



## 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 150 members.

In winter there are fortnightly lectures or member's nights, from September to April, beginning with a coffee morning and concluding with the 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 – Conserving Biodiversity and Heritage and Loch Lomond and the Trossachs are the 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

Research projects have included- Linn Mill, Mining, and Alloa Harbour; these have been published as booklets *Linn Mill, Mines and Minerals of the Ochils*, and *Alloa Port, Ships and Shipbuilding*. A recent project is *Old Alloa Kirkyard, Archaeological Survey 1996 – 2000* further work is in progress. Other publications include *David Allan, The Ochil Hills – landscape, wildlife, heritage walks; Alloa Tower and the Erskines of Mar*; and the twice yearly *Newsletter* with 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, R. Snaddon or D Clark should be contacted for access.

# Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society Newsletter

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69

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**October 2002**

**CONTENTS**

Page no.

1	Editorial	Betty Roy
2	CFSS Winter Programme 2002 – 3	
	Dates for your Diary	
3	Stirling Field & Archaeological Society	
3	Dollar History Society	
4	Kincardine History Group	
4	The Clackmannan Society	
5	Man & the Landscape Symposium (programme)	L. Corbett
6	Sauchie Tower & its Environs	Susan Mills
11	The 1837 Tillicoultry Weavers Strike	Betty Roy
15	Torwood Broch & Castle	Eliz. Crane
17	St. Bernard's Well – Water of Leith	Eliz. Crane
17	Up On The Hill	Isobel G Stewart
19	A few thoughts on Summer 2002	Dick Clark
22	Obituaries	Betty Roy

## EDITORIAL

After a successful summer season, the winter programme got off to a good start with the annual coffee morning. A quick count by the Treasurer shows a profit of £200+, after expenses. The committee wish to thank members for their support and for the wonderful home baking that is always a feature of this event.

If one looks through past newsletters, it should be possible to gauge summer weather in past years. Summer 2002 was not the best on record but in spite of that the majority of the outings did not experience heavy rain! However the Field Trip to Oban was beset by periods of heavy rain though two days good weather, an excellent hotel and an interesting programme offset the bad.

One of the highlights of the trip was a visit to the Dunstaffnage Marine Laboratory. The variety of research projects undertaken by the scientists is vast. All enjoyed seeing the Decompression Chamber where deep sea divers and others are treated for "The Bends". I was fascinated by the work done to encourage lobsters to re-colonise when the habitat is damaged. Little houses constructed from local sandstone and placed on the seabed create the correct environment for these sea creatures. Thanks to Bob Monk for organising this event

The bus trip to Wester Kitchside was a successful venture. There we were warmly welcomed by Duncan Dornan, the managing director of the museum. Splendid weather and lots of activities to enjoy made this a visit to remember. Going down Memory Lane, it was in the early 70s when we last organised a bus. For 2003 we are considering hiring a bus for one of the outings – more later.

As usual the Winter Programme has been compiled to cover the aims of the Society which we hope you will find interesting. Now an apology – there is a misprint on the programme – January 23<sup>rd</sup> should read JAMES IV'S GREAT MICHAEL and not James VI as printed.

CFSS members continue to take an active part in the local heritage and environment and those who become involved find these activities rewarding. Throughout the year exhibitions have been staged – Man & The Landscape Symposium, Green Scene, Volunteers' Week and the Bio-Diversity Launch in Devonvale Hall. Taking part in these events is rewarding and brings credit to the society.

Presently we are preparing a bid for funding under The Local Heritage Initiative Scotland scheme. Though the initial kirkyards study has been completed, more research is needed and we also hope to see the rehabilitation of this ancient site. Much is being done to promote tourism in Clackmannanshire and along with the upgrading of the old centre of Alloa, the amenity and historical aspect of the kirkyard would add interest to the area. Research into families, industry and occupations associated with the site will be undertaken. This, of course, will require lots of helpers – are you computer literate, would you like to undertake some research and have an hour or two to spare? Help by members is required and guidance will be given, please let me know if you are interested.

CFSS is well respected for the quality of work we have done in the field of local studies and it is our aim to involve more of the membership in the research and publishing part of our activities.

## CFSS WINTER PROGRAMME 2002 / 2003

Meetings are held in Alloa Town Hall (Tommy Downs Room), unless otherwise stated, on Monday evenings -2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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.

### 2002

#### SEPTEMBER

- Sun 1<sup>st</sup> Menstrie Glen – 500 years of Documented History of –  
“a Well Sheltered & Watered Place” – Dave Cowley  
11a.m. – 3 p.m. Booking essential ...Phone 212395
- Sat 14<sup>th</sup> COFFEE MORNING – Speirs Centre, Primrose St.,  
Alloa 10am – 12 noon

#### OCTOBER

- Mon 14<sup>th</sup> New Native Woodlands in the Ochils – Don Lindsay,  
Forestry Commission, Perth
- Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Scotland's Historic Shipwrecks – Dr. Noel Fojut, Historic Scotland

#### NOVEMBER

- Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Historic 13<sup>th</sup> Century Cathedral Buildings – Dr. Richard Fawcett,  
Historic Scotland
- Sat 16<sup>th</sup> 28<sup>th</sup> Man and the Landscape Symposium at Stirling University.  
**Scotland's Weather & Climate.** Information from  
Forth Naturalist and Historian, Secretary Lindsay Corbett at  
University or 30 Dunmar Dr. Alloa. Programmes widely available  
in schools, libraries, halls ...
- Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Preservation of Carved Stones – Susan Buckham, Historic Scotland

#### DECEMBER

- Mon 16<sup>th</sup> Member's Night

### 2003

#### JANUARY

- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> Joint Meeting with Friends of the Ochils  
The First Hundred Munroists - David Hewitt
- Mon 27<sup>th</sup> James IV Great Michael – Michael Penman, Stirling University

#### FEBRUARY

- Mon 10<sup>th</sup> The Wonders of Florence – Alistair Maxwell-Irving, CFSS
- Mon 24<sup>th</sup> The Ecology of the Forth – Dr. Donald McLusky, Stirling University

