

## Volume 40 Part II

April 2012

Newsletter No. 88

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The weather has been very good this winter and this seems to have had a positive affect on the attendance at our meetings which have been higher than normal this time of year. However one thing we had to do this season was to change some of our speakers around as they were unable to attend on their given dates. I hope you enjoyed the lectures despite being them in the wrong order!

It is with great sadness that our Chairperson, Betty Roy, passed away. She had been a committee member since the Field Studies started over forty years ago. I wrote an article about her for the Alloa Advertiser and The Wee County News and I have now put in this in the Newsletter. I have lost a dear friend.

Eddie Stewart has now taken over the job of Chairperson. I would like to say a big thank you to him. Our committee is very small. We would welcome anyone who would like to join the committee. We would like to keep the Field Studies going for another forty years!

Unfortunately we have had quite a few deaths this season. Shortly after Betty died we lost Isobel Grant Stewart. I always had a smile on my face after any meeting with Isobel - she had her own way of living life! Then it was with sadness that both Alistair Cruickshank and Elizabeth (Betty) Bakken passed away. Betty Bakken died after a short illness, at the age of 87, at Forth Valley Royal Hospital on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> February 2012. She was from Clackmannan and had been a member of the Society from 2001 to 2007.

Finally the last person to pass away was Ella Murray. I was born, like Ella, in Motherwell and she was my last personal link with the place. I will miss her very much. There are obituaries for Isobel, Alistair and Ella in the Newsletter.

On the Sunday, of Open Doors Day, we again opened up the Mausoleum and Old Kirk Grave Yard. Betty was too ill to do the guided tours of the grave yard so at the last minute, Eddie stepped in to do the job in her place. David Hunter and I would like to thank him for an excellent job. The weather was very good that day, and it was a great success. It was a full day with 70 people signing in for the tour of the Grave Yard and Mausoleum. Many other people also come along on their own, to look at the grave yard.

We are now looking forward to the summer programme. It looks very interesting. If you have a friend that would like to come on the walks etc. please let them know about the programme. Any newcomers would be very welcome.

Once again I would like to thank all the people who contributed reports and articles in this Newsletter. Their efforts are very much appreciated.

**OBITUARY**  
**Elizabeth Kinloch Roy MBE**  
**9<sup>th</sup> July 1925 — 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011**



**1 Melrose weekend at the Wallace Monument 1 May 2010**

Betty died of a brain tumour, peacefully in the Forth Valley Royal Infirmary, Larbert with her family around her.

Betty received her MBE for voluntary service to heritage in Clackmannanshire in June 2009.

Betty, as we all knew her, was born in Alva and then moved to Alloa. She had a little break from Alloa when she married a Polish gentleman and went to live in Poland for eleven years. When she returned, she went to Dundee to study to become a teacher. She had a lengthy career as a primary school teacher with Clackmannanshire Council later Central Regional Council and was much liked and respected by pupils, parents and colleagues.

Following a local history class held in Clackmannan College of Further Education in 1970, Betty became a founder member of the Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society. For 40 years, Betty was the driving force behind the Society, which organises an annual lecture series and frequent field trips. In the following 40 years Betty devoted much of her time to the work of the Society, encouraging interest in the local environment and history of Clackmannanshire and surrounding areas. Betty was chairperson since the early 1980s. She was a central figure in the management and organisation of the Society.

Betty was the co-author of: Alloa Tower and the Erskines of Mar; Mines and Minerals of the Ochils; Linn Mill; Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society Newsletter and Survey of the Old Kirkyard.

All of this work was done on a voluntary and unpaid basis and she was always willing to help people who were working to promote conservation or heritage matters.

There is much to be proud of in the history of Clackmannanshire and Betty has done more than any other person to make this proud heritage known about and accessible to the general public.

She has not only helped to preserve historic buildings such as Alloa Tower; through her work as a Trustee of Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust; she has researched and made available records of what exists and where it can be found.

Her enthusiasm, organising ability and great fund of readily available knowledge have inspired many others to take up the work she started so successfully.

Betty took a leading role in getting Alloa Tower re-established as a tourist attraction. This building was open by HM the Queen in 1996.

Betty pioneered Walking Tours of Alloa, showing historic parts of Alloa to the public. These were organised and conducted by Betty and took place regularly. The walking tours started in 1973 and continued up until 18 months ago.

Betty helped plan and operate tour bus trips around Clackmannanshire.

She also took a leading role in Alloa Kirkgate outreach project, which surveyed and recorded the historic gravestones in Alloa Old Kirkyard. The results of this project were lodged in the libraries of Edinburgh, Stirling and Alloa. A tour guide of the Old Kirkyard was produced, which is used by visitors to trace particular headstones or to better understand the symbols on view.

Betty still received queries from people all round the world who were tracing their ancestors.

Betty was a leading light in the Open Doors project. She always liked to take part in the project.

Betty helped to establish Friends of Alloa Tower; she was chairperson when she died.

She was a Committee Member of the Friends of Clackmannanshire Museum & Heritage Service.

Betty was a Trustee from 1996 till the present of Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust.

In the past Betty was a former President of Alloa Town & Country Club, and many other organisations.

Betty is survived by her daughter Irene, granddaughter Suzi and son-in-law Robert. Her kind, gentle, friendly manner and unswerving commitment will be missed by family, friends and colleagues.

*Isobel Wood (Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society)*



## 2 Betty at Dornoch 2011

Betty adapted her style of coordination of the Society over the years to match the advancing ages of many of the members. The annual May Weekend Field Trip in recent years has been based in hotels, carefully chosen by Betty for economy, with tours to local sites by car. However, in the 1970s when we were all younger, Betty selected low cost hostel accommodation, such as the Ski Lodge at Bridge of Orchy, the chalets at Fearnan, or at Dalguise House and our outings were largely on foot,

often through and over hill country. This was particularly appropriate as, before her retirement, she used to bring along some of her pupils on these expeditions.

Betty was a born teacher and her leadership of the Field Studies was a natural extension and follow-on from her teaching activity. She liked to take her pupils out of the classroom to show them such varied things as wildlife and industrial archaeology and so, as Chair and leader of the Field Studies, she did the same for our members. Whilst ably assisted by her committee, Betty was undoubtedly the engine and driving force of the Field Studies for some forty years, making the Society the success which it is today, giving the members insight into many fascinating and diverse subjects and providing great pleasure, enjoyment and friendship along the way.

**Eric Jenkinson**

## The Late Isobel Grant Stewart

Isobel was born on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1926 at The Mill House, Keiller's Brae, Sauchie. Her parents, Thomas Stewart and Davina Louisa Jane Browne had married in 1922. She had an older brother named Sandy who was born in 1923.

Isobel's father was employed all his life with Patons & Baldwins as a clerk. Isobel's mother came from Broughty Ferry and was working with one of the Paton families as a governess when she met and married Thomas Stewart.

Isobel was educated at Alloa Academy then went on to do a Teacher Training course in Dundee as a primary teacher. During her childhood she learned to play the piano in which she was quite skilled.

After her training she gained employment in local schools until, in her late 20s, she decided to venture abroad and went to South Africa, where she taught in the most renowned girl's boarding school in Johannesburg.

She later transferred to a school in Rhodesia where she was particularly happy with the country and I am sure she would have continued living there had not circumstances changed at home.

It was when in Rhodesia that her brother died after a long illness.

