



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 was its Jubilee, 25th year; this 27th is on **Loch Lomond and the Trossachs**.

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 2001 is no. 67 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**

ISSN 0262-2211

67

**This Newsletter includes some matters by the
Forth Naturalist and Historian.**

**Vol. 30
Part I
October 2001**

**Volume 30 Part 1
NEWSLETTER NO. 67**

October 2001

CONTENTS

Page no.		
1	Editorial	Betty Roy
3	CFSS Winter Programme 2001-2002	
4	Forth Naturalist & Historian - Symposium	Lindsay Corbett
5	Book reviews	Lindsay Corbett
9	Dates for your Diary	K. Mackay
9	a) Stirling Field & Archaeological Society	
10	b) Dollar Historical Society	
10	c) SWT Stirling Branch	
10	d) Perthshire Society of Natural Science	
11	Obituaries	
11	a) Margaret Hargreave	Mike Hargreave
12	b) Bill Brackenridge	Lindsay Corbett
13	c) Bill McEwan	Betty Roy
13	Report on 31 st AGM	Isobel G. Stewart
14	Gravestones	
15	Snippets - Outings	Isobel G. Stewart
16	A Curious emblem on an Alva Gravestone	Betty Roy
18	Methven Castle	Elizabeth Crane
18	Archaeology Update & News	Dick Clark
18	Wallace Monument Site	
19	Doune – Roman Fort - Hospital	
19	Bannockburn	
20	Walking Through History	Isobel G. Stewart
24	Past Industries	Dick Clark
25	Sandwood Memories	Dick Clark
28	Environment and Heritage	Lindsay Corbett

EDITORIAL

As you are aware the **summer programme** was published in the Outdoor Diary resulting in added publicity to our activities and a few new members. The visit to the **Millennium Wheel** proved too popular. On that occasion a large number of non-members had to be disappointed, the outing restricted to members only. However, especially on Wednesday Walks, some non-members did turn up and appeared to enjoy what we had to offer. The visit to the Church of the **Holy Rude** also attracted a number of non-members. Donald McCallum's explanation of the building and its development was first class and gave an insight into the craftsmanship of mediaeval masons.

Having attracted more people at our events, the Council of the Society is presently exploring avenues for Third Parth Insurance. This matter was raised at the AGM and will be again discussed at the next AGM in April 2002, when we hope to have a solution.

In spite of a bad summer, only the **Menstrie Woodland** walk proved to be wet. The Community Council are doing stalwart work and they deserve praise for their effort in securing an ancient woodland from development.

The walk from **Gargunock and Kippen** had to be changed owing to Foot and Mouth. Nevertheless the revised route proved to be a winner. Permission was obtained to view Gargunock House and Gardens. Of specific interest is the avenue of Wellingtonia (*Sequoia gigantea*). It is worth visiting these gardens in Spring (daffodils etc.) May / June (Rhododendrons) and September (Autumn colours). The house is run by Landmark Trust for holiday letting and not open to the public. The second part of this outing was a visit to Kippen Environment Centre and Community woodland, hosted and guided by its leader June Whaley. Members enjoyed a pleasant walk; viewing the composting area where locals bring their garden refuse for which they are rewarded with re-cycled compost – a most worthwhile venture. Wildflowers were in profusion, especially Valerian, but a search for Butterfly Orchid was in vain. The Centre and its

projects long time run by voluntary efforts, are now helpfully funded by Landfill and other monies.

Another enjoyable woodland walk was the finale, to **Wallace Monument environs**; Ken Mackay guided and pointed out various quarries which had been worked in this area. We are fortunate in Central Belt to have so many areas of natural habitat to explore.

With the summer season over we now look forward to an interesting series of Winter talks. The programme got off to a splendid start with the most successful Coffee Morning on Saturday 15th September. The sales tables realised around £200 – a most worth effort. Thanks to those who manned the stalls and to members for donations of home baking. The final total is not yet available and will be given at a later date. The organisers would like to thank members for their support. In spite of the amount of work involved in organising this event, it is definitely worthwhile – getting new members, providing a relaxed social atmosphere and adding a boost to the Society's funds.

On-going effort is needed to keep CFSS in "the Forefront" at a time when voluntary organisations are under pressure. Recently CFSS was represented at the *Clackmannan & the Ochils* book launch and display in Alloa Tower, as well as attending the Clackmannanshire Fringe Symposium at Gean House. You are probably aware that Richard Demarco has been active in promoting Clackmannanshire as part of the Festival Fringe. Attendance at such events allows us to put forward ideas.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Newsletter. As usual I am always on the lookout for new contributors, even snippets of news that have come to your attention. Articles for the April Newsletter should be sent to the Editor by 15th March 2002.

Betty Roy

CFSS WINTER PROGRAMME 2001 / 2002

Meetings are held in Alloa Town Hall (Tommy Downs Room), unless otherwise stated, on Monday evenings -2nd and 4th of the month- 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Members of linked societies and other non-members are welcome, though non-members would be expected to join for subsequent visits. NB For hard of hearing people this room has a loop system – aids set ‘T’.

OCTOBER

- Mon 8th Menstrie Glen - Robin Kelsall, Blairlogie
Mon 22rd The River Devon from Cambus to its source – Russell Young, Kinross

NOVEMBER

- Mon 12th Treasures of Rome – The Rev Father Reilly, Glasgow
Sat 17th 27th Man and the Landscape Symposium at Stirling University.
Loch Lomond and the Trossachs. Information from
Forth Naturalist and Historian, Secretary Lindsay Corbett at
University or 30 Dunmar Dr. Alloa. Programme and notes given
below on pg. 4.
Mon 26th Clackmannan Tower-: past, present, future - Doreen Grove,
Historic Scotland

DECEMBER

- Mon 10th Member's Night

JANUARY 2002

- Mon 14th History of West Kitchside: Museum of Scottish Country Life –
Duncan Dornan of the Museum
Mon 28th Bede's World: an early mediaeval experiment – Susan Mills,

FEBRUARY

- Mon 11th The Road to Santiago (Saint James) - Ken Gray, Bridge of Allan
Mon 25th Counting the sunny hours (sundials) - Ken Mackay, CFSS

MARCH

- Mon 11th Stone in Our Lives – Bill Revie, Stirling Stone
Mon 25th Industrial Visit - to be arranged

APRIL

- Mon 15th AGM Cheese & wine

The Forth Naturalist and Historian

Symposium

The 27th Man and the Landscape event is on 17th November at the University. The programme is 'Loch Lomond and the Trossachs', timely as Scotland's first national park gets underway after many years campaigning.

