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Despite an unusually wet and rainy summer, our field outings have all had good weather. That makes such a real difference to everyone's enjoyment. All our outings were very successful and were a credit to the various organisers and those people who welcomed us to their locations.

The spring weekend outing to the Isle of Bute was a great success; several people have written complimentary pieces which are included in this edition of the Newsletter. It is nice to know that people appreciate the hard work that goes into the organisation of these events.

Also, as editor, I would like to thank the people who have taken the trouble to write articles about the field outings. I have been asked to thank those members who pay their annual subscriptions on time or even earlier. This does make the job of Treasurer and Membership Secretary a lot easier.

On the same subject, some people have kindly made donations to the Society and this is much appreciated.

We had a very successful A.G.M. but I was sorry when Bob Snaddon stepped down from the Committee after being on the committee since 1986. His eye sight is not so good any more. He was an excellent committee member, getting things done in a very quiet way.

This is the first time that I have edited the Newsletter and I hope that Members enjoy reading it. Betty Roy has edited the newsletter for many years and this is a good time to record the award of an MBE to Betty. That is really well deserved and reflects all the hard work that she has put in on our behalf in so many different fields. Congratulations, Betty.

I would conclude by drawing attention to our Winter Programme, which starts on Monday 12th October 2009. Details will appear in the Alloa Advertiser and in the programme which you have received.

23 May Saturday outing to Mugduck Country Park via Killearn & Strathblane was cancelled. This has been replaced with an outing on 26th September to Drum, leaving the Heath Centre at 12.30pm. The report for this will be in the next news letter.

CHAIRPERSON`S REPORT — presented on behalf of the Trustees of Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society on the 31st March, 2009. Scottish Charity No. SC008738.

On this our 39th AGM, I present the Annual Report regarding the activities of Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society from May 2008 to April 2009. During the year the Council of Management has met nine times carrying out the preparation of the various activities organised by CFSS, e.g., the summer excursions and walks programmes. The Winter Lecture series also requires input in gaining the appropriate speakers and the preparation needed before these events take place.

The Spring/Summer walks programme was well supported and with the onslaught of the Computer, once again we have had some very professional information guides handed out to the participants. It has been suggested that these could be published in book form. The Newsletter is on time and available for uplift. Attendance at the winter meetings averages between 30/40. Tea and coffee is available at the end of the meeting, the uptake of this service is increasing. Since charging £1.00 entrance for Non-members we have an idea of the success of publishing our events in the local paper, thanks to Jack and Sadie Archibald.

Joyce Reekie has monitored planning applications and along with other matters has in particular the lack of signage for Broad Street and Candleriggs. Also 19 mature trees were felled at the Gean, but, in their place 12 new trees were planted. Also something that caused a local uproar was the felling, without any local discussion, of the lime trees that were a feature of the Lime Tree Walk leading to the Port area. However this matter was later addressed and a double row of lime trees now enhances The Walk.

Heritage Officer, Susan Mills, reported on the future of one of the Old Alloa Academy buildings in Ludgate where within there are some important Art Nouveau features by Alloa architect – George Kerr. It is felt that these buildings should be conserved.

Again on the conservation theme an application has been received for permission to erect a wind turbine farm on a site near the incinerator on the Black Devon. It is possible that such a development may harm the rented

site on which is the RSPB bird sanctuary. We shall probably be informed as to the possibility of this.

The following entails a “blast” from the past! Sadie Archibald received an e-mail recently regarding copyright for the title of the 19th century Alloa Society of Natural Science and Archaeology, est., 1866 to 1967. It is a pity that we do not have possession of the said title but it was not for the want of trying. The Trustees of the day would not countenance the passing of their title to us, in fear that we would want ownership of their Society, and, in so doing their wealth.

A project at the Natural History Museum is digitising the Proceedings of the above for the year 1866/67. We could only reply that the process of ownership is unknown as all the trustees of that Society have since died. The Museum building is now owned by Weir Pumps Social Club.

Four Members attended a day conference, organised by former member, Anne Watters, on Fife Graveyards. This was a most informative day out. There was no representation at the Scottish Local History Forum – a first. Some members helped at the Forth Naturalist Symposium in November. When applicable some attended the NHS meetings at The Whins.

Betty Roy attended several meetings concerning the Homecoming project organised by Susan Mills. There will be a Historic Kirkyard Trail covering the historic kirkyards in Clackmannanshire. (a) – The West – Alloa, Tullibody, Logie and Alva.

(b) The East – Tillicoultry – three sites – Dollar, Muckhart and Clackmannan. There will also be a series of Art Works by Hanging Together that will depict various aspects of leaving home and returning. The lead artist is Peter Russell and the exhibitions will be set up in the Mar & Kellie Mausoleum. Drama performances will be also be staged in the kirkyards of Tullibody, Alva and Alloa – ending at Alloa on the 5th November. This will mark the completion of the Homecoming project.

Betty Roy

OBITUARY - Donald A. McCallum - 18th May 1922 – 24th July 2009

It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing of Donald McCallum, only 8 months since we attended Falkirk Crematorium to celebrate the life of his wife Sheila. Perhaps this is what Donald may have wanted, to join his partner of so many years.

Donald McCallum and his wife Sheila had been members of CFSS since 1973 and those of us who remembered them well can remember many interesting talks and outings undertaken by Donald. In his professional life he was Depute Head at Stirling High School, and his discipline was in History with the result outings organised by him contained an amount of historical knowledge. Of particular interest was the outing he led to Stirling Castle and informing us of the sophisticated methods of defense therein. On retirement he became involved with the Retired Teachers Association.

Donald was a person who had care for his fellow men and was respected by those who knew him. He was a veteran of the Second World War where he was badly wounded and for most of his life still retained shrapnel in his legs as a result. Remembering his old comrades he was an active member of an organisation known as "Help for Heroes". A cortege from that organisation led the procession into the Crematorium.

The world is a poorer place now that a person of Donald's stature is no longer with us. Our sympathy is with Donald's son as well as the grandchildren.

BETTY ROY.

CFSS WINTER PROGRAMME 2009 / 2010

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.

2009

SEPTEMBER

Sat 5th **COFFEE MORNING** – Spiers Centre, Primrose St., Alloa
10 am – 12 noon

OCTOBER

Mon 12th **BITS – PIT BITS, FIRES, IGNITIONS –**
THE EVERYDAY LIFE OF A MINING ENGINEER. Ian Urquhart, CFSS
Mon 26th **THE WORK OF A SCULPTOR.**
Andy Scott, one of Scotland’s leading sculptors

NOVEMBER

Mon 9th **PRE & POST-GLACIAL LANDSCAPES.**
Murray Dickie, Former Founding Member CFSS

Sat 14th 35th Man and the Landscape Symposium at Stirling University.
Maps for All Reasons
Programmes widely available in schools, libraries, halls ... information at
<http://www.fnh.stir.ac.uk>

Mon 23rd **SIR JOHN MURRAY & THE CHALLENGER EXPEDITION.**
Roy Sexton, SWT & Stirling University

DECEMBER

Mon 14th **Member’s Night**
Jack Archibald’s DVD recording of the Isle of Bute visit

2010

JANUARY

Mon 11th **BIODIVERSITY IN CLACKMANNANSHIRE.**
Guy Harewood, Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Officer

Mon 25th **CASTLES AND TOWER HOUSES IN THE FALKIRK AREA.**
Geoff Bailey, Keeper of Archaeology & Local History, Falkirk Museum

FEBRUARY

Mon 8th **THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF BEER & BREWING.**
Rebecca Boyd, Archaeology Scotland

Mon 22nd **STRONTIAN AND ITS MINES & MINERALS.**
Dr. Brian Jackson, National Museum of Scotland

MARCH

Mon 8th **DAVID ALLAN**
Valerie Hunter B.A. Senior Curator, National Galleries Scotland

Mon 22nd **THE JACOBITES.**
Ian D. McIntosh, Volunteer Co-ordinator & Editor,
Friends of Dundee City Archives

APRIL

Mon 12th **AGM** Cheese & wine

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
Forth Naturalist & Historian
35th Man & the Landscape symposium 2009
Maps for All Reasons

PROGRAMME

- 9.30 **Registration**
Lecture Theatre A3 foyer, Cottrell Building
Coffee, bookstall and displays Room 2X
All lectures in Lecture Theatre A3
- MORNING SESSION
- 10.00 *Welcome and Introduction*
Professor Michael Thomas, University of Stirling
- 10.10 *Now and then: current land-use through
an archaeological lens*
(Historic Land Use Assessment -HLA- programme)
Lesley MacInnes (Historic Scotland)
- 10.40 *18th Century (military) Maps of Scotland*
Carolyn Anderson (Edinburgh University)
- 11.05 *FESP, the First Edition Survey Project:
Medieval Settlement in Chains*
Sine Hood (RCAHMS)
- 11.35 – 11.50 Coffee break
- 11.50 *Describing Scotland: Experiences of Creating
an Online Gazetteer for Scotland*
Bruce Gittings (Edinburgh University / Vice Chair of RSGS)
- 12.20 Launch *Forth Naturalist & Historian* journal vol 32
- 12.30 – 14.00 **Lunch***
Displays, bookstall and tea / coffee in Room 2X
- AFTERNOON SESSION
- 14.00 *Mapping Biodiversity Data Using the
NBN Gateway*
Geoffrey Johnson (National Biodiversity Network)
- 14.30 *Maps without Chains: 21st Century
Specialist Mapmaking*
Susan Harvey (Harvey's Maps, Downe)
- 14.55 *Getting Around in the Future:
3D and Mobile Technologies*
Sandra Winterbottom (Stirling University)
- 15.30 -16.00 **Panel Discussion**

Booking ⇄ General Enquiries to:

Forth Naturalist & Historian
Man & the Landscape Symposium Registration
c/o The Mailroom (f.a.o. Marilyn Scott, sec FNH)
University of Stirling
Stirling FK9 4LA

Tel: 07854-967550
Email: fnh@stir.ac.uk

DOLLAR HISTORY SOCIETY

Programme 2009 / 2010

8th September: The Antonine Wall A World Heritage Site

Speaker Professor David Breeze of Historic Scotland

13th October: From trophies of war to data protection.

Speaker Mr. Patrick Cadell Former Keeper of the Records of Scotland.

10th November: Carl Linneus 1707 – 1778 One of the world's greatest naturalists and his (perhaps) less well-known Scottish connections.

Speaker Mr. Julian Ward Sometime teacher and now professional guide.

8th December: Britain's moment in the Middle East.

The Mandate in Palestine 1918-48

Speaker Dr. David Kaufman, Associate lecturer at the Open University

12th January 2010: Robert Dick of Tullibody & Menstrie.

Naturalist, baker & Victorian icon

Speaker Dr. Roy Sexton, Formerly of Stirling University

9th February 2010: Dollar- Past and Present.

Speakers: Janet Carolan, Hon. Curator of Dollar Museum & Archivist of Dollar Academy and Jennifer Campbell, Artist

9th March 2010: The Adams of Blairadam

Speaker Mrs. Elizabeth Adam of Blairadam

13th April 2010: Pirates and the Scots

Speaker: Dr. Eric Graham, Maritime historian and writer

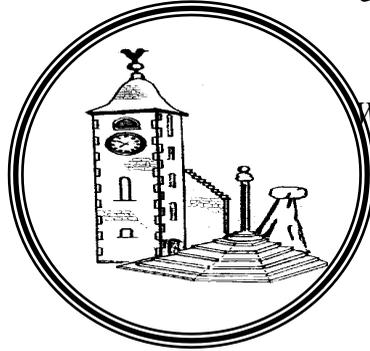
11th May 2010: Annual General Meeting *followed by* Macbeth, A True

Story *Speaker:* Dr. Fiona Watson, Writer and historian

The Clackmannan Society

Chairman
Dick Clark
212395

President
H Livingstone
214773



Treasurer
W Paterson
723270

Secretary
J M Banks
217611

Clackmannanshire
Est. 1952

Winter Programme 2009 / 2010 - 57th Year

Saturday 19th September

“Destination Namibia”

By Sandy Jack

Saturday 17th October

“Writing Local History”

By Guthrie Hutton

Saturday 21st November

“Droving and the Falkirk Trysts”

By Ian Scott

Saturday 12th December

“History of Tullibody and Cambus”

By Chris Calder

Saturday 16th January

“The Suffragettes in Central Scotland”

By Craig Mair

Saturday 20th February

“The Story of Robert Dick”

By Margaret Mercer

Saturday 20th March

Members Night and AGM

All meetings at 7pm in Clackmannan Church Hall
Visitors and New Members Always Welcome



**WINTER PROGRAMME
2009/2010**

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

Tuesday 13th October

SKYE BIRDS

Bob McMillan

Highland Ornithologist

Tuesday 10th November

TREASURE TROVE IN SCOTLAND

Stuart Campbell

Treasure Trove Unit,

National Museum of Scotland

Tuesday 8th December

**RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES
IN THE FALKIRK AREA**

Geoff Bailey

Keeper of Archaeology & Local History

Falkirk Museum

Tuesday 12th January

RECONSTRUCTING ANCIENT DIET

Rebecca Boyde

Archaeology Scotland

Tuesday 9th February

ANIMALS IN ANCIENT EGYPT

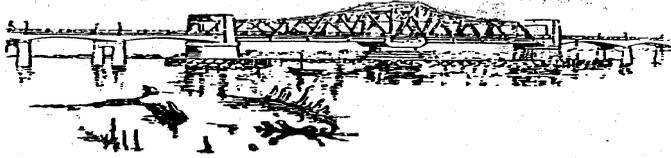
Angela McDonald

Egypt Exploration Society

Tuesday 9th March

**Annual General Meeting
& Members Night**

Scottish Charity No: SC026822



**KINCARDINE LOCAL HISTORY GROUP
2009/2010 SYLLABUS**

(Established 1978)

Meetings every second Wednesday
throughout the Winter in the Community Centre - Glancy Lounge
7.00 -9.00PM VISITORS WELCOME

WINTER SYLLABUS 2009-2010

- Oct 7th** **Clanranald Romans in Scotland** (Scott McMaster)
- Oct 21st** **Dunfermline Opera House**(Gerry McMullen)
- Nov 4th** **"Where the Trail Leads"** (Tim Banks)
- Nov 18th** **"Understanding Stirling Old Bridge"** (Craig Mair)
- Dec 2nd** **Ships in World War I and the Grangemouth Connection**
(Geoff Bailey)
- Dec 16th** **'The Moat Pit', Sir George Bruce's 16th Century Coal Mine at Culross**
(Stephen Liscoe)
- Jan 13th** **Further Memoirs of Kincardine**(Rayna Lumsden)
- Jan 27th** **Recent Archaeological Work in the Forth Valley**
(Lorna Maine)
- Feb 10th** **Man Made Embankments of the Forth** (Eddie Stewart)
- Feb 24th** **"On the Banks of Allan Water"** (Ken Gray)
- March 10th** **'An Orkney Saga'** (Andrew Lumsden)
- March 24th** **Member's Night & A. G.M.**

A relaxed evening providing an opportunity
for members to show slides from their own collections.

Tullibody History Group

Programme of Illustrated Talks

2009/2010

Meetings are held on the last Thursday of every month (there is an extra one on 7th January 2010)

They are held in The Heritage Centre and start at 7.30pm

There is a nominal charge of £1.00 for members, £1.50 for guests.

Tea/coffee is served following the talk, and a donation is appreciated.

24th September 09

Bob Lindsay — Clacks Clocks

29th October

George Robertson — Dunfermline Prison

26th November

Susan Mills — Paton & Baldwins

10th December

Christmas party

7th January 2010

Robin Kelsall — Blairlogie

28th January

Roy Wood — Samuel Jones, Devonvale

25th February

Jim Banks — Local History of Alloa and Tullibody

25th March

Lorna Main — Recent Archeology works

29th April

The Members Reminiscences of Tullibody

27th May

Annual General Meeting

June

Outing Date & Venue to be arranged

“Back on Track” — David Bytheway

The successful AGM on Monday 13th April 2009 was followed by the formal launch of “Back on Track”, a new publication produced by CFSS with support from Awards for All.

“Back on Track”, written by David Bytheway with assistance from CFSS members, celebrates the return of Alloa to the rail passenger network. It describes the history of railways in the Clackmannanshire area and its environs, from the early wagon ways to the current frequent coal trains. The local campaign to reinstate the line makes fascinating reading.

The actual launch ceremony was an impressive affair, attended by the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs. Sheena Cruickshank, with an Honour Guard of Army Cadets. Many local dignitaries attended, including the Earl of Mar and Kellie, Lord and Lady Balfour, Sir Robert Stewart, Sir George and Lady Reid, David Bytheway and his wife, and many other prominent people.

Eddie Stewart of CFSS, who had helped David Bytheway in many ways, opened the ceremony.

There were wonderful display boards which every one enjoyed looking at.

After the formal proceedings, David Bytheway signed copies of his book for the many purchasers.

“Back on Track” is available from Alloa Library, Tillicoultry Parish Church, and Eddie Stewart at CFSS, 38 Marquis Drive, FK10 4EZ or direct from the author at: alloaontrack@aol.com

Isobel Wood

CFSS FIELD TRIP TO THE ISLE OF BUTE, 8th to 11th May 2009

Fifteen members took part in this year`s excursion. Ken Mackay, a regular Field Tripper, had to cancel owing to ill health and his presence was greatly missed.

Our destination was St. Blane`s Hotel situated on Kilchattan Bay on the southern tip of the Isle of Bute. This is the hotel that CFSS had patronised for our first excursion to Bute in 1992.

The weather could have been kinder for the initial journey south. As well as having to contend with the intermittent rain a proposed visit to the Church at Strachur had to be abandoned, owing to a local happening.

Access to sites could have been better- an insignificant sign for the gardens at Ardinglass meant that most of the party missed the way in. Another disappointment was a “No Entry” sign at Ardnò that meant we were unable to view the site where the Tinkers made their troth and celebrated the wedding ceremony. Official literature from Visit Scotland ought to be revised so that visitors are not disappointed.

As we travelled south, the sun came out and we enjoyed a pleasant stop at Kilmodan. The Kirk of St Modan is dedicated to an early Celtic saint who lived around the time of St Columba. St. Modan`s Primary School in Alloa and St. Modan`s Secondary school in Stirling are named after that saint.

On the south wall of the present day church an armorial stone bears the initials of Sir Duncan Campbell of Auchenbreck. Unusually this church has three galleries and legend has it that three branches of the Campbell family fell out with each other, hence the three galleries and each had its own stair and external door – thus they could attend church without having to pass or speak to each other.

The former mausoleum of the Campbells of Auchenbreck houses a collection of carved stones dating from the 14th and 15th centuries. These were carved by the Loch Awe School of carving and are not of a particularly high quality and are not inscribed with any names, thus the patrons are unknown.

The church is situated in nearby Glendaruel village. It was here that in 1100 AD a battle was fought against invading Norsemen under the leadership of Mechau, son of Magnus, King of Norway, the Gaels were the victors. The bodies of the slain were thrown into the river, turning its water red with their blood. The name of the river became the Ruail, and the glen, Glendarail, or “Glen of the Red Blood”. The modern spelling is Glendaruel.

Onward to Colintrave, the name derives from the narrowness of Loch Riddon and translates as the swimming narrows. This was a convenient spot whereby the cattle could swim across to the mainland for selling at the various markets. The excursionists, at this point, took the opportunity to visit the hotel at Colintrave for some very welcome refreshment.

After a ferry journey lasting five minutes we had arrived on the island of Bute – this small island is dovetailed into the mainland of Argyll and is separated from Cowal by a very narrow channel, known as the Kyles of Bute. This island has a varied history and would take a longer visit to cover all the sights. There are the Neolithic and Bronze age sites that we could not include in our programme and a most fascinating geology. This is an excuse for another visit.

Members of CFSS know of “The Men of Bute”, those brave men who left their land to go and fight alongside William Wallace against Edward I, the Hammer of the Scots at the Battle of Falkirk, 1298. These 600 bowman along with their leader Sir John Stewart were the first to fall in the battle, not one returned. CFSS excursionists visited Falkirk Old Parish Church to view the large Celtic cross erected in memory of the Men of Bute. Until 2003 their deeds were not commemorated in their homeland, that has been corrected and a memorial stone stands in an enclosure near the Discovery Centre. Owing to the inclement weather we were unable to visit all the sites intended

The following was written by John A. Blair, priest to William Wallace in his writings following Wallace`s execution.

“In this unfortunate battle were slain on the Scots side, John Stewart of Bute with his Brandanes for so they name them that are taken up to serve in the wars furth of the Stewart lands.” 1326.

SATURDAY – ROTHESAY

Saturday did not live up to Western Isles magnificent weather and the Gods were not kind to us. First of all a visit was made to The Bute Museum that deals with all aspects of the island's history and geological formation. It was most comfortable within the building but another story outside. However our next visit was to Bute Castle where we spent the time sitting on a bench in the Great Hall.

The Castle was built in 1140 by Magnus Barelegs, on the site of an earlier fortress. The style of the castle is unusual in that it is surrounded by a circular wall that is protected by round corner towers. The castle had varied ownership, Norse, Scots from time to time gaining possession. It was Robert the Bruce who granted ownership to his steward – William Fitzalan.

Shelter from the rain was provided by the Discovery Centre where we spent perhaps about an hour. Of course we had to visit the famous Victorian Toilets- the Gents toilets were much superior to those provided for the Ladies.

Fortunately by the late afternoon, the rain became much lighter, and, following the programme we made a visit to Ascog Hall and Fernery. After years of neglect this fine Victorian house and its gardens had fallen in to disrepair. The overgrown gardens concealed a remarkable, long forgotten secret, a magnificent glass fernery housing a collection of exotic sub-tropical ferns. This was our last visit of the day.

SUNDAY — THE PLAN ROAD AND ST. BLANES

The sun shone all day giving an added beauty to what was already a magnificent landscape. The south end of Bute may be the remnants of vast volcanic sheets. Erosion throughout the centuries has made a drive along the Plan Road an interesting experience. Unfortunately the time at our disposal did not allow a visit to these interesting features.

Shortly after joining the Plan road, and, opposite a sign to the Bute Airstrip, there is a path that leads to the remains of what must have been a considerable stone circle of Bronze Age date. Only three massive stones remain, these are looking fragile and may not last long. Two of the remaining stones have been fashioned from Conglomerate, a rock that is

formed by the action of ice flows. Water smoothed pebbles have been bonded by nature`s cement (good examples of conglomerate can be seen at Aberfoyle). One stone has been supported by a large cement base, while another has a tubular support. It is felt that the rest of the stone circle may have been used for the construction of the Plan road.

Southwards and onwards until at the end of the road we reach the turning circle where it is possible to park.

ST. BLANES

The site is on a considerable elevation and commands a fine view of the hills of Arran to the South. It is well worth the effort to reach the remains situated among cliffs, trees and attractive open spaces.

Historians record those early Christian saints and their efforts to establish churches and places of worship. Dating from, at least, the 5th century these monks travelled extensively on the continent, as well as at home. The first Christian settlement on the Bute peninsula took place as early as the 5 hundreds when St.Catan established a monastery on the present site. St.Catan was succeeded by his nephew, St.Blane, who is remembered in many place names in Scotland, e.g., Dunblane, Strathblane and Auchenblane among others.

Blane`s story, like so many of these Celtic saints, followed a pattern of lowly birth and expulsion from their birthplace. His mother, Ertha, could not explain his birth with the result she and her child were cast adrift in a coracle and eventually landed in Ireland where nuns and monks sheltered and taught the boy. Before returning to his birthplace, Blane studied abroad including Rome.

Following a Celtic tradition there are two churchyards, the upper was used for the burials of men, while the lower was reserved solely for women. Legend has it that while Blane was bringing a load of Holy earth from Rome up from the shore when a cord tying a pannier broke. He asked a woman, who was gathering shellfish to give him her garter to mend it. On her refusal he turned in wrath on her “May it always be high tide when you go to gather shell fish” and further saying that men and women would not be buried together up at the chapel. So the lower part is said to have been used for the burial of women and the upper part the men.

There is much to see on this site, gravestones, a hogback stone, remains of buildings illustrating Norman carvings and a wall encircling the church. While CFSS were researching the Old Kirkyard in Alloa, we had hired archaeologists from Glasgow University to carry out a Geophysics Survey. Then the result showed that the early church buildings at Alloa had been surrounded by a circular wall. Thus it can be assumed that our earlier buildings were following the normal custom of the time.

MOUNT STUART

Mount Stewart is a majestic Victorian Gothic house and well worth a visit especially to admire the profusion of astrological designs, stained glass and marble. One also marvels at the wealth of treasures contained in the house. Set in 300 acres of stunning woodlands, a mature Victorian pinetum and exotic gardens. Mount Stewart is the ancestral home of the Marquesses of Bute. The building we see today was the work of the 3rd Marquess of Bute and his architect, Sir Robert Rowand Anderson (see St. Johns Church in Alloa). John Patrick Crichton Stuart was a noted scholar and patron of many architectural buildings – among others Cardiff Castle and Castel Coch in Wales were remodelled at his instigation and funded by money generated from his ownership of vast coalfields in Wales. He was also responsible for the restoration of Falkland Palace in Fife.

John Crichton Stuart, the 7th Marquess of Bute (b.1958) pursued a successful career in Motor Racing during the 1980s and was British Formula 3 Champion in 1984. Since succeeding his father in 1993, he has overseen the completion of the chapel decoration scheme and instigated the restoration of the Family Bedroom and has also commissioned the new Visitor Centre.

(Ninian Crichton Stuart continues the family restoration theme in that he has restored the grounds of Falkland House and opened them to the public. Some time ago Ninian Crichton Stuart accompanied CFSS on a guided walk of the policies and explained the work that was being done).

We were extremely fortunate that the Head Guide conducted us through the house and we could only marvel at the many treasures contained therein. The afternoon was spent exploring the gardens, wandering along the many

paths, getting lost and then finding the trail again, but eventually arriving back at the car park and meeting up with the CFSS crowd again.

The Crichton Stuarts are cadet branch of the Royal Stuarts who have adopted the French spelling of the name, it is said that the French could not cope with the “W”.

Some background to the Stewards of Rothesay who originated from Brittany and entered the service David I, King of Scots, c.1136. By 1200 the family had extensive lands in southern Scotland, Alexander of Dundonald, 4th Steward of Scotland led Scots against Hakon IV of Norway at the battle of Largs 1263. The marriage of Walter, 6th Steward to Marjorie, daughter of Robert the Bruce and their son, Robert II cemented the Stewart claim to the throne of Scotland. The words of James V, when dying are said to record the effects of this marriage “It cam wi` a lass and it`ll gae wi` a lass”.

MONDAY – Isle of Bute Creamery and St. Mary`s Church.

All good things must come to an end – it is time to head for home, but first there are two more sites to visit. Firstly we had a visit to the Bute Creamery.

The original creamery was built in 1954 as a bottling dairy, on the site of an old sawmill that was situated across the road from the present building. However in the early 1960s it was converted to a cheese making operation. Isle of Bute cheeses have gained fame throughout the country and even abroad. The Company organised a Guide who explained the various processes of cheese making and from a viewing platform we were able to observe the painstaking routine used to make sure everything was spotlessly clean.

The next visit was to the High Kirk of St Mary and St Bruoc. Originally the Parish Church of Bute was situated on the south of the island but owing to heavy winds experienced and the repeated destruction of the church building, the Parish Church was moved to the High Street. The remains of the old church of St. Mary contains a fine collection of tombstones.

In 1321 St. Mary`s is mentioned as the burial place of Alan, Bishop of Sodor (or Man and the Isles). His successor, Bishop Gilbert was also

buried there. The Chancel is all that survives of the medieval church. The Lancet windows, the location of the Piscina (the basin for rinsing the altar vessels), and the Aumbry are comparable in style to those at St. Blanes.

The images represent – The Knight`s Tomb in the south wall depicts a knight in complete armour, his head resting on a jousting helmet, crested with a dog`s head, his feet resting on a lion. From a jewelled belt round his waist hang a sword and a dagger.

The Lady`s Tomb on the north wall – the effigy is at prayer, dressed in a flowing gown and chaplet. Beside her lies a baby in a long robe. On the lower surround are eight rectangles each with a man kneeling before a standing lady. No one has been able to interpret the meaning.

The Coat of Arms on the knight`s tomb indicate that he was connected by blood to the Royal House of Stewart. Perhaps Robert II (1371-90), the first Stewart monarch, built the tomb for himself or for one of his ancestors. He would not have made use of it as he is buried at Scone, however it may have been used by the Sheriffs of Bute. A badly worn effigy on the floor of a knight, carved in the West Highland tradition, probably dates from the late 14th century.

Owing to the fact that we still had ample time before we needed to board the ferry, it was decided that a visit to Etrick Bay would provide a good place to have a picnic lunch. However the cafe was convenient and afterwards most enjoyed a stroll along the beach and now it was time to head for home.

Betty Roy

Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society Weekend 8-11 May 2009

It was definitely a day for doing “indoor things” in Rothesay so we were walking briskly from the Discovery Centre, which is on the “front”, to Rothesay Castle a couple of streets back. In a side street was a shop with the sign “Bute Tools” above the windows. Sadly these were blank and the paint was peeling from the sign. Just another sorry casualty of the recession, I thought, almost automatically. After all, we have seen so many of these recently.

A big surprise awaited us around the next corner. Here was a large and flourishing hardware shop and - Oh joy! – part of its shop sign said “Bute Tools”. Our spirits rose. Here, indeed, was a phoenix.

The weather was forgotten but the dilemma crept in – should we go in or carry on to our rendezvous at the Castle? The temptation was just too much for us. Anyway, we had searched Alloa, Stirling and Glasgow (in that order) for weeks, trying to find a particular kind of resin-based filler. Perhaps our quarry was hiding in there. We needed no further excuse.

Here was a veritable Aladdin’s Cave. The well stocked shelves would surely meet any domestic, gardening or DIY need, perhaps even including ours. There it was, just what we needed. What a find, almost worth the ferry fare itself.

Clutching our trophy, we rushed on through the ever-heavier rain to the Castle.

Quite apart from this wonder, there was so much pleasure in finding a town without the normally ever-present multiples, except, that is, for a modest Co-op food store. Perhaps there had once been a Woolworth’s, but there was no sign even of any remains.

On the day we arrived a charming bookshop-cum-internet café-cum photocopier supplied us with just the guides and maps we needed. Clearly they don’t need Waterstone’s in Rothesay.

Three days later a local driver stopped her car alongside us and asked whether we had enjoyed our visit. She had been using the internet in the

shop when we were buying our guides. It just shows that you can't afford to blot your copybook on Bute – even if the bookshop can supply another!

Brenda Jenkinson

A very enjoyable weekend with many memorable moments (of one kind or another). Here are mine

Being so engrossed in studying the medieval grave slabs situated in the church wall in Strachur, I was totally unaware that a hearse had arrived at the church and my transport was surrounded by mourners arriving for the funeral service. A quick belated exit was executed.

The beauty of Glen Daruel, and the small church and churchyard there, and the lovely drive along the side of Loch Ridden where we saw a seal basking in solitary splendour.

The sight of a lit-up submarine, seen from the dining room window of the hotel in the early evening, making its way up the Clyde towards the open sea.

The magnificent splendour of Mount Stuart, and the sound of a Capercaille, (unfortunately unseen), heard during a walk in the grounds there.

The family of swans (8 cygnets), in the moat surrounding Rothesay Castle and beautiful white sands of Ettrick Bay with the numerous oyster catchers.

The beauty of the colourful azaleas, blue poppies and orange tulips in the Victorian Fernery and Gardens.

The view of Arran and Goatfell on a beautiful Sunday morning, seen while I was sitting on a beach outside the lower churchyard of the ancient religious site of St. Blane. Sitting there in complete solitude, before other members of the group joined me, the only sounds were the bleating of the lambs and the twittering of the birds. What a marvellous site for a monastic community.

And of course there was the humour — plenty of it. Finding myself unable to get out of the toilet at the Isle of Bute Creamery when the lock jammed. (I was totally cheesed off). Isobel thinking she saw a man's leg sticking out of a car as we drove through Greenock on the way home, when in fact the leg belonged to a motor cyclist who was travelling along unseen in front of the car. No dismembered body for Taggart to investigate after all! Indeed a weekend to remember — in more ways than one.

Susanne K. McEwan.

Spring Field Trip Highlights 2009

This trip gets better every year. Hotel was great. I might have lost weight with all the stairs to climb if it wasn't for the food which was so good I pigged out as usual. View from the bedroom was superb, overlooking the bay. Apart from a lovely comfortable bed. Saturday weather was good. The climb was well worth the effort. Mount Stuart House was one of the best I've been to with lovely carved marble inside and beautiful gardens outside. I must say a big thank you to all who helped organise this trip and to Jack & Sadie for putting up with me in their car.

Violet Mangon

May Weekend 2009

It's Friday the 8th and we are on our way
Although it's very wet and the Ochil Hills are grey
Then as we cross the bridge in Stirling the sun is in the sky
We're pretty optimistic and so our hopes are high
We'd studied the itinerary so we could see our route
For this year Members Weekend is the lovely Isle of Bute
At Colintraive a real log fire tea, coffee and a cake
A community garden, a local said, was nearby on this break
A short spell on the ferry then on the Isle for real
Oh! — look there in the water I think I saw a seal
On Saturday it's Rothesay with lots of things to see
The museum and the Castle and then it's time for tea
The historic Winter Gardens where we got in free
And then the pier's Victorian Toilets entrance "20 pee"
The sun at last has re-appeared as we drive out of town
A short stroll round the Fernery and then we're hotel bound
On Sunday as it's name suggests it was a perfect day
Sun shining on the water and boats anchored in the Bay
Then the chance to view St Blane's ruined Church up a hill
To take some lovely Photographs, While all around was still

(We thought we heard a woodpecker)

Then onward to Mount Stuart to enjoy a private guide
A tractor towed our trolley as we rocked from side to side
Then after lunch with map in hand and lots of paths to tread
We explored parts of the garden to find where they led
I think we were quite lucky, did not get lost at all,
Got back to where we started, without a single fall.

(It was very muddy in places — think we heard a Capercaillie)

Our itinerary for Monday had one visit to complete
To find out how Bute makes it's cheese and buy some for a treat
Then afterwards decided it's such a lovely day
We'll take a little detour and have lunch at Ettrick Bay
The sun still shone in Rothesay as the Ferry left the pier
And soon we were all home again
I wonder "where" next year.

Nancy Henderson

Forth ponds (Alloa and Cambus)

This is a well known walk so will not be elaborated on here. The only thing to say is that it was brave people who faced into the north-west wind on the outward journey to Cambus.

Marilyn Scott

Waggonway from Gartmorn 27th May 2009

Organised by Betty Roy, this proved to be quite an interesting walk, a look back in time. Walking places I hadn't been for years, back to my childhood in fact.

We commenced our walk at the head of Gartmorn Dam missing out the first part of the Waggonway that goes to Sherrifyards pit almost at the other side of the dam. We did however endeavour to find the remains of the Waggonway heading towards Sauchie; there are still some signs, mainly the parapet walls of a bridge that crossed the Waggonway. Following a path through a thicket and along a banking which was there when I was a boy we came to the local shop, where any recognition of the Waggonway ceased to exist.

We were now in Posthill housing estate where everything is now topsy turvey, and I now had to get my thinking cap on, trying to remember how it used to be. Looking back there was a path which probably ran in line with the back of the present day street and it was quite wide, just to be a path. There was an old pit shaft or the like, halfway along the present street, always full of water with a fence round it. It was taboo to go through the fence.

At the end of Posthill and the intersection of Burnbrae, there were some old buildings, one I believe was for the Holton Pit. One memory I have, is sitting in Miss Gray's class at Sauchie School when they used explosives to demolish one of the buildings. The whole school shook with the blast but there was still no talking in class. From there on it was Sauchie Main

Street and there used to be two bridges when the Devon Valley Line was in existence, one for the road and one for the Waggonway which followed a line to where the Guide Hall now stands. There was probably an intersection point in that vicinity. From the Guide Hut and heading towards Alloa there were another two bridges for the Devon Valley Line, one for the road the other for the Waggonway, from there we headed for Whins Corner following the road. It was there that the offices of the Alloa Coal Company used to be.

We then left the main road, travelled along what is now Argyle street, till it petered out into a track what was the Waggonway. We now reached the Ring Road (now called King Street) crossed over and headed for the Station Hotel. Here we came to the Waggonway as I remember it, with high walls as a boundary to properties and tunnels under the roads. Recently it has been upgraded as a pedestrian walkway. Following the route to Castle Street where we were stuck again, but a slight detour took us to Broad Street (Lime Tree Walk), to what were the Docks and our destination.

A very enjoyable walk, with lots of reminiscing. Our transport, in the form of Eddie, was waiting for us to whisk us back to the Dam, to collect our own transport before the gate was locked. Only one other thing to mention: in Sauchie it was called the Waggon Road.

Jack Archibald

The Two Bridges
A walk on the Kincardine and Clackmannanshire Bridges
Wednesday 10th June 09.

After two recces, getting caught in a hailstorm in the middle of the Clackmannanshire Bridge the first time, second time round I thought I was clued up on this walk.



Commencing from the Medical Centre as usual we proceeded to the Park and Ride in Kincardine, which was an ideal starting off point within easy reach of Kincardine Bridge.



Negotiating the traffic while crossing the main road, we were soon on the approach to the Bridge. Built in 1935/36, designed by Alexander Gibb and Partners of London and built by the Cleveland Bridge and Engineering Co. Ltd. of Darlington. It has a total length of 2,696 feet with a central swing span of 363 feet, weighing 1,600 tons. Towering 80 feet above the high water mark, in its day it was the longest swing span bridge in Europe. The swing span allowed the passage of

ships to the upper reaches of the river and vice versa for downstream traffic. It was made a rigid span in the 1980s due to the reduction of shipping to the upper reaches of the Forth.

However, when the swing span was made rigid, the pavement was kept open. It is 5 feet wide, cantilevered from the main bridge, with an excellent barrier, which keeps the traffic well away from the pedestrians.

On traversing the Bridge we were able to get beautiful views of the river up stream and down. To the east, on the south bank, are the mud flats, famous for its wading birds and further down the port of Grangemouth and its' oil refinery. On the north bank was Longannet Power Station, still a main stay of electricity generation in Scotland.

Looking up the river on the north bank we saw the Ochils in the evening sunshine and all their glory; further west was Ben Ledi, Ben Vane, Beinn Dearg in the Trosachs area and further south Ben Lomond. On the south bank looking west again near the Bridge was the exit of the Pow Burn reputed to be the place where the "Great Michael" was fitted out in the 16th century. She was the pride of James IV's Navy. Further up stream was the site of the armaments depot at The Throsk; a very busy place during W.W.1 and W.W.2, now no longer in existence.

On reaching the south bank via the Kincardine Bridge we came upon an excellent foot path which had been constructed at the time of the building of the Clackmannanshire Bridge; this enabled us to commence our journey to the New Bridge without going on the highway. This was done by a series of under passes.

Still the weather kept up and we were able to marvel at the engineering feat using the latest technology in bridge building. The Clackmannanshire Bridge was officially opened by the First Minister Alex Salmond on Wednesday 19th November 2008. It was built at a cost of £120 million and it is predicted to cater for 20,000 vehicles per day.

After making our way across the bridge, again we were presented with a series of paths and under passes to get to the opposite side of the road. We passed the site of the Kincardine Power Station, no longer there but some of the ancillary equipment can still be seen. The path took us along the banks of the river with fishing boats at anchor offshore, some with nets down; I presume they still get sprats there. At one time sprat fishing was quite a profitable industry. One thing we passed that caused a bit of controversy was a radar beacon on a pylon. We wondered what it was

actually used for and its purpose. I don't think that was resolved by the end of the walk.

Anyway, we eventually left the river bank, over the railway crossing and through the old town up some steps across the main road to the Park and Ride and the cars.

It was a very pleasant evening, enhanced by the good weather and good company, enjoyed by everyone.

Jack Archibald

24th June - Crook of Devon, Drum and St Serf's Graveyard Leader Eric Howman

The Crook of Devon is part of the parish of Fossoy, which also includes the villages of Carnbo, Drum, Rumbling Bridge, Powmill and Blairingone. The "Crook" is so called because here the River Devon takes a sharp turn westwards.

The walk started at the Institute (village hall) on Station Road. The Devon Valley Railway (Alloa – Kinross) ran through the Crook of Devon and the section from Rumbling Bridge to Kinross was opened in 1863 and closed in 1964. At its peak it made the Crook and Rumbling Bridge popular holiday resorts – so much so that during the holiday season many residents let their houses to tourists and lived in accommodation in the back garden!

Across the main road into Old Crook village is Tullibole Mill, an undershot wheel, worked until the 1940's. Locals were thirled to the mill, i.e. grain produced locally had to be ground (or at least paid for) at this mill. There was also a Waulk (blanket) and Lint (linen) mill at the Crook. Alongside the road the mill lade can still be seen and further along are the remnants of the trout fishery which closed a decade or so ago.

Though little evidence remains the house at Crosslands was formerly at a crossroads and there was possibly a Mercat Cross nearby.

Further along is the house where the famous Witch Trial was held in 1662.

The original owner was the High Court Judge who presided over the trial, when over a few months 12 witches and 1 warlock were tried. Eleven were “stranglit and burnt for striking a fiendish pact with Satan”, 2 were released (1 pregnant and 1 very old).

The house (previously called Gallowsknowe) was later owned by a cousin of Graham Greene. He was a friend of Oswald Mosley and was arrested (like Mosley) before it was realised he could be useful as an expert on high temperature metallurgy and so worked at the Milnathort aircraft factory during WW2.

Heading towards Drum, we pass the outskirts of the grounds of Tullibole Castle built by John Halliday in 1606 and in 1740 acquired by the Moncrieff family. There is evidence of a much earlier house nearby. A Maze was planted in 2003 and when finished this maze will be a memorial to the 11 innocent persons who met their doom at the Witch trials. There is unrestricted (free) access at all times to the Scheduled Churchyard and Maze from Gelvan Road and free access to the castle on the Doors Open Weekend in September.

Drum of Tulliebole to give its full name, is a typical Scottish village (drum = ridge). King (James?) visited Tullibole Castle on his way from Stirling to Falkland and on one occasion a trooper who was a renowned drinker challenged a local man (Mr Keltie) to a drinking bout. The trooper died of alcohol poisoning and was buried nearby at what became known as Trooper’s Dubb. There is a house in the village named Keltie.

Leaving Drum and crossing the Cleish road is Broomie Road. The common land to the north was divided out and marked with boundary stones. Further along is Crook Moss, now a SSSI, a haven for birds and deer and a site for the regeneration of birch, rowan, etc.

After turning right towards the Institute, in the field to the left is the knowe called Lamblairs where the witches were executed.

We just had time before dusk to visit the graveyard of St Serf’s church which dates from 1729.

Though there was no time to visit them, two other landmarks should be mentioned.

Further west along Broomie road is the Bull Stone, which was used in the sport of bull baiting. It was blown up by a farmer in the 1800's but cemented back together, though not to its original height.

A few hundred yards to the west of the Crook are the remnants of a bridge crossing the River Devon. This was built by the Moubray family and designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh

The walk was inspired by an informative and entertaining walk led by Dr David Munro in May 2009 as part of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society's summer programme. Dr Munro is a local resident and a former Director of the RSGS.

Eric Howman

**Airth Castle, Old Village, and Port.
Wednesday 8th July 2009**

John Reid of Falkirk Historical Society, our guide for the evening, met us at The Keith Arms Inn (Higgins Neuk) a watering hole of the past, alas no longer in use. Finding the entrance to the place was quite something due to new road layout of the Clackmannanshire Bridge. However this was accomplished by navigating the roundabout twice with no irate drivers sounding horns.

Assembled, we moved towards the banks of the Forth and in particular a stream called the Pow Burn. We were told in days past there were two mills, which got the power to operate their equipment using the waters of the burn and an ingenious system of water storage. The remains of that system can still be seen and we were told the principle of how it worked. The place was called Newmills; quite apt I suppose.

Centuries earlier the Pow Burn was used as a dockyard for building and fitting out of ships of the Scots Navy. It is said that the pride of James IV Navy, the Great Michael, was fitted out there after being launched at Newhaven near Edinburgh. The theory being that it was safer from attack by the English at the Pow Burn than Newhaven. One must assume that the lie of the land was completely different from the present day. We were

shown more landmarks of the area including Neuk House in the distance, home of the one-time owners of the lands of the Pow.

It was back to the cars and a journey to Airth Castle and a tour round the buildings showing the various features of the Castle and distinctive parts that had been built in previous centuries from late 15th to 1807. We weren't allowed inside the castle as it is now a 4* hotel, alas maybe another time. I was quite surprised that we were able to do what we did without objection, though I noticed a sign saying the surrounding woods were a right of way.

From there we did a tour of the grounds and then on to old toll road passing some lovely properties. Along the way visiting a bridge dated 1726 on the keystone. We turned in the direction of the cars picking wild strawberries and raspberries on the way. Finally we had a look at a Mercat Cross, which was incomplete, as the top was missing, this had been incorporated into a new housing estate with some effect, a very interesting piece of town planning.

We thank John Reid for a very interesting tour of that area. I apologize if I have missed out any relevant information.

Jack Archibald

Wednesday, 22 July 2009.
Evening walk - The Black Devon Wetlands.
Organiser: Eddie Stewart.

We started at the Bowhouse Farm and walked to Clackmannan. We were amazed to see the foot path; it used to be a big broad path and now it is a single file path. The wild flowers were out in abundance. From the end of the path we walked to Clackmannan Tower from where there were wonderful views all around. Next we walked to the Mannan Stone. Eddie ferried the car drivers back to Alloa. Some drivers picked up their passengers at the Mannan Stone; several people went on and walked to Morrisons'; they saw a deer on this part of the road. A successful evening.

The Black Devon Wetlands

The first known "Managed Retreat" project in Scotland was created here in the year 2000 by the Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust. The Black Devon Wetland, adjacent to the rivers Forth and Black Devon, is part of the Trust's Clackmannanshire Countryside River Project. The site aims to demonstrate a way in which a managed retreat can realise, and through this, increase biodiversity in an area of international ornithological importance.

Managed retreat aims to address the potential consequences of global warming and sea level rise. This can result in increasing pressure on existing tidal flood embankments and salt marsh/intertidal area, often resulting in widespread flooding. A response to this has been either to build a second line of defence, or lower/remove existing flood embankments. The Black Devon Wetland site is based around a controlled breach of the flood embankments of the river Black Devon, introduced to allow the reclaimed salt marsh, adjacent to this tidal part of the river, to inundate. This has been combined with ground modelling to create permanent lagoons.

The seven hectare Black Devon Wetland site is owned by the Earl of Mar and Kellie, and is part of a farm consisting of around 35 hectares of wet pasture grazed by cattle. The adjacent upper Forth is listed as a potential Special Protection Area under the European Birds Directive in recognition of its outstanding ornithological importance. Strategically, the site is already demonstrating considerable benefits for nature conservation,

providing another link in the chain of existing sites of ecological significance along the upper Forth.

The development of the Black Devon Wetland managed retreat site has evolved over the last three years, and the innovative technical aspects of the project have resulted in sharp curves! The project began with a hydrological survey to assess the feasibility of inundation. This was followed by a period of fund-raising for Clackmannanshire Countryside River Project. The project was made possible through funding from Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Clackmannanshire Council landfill tax funding, Clackmannanshire Heritage Trust, and the support of the Earl of Mar and Kellie.

The ethos of the Clackmannanshire Countryside River Project, as well as the Black Devon Wetland, is one of partnership; a great deal of added value has been generated from this approach and the good will and expertise of agencies and individuals, such as the Earl of Mar and Kellie, Clackmannanshire Council, SNH, the RSPB and the University of Stirling.

These notes on the Black Devon Wetlands are an extract from Eddie Stewart's papers produced for our evening walk.

Isobel Wood

**Aug. 12th Blairlogie, Logie Old Kirk
(leaders, Robin Kelsall and Eleanor Young)**

The final Wednesday Walk of the Season was a visit to the village of Blairlogie and Old Kirk of Logie and its ancient kirkyard. Sixteen members took part and we met up in the car park immediately adjacent to the village. The existence of this parking space has meant that the village has retained its picturesque appearance. It stands below the steep cliffs of Dumyat and apart from the busy Hillfoots road.

We entered Blairlogie and its village square from the Old High Road that began in Kinross and ended at Stirling. This was a road that was passable along most of its length, but, unfortunately owing to the

heavy rainstorms experienced this summer, the section from Blairlogie and Logie was not passable.

We met up with Robin Kelsall who had opted to relate to us escapades from his boyhood in Blairlogie. It was in the Community Garden that Robin retold the many adventures they could indulge in without mishap. Gone are the days when children could play out of doors, without supervision, from morning till dusk. Personally I could recall the freedom I had as a child, having been raised near the foothills of the Ochils.

The village dates from c1740 and in the 19th century became well known as a health resort. The villagers maintained a herd of 500 goats whose milk was tuberculosis free and ideal for treating consumption. Of course the villagers took advantage of the situation and rented out accommodation to those who came seeking a cure for their disturbing disease. As well as the goats milk the clean mountain air was a bonus.

We rejoined the cars and travelled the short distance to Logie Old Kirk where we met Eleanor and Joe Young. Eleanor and Joe have undertaken the task of recording the Kirkyard and stabling the fabric of the old Kirk. Funding has been accessed to allow completion of their ambitious project.

The first church on the site is recorded as early as 1178, though the present remains date from 1684. However inserted into the wall there is a stone dated 1598, thus there is a fundamental reason for researching the site. For added interest there is a sundial and a Douglas heraldic panel. Within the Kirkyard there are many stones dating from the 16th, 17th, and the 18th centuries. Of great importance is an 11th century Hogback tombstone that unfortunately has been so badly damaged that it will be expensive to restore. The original pattern of roof tiles was completely visible some years ago - this style is said to have originated in Viking times and meant to represent "a roof over the dead".

The members enjoyed the visit to those scenes of bygone times and an additional bonus was a welcome cup of tea or coffee, provided by our guides, in the Session House of the present church. At this stage I thank those who gave of their time and knowledge on our behalf.

BETTY ROY .

Visit to Stanley Mills and The Hermitage Dunkeld Saturday 27th June 2009

Stanley Mills and The Hermitage was the first of our Saturday outings, the weather was a bit dreich as we left the Medical Centre Car Park around 9.30am.

We had an uneventful journey and all arrived within minutes of each other. Welcomed by Historic Scotland Staff and after a coffee out of their super duper coffee machine we were taken on what was called the Lade Tour. This consisted of a walk round the perimeter of the site following the existing water courses which gave the mill it's power to drive the machinery. An explanation was given on how the system worked from the initial water power to the installation of a water turbine in the 1920's which produced electricity for the Mills and the village of Stanley. This was still producing electricity for the National Grid until fairly recently, operated by one of the electricity supply companies called N-Power. At the present moment it is out of commission and the staff of Historic Scotland couldn't say if and when it would produce electricity again. It was a very comprehensive talk finishing off where the existing water wheels had been. Laura, the lady from Historic Scotland, was very patient with us trying to answer our questions.

To give a short history of The Stanley Mills we go back to the late 1700's when John Murray the 4th Duke of Athol wanted to make use of the flow of water of the Tay. The River Tay flows round a sharp bend and more or less forms a peninsula and there is a fall of 21feet between the north and south side of the peninsula. In 1729 a tunnel had been bored from north to south to power a corn mill adjacent to where the Stanley Mills were eventually built. With the help of the local M.P. George Dempster they persuaded

Richard Arkwright to come to Scotland and build a mill and set the cotton process into operation.

The original mill was called the Bell Mill and through the years it was enlarged by a succession of owners who changed the process in a bid to keep the Mill viable. This eventually led to its demise in 1989. Historic Scotland bought the site in 1995 and since then the East Mill and part of the Mid Mill have been converted into flats.

Historic Scotland has done a great job of making the Bell Mill into a Visitors Centre and the various floors have been transformed into working models of the processes of the Mill. On one floor there is a working model of the waterpower system in the different stages of its evolution.

After lunch and having had a good look round it was time to move on to our next part of the day's outing.

Leaving Stanley we headed across country for The Hermitage. Of course we had to have a Coffee Break in between at The Stuart Tower, a converted Grist Mill on a farm, very tastefully done. Service a bit slow but the food was good.

Then on through Bankfoot where the new Church Centre is purported to be one of the most eco-friendly buildings in the country, we did not stop to investigate. Keeping to the side roads through the hamlet of Waterloo we eventually came back on the A9 from there it was a comparatively short distance to The Hermitage. By this time the weather was clearing and the sun began to shine.

The Hermitage, owned by the NTS is quite a fascinating place with its walks and plantations. It seems to have been a very popular place with the elite of the previous centuries notable among them being Wordsworth, Mendelssohn, Turner, poet musician and painter, also a stopping off place for Queen Victoria, who all walked its famous paths.

Originally it was an extension to Dunkeld House's pleasure grounds, started by the Duke of Athol in 1757. A number of tree plantings have taken place since then, by a succession of Dukes of Athol. Douglas- Fir is a predominate tree in the area, a few were planted in 1860, but the majority

were planted in the 1920's; comparatively youngsters as far as the age of a tree goes.

Douglas Fir, first discovered by Archibald Menzies, a Scottish naturalist and physician in 1791, was rediscovered and named by David Douglas, a Scottish Botanist in 1825 he was responsible for bringing a lot of plants to Britain. A native of the North West States of America it was introduced to Britain in 1826 for cultivation. The soil and atmospheric conditions seem to suit the tree quite well. During our walk we saw carvings using Douglas-Fir, namely a North American Totem Pole carved by a member of a North American Indian Tribe. There is also a carving of a seed cone of the Douglas-Fir.

The walk was quite spectacular as all the scenery blends together and the rushing water of the Black Linn Falls is something worth seeing. The path beside the river was not suitable for everyone as it was rough underfoot. The cameras were out capturing the flora and fauna of the undergrowth.

Highlights of the Hermitage I would say are Ossian's Hall and Cave. The Hall is not the original but it is supposed to be on the same spot, overlooking the Black Linn Falls. It was restored in 2007 and the entrance door is quite unusual, the door blending in with the stonework of the walls and is almost invisible. The best views of the falls are from the balcony of the hall. Ossian's Cave further along the path is an 18th Century Folly built of the local stone.

The name Ossian, the legendary Gaelic Poet reputed to live 300AD, was brought to light by a James McPherson, who claimed to have found manuscripts written by the poet and he then published them in 1760. Doubts were raised over his claim and they were probably written by McPherson himself. Fingal was one of the heroes of Ossian and was that how Mendelssohn visited The Hermitage after composing the Hebridean Suite and Fingals Cave being part of it?

The visit to The Hermitage concluded a very enjoyable day diverse in its interests.

Jack Archibald

Saturday, 25 July 2009.
Visit to Charlestown, Fife.
The First Integrated Industrial Planned Village.

Organiser: Eddie Stewart.

Guides: George Campbell, Ron Watts of the Gellet Society

Our day at Charlestown.

We split into two groups; one led by George Campbell who took six people, and one led by Ron Watts who took four.

We started at the Planned Village, which is laid out in the shape of the letters "C" and "E", which stands for Charles, Earl of Elgin, whose enterprise and initiative brought about the whole enterprise. The Village was built to the design of Robert Adam about the year 1757. The houses were numbered as they were built and many ended up with two numbers, one "village" number and one "street" number!

After the Village, we were taken down a track which had been a wagon way serving the harbour. The harbour handled the movements of lime, coal, coke and other products to as far afield as Boston in the USA and, of course, to nearer places like the Alloa glassworks. The harbour worked commercially until the mid- 20th century, mainly on ship breaking in later years. Although this work was done by the Alloa Ship Breaking Company, it was carried out at Charlestown, where the harbour was more suited to this trade.

From the harbour we crossed a road to the lime kilns. I was surprised to see them covered in vegetation, which was not the case at my last visit a few years ago. George had tried to clear it as best he could, but he seems to be losing the battle against nature!

The interior of the kiln had been cleared, however, and was in beautiful condition. On my last visit, we had to climb over boulders. George told us of the many uses to which lime is put and he gave a very clear description of how the kiln worked.

It was interesting to see the stalactites growing in the arches of the kilns and ferns growing in the main kiln.



Stalactites under the arches



Lime kiln

We next went up another old wagon way, originally made of wood, but later made of iron. Traction was provided by horses or oxen, but latterly heavy horses were used.

We walked on to see the cricket pitch, which was covered in fungi! We were shown a fine viaduct on the way up.

The Laundry had been built across from the village shop but is now demolished. It had been built to help the villagers deal with the air pollution from the kilns and coke-making processes.

After lunch at the Village Shop, George showed us his collection of fossils. He is a real enthusiast and his talk was fascinating.

Bob Lindsay gave an excellent Vote of Thanks to Eddie, George and Ron.

We finished the day with a fossil hunt on the beach at Limekilns and a visit to Culross for afternoon tea. An excellent day had been had by all.

The next section was the hand out from The Gillet Society. If you missed our outing and would like to a walk round the town I expect there will be walks next year.

Charlestown

Guided Heritage Walks

In the 1750's Charles, 5th Earl of Elgin, decided to explore the possibility of the using the enormous limestone seam on his estate. This was the beginning of the Industrial Revolution in Scotland and Charestown can claim to be the first integrated industrial planned village.

Within a few years there was built a harbour, 6 massive kilns and a village to house the workers many of which came from the highland clearances. The village was virtually self sufficient and had a school, sutlery, laundry and inn. Around the perimeter were built an iron foundry, a brickworks and a sawmill as well as the limestone and sandstone quarries. This was all in place before the end of the 18th century.

Various extensions were made in the works, particularly by Earl Thomas (of Elgin Marbles fame), and today there are 14 kilns. Lime was a very important commodity and in big demand in Scotland. The main uses were in agriculture and building but it was also used as a flux in iron and glass production.

Charlestown lime counted for 1/3rd of the production of Scotland and over 11 million tons were extracted from the quarries behind the village.

Coal was an essential ingredient of the process and this was available from the Elgin mines about 5 miles distance. The early transport was on wagon ways with wooden rails. The Elgin railway ran from Dunfermline to Charlestown and is distinctive in having the first iron rails, railway bridge and passenger service in the land.

In 1860 the harbour and railway were sold to North British Railway Co. Lime production carried on until 1956. The last usage of the harbour was for ship breaking and some of the German fleet raised at Scapa Flow finished here.

The visitor today can still see much of this spectacular plan which remains as a monument to the enterprise and initiative of Charles.

VISIT:- The School, Granary and Sutlery, the original Planned Village, Tod-Hole sandstone quarry, Harbour, Lime Kilns, the old Tramway and Tunnel, Elgin Railway Cutting and Viaduct and the Limestone Mines.

The walks are free and are held on the first Sunday in the month at 2pm from May until September. Special arrangements can be made for groups on or out-with the normal dates.

Isobel Wood

**Visit to Innerpeffray Library, Chapel, Drummond Castle Gardens,
and Muthil Church.
Saturday 29th August 09**

The last outing of our Summer Programme seemed to be a bit of a marathon, in fact it all turned out rather well as the four places we visited were in close proximity of each other.

We arrived at Innerpeffray around 10.30am. having had a lovely drive through Glendevon past the Wind Farm and looking towards Gleneagles as we exited the Glen. From there it was into Auchterarder and straight on through its main street before turning left towards Crieff and the Library. This was a narrow road with a few bends, to say the least, across the span of the Kinkell Bridge, which looked a treat in the morning sunshine.

On arrival at the Library, Lara Haggarty, Library manager and two FOIL volunteers welcomed us. Tea, coffee, and biscuits were served to us in the Café, a very congenial start to the proceedings. We then proceeded up stairs to the Library where we were given an informative talk as to the beginnings and history of the place and its' contents. She was a delight to listen to and had our full attention when she actually brought out some of the most precious gems of books for us to browse over and handle as long as we had the white gloves on. One of the Bibles dates from 1530. Originally from France, another Bible on show belonged to the famous Marquis of Montrose dated 1633. It is said he read it before going into battle. It was written in French, which was the language spoken by the nobility of the day. The print was very small.

The Innerpeffray Library was founded around 1680, by David Drummond 3rd Lord Madertie, brother-in-law of the Marquis of Montrose, Charles I Commander in Scotland. David Drummond left 5000 merks (£277) in his will as an endowment. The Title passed to his nephew William Drummond, who invested another 5,000 merks to maintain the Library and School. A trust was set up to administer the endowment called the Innerpeffray Mortification and with some modifications it still runs the Library today.

It is the oldest free lending Library in Scotland, its beginnings were in the loft of the Chapel. The present building was completed in 1762 with the

help of Robert Hay Drummond then the Archbishop of York, who contributed his collection of books to the Library.

It closed in 1968 for lending purposes and carries on today as a reference library. It has some 3,000 pre 1800s books and is rich in Bibles and Atlases etc.

All I can say is it was a gem of a place to visit. We have to thank the staff for making our visit most enjoyable.

The next place on our itinerary was Innerpeffray Chapel, which is just round the back of the Library, also known as St Mary's Chapel dating from around 1365. Nothing of that Chapel remains, but the building we see today, was built in 1507 by John 1st Lord Drummond. He maintained four chaplains to pray for their benefactors and his family in life and in death. By 1542 a small religious community had been formed to what is known as a Collegiate Church. The Chapel survived the reformation of 1560 by being converted into a burial vault for the Drummond Family.

Today it is a fine example of a Collegiate Church, which avoided falling into disuse after the reformation. Drummond Family crests and memorials adorn the walls, while a discreet medieval altar still sits against the east wall. Highlight of the interior is a gravestone carved by John Faichney to his wife who died in 1707 and ten of their children who died before her. The couple are carved on the head of the stone and the columns on either side carry small figures depicting each child.

Our next destination is Drummond Castle Gardens, so it is a left turn at the end of the road and on our way to Crieff, passing Innerpeffray Castle in the distance one time home of the Lord Drummond. The Castle in a dangerous condition and is not recommended to visit apart from the fact you have to negotiate a cornfield to get there, the farmer wouldn't be best pleased.

On reaching the outskirts of Crieff it is a left again for a couple of miles to the entrance of Drummond Castle. Through the archway then on to a very straight, single track driveway over a mile long, lined with 307 beech trees on each side, very impressive. In the castle car park it was time for lunch with its abundance of picnic tables to suit the fair-weather eaters with an ice-cream van for afters.

We paid our dues all being in the “super adult” category and walked to the terracing over looking the gardens. This was my third visit to the gardens over the years and the view still takes my breath away.

Drummond Castle Gardens seemed to have had a long history. It records Lord Drummond sending cherries to James IV in 1508 while he was hunting nearby. A formal garden was established in the early 17th century, for in 1630 John Mylne III master mason to Charles I was said to be the architect behind the transformation of the gardens, and the building of the obelisk sundial, a main feature to this day in the gardens. This part of the construction was credited to John Drummond (2nd Earl of Perth).

During Cromwell’s incursion into Scotland, he attacked the Keep and literally destroyed it. It was rebuilt and the Drummonds being staunch Jacobites it was occupied by Government troops in the 1715 rebellion. During the 1745 Rebellion the Duchess of Perth destroyed the Keep so the Government Troops could not occupy it again. The Drummonds lost their estates due to their Jacobite leanings but regained them again in 1785 by an act of Parliament.

A succession of Drummonds have altered the Keep and built a baronial style house next to it, altering the garden to suit the mood of the time. At one stage it was called the Romantic Landscape but returned to the formal style in the Victorian era. This is much of the style it is today. During the World Wars it was left to go fallow for want of a better word. In the 1950’s a decision was made to rejuvenate it and this is what you see today.

We had a good two hours walking round the garden visiting all parts including the vegetable gardens and the green houses admiring it every step of the way.

We encountered peacocks and from afar deer upon the hill. We must thank Eddie Stewart for his notes and information on the Statues etc. in the garden. No guided tour just a nice leisurely walk taking everything in.

Time to leave the delights of Drummond Castle Gardens and head towards Muthil and its flower decked streets, and Muthil Church, an ancient Monument looked after by Historic Scotland.

The Church is basically a ruin but some of the important features still stood out eg: The Bell Tower which dates around 1140. This was originally a free standing structure the foundations may be as old as the 9th Century. Norman arched windows still survive in the belfry; the “Craw Stepped” gables are medieval, a traditional Scottish feature.

Dean Ochil Tree, whose house stood on the Bishops Green below the Church, rebuilt the Church around 1430. The Nave and Choir can still be seen resplendent with gothic arches.

The Church was in use through out the reformation and up until the 1820’s when a new larger church was opened.

Being the Field Studies, we spent some time going round the graveyard examining some of the ancient stones.

Time up and time to go to and an uneventful journey home I hope, as we had a very eventful day.

Jack Archibald