

Newsletter

2nd Issue - Whitsun 2017

Note from the Editor

The members of the committee of the Friends are delighted with the positive feedback to the 1st issue of our newsletter. Of course feedback is always welcome; it is your newsletter, and in future issues it is still the intention to follow the editorial introduction with your Letters. In this issue we will also feature another of our hard-working volunteers in our Pen Picture section. Read on, enjoy, and please let us hear your thoughts.

Events Held to Date

The first AGM was held on Saturday 18th March 2017 when twenty one Friends gathered in the Nicoll Hall, Inveraray. The business meeting began with reflections on the first year of the Friends, from Murdo MacDonald, the Chair. A year which has seen membership grow to 61 but also the loss of Rae MacGregor, 'Mrs Inveraray', who was steeped in the history of the town, its traditions and people and the 'go to' for information (a short note of appreciation concludes this issue). Future plans for the Argyll Papers include the Written in the Landscape project, which should ensure a major step forward in cataloguing the collection as well as the conservation of many of the most damaged maps and plans. The annual accounts were approved, showing a healthy balance of £1400 and annual pledges of £475, and the current committee was re-elected to serve for a further year.

Once the formal business had been concluded, some of the volunteers talked about their current projects. Murdo introduced the Friends to the 1624 Rental of the Bishop of Lismore which he has recently finished cataloguing – a fascinating book which throws light on the administration of the

church in Argyll in the 17th century. Diarmid presented the Argyll Transcripts vol.3 parts 1 and 2, for which he is transcribing the 10th Duke's tiny handwriting into a Word document. Micky Gibbard, PhD student, shared a fascinating document revealing the style of estate management at the time of the building of the Castle and the new town of Inveraray in 1747: paying workers two weeks in arrears to allow time to check up on their work and banning poor people from 'stealing' grass from the Duke for their cattle.



The Friends enjoy a convivial lunch at the George Hotel following our first AGM.

Ronnie Black has recently published 'The Campbells of the Ark', a very readable investigation into the Campbells and others mentioned in the Gaelic poem 'An Airce' by the Jacobite poet, Alexander MacDonald. The result of eight years research, the two beautifully presented volumes (including illustrations by our own Diarmid Campbell) are published by Birlinn at £25 each – or, special offer for Friends, £40 for both volumes. The special offer will be available from the Castle shop (re-opened on 1 April) or direct from www.birlinn.co.uk and quoting the discount code "ClanCampbell".

Having finished his magnum opus, Ronnie is now planning to start the even greater task of bringing together the unique and invaluable Dewar Manuscripts and Maclean translations in the Argyll Papers, with the notes and changes in the related volumes held by the National Library of Scotland. The first stage of this project is the creation of a single catalogue. Ronnie also drew Friends' attention to the end of the Appin Murder Mystery: the Dewar Manuscripts identify the guilty parties! Perhaps this will put an end to all the conspiracy

theories published over the years since this famous murder took place in Argyll in May 1752.

Alison welcomed Shirley, Adrian and Mary Carey and Caroline Clark to the meeting. These lovely people from England have deposited five family portraits and associated papers, The Anne Campbell Collection, with the Argyll Papers at Inveraray Castle. The donors are descendants of the people in the portraits, who are also connected with the Campbells of Auchinbreck and ancestors of JK Rowling. A short note with further details of their visit is also include with this issue.

Friends had the opportunity to examine the documents which the volunteers had spoken about, and to buy copies of 'The Campbells of the Ark', before heading over to The George for lunch.