Isobel returned home to help her aging parents. It was at this time the family moved from their house in Clackmannan Road to 16 Kellie Place which became Isobel's final home.

Isobel, having no relatives in this country and only a few distant relations in America, cherished friendships she made; many of these were very long standing.



Once back in Alloa Isobel became interested in the local history and the writing of poetry, the latter gift possibly coming from her mother who also tried her hand at it. Isobel was successful in getting some of her works published.

Isobel was a regular member and choir member of St. Mungo's Parish Church.

She was also secretary of the Gas Federation, a group sponsored by the local gas board to promote cooking with gas. This is peculiar as Isobel never excelled as a cook and positively disdained any domestic chore.

Isobel was a founder member of the Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society, Friends of Alloa Tower and Friends of Alloa Museum as well as being sometime president of the local branch of the Retired Teachers Association. She was also a regular and very able guide, at Alloa Tower. Her interest in these societies showed by her being a committee member in each until infirmity curtailed her activities.

Isobel's continued interest in history resulted in her joining the Mary Stuart society because of Queen Mary's association with the Erskines of Alloa. In one of her plays she brings Mary Stuart alive in "It Cam Wi A Lass And It Will Gang Wi A Lass – a depiction of Mary Queen of Scot's life. Isobel produced other plays recorded by friends who portrayed some aspects of the lives of locals whom Isobel had researched. Her greatest historical works are undoubtedly the articles she composed for the Alloa Advertiser, promoting local history and making an effort to educate all within Clackmannanshire in the importance of local history within Scottish history. Her booklets are still as relevant today as when written.

Isobel was extremely generous to causes, or persons, she thought worthy and contributed handsomely to many charities, whether it be arts, medical or religious, both in this country and also in Africa.

Isobel was very committed to St. Mungo's Church and supported it in various ways; one being the donation of the organ in memory of her mother.

Latterly Isobel was restricted in her activities by declining eyesight, which she was reluctant to admit to anyone. However, in spite of this she continued researching and producing articles until she was admitted to hospital over two years ago.

Isobel was a very schoolmistressy person who could be intimidating to those who did not know her but loved by those who knew her for her passion for what she believed in. She was an outstanding character who had a pawky sense of humour and is missed by the community and those of us who knew her well.

**R.L.Lindsay**

## **OBITUARY**

### **Alistair Cruickshank 1931 - 2012**

Members of the Society who had the pleasure of knowing Alistair were much saddened by the news of his death on 15 October, after a long period of declining health.

He was born in Dumfries and loved to return there throughout his life. He was educated at the High School of Stirling and then at Glasgow University, where he graduated in geography and was awarded the Student Medal of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society.

Next came National Service in the RAF and teacher training at Jordanhill. Afterwards he returned to Glasgow to teach in his old University Department. Before long however he, together with his wife Sheena and their young family, moved to Derbyshire where he ran a new Adult Education Centre. A Rotary post-graduate scholarship

brought the opportunity to spend some time in the United States and thus began associations and friendships which endured throughout his life. Indeed, he later became a Visiting Professor at three universities.

In 1966 Glasgow University lured him back as a lecturer. However, in 1986 it was time to move on and Alistair became Director of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, initially based in Edinburgh and later moving to Glasgow. During his ten years in the post he initiated the changes that eventually led to the Society's final move to its new headquarters in the Fair Maid's House in Perth. Only towards the end of his life did he have the very great pleasure of visiting its fine new home.

Retirement from his post at the Society certainly did not bring with it relaxation. He became ordained as an Auxiliary Minister in the Church of Scotland and served as a locum to many local congregations but also in Coll and for nine months, in New Jersey, USA.

The community of Dollar benefited over many years from numerous local activities to which he gave of his time freely. He was a member of Clackmannanshire District Council, a Community Councillor, a Governor of Dollar Academy and the Area Commissioner of the local Scouts. Additionally he managed to fit in being a member of the Forth Valley Health Board, was a long-serving member of the Committee of Dollar Civic Trust and was latterly Chairman of Dollar History Society.

When some leisure time actually became available he loved fishing, gardening and walking in the hills.

Some ten years ago Alistair fulfilled a cherished ambition to gain some first-hand knowledge of the ill-fated Franklin expedition which, in 1845, had tried to find the North West Passage to the Pacific. As a Fellow of the Royal Canadian Geographical Society he was invited to join a group travelling in a Russian ship to the Canadian Arctic, visiting Greenland en route and especially calling at Disco Bay.

Some time before this Alistair had become a Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Clackmannanshire but in 2001 he had the very great pleasure of seeing Sheena become the Queen's representative in the Wee County on her appointment as Lord Lieutenant. At the end of her term of office he took enormous pride in her investiture by the Queen as a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order, an honour in the personal gift of the Sovereign.

When the three Cruickshank children, Gilean, Sandy and Fraser, were growing up in Dollar they shared their home with a number of foster children. However, they and their own families are now living in Scotland, England and the USA.

Throughout his varied and active life Alistair gave of his energies with enthusiasm, great charm and infectious good humour. We shall think of him with pleasure and be grateful for all that he did for us.

**Brenda Jenkinson**

**Helen Ramage Murray (Ella)**

**13 June 1919 — 22 February 2012**

**Extracts from a Eulogy given by Margot Watt, Ella's Daughter,  
at the Celebration of her long life in St. Mungo's Parish Church**

My mum came in to the world premature and not very strong. Born to James and Helen Brown in Motherwell she was a 1919 baby boom baby, and became the middle one of five children, John, Fay, Ella, Margaret and Mima. Despite that early vulnerability she stayed around and enjoyed life for 92 years and made a big impact on everyone whose lives she touched, especially her immediate family!

She led such an active, full life that I sometimes thought there was no one in Central Scotland, far less Clackmannanshire who didn't know my mum personally or know of her. My mother was the last surviving member of the original 11<sup>th</sup> Motherwell Guides, the South Dalziel company she joined as an

11 year old when it formed in 1930. When my parents moved here with me in 1950 she was instrumental in helping guiding in this county to flourish. First, in Clackmannan, but then from the mid 1950's in Tullibody and Cambus, where she ran the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tullibody and Cambus guides, and where she was District Commissioner in the 70s. She never gave up guiding completely and was still a member of the Trefoil Guild in Clackmannanshire, 81 years after joining as that wee lass in Motherwell. Guiding was a very big part of my mother's life...but also my dad's...he was my mother's right hand man, turned his hand to all sorts and you could say became an 'honorary guide' and a recipient of the Thanks Badge as a result! And you know the loveliest coincidence happened last week...my mum, a vice president of Girl Guiding Clackmannanshire even chose Thinking Day, the 22<sup>nd</sup> February to die on...how appropriate was that!

I grew up listening to her recite all sorts of poetry, mostly Scottish and Burns in particular. Every January she practised non stop out loud around the house. At one time I think I knew Tam o' Shanter just about well enough to say it with her! Elocution lessons in her growing up years and her hard earned and well deserved ALCM, made her much sought after at so many Burns Suppers.

My parents, Walter and Ella, were both working as librarians in Lanarkshire libraries when they met, and in their courting years before and in the early war years. They married in 1943 when they realised that the best way to see each other and to ensure leave at the same time from the Air Force and the ATC was to get married. It wasn't till two or three days before the wedding that my dad got his leave confirmed. How nerve wracking that must have been. My mum had clear memories of life during war time and, not so many years ago, she helped local historians here in Clackmannanshire to record what she remembered in so much detail.

As a family we moved to Kennet House in 1950 when dad became County Librarian here and a 'weel kent' face in his own right. But in years to come, he was often described as Ella Murray's husband so well known was she too. I am convinced she knew everyone and remembered them all it seemed, forever! Just before her death we were talking churches, and organists and she was well able to chip in with her own comments and memories.

My mum took up her profession again in the 60s when we moved from Tullibody to Alloa, when I was about 12. She worked in the library or archives

of Harlands first, and later, started as a school librarian in Riverside School at Stirling. My mother was always a great reader and even the poorest readers in her classes were encouraged to read, even the lad who asked for a book 'wi wee words and big writing'; he got what he wanted and enjoyed the reading experience thanks to her efforts.

And all this time she and my father were involved in the other great love they had. This was for the church. First in Motherwell, at South Dalziel, then as members at St Serf's in Tullibody and later here in St Mungo's. This was where my mother became one of the first female elders in the Church of Scotland, ordained in April 1977, and a job she took to her heart and went about very conscientiously, with personal visits to deliver Communion cards or The Parishioner or to support those needing a listening ear, and with regular letters especially at Christmas to those she was elder for even when they lived far away. The Women's Guild also was a favourite meeting place that she enjoyed and supported regularly. This may be where her passion for feeding the five thousand started.

They thoroughly enjoyed the experience of being members, in various capacities, of all sorts of local and national clubs, groups and societies. My mum never grudged the time she spent helping to raise funds for a wide range of charities through the Inner Wheel, (I seem to remember this sometimes involved a factory type production line in the kitchen at 1 Academy Street with lots of cooking, baking, and making soups, chutneys, jams and lemon curds .....all things my mum loved to do. Her shortbread, cheese scones, and meringues were renowned). The friendship, the fellowship and support she continued to receive from that family of Inner Wheel women in more recent times was also second to none.

When they were both retired Bowling played a big part in their sporting lives.

And to all the others (the Field Studies Group, the National Trust Members' Group, the Town and Country Ladies, in her work as a volunteer with the Friends of Alloa Tower) my mum never stopped enjoying the learning experience they offered in geography, geology, history, culture with meetings and visits to castles and houses and ancient places, with field excursions along rivers and valleys and coasts not just locally but all over the UK. She was still pretty active in many of these until the last three or so years saw her become too frail in body though not in spirit to participate any longer.

## CFSS Summer programme

**N.B. We meet at Marshall car park - Wednesday at 7pm and Saturday at 9.30am**

**\*\* Meet Marshall Car Park 6.30pm \*\***

### Wednesdays

		<b>Contacts</b>
**May 9th	Cambus to Menstrie via Old Railway	Jack and Sadie Archibald 01259 215873
**May 23rd	RSPB, Skinflats Intertidal Nature Reserve	Eddie Stewart 01259 216878
June 13th	Larbert House with Forestry Commission Ranger, Gordon Harper	Isobel Wood 01259 750552
June 27th	Law Hill (Dollar to Muckart by the back road)	Susan Mills 01259 721313
July 7th	Japanese Garden, Cowden with Sir Robert Stewart	Eddie Stewart 01259 216878
July 25th	Avon Valley Heritage Trail	Jack Archibald 01259 215873
Aug 8th	Alva Ponds	Susan Mills 01259 721313
Aug 22nd	Menstrie Glen, Loss Dam & Jerhah	Jack and Sadie Archibald 01259 215873

### Saturdays

May 26th	Kinnoull Hill Perth, Bronze Age Walk	Eddie Stewart 01259 216878
June 23rd	Cluny Gardens & the Highland Chocolatier / Crannog Centre	Jack and Sadie Archibald 01259 215873
July 28th	Bits & Bobs of the Loch Leven Circuit	Eddie Stewart 01259 216878
Aug 25th	Necropolis, Guided Walk	Jack and Sadie Archibald 01259 215873
Sept 8th	Coffee Morning Ludgate Church Hall, Alloa 10am - Noon Tickets: £ 1.50 each	

**Most outings require shared transport, stout footwear and suitable clothing. On Saturdays it is advisable to bring a packed lunch**

## **Archaeology Scotland**

### **A.G.M. and Member's Day St Andrews 8<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Seven members of the Society travelled to St Andrews, where the meeting was held in The Town Hall, commencing at 10 am. The day consisted of two talks, the A.G.M. and (after lunch a tour) of part of old St Andrews and a visit to the Cathedral and Cathedral Museum, then on to the Castle.

Edwina Proudfoot gave an illustrated talk entitled 'Places of Worship and the Community'. This involved working with the community in the restoration of churches and places of religious interest, in the Fife and Tayside Area. It was quite an interesting subject and she has proved it can be rewarding work. We wish her success for the future in her endeavours.

Tom Dawson of the SCAPE Trust and based at St Andrews University gave a talk that dealt with coastal erosion around Scotland, some of the largest in Europe. One of the aims of SCAPE is to investigate the problems of erosion and how to deal with them. Another of the aims is to get the local community interested, by observing and reporting any erosion that has taken place, so that repairs can be carried out if possible. Some work has been done in this field and community groups have been formed for this purpose. They are in the process of setting up a web site to plot any new disturbances. Only a smart phone with a GPS system was needed to text your points in, to give the position of the occurrence. If you do not have a GPS signal on your phone I suppose it is a case of map and compass, then getting in touch with the Post Office. The Control Centre is at The University of St Andrews. Anyway it was quite interesting stuff, smart phone or not.

We were shown numerous places where communities had set up observation posts, one of them being on Eday in the Orkney Islands which I had visited this year.



Highlight of the afternoon was a tour of parts of Old St. Andrews: The Cathedral and the Castle, by an excellent tour guide from Historic Scotland. There was a wealth of information, but quite a lot to take in with only a couple of hours to spend.

We had an unexpected visit to a property in South Street, an unassuming entrance which unfolded into what originally was a 16<sup>th</sup> century house still with some of the original features such as a basement two flights of stairs down, including a coal cellar, wine cellar, and other rooms all with barrel vaulted ceilings. The lady of the house took great pride in showing us the garden, which seemed to go on for miles. In the garden was a summer house with a stone built doo cot above. Very interesting. It was kind of her to invite 20 or so people into her home. Next stop on the tour was St. Leonard's School, and from there we went into the grounds of the Cathedral; we then went on to the Cathedral Museum, containing statues and carved stones once part of the Cathedral and the surrounding area. The Tour Guide was very informative and went into great detail about the artefacts. I know someone who would have been in her element and that was Betty.

The final part was a visit to the Castle and after that we adjourned to the Coffee Shop where in the window was a notice saying Kate and Wills met here. It was full of students. We were all amused at the chatter, a lovely end to a pleasant day out.

P.S. Parking was free but 30p to spend a penny!

