

St Clement's Church  
Rodel, Harris

KIST · 68

The magazine of the Natural History and Antiquarian Society of Mid Argyll

**Issue no. Sixty-eight                      autumn 2004**

Editor: Edward Tyler

President: Dave Batty

### **Contents**

#### **Editorial**      1

**Leatherback turtles in West Scotland**      2 - 7    E. Tyler

**Puffins off Port Ann?**      7 - 8    I.D.Teesdale

**Ardrishaig to Crinan via Canal – 1852**    8 - 13    M. Davis

**The Fight between Bran and Foir**    13 -15   Scot anSgeulaiche

**Sword Motifs on Medieval Graveslabs**    16 -19

Fiona Campbell Byatt

**Keillisleat or Caolisleat**    20 - 21    Ian Macdonald

**The Victorian Highway Code**    22 - 25   Murdo Macdonald

**Tarbert to Tarbert – and Beyond**    25 -29   Rebecca Pine

Contributors to Kist retain their copyright unless otherwise stated.  
Permission to reproduce material should in the first instance be sought from the Editor: address on back cover.

The Society's year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> September to 31<sup>st</sup> August.

Subscriptions (including two issues of the Kist) are £4 single, £6 for a couple. Cheques payable to N.H.A.S.M.A.

Price of Kist: £1 per copy (postage and packing extra)

The rolling Scottish Skipper is the rolliest alive

## **Editorial**

We put the spotlight on the mid-19C and look at two different modes of transport (canal and road) and two different classes of people: the steam boat traveler in search of Romantic Scotland and the crofters and carters who used the local roads. Society members provide us with a modern travelogue in the form of their annual island trip: this time to Harris.

We also look at our rich heritage of Medieval graveslabs with sword motifs, a forgotten place name – Kelislate - which once covered the area of South Knapdale, and recount an ancient dogfight tale with a local resonance. We continue our marine explorations with an article on leatherback turtles as well as the tantalizing possibility of puffins having nested on a Loch Fyne island.

Looking ahead, I repeat my request for articles to celebrate the Society's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. If people are not up to writing an article perhaps they would like to write or telephone me and I could interview them.

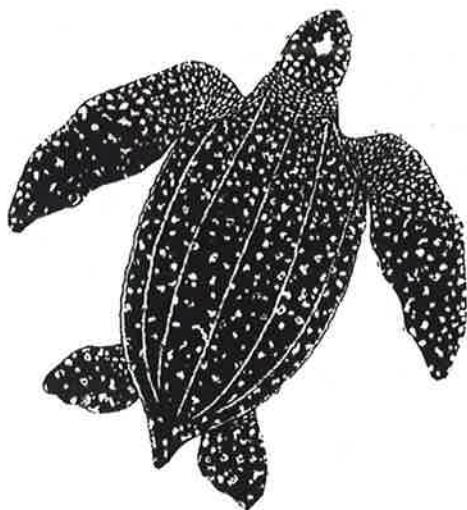
### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Society Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2005**

Celebratory dinner to be held at Stonefield Castle Hotel on 7<sup>th</sup> March at 7 p.m. (the first meeting was held on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1955).

If you wish to come contact Dr. Douglas Barker – booking details on p. 29

## **LEATHERBACK TURTLES IN WEST SCOTLAND**

Edward Tyler



This summer I was on holiday on the island of Coll. There seemed to be basking sharks everywhere; so many in fact that I quite got used to seeing them. But what ended up exciting my imagination was something else entirely: leatherback turtles, which are apparently sighted each year off the Coll and Tiree coasts.

### **Marine turtles**

Incredibly, five of the world's seven species of marine turtle have been recorded in UK waters. However, the leatherback differs from the others (loggerhead, Kemp's ridley, green and hawksbill) in a number of important respects. Apart from being very big (the largest specimen ever recorded stranded at Harlech, Wales, in 1988, weighed 916 kg and was 2.91 m long), the leatherback has a flexible carapace covered in a leathery skin.

This smooth skin helps them to dive – and dive they do, to extraordinary depths. They follow the plankton as it migrates each night and day up and down the water column (from depths as little as 100 m to over 500 m). Their flexible shell is made of ribs set in a thick, oily cartilage and covered with bony plates; this structure helps them cope with diving pressures. In fact, they can dive as much as 500 m in 10 minutes.

Unlike other reptiles, the leatherback is endothermic: i.e. it can maintain some control of its body temperature and can therefore remain active and feed in cooler waters (for an explanation of how – anatomically speaking – it keeps control see G. L. King's article in

**KIST 29).** The other marine turtles mentioned above are known as “hard-shelled” and their occurrence in UK waters is probably not a normal part of their life history. Juveniles occur as “cold-stunned” strays, and their arrival is often associated with storms. The animals are usually in very poor health, and their poor physical condition may impair their navigational ability.

Leatherbacks, however, do not seem to be prone to this kind of accidental stranding. Jellyfish form the principal element of their diet and it is thought that each year they migrate from their tropical nesting beaches (or rookeries) to follow this food source, and that this is why quite a few are sighted each year in Irish and UK waters.



Photo of leatherback swimming off the Scilly Isles by Mike Daines

### **Leatherbacks – a UK/Irish species?**

A growing body of evidence is starting to back up Peter Richardson's assertion that the leatherback is a UK/Irish species that breeds in the tropics (Peter works for the Marine Conservation Society). Marine ecologists from Swansea University and University College Cork have attached satellite-tracking devices to ten females at their nesting beaches in Grenada (West Indies) and tracked their

subsequent movements. According to Jonathon Houghton of the Irish Sea Leatherback Turtle Project: "We think the leatherbacks that finish breeding early in the season head north to take advantage of the rich food supplies of the cooler waters, before heading south once more in autumn to over winter at intermediate latitudes. But those that breed later in the season appear to head east and remain in the tropical Atlantic. What we're hoping will happen is this year is that the over wintering turtles, which headed south, will turn round and go north again, explaining their appearance in our waters."

### **Jellyfish**

This year the Marine Conservation Society commissioned a survey of jellyfish swarms /strandings, which is due to run for a number of years. "By comparing the distribution of jellyfish with environmental factors such as sea temperature, plankton production and current flow, we hope to understand what influences the seasonal distribution of jellyfish and leatherbacks in UK waters" (quotation from MCS survey sheet). Having noted the presence of several species of jellyfish in both our Loch Fyne and Atlantic coasts, I suggest you take part in the survey as well (details at the end of this article). An interesting fact: the turtles even have backward-facing spines in their throats to stop their slippery prey from escaping!

