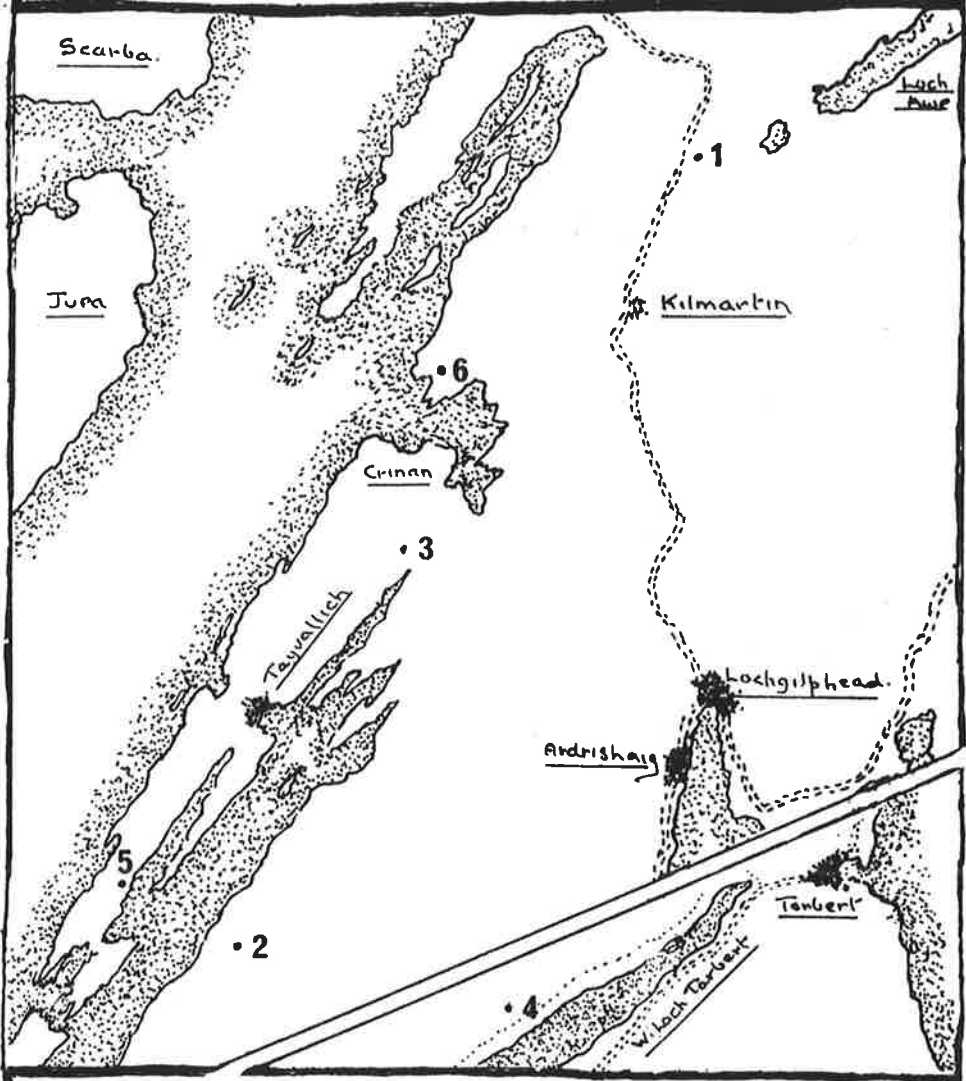


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T H E K I S T

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The Natural History & Antiquarian Society
of Mid Argyll

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T H E K I S T

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Society of Mid Argyll

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A Study of Six Duns in Mid Argyll in 1987

Adeline O.M.Clark

The definition of a dun made by the R.C.A.H.M.S. is "A comparatively small defensive structure with a disproportionately thick dry-stone wall, usually but not always sub-circular or oval on plan and enclosing an area not exceeding about 375 sq.m.....The enclosing wall consists of a solid rubble core with inner and outer facings which are often neatly coursed and of massive proportions."

It was not always possible for the builders to construct a dun of this ground-plan; some must conform to the shape of the small eminence on which they stand.

The R.C.A.H.M.S. make a further distinction between duns and forts; a fort is large enough to accommodate a community; a dun has room for only one household - it is a fortified homestead or small castle. The dun proved its worth; it was a highly successful structure. Duns built in perhaps the 2nd century B.C. were in use with some repairs and alterations and extensions, throughout the troubled and violent centuries of the first millennium A.D. in Scotland; there are signs of occupation up to the 15th century; Dun Mhuilig was a militia post in the 1745 rebellion. Unfortunately it is not possible as yet to distinguish 'early' from 'late' duns. The difference in sophistication between dun and dun cannot be used to construct a typological sequence; they may reflect only the relative prosperity of the owners, or the availability of resources, or the skill and size of their work-force. This is an area where radio-carbon dating could be helpful. Cross-dating by means of finds between a dun and Dunadd has been employed, but until recently Dunadd had not been scientifically investigated by modern methods.

Duns can however be given a place in time relative to other forms of defensive structure in Argyll. With the

advent of the first millennium B.C. life began to appear a little uncertain in Scotland as a whole, with the waves of migration throughout Europe beginning to wash over the north and west; spears, swords, daggers and shields appear in the archaeological record by the Middle Bronze Age, and large hill-top settlements defended, first by palisades and then by single stone walls, were built. In southern Scotland, e.g. Kaimies in Midlothian, dates as early as the 11th and 12th centuries B.C. have been obtained. Then came the timber-laced forts, so many of which went up in flames to present us with the 'vitrified forts' we see today,

There is only one really large hill fort, or contour fort, in Mid Argyll - Creag a'Chapuill, which is approximately 183m. x 229m., but there are several much smaller ones; the terrain does not lend itself well to large hill forts. Outside the boundary of Mid Argyll, in Kintyre, there is a very instructive sequence of fortifications on Dun Skeig, a hill of about 122m. rising from sea-level, about 200m. from a sandy shore. The earliest was a contour fort 113m. x 36.5m. enclosed by a single stone wall; the second a small vitrified fort 26m. x 18.5m. internally, which overlies the SW end of the contour fort; the third a dun 14.6m. x 12.8m. internally, whose wall contains vitrified material from the earlier fort. There are examples in Mid Argyll of a larger vitrified fort (or dun) apparently being replaced by a smaller drystone dun which used no timber-lacing in its construction, e.g. Eilean an Duin. Radio-carbon tests on primary material from timber-laced forts elsewhere indicate building dates which may have been the middle of the 6th century B.C., as does one recently obtained from Eilean an Duin (the accidental bull-dozing through the wall produced recent investigation). It can be tentatively concluded that the sequence of defensive structures was 1) contour fort 2) timber-laced fort or dun 3) dry-stone dun; it is possible that there was considerable overlap, especially of 2) and 3).

A common factor of almost all duns is their strong natural defensive position; precipices, steep rocky slopes, and marshland all play a part. Many have their more vulnerable approaches thickly overgrown with blackthorn, and it is argued that this was in origin deliberate planting. It is a feature of several mediaeval castles. Those duns which appear today to be in vulnerable spots, such as some

small shore duns, may have had natural protection of other kinds not obvious to the modern observer.

The first example of a dun which conforms in shape to the site:

Dun na Nighinn (Dun of the Maidens) NM849028

Situation: on the southern and highest point of a short and narrow ridge running N and S, 153m. above sea-level, overlooking the pass that runs between the hills northwards to Loch Craignish. The ridge drops very steeply to S and precipitously on E and W. The approach from N is steep, awkward and indirect, as a large knoll blocks direct access; a burn runs immediately N of the knoll, and beyond it is an extensive marsh, on the W of which runs the road through the pass.

