



## Newsletter

1<sup>st</sup> Issue - Martinmas 2016

### Note from the Editor – Duncan Beaton

Welcome to the Friends' Newsletter. Despite suggestions, mostly constructive, we have stuck with this title in the meantime, feeling that a first issue with some structured news is overdue. Of course feedback is welcome, it is your newsletter, and in future issues the intention is to follow the editorial introduction with a Letters section. We will also introduce you to our hard-working archivist and her team of volunteers in our Pen Picture section. So read on, and enjoy!

### Events Held to Date

A second annual Doors Open Day was held on Sat 24 September. We offered guided tours of the archives (bookable in advance) and an exhibition of documents. Despite the miserable weather, visitors were enthusiastic about the archives.

Our inaugural Friends' Lecture was held on Fri 30 September. Thirty-five Friends, partners and interested parties arrived promptly at 5pm for a tour of Inveraray Castle. The tour was led by Monika, one of the Castle guides, who enthusiastically shared her knowledge of the family and the Castle. Following the tour, refreshments were served in the Armoury Hall, surrounded by roundels of muskets and Lochaber axes, before moving through to the saloon where Professor Macinnes related some of the highlights of his many years of research in the archives.

We have received feedback that there was insufficient notice of this event, so apologies for the lack of communication. All part of getting up and running!

### Future Dates for your Diary

It is currently the intention to produce the Newsletter twice yearly, at Michaelmas and Whitsunday.

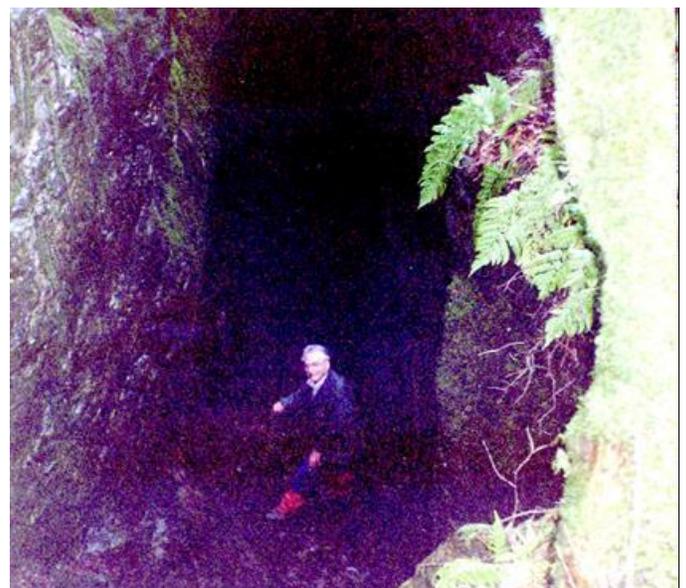
Our first Annual Meeting is planned for **Sat 18 March 2017** – details will be confirmed nearer the time.

Please check the Friends' website and follow us on Facebook for further information about what we're doing.

### History Corner

*The Travails of the Argyll Papers in the Troubled 17<sup>th</sup> Century, by Ann Galliard.*

The records at Cherry Park have their own interesting history. Important documents were at first kept by the Earls of Argyll at either Inveraray or at Carrick Castle on Loch Goil, but the troubled years during the 17<sup>th</sup> century gave reason to remove them to less obvious hiding places. Charters and Titles were of great importance as in Scots law ownership of land could not be transferred without possession of deeds, and it was vital that the Campbell's held proof of their rights at a time when their assets were being confiscated.



The entrance to the Paper Cave above Loch Eck

All the hiding places lay in Cowal, within a few miles of Kilmun, the burial place of the Clan Chiefs from 1442 until 1949. The precious documents were saved by concealment in what is still known as the Paper Cave, hidden 560ft above Loch Eck on the side of Clach Bheinn. The place is exciting to visit but difficult to reach and should only be attempted by the very fit and adventurous.