- 10.00 Registration and Coffee, displays. Bookstall at Seminar 2X, Cottrell Building, adjacent to the south (main car park) entrance.
- 10.35 Morning Session in Lecture Theatre A3 Chairman: Lady Isabel Glasgow, Scottish Council for National Parks
- 10.40 Sustainable Parks for Scotland Isabel Glasgow
- 11.00 The Freshwaters and their Fish Peter Maitland, Fish Conservation Centre
- 11.35 Commercial Forests: Dead or Alive Mike Steward, Forest Enterprise
- 12.10 Launch of the FN&H volume 24
- 12.30 Lunch* - displays, bookstall, coffee, and tea, seminar 2X
- 13.55 Afternoon session Chairman Professor Mike Thomas, FNH Board and Environmental Science
- 14.00 View and Reflect - landscape and archaeology
Lorna Main, Stirling Council Archaeologist
- 14.30 Scenery of a Dream: writers and artists
in the National Park
Louis Stott, writer, bookman
- 15.00 Tom Weir

As always some CFSS members help run this. It has been widely noticed, including this time by *Scots Magazine*. The *FNH annual journal* volume 24 will be launched at the symposium and contents will include: the annual Weather and Bird inputs; Spiders of Flanders Moss; 30 years of Stirling weather; Pollen analysis in landscape history (Menstrie Glen); Cunningham of Alva – polymath; the Stirlings of Keir; Trossachs in Art; Glasgow's water supply; Dragonflies; Hermitage Wood; and selected book review / notes.

The symposium bookstall will feature this latest journal and other FNH publications, also the RCAHMS's books on Menstrie Glen, Loch Lomond Landscape History; and Lorna Main's new book on Stirling prehistory..

Book Reviews

Loch Lomondside. Gateway to the Western Highlands of Scotland. John Mitchell. New Naturalist,Harper Collins. 232pp. 0 00 220146 1. £14.99 pbk£34.99 Hbk. A sweeping, authoritative survey by Nature Conservancy's ambassador for the district. 35 years intimacy with its ecology, history, wildlife are here distilled into this latest New Naturalist series volume, giving 30 pp on the physical environment – rocks, landscape, weather; 40 on the influence of man - from the hunter gatherer times, forestry agriculture fisheries, industry water power, sport recreation; 90pp on wildlife, habitats, communities, species – of the loch, lowlands, muirs and mountains. Then conservation matters – past present future, as at long last the area becomes Scotland's first national park. Aimed at the general reader it is well illustrated and referenced.

Loch Lomond: a Special Place. A collection of invited papers in *Scottish Geographical Journal* 116, pt3, 2000, pp177-270. Papers by Hansom, Maitland, Adams, Mitchell et al on – natural heritage, importance, water management, lakeshore erosion, recreational use, boating effects.

The Millennium Atlas of Butterflies in Britain and Ireland. J Asher et al. Butterfly Conservation / OUP 464pp. 0 19 850865 5. £30 hbk. A full-colour feast of photography documenting five years of knowledgeable recording by thousands of volunteers. This is the current assessment of our butterflies, their habitats, changes, and the threats they face, since the previous atlas of 1984. All species have detailed accounts and distributions, long term trends, new ecology. European changes are considered, and a vision given of how these popular insects might be conserved in the future.

Birdnews, PO box 740, Norwich NR2 3SH
A new reporting, alerting service see [www.birdnews](http://www.birdnews.co.uk) co.uk

Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. Draft Statutory Order.(170pp.) - 27pp text 140pp ofmaps of areas and boundaries
For final consultations - submissions by 21 September 2001

Scotland's Environment: the Future. Editors George Holmes and Roger Crofts. Tuckwell /RSE / SNH.160pp. 1 86232 162 0. £14.99.

Distinguished contributors look at changes in environment and land use over the centuries and promote an `agenda for action`. It seems rather bland, surprisingly not stressing `biodiversity` now the `in word` of world and local environment projects.

From Here to Sustainability: politics in the real world. by the Real World Coalition. authors Ian Christie and Diane Warburton. Earthscan Publications. 236pp.1 85383 735 0. £8,95.

The RWC is an alliance of leading organisations nationally (including WWF) and globally in environmental sustainability, social justice, peace and security, and democratic renewal.

There is an alarming gap between the quality of life we say we want and the one we have – this book explains why. No policy area could be more `evidence driven` than sustainable development, yet have no sense of urgency, apparently no understanding, that to make any progress needs tackling social, economic and environment problems together not separately.

Loch Lomondside depicted and described. 3. Early guide books for the scientific tourist. John Mitchell. *The Glasgow Naturalist* 23, pt 5, pp 3 -6.

Book Reviews (historical)

The Historic Landscape of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs. S D Boyle et al. Royal Commission onAncient and Historic Monuments (RCAHMS) / Historic Scotland. 32 pp. 1 902419 20 0. £5. Explores the past and present archaeology / landscape of Scotland's first National Park. Illustrated/mapped in full colour this is an authoritative high quality study. It draws extensively on the work of the Historic Landscape Assessment (HLA) project, with a timely discussion of cultural landscape management.

The Historic Landscape of the Cairngorms is a similar work for the second National Park, authored by David Cowley and S Gowan.

`Well Sheltered and Watered` : Menstrie Glen, a farming landscape near Stirling. David Cowley andJohn G Harrison. RCAHMS. 71pp. 1 9012419 25 1. £5.

A quality A4 book illustrated in full colour it is produced with some sponsorship by several local organisations, FNH included. Editorial notes are followed by 4 pages on the source

material; 14 on the farming history; 10 on settlements; 20 on the archaeology; and 3 of conclusions – particularly the influence of the unusual documentation collected and generated in the mid 18th century by John Wright, the laird of Loss.

The Shielings and Drove Ways of Loch Lomondside. John Mitchell. Stirling Libraries. 32pp 1 870542
.....43 6. £1.95.

A valuable illustrated study by a man of Drymen, a key village in droving times. H Collins end note the author's authoritative Loch Lomondside – New Neolithic Series. 232 pp. Pass

In Search of Scotland. Editor Gordon Menzies. Principle historical adviser T C Smout. Polygon/BBCScotland/Historic Scotland. 250pp. 1 90293023 1. £12.99. This is the companion book to the BBC TV series of the same name produced by Menzies and presented by Fiona Watson, with other leading historians – Armit, Woolf, Borrow, Lynch, Smout, Cowan, Whatley, Fraser, and Finlay. From the Stone Age to the present the ten chapters cover – Ancestors; Birth of a nation; Impact of the monk; The wars of independence; Court and kirk; The European lifeline; Union; Crucible of the modern world; The Victorian achievement; A century of pain and pleasure. Well presented and illustrated including colour, it ends with some further reading, genealogy, notes on authors, and index.