### **Sightings and Strandings**

So, what are the chances of seeing one in our area? If one studies a table giving the total numbers of recorded encounters with marine turtles, one sees that leatherbacks have been encountered more than four times more than any other (461 records as opposed to 94 for the loggerhead and only 25 for the Kemp's ridley, with the green and hawksbill not even reaching double figures).

The west coast of Scotland is one of the areas around Britain where the records are concentrated. Most sightings occur between July and October with a peak in August. Some animals are recorded in the North Sea but these occur more often in the winter and spring, suggesting that there may be patterns of movement from

the west to the east coasts of Britain through Scottish waters and perhaps the English Channel.

King (who wrote the 1985 Kist article) collated all Scottish records from 1971 until 1984 and relevant ones to us are as follows: Sept. 1978, N.W. Jura (entangled in rope, having apparently drowned in contact with a creel); Sept. 1981, off Toward, Firth of Clyde (sighted); July 9 – late Oct. 1983 (six sightings at various places in Loch Fyne and off Bute); Oct. 19, 1983 Loch Craignish (three women managed to get it back into the water after it had stranded on rocks).

In addition, according to the Kist editor writing in the same issue, "a number of years ago Tarbert harbour was enlivened by the presence over several days of a Leathery Turtle, seen by the Editor and many others from the Fish Quay. We estimated its length to be about 4 feet" (the name "leathery" is not a quaint choice by the editor; it is also used throughout by King and was the common name at the time).

The last three Scottish sightings to appear in the current database are as follows: Jan. 2004, stranded (dead), Fife, nr. Crail; Aug.2003, observed from shore, swimming, Luce Bay, Mull of Galloway; Aug.2003, observed from land, swimming, Burrow Head, Dumfries and Galloway.

### **Conservation**

At the time when King wrote his article marine turtles had no legal protection in Britain. The main threats to their survival were similar then as now: nest site destruction and disturbance, harvesting for meat and eggs, bycatch (accidental capture and drowning in fishing gear), boat strike, and the ingestion of plastic marine litter and balloons, which the turtles mistake for jellyfish. The turtle-tracking research mentioned above shows that turtles spend considerable amounts of time in the deep, open waters of the North Atlantic. This means that leatherbacks are very vulnerable to being accidentally caught by the long line fleets operating there. However, a new "circular" design of hook and bait could significantly reduce the risk of snagging. Other devices are also being trialed.

Measures such as these are vital because the Atlantic population seems to be the largest and most viable throughout the whole world. In 1982 the global population was estimated as 115,000 adult females; it is now down to between 26,000 and 43,000. Of these, only 2,300 remain in the Pacific (there is also a population in the Indian Ocean). This rapid decline has meant that the leatherback is now listed as critically endangered.

Another conservation measure is to protect the sandy tropical beaches where they lay their eggs. Many of these beaches are currently subject to development and disturbance by tourists. Unfortunately turtle nests are also raided by humans and feral dogs as well as their natural predators. Conservationists collect eggs, incubate them in safety and the young are then released into the ocean.

What can we do on our side of the Atlantic? Keep an eye out for them and, if you do see one, report immediately to: Dr. Martin Gaywood, Scottish Natural Heritage, 2 Anderson Place, Edinburgh, EH6 4NL. I also recommend writing to the Marine Conservation Society and asking for their "Advisory Note: Marine Turtles in the United Kingdom", as this provides invaluable advice about helping a turtle if you happen to come across one in distress. Address: MCS, Freepost HR391, Ross-on Wye, Herefordshire, HR9 5ZZ. This is also the address to contact if you wish to take part in the **jellyfish survey** (email address below).

Also, spread the word about these amazing creatures whose long lives encompass a whole ocean (they live for 60 plus years) and who remain to a great extent a mystery – until they miraculously appear on our coasts.

#### Bibliography and acknowledgements

Marine Turtles in the United Kingdom Advisory Note, Marine Conservation Society, 2002.

Animal, D. Burnie, Dorling Kindersley, 2001.

BBC Wildlife Magazine, vol. 22 no. 9.

A. Byatt, A. Fothergill, M. Holmes, The Blue Planet, BBC Worldwide Ltd, 2001

[www.strandings.com](http://www.strandings.com)

[www.euroturtle.org](http://www.euroturtle.org).

[www.mcsuk.org](http://www.mcsuk.org)

Thanks to Ekert, K.L., K.L.Bjorndal, F.A. Abreu-Grobois and M. Donelly (Editors) for the illustration on Page 1 taken from Research and Management Techniques for the Conservation of Sea Turtles.

## **PUFFINS OFF PORT ANN?**

I.D.Teesdale

I have a long-standing interest in birds and recently moved to Argyll. In January this year a Campbeltown acquaintance, Angus Martin, who edits the Kintyre Archaeological and Natural History Society's newsletter and has a very wide circle of friends throughout the area, told me he had heard about a colony of puffins formerly nesting on Glas Eilean, an islet in Loch Fyne just offshore by Port Ann. His informant had been a farmer in that area, I believe now retired, who in his younger days in the mid 1950's used to see four pairs of puffins nesting in burrows on the islet. This was of course long before the days of Argyll Bird Club and the systematic recording of bird occurrences by such bodies as the British Trust for Ornithology. Mr. Martin felt the information might not be in the public domain and should perhaps be recorded.

I checked the "puffin" entry in "The New Atlas of Breeding Birds in Britain and Ireland: 1988-1991." The Distribution map shows the well-known colony on Sanda Island, off the southern tip of the Kintyre Peninsula, and an earlier record from Ailsa Craig, but otherwise no record of nesting anywhere in the Firth of Clyde or any of its associated lochs, including Loch Fyne. The article accompanying the map was written by M.P.Harris, evidently the leading authority on this species; so I wrote to him about the Glas Eilean birds. Professor Harris replied, saying the information was very interesting and that he had no records of this colony. He added that he would welcome more information about it, if I could find any, for the book that he was writing.

I have passed this information to Paul Daw, Bird Recorder for Argyll and member of Argyll Bird Club. He says a fellow member

who often sails in that area of Loch Fyne has reported seeing puffins around there on several occasions. The assumption has been that these birds are from Sanda Island; but it is of course possible that Glas Eilean has been or is being recolonised.

I am afraid that I am unlikely to be able to visit the islet myself; but I would very much like to know whether there are any signs of current breeding of puffins there. I should be equally interested to know if anyone reading this article has knowledge, personal or anecdotal, of puffins nesting there around the time that Mr. Martin's informant saw them – or, for that matter, any more recent sightings. My address is Ardbeg, High Askomil, Campbeltown, Argyll PA28 6EN tel. 01586 550219; alternatively inform the Editor who will pass on the information. Both Paul Daw and Professor Harris would I am sure particularly appreciate anything that would substantiate the intriguing possibility of these birds nesting in this hitherto unsuspected locality.

