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EDITORIAL

It is that time of the year again when the Newsletter is due to be produced. Please accept my apologies for running overtime, but holidays seem to have priority at this time of the year.

Since the AGM two projects initiated by CFSS have come to fruition:-

1). The erection of a commemorative plaque in memory of Dr. Robert Erskine, of Alva, physician to Peter the Great, Czar of Russia.

After having been contacted by Mrs Margaret Street of Edinburgh and also of the Saltire Society, and meeting Dr. Svetlana Sobyana, who is researching the life of Robert Erskine, I put the matter before the Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust, and they agreed to accept the proposal. Heritage Officer - Susan Mills, was given the task of researching the story and organising the event. On the 8th September, 2007 a most attractive black granite plaque was erected in the North East section of Alva Kirkyard, easily visible to passers-by from the Back Road in Alva.

2). Dealing, also, with other matters pertaining to the Alva House of Erskine has been the publication of Stephen Morton`s book "Bonanzas & Jacobites. This relates the story of the Alva Glen Silver and the effect of the 1715 Jacobite Uprising on the family. As well as the historical part there is an extensive chapter dealing with the

minerals found on the spoil heaps by Stephen Morton. The author had found difficulty in finding a publisher and Lindsay Corbett took up the challenge, eventually the National Museums of Scotland agreed to print a trial run of 500 copies to be part funded by CFSS. This project was taken up by myself when Lindsay`s health worsened. Again the Heritage Trust was contacted and they agreed to a loan to be paid over three years. Our copies of the book were very quickly sold out with the result we shall be able to repay the loan ahead of time.

Owing to the efforts of Jack & Sadie Archibald sales of the Society`s publications are at an all time high - many thanks.

New on the sales list is the booklet "Alloa East & West Walks", these deal with aspects of Alloa`s past with information texts, colour illustrations and maps. We have placed a nominal charge of £1.00 on these, the money collected to fund the eventual publication of research papers written up as part of the AOK project but for which there were no funds available for that part of the project.

The seasons seem to merge into each other with ever increasing speed, no sooner is the Summer Programme completed when it is time to begin organising the Coffee Morning. A very big thank you to all members for donations of money and in kind, as well giving up of their time on the morning of the event. After expenses £441.79 was raised, the first time we have ever reached such a high amount.

Money of that nature is handy for replacing items that are past their sell-by date; e.g., a new screen for the evening meetings has been purchased - the previous one was becoming a health hazard.

For a number of years owing to good husbandry Subscriptions have remained static, however, rising costs for hall letting, postage and printing has meant that subs have had to rise. To date most members have renewed and there have been a number of new members. To the latter I extend a warm welcome. This session it has been decided that £1.00 donation will be asked from visitors.

2007 Summer Events commenced on Wednesday, 2nd May with a walk along the Dunfermline Link, leader Jack Archibald. This was a most enjoyable evening, and the first time in our history a CFSS Road Sign directed us to our meeting place. These walks are so well organised that there is no excuse for anyone to get lost!!

Twenty Five members attended the Spring Field Trip based in the Banff Springs Hotel, Banff. In spite of the long distances incurred, this was a most interesting trip - wall to wall sunshine and many interesting sites to visit.

Most of the summer events will be written up more fully in this newsletter.

Again the organisers must be warmly thanked for the route-mapping and background information that makes

these outings such a success. As far as CFSS is concerned we had a good summer - rain did not happen during our outings - except on the return journey from The House of Dun.

The Winter series of talks are well underway, beginning with The Bo`ness Potteries and secondly Nicola Kalinsky of the National Portrait Gallery dealt with the life and work of Alloa Painter, David Allan. We look forward to good attendances at the meetings and for your comfort and sustenance, and for a small donation, one can partake of Tea or Coffee. This gives members a chance to chat with the speaker and also each other.

OBITUARY - LINDSAY CORBETT

Lindsay Corbett, an enthusiastic and faithful member of this Society passed away on Monday, 20th August, 2007. Even though latterly, through illness, he was unable to continue with his commitment to the society, he will be fondly remembered for the help and enthusiasm with which he undertook various projects for this society. Reviewing the Planning Applications was a job he took very seriously and when an undesirable application was listed he soon made his protest known and on many occasions was successful in changing the Planning Department`s mind. How many of us remember being drummed up to take part in a banner waving protest at Alloa Port? Through this we were successful in stopping permission being given for a Car Breaking Yard to be sited at the port.

Originally from Glasgow, Lindsay and his family moved to Alloa in 1972 and soon became involved with The Forth Naturalist & Historian and Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society. His working life in this area was as a librarian at Stirling University and continued through the Forth Naturalist and Historian after he retired. Accolades he received during his life included an Honorary MA from the University of Stirling and being made an Associate of the Library Association.

Lindsay Corbett will be remembered as a person whose interest in local groups that had anything to do with nature conservation, preserving the countryside and history and can we say that he followed his dream to the end.

Betty Roy.

OBITUARY - WILLIAM EMSLIE - 1916-2007.

Born in the North of Scotland of farming stock, Bill Emslie spent most of his working life in the Central Belt. He was a fully qualified engineer and was President of the Engineering Union, a post he held till he retired. In Alloa he was employed at The Harland Engineering Works, now Weir Pumps. Later he moved to the Devonvale Works as a maintenance engineer, later to Donaldsons the knitwear company, and lastly employed by Jamieson Macgregor.

During the war he was in a reserved position and because of this was not involved with the forces during the 2nd WW. However, he took an interest in the work carried out at the Erskine Hospital for disabled soldiers. At his request any money collected at his memorial service was in aid of that hospital.

Bill Emslie was of a pleasant disposition and was well-liked by all who knew him. He became a Member of CFSS during the 1980s and so long as he could travel in his little Reliant Robin car he was a regular attender at the meetings.

Our sympathy is extended to his daughter, Caroline, and his son and grandchildren.

Betty Roy.

CHAIRPERSON' S REMARKS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - April 2007

At this time of the year it is my pleasure to present to you details of the activities of the Society over the past year. The Council has met eight times since the last AGM and a variety of topics have been dealt with.

Brought over from the 36th AGM is the question of the establishment of a museum for Clackmannanshire. At your request, a letter, dated 14th April, 2006 was sent to the Chief Executive, Kerr Bloomer, to which he replied on the 20th April, 2006. Again we get the same story - looking at options, and a year on the situation has not yet been resolved. Our position, and that of most people, would be for the Patons School in Greenfield to become the Clackmannanshire Museum. This building has had considerable amount of money put into it to make it wind and watertight. The establishment of a museum is still on the Council's agenda, but, the "other options" are to extend and refurbish the Speirs Centre to house Museum & Heritage Services, Library, and Archives in one building. Perhaps we shall see a solution in the not too distant future.