Scotland a History: 8000BC - AD2000. Fiona Watson. Tempus Publishing. 220pp. 0 7524 1796 7. £11.99

A fresh perspective, coinciding with the BBC tv series 'In Search of Scotland' for which she is the presenter, and also fronts the BBC radio 'History File', it is set out in 10 lively well illustrated chapters - Land, waters, sky; Settlers and invaders 8000-2500BC; Land and community 2500-800BC; Amalgamation 800-800; Consolidation and assimilation 800-1286; Scotland united? 1286-1357; Scotland revealed 1357-1542; Reformation and revolution 1542-1742; Scotland in Britain 1702-1850; Scotland renewed 1850-2000. These are followed with Further reading; Maps of 1. zones of early peoples, 2. towns and regions; then Genealogies – 1. Scottish succession 843-1097, 2. 1034-1371, 3. James VI's to the English throne.

The Battle of Bannockburn, 1314. Aryeh Nusbacher. Tempus. 160pp. 0 7524 1783 5. Hbk £19.99.

Somewhat informally and racily, the military background author takes us through the personalities, politics, actions of the midsummer battle. His aim is to attempt to describe as factually as possible events of the day based on -- the little existing primary source material, the controversial second hand accounts and inferences one can make, the authorities consultable, the legends, the ground places, the realities of the time -- treason, loyalties, chivalry. It will always be an impressive, controversial story. This author adds some interesting views to the story, including the likelihood reliance of many Scottish nobles on their English estates; and the Church's relationship to the Pope and France, not to England.

On the Trail of Bonnie Prince Charlie. David Ross. Luath Press. 130pp. 0 946487 68 5. £7.99.

This biker popular history trail blazer of Wallace and of The Bruce, takes us in lively detail with maps and illustrations in the steps of the Young Pretender's Jacobite '45 Uprising campaign to retake the throne of Scotland. The hard won successes southwards, the turning point of Derby, sadly back to the disastrous Culloden, then the amazing five months on the run till the embarking on the L' Hereuse for France.

First Generations: the Stirling area from prehistoric to Roman times. Lorna Main, Stirling Council. 48pp. ISBN 1 870 542 44. £4.99.

Through the interpretation of the archaeological evidence the book tells of the first people who moved into the area now known as Stirling, and of the peoples who succeeded them from prehistoric times up to the period of the Roman occupation. Stirling lies at a crossroads where influences from north and south, east and west meet. What happened here is part of a wider story, extending beyond current administrative boundaries. The book looks at relevant sites and objects which throw light on where and how the people of the area lived and died, and their impact on the environment.

Mining: from Kirkintilloch to Clackmannan and Stirling to Slammanan. Guthrie Hutton. Stenlake, £12.95.

Last of a five book history of Scottish mining, this is profusely illustrated, with some emphasis on Clackmannanshire which through the 17th and 18th centuries was the biggest coal exporting area in the country. It had daily trainloads to Alloa harbour pre1900. The 'thousands of tons a day for 50 years' forecast for the post WW11 Glenochills failed NCB drift mine is noted, also the 'walk in' Tillicoultry mine of the 1870s and its reconstruction post WW11 with the first underground television broadcasts. This is a welcome resource for Forth area history.

Reminiscences of Dollar and Tillicoultry – and other districts adjoining the Ochils. William Gibson.

1882. Latest reprint. Strong Oak Press. 240pp. 1 871048 23 0. £12.95.
A local history 'classic'.

Clackmannan and the Ochils: an illustrated architectural guide. Adam Swan.
Rutland Press. 152pp. 1 873 190 530. £10.95.

This new edition launched with an exhibition at RIAS in June and in August at Alloa Tower, is produced with some striking photography, including colour. The 1987 edition was drawing attention to a much neglected area, now this `wee county` is seeing a regeneration with admirable initiatives by the Tower/Heritage Trust, the Council, Ochil View Housing and others, and coping with industrial and other changing events. The revision has been thorough and pleasing making the book a must guide to the area, an information source and interest pleasure to visitors and locals, akin to over 20 similar architectural guides in this RIAS / Rutland series, including *Stirling and the Trossachs*.

Of particular local interest this book describes the award winning restoration of Alloa Tower, though in doing so it sadly neglects to acknowledge the influence of many years insistence and activities of the Clackmannanshire Field Studies Society (CFSS), many of whose members constitute the ongoing Friends of Alloa Tower. Especially no mention is made of the 1972 and subsequent editions of the CFSS's basic book *Alloa Tower and the Erskines of Mar* – whose 1987 edition, and partial opening event, really emphasised the critical need for restoration of the crumbling fabric, as did the thesis of the CFSS chairman's daughter Elizabeth Roxburgh, whose supervisor Bob Heath became its architect. The Tower and this book are significant in this ongoing regeneration of a once neglected area.

Dates for your Diary

Stirling Field & Archaeological Society

Meetings: Smith Museum, second Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 13 November | The Forth – Clyde Link
Andy Carroll ((British Waterways) |
| 11 December | Tower Houses of the South-west
Alistair Maxwell-Irving (Stirling FAS) |
| 15 January | The great Buddhas of Afghanistan
Warwick Ball (Eastern Approaches Travel) |
| 12 February | Butterflies
Peter Kinnear (SNH – retired) |

Dollar History Society

Secretary Brenda Jenkinson (tel. 742828)

Meetings: Dollar Academy dining hall 7.30 pm, second Tuesday of the month

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 13 November | The Rights and Wrongs of Rights of Way – The History of Rights of Way in Scotland
Alistair Lawson, Field Officer Scot. Rights of Way Soc. |
| 11 December | Medicine in Scotland in the 16 th and 17 th Centuries
Dr. Helen Dingwall, Dept. of History, Stirling U |
| 9 January | The Pullar Family of Bridge of Allan
Fiona McNicol, Dollar |
| 12 February | The Regeneration of Stanley Mills – the story so far
Chris McGregor, Regional Architect |

Scottish Wildlife Trust, Stirling

Branch Secy. Roy Sexton

Meetings: 7.30 pm second Tuesday of the month

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 13 November | Grey Partridge and Redshanks,
Dan Tomkins and Rhys Bullman |
| 11 December | Scottish Eagles, Roger Broad RSPB |
| 8 January | East Meets West. The Millennium Link project to restore navigation to the Forth & Clyde and Union canals
Olivia Lassiere |
| 12 February | Conflicts in Conservation, Simon Thirgood |
| 12 March | Our Native Orchids, Roy Sexton |
| 9 April | Dragonflies and Biodiversity |