Correspondence detailed in the Atholl Chronicles follows the trail of the documents.

*Inveraray 11<sup>th</sup> September 1684*

*“Robert Campbell in Wige in the prouest of Killmunes Land being interegat by The Marques of Athol ....anent the privat convoyance of the peapers belonging to the Late Earle of Argyll declares as follows –*

*1. Item. The sd Robert confess he recaved ane half barrel of the said peapers for Robert Campbe, brother to Ardkinglas since the said Ardkinglas was apprehendit.*

*2. Item. That John Campbell, merchant in Glasgow, alias Cuthbartson, Brought from Robert Campbell’s house the said peapers on Tuesday second of Septr... and put the same in ane kill wtin ane half myll of said Rots house and thence they war conveyanced to wige and put in a barn, the number was about eight or nine.*

*3. Item. The said John Campbell recaved the said cask wt the peapers from him on Monday last, being the eith instant, wch was carried from wige by horse to the holie Loach, and yr put aboard of ane scout.”*

In late September 1684 eight barrels or puncheons of “*wholle papers and evidents*” were found locally in “*a mean tennant’s house*” and then taken to Edinburgh by a Glasgow carrier for storage in the Exchequer House.

There are hints of at least one further move but following these adventures and the restoration of the family fortunes, the papers found their way home to Inveraray, and despite being held

temporarily in such highly unsuitable conditions the irreplaceable collection from those years has survived.

(Ann Galliard is a local historian and committee member of the Friends).

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**Picture Gallery – Who’s who**



Some of The Friends of the Argyll Papers committee met to welcome our new Archivist when she took over from Ishbel Mackinnon in the Summer. (L to R): **Murdo MacDonald**, volunteer; **Dr Alison Rosie** of the National Archives of Scotland; **Alison Diamond**, who took over as Argyll Archivist on 11 July 2016; **Linda Fryer**, volunteer; **Duncan Beaton**, volunteer; **Ishbel Mackinnon**, now County Archivist for Perthshire; **Dr Ronnie Black**; **Dr Annie Tindley** of the School of Humanities at Dundee University, now at the University of Newcastle.



We are always delighted to see visitors at the Archives, provided we know they are coming. This year the Clan Campbell Society (North America) Seanachie and founder member Donald Draper Campbell and his wife Beth were welcomed. Here he meets Alison, Duncan and Diarmid A Campbell, editor emeritus of the CCS (NA) Journal.



The volunteers work together to compare notes

## Volunteer Tasks

The volunteers work very closely with the archivist but have been allotted very different tasks. Diarmid has been inspecting the condition of old vellum charters and their seals, which had not seen the light of day since being transcribed and placed in envelopes by Niall Diarmid, 10<sup>th</sup> Duke of Argyll, a century ago. They have now been catalogued and their conservation needs assessed.

He is currently preparing a calendar of the “Register Buik” of Andrew Boyd, Bishop of Lismore, who was also Commendator of Saddell Abbey in Kintyre. The register was compiled in 1624-25 and records tacks of lands and teinds (the churches tenth part share) granted by the Bishop and his predecessors as well as a rental of his lands.



Diarmid and Ishbel examine the Seal of the 7<sup>th</sup> Earl of Argyll

Murdo started working on the rentals for Kintyre, a part of the Argyll Estates acquired by Royal Charter in 1607 and possessed by the Campbell family until the 1950s.

Linda is working on boxes containing uncatalogued or minimally catalogued bundles, a dusty job but uncovering a treasure trove of documents. More details in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Duncan is working on the vast collection of genealogies and genealogical correspondence that has been collected in the Archives since the 8<sup>th</sup> Duke’s time, right up to the present. This not only covers many branches of Campbells, but families related to the Ducal line collected by the 10<sup>th</sup> Duke. A dedicated antiquarian and local historian, Duke Niall also collected the pedigrees of many local families who are Campbell septes, including Mackellar, MacNicol, Munro and MacPhedran.

