home. Molly would come last, maybe steering a calf with a hand on its sharp little rump, maybe waving her stick at an errant stirk, and nodding goodnight to the thrush in the birch tree; and sometimes she brought home a little something for supper.

It was not entirely by chance that her favourite perch was by the waterfall. All her people had taken to do with rivers; most of them were millers who worked the mills that ground the district's meal. Molly worked no mill, but still the river worked for her.

In high summer,when rain in the hills sends the burns roaring down to darken the sea, the sea-trout start moving up to their spawning beds among the headwaters. Seals are busy off the rivermouths, and from the seapools upwards the gentlemen come with their long rods and their brass reels, their horsehair casts and the gaudy flies stored in the flannel pages of leather pocketbooks.

Molly would be sitting singing to herself; and ..."A grand day, Master Iain! A great day for the fishing, a full creel to ye!" and sang on, watching him ... that's him away up past the rowans, and just in time too.

Molly's pocket held more than the knitting and the scone for her frugal lunch. With a sharp glance from birchwood to ridge, from road to crags, not a laird's son nor a keeper to be seen - out came a folded thing like a string shopping-bag with a wire ring threaded through it. It fitted the end of Molly's stick.

There was a flash of silver in the pool below, a swirl and a fountain of spray and a dark shape wrestling up the waterfall; out flashed the walking stick, and scooped the

fish to the bank. In a breath he was whisked into the bag at her waist, within the skirts. A bonny fish too, fresh in from sea; one more now and we'll have as good a supper as any laird in Scotland. And she sang quietly on.

She was never caught poaching, of course not. I think most people knew of her particular abilities, and certainly my great-grandfather and his gamekeeper watched with admiration from hiding-places along the braes. Maybe Molly did enjoy as many fish as ever fell to their rods and their splendid flies, but the skill of the woman, the deft timing, the patience as she sat there with her glowing face and her knitting, made it impossible to begrudge any fish she took.

"A bonny evening, Master Iain - did you do well? My, but that's a fine one, you would have some work to land yon! You'll fairly enjoy him for your tea the night, and you've earned it. I'll need to be getting away home myself too - Trobhad, Canach!"

The cows raised their heads and watched the boy go down the track, his rod on his shoulder and the wicker creel at his back; and Molly got to her feet, a tiny trifle unbalanced by the weight of her skirts at first, and nodded goodnight to the thrush in the birch-tree.

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REVIEWS

The Kilmartin Sessions: The Sounds of Ancient Scotland.
CD from Kilmartin House Trading Co. Ltd. £12:00
By post from Kilmartin House, Kilmartin, Argyll, Scotland, PA31 8RQ. Post and Packing £1:50 extra.

A remarkable assemblage brought together at the inspiration of Dr John Purser of Skye, and published a year ago. There are 35 short tracks of sounds played on actual or replica ancient musical instruments, which vary from bird calls to battle blasts, from ringing rocks to Pictish pipes. The longest piece in this most interesting collection is played by John Kenny on the great Carnyx, a Celtic war trumpet which was known throughout Europe in about 200 BC. He recorded it in the Smoo Cave, which has wonderful eerie acoustics. I was particularly moved by the sound of the eagle bone flute, with its seven note scale. It has been

suggested that this scale was used by Neanderthal man; a fragment of such a flute, dating from over 43,000 years ago, was found in Slovenia. This is a remarkable thought. Much of the music here played and sung so beautifully is guesswork - inevitably as music was not written down until relatively modern times, but it is inspired guesswork, and in fact is based on the sure understanding that there are only certain sounds possible with such simple materials. The musicians do a wonderful job of bringing to us sounds which must have thrilled or terrified our distant ancestors. There are three sounds on this CD which I find very memorable:the lovely tone of the bone flute; the terrifying sound of the bronze horns (played in the Hamilton Mausoleum); and the ancient bodhran, which of course is still in use to this day - and could have been heard in any year of the last 10,000, give or take 5,000 years or so.