Perthshire Society of Natural Science

Meetings: Perth Museum and Art Gallery 7.30 pm

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 26 October | Queen Victoria in Perthshire
John Kerr, Old Struan, Pitlochry |
| 9 November | The Folklore of Scottish Plants
Tessa Darwin, Edinburgh |
| 23 November | History in Stones
Prof. Donald McIntyre, Perth |
| 7 December | Wildlife Cruises round the Scottish Small Isles
David Leaver, Comrie |
| 22 February | Managing Land for Wildlife and People
Dick Balharry, Newtonmore |

Obituaries

Margaet Hargreave

Margaret Hargreave died peacefully in St. Leonard's Hospice, York on 30 April 2001, after a lengthy battle with cancer. She had remained in her home at Fingal Road, Killin until just before Christmas 2000, when she went south to be near to her family of six children, 12 twelve grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Margaret was born into a Quaker family in the Costwolds in 1926 and enjoyed a rural upbringing and education at the school where her father was the Crafts Master. After leaving school she worked as a nurse in the Quaker Mental Hospital in York where she met her future husband, Norman, who also worked there. They married in 1943 and worked together for several years as wardens of an evacuation hostel near Keighley before moving with their young family to care for Norman's elderly parents in Sheffield. The family grew to six and kept Margaret busy at home while they grew up in the "steel" city. She worked for many years as a manageress of a home bakery while being active in the local Sorby Natural History Society, and taking increasingly regular holidays in Scotland. Shortly after Norman's untimely death in 1977, Margaret moved to Stirling to live with her son Michael and quickly absorbed herself in a range of local activities. She joined the Clackmannan Field Studies Society, the Scottish Wildlife Trust, Stirling Field and Archaeology Society, the and was a keen participant in the Countryside Ranger walks.

She joined the Stirling Oxfam shop as a volunteer, and for about 20 years spent two days a week working in their shop. Even when her illness made it difficult, she would set off on the 8 a.m. bus from Killin to Stirling and put in a hard day's work before returning to Killin in the afternoon – often sharing the bus with the village youngsters she so admired for their spirit and friendliness.

Her move to Killin arose when Michael at last found himself a wife and Margaret took the opportunity to come to the village when a bungalow became available in Fingal Road. She quickly settled into the village and made many very special friends, involving herself in several local organisations and thriving on the endless opportunity to indulge her passion for exploring the countryside. Her incredible knowledge of plants and particularly wild flowers made her a great asset, particularly on organised walks. She was often to be found on solo expeditions to widely scattered corners of the Breadalbane area, usually identifiable by her bright red coat and woolly hat!

Her years in Killin were surely the happiest of times amongst a neighbourhood of real characters, and, as her illness progressed she gained most marvellous help and affection from them. Her regard for Dr. De Laat and the rest of the Health Centre staff was

immense, and several times in her last few months, she wished they had been at hand in York. Her neighbours and friends in Killin kept up a steady stream of loving messages which she cherished dearly. Jessie McLeod's weekly letters would keep her up to date with village affairs while she eagerly awaited the next Killin News.

By the time this appears in print, Margaret's ashes will have been scattered on the top of "her" hillside in sight of her old back door. I know she will be remembered affectionately for her quiet good humour, cheerfulness and indomitable spirit, while being sorely missed for her knowledge of and concern for local history and wildlife.

Michael Hargreave

Bill Brackenbridge (1952 - 2000) FNH Board Member

The tragic car accident in Aviemore just before our symposium last November robbed central Scotland of a greatly respected naturalist and committed environmentalist long associated with FNH and environmental education eg the annual Green Scene of the forum CREEF now MSEEF, also the Young Forth Naturalist awards series in the five Man and the Landscape symposia from 1987, particularly the second 'The Mighty Oak', photograph by Van der Merwe in the Stirling Observer (see p. 17), with David Steven and the primary school project team.

Some of his more substantial achievements include – the conversion of an old quarry into the Doune Ponds reserve; persuading the owner of Cambus Pool to make it into a Local Nature Reserve; the setting up, developing, managing, the outstanding biodiverse Jupiter Wildlife Garden from derelict ICI land in Grangemouth; with BRISC in 1980 setting up the Stirling Biological Record centre, now the thriving CARSE at the Smith Art Gallery and Museum. Doing an MSc at Stirling he joined, as Ecologist, Brian Thomson's North Lanarkshire Conservation and Greening at Palacerigg (once the haunt of David Steven!); he was a key man in butterfly conservation; a great bird man - and bird imitator; a first class naturalist artist; active in many naturalist organisations and projects eg the Millennium Atlas of Butterflies, even in the proposed redevelopment of Ravenscraig.

His loss has been notably recorded by SWT, Butterfly Conservation and others, and via Brian Thomson RSPB is hosting a fund for a possible 'living memorial' bird habitat or nature reserve. He was a great help in FNH, not least to Cliff Henty in producing our annual Forth Bird Report.

CFSS members will fondly remember his much appreciated talks and guided walks, and some of those bird calls and songs.

Lindsay Corbett

William McEwan (1923 – 2001)

We were sorry to hear of the death of Bill McEwan, a member of the Society since 1986. He along with his wife was a regular attendee at CFSS Winter talks. Bill's working life was spent mainly in the furniture trade, firstly at Graham & Morton's Stirling, later as Manager at McKissock's furniture store in Dunfermline. Obviously he liked to be kept busy and even in retirement took on a part-time job at Glendevon Furnishings, Auchterarder.

Such free time as Bill had was spent with his grandchildren and in his garden.

He will be remembered as a quiet family man who always had a smile for everyone and will be greatly missed.

Betty Roy

Report on the 31st CFSS AGM

A warm welcome was given by Chairman Betty Roy to a large number of members. Recalling another successful session (2000-2001) she spoke of the good attendance at walks and talks due to the excellent standard of guides and speakers. Subjects have appealed to the members; even on cold winter nights an over 50 attendance has been the norm. Members, such as Jim Banks (Clackmannan), Ken Mackay (mountains) and Bob Lindsay (clocks) offered their services free, some others also, or at little cost. All were much appreciated.

The 2001 series of walks and outings begins on Wednesday, May 16 with "Exploring Bridgend, Stirling" (Ken Mackay). Numbers are likely to be greater as our programme has now been printed in the "Outdoor Diary" produced by the Mid-Scotland Environmental Education Forum *(MSEEF) (obtainable free in public libraries).

