

CURATOR'S REPORT

In the last newsletter, I mentioned a fascinating circle that appeared on the aerial photos of Glen Bellart. This was investigated with Peter Leach, but sadly turned out to be a shieling, rather than the hoped-for kerb cairn.

Peter and I visited Haunn with the Historical Society, and confirmed a stackyard with circular stack bases at the deserted township of Scomar. Down near the harbour, there were two enigmatic structures. A boat shaped setting of stones parallels those recorded for the Outer Hebrides, and is probably early bronze age; Kevin Luscombe reported a similar setting near Cracaig.

A group of large boulders had the central area roofed over with corbelled stones. Although this may be a chambered cairn, a recent store building is more likely.

The museum has had a few more acquisitions; of note are some medals. A silver Burgh medal, dating from 1975, was awarded to the baillies at the cessation of Tobermory's burgh status. Three silver medals given to A MacFarlane were handed in by his niece; two are from the High School and relate to the 1937 Coronation; the third was awarded to Salen FC, the winners of the 1946-7 Mull football league.

Ideas for replacing the postal display in the glass cabinet are still needed - sport on Mull is a possible theme.

MACQUARRIE BURIAL GROUND

The broken cross in the old burial ground is being considered for repair, but there has been no response to the appeal to find the interesting plaque that was once there.

KEEP IN TOUCH - please!

The Bulletin only comes out twice a year, but we send out news and information regularly by email, so if you haven't had an email from us recently about events it's because we don't have your current email address. We have large gaps in our email list so please help us by responding. Please email the Secretary at mullmuseum@hotmail.co.uk and help us get the mailing list up to date. If you would prefer to have your Museum Bulletin by email, we can do that - let us know. The Bulletin is also on our website at www.mullmuseum.org.uk - you can read the latest edition and all previous Bulletins back to No 18 Autumn 2008.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL - due in April each year

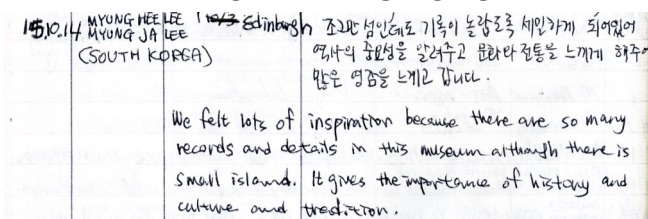
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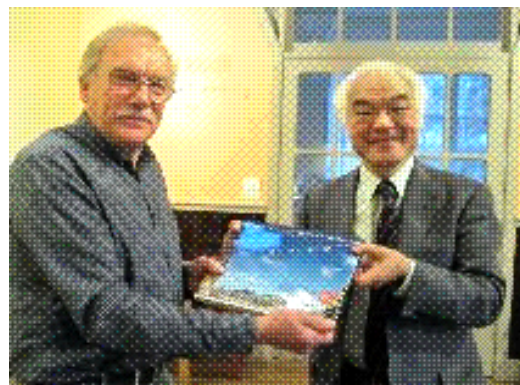
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01688 301100

KANASAKA, KOREANS, AND OTHER VISITORS



Just one of the hundreds of entries in our visitors book this year, but the first time we have had one written in Korean script - fortunately they also commented in English!

This was followed by a visit from the ebullient Professor Kanasaka of Kyoto, Japan. His touring exhibition of photographs connected with Isabella Bird, held here in 2009, has now been published in a handsome book - a copy was received on behalf of the Museum by Chairman Denis Broad.



Hardly had our friends from Japan departed than another visitor from the East came through the door, bowing politely. She too was interested in Isabella Bird whom she described as her "heroine" a role model for all women. She and her entourage of two cameramen toured the Museum interviewing and giving a commentary on various displays. The film is to be part of The World Theme Travel programmes by the Korean Educational Broadcasting System

MY HOUSE

A new competition from Mull Museum.

How much do you know about the house you live in? When was it built? Who lived in it first? What did they do? Who lived next door? Has the building changed much? And the garden? If your house is fairly new, what was there before?

We are asking you to enter our competition to create a history of your house - with stories, pictures and information. The winner will have their entry used as the basis for a new display panel in the Museum in 2015. The history can be of the house you live in now, one that you used to live in, or another house on Mull (and adjacent islands) with the present owner's permission. Entries can be in any format - a handwritten document with a bundle of old photos, or a complete dossier on a disc, that's up to you, as we will ask you to help us design and mount the information as a display.

The closing date for entries is 31st January.

The Museum Archive Evenings are every Wednesday from 7.30 to 9pm, but you are welcome to come and do research in the Museum at any time.

Contact us on mullmuseum@hotmail.co.uk or 01688 301100 for more information.

Keep in touch



Archive and Library Report

MULL DISTRICT COUNCIL MINUTES

As part of the on-going transcription programme, Christine Leach has been hard at work on the Mull District Council Minutes. These proved an autumn entertainment to the desk attendants - especially those who remember the protagonists:

The first meeting of the Mull District Council took place on 31 May 1948. It had responsibility for all of Mull apart from Tobermory, still a burgh with its own Town Council.

One of the first issues to be raised was the lack of what was described as "shelters" at Fionnphort and Iona – that is - Public Conveniences. By 1952 the water supply had been sorted out in Fionnphort and the work could go ahead as a matter of urgency. In that year also the Craignure 'shelter' was having problems with penny in the slot locks, and as the revenue collected from these was so small, ordinary slip bolts were to be fitted.

A far more serious problem facing residents at that time was the lack of an ambulance service on Mull. It had been proposed (by some off-island authority) that the Lifeboat stationed at Mallaig should be used in emergencies, but it was agreed that it would be far better to use the landing strip at Glenforsa for an Air Ambulance. In the meantime, the motor-ferry boat 'Lochbuie', which plied between Mingary and Tobermory, was to be made available for the conveyance of urgent cases to Oban. This open boat was most unsuitable, especially for stretcher cases. A case was cited of a patient from Fionnphort who had been taken by ambulance, over the poor roads of Mull to Tobermory, and then by the 'Lochbuie' to Oban, arriving there at 3.30 am, the journey having taken 7 1/2 hours. Messrs R. & A Cowe sent a request to the Council asking that the section of road between Salen / Craignure / Kinloch Junction be opened to vehicles with a carrying capacity of more than 14 passengers.

At this time, the road through Glenmore was still composed of just two strips of tarmac. Old gateposts at the sides of the road had been left in place. They were now becoming a problem, at the sides of 'classified roads' as more and more large vehicles were using the roads and the gateposts were becoming an impediment. Cattle grids were suggested to replace the old gates. As always, there was not enough money allocated for the repair of the roads on Mull, which in 1951 were considered to be in a 'fearful bad condition'. It was suggested that a set number of miles be constructed annually, as there were about 100 lorries and vans now using them. It was admitted that gravel was being hauled from Knock beach to the 'Shillister' Bridge at Tiroran and breaking up the road badly. The following year a 75% grant was being sought from the Dept. of Agriculture for 'necessary repairs' to the road from Tiroran to Burg. One suggestion at the time was that any road that was having repairs carried out should be closed to traffic. It would have been interesting to see how that worked out! Needless to say, the idea never went any further. Another report in 1953 suggested that the installation of a crushing and tarmacadam plant at a site on the island, for an estimated annual outlay of £24,000 " would provide a complete transverse carpet (across full width of road) for approximately 10 miles of road per year, so that by the end of 13 years or so all classified roads in Mull should be put in good shape and heart, with, I should expect a considerable reduction in annual labour cost for maintenance."

Up until now, there was no Council Refuse Dump to deal with the refuse from the New Salen Housing Site, and Scavenging Districts had not been established. As there was no dumping place available, the District Road Foreman said that it would be necessary to dump the ashes from the houses at Gribun rocks. This was considered to be ridiculous, because of the distance they would have to travel from Salen! It was also noted that the foreshore at Buessan was becoming unsightly because of the dumping of refuse. The difficulty was that making Buessan a Special Scavenging District would involve a substantial increase in rates. *Christine Leach*

LIBRARY: RECENT ACQUISITIONS

1. A copy of Sally Magnusson's book "Where Memories Go" has been purchased. This includes a signed "thank you" note to the Museum for help with her research.
2. A donation of a Japanese translation of "Cocoa and Crabs" by Flora MacDonald.
3. We have purchased "A Drop in the Ocean" by Polly Pullar as, although it is about Muck, there are close connections with Mull
4. Professor Kiyonori Kanasaki and his wife Nobuko visited Tobermory in October to present his book "In the Footsteps of Isabella Bird: Adventures in Twin Time Travel" to the Museum. This is bi-lingual, in Japanese and English, and is beautifully illustrated with most pages in full colour. He also brought other Japanese books as a gift and we hope to place them all together in a particular shelf in the Library.

If you would like to come into the Library when the Museum is closed, please telephone the Museum or the librarians:
01688 301240

ARCHIVE OPEN EVENINGS

These popular evenings will start again on Wednesday 21st October at 7.30pm. Anyone who is interested in the history of Mull, their family or where they live, is welcome to come to the Museum between 7.30pm and 9.30pm every Wednesday. Trawl through our pile of archive boxes or open the drawers full of photographs. Browse at random or do a focussed search using the catalogue. There are maps too, and shelves and shelves of interesting books. And there will always be someone on hand to help and guide you, if required.

VIOLET MORGAN

It is always interesting to be set off on a local enquiry by a Mull resident. I have walked past the commemorative stone, buried deep in the heather at Loch Torr many times and never taken the trouble to find out more about it but Mike Beckett sent me off on the trail of Violet Morgan. Frederick Morgan owned Glengorm from 1897 until his death in 1910. Violet was, in all likelihood his daughter - one wonders whether it was her 3-piece split cane rod that lies along the top of the stone. The loch was created as a fishing loch, being dammed at the north end and there was a champagