

Newsletter

5th Issue - Martinmas 2018

Note from the Editor – Duncan Beaton

The members of the committee of the Friends are delighted with the positive feedback to our newsletter so far, mostly verbal but we have even had some in writing! Long may that situation continue. Of course feedback is always welcome. In this issue we will again feature another of our hard-working volunteers in our Pen Picture section. As always, read on, enjoy, and please let us hear your thoughts.

Dates for your Diary

Sat 9 March 2019, annual meeting with guest speaker Micky Gibbard, talking about his PhD research into Scottish planned towns, including Inveraray.

Fri 4 October 2019, annual visit to north Kintyre. Further details tbc.

Volunteer Activities and Projects

2017-18 Project - 18th Century Inveraray Re-imagined – by Hannah Baker, Project Archivist



With funding from the Heritage Lottery and the Inveraray Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme a team of local volunteers, led by two

Written in the Landscape archivists, were able to present a re-imagined view of the old town of Inveraray. This project was divided into three key elements:

- A short history entitled; “Inveraray; the old town and the new” which includes the first detailed map of a town now no longer extant
- An exhibition in the Castle to analyse how life was lived, in and around the town
- A podcast to be launched online to extend the reach of the research to a broader audience

The volunteers spent a tireless winter reading, transcribing and analysing documents ranging from Chamberlains’ accounts to memorials to the Duke pleading for financial assistance. All this work was shared with our collaborators Ronald Black and Micky Gibbard who have contextualised and elaborated on the project objective in their essays which have been brought together in the guide.

The exhibition as it stands today in the Castle Clan Room, shows items never previously displayed, and indeed items which have not, until lately, been listed or available to academics or the public. There are fascinating records which provide unique detail about tenements of land in the old town consisting of stone buildings with garrets and which contain flats; thatched houses, gardens and incredibly the only plan found (to date) of a tenement of land in the old town belonging to Duncan McNuier. The exhibition shows the breadth of material available to enable researchers to build a picture of what was once said to be an attractive Burgh town, in the last throes of existence.

The podcast is intended to accompany an amble over the site of the old town and to bring to life the bustling Burgh town with its ferrymen, town officers, ministers and

schoolmasters. For those unable to make it to the actual place, I would suggest standing on the public road bridge using Google Earth and look northwest up the lawns of the present castle, while you listen.

News of a bible theft

Dr Ralph Moffat (Glasgow Museums) has written an alert to museums and archives to ask if anyone tries to sell the "Treacle Bible" which was stolen from the Old Kirk (Kirk Covenant), outside Drummore village, at the end of June, when the Kirk was open to visitors. The bolts were removed from the glass case where it had been displayed for many, many years.

Before the King James Bible of 1611 pre-reformation translators were risking their lives if they translated the scriptures from Latin or Greek into English. It was considered heresy, a capital offence punishable by burning.

This 1549 edition of the Great Bible has been referred to as "The Treacle Bible" because of a verse in Jeremiah which says, "Is there not triacle in Gilead". "Treacle", variously spelt, is an old English name for ointment or balm.

The Duke and the Magnificent Men in Their Flying Machines (when Duke Niall, and the population of Inveraray experienced their first aeroplane) by Ann Galliard

1917 was a gloomy year, the fourth of the First World War, when news was bad and food in short supply. Niall, 10th Duke of Argyll, turned 47 years old in February and was doing his best to support his tenants and his friends during those very trying times. Arrangements were made to see that his tenants and neighbours were able to have cheap food. Deer were culled, salmon caught and rabbits

killed, to be sold in shops at moderate and fixed prices.



Royal Aircraft Factory SE5 biplane of the First World War

On April 18th he arrived home at Inveraray after a visit to Norfolk where he had been to see the men of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders training for the front. There was much to catch up with, and many visits to Estate workers, friends, and the families whose sons or husbands had been killed or injured. As always, there were numerous piles of correspondence, his work on the Argyll Archive, and estate business to deal with, but the Duke was happy to be home.



Niall Diarmid Campbell, 10th Duke of Argyll

There was soon a very interesting local diversion when he heard that "An Aeroplane fell or came down at Cladich having missed its way in the Grampians through snowstorms, and Mr

McIntyre of Drimlee was alarmed at hearing it descending above his house.”
(NB: Drimlee remains the highest occupied house in Glen Shira)

On Saturday April 21st Niall wrote in his diary of his encounter with a young Irish American, Lieutenant Holloran, who was on his way to seek permission to take off with his aeroplane – the one which had landed at Cladich – from one of the flat fields on the estate.