Alison Diamond - Archivist

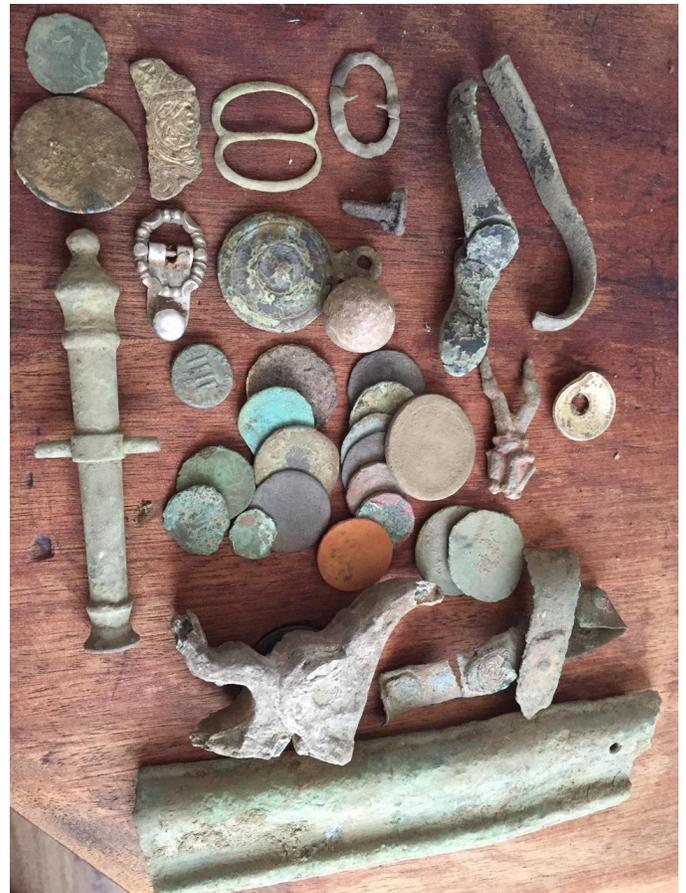
History Corner

Archaeology and Ardinglas

There has been great excitement over archaeological work done on the Ardinglas Estate during 2016, with the local "Dunoon Observer" newspaper reporting on the 18th March that an incredible artefact had been found. The article explained that Grant Maxwell, who runs DetectingScotland.com and carried out a survey of the Estate with permission from Ardinglas Property Manager Mrs Jean Maskell found "an item with a serpentine design, typical of the Viking era", possibly 8th or 9th century.

Photographs were sent to Treasure Trove, which has said it could be "hugely significant": if this exciting find was confirmed as being from the Viking age it would greatly enhance knowledge of Viking activity in this part of Argyll. It is known that they raided then settled along the western seaboard of Scotland, where place names with sources in the Old Norse language survive, but to get confirmation that they reached the head of 40 mile long fjord-like Loch Fyne would excite historians and locals alike. The March survey was followed up by a second archaeology day in September, and this time the history of the place was taken back a further two millennia. Three

Bronze Age axe heads, in extremely good condition, were found in a boggy area near the farm of Ardno. How had they got there? Were they dropped, or intentionally placed as a votive offering to the gods? The Bronze Age followed the very brief Copper Age, and lasted from about 2,500 BC until the advent of the Iron Age about 800 BC.



The collection of finds from the March 2016 survey, including coins, a miniature cannon, and part of the mechanism from a flintlock musket. The Viking object, possibly from a sword, is beside the two coins top left.

Ardinglas was a Campbell property from 1396 to 1905, although the property passed out of the direct male line in 1752. Duke Niall Diarmid, 10th Duke of Argyll, was descended through his mother from this family, and acted as curator for his cousins during the sale. He produced a little booklet containing the family history of the Campbells of Ardinglass (he always stuck with the original double "SS" spelling) and gave them to members of long-standing families and tenants of the Ardinglas Campbells: my great grandfather received a copy, annotated in Duke Niall's tiny, neat hand "For Mr McNicoll below Ardchylene".

Ardkinglas was bought by Sir Andrew Noble in 1905 and is still in the possessions of his descendants. The Nobles had possessed the small estate of Ardardan, on the Firth of Clyde near Cardross, but Sir Andrew had made his fortune in armaments working for Armstrongs of Newcastle.

Duncan Beaton – newsletter editor & volunteer



One of the bronze axe heads found at Ardno.

Environment Scotland (HES) came through from Edinburgh, and were very impressed by the wealth of information available.

Linda Fryer -volunteer



Our HES visitors, from left to right, are: Judith Anderson, Kirsty MacDonald and Nicki Scott

Volunteer Tasks

Summary of the Volunteers and Visitors to the Argyll Papers at Inveraray Castle Archive.

85 people have already signed the visitor's register at the Archives since the beginning of 2017. They include volunteers, as well as visiting researchers from home and abroad. Our regular group of 4 volunteers meet on Tuesdays, working together under the supervision of our archivist Alison. We carry out various research projects, cataloguing, transcribing and helping Alison answer enquiries. As said previously the range of documents in the Archive is very extensive, from 13th century charters, through Campbell family papers and those of national and international historical interest. We are trying hard to have as much material as possible available online, but this is a mammoth, and ongoing, task.

