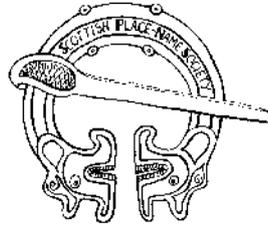# SCOTTISH PLACE-NAME NEWS

No. 18
Spring 2005

The Newsletter of the
SCOTTISH PLACE-NAME SOCIETY
COMANN AINMEAN-AITE NA H-ALBA

This inviting track in delectable hill-walking country, off the west side of the Manor valley in Peeblesshire, leads past the reputed site of St Gordian's kirk (behind and to right of camera) to the buildings of Old Kirkhope (left of centre), with Kirk Hope hidden to right and Newholm Hope to left. In the Border hills place-names such as Kirkstead, Kirkhope or Chapelhope may be a clue to long lost church buildings. Newholm Hope may, by incorporating a lost 'Neuway', indicate an even older religious context. However, things in this area are not always what they seem: see 'Identity Problems' on page 5 and picture bottom left on back cover.

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Membership Details: Annual membership £5 (but see next item), to be sent to Peter Drummond, Apt 8 Gartsherrie Academy, Academy Place, Coatbridge.
Web site:
www.st-and.ac.uk/institutes/sassi/spns/index.html

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE!

Roughly two-thirds of you will have received reminders to renew their subscriptions with this newsletter, at £5 for one year or (preferably) £15 for three years or – if you like - £10 for two years. Paying in advance saves you postage, and saves me unnecessary paperwork! We are introducing the option, at renewal time, of opting into **Gift Aid**, at no extra cost to you, which allows us as a charity (SCO 33810) to reclaim income tax on your subs and donations. Members who have **not** received a reminder can rest easy in the knowledge that they must have paid in advance a year or two ago.

Pete Drummond (treasurer).

EDITORIAL

The conference at Inverness on 27 November attracted an impressive attendance, including many local people. These SP-NS conferences are great occasions for bringing together people who have similar interests but seldom have the opportunity to meet and chat; the lectures are not the whole story. In this case at least one reunion was effected for the first time since the late 1970s, as two of those who resorted to a hostelry afterwards realised that names and voices, if not immediately faces, were vaguely familiar. Maybe the re-emergence of memories was hastened by the culture if not physical shock of experiencing a pipe band at full blast in the confined space of an Academy Street pub!

If you have never been to an SP-NS conference before or are newly dipping into place-names interests, be assured that there will be an equally warm welcome at the spring conference in the Borders. Cover photos in this issue refer to this region's fascinating place-name history.

THE MYSTERY OF THE KINGS (AND OTHER TOP PEOPLE)

David Dorward in his 'Scotland's place-names' wrote that " . . there are few Scottish place-names that embody the English word 'king'", in contrast to England (e.g. King's Lynn), although he goes on to except Scottish city street-names from this rule. The Scots are not particularly royalist, or sycophantic, and Dorward's remarks are certainly true for settlement names. But I noticed recently, working on Lowlands hill-range names, that there appear to be a lot of hill-names which break this rule. There are, on O.S. maps, at least 42 hills, variously called King's . . . Seat (20 instances), Chair, Hill (or Hillock), Knowe, Law, or Side. By and large they are not big hills, although one in the Ochils is 648m., one in the Pentlands is 463 metres and there are several in the 300 - 400m. range: significantly the second highest at 531m. is on the border with England, near The Cheviot. They are all summits in the sense that if you walk in any direction from them, you drop downhill, bar one or two in the upper Angus Glens which appear to be belvederes part way up a shoulder.