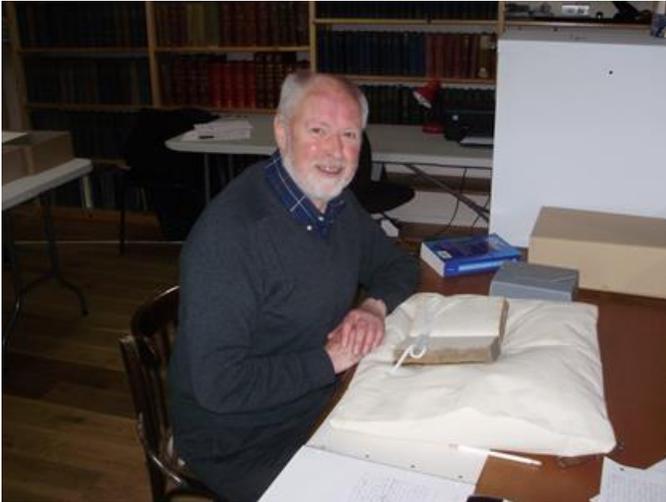
## Current Committee Members

There have already been a number of changes to the composition of the committee as members make career changes, so current members are:

Mr Murdo MacDonald – Chair  
Mrs Alison Diamond – Archivist  
Mrs Jean Maskell – Treasurer  
Professor Allan Macinnes

Dr Alison Rosie  
Dr Ronnie Black  
Mrs Ann Galliard  
Mr Diarmid A Campbell  
Mr Duncan Beaton – Newsletter editor  
Mr Jim Brown – Argyll Estates Accountant  
Ms Ishbel Mackinnon – Perth County Archivist  
Mrs Linda Fryer

### Pen Picture – Murdo MacDonald



Our newsletter will feature pen pictures of our committee members and under the spotlight for this first issue is Murdo MacDonald. Murdo was for many years archivist for Argyll and Bute at Lochgilphead.

Murdo was born in 1939 in Muasdale, Kintyre, when his father was Killean & Kilchenzie Parish minister. He graduated MA at St Andrews in 1965 and has a Diploma in the Study of Records and Administration of Archives at the University of Liverpool. He worked in archives at Carlisle, Glasgow, and Orkney before taking up the post of Archivist for Argyll & Bute at Lochgilphead in 1975, where he worked until retirement in 2006. He currently lives near Lochgilphead, in a cottage overlooking Loch Fyne.

### Research in the Argyll Papers

In the last six months researchers have been investigating various topics, including cultural perspectives on Highlanders after the '45; mining in Argyll; the north Highlands in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>

centuries; tracking changes in tenants, tenancies and cottars through the 19<sup>th</sup> century; the earliest designed towns in Scotland; the economic and social development of the Highlands from the perspective of the Highland Society of London; the Balfour Women, specifically Lady Frances Campbell; murder and crime in 18<sup>th</sup> century Argyll; and Flax production in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Researchers have come from the universities of Aberdeen, Dundee and Edinburgh, from as well as Columbia University, New York and Simon Fraser University.

### Forthcoming publications

#### *The Campbells of the Ark, by Ronnie Black*

It all began in the community hall at Glenuig in Moidart. It was the autumn of 2012. I was giving a talk on my book *The Gaelic Otherworld*, an edition of the folklore writings of the Rev. John Gregorson Campbell. A member of the audience tipped me off that the Duke's archives at Inveraray were at last out of the Castle and open to the public. The archivist's name, he said, was Ishbel MacKinnon. It was the start of something big. For four or five years I had been working on a book to be called *The Campbells of the Ark*, which was soundly based (or so I thought) on documents that I had near at hand in Edinburgh.

