TAYDISH MILL

Ann Thomas

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List of office-bearers inside back cover.

TAYNISH MILL

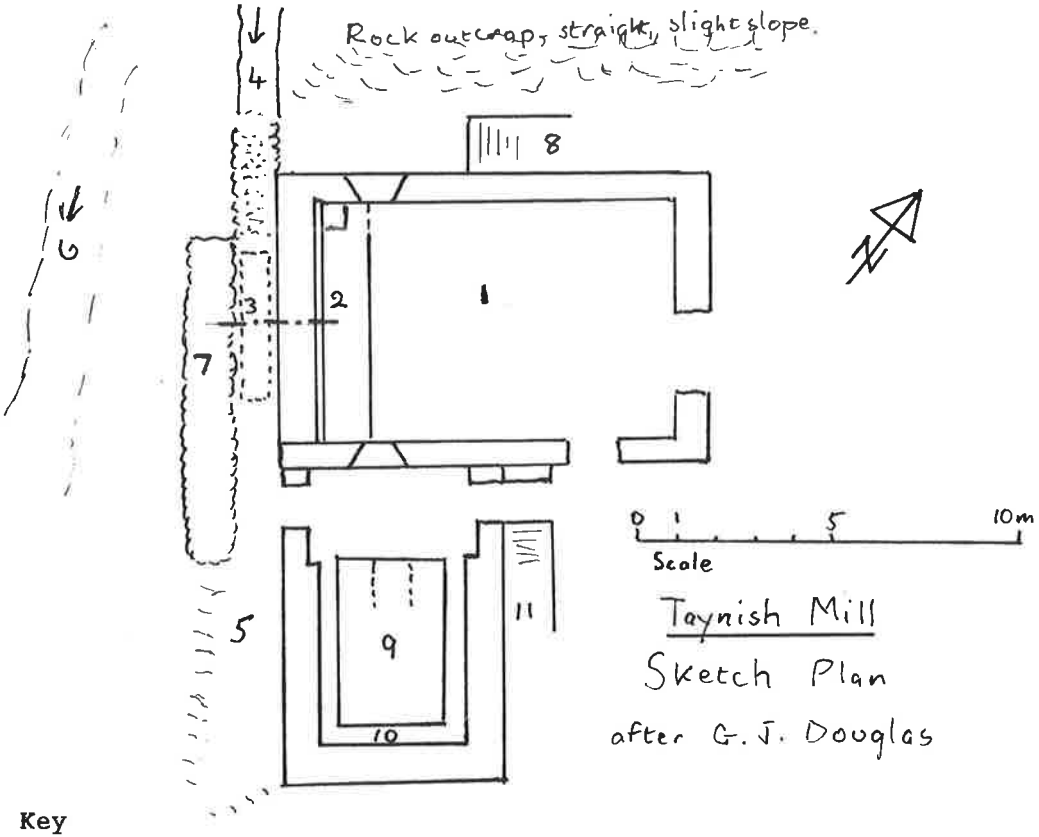
A.O.M. Clark

In May this year the Society's outing took the form of a walk in the Taynish Nature Reserve, following the newly made path which winds its way up and down through mixed woodland and above the shore of Loch Sween. After about 500m from the Reserve car park the path descends zig zag to an open meadow which in the late spring is full of wild flowers and bordered by masses of daffodils and narcissi. There are one or two picnic tables and benches. On the right stands Taynish Mill, a large and substantial building that takes one somewhat by surprise. It stands two storeys high, and its walls are of massive rubble masonry; parts of these have been demolished and the stone removed probably for reuse.

It was built about 1724, to grind all the locally grown oats, rye and bere, and thus produce income for the owners of the Taynish estate. For example, in 1803 the tenants of one of the estate farms, Peter and Archibald Brown, had to agree that they would "bring all their groundable corn and bere, seed and horse corn excepted, to the mill at Taynish to be grinded thereat". This was a typical condition of leases on many estates of the time. The mill was in operation from c. 1724 to c. 1870. After that it was used as a house and byre; an illustration of its appearance in these days is reproduced in Tayvallich and Taynish by Veronica Gainford.

In its working life the mill had two floors. On the upper floor were two pairs of millstones; one pair shelled the grain and the other ground the shelled grain to meal. Access to this floor was by an external stair on the northwest side. (See plan). The lower floor was where the milled grain was collected, graded and bagged; it also provided storage space.

The mill was powered by water coming down a lade from the millpond above (the water now runs down the old lade by-pass) along a trough supported on a masonry structure still to be seen. The last waterwheel was removed in the 1950s/60s by scrap collectors; it was iron-framed with wooden buckets and an iron shaft. The Report drawn up in 2001 by G J Douglas says "it had a rim gear drive to a shaft located above the wheel; the inner end of this shaft was fitted with an iron bevel. The exact function of this shaft is not clear; it could have powered several machines, such as a sack hoist,



Key

1) Ground floor of mill
2) Gear pit. It housed the drive for the millstones
3) Waterwheel pit. The last wheel was about 3.6m in diameter
4) Lade from millpond
5) Tail race from lade
6) Lade by-pass
7) Rubble masonry pier; outer bearing pad for waterwheel s still visible.
8) External stair to mill upper floor
9) Drying kiln and furnace
10) Passage between kiln and outer wall
11) External stair to kiln floor

bucket elevator, fanners or riddles". The top shaft remains in position only because the scrap collectors could not get it out. This iron wheel replaced an earlier one, probably all of wood and of a slightly greater diameter. Both wheels were high breast-shot; the paved trough in the lower quarter of the wheel pit indicates this. The inner face of the waterwheel pit end wall has two vertical slots which carried part of the heavy wooden frame (the 'stone bed') on which the millstones rested. The part of the frame fixed in the slots took the pivot ends of the 'bridge piece'; this was a horizontal beam which supported the thrust bearing for the top stone - the 'runner stone'. The outer end of the bridge piece could be raised or lowered by a wedge or a screw, allowing the gap between the millstones to be adjusted to produce the grade of meal required.

The prevailing dampness of the west coast climate made it advantageous to have a drying kiln attached to the mill, in order to have the grain dried before grinding. This has been added, simply butt-jointed, to the mill building. The lower part consisted of the furnace, iron-framed, with iron doors. The drying floor above was laid with perforated tiles; pieces of these have been found, some of clay, probably the earlier ones, and some of cast iron. Access to the kiln floor was by an external masonry stair up which the grain had to be carried. As there does not seem to have been any means of access from the kiln floor to the upper floor of the mill, the dried grain must have been bagged, carried down the stair and up the mill stair for grinding, unless there was a sack hoist. The passageway around the lower furnace floor both protects the outer walls from heat and conserves heat in the furnace.

At present excavation work is being carried out, involving removal of stone tumble and the debris, rubbish and tree and plant roots that have accumulated over the last century; also some investigation of key parts of the site. The inside of the building is not accessible in the meantime, but it is possible to walk all the way round the outside and from there see part of the interior. There is a good information panel.

Visitors may if they wish continue on the new path which makes its way back to the car park by an attractive and interesting route.