What is intriguing is that none of them, to my knowledge, has a link to any king. Very few are mentioned in the place-names literature: the Ochils' 648m. example was known alternatively as Innercairn in the 18th century, according to Angus Watson's book on the area. David Dorward's book on the Angus Glens says of King's Seat (a rocky slope) that Charles the Second was the only monarch known to have been in the glen "but a possible reference to him is not substantiated"; while in his book on the Sidlaws, its King's Seat is quoted as being 'the most shapely of the Sidlaws' [there's not much competition!] and Dorward says vaguely about the etymology that 'the hill is said to have been frequented by some monarch of ancient times'. Edinburgh's Kingsknowe area (also a golf course and station name) is said by Stuart Harris in his book to be from a 17th century tenant farmer named William King: this might be a possibility for some of the other names, but King is not a very common Scottish surname. None of the other instances can I find in general place-name works, neither in *magna opera* like W. J. Watson's or Bill Nicolaisen's, nor in local books on hills like W. Grant's on the Pentlands.

If I was into historical speculation, I might point

out that the Sidlaws King's Seat overlooks Dunsinane, made famous by Shakespeare as the hill to which Birnam Wood was to march on Macbeth; whilst Birnam Wood itself is overlooked by two hills both called King's Seat, the higher being 404m., the lower sporting an ancient hill-fort. Only one other of the King hills appears to have an ancient hill-fort (a feature more usually signified by *dun, reive* or *keir*).

The distribution of the King names is mainly in the eastern Lowlands: a scatter in the north-east, clusters on either side of Strathmore, the Ochils and the hilly fringes of the Lothians. I also mapped the 19 hill-names carrying the cognate title Laird (Laird's Hill, Seat, Knowe and Side), and found they barely overlapped with King names, and are found especially in the hilly parts of Renfrewshire, Ayrshire and the southern Borders. The King and Laird names' distribution are thus concentrically related, and curiously another cognate, Earl names, form a swathe mainly between the two: the dozen (most commonly Earl's Seat) are mainly in the Campsies (including that range's highest at 578m.), the Kilpatricks, and the hills of East Ayrshire near New Cumnock. Again, with the sole exception of The Laird's Tablecloth, a lingering snowfield on Beinn a'Bhuird in the Cairngorms – Adam Watson's book has the story behind it – these Laird and Earl names have no more link than the Kings to particular people. Do any members know different?

Pete Drummond

PLACE-NAMES OF BEAULY AND STRATHGLASS

Notes from a talk at the Inverness conference.

From autumn 2000 to summer 2001 I was full-time researcher on Barbara Crawford's Arts and Humanities Research Board Project (St Andrews University) looking at Norse names in the Beauly/Strathglass area, the southern limit of Norse settlement in north-eastern Scotland. Also closely involved was local researcher Mary MacDonald of Evanton. Because any single stratum of place-names cannot be properly understood in isolation, we attempted a wide-ranging place-name survey of the area, in effect the drainage basin of the River Glass, known in its lower course as the River Beauly (formerly the Forn): in administrative terms, the modern parishes of Kilmorack, to the north of the Beauly/Glass River, Kiltarlity & Convinth, mainly to the south, and Kirkhill to the east, all in pre-1975 Inverness-shire.
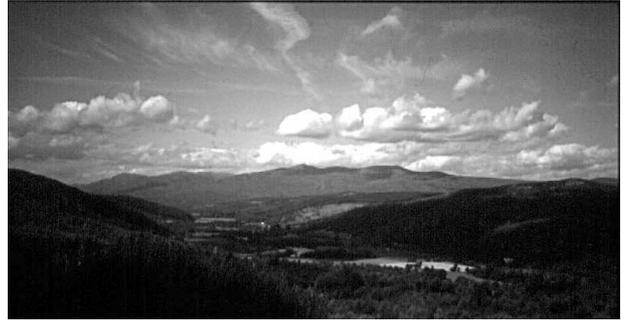
View up the Beauly River from the south-east, above Eskadale, the Norse name for this strath ('valley of ash-trees') (Photo Simon Taylor) For map please see back cover.