However, establishing the Museum at the "top of the toon" ignores the early centre of Alloa. A link with Greenfield, Kirkgate, Alloa Tower— a prestigious tourist attraction, the Episcopalian Church, Broad Street and the Harbour

area should surely be an excellent way to promote interest and raise the historical profile of Alloa as a whole. This is still the hub of the town and the redevelopment of the brownfield sites here have been carried out in a sympathetic manner.

The planners view is that a Museum does not generate profits, so be it, but surely not all in life should be aligned to profit! The plans drawn up originally included space for a tearoom and a meeting room - these, once established, would certainly generate profit.

The winter series of talks was very well attended, apart from those in October and covered the usual range of topics: Pre-history in Brochs and Picts as well as a look at plumbing through the ages. Robinson Crusoe Island provided information as well as romance and an insight into the hardship endured by a castaway on a desert island. Immigrants to America informed us that travelling steerage was not so grim as we were led to believe. The talk on the Canals of Lowland Scotland provided lots of information on the restoration of the central Scotland canals system. Also fascinating were the talks on Croatia, and the Banks of the Allan Water. The final talk covered some of Clackmannanshire's treasures and especially interesting was the information on the restoration of the statue of St Mungo.

This session two large flasks were purchased in order to supply tea or coffee to those who wished to partake after the meeting. At first uptake was very poor, but latterly

members did wait behind some to have some refreshment and others just to stand and talk. It is a pleasant way to end the evening. Thanks to Sadie and her friend for taking on this task.

Sadie Archibald has been appointed Membership Secretary. We have eight new members - membership 116.

Reports on the Winter talks are now being reported in the local papers, thanks to Jack and Sadie Archibald.

As the CFSS representative on Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust, I attended on the 2nd of September, the formal opening of the restored Johnstone Mausoleum in Alva. Most of the monies for the building works had been made available by Sir Raymond Johnstone from family funds. Being the beginning of the Doors Open Day, I along with Ken Mackay and Isobel Wood, conducted guided tours of the Mausoleum and the Kirkyard.

Again some CFSS members visited the Alva Kirkyard on the 8th September to watch the unveiling of a memorial tablet to Sir Robert Erskine, 6th son of Sir Charles Erskine of Alva. The ceremony was conducted by George Reid, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament, having been the instigator suggesting that something should be done to commemorate Sir Robert Erskine's achievements in Russia. Erskine was physician to Peter the Great and accredited with modernising medical practice in Russia.(1677- 1718). The tablet was paid for by the Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust and the Saltire Society. There was a good

attendance, including CHT Trustees, the Russian Consul General from Edinburgh, as well as one of his colleagues, Dr. Svetlana Sobyagina, researcher on the work of Robert Erskine, as well as members of the Saltire Society.

The 9th of September saw the opening of the Mar & Kellie Mausoleum and St. Mungo's Kirkyard as part of the Doors Open Day. Though the Mausoleum, attended by Bob Snaddon, was a successful event, that of the Kirkyard tour was not so. Unfortunately the condition of the area had not been attended to, long grass made it difficult to read the inscriptions and find the carvings, there were even stones hidden below the grass. I felt it was unsafe to carry on a guided tour, this year we must make sure that the area is tidied up. It is a pity to see what has happened—eight years of work more or less to no avail. Joyce Reekie is now a key holder so that those who come to look for ancestors may have access.

The ongoing saga of the publication of the East & West Alloa walks still awaits final publication. I hope these will soon be available. The production of these were part of the Kirkyard Lottery fund and of course funding for printing is available.

Another publication we have in mind is to revise the Mines & Minerals of the Ochils booklet. We have also part sponsored a book entitled Bonanzas & Jacobites by Stephen Morton, a geologist who had surveyed the spoil heaps at the Alva Silver Mines. Our publication deals with a

survey of all the mines of the Ochil Hills and should not clash with Bonanzas & Jacobites.

Also, this year, is a DVD produced by Eddie Stewart entitled David Allan, Lady Cathcart's Little Painter. The original was a playlet written by Isobel Grant Stewart, voices CFSS & FAT members. There are still a few left, priced at £3.00.

Since the illness of Lindsay Corbett, the promotion of our publications has been taken over by Sadie & Jack Archibald. These are — The Ochil Hills, Mines & Minerals of " the Ochils, Mary Queen of Scots at Alloa Tower, and, Alloa Tower & The Erskines of Mar (the latter was half funded by CFSS & Fat). Our publications can be bought at the local libraries and the Tourist Office in Alva.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all the members of the Council who do excellent work throughout the year in helping to keep the aims of this society alive.

Betty Roy

CFSS WINTER PROGRAMME 2007 / 2008

Meetings are held in Alloa Town Hall (Tommy Downs Room), unless otherwise stated, on Monday evenings -2nd and 4th of the month- 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Members of linked societies and other non-members are welcome, though non-members would be expected to join for subsequent visits.

2007

SEPTEMBER

Sat 15th **COFFEE MORNING** - Spiers Centre, Primrose St.,
Alloa
10am - 12 noon

OCTOBER

Mon 8th **POTTERY INDUSTRIES OF BO'NESS**
Robert Jardine

Mon 22nd **DAVID ALLAN, ALLOA'S TALENTED ARTIST**
Nicola Kalinsky, NMS

NOVEMBER

Mon 12th **THE INTERNATIONAL WORK OF THE RSPB**
(speaker tba)

Sat 17th 33rd Man and the Landscape Symposium at Stirling
University.

Forth Valley's Changing Countryside

Programmes widely available in schools, libraries, halls ...
information at <http://www.fnh.stir.ac.uk>

Mon 26th **DEVELOPMENT OF ELCHO CASTLE &
HUNTINGTOWER**

Nesta & Keith Nicolson

DECEMBER

Mon 10th **Member's Night**

2008

JANUARY

Mon 14th **THE COMMUNITY AND THE CASTLE**
John Harrison, Freelance Historian, Stirling

Mon 28nd **A WORLD TRIP IN 90 DAYS**
Chris Calder, Tullibody Heritage Group

FEBRUARY

Mon 11th **ANOTHER KIND OF SLAVERY: COLLIERS IN
CLACKMANNANSHIRE BEFORE 1800**
Susan Mills, Museums & Heritage Officer

Mon 25th **SUBMARINE KILLERS - THE Q SHIPS**
Geoff Bailey, Falkirk Museums Service