## **ARDRISHAIG TO CRINAN VIA CANAL - 1852**

Michael Davis

**Murray's Handbooks** for Scotland provided the Victorian traveler with some of his most useful guidance. The 1852 Guide to Oban, Staffa and Iona – No. 8 in the series – opened, logically enough, with the Royal Route through the Crinan Canal. The author, whoever he was, clearly did not like Ardrishaig or its inhabitants. Such was his dislike that when he came to mention "the hotel at Ardrishaig" (now the Grey Gull) which was clearly very good, he effectively damned it as too good!

Interestingly, he also mentions the causeway across Loch Gilp, confirming its date as being very much earlier than Sir John Orde's incident in lassoing a child with his whip while driving his carriage.

The following extracts begin with an account of Ardrishaig.

The traffic which has thence arisen within the last half century has caused the erection of a considerable number of neat cottages, prettily placed on the green hillside, and wholly separate from the very ordinary-looking houses which form the village of Ardrishaig...

A lowly "thatched cottage" may look well enough in a Highland clachan, but the slate-covered, whitish slap-dashed, narrow-windowed, open-doored tenements in which the natives are huddled together in these nondescript half modern-like, west coast villages, are, to say the least of them, as unpoetical in appearance as they are unsavoury in odour; the "canna-be-fashed" arrangements of the great M'Larty family appearing to rule their out-door efforts; while, in the clear sunlight, and so near to the gleaming loch, it does not look over-fascinating to see the lounging inhabitants move so listlessly about, with such a litter of blear-eyed bairns, or children (query, bare ones) muddling in every mess, while the heavy peat-reek keeps oozing through every opening but that of the chimney.

The hotel at Ardrishaig is of recent erection, handsomely got up, and large - apparently more so than the wants of the district would appear to demand. The village of Lochgilphead is about two miles distant from Ardrishaig Point, and has a considerable share of country trade, the soil around being good, and the proprietors enterprising, wealthy, improving, and resident...

The time needful for passing through the locks of the Crinan Canal is so great that tourists often avail themselves of the opportunity of stepping out upon terra firma, and the elevation of the towing path is so high above the waters of Loch-Gilp, that a view extensive, picturesque, and varied may be there had of the short loch below that of Loch-Fyne, whence it emanates, of the Cowal Hills to the east, those of Knapdale to the south, with the village of Lochgilphead and the pastoral slopes of Glassaray and Kilmartin beyond it in the distance. The mansion-house and policies of Sir John Ord, at Kilmorey, are finely placed, and a causeway for carriages leads through the shallow waters of Loch-Gilp, by which, at ebb-tide, his park gates may be approached, and the long detour by the village avoided. Farther on, and on the southern banks of the canal, stands Auchindarroch House, formerly called Oakfield, but

the name was altered to its present form, as it expresses in Gaelic the "Field of Oaks," and a Highland hall is well entitled to a Highland name, when it so graphically expresses the fine groves which encircle it. The banks of the canal are green and sloping; the road to right and left is wide and good; and the clumps of trees, natural or planted, tend much to beautify the route.

When nearly half the length of the Crinan Canal has been attained, and where a series of locks impede the progress of the tracked-barge or steamer, the tourist is tempted to step ashore, or, if ashore, to step to the Cairn-ban - in English, the White Rock Hotel: it is of recent erection, kept by Mr. M'Nab, and more than usually clean without, comfortable within, snug and un-pretending; the respectable-looking two-storied wing to the west having been placed there by the landlord for the special accommodation of his own family, as, although the most attentive and civil of hosts, he is not wholly dependant upon what he may be able to gather in from them. Tourists who may feel disposed to spend a day or two here, will find conveyances, rods, lines, and boats, wherewith to visit and to enjoy the scenery, the streams, and the lochs, which exist near this hotel in tempting abundance. The fishing in the river Add, to the west, is excellent; the distance to Loch-gilp on the east is short: but the special beauties and attractions of the district lie southward, and within the mountain-like barrier of South Knapdale; the distance from Cairn-ban Hotel to Loch-Swin being 9 miles, and the road good. Loch-Swin runs inland from the Sound of Jura for about 10 miles, and varies in breadth from a half to 2 miles, its course running in a north-east direction, nearly parallel with and but a short way from, the outer sea-coast: while from the inward loch are thrown out many little arms, which semi-peninsulate sections of the hills upon its shores, these impending heights being rugged, and richly clothed with coppice, birch, and alder trees. On an islet near the entrance of Loch-Swin is found an ancient chapel in singularly good preservation, and containing sculptured relics of great beauty: and about 2 miles from its entrance are extensive remains of an ancient fortress, raised there by Sueno, a Royal Dane, from whom Loch-Swin may have had its present name—Castle Swin, Loch-Swin. The road from Lochgilphead, by Cairn-ban, Bellanach, and Tay-

villich, is good, as it leads to the ferry at Keils, 8 miles to Lagg, in the island of Jura: and the parish of South Knapdale is one of the most fertile in Argyleshire.

Cairn-ban Locks being passed, those of Dunardie are next reached, the latter taking their name from the hill overhanging them; the banks on the right are moderate in height, occasionally shooting up into little hills, most picturesquely wooded; these past, the great Moss of Crinan comes in view, with the River Add, which drains it into the Sound of Jura. The moss is of great extent, and the fields which are year by year claimed from it by the enterprising and wealthy laird of Poltalloch, yield most remuneratively. The possessions of Mr. Malcolm of Poltalloch extend from the Crinan Moss and Duntroon Castle upwards through Nether-Lorn to Port-Sonachan, on Loch-Awe, and near to the base of the great Cruachan-Ben; while to shorten the route to his castle, a causeway has been formed through the moss, and the Add bridged by timber piles and beams, as may be well seen from the towing-path of the canal or the deck of the steamer. As the Crinan Canal trends westward, and approaches its outlet into the Sound of Jura, the hills become higher, more rugged and more wooded on the left; and the whinstone rocks through which its course has been blasted, jut out often into its waters, with jagged and threatening aspects, so much so, that were the light passenger barge, or the heavier steamer, to be carelessly steered, they would run risk of being impaled upon them, as did once happen to a steamer, but with little injury to her hull or alarm to her passengers. At Bellanach village is a reach or bay on the canal of considerable size, and the Highland hamlet which lies at its head seems warmly placed in the bosom of the hills which so closely environ it to east, south, and west, while the Canal, the River Add, the Moss of Crinan, the heights of Kilmartin and of Lorn extend away northwards, where Loch-Avich and Loch-Awe are embosomed. Some writers affect to see little to interest on the passage by the Crinan Canal; not so our Queen Victoria, who, when piloted through it in the autumn of 1847, expressed her admiration of the ever-changing scenery: and would the opinion of the writer of these tourist pages avail aught, he would add that he has traversed it often, and that by sunrise, at

noon, and by the clear moonlight, and has always looked on the scenery as most beautiful. At Port-Crinan, where the last lock discharges the waters, borrowed from Loch-Gilp, into the Sound of Jura, is a comfortable inn, and one at times pretty well patronised by those travellers who, coming by the heavy steamers, which usually pass the night in the canal, find their way to this house, and get berthed in for the night; or, "if bagmen they be," often make what is called "a night of it," sure of being "safely and surely" shipped aboard their boat when she gets "steam up" to hold her way northward. A lighthouse has been recently erected at Port-Crinan; and across the short loch of that name may be seen the castle of Duntroon, in ancient times the feudal residence of a powerful cadet of the clan Campbell, but now possessed by the laird of Poltalloch, who has spent largely in refitting, revivifying, and rendering comfortable the ancient apartments of the castle.

When clear of Port-Crinan, the steamer soon after enters the waters of Loch-Craignish, an arm of the sea, stretching from the Sound of Jura some miles inland in a N.E. direction, and though rarely now visited by the passing steamer, displaying scenery so rich and so varied, that it has been pronounced by Mac-culloch to be as superior in beauty to Loch - Lomond, as may be that reported "Queen of the Scottish Lochs" to the meanest of the larger lochs of Scotland. A cluster of islets, about twenty in number, extend through Loch - Craignish; many of them are mere rocks, but all are singularly picturesque in outline, and many bear oaks, knarled, ancient, and crowning their summits, or springing from the clefts of rocks, so exposed to the "withering seas," and fierce assail of "the western blast," that it would seem impossible to nurture into strength even shrubs of the hardiest or the tiniest size. The verdure on these islands is over fresh and lovely, and at the head of the loch stands the mansion of Barbreck, the patrimony of Rear Admiral Campbell. The parish of Craignish is 7 miles in extent by two in breadth, and is nearly a peninsula between the Loch of Craignish and the Sound of Jura; the surface is generally flat, the soil apparently fertile, but the situation is so exposed that few crops either reach maturity, or are saved when they become ripe...

Between the point of Craignish and an islet near it lies the course of the steamer, and the rocks on either hand are here so precipitous, and the channel between them so deep, that the narrow passage has been named by the Gael the Dorris-more – 'the Great Door.'

When the point of Craignish has been passed, the view seaward becomes very grand; embracing the Sound of Jura, 'Jura's rugged shores;' the mountains, named the Paps of Jura, 'and Scarba's isle, whose tortured shore still rings to Corryvrechan's roar,' and 'lovely Colonsay,' rise into view. Jura is an island lying off South Knapdale, connected with the mainland by the Keils Ferry on Loch-Swin, as before noticed; and on its southern extremity, separated from 'verdant' Islay by a narrow strait; and at its northern point, by a narrow sound, in which boils the "Corryvrechan's whirl-pool rude".

## **THE FIGHT BETWEEN BRAN AND FOIR**

Scot an Sgeulaiche

For those who have "ordnance survey Gàidhlig", you'll know that behind almost every local place name there is a Tale. The ancient Irish Celtic mind (from whom we Scots draw our own cultural psyche) is very influenced by *symbolology*. Almost all the ancient Irish legends and folk Tales are a glossary of Celtic Symbols. In the following Tale, much is made of the An Cù Dubh – The Black Dog – a common character in West Coast Scotland's Tales. A number of the of the principle Irish demigods had names derived from Cù – dog: Cuchulain ("Hound of Culan"), the great warrior boy, and the later epoch hero and his successor, Fionn MacCumhal (pronounced Coo-ahl, perhaps a pun on Cù – "Coo"), with his two famous hunting hounds, Bran and Sgoilean, who were in fact his cousins. To ascribe meanings to ancient symbols is not a precise art, but suffice to say that the character of the the Black Dog is equivalent to Male Intuition and Spiritual Helper, or sometimes, internal tanist / predator / rival, as in this Tale. These Tales were used for teaching adults complex self-healing tools. Unfortunately, pieces of the plot

were often changed by tellers and editors who didn't understand the purpose of the Tales, so many of them are incomplete or garbled. This is often the case with Scottish versions, but they are interesting and useable nonetheless.

This Tale also shows the Gàidhlig love for onomastic Tales – those which explain the names of places. The effect of these Tales is to make the inhabitants of the land deeply connected to it in a cultural and spiritual way.

### **The Fight between Bran and Foir or For \***

The following is an extract from Lord Archibald Campbell's 'Waifs and Strays of Celtic Tradition', Volume 1, Argyllshire Series, published by David Nutt, 1889.

\* Campbell of Islay in *Leabhar na Feinne* says the name of the black dog, "For", means literally a "dog who would go far and near to get venison and prey for himself"- A 'forradh na leacainn (ranging the hillside for food).

The black dog, Foir, was the brother of Bran, the far-famed hound of Fionn. Foir was taken early from his dam, and was afterwards nurtured by a band of fair women, who acted as his nurses. He grew up into a handsome hound, which had no equal, in the chase or in fight, in the distant North. His owner, Eubhan Oisein, the black-haired, red-cheeked, fair-skinned young Prince Innis Torc (Orkney ?), was proud, as well he might be, of his unrivalled hound. Having no further victories to win in the North, his master determined to try him against the strongest dogs in the packs of the Feinne. He left home, descended by Lochawe, and entered Craignish through Glen Doan. Before his arrival, the Feinne, after spending the day in the chase, encamped for the night in the upper end of Craignish. Next day Fionn arose before sunrise, and saw a young man, wrapped in a red mantle and leading a black dog, approaching towards him at a rapid pace.

The stranger soon drew near, and at once declared his object in coming. He wanted a dogfight, and so impatient was he to have it, and so restless by reason of his impatience, that he suffered not his

shadow to dwell a moment in one spot. Fifty of the best hounds of the Feinne were slipped at last, but the black dog killed them all one by one. A second and then a third fifty were uncoupled, but the strange dog disposed of them as easily as he did of the first.

Fionn now saw that all the dogs of the Feinne were in serious danger of being annihilated, and therefore he turned round and cast an angry look on his own great dog Bran. In a moment Bran's hair stood on end, his eyes darted fire, and he leaped the full length of his golden chain in his eagerness for the fight. But something else besides the casting of an angry look was still to be done to rouse the fierce hound's temper to its highest pitch. He was placed nose to nose with his rival, and then his golden chain was unclasped. The two hounds, brothers by blood, but now champions on opposite sides, at once closed in deadly fight.

