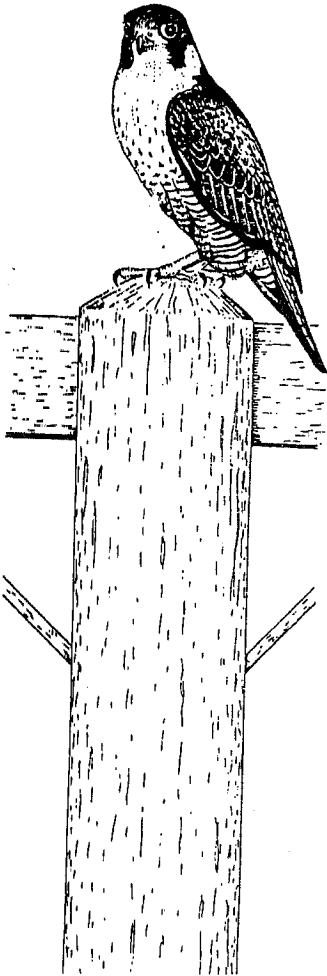




CARSPHAIRN

HERITAGE

GROUP



The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held on Friday 17th November at Lagwyne Hall.

Jane Page, the Regional Archaeologist, will also be there to give a slide show and talk on the ancient remains of our area. Please attend if you can.

NEWSLETTER - No. 8

OCTOBER 1989

SUMMER EXHIBITION

This year's 'Bygone Farming' exhibition attracted a good number of visitors and 330 signed the book.

COMPETITION WINNERS

Children's Competition

The winners of the collage competition were awarded their prizes at the opening of the exhibition. They were as follows;

- Class 1 ages 5 to 7 - Tom Tufnell
Balmaclellan.
Class 2 ages 8 to 11 - Aileen Pringle
Carsphairn.
Class 3 ages 12 to 16 - Katrina Holmes
Carsphairn.

The prizes were gifted by Mr. and Mrs. Barry Smart, Castle Douglas and Colonel and Mrs Clark Kennedy, Carsphairn.

Treasure Hunt

This was won by Mrs Anne Edwards from Twickenham and her prize was a copy of the cookbook and a year's membership of the Heritage Group.

The Teddy Bears Hamper was won by Mrs Miller from Dalry and the cake in the shape of a teddy bear was won by Mr Colin Campbell, Carsphairn. The chosen names for the teddy bears were Charley and Di.

Request for Information

Visitors to the exhibition, Mr and Mrs Andrew Millar, 1 Cairnsmore Road, Castle Douglas are looking for information on John Tait possibly a herd who was born about 1840 and who lived in the

Carsphairn District about the turn of the century. If you can help them please contact them directly.

RHINNS OF KELLS WALK

On Saturday 30th September 1989 at 9.30 a.m. 24 members and friends of Carsphairn Heritage Group set off from the timber point car park at Clenrie. This was the first hill walk organised by the Group and turned out to be a great success as testified to by the weary but exultant 23 who finished the route - only one, through unforeseen circumstances, had to turn back. A further 5 walkers (the ones too young to complete the whole course) met the forerunners of the main party on Corran of Portmark having come up from the Garryhorn Lead Mines and completed the walk from there.

Exceptionally good weather was enjoyed with sun all the way except for one slight mist patch and fine views particularly of the Merrick and Mulwharchar ranges and Loch Doon were well appreciated. The walk was "controlled" by 3 Marshalls - Doug Lewis up front, Ronnie MacKenzie bringing up the rear and Stuart Marshall in the centre. First gathering point was the summit of Meikle Millyea, the ascent of which was the most arduous part of the walk, where a short rest and some refreshment was taken. The walkers then proceeded along the ridge (with a few minor ups and downs) to the second gathering point and lunch stop on the summit of Corserine. Third gathering point was to be the summit of Meul, where a slight deviation of the route

was intended to visit the Kings Stone and well a short distance down to North of summit, but unfortunately several of the walkers up front were in too much of a hurry to get on (to be in time for their evening discos) that they could not wait for the tail enders most of whom on arrival were by then too weary to deviate so in the event only 4 arrived at the Kings Stone - the three marshalls and Robin Ade.