Potential researchers are very welcome, but it is essential that appointments are made well in advance of their visit to the Archive, and they state as fully as possible their particular interest. As well as academic researchers, we have people interested in family and local history, and much, much more. Recently a team of three researchers from the relatively newly-formed Historic

PhD Placement comes to an end

It has been 18 months since my first visit to Argyll Estate Archives, when Ishbel was still the archivist. Since then the estate has a new archivist, Alison, and I have spent more and more time researching in the archives. I have, in fact, just finished a three-month placement here as part of a collaborative PhD looking at planned settlements in eighteenth century Scotland, with Inveraray as one of my case studies. My time has been spent cataloguing bundles which I had previously identified as of potential use for my thesis, usually with the title 'Misc Estate Papers, c18th', or similar. Whilst I may not have found the trove of new information I was hoping for – largely as a result of the meticulousness of Ian Lindsay and Mary Cosh in the 1950s and 60s – the archive, regardless, has thrown up many items of use and interest. I have much to go through when I return home and the contribution of the Argyll Estate Archives to my thesis will be without parallel. I have no doubts that I will be returning to Inveraray in the very near future for more research and to catch up with the many new friends I have made whilst living here.

Micky Gibbard –PhD student, University of Dundee

Pen Picture – Diarmid A Campbell



Our newsletter will feature pen pictures of our committee members, and in this issue we have Diarmid A Campbell, well known to some North American members as editor of their Clan Campbell Society Journal for many years. Diarmid is one of our once-a-week volunteers at the Archives. He grew up in Argyll but was born on Orcas Island in the USA. His family came back to Scotland when he was 6 months old. After a peripatetic career in both the United States and the UK he eventually worked for an architect in Denver which led to a final phase of 16 years as 'Campus Architect' there. He was married for 10 years and each year visits his former wife and their two adult children in various parts of North America. He retired home to Scotland and Argyll in 2000, and now lives across Loch Melfort from where his father grew up at Arduaine: from there the drive to Inveraray takes him about 75 minutes each way.

His first volunteer assignment at the Archives was working through two filing cabinets containing some of the earliest Charters (grants of land or confirmations), mostly on vellum (refined calf skin) rather than paper. This included assessing the document for signs of deterioration and recording what conservation he could see was needed. The earliest document recorded so far was a sale of land to Malcolm, Earl of Fife, undated, but we know Malcolm was deceased by 1266.

He has now moved on to transferring the Argyll Transcripts into Word files. Duke Niall's transcriptions have been used in modern historical works, where they are referenced as "AT" or Argyll Transcripts. Much of Argyll, Scotland and Britain's history is still hidden in these transcripts of Duke

Niall's so the ability to have them placed "on line" is a matter of some importance. Although the handwriting is small and perfectly legible, in a computer world people's appreciations and ability to decipher handwriting is lessening over time. So while there are still some of us used to reading handwriting rather than typeset, transferring his Transcripts on to computer files is not only important for accessing them, but reading them at a later date.

Message from the Clan Campbell Education Foundation of North America



Ed Cattell is a former President of the CCSNA

At the mid-year meeting of the Clan Campbell Education Foundation (CCEF) of North America in New Orleans a funding plan for the Archives was passed by the Board. A first step will be to meet with the Foundation investment advisor at Morgan Stanley, and "transfer" \$100,000 of Foundation funds to be dedicated to Argyll Archives. This will be considered a loan. These funds will spin off income beginning immediately which we can use to help with Alison's priority "wish list" for the Archives.

A fundraising campaign to raise \$300,000 will be started. When they have the first \$100,000 raised they will pay back the loan, thereby restoring the funds to the CCEF general account. The eventual intention is to have \$300,000 dedicated to providing income to support the Archives.

To publicize the fundraising activities a "YouTube" video is being prepared for mass distribution by the volunteer team. This will be attached as a link to the Clan Campbell Society of North America (CCSNA) E-Newsletter and listed in the CCSNA

Journal, as well as wider distribution: examples being a link on the Philadelphia St. Andrew's Society website, and asking the New York St. Andrew's Society to post it on their website. Printed material will also continue to be used with articles in the CCSNA Journal, and potentially "The Highlander", "Scottish Life", etc., to reach the widest possible audience.

Ed Cattell – Program Manager CCEF

The Anne Campbell Collection

A new collection has recently been donated to the Argyll Archives. The Anne Campbell Collection was delivered on 17th March 2017 by the donors (Shirley, Adrian and Mary Carey and Caroline and Christopher Clark) and received personally by His Grace, Torquhil, 13th Duke of Argyll.