John Crawley

## CANALS ACROSS THE KINTYRE PENINSULA — Richard L. Hills

A copy of this most interesting paper (23 typewritten pages of A4 size) was sent to the Editor by the author. It is, unfortunately, much too long to publish in Kist, and as it is full of detailed research a summary is impossible - and certainly would not do it justice. It forms part of the author's research for a new biography of James Watt, who before his departure to Birmingham to concentrate on the steam engine, practised as a civil engineer. It is hoped the full research will be published at a later date.
The present paper begins with the early proposals, in 1764, for a canal across one or other of the two isthmuses, Crinan and Tarbert, in a letter from Lord Cathcart to Dugald MacTavish of Dunardry (quoted in full). Nothing was done. In 1767 James Watt senior was taking an interest in the canal project; in 1771 his son James Watt, who had just surveyed the Monkland Canal, was appointed to survey both the Tarbert and the Crinan routes. The remainder of Mr Hills' paper deals with Watt's preparations, his equipment, and the actual carrying out of the survey. It includes Watt's reports on both routes, the work required on each and their respective financial viability. His detailed estimates for each are recorded and his point-by-point comparison of the two. A list of his own expenses is included.

(Incidentally, it is interesting to study the parts of the routes, principally on the Crinan route, which were not taken).
The collapse of the Ayr bank in 1772 caused the shelving of canal plans. But when John Rennie drew up his scheme for the Crinan canal in 1793 he applied to Watt for advice, and Watt lent him his report, which largely agreed with Rennie's.

Mr Hills' paper will, with his agreement, be placed in the Society's library in Kilmartin House, where members may consult it, and under some conditions borrow it.

A.O.M.C.

THE BEATONS: A MEDICAL KINDRED IN THE CLASSICAL GAELIC TRADITION. John Bannerman. John Donald, 1998
Paperback, £16.00. ISBN 0 85976 489 3

We have come a long way since James VI hoped to abolish "the Irische language, quilk is ane of the cheif and principall causis of the continewance of barbaritie", or even the days of this reviewer's youth when her contemporaries were given the Belt for using their mother-tongue in the school playground. But there is still a hint of condescension in our monoglot neighbours' belief that Gaelic is (was ?) merely a part of that quaint unworldly Celtic Twilight they love to imagine drifting around us. This book would surprise them.
It opens a vista upon one branch of Classical Gaelic learning as it circulated between Scotland and Ireland, a branch with its roots going back to Galen and Hippocrates and its blossoming fed by clinical expertise. It offers a brief survey of the surviving manuscripts connected with our most famous medical lineage, and promises a fuller catalogue (which is eagerly awaited) by Mr Ronald Black, of the texts in the National Library of Scotland. Moreover Dr Bannerman has tackled a maze of genealogies linking the principal families of the kindred, whether MacBe(a)th, MacVey, Beaton, or (of close interest in Mid Argyll) Mac-an-leagha/Leitch. He clears up a passing convergence with the de Bethune/ Beatons in Fife - fed perhaps by pro-French sentiment in the reign of Mary I, Queen of Scots - and provides charts and maps which will be of immense value to genealogists.

Above all he shows that the kindred has been famous for medical skills since at least the 14th century and probably well before then. It is instructive to note, among those whose help Dr Bannerman acknowledges, the name of Dr William MacBeath, currently the Executive Director of the American Public Health Association.

Genealogy is a specialised skill; later chapters, entitled Medicine and Medical Men, Schools and Manuscripts, and The Demise of the Classical Tradition, enlighten us all. A minor point, but one worth making, is that many of the manuscripts are in the handwriting of their first users, who copied out whole works as part of their training, and that some of them (written in scholarly Gaelic hands and style) are translations by the scribe or acknowledged as the work of his tutor, of celebrated Latin works which themselves derive from Greek originals transmitted through Arabic libraries.

I applaud Dr Bannerman's research and presentation, and warmly welcome this contribution to our knowledge of our country's heritage.

M.C.

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Copies of Kist can be obtained from the Membership and Publications Secretary, price £1, postage and packing extra.