#### MARCH

- Mon 10<sup>th</sup> Development of Alloa Pottery 1783 – 1907 -  
Susan Mills (Museum Heritage Officer) & Robert Rankine
- Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Industrial Visit - Nexfor, Cowie

#### APRIL

- Mon 14<sup>th</sup> AGM Cheese & Wine

## Dates for your Diary

### Stirling Field & Archaeological Society

- Meet in the Smith Museum, Stirling 7.30 pm. second Tuesday of the month.
- 12<sup>th</sup> November Pictish Stones in Tayside & Fife Norman Atkinson (Angus Council)
- 10<sup>th</sup> December Tea, Poison & Barbed-wire, Environmental Archaeology in Stirling Area, Dr. Susan Ramsay (Glasgow University)
- 14<sup>th</sup> January Farming & Wildlife on Flanders Moss, Steve Sankey (Scottish Wildlife Trust)
- 11<sup>th</sup> February History of Brickmaking, Andrew Clegg (Errol Brickworks)
- 11<sup>th</sup> March AGM & members night

### Dollar History Society

- Alloa Academy dining room 7.30 pm second Tuesday of the month
- 10<sup>th</sup> December Blackfriars of Stirling and their Church, Dr. Ron Page, Stirling Field & Archaeological Society
- 14<sup>th</sup> January Dollar's Danish Provost 1902 - 1906, Tony Martin of Dollar
- 11<sup>th</sup> February The Leishman family of Broomrigg, Val Toon of Dollar + Lavinia Malcolm, Scotland's first woman Provost 1913 – 19, Janet Carolan, Curator of Dollar Museum
- 11<sup>th</sup> March "Sair sair wark" Women in mining in Scotland, Lillian King, Benarty Antiquarian Society
- 8<sup>th</sup> April The Great Michael, James IVth's great ship built at Airth, Dr. Michael Penman, Stirling University History Dept.
- 13<sup>th</sup> May AGM + Seaside Entertainers – the Pierrots, Mrs. Nellie Phillips of Kinghorn

## Kincardine Local History Group

Community Centre – Glancy Lounge every second Wednesday 7 – 9 pm.

- October 23<sup>rd</sup> The Three Estates, Rev. Ivor Gibson
- November 6<sup>th</sup> A story of a family from 'Fordell Miner' to the 'Wagon Train', Bill Livingstone
- November 20<sup>th</sup> Stone of Destiny, Dr. Peter Waddell
- December 4<sup>th</sup> The Secrets of Tait's Tomb, Tony Martin
- December 18<sup>th</sup> Clackmannanshire Clockmakers, Bob Lindsay
- January 8<sup>th</sup> Understanding Scottish Castles, Craig Mair
- January 22<sup>nd</sup> The Battle of Inverkeithing, 1651, Cause & Effect, George Robertson
- February 5<sup>th</sup> Clackmannan old & new, Jim Banks
- February 19<sup>th</sup> Waters of the Forth, Dr. Ken Mackay ... rivers feeding into the Forth from source to final meeting point
- March 5<sup>th</sup> In the footsteps of James Thomson, Andrew Lumsden
- March 19<sup>th</sup> Members night & AGM

### The Clackmannan Society

Church hall, Saturdays 7pm

- 19<sup>th</sup> October Farming on Alloa Inch, Margaret McGregor presenting the story as told originally by her late mother
- 16<sup>th</sup> November Clackmannanshire – 'A future for the past', Susan Mills Museum & Heritage Officer Clackmannanshire Council
- 18<sup>th</sup> January A 'postcard' trip down the Forth, Peter Baillie, Chairman of Torryburn local history group
- 15<sup>th</sup> February Clackmannan Tower: 'Past, present & future', Doreen Grove, Historic Scotland
- 15<sup>th</sup> March The Story of Queen Margaret (St. Margaret), George Robertson, Curator of the Carnegie Museum, Dunfermline

**Forth Naturalist & Historian  
28<sup>th</sup> Annual Man & the Landscape Symposium  
Scotland's Weather & Climate  
Living with Change  
Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> November 2002**

10.00 Registration at Theatre A3  
Coffee, bookstall and displays at Seminar Room 2X  
All lectures in Theatre A3

**MORNING SESSION**

*Chairman: David Bryant*

- 10.30 Noranne Ellis (Scottish Natural Heritage)  
*Climate changes and the natural heritage of Scotland*
- 11.00 Alastair Dawson (University of Coventry)  
*Reconstructing the last 1000 years of Scotland's climate history*
- 11.40 Angela Douglas (Woodland Trust)  
*Nature's calendar – recording when natural events occur*
- 12.15 Launch of the FN&H volume 25 .....
- 12.30 Lunch\* - displays, bookstall and tea / coffee at Seminar Room 2X

**AFTERNOON SESSION**

*Chairman: Kate Sankey*

- 14.00 John Harrison (University of Stirling)  
*Whither the weather – detecting change at the local level*
- 14.30 David Thoroughgood (Stirling Council)  
*Land-use planning and flood risk in the Stirling area*
- 15.00 Mike Thomas (University of Stirling)  
*Man and nature conspire – landslides in Kippenraik Glen*

**Close 15.30**

Thanks in anticipation of your application. Note that we do not respond unless there is a problem.  
Attendance at the 27<sup>th</sup> Loch Lomond & the Trossachs symposium 2001 was 150.

\* The two-course **lunch** in the Haldane restaurant, McRobert Centre, is only available by pre-paid booking.  
Booked lunch tickets to be collected at registration.

Roberto's Café, in the MacRobert concourse, serves snacks.

**Sauchie Tower and its environs**

Sauchie Tower was built between 1430 and 1440 by Sir James Schaw, whose ancestor came from Greenock c1330 to marry Mary, daughter of Henri de Annand of Sauchie. James Schaw was 'Comptroller to the King', the Schaws were one of the most influential families in Scotland and were governors of Stirling Castle until the reign of James IV. Sauchie Tower is comparable to the secondary wing of Clackmannan Tower and has undergone very little alteration since it was built.