The main source for this article is the Report made in 2001 by G J Douglas.

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EOGHANN MacCOLLA, BARD LOCH FIN. 1808-1898

Michael Davis

Save to those involved in Gaelic culture, Evan MacColl is a poet virtually forgotten. Yet last century the poems and songs of the 'Lochfyne Bard' ran into several volumes and editions. His fame was known far from his own shores. With many Highlanders, at home or abroad, "the name of Evan MacColl is long since a household word"; or so it was thought to be in the 1880s. Evan's worth in 1998, the centenary of his death, outwith the charm of his verse, is mainly as a window opening on the past. Janus-like he stands upon the threshold of two worlds: Gaelic and English. While he might be seen as the product and champion of the former, he also worked and lived very much in the latter. The adversities of the West Highland society into which he was born - the scholastic war against Gaelic, the tendency towards emigration (voluntary or otherwise), the interest in radical, or at least Liberal, politics, were the stuff of his life. His formative years embrace all the contradictions of a society in transition.

He was born in Kenmore, the small village on Lochfyneside, the second youngest of eight children. His father Dugald had come from Appin, and, like many of the common folk, could trace his ancestry to landholding forebears; in this case to the 16th century MacColls of Glasdrum on Loch Creran.

"Long and frequent were the winter ceilidhs" in young Evan's house, his father's enthusiasm for Gaelic culture being such that he could recite many of the Gaelic bards from memory. It was within this apparently timeless tradition, to "the rustic audience congregated round an hospitable fireside" that Evan's first composition was performed anonymously with loud and unanimous applause.

Evan's Gaelic enthusiasm was perhaps slightly self-conscious. Gaeldom on Lochfyneside was already shaken by sweeping change. The Kenmore of his boyhood was no ancient township, but a small planned village to house a community already struck by the shock waves of "improvement". For those dispossessed of the land, fishing was becoming a necessity. Evan's father,too, was a part-time roads contractor, wealthy enough to employ a private tutor with an interest in Gaelic. The local school, for which Evan retained a sincere loathing, at that time conducted its classes in English.

South Argyll had,of all the Western Highlands,been arguably most open to outside influence. The 18th century church of nearby Inveraray had , after all, been built with a wall cutting it in two halves - one Gaelic and one English. Given the context of his life, it is small wonder that Evan's life and work was split between two cultures.

If Evan had remained a local bard, supplying unpublished Gaelic lyrics for Kenmore ceilidhs, he would surely have vanished from our sight; but he determined to publish, and not only works in Gaelic but in English as well. His first volume - individual poems had previously appeared elsewhere - was published at his own expense in 1836. The Mountain Minstrel was a modest financial success, and in 1838 the Glasgow publisher Blackie brought out an updated Gaelic collection called Clarsach nam Beann and a purely English version of The Mountain Minstrel, which was reprinted in 1847 and 1849.

To the Victorians and their immediate successors, Evan MacColl could be praised as a poet in the highest terms. "At the head of the Bards of the Victorian Era stands Evan MacColl" wrote Nigel MacNeill. John Mackerno wrote in 1841 of his great merit and "the tender sensibilities and refined taste" of his Gaelic productions which were "chiefly amorous". Hugh Miller reviewed Evan's work with excessive kindness and sympathy, but gently implied that beneath "the glitter and polish of his fancy" and behind "the sparkling tissues of comparison" lay a lack of depth of imagination and feeling. In a very real sense, however, Evan's own life and his endeavours supply the depth sometimes missing in his poetry and provide us with a story just as poetic, though neither wholly tragic nor triumphant. It is the story of the 19th century Scottish Highlands; it is romantic, it is sad, and it is bitterly real: the leaving of the land, of Scotland itself.

As a family with some capital behind them, the MacColls were neither destitute nor facing eviction. Yet despite his manifest sense of place, Evan's father, and every unmarried member of his family, emigrated to Canada and better opportunities in 1831. Evan remained, but was forced to rely on the patronage of the rich or influential. His own liberal politics sometimes spilled into his verse, as with a poem castigating those with Jamaican estates, and this must have alienated leading Tory landowners (and possibly some Liberal ones too). When patronage came, it was from Campbell of Islay who, in 1839, influenced the choice of Evan for a post in Custom House

Liverpool. In 1850 MacColl transferred, thanks to other influence, to a clerkship at the Customs House at Kingston in Canada. But even when the Liberals achieved power in Canada in the 1870s, MacColl's hopes of preferment came to nothing. The possibility that some of the anonymous political lyrics which appeared in the press were from his pen had already ruled out Tory support.

Evan MacColl died, neither wholly a success nor a failure, neither an exile from politics nor a political exile; but far from Loch Fyne. In this last he is an archetype to one of the tragedies of his age and his people. He was in many ways a product of the 19th century Romanticism which saw Scotland as a land of romantic history and of historic romance, as well as of extremes of landscape and climate.

"There is a freshness, a keenness, a heartiness in many of these productions of The Mountain Minstrel, which seem to breathe naturally of the hungry air; the dark, bleak, rugged bluffs among which they were composed, alternating occasionally with a clear, bewitching, and spiritual quiet, as of the gloaming deepening over the glens and woods". In such romantic terms (equally applicable to the paintings of his contemporary Horatio MacCulloch) is his poetry best reviewed.

His service to Gaelic could scarce hold back the tide of change. The romanticism of his viewpoint, together with the nature of the market for printed books, made for a self conscious, potentially nostalgic, or even slightly exploitive emotional engagement with Gaeldom. One might almost say that for many (English-speaking) readers, his poetry provided the poetical equivalent of Black's Picturesque Tourist, were it not for the striking immediacy of occasional comments.

Evan's sincerity was very real. His epitaph, and the summation of one important strand of his life might be his own attitude to Gaelic culture:

"If it must die - though I see no reason why it should - let it have at least a little fair play in the fight for its life".

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WILDFLOWERS AND MEDICINAL PLANTS AT EREDINE

Krishna Goel

The grounds of Eredine House, which lie in a well-sheltered area on the shores of Loch Awe about 8 miles from Ford, are rich in the many wild flowers of Mid Argyll. The geology and unspoilt woodlands together with the mild climate combine to produce a variety of habitats, which account for over 120 species of wild flowers identified at Eredine; lichens, ferns and mosses are prolific and their rich growth is an indicator of pure air and high rainfall.

The flowers at Eredine are in fullest bloom in late May and early June, although each month produces new specimens until the arrival of autumn with its spectacular colour climax of deciduous trees. A walk through the woods, meadows and the loch side reveals such a variety of wild plants that those who find interest in spotting and accurately identifying them would have endless pleasure at all seasons. Some of these plants have medicinal properties and have been used to cure human ailments since time immemorial. The early Greek physicians Hippocrates (4th century BC) and Galen (2nd century AD) and the philosopher Aristotle (384-322 BC) have written about the therapeutic value of certain plants. It seems that a herbal remedy has been assigned to treat almost every disease suffered by man. Here only the more common plants and those with possible medicinal properties are mentioned.