Mrs. Roy spoke of the cancellation of our May weekend, mooted for Dunoon; this was partly due to inclement weather preventing a "recce" and the later occurrence of Foot and Mouth disease. The only walk at risk might be 13 June --MacArthur Braes at Alva. Members will be notified of any cancellation.

The CFSS committee in their regular meetings and to Council and the Press have expressed concern about the development of the erstwhile Inglewood Estate with its soil erosion resulting from tree felling; we are also alarmed by the encroachment of

building on to Gubber Hill despite the advice of the Planning Department. Does this mark the demise of another green space?

A more urban development is the arrival of the giant Tesco store to central Alloa; despite some advantages, appreciated by CFSS, it was not realised that this would be a 24-hour outlet, with its attendant problems.

Another matter in which CFSS is taking an interest, is the fate of the 19th century ovens in the former Hope's bakery in Mar Street, Alloa. Members visited the premises before its closure and filmed the baking process and surrounds as an historical record; a sound track will be added. Ken Mackay and Dick Clark have been involved in this.

The Old Kirk Graveyard Survey being undertaken by Isobel Wood, Alison Snaddon, Dorothy Wright and Betty Roy has almost been completed; four files will be produced in due course giving pictures and information on the graves.

An excellent financial report was presented by Treasurer, Elizabeth Crane, audited by Betty Berrick. They have agreed to continue in post.

Office bearers are otherwise: Chairperson / Membership Secretary / Newsletter Editor – Betty Roy; Secretary – Marilyn Scott; Press Reports Officer – Isobel G. Stewart. Committee members: Messrs. D Clark, L Corbett, D McCallum, R Monk, RC Snaddon, Mrs. A Henderson and Ms. Susan Mills.

I.G. Stewart

Gravestones

The major project *Alloa Old Kirkyard Archaeological Survey 1999 – 2000*, moves on apace. Large binders documenting some 500 gravestones by descriptions and illustrations have been completed and copies deposited in the National Monuments Archives (RCAHMS), the National Library of Scotland, Clackmannanshire Library and the CFSS's own room. Project editor / CFSS Chairman Mrs. Roy is ongoing with a further descriptive record of the project and gravestone information in book form.

Lindsay Corbett

Snippets – Outings

The CFSS ‘summer season’ of midweek walks and Saturday outings has begun with a guided walk by Ken Mackay of the Bridgend area of Stirling, focus of the Braveheart tradition (or not) as the true story of the Wars of Independence was explained and examined. The walk also took in the Castle Hill and the nearby graveyard close to the walls of the Grand Battery.

A later all-day excursion was greatly enjoyed by members and others when we were privileged to have a private conducted tour of the James the Fourth Great Hall at Stirling Castle, now in pristine condition after many years and large amounts of money have been expended. After an audio-visual film about the restoration, the CFSS group climbed to the first floor to admire the enormous bay windows, the elegant dias, the new hammerbeam roof and other features of this vast rectangular space. The views of the Carse outside were superb when we were allowed to ascend to the roof-walk and see the skilled work of the stonemasons in renewing the lions and unicorns. Since the Army left in the 1960s, work has been ongoing. The 1999 lime-washing of the outer walls certainly provoked comment and concern but was defended as done according to tradition. Argyll’s Lodging was also visited; this mansion of 16th and 17th century origins was a home for the first Earl of Stirling and the ninth Earl of Argyll. Here, the restoration is again notable; we also had “dialogues” from costumed performers of the “Sair Feet” Society.

A complete contrast in time and concept was the trip to the site of the Falkirk Millennium Wheel. Not to be confused with London’s equivalent, this remarkable wheel is of use as it will enhance the Forth and Clyde Canal --and enables the link with the Union Canal—making waterway coast to coast. Over the May Holiday, a flotilla of boats went from Grangemouth to Bowling. The 35m high, 28m long wheel will be a revolutionary boat lift at the junction of the two canals. The project director, Marischal Ellis, spoke of plans and the ‘moon landing’ style site with its giant concrete piers. A tunnel has been carved through the embankment of the Antonine Wall. Despite the ground disturbance, oak tree saplings are regenerating, also lupins, buttercups, campion. The views across the country showed the distant Ochils where another walk took place at a later date exploring MacArthur Braes at Alva. Betty Roy was the informative guide, and the Johnstone mausoleum and graveyard stones were examined and recalled by Betty and Elizabeth Crane.

Isobel G. Stewart

A Curious Emblem on an Alva Gravestone

Taking an interest in our historic graveyards develops an understanding of Post-Reformation thought where the emphasis is on Death and the Resurrection. Surprisingly the Church condoned the user of emblems such as Skull and Cross-bones and Trumpeting Angels, whereas images of Christ on the Cross and the Virgin Mary were deemed Popish. (In the islands only two of the High Crosses retain Christ's image, on others the carving has been rubbed off).

The gruesome nature of the death symbols is balanced by the promise that with repentance a place in Paradise was attainable for rich and poor alike. The messages of these carvings usefully conveyed the teaching of the Reformed Church.

Relating to this there is a macabre emblem carved on one Alva gravestone which of course was one of the sights on a recent Wednesday Walk. Information has been gleaned from an article by Betty Wilsher in the *Scottish Local History* journal (vol 37, June 1996 pp. 7-19) which gives an account of the Green Man in Scottish Graveyards. The author discredits the term 'Green Man' which only appeared in print in 1939, and prefers to describe the carving as 'The Foliate Head' to differentiate from the pagan symbol of the Green Man of folklore.

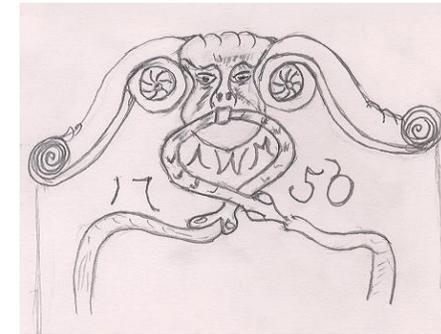
The vast majority of these carvings in Scotland are of the head only. Carving of grotesque heads in stone as a decorative artform were found on Roman buildings as well as being portrayed in Celtic Art. Carvings of leaves and heads were the most popular subjects for the mediaeval sculptor. Examples of the Foliate Head are to be found in Pre-Reformation churches eg. Roslyn, as well as secular buildings. In Castle Campbell there are plaster foliate heads in the upper room and a reported head in Mar's Wark, Stirling. It would appear that such carvings were familiar to the post-Reformation mason and were thus used to represent the thinking of the church. There are 171 Foliate Heads on Scottish gravestones, including four on the tombs of church ministers. Only this Alva one is recorded for Clackmannanshire.

From the drawing we see that the Alva stone depicts serpents emitting from the mouth of the ugly head, eating up two more serpents. Fronds appear to be sprouting from the head. Does this portray the message of the church: OUT OF SIN AND DEATH COMES ETERNAL LIFE? On the west side of the stone a flying angel with trumpet sounds the hope of Resurrection.

Betty Wilsher believes that the ugly head depicts the sinful body, while the fronds signify new life.

"SERVE THOU THE LORD
IN DEAR THEREFORE
AND THOU SHALL LIVE
FOREVER MORE"

Betty Roy



ALVA KIRKYARD



Bill Brackenridge and friends

Outing to Methven Castle and Surrounding Area Saturday 25th August 2001

The Battle of Methven took place in 1306 when Bruce, soon after his coronation, was attacked by the English and hostile Scots (including Sir Roger Mowbray of Methven) and defeated. When Bruce regained power he gave these Mowbray lands to his daughter's husband -Walter Stewart-- and they it became Stewart property. James IV settled Methven on his wife Margaret Tudor, sister of Henry VIII who was widowed after Flodden and subsequently married the weakling Henry Stewart of the Ochiltree family and got him made Lord Methven. Margaret died here in 1540. There is very little trace of this old castle which is sited slightly to the north of the present building which was built in 1664 by Ludovic, 2nd Duke of Lennox and comprises a tall five-storied block with ogee round towers at the angles but like all houses that remain in the same families for decades there were changes made, especially in the Georgian era by James Gillespie Graham.

The aim of Mr. & Mrs. Murdoch was to return the focalice to its original 1664 layout and this required a terrific amount of work and dedication. They removed the ugly Georgian extension at the East wing and demolished the West wing, only leaving a free standing building (which they hope to convert to a dwelling house). They enlarged windows as well as renewing timber ceilings and floors, retiling the roof, renewing the internal staircases. The mind just boggles at the amount of physical labour that was entailed, but the end result is a truly magnificent castle which is also a home.

Elizabeth Crane

Archaeology Update and News

Stirling - Wallace Monument Site

During the work being undertaken to lay new ducts for the floodlighting Lorna Main, Regional Archaeologist, arranged an exploratory dig of the site which had always been recognised as an Iron Age fortress.

The results have been remarkable in uncovering what may prove to be a unique example of defences 3000 years ago most likely occupied by the Caledonians. Uncovered were prehistoric stone ramparts laced with timber and topped with flagstones which suggests the patrolling of the ramparts.

Partial evidence is here of two entrances and defences of banks of earth and stone two / three metres high, with signs of 'vitrification' making it one of the finest examples of this method of bonding in Scotland. A more detailed report will be available at some time.

Doune - Roman Fort and Hospital

The excavation has been completed and the site infilled. Doune Primary School and the residents of the village have had the good fortune of 'overseeing' the work as it progressed. Headland Archaeology were awarded the contract to excavate and on 3rd Sept. Colm Maloney gave a brief talk at the Smith as a condition of contract.

The fort was of an area approx. 2.8 to 3 hectares with ramparts approx. 5 metres high by 5 metres wide fronted with three V ditches on three sides. The remains of five bread ovens and a blacksmiths area were uncovered backing onto the ramparts.

It should be noted that the fort was likely to have been square between the Teith and where the Ardoch Burn meets the river. Buildings were of a timber and wattle construction and the 'Hospital' buildings seem to be similar to those found in Germany.

Rubbish heaps littered with pottery and items that can be identified from France and Spain are associated with the storage of olive oil.

It would have originally been a 'Marching Camp' developed into an 'Auxiliary Fort' with up to 1000 legionnaires who in turn would have traded with the people in local Braco.

The period approx. is AD65 to AD90 but likely only to have had a useful life of five to six years within that time span.

A full report will be published and the Society will endeavour to procure a copy from Lorna Main.

Bannockburn

Fiona Watson, well known to us, did a talk on what turned out to be a lovely clear evening at the Bannockburn High School grounds. This proved to be an excellent vantage point for her to enlarge on her theory as regards the Battle which was conducted on two days of different strategy. Rather than try to write all that was said it will be likely that the Society will get a copy of the report and analysis of Fiona commissioned by Stirling Council.

One thing that has been established is that there is a likely area at Pirnhall where excavation may take place and it is hoped to uncover the site of part of the staked areas described in accounts of the strategy adopted by The Bruce. Watch this space for further details. This controversial subject continues to be featured in books, press and media.

Walking through History

Isobel Gran Stewart

(The following article first appeared in the Alloa Advertiser. Isobel has given permission to publish for the benefit of our members. Ed.)

Poised at the beginning of a millennium, with its triumphs and failures still to come, the two-faced god of the Romans, Janus, looks to the future while he views the past.

Clackmannanshire is no exception... and while the county's recent history may have been less than distinguished, it has a right to be proud of itself as a long-established unit of Scottish government.

The area became a sheriffdom in 1329 during the reign of King Robert the Bruce and in 1667, after Charles the second had been king for seven years, it was allowed to appoint commissioners to run its own affairs.

The 1817 Gazetteer of Scotland lists Alloa, with a population of only 5696, as a place of considerable trade and shipping with a "great quantity of coal mined locally" and a wagon way of "singular construction." Trade to and from Holland, the Baltic states and coastal harbours in Britain was commonplace because of the siting of a custom-house at Alloa.



The Alloa motto, "In the Forefront" which dates from 1855, was well-deserved and exemplifies a flourishing district buoyed up by entrepreneurs who were not afraid to take risks and had a massive workforce to call upon.

By Victorian times, Burgh commissioners were established to see to Alloa's public water, gas supply (the cheapest in Scotland), street cleaning, paving, lighting and all other amenities, several of which were the envy of other towns.

By 1890 Clackmannan County Council had been set up. It and the Commissioners worked alongside each other until local government reform in 1975.

Yes, yes... I hear my readers say... We know all this. We know about the shipyards, the dry dock, distilleries, breweries and glass works, which featured even in these early

times, and the 200 weavers' looms in the parish before the cottage industry was to give way to the factory-based textile industry.

What to make of this? Is our flourishing past to haunt us with feelings of failure, on and on, into our new century?

This should not be -indeed, if all hopes are fulfilled, it will not be. For in June last year, when local confidence was at its lowest, plans were drawn up to make a "heritage zone" to the south and east of the town, which would provide a focus for tourism.

The project to refurbish Alloa's historic areas would be founded on a lottery grant of £900,000 and go towards a funding package of almost £2 million; a five year programme was mooted to preserve what is left.

And what is left of Old Alloa? For, although the future may involve small villages and high-tech business units, there is a hankering after the things of "auld lang syne."