**Jack Archibald.**

**Up the Forth Monday**  
**10<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

*Our first meeting of the 2011/12 Winter Programme, was marred by sadness at the passing away of Betty Roy, MBE on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2011. The funeral took place at the Falkirk Crematorium on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2011. A good attendance was observed by the members of the societies to which Betty was affiliated. She was a founder member of Clackmannanshire Field Studies and held various posts on the council, being the Chair since the early 1980's until the time of her death. She will be sorely missed.*

Eddie Stewart, acting leader, broke the news that another stalwart of the Field Studies, Isobel Grant Stewart, had also passed away. The arrangements for the funeral were announced. Before we commenced the meeting, Eddie asked for a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

As the title suggests, we were in for a voyage up the Forth, and it was one with a difference. Ian Headrick, from Valleyfield and Torryburn History Society, showed us a video of how three members of the Society made the unconventional journey using an inflatable adaptation of a jet boat, only it had a propeller. The second boat had no propeller, just water being sucked in at one end and jetted out the other. This was an experience I would love to have taken but shooting a video at the same time was nothing short of miraculous; a fascinating tale in itself.

It started off at Torryburn flats and their method of launching the vehicles was having them towed down by a four track and reversing the trailer into water deep enough to release the boat to float. Ian said he was selected by the team as he was the only one who could reverse the trailer. I am sure there was more to it than that.

The first part of the adventure was a spin round Torryburn Bay with his son and grand-daughter on board, then it was three up. From there it was a steady progression up river to the Fly Ash Beds at Culross with the Abbey Church on the hill and then on to Dunnimarle Castle. Next

stage was over the river, to get views of Bo'ness and surrounding district on the south bank.

As time went on and more experience was required the sense of adventure came to be realized and it was a case of how far could you go on a tank of fuel? It was then off to Kincardine Bridge and beyond. Not quite the Buzz Light Year term "to infinity and beyond" but near enough.

Apart from marvellous views of the coast and the intermediate hinterland, there were marvellous sequences of birds in flight. It has to be admired how they were able to take pictures by a hand held video camera on a jet ski. They had excellent shots of Longannet and Kincardine Power Stations. When the video was produced in the 1990's, Kincardine Power Station was still standing, but no Clackmannanshire Bridge.

On the South Bank we visited Dunmore with shots of the Pineapple etc. It was then on to Alloa Inch and pictures of the farm that was once a viable proposition. They also met one of the occupiers, who now lives on the mainland quite close to the river. I think they used that point for their bunkering facilities. It was then further on and through the piers that once took the Alloa to Glasgow railway line. It shows how time changes the landscape. The piers now finish high water level, which makes it hard to believe that there was a bridge at that point.

One thing that has stood the test of time, and is still a focal point, is the steam crane on the jetty that was the ordnance depot at Bandedeath. Ships used to sail from there to Crombie Point another Royal Navy ordnance depot with munitions. Bandedeath was so large it had its own railway line within its perimeter.

It was onwards to Cambuskenneth Abbey, with some lovely views of the surrounding district. We then passed the site of the Stirling Docks, something else which has long gone. The video had some old footage

of films showing how things used to be, with two tall ships in the docks. It was then on to the railway bridges at Stirling, two in total. At one time the bridges were operated by two different companies. After the road bridge we sailed under the Old Stirling Bridge to give a different view of what we normally see. On the south bank we had Stirling and its Castle and the north Wallace Monument on top of Abbey Craig. We reached Bridge of Allan, where we had a tour of the University Grounds, with views of the wild life on the loch.

While in the area, it was a trip to Wallace Monument and again some great views of the surrounding district and the windings of the Forth. While there, the cameraman took the opportunity to take footage of the craft travelling round the bends of the Forth at Cambuskenneth, which turned out to be spectacular. They also managed to get the services of a pilot of a Microlight to obtain aerial photographs which turned out to be again spectacular.

Back down the river to Cambuskenneth and again some lovely pictures of the Abbey and the surrounding grounds, with shots of the picturesque village. Still travelling down river we passed Tullibody Inch and on reaching the site of the Railway Bridge we again had a nostalgic look at the Bridge of how it used to be, with the steam driven winding gear for opening the span, all on the move. Where they got this footage I am not sure. Also on the film was the bridge keeper handing the baton for travelling on a single track line. The branch line to Bandedeath was also shown. Next was Alloa Inch again with various methods of transport for getting animals and humans on and off the island; also some of the ferries that plied their trade in that area of the Forth.

Now back to Torryburn where the story began. Absolutely marvellous. That was research with a difference! We can only thank Ian and his team for a fantastic show.

**Jack Archibald**

**The Spirit of Lassodie**  
**A Talk by Rev Ivor Gibson FSA on 24 Oct 2011**

Again we were touched by a note of sadness as we told of the passing away of another of our members Allistair Cruickshank, after a long illness. We have not had a good start to our 2011/12 Winter Programme. Our guest speaker for the evening gave us an in depth talk on the mining village of Lassodie. We heard about its beginnings in a country estate close to Loch Fitty, in the Parish of Beath in Fife, about 4 miles from Dunfermline. It is a sad tale, as it started with a coal mine and ended when the coal mine closed in the early 1930's. It probably lasted less than 100 years, from its initial concept to its final obliteration. At one time, in its heyday, the population was around 1400 plus.

It had been a similar situation in a village which we visited on our trip to the Shale Bings in the summer. The village was demolished after the Shale Mine closed at Tarbrax on the East Lothian Lanarkshire border. The difference was, however, that some of the village has been saved. The houses were sold to private landowners, and some of the community spirit remains intact. There is a Community Centre still in existence and the Bowling Club has been revamped thanks to a local leaving an inheritance for that purpose.

Lassodie seems to have had a different out-look, as the whole strategy was to obliterate everything that stood. You can still see the scar on the ground where the area was used as an open cast coal site after the demolition of Lassodie.

When it was first conceived, the village consisted of three hamlets, namely Old Rows, New Rows and Fairfield. In its heyday, there was a post office and Co-op in New Rows and a Co-op in Fairfield. The school and the United Free Church ( St. Ninians) were also situated in New Rows.

The coal produced at Lassodie Colliery was from the celebrated Dunfermline or Fifeshire splent seam, reckoned to be one of the finest, especially for household purposes. Lassodie was central to a large market.

The community was quite robust in its outlook with the usual activities in village life, with their own football team and one of the miner's favourite games, Quoits, which was a very serious sport in the Mining Communities. Loch Fitty was also an attraction for fishermen with a good supply of trout and perch in the loch.

The water supply prior to 1887 was from wells, but at the instigation of the colliery manager, the local council set up a water supply. On the 13<sup>th</sup> September 1887 a new water supply was inaugurated, with the water being turned on by the Colliery Manager's wife.

A school for the village was first proposed by the local council in 1873 and the job of a certified teacher for a school of 250 was advertised in 1874. If successful, they would be employed by the local school board. In 1877 the position of Headmaster was advertised at a salary of £140 per annum with the prospect of a house adjacent to the school. It was 1882 before the position of Head Master of Lassodie Public School was filled.

As usual the houses of the miners were owned by the Coal Company and that put the Miners at a disadvantage, as the case was no job, no house. After a spell of full employment in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, things began to slacken off and by 1925 the notice came about, that the Fife Coal Company were to close four pits in the area, Lassodie being one of them.

In 1931 the Church of Scotland was involved in the closures because there was still a congregation for the church but no minister in charge. This caused a problem as the local presbytery could not demolish the church when it was without charge. It was 1933 before this issue was

resolved. Demolition of the village began in 1932 after a court hearing to remove some existing tenants and by August 1933, the village had virtually disappeared with only 30 people in Fairfield and thirteen families in New Rows. In 1936 there were still some people left in Lassodie and it was the remit of the Fife County Council to re-house them. 1937 didn't see much change as the Council seemed to be at loggerheads as to how to get the remaining people re-housed.