An enormous area, since the watershed between the Glass and the rivers that drain into the Atlantic is far to the west (Kilmorack parish alone stretches almost 40 miles inland from Beauly), there was no way that a full survey of all the names, even on the OS Pathfinder map (1:25000), could be undertaken in the time available. In fact, about 500 names were collected, and subjected to full toponymic analysis. This involved first and foremost the collection of early forms, many of which were taken from unpublished documents. The results of our research have been made available in various ways, details of which are given at the end of this piece.

At least five languages have left their imprint on the place-names of the study-area: Pictish, Gaelic, Norse, French, Scots and Scottish Standard English. When we combine this impressive list with a relative dearth of early forms, it means that anyone studying the toponymy of the area has to learn to live with much uncertainty.

Due to space constraints, and because of the availability of the material elsewhere, I will discuss here only the parish-names. In terms of medieval administration, the study-area contains four parishes, three with Celtic names, one with Scots (Wardlaw), but with an earlier Celtic name. These are **Kilmorack** (Gaelic, '<St> Morag's church') also known as **Altyre** (probably Pictish, 'high land'), and **Kiltarlity** (Gaelic, '<St> Talorgan's church'). Kiltarlity was distinct from **Convinth** until c.1500. Convinth, divided into four separate parts, is Gaelic *coinmheadh* 'act of billeting; conveth'. Conveth was a tribute due to

the king or other lord in respect of his lordship, specifically hospitality, entertainment and accommodation, or some payment in lieu of these. When Convinth first appears in the early 13th century (as *Coneway*, *Conway*, *Cunewy*) it stands at the centre of a complex of 11 davochs, and it was probably the place to which all these davochs brought their conveth render. The fourth medieval parish in the study-area was **Wardlaw**, now the western part of Kirkhill parish. This is one of the earliest Scots names in the region, appearing in 1221 (as *Wardelau*), 'watch or look-out hill'. The earlier name of Wardlaw parish was **Dunballoch** (*Dulbatelauch*, *Dulbatelach*, the first element Pictish **dul/*dol* 'haugh-land, water-meadow'), while the long obsolete Gaelic name for Wardlaw itself, recorded in 1221, was *Balcabrac'*. The eastern part of Kirkhill was the medieval parish of Farnway or Farnua (Gaelic *feàrn-mhagh* 'alder plain'), another name which has disappeared from the modern map.

The material collected by the Project forms an excellent foundation on which a more comprehensive place-name survey of this north-east corner of Inverness-shire could be based. I very much hope that it will be added to and refined over the coming years – this would be best done via the St Andrews web-site (see below), which allows corrections and additions to be made on-line. There is also oral material which could be added: in the 1970s Ian Fraser collected pronunciations on tape for the School of Scottish Studies from several natives of the area, including Gaelic-speakers from Street (Caiplich), Kiltarlity & Convinth parish. And for the AHRB Project Ron MacLean, a native of Kiltarlity, recorded the pronunciations of over 150 local place-names. It is to be regretted that there is no hard-copy of the data available. It could be relatively easily produced by down-loading from the web-site. My present work and circumstances prevent me from taking the initiative in such a publication, but if any local historian or historical association were ever to consider making such a publication happen, I would support it in any way I could.

Simon Taylor

RESULTS OF THE ARTS AND HUMANITY 'Norse-Gaelic Frontier Project', September 2000 to June 2001

Hard Copy: Crawford, Barbara E., Taylor, Simon,

2003, 'The Southern Frontier of Norse Settlement in North Scotland: Place-Names and History', *Northern Scotland* 23, 1-76. Available also as a booklet, price £3 (includes p & p), from Simon Taylor, Department of Medieval History, University, St Andrews KY16 9AL <st4@st-and.ac.uk>. Cheques to be made out to University of St Andrews.

Digital: All the place-name data collected as part of the Project is available on line on **www.st-and.ac.uk/history/resources/beauly** This includes:

- a fully searchable XML database (created by Swithun Crowe) of c.500 names, with early forms, sources, linguistic analysis, including coloured photographs by Mary MacDonald of several of the sites.
- downloadable Word documents containing the same material as the database, with and without photographs, as well as a detailed Introduction.
- full description and comprehensive contents of several 18th-century estate plans.

UNDERSTANDING THE STRUCTURE OF GAELIC PLACE-NAMES

We can look at how names are put together in different ways; for example, on the level of meaning or semantics; on the level of grammatical word order or syntax; or how elements function together as names, i.e. on the level of onomastic structure.

The Lochbroom area was taken as a case-study and names from W.J. Watson's *Place-names of Ross and Cromarty* 1904, 241–62, were classified in a range of categories. For syntax, these include names without the article, e.g. *Garbhaidh*, *Glutan*, *Dubhag*, or those with, e.g. *An Garbhan*, *An Lagaidh*, *A' Chailleach*; other categories include nouns preceded by or followed by an adjective – again, with or without the article – and so on. Some of the more complex categories include *Beinn a' Chàisgein Mhòir* (noun x article + noun + adjective), *Loch Doire na h-Airbhe* (noun x noun x article + noun) and *Cladh Chill Donnain* (noun x noun x noun – in these descriptions 'x' represents the onset of the genitive case).

An interesting question was raised about names structured article + noun x noun, e.g. *Na Lochan Fraoich*, *Am Bad Luachrach*, *Am Bad Beithe*, *Na h-Eileanan Samhraidh* etc.: Are forms like **Lochan Fraoich*, **Bad Luachrach* etc., i.e. without the article, the norm in some areas and, if so, why? It would be interesting to hear from anyone with information on such names.

In all, about 28 syntactical categories were

devised to classify the names in Watson's list. This was put into some sort of perspective once the names were looked at from an onomastic point of view. In names like *An Gleann Garbh, A' Mhòr Choille* and so on, adjectives become specific elements qualifying nouns as generic elements. Here, the range of categories is about seven – the forms *Beinn Tarsainn, An Loch Beag, Na Lochan Fraoich, Loch na Sealg, Làrach an Taigh Mhòir, Glac an Rìgh Chonanaich* etc. are all described as generic + specific.

Onomastic structure distinguishes the syntactically identical names, *Làrach an Taigh Mhòir* and *Beinn a' Chàisgein Mhòr*, from each other: the former consists of a generic element (*làrach*) + specific (*an taigh mhòir*), while the latter consists of a generic (*beinn*) + specific (*a' chàisgein*) + a contrastive qualifier (*mhòr*, i.e. 'the greater *Beinn a' Chàisgein*'). It also militates against translating a name such as *Rubha na Còigich* as 'the promontory of the fifth part', when it obviously has the sense 'the promontory of *A' Chòigeach*'. It also allows us to peel back chronological layers to earlier formations without disregarding the history of names.

For a paper or electronic copy of the list and the classifications, contact me at Tigh a' Mhaide, Brig o' Turk, Perthshire, FK17 8HT or r.a.v.cox@tesco.net.

Richard Cox (summarising a talk to the Inverness conference)

THE '1896 PROJECT'

Robin Hooker, of OS Pathfinder Gazetteer fame, is involved in the production of another very useful tool for the toponymist. Called The '1896' Project, it consists of a gazetteer of all the names on the late 19th-century Ordnance Survey 1 inch to 1 mile maps 2nd Series. It is being produced on an area by area basis, with the South-West Scotland book having appeared in May 2004, and Ayrshire, Glasgow and the Clyde Valley due in October 2004. The provisional schedule for the other volumes, eight in all, was as follows:

December 2004: Edinburgh and South-East Scotland
May 2005: Arran, Argyll and Bute
September 2005: Perth, Stirling, Fife and Tayside
January 2006: North-East Scotland and Angus
June 2006: Highlands
September 2006: Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland.

There is a special subscription price of £1800 for all eight volumes, otherwise the cost is £275.00 per volume.

For more information contact Robin Hooker, GS-Toponymics, 5 Viewforth Place, Kinghorn, Fife KY3 9RD or e-mail him: <mastermman@hotmail.com>.