Niall was keen to help and it was arranged that the young aviator should stay in the castle. During the evening Niall and his sister Niky (Elspeth) were fascinated with talk of the aeroplanes, and were amazed to learn that it had taken only 40 minutes to go from Inverness to Cladich. On his part the Lieutenant was *“much taken up”* by the old armour in the hall.



Lieutenant Owen Cobb Holloran (above) was a personable young man and the Duke was most intrigued by his knowledge of the new flying machines, but also wanted to learn about his fascinating personal experience of the war. Born in 1892 in the Deep South of the United States, Owen’s father was Irish and his mother American. Owen and a friend named Gray were determined to be part of what seemed like the great

adventure presented by the war. They tried to enlist in the British Army at the New York Consul, but were turned down and worked their passage on a cattle boat heading for England. Here they enlisted, asking to be sent “somewhere hot” as living in Georgia they were used to high temperatures. They were assigned to the Dublin Fusiliers as privates and in a few months were at Gallipoli, on to Egypt and then joined the first British expedition to Serbia. Here the extreme cold affected many of the men and Owen suffered severe frostbite in his feet. It was only with expert medical care which kept him alive, but at the cost of partial amputation of both feet. He was invalided to Britain, where he was fitted with prosthetics.

Everyone but Owen himself was sure that his fighting days were over, but he was determined not to be sent home. He had given much thought to the matter and after reading about a new flying machine which was operated by hand levers decided that he could become an aviator. Determination saw him accepted as 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Flying Corps at the end of 1916, after an honourable discharge from the army. After training he joined 56 Squadron of the Royal Flying Corps on 10th April 1917. After an inspection of the places suitable for take-off, the Gallows field by the Aray Bridge was the final choice, as the Lieutenant thought it better than Cherry Park, so the aeroplane was taken over the river. Neil then returned to church for Matins, hurrying back to meet the Lieutenant so that he could look at the aeroplane and have the workings explained.

“They are wonderful things but seem complicated. 6 mechanics who got here last night have begun the repairs. Not

much was amiss except the undercarriage. All the Parish came to look at it during the day..... I was struck at the fine wire with its sharp edge to the front to minimise resistance, and the way it was singing although there seemed to be no wind."

Niall's diary notes that he had done some gardening, written to his mother and ordered a few more electrical fittings for the bedrooms. By Tuesday the aeroplane was ready and all the mechanics went to look around the castle. Four machines would arrive with five officers in time for breakfast. The plan was very exciting for the Duke and all the local people.

The level of excitement was high and the Duke rose very early on Thursday morning, and a message came by telephone that the aeroplanes would arrive at 11.00. He quickly took breakfast and rushed out again. His diary tells of the drama of the day.

"We all waited in the W corner of the field at about 11-30 there was a shout from the mechanics who had seen Davis the pilot machine coming over the glen from Lochgoilhead, he soon crossed Strone Point and circled high in the air, stalled above the loch and from a good height glided down over the Kilmalew gate onto the north end taking a long run over the grass till he stopped. The people all hiding under the trees. Holloran stepped out with Davis and said they had come by the Trossachs, Loch Long and Loch Goil Keeping low on account of the dense hill clouds, they had to turn back from Glen Croe when a frightful air bump which had been as much as the machine would stand. Next came Lieut. Perfect who has not yet got his wings quite alone and he made a very easy landing near the fank fence & was complimented by Davis. They all came up for lunch at the house and have to stay the night as it is too cloudy on

the hills for the 2 younger ones to return. We have heard that the 3rd plane had come down at Stirling and the 4th missing his way at Portkill at Rosneth in that field by the Fort. After lunch Davis took Ernest Emmott up first, looping the loop with him over the pier & did awful turns and twists. Then Niky went up with him and was taken at 120 miles an hour to Monerechtan (above Lochgilphead) she looked down on Dunderave and Laglingartan from a height of 2,000ft, & through some wisps of clouds and was back in about 10 minutes & left after flying over the Kilmalew Gate, close to the Mound. Then he took me up (my first experience) we rushed over the grass at 50 miles an hour rose to clear the trees river and castle flew over the Fisherland Winterton and looked down on the town and Muir from a height of 1500 ft., then we looped the loop and happily the broad belt straps [held]one in tight. I did not like that part of it as it makes one feel sick also we did a steep turn & I shut my eyes. The whole populace were gaping up in astonishment. We did a turn by Strone 120 miles with the wind & the across & down to Polchline at the rate of 70 miles, the loch was waves and ripples quite disappear at that height we turned back to Strone Point coming down out of what seemed dense cotton wool then a delightful plane down to Kilmaleau and hit at about 60 miles an hour feeling no bump, between the Gallows mound and the other beech. The Leather coat, Helmet and Gauntlets keep one warm, & spectacles for the eyes and there is a slight wind (illegible). The Propeller is in front and so really the machine is being snicked (sic) forward Aeroplanes are wonderful things but breathing is not easy against the wind at times and it is a pity that the clouds prevented a distant view. I took Perfect and Davis for a walk after tea through the....." (ends here).

