

The

# KIST 95



Wild Garlic - creamh fiadhaich - *Allium ursinum*

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# Editorial

In this issue we have John Dymont's account of NHASMA's last summer outing to the Black Isle and you can find an itinerary of NHASMA events planned for this year on page 41. We also have to report the sad news on the death of Phil Holt who for many years was membership secretary of NHASMA.

Dave and Pat Batty have produced articles on uncommon coastal plants in Argyll and, given the weather we have just had, a rather apt article on Arctic alpines.

Trevor Cowie has kindly provided us with an update on the Coll Hoard and gives us some insights into what he thinks their associated carbon dates tell us about their deposition in a wet or boggy place in the Bronze Age.

NHASMA's summer trip included a visit to Cawdor Castle and by coincidence this issue has an article about the events surrounding the murder of the 11<sup>th</sup> Thane of Cawdor in late 16<sup>th</sup> century Argyll. I was going to subtitle this a 'Game of Thanes', but for those of you who haven't indulged in the popular TV series, The Game of Thrones, the rather poor pun may have passed you by. However, our Argyll story, apart from the lack of Dragons, competes with the TV programme on many fronts containing high power politics, local family rivalries, battles, assassinations and supernatural forces and being for the most part true is, I think, all the more fascinating.

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*Please email any articles you wish to be considered for publication in the Kist to Roddy Regan at [roddy@kilmartin.org](mailto:roddy@kilmartin.org).*

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We are now officially in spring and for me one plant that encapsulates this time of year is wild garlic which is both a great flavouring and a beautiful plant. A carbonised bulb of wild garlic was found in occupation deposits at the Fairy Knowe, an Iron Age fort in Stirlingshire, suggesting it was used as food flavouring in this period. It was also widely used in the Highlands to treat kidney stones. The background design on the cover is from a

motif on the rock art panel at Glasvaar. – *Roddy Regan*

# NHASMA in the Black Isle

**June 2017**

**John Dymont**

The Black Isle is not an island at all, but a peninsula jutting out in a north easterly direction just to the north of Inverness separating the Beaully Firth and Moray Firth on its south side from the Cromarty Firth and Cromarty Bay on its north side. It derived its customary name from the fact that, since snow does not lie in winter, the promontory looks black while the surrounding country is white.

We arrived at Big Sky Lodges around 3pm on the Saturday afternoon. We soon settled ourselves into Red Kite Lodge, one of several self-catering chalets that were to accommodate the group for the week. The overall opinion regarding the quality of the facilities and outlook provided in the accommodation was positive and favourable.

Our first day outing on the Sunday found the majority setting off early for Chanonry Point, a recognised location for dolphin viewing. Chanonry Point is situated at a narrowing of the Moray Firth where it directly faces Fort George on the south side of the channel, forming a relatively narrow gap of a few hundred yards where strong tidal currents are apparent. However, on this occasion the dolphins clearly had other matters to attend to. The viewing site had recently been extensively developed (courtesy of an EU grant), viz. stone work picnic tables with very substantial histogram shaped timber structures separating the different areas of the site. Despite the early morning sunshine the wind at the Point was chilly to say the least, so the party soon moved on to explore Fairy Glen, just to the west of Rosemarkie.



Dippers at the waterfall

Fairy Glen is a walk up a sheltered wooded valley beside a stream in a tree lined shady location. It became a little strenuous toward the head of the glen, with wet and sometimes slippery tree roots and rocks. Although there were bridges and steps in places the pathway and adjoining forest had an unmanaged

air about them. At the top end of the walk a dipper and grey wagtails were seen close around a waterfall. It was a 'there and back' walk, and as had been the case with the dolphins, of fairies, unfortunately, there were none.

The day's itinerary next took us to view the feeding of the Tollie Red Kites at 2.30 pm. Arriving well in advance at the RSPB lounge we waited an hour out of the rain and eventually a young lady volunteer arrived to do the business. The feeding arrangements were similar to those obtaining at the Bellymack Hill Farm feeding station in Galloway (which the group visited in 2016). The food, i.e. scraps of meat, were dispensed onto a table set up inside a fenced enclosure in a field, where it could be viewed from the lounge. About a dozen red kites wheeled and swooped around the enclosure, uplifting scraps on the wing. Meanwhile a similar number of seagulls joined in the feast - but their technique was different - they took their share by alighting on the table and helping themselves before flying off.



From Red Kites to waterfalls - we visited the Falls of Rogie. A short walk from the car park took us to the wobbly suspension bridge, from where there were spectacular views of the falls.

The following day our first stop was at an apparently well-known local feature - the Cloutie Well. We stopped at a pull-in in the forest to inspect a vast number of rags and discarded clothing tied to trees and bushes. There was evidence of a small spring nearby. According to Wikipedia:

*'In Scotland by the village on Munloch, on the A832, is a cloutie well at an ancient spring dedicated to Saint Curetán, where rags are still hung on the surrounding bushes and trees. Here the well was once thought to have had the power to cure sick children who were left there overnight. Craigie Well at Avoch on the Black Isle has both offerings of coins and clouties. Rags, wool and human hair were also used as charms against sorcery, and as tokens of penance or fulfilment of a vow'.*

Some of us felt that this tradition could well be allowed to lapse without great loss to the conservation of Pictish culture.

Proceeding to the Udale Bay RSPB bird hide, we saw and heard a number of wading species. The hide was well set up to shelter all of us from the adverse weather and had many interesting and highly informative posters on bird identification.

Cromarty Town, right at the end of the peninsula/promontory, looks out over that part of the Cromarty Firth known as Nigg Bay. This has become a maritime parking lot for dormant oil rigs. The main objective of the visit to Cromarty was to have a boat ride in the expectation of seeing dolphins, seabirds and maybe even a whale. The numbers required us to be divided into two groups. As it happened one group saw dolphins while the rest

had to be content with oilrigs and seabird colonies. The ride, steered by an expert, was exciting enough for all of us.

The Hugh Miller Cottage and house (NTS) in Cromarty is a museum that was well worth the visit. Hugh Miller was an eminent fossil hunter and geologist active in the first half of the 19th century. He was also known as a writer, stone mason, banker and news editor on a noted Edinburgh news sheet. He found difficulty reconciling his geologic knowledge with current church teachings.

On Tuesday morning our first stop was at another RSPB hide near Nigg, which looked out over a marshy area at the north end of Nigg Bay. This turned out to be another well-appointed hide similar to the Udale one. Unfortunately the adverse weather made bird viewing very difficult - not least because the birds seemed to have copied ourselves by having gone to roost out of sight.

Our convoy proceeded to Cadboll to look at a Pictish standing stone which was carved in sandstone around 800 AD. It was made in the vicinity of the village of Hilton of Cadboll. The stone on the site has been totally reconstructed by Barry Grove and the original can be found in the National Museum of Scotland.



A well-known NHASMA member

Our next stop was the unique Tarbat Discovery Centre at Portmahomack. The material within this Centre, which is constructed within a disused church, was supremely well presented. There was comprehensive information on Pictish

Scotland, both historical and archaeological. To quote their website:

*'Pictish art is acknowledged as some of the most beautiful in the world and is admired and studied by scholars world-wide. The many carved stones and cross-slabs they left behind are as enigmatic as they are beautiful. They are covered in mysterious symbols, such as the crescent and v-rod, the double disc and z-rod, mythical beasts and intricate scrolls'*

Homewards we went via Strathpeffer restored railway station, which incorporates a childhood museum, a café and various other small businesses.