Arrivals at Drumjohn, where refreshments were waiting and a rest enjoyed by all before proceeding on their various ways, varied between five and six o'clock.

The success of this venture was, no doubt, due to the popularity of this walk which involves traversing a ridge which for nine miles is never below 2000 feet and from end to end is 12 miles - total distance approx. 17 miles. At least 10 other members and friends would have liked to come on it but were unable to do so because of other commitments on this date.

Amount of sponsorship to date is £530 with some of the returns yet to come in.

RECIPE BOOKS

The first edition of the recipe book compiled by Mrs Watret is now sold out but members who are still without one or who require more as gifts will be pleased to know that the second edition is now available from Anne Rutherford.

OLD TIME DANCE

The Group is sponsoring an Old Time Dance to be held at Lagwyne Hall on December 1st at 8.00 p.m. We have been fortunate in booking Roger Dobson's Band for this event and expect a good turnout. Tickets at £3.00 (adults) and £1.50 (children) are available only from Committee members. Tea, soup and sandwiches provided. There will be a bar.

A.G.M. AND TALK

The A.G.M. will be held at 7.00 p.m. on Friday 17 November at Lagwyne Hall. Jane Page, the Regional Archaeologist, will also be there to give a slide show and talk on the ancient remains of our area. Please attend if you can.

MEMBERSHIP

Members are reminded that subscription fees will shortly be due -

OAPs	-	£1.50
Individual	-	£3.00
Family	-	£5.00

KIRKYARD FIND

The following inscription was found very unexpectedly in the kirkyard of the Parish Church of St. Andrew's in Fife.

Sacred
to the memory of
Thomas Jackson L.L.D.

Professor of Natural Philosophy
in the University of St Andrews,
born at Waterhead, Carsphairn, Galloway
16th December 1773,
Died at St Andrews 17th February 1837.

This stone is in very good condition unlike the one in Carsphairn Kirkyard. Here much of the engraving is almost indecipherable but it can be seen that the Jackson family lived in the area, presumably at Waterhead for quite a long time. Little is known of Professor Jackson and his family but it is hoped that by the time the next newsletter is published we shall have a fuller picture of him.

EXTRACT FROM THE DUMFRIES STANDARD 1859 - 130 Years Ago.

Carsphairn - The poor of Carsphairn as in years previous have this year received a goodly supply of coals and meal. The farmers both resident and non-resident collected amongst themselves the money to purchase the coals and meal, and the resident farmers gave their horses and carts to draw the coals and meal from Dalmellington. Each one of the needful poor received a cart-load of coals and a few stones of meal, and more meal is stored past to be given when need requires. Such acts of charity among the inhabitants of a district speak for themselves

FARMING OBJECTS

One member of the Heritage Group was inspired to hunt up some old accounts after visiting the Farming Exhibition in the summer and seeing there some of the old objects. We went through these accounts and took out some of the prices of the articles that were displayed.

In 1906 James Hyslop, Furnishing Ironmonger and Seedsman from New Cumnock sold the following articles to an unknown customer.

1 Kitchen fender 6/6, 1 room fender 3/6,
3 pails 3/6, 1 Jelly pan 4/9, 1 milking
luggle 3/3, 1 washboard 1/2, 1 basket 3/-
1 Byre Brush Handle 1/8½, 1 Lamp 4/6,
1 Hearth Brush 2/-, Shovel 8d, 1 set fire
brasses 4/9d, 1 pr candlesticks 4/6,
1 whitewash brush 1/9, 1 scrubber 6d,
1 butter print 1/-, 1 set scales 8/9,
1 churn 17/6, 1 sieve 1/3, 1 graip 2/9,
1 potato graip 2/3, 1 spade 2/9. Total
cost just over £5.

On 23rd March 1914 Mr George McKay who had just moved from Mossdale, Dalmellington to Lagwyne, Carsphairn, bought the following from A.S. Galloway and Co. General Drapers and Outfitters, Dalmellington.