The snowdrop Galanthus nivalis is the first flower to brighten the ground in January and February, followed by the sparkling yellow lesser celandine Ranunculus ficaria, wood anemone Anemone nemorosa, wood sorrel Oxalis acetosella, dog violet Viola canina, wild garlic (or ramsons) Allium ursinum, wild hyacinth Agraphis nutans, pale yellow primrose Primula vulgaris,and bright daffodil Narcissus pseudo narcissus.From the leaves and stems of the lesser celandine an ointment can be made which is a soothing application for haemorrhoids; (hence its alternative name of pilewort); and its leaves may also be used as salad. The beautiful wood sorrel with its white flowers showing delicate green lines is one of the most prolific flowers of the springtime woods. The essential salt oxalic acid is extracted from it by crystallisation and may be used for removing stains from linen. The triple leaf and white flowers have been used in old ecclesiastical decorations.

Wild garlic with its powerful smell covers the banks of the Eredine burn in spring. Garlic has been used for thousands of years in the traditional medical practice of many cultures to treat cardiovascular and other disorders, and, like cultivated garlic, wild garlic is also of value in reducing blood cholesterol and in treating high blood pressure associated with arteriosclerosis. Ramsons are milder in flavour than cultivated garlic. [The leaves are good in cooking. Ed.]

The wild orchids of Scotland grow in a wide range of habitats; in the wetter areas among tall grass grow the common Northern marsh orchid Dactylorhiza purpurella, and two other species, the greater butterfly orchid Platanthera chlorantha, and the common spotted orchid Dactylorhiza fuchsii. Orchids are the world's most specialised plants and are usually considered to be exotic, seductive and expensive; but Scottish orchids grow in abundance in quiet places where they are not disturbed, making wonderful splashes of colour in the summer months; they are particularly attractive to various pollinating insects, but they are of no definite medicinal value.

Other marshy areas are full of marsh marigold, water mint, peppermint, globe flower, the poisonous hemlock water dropwort [See Kist 62 for a cautionary tale. Ed.] valerian, marsh cinquefoil, yellow iris, nettles, wild angelica, monkey flower, pennywort, bedstraw, water avens and the fragrant bog myrtle. Nearly all species of mint have been held in high medical repute; the essence of peppermint Mentha piperita is used in medicines, confectionery, deodorants, toothpaste and cigarettes. The root of the yellow iris is extremely acrid and is useful in the treatment of indolent ulcers, and the seeds may be roasted and used to make a decoction which is said to be not unlike coffee.

Other common plants that grow in the dry meadows are: dandelion, feverfew, comfrey, foxglove, tormentil, herb-robert, bugle, yellow pimpernel, self-heal, meadow cranesbill, cuckoo flower, speedwell, daisies, dock, buttercup, meadowsweet,milfoil, cowslip, red clover, white clover, and others. Some of these have healing powers. The dandelion Taraxacum officinale is recognised in Germany and France as a herbal diuretic. (French name 'pissenlit'); 'dandelion' is a modification of French 'dent-de-lion' (lion's tooth'). It is thought to enhance the flow of bile and thus aid digestion; it has no reported side effects. Its milky sap was applied to viral warts to speed their involution. Dandelion and Burdock makes an

English cordial,a popular soft drink in the North of England.

Feverfew Tanacetum parthenium has been cultivated both as an ornamental and a medicinal plant. It contains parthenolide and similar compounds and these are supposed to be responsible for its action in easing the symptoms of migraine and arthritis. Feverfew has recently been officially approved in Canada for its therapeutic virtue in the prophylaxis of migraine.

The foxglove Digitalis purpurea grows in huge profusion at Eredine; like most purple flowers it occasionally varies to white. It has long been held in esteem for its medicinal properties; the myocardial stimulant digitalis is extracted from the leaf.

The common comfrey Symphytum officinale is said to be relatively rare in Scotland compared to other parts of Britain. Its therapeutic action is due to the presence of a chemical called allantoin which encourages proliferation of various cells and thus accelerates healing. Ointments made from comfrey can be used in place of a poultice - it is a useful part of a home first aid kit for minor injuries. Internal regular consumption of the plant is not recommended because of the presence of pyrrolizidine alkaloids which are toxic to the liver. [It is also a very effective garden fertilizer. Ed.]

Meadowsweet Filipendula ulmaria contains salicylate compounds and is used for rheumatic aches and pains. Cowslip root also contains salicylates and has been used for the same ailments. Tormentil Potentilla erecta contains a high proportion of tannins and can be used externally for healing wounds. Similarly selfheal Prunella vulgaris and bugle Ajuga reptans, found in shady woodlands throughout Scotland, can be used as a healing ointment or lotion. The flowers of selfheal act like a magnet to bees and butterflies. Valerian Valeriana officinalis is used as a tranquilliser; the sedative activity can be ascribed to the valepotriates present and to a lesser extent to the sesquiterpene constituents of the volatile oils. Burdock Arctium minus and red clover Trifolium pratense have been used for eczema and acne, and stinging nettle shampoo for dandruff, while dog's mercury Mercurialis perensis has been used in external ointments for inflammations since the days of Hippocrates.

Herbal products derived from plants are widely consumed all over the world. However these traditional remedies are not always as safe as generally assumed. The principle that the desired therapeutic benefit of a drug must outweigh its potential

risk applies to traditional as well as conventional medicine, as does the importance of accurate dosage.

Many people find pleasure in spotting and identifying wild flowers and plants. It is hoped that they may come to Eredine to study, learn, admire and above all find enjoyment from this wealth of interest in the study of nature, especially when the air is vibrant with bird-song in spring and summer.

"It is illegal in Britain for anyone to uproot any wild plant; and it is far better to take photographs or make drawings of flowers than to pick them".

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With regard to the use of valerian as a tranquilliser, the following appeared in The Times of June 27th 2002:

"Patients then swore that a tincture of valerian taken three times a day was an essential prop to their life,but it had one disadvantage. Unless the bottle was scrupulously clean, and no wandering aberrant yeasts had been allowed to creep into the elixir, the mixture fermented and on a hot day the cork was expelled with a loud bang, louder than from a champagne bottle. Patients were delighted; the bigger the bang, the happier they were in the belief that the doctor dispensed such a strong bottle of physic."

With regard to the uses of meadowsweet, in an archaeological context meadowsweet pollen is of frequent occurrence in bronze age burial cists, mainly apparently as an ingredient of honey or mead placed in the grave as a comfort for the dead, but also from flowers laid on the body. For a discussion of the evidence see Plants & People in Ancient Scotland, by Camilla Dickson (who sadly died before her work took its final form) and her husband James Dickson, who completed it. Both Camilla and James gave memorable lectures to our Society in past winter programmes, James on the wild plants of Glasgow, and Camilla on her research into ancient middens, through which the diet of past peoples could be deduced. (This included details of an experiment which produced slight shudders among the more sensitive members of the audience!).

Incidentally, the name 'meadowsweet' refers to mead, and not to meadow, from its use in sweetening fermented drinks.