It is evident that this was an exciting, memorable and novel experience for the Duke who wrote his diary entry at high speed while everything was fresh in his mind. The entry for Friday was much shorter, recording that

“Lieutenant Godfrey Davis left early after lunch by Aeroplane from the Gallowsfield. It was far from a nice day. He did several trial flights before just missing the trees it seemed to us. He told me he did not like to advise the two others to leave on account of the air pockets and hill mists and in the end I persuaded Holloran and Perfect to stay till the next day and we had an interesting evenings talk with them”

The newspapers picked up on the story, on 5th May the Oban Times reported *“Last week a squadron of airships visited this district and made the Stable Park their headquarters. The officers were entertained by the Duke of Argyll. A fine display of work in the air was given, which was watched with deep interest by the residents in the town and district. The greater number of them had never seen an airship before”*.



The Gallows Trees and field, at the time of this picture was home to Inveraray Golf Club

It is interesting to note that the term airship is used to describe the aeroplanes; new machines, new terminology people were not quite used to. Life settled into the usual wartime

routine for the Duke, but the memory of the interlude with the Magnificent Men in their Flying Machines must have lingered throughout his life, and he gained a new title “The Ducal Aeronaut”.

Lieutenants Davis and Holloran were both shot down and taken prisoner by the Germans, but were repatriated and survived the war.

(The quotes from Duke Niall’s diaries are as written, with original spelling and grammar. These wonderful documents are part of the Argyll Papers at Inveraray Castle and use is by courtesy of the present Duke, to whom thanks are due - Ann Galliard, Friend and committee member).

Pen Picture – Our Treasurer Mrs Jean Maskell



Jean was born in London, moved to Essex in her teenage years and since then has spent most of her life in Scotland. In the hospitality industry Jean worked in Montrose, Inverness and Kyle of Lochalsh only finding out after she had left that her maternal great great grandfather was minister of the United Presbyterian (UP)

church in Montrose. When she and her husband John came to Argyll in 1984 her mother felt she had returned to her roots as her maternal grandfather was born in Campbeltown, one of seven children of the United Presbyterian minister, Reverend John Thomson. Jean has been able to trace part of her Scottish ancestry back through the Scott family to 1491.

The family of two children came along while Jean and John ran a hotel and then a care home but since 1998 Jean has been the Estate Manager at Ardkinglas near Cairndow, once a Campbell estate. Ardkinglas still carries on the traditional activities of residential and commercial lettings, farming (under contract), forestry and stalking. Highland estates these days need to diversify so alongside these activities there is a woodland garden open to the public, weddings are held around the house, there are two self-catering properties and a wind farm. Another source of income is filming and photo shoots. Who watched Agatha Christie's "Ordeal By Innocence" on BBC last Easter? The kitchen scenes and the bedroom of Kirsten Lindstrom the housekeeper were filmed at Ardkinglas. "Love Me To death" with Kathie Lee Gifford and Craig Ferguson has just finished filming so should be in the cinema in 2019: Ardkinglas is the main location, "The Awd's Inn". All of this leads to an exciting and varied work place, with Jean trying to keep various activities apart and bringing others together.

Jean joined the Friends of the Argyll Papers in 2016 and became its treasurer soon afterwards. With her many work demands she has no time to help with research or transcribing but hopes, in time, to be able to take part.

Friends visits 2018 – to Dunstaffnage Castle and Ardchattan Priory

Our second annual outing took place on Saturday 6 October when a group of 14 Friends and their friends visited Dunstaffnage Castle and Ardchattan Priory – looking their best under gloriously blue skies.



Diarmid introduces the (complicated) MacDougall pedigree and their links to Dunstaffnage Castle.

We were delighted to have a double-act of guides this year: Diarmid Campbell and Duncan Beaton, who provided a fascinating introduction to the history of the Castle and supplied alternative versions of some of the stories!

Dunstaffnage is one of Scotland's oldest stone castles, built before 1240, probably by Duncan MacDougall, Lord of Argyll and the first "Mac Dougall", son of Dougall and grandson of the great Somerled, the self-styled "King of the Isles" who was killed at the Battle of Renfrew in 1164. At the time it was built a large part of the Lordship of Argyll, all the islands and islets, was part of the kingdom of Norway, and the castle was built during the period when King Alexander II of the Scots was campaigning in Argyll in an attempt to strengthen local alliances to his crown.