The contest lasted from morning to evening, and victory remained, almost to the close, uncertain; but in the end Bran vanquished Foir, and by killing the latter, amply revenged the death of the three fifties. The Feinne buried their own dogs, and the stranger, with a sore heart, laid his black hound in the narrow clay bed.

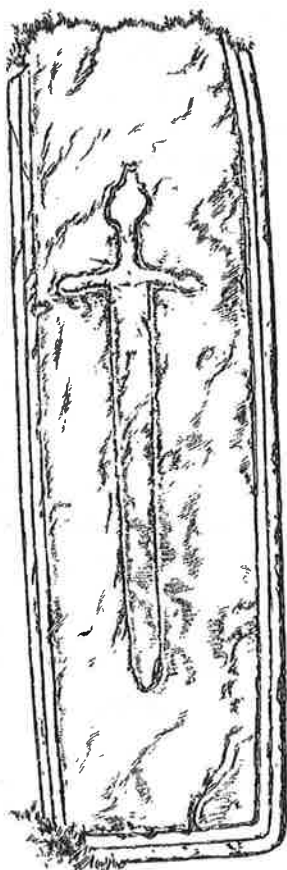
This great dog-fight, so celebrated in Gaelic lore, is said to have been fought at Lergychony, in Craignish. It is further said that the place was called Learg-a-chomnìmh, or the "Plateau of Meeting", because it was there the two hounds met in fight. There are, of course, many other places in the Highlands which claim the honour of being the scene of this legendary contest. Among these is Dunmore, on West Loch Tarbert, with its Dun-a-choin-Duibh, where the dead hounds of the Feinne are said to have been buried.

Editor's note. We are indebted to the late Alan Campbell of Glen Feochan who provided us with this extract.

## **SWORD MOTIFS ON MEDIEVAL GRAVESLABS**

Fiona Campbell Byatt

When visiting the early medieval graveyards in Mid Argyll many people will have been surprised by the graveslabs incised with a sword and no other symbol. Most graveslabs of the thirteenth and



fourteenth centuries have a number of carvings; figures of knights, inscriptions and sea galleys are common. But the graveslabs that concern this present article have only a single-handed sword incised on them. Many examples can be seen in Kilmartin graveyard, both in the specially erected shelter and still lying flat on the ground. There are also several examples near Kilmartin, in the graveyards of Kilmichael Glassary, Kirkton or Kilmarie Chapel near Ardfarn; at Keils and Kilmory, and further afield at Kilberry and on the islands of Gigha and Islay.

So what can we learn about them? The sword carved is a single-handed weapon as opposed to the larger and heavier claymore. The sword designs vary. The sword blade is usually tapered with no scabbard, although there is no way of telling how finely their blades were forged. The pommel has different shapes: some are plain round knobs; some are carved like a clamshell; others are round with a protruding knob (the tang button). The quillons, or hand guards, can be straight or

carved downwards.

In the Bronze Age swords were thrown into lochs or driven into bogs as votive offerings; three bronze swords were found on the island of Shuna in 1875 projecting vertically from the peat with the

sword point sticking down. Swords also had names, such as the sword of Fionn, chief of the Feiné, of legendary fame. Strangely, there does not appear to have been a Guild that included sword-makers until 1648 when a royal charter was issued at Stirling. This statute refers to 'byknyves, sowrds, grithand sowrds with hilt and plummet'. In general, a sword belonged to someone of standing and wealth and may well have been imported from the Continent and then guarded carefully. Hereditary armourers are known in Argyll from charters and other documents. The Lords of the Isles had the families of MacNabs and MacEachern as their armourers and blacksmiths.

Various ideas have been put forward as to the possible significance of the sword motifs found on these graveslabs.



1. The sword may denote a knight or *dhuine vasail*, Gaelic for gentleman, or
2. a man-at-arms or soldier;
3. it could have been used as a 'family' symbol;
4. it could denote a 'male' burial.

The stone slabs themselves have a decorated or chamfered edge. On some of the slabs, there is interlacing foliage and on some a square-ended cross or cross *patté* (a cross with flared arms of equal length). Others include other symbols (shears, etc.), or stylised animals.

Dr David Caldwell told me he had just been looking at graveslabs in Mid Argyll with some experts on stone and quarry analysis. They hoped to work out where the actual stone used had been quarried and carved. The quarry at Doide is the nearest source.

Early medieval European stone slabs are known to have been painted. The incised pattern was filled with pitch and other colours. Matthew Paris illustrated the yellow and green painted lid of a

French bishop's coffin in his *Historia Anglorum* (c. 1250-59) and painted graveslabs have been found in France with a design of lilies and roses.

Various historical events of the thirteenth century could have a bearing on our subject. It was the time of the Crusades and we know two of the military Orders created then were the Knights Templar and the Knights of Saint John of Jerusalem. Both these orders had Scottish members and property in Scotland dating back to the time of David I (1084-1153). The Knights Templar left the Holy Land after the fall of Acre in 1291 and returned to Western Europe, mainly to France. There, they became immensely powerful and lent money to the royal house of France and others. Philip IV owed the Order a vast sum and he finally persuaded the pope to arrest the knights in order to fall heir to their wealth and treasure. Their arrest was arranged for Friday, 13th October 1307, a date which gave rise to the idea of Friday 13th being unlucky. A number of knights were forewarned and managed to escape to Portugal and Scotland. Robert the Bruce had been excommunicated after he had murdered the Red Comyn in church and so Scotland was a country where the pope had no authority.

Portugal also had existing Templar establishments prior to 1307. However, the Portuguese king, Denis I (1279-1325), quickly re-christened the order as the *Ordem do Christo*, thus effectively sheltering them from papal attack. Many knights joined the new order which built beautiful buildings and continued to flourish. In 1420 Prince Henry the Navigator was Grand Master and the wealth of the order was used to finance the Portuguese discoveries of Africa, India and finally China and Japan. Having lived in Portugal for some years, I have seen graveslabs incised with a sword in a Templar chapel in Palmela south of Lisbon, and these too are without inscriptions or any indication of ownership.

The Templars in Scotland have left few records and most of what we know is based on legend and myth. One tradition suggests that they were the group of mounted knights who swung the Battle of Bannockburn in Bruce's favour. Another tradition suggests that they left France and sailed past Ireland and up the Scottish coast, landing near Kilmartin. The graveslabs incised with the single-

handed sword may have been their memorials. But no proof has yet been found to substantiate any of this.



So we are left with a mystery. Graveslabs were expensive and only used for people of standing. Many have lettering, Christian symbols, foliage, galleys and other indications of occupation and ownership. Could the simple slabs with only a single sword incised on them have been a sort of family crest, perhaps each generation using the same symbol? We know of a large

number in this beautiful corner of Mid Argyll. There is one in Morayshire and perhaps three in the Edinburgh area. Ian Fisher also told me of one recently found in Inchmarnoch and others may yet come to light.