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THE ANCESTORS OF GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR

Duncan Beaton

Some years ago I wrote a piece entitled "Auchentiobart and the MacArthurs" for The Kist. [Kist 29]. It featured some MacArthur families and the now deserted farming township on Loch Fyne, where they settled from Lochaweside and lived from the late 18th century until the early 20th. It also covered the tradition persistent around Inveraray and district: that an Archibald MacArthur, born at Auchentiobart in 1792, was the great-grandfather of the famous American General Douglas MacArthur. Douglas MacArthur's grandfather Arthur was born in Glasgow, the usual biographical date given as the 26th January 1815, although no actual record exists. The Christian or given name Arthur is not commonly used by the Mid Argyll MacArthurs, but the traditional descent from the Auchentiobart family has been handed down from generation to generation with apparent authenticity.

However all this has changed with an article in the recent number of The Round Table, the Clan Arthur quarterly newsletter. In it is reprinted a letter written by the Glasgow-born Arthur MacArthur, written in Springfield, Mass., on the 28th October 1843 to another, unrelated, Arthur MacArthur. Arthur had set up practice in Springfield before heading west to Milwaukee in 1849. The relevant details are extracted as follows:

"I was born in Glasgow in the year 1817 and am now 26 years old. I bear my father's name...I never saw him, for he died 10 days before my birth. I had a little sister about 1 year old who also died about the same time, so I never saw either of them. These bereavements left me the only child of a widowed mother...When I was about 7 years old my mother married a very worthy man by the name of Alexander Megget...In 1828 my parents immagrated (sic) to this Country...My grandfather was a genuine Highlander, and I believe on my father's side my ancestors are from the north. The last time I saw my mother she described a visit she made with my father to his native place shortly before his last illness. And it was among the braes and hills and lochs described by Sir Walter Scott as the scenery of that romantic region. Loch Kathrine (sic) was one of the places embraced in this visit. The Trossic (sic) glens were also seen on the same occasion. This is undoubtedly the

home of our mutual ancestors. That the MacArthurs at one time formed a distinct clan, has always been my opinion...I am a double-distilled MacArthur. My mother's name was Sarah MacArthur.and my father's name was Arthur MacArthur...My father's family, which is still numerous, reside mostly as I believe in Glasgow, and [a] large branch of my mother's family live [in] Dumbarton, Scotland, engaged in the printing of calicos."

So,belatedly and straight from the horse's mouth,as it were, the traditional story of a descent from Argyll MacArthurs is quashed. It is also interesting to note that Arthur makes himself two years younger than the usually accepted birth date of 1815. As said already, there is no baptismal record for Arthur or his sister.

In Barony OPR for the year 1812 the following entry is found: "Arthur McArthur, weaver in Anderston & Sarah McArthur residing there, married 13th Novr by Revd John Campbell". Barony was the landward (rural) parish of Glasgow and Anderston has long been absorbed into the city. Both Arthur and Sarah were apparently established in Anderston by the time of their marriage.

An inspection of the records of the parishes adjoining or included in the Trossachs.made popular as a tourist location by the writings of Sir Walter Scott, reveal that Arthur was indeed a favourite Christian or given name among the fairly numerous MacArthurs living there. At least seven Arthurs feature in the baptismal registers between the 17th September 1767 and 29th May 1792, in Callander and Port of Menteith, and any one of them could have been the weaver who married in 1812 and died in 1817.

This new perspective will come as a blow to descendants of the Auchentiobart MacArthurs, who have been proud of their reported connection with the General. In genealogy sometimes discovering the truth is a disappointment, but it is always going to be the truth.

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NORTH KNAPDALE WOODS IN THE 18TH CENTURY

Leslie Rymer

The main documentary source used has been the Inverneill Estate papers which contain material relevant to the estates of Inverneill and Knap in South Knapdale and also concern Danna, Ulva and Taynish (collectively called the Estate of Ross) in North Knapdale. These estates were all bought by Sir Archibald Campbell between 1772 and 1779. Previous to his acquisition of the Ross estate, records, even leases, do not seem to have been kept. In 1776, for example, "Donald McMillan, tenant in Stonefield deponed that he possessed fourth part of the lands in consequence of a verbal tack". Estate papers relating to the Poltalloch estate which formerly occupied the northern part of the Parish have also been utilised. These are very fragmentary and are deposited in the Scottish Record Office, Edinburgh.

Pre-Eighteenth Century Woodland History

Pollen analysis of a core taken from Lochan Taynish, within the Taynish oakwoods, demonstrates that woodland clearance began with the appearance of Neolithic Man in the region, about 5000 years ago. Clearance was progressive, but irregular, and some areas at least were able to revert to forest on being abandoned. The rate of clearance seems to have reached a peak about 2000 years ago, during Iron Age times. This is not surprising, for within the 105 square kilometres of the parish are 18 duns, all of which date from this period. Land was being cleared for agricultural purposes, and forests were destroyed by "incidents of conquest", as when Dalriada was laid waste by the Picts under Angus MacFergus in 736 AD, or during the frequent Norse plundering expeditions. We know that in some areas (as around Loch Awe) large forests were later destroyed in attempts to extirpate wolves.

Wood was an important fuel and was the main technological material for a wide range of purposes. Houses, farm implements, boats, household equipment, carts and furniture, all required timber, and even in the 1720s Edward Burt was impressed by the ways in which Scottish Highlanders used timber in place of metal. Bark was also an important commodity, being employed in dyeing and tanning.

As well as this anthropogenic interference with woodland, natural causes may have had an effect. Fires started by

lightning may be unlikely in western Scottish oakwoods under present climatic conditions, but the possibility should not be entirely dismissed. In contrast,severe windstorms are currently apt to be important, as the west coast of Scotland lies in the track of frequent gales which cause a great deal of damage to woodlands. In the storm of 18-19th January 1968 more than 300,000 trees (mostly planted conifers) were snapped or uprooted in Knapdale Forest. In June 1912 some 538 wind-blown trees from Achnamara wood, in the west of the Parish, were sold for £25, and 2571 wind-blown trees from the same wood were sold in January 1913 for £135. In the absence of man, such areas of wind-blow are liable to regenerate from seed, from suckers, or from side-shoots. In the presence of man or his grazing animals, regeneration may be prevented and a permanent clearing formed. Acting and interacting over thousands of years these factors and others led to the almost complete eradication of trees from large areas of North Knapdale. Oak woodland, which formerly covered almost all of the area,is now well developed only along the Taynish peninsula, although smaller stands occur on the more inaccessible ridges and steep slopes in other parts of the Parish. Grassland and heather communities are now the dominant semi-natural vegetation types.