After being taken by King Robert Bruce in 1309 the fortress was placed in the hands

of his loyal subject Sir Arthur Campbell, almost certainly the ancestor of the ancient family of Strachur and cousin of Sir Neil Campbell, ancestor of the Argyll family.



The view from the ramparts.

By the time Colin, 2nd Lord Campbell, was created 1st Earl of Argyll in 1457 the keepership of the castle of Dunstaffnage had been entrusted to his family by the Stewart monarchy. The new Earl appointed the descendants of his great grandfather's brother Dugall mor "Big Dugald" as his hereditary captains of the castle.

We had time to explore the Castle and to admire the spectacular views before walking a little way into the woods to the chapel ruins.



Exploring the ruins of the Chapel.

Once in the Chapel, some interesting questions arose as to the absence of

graves. Ann Galliard followed this up after the visit by asking a knowledgeable friend. I include his answer as I'm sure there are others who won't know:

'In the early medieval church people were tied in one way or another to a particular church, and they were supposed to be baptised there and buried there. On your death and burial, your family would pay certain dues (a cow, or something smaller if you were poor) to the church you were buried in. That gave 'your' church certain rights. If you were going to be buried somewhere else, then the church which had the right to bury you still had the right to those dues. When the parish system emerged in the 12th century, this system continued, but now it was the parish church which had the right of burial and the right to burial dues. So if Sir N, the baron of X, wanted to build a chapel in/beside his castle, that was ok, but he didn't have the right to bury his kindred there without (a) permission from the bishop whose job it was to protect the parish church's rights, and (sometimes) (b) the agreement of the parish priest, who would normally be satisfied with the parish church getting some quid pro quo in exchange. What applied to burials often applied to baptisms too. If you built a chapel, it didn't automatically give you the right to baptise people there. That right remained with the parish kirk unless some special permission was given.'

Following a sociable lunch at the Lochnell Arms Hotel, we headed along the north shore of Loch Etive to Ardchattan Gardens.

Now a private house, the gardens contain the ruins of a priory which was founded in 1230 by Sir Duncan Macdougall, of the

family of the Lords of Lorn. The monks were of the Valliscaulian order. The ruins date from the 13th century and include some fine early stones, including the recently restored Ardchattan Cross.



Lunch at the Lochnell Arms Hotel

We had the opportunity to explore these ruins thoroughly and there are some beautifully sculpted stones to look at – full of detail and symbols reflecting the person commemorated.



Duncan Beaton provides some background information to the Friends.

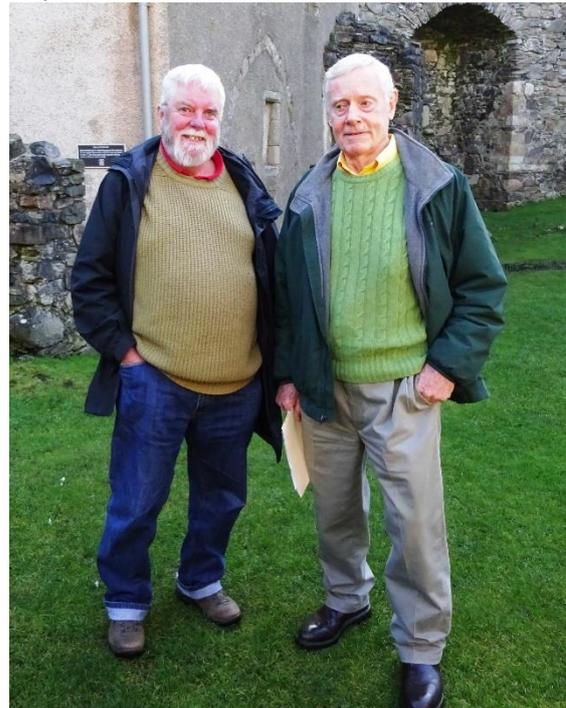
The day concluded with tea and cake in the Ardchattan Hall – an interesting room decorated with hunting trophies (antlers and fish) and pictures.

Feedback on the day has all been positive, particularly the friendliness of the group - but then what else would you expect from the Friends?



The magnificent carved tombstone of one of the mediaeval MacDougall priors

For those of you who were unable to join us (and for those who are just very enthusiastic!) Duncan and Diarmid are providing the text for their talks which will be circulated to Friends with a list of relevant documents held in the Argyll Papers.



The double act: Duncan and Diarmid (c) Ann Galliard

Kintyre is our proposed destination for 2019 – send us suggestions of places that you would particularly like to visit! I want to record my particular thanks to Duncan Beaton and Diarmid Campbell for so generously sharing their knowledge and expertise. So much appreciated!