Meanwhile, we are left to wonder and to make sure we care for the surviving slabs so that future generations may also study the mystery attached to them.

### Illustrations

P.16 Captain T.P.White R.E. – Archaeological Sketches Of Argyll, slab at Kilchattan, Isle of Gigha

P.17 Slab at Kirkton Chapel near Ardfern

P.19 So-called Templar Stone at Curry (Currie) Church, Edinburgh

## **KEILLISLEAT (CAOLISLEAT)**

Ian Macdonald

The name is first found in the late 15<sup>th</sup> Century when John, Lord of the Isles, appalled by the behaviour of his son Angus Og, who had committed "barbarous acts" against the adherents of the Earl of Argyll, surrendered 200 merklands between the "Waters of the Add" and the "Fox Burn" (Allt-na-sionnach) to the Earl.

The derivation is from two Gaelic words: "Caolas", a sound or strait; and "leath", half. It means the lands lying between the Sound of Jura and West Loch Tarbert and is shown on a very early map used for nautical surveying. On this map it is spelt "Caolisleat" and covered a large area of Kilberry Parish down to Ardpatrik Point.

These lands were in possession of the McNeills of Ardmeanish who were progenitors of the McNeills of Arichonan in North Knapdale Parish.

The story of the Battle of Lergnahension between the McNeills, led by Donald Odhar McNeill (Dun Donal), with the McIvor Campbells of Craignish, there resulting in the defeat of the latter at Loch Stornua, is preserved in old records of Kilcalmonell and Kilberry Church (the two parishes were united before 1560 and the union lasted until 1965). The McIvor Campbell raiders were buried where the present burial ground lies on the south side of Leargnahension Water, including the two who escaped from the battle site but were chased and killed on Ormsary lands as they fled north.

According to local tradition the first burial there was of a little girl who was seized by a prowling wolf. At the time she was on the harvest field of the farm of Bloomfield east of the present-day Kilberry Castle. The wolf was forced to give her up above Breckvar but she was badly injured and later died. Her rescuers decided not to return her to the grieving parents at Kilberry so she was buried at Lergnahension.



## **THE VICTORIAN HIGHWAY CODE**

Murdo Macdonald

Speed cameras and double yellow lines may not have been around in the 1840s but the Victorian road user in Argyllshire still had to observe the equivalent of our Highway Code. A long series of road offences is specified in section 61 of the Argyllshire Roads Act 1843. Speeding ("*driving furiously*"), bad parking ("*obstructing thoroughfares*") and under-age driving ("*children not to drive carts*") were all dealt with. Hanging fishing nets or washing too near the road where they might startle horses was forbidden, as was the playing shinty and football on the road.

What follows is a list of people brought before the Justices of the Peace for offences committed in the year 1844/45. The list is engrossed in the Minute Book of the South Argyll District Road Trustees {Ref. no. CA/2/9/1} in Argyll & Bute Council Archives.

### **List of the Offences against the Road Act brought before Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace with the amount of Fine imposed on each in the year ending 1<sup>st</sup> February 1845**

(Editor's note - what follows is a list of offenders plus offences plus fines. All took place between 2 March and 5 November).

Mrs Isobel McFadyen, Add Bridge - Allowing her sow to go at large on the Road - No fine

Coll MacLachlan, Lochgilphead - Throwing stones at and breaking a notice Board - 10 s

Donald MacLachlan, Lochgilphead - Throwing stones at and breaking a notice Board - 15 s

Duncan macArthur, Lochgilphead - Driving his cart furiously - 10 s

Colin Dawson, Ardrishaig - Allowing his mare to go at large on the Road - 2 s

John McArthur, Ardrishaig - Allowing his mare to go at large on the Road - 2 s

Archibald Pursell, Lochgilphead - Leaving Water Stoups on Public Road - 4 s

Mrs Isabella McBrayen, Lochgilphead - Throwing Dirty Water on the Road - 2 s 6  
 Archibald McTavish, Carrick - Driving his horse and cart with one rein - 2 s 6  
 Duncan MacTavish, Aird - Not having name on cart - 2 s 6  
 Hugh MacTavish, Aird - Not having name on cart - 2 s 6  
 Neil Gilchrist, Duncholgin - Having cart tilted by roadside - No fine  
 Malcolm MacLellan, Duncholgin - Not having name on cart - 2 s 6  
 Dun. Crawford, Lochgilphead - Horse grazing on roadside - 5 s  
 Hugh McTavish - Horse grazing on roadside - 5 s  
 Hugh Dally - Horse grazing on roadsid- 5 s  
 D. Gillies, Auchnaceurach - Leaving Horse and Cart on Road - 4 s  
 Peter Jackson, Craigentervemore - Having boy under 14 years driving- No fine  
 John MacEwan, Ardrishaig; John Campbell, Ardrishaig; William Bruce Jun. Ardrishaig - Having poles and nets within 30 feet of Centre of Road - No fine  
 Archibald Kerr, carter, Lochgilphead - Having his horse grazing by road-side - 5 s  
 Kenneth MacLachlan, Uilla - No name on cart - 7s  
 Alexander MacNair, Tibertich - Driving with single rein - 2s 6  
 Duncan MacVean, Oib - Horse pasturing on Roadside  
 Neill MacIntyre, Burnt Island - No name on cart and driving with single rein - 2s 6  
 Malcolm Fisher, Barnagad - Horse pasturing on road-side - 2s 6  
 Archibald McCallum, Baranlongart - Cart without name and driving with single rein - 5s  
 Alexander McGilp, Baracheal - No name on cart - 2s 6  
 Cuthbert Jobbling, Auchanellan - No name on cart and driving with single rein - 5s  
 James Buchanan, Ford - No name on cart and driving with single rein  
 Neill Malcolm Esquire - Cart from Ardrishaig Hotel without name - 5s  
 Neill Malcolm Esquire - Cart from Ballymore having no name - 5s  
 Neill Malcolm Esquire - Cart from Ardrishaig Hotel no name - 5s  
 John Turner, Tayvallich; Dun. McLarty, Silvercraigs - Not having name on cart - 5s/2s 6  
 Donald MacPherson, Lochgilphead - No name on cart and driving with single rein - 5s  
 Duncan McTavish, Lochgilphead; A. Montgomery - No name on cart- 5s