The Eighteenth Century

The distribution of sub-natural woodland within the Parish was very much as it is today. Unplanted woodland was confined to areas unsuitable for agriculture, especially steep slopes, screes and marshy ground. At the beginning of this period , woods were considered as a natural resource and played an important role in the local economy, but they had no commercial value. To some extent this was a result of their inaccessibility. There was no carriage road along the western side of Loch Sween until the second half of the eighteenth century, and the Crinan Canal was not opened until the beginning of the nineteenth. Bulk overland carriage of timber would have been extremely difficult, and the relatively poor quality of the timber would have made commercial exploitation too expensive. At the beginning of the century woods in Argyll were considered to be of such little value that a large fir-wood in Glenurchy was sold at a price that came to no more than a 'plack' (one-third of a penny) per tree.

There were some proprietors, of course, who had already realised the value of timber. The Dukes of Argyll claim to have carried out some of the earliest planting in Scotland,

and in 1684-5 the Murrays of Atholl raided the Campbells at Inverarary and took away 34,000 trees. The claim for compensation was £13,000 Scots.

Although the commercial use of the existing semi-natural woodlands in the Scottish Highlands seems to have begun around 1700, it was not until after the 1715 and 1745 rebellions that the commercial value of these woods was fully appreciated and realised. One of the most important consequences of these rebellions was to open up the Highlands to resource exploitation as English companies moved in to make use of resources that were already in short supply in England. It was not until these changes took effect that careful management practices were introduced, and this explains why in Knapdale, as elsewhere in the Highlands, the banks, ditches, hedgerows, and other features, which are so useful in tracing the former extent of woodland in England, are absent.

In 1754 the Duddon Furnace Company from Lancashire established a furnace at Inverleckan [See Kist 62] (now called Furnace) in the parish of Inverarary. This company, (which later changed its name to the Argyle Furnace Company) imported ore from the west of England and was capable of producing 700 tons of pig iron a year. Over the 79 years in which it operated, this furnace must have consumed over 276,500 tons of wood. In May 1786 woods upon the Ross estate were being sold to this company, only "Twenty trees of oaks marked in these woods" being reserved for"miln and house timber",although a further reservation was made of the "...Planting and Trees growing round the Tenants Houses and Gardens". Earlier in the same year Duncan Campbell offered 800 Bolls of bark (plus the timber, but this was less expensive than the bark) to Duncan Fisher, merchant at Tarbert.

In Scotland all the woodland on an estate, including any planted by the tenants, was the property of the landowner. Tenants had been able to use woodland, but as a privilege, not a right. Before the commercial demand for timber developed this privilege was widely granted, but as the wood gained in value it became necessary to protect the woods against these depredations. References to misdemeanours of this sort occur with increasing frequency towards the end of the eighteenth century. In 1795 for example, Duncan Campbell, then proprietor of the Ross Estate, was forced to write to Matthew MacBride schoolmaster at Tayvallich: "The Depredations on my woods having now become too frequent it becomes indispensably

necessary that an effectual Check be put to it immediately by touching the Purse of the Offenders. I have therefore to desire that you directly obtain their payment or Bills at a days date from the following persons for the fines upon them, and which if they refuse acquaint me in order Debt may be Entracted and Proceedings Compleated Agt them for double these sums" The fines (which were to be distributed to the poor on the estate) were as follows:

New Ulva	John Paterson 2 Ash 1 Rowan 3 Birch Trees	£1.1.0
	John Macgugan 4 Birch Trees	7.6
South Ardbeg	John Paterson 38 Hazel Hoops 118 Hazel Widdies	6.6
	John Leitch 140 Hazel Widdies	6.6
	Neil MacLean 11 Hazel Rungs	3.0
Drimnagall	John Smith found in Duntaynish Wood with 2 Birch 1 Alder 12 Hazel Rungs	5.6
Nether Fernoch	John MacGalloghy found in Dº with 3 Birch 9 Hazel Rungs	5.6

. Despite their increased value, areas of woodland were still used as pasture, a usage almost certain to cause damage. Even when animals did not directly damage trees,lax herding practice and the freedom allowed to cattle in winter, would have hindered tree regeneration. In 1792 the Poltallochs received £39. 10.0 "By horses and mares grazed" in their woods, and in 1795 they received £10.10.6 for the same. In 1790 Duncan Campbell wrote to Sir Archibald that "Much of the ground of both farms (Taynish and Duntaynish) is covered with wood very valuable, but as they are excellent grazing will, I doubt not,set well at any time to Drovers". He was referring to the cattle drovers who collected cattle from the islands and shipped them from Jura to North Knapdale on the way to market. At that time Duntaynish was already occupied by Donald McKellar, a drover. In the lease of Taynish it was stipulated that "...in the summer Season (it was) necessary to lighten the Grass...by sending the most of the two year olds (cattle) and the four plow horses and four ponies to other pastures". Even so, grazing in the Taynish woods resulted in severe damage and in March 1792 Duncan Campbell wrote to John MacDonald, tacksman of Taynish: "[I] feel very much for the trouble your herd...has brought upon you by the abuse of woods ...; but the damage committed...since your entry...is so glaring and so considerable that their was no avoiding a appeal to

Justice for redress of so gross an injury and palpable violation of the laws of our Country".

Transgressions of this sort,and damage caused by cutting,as in the same year to the woods of Arinafad Beg, by the tenants of the same, were punishable by fine, but in extreme cases the punishment was more serious. In February 1792 a situation worthy of W.S.Gilbert had developed over the Duke of Argyll's woods. In custody was "...another delinquent...The Common Executioner of the Borough (? Inveraray), a man whose title or name is productive of Salutary Influence in maintaining honesty in it, as well as in the Country. He was detected Friday last abstracting the Trunk of a new England Pine and could a suitable successor be got to flog him, he well merits it".

The enhanced value of the woods led to planting, as well as to protection. When Sir Archibald Campbell bought his Knapdale estates he spent a great deal of money on the improvement of his South Knapdale property, but left his North Knapdale lands "...pretty much in a state of nature", so much so that Duncan Campbell, who succeeded him, was unable to gain "any return by Hooping or otherways from the Woods". This may be an exaggeration: certainly in 1782 Sir Archibald had paid four shillings for"Locks and Gates on the Wood Inclosure of Taynish and Duntaynish". The woods were not considered of great value, however, and there is no mention of them in the Old Statistical Account.

When Duncan succeeded Sir Archibald in 1791 he began a programme of improvement that involved a good deal of afforestation. As early as 1792 he wrote to Alexander MacNab at Ulva: "...It gives me great pleasure to understand that the Enclosures for the planting are in such Forwardness and shall endeavour without loss of time to forward the trees to be planted with a proper person intelligent in the manner of planting them..."

Three days later (on 6th February 1792) he was writing to Messrs MacAustine & Austine, Seedmen, Glasgow, ordering:

"20,000 Scotch Firs three year olds
2,000 Scotch Firs four year olds
1,000 American Spruce best adapted to this climate, one foot high
500 Larix 2 feet high".

These were to be delivered to Crinan where, the carter was informed, he would find an "excellent public house and good provender for man and horse". As Duncan had been given a

gift of 1500 plants of ash and beech "and other wood" from Sir Alexander Campbell of Ardkinglass, the carter was instructed to collect these as well.