MARCH

Mon 10th **AN ARCHITECT'S ROLE IN CONSERVATION**
Stephen Newsom, B. Arch (Hons), ARIAS, RIBA, MmBS, Aberdour

Mon 24th **MEADOWEND FARM &
GARLET HOUSE EXCAVATIONS**
Liz Jones & Dan Atkinson, Headland Archaeology

APRIL

Mon 14th **AGM Cheese & wine**

Dates for your Diary
The Clackmannan Society

The Clackmannan Society
Winter programme 2007 / 2008

<u>Sat. 15th September</u>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Where the trail leads”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Jim Banks</i></p>
<u>Sat. 20th October</u>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Old Stirling” (Photographs in the Smith Collection)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dr Elspeth King</i></p>
<u>Sat. 17th November</u>	<p style="text-align: center;">“The Forth and Clyde Canal”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Guthrie Hutton</i></p>
<u>Sat. 8th December</u>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Sites Around the New Forth Crossing”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Dan Atkinson and Liz Jones.</i></p>
<u>Sat. 19th January</u>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Children Down the Coal Mines”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Craig Mair</i></p>
<u>Sat. 16th February</u>	<p style="text-align: center;">“The Story of Robert Dick”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Margaret Mercer</i></p>
<u>Sat. 15th March</u>	<p style="text-align: center;">“Members Night and AGM”</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>A relaxed evening for members to show slides from their own collections</i></p>

Dollar History Society
Programme 2007-2008

2007		
11 September	Dr. Ian Donnachie Reader in History The Open University	Robert Owen
09 October	Mr. Bill Wolsey Kincardine Local History Group	Lord Cochrane of Culross 10 th Earl of Dundonald. (Part 2)
13 November	Dr. Elspeth King Director, Smith Art Gallery and Museum, Stirling	George Buchanan Scotland’s Renaissance Man.
11 December	Professor Bruce P. Lenman Professor Emeritus of Modern History University of St. Andrews	King James, the French, the Spaniards and the birth of Virginia.
2008		
08 January	Mr. Brian Jackson Head of Mineralogy National Museums of Scotland	Historic Mining in the Ochils.
12 February	Professor R.B.McKean Professor of History University of Stirling	The Scots in Imperial Russia.
11 March	Dr. Alastair Durie History Department University of Stirling	Linen in the 18 th Century “Spinning a Fine Yarn”.
15 April	Mr. George Robertson Dunfermline History Society	The Battle of Inverkeithing 20 July 1651.
13 May	A.G.M. followed by Rev. Fianach Lawry, daughter of England Test Captain Douglas Jardine	Bodyline! England v Australia 1932 or Is it cricket?.

Kincardine Local History Group

2007

Meetings every second Wednesday in the Community Centre - Glancy Lounge 7.00-9.00pm

Oct 10th Bo'ness & Kinneil Railways (Sandy Simpson)
Oct 24th History of Scottish Cooking (Martin Clark)

Nov 7th Clanranald, Early Medieval Scotland (Scotty McMaster)

Nov 21st Forth & Clyde Canal (Guthrie Hutton)

Dec 5th West Fife Villages (Peter Baillie)
Dec 19th The Second World War in the Falkirk District (Geoff Bailey)

2008

Jan 9th Shipbuilding at Alloa (Bill Henderson)
Jan 23rd 'Blackadder' The Castle & the Family (Bill Wolsey)

Feb 6th Dunfermline Trilogy 3rd part (George Robertson)
Feb 20th Kincardine - Imports & Exports in the 1700s (Willie Anderson)

Mar 5th The Churches of Tulliallan & Kincardine (Andrew Lumsden)
Mar 19th Members Night & AGM

Stirling Field & Archaeology Society



WINTER PROGRAMME 2007/2008

Meet in the Smith Museum, Albert Place, Stirling
At 7.30pm

Tuesday, 9th October
RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK AT GARTLET HOUSE & MEADOWEND FARM NEAR CLACKMANNAN
Dan Atkinson & Liz Jones
Headland Archaeology

Tuesday 13th November
SCOTTISH SCYTHES ACROSS THE BORDER
Kathleen Battye – Division of Adult & Continuing Education,
University of Sheffield (Retired)

Tuesday 11th December
BIRDS IN THE GARDEN
Dr Stan Da Prato – Past President of SOC
Vice President of the Royal Caledonian Horticultural Society

Tuesday 8th January
THE BONNY BANKS: ARCHAEOLOGY OF ARDESS AND ROB ROY
Derek Alexander – Regional Archaeologist
South West Scotland, NTS

Tuesday 12th February
RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR UNDERSTANDING OF NEOLITHIC BRONZE AGE SCOTLAND: RE-INTERPRETING THE KILMARTIN VALLEY MONUMENTS
Dr Alison Sheridan, Head of Early Prehistory
Department of Archaeology, National Museums, Scotland.

Tuesday 11th March
Annual General Meeting & Members Night

SPRING WEEKEND - 18th to 21st May 2007.
DESTINATION - Banff Springs Hotel, Banff.

On Friday, the 18th May, a party of 25 members set out from Alloa on the annual field trip. This year the area to be discovered was north of the Forth and Clyde divide. The Coffee stop/meeting place was Aberlemno to view the Pictish Symbol stones, three by the road and one in the churchyard. This area was at one time inhabited by the Picts, a people descended from the Iron Age inhabitants. Their beautiful stone carvings are a lasting memorial of pictorial art.

The next stop was at Fettercairn, mainly to admire the Royal Arch of Rhenish-Gothic design, built in 1864 to commemorate the incognito visit of Prince Albert and Queen Victoria three years previously.

Though the village dates from the mid 18th century, its earlier past is well known through the exploits of Finella daughter of Connacher, Earl of Angus. Two miles, NE of Fettercairn is traditionally identified as Finella's castle, the place where Kenneth III was murdered in AD 944. The Chronicle of Kings says that "Kenneth was murdered by his own men in Fettercairn through the treachery of Finella".

Finella received the monarch with lavish hospitality. Within the castle she caused to be built a tower covered with copper and fitted inside with rich furnishings,

concealed behind them were crossbows set ready bent and loaded. In the centre, was a brazen image resembling the figure of the king, holding in one hand a golden apple, so artfully devised that if anyone took hold of it, the crossbows would discharge the arrows upon him. After dinner the King was invited to admire this representation of himself and accept the golden apple, which he did in all innocence with an inevitably fatal result.

The final visit of the route north was to the ancient stronghold of the Gordons of Huntly. The town of Huntly owes its existence to the powerful family of Gordon and the impressive ruin of their castle is well worth a visit. Here the visitor can experience the opportunity to view the development of the Scottish castle from the earliest Norman fortress to the palace of the 17th century.