My wife Máire and I arrived in Inveraray in the early summer of 2013, notebook and camera in hand, to be met by Ishbel's welcoming smile and a pharmacopoeia of fresh sources. These included such gems as the Dewar MSS and the personal letters extracted by Lord Frederick Campbell from the correspondence that flew between Major-General John Campbell of Mamore (the future 4th Duke) and his son Colonel Jack (the future 5th Duke) during the '45. I said 'something big'. By that I don't mean that there were to be two more week-long visits, a co-authored study with Ishbel on the Argyll Papers as a source for the history of Tiree, and a monograph on the Gaelic manuscripts of Inveraray, capped by a permanent relationship with the archive through the Friends. (This I can see already is going to be a lot of fun.) I mean that I now had so much good stuff that a magnum opus

was becoming magnissimum.

*The Campbells of the Ark: Men of Argyll in 1745* is to come out as two volumes in February 2017. In it I attempt to do for people what Lindsay and Cosh's Inveraray and the Dukes of Argyll did for buildings. Alastair Campbell of Airds has laid down a thousand-year groundwork in his History of Clan Campbell; now I believe it's time to put down boreholes at different points in that history, and I have chosen the '45 and its aftermath as my focus. Like all non-fiction, it comes out of a need to know and to understand. In this case the need to know is a literary one. Between 1746 and 1751 the great Jacobite poet Alexander MacDonald made a Gaelic song of eighty-odd verses called 'An Àirce' ('The Ark') in which thirty-nine more or less obscure individuals, nearly all Campbells, are named, often obliquely. Who are they and why are they mentioned? That is the need to know.

The idea of the song is that a flood is going to come over Argyllshire in retribution for the behaviour of the Campbells in the '45. Some of the thirty-nine are to be drowned outright, some are to be given a good ducking then hauled aboard, others are to have a luxury cabin with all they want to eat and drink. Why such selective treatment? The reason appears to be that the song is paid Jacobite propaganda, softening up the Campbells for another rising which is understood to be imminent, and the poet and his masters hope that many of them will join the Jacobites this time. That is the need to understand.

In my first volume ('The Inner Circle') there are introductions to the poet, the song and the Clan Campbell, followed by biographies of the thirty-one individuals mentioned in the song whose surname happens to have been Campbell. Each begins by examining what the poet said about him (or her), and ends with an assessment of how far the verdict of the song appears to have been justified.

The star of the show is the elder Mamore, who emerges as the most underestimated of all the dukes of Argyll. Had he, not Cumberland, been commander-in-chief of Government forces in Scotland, a very different sort of accommodation

would have been reached, civilised values would have prevailed, and to use his own phrase, 'poor Scotland had not bled'. There is also a chapter on Colin Campbell of Glenure in which the latest research on his murder is blended with the evidence of the Dewar MSS and a very firm conclusion is reached about the identity of the assassins. Note the plural.

My second volume is called 'The Outer Circle'. First it presents the eight 'Campbells of the Ark' whose surname was not Campbell (though it might as well have been, if you believe in stereotypes). Then there are chapters pursuing the identity of Campbells mentioned in other Gaelic poems of the period, especially a mysterious 'Black Campbell' who turns out to have been a zealous Catholic priest. No chapter in this book is entirely predictable – working on it has been a revelation, and I'm hoping it will blow away the old stereotypes forever. But the main emphasis in 'The Outer Circle' is on the Argyllshire Militia of 1745–46: its chequered history, its garrisons, its exploits, above all the sixty-three local companies of which it was composed. Each of these has a strong link with a specific part of the county, from Tirifour's in the north to Carskey's in the south, from Ballochyle's in the east to Balinaby's in the west. *The Campbells of the Ark* is about places as well as people.

The book could not have been written without the help of the Clan Campbell Education Foundation. It's published by John Donald, an imprint of Birlinn Ltd, at £25 per volume.



We hope you enjoyed this first issue. Feedback welcome to [archives@inveraray-castle.com](mailto:archives@inveraray-castle.com).