So enthusiastic was Duncan that his next letter to the seedsman was only five days later. This time he ordered: "Six Bushels of Rye Grass seeds, 2 lib of Scots Fir seed, 1 lib of American Black Spruce Seed and 1 lib of Larix seed with 1 lib Ash and 1 lib plain 1 lib Beech and 1 lib Rowan or Mountain Ash seed, all of which..." were to be sent with the previous order. By "plain" he probably meant Acer pseudoplatanus. the Scots plane. From Crinan the order would have been sent by sea to Taynish, but there is no information on where these trees were to be planted.

In January 1795, when he again had "several Thousand of Forest Trees ready to be forwarded to Tayvallich with the first fresh weather", Duncan asked the "Gardener and one or two hands" to be engaged in making:"...Pitts in all the groun within the inclosure surrounding the Church South east of Pat erson's Garden and including the ground used last Season by the Smith as a Garden and likewise in making Pitts and Draining properly the ground near Inclosure South of the Taynish Garden...". In March of the same year, the schoolmaster in Tayvallich was told that:"...All the Forest Trees [were] to b planted round the Church and the Willow Slips [were] for the Border to the Inclosure for Planting South of the Garden at Taynish, the Forest Trees to be planted within four feet of each other and when at a large size to be supported with stakes in a triangular form...".

Planting continued enthusiastically in the 19th century. 1844 there were said to be some 256 acres in the parish unde plantations "skillfully managed and in a very thriving condi ion". Two years later planting began on the Poltalloch esta which covered the northern half of the parish. Despite the passage of over two hundred years, the legacy of the eightee the century tree planters, in fact and in spirit, remains in North Knapdale.

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REMEMBERED CHILDHOOD AT KEILLS IN THE 30'S

Mary McKellar

I suppose that in modern times my childhood sixty years ago would be termed deprived; but in my eyes, both then and now, nothing could be further from the truth. In material things I suppose we were poor; estate workers with a family were not overpaid, but we had good plain food, enough clothing to have 'best' for Sundays, and a loving home. I only have to close my eyes to see the firelight flickering on the plates on the dresser and on the brass of the wag-at-the-wa' clock as I came home from school in the dusk before the lamp was lit. We had no electricity, water, or radio, but we enjoyed reading by lamplight, and social visits from neighbours, who had to travel considerable distances on foot or by bicycle to reach us.

My brother was six years older than I, so I had no young company; but I enjoyed the company of two elderly ladies who must have been young at heart. One of them trusted me at seven years old to feed and care for her hens when she went off for a few days' break. A lot of time was spent on the hill with my dog catching rabbits, and this has left me with the legacy of being quite happy to spend a long time in my own company.

I enjoyed school, and was fortunate to have a teacher who encouraged us to go on at our own pace regardless of age, and also treated us as responsible people as we grew older to read and work by ourselves. We were a very small group, at one point down to eight pupils, but although of varying ages we probably fared as well as in a private school.

Apart from a small shop five miles away, the nearest shops were about twenty miles away, and our groceries were brought by van - for a time by four vans a week. We had our own hens, and when the hens were laying well surplus eggs could be bartered for groceries. Butcher meat was also brought on these vans, but had to be ordered the week before. Later on a butcher's van also came once a week.

I remember one old lady who took all her furniture out of her house every week and scrubbed it. The floor of her house was tramped earth, absolutely hard and smooth. The house had been a smithy, and so she was always known as Bella Gobha, Bella 'Smith' though it was not her proper name. Her native tongue was Gaelic, but her ordinary speech was a mixture of Gaelic and English, and the English not very good. She kept

hens, which roosted in the loft.

Another old lady I remember used to make baby's rattles from tightly plaited rushes made into a strong hollow ball with a handle, the rattle being supplied by a pebble placed inside during the making. Each new baby in the district got one as a first present.

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DESERTED SETTLEMENTS OF GLASSARY PARISH. Allan Begg
Argyll & Bute Library Service 2002. £14.99
ISBN 1-903041-04-X

In 1999 the first part of Allan Begg's research into deserted settlements in the area was published - Deserted Settlements of Kilmartin Parish, illustrated with his own colour and black and white photographs, and written in his own inimitable friendly, knowledgeable style. It could be read for the sheer enjoyment of it, or for serious research either general or for personal family history. There was an immediate demand for the second book to be produced, and at last here it is. The description on the title page cannot be bettered "Some of the ruined crofts, farms and dwellings in Glassary Parish, with the names of the people who once inhabited them. A journal of personal observation". The book has all the virtues of its predecessor; it is in the same format; it is full of detailed information and again is "like walking with a friendly companion who shares his knowledge and memories as he goes along" as the review of the earlier volume said. The Society is proud to have contributed funding for its publication

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Those delving into their family history may like to consider contacting the Glasgow & West of Scotland Family History Society, which has an enormous archive, publishes a thrice yearly Newsletter, runs a series of monthly lectures, will carry out research (one research query per member at a time) and general research; 1881 census queries & certificate can be dealt with. The Society's address is:
Unit 5, 22 Mansfield Street, Glasgow, G11 5QP
Tel.0141 339 8303. Website: www.gwsfhs.org.uk

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N.H.A.S.M.A. ON COLONSAY

On what now seems to be an annual 'island trip' 18 members and friends, and one Cairn terrier called Zachary, set out from Oban on Friday 7th June. Our transport on the island consisted of Mary's 'people carrier' which could take seven, and three cars, the Reas', the Clarks', and Christa's. In addition Sona and Dorothy intrepidly brought their bicycles. Motor transport was used on Colonsay only for trips to Scalasaig and The Shop (its actual name),to convey people to the start point of walks, and also for the less mobile no longer able to walk a distance, among whom the Editor must regretfully now count herself. Five of the party opted for the sybaritic comforts of the Colonsay Hotel on a B & B basis, while the rest stayed in the Backpackers' Lodge, which turned out to be "surprisingly comfortable". It was however self-catering,so Douglas and Valerie had stocked up in Oban with provisions for Continental self-service breakfasts for everyone; also, it must be admitted, with wine and sherry (paid for by the glass by those who wished it!). Packed lunches, always including an apple and an orange, were provided for everyone each day by The Pantry (cafe and craft shop in Scalasaig), and dinner was taken on two evenings in the Backpackers' Lodge, one evening in the Hotel and one evening in The Pantry.

We arrived at Scalasaig pier about 8.15 pm, to a scene of what appeared to be total confusion, people, cars, vans, two buses, lorries, bicycles, loadings and unloadings, and only two single track roads to take it all away. It all sorted itself out perfectly. Almost total calm and emptiness returned in about half an hour. The ferry comes to Colonsay only on Fridays, Sundays and Wednesdays, so a lot has to be packed into each arrival and departure.

Saturday morning began damp and drizzly. Georgina Hobhouse of the publishers House of Lochar and The Colonsay Bookshop, came to the Backpackers' Lodge bringing a specimen selection of books and maps to help us in our explorations and gave us some useful information on getting about the island. By this time the weather had cleared, and by special arrangement and by courtesy of the Strathcona family we were able to visit the beautiful and beautifully kept gardens of Colonsay house, walk along the woodland paths among the hosts of species and hybrid rhododendrons, flowering trees and shrubs, many of which are subtropical, all protected by the shelter belts planted in the

1920s in preparation for the establishing of a garden. There are also wide lawns and separate gardens, including a kitchen garden and a formal flower garden with a 'folly' in the centre - a wide stone plinth surmounted by the lighthouse lens that once topped Rhuvaal Lighthouse on Islay. Just inside the wall at the back of the house is St Oran's Well. (Colonsay House was built in 1722 by the then MacNeill owners of Colonsay on the site of the ruined Kiloran Abbey). The cross beside the well, with its strange enigmatic face, dates from the 7th or 8th century, and came from the ruined village of Riasg Buidhe not far away. Sincere appreciation and thanks are due to the Strathcona family and their gardeners for opening this haven to us visitors who invade their peace.

After our picnic lunch we all went our separate ways to explore as we wished, in groups or as individuals; this in fact was the pattern over the four days, apart from the visit to Oransay, of which later. We all had our highlights; but Kiloran Bay was on everyone's list - a magnificent beach of golden sand, spurs of dark rock running out at each end into sea of Hebridean greens and blues, with white waves breaking gently (at least when we were there) on the shore; low sand dunes and machair behind the beach. At the north end is St Columba's well; a further walk away is the ruin of a chapel, remains of a nunnery dedicated to St Catherine, who was indee a popular mediaeval saint; the only surviving representation of her in the West Highlands is on the lower part of a small cross at Oransay Priory. This prompted Christa to recall tha she had actually kissed the saint's head,which is still taken out for pilgrims at St Catherine's Monastery in the Sinai.

The flowers of moor and machair, seashore, field and road-side were a constant delight; unfortunately we had no botanis with us, either amateur or professional; but a booklet The Flowering Plants of Colonsay and Oransay, by P.M.Clarke and Clarke, published by WWF, proved useful. The birds were star performers. Fulmars, kittiwakes, guillemots, crowded every ledge on the cliffs at Uragaig,parties of eiders gathered of shore, large rafts of kittiwakes rode the rollers at Kiloran Bay. For Alison, Morag and Norman the highlight was the sig of a pair of golden eagles soaring high above the old McPhee stronghold of Dun Eibhinn, and swooping down to quarter the hillside below. They were able to watch them for over a quar er of an hour. They were also fortunate enough to have a chough land about thirty feet from them and probe the ground

for insects, quite unconcerned by observers. Morag also, on a very rainy afternoon,watched a young buzzard practising swoops across the field in front of the hotel and saw it miscalculate and crash upside down into the burn; it emerged much wetter and a bit ruffled, but despite its inelegant landing it had caught a vole. It sat with outstretched wings in a nearby tree for some time afterwards to dry out. We all exulted in hearing the joyous singing of larks overhead; and the unmelodious but exciting sound of the corncrake, heartily cursed in days gone by for its insistent monotony and its penchant for 'craking' all night, was welcomed as proof that an endangered creature had returned. [An alphabetical list of birds seen is appended to this article].

On the Monday we all went to Oransay (this now the preferred spelling), the tide being suitable for a morning crossing of The Strand either on foot or by tractor. It is a mile across the sands and a further mile uphill to Oransay Priory. The more energetic set out to walk while the rest of us piled into Walter's tractor (picking up one or two walkers on the way). Despite the very heavy rain which had begun to fall the peaceful atmosphere of the Priory enfolded us, At the southwest corner of the priory church is the tall, calm presence of the Oransay Cross,the best preserved of all the late mediaeval West Highland crosses, 3.7 metres in height,still in its original socket stone, on a stepped pedestal. Its rich leaf and tendril ornament, elaborate plaitwork, and the naturalistic representation of the crucified Christ,are almost as clear as they would have been when it was first set up. It has two Latin inscriptions, one saying that it is the cross of Colinus son of Cristinus MacDuffie, and the other that Mael-seachlainn, mason, made it, Malcolm MacDuffie, lord of Colonsay, died probably between 1506 and 1509, but the cross was put up before 1500, as the lettering is Lombardic. An inscription in the cloister tells us that restoration work there was carried out by the same mason. There is another cross set on a mound outside the church, rather strange-looking because it consists of the shaft of one cross and the head of another clamped together. In the church the high altar stone is still in place. In the 'Prior's House', roofed to make an exhibition hall, there is a wonderful collection of some thirty effigies, grave slabs and cross fragments, full of fascinating detail which we could well have spent longer studying. Apart from that,we felt we might almost have known Canon Bricius MacMhuirich and Prior

Donald MacDuffie, though they died in the 16th century, so characterful were their effigies. However as the rain had at last eased off we took advantage of an invitation to see the garden - not usually open - and found a complex of small sheltered gardens,all different and marked off from one another by hedges, full of flowers and interesting plants; and one that consisted of short cropped grass with three (or four) sheep apparently asleep - but they were oval stones minimally carved; the effect was one of complete peace and quiet. We felt our visit to Oransay had been all too short, but the tides will not wait, and we left regretfully to make our way back on foot or by tractor to Colonsay and the shore at Garvard, with its solid mat of sea-pinks. On the way we saw the base of the Sanctuary Stone; if a miscreant reached it on his desperate dash to find sanctuary at the priory he was safe; if not, he paid the penalty, perhaps on the Hanging Rock above the shore nearby.

On our visit we did not see much of prehistoric Colonsay although human habitation began with the first mesolithic people to come to the West of Scotland; all subsequent ages have left their marks; apart from the ubiquitous standing stones and the duns we did not have the time to see more. The energetic and fit enjoyed a morning's walk led by Kevin Byrne which filled a lot of gaps in our knowledge, and he also gave us a fascinating talk beforehand. We had two other talks on evenings during our stay, one from Douglas who was determined to widen our horizons from Western Scotland and produced a great account of Pyramids, not just Ancient Egyptian but world wide and covering examples up to present times; and the other from Adeline and Ted who had been asked to say something about Mid Argyll and the Kilmartin Valley in particular for a Colonsay audience in exchange for Kevin's talk. This was in Colonsay's new Millennium Village Hall, which has a most practical and indeed beautiful interior.

One more expedition deserves mention. Taking what turned out to be an unwise gamble on the weather an intrepid band set out for Balnahard. They were transported as far as the road went, but then set off to explore, going round Carnan Eoin (the highest point on Colonsay) and on to the farm steading; they reached the chapel,and the Stone of Penance, but the 'Miserable Women's Shelter' eluded them and they returned to the farm, where they took their lunch in the temporarily unoccupied cowshed,a meal referred to in verse by our resident

poet as The Aromatic Lunch. The still unrelenting rain prevented further exploration.

It might seem as if the weather was predominately wet. In fact this was not so, and we had a great deal of sunshine, for example in the gardens of Colonsay House, at Kiloran Bay, at Uragaig, and along the west coast. We all enjoyed our time on Colonsay, and wish to express our thanks to Douglas for arranging - and re-arranging as circumstances changed! - such an enjoyable few days. Unfortunately, despite the Editor's customary appeal, fewer notes than usual came in from participants, so some aspects and happenings may have gone unreported.

Alphabetical list of birds seen on Colonsay 7 to 12 June 2002

Arctic tern
blackbacked gull
blackbird
blackheaded gull
black guillemot
buzzard
Canada geese & goslings
chaffinch
chough
collared dove
common gull
common sandpiper
common tern
corncrake
cuckoo
eider duck & ducklings
fulmar
gannet
golden eagle (pair)
goldfinch
grasshopper warbler
greenfinch
greylag geese & goslings
guillemot
heron
house sparrow
jackdaw
kestrel
kittiwake
lapwing
linnet
mallard
mavis
meadow pipit
oystercatcher
pheasant
pied wagtail
raven
redbreasted merganser
redshank
reed warbler
ringed plover (+little r.p.?)
robin
rock pipit
shag
shelduck & ducklings
shoveler
skylark
starling
stonechat
tree pipit
twite
wheatear
white-fronted goose
(one bird, unseen, that made little piping sounds throughout the night. Not eiders).

With acknowledgments to Douglas Barker, Valerie Barker, Dorothy Hastings, Rebecca Pine, Morag Rea and Christa Studd. Zachary did his best to comment throughout, but the Editor does not speak dog, so only his tailwaving is recorded.

Extract from a poem loosely inspired by Mary Call the Cattle Home Across the Sands of Dee.

"Intrepid though the leaders were in walking on The Strand
Their socks were quickly waterlogged, their shoes soon
filled with sand;
And as the tractor caught them up, a swallowing of pride
Saw more jump on the trailer bar to join in on the ride.
The clouds hung over Jura;but the clouds that swarmed the Paps
Were separated from them by - five miles of sea, perhaps.
But distance is deceptive, like the lip that greets the cup;
And ere they reached the Priory, the clouds had caught them up
They clustered in the cloisters, while the graveyard looked
quite grave;
They sheltered in the Prior's House as puddles filled the nave
Then the sun shone on the garden where the sheep had turned to
stone
And the midges got to places that no other midge had known.
When appetites were satisfied and intellects were stretched
They gathered at the gateway, and the tractorman was fetched,
And they headed home to Colonsay, the trailer on the back,
Making room for two tired children, and bedraggled terrier Zach
So, Mary, stop your calling, there's a tractor on the sand,
And its full of wet Backpackers heading back across The Strand
And behind them, stragglers straggling, and some paddling in
the sea.
So, just stop your calling, Mary! They'll all be home for tea.

Rebecca Pine

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Mention must be made of The Colonsay Bookshop "probably the best small bookshop in the West Highlands". Some of us might even regard that as an understatement. It is in a low friendly building that looks from a distance like a farm steading among fields overlooking the Atlantic. It has a huge selection of books of Scottish interest, new, second and antiquarian, is very well arranged and a joy to browse in.

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ACCESSIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Denis Rixson, one of our members, has presented to our Library copies of his three most recent books: The West Highland Galley (1998), Knoydart. A History (1999) and The Small Isles:Canna, Rum, Eigg and Muck (2001). They are most valuable additions. The West Highland Galley is the only accessible modern study of the vessel,which was not merely a warship as history might incline us to believe, but the workhorse of the Hebrides as well. The research involved has been extensive and meticulous, employing not only the surviving written sources but also the evidence of carved stones, manuscript illuminations, and seals. For the general reader as well as the historian it is enjoyable to read. Knoydart aims to look past the emotional and sometimes sentimental views we hold, and by studying "place-names, land-assessment units,sculpture, documentary records and census returns", to reach a truer appreciation of its history. The Small Isles deals with Canna, Rum, Eigg and Muck as a group sharing a common environment, climate, and economic and cultural framework, which together defined their history, collectively and individually. All three books are fascinating to read and have good bibliographies; (Knoydart's is shorter and entitled "Reading List"). The Society is very grateful to Mr Rixson for his generous gift.

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LYNNE FARRELL

Lynne was President of our Society from October 1999 until the spring of this year, when she left Scottish Natural Heritage at Kilmory, Lochgilphead, to take up the post of Species Adviser at Scottish Natural Heritage at Battleby, Perth. She was an excellent President, keeping the Committee and our Society meetings well in line, and what is more, fulfilling most of the tasks of a Secretary when the Society was without one. We shall miss her, not only for her efficiency, but also for herself. We send her our thanks and our very best wishes for happiness and job-satisfaction in her new surroundings.

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COLIN FERGUSSON

It was with great sadness that the Society learnt of Colin's death earlier this year. He had been an active and valued member for many years, often working with the late Dr Mackenna on expeditions which later supplied articles for Kist. He served on the Committee, always producing commonsense suggestions to curb its occasional flights of fancy. He served as one of the Society's two representatives on the committee of the Friends of Auchindrain, and added to his responsibilities there by carrying out much repair and maintenance work on a voluntary basis. He was a retired forester,and a mine of knowledge on trees and birds - also on West Coast steamers from their earliest sailings to the present time. He was an excellent photographer and made records, both on prints and slides, of the Society's and his own expeditions, the slides forming the basis for the interesting talks he could be persuaded to give from time to time. He also wrote articles for Kist; one which indicates his keen observation and interest in everything around him notes the discrepancy of half a mile in the milestones between Ardrishaig and Tarbert and works out the reason for it!

We shall all miss him as a good friend and colleague.

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Editorial Note

This is my last issue of Kist. I have enjoyed my twelve years as Editor - the variety, interest and entertainment value of the articles submitted constantly amazed me, and it is the quality of the contents that make a magazine. I am deeply grateful to all contributors over these years - thank you all! However, having reached the age of eighty-one I feel that the time has come to hand over to someone else. Unfortunately,although this impending vacancy was announced almost two years ago, it has proved impossible to find a successor from within the Society, even an interim one. The problem remains.

I hope a successor can be found; and if one is found, I pass on my very best wishes to him/her, and shall offer all the help I can.

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OFFICE BEARERS

President:	to be elected
Acting President:	Mrs A.O.M. Clark
Vice-presidents:	Mr John Halliday
	to be elected
Hon. Secretary: (membership & publications)	Mrs Marina Cowham 10 Dunadd View Kilmichael Glassary Lochgilphead PA31 8QA Tel. 01546 606 526
Hon. Secretary:	Office vacant. Correspondence may be sent to: Mr David Batty Kirnan Farm Kilmichael Glassary Lochgilphead, PA31 8QL
Hon. Treasurer:	Miss Margaret McVicar Finbracken 22 Dunmor Avenue, Kilmory Lochgilphead, PA31 8TP

Committee:
Dr Douglas Barker, Mr David Batty, Mr Edmond Clark, Dr Krishna Goel, two members to be elected

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

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Although Kist does not specialise in family history, it has been pointed out to the Editor that there may be cases where we have information that would be useful to readers in search of their forebears. Requests should be sent to the Editor of Kist, should give as much detail as possible, and should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope for reply.