The tower is almost square on plan and is built of high quality, coursed pink sandstone ashlar blocks, pinned with oyster shells. It measures 11.5m by 10.3m externally, with walls 1.6 - 2.0m thick, with the exception of the west wall, which is over 3m thick and contains mural chambers on the first three levels. Externally the tower is very plain, only the entrance arch and the wall heads being decorated. There are simple relieving arches above the larger windows. Internally it is much more elaborate, with ornate fireplaces and window recesses with bench seating. There are now four storeys but the ground floor was once split into two levels and there were probably attic chambers in the roof.

Excavations were carried out in 1984, 1985 and 1999 in advance of the proposed restoration of the tower.

The tower was built partly for defence, but with rooms for family privacy and a degree of domestic comfort. Surprisingly, the main entrance has always been at ground floor level in the west wall (Fig 1). A path led into the entrance passage, which was fitted for both outer and inner doors and which opens into a lobby within the thickness of the wall. Access to all floors is gained from there into a circular turnpike stair. Opposite this is a small guard- or porter-chamber.

The main ground floor room has two windows in the east wall and a well in the south wall. The well is circular, lined with ashlar and contained within a semicircular recess beneath a low arch (Cannell & Lewis 1997, 846-7). 1metre of deposits dating from c 1700 onwards were removed from the well. A covered drain once took care of the overflow from the well. The drain had a clay base and was capped and lined with flags. It ran across the floor and emptied into an open gully and sump near the east wall. The sump was sealed with flags forming part of an uneven floor surface at the north end of the room (Fig 3). The room had perhaps been used as a store or animal shelter in its later history.

A similar drain was traced running parallel to the east wall of the tower (Addyman & Kay 2000). Window glass and other late medieval objects were among the finds lying around the drain. This was probably part of the same drain as that found to the north of the tower, another branch of which ran near to the latrine chute in the north wall (Cannell & Lewis 1997, 850). The chute was 1.05m wide and 0.4m high with a flat arch of four large sandstone *vousoirs*. It had gone out of use by the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Apart from the well, the drainage system was probably constructed after the tower had gone out of use as a residence; it may relate to the use of the ground floor as a byre.

The small mural cellar measures 3.1m x 1.85m. There are two gun ports in the west wall and the floor is of sandstone flags packed with stone and brick.

The main chamber is at *entresol* level and is lit by a recessed window with bench seats in the south wall and on the east by another window, now incomplete. There are two cupboards in the east wall and in the west wall a mural chamber with a brick floor, lit by two small windows. It has two cupboards in the east wall. A *garderobe* (latrine) in the south wall was blocked by the insertion of a domed oven.

At first floor level is the main hall (8.1m x 5.7m), with a large, elaborate fireplace in the east wall. A timber partition across the north west corner screened the room from the stairs. The ceiling was carried on a continuous corbel course on the side walls. The floor is of sandstone flags on a bed of sand over mortared rubble used to level the barrel vault below. In the north and south walls are large, recessed windows with bench seating. In the west wall another very large recessed window with the remains of a grille leads to a small, vaulted private chamber. This chamber once also had a flagged floor and was probably wood-panelled. The small west window and part of a door frame have survived, along with hinges for a wooden shutter for the window or hatch into the main hall. The north wall contains a *garderobe* and small wash-hand basin.. A small cupboard was built into the wall in the south-east corner. Another *garderobe* was entered at an intermediate level off the staircase.

The main apartments on the second and third floor levels are larger because there are no mural chambers within the west wall. On the second floor is a large fireplace, another *garderobe* in the south wall and windows with bench seats in all but the north wall. There are also small L-shaped chambers within the north and south walls, one with a *garderobe*. At third floor level, in the south wall, are a small fireplace, a pair of cupboards and a sealed window. The floors at second and third storey levels have not survived, presumably casualties of the fire which apparently gutted the tower in the 1750s.

The wall heads are quite intact, with a broad parapet walk supported on *machicolations* (defensive openings) and adorned at the corners with small, circular turrets resting on four continuous corbel courses. At the top of the stairs is an unusual hexagonal cap-house with an intact pyramidal roof.

An illustration and survey of 1887 (MacGibbon & Ross) describes the building as having almost complete gable ends at roof level and oak beams, though in poor condition, still present in the upper storeys. By c1900 these had all disappeared (Fig 2).

The register of the original Alloa Museum, founded in 1863 by the Alloa Society of Natural Science and Archaeology, records the acquisition on 11<sup>th</sup> January 1876 of a

“ 359. Stone with Coat of Arms. Sauchie Tower.” and on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1879 “ 525. Stone

from S E Turret of Sauchie Tower. bearing the Arms of the Shaws (*sic*) of Sauchy (*sic*). Probably those of Alex. Shaw circa 1511. From Lord Mansfield. Through R Buchanan Esq.”

In 1529 the Alexander Schaw mentioned above was appointed Master of the King's Wine-Cellar. The family was later allowed to use three covered cups on its coat of arms as a recognition of this honour. It is perhaps more likely, however, that the armorial stones noted above were placed on the tower by a later Alexander Schaw, who became heir to the Sauchie estate in 1623 and was knighted in 1633 by Charles I during his tour of Scotland.

When the Royal Commission volume which included Clackmannanshire was compiled in 1928 (RCAHMS 1933, 312), one entry states that the two stones could not be located in the Museum, at that time in Church Street, while another indicates that they were set into a rockery in the Museum garden. The former Museum is now the Weir Pumps Social Club and the garden was converted long ago into a car park. The fate of these stones remains a mystery.

The tower was once enclosed by a partly defensive *barmkin* (courtyard) wall, still visible c25m to the west and north of the tower, protected by a ditch. The western ditch was visible on a photograph of c1900 (Fig 2).

The northern defence was perhaps represented by a wall set into the sloping bank of a narrow gorge running east-west. A section of this wall, 0.75m thick and surviving to a height of 2m, was excavated. This may have been a retaining wall, but the rubble foundations of the barmkin wall, one metre nearer to the tower, together with the remnants of a drain perhaps contemporary with the tower, were also found (Cannell & Lewis 1997, 851).