It was one of the last strongholds of the great barons of the north, and, for a time, the headquarters of the Catholic faith in Scotland. Here was the home of the Gordons from 1375 until 1752. Amongst the royals there was a feeling that the family was becoming too powerful and needed "their wings clipped". This task fell to Mary, Queen of Scots, and though a supporter of the old religion, the political situation at the time was such that she was persuaded to move against Huntly. In 1562 she travelled north east and on the 28th October the two sides met in battle at Corrichie, on the Hill of Fare, 12 miles west of Aberdeen. Huntly fell off his horse and died, his two sons were made prisoner. The elder son was spared, but an

example was made of the younger son who was beheaded before the Queen at Aberdeen. The castle was wrecked and the contents looted.

However thirty years later the then Earl of Huntly made peace with King James and began repairing the castle. One year later he was made the 1st Marquis of Huntly. There is much of interest for the visitor, especially in the carvings; e.g. the doorway is probably the most splendid heraldic doorway in the British Isles. The eye is led from the lower themes to the higher. The panels begin with the arms of the marquis and his lady, then the King of Scots and his Danish Queen, above this is the Divine Power on which all mortal glory depends, then the Passion and the Resurrection, and at the summit the St. Michael group portrays the final triumph of Good over Evil on the Last Judgement. (I make no apology for including this explanation of the doorway, but I have, for many years, wished to be able to view it).

On we travelled on the last lap of our outward journey to Banff and our accommodation at the Banff Springs Hotel.

After a comfortable night the party set out to explore the surrounding area. Firstly we stopped at the Market square, called "The Plainstones", we had already learned that the Catholic religion had already been protected by the Gordons to a much later period than elsewhere in Scotland. The top of the Mercat Cross forms an octagonal, foliated capital of 16th century date, and depicts carved figures of

the crucifixion on the rear and St. John and the Virgin Mary on the front. Elsewhere in Scotland such images would have been destroyed by the Reformers. Also on the market square it is reputed that James Macpherson, the freebooter and thief was hanged. It is said that before he was hanged he played the Rant and then broke his fiddle. Robert Burns put words to the tune. Apparently, MacPherson had been pardoned, but the good people of Banff wanted this rogue out of their lives and deliberately put the clock back one hour.

" Sae rantingly sae wantingly, sae dauntingly gaed he; he played a tune and danced it round beneath the gallows tree."

DUFF HOUSE - architect, William Adam, 1730-39. The commission to design and build was given to Adam by William Duff, one of the richest men in the north-east, (created Lord Braco in 1735 and Earl Fife in 1739 - note the title is Earl Fife, Earl Fife is an Irish title, there was already an Earl of Fife).

The house is built in an extravagant baroque style of three storeys and a full basement. Braco never lived in the house due to a dispute between Adam and Braco in 1736 over cost of transporting items from Queensferry. The quarrel was so bitter that even when passing the house Braco would have the blinds drawn on his carriage to avoid looking at it.

In 1906 the Duke of Fife presented Duff House to the town councils of Banff and MacDuff. During the 2nd WW,

while it was housing German prisoners of war, it was bombed by the Nazis! Allied soldiers, Norwegian as well as Polish were billeted there - some evidence of Norwegian graffiti still exists. It was handed over to the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works (now Historic Scotland) in 1953.

Duff House is now an outpost for the National Galleries of Scotland who look after the magnificent collection of paintings and artefacts, as well as the Library and paintings from Dunimarle Castle in Culross. Lady Magdaleine Sharp Erskine, stated in her will that when the museum at Dunimarle closed, the collection should go to Duff House. Magdaleine Sharp Erskine is the small child in the David Allan painting of the Erskines of Torrie. The Erskines of Torrie are descended from John Erskine, 2nd Earl of Mar, Lord Chancellor of Scotland, boyhood friend of James VI as well as in later life. It is from his son, Lord Cardross, that the Erskines gained the Torrie estates. Later, a daughter, Frances, of Lt. Gen. Sir William Erskine, 1st Baronet, 1728-95, married William Wemyss - originators of the Wemyss Trust, this body is responsible for the Dunimarle collection. Madelaine Sharp Erskine was a sister to Frances Wemyss.

In the evening, we played host to a former Lord Lieutenant of Banff & Buchan, and after dinner he talked about the role of a Lord Lieutenant, and also demonstrating items of memorabilia.

The programme for Sunday was to explore the coastline and sites of interest of Banffshire. Monday, homeward bound, visiting on the way Leith Hall and Kildrummie Castle. This is one of the great castles of enclosure to have survived in Scotland, begun in 1296. Possibly, as a result of a visit by Edward I, the towers, ashlar plinth of the north curtain wall and the gatehouse were added. Kildrummie shows a similarity to the castles of Harlech and Caernavon as well as that of Bothwell. Its story is not without interest, in 1306 it was held by Sir Nigel Bruce against the English until betrayed by Osborn, the smith, who was rewarded, it is said, by having the gold promised poured molten down his throat. It was here, also, that Robert the Bruce sent his family during the Wars of Independence, however, this was not safe enough and the family was sent to Tain where they were betrayed. Bruce's wife, daughter and aunt were captured and imprisoned.

The final stop was to visit the church and standing stone at Migvie. The church has been completely renovated and now acts as a mausoleum to the parents of one Philip Astor, a wealthy man and one of the famous Astors. It contains modern versions of Pictish Art with the theme from darkness to light. Well worth visiting.

BETTY ROY

WEDNESDAY WALKS.

2nd May - Alloa to Dunfermline Link - Leader Jack Archibald.

Most may remember the uproar caused when Norman Tebbit suggested people should "get on their bikes". His statement was not allied to health matters but was based on economics.

However it is a far cry from that period, present day thought concentrates on having a healthy population and towards that end encourages fresh air activities, such as walking and cycling. A Government body Sustrans was given the remit to see that avenues for cyclists and walkers were created throughout Britain. These routes are now part of the National Cycle Pathways.

I became involved with the project two years ago and attended meetings in Dunfermline. At that Dunfermline had almost completed their stretch of the cycle path but there were still eleven miles in Clackmannanshire still to do. However it is now completed and a very attractive route it is.

We commenced the walk at Slack junction on the Fife/Clacks border and were thrilled to see the well-laid path stretching before us. It was a beautiful evening and I felt - "God`s in his Heaven and All`s Well with the world". A lovely, semi-circular stone construction depicted a brightly-coloured map of the cycle paths in

Clackmannanshire. Also listed the sponsors involved with the project. Along the way solid wooden seats had been erected for the weary travellers, even a staging post for dismounting or mounting a horse.