Malcolm McArthur, Dunamuck - Leaving his horse and cart  
 unattended - 5s  
 Angus Smith, Ford, carrier - Sleeping in his cart and driving with  
 single rein  
 John McMillan, Ardrishaig - Throwing Dirty Water on the Road  
 (withdrawn)  
 Mrs Mary McKellar or Gilchrist, Ardrishaig; Mrs John MacPherson;  
 Mrs Daniel McNaught - Throwing dirty water on the road - 2s 6  
 Archibald Campbell, Scotnish - Having his horse unyoked tied to the  
 cart - No fine  
 Archibald McGregor, Arinafadmore - Having his horse unyoked tied  
 to the cart - No fine  
 Archibald Gillies, Rasslie - Having his horse unyoked tied to the cart  
 - 5 s  
 Duncan McCallum, Ballimainoch - Having wire etc. and lying on the  
 Road - No fine  
 James McAlpine, Kirnan - Strath - Having his cart unyoked on the  
 roadside - No fine  
 Mary Brown, Bellanoch - Obstructing the road with hay - No fine  
 Neil McCallum, Cairnbaan - His cow grazing by the Roadside - 5 s  
 Hugh MacVean Bellanoch - Having timber on his cart too far from  
 the horse - No fine  
 John & Neil McTavish, Duncholgin - Having boy under 14 driving a  
 cart - No fine  
 John Leitch, Upper Kames - Having a dog which annoyed travellers -  
 2 s 6  
 Archibald Walter, Gortonronach - Same offence but not proved - No  
 fine  
 Hugh McTavish, Lochgilphead - For Obstructing Peter Hugh's cart  
 William Blackwood, Woodlands - Leaving cart on the road - No fine  
 William Blackwood, Woodlands - Having a gate hung upon the road  
 - 5 s  
 Hugh Carmichael, Ardrishaig - No name on cart - 2 s  
 Alexander MacGilp, Lochgilphead - His cow grazing on the Roadside  
 not proved - No fine  
 Dond McTavish, Lochgilphead - His cow grazing on the Roadside not  
 proved - No fine  
 Neil Mccoll, Ford - Having his pig digging up the Road - 2 s 6

Mrs Gillies, Ford - Having her pig digging up the Road - 2 s 6  
John Sinclair, Ford; Donald Campbell, Ford; Dugald Ferguson -  
Having his pig digging up the Road - 2 s 6  
Patrick Hughes, Lochgilphead - Name not properly on cart - No fine  
J. McKellar - Trespassing on Kilmory ½ of 16/8 - 8 s 4  
W. A. McKellar, Brainfeorline - Having his horse standing on  
footpath - 5 s  
Archibald McIntyre, Knap - Having his horse standing on footpath -  
2 s 6

## **TARBERT TO TARBERT – AND BEYOND**

Rebecca Pine

This year the now established summer Island exploration / holiday took some sixteen members of the Association (plus a dog), from Tarbert, Argyll - and other parts of the County - to Tarbert, Harris - and beyond ! By various routes and timings we all came together at the Ferry Terminal at Uig, on Skye, for the crossing to Harris, on a day of 'Sunshine and Showers' so beloved of the weather-forecasters. Perhaps a little less appreciated by Mary, Brenda and Creena who had arrived ahead of the others and gone off on a wet-goose chase in search of a mist shrouded castle (still to be identified) and necessitating an early change of clothing on the waterfront. Douglas and Val, our doughty organisers, had taken a few days on Skye on their journey in. Jean and Rebecca had stayed overnight on Loch Duich on the way, and by various routes we were joined by Sona and Dorothy, Jessie, Sheena and Fred (with his small People Carrier), Norman, Morag and Alison, and Crista (with Zak of the four-legged variety). Here we felt the mission truly began.

We boarded the aptly named "Hebrides" at 2.00pm and had a good smooth crossing to the Outer Isles. We drove in convoy over the moonscape of middle Harris down to our headquarters for the week, the Bunk House at Leverburgh (or An-tob as it now prefers to be called) where most of us would subsequently eat our evening meals, though some of us were billeted out at nearby B & B establishments due to the lay out of the accommodation units at HQ. The Bunk House is an all-wooden building of some 3 years functioning, warm and comfortable but with some stylistic twists reminiscent of the 'Hunt for Red October', Douglas & Val entering their sleeping quarters via a typical submarine "water-tight" door!

Our first day was a brilliantly sunny affair and also perhaps the most crowded with activity of our whole week. Our starting destination was the village of Northton in the South West of the Island where two outstanding new buildings have been erected. The first of these is a study / visitor / exhibition centre called Seallam, where we congregated to hear an excellent talk by Bill Lawson, writer and local resident, on the Geological and Genealogical History of the Outer Hebrides from the laying of the gneiss to the present day (in 20 minutes !); and to take in the very user-friendly permanent exhibition supporting his talk. The exhibition is thoughtfully laid out not only at 'adult' height, but with items at a lower level designed to catch the interest of the younger (and smaller) generations.

We then moved along to the new MacGillivray centre named in honour of a local naturalist and philanthropist, and providing a parking area with shelter, toilet facilities and its own small exhibition area. From here we walked over the machair (which extends northwards towards the spectacular sandy bays and salt marshes as far as Luskentyre) but to the southerly side, where the ground rose to a higher level above equally fine sandy bays, and led us out to the ruins of Rudh An Teampuill, an ancient chapel high above the shore on Chaiparal, once belonging to the MacLeods. Our lunch was accompanied by sightings of many interesting birds including a solitary gannet diving spectacularly for his lunch, and a distant minke whale.

In the mid afternoon we all decamped down to Rodel at the southern tip of Harris to explore the magnificent St.Clement's Church. Dating from the 1520's, although there are references to Christian activity on the site from at least the ninth Century, the building is variously and accurately described as an ecclesiastical jewel and the most impressive structure of its kind on the west of Scotland. Second only in size to Iona Abbey the inside includes some fine carved panels, one perhaps representing St.Clement himself. The most ornate and remarkably well preserved, however, is the tomb of Alexander MacLeod of Harris, with some twenty carved scenes. The tower is a challenge to the climber. Not all of our party were up to it, and some who did climb found it an even greater challenge coming down! The cover view of the Church from the north east is taken from a sketch I did that afternoon. On the second day seven of our party opted for the long haul to the north west of Lewis to take in the stones of Callanish. This particular monument is so well known in picture and story that it does not require any further description here. It

is, of course as profoundly inspiring as its reputation, and always somehow bigger than you expect however many times you visit it.

In the vicinity, and equally surprising in its size is Dun Carloway, one of Scotland's finest surviving Iron Age brochs. Built on a naturally defensible site it towers at its highest to some 13 metres above its naturally rocky base. The internal stone structure lends itself to a fierce imagination as to the living conditions, and the excellent visitor centre at the entrance to the site contrives to add sounds and smells to that picture ! Along the coast, on the shores at the extremity of the Island of Bernera, the group also visited another Iron Age settlement only rediscovered after a severe storm in the last century. This too has an excellent presentation in the form of a reconstruction of an Iron Age roundhouse giving a very real insight into the way of life in that period.