The lower parts of the west barmkin wall, including a round tower, were re-used as the west wall of a mansion house. The surviving walling shows three small defensive loops which were covered over when the wall was harled (Swan 2001, 57). This successor to the tower, known as Old Sauchie House, appears to have been a fine laird's house somewhat typical of the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, when defensive towers had gone out of fashion (Fig 2). It was two storeys high, with a vaulted ground floor, divided into three chambers, the northern one of which opened into the vaulted ground floor of the round tower. The upper floor contained quite generously proportioned living space (RCAHMS 1933, 311). The top of the round tower appears truncated in the illustrations, no doubt to accommodate the slope of the roof. A two storey extension built on to the north end of the east wall may have contained a staircase to the first floor. It had been demolished by the 1920s. The main access to the first floor was, however, gained via an external staircase in the centre of the east wall. A later, probably 19<sup>th</sup> century, cottage replaced the original south end of the building.

There were three pedimented dormers on the west side and two on the east (RCAHMS 1933, 311-12). The large pediment over the entrance porch was carved elaborately at the apex with a pelican in her piety, set in a tree with three chicks below. Below this was a panel with the initials AS and the Schaw motto I . MEIN. WEILL. over the date 1631. There was a shield held by two 'wild men' bearing scrolls, inscribed: *dexter* in reversed writing: BY PROMIS / MADE / RESTORED / VE / BE, and *sinister* TO HA[VE A] BLESSED ETERNAT[Y]. The shield had the three covered cups of the Schaw family. The two pediments on the east wall were also carved: the triangular northern one was decorated with scrollwork, a trophy and the motto: JE ME CONTENTE; the southern pediment was semi-circular and carved with a shell ornament and the motto: EN BIEN FAISANT. Its stepped finial was carved with a figure carrying a sickle and a sheaf of corn. The skew-puts on the east wall bore human heads, the southern one also carrying the date 1631. The pediments on the west wall appear to have been more simply decorated and their details were unrecorded.

It has been suggested that Old Sauchie House was originally the 'gallery wing' of a large extension to the main tower, perhaps built in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century and extended in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century by the architect William Schaw, the King's *Master of Works*, who inherited Sauchie for a while and lived there in the 1580s-90s (Swan 2001, 57). There is no archaeological evidence for such an extension, but the mottoes above the entrance porch to the house may suggest that the work done in 1631 was the restoration of an existing structure rather than the construction of a new one. The person most likely to have undertaken this work and whose initials were carved over the entrance, was Alexander Schaw, soon to be knighted by Charles I.

Old Sauchie House was recorded in 1928 by the Royal Commission, but by the time the volume was published in 1933 most of the house had been demolished. The fate of the carved pediments is unknown.

The Sauchie estate passed to another branch of the Schaw family, who c1700 built the splendid mansion of Schawpark, and then by the marriage of a daughter in 1752, to the Cathcart family. Schawpark was sold to the Earls of Mansfield in 1826 and was eventually demolished in 1961. Sauchie Tower is now the only survivor of the three residences of the Schaw family.

Ceramic evidence from deposits on the ground floor indicate that the tower was still in use in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. A cobbled surface and a lean-to building, the sockets for the roof timbers of which survive on the north face, were probably laid out after Old Sauchie House was built/restored, perhaps as part of a farmyard area. The first floor had certainly gone out of use by the time the lean-to structure was built. Finds from the soil overlying the cobbled surface included late medieval window glass, probably from the tower, ceramics of late 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century date, a fragment of a 16<sup>th</sup> century Venetian wine glass and wine bottles of the early to mid 18<sup>th</sup> century. This indicates that either the upper floors of the tower were still occupied until the 1750s, or perhaps the area was used by the occupants of the house as a rubbish dump.

After the tower was abandoned, a rougher cobbled surface was laid, then sealed with a layer of mortar. A small gabled structure, traces of which are still visible on the north wall, was built (Cannell & Lewis 1997, 850-1), probably in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century, while c1900 another gabled building, perhaps a pigsty, was built against the north wall (Addyman & Kay 2000).

The ground level around the tower has been raised considerably due to the deposition of rubble, soil and coal waste. Dense vegetation covers the land on the west, north and east sides of the tower, particularly around the ruins of Old Sauchie House. The north west corner of the house can still be seen in the winter, but planting in the last ten years of a stand of young trees to the west obscures the remains completely when the trees are in leaf.

Prior to any future new use, the land around the tower would require clearance. The area between the tower and the remains of Old Sauchie House would repay archaeological investigation to reveal the original relationship between the two structures. There may also have been a cobbled courtyard. Further details of the building might also be recovered and the carved pediments may survive among the rubble.. The consolidation and presentation of the ruin would add considerable interest to the restored tower and its environs, as would interpretation panels displayed close to the tower.

Susan Mills, Museum and Heritage Officer

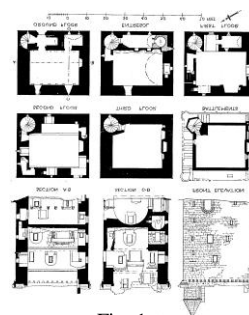


Fig. 1



Fig. 2

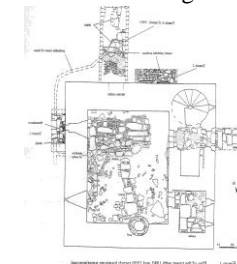


Fig. 3

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Mark Nixon, an Honours Graduate at the University of Stirling, has given permission to use excerpts and information from his dissertation relating to the Tillicoultry Weavers' Strike in 1837. An early draft of his paper was presented at the 1998 History & Heritage Week.

## **THE 1837 TILlicOLTRY WEAVERS' STRIKE**

### Introduction.

In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, the handloom weavers of Scotland's growing textile industry were amongst the better remunerated of the working classes. However, in the 1841 New Statistical Account, they were included amongst 'the lowest class of labourers'. With more efficient factory production and cyclical trade patterns the handloom weaver suffered a steady decreasing standard of living, as well as an increasing workload in an effort to redress the balance. Along with the rest of Scotland, Tillicoultry suffered in the depression of 1837, and, with the manufacturers' bid to reduce wages, the weavers resorted to protest.

With ready access to raw materials from the Ochil sheep-farms, a ready supply of water for both finishing tasks and power, low land costs and communications links via the Forth at Alloa, the Hillfoots textile industries were ideally situated. Capacity soon outstripped the ability of domestic production to feed the looms, and by the late 18<sup>th</sup> century wool was being imported from England and Spain. Over the next few decades new mills were being built, accelerated by the introduction of tartans in 1824.

In Tillicoultry, the population increased two-fold, this increase predominately due to immigration from other areas of Scotland. By 1838, the towns of Alloa/Hillfoots district played host to 28% of Scotland's woollen workforce, a high proportion of which were in Tillicoultry. The 1841 census names 534 textile workers and apprentices.

Such high population increase is inevitably unsustainable. Housing was built, but could not keep pace with population expansion and over-crowding became a serious problem with the average dwelling housing nine persons. The highest rate of occupancy per dwelling, at 14 persons per house, was centered on Paton's mill in the South-West corner of the town and would have been the homes of textile workers. Overcrowding and poverty took its toll. Mortality rates in Tillicoultry, especially in children under five, were higher than those in Manchester and also in some of the poorer London parishes.

In this economic environment, unionism and radicalism flourished, aided by the social environment; the close proximity of textile workers' homes that growing factory-based production fostered. Trades unionism in the textile industry had a heritage that

stretched back beyond the years of distress. At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, one Glasgow weaver was publicly whipped and deported for seven years for combination and rioting. There was another case of the leader of the United Scotsmen, a Dundee weaver, who was deported for 14 years.

When depression set in during the early months of 1837, and the manufacturers announced wage cuts, the scene was set for the unrest in Tillicoultry.

### **Quoted**

"The earliest recorded events of the 1837 Tillicoultry weavers' dispute are the meetings of 'The Woollen Manufacturers of Tillicoultry and Devonside', as they styled themselves, of the 10<sup>th</sup> of April and the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, both held at Gibb's Inn in Stirling.

This institutional linkage between the manufacturers is a sure reflection of their close social, familial and business links. Dawson was in many ways the least closely allied to the other manufacturers, but in the early eighteen-forties he leased part of his mill to brothers James and David Paton and John and Robert Archibald, the sons of William, who had had an extremely important role in the early development of Tillicoultry's woollen industry. In 1806, he had moved from Menstrie to set up Craigfoot Mill. By the eighteen-thirties Robert's son, another William, was the effective manager of the mill, in partnership with his three brothers. In 1836, they built a new Middleton Mill and leased the older premises to James Monteith and Alexander Drysdale. The senior William Archibald also had two daughters, who forged further links with the Patons by marrying them. Another important family were the Walkers: father Robert of Galashiels was in 1837 in partnership with James Henderson and David Moir at Bridge Mill, Devonside, while two of his sons – George and James – were in partnership at Clock Mill. A third son, Andrew, had two mills to his name: the Old and the New Castle Mills. These surnames were to recur for much of Tillicoultry's subsequent history: members of the Paton, Archibald and Walker families all appear in the list of the new burgh's first Board of Commissioners of 1871, with a certain James Paton becoming its first Chairman. Archibald Walker subsequently became the first Provost, immortalised on a plaque in the town today."

Thus the manufacturers were well known to each other, regularly seeing each other in business, at church and in their own drawing rooms such that their unanimity of purpose and action in 1837 appears most natural and certainly to be expected.

Tillicoultry was very heavily hit during the slump, there was an almost total lack of demand. Fashion dictats also contributed to the situation – among women tartan was no longer a fashionable item. On the 17<sup>th</sup> of April, notices of the wage cuts were posted at the mills. Reaction was almost immediate, the next day all the weavers at



two mills walked out, by the end of April a further five mills had stopped work. By the 15<sup>th</sup> May the strike had spread, the last man having left the mills on Saturday the 13<sup>th</sup> of May.

The manufacturers decided immediately to go out and find new workers. Also, at this time, Kinross-shire was suffering in the trade depression, the weavers becoming very destitute. (It should be remembered that there was a community spirit existing among the Hillfoots workers and the bosses would require to look further afield to engage strike-breakers.) Andrew Walker and Andrew Millar were dispatched to Milnathort on the 15<sup>th</sup> May to recruit men for the Tillicoultry mills. Similarly two striking weavers – Walter Scott and Jordan Chadwick, along with James Thomson, founding President of the Weavers` Union – made their way to Milnathort to put their plight and reasons for striking to the weavers there. Scott and Chadwick had called a meeting at which the Milnathort men and the manufacturers` representatives attended. Neither side was totally successful with their arguments – the manufacturers managed to recruit only 55 men and one boy. Those engaged were assured they would be met at Dollar by an escort of Tillicoultry masters to ensure their safety

However news of the strike-breakers approach spread like wildfire throughout the Hillfoots. Before long the three Tillicoultry men were joined by weavers from Alva and Menstrie. Initially confrontation took place near `Tait`s Tomb`, apart from verbal abuse and the tearing of Mr. Paton`s coat little else happened and the Milnathort men were able to proceed to the present day mini-roundabout at Moss Road.

Imagine the scene, the prosperous manufacturers representing the great and good, pillars of commerce and the Kirk, out to protect a contingent of destitute weavers whose only sin was to put food into the mouths of their wives and children. Also fighting for their standard of living was a group of more than 1000 local people including women and children.

At Moss Road, the scene became ugly – sticks, stones and verbal abuse ensued, as well as the man-handling of some manufacturers. The Milnathort weavers were threatened and told they may get into the town, but none would leave with their lives. The Constables were called, but their authority appears to have been ignored, and even they were verbally threatened with being marked men.

In the light of such a strength of feeling, the Milnathort weavers decided to return home, and were accompanied to Dollar by the manufacturers. Scott, Chadwick and Thomson also went to Dollar and there Scott paid for refreshment for the Milnathort men to sustain them on their long journey home. (a brotherly act!) The press reported “the Kinross-shire workers had been forced to yield, but no personal injury had been done to any of them.”

Having seen the Milnathort men safely on their way, the manufacturers returned homeward. When they reached the rising ground east of the Parish Church” a group of men, women and children set-up a-hissing, groaning and making use of violent and threatening language, and also threw stones. James Dawson, Senior, attempted to calm the crowd, but was struck several times by stones. Andrew Walker, Andrew Millar and James Paton all declared they had been hit several times on the head, shoulders and back.