Readers may recall the very fine book *Clackmannan and the Ochils*, an illustrated guide to the county published in 1987 by the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland and edited by Charles McKean. The author was the young (very young) Adam Swan of Dollar, one of a group of graduates who were employed to do research (part-time, paid by the hour) on local history as a council project. They provided, as I understand it, the basis for the Clock Mill exhibition and the Alloa Tower display boards when that building was briefly open in 1987.

Adam Swan, in his spare time, did a massive amount of research on Buildings in and around Clackmannanshire; more and more was unearthed, not only on inanimate stone but on the personalities and events linked to places.

The book [now revised see p. 9] had this preface by Duncan C. Stirling, president of the Stirling Society of Architects: "Included in the district coat of arms are the immortal words, 'Look About Ye'. We should not ignore this advice for there are treasures to be found throughout Clackmannanshire".

That was well said –and so say all of us. But the book was not Adam Swan's sole contribution to spreading the good news about the wee county.

Attraction He prepared two town trails, which, now that refurbishment is underway, could be the basis once more of a tourist attraction.

I was able to give some help to Adam with the 'Old Town' area. There was a separate trail for the Victorian New Town of Alloa, with Mar Street, Bank Street, Bedford Place,

Church Street admired by surprised visitors, especially from Stirling, who did not suspect we had such fine buildings.

But to the trail: Betty Roy was another of the guides, and for several years we took parties around on a route that might not prove too far for the unaccustomed walker nor too slight for the eager rambler.

Both walks began originally at the Greenside car park (now beside the Lidl supermarket). We viewed the Youngers Office, the Aulk Kirk and Mausoleum, over the way; we diverted to see Tobias Bauchop's house beside its cobblestoned street; then trudged to Gray and Harrower's Mill by the Mill Brae -(who remembers it?) where the rushing (no doubt polluted) waters of the Brothy Burn swept under part of Patons mill complex and continued in an underground channel to the Shore.

The Fairy Burn could be seen emerging from a tunnel below Shillinghill to join the force of water.

Our route then led by Maclays with its wall plaque and past the blacksmith's symbol stone across the roof at the Auld Brig. We then noted Patons and walked to Alloa Tower... then lying empty and mostly forgotten.

Over to the Lime Tree Walk and Broad Street, our way led down to the Mar Inn, at the time still tenanted; with its loss, there is now no focus for the trip to the Shore apart from the one remaining building, a disused warehouse recorded from the early 18th century.

It was apparently used as a storehouse by the Glasgow brewery who sent their products via the Forth and Clyde canal to the Glasgow wharf, a part of United Glass Company's complex. This building, surely, merits attention as a part of Alloa's maritime history?

Neglect The Mar Inn has gone although dating from 1744 or even earlier. It was thought to have been built for ferry travellers at the Craigward, further upstream. Neglect and vandalism led to its doom... perhaps the surviving storehouse can be saved.



The Mar Inn, now demolished, a focal point at the Shore

But to the walk, and a beautiful walk it is, in bright weather. I am referring to the Lime Tree Walk, that Continental avenue worthy of a larger town and best seen from the water. Other places would treasure such a harbour, and opportunities for boating.

And then the group of, perhaps weary, tourists would return to the car park.

This was an unvaried route... except that later, during History and Heritage Weeks, which began about 1997, occasional walks were made from Greenfield House, which was however, more convenient for the 'New Victorian Town' area.

Betty and I usually operated separately, but once had the daunting task of leading an unknown party that included architects --and it was billed as an 'architectural tour!'

We boldly went where no man nor woman had gone before --perhaps they were too polite to criticise!

Another time, I had to lead an unspecified group that turned out to be from the local council planning department --there are those still surviving who may recall that?

A traumatic afternoon for me was when I led a group down all the way to the Mar Inn - -having first viewed the Mill and Brothy Burn, and back to the car park, while I was very aware that the walkers included a very expectant mother who, however, assured me that all was well!

I also had a group of German students and my A Level Higher German began to come back as we went along. They were horrified to learn the Chalmers Church was now a disco. (This was a town tour, from Greenfield). They cheered up when I told them they would 'Unter Den Linden' (Lime Tree Walk).

Betty also has her own memories, but there is one memory we share. After our first 'season' we were each given a cheque for £30. This was for a pair of shoes. Mine were sturdy and unfashionable --but much needed.

I still have them to this day, just for old time's sake.

Past Industries

In keeping with the aims of the Society and the demise of local industry we have been active in recording buildings such as Paton & Baldwins, Tullis Tannery, and Hope Bakers particularly. The two former mentioned have of course been very much in the limelight, Patons & Baldwins part demolition has started and of course Tullis's Tannery has completely disappeared. Hope, the Bakers, is still there but closed.

Tullis, Tullibody

Last year with the assistance of Councillor Scobbie we gained access to what was a dangerous building to assess whether any of the old tanning machinery was still within.

On a rather mild March day, Betty Roy, Bob Snaddon, Ken Mackay and myself duly met, with the Council officer and complete with loaded camera.

The internal state of the building was sad to see but alas there was little evidence of its past tanning days apart from the structure itself. On one floor the only thing that may have been used was a "lone bogey" and two very well maintained pieces of machinery that were really modern possibly from the 30s or so.

A photographic record (photo in Alloa Museum) was made of the little content but very good images of the louvre system 'windows' made the visit worthwhile.

Copies of the photographs are with the Museum.

Paton and Baldwins

Some years ago Historic Monuments (RCAHMS) made a survey of architectural features of the listed buildings, and recently CFSS visited and recorded similarly. In July we gained access to the factory site through the assistance of Mr. Richard Brennan, former factory manager, who gave of his time most freely, not just on one occasion. Again Betty Roy, Bob Snaddon and myself were given a conducted tour of the site which from top to bottom covered a huge area.

Richard gave us the opportunity to go into the depths under the factory to where the Brothy Burn was originally used to power part of the mill. An extensive range of colour slides of all aspects and areas of the mill have been taken which required no less than four visits.

An interesting feature was the clock system and I arranged for Bob Lindsay who expressed an interest to look at this. This proved to be very interesting and the 'Master Clock' together with a number of 'Repeater blocks' have been saved and at present are

temporarily in the Museum storeroom together with display boards which were used in training staff.

The slides are at present being put into order for one of our members nights. It is only courteous to record that all this could not have been done without the close co-operation of Mr. Richard Brennan who we thank.

Hope the Bakers

As members know Ken Mackay and myself with the approval of Mr. Tom Baxter owner of the bakery have made a videoed record of it operating as it had done more or less since the first oven was built in 1810.