The last of the tenants were removed by 1940, so that was the end of the village, except that a number of years later, some of the original inhabitants organized a day out once a year, to celebrate the life of the village.

This was a very interesting talk, by Reverend Ivor Gibson.

**Jack Archibald.**

## **The Road to Santiago** *A presentation by Ken Gray on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011*



Ken gave a repeat performance on his journey along the pilgrim's route, using the French Way from the Pyrenees to the Shrine of St James at Santiago de Compostela, a modern version of a journey that commenced in the 9<sup>th</sup> Century AD. This time it was by an organized walking tour with an aeroplane, a minibus and a tour guide thrown in. Of course there was a lot of walking involved but the minibus helped to save the shoe leather on occasions and the hostelry was booked in advance and saved any problems looking for a place to eat and a bed to

lie on. Some of the modern pilgrims still do it the old way and he told us a couple of stories from some of them he had met there.

The story goes that James, one of the disciples of Jesus, travelled to the Iberian Peninsula after the crucifixion and did some preaching there. He returned to the Holy Land and was executed by Herod in 44 AD. His body was shipped in a white sarcophagus and, it is said, it landed on the shores of northern Spain. It was lost until around 810 AD when a shepherd following lights in the sky came across the remains so the story goes. The Church quickly confirmed that they were the remains of James. It could not have come at a more opportune time as the Moorish Army of Al-Mansur was advancing through central Spain at that time. St James was regarded as a rallying call of the Christian community appearing as Matomorus (the Moor slayer) on the battle field and cleared the byways of Northern Spain for the pilgrims to visit his shrine at Santiago.

For the next seven centuries pilgrims visited the shrine, including Emperor Charlemagne, Louis VI of France, and St Francis of Assisi. Sir Francis Drake and the English Fleet landed in La Coruna in 1589, so the relics were hidden and did not appear again until 1879, when the pilgrimages resumed.

Ken's Pilgrimage in 1997 started with a view of Cambuskenneth Abbey. This was because he wanted to take some soil from a garden in St James Garden at Cambuskenneth and place it on the Shrine of St James at Santiago.

He flew to Bordeaux having met the rest of the tour party in London, then on to the Pyrenees border crossing at Somport Pass to collect his passport to travel the Pilgrims' Way. This is stamped at various places en-route so he can get his certificate of pilgrimage at Santiago.

His slides gave us excellent views of the countryside and of buildings that been built along the way. The route was marked with a scalloped



shell carved into posts, the shells being a distinctive yellow. He commented that some of the countryside in places reminded him of Scotland, especially the Ochils, with the rolling hills.

Travelling through the regions of Aragon and Navara, he passed a bridge that was built by a Queen to save the pilgrims being fleeced by the ferrymen. The Pilgrim's monastery of San Juan de la Pena is partially hewn from the mountainside.

At Puente la Reina where the Pyrenean routes meet, there is a Knights Templar's Church with carved scalloped shells decorating the porch.

Rioja, is the next province famous for its wine, reckoned to be the best in Spain. The vineyards and olive groves accompany the Pilgrim's Road to the wine centre of Logrono. Santo Domingo de la Calzada, is the home of one of the Way's most famous traditions is the white cockerel and chicken kept in the Cathedral. They recall the miracle performed by St Domingo, who revived a wrongly accused and executed pilgrim, and a cooked chicken, which the judge who sentenced him was about to eat for lunch!

The joint provinces of Castille and Leon lie at the heart of the way, which links two medieval cities. Burgos has elaborate tombs of Castilian Monarchs and Leon has its high gothic cathedral celebrated for its stained glass. A short distance away is the collegiate church of San Isidoro with its royal pantheon decorated with 12<sup>th</sup> Century wall paintings. Beyond the imposing Templar Castle at Ponferrada, the way begins its final arduous trek into the mountains. Near Oebreio is a pre Romanesque pilgrim chapel and primitive circular puldosa stone building.

Galicia, is the final link, and the Golden Stone City, Santiago de Compostela. All the roads lead to the sprawling Cathedral and the monumental buildings of the vast plaza del Obradouro.

Midday pilgrim mass in the cathedral is a must as it brings together the whole meaning of walking the Pilgrim's Way. One other thing which happens during the mass is that the huge incense burner is tied to a thick rope and is swung all over the Cathedral. Also you can climb round the High Altar where the relics of St James are buried. One other point; if you can access U Tube, you can see the Incense Burner being swung around the Cathedral.

Ken gave us a very interesting and fulfilling talk. Many thanks.

**Jack Archibald.**

## **Carpow Logboat**

**Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011** saw a change to our advertised meeting when David Strachan's talk, due on the 12<sup>th</sup> March 2012, was brought forward owing to the unavailability of the speaker.

David, who is the manager of the Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, gave an extremely interesting talk on the Carpow Logboat. It is at present at the conservation depot of the National Museum of Scotland where it has been since 2006, waiting patiently for its return to the Museum at Perth in 2012.

His talk began with some background on the work of the Perth & Kinross Heritage Trust, how it is funded and the various projects it has done in the past.

He then described how it was discovered. In August 2011 Scott McGuckin, from Dundee, was walking along the mud banks at Carpow near the confluence of the River Tay and the River Earn near Newburgh. He spotted a piece of oak half buried in an intertidal mud bank. He realised it could be something more significant as he had some knowledge of log-boats having seen an example in the Dundee Museum. He was right; it turned out to be very significant. The average person would not have recognised its value.

A small team of archaeologists (from Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, Historic Scotland, the National Museums of Scotland and Perth Museum and Art Gallery) went to the site to confirm that it really was a log boat. A plan had to be developed to see if it was worth saving and the best way to go about it. Other questions considered were: how old was it; what was the condition of the buried part of the boat; and how could it be protected while being studied.

The age was an easy one to determine as it was carbon dated to between 1260- 910 BC. This established that it was from the late bronze age, 3,000 years old and one of the oldest boats in Scotland. To measure the total length of the boat required some excavation as it lay in a tidal estuary and, therefore, very dependent on the tides. Excavation was further complicated by the boat being only exposed from 3 – 4 hours daily and the spring tides in July and August.

The first excavation, in October in 2002, to examine the exposed section of the hull, found it to be worn in places, due to the tidal movement; however the buried part was in much better condition.

July 2003 saw another excavation, this time to determine the total length of the boat and the state of its preservation after being buried for 3,000 years. This proved to be much better than anticipated making it one of the best preserved boats ever found in Scotland.

The next question to be considered was what would be the best way to conserve the boat. Was it to be preserved in situ, or should the boat be excavated completely? In 2004 it was clear that to conserve the boat the only way would be to excavate the boat completely and start the process of raising the necessary funds needed for the operation.

Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, took on the task of excavating and recovering the boat with part funding from Historic Scotland with plans in place for the National Museum of Scotland to carry on with the conservation. 2005 saw the funding complete and once plans for the

logistics were in place commencement of the recovery began in the summer of 2006.

The project aimed to remove the mud and peat around and inside the logboat. It started with the exposed end and gradually worked back to the buried end insuring the boat was stable by putting sandbanks under the boat. During this time records were being kept on progress and any artefacts that come to light. This could only be done a low tide.