The picture shows, L-R, Mary Carey, Adrian Carey, His Grace the Duke of Argyll, Caroline Clark and Shirley Carey standing in front of three of the unwrapped portraits

The Anne Campbell Collection consists of five portraits, a family tree and supporting documentation which tell the story of Anne and her husband, Duncan Campbell, Sheriff Substitute of Kintyre 1786-1821. The portraits include both Anne and Duncan, their son, Col Dugald Campbell RA, and his wife, Ann Mary Kerr, and Elizabeth Macmillan.

The documents also include fascinating eye-witness accounts of a mermaid, seen at Corphine on the Kintyre coast in 1811, and an account of the siege of Dunaverty in 1647, as well as family stories and genealogical research. The family can trace its

descent from Duncan Campbell of Auchinbreck, 2nd son of the 2nd wife of Sir Duncan Campbell of Lochawe, 1st Lord Campbell – a pedigree also shared by the author JK Rowling.

The portraits will be displayed in Cherry Park, the Argyll Estates Office, and the documents will be available for viewing during visits to the Archives. We are very grateful to Caroline, Christopher, Shirley, Adrian and Mary for their generous donation.

Alison Diamond - Archivist

Rae MacGregor – An Appreciation

Mrs Rae MacGregor FSA (Scot) had a long association with the Argyll Estates, and the Archives, where she worked with Alastair Campbell of Airds for many years. Born in 1929, she spent a lifetime in Inveraray, and was the "go to" for information on local history and people past and present. She married Peter MacGregor, a shepherd who had come to work at Inveraray, and they first set up home at Kilblaen in Glen Shira. They went on to live in a number of places around Inveraray, always welcoming visitors with a bit of "craic" and a cup of tea, before patiently answering their questions and often absorbing more knowledge in return. After Peter died she moved to her small flat in Chalmers Court, but had been suffering from ill-health for a number of years. She died in Lochgilphead Hospital after a severe stroke, and was buried beside her husband in Glenshira Cemetery on 20 March 2017.

Rae's MacLaren family had a remarkable seven generation 155 year association with the Argyll Estates at Inveraray. Around the middle of the 18th century Donald MacLaren and his wife Rachel were living on Carrine Farm in Glen Breakerie, Southend Parish, at the tip of the Kintyre Peninsula. A century later, in 1845, their grandson Iver, or Edward, moved to Inveraray with his wife Margaret and six week old son Charles. Edward had been the successful applicant when the estate of the 7th Duke of Argyll advertised for a cattleman for Inveraray – he was a recognised authority on the treatment of disease in cattle.

Edward and his family settled at the Maltland, where Margaret was employed looking after the poultry. Their son Charles worked as a carpenter on the Estate, as did his son Edward. They worked together on the wood carvings and creation of the pulpit, screen and communion table in the refurbished Inveraray Parish church in 1898, and these still stand today as a monument to their self-taught skills.

When the 8th Duke installed electricity to the Castle a few years later Charles and Edward took on the responsibility for the maintenance of the plant near the dam built at the Electric Cottage, a name that always amused us in our childhood.

Rae was always interested in the origins of her MacLarens, a name normally associated with Balquhider in Breadalbane, and it seems they had a different origin. In Kintyre they spelled their family name MacLeran, or sometimes MacLaurin, and there was a notable family of this name in Tiree.

Duncan Beaton

Current Committee Members

The current committee members are:

Mr Murdo MacDonald – Chair
Mrs Alison Diamond – Archivist
Mrs Jean Maskell – treasurer
Professor Allan Macinnes
Dr Alison Rosie
Professor Ronnie Black
Mrs Ann Galliard
Mr Diarmid A Campbell
Mr Jim Brown – accountant
Ms Ishbel Mackinnon – Perth County Archivist
Mrs Linda Fryer
Mr Duncan Beaton

Future Dates for your Diary

The Friends will have a stance/stall at **Inveraray Games** on **Tuesday 18 July** and in the heritage tent at the **Oban Games** on **Thursday 24 August**. If you're there, please come and find us and say hello!

The archives will be open once again for Doors Open Day on **Saturday 23 September**. More information will be available nearer the time, but we expect to offer tours of the archives, a display and perhaps the opportunity to try your hand at transcription. There'll be a lot to see in Inveraray this year with the regeneration of the town well underway.

We're planning our annual **Friends Day** for **Saturday 30 September**. This will include a visit to a place of interest in the area, a talk and dinner – all yet to be confirmed. Please keep the date free and we'll send you more information nearer the time.