There was much of interest for our group, some primroses were still in bloom as well as a few dog violets. Birch trees were in abundance - these are known as the weeds of the forest due to their prolific seeding. Some industrial archaeology was still in evidence - the Cherryton chimney stack and remnants of the brickwork kilns were of interest on the way.

We passed one or two cottages and also dog walkers, needless to say that provided an opportunity to stop and have a chat. An excellent evening out.

BETTY ROY

June 13th Visit to Torryburn to Crombie Point. - leader Eddie Stewart FSA

Synopsis of Torryburn and Crombie point.

The earliest reference to Torryburn is the signature at Berwick-on Tweed of "Richard, persone e' glise de Torrv del count de Fyfe." to the Ragman Roll, or Act of submission of the Scottish clergy and laity, along with John Balliol, to Edward 1, in August 1296. Tory once belonged to the Wardlaw family, Walter Wardlaw being the Bishop of Glasgow from 1367 — 1389 and was promoted Cardinal by

Pope Clement VII. Henry Wardlaw was the Bishop of St Andrews between 1404 and 1440. The Wardlaws continued Lairds of Torrie at least down to 1619. It then passed to the Bruces, Earls of Kincardine, and at the end of the 17th century was purchased by Colonel William Erskine, son of Lord Cardross, and brother of Colonel John Erskine of Carnock, about the same time acquired the Culross estate and other possessions of the Kincardine family. Colonel William Erskine was succeeded in Torrie by his son and grandson. The latter became a baronet under the title of Sir William Erskine, who died at the end of the 18th century. His three sons who successively succeeded him having all died without issue, the estate went to his grandson Admiral Wemyss, whose mother was the eldest daughter of Sir William Erskine.

The former mining village of Torryburn grew up as one of the busy ports of the Forth. The Torry pier was situated at Newmills and the Torryburn pier at Preston Island. (very little of both these piers are left). The other, which was maintained for the transport of passengers and goods to the port of Borrowstouness on the other side of the Forth, with which a great traffic was carried on, more especially by the merchants and manufacturers of Dunfermline, who refurbished the pier around 1750, (and again refurbished in the 1800's) and owned the larger of the passage-boats. At the end of the 18th century there were thirteen vessels belonging to the locality, with an aggregate tonnage of upwards of 1,000 and giving employment to about seventy seamen.

As you travel from Newmills to Torryburn, on the left hand side you had the lands of R.G. Erskine Wemyss, Esq. (Torryburn Erskine's) and on the right, as you pass through the village, the lands of Eden Colville, Esq. A field on the former's estate near the church, bears the name of the "tulzie" or "battle" park, and contains a great standing — stone. Around this are several barrow like eminences or tumuli, which have been supposed to mark the burial place of combatants slain in some great engagement here in ancient times — possibly in a conflict between the Scots and an invading army. (One can see these from the A985 bypass).

Prior to the start of our walk, pause for a moment and cast your eyes over onto the shore, towards the railway bridge west of the car park and see if you can find a large stone with an iron ring. Local legend has it that it was here in 1704 that Lilies or Lily Adie was buried as an excommunicate, within high water mark, after dying in prison. Lily had been arrested by the Baron Bailie of Torryburn committed to prison and examined by Mr Logan¹, and his Kirk Session, for Witch Craft, she had confessed to a series of interviews which she had had with the Prince of Darkness, one notably in the "Darn Road", a lonely hollow way leading down to Torryburn from the farm of Cauldmailin on the Tony estate and another at "The Collet", between Torryburn and Newmills. Lily's bones, however no longer rest here, a curiosity prompted a disinterment and

¹ Allan Logan, d. 09.1733 minister of Torryburn then Culross, m. Mary Covill dau. Robert Colvill 2nd Lord of Ochiltree

examination of Lily's remains. The result has been the dispersion of the remains, which appear to have been as eagerly coveted as the relics of any canonized saint.

We start our walk along the footpath from Shore Road, Torryburn to Crombie Point which is approximately one mile each way, seats are available at various points along the path for those wishing to take a rest and enjoy the ambiance.

Craigflower House (originally named Craigfloor). 1775

Radical remodelling of an earlier house by David Bryce in 1862, containing all the elements of Scottish Baronial: crow-stepped gables, angle turrets, finials and pediment dormers. The inscription above the doorway "Ament Me Multi Timeant Te" *translation*, "May Many Love Me, Fear Me"

The building became a Preparatory School in 1925 and closed in 1979 after which the house became a ruin. In 1985 the house was converted into flats and new houses built in part of the estate.

Sir James Colville of "Ochiltree" in Ayrshire, who about 1530, exchanged that estate with, Sir James Hamilton of "Fynart" estate, for the "Barony of Easter Wemyss and Lochore shire" in Fife, which came to include Crombie and Craigflower. "The Place Crombie", their Salt Water House, and Cleish Castle their Country House.

Three Lord Colvilles died and were buried in Crombie old

Kirk. The oldest Sister heir to the Place of Crombie. married a man Ayton believed to have been involved in "The Gowrie Conspiracy", he was imprisoned in Blackness Castle. They had two sons, Robert the elder, inherited the estate in 1728 and moved into Craigflower House.

Old Crombie Church

Old Crombie Church was abandoned in 1616. The old 13th century Church was used as a Mausoleum for three Lord Colvilles. The Lord Colville, who died in 1662, his dying request was that he should be buried by torchlight on the evening of the day of his decease. His monument, is the weatherworn stone, which lies against the east gable, the inscription is now indecipherable. The parents of Alison Cunningham (nurse to R.L Stevenson) were buried here in 1875 (second stone in from the gate in front of the east gable). See next page, "To Alison Cunningham from her boy"

The Gardeners Cottage

The Gardeners Cottage where the Head Gardner stayed, the small house below the Tower House was for the Under Gardener. The produce of the walled gardens and surrounding fields, supported Craigflower House and the Dower House, and latterly Craigflower School. (Both houses refurbished and presently occupied).

Witches House

Witches House, (formerly "Tower House" or "The Place Crombie"), or (Salt Water House), this was the summerhouse of the Colville's of Ochiltree. The house was

rebuilt around 20 years ago, in the style of a Scots Lairds Tower.

Craigflower Dower House

Craigflower Dower House last used around 100 years ago, by a Torryburn Minister the Rev. Thomas Doig and his family, deposed from Torryburn church, on refusing to conform. The Rev. Thomas Doig later built the Free Church in Newmills.

Stripeside House

Stripeside House has a large "Tithe Barn", "Gulland and Christie families used it at one time for Grain — Milling and Malting. Another owner at one time was a Linen Merchant in Dunfermline.