A study of the surrounding area was also examined. It was found that the peat, oak and birch trees were carbon dated to 8,200 - 7,700 a great deal older than the log boat! Also found were twigs, hazel nut shells and a piece of timber which appeared to have been worked, all dated to the same time as the logboat. All excavations were only made possible by being carried out with the aid of a water pump.

When the day came for the removal of the boat from its resting place, three plastic barrels were placed inside the boat and strapped down. National Museum of Scotland confirmed that the structure was strong enough to allow the barrels to be partially filled with water to reduce buoyancy. It all worked perfectly and the boat floated from its resting place, the first time in 3,000 years. It was then parked over night in a secure place and then towed to Newburgh pier by a motor boat. There, with the aid of divers, it was inserted into a steel frame and safely hoisted on to a flatbed truck for the journey to Granton and the National Museum of Scotland conservation workshop, for the long process of conservation. For this water is extracted from the wood and injected with polyethylene glycol as a replacement. This is the basics of conserving a boat. A lot of time and money must go into this operation. David spoke about many aspects of logboats including their uses from the distant past to today. Two of the oldest were found in Northern France and Holland which probably belonged to the tribes of hunter gathers of the Mesolithic times. In the Pacific Islands, in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Captain Cook came across them. Some were lashed together and others had outriggers, in both cases to improve stability. The

logboat of the Tay Estuary was probably used a trading vessel. The Tay is tidal up to Perth and the tide upstream and current downstream would help with the propulsion of the vessel.

Another part of his talk was on the partnership with the Scottish Crannog Centre on Loch Tay to reconstruct a logboat using Bronze Age tools. The staff of Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust and volunteers & students took part. They were ably assisted by Damian Goodburn, an expert in ancient woodworking and Bronze sword smith Neil Burridge who made socketed axes and instructed them in their use. The Forestry Commission provided a suitable tree. It had to be a Douglas Fir this time, as the oak trees of the Bronze Age are long gone.

After receiving their tree it was all hands on deck to reconstruct the logboat using the various 'Bronze Age' style operations. Everything was a success and after turning and handling the log in so many different positions, it finally reached Loch Tay. After an initial foray along the banks of Loch Tay it was then led across the water to the Scottish Crannog Centre where it lies to this day. It is hoped we will see it when we visit that area next year.

This was an excellent and interesting presentation and we thank David profusely.

**Jack Archibald**

**Alloa Inch  
Margaret Macgregor  
Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

**Life on Alloa Inch Farm, an Island in the River Forth.**

This story, of life at Alloa Inch Farm, was compiled and narrated by Betty Macgregor in 1999. Alloa Inch is a 100 acre island on the River Forth near Alloa. Two weeks before Betty died on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2001

she made a voice recording of her story synchronised with a slide show. Charles McLennon, from Newmills in Fife, helped Betty make all the slides and put the story together.

Since her death, in 2001, over 150 presentations of the slide show have been shown in central Scotland. Betty's daughter Margaret, now a successful artist, lived on the Island for the first 20 years of her life. She presented the slide show.

Gordon MacGregor and Betty were married on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1951. That year Gordon applied to the National Coal Board to farm Alloa Inch. Previously it had been farmed by his brother, Charlie, and his 2 sisters. He was successful in his application and moved onto the island, with Betty, on the 1st December 1951 where they farmed it for almost 30 years.

Historically Alloa Inch was covered every winter by the tide. Come the summer the cows were put back each year to graze. Due to the effect of the tide water covering the pasture for such a long time each year this seemed to invest the land with some remarkable medical properties. Sick cows seemed somehow to get better! To make the island habitable throughout the year Mr. Erskine, a relative of the Earl of Mar and Kellie, built a bank around the island at a cost of 2/- shilling a yard. The Island was 550 yards wide by 900 yards long approx. 2 miles. A ditch for draining 9ft below the high water mark was also built.

The farm included a farm steading building where you could walk through without going outside. It housed all the following: a hen shed; pig shed; hay shed; cattle shed and an implement shed. There was also a place to keep the tractors.

The House needed a lot of repair when they first moved in. It consisted of 8 rooms and 2 sculleries. One interesting fact was that 20 of the doors in the property were taken from a ship which was being dismantled. There was no electricity so Gordon, on a visit to the local

highland show, found a generator. This meant that they could have electricity including a TV.

Although the family seemed isolated living on the island you could see the traffic in Alloa and also the local mainland trains from the farm house. In the kitchen you could hear not only the clock and church bells on the main land but also the miners working down the mine. From the Island there was a view of the lights on Alloa, Stirling & the Kincardine Bridge which is a wonderful sight.

Newspapers and their reporters became a nuisance and a menace to the family. They were very interested in the story of this young couple living on an island and they wanted to speak to them a lot about their lives and experiences. Even when the family said nothing they felt that the newspapers printed untrue and fabricated stories Gordon tried to speak to the Editor to stop this intrusion to their family life but this had little effect.

Their lives were ruled, as all farmers are, not just by the weather but also by the tides. They had to get a time table of the Forth tides to know the time and height of the tides so they knew when they could cross and when to fish. Alloa Inch is surrounded by very unusual tides. There are more than two a day. The flows of water there are almost double the number for tides on the Forth, no one knows why. The tide took about 5 hours to come in and 7 hours to go out. The ebb was about 3 hours and the mud bank goes out with a great force. All this was important for them to know not just for travelling purposes but also because of the importance of fishing there.

Before going to the island Betty had never been in a boat but she soon learned to row and their first boat was a lifeboat. However, after a time, they got an aluminium speed boat, a Seagull Engine, which was the first speedboat in Alloa. They had to continuously check the time of the tide so they could move the boat around the mooring to keep it safe.

They had 400 hens on the farm and sold their eggs to the workers along the edge of the river. They also had ducks which were looked after by their daughters Margaret and Shona at Christmas time. To reward the children for their work, when they sold the ducks Margaret and Shona received all the money the family made on the sale.

Their first harvest was very good. They had their own threshing mill for collecting the straw but they required extra help with this (up to 12 men needed). They then bought the first combine harvester in the area for £900.00, a large sum of money then. Although new this still needed to be towed and tractor driven

Most of their shopping was done at a general store Post Office and Co-operative in South Alloa From the island you could see the shop. When this was closed they had to travel further into Alloa to shop. Travelling back and forth to the island shopping could not have been easy!

The Doctor and the Vet were very good to them and would come over to the Island when needed. They said they really enjoyed it as “it was something different”.

Betty and Gordon left the island and moved to South Alloa after the island badly flooded completely and became uninhabitable. For some time afterwards Stirling University used the island to house monkeys but they had to move them to Edinburgh Zoo. The Inch now belongs to the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

**Isobel Wood**



## **Napoleonic Prisoner of War Craft**

### **Summary of Talk given to CFSS by Cairns Mason, 23 January 2012**

Mr Mason delivered a fascinating talk on the miniature models made by prisoners, held in Britain as a result of the Napoleonic Wars, in bone and in straw.

The main highlight from the talk was the many pictures Mr Mason had collected which showed the very high quality of work achieved by the prisoners under arduous circumstances.

In describing the historical background to the establishment and operation of the “Depots” (which included the construction of Dartmoor and Perth Prisons) Mr Mason emphasised the supportive role played by the British Government of the time. A market was established at each major Depot where the public were invited and prisoners could sell items of their own making. This created an incentive for the workshops to emerge. The fact that the French prisoners were conscripts, drawn from a wide range of occupations, meant that they brought a variety of quality skills with them. This ensured a high quality of workmanship was achieved and was one of the key reasons the workshops were so successful.