The following day we set off at 9.30 for Culloden Battle site. The site is entered through a visitor centre from where it is fully accessible. The battlefield is marked out with

display plaques noting the exact location of various specific events during the course of the battle. The exhibition within the visitor centre shows poster diaries of the events leading up to the battle separately for the two sides, with examples of weapons and equipment in use at the time. There is a separate surround sound and vision theatre showing film of a re-enactment of the battle itself. This latter created a vivid impression of the sheer brutality of the engagement.

Close by the Culloden site lie the Clava Cairns. These are about 4,000 years old and were built to house the dead. The cemetery remained a sacred place in the landscape for millennia, and provides many clues to the beliefs of Bronze Age society. On the site are three large circular cairns, perhaps 50 feet across and around 7 - 8 feet high at the centre.



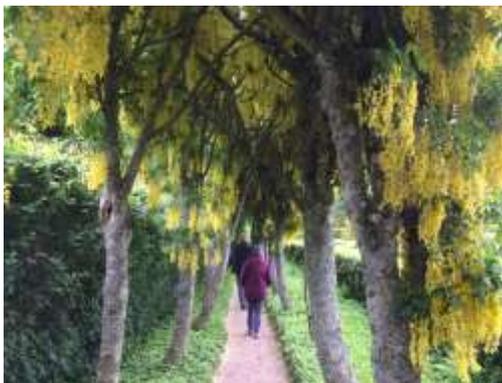
Two of them have a passage to the centre, allowing access to what might have been the burial chamber. There are also several standing stones with possible astronomic connotations. The whole grassed area of the site is surrounded by mature beech trees and kept well grazed, thus providing a pleasant ambience and atmosphere appropriate to an ancient cemetery.

Next stop was Fort George, at Ardersier, a large 18th century fortress near Inverness with perhaps the mightiest artillery fortifications in Europe. It was built to pacify the Scottish Highlands in the aftermath of the Jacobite rising of 1745, replacing an earlier Fort George built with the same aim after the 1715 Jacobite rising. The fortress has never been attacked, and has remained in continuous use as a garrison. Based on a Star fort design, it remains virtually unaltered, and nowadays is open to visitors with exhibits and recreations showing its use at different periods, while still serving as army barracks. Originally the depot of the Seaforth Highlanders, it was more recently home to the Royal Irish Regiment, and as of 2007, the new garrison of the Black Watch, 3rd Battalion, Royal Regiment of Scotland. The Fort overlooks the narrowing of the Moray Firth opposite to Chanonry Point, and therefore commands what would have been a vital sea passage at the time. An array of contemporary guns is emplaced at

the battlements facing the sea passage. The 'Live History' of the fort was enunciated by a bearded highlander in full dress uniform. The armoury contains countless muskets and other weapons used by Scottish regiments throughout their history. The museum holds a comprehensive collection of Scottish regimental uniforms and kit.

Thursday saw us paying a visit to Cawdor Castle and Gardens. The castle dates from the 14th century and is currently lived in by Cawdor family members. The Castle tour included the 500 year old thorn tree still flourishing in the dungeon, the Victorian kitchen and its modern replacement, some antique bicycles and a design model of Nelson's Victory, the description of which contained the statistic that the building of the Victory required 3000 oak trees.

The gardens included the Flower Garden, the Walled Garden and the Wild Garden. The walled garden is notable for its "Laburnum Corridor" and of course the Maze which is not open to the public because of the fragility of the hedges. The Wild Garden is extensive and more in the nature of an arboretum.



Our final day was spent in small groups visiting various venues. One group made a tour of Dingwall Museum, Garve and Loch Luichart, while others revisited Chanonry Point and found the dolphins at home there.

In June of 2018 we will be re-visiting the beautiful island of North Uist.

# In Memory of Phil Holt

## Ed Tyler

Phil was the Membership Secretary of NHASMA for many years. He applied his business head to the post and put in a lot of his time modernising the membership list. He was also very good at weeding out non-payers! He always looked to keep the Society in a sound financial position.

He attended all committee meetings and was passionate about the Society, always fighting its corner. It would be fair to say that he saw it as a big extended family, tirelessly giving lifts to elderly members ensuring that they were able to attend winter talks in Lochgilphead.

Phil provided much appreciated help and support to both our President and our Editor. Before retiring from his printing business in Lancashire to his holiday home near Ford he would “print on demand” any previous Kist – a service which was understandably very popular.

As an example of how he would assist other committee members, when he knew that the editor was having difficulty in sourcing enough material for Kist, he would come up with articles or point out useful sources of information. If there was a problem he would always try to find a solution.

He will be greatly missed by the Society.

# Some uncommon coastal plants in Mid Argyll

Dave and Pat Batty

Whilst plant recording for the BSBI Atlas in the Loch Stornoway area (south of Kilberry) in July 2017 a couple of interesting plants were seen on the coast. The coast in parts on the northern side is sand and growing on the sand below the high tide level was an unusual looking plant, the Prickly Saltwort, *Salsola kali*.



It is annual with a prostrate form and narrow spiny leaves, hence its name. It is able to tolerate salt and thus survive low down on the shore, and occurs elsewhere in suitable situations in Mid-Argyll and Kintyre but is never common. Usually only the odd plant is seen but

here there were quite a few scattered over a limited area.

In the same general area, a much more uncommon species was found, Wild Celery, *Apium graveolens*. It is a member of the umbelliferae family and is a biennial. This was growing just on the edge of the beach next to a wet area and was only really noticed because a couple of plants were in flower and looked noticeably different to anything else. The presence of flowers allowed it to be identified and once we knew what it was we identified the leaves of some 10 other plants. It looked like the plants had

been grazed, hence the lack of flowers, and sheep were close by. It is perhaps not surprising that the plant is grazed as two varieties of it have been cultivated as celery and celeriac. The record was the first for Mid Argyll but it was found in south Kintyre over 70 years ago and there is an old record for the Arduaine area. It could be more widespread but not recorded because it is grazed and the basal rosette of leaves resembles those of the much more common Hemlock Water-dropwort, *Oenanthe crocata*. It is something we will look out for this year along the coast.

# Arctic-Alpines near Ardrishaig

**Dave and Pat Batty**

There are several plants found in Mid Argyll whose main distribution is in the Arctic area or the Alps. Most of the sites are on the higher hills such as Meall Mhor or Cruach Lussa. However, where conditions are suitable they may be occasionally found at lower altitudes. One such place is Cruach Breacain (height 360m) above the Kilduskland Reservoir near Ardrishaig.

The area was surveyed in July 2017 as part of the current national mapping programme of the UK and Eire organised by the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland. The aim is to record all the species of plants in each 10 km square. Cruach Breacain was visited because there were records for some arctic-alpines from the last mapping exercise prior to the year 2000. As part of the recording six species considered to be Arctic-alpines were found.

Yellow saxifrage, *Saxifraga aizoides*, is found in wet flushes on hillsides and often colonises the sides of excavated hill tracks where there is mica schist rock.



It flowers profusely in July with, as its name suggests, a mass of bright yellow flowers. It is not uncommon in Knapdale and was therefore not a surprise to see it.