JURA LANDSCAPE PROJECT

A press release was received just too late for the last Newsletter, but was of too much interest not to be mentioned now.

Last autumn Jura, Islay and briefly Cairndow on the Argyll mainland hosted an exhibition based on a massive project for recording the landform of Jura by digital photography and satellite imagery. The campaign on the ground was carried out over three years by Dr Gary McKay who is well known for use of satellite imaging in support of archaeology and geographic research. There was a special focus on relating the landscape to Gaelic place-names, many of which refer to figures in traditional epic tales.

Points of Contact:
Feolin Study Centre tel. 01496 820267
       Website <www.theisleofjura.co.uk>
Feolin Study Centre Director tel. 01496 820223
       email: director@theisleofjura.co.uk
Columba Centre of Islay tel. 01496 810818
       email: info@iccile.co.uk;
       website <www.iccile.co.uk>

IDENTITY PROBLEMS

According to local tradition, the site of St Gordian's kirk lies in a side valley off the Manor Water south-west of Peebles. There is an obvious platform where the kirk once stood. The place is confidently marked by a modern Celtic cross and an ancient cross-base. But: the cross-base was imported in the 19th century, probably from close to the at least twice rebuilt parish kirk of Manor near the foot of the Manor valley; there is no obvious well or burn just at hand, as would be expected from an ancient church site; and the visible remains are more consistent with late mediaeval settlement. Yet: close uphill was found an inscribed stone stylistically dated to the late 6th century - ✝ CONINIE and below that [--]RTIRIE. A fragment of the second missing letter shows that it virtually has to be E. This appears to rule out the 'obvious' reconstruction as MARTIRIE, hence '[Memorial or place] of the martyrdom of Coninia'. But: according to Prof John Koch MERTIRIE is, in terms of language history, a plausible late 6th century British spelling of what

would in classical Latin have been MARTYRIAE.

So perhaps the place-name Kirk Hope is not without some foundation, though on modern maps it strictly refers to a tributary valley upstream of that site. Newholm Hope appears to contain a lost *Neuway*, derived from ancient Celtic *nemeton* and indicating a ritual grove or enclosure in pre-Christian times; such sacred places were often converted to early Christian use. There is a series of strange cairns at Newholm Cairns Hill, at the head of the hope, by the old track called Thief's Road. But: these cairns are recent, not among the hundreds of prehistoric heaps of stones in the Border hills.

As for St Gordian, this would be the only such dedication in Britain. It is the name on the bell dated 1483 at Manor kirk which has apparently survived two rebuildings and so indicates that the dedication was well established there; but mediaeval records refer rather to St Gorgon and the name also appears later as Gorgham. Was Gordian, perhaps better known from relics at Canterbury, a distant bell-founder's mistake? Gordian was a boy martyr at Rome in 362; Gorgon, a soldier, was martyred in 303, his body was much later brought to Lorraine, and he has some dedications in France; and as if that were not enough a Gorgonia (ob. 375) was a role model of early Christian matronhood. Any of these might be an appropriate association for a female martyr, member of a local ruling family.

Hypotheses: (1) the name Kirk Hope does not recall a former kirk of the martyr St Gordian or Gorgon, because that dedication always belonged to the predecessor of the present parish kirk, but is a rationalisation of a vague yet justified traditional association of the side valley with a martyr; (2) less likely, there was a small chapel, but further west, perhaps at Old Kirkhope.

WP, with help from RCAHMS's indispensable CANMORE website (see page 7 of Newsletter 17).

BOOK REVIEW

David Dorward's *The Sidlaw Hills* published (posthumously) by Pinkfoot Press, 2004, £7.95. ISBN – 1-874012-46-6. 162 pages.