To illustrate the straw marquetry work Mr Mason showed pictures of two dimensional fans and three dimensional workboxes where the internal patterned containers appeared to be as fresh today as when initially manufactured. Even with the fine pictures the audience had to take Mr Mason’s word about the iridescent effect achieved by the subtle layering of the straws. They provided a real incentive to go and see the prisoners’ work in museum collections. Although there was a display case to be sought out in Perth Museum unfortunately the main collections were to be found in Peterborough Museum, Cambridgeshire and other sites further south.

On bone carving Mr Mason showed some simple pieces (a set of miniature tools and a fun shoal of fish) before introducing the staples for middle class budgets - spinning jennies and decorated gaming boxes holding playing cards or dominoes. Finally examples from the top end of the market were shown. In the later years of the conflict prisoners were able to take bespoke commission

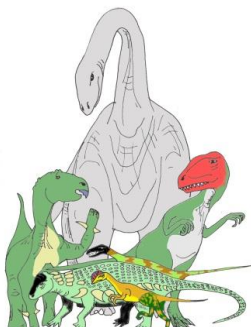
orders and works included a bone copy of a Dieppe mirror, guillotines, three-mast warships and very finely carved watch stands.

The audience showed their interest and appreciation of the amount of work Mr Mason had put into the preparation of the talk through their substantial number of questions. Several members of the Society were keen to go beyond the scope of the talk and understand more fully the background on the materials and tools the prisoners had available to them for constructing the models. In answering these questions Mr Mason clearly showed he had a full understanding of the technical aspects of the craftsmanship involved in the Depot operations.

The evening closed with a generous vote of thanks to the speaker.

## Cairns Mason

### **Dino Stampede Dinosaurs, from Scotland 13th February 2012**



A selection of Jurassic dinosaurs found on the Isle of Skye.

We do not celebrate Scotland's world-renowned fossil heritage enough. We have fossils that represent events that are crucial to our understanding of the development and evolution of life on Earth. From the 470 million year old fossil trilobites from Girvan that provide us with a glimpse of life in the Ordovician age seas that are now preserved as rocks, to the dinosaurs from the 160 million year old Middle Jurassic age beaches of the Isle of Skye, Scotland has fossils that preserve features found nowhere else in the World.

From Cowie, near Stonehaven, the first animal, a centipede-like creature, which was adapted for breathing the atmosphere rather than extracting oxygen from water, was found in Silurian age rocks that are over 430 million years old. It was another 80 million years before the first animal with a backbone took to the land. The land loving five-toed amphibian

called *Pederpes* was found in Dumbarton in 350 million year old Late Devonian aged rocks. Also in Devonian age rocks, are some of the earliest land plants from Rhynie, near Aberdeen. These plants are preserved still standing upright as they would have been in life, trapped in silica from hot springs that existed there about 390 million years ago.

The preservation of fossils is sometimes spectacular from Scottish rocks. The Bearsden shark is the best preserved 330 million year old fossil shark in the World. Not only are all its bones in the right place, but the remains of its last meal are still preserved as well. Other animals from the same rocks preserve their muscles and blood vessels – something that is virtually unheard of in the fossil record anywhere else in the World.

It is not just the important steps in the evolution of life and the unparalleled preservation seen in the fossils from Scotland, it is also the techniques that are used to help us understand the nature of the fossils. The ‘Elgin Marvel’ was a hole in the rock until it was scanned using medical scanners to reveal the entire skull of a 250 million year old dicynodon (a mammal-like reptile) from the Permian age rocks of Elgin.

On the Isle of Arran, the footprints of a proto-dinosaur were recently found in places that geologists and natural historians have studied for well over a century. These Triassic aged rocks (230 million years old) are from a time that all the continents had merged together into a giant mega-continent called Pangaea. Scotland was on the eastern seaboard of this giant continent which was mostly dry and desert like.



The large dinosaur footprints at An

The dinosaur discoveries in Scotland follow this theme of global importance with the majority of the remains being from the Middle Jurassic age (160 million years old). This age is poorly represented in the rocks worldwide and only dinosaur footprints have been found in North America from this time. In Scotland we have bones and teeth from several different types of dinosaur – the sauropod *Cetiosaurus*, two small meat-eaters similar to *Coelophysis* and *Dilophosaurus*, an armoured dinosaur similar to *Ankylosaurus*, and the tooth of another

sauropod similar to *Titanosaurus*. More important than the bones of the dinosaurs are the footprints. The footprints number in their hundreds with some being unique to the World. Scotland has the smallest dinosaur footprint in the World according the Guinness World Records book of 2006 beating Canada by 0.02cm! We also have a set of footprints that represent the only known evidence of parental care in theropod (meat-eating) dinosaurs. These footprints were famously used in the BBC programme *"Dino Stampede"* where these footprints were compared to footprints at Lark Quarry in Australia. The Scottish footprints showed that the smaller dinosaurs were not running away from the larger dinosaur but were walking with the same direction. The larger dinosaur in the same direction and the large footprints were indistinguishable suggesting that they were from the same species. These footprints are also identical to a set of footprints that have recently turned up in Wyoming in the United States. This suggests that these dinosaurs may also have migrated over 3,000km (about 1,860miles) when Scotland was joined to North America.



Footprints used in the BBC *Dino Stampede* programme showing the footprints of a family of theropod dinosaurs strolling across a beach together

Most of the aforementioned discoveries were made in the last thirty years and many in the last few years. There are new discoveries being made every year from all over Scotland. Every new discovery helps us to better understand the development and evolution of life on Earth and Scotland is at the forefront of this science.

Dr Neil Clark. Curator (Palaeontology)  
University of Glasgow Hunterian Museum,

**Why not follow Dr Neil Clark on the Web:  
By typing in,  
Dinosaurs, Dr Neil Clark**

## **Mapping, Location and Navigation in the Digital Age**

**Monday 12 March 2012**

Mankind's desire to make drawings and models of the physical environment can be traced back to the earliest days of civilisation. The Lascaux cave paintings of Southern France (circa 15,000BC) contain a map of the sky (rather than the earth) in the form of drawings of the constellations of the Summer Triangle and the Pleiades. This connection between map-making and the stars is a recurring theme in the story of cartography that continues up to the present with the use of satellite imaging and space-based GPS systems to provide today's map makers with unprecedented levels of detail and accuracy. Surviving fragments of maps from the ancient world (originating in Babylon, Greece, Egypt and India amongst others) show that the need for maps to help with the challenges posed by travel, trade, government and conquest remains another constant in the history of mapping.

The modern Ordnance Survey's maps are widely acknowledged the best in the world. They have their origins in the need of the Crown to subdue the rebellious Highlands of Scotland in the aftermath of the 1745 rebellion. In order that the advantage of local knowledge should not continually give fugitive rebels the upper hand, William Roy was commissioned to undertake the "Military Survey of Scotland" in 1747. Lasting until 1755, this survey provided the experience upon which the OS was founded. Another foundation stone was the idea of "triangulation" (credited to Gemma Frisius). This involves the delineation and measurement of a base-line and the determination of the position of key landmarks by measuring angles between lines-of-sight connecting them. Roy went on to instigate the "Principal Triangulation of Great Britain" (1783-1853) which used a specially commissioned state-of-the-art surveying instrument – the Great Theodolite – thus establishing the still-maintained link between high technology and mapmaking.