The dun measures 13.7m. x 9.2m. internally. The walls on N and S are well-preserved and average from 2.8m. to 3.1m. in width. They have been built up from a lower level than the floor of the dun, for additional strength and stability, so their exterior height is greater than their interior. The exterior height of the N wall as it stands at present is about 2m. towards its W end, and the interior height about 0.3m. to 0.6m.; the S wall measures 1.5m. to 2m. externally and 0.9m. to 1.2m. internally; the exterior faces of both walls are well-preserved. The E wall has almost entirely fallen down the slope and lies in tumble at the bottom. There is no sign of a wall now on the W, and Christison says "no artificial defence seems to have been thought necessary on the West" (P.S.A.S. XXXVIII p.206); the edge is hard and there is tumbled stone below. It would seem inadvisable to have no wall at all above so steep a drop, if only for the safety of the inhabitants. The shape of the dun is an oblong with slightly curved ends and straight sides, conformable to the hill-top.

The entrance is in the middle of the N wall; it is just over 1m. wide on the outside, and widens abruptly at a well-built right-angle on the W side to what may have been an intramural guard cell. Christison says "the entrance is 6 feet wide". From the back of the cell, if it is one, to the opposite wall of the entrance is 2m.; but the gateway is full of tumble, and has been blocked by a later wall.

Campbell and Sandeman (P.S.A.S. XCV, pp.39-60) mention "possible outworks on north and south" but these are cert-

ainly not obvious.

A water supply may have existed on the N - water is running down under sphagnum in an otherwise dry area of ground and this could have been directed to a cistern as in other forts. Supplies were perhaps stored inside the dun in skins or wooden buckets; the burn would offer a constant supply. There is no indication of the kind of shelter existing inside the dun; wooden or stone huts are possibilities; the end walls show no scarcement for a wooden floor or gallery.

The outlook to S is extensive, and good in other directions. To N is Dun Chonnallaich at NM855037, overlooking the top of the pass, about 1 km. across the marsh and 258m. above sea-level; and to S about 1.5km. away at NM846013 is Dun Mhic Choish, overlooking the junction of the two glens. To E the large hill fort Creag a'Chapuill heaves up about 0.75km. distant.

The next dun to be described exhibits a more elaborate form of wall construction.

Dun Rostan (Burnt Fort). NR735810.

Situation: on the summit of a ridge running roughly N and S which rises sharply almost from the shore to a height of some 155m. Approaches are steep on S and W, less so on N, but the E side below the dun is a sheer cliff with large rocks protruding at unbelievable angles. It is difficult to appreciate the natural defences nowadays, as the entire ridge, except the immediate area of the dun, is engulfed in tall conifers. The "superb outlook" mentioned by Campbell and Sandeman (1962) has to be deduced from an occasional glimpse through the tree-tops.

The dun is near-circular, with a diameter of 10.5m. internally. The walls are well-built of good drystone masonry; they average 2.8m. in thickness, but at the gate they widen to 3.6m., though this may be partly accounted for by spreading. On the W side the wall is carried up 2.4m. on the outside to the ground level inside the dun, showing batter; lower build-ups appear where necessary elsewhere on the walls. Internally the walls survive at heights varying from 0.5m. to 1.5m. The wall consists of two complete walls, each with two faces and a rubble core, a method of construction which is found in a number of duns. The purpose seems to be to gain greater stab-

ility on uneven or steeply sloping sites; should the wall begin to shift, only half of it will collapse at one time. The two halves of this double wall are sometimes contiguous, sometimes separated by a gap which may be wide enough to be called a passage or gallery, or as narrow as a few centimetres, perhaps closing to nothing. The gap may be roofed by lintels laid transversely in the walls.

The amount of tumbled stone lying inside and outside the dun might indicate a wall of 3m. or more in height, but this is very difficult to estimate.

The gateway is on the N and is well preserved on the outside, standing 1.5m. high on the E and 1.1m. on the W, and 1.2m. wide.

A pair of door-checks are set at 0.9m. from the outside, the distance between them just over 1.1m. Behind the checks the passage widens to 1.7m., and there are bar-holes to take the bar that held the wooden door; that on the W is long enough to take the whole bar; as the wall has fallen away above it, it is possible to see the uncovered socket, square in section. Towards the interior the passage is full of debris, including fallen lintel stones; the length appears to be about 3.6m. What seems to be a collapsed cell lies on the W, and on the E there is a cell with access only from inside the dun, showing several lintels in situ. From this cell along the E wall a gallery with lintelled roof can be intermittently traced. The cell shows corbelling up to the lintels; its floor may have been below that of the gate-passage, but, without clearing, that is difficult to establish. If its floor was not lower than the cell was very low-roofed.

The E wall shows a possible scarcement - three long slabs protruding side by side; but this is doubtful. On the S of the dun there is a small outwork, a massively built terrace, probably walled all round. On the N the dun gate opens on to a roughly semi-circular enclosure whose wall is now ruined, but a gateway on the W can be detected. Inside this enclosure is a round damp hollow full of rushes which may be the site of a lined pond or cistern.

The outlook from the dun must have been "superb"; northwards up Loch Sween to the passes through the rocky hills leading to Loch Crinan, the Moine Mhor and Dunadd, westwards across Loch Sween to the Keills peninsula and Jura,

southwards down Loch Sween to the Sound of Jura and the sea, and eastwards over rising moorland.

The next dun to be considered shows a feature not common among duns - two entrances.

Druim an Duin (Ridge of the Dun) NR781912.

Situation: on the highest point, 162m., of a steep ridge running down to the sea at Caol Scotnish, a northerly arm of Loch Sween, about 1km. away to S. On the N it commands the pass from Crinan to Tayvallich and the Keills peninsula. Very steep slopes defend the site on E and N, a perpendicular drop of 30m. or so on the W, and a narrow approach along a rocky ridge from the S; the approach to the dun probably ran along just below the top of the ridge on its W side where a narrow path above some slippage seems to connect with an old track running through a deserted settlement near the shore of Caol Scotnish.

This fort, along with Ardifuir, Duntroon and Dunadd was excavated in 1904-5 under the distant supervision of Dr Christison from Edinburgh. He is understood to have visited the excavation twice.

The dun measures 16m. x 10m. internally. The walls survive at varying heights for the full circumference; although that on the W has largely disappeared down the precipice; the dun floor slopes markedly up to this side and I suspect that a spoil-heap conceals some walling. The corner from the S wall to the W wall is well constructed - the long slab on the corner seems to have been dressed to a curve - but the W wall disappears into the vegetation at the top of the precipice. The walls average 4m. in thickness, but on the E of the entrance, just round the SE corner the wall is 4.9m. thick, this measurement being taken from the interior face to a short length of outer face preserved on the exterior. The wall is built with a pronounced batter, particularly E of the gateway, where it seems to have been set on a plinth, and built with batter above that. The plinth is 0.1m. to 0.3m. wide. The wall here stands to 1.8m.

There are two entrances to the dun. The S entrance is the principal one; the passage is 4.3m. long and curves very slightly clockwise. It measures 1.4m. wide on the outside, 1.1m. between the door-checks and widens to 1.8m. inside the dun. It is well-paved with large slabs and

probing suggests the paving is carried a short distance into the interior.

The present height of the entrance walls is 1.6m. at the interior end, and both door-checks are 1.5m. high. This indicates a passage height of about 1.6m. or 1.7m. When Christison first saw it in 1903 one lintel was still in position and others lying in the passage.

Immediately behind the door-checks are bar-holes to secure a heavy wooden door, the one on the left being long enough to accommodate the whole bar. On the E side of the passage behind the bar-holes is a guard cell, with an entrance 0.8m. wide and 1.2m. high; it is still roofed above the entrance by a lintel 1.2m. long with stonework above. There is a step down into the cell; its walls are corbelled to take a lintelled roof; when Christison saw it in 1903 it was totally roofed. This cell seems to lead into a gallery or very narrow passage which continues round into the E wall and has been roofed with lintels; this accounts for the 4.9m. width of the wall here. Where it was possible to measure from the outer face to the inner, the gallery wall is 2m. from the outer face, and its opposite wall is 2.3m. from the inner face. The walling is much confused at this point by loose stones; it must be kept in mind that a double wall may have slipped apart. This gallery is unnoticed by Christison or Campbell and Sandeman.

The second entrance on the N is almost opposite the S entrance. There is a short length of a substantial secondary wall running inside the dun from its E side. This entrance is 3.1m. long, 1.8m. wide on the outside, 1.1m. on the inside; it has door-checks, but no bar-holes are distinguishable; it leads to a small squarish outwork, built up as a terrace and once probably walled, perhaps a lookout over the pass.

Inside the E wall a scarcement runs 0.8m. above the present floor of the dun. Christison notes "a scarcement 5 feet high." Without clearing to the bottom of the wall this discrepancy remains.

In front of the dun's S entrance is a roughly semi-circular enclosure; its W wall consists of natural rock made up with walling; its S wall is rough and ruinous, but a gateway can be made out in it; the E wall is undistinguishable, but much rubble lies below.

The scarcement indicates that the living quarters in

the dun took the form of a gallery, one with a raised wooden floor if the 0.8m. height is correct, a '1st floor' one if the '5 foot' height again is correct, with storage or stabling (or even human quarters) below. A clearance of the interior and a careful search for post-holes might solve the problem.

The outlook from the dun is now difficult to judge because of conifer forest, but must have been extensive. There would of course be natural woodland, but probably not of such a height and density to obscure the view down to Caol Scotnish, over to Loch Coille Bhar; and across the various passes.

The finds were few; schist discs, stone pot-lids, a broken quern, strike-a-lights, quartzite polishers, and part of a steatite cup with a horizontal handle and holes indicating a repair by rivetting.

A different form of the two-entrance dun is seen in the next example.

Dun a'Choin Duibh (Dun of the Black Dog) NR 804640

Situation: on the top of an isolated crag, very steep on all sides but not precipitous except in the last 3 or 4m. on E and W, about 107m. above sea-level. Below the crag the ground slopes fairly steadily E to West Loch Tarbert, about 1km. away.

The dun measures 14m. x 12.2m. internally. On the SE most of the walling has toppled down the slope. Childe, who examined it in 1942, estimated its width as "11 feet" (P.S.A.S. LXVII pp.41-2). The surviving remainder of the wall averages 3m. The stonework is uncoursed but well-fitting on outer faces. On the W the wall survives to 2.5m. in height, with a marked batter.

There are two entrances; the main one to the N is ruinous but it can be seen to have a rebate for a door. The second entrance is on the W and takes the form of a passage running through the wall, making two right-angled turns, the first to the right the second to the left. The entrance to the passage is 1m. high and 0.8m. wide, under a hump-backed lintel 0.9m. long and 0.5m. high, and above this an ordinary lintel and walling. At 0.3m. inside the passage on the right is a possible bar-hole. There is a step down just inside the entrance and the passage continues straight and slightly sloping down for 1.7m.

(with another possible bar-hole at 0.8m. on the left); then comes a 90° turn to the right, the passage here narrowing to 0.6m. and the height being 0.9m.; it continues still sloping slightly downwards for 1.6m. then turns at 90° to the left towards the interior of the dun. There is now a collapse of rubble into the passage; but it is clear that it made a steep rise, probably by steps, into the dun. The passage is lintelled for 1.5m., then corbelled.

It is the story connected with this passage which has given the dun its name; when the dun was under attack and the defenders were too few to fight off the enemy at two gates, the passage was held by a black wolf-hound bitch until help arrived. Having crawled through this passage I can vouch for the possibility of the story.

Just S of the inner end of the passage an intramural stair used to be traceable in the upper part of the wall.

On the shoulders of the crag to N and W, and 3m. below the dun are two linked terraces protected by sturdy ramparts which are not quite so carefully built as the dun. The walling survives to about 2m. in places. A single slab set on edge marks the N side of the gateway to the NW terrace. Outside is a larger terrace which probably led to the access track, but the thick conifer forest obscures the ground, In 1911 three small rings of boulders could be seen on this terrace; one when dug into produced a large quantity of iron slag. The only other find was a mediaeval quern stone (not found in 1987).

The outlook from the dun is extensive; down to the mouth of West Loch Tarbert and the islands of Gigha and Islay, to the SSW, including an excellent view of Dun Skeig across the loch, to the low hills of Kintyre and a dun on the opposite shore on Eilean Araich Mhor, and up the loch towards the Tarbert isthmus. To the W the view over moor and hill is now be-conifered.

Evidence of later adaptation and occupation of a dun is found in the next example.

Dun Mhuirich (Murchadh's Dun) NR 722844

Situation: about 30m. above the shore in the southernmost and highest point of a steep ridge running on the W side of Linne Mhuirich, a branch of Loch Sween parallel to it on its W side. The ridge drops very steeply on S and W - almost sheer on W - to very marshy ground below;

The E side of the dun is protected by a cliff dropping to the shore. The approach along the ridge from N is split into 'corridors' by N to S rock formations.

The dun measures 16.5m. x 11.5m. internally. Where both wall faces are clearly available the width averages 2.7m., though Christison states it is "7 feet wide". It survives in some form for the full circumference, but the ground is uneven and the height from the base varies; internally it can reach 1.5m. It is well built of good dry-stone masonry with a slight batter; at the SW where there has been a repair the work is inferior.

There is apparently only one original entrance, on the S at the extreme E end of the wall just above the cliff. It is 1.1m. wide at the outside, just over 1m. on the inside, reversing the usual shape. There is no sign of checks, bar-holes or rebates, but the gateway is completely full of debris. Another means of entry exists on the N where steps lead down into the dun from the wall, but this probably belongs to the later occupation; a ladder would be kept on the inside and lowered to the outside when required - or kept on the outside unless danger threatened. The later buildings in the dun consist of two rectangular houses and perhaps another enclosure; they seem to be of the central-hearth type, and to be dry-stone built. They could belong to any period from the mediaeval to the 19th c.

The dun is further defended on the N and W by a wall encircling the ridge top, except on the cliff side. It is built across the N end of the ridge and still stands to 1.5m. high there, and 2.1m. wide; on the W the wall is built along the edge of the drop, 1.8m. wide and enclosing a terrace 5.5m. wide: on the S it continues under debris apparently more slightly. This southern area is thickly grown with blackthorn, lining the rocky ridges and the whole slope down to the marsh. A narrow terrace continues round to the S gate. There is a gate in the middle of the terrace wall on the N, the main entrance to the site; it is 1.7m. wide; on the outside a square projection 0.6m. N to S and 0.9m. E to W has been added to each side of the gate, not bonded to the wall, thus lengthening the gate-passage. There are signs of similar projections on the inside; but the passage is full of tumble and has been blocked by a later wall. E of the entrance on the inside a wall goes off at 90° for a short distance. It may orig-

inally have cut off the portion of terrace next the cliff. Outside the N terrace a short distance away at the foot of a large rock is a pool of water and some marshy ground. There is some sign of stone edging but this may be natural. This is possibly the dun's water supply. Below on the shore there are the remains of a stone jetty; sheltered anchorages exist on both sides of the dun, particularly on the S.

The outlook is wide, over moor and low hills to the W, down Linne Mhuirich towards the entrance from Loch Sween, on the S, across Linne Mhuirich to the Tainish peninsula on the E, and up towards the hills and forts of Tayvallich on the N.

The next dun shows some untypical features.

Ardifuir (Point of the Refuge) NR 789969

Situation: at first sight not defensive at all; it stands on level ground where a valley opens out and slopes gently to a sheltered sandy beach about 45m. away. The dun, at 30.5m. above sea-level is overlooked by high ground on the three other sides; the bay also is bounded on E and W by high ground. Immediately behind the dun on the landward side runs a burn, and beyond is a marsh which would have been wetter before drainage; beyond the marsh the ground rises. However, on the hill W of the dun (from which it would be possible to throw a stone into it), at 58m. above sea-level, is a small dun, Dun an Fheidh (Dun of the Deer) at NR 788969, which has a good lookout. On the E ridge protecting the bay is another, Dun na Iolaire (Dun of the Eagle) at NR 788965, which also has a good outlook; there are sheltered anchorages on either side, and the dun itself is surrounded by blackthorns. On a spur of high ground about 370m. N of Ardifuir, beyond the marsh, is another small dun at NR 790971; it seems to have no local name and is referred to as Ardifuir II. If these three duns were in use at the same time as Ardifuir they would have served as outlook and protection.

The sea-approaches to Ardifuir are overlooked by a large dun, Castle Dounie (an Anglicised form of a Gaelic name meaning Castle of the Dun (or fort) or possibly Dark Castle), across Loch Crinan at NR 767932; it stands on a high crag with a wide outlook over the Sound of Jura, and to the N and E. Forestry now obscures the view of it from Ardifuir.

Signals could certainly have been sent from each fort.

The dun is circular, with an interior diameter of 19.8m. The full circuit of the walls is preserved, apart from a short broken-down stretch where access from the farm was at one time made. Christison says it had been used for the disposal of dead cattle for fifty years. These walls are 3.1m. wide at the base and built with a fairly steep batter, the width diminishing to 2.1m. at 3.1m. height. The masonry is good. Considering the position next door to a farmhouse the state of preservation is remarkable, perhaps due to its past usefulness as a farm enclosure.

There is one gate on the SW. It is 1.8m. wide on the outside; 1.8m. into the passage are the rebates for the door which are each about 0.5m. wide; immediately behind these a sill consisting of a single slab 2m. long is inserted into the passage floor. Beyond the rebates the passage continues for 1.2m. at 2.8m. wide. This is much wider than a typical dun entrance, and certainly much wider than the entrance to a broch, the structure to which Ardifuir used to be compared. On the right-hand side just beyond the door-checks is the entrance, 0.6m. above the paved floor of the passage, to a mural cell; the entrance is 0.7m. high and 0.6m. wide and leads down five steps to a floor 1.1m. below the sill-stone of the cell and of course below the level of the passage. The cell is very small, less than 1m. square, but over 2m. high; its walls are corbelled in to a lintelled roof and Christison states that the floor was sanded. The proportions are those of a sentry-box.

The paving of the passage extends into the interior for about 3m. About 3.7m. left of the entrance there is a rectangular cell, now much ruined, from which a flight of steps, somewhat overgrown, rises to a 'first-floor' and then possibly to the wall-head. It consists of thirteen steps, a short passage of about 1.5m. and three more steps.

A scarcement 0.3m. to 0.5m. wide runs round the inside of the wall at 1.5m., of one build with the wall. Above it are put-log holes, irregularly spaced but in a band of similar height. These features indicate a wooden-floored gallery at 1.5m., attached to the wall of the dun, with some sort of structure on it; this presupposes posts in the interior of the dun but neither the 1904 clearance nor the 1929 investigation mentions post-holes. Accounts of

forts in the Irish legends give support for this sort of construction. For most of the way round the interior of the dun there is a raised platform about 0.6m. high, built of earth and stones and neatly faced with vertical slabs, the interstices being packed with smaller stones. Its width varies from 0.9m. to 2.7m.; part of it was removed in earlier excavation. Euan MacKie is of the opinion that this platform is probably a secondary addition. It reminds one of platforms in the Viking houses on the Brough of Birsay; perhaps it was a sleeping-platform; on a mattress of heather and wrapped in furs one could have been quite comfortable, particularly with a good central fire.

The height of the walls, considering the batter, is not likely to have been more than 6m.; there may have been a wall-walk with a palisaded or possibly stone-walled protection, but all above about 3m. is speculation. The wide entrance, it is suggested, means that stock could be driven inside; perhaps sleds and carts as well, carrying stores. Traffic would be largely by water, but there is a coastwise track. The ground between fort and shore may, in the dun's days, have produced crops. The water supply would come from the burn, and there is plenty of grazing. Outside the dun about 5m. to the S there are signs of an enclosure wall indicating a courtyard.

The finds from Ardifuir are: a neolithic polished clay-stone axe, the property probably of an early antiquarian, flint cores, flints and scrapers of 'bronze age' types, hammer-stones and whet-stones, a loom-weight (or large spindle-whorl), fragments of jet and lignite, schist discs (it is suggested that these may be 'sailmaker's palms' for use in pushing needles through leather), stone polishers of quartzite, fragments of a crucible or crucibles, a stone mould for making various objects, including a rind for a pair of millstones and a flat oval tool with handle which may have served as scone-turner or fish-slice, one Samian sherd, type D37, of the 2nd century A.D. This last may belong to any part of the dun's history from the 2nd cent. onwards; it may have been regarded as a amulet.

Duns were built to provide security and shelter in an age of constant feuds, cattle-raids and small wars. No archaeological evidence as to how they were roofed survives, but it can be deduced that encircling wooden verandah-type

galleries would be roofed all round with timber and thatch, perhaps employing turf and heather as well, leaving a central space to let in light and let smoke out from a presumed central hearth. If shelter was provided by individual huts, as in the forts, each would have its own roof. Both forms would seem to require raised floors for drainage, and a lintelled drain has been identified in one dun, leading to the exterior. The elaborations of intramural cells and staircases and galleries need not indicate a later date than that of a simple dun.

The date of the earliest dry-stone duns is not established; from finds made elsewhere than in Mid Argyll it seems that some duns were built by the beginning of the 2nd century B.C., and some not until the 4th century A.D. It is thought that Dun Cuier on Barra was not built till about 500 A.D. Soil conditions in Mid Argyll do not favour the preservation of items capable of being submitted to radio-carbon dating; apart from Dunadd the only site to yield results is that on Eilean an Duin. Despite this limitation midden-investigation could prove informative.

It seems certain that the duns were built by a Celtic-speaking people, either Q-Celtic speakers who went on to Ireland via W.Scotland, or the P-Celtic speakers who were Ptolemy's Epidii, the Horse People, who occupied the area in the 1st century A.D., to which period Ptolemy's information is supposed to belong. The non-Celtic population, of course, might have built the same sort of structures for the same purpose. When the Q-Celtic speakers emigrated from Ireland back to Argyll, first in the 3rd century A.D. and again at the end of the 5th century, they must have seen duns crowning many crags and hill-tops but whether all were occupied is unknown; fourteen duns are visible from Dunadd (or were before the forestry) but were they contemporary?

There is a strong local tradition of fire-signalling from Dun Mhuirich via Dun a'Chogaidh near Tayvallich to Druim an Duin and such networks were certainly possible.

The names of the duns give no help in dating; they are practically without exception in the Q-Celtic Gaelic that is still spoken; this is the Gaelic brought by the Scots from Ireland in the 5th and 6th centuries A.D.

Mid Argyll was an important area in early Scots history and more might be learned of this period by the careful study of selected duns.

SOME BIRDS of the WEST LOCH

Mr Colin Fergusson's interesting and perceptive comments on this subject in conversation with the Editor are recalled here.

There is much to interest the bird-watcher along the shores of the West Loch, from the shallow head-waters three quarters of a mile from Tarbert to the open sea some nine miles away. The bird life, depending on the time of year, is made up of permanent residents, seasonal visitors and passers-by. Size and colouring make the Swan family the most conspicuous of our birds. Three types can be observed - in autumn and winter we look for Whoopers and Bewick's, and at any time, as a very occasional visitor, the familiar Mute. The first two varieties are readily distinguished from the third by their necks being held upright while the Mute has the familiar S-bend carriage. The Whooper (*Cygnus cygnus*) and the Bewick's (*C. columbianus*) have come from Northern Europe, Russia, Greenland and Iceland, though on occasion a pair may breed in Scotland. The Bewick's are always very much in a minority in our area but a large flock winters at the Slimbridge Reserve in Gloucestershire. On being disturbed the Whoopers tend to swim off in a dignified manner but a seemingly greater threat does not find them hesitant about taking to the air. Mute swans (*C. olor*), unlike their relations, are subject to various Crown and other ceremonies and restrictions connected with ownership and marking.

Amongst less spectacular visitors one may be fortunate in seeing some of the following, each in some way contributing to the delight of the bird-watcher in locating a fresh arrival. Snow Buntings (*Plectrophenax nivalis*) can be regarded as passing visitors although a few are known to winter in Britain and indeed breeding pairs have been reported from the Highlands; Waxwings (*Bombicilla garrulus*) come for the rowan berries and it is remarkable how short a time a flock of these lively visitors takes to strip a whole area; Golden Eye (*Bucephala clangula*). amongst the most decorative and engaging of 'ducks', arrive in mid-September, initially in small parties but occasionally in large numbers. They dive tirelessly, and employ an almost vertical take-off when disturbed, accompanied by a loud whistling from their wings, though when merely excited they raise their heads and puff out

their head-feathers to produce a very odd swollen effect. Wigeon (*Anax penelope*) were a breeding species in Britain 60 years ago, but nest now only in Scotland. They too sometimes move in large flocks and have a similar almost straight-up take-off, maintaining close formation. They are opportunists in character, keeping a careful watch on neighbouring bottom-feeders in order to secure for themselves any scraps of vegetation which may have been dislodged and overlooked. At dusk the flocks move to adjacent fields to graze.

It seems probable, on the subject of food supplies that many of these below-the-surface feeders are aware of the necessity of allowing intervals for regeneration, achieved by moving to suitable sites along the Kintyre shore for a time before returning to the West Loch.

Teal (*Anas crocca*), our smallest native duck, are widely distributed in Scotland and Ireland but may have come in from more northerly areas such as Iceland to winter in our less severe climate. Their typical reaction to a threat is to shoot almost vertically from the water and disappear in a rapid twisting flight.

There are many observable behaviour differences between the various aquatic birds along the loch-side. The extreme alertness of most of the duck family is rather less apparent in Wigeon, and in Teal there is a further diminution, although all, needless to say, maintain unremitting vigilance when on the surface. Golden Eye have been described as 'artful and suspicious'.

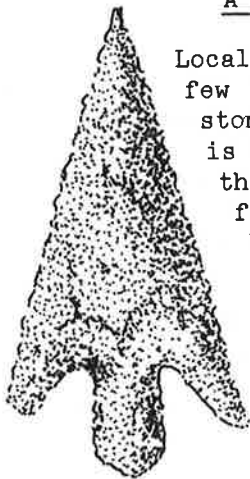
The Kingfisher (*Alcedo atthis*) is an extremely rare visitor although breeding occurs in Renfrewshire. One was occasionally to be seen at the West Loch Pier some years ago. Water pollution and severe winters have greatly reduced numbers and range. Identification is simple in theory but requires a particularly quick eye.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), with a wing-span of up to 7 feet, is bound to be a conspicuous element in the sky, and although numbers were very drastically reduced up to the recent past by the use of Aldrin in sheep dip, now that this substance is banned a definite recovery is taking place, so a sighting is a very real possibility as eyries have been confirmed within our area. But a word of warning must be given here, for there is every probability that the 'eagle' you have just seen was in fact nothing more than a by no means uncommon Buzzard (*Buteo*

buteo), Bird books give details of the differences to be noted between an eagle and a buzzard, but at a very considerable and hard-to-estimate height and against a bright sky such criteria are not easy of verification, though the continual 'mewing' of a hunting buzzard is a guide. In addition to problems arising from the estimation of distance, it must not be forgotten that the occupation of the bird at the time of observation can have a great effect in modifying differential details as laid down in the 'Recognition' section of a bird book description. We are usually told that the buzzard's wings are wider than the eagle's and its tail rounded, but if the bird be soaring, gaining or losing height or banking, these guidelines may no longer apply and confusion can ensue where clarity was expected.

Finally in this list we have the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), with its slow flapping flight when hunting, returned to Speyside in 1950 as a breeding species after an absence of about 50 years - the result of merciless and mindless persecution by 'sportsmen' who delighted in recounting their exploits of shooting adults and robbing all available nests of eggs and young, compounding the outrage by usually referring to their victims as 'poor birds'. Their range is now slowly extending, even, it has been whispered, as far as our area - but ah! its maybe just talk!

A LOCAL SPEAR or ARROW HEAD



Local tree-planting work seems to have produced few 'finds', so the recognition of this fine stone weapon-head at Carse in February 1988 is noteworthy. It had been turned up in the course of preparing forestry ground for planting and was noticed by William Macfarlane adhering to the plough - its very light grey colour attracting his attention. Its material appears to be a form of chert and its condition, even to the minute saw-tooth edges, approaches perfection. The slight asymmetry is quite normal.

Scale 1:1

The Making of Flint Arrow-heads

At the end of September 1871, an eighty-eight ton schooner anchored on the north coast of Picton Island in Tierra del Fuego at the extreme tip of South America. It brought Thomas and Mary Bridges and their baby daughter, after a voyage from England lasting some two years - including a 22-month stay in the Falklands by the young mother while her husband went back and forth to get things settled in their new home. Such had been the dangers and hardships of the voyage, especially in its final part, that Mary Bridges said softly to her husband "You have brought me to this country, and here I must remain, for I can never never face that ocean voyage again".

Their son, Lucas, born in 1874 wrote a fascinating autobiography titled Uttermost Part of the Earth which is a treasure-house of information about the conditions in the country during his long life there. The native Indians were utterly savage and devoid of most of the attributes of nineteenth-century man, treacherous and fickle. There were several distinct tribes and in many ways their life was that of our Stone Age as we picture it. The climate, so near the South Pole, was severe in the extreme, but despite this the native costume generally took the form of a loose robe of guanaco skin, clutched in front by one hand which also held a bow and several arrows. In face of need the robe was dropped and the owner sprang into whatever action was required 'without a stitch to his name'. Such hardiness of body and spirit can hardly be believed. The Bridges family formed a relationship with the Indians and eventually came to be legal owners, from the Argentine government of vast tracts of country. The Stone-Age-like economy of these people suggests that their method of making arrow-heads may not have been in any essential different from that employed by the Stone-Age craftsmen of Europe. We quote from Mr Bridges' book:

"The original Ona arrow-head was made of flint but when empty bottles began to be strewn along the path of the white man, the Indians found it easier to make their arrow-heads of glass whether the arrow-head was to be of glass or flint, the method was the same. The fragment was held in one hand in a piece of fox-skin doubled up to

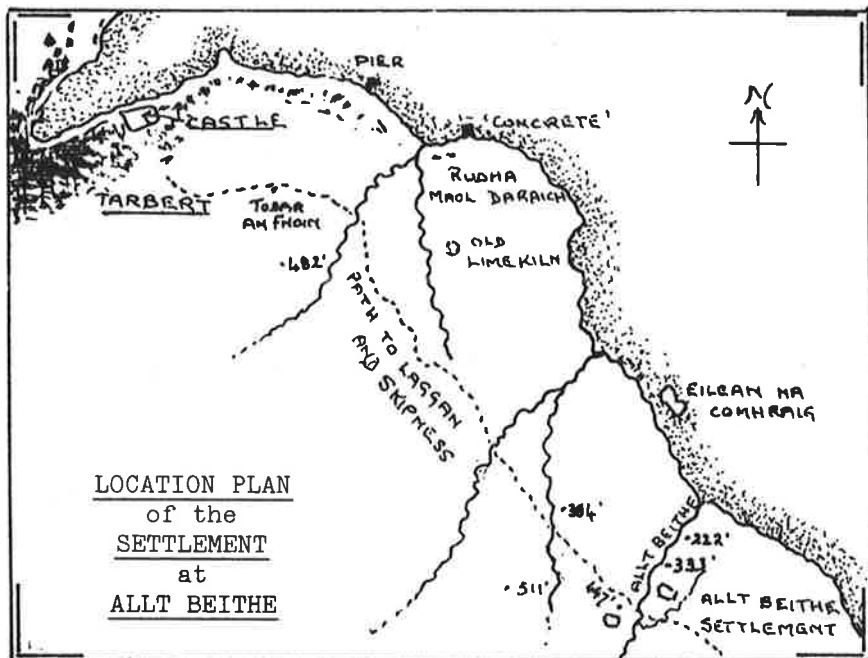
form a pad. The knapper's only tool was a dry bone from the leg of a guanaco or a fox, with one end jaggedly broken off for chipping. By his side was a rough, rounded stone, on which, as the work progressed, he frequently struck the bone to keep it sharp. With this primitive apparatus, he would produce a tiny, barbed, perfectly-made arrow-head. Very often he would be working on two or three arrow-heads at once. While he chipped at one of them, the others would be held in his mouth to keep them slightly warm. When the piece he was busy with grew too brittle, he would put it in his mouth and transfer his attention to one of the other pieces. The finished heads were close on an inch long and slightly less than half an inch wide. Describing a subsequent visit to flint knappers in Suffolk, Mr Bridges remarks "I was shown a collection of arrow-heads covering a period of over eight thousand years. These had been found in or around some of the three hundred and sixty-six quarries known to have existed in that district. With this collection were some flint arrow-heads made by the most expert of modern masters of that craft. Not one of these exhibits compared in quality of workmanship with the arrow-heads of the Ona Indians. I was interested to learn that the Brandon (Suffolk) knappers, when doing very fine work such as arrow-heads or flint ornaments, also used the pad and dry bone method, though they did not hold the flints in their mouths to prevent them from becoming brittle."

...oooOooo...

A HIGHWAYMAN OUTWITTED

The Editor's great-great-grandfather was riding down Glenapp after a very successful day at an Ayrshire tryst when a masked horseman appeared with the customary demand, Quick as thought came the response - "Dae ye think I'd be gaun hame sober the nicht if I had the price o' a dram on me!" The logic appealed to the man and that was the end of the matter - the guinea-filled saddle-bags and their owner went on their way.

...oooOooo...



ALLT BEITHE * - The Desertion of a Settlement

John Smith, Glendarroch; Tarbert

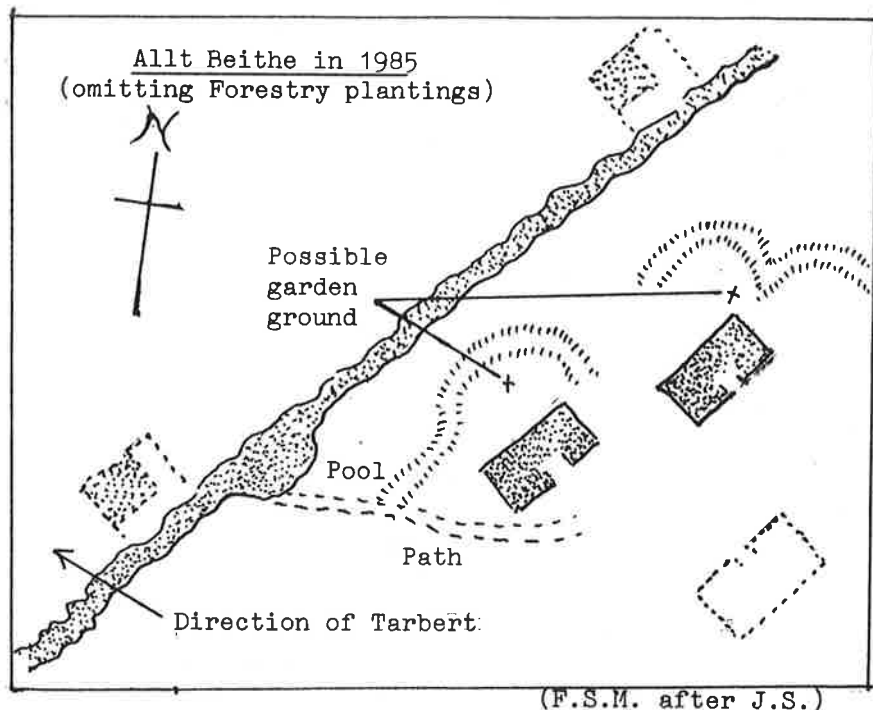
As a child and up through my early years, I walked and explored the hills from Mealldarroch southwards, but there was one ruined settlement which I visited more often than any other place, and that was Allt Beithe, due to the fact that this was where my great-great-grandfather had lived and worked.

It was only in later years, when I discovered early map references to Allt Beithe, that I realised its full significance. It appears as 'Aldbee' on Timothy Pont's map of Knapdale dated 1600, which proves the settlement's existence in the late 1500s. The only others mentioned on the Kintyre side of Tarbert are Escart and Bardaravine. It appears again on Roy's map c.1750, by which time more settlements are named, and also on George Langland's 1801 map of the County of Argyll.

Allt beithe means a burn bordered by birch trees. The

* pronounced AWLT BAY

settlement was built high on a steep hillside, some 200 feet above sea-level. Looking at it today it is difficult to imagine why anybody would choose it as a farm, as there would appear to be very little arable ground. There is, however, a bracken-covered area at the head of the shore which may have been cultivated at some time. Still much in evidence is the water supply - this came from a deep pool in the burn, and the track to it is still easily seen.



The houses were built with the gables towards the sea, to give maximum shelter. They would be typical two-roomed structures built of large uneven blocks of local stone, with a chimney in one gable. When a section of one of them was cleared, large flat stones were exposed near the hearth and on lifting one a few locks of reddish hair were found; they had obviously been placed deliberately, but why? We left them there, where they belonged.

Unfortunately the passing years have taken their toll - the houses have been reduced to tumbledown outlines of moss-grown stones, with others scattered through the grass.

Bracken and rushes block the doorways and through all the croft land a new harvest of Forestry conifers is awaited. Only the area immediately round the ruins is demarcated by deciduous trees. In the ditches cut by the Forestry machines one can find pieces of broken crockery, perhaps remains of middens.

In the 1841 Census the following entries concern one household - John Leitch 40 (fisherman), Donald Leitch 12, Malcolm Leitch 6, Catherine Leitch 26(?), Mary Leitch 14, Lizzy Leitch 8, Annie Leitch 4, Catherine Leitch 2, Arch. McLean 15 (herd). This John Leitch was my great-great-grandfather. In the Communicants' Roll of Tarbert Parish Church, 1839, there is mention of John Leitch and Catherine (Carmichael) Leitch, these being the heads of one Allt Beithe household, with Duncan Leitch and Catherine (Macfarlane) Leitch being heads of another. Both men are listed as 'fisherman'.

As the land seems to have been unsuitable for crops, that a 'herd' appears in the Census and that Duncan Leitch occurs later in the Parish records as a 'buyer' (perhaps of cattle?) it could be inferred that the settlement, latterly at least, was used principally for stock-rearing.

The shore below Allt Beithe is not suitable for boats, being boulder-strewn, and with no sign of shore-clearance or of any kind of jetty, so it could be that John and Duncan Leitch worked in the winter on boats fishing out of Tarbert. It is known that men came from Corranbuie and other places to work on the Tarbert boats.

A track is shown on the 1863 Ordnance Survey map from Baluachrach (Upper town), Tarbert to Allt Beithe and beyond. Remnants of this track were still very evident a few years ago, but Forestry operations have ploughed up most of it now. It was a cart-track and it is related that a 'remains' was being taken by horse and cart from Allt Beithe to Tarbert for burial. As they were crossing a particularly boggy part used for peat-cutting, the coffin slipped off the cart, over the bank and into the thick peaty water. The carter, unable to manage by himself, went for help, but by the time they returned the coffin was lost from view. Due to the suction of the ground it proved impossible to retrieve the coffin, and a marker was set up. The remains still lie there to this day, preserved in the peat. It used to be possible to locate the coffin by

prodding with a long stick, but the precise spots now lost.

Less than a mile from Baluachrach on this track there is a well variously named Tobar Tighearna, Tobar phoin and Jacob's Well (see Location Plan), which was the place where the people going to Tarbert - church, market etc - washed the mud from their feet and donned their good footwear in order to arrive in a presentable state.

The desertion of Allt Beithe was sudden and tragic. No-one from the settlement had been seen in the village for a number of days, so two men went up from Tarbert to investigate. They found everyone dead or dying except for a baby, Archibald Leitch (b.1843), who was taken to his Carmichael relatives at Bruach na Suith, where he was brought up. He was my great-grandfather. It is not known how many were resident in Allt Beithe at the time. Probably the older children had moved away to work, as at least four appear to have survived. The parents are buried in Tarbert Cemetery and the head-stone reads Erected / to the memory of / John Leitch / late farmer, Altbea / who died Decr. 4th 1845 / aged 54 years / and of his spouse / Catherine Carmichael / who died Decr. 16th 1845 / aged 43 years / By / their sons and daughters.

A comparison with the Census figures shows a discrepancy in the ages of John and Catherine. The stonemason may have reversed 45 to 54, and the Census-taker may have had his leg pulled by Catherine, by way of entertainment!

The history of surviving members of the family, other than Archibald, is unknown to me and I would be very glad to receive any information concerning them. As the story is told, all perished but Archibald.

The settlement was burnt to try to eradicate the dreaded 'plague', said to be cholera. For some reason the door of the main dwelling was carried to Bruach na Suith - not apparently with an idea of re-using the wood, so the purpose remains obscure. In later years the quern for grinding corn was rolled to the shore and taken by boat by Archibald's sons Dugald and Callum to Tarbert, where it may still be seen at the house called Breezycliff.

When Archibald grew up he became a carpenter/boatbuilder (his premises are still in use by A. McCallum, boatbuilder.) and his sons, just mentioned, followed him into the boatbuilding business. The shed became a local meeting-place for the men of the village. It is referred to by

George Campbell Hay, the Tarbert bard. I still possess one of their 'punts' (rowing-boats).

There were two other sons, Donald, who graduated M.A., - no mean feat in those days - and Archie, who became a banker, and a daughter, Annie, who became my grandmother. He lived from 1843 till 1930, a span of 87 years.

The male line in this particular family of Leitches has now died out. There are, however, many descendants like me, the most notable at present being John Smith, Q.C., M.A., Shadow Chancellor, my cousin.



(Editorial Note: We have been given the following item of information by Mrs A.O.M.Clark, who has been considerably involved in getting the foregoing paper from Mr Smith:

"According to John, and to the story also told to me, Baldarroch, the 'Old Houses' at Mealdarroch, was deserted at the same time and for the same reason. The two men who went up from the village to find out what had happened arrived first at Baldarroch "where they found everyone dead", and went on to Allt Beithe." In 1988 Baldarroch came under the notice of our Society and some of our members best qualified to undertake the investigation are engaged in recording anything which remains.)

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Compiled by the Editor

In Kist 34 and 35 were papers on the state of affairs in our area following on the Rebellion against James VII in the years 1685-6, when wholesale pillaging by 'the Athol men' and their allies occurred. In 1816 a small publication gave particulars of the claims made by some of the victims of this orgy, and the first paper consisted of selected examples which had a local interest. Again in this final contribution the same limit has been observed.

List of Goods robbed and taken from Jon M'bryan, Archibald Campbell, Jon Walker, Mary Fergusson, widow, tennents in Pennymore, be the persons following; and that contrary to the Marquis of Athol, his Majesties Lieut, his written order.

<u>Imprimis</u> , Taken away from the sd Jon M'bryan,	lib s d
be Archibald M'alister of Tarbert, Jon M'alister, in Kenlochkylesport and Jon Dow M'alister, 7 peices of horses, estimat to	133 6 8
<u>Item</u> , ane coue, 7 sheep, ane anchor and a tow and household furnitor estimat to	50 0 0
<u>Item</u> , from the sd Archibald Campbell, be the tutor of Appyne, Captain of Clanranald, and yr accomplices, 14 great coues, valued to	186 13 4
<u>Item</u> , from the sd Jon Walker, be the Tutor of Appyne and his companie, 5 great coues estimat to	66 13 4
<u>Item</u> , fra the sd Mary Fergusson, be the sd. Tutor of Appyne, 3 pleugh horses, 4 wedders, and ane pot, estimat to	118 13 4
<u>Item</u> , fra her, be the Captain of Tarbert and Walter Lamont, tuo coues, valued to	26 13 4
<u>Item</u> , from her, be Malcolm M'Duffie, and men, 1 gun, 1 sword, 1 pan, a barrell of meal, 2 wedders, a balk of a nett, all estimat to	34 0 0
<u>Item</u> , fra her, be the sd tutor of Appyne, of household plenishing and cloaths worth	10 0 0
<u>Total</u>	<u>635 6 8</u>

List of Goods taken from Neil Fisher, in Inveraray, be the Captain of Tarbert, and his accomplices

<u>Imprimis</u> , His fishing boat, with the netts and hail furnitor yrof, extending to	24 0 0
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<u>Item</u> , tuo new playds, worth			
<u>Item</u> , 3 hydes, estimat to		6	0 0
<u>Item</u> , ane ax, worth		1	10 0

Inventor of the Goods and Household plenishing plundered and taken away from Isobell, spouse to John Campbell of Knap, and her tennents, be Donald Oig M'Duffie in Islay, and his accomplices, upon the - day of July 1685

<u>Imprimis</u> , Ane sexoared boat, with tuo anchor toues, and small toues, and a new saill, all estimat to		93	6 0
<u>Item</u> , ane saddle and sadlegraith valued to		26	13 4
<u>Item</u> , 3 peuter plates, and 1 doz trenchers		4	0 0
<u>Item</u> , ane barrell of beef, pryce		8	0 0
<u>Item</u> , tuo firr planks		2	0 0
<u>Item</u> , ane playd, worth		5	6 8
<u>Item</u> , 2 guns and a tuo handed sword, valued to		13	6 8
	<u>Summa</u>	<u>152</u>	<u>13 4</u>

<u>Item</u> , taken from Jon M'millan in Ardina, ane pair of blankets, and playd, and tuo hydes, valued to		12	0 0
<u>Item</u> , from Patrick M'Cavis, ane creple yr, 2 hydes and ane pan, valued to		7	6 8
	<u>Summa</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>6 8</u>

<u>Item</u> , taken from Jon M'alpine in Ardina, ane playd, worth 4 lib., eleven elnes and ane half of gray cloath, at 4 lib. Scots, ane pair of blankets worth 3 lib, ten elnes and ane half of linen worth 4 lib, ane red petticoat worth 2 lib., ane waistcoat worth 3 lib., <u>vide</u> in haill		18	0 0
<u>Item</u> , from Duncan Campbell in Stronefield, ane four oared boat, with oares, and ane hyde valued to		20	0 0
	<u>Totalis</u>	<u>229</u>	<u>6 8</u>

List of the Goods robbed from Marie Campbell, relict of umqle Jon M'Cavis of Donnardrie, be Donald M'Duffie in Islay, and oysr with him, upon the - day of June, 1685

<u>Imprimis</u> , A four oared boat, with saill, anchor toues and haill furniture, valued to		40	0 0
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<u>Item</u> , four elnes of searge	4	0	0
<u>Item</u> , four elnes of thick cloath	2	13	4
<u>Item</u> , tuo pair of Truise	2	0	0
<u>Item</u> , four elnes of plaiden	1	6	8
<u>Item</u> , 3 gravatts, and 1 pair sleeves	1	10	0
<u>Item</u> , 5 shirts, at 2 mks a peice, is	6	13	4
<u>Item</u> , ane small plaid, at	3	0	0
<u>Item</u> , 6 curches, at	3	0	0
<u>Item</u> , 4 linen aprons,	4	0	0
<u>Item</u> , another small plaid	4	0	0
<u>Item</u> , ane gown and petticoat	10	0	0
<u>Item</u> , 2 peuterplates and 1 brass candlestick	6	0	0
<u>Item</u> , 4 black hoods	12	0	0
<u>Item</u> , ane pair of herring nets	8	10	0
<u>Item</u> , and ax	0	12	0
<u>Item</u> , Taken from Malcolm M'Baxter, tennent to the sd. Mary Czmpbell, 18 elnes of a new plaid, valued to	8	0	0
<u>Item</u> , 15 elnes of gray cloath	5	0	0
<u>Item</u> , 6 elnes of plaiden	2	0	0
<u>Item</u> , 12 elnes small linen and 11 elnes of round linen, estimat to	8	6	8
<u>Item</u> , ane sword, worth	5	0	0
<u>Item</u> , ane brass pan worth 5 merks	3	6	8
<u>Item</u> , 3 elnes of stuff	1	0	0
<u>Item</u> , ane new coat	2	0	0
<u>Item</u> , ane new seck	2	0	0
<u>Summa</u>	<u>159</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>

List of Goods taken from Neil M'Neill in Fincharn, in
Glastrie paroch, be Donald M'conachie in Auchinbreck, in
the paroch of Inverairey, in June 1685.

<u>Imprimis</u> , Ane pleugh horse, worth	33	6	8
<u>Item</u> , ane seck full of lint yarn, household plenishing and furniture valued to	6	13	4
<u>Item</u> , a mare, worth about	13	6	8

List fo Goods taken, in June 1685, from Elizabeth Campbell,
widow in Kilmichell of Glassarie, be Ballaquhan and his men

<u>Imprimis</u> , of Goods, household furniture, money, wares, and oys, estimat to	466	13	4
<u>Itam</u> , tuo horses, worth 30 mks; <u>vide</u>	53	6	8

List of Goods taken away in July 1685, from Isobell, daughter to umqle Patrick Campbell of Knap, be Torloisk and Jon M'lean, his brother.

<u>Imprimis</u> , A boady searge pettiecoat	16	13	4
<u>Item</u> , a petticoat half silk half worsett	7	10	0
<u>Item</u> , 1 ell round hoyned stuff	1	10	0
<u>Item</u> , a lowland plaid	8	0	0
<u>Item</u> , ane orange petticoat	4	0	0
<u>Item</u> , 10 elnes good linen	10	8	0
<u>Item</u> , 13 elnes white searge	10	8	0
<u>Item</u> , 5 elnes brown searge	6	0	0
<u>Item</u> , 3½ elnes of white stript	2	13	4
Of money, two leg dollars	5	12	0
<u>Item</u> , 3 linen hoods, and a laced pinor	4	0	0
<u>Item</u> , 3 pair sleeves, 4 napkins, 2 aprons	4	0	0
Ane smoothing iron	1	10	0
<u>Item</u> , 4 gaze hoods, qrof 2 white 2 black	4	16	0
<u>Item</u> , 3 elnes broad black ribbon	2	2	0
<u>Item</u> , a locking glass	3	10	0
<u>Item</u> , a - stone, at	16	0	0
<u>Item</u> , the chest qch contained all,	3	6	8
<u>Summa</u>	<u>107</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>

List of losses susteint be Angus M'callum, and his oyr 2 Brethren, in Poltalloch, within the paroch of Kilmartine and division of Argyle, be Jon M'lean, brother to the Laird of Torloisk, and his men, the last day of June and the first & 2d July 1685, as follows

<u>Imprimis</u> , The sd. Jon M'Lean took from the sd Angus 6 stone cheese, 2 stone butter, 6 firlots meall, all estimat to	24	0	0
<u>Item</u> , smal & round linen yarn, & 2 sacks valued to	14	0	0
<u>Item</u> 1 stone of wool 7 mks, 2 coats, 2 shirts, 3 girkienets, 2 playds, 2 pair drawers, worth 14lib. 13s. 4d; <u>vide</u> in all	19	6	8
<u>Item</u> , 3 cloath waistcoats 10 mks., 2 swords, 2 guns, 3 durks, 1 pistoll, worth 30 lib; <u>vide</u>	36	13	4
<u>Item</u> , ane brass pan 4lib, 2 brass candle-			

sticks 4 lib, ane iron speat and raxes 2 lib, 2 axes 4 womells 3 lib, a little pan 10 s; <u>vide</u> in all	13	10	0
<u>Item</u> , 2 large chests 6 lib, 2 spades 1 grap, 3 lib, 1 peit spade, speit, boull and tangs, and 1 stone horsehair, 3 lib, 13 s. 4 d <u>vide</u>	12	13	4
<u>Item</u> , 1 long coat, waistcoat and drawers	4	0	0
<u>Item</u> , ane horse, qch was with Duntroons horses in Glenharne, valued to	33	6	8
<u>Item</u> , yr was destroyed of corne and bear, be the sd Jon M'leans horses, qle they were in Poltalloch, according to the comprysing, 3 bolles worth; <u>vide</u>	20	0	0
<u>Item</u> , tuo syths	3	0	0
	<u>Summa</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>9 4</u>

<u>Item</u> , Taken in July 1685, from Donald and Duncan M'jocks, in Kylisleat, be - M'Neil of Thynish, as follows, viz.			
4 great coues, 1 horse, 1 mare, worth 12 mks is	80	0	0
<u>Item</u> , oyr 4 coues, worth	53	6	8
	<u>Summa</u>	<u>133</u>	<u>6 8</u>

<u>Item</u> , Taken in June 1685, from Angus Campbell of Leckwarie in Glastrie paroch, be Patrick Stewart of Ballequhan			
<u>Imprimis</u> , 6 mares, with yr followers, and six horses, estimat to 4mks the peice, <u>vide</u>	480	0	0

<u>Item</u> , Taken away in August 1685, from Duncan Campbel of Culgaltro, be - M'Lean of Ardgour and his relations			
<u>Imprimis</u> , The plunder of his house and money worth	200	0	0
<u>Item</u> , of oyr goods valued to	100	0	0
<u>Item</u> , 16 great coues, with some stirks and calves, at 20 mk. the peice; <u>vide</u>	213	6	8
<u>Item</u> , 4 pleughhorses at 24 lib the peice, is	96	0	0
<u>Item</u> , nyne mares at 20 lib. the peice, <u>vide</u>	180	0	0
	<u>Summa</u>	<u>789</u>	<u>6 8</u>

Attour cost, skaith and damage, encrease & profit

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