1 gents hat 3/11, 1 pair gloves 3/11 and
1 set of studs 1/-.

On May 28th 1914 he bought the following from James Donald and Co., Kilmarnock:-
1 No.3 "Victoria" Churn £3.7.6. This was delivered free to Dalmellington.
1-9" Tin Milk Sieve 2/-, 1-16" Oblong Basket 2/- and 1 Oval Varnished Basket 1/9.

On May 16th 1914 he bought, from James Hair of Kilmarnock, some furniture which included 4 parlour and 1 easy chair at

£5 10s.; a chest of drawers at £3.12s.6d; a parlour table at £1 12s and a whicker chair 14s. The total bill was £12 12s 6d and he got a discount of 6s 6d.

On July 4th he bought more furniture from James Gibson a joiner at Dalmellington, a varnished dresser 3/-, $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen kitchen chairs £3 3/-, a kitchen table with two drawers £1 1/- and a byre stool for 1/8.

EXCERPT FROM AYR ADVERTISER OF JULY 1839

Carsephairn Lead Mine - Although only a few months have elapsed since it was discovered that valuable lead ore lurked under the heather of upland wilds, down-right and lateral shafts have been sunk, houses built for the accommodation of thirty workmen, and a few miles of branch road formed, by means of which the distance to Ayr has been reduced to twenty-three miles. Contracts have been entered into for the erection of a least double the number of houses, and at present the Carsephairn or Woodhead Lead Mine gives employment to upwards of sixty miners, labourers and others. The village of Carsephairn is pretty close at hand, and such as lack dormitories on the spot, find accommodation there during the night. Had the village in question been a mile or two nearer the site of the shaft, the discovery of an unknown mine of wealth would have gradually proved the means of growing aggrandisement; and even as matters stand at present, promises to be of great ultimate advantage to a considerable circuit of country around. Specimens of the ore have been sent to England and the metal in its rude state has been characterized by competent judges as the richest vein of the kind in Scotland. A considerable quantity is now on hand; but as the necessary smelting apparatus is

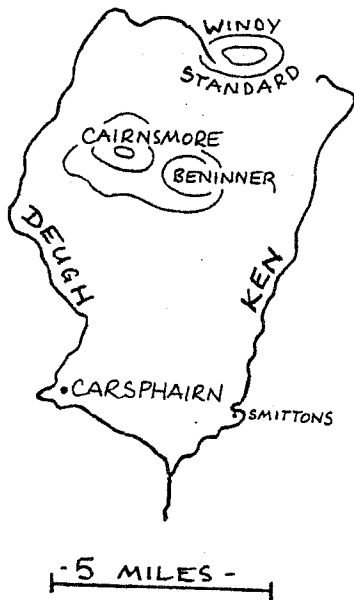
is still wanting, none of it as yet has been formed into bars. It was the tenant of Woodhead who accidentally discovered remarkably pure lead very near the surface, and as his duty bound, he immediately apprised his landlord, Col. McAdam Cathcart, of Craigengillan, of what occurred; hence the operations that have since taken place - for Woodhead forms but a small part of the extensive domains in Ayrshire and the Stewartry annexed to Berbeth House.

SAGA OF "HEATHER"

Whilst on a hill walk on Saturday October 21st to Windy Standard, following up Doug Lewis and Ronnie Mackenzie John Clark-Kennedy had the misfortune to loose his sheepdog bitch 'Heather'. As she is deaf there was no way in which he could call her back and was forced to leave the hill without her. If on her own ground (Cairnsmore of Carsphairn area) she is always able to find her way back, but on strange ground is lost. The next morning John returned and travelled the old prospectors' road round Moorbrock Hill and contacted all local shepherds, etc. but without success, however the story has a happy ending, as on Sunday afternoon the indefatigable John was joined by Doug Lewis and Ronnie MacKenzie and a search made of the last area in which John had seen Heather. On reaching Keoch Rig Heather appeared out of the bracken. The faithful dog had waited there knowing that John would come back for her - what trust dogs have in us mere humans!