The modern technology of mapping is based around the accurate determination of position through the use of the space-based GPS system. Whilst GPS has its origins in the needs of the US military, its widespread adoption in civilian life includes uses in vehicle Sat-Nav systems, aircraft guidance and hand-held devices for hikers as well as more esoteric uses such as synchronising the financial markets thanks to the systems underlying basis in accurate time-keeping. A fleet of (currently) around 30 GPS satellites orbits the earth broadcasting time-codes based on accurate on-board clocks. Earth based receivers pick up these codes, and by examining the difference between the codes received from different satellites determine their own locations using a piece of mathematics known as trilateration. Russian (GLONASS) and European satellite constellations (GALILEO) also exist.

The modern digital cartographer draws on data gathered by GPS-equipped surveyors. This is combined with digital images obtained from satellites or more commonly for highly detailed work from aerial photography. The registration of these images (i.e. the determination of which areas of the earth they represent) is again based on GPS-derived data. As the survey aircraft flies, its on-board camera is connected to a GPS which records exactly the position and orientation of each photograph. The process of producing a map, however, is still in the hands of a cartographer who must interpret all of the GPS-derived data and (albeit with the aid of a computer) produce the clearest possible interpretation. The uses to which maps are put are manifold and this is represented in the many different scales and styles of map which can be produced from the original survey data.

**Dr R.I.Ferguson**  
**University of Abertay Dundee**

## **The Glasgow Necropolis; The Burial Place of those that turned Glasgow into “The Second City of the Empire”**

This presentation had a really long title but it was worth it, as on the **26<sup>th</sup> March 2012**, Nigel Willis gave an excellent talk on the Necropolis, a Victorian Cemetery in Glasgow. He gave an insight into the origins of the site and its various stages of evolution right up to the present day.

Originally the ground was bought by The Merchants House in 1650 and was developed into a park with fir trees and was given the name of “Fir Park”. In 1804, with the demise of the fir trees, it was then developed into a Victorian Park and arboretum with elms and willows being planted.

Around 1831 John Strang, chamberlain at the Merchants House, wrote “Necropolis Glasgensis” or “Thoughts on Death a Moral Stimulus” and commented: “*Fir Park appears admirably adapted for a Pere la Chaise (referring to a cemetery that had been constructed in Paris and was the thought of a number of people at that time), which would harmonize beautifully with the adjacent scenery, and constitute a solemn and appropriate appendage to venerable structure (The Cathedral) in front of which, while it will afford a much wanted accommodation to the higher classes, would at the same time convert an unproductive property into a general and lucrative source of profit to a charitable institution*” it was to be “*respectful to the dead, safe and sanitary to the living, dedicated to the Genius of Memory and to extend religious and moral feeling*”.

A Competition was held to find a design for the construction of the Necropolis. This was finally awarded to George Mylne who became its superintendent and head gardener.

There was a change in the law, with the Cemeteries Act of 1832, which opened the flood gates to cemetery building. Necropolis was officially opened in April 1833. Just prior to this a Jewish Burial Ground had been established in the north-west section of the land. The small area was declared full in 1851. It was claimed that the Necropolis would be interdenominational.

Predating the cemetery is the statue of John Knox which sits on a column at the top of the hill. The foundation stone was laid in 1825. The Doric Column was designed by Thomas Hamilton and a twelve foot statue by William Warren (carved by Robert Forest).

You approach the main entrance by a bridge over the Molerdiner Burn which now runs into a culvert. The original was designed by David Hamilton and was called the Bridge of Sighs it being part of the funeral route. The ornate gates, designed by David and James Hamilton were erected in 1838 five years after the bridge.

The Necropolis now covers 37 acres with 3,500 monuments and 50,000 interments. It is laid out as most early Victorian Cemeteries as an informal park.

In 1966 the Merchants House gave the Necropolis plus fifty thousand pounds to Glasgow City Council which now administers and maintains it. The Friends of the Necropolis were formed in 2000 to assist in the maintenance and wellbeing of the cemetery.

Listed below are some of the most notable statues and sculptures in the Necropolis:

<b>Tomb/Mausoleum</b>	<b>Statue/Sculptor</b>	<b>Designer/Artist</b>	<b>Year</b>
Mrs Lockhart	Sculpture	J & G Mossman	1842
Major Monteath	Mausoleum	David Cousin	1842
William Motherwell	Marble Bust	James Fillans	1851
John Henry Alexander	A Stage Scene	James Hamilton	1851
Houldsworth	Flanking Angels	John Thomas	1854
Charles Tennant	Marble Figure	Patric Park	1838
Walter McFarlane	Art Nouveau Panel	Bertram MacKenna	1896
Blackie Publishing	Tomb Slab	Talwin Morris	1910
William McGavin	Statue	John Bryce	1834
Andrew McCall	Celtic Cross	C.R. Mackintosh	1888
Peter Lawrence	Statue of Life	J.& G. Mossman	1840
Margaret Montgomerie	Statues	J & G Mossman	1856

To finish his presentation Nigel showed us a BBC film “Deer in the City”. This was a delight to watch, as it portrayed two Roe Deer that had made their home in the Necropolis along with other wild life including red squirrels. The sad thing about this was that, a week or so after the BBC showing on television, one Roe Deer was killed by a cross bow bolt and the other one has not been seen since. It is a pity, to end on that note which otherwise was a very interesting evening and we thank Nigel for his presentation.

**Jack Archibald**

**From 42 Years Ago Vol1 No1 December 1970**



## Aims and Proposals

Having risen from the local interest in industrial archaeology the Society may seem to have a bias despite its objects as stated in the Constitution..”.. to stimulate interest in aspects of the local area, including past and present industries, local history and natural history..” However the naming of the Society as it is has attracted the wide sphere of interest intended and all the topics are well represented in the proposed activities of the Society.

At present Linn Mill constitutes the main focus of attention as regards field work and the work of future Sunday sessions should gradually realise an excellent conservation project. Other historical and industrial themes to be followed are the pre-historic and Dark Age remains in the Ochil Hills, the medieval settlements and agricultural patterns, the early factory industries and the history of the present day industries, such as the report on the development of the Hill fort’s Textile Industry being undertaken by Mrs Kennedy.

In the sphere of natural history there are geological and geomorphological aspects to be satisfied. Projects concerned with countryside and wildlife conservation can be undertaken in cooperation with local councils and Trusts. These may include nature trails and part of the Gartmorn Scheme. On the more recreational and public spirits side, footpaths can be surveyed and cleared. This can satisfy one of the simpler aims of the Society: to get on in the country. Particularly, when contacts are made with other bodies, the Society will fulfil the role of providing an individual with help and companionship as well as many facilities beyond his, or her, own private means, to pursue their particular interests. It is envisaged that project work will be organised by small groups within the Society and that the lectures will be geared to the current topics of interest.

### Past Events

10<sup>TH</sup> October 1970, -- The work group from which the Society was formed ran an excursion along the route of the Gartmorn lade from Forestmill to New Sauchie. Fifty people took part including a party of ten from Daniel Stewart’s College in Edinburgh. The Weather was particularly fine and the outing was a considerable success.