We have finalised the interviews with Mrs. Elsie Young (Hope) and Mrs. Connie Brodie (Hope) and will be producing the completed work in the form of a local video which should we "hope" (!) will have national appeal.

Finally I ask that with particular interest in the industrial past that Patons and Baldwins played and the social impact on not only the county but adjoining counties we will be pleased to have members thoughts on producing a more detailed report on the people and families connected with P&B.

Dick Clark

Sandwood Memories

Introduction

Our Editor has published over the past few issues some of the poems that Jem wrote and many of you have expressed your enjoyment in reading them.

I thought it may be of interest to tell how the poem, Sandwood Bay, in our October 2000 issue came to be. It was at the Annual General Meeting in the Brunton Hall, Musselburgh, of the John Muir Trust that I was asked to write an article on the Sandwood Estate now owned by the Trust. You will remember that Katie Jackson gave us a talk on the life of John Muir (see last Newsletter no. 66) and was delighted with the welcome she received by the Society and with a copy of Jem's poem. The feedback to the Trust since the following article, Sandwood Memories, was published (JMT Bulletin summer 2001) with the request for copies of the poem, Sandwood Bay, made it all worthwhile and the copyright has been passed to John Muir Trust by us the Clark family.

PS A new conservation manager for Sandwood Estate is Mr. Cathel Morrison of Kinlochbervie. With the current 'Great Scots' voting nomination in progress, why not vote for 'John Muir' ?!

Sandwood Memories

Sandwood first came to the attention of the family through a friend, R. Macdonald Robertson, whose *Angling in Wildest Scotland* was published in 1936 and was a fascination to me from my early teens. Macdonald Robertson was an ardent angler and travelled over little more than tracks with his reliable 'Prince Henry Vauxhall' car, himself generally dressed in kilt and face adorned with pencil moustache. In a 1948 compilation of his writings, he gives his own account of Sandwood Estate.

My greatest ambition was to see this famous area. Writing 50 years on, it seems like it was only yesterday that we made that long journey from Stirling to the village of Durness and the Cape Wrath Hotel.

The greatest anticipation was the visit to Sandwood, and this was no disappointment. We marvelled at the sight of such an ideal loch, and were not without success, returning with a fine basket of seatrout. Over the years, maturity set in and my interest in the landscape and flora increased. I realised just how unseeing we can be in only thinking about piscatorial pursuits.

However, let me talk of nearer the present. I married early a young woman with a similar love of the countryside – Jem and I had great pleasure in walking to Sandwood many times. The first time I had to ask her to close her eyes just at the brow of the path, and like everyone the sight brought an exclamation of joy. The love affair began then.

Over the years the beach and dunes changed as the outlet from the loch moved from the Sheigra end to the middle, to the Cape Wrath end. It has no doubt been everchanging for centuries. The constant continuity is of course the beauty.

The crossing to the Cape Wrath side by ferry over the Kyle of Durness is still looked upon as one of the last wilderness walks. It is not for the faint-hearted and should not be done alone. On the map from the lighthouse it may look easy, but beware – there are many diversions around great slashes in the cliff edges, plus of course Loch Keisgaig if you are an angler.

Stravaiging to Sandwood from the Rhiconich to Durness road at Gulain Lodge allows a natural walk down through Strath Shinary at the head of which is the Strathan bothy. This route can be very wet and care should be taken to avoid peat holes. A wonderful view can be had of the loch in its entirety without going all the way to the beach. Crossing the Shinary is dependant on conditions but at Strathan there is still a 'bridge' (which I fell off once to the delight of Jem).

Jem read the books and made her little notes as we drove along after a day of walking or talking to the people we met over the years. Every now and again another poem would emerge, but Sandwood Bay became her obsession. This was partly due to the account of Macdonald Robertson in describing how over hundreds of years there had been numerous shipwrecks within the ever-moving sand. Some 20 years ago after a very severe storm we made our May visit and with great excitement came upon a ship's mast of about forty feet with the spar partly intact.

On our walks to Sandwood, Jem's constant companion was her Cocker spaniel, Gilbey. When I go there now, I see the two of them in my mind's eye as vividly as ever; but then Sandwood is a place of mystery where it is said the sands 'sing'.

In September 1988 Jem finally wrote her feelings, in the poem that follows, on what had become a very special place to us. In March 1999 on a brilliant sunny day our oldest grandson visited Sandwood for the first time. His words as we paused at the brow of the hill overlooking the bay were 'Gramps, now I know what Gran's poem means.' Christopher was 21 then and that day will remain with him no matter where in the world he goes.

As we walked over the 'singing sands' we agreed to visit Durness School on our return. We met Graham Bruce, the headmaster, and the school agreed to accept a trophy in memory of Jem, the Sandwood Quaich for artistic merit.

In late June on a beautiful, cloudless day, I had the privilege of presenting the quaich to the first recipient, Catrina Veitch. The next day Catrina visited to show me her artwork. She brought her paintings but also her little book of poetry, and although written from a youthful perspective, the poems mirrored in some ways those penned by Jem.

May I finish by saying that JMT is to be complimented in its commitment to conserve places like Sandwood and give access to all who share the vision of John Muir.

Dick Clark

Environment and Heritage

Earlier in this newsletter are review / notes on the revised book Clackmannan and the Ochils and the related display and pamphlet on the regeneration of the Wee County. Great changes in the scene are very obvious in the demolitions of three major industrial sites:- Tullis in Tullibody -already cleared; the Brewery on the ring road -in progress in clouds of dust; and Paton's Mill -operations just starting as we write.

We hope 'regeneration' will be people / biodiversity / environment oriented, not more 'executive', money making, population increasing housing - but area people benefitting, practical and rental housing, and social, recreational

Slight hopes of a Reporter's bucking the previous council's Menstrie expansion folly (against people and organisations' sound objections) have been apparently dashed - an 'establishment' man not a thinker!

People and CFSS must be alert to seeing regeneration and talked of biodiversity and sustainability in development, really being environment biased not economic growth driven.

Clackmannanshire now has a Biodiversity Officer, Lynn Campbell, and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) has appointed Liz Garson to lead the area's Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP). It is unfortunate that SNH's Clackmannanshire office was moved away to Battle by Perth from Stirling centre at the Innovation Park. Stirling and Falkirk LBAPs are already well advanced. Progress in Forth area on biodiversity and environment matters is reported in the excellent Green Diaries regularly published by the Central Action unit at Stirling Station and widely distributed, including to CFSS. It is good to see things progressing at Alloa Tower and its Friends, Sauchie and Clackmannan Towers and the Heritage Trust

Lindsay Corbett