

Flowers of Spring

Graceful princess flower of spring
We await your coming, hope you bring.
We search the earth for signs of thee,
In a state of expectancy.
Your entrance is silent in the morning light,
Cloaked in a mantle of disguise,
concealing your beauty we await your surprise.

Yellow trumpets with scalloped edges,
Have Herald! Spring is here through the ages,
Stem's strong and green they stand,
Leaves to protect you from the cold north hand,
Birds sing their praises loud and clear,
Telling all the land spring is here.

Cold wet days appear to mellow,
You paint the earth with clusters of yellow,
O gracious flower jewel of spring,
Hope of better things you bring,
Your bobbing head to the wind it bows,
Respecting its duties to chase the clouds.

As spring bows out with a tired sigh,
It's always sad to say goodbye,
Yellow trumpets fade and frail,
Sleep now flower of spring,
Through frost and snow you will prevail,
Once again You'll share your splendour,
Joys of seeing you, we'll always remember.

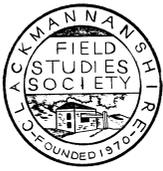
Jem Clark 1985



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CLACKMANNANSHIRE FIELD STUDIES SOCIETY

The CFSS was formed in October 1970 after attempting to revive the Alloa Society of Natural Science and Archaeology established in 1865. The society's aims are "to promote interest in the environment and heritage of the local area" and it has some 100 members.

In winter there are fortnightly lectures or members nights, from September to April, beginning with a coffee morning and concluding with our AGM. In summer, from April to September, there are four Saturday outings, a weekend event and Wednesday Evening Walks fortnightly from April to August.

CFSS has run and participated in various events on David Allan and at Alloa Tower, is associated with the Forth Naturalist and Historian in publishing, and with the annual Man and the Landscape symposium, November 1999 its Jubilee, 25th year.

Research projects have included- Linn Mill site, Mining and Alloa Port, Ships and Shipbuilding; these have been published as booklets *Linn Mill, Mines and Minerals of the Ochils* and *Alloa Port, Ships and Shipbuilding*. A project in progress is a survey of the old Alloa graveyard. Other publications include *David Allan; The Ochil Hills – landscape, wildlife, heritage, walks; Alloa Tower and the Erskines of Mar*; and the twice yearly *Newsletter*. October 1999 will be no. 63, and there are 5 yearly contents / indices.

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in, or desire to support the aims of the Society in this field of Local Studies.

The society has a study / council room in Marshill House, Alloa. This has a small collection of books, maps etc. which members are encouraged to use for reference or study.

L Corbett, EK Roy, I Stewart or R Snaddon should be contacted for access.

Clackmannanshire

Field

Studies

Society

Newsletter

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**Vol. 28
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April 2000

EDITORIAL

We are now entering the 30th year since the inauguration of the Society. At the Millennium Bash, December 1999, slides were shown on the activities undertaken over the years. Remarks were made “You are all so young” , “Where are all the young people now?”. Like so many other community groups the older age group provide the bulk of members.

In our case it is necessary that this be addressed. Younger people do join and I should like to see them encouraged to take a more active part. “Old-timers” like myself must in future take a back seat and it is necessary to have a core of people ready and willing to take over in the future. The fact that our Winter meetings are very well attended is a plus but more needs to be done.

The Summer Programme has been issued and I hope you will find the events of interest. On the 20th May members will be visiting the Lime Preservation Trust’s premises at Charlestown in Fife. A charge of £4.00 is levied for this event. This is a charitable donation £2 to the Trust, and £2 to the Charlestown Heritage Trust. There will be a tour of the lime workings followed by a guided heritage walk through the village.

If you are interested please let me know so that I can give Mrs. Roz Artiz-Young an indication of numbers. As usual transport will be by private car.

I look forward to seeing you at the summer events.

E.K. Roy

TESTIMONIAL

It is with deep regret that we have to record the death of our former Secretary, Andrew Conoboy, who died on the 29th January 2000 at the age of 37 years. Many people from all walks of life turned out in great numbers to pay tribute at the Service of Remembrance in the North Church, Alloa, on the 3rd February 2000.

Born in 1962 Andrew was brought up in Causewayhead and attended Wallace High School. From there he entered the laboratory of Scottish Grain and Malt Distillers now United Distillers. To further his career he studied for an HNC and later HND at Falkirk College. Based in Alloa he was for a few years assigned to the Engineering Department as a trouble-shooter, a job Andrew loved which enabled him to travel the length and breadth of the country. Unfortunately nothing is permanent and during a period of re-organisation Andrew was transferred to Cameronbridge Distillery in Fife. The daily travelling and long hours took their toll and when his health deteriorated he was forced to give up work altogether.

Furthering his passion for pre-history he undertook a course at Glasgow University thereby becoming a Certificated Field Archaeologist, it was his aim, when his health permitted, to take a degree in this subject.

CFSS benefited from his expertise and enjoyed the outings he conducted to archaeological sites.

He was an authority on burial practices and Pictish Symbol stones. Members may recall the excellent talk presented to the Society on Early Burial Practices when our understanding of the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron age rituals was enhanced.

In Clackmannanshire there is a dearth of pre-history remains but, nevertheless, Andrew attempted to have the Hawkhill Cross incorporated in the Adopt-a-Monument scheme which was put on hold when illness overcame him.

Locally he took a keen interest in Clackmannanshire’s History 8 Heritage Weeks, Doors Open Days and Alloa Tower. He was also Vice Chairman and Editor of the Stirling Field & Archaeological Society and took part in The Green Scene weeks for schoolchildren at the Smith Gallery & Museum. An exceptional young man whose enthusiasm and vitality will be sadly missed.

The following couplet, written in the 17th Century, gives an appropriate sentiment.

“For though his life went soon about
The life of his lines shall never out”

These words are especially true when considering the work that went into the preparation of the Alloa Old Kirkyard Survey. A number of CFSS members are still involved with the completion of this project which, when finished, will provide a fitting testimonial to Andrew’s memory.

The sympathy of the Society is extended to his wife, Catherine, and sister, Anne, who can both take comfort from the fact that Andrew was much respected and held in high regard by those who knew him.

E.K. Roy

**Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society
Summer programme 2000**

Meet at Alloa Health Centre car park –Wednesday 7 pm, Saturday 9.30 am

Wednesdays

May	17	Dollar, back road to Harvieston	
	31	Touch Lochs	Eric & Kay Howman/EKR K Mackay
June	14	Jupiter Garden , Grangemouth	Helen Sadler/LC
	28	Jerah / Loss Burn	E Roy
July	12	Cambus pool to railway bridge across Forth	E Roy
	26	Alva walkabout & history	E Crane
Aug	9	Glen Devon- Castlehill dam & treatment works	B Snaddon
	18	Lornshill / No. 9 walk return to Alloa along ridge	E Roy

Saturdays

May	20	Lime preservation trust, Charlestown: visit to lime kilns (£4 charity charge)	Liz Artiz-Young
June	24	Stanley Mills / Murthley sporrán making	D Clark
July	22	Drummond Castle & gardens	K Mackay/D Clark
Aug	26	Pollock House & gardens	E Roy

Sept 16 Coffee Morning, Spiers Centre, Alloa 10-12

Weekend Field Trip:

8,9,10 May Skye ... Duntulm Castle Hotel DBB £36 /night

**Most outings require shared transport, suitable clothing and
on Saturdays pack food.**

Visitors are welcome for all events!

Inquiries: EK Roy 01259-213954 or L Corbett 01259-215091

**Stirling Field and Archaeological Society
Summer programme 2000**

Tuesday evenings, meet at Smith Museum

April 11 th	Guided tour of Dunning – 6 pm – R. Barth (850271)
May 9 th	Kilbryde Chapel & Judges Cairn – 6.30 pm – R & C Page (470030)
June 13 th	The Blairdrummond Story – 6.30 pm – K Mackay (461539)
July 11 th	Guided tour, Dollar – 6.30 pm – Tony Martin
Sept 12 th	Linlithgow heritage trail – 6.30 pm – M. Green (472152)

Weekend outings usually meet at Smith Museum, 9.30 am

April 30th Sunday
Tall ship “Glenlee”, Glasgow harbour. Meet “Glenlee” 1.30,
tour at 2 pm. £5 / £3. Details & numbers M. Green (472152) by 20 April
(Joint meet with A Ransome Soc.)

May 7th Sunday
Inchcailloch, Loch Lomond. Meet at 9.15 Smith Museum, Ferry from
Balmaha costs £2. H. Robb (473618)

May 21st Sunday
Dysart Tower & Wemyss Caves, K Mackay (461539)

June 24th Saturday
Three hour sail, Loch Etive. M Green (472152). Pay in advance by 14 June
to 11 Williamfield Ave. Stirling (Joint meet with A Ransome Soc.)

July Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd
Hadrian’s Wall residential weekend. Indicate interest now to R. Barth
(850271). Details later.

Sept 24th Sunday
Open Doors Day at Museum of Flight, East Fortune. K Mackay (461539)
(Joint meet with Hamilton Soc.)

Reports from Winter Talks – by I.G. Stewart

All our Yesterdays – Lesley Monk, Balfron 11.10.99

A full house of CFSS members attended the first talk of the winter session when Lesley Monk, teacher of modern studies and geology at Balfron High School was the lively speaker.

Dealing with the development of the earth from 4500 million years ago, we heard that there was one huge continent around Antarctica, later to be fragmented into an eroding mass formed of North America, Canada and Greenland, in particular, with Scotland a tiny piece of land off-shore.

With slides of diagrams and maps, the speaker continued to show the alteration of land forms.

The analogy of a pot of boiling pea soup mirrored the molten magma, caused by radioactive heat, the crust on the surface broke up and lava came out to form new land; cooling caused the magma to descend to be reheated.

Some 600 million years ago Scotland was joined to Canada and the USA, while England, Wales and Southern Ireland were linked to Europe. Only Lewis and Harris were above the deep ocean separating them. A clever use of mock headlines from the fictitious Alloa Times pinpointed such natural disasters as flash floods, volcanoes, earthquakes, which shaped our environment.

When England slammed into Scotland, (or vice-versa!) three cracks resulted; the Highland Boundary Fault, the Southern Upland Fault and the Great Glen. About ten mile high mountains were formed and folded on a massive scale.

Four hundred million years ago, continental drift caused desert conditions in the tropic of Capricorn. An equatorial period led to jungle conditions with swamps where trees, ferns and mosses eventually formed coal. Limestone reefs occurred at Bannockburn. A four mile deep layer of tiny fossils was splattered along the coast from Ballantrae to Girvan.

Scotland even sported mesas and buttes, as in Arizona, where the tropic of Capricorn influences climate. Sediments which filled the Central Belt produced oil and gas. The last Ice Age with a blanket of ice two miles thick was the prelude to man's appearance on the earth.

Robert Dick, Tullibody – Margaret Mercer 25/10/99

The story of Tullibody born. Robert Dick, who is known throughout the world for his researches in geology, was expertly dealt with by the speaker.

Robert Dick was born on the 10th January 1811 to Thomas Dick, an exciseman at Cambus, he was the youngest of four children whose happy life was altered by the death of their mother in 1821. Their father remarried, his new wife being Miss Knox of the Cambus brewery family. She was a very harsh step-mother and naturally favoured her own children who were born subsequently.

Thomas Dick had moved to Menstrie, where Robert was a promising pupil, and the schoolmaster felt he should go on to university. But at 13 he was apprenticed to a baker, Mr. Aikman, in Tullibody, whose business was on the site of the present-day Post Office. Robert had to deliver baked goods on foot, as far as Menstrie and even up into the Ochils. He lived in a room above the baker's shop.

His interest was in collecting flowers and rocks which he identified and studied.

Thomas Dick was promoted to the Thurso Distillery and suggested his son should move there to take the lease of a vacant baker's shop. Once there, Robert roved far and wide on the moors and along the shore in his spare time, to find fossils and plants. His studies extended to astronomy and phrenology as well. He was thought strange by the local people and condemned out of the pulpit (though not named) for "wandering about on the Sabbath". Once a regular churchgoer, he never went back to St. Peter's Church.

Hugh Miller, the stone-mason and geologist of Cromarty, was his friend and was helped by Robert Dick who did not wish to have his help acknowledged in Miller's book, "The Old Red Sandstone".

On Christmas Eve 1866, Dick died, crippled by arthritis, 10 years to the day after Hugh Miller's death. A huge obelisk marks his grave in Thurso. There is still a plaque in Alloa Museum which was on his demolished birth-place in Tullibody. Could it be re-erected as a remembrance of him?

Woodland History of Tayside - Mairi Stewart, Aberfeldy. 8/11/99

Mairi Stewart of Aberfeldy was the well-informed speaker on this history of Tayside.

A trained geographer, she presented a series of slides showing the remnants of natural woodland amid the commercial plantings more familiar to us.

Mairi is one of the five project managers studying the Breadalbane area, centring around Loch Tay and the estates of the Earls of Glenorchy and the Dukes of Argyll.

The Cambell Clan featured several personalities, such as the first Earl involved in the Massacre of Glencoe, and the second Earl who employed Rob Roy. But, although a Jacobite, he did not forfeit his estate as his son was a Royalist.

This earl had a wide knowledge of trees and listed those on his estate.

Another Perthshire grandee, the Earl of Atholl was also interested in woodlands, planting larch and pine. The fifth Earl of Breadalbane prospected for lead, copper and gold. The Breadalbane Campbells began at Finlarig Castle and Glenorchy but their lands eventually stretched from Lismore and Ballachulish in the west across to Loch Tay (Killin-Kenmore).

West Register House, Edinburgh, had been very helpful in making up slides of maps, such as those made by General Roy as military surveys, when seeking strategic routes.

Another source was the book by Thomas Pennant who had made landscape views of the area.. The notes by Dorothy Wordsworth in 1803 also added information.

Timber had been vital to the community for roofing, boats, furniture and casks to contain salmon. In 1721, for example, there were 10 coopers in the Loch Tay environs and the horses caused damage by "bark stripping" of trees. Production of charcoal, and the tanning industry as well as the ironworks at Bonawe used much of the timber.

By 1860, there were only fragmented settlements in Breadalbane, and mixed woodland is much reduced.

David Douglas: Botanical Explorer - AK Smith, Callander. 22/11/99

A crowded room of CFSS members listened raptly to the story of David Douglas told by plant and forestry enthusiast, Mr AK Smith of Callander.

Two hundred years have passed since Douglas was born on the Scone Palace estate, his father being a stonemason. The earls of Mansfield had new ideas for management in the Age of Enlightenment (1750-1820).

David Douglas became an apprentice gardener for seven years. His early employment

was with Sir Robert at Valleyfield, Fife, who owned a large library of gardening books. Another influence on the young gardener was Professor Hooker of Glasgow University who was in charge of the Botanic Garden there.

In 1823 David Douglas hoped to go to China sponsored by the Royal Horticultural Society, but the British Ambassador, at the time, refused to "kow-tow" before the Emperor of China., so permission was not given for his visit. Douglas went to the New York area of America., then owned by the Dutch; his mission was to collect the seeds of good fruit. He explored the Hudson River environs, to Lake Erie, and saw the Niagara Falls. The Dutch "patrons" (owners) spoke well of him.

After a short time in Scotland, he returned, this time to the West coast of America. The Nine Nations (Red Omdoam trones) lived there in the temperate forest, which had approximately 150 inches of rain a year. Scots beaver hunters kept moving north from California. The fur traders formed the North West Company and built trading posts moving aronud in canoes with French "voyageurs" as the rowers.

Douglas found native species of plants such as mimula, flowering currant and arbutus. A fir tree was named after him, when he sent seeds to Kew.

Returning home, Douglas was lionised in London but was anxious to go back. His voyage was via Cape Horn, his expeditions were wide spread, to Alaska and across America. His health began to break down and he sailed to Hawaii, on his way home. Unfortunately, Douglas fell into a pit for trapping bulls, and was to death.

He was only 34, but is known world-wide in botanical circles.

Millennium Bash – a review of the Society 1970-1999 13/12/99

The Society 's final meeting in 1999 was a “self-congratulatory” celebration, as our chairperson, Mrs. EK Roy, described it.

Thirty years ago, a. small group of people studying industrial archaeology, had begun a project based around the waterwheel at Linn Mill, near Clackmannan.

This continued until torrential rain caused a rock fall, which ruined the wheel and the remains of the building and caused the work to be discontinued. However, a booklet was produced on the findings and the Society was formed in October, 1970.

Betty Roy was one of the four "originators" of CFSS, which has grown in prestige over the years and has gained some 100+ members.

With a well-chosen series of slides, the chairperson illustrated the life and times of those members past and present, stirring many memories of outings and projects. One of the earliest (and most ambitious) ventures was the David Allan exhibition (1973) when our local 18th century artist was featured through his paintings displayed in Alloa Town Hall with the assistance of sponsors such as BP. Some of these now have pride of place in Alloa Tower.

We saw enthusiastic scenes of climbers at Glencoe or the Lake District; places which were then little-known, such as Plean Tower or Rough Castle, were visited by CFSS.

Routes of local walks and sites of interest were studied and checked. In many ways, CFSS blazed a trail for others to follow. Kirks, castles and quarries, we were there. And despite the years, the mood is still, onward and upward. The best is yet to come.

Charlestown and the Story of Lime - Roz Artiz-Young 10/1/2000

Roz Artiz-Young was the lively speaker at the first CFSS talk of the year 2000 when a packed audience heard about the Lime Heritage Trust Centre based in the Granary building at Charlestown in Fife.

The planned village set up by Charles, fifth Earl of Elgin, was established in 1756, and featured his initials C.E. in the layout of the village.

The little settlement was set up 16 years before New Lanark, and was the same type of industrial complex centred around the large deposits of limestone in the area.

Fourteen draw kilns formed the largest range in Europe at that time; the infrastructure included a school, granary and sutlery, a harbour and a railway or wagonway, (as at Alloa) to bring coal from Dunfermline. This became the first in Scotland to carry passengers.

Lime from Charlestown was used widely to "sweeten" the soil or to create a flux in industries such as ironworks or glassworks.

It was used as lime mortar in a slaked condition (even today as in the conservation work at Alloa Tower).

The works closed in 1956 after 200 years in operation, in which period over one million tons of quicklime were produced.

The speaker showed before and after pictures of the skilful use of lime, and of the processes involved. Lime had superior properties to cement which was a development of clay, not used until the late 1880s.

The Lime Heritage Trust hope to re-open one kiln if European funding is granted. They exist to educate and preserve the industrial relics of the industry and hold guided walks from May to September – Sundays at 2pm and Wednesdays at 7pm.

Glory of Iron - Brian Watters. 24/1/2000

Brian Watters presented a fascinating talk on Carron Ironworks. The packed audience heard of the emergence of this great industry from the mid-years of the 18th century from a speaker who, as the author of *Where Iron Runs- Like Water*, was well-versed in his subject.

The names of such entrepreneurs as Dr Roebuck, William Cadell, and Samuel Garbutt were soon mentioned as prominent developers. In fact Cadell was only 22 when he became the first manager in sole charge.

The works had been begun in 1759, when it was built behind the mansion and tower-house at Stenhouse, two miles north of Falkirk. The Carronade, a shipboard weapon used to fire 64lb shot at close range, was designed in 1765 by Gascoigne. The cannon which was used at Trafalgar during the Napoleonic wars enhanced the reputation of the firm.

Gascoigne also improved the water supply to the works. Large dams were made to supply power to the water-wheel. There were also internal canals and a railway was later built. Swans kept the water clear of plants and water creatures, two women being employed to tend them.

Robert Burns visited Carron Ironworks twice (on the first occasion, he was not allowed entry).

Shipping was operated from 1765 to 1947; the numerous slides showed, in 1877 for example, a large area of ground of brickworks, foundry, blast furnaces and smithies before some were demolished.

The firm owned such beautiful residences as Powfoulis house and Carrongrange House at Stenhousemuir as managers' houses. Pictures showed two men whose sole employment was to grease parts of the hydraulic pumps.

A wide range of goods was made (electric cookers, for example) until the company went bankrupt in 1982. Only the gatehouse and tower have survived to the present day.

JAMES HOGG, The Ettrick Shepherd. Suzanne Gilbert. 14/2/2000

A "full house" of CFSS members enjoyed a well-crafted talk by Dr. Suzanne Gilbert of Stirling University, on James Hogg, The Ettrick Shepherd; from humble beginnings, and after only a rudimentary education, Hogg rose to become a lionized, figure among the Edinburgh intelligentsia.

The speaker brought out the duality of Hogg (1770-1835) who was familiar with the oral tradition of ballad-makers from his mother and uncle; Robert Burns had become his inspiration when he heard "Tam ol Shanter" for the first time. James Hogg also seemed able to merge into city life, as in his book, *The Spy* published in 1810 and 1811, where he told of Edinburgh life in an astute way. Yet, in *Mary Burnet*, a fanciful tale, he seemed to be speaking in the ballad-monger's tradition.

Dr. Gilbert also interspersed her talk with recordings of songs which the Ettrick Shepherd composed, - "When the Kye Come Hame" for example. Extracts from passages by the writer were shown on a screen with the aid of an overhead projector.

Hogg, was sometimes lampooned during his lifetime and he was criticised because of "certain indelicacies". In his *Anecdotes of Scott*, who he knew well, he was too honest for the great novelist's biographer, Lockhart, telling of Sir Walter Scott's servility and adulation of title. Hogg withdrew the book, revised it, and it was published for the American market.

Alloa has its own link with Hogg, as Alexander Bald, timber-merchant, who lived in Grange Road, often had him as a guest at his house to speak to the town's Shakespeare Club. I believe Hogg climbed Dumyat also.

Thirty-one volumes of Hogg's works are being published as the Stirling/South Carolina Research edition.

He was a flawed genius now being recognised as equal to Stevenson, especially with his eerie novel *Confession of a Justified Sinner*.

This was a truly fascinating lecture, by a most enthusiastic speaker.

Menstrie Glen Survey - David Cowley, RCAH'S 28/2/2000

Inclement weather did not prevent a good turnout of members, at the talk by Mr. David Cowley on the Menstrie Glen Survey which was based on aerial pictures made in 1946 and 1947 by RAF crews.

Researcher John Harrison had made a study of Menstrie Glen and collected information prior to the survey. Cultivated ground and hill pastures were divided in the 13th and

14th centuries. There was a pattern of homesteads, now only the ruins of Jerah could be seen. A dun on Myreton Hill behind Menstrie showed even earlier habitation. Pre-1600, the Royal flock- was kept near Menstrie, as the -land was the property of Culross Abbey.

There were documents in existence pertaining to James Wright, an entrepreneur of the 17th century. He was a wealthy cattle trader and his house at Loss was substantial, with hall, parlour, kitchen, garret above, and a large cattle court in front, with a garden and surrounding walled-in fields for cultivation.

He decided to clear his land for sheep by reducing the period of the leases, and getting tenants to plant grass before they left their houses. The system of pasturing had been 'trans-humance' as in the Alps, where cattle were led to newer grass on higher slopes, while the herds lived in bothies.

Glendevon, meanwhile, had enclosures for cattle, as the drovers kept their beasts there before going south to the markets. Six large houses belonging to the 'lairds' were in the area, one of which was the mansion at Glensherrup.

Our Changing Environment - Mike Thomas, Stirling University 13/3/2000

"Our Changing -Environment" was the challenging topic at the latest well-attended CFSS meeting when Mike Thomas expanded on the reasons for global climate change.

The illustrated talk revealed evidence from rocks 400 million years old. The last Ice Age, due to the irregular orbit of the sun, only disappeared from the Highlands 10,000 years ago. The site around Alloa would have 800 to 1000 metres of ice at this period. Fifteen thousand years ago, the steep slopes of Gleneagles and Glendevon were formed with debris being left showing glacial action. People are concerned now about the loss of ice from the Arctic and Antarctic, but this has been going on for hundreds of years.

Carboniferous rocks, as seen in the Gargunnock hills, are unstable, being attacked by rain and wind, resulting in landslides. Motorways built across carseland in Scotland are on top of peat and sand, with constant patching being required. At Flanders Moss (once drained for cultivation) trees were being planted as late as the 1970s; now, it is realised that the wetland is an asset and unique in Europe.

Man may be arrogant in thinking he controls the climate; he may only be "tinkering" with problems. The East Coast of England is gradually sinking and lessons should be learned from the Dutch. Scotland, meanwhile, is rising slightly year by year. The Scottish pattern of heather moor, peat bog, grasslands has remained for ages in Scotland, but forests have diminished.

This was a thought provoking talk, ranging over a wide area.

25th Man and the Landscape Jubilee Symposium, FNH 13 Nov. 1999

LANDSCAPE AND AFFORESTATION – Crinan Alexander

Crinan Alexander, from the Royal Botanic Garden, started his talk with a 10-minute overview of the history of Scottish forests, from the retreat of the glaciers around 8000BC to the wholesale blanketing of the landscape with single species conifers as practised in the mid-twentieth century.

Drawing attention to many examples of bad planting, he introduced us to the principles of good forest-planning, in which conifers occupy a broad but not uniform band below the ridges, which serve to lead the eye downwards; broad-leaf plantings fare better in the lower parts of the valleys with fingers of woodland threading upwards along minor valleys. Felling and replanting plans ought to be thought through before the original planting begins.

An exciting project which is currently about to be launched is the Carrifran (pronounced Carr-eye-fran) Wildwood Project, which will clothe a treeless Borders glen, just south of the Grey Mare's Tail, with mixed woodland of native species and of a range of ages. The glen will be fenced to exclude large mammals (sheep, goats and deer) but will be open to the general public. It will be spared commercial exploitation; instead it will be allowed to develop naturally and decay naturally. This project - if it succeeds - could be repeated elsewhere to improve the visual impact of forestry in the Highlands.

Ken Mackay

Archaeology - Lorna Main, Regional Archaeologist

Lorna Main gave a very concise resume of the 25 past years of discovery and how today this was being reassessed; no longer were sites being looked at in isolation but recognition was given to the importance of their landscape setting and identifying the historical layer in the landscape.

No Scottish landscapes are in her opinion completely natural and this was further expanded on with a commentary to the excellent slides and maps of different sites with views and maps from 25 years ago to the present day.

Middens are Neolithic as well as Mesolithic. They are found north as well as south of the Forth. Chapelfield site is Mesolithic and dates (carbon) approx. 2500 BC. The site shows a double ring of stakes and centre posts and is located at Cowie.

Braehead at Alloa is a Mesolithic shell midden consisting of mainly oyster shells and the dating is approx. 4410-4158 BC according to the data of 1996.

A Neolithic timber platform has also been dated at Parks of Garden but there is no confirmation of the trackway. No further excavations are taking place. Date approx. 33 AD – 2900BC.

Slides were shown to illustrate the distribution of Chambered Tombs from 1974 to 1999 including Cairns of the Clyde type. The majority were found by the Royal Commission on Ancient & Historical Monuments of Scotland and showed a dramatic increase over the years up to 1999. Slides illustrated those of Auchenaich, Callander, Edinchip, Braes of Doune, Lochearnhead together with Glencairn and Glenalmond in Perthshire.

The only way to get a proper perspective of the site at Auchenaich was by aerial photo which shows the extent of the site of 600 metres in length and dated about same as Edinchip, ie. 3000-3500 BC.

Palisaded homesteads listed in 1974 had shown an increase from then to 1999. The most significant being Plean, Gargunnoch, Kings Knot, Thornhill, Easterton Argaty all with a combination of houses and enclosures. At Coldoch the house measured approx. 12.17 metres in diameter plus the enclosure, whilst at Argaty evidence of timber posts set in stone lined ditch is recorded.

Early Bronze Age rock art was also a feature briefly mentioned and particularly the most recent at Cowie, adding to the known examples of Kingspark, Port of Menteith, Gartmore, Glenorchy and Lix Toll. All a combination of cup and ring types.

The Iron Age House at Bannockburn had also been added within recent times to the survey since 1974.

Brochs in 1974 numbered only three but this had increased to six in 1999 which was an interesting subject. These are Torwood, Gargunnoch area, Buchlyvie, Thornhill and Drymen. Fairy Knowe at Buchlyvie the entrance faces east and an enamel ring in red and yellow glass was found at this particular site.

Lorna then went on to much later history –Roman sites! All know generally of the Roman Occupation of Central Scotland particularly at Bonnybridge hill and the camp at Braco. But great excitement prior to the Symposium was disclosed at the discovery during preparation for a school at Doune uncovering a Flavian Fort of 1st Century. This was under investigation and it can now be confirmed that bread ovens, five in number which could provide for needs of 500 men, are listed. This proved that further investigation was justified and this reveals that the best example outwith Germany of a Roman Hospital of Flavian type has been confirmed and recognised as possibly the best hospital of that Roman period uncovered up to 1999. An ongoing search for medical instruments is underway.

Lorna was given a well earned thanks for her talk.

Stop Press 30/3/00

Lorna Main has advised this week that at the Cala home site in Dunblane two Bronze age kists have been unearthed of 1000 BC. One of which has a skeleton with food vessel intact and the other with a necklace of channel coal with jet fastener highly polished. Watch this space for further details.

History – Elspeth King

“History”. That was the single word on the Symposium programme given to describe the presentation by the director of the Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum in November 1999.

I believe almost everyone attending the symposium knew Elspeth King –or at least knew of her. Elspeth, a “Fifer” is a very talented lady with the initials MA FMA after her name. She was obviously right on top of her subject, demonstrated by the breadth of material covered. Firstly, the subject of history was covered from the point of view of material culture and its collection, conservation, exhibition and interpretation in the local museum, “the Smith” in Stirling. Stirling is currently marketed as “The heritage capital of Scotland”, with full page, full colour newspaper advertisements inviting visitors to enjoy the newly restored Great Hall and Chapel Royal of Stirling Castle, the 17th Century splendour of Argyll’s Lodging, the Braveheart feel-good factor at the National Wallace Monument, the National Trust for Scotland visitor centre which explains the Battle of Bannockburn and the living history presentation at the Old Town Jail.

Since the “Futureworld” proposals in 1984-5, there has been a whole succession of excellent heritage projects, many of them involving major capital development. In 1984 Stirling, the decay at the top of the town, the neglect of the Erskine Mary kirk, the roofless old model prison, the crumbling Argyll’s Lodging, youth hostel and the town’s general air of neglect was there for all to see. Like:-

‘Here Stuarts once in the triumph reigned
And laws for Scotland’s weal ordained
But now unroofed their palace stands
Their sceptors swayed by other hands.’ Robert Burns

However, Stirling Castle must now look much better, cleaner and more prosperous than it did when it housed one of the most splendid courts in Renaissance Europe.

As regards tourism-driven development, we have never had it so good. The National Wallace Monument, since the release of the film “Braveheart” in 1995, the creation of an enlarged car park in 1997 and the provision of a bus service up the Abbey Craig, is a major visitor destination within Scotland. Yet for most of the 20th century it was underfunded, neglected and unvisited. The suffragette, Ethell Moorhead, found it really easy to walk in and break the glass of the Wallace sword case in 1913 and in 1938 and 1972, the sword was stolen on both occasions with the express intention of highlighting the poor state of the monument, which according to the Daily Record was “Scotland’s Disgrace”.

During the dark days of the early 1970s, the Landmark Visitor Centre run by David Hayes on Upper Castlehill showed what was possible. Although his faith and investment in historic Stirling took him to the edge of bankruptcy, his ideas were embraced in Futureworld and then carried on in the 1990s by the Stirling Initiative.

A transformation has been wrought in terms of heritage through investment and development and for the sake of national self-image, it is fortunate that Historic Scotland has seen to conclusion the principle adopted in the 1960s when they first set out to restore the Great Hall and to return it to the era of its construction. Had the programme been started in more recent times, prevailing conservation principles would have dictated its preservation as a military barracks of indeterminate period.

At a time when it cost 6d to visit Stirling Castle it cost 3d to visit the Smith Art Gallery and Museum. Now the entrance charge for the Castle is £5.00 and some wonder why we are not charged £2.50 for the Smith. They even wonder whether or not the Smith should exist at all since there are so many other historic visitor attractions in and around Stirling. In 1984 it was even proposed that the Smith act as a car park and terminus for the funicular to the Castle. However, the Smith’s collection is of National as well as of local significance. The history of Stirling and Stirlingshire has to be more than Wallace, Bruce, the Royal Burgh and the mid-Victorian criminal element depicted in the Old Town Jail. There is a desperate need for an overview, from prehistory to the present day, to explain the geology, geography and the natural history, to examine the different trends and developments in our history, to give proper cognisance in the Smith’s displays and in its education programmes to the importance of the archaeological discoveries, and to see that the elements which are distinctive within the 20th century are given space and recognition.

Academic historians are very document focused, producing histories based on libraries and archives and ignoring museum collections, as if they were some kind of lesser source. The lack of regard is reflected in the way the Smith is missing from the literature and advertisements promoting the town. The building is even excluded from a current tourist map, which causes serious problems. The capital development programme to upgrade the Smith has not happened and the curator is after five years, struggling to have the building included in the heritage trail and tourism publications.

As Stirling Council is the first of the 200 local authorities which have been given the opportunity of presenting “Our Town’s Story” in the Millennium Dome in Greenwich, in January 2000, the Smith has been examining different aspects of what the Stirling Story might be. Throughout 1999, 14 lunchtime presentations on history and culture were given, involving a vast variety of local people. These proved very popular and the best attended were the talks on Thornhill, Bannockburn and Gargunnock. Everyone was very pleased at the number of people who came forward with information and also indicating sources of collections. Photographs were also contributed. Local councillor Billy Buchanan rescued much of the history from the remains of the last big prisoner of war camp at Castlerankine, before it was demolished –including the sketches from the dining room there, done by the German artist Otto Lamb. The material exhibited gave some idea of what effect the camp had on the local community. The present day generation was not aware that the camp was used to house German and Italian prisoners over the period 1945-49, together with displaced people from Poland, who were used as

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An Immigrant Experience, final part

(parts I and II have been in Numbers 62 and 63)

Monday. The wind still raging and the ship tossing about. The sea looks awfully grand but so wild, for the waves are mountainous high. We passed the Trinidad Island Today –it is inhabited by Portugese convicts. This is a fearful night. It rains and thunders and lightens dreadfully.

Tuesday, 21st. The storm still rages fearfully. Oh God, protect us from the dangers of the sea! We have another woman confined today with twin girls. I don't think they will live, they are so small –like dolls. The sea still rages. Sometimes I think we shall never live to send this diary to you but we shall all go together if we go down. The wind is ripping our sails asunder and carrying them away. The chains are beating against the side of the ship and all is confusion. We cannot stand without holding on by something firm. There is no music or dancing on the deck. None but our good ship dancing on the water 12 miles an hour. I am thankful to say father is better. The rest are all well. We are getting quite thin and weak for we have only tea and coffee to drink and a very limited supply of that, and cold water the rest of the day.

Saturday, October 25th. The sea still continues very high. It beats up mountains high. I never saw such a sea before. It is a grand sight –there is a quantity of birds flying over us now. That is all the company we have got –there is some fine large albatross and Cape Pigeons and sea fowls –our Captain has been trying to catch some. Thank God another week has passed. We have had three days and three nights rocking about. We could not keep anything on our shelves or tables and hardly lay in our bunks. One night we could not sleep the noise was something awful. I though every moment we should go down to the bottom. I have not been on deck for a week till today, and now I have paid a visit to Jane and the boys at their end of the ship. I am thankful to say they are all quite well. We had another death today. A boy 16 months old –poor little thing had consumption of the bowels. Another dinner for the sharks! I should like to have a nice dinner of fresh meat and vegetables like we have been used to. This is something dreadful. We cannot eat the salt beef –and not much pork. It is tainted. Well, we have preserved potatoes. They are sickly and our bread we have new every day. The flour is musty. Then we have plenty of rice but no milk for our tins are all empty. I shall be glad when this journey is over.

Father seems to keep all right. He has no beer but plenty of tobacco. We buy that at 2s6d a pound so he has plenty of that.

Sunday. I have just had Fred, John and Horace to visit us and made them a cup of tea and a cake between them. Now they are gone to see Jane as they may meet for two hours on Sundays –on the poop. Jane is always pleased to see any of us.

Monday, October 27th. Bitterly cold. We are glad to keep below and are almost

perished. Another poor baby died this evening at 5 o'clock while we sat at tea, and buried at 9. It does seem so sad to see the poor little things sewn up directly and buried in the sea.

Tuesday. Still very cold. Going at a rapid rate.

Wednesday. Still the same. I have just done a week's washing. I never thought I could wash in cold water and this hard water too. I am almost frozen to death. It is full moon and looks beautiful over the sea with such a lot of birds flying over us. The albatross are very large. When they throw their wings wide open they measure 10 and 12 feet across their body and wings, and if they once get on the deck of the ship they cannot fly up again, so they are caught.

Wednesday. Eight weeks today since we sailed out of Plymouth. This is very cold. It feels like snow, but we have daylight at 4 in the morning and not dark till after 8 at night.

Thursday. Still bitterly cold and the sea beats mountains high and we cut through the water fine. Good night.

Friday. Still as cold as ever.

Saturday. Another funeral –of the twins that were born a week ago. Poor little things. They are both sewn up in canvas together and thrown overboard. I hope we shall not have much more of this –it is heart-rending.

Sunday, November 2nd. We feel the cold more than ever and no fire to cheer us. We dare not go into the galley: it is strictly forbidden. The poor little babies do cry with the cold. I shall be glad when we get into a little warmer climate. We are getting up a tea party for the 5th November. The only way they can celebrate it here.

Tuesday. This is worse than ever. We pitch and toss at such a rate, it doesn't seem possible that we can get through this sea –God help us!

Wednesday, 5th. Still heavy swell on. this is Horace's birthday. He is 18 today. The water comes clean over the deck and down upon us like heavy claps of thunder. It is not safe for any of us to go on deck. There are several children with broken limbs for they will go in defiance of everybody. We turn in to our bunks quite early to keep warm for it is so cold we cannot feel anything. Our fingers and feet are numbed. We have a heavy fall of snow and hail today and the men are catching the albatross for they are tired out and keep falling on the deck. they are splendid birds. They skin them and throw the bodies away while the plumage they keep for sale, and the quills in the wings they make pipe stems of. I have got a fine large skin given me to make Jane a set of furs. The first mate had it dressed and nailed out on a board to dry it. I am afraid we shall have a rough night. We toss about fearfully.

Sunday, November 9th.cold –hail andno service for stand on deckWe have passedicebergs in safetell me they areous things to theGood night. god bless ou all once more.

Wednesday. We have had hail and snow three days running. The cold is very severe. Everybody is complaining of chilblains. We have not seen a ship nor any signs of land for some time. Since I wrote last night we have been tossed about and some of our sails carried away again, and the bulwarks have given way on one side. ..we expected to go downlaid on her side.....water rushed ..to and froended fearfully.

Novembr 15th. Still stormy ...and blown andare clapping like.....the sight of the seasomething awful.

Sunday, November 17th. We have still very rough weather –hail and snow but not so cold as it has been. Our constables are very busy catching albatrosses for their skins. They have caught 16 today. The rocking of the ship has quite upset me. I feel that ill I can neither eat nor sleep. We dare not go on the deck for fear of being washed over and the carpenter has cut a hold through the partition into the single men's quarters to give us air for we are all shut down and have a lamp burning to see with. There are two men lashed to the wheel for fear of being washed overboard. That will tell you what a sea we are in. Father is on watch from 12 to 2 – Good night.

Wednesday. Still wet and rough weather. The sea comes over the deck and rushes down every opening it can get in –it is not safe for men to walk about let alone women and we cannot sit still without holding by something firm. We have been 11 weeks on the sea. Surely we shall not be much longer. I made a cake today which was very nice. I ground some rice and sea biscuits with some sugar and currants and dripping or butter and got our black cook to bake it for us. It is very nice for a change, but we still have new bread every day. We roll about so much I must say goodnight.

Friday. Quite a change for it is fine and the wind in our favour. We cut along 300 miles a day at this rate, our hatchways are opened and we are taking a walk on deck – now the rain comes on again with the evening. I often wish I had a little brandy for I have got so weak and thin, but no, nothing can we have here. Our Doctor has such a good look out for Number One that he cannot spare any –though there is plenty on board for everybody of everything you could name, but he is so afraid he should have to go short at the last, but the steward says that when we are landed the Doctor will sell what is left and pocket the coin. He is an old sinner. There is nobody likes him. He is always ashamed to hold the service on Sundays now because we have seen him the worse for drink so we may go for what he cares.

This is Sunday again. Quite calm day until 3 o'clock and then it pours with rain again and the sea very rough. WE have seen three large whales and a quantity of porpoises today all round the ship. The heads of them as they come up out of the water are just like pigs heads – all black.

Monday. Fine but moving along very fast –now the rain pours down with the evening air –what a rough night.

Tuesday. I have been washing all day and tired hanging them out. All our bedding and clothing, expecting every week will be our last wash on board the Arethusa.

Wednesday. The weather is dry but cold and the sea keeps washing over the deck so it is not safe to walk about or to sit down for we get a drenching.

Thursday, November 27th. We have been busy all this week cleaning up our bunks and shelves and lockers. Everything about the lower deck is clean, ready for landing. We expect to land in about a week. The school children have been receiving their prizes for their lessons and conduct. Martha has a beautiful gilt-edged book presented to her. She gained the first prize in each class and Willy got a very nice book of talks. I wish we were going to meet some of our brothers and sisters out here but we shall be strangers in a strange land.

Sunday. No service again. A fine day and all passed inspection in a satisfactory manner. Now we are eagerly looking forward to a sight of land. I am so sick of the sea.

Monday, December 1st. Very steady. Rather a damp on our spirits for we are becalmed. Midday. Blowing quite a hurricane. Going along 12 miles an hour so you see the difference in a few hours. We are troubled to sit, stand or lay, the ship rolls about so much.

Tuesday. We have had an awfully rough night and the waves are as high as mountains. It is quite a grand sight to see for the water is quite black and we seem to lay in a hollow and cut through the heavy waves. The men have caught 14 more albatrosses today. We have gone 280 miles since yesterday. We have 500 more to go and if the wind keeps in our favour we shall do it in two days.

Wednesday, December 3rd. Still on the sea. Nothing else to look at. I wish we had something better to eat. Our bread is musty, our pork is salt and our beef is rank and the preserved meat is all gone –everything seems stale and bad.

Thursday, December 4th. Fine weather but not going along very fast. The people are almost despairing. Music an dancing on deck all the evening to pass the time away.

Friday. Very foggy. The sailors are obliged to be using foghorns night and day. We sighted another ship this morning some distance off –that is the first we have seen for some time. Good news –fair winds.

Saturday. South Island visible. We are running through Cook Strait. We are only 50 miles from land but this being Saturday they will not take us into harbour till another

Some recent books of interest – most are obtainable at the Smith Art Gallery and Museum bookshop.

Ardoch 2000 by Wm. Hutchinson. Ardoch Millennium Cttee. 80pp. £5 0-953782700. A brief history of Ardoch Parish to the end of the Second Millennium.

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs by Rennie McOwan. David & Charles. £8.99 a continuing work to Campbell's book of the same title reviewed in Newsletter 63 –and supplementary to the Forth Naturalist & Historian's *Lure of Loch Lomond* –now selling at ½ price -£2. McOwan's book gives emphasis to the Rob Roy country.

Listen to the Trees by Don MacCaskill. Luatt Press. 221 pp. £9.99. 0-946487-65-0. A finely written and acutely observed account of the naturalist in his early life as a forester at Ardgartan, now part of the Argyll Forest Park. It also includes an appendix "Where Next" by Philip Ratcliffe like his presentation to Man and the Landscape symposium – Woodlands, 1998.

Shale Voices by Alistair Findlay – Luath Press. c 270 pp. £10.99 0-946-48763-4. An illustrated insight into Paraffin Young –oil pioneer, and places and people of West Lothian –a subject of talks to, and visits by CFSS – over the years.

Red Sky at Night by John Barrington. Luath Press reprint. 250 pp. £8.99. 0-094-648760-X. The delightful inovative, well written account of a shepherd / naturalist's year –from his home Glengyle - Rob Roy's old house, and spanning the great sheep farm of Loch Katrine.

Clackmannanshire –cycling, walking, street plans –a great detailed map by Harvey of Doune –and Clackmannanshire Council. £2.95.

Nigel Tranter by Ray Bradfield. 300 pp. B& W Publishing. £15.99. 1-873631-98-7. A definitive biography to celebrate his 90th (and to be last) birthday.