This is a beautifully produced book. Like its predecessor *The Glens of Angus*, it is charmingly illustrated by Colin Gibson's pen and ink drawings, and well put together in a very reasonably-priced paperback, for which Pinkfoot Press are to be congratulated. Sadly, David, a leading SPNS member, did not live to see it published, passing away late 2003 (obituary in newsletter no. 16): his standing in the world of Scottish place-names was already assured by the Angus Glens book, and books on Dundee names, on Scottish surnames, and the widely known *Scotland's Place-Names*, a popular account of the commoner elements composing place-names, published 25 years ago. This latter book gives the clue to the tradition he stood in, for although scholarly he was not strictly a scholar working in the academic field of onomastics. Dr. Simon Taylor (who is!), in his fine introduction to the new book, writes kindly of this distinction, and shrewdly notes that " . . David wanted to be a bridge between the scholarly and the popular, and if he had become too scholarly he would never have achieved what he did."

In consequence, *The Sidlaw Hills* is written with a light touch. Those working on the (very honourable) academic veins of our place-names interest might frown at some aspects of his explanations, unsecured by references or footnotes – for instance, under King's Seat he quotes from anon . . 'the hill is said to have been frequented by some monarch of ancient times' – but it certainly makes for an accessible read. What is not in doubt is that the thousand or so names have been thoroughly researched, and there are assuredly no howlers of the kind you find in tartanalia booklets. But this is not just a book on place-names: indeed the gazetteer listing names and explaining meanings occupies about one third of the book. The remainder explores the landscape and the history, and suggests some walks – clearly David knew and loved this country.

The Sidlaws are not big hills. There are no Munros, Corbetts, or Grahams, and the highest (Craigowl –*creag gobhal*, forked hill, probably from the bifurcation of the old tracks over it) at 1492 feet, suffers the modern indignity for titchy hills of having communications masts speared on its top. As David himself notes, most of the other Sidlaw hills are named after settlements at their feet – so the cousins, the Pentlands and Ochils, could look down their hill-shoulders at them. But that does not detract from the charm of the area, or from the fascination of the place-names of this corner of Scotland. A book that is excellent value for money – I recommend it.

Pete Drummond

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The spring conference of **SNSBI** (Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland) is in Swansea, from 2 to 5 April. More details through Scotplace website (address on page 2).

SP-NS Spring Conference and AGM. Saturday 7 May, at Tweed Horizons, near Newtown St Boswells. Flyers for this conference should be enclosed with this newsletter mailing, and bookings with cheques should be sent to Ian Fraser (SP-NS), School of Scottish Studies, 27 George Square, Edinburgh, as soon as possible. We hope to see many regular attenders there, as well as others for whom the southerly location is particularly convenient. Please note that **Leslie Fraser** will have a **bookstall** at the conference, but is not planning to start mail order just yet.

The **SP-NS Autumn Conference** will visit the former Central Region this year. Details will follow, with next Newsletter.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Compiled by Simon Taylor, with help from Carole Hough. Please let Simon Taylor know of omissions, and these will be included in the next *Newsletter*.

Breeze, Andrew, 2004, 'Some Celtic Place-Names of Scotland: Ptolemy's *Verubium Promontorium*, Bede's *Urbs Giudi*, Mendick, Minto, and Panlathy', *Scottish Language* 23, 57-67.

Breeze, Andrew, 2004, 'Brittonic place-names from south-west Scotland, part 5: Minnygap and Minnigaff', *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society*, 78 (2004), 121–23.

Breeze, Andrew, 2004, 'Scottish place-names: the way ahead', in *Doonsin' Emerauds: New Scrieves anent Scots an Gaelic/ New Studies in Scots and Gaelic*, edited by J. D. McClure (Belfast: Queen's University), 18–23.

Cox, Richard A. V., 2004, 'The Norse element in Scottish place names: syntax as a chronological marker', in *Unity in Diversity: Studies in Irish and Scottish Gaelic Language, Literature and History*, Léann na Tríonóide Trinity Irish Studies No. 1, edited by C. G. Ó Háinle and D. E. Meek (School of Irish, Trinity College, Dublin), 37–49.

Dorward, David, 2004, *The Sidlaw Hills* (with illustrations by Colin Gibson) (Balgavies, Angus). (Reviewed above.)

Gammeltoft, Peder, 2004, 'Among *Dímons* and *Papeys*: What kind of contact do the names really point to?', *Northern Studies* 38, 31-49.

Gammeltoft, Peder, 2004, 'Scandinavian-Gaelic contacts. Can place-names and place-name elements be used as a source for contact-linguistic research?', *North-Western European Language Evolution*, 44, 51–90.

Grant, Alison, 2002, 'A New Approach to the Inversion Compounds of North-West England', *Nomina* 25, 65-90.

Grant, Alison, 2004, 'A Reconsideration of the *Kirk*-Names in South-West Scotland', *Northern Studies* 38, 97-121.

Hough, Carole, 2004, 'Two "bird hall" names in Kirkpatrick Fleming', *Transactions of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society*, 78, 125–30.

Nicolaisen, W. F. H., 2004, 'A gallimaufry of languages', in *Namenwelten. Orts- und Personennamen in historischer Sicht*, edited by A. van Nahl, L. Elmevik and S. Brink, Ergänzungsbände zum Reallexikon der Germanischen Altertumskunde, 44 (Berlin: Walter de Gruyter, 233–40).

Ralton, Andrew, 2005, 'The Roads that led by Prestoungrange' (Prestoungrange University Press) [Focuses on history of local roads and industries, but text and extracts of old maps contain many defunct place-names and older forms of surviving ones.]

Sandnes, Berit, 2003, *Fra Starafjall til Starling Hill: Dannelse og utvikling av norrøne stednavn på Orknøyene*, published Ph.D., NTNU Trondheim, Norway. ['From Starafjall to Starling Hill: formation and development of Norse place-names in Orkney', an in-depth study of the Norse place-names of the parishes of Evie, Rendall and Firth on the west mainland of Orkney]

Scott, Margaret, 2004, 'Uses of Scottish place-names as evidence in historical dictionaries', in *New Perspectives on English Historical Linguistics. Selected Papers from 12 ICEHL, Glasgow, 21–26 August 2002. Vol. II: Lexis and Transmission*, edited by C. Kay, C. Hough and I. Wotherspoon (Amsterdam, John Benjamins), 213–24.

Stylegar, Frans-Arne, 2004, '"Central Places" in Viking Age Orkney', *Northern Studies* 38, 5-30.

Taylor, Simon, 2003, 'Place-names and Archaeology', *History Scotland* vol. 3 no. 6 (November/December), 50-3.

Taylor, Simon, 2004, 'Celtic Place-Names of Clackmannanshire', *History Scotland* vol. 4 no. 4 (July/August), 13-17.

Taylor, Simon, 2004, 'Scandinavians in central Scotland: *bý*-place-names and their context', in *Sagas, Saints and Settlements*, edited by Gareth Williams and Paul Bibire (Leiden, Netherlands), 125-45.

Watson, W. J., 1926 (2004), Reprint of Watson's classic *History of the Celtic Place-Names of Scotland*, with an Introduction, full Watson bibliography and corrigenda by Simon Taylor, Birlinn (paper-back).

Wilkinson, John Garth, 2004, '*LANUM* and *Lugudunum*: Full Lune, and Light on an Unkempt Wraith', *Nomina* 27, 71-89 [includes discussion of the name 'Lothian' in context of Londesborough, East Yorkshire (*Lodenesburg* 1086)].
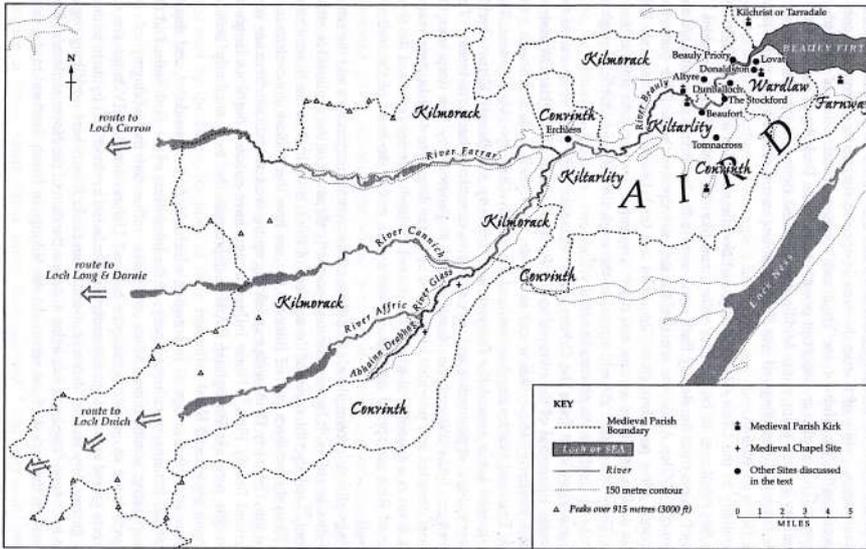
(Above) Beauly/Strathglass: mediaeval parishes of the study area (from Crawford & Taylor, 2003, 13) – see article on page 3. (Right) Plodda Falls: The name of this spectacular waterfall at the head of Abhainn Dèabhag, one of the rivers which feed into the Glass, may preserve a Norse name for the Glass. (Photo Simon Taylor)
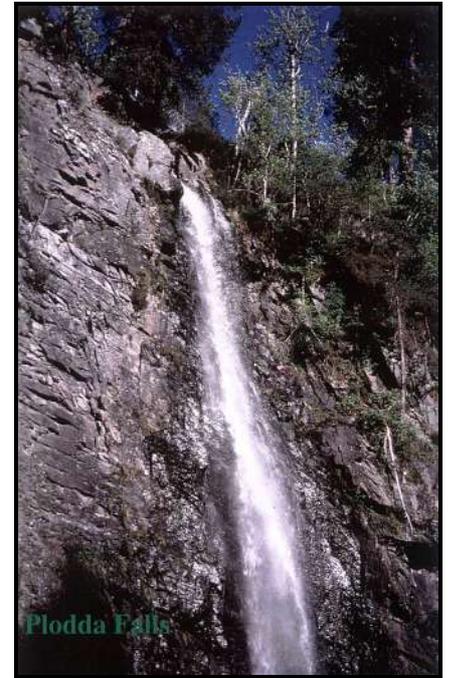
The 12th century 'Munmaban', mentioned in Andrew Breeze's article on Minnygap and Minnigaff, (see 'New Publications') has disappeared from Kirkurd parish, Peeblesshire. However, the Carmaben Well (NT110472), outside neighbouring Dolphinton, Lanarkshire, is at the foot of a small ridge called Carmaben Hill. Place-names containing –maben or –mabon have been linked with the ancient boy-god Maponos (Welsh Mabon), although caution is needed since Mabon is also known as a personal name of mere mortals and there are related common nouns.

End of a January afternoon on the whaleback of Dollar Law, in the hills between Manor and the uppermost reaches of the Tweed: westerly view to Culter Fell and distant Tinto. Blaeu 1654 and Moll 1745 maps have Duillard Hill, suggesting a Gaelic 'dark height'. For the slightly higher Broad Law, to the south, Blaeu has 'Braidl Hill' and Moll the strange 'Braidalb Mountain'. Do these hint that the aptly descriptive modern name in standard English rests on much older linguistic foundations? (Thanks to National Libraries of Scotland website for access to maps.)

By the reputed site of St Gordian's kirk, in Manor parish, Peebles-shire. See also front cover and 'Identity Problems' on page 5.

Folk etymology in pub signage at Auchencrow, Berwickshire. Forms since the 12th century point to Gaelic craobh, *'tree'.*