Crombie Point House

Crombie Point House, at one time was owned by, Captain Ingles, who sailed with the Hudson Bay Co. and died in 1905. Captain Ingles also repaired the old Crombie Pier.

"Women and Children First" Now! A Universal Code of Conduct

The world—wide well known phrase, cried out by sea Captains manning their sinking ships, can trace its origins back to Torryburn. Captain Salmond, from the village, is credited with making the remarks when his troop-ship the "Birkenhead" hit a submerged rock at Simon's Bay, South Africa, 26th February 1852 when 454 of the crew and soldiers perished.

Robert Louis Stevenson

"To Alison Cunningham from her Boy"

For the long nights you lay awake
And watched for unworthy sake,
For your most comfortable hand
That led me through the uneven land
For all the storybooks you read
For all the pains you comforted
For all you pitied, all you bore,
In the sad and happy days of yore—
My second mother, my first wife,
The angel of my infant life,
From the sick child now well and old
Take nurse, this little book I hold!
Arid grant it, Heaven that all who read
May find as dear a nurse at need;
And every child that all lists my rhyme
In the bright fireside nursery clime,
May find it as a kind a voice,
As made my childish days rejoice!"

This greatest token of his love and the grandest tribute he ever paid his dutiful nurse and companion of his early years, was expressed in dedicating to her his poems, *A Childs Garden of Verse*, and inscribing therein the beautiful lines, which only a grateful soul could write.

This book was presented to Mr Robert Drummond by "Cummy" and is still in the possession of the family in the Village today.

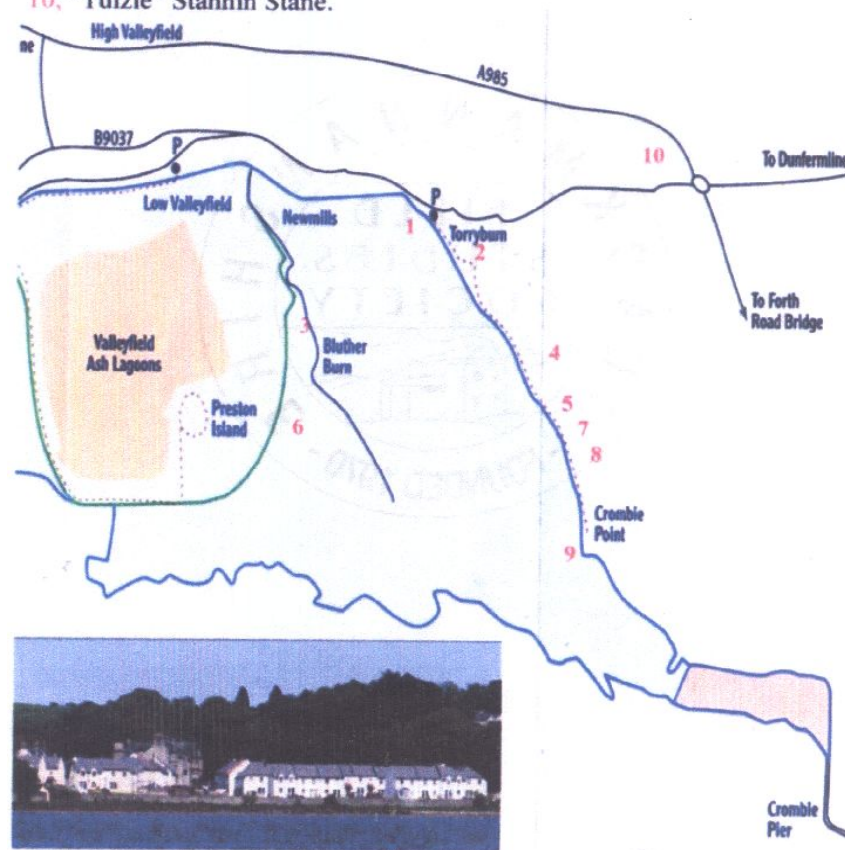
Torryburn Jean

The image is that of a human head, one time placed above a sundial, which was in a bole in an upper story building, opposite a New Road main street Torryburn, by way of ornamentation. It has no historical association with Witches. "Torryburn Jean", was painted above the sundial in 1926, merely for "fun o' the thing". Now, situated in someone's garden, opposite Post Office Torryburn.

This is taken from a beautiful booklet, Eddie produced for us on the evening of the walk, without the pictures, of all the places mentioned. Thank you, Eddie, for all your efforts, in this.

Legend

- 1, Lily Adie, Buried on Sea Shore 1704, (As a Witch.)
- 2, Craigflower House 1862, by David Bryce.
- 3, Remains of Torry Pier.
- 4, Crombie Cemetery, remains of 13c, Church . Colville's Mausoleum.
- 5, Witches Tower, That Place Crombie, belonging to the Colville's.
- 6, Remains of Torryburn Pier.
- 7, Craigflower Dower House
- 8, Stripeside House.
- 9, Crombie Point.
- 10, "Tulzie" Stannin Stane.



Torryburn from Preston Island.

Eddie Stewart

July 11th Ochils Woodland Walk & Silver Mines
Marilyn Scott

Alva and the Woodland Park

Alva lies at the foot of the Ochil Hills where the Alva Burn emerges from Alva Glen. A settlement with a church was already established here by 1260 when control of the local estates was granted to Cambuskenneth Abbey near Stirling.

After the Reformation, the local estate came into the ownership of the Erskine family. At the time the grandest residence in the area was a tower house built much earlier just to the east of the town. In 1636 Sir Charles Erskine incorporated this into the much larger Alva House.

The 1700s saw Alva expand considerably. In the early years of the century silver was found in Alva Glen and a mine was opened by Sir John Erskine to exploit it, using miners from Leadhills.

The silver ore that emerged was the purest ever found anywhere in Great Britain and made Erskine's fortune before the vein of ore ran out. At its height, in the years around 1710, silver to the value of £4,000 per week was emerging from the mine. That was a vast amount of money at the time.

Some of the money was invested in developing the Devon colliery, to the south of Alva, which started production in the mid 1700s. Erskine also built a short canal to link his

colliery to the River Devon. The colliery later produced ironstone as well as coal, and a local ironworks had been established by the end of the 1700s.

The first of Alva's "modern" woollen mills was established in 1798 on the banks of the Alva Burn, and other mills rapidly followed. The largest of Alva's mills, the Strude Mill, began work in 1825. The textile industry in Alva diminished dramatically in the second half of the 1900s. The magnificent Strude Mill was always the most impressive of the town's mills, and it remained in use as part of a larger complex until 1976. It was converted into flats in 1987 and still dominates many views of the town.