On reaching Tillicoultry some of the masters took refuge in “Mr. Paton`s House”, situated on the south side of the turnpike road. Others proceeded to Greig`s public house, obviously fearful of walking through the weavers` housing areas to their homes at the foot of the Mill Glen.

The public house did not provide the sanctuary they had thought. A crowd assembled outside. Violent and abusive language was heard and threats made to break down the door. Fearing violence to their persons, they escaped through a window.

After these events, the manufacturers complained to the Sheriff-Substitute that they lived in some fear of danger and afraid to walk through the village. Fully ten days after the event, George Walker declared he could not go out in the day without being hissed at, and dared not go out at night. When James Paton was interviewed by the Sheriff-Substitute and Procurator Fiscal he appeared to be playing down the more violent altercations of the day, was he, perhaps, aware of his and the other manufacturers` culpability in the troubles? However, James Paton named Chadwick and Scott as apparent directors of the mob, while Andrew Millar accuses all three – Thomson, Scott and Chadwick.

The one day incidence of mobbing and rioting was the fulcrum of the entire dispute: the growing activity of the union, the peaking of the numbers of workers on strike and looms laying idle culminated in a day-long breakdown of law and order. The quick arrest of James Thomson, founding president of the Union, and Scott and Chadwick, two committee members, saw the Weavers` Union broken. In the weeks that followed, the dispute settled into a small-scale war of attrition, during which the manufacturers gained control of the situation.

Scott and Chadwick, arrested 18<sup>th</sup> May and Thomson on the 25<sup>th</sup> May were held in the Lock-up in Alloa. The Procurator-Fiscal states his concerns over the accused being held at the “Lock-Up-House” in Alloa, (the only legal place of confinement in the County), arguing that “It is very hard to be compelled to confine such men in such a place”. (I wonder what the conditions were like there?).

The trial opened on the 26<sup>th</sup> June, with the accused leading guilty, the sentence being passed down, after a lengthy period for this time, on the 19<sup>th</sup> July: four months jail – to be spent in the Tolbooth, Stirling – and a caution to keep the peace for two years, on a surety of £10.

Though the indictment begins by noting that MOBBING and RIOTING, as also ASSAULT --- are crimes of an heinous nature, and severely punishable, the three unionists were not singly accused of carrying out these crimes. Others are mentioned as being the perpetrators of the violence against the manufacturers and the new hands, yet it was Thomson, Chadwick and Scott who were prosecuted and found guilty. Being actively involved in the union, the apprehension of the three aforementioned would suffice in its aim: to prevent further trouble in the long term as well as the short term.

The sentence was lenient, in other areas the crime of Mobbing, Rioting and Assault carried the penalty of transportation. The Tillicoultry men, as members of the Union adhered to the Chartist policy of non-violence and in the Tillicoultry Strike were not seen to have used violence. Strangely others who were accused of violence were set free.

Unionism in the Hillfoots was broken for a period – William Thomson moved out of the area and became Editor of the Chartist Circular. (Mark Nixon deals in length with Chartism, nationally and locally in his dissertation – perhaps a later article). Jordan Chadwick was involved in setting up the Co-operative Society in Tillicoultry and Walter Scott served on the Burgh Council.

Betty Roy

## **Torwood Broch And Castle**

We all gathered outside Torwood Castle near Larbert after taking various routes from Alloa or Stirling to meet up with Geoff Bailley our leader for the evening. The weather was not promising and alas the rain did not let up and to make us suffer even more the midgies were in good biting form. So what had all the hallmarks of being a miserable night turned out to be so full of interest, thanks to Geoff, that it was one of the most rewarding I have been on. To reach the Broch we followed a path through the wood, it was a bit muddy here and there but not too bad. The wood itself was delightful with fungal growth and lichen on some of the trees and that peculiar light that is attached to a wood when it is very green and very wet.

The CFSS had visited Torwood Broch in 1987 with Donald MacCallum as leader but I couldn't recognise the site as it had once more been "visited" by vandals who managed to topple some of the stone walls down into the centre. However a brief summary of what we already know (details of Donald's excellent write-up are contained in Newsletter No.38). The site was originally excavated in 1864 when it was thought to be a burial mound and in the interior a few artefacts were found. In the 1970s the vandal hordes managed to topple down stones and break lintels and this was followed by an unfortunate attempt at reconstruction by a local society. As you can gather this was not a very happy Pictish Broch. So congratulations to Geoff Bailey and his crew of helpers who have been trying to clear up the mess and now the shape of the fortification can be discerned. Some brave members clambered down and entered through a doorway into the heart of the tower and I hope that Ken Mackay and Dick Clarke will have the photographs to show us!

Back down the path and into the castle grounds. Again it was as if this was a previously unvisited site - I could hardly remember any of the outside when it was being renovated by Gordon Miller who helped his brother with Castlecary at Cumbernauld and Betty agrees with me that we weren't shown round the outside but taken straight into a room in the vaulted ground floor which he had renovated. Mr Miller then led us up a stairway to show us the skeleton of the great hall which he was starting to re-floor!

The castle is an L plan tower house, 3 stories high with an extension of two stories, being the location of the great hall, with lots of light coming in from the well placed windows. The features I liked were the gunshot holes and the outside sloping trough going into the kitchen for a water supply. This would have had to be fetched from the nearby excavated well. The building now looked much bigger as Geoff and the Trust members had been hard at work clearing away the undergrowth and displaying a path, the above-mentioned well and the remains of a dairy as well as other outhouses contained by a long wall which had been added in the 1660s.

The construction was devised by the Foresters of Garden who had been at one time keepers of the Tor Wood, a remnant of the Caledonian Forest. A stone with a date of 1566 was removed in 1918 and sent to Falkland. However in 1585 the owners were on the wrong side in Scottish politics and the castle (then called TorWoodhead) was captured by the Earls of Angus and Mar and the Master of Glamis. However, it did eventually return to the Foresters.

The renovation of a castle is the fulfillment of a dream and I so admire those people who do this as it must require lots of hope and optimism as well hard graft. I did admire Mr Miller and now that admiration has been transferred to Geoff and his team - more power to their elbows. The money for the renovation of the castle is being provided by a Trust formed mainly from Forester family members in the USA and Canada. The first visit was only to the inside of the building, the second could only be the outside. Let us hope that one day we will be able to experience the ins and outs of this castle.