Meanwhile others in the party took to the north west of Harris, initially in search of a Tweed shop at Luskentyre, now famously producing an impossible amount of cloth, and subsequently to Huishnish. This took us past the old whaling station set up by Lord Leverhulme at Bunavoneader, and through the grounds of Amhinsuidhe Castle, a still-lived-in Victorian pile. At the far end of the road the misty conditions which had prevailed lifted like magic and we spent a pleasant lunchtime on the isthmus across from the small island of Scarp. Dorothy managed to engage in conversation with one of the last residents of Scarp prior to its final clearance in the mid-20th Century. It was, it seems, decided to bring the last residents back to the main Island at that time because of the treacherous nature of the winter crossing. That evening we all drove up to Tarbert to hear Bill Lawson give another talk and slide show, touching largely on several of the places we had just visited.

Our next 'organised' event was a trip around the smaller islets close to Leverburgh in a little six-seater boat called "Petrel" skippered by Andrew Johnson, a local naturalist with a keen knowledge of the bird and sea life around. We drew into the natural harbour of the isle of Ensay, once farmed by the proprietors of the B & B at which Jean and I were staying, and in the course of our trip saw at least fifteen varieties of sea bird, as well as grey and common seals, at close quarters. Our trip was completed in more fortunate weather than the second sailing, but we believe they still enjoyed it!

During the rest of our stay on that and subsequent days, we largely followed our own directions and itineraries, including walks on the glorious sands of the west-facing shores and drives up and down (very up and down !) the 'Golden Road' that follows all the indentations of the

eastern side of the island. Known as the Golden Road largely because of the cost of construction it is none the less fascinating for the massive amounts of gravel which nearly became the subject of an enormous quarry project, and for the tiny harbours which feature in almost every inlet. Fascinating also for the sight of tame llamas as well as whooper swans at the roadside.

On the Friday night we congregated at the Anchorage Restaurant on the quayside for our last meal together. Having bonded happily over the week, having laid down a marker for Orkney in 2005, and before saying our goodbyes, I gave the party a summary of our activities in the form of the following:

### **The Rolling *Scottish* Road**

Before the Roman came to Rye, or Druid to Stonehenge  
The rolling *Scottish* drunkard was plotting his revenge  
He rolled a road to Oban from the depths of mid-argyll  
And he rolled it even tighter to Fort William and Kyle  
He made himself a Toll House and he built himself a Brig  
Then he rolled another highway round the Cuillins to Uig  
And where there were no roadworks the road was single track  
The day we went to Leverburgh, by way of Caley-Mac.

The History of Harris from the laying of the Gneiss  
To the present day, was dealt with by Bill Lawson – in a trice –  
At Seallam. Then from Northton, with the sun across the strand  
We followed all the daisy roads that led us to the strand  
There were Lapwings on the machair, there were Pipers on the shore  
And around the ancient Tempuill there were Irises galore  
There were whales 'twixt us and Pabbay, but scarce a passing cloud  
The day we went to Chaiparal, by way of the Macleod.

The rain, they say, must follow sun, and follow it – it did!  
When seven jumped in Fred's wee bus and someone closed the lid  
The road to ruin, so they say, is paved with good intent  
And near the ruins, sure enough, the shock absorbers went!  
Meanwhile the four in comfort went to seek out Harris Tweed  
Then took the bends to Huishnish – at rather gentler speed  
The hens were on the highway and the Bulls were in the byre  
The day we went to Callanish by way of Luskentyre.

And takes his rolling passengers in multiples of five,  
He's straighter in the water, but still goes up and down  
Yet there's little need for highway where there isn't any town  
Where the seals are Grey and Common, and the Cormorant and Shag  
And the Arctic Tern are turn about, and Geese are all Grey Lag  
But back on land to each their own we rolled in naval style  
The day we went to Horgabost, by way of Ensay Isle.

Now if the *English* drunkard should attempt the Golden Road  
He'll find his balance tested and his brain in overload  
Yet Quidinish and Stockinish and Flodebay and Cluer  
Are gems among the gravel pits along the road, for sure,  
To St. Clement's Church at Rodel. But the west is Golden Sand  
And the turquoise seas surround them, and the daisies fill the strand  
We'll paint our own wee picture – and we'll give ourselves a pinch  
The day we go to Paradise, by way of Little Minch.

#### **Bird list - Harris 2004 – supplied by Pat Barker**

Great Northern Diver, fulmar, Manx shearwater, gannet, cormorant, shag, heron, greylag goose, shelduck, mallard, tufted duck, common eider, red-breasted merganser, common buzzard, golden eagle, corncrake, oyster catcher, ringed plover, golden plover, lapwing, dunlin, snipe, curlew, common redshank, common sandpiper, arctic skua, black headed gull, common gull, herring gull, greater blackbacked gull kittiwake, common tern, arctic tern, guillemot, black guillemot, razor bill, puffin, rock dove, wood pigeon, collared dove, cuckoo, shore lark, meadow pipit, rock pipit pied wagtail, wheatear, blackbird, song thrush, carrion/hooded crow, raven, common starling, house sparrow, goldfinch, linnet.

#### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary dinner, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2005**

50 places have been booked and will be allocated on a first come first booked basis. Please let Dr. Douglas Barker know by letter or email as soon as possible if you wish to come. Address: Barfad Farm, Tarbert (Loch Fyne), Argyll PA29 6YH; email: dr\_douglas\_c\_barker@hotmail.com (note underlines not hyphens in address). Telephone bookings will regrettably not be accepted.

## Office bearers

President	Dave Batty. Correspondence to Mr. Batty at Kirnan Farm, Kilmichael Glassary PA31 8QL
Vice-president	John Halliday
Membership/ Publications Secretary	Mrs. Marina Cowham 10 Dunadd View Kilmichael Glassary Lochghilphead PA31 8QA Tel. 01546 606 526
Organising Secretary	Scot An Sgeulaiche
Minutes Secretary	Sharon Webb
Hon. Treasurer	Miss Margaret McVicar Finbracken, 22 Dunmor Avenue Lochgilphead PA31 8TP
Committee	Douglas Barker, Maureen Meachan, Cat Chisholm, Brenda Elias, Pat Doughty

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

Editor: Edward Tyler, Daisy Cottage, Big Brae, Tarbert PA29 6UQ. Tel. 01880 820656.

Although the 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 forbears. Requests should be sent to the Editor, should give as much detail as possible, and should be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope for reply.