The uphill area of Alva shows clearly the social divisions in the town in the 1800s. Rows of single storey millworkers' cottages line many of the north-south streets, while the east-west Ochil Street is home to the grand houses originally built for the millowners.

By the early 1800s Alva House had been purchased by the Johnstone family. They greatly expanded it in about 1820. The house passed to Miss Carrie Johnstone in 1890, but on her death in 1929 it could not be sold. It was destroyed by being used for military target practice during World War II. In recent years a modern and slightly more modest Alva House has been constructed in an imposing position to the east of the town.

Wood Hill Wood - Alva

Location and Altitude

Woodhill Wood is located on the southern slope of the Ochil Hills, between the villages of Alva and Tillicoultry, to the north of the A91. The lower boundary of the main body of the wood is at an altitude of approximately 90m, whilst the upper boundary is at approximately 390m above sea level.

The slope of the site is extremely steep, both from the north to south boundary, but also into the east and west boundaries fast flowing burns have carved narrow, steep sided glens.

Physical Description

The underlying rock of the Ochil Hills is igneous of the Devonian period, of an intermediate (between acidic and basic) nature. This gives rise to soils of the Sourhope soil association. These are drifts, derived from old red sandstone, intermediate lavas. The soils are generally brown forest soils. However, at Woodhill Wood, the soil layer is extremely thin and totally absent in certain areas where bare rock or scree forms the ground surface.

The woodland at Woodhill grades from mature high forest, of closely spaced trees and a dense canopy cover, on the lower slopes, through pole-stage regeneration, to scattered mature trees and open grassland on the hill tops. The predominant species are sycamore (mostly on the lower

slopes - planted 1940s), ash (mostly on mid slopes - planted 1970s), and Scots pine, larch, oak and beech (mostly on upper slopes - planted 1880s). Other species scattered over the site in small numbers include birch, wild cherry, rowan, yew and elm (both undiseased and dead), and there are also distinct blocks of Sitka spruce and western hemlock (planted 1960s). There are groups of western hemlock in the south western block, a small area of Sitka spruce in the south eastern woodland block, and a plantation of Sitka spruce in the north western corner. Larch is found mainly in the Silver Glen on the west, and in patches on the top of the treeline right across the site.

The understorey generally consists of dense patches of ash regeneration, elder, blackthorn and hawthorn scrub, and occasional rowan regeneration. The understorey is most abundant and varied in Silver Glen, but throughout much of the mature woodland an understorey is absent. Rhododendron used to form much of the understorey in places, but is now sparse after years of control.

Ground flora in the woodland varies from none, in areas where the soil cover is of stony scree and the canopy very dense, to dense bracken and brambles on some parts of the lower slopes. There are large areas in the mature woodland where the ground flora is exclusively dog's mercury. Higher up the slope, the ground flora consists of soft grasses, that become coarse and acid tolerant at even greater altitudes. There are substantial areas of bracken, small patches under the tree canopy in the south west and large areas beyond the treeline, particularly in the west of

the woodland. Mosses are frequent over the mid slopes, particularly on rocks.

At the upper elevations of Woodhill, the woodland begins to thin out, with groups of scattered trees amongst grassland. Along much of the northern boundary, which is the point of greatest altitude, the site is devoid of trees. The grassland in this area is predominantly composed of acid tolerant species and blaeberry is prolific. It is evident that grazing animals, deer and occasional rabbits, feed in this area, maintaining a closely cropped sward. The steep, almost cliff-like slopes below the grass plateau are covered with either soft grasses or bracken and scattered trees.

There is plenty of deadwood throughout the wood, with both standing and lying dead trees.

There are a number of old mine shafts and adits in the western part of the woodland near Silver Burn. First opened in 1714 the mines were finally abandoned in 1770. The principal metals recovered from these mines were silver, cobalt and arsenic.

Whilst silver mining at Alva has romantic connections with the Jacobite rebellions, the cobalt mining has important associations with the production of the blue glaze, Littler's Blue.

There are three sites of archaeological interest in the wood. These are not scheduled ancient monuments, but remain of historical interest. All three sites are located in

the west of the site, in the vicinity of Silver Burn. The first is on the west side of the burn, and is a circular enclosure. The structure is of unknown date and function. The other two structures are both on the east side of the burn, north of the tributary, but south of the Sitka spruce plantation. These are both formed from a series of turf enclosures of unknown date, although they are suggested to be from the late/post-medieval period rather than prehistoric. Both of these sites are thought to have served some kind of agricultural function. All three of the structures occur in areas of ground that are currently unwooded.

Site History

The wood is described in the Ancient Woodland Register (NCC) as being ancient wood of long-established plantation origin. The site is believed to be one of the oldest plantations in Scotland, having been planted in the middle of the 18th century. The funding for this planting project is thought to have been derived from the silver extracted from Silver Glen, under the direction of the then owner, Sir John Erskine.

Little is known about woodland management between the 18th century and the 1940s, although timber extraction obviously occurred. In the 1940s the Forestry Commission planted much of the lower slopes with sycamore. Further Forestry Commission planting was in the shape of blocks of conifers planted in the 1960s. The wood was purchased by the Woodland Trust in 1990, with grant aid from the then

Countryside Commission for Scotland. A small extension was gifted by Clackmannanshire Council in 1994. Works since acquisition include erecting safety grills over mine entrances, rhododendron clearance, path construction, felling a larch block and replanting, thinning sycamore, and fence renewals.

Access Information

Most visitors to Woodhill Wood use either the main track leading from the council car park NW to gain access to the Ochil Hills beyond, or use a section of the track to the east as part of the long distance multi-use route towards Tillicoultry. Less frequently, walkers use the circular path (approximately 2km long) which starts from the car park, heads NW up a vehicular track, then climbs steeply uphill on a narrow path (before SilverBurn). This path then runs fairly levelly across the middle slopes, before dropping steeply down again to join the Council path and heading west back to the car park. There are 3 viewpoints on this path with superb views to the south.

(excerpted from the internet)

Marilyn Scott

22nd August Walk round Gartmorn Dam.

The final Wednesday Walk of the season featured a stroll round Gartmorn Dam. This was a happy hunting ground for the early members of this society. You may recollect that it was from an interest in Industrial Archaeology that the society was formed in 1970. An introductory event - An Historical Walk Round Gartmorn Dam attracted around 30 participants, and also increased the membership. A booklet was produced detailing areas of interest.

I would like to thank the Ranger Service for erecting attractive information boards and some artefacts pinpointing areas of interest.