## St Bernard's Well -Water Of Leith

Saturday, 22nd September was an Open Day for this usually closed edifice situated by the Water of Leith under the Dean Bridge (Telford - 1832) A friend and I seized the opportunity to visit this attraction which is in the form of a rotunda supported on the upper, outside half with colonnades . Inside it is a little gem with a mosaic ceiling coloured mainly blue and inset with stars. The walls and floor are tiled and mosaic. Holding the centre position is the pump crowned with an alabaster urn at whose top is the figure of Hygeia, the Roman Goddess of Health. At one side of the pump is a magnificent bronze handle (reminiscent of a horse's tail!) and I was given permission to pump this up and down. Water filtered slowly out of the lion's head into a stone basin but I only managed to catch the drips and it did not have the sulphuric taste of the water at Strathpeffer. However in 1805 the comment was made by a Mr Forsyth that "the spring had a slight resemblance in flavour to the washings of a foul gun barrel". I have never sampled the latter and therefore can offer no further opinion on his comparison!

This temple of Health was designed by Alexander Nasmyth in 1789 after a mineral spring with supposedly curative properties, was discovered by the Water of Leith almost thirty years previous. The well was restored in 1887 by William Nelson to a design of Thomas Bonnar and very grand it is indeed. The attendant who, unfortunately had been commandeered by two ladies who seemed intent on monopolising his time was unable to answer any questions apart from replying in the affirmative to my request to "ca' the hannel". However, another man appeared on the scene and said that it normally cost one penny to have a drink of the water and was very popular with those Victorians who took a leisurely walk alongside the River. But, he emphasised that poor people would not have to pay and he knew of one family that regularly came for their household cooking/drinking needs. I neglected to ask when the well was finally closed to the public but if you have the opportunity do visit, it's worth the trauchle climbing back up Bell's Brae onto Queensferry Road.  
Eliz Crane

## Up on the Hill

This desirable property in ideal location, magnificent panoramic views, wonderful potential; needs some sensitive repair, must be seen – etc.,  
Yes we all know the blurb and are aware of the pitfalls in buying any building, but this is something different. What of a building which has existed in our midst for hundreds of years, as a landmark on a hill, latterly in a state of semi-dereliction, only to be rescued by Historic Scotland and prepared to be visited once more, even on a limited scale.

Such is Clackmannan Tower, proudly defiant on King`s Seat Hill, a relic of that great Norman/French- Scottish Bruce family (de Brus) who featured so much in Scottish history. Doreen Grove of Historic Scotland is in charge of the “rescue” and Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society, never shy to pass up the opportunity to see and hear, was quick to accept the chance to visit this landmark. The limit was thirty, but there seemed to be more as we met on the hill on Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> July. Other “guests” from interested groups had joined us as were all attracted by this first “open doors” event for the building in many years. I remember when as a child, my parents, brother and I, went inside, led by a Mr. Beatson, who had the keys. All I recall are pigeon droppings, fireplaces and an entrance to a hole which might be the opening to the tunnel to Alloa Tower --- thus are rumours founded.

But to return to the present day. Several features occur at Clackmannan Tower: it has been extended twice from a small building to one of “great size”. The earliest part at the north end, dating from the late 14<sup>th</sup> century – Doreen Grove said 1360 – comprising a tower house of three main storeys, it became L-shaped a century later, when a taller tower was added at the south face and the original building was lengthened. To complete the changes, the hollow in the centre was filled in with a stair. A pedimented doorway of Renaissance design was added, giving entry to a ground floor corridor. As in the case of the Sixth Earl of Mar, a magnificent appearance with the desired result.

In 1953, a lady called A.I.R. Drummond wrote a book entitled “Old Clackmannanshire” republished in 1987 by the District Libraries. She has some interesting comments on towers, mansions, smaller houses and other structures. Clackmannan Castle is a Royal hunting seat in the Forest of Clackmannan. King David the Second sold the castle to his kinsman, Robert Bruce in December 1359, (Reg.Mag.Sig. under date 9<sup>th</sup> December, 1359).

The battlements at the south wing have machicolations at the base, believed to be a 15<sup>th</sup> century feature. They are very rarely found in castles of an earlier date. The Bruces, it appears were definite trend-setters. I liked her description of a roof as “Pack-saddle”. I have never seen this word before, but feel I know what she means. What of the earlier building which must have existed on the hill, it is recorded that in 1316, Robert the Bruce stayed at Clackmannan Tower, also in 1317 and possibly 1318 and frequently visited this favourite hunting seat. If so, where did he stay – possibly a basic building existed there for a temporary stay. One piece of comfort was that early glazed windows were made portable so that they could be fitted into existing window spaces. This was noted at his principal residence at Cardross.

Like Alloa Tower, it is thought that Clackmannan Tower had a separate kitchen perhaps on the Great Hall floor or perhaps a lower floor. The handsome wide staircase between the ground and first floor had collapsed.

In 1988, Clackmannan District Council set up an Interpretation Team to study the Tower Houses in the “Wee County” –the work was done by young and enthusiastic people, (text by Jennifer Inglis, whom I once taught), graphics by Fiona Harkin and Fiona Campbell. An attractive booklet and accompanying cards on information and exercises to be done. Clackmannan Tower has a much-altered state from its beginnings, but Alloa, apart from losing its mansion to the 1800 fire, is much the same. The booklet states that the old turnpike stair leads to both wall-walks, but, at the present time, the battlements are reached by a wide metal stair with open treads, like a robust type of step-ladder, reaching in two or three stages to the upper level and thence to the walk-way. Many visitors, walking sticks and all, ventured aloft, but I didn't go; I'd had a heavy afternoon at Alloa Tower – that is my excuse! An interesting snippet from the Interpretation booklet – in common with other houses belonging to the Bruce family, the tower had a brazier containing a warning light – CCTV indeed!!! It was also protected by a moat with drawbridge which surprised me. I leave readers to imagine how that would appear.

In the late 16<sup>th</sup> century or early 17<sup>th</sup> century, a baronial mansion was built adjoining the tower; nearby were garden terraces and a bowling green. But what did we see to the west? Another mansion with Le Notre styled gardens, walks, parterres, fountain, statues---etc., etc., etc.,

Isobel G. Stewart

### **A few thoughts on Summer 2002**

Our events for the year started not on a Wednesday but on the first Saturday outing to the Japanese Garden led by Col. Bobbie Stewart of Arndean. The day was enjoyed by the members, who joined up with another party from Motherwell, albeit the weather was damp. For me, the most interesting related story by Col. Stewart was not about the old Cowden Castle remains or in fact about the Japanese Garden but his pride in showing us the stand of Sequoia trees grown from seed collected by himself in California – 1952. Truly a satisfying sight to see planted by oneself. On walking round the “garden” which must have been wonderful in the 20s & 30s, another comment as I walked with Col. Stewart: Every time I walk round the waterside I remember the wonderful boyhood days spent here, it is a very special place to me”. Without a doubt this is something I am sure we all can understand as there is somewhere in our past of which we retain special thoughts of.

The first Wednesday evening walk was to Glen Quey only we did not reach there. In the evening it was absolutely beautiful and the view on our return overlooking Castle Campbell was clear as a bell. There was of course a little bit of friendly banter as to the location of the Maiden's Well and agreement made with a recitation given by yours truly.

Our adventure into Perthshire for the Saturday jaunt (duly reced by Betty R and me as navigator) turned into an excellent day. The Errol Brick Works was quite a revelation to see furnaces of vast proportions loaded and working to such high temperatures. I was glad that I had taken along my own lunch and did not try to be as “posh” as some who had a long long wait. Whose idea was that anyway to go to a tearoom !!!

We journeyed across to Scone in time for a wedding and sight of David Douglas's Memorial. The day was rounded off by a wonderful enlightening visit to the Black Watch Museum ably guided by Lt. Col. Steven Lindsay, who introduced himself as not a historian but he certainly could tell us of every item.

Our July visit to black Devon Wetlands proved to be a success in as much as it certainly was wet. But the indomitable EKR said “follow me” and we all returned intact. Well nearly, apart from the muddy trousers etc. (ed.: don't forget the kingfisher sighting).

Clackmannan Tower with Doreen Grove was an experience not to be missed. Without doubt the best panoramic view of the whole county. The success of this urged our Society to ensure it became open for the Doors Open Day in September.

Millennium Wheel walk with Maurice Watson was once again on an evening of sunshine and not without incident though. Directions to get there caused some stir but we all met up eventually.

Torwood Castle and Tappoch Broch proved to be a popular evening and it was ably led by Geoff Bailey and his young son. The Broch is still in good condition and it would be great to see the castle restored.

Conic Hill with Ken Mackay proved to be another great day out and top marks must go to those who ventured up the long flight of steps to view Loch Lomond and the Boundary Fault which is quite distinct. As usual Ken could tell us about all there was to know. Well done Ken!

Arniston House visit was really impressive not only in the architecture and furnishing but that it is a lived in family home. The recce was done earlier in the week on an excellent sunny summer day which Elizabeth Crane and I thoroughly enjoyed.

Unfortunately on the Saturday the weather was not so good hence our group did not have the chance to walk around the grounds. However Althea Dundas Bekker and daughter Hennie have written us to extend a warm welcome to return to the grounds during the Autumn which they consider the most colourful time. So if anyone cares to do so just ask and it can be arranged.

After that we continued to Soutra Aisle and were met by Dr. Brian Moffat who gave us an in-depth talk on this ancient site from Roman times, known as being situated on the side of Dere Street. The weather closed in and we were not able to get sight of the views from there which extend to nearly 75 miles.

Our Wednesday night with a tour of Tullibody by Chris Calder and Janet McGregor early in August was an enlightenment to many of us; illustrated as we walked with snippets of information of the past and photographs.

Falkland Palace and environs was just ideal as regards quality of weather and knowledgeable guide in Mrs. Pam McElroy of the Falkland Society. Various events were going on in the Palace grounds including some Harley Davidson motor cycles on show (takes me back to the days of my youth, but four wheels are definitely for me nowadays). Pam then in the afternoon guided us around the town which was a blaze of colour of every hue no matter what corner you went round. The flowers were at their best and in keeping with the weather. We finished off by walking up to Falkland House which we hope to include in our itinerary for one of our Wednesday evenings next year.

Our summer programme finished off with a visit to Rumbling Bridge led by Susan Mills which again was a lovely evening. Our member Mary Wright, whose house stands in a development on the former railroad station, gave us a short illustrated talk on the station and how it looked when in use.

Oh sorry, Bob M forgot about our field trip to Oban organised and arranged by you, Elizabeth and Betty. Great weekend was had by all in the Great Western Hotel with visits to the Wildlife Centre, Ardchattan Priory, Bonawe Furnace. Of course how could we forget the sight of McBrayne's ferry coming into port from that rain lashed McCaigs Folly. Looking at the photos it really was wet but our spirits were high.

Hope you are all looking forward to next year's outings.

Dick Clark

## Obituaries

### Mary Dowell

Mary Dowell, a member of this Society since 1982, sadly died in May 2002. Mary had been in indifferent health for some time, though this did not deter her from attending CFSS events where possible. Her daily walks through Greenfield Park gave her much pleasure at a time when her health did not allow a more strenuous form of walking. She gained much pleasure from the changing colours of the seasons and also came to know much of the history of the park and Greenfield House. In this way keeping up her interest in local history.

Until her health deteriorated she, with husband Alastair, joined the Spring Field Trip each year. For a time Mary also served on the Council of the Society and her contribution at that time was appreciated. All those who knew her will remember her ready smile and genial nature. She will be sadly missed and we extend our sympathy to Alastair and family.

### Muriel Galloway

It is also sad to record the passing of Muriel Galloway on 21st June 2002. Muriel's association with the Society dates from 1987 and she also for a time served on the Council. When her health permitted, she took an active part in the affairs of the Society and was an enthusiastic participant at the Spring Field event. She entered into these activities with enthusiasm and was a valued member of the group.

Her outgoing personality made one feel at ease in her company. Muriel's place will be hard to fill. We send our sympathy to her friends and family.