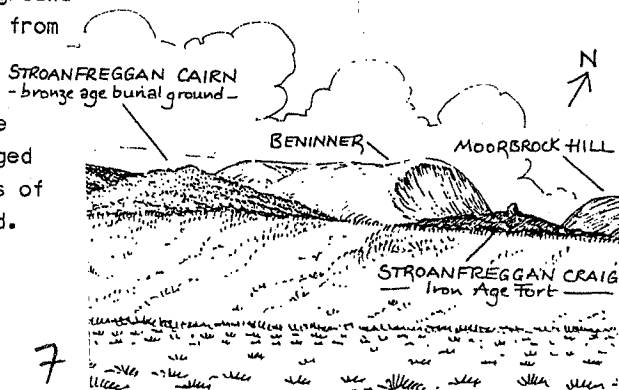
was the early agricultural societies who began the building of stone monuments and one of these, at the huge neolithic settlement of New Grange in Ireland, has a series of carvings which are believed to relate to salmon migration patterns.

The Ken probably had another attraction for the first farmers in the area. The upper glen consists mostly of soil rather than peat, a fact which today's conifer plantations obviously appreciate, and prior to the clearance and improvement of the low ground around Carsphairn it could well have offered better settlement sites than the poorer ground along the Deugh. For livestock farming the advantage of better ground would be marginal, but for Stone Age crofters the presence of soil for crops may have been significant.



The succession of Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements in the same area between Smittons and Stroanfreggan could point to a continuity based both on the annual salmon run and the relatively good farming conditions. Finds of stone implements at Craigen-gillan and Corlae, as well as numerous remains of habitations on the surrounding hills including the large 'dykers village', suggest that the higher ground also held a substantial population from ancient up to quite recent times.

Today, with the salmon gone and the quality hill ground largely submerged in spruces, two natural attractions of the glen have been sadly diminished.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL INFORMATION:

THE KINGS CAIRN (near BROUGHILLS)

N.G.R. NS 5542 0114 Neolithic Chambered Cairn. 'The Kings Cairn'

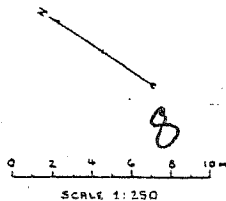
- Refs: i) Chambered Tombs of Scotland 2, 1972 p.445-t A. S. Henshall.
 ii) PSAS 64, 1929-30, 272-5 A. O. Currie.

The robbed remains of 'The King's Cairn' a Bargrennan-type, chambered, round cairn which was cleared by Curle in 1928 having been previously robbed to chamber-level. It still remains to this level, the centre being an untidy mass of small stones and boulders although the greater part of the cairn is turf-covered. It measures 70 feet across and stands 1 to 2 feet high except towards the SE where it reaches a maximum height of 4 feet.

A relatively modern wall encircles the cairn a little outside its edge.

The King's Cairn - name unconfirmed, is generally as described and measures overall 19.5m N-S by 18.5m transversely.

The remains of two chambers at least 3.0m long and on the same NW-SE axis, comprise standing slabs and walling of large stones. The E wall of the southern chamber is neatly corbelled to a height of 0.9m. Over the N chamber are two overlapping roofing slabs and a third which appears to be a modern placing. Further chamber or passage detail on the same axis, and shown on the plan is now largely obscured by tumble.



A-FRAME BUILDING PROJECT

Progress on our project has slowed down since Easter as reported in the July Newsletter mainly due to the non availability of financial aid from the S.D.A. but we have now received £10,000 from the S.D.A., via a Trust Fund, and are working towards the acquisition of the site and removal of the building from Liverpool to Carsphairn with this grant.

Many of you will have seen the report in the Galloway News recently on a District Council meeting at which our project was discussed and you will be aware that the District Council has agreed in principle to the building of public toilets on the site opposite Lagwyne Hall and to taking responsibility for the future maintenance of these. The Countryside Commission has also indicated that they will be prepared to contribute grants of up to 60% towards the cost of erecting the toilets

An application has also been made for planning permission for the site incorporating both the Heritage Centre and the toilets. We are hopeful that the project will continue towards completion although it is now more likely that it will not be completed until 1991.