As we crossed the bridge at the eastern end of the dam, our attention was drawn to a brass plaque stating "Hardy's Link". The question was asked "Who was Hardy?" The following information was handed in by the Ranger, Euan Hills. Thank you Euan.

Sgt., Hardy was one of a group of engineers who built the wooden bridge over the Lade at the east end of Gartmorn Dam. He was killed shortly afterwards in a road accident in Northern Ireland c. 1990.

The bridge was not built specifically as a memorial. One of Sgt., Hardy's soldiers came about three months after the bridge was constructed with a small wooden plaque that he had made and asked the manager at that time, Ken

Patterson, if he could put it up as Hardy was involved in the planning of the bridge.

There were no records kept at that time but from what I recall the plaque was vandalised or was never put up because of fear of vandalism and it wasn't until a year later we received a phone call from a soldier whom Hardy`s parents wanted to go and see the bridge. I was instructed to install a small brass plaque on the bridge with "Hardy`s Link" prior to the visit by the parents.

Betty Roy,
Euan Hills
Acting Principal Ranger.

Saturday Outings.

Saturday, 30th June - The House of Dun. - Leader Jack Archibald.

Following the trend, the Saturday excursion was once more a most successful day out. Wall to wall sunshine enabled us to have lunch in the grounds and also take a leisurely walk through the grounds. A visit to the old church and burial grounds was, of course, a must. Of course all cannot be perfect, it rained all the way home!

Some of the party remembered a hurried visit to the House of Dun on the occasion of the Erskine Coach trip in the 1980s. The Dun estate was purchased in 1375 by Sir Robert Erskine of that Ilk. The Erskine of Alloa another

Sir Robert had exchanged lands with the king for those of Alloa in 1368. I have not yet found out what the relationship was between the two Roberts. On this occasion, we took advantage of the time at our disposal when we could "stand and stare". Our guided tour of the building lasted 2 and a half hours.

Here we were looking at a rather grand building, built by William Adam for David Erskine of Dun, before employing Adam, advice was sought from John, VI Earl of Mar who, of course was known as an excellent architect in his own right. In 1723, in exile, advised that the new house ought to have one or two handsome and large rooms for the Master to entertain his friends and where couples of young folks may dance when they have a mind to. It was this David Erskine, who, along with James, Lord Grange, helped to buy back some of the estates forfeited by John the VI Earl.

Inside the grand public rooms are awesome especially the plaster work by Joseph Enzer. There are also some very fine paintings and of course we were able to associate many of them with the House of Erskine in Alloa. Some of the embroidery excuted by Lady Augusta FitzClarence, daughter of William IV and the actress Dorothy Jordon, was greatly admired. (Fitz denoted born on the wrong side of the blanket).

To do justice to the scale and beauty of the House of Dun, I would need more time than I have at the moment.

Betty Roy.

Linlithgow & Environs

Saturday 25th August was the date of the last Saturday outing and this time we explored Linlithgow Palace, St Michael's Church, Torphican and the Korean War Memorial at Cockleroy. On other occasions both Linlithgow Palace and the church have been featured in this newsletter, thus no need to repeat.

TORPHICHEN PRECEPTORY, is the Scottish seat of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, founded in the early 12th century at the height of the monastic reform. Though they served under military orders, their brief was to care for the poor and sick and to provide escorts to the Holy Land. In 1312, the Knights Templars were suppressed and their property passed to the Hospitallers. The order was given possession of the right of sanctuary - the stones still remain in the graveyard. Not much remains of the buildings associated with the Hospitallers, except the tower and some vaulted transepts. The nave of the preceptory is now incorporated in the present church. A blocked up window facing into the graveyard shows the quality of tracery carving used in the original building.

The Torphicen site belongs to Historic Scotland, but is run by members of the Order and all money collected in entrance fees goes to charities of their choice.

The graveyard is very interesting having a number of stones a shape and style I have not seen before. There is

one, carved on either side at the top of the stone is a half of a jaw bone - this is most unusual. Two other stones have what would appear to be the branching chalice that Jews use to symbolise the tribes of Israel. Perhaps this was something relating to the rituals of the order.

Our final visit was to the attractive war memorial of pagoda style, erected on a very peaceful site. It commemorates the 1100 British men who died in the Korean War.

Betty Roy.

Dr John Fleming and the silver salver

John Fleming born 1785 in Bathgate was a farmer's son. He prepared at Edinburgh University for the Church of Scotland and at the same time studied natural sciences. Although he came from an "Auld Licht" family he entered the Parish ministry, but before doing so he spent considerable time in Shetland studying rock formations.

His scientific studies were often interrupted by calls for him to take the pulpit at the local church at Bressay. His first charge was the small parish of Flisk near St Andrews. During his ministry at Flisk he made close acquaintance of Thomas Chalmers of Kilmany with whom he enjoyed many scientific conversations. Chalmers however feared that their friendship had little to do with religion. (Thomas Chalmers was the leading dissenter in the 1843 disruption)

During this ministry, Fleming found time to publish works on The Philosophy of Zoology and British Animals. Also, at the early age of 29 he was made a D.D. by St Andrews University.

In 1832 and after 21 years at Flisk, Fleming was persuaded by Lord Dundas (patron at Clackmannan) to take the charge of Clackmannan Parish minister where he remained for only 2 years, because in 1834 he was appointed to the Chair of Natural Philosophy at Kings College Aberdeen. During his short tenure he identified particularly well with the community and earned much respect. He had concerns for the stone of Mannan which was being chipped away by souvenir hunters. He collaborated with Bruce of Kennet and Francis Horn the local vat builder. As a result, a large stone plinth was transported from the Abbey Craig onto which the sacred stone was mounted safe from the desecrating hands of sightseers. On his going from Clackmannan, the people of the town presented him with a silver salver inscribed thus:

*"Presented to the Reverend John Fleming by the parishioners of Clackmannan, as an expression of their gratitude for the faithful and superior manner he discharged his duties while their Pastor and in token of their esteem and regard for him as a sincere Friend
Clackmannan 18th August 1834.*

The Salver went with Fleming to Aberdeen. In 1843 he "came out" with Chalmers and in 1845 was appointed to the new Chair of Natural Science at New College.

On Fleming's death in 1854, his son Alexander fell heir to the salver, he was in the Indian Medical Service and rose to the position of Surgeon General.

The salver was subsequently passed to Fleming's grandson, Lieut-Colonel John M Fleming of the same service, who, on retiring, brought it back to Edinburgh. On his death in October 1942, his widow, Alice (Trixie) the gifted sister of Rudyard Kipling, presented it to Clackmannan Church for the use of its minister in the Manse.

This historical relic is now used for communion purposes at Clackmannan Parish Church.

Jim Banks