Three of the other species also favour wet hillside flushes but are not often seen in flower. It is usually a matter of spotting their leaves which are often hidden amongst the other vegetation if there is not a large colony of the plant. Alpine Meadow-rue, *Thalictrum alpinum*, has tiny leaves usually well pressed to the ground. It is not often seen flowering (it has tiny pale purple flowers) in the area but is found in several localities in Knapdale. Northern Bedstraw, *Galium boreale*, is a close relative of sticky-willie and like that plant has its leaves arranged in characteristic whorls of four up the stem. It can grow up to 30 cm or more but may also be present amongst the hill vegetation as small insignificant plants. It is susceptible to grazing. Again like the alpine meadow rue it is not often seen flowering but when it does it has a mass of white flowers. It is likely that the Northern Bedstraw was formerly more widespread in Knapdale (Cunningham, 1978) but with land use changes has become more elusive.

The last flush species, Alpine Saw-wort, *Saussurea alpina*, is a member of the thistle family and has a rosette of thistle-like leaves which at first glance might be dismissed as just a thistle.

The plant is susceptible to grazing and so it is rarely seen flowering in accessible sites only usually on inaccessible wet rocky ledges and crags. The colony on Cruach Breacain is large, spread over 10m<sup>2</sup> or more, but in the open and so with no flowers. It has persisted here vegetatively for many years and perhaps once in a while manages to flower and produce seed. Unlike the alpine Meadow-rue and Northern Bedstraw there is only this one colony on the hill.



These four species are present here because of the friable schist rock which breaks down easily and releases nutrients for the plants. They will have been once much more widespread in Knapdale after the last ice age but have managed to survive here and at other odd sites.

The summit ridge of Cruach Breacain is exposed and windswept and has a number of rocky outcrops of hard rock. The outcrops are cracked, and in some of these cracks Dwarf Willow, *Salix herbacea*, grows and thrives. To call it Dwarf Willow is an understatement as the plant grows as a flat prostrate mat with nothing that could be described as trunks or branches, as most of the stems are underground. However, it is superbly adapted to living in the situation it occupies. In other respects, it is the same as other willows and produces catkins which release feathery white seeds in due

course. On some rocks the willow was extending over an area of some 10m<sup>2</sup>.

The last Arctic-Alpine present on the hill is the Stiff Sedge, *Carex bigelowii*, which favours the same exposed ridge top situation as the willow. It normally grows in lichen heaths and acid grassland. It is very uncommon in Knapdale and grows as individual plants with, as its name suggests, a very upright form. In the Knapdale situation it can be difficult sometimes to distinguish it from upland forms of the Common Sedge, *Carex nigra*.

# The Coll Hoard: an update

**Trevor Cowie**

As reported in *The Kist* 92 (2016), the Late Bronze Age hoard found on the south end of the Isle of Coll in 2014 is the most significant find of this kind from Argyll for a great many years. It consists of 13 pieces of bronze metalwork representing parts of at least two swords, five spearheads and a fragment of what appears to have been a socketed knife. Apart from one intact spearhead, all the artefacts are incomplete, almost certainly as a result of deliberate breakage in antiquity.

At a meeting of the Scottish Archaeological Finds Allocation Panel held in 2015, the hoard was allocated to Kilmartin Museum. As many readers of *The Kist* will be aware, the Museum then launched a hugely successful Crowdfunding campaign to raise sufficient funds to permit the conservation of the metalwork. This work was carried out by Will Murray of the Scottish Conservation Studio, based at Hopetoun House, near Edinburgh. Such was the success of the campaign that sufficient funds were available to permit the conservation of the metalwork to be complemented by analysis of the associated organic material and radiocarbon dating – and it is the results of that work that forms the basis of this brief update.

Cleaning of the artefacts revealed traces of a variety of organic material but for the most part these simply represented fragments of plant fibres which had become trapped in the surface corrosion layers of the objects purely as the result of natural decay processes during their time in the soil. However, as we had hoped when the artefacts were first discovered, the

sockets of three of the spearheads were found to contain preserved wood which was *in situ* and therefore directly related to what might be described as the use-life of the artefact.



Coll Hoard spearhead no. 3, prior to cleaning



Coll hoard spearhead no. 3, detail of the wood remains in the socket

Masterminded by Will Murray, samples were therefore carefully removed for wood identification by palaeoenvironmental specialist Dr Susan Ramsay and for subsequent Carbon-14 dating by the Radiocarbon Dating Laboratory at the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) at East Kilbride. In the case of two of the spearheads, Dr Ramsay was able to show that the wood present was ash (*Fraxinus* species), which is of special interest as ash has a very long history of use for the handles and shafts of tools and weapons. It is a wood especially suited to the purpose owing to its toughness and flexibility, which enable it to absorb shock without splintering. The third sample was tentatively identified as hazel (*Corylus avellana*), less tough but perhaps an acceptable alternative for use as a spear shaft in view of its long straight growth pattern.

All three wood samples were then dispatched to SUERC by Will Murray. The results, received earlier this year, are shown in the accompanying table. As the conserved metalwork has still to be catalogued and illustrated in detail, the following notes must just be seen as preliminary comments, but what is clear is that the dates suggest a more nuanced pattern of deposition. In my previous note on the find, I indicated that all the types of weaponry present were typical of the Late Bronze Age and suggested that the presumed hoard could be dated broadly to the period from around 1000 to 800 BC, on the assumption that the objects had all been deposited around about the same time. Now we can see that at their extremes, the radiocarbon dates span around three centuries. The 10<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> century BC dates for spearheads 1 and 3 remain in keeping with this initial estimate; in the case of spearhead no 2, however, the result indicates an 11<sup>th</sup> century BC date, more in line with the previous phase of the Late Bronze Age when spearheads with leaf-shaped blades first became widespread. All three dates are still consistent with the types of

spearhead represented as leaf-shaped spearheads enjoyed a long currency: however, they do invite a re-think about how and when the bronzes came to be deposited.

In the previous article on the 'Coll hoard', I posed the question of how and why this range of weapons ended up in the ground around three thousand years ago, where it was to remain until its discovery by Coll fisherman Kenny MacIntyre in 2014. Although the picture may change further in the light of fieldwork in the future, my view would still be that the location would once have been a wet place – either boggy ground or possibly a small lochan. We can still guess that the place must have had some special local significance. The circumstances are still consistent with explanation in terms of weapons purposefully broken and cast into a wetland area as part of a ceremony, as offerings or gifts to now unknown gods or goddesses.

However, what the radiocarbon dates may now suggest is that metalwork was being deposited there more *episodically* – that is, as an accumulation of offerings over time rather than as the result of a single event. If so, that would imply continuing veneration of the location, possibly over many generations. While that is not the only possible explanation, an extended timescale would also reinforce the sense that this was a place of some particular significance to the local Late Bronze Age farming community on the island.

## Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Sharon Webb and Roddy Regan for inviting me to contribute this short article and thank Roddy for his patience while waiting for it to appear. I am also indebted to Susan Ramsay and Will Murray respectively for information and photographs incorporated in the article in advance of full publication. Thanks are also due to the staff of the Radiocarbon Laboratory at SUERC for undertaking the dating.

## Radiocarbon dates for wood associated with bronze spearheads from Breachacha, Coll

Note: calibrated date ranges have been rounded out to nearest decade

<i>Object, context, label</i>	<i>Lab no.</i>	<i><math>\delta^{13}C\%</math></i>	<i>Date BP</i>	<i>Calibrated date ranges BC at 68.2% and 95.4% probability</i>
Wooden shaft fragment ( <i>Corylus avellana</i> (tentative)) from socket of leaf-shaped socketed spearhead. Spearhead no 2 (Kilmartin Museum)	SUERC-76336 (GU45954)	-25.0 (assumed)	2878±21	1110–1010 <b>1120–980</b>
Wooden shaft fragment ( <i>Fraxinus</i> species) from socket of leaf-shaped socketed spearhead, Spearhead no 1 (Kilmartin Museum)	SUERC-76335 (GU45953)	-27.3	2786±24	980–900 <b>1010–850</b>
Wooden shaft fragment ( <i>Fraxinus</i> species) from socket of leaf-shaped socketed spearhead. Spearhead no 3 (Kilmartin Museum)	SUERC-76337 (GU45955)	-26.3	2711±24	900–830 <b>910–810</b>

# James Campbell of Ardkinglas and the 'Great Contract'

**Roddy Regan**

On the night of the 4th February 1592, while staying at Knipoch House, John Campbell the 11th thane of Calder (Cawdor)<sup>1</sup> was shot from a window and assassinated.

The affair exposed deep divisions between powerful members of Clan Campbell and nearly split the political unity often displayed by the wider Campbell family prior to this period.

Much of what is known of the affair comes from depositions made by John Campbell of Ardkinglas<sup>2</sup> and an account given by Margaret (MacConnochie) Campbell<sup>3</sup>, wife of John Oig Campbell,<sup>4</sup> one of the main conspirators. Further light is cast on the murder from letters sent by Robert Bowes<sup>5</sup>, the English Ambassador to Scotland, to Robert Cecil<sup>6</sup> which give insights into the political intrigues surrounding the murder.

The killing of Calder, an important member of Clan Campbell, normally would in itself have caused much disquiet among the Scottish nobility, however, it became almost an aside as it was closely followed by the assassination of James Stewart, Earl of Moray<sup>7</sup> which had the potential to disrupt the whole of Scotland. As it turns out, the two murders were linked.



The murdered Earl of Moray who was also shot by three bullets

The murder of Calder had its roots in the internal infighting and jealousies within Clan Campbell. In 1584 Archibald Campbell<sup>8</sup> became the 7th earl at the age of 12. His father's will had put him under the protection of the King. However, the administration of his estates had been left to his mother, Lady Agnes Campbell (nee Keith) the countess of Argyll, who was to be advised by six 'Guardians'. These were the heads of the leading Campbell families of Glenorchy, Auchinbreck, Lochnell, Calder, Ardkinglas and the Bishop of Argyll.<sup>9</sup>

The will also stated that all matters of importance, including the granting of leases, had to have the signatures of Ardkinglas, Calder and the Bishop of Argyll, effectively meaning these three now held the strings of power in the Campbell hierarchy, which caused resentment among the other senior members of wider family. This situation was exacerbated following the death of James Campbell of Ardkinglas in 1591, whereby John Campbell of Calder became the senior and essentially sole advisor to the young Earl Archibald.

Particularly unhappy at this state of affairs was Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy<sup>10</sup>, a wealthy, wily and often unscrupulous political operator '*whose ambition and grasping character would not allow him to be*

*satisfied with anything less than the entire control of the clan during the minority of the heir’.*



He had also been on bad terms with the late Earl of Argyll, which partly explains his side-lining in the earl’s will. Even so, after the death of the old earl, Glenorchy would have seen himself as the senior and most powerful member of Clan Campbell; his obvious resentment of the young earl underlined by his dismissive words that ‘...*Bairns behovit to have fair words...*’

Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy (1545–1631), unknown artist, 1619; National Galleries of Scotland.

Within the wider world of national politics and religion in Scotland, Glenorchy had become involved in a plot along with George Gordon, earl of Huntly<sup>11</sup>, amongst others, that sought to remove Huntly’s arch rival James Stewart, Earl of Moray, along with the Earl of Argyll. Also involved in what became known as the ‘*great contract*’ were John Maxwell, Earl of Morton, and John Maitland, Lord of Thirlestane, although they primarily wanted to rid themselves of Moray. They would use their influence at court to protect the conspirators from the law while the highlanders were to be responsible for the killing.

Within Clan Campbell the plot not only involved the assassination of the Earl of Argyll but also Colin Campbell of Lundy (the earl’s younger brother)

and John Campbell of Calder. Calder was also a close ally of James Stewart, Earl of Moray, which placed him in a faction opposed to Glenorchy and the Earl of Huntly. Glenorchy also had other reasons to dislike Calder, who several times between 1590 and 1592 managed to intervene in his feud between himself and Clan MacGregor, effectively protecting the MacGregors from his persecution.

Also involved in the conspiracy was Archibald Campbell of Lochnell, who was jealous of Calder's influence and stood next in line to inherit the earldom if the young earl died with no existing heirs. It was later revealed that Lochnell, when earl, would then reward the other Argyll men involved in the conspiracy; Glenorchy was to receive the barony of Loch Awe and lands in Benderloch, John Stewart of Appin (who was connected by marriage to Lochnell) would receive lands in Lorne, Duncan MacDougal of Dunollie was to get Luing, while Lachlan MacLean of Duart (who had been upset by Calder's support for his bitter rivals the MacDonalds of Islay) was also involved. At one level the conspiracy played out at a national scale with the murder of Moray. However, the reasons for the murder of the influential Calder and the Earl of Argyll were perhaps more to do with regional and familial rivalries, as well as being part of a power and land-grab from the intended victims.

John Campbell of Ardkinglas was drawn into the affair. He was to be rewarded with the lands of Boquhan in Stirlingshire and Rosneath in Dumbartonshire. Ardkinglas had his own family reasons for disliking Calder. Prior to his death in 1591, Ardkinglas' father, James, had been bitterly opposed to Calder and it appears that they may have even tried to assassinate each other. This feud may have had its roots in the pair backing opposite sides in the ongoing conflict between the MacDonalds of Islay, who had been given surety by Calder and the Duart MacLeans,

backed by Ardkinglas. Young John Campbell of Ardkinglas had inherited this personal animosity towards Calder.

Ardkinglas appeared to have been susceptible to the influence of Glenorchy and had married into the family, taking Glenorchy's sister Anna as his wife.

According to Ardkinglas's later testimony, Glenorchy had first approached him about the removal of Calder while at Kilchurn castle and they further discussed the idea on their way back to Inveraray. Here they apparently drew up a contract as to *'the cutting away of Cawdor'* and a copy of the contract was kept by each man. At this point, however, Ardkinglas appears to have been unaware that the proposed murder of Calder was part of a wider conspiracy.

After the initial contract to kill Calder had been signed, Ardkinglas, who was probably only in his early 20s, continued to be encouraged by Glenorchy to *'Cause some able young man to shot him in his travelling or in a thack house where he usit commonly to lodge'*.

Further encouragement and chiding of Ardkinglas was undertaken by the Campbells of Achavullin, the brothers Patrick, John and Duncan who told Ardkinglas that Calder was speaking against him and attempting to get him dismissed from court. They also questioned his courage and virility if he failed to assassinate Calder, as his father had planned, bringing shame to his family name.

Ardkinglas eventually succumbed to the pressure and a plan for the murder was hatched at various meetings in Edinburgh, Dunollie and Dunstaffnage. These gatherings involved the Achavullin brothers, John Oig Campbell of Cabrachan along with *'MaCouil'* (Duncan MacDougall of

Dunollie) and *'Maklane'* (Lachlan MacLean of Duart), while the meetings were held under the pretence of a proposed marriage between Ardkinglas and Dunollie's daughter.

Initially, Ardkinglas tried to persuade one of the Achavullin brothers, Duncan, to attempt the assassination of Calder. He apparently tried several times at Dunoon, but failed. Ardkinglas then tried to persuade *'Gillmertine MacEllar'* to undertake the murder but he *'flatly refused'*. He then approached John Oig Campbell to ask the brother of *'Gillmertine MacEllar'*, *'Gillepatrick Oig MacKellar'*, to undertake the deed, to which he agreed after having been promised some land at *'Ardno'*, on the south side of Loch Awe.

On the night in question and aided by John Oig Campbell of Cabrachan, *'Gillepatrick Oig MacKella'* came to *'the hous of Cnepoch'* the residence of *'Dugald Macdonachie'* (or Campbell of Stronchormaig (now Glenfeochan) *'...under silence and cloude of nicht bodin with ane lang hagbit pertening to the said John Campbell of Ardkinglas ...'* and while *'John Campbell of Caddell was for the tyme sittand before the fyre...schot him with thrie bullets in at the heart and throw the body...'*<sup>12</sup> (the gun had been charged with three bullets and would have discharged like a shotgun).



The *'lang hagbit'* or gun possibly used in the murder

Prior to the murder, Ardkinglas had been advised by Glenorchy *'...that the if the man who shoots him shall escape...you and I are unworthy...if we*

*cannot cut him away directly...*' basically the assassins, who could link Ardkinglas and thus Glenorchy to the murder, were themselves to be killed.

Much to Glenorchy's displeasure Ardkinglas failed to do this, claiming that MacKellar had become his friend. It appears that MacKellar was then helped to escape to Ireland by MacDougall of Dunollie, while Ardkinglas appointed Angus MacDonald to take John Oig Campbell to Ireland and Margaret Campbell in her later deposition tells us that he was still there in July.

In June Bowes reports to Cecil that:

*'The Earl of Argyll, his tutors, and friends have appointed to meet at Stirling this week to try out the authors of the slaughter of the Laird of Calder, wherein Ardkinlass, one of Argyle's tutors, Mackall, M'Clane and Glanorthie are suspected'*.<sup>13</sup> However, it also states that *'Little is proved against them. It is said that at this meeting some deliberation was taken for obtaining justice against Huntly for the slaughter of Murray'*. This also alludes to the wider political aspirations of those at the above meeting namely a military assault against Huntly.<sup>14</sup>

While Ardkinglas, with some encouragement, may have been prepared to murder Calder, he was still unaware of Glenorchy's and Lochnell's designs on the life of the Earl of Argyll. When he became aware, he appeared to panic, much to the displeasure of Glenorchy who told him *'...he was unhappy ever to have to do with me or such a beast as I was...'*.

According to Margaret's deposition, Ardkinglas thought he could be forgiven Calder's murder if he made the Earl of Argyll aware of the plot against his life. Ardkinglas initially sought to approach the earl through

his uncle, Archibald, the Bishop of Brechin, although this appears to have come to nothing as *'the Bishop tuik a feir'*. The Bishop was perhaps wise to do so as Ardkinglas's life now appeared to be under threat, particularly from the Calder family, but perhaps also from the Earl of Argyll himself.

In March 1592, Ardkinglas and his party, including the two Achavullin brothers John and Duncan, were on route to Edinburgh. Near Dumbarton they were ambushed by 24 men *'...all armed with long hagbuts, jaeks, pistolets, and other forbidden weapons...'*. The attackers apparently mistook one of the Achavullin brothers, Duncan, for Ardkinglas and shot him in the head, however not being dead, *'...slew him with sweirdis and cuttit of his heid. And then, perceiving themselves to be disappointed, they sharply followit the said laird, shot aucht or nine hagbuts at him, and had not failed likewise to have slain him, were not that by the providence of God he escaped'*.<sup>15</sup>

In June 1592, Ardkinglas and Dunollie were summoned to Edinburgh to answer the charges for the *'slaughter of Calder'*.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> June 1592 Robert Bowes again reports to Cecil that the;

*'The Lairds of Ardkinglas and Lorne are bound to tholl an assize on the 19th instant for their trial for their slaughter of the Laird of Caddell, which matter Argyll so earnestly follows, purposing to be at this day of law with great companies of noblemen, barons and gentlemen. It is looked that Ardkinglas shall marry the base daughter of Lord John Hamilton and that Hamilton with great forces will accompany Ardkinglas at this day'*.<sup>16</sup>

The proposed trial of Ardkinglas was used as an excuse for the nobility of Scotland to make a show of strength in Edinburgh and as the *'day of law'* on the 19<sup>th</sup> approached, the opposing nobles gathered. Appearing with

the earl of Argyll were *'the sheriff of Ayr' (Campbell of Louden) ...the Duke of Lennox, the Earl of Mar, Lord Home, and some others'*. Against them, possibly on the instigation of Chancellor Maitland were the *'earls of Montrose, Eglintoun, and Glencairn, and Lord Livingstone... who all accompanied Lord Hamilton on the streets'*.

A serious confrontation of the opposing factions looked likely when Argyll and Hamilton and *'...their companies, met in Canongate, near the cross, where the straitness of the street gave no room for the troops to pass easily, so that the foremost, romblinge together, strove for the gate, and pistols on both sides were bended and sundry swords drawn in such sudden rage...'* however, Argyll and Hamilton *'... both sought to appease the tumult...'* whereby *'...they passed without blood or hurt.'*<sup>17</sup>

The King was naturally alarmed at these developments and commanded that the nobles *'to keep their lodgings'* and sent *'the chancellor to entreat them (the nobles) to depart in peace.'*

Possibly because of this threat to the peace and the influence of Chancellor Maitland both Ardkinglas and Dunollie were freed without being brought to trial.

It appears that after his release Ardkinglas, perhaps in some desperation, now sought the help of Margaret Campbell in the hope of regaining the favour of Argyll. As part of her endowment from her first husband John Carswell, Margaret had been given the lands of *'Teirfoure and Teirlaggan'* in Lismore. It was here that he approached Margaret to *'...convert My Lord Argyll his favor to us'* as Ardkinglas appeared to think that *'the women in Lorne were wiser than the women in Argyll'*.<sup>18</sup>

In her testimony Margaret tells us that prior to this meeting with Ardkinglas she had only been aware of some aspects of the plot based on what her husband, John Oig, had previously told her. Margaret then explained to Ardkinglas that she could do nothing for him unless she was fully informed of the facts which Ardkinglas duly provided, thus her fulsome deposition of the affair.

Ardkinglas, like many in his time would have been aware of many aspects of local superstition and also witchcraft. He was thus aware that all witchcraft had to be practised before the beginning of every quarter and, as harvest quarter was fast approaching, was keen for Margaret to start her consultations. Margaret promised him results by Lammas (1st August) and met with a series of contacts who supplied her with various insights.

Firstly, a witch in Morvern named '*Nichaicherne*', saw that the conspirators would be held in Edinburgh but would return home safely, although '*MacCoul*' (Duncan MacDougall of Dunollie), though escaping punishment for a long time, '*at the last wald pay for it*'.

*'Euphrick Nikceoll'* in Lismore '*... tuik upon hir to convert my Lord's angir and to mak him to favour Ardkinglas*'.<sup>19</sup>

*'Dougald Macaurie'* claimed to have protected Ardkinglas's men in '*that nae wapin suld offend thame*', although he could not protect Ardkinglas himself.

Margaret also consulted '*Mary voir Nicvolvoire vic Coil vic Neil*', '*quha is not ane witch but sche will see things to cum be sum second sicht*'.<sup>20</sup>

Other charmners named in her deposition were '*Katherene NicClaartie*' and '*Nichachlerich*' in '*Blargoir*', '*Christian Nichean vic Couil vic Gillespie*' and the '*twa Nicichersts*' one in '*Dunache and anuther in Soroba*'.

The pressure on Ardkinglas no doubt increased when he and Glenorchy were formally accused of Calder's murder in June 1593;

*'...John Campbell of Ardkinglas being befoir fugitive and put to our horne for the cruell and abominable murther of umquhill John Campbell of Calder...'*

By this time Ardkinglas had told Margaret that he had found a far better enchanter than any of her contacts. This was the rather more sinister character of Patrick MacQueen who, perhaps rather surprisingly, was a minister in Rothesay.<sup>21</sup> Ardkinglas informed Margaret, that unlike her people who '*namit God in thair words*', MacQueen did not cite God in his practices and claimed to have the power to build a castle '*betwix the son gang and to the contrair*' (between sundown and sunrise) and was also attended at times by seven devils.

MacQueen had told Ardkinglas that he and Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy would be arrested but would subsequently escape justice through his intervention. Citing evidence of his powers he told Ardkinglas that the countess of Argyll's first child would be a girl and the second a boy. He also predicted that Argyll would lose in a battle in which the heir to the earldom would fall.

In September it was reported that:

*'Argyll has apprehended and warded Glenorchy (Glenurquhie) and two sons of the Laird of Lawers upon information given by Ardkinglas that one*

*of these brethren by the means of Glenorchy and Huntly's commandment killed the Laird of Caldell, to which murder Ardkinglas has at length confessed himself privy. He affirms further that Glenorchy had practised to bewray and deliver Argyll to Huntly; all which Ardkinglas has offered to prove by witnesses...'*<sup>22</sup>

Ardkinglas had obviously informed Argyll of Glenorchy's part in the murder, but no doubt using his considerable influence, Glenorchy in January 1594, managed to obtain an obligation from the earl of Argyll '*...on occasion of certain rumours spread by evil disposed persons having raised coldness between him and his loving kinsman...'* not to '*...act deceitfully...'* or '*...misue him...'*, which giving that Glenorchy was trying to kill the young earl seems a bit rich.<sup>23</sup>

However, as Glenorchy had feared, MacKellar and John Oig Campbell were eventually apprehended by the Earl of Argyll's men (how so remains unclear) and held in Innischonnel castle and then Dunoon castle. Here John Oig Campbell '*wes buited'* or subjected to torture and not surprisingly he confessed to his and MacKellar's part in the murder. Sometime, likely before mid-May 1594, it was reported that '*Argyll has lately taken and executed Patrick MacAulay og and Patrick his brother, the murderers of the Laird of Calder. One other of their companies is slain'*.<sup>24</sup>

In May 1594 Cecil reported to Bowes that:

*'Argyll and Montrose, the Sheriff of Ayr and others of Argyll's friends have lately convened to find out the authors and executioners of the murder of the Laird of Calder. It is discovered (as I am told) that the Earl of Huntly, the Lairds of Ardkinglas, Glenorquhy, Macaulay of Ardencapel, with others, had subscribed a band for this slaughter; that this band is found and now*

*in Argyll's possession; that John Ogg, brother to Lochenzell (being one of this conspiracy and to have been an executioner) confirmed all these informations; and it is thought that Glenorquhy has secretly confessed the same and promised his service to Argyll and to leave Huntly. It is much noted here that after the slaughter of Calder, the King and Court, especially Huntly's friends, showed extraordinary favours to Ardkinglas and Macaulay, and it is commonly said that Huntly durst not have slain the Earl of Murray in the life of Calder, who was murdered eight days before Murray; so that all the murderers of Murray are now suspected with the murder of Calder'.<sup>25</sup>*

From this it would appear that Glenorchy was threatening to side with Huntly against his chieftain and using this as a bargaining counter to escape his part in the conspiracy.

While Glenorchy may have escaped Argyll's immediate wrath the earl's clemency appeared not to extend to Ardkinglas, who in May 1594 was apprehended and taken to Carnassarie Castle. Here he was questioned by John Campbell Provost of Kilmun, the Commissar of Inverness and Donald Campbell (son of the murdered Calder) and confessed to his and others part in the murder.

*'At Carnaserie the 21st May Anno 1594 zeirs quhilk day John Campbell of Ardkinglas being examined anent the cruel murther of umqle John Campbell of Calder and conspirisie intended against the esteat and standing of Archibald Earle of Argyle Lord Campbell and Lorn being movit in contience declairs as follows. Deponis that there is a contract past betwixt this Deponer and Duncan Campbell of Glenurchye...'*

Ardkinglas, possibly under pressure from Glenorchy, later retracted this confession in two testimonials, claiming his initial deposition had been obtained under the threat of torture.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1594 at Dunoon;

*'I Johne Campbell of Ardkinglas testifies afoir God and takis it on my saull that it that I subscriuit and spoke anent oure Contract of Conspiracie againis my chief and maister the Erle of Argyle and his lordships brother the Laird of Lundie quhilk Contract wes said be me wes subscriuit be the Erll of Huntle and Glencame and be my Lorde Maxwell, my Lorde Chancellor and be Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenvrquhay Knycht, Archibald Campbell of Lochnell, Duncan M'Dowgall of Dunnollich and Johne Stewart of Appin. I testifie before God that thair wes never sic ane Contract maid or merit, but only inuentioun inuentit to eschew the trouble that might follow on me for Calderis slaughter...' and '... I onlie did it for eschewing of the present tortor and feir of my lyif...'*

and later in May 1595 at Glasgow;

*'...I being detenit captive within the castell of Carnnaistre upone the suspitioune of the said murderer of Caddell, my lord haiffing apprehendit ane jelosie upone the said umquill Johne Oig substill and fals depositioun, derectit the provest of Kilmun, the Commisser of Invernes and Maister Donald Campbell naturall sone to the umquhill Laird of Cadell to examite me... to put me to the present tortor... and threatenit me dyvers tymis thairwith...'*

Between these dates, Glenorchy of course solemnly protested his innocence and in a disposition made at Carrick castle on the 28th June 1594 denied all the allegations made against him.

In July 1594 it was reported that;

*'Glenurquhy is tryed cleane of this murder, therefore he is set at liberty upon caution. But Ardkinglas (Arkinlace) is found to be foul, and therefore shall be brought hither that the King's pleasure and the penalty of the law may be executed against him. The band for the conspiracy of Argyll's death is now smothered and suppressed, whereby many suppose that the same matter touches persons of good quality and not meet to be discovered'* and that *'Argyll... intends shortly to behead one of the three barons who conspired his own death. The other two will escape'*.<sup>26</sup>

Despite Glenorchy's assurances, Argyll, with some reason, still did not totally trust his uncle as in September it was reported that *'...Argyll alleges that he cannot leave MacLean behind (from a military expedition against Huntly) lest he join with Glenorchy and trouble the country'*. Argyll's continued mistrust appears to have been warranted given that other attempts may have been made on his life.<sup>27</sup>

In October 1594, the battle of Glenlivet took place between the forces of the Earls of Argyll and Huntly, which Argyll lost. After the battle it was reported that:

*'Argyll has confessed that he had few "experimented" leaders and captains, and that the great part of his army fled from him... Which matter, full of suspicion of treason in some persons of quality in his host, he threatens to examine and punish with the first opportunity'*.<sup>28</sup>

Argyll was obviously suspicious of some of his own commanders at Glenlivet, most of whom were the hierarchy of Clan Campbell, amongst them Campbell of Lochnell. It has been postulated, although we have no proof, that Lochnell had betrayed Argyll's position at the battle, so that

Huntly could train his cannon fire on him. If this was the case, then the plan really did backfire as Lochnell was killed in the ensuing cannon fire.

It has also been alleged that when residing at Stirling later in the year both Argyll and his younger brother fell ill, the suspicion being this was due to poisoning, with Glenorchy and James Kirk, the earl's secretary, being implicated, although nothing appears to have been proved.

For Ardkinglas the matter of Calder's murder would not just disappear, especially as the Calder family were still seeking justice and it may have been pressure or inducements from them that led to Margaret making her deposition at Ardmaddy in Nether Lorne in October 1595. Margaret gave her deposition in Gaelic which was translated into Scots before the Bishop of Argyll and the Dean of Lismore and the transcription tells us it was given '*freely*', meaning she wasn't threatened with torture. Some people have questioned the validity of Ardkinglas's confession as it was obtained under the threat of torture and he was, perhaps understandably, trying to talk his way out of a very tricky situation. However, Margaret's deposition corroborated both John Oig's and Ardkinglas's earlier confessions on most aspects of the murder.

In March and again in April 1596, the Calder family raised letters of treason against Ardkinglas for the murder and on the September 17<sup>th</sup> at the High Court in Edinburgh:

*'Johne Campbell of Ardkinglase was dilatit of airt and pairt of the crewall murther and slauchteris of umquhil Sir Johne Campbell of Calder knycht and umquhil mcinturner wechman at the place of Tanestrie'.* <sup>29</sup>

This is the first mention of another killing, that of the watchman at Carnassarie one '*mcinturner*' who doesn't appear in any of the other documents relating to the affair.

Trial dates were fixed but, after being twice postponed, the trial was abandoned when '*nane of the kingis advocattis comperit to persew him, desertit the dyet and ordanit the cautioner of the said Laird of Ardkinglas to be releivit*'.<sup>30</sup>

Glenorchy was allowed to clear himself of all the plots attributed to him by his own extrajudicial denial in writing and although he offered to abide by his trial, he was likely well aware that many, including Chancellor Thirlstane and the Earl of Huntly, were keen to prevent it.

At home, Glenorchy appears to have eventually been forgiven by his nephew, the Earl of Argyll, for any part he may have played in the murder of Calder. In 1597/8 the earl issued a bond of defence to Glenorchy which states that he had been apprehended in October 1593 on the false accusation of Ardkinglas to '*cullour his awin pratises and evill intentionis anent the murthure of the lairde of Calder*' the blame here being laid quite squarely at Ardkinglas's door.<sup>31</sup> Indeed Glenorchy and Calder family also appeared to reach a reconciliation with Glenorchy's daughter Jean, marrying Calder's son and heir, also John, in 1601.

This forgiveness does not appear to have been extended to Ardkinglas.

In 1603, Ardkinglas had been charged by Argyll to apprehend the troublesome Alistair MacGregor of Glenstrae, which he did, capturing him during a banquet. MacGregor escaped, but was later recaptured, tried and hanged along with other MacGregors in Edinburgh. Before his execution, MacGregor made a 'confession' in which he stated that after

Argyll had instigated Ardkinglas to capture MacGregor, the earl '*...did all the diligence he culd, to move me to slay the Laird of Ardkyndlas...*'.<sup>32</sup>

If MacGregor's statement is true it appears that Argyll's plan was to remove Ardkinglas at the hands of a known outlaw in the depths of Argyll well away from the national glare.

Ardkinglas himself survived, but was dead by 1619 when John, the son of the murdered Calder, signed a bond declaring he accepted that Colin Campbell, son of the '*umquhile*' (deceased) John Campbell of Ardkinglas, was not '*airte and pairt of the said slauchter*'. The bond is witnessed by most of the hierarchy of Clan Campbell, presumably drawing a line under the affair.<sup>33</sup>

We know little of what happened to Margaret or her spiritual contacts after she gave her extraordinary deposition, although the lands of '*Teirfoure and Teirlaggan*' were granted to Donald, son of John Oig Campbell of Cabrachan in 1595, suggesting Margaret, due to age or perhaps even death, had passed on her estate.

In 1601, Patrick MacQueen, now minister of Monzie, is described as '*...ane deboysched and depryved minister...*' in a response to testimony he gave against Sir Duncan Campbell of Glenorchy, which according to Glenorchy included '*...certain fals leis and forged invent...*' although what these were is not stated. Possibly related to this was an attack on MacQueen's house later in the year by '*...certain broken men and evil disposit persons, alsweill be taking fra him of his lands and possessions apperteining to him be death of his umquhile father and brother, burning and destroying of his haill houses and bigings, as the geiving of him dyvers and sundrie bludie wounds to the gryt effusion of his blude and leiffing of him for death...*' and

*'...unabill to use his ordnar calling of the ministry within the kirk...'* and because of this he received a pension from the king out of the ecclesiastical revenues of Kingarth.<sup>34</sup>

In the murder of Calder, Ardkinglas must be seen as a young and perhaps naive man who was being manipulated by Glenorchy for his own ends. Despite the continued animosity of Argyll, Ardkinglas escaped justice as pursuing him through the courts may have cast light on the part played by greater men, not only in the murder of Calder but perhaps more importantly in the murder of Moray, which may have included the connivance of the King himself.

Less fortunate, however, were other men involved in the conspiracy. Also named in the letters of treason of 1596 were John Oig Campbell, Gillepatrick Oig Mackellar and Gillemartin Mackellar, all already hanged for the murder of Calder. Also named was Duncan Campbell, who had been killed when mistaken for Ardkinglas, while the death of poor *'mcinturner'* gets only a brief historical mention.

It would appear in late 16<sup>th</sup> century Scotland that some people could definitely get away with murder.

## Notes

The majority of the references come from four sources and are abbreviated below as:

<i>Thanes of Cawdor Highland Papers</i>	Innes, C 1859 <i>The Book of the Thanes of Cawdor</i> , pp. 208-213 MacPhail (ed.) <i>Papers Relating to the Murder of the Laird of Calder Highland Papers</i> , Vol.1 pp 143-195.
<i>Calendar Vol. 10</i>	Boyd, W K and Meikle, H W (ed.) 1936 <i>Calendar of State Papers, Scotland: Volume 10, 1589-1593</i> . Edinburgh.
<i>Calendar Vol. 11</i>	Cameron, I A (ed.) 1936 <i>Calendar of State Papers, Scotland: Volume 11, 1593-1595</i> , ed. Annie I. Edinburgh.

1. John Campbell (born c.1540), 3<sup>rd</sup> Laird of Calder, 11<sup>th</sup> Thane of Cawdor, a powerful Campbell noble whose father inherited substantial estates in Nairn.
2. John Campbell (born c.1570), became 7<sup>th</sup> Laird of Ardkinglas after the death of his father, the Ardkinglas estate was based in Cowal and his seat was the castle at Ardkinglas on the east side of the head of Loch Fyne, not far from the centre of Argyll power at Inveraray. *Thanes of Cawdor*, pp. 208-213.
3. Margaret (MacConnochie) Campbell, wife of John Oig Campbell one of the main conspirators in the murder, had previously been married to Bishop John Carswell and gave her account of the affair in October 1595. *Highland Papers*, pp 143-195.
4. John Oig Campbell of Cabrachan, younger brother of Archibald Campbell of Lochnell and Margaret's husband.
5. Robert Bowes, Elizabeth I Ambassador to Scotland. *Calendar Vol. 10 & 11*.
6. Robert Cecil, Lord Burghley, acting as Secretary of State for England
7. James Stuart (born c 1565) 'the Bonnie' 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Moray killed by Huntly's forces at Donibristle, Fife, February 1592.
8. Archibald Campbell (born c 1575), 7th Earl of Argyll, these events perhaps contributing to his nickname '*Gillesbuig Grumach*' (Archibald the Grim).
9. Commissary Register of Edinburgh, Lib XV. Will dated 8<sup>th</sup> Sept 1584.
10. Duncan Campbell (born 1550) 7<sup>th</sup> Laird of Glenorchy known as '*Donnchadh Dubh a' Churraic*' (Black Duncan of the Cowl).
11. George Gordon (born 1562) 6<sup>th</sup> Earl of Huntly, stabbed Moray to death, held in Blackness castle for one week in March 1592, then released.
12. *Highland Papers*, pp 153-4.
13. Robert Bowes to Burghley. [June 6.] 1592 *Calendar Vol. 10*, pp 684.
14. Robert Bowes to Burghley. [June 24] *Calendar Vol. 10*, pp 705.
15. *Highland Papers*, pp 148-9.
16. Robert Bowes to Burghley. [June 10.] 1593, *Calendar Vol. 11*, pp 99.
17. Robert Bowes to Burghley. [June 22.] *Calendar Vol. 11*, pp 107
18. *Highland Papers*, pp 159-60

19. *Highland Papers*, pp165.
20. *Highland Papers*, pp166 Margaret tells us that 'Euphrick Nikceoll' learnt her charms from 'Auld Mackellar of Cruachan' and that Mackellar had '*lernit them at the pryoris of Icolmkill*' (the priory of Iona).
21. Robert Bowes to Burghley. [Sept. 10.], *Calendar Vol. 11*, pp 170.
22. He is named as minister in Rothesay in 1589 and also, rather ironically, appears to have been under the protection of John Campbell of Calder, who cautions a bond in 1589-90 for Duncan Campbell of Banns, '*not to harm Patrick McQuene, minister at Rothesay his bairns or tenants*' why he wanted to harm the minister is not stated. In '*Augyst 1594 Patrik McQuene minister of God's word at Rothesay*' ratified a bond of man rent made by his father to Glenorchy, C. Innes (ed.) 1855 *The Black Book of Taymouth, with Other Papers from the Breadalbane Charter-Room*, pp 250-251
23. C. Innes (ed.) 1855 *The Black Book of Taymouth, with Other Papers from the Breadalbane Charter-Room*, pp 251-252
24. *Calendar Vol. 11*, pp 376.
25. Sir Robert Cecil to Robert Bowes. [May 17.] 1594 *Calendar Vol. 11*, pp 338.
26. News from Scotland. [July 21.] *Calendar Vol. 11*, pp 376 & pp 378.
27. Robert Bowes to Burghley. [Sept. 8.] *Calendar Vol. 11*, pp 432.
28. Robert Bowes to Sir Robert Cecil. [Oct. 12.] *Calendar Vol. 11*, pp 438.
29. *Highland Papers*, pp 189.
30. *Thanes of Cawder*, pp 212.
31. NAS GD112/24/5
32. Pitcairn, *Ancient Criminal Trials in Scotland*, Vol. II, ii, pp 435.
33. *Thanes of Cawder*, pp 243-244.
34. *Fastie Ecclesiae Scoticanae*, Vol. II, pp 279.

# Kilmartin Museum Events

## Spring-Summer 2018



Further details can be found on Kilmartin Museum's website [www.kilmartin.org](http://www.kilmartin.org), or phone 01546 510278. More events are being planned for the next few months, please keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for all the latest information.

### **Easter Guided Glen Walk**

Sunday April 1st @ 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Meet at Kilmartin Museum

Walks are FREE, just sign up at the Museum shop on the day.

### **Guided Glen Walks**

Each Wednesday from April 2<sup>nd</sup> – September 31<sup>st</sup> @ 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

Meet at Kilmartin Museum

Walks are FREE, meet up at the Museum shop on the day.

### **'Quintessential' Evening of Singing**

Saturday April 28<sup>th</sup>, 7pm onwards @ Tayvallich Village Hall

Tickets are £10 per person and £5 for under 16s, and are available to buy at Kilmartin Museum shop and the Argyll Book Centre

For further information contact Ruth: [ruth@kilmartin.org](mailto:ruth@kilmartin.org)

### **Introduction to Scything** - Steve Tomlin

May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> @ Kilmartin Museum

Cost £80, for further information or to book a place contact Cathy on [training@crofting.org](mailto:training@crofting.org) or 01854 612220.

**Crofting Permaculture Design** – Ed Tyler

Saturday May 26<sup>th</sup> @ Kilmartin Museum

Cost £40, for further information or to book a place contact Cathy on [training@crofting.org](mailto:training@crofting.org) or 01854 612220.

**Crofting Animal Husbandry** – Claire Shorthouse

Sunday June 24<sup>th</sup> @ Kilmartin Museum

Cost £40, for further information or to book a place contact Cathy on [training@crofting.org](mailto:training@crofting.org) or 01854 612220.

**Crofting Horticulture** – Patsy Dyer

Saturday June 30<sup>th</sup> @ Kilmartin Museum

Cost £40, for further information or to book a place contact Cathy on [training@crofting.org](mailto:training@crofting.org) or 01854 612220.

# **NHASMA: your local wildlife and history society**

## **Summer 2018 Programme**

### **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May - Balure Dun and Deserted Settlement**

Meet at 1.30pm at Achnamara Village Hall

Contact Dave Batty - 01546 605316 kirnan.batty@gmail.com

### **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June - Dalavich Community Hydro**

Meet at Living Stones car park, Kilmartin at 6.00pm - (to organise car-sharing). Arrive Dalavich 7.30pm following short stop to view Ospreys on Loch Awe.

Contact David Jardine – 01546 510200 dcjardine@btinternet.com

### **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> July - Visit to the island of Kerrera**

Meet at Gallanach Ferry (Oban) at 10.15am (£4.50 return)

This is a 10 km walk - to the south end of Kerrera (Gylen Castle).

We will have lunch at the tea-house nearby, before walking back for an afternoon ferry enjoying geology and wildlife as we go

Contact David Jardine – 01546 510200 dcjardine@btinternet.com

### **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August - 'Scotland's Rock Art Project'**

An opportunity to accompany the Principal Investigator, Dr Tertia Barnett to Achnabreck & Cairnbaan

Meet in Achnabreck car park at 10.30am

Contact Jim Malcolm - 01546 510540 jgmalcolm@btinternet.com

The KIST is a joint publication between Kilmartin Museum  
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Cost per issue within the UK £3.00 (inclusive of post and packing).  
Cost per issue outside of UK £3.00 (plus cost of postage and packaging).

Back issues of the Kist can be obtained from <http://kist.scot/>.

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Contact Moira Young, email: [membership@kist.scot](mailto:membership@kist.scot)  
Cheques payable in Sterling to N.H.A.S.M.A.

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email: [roddy@kilmartin.org](mailto:roddy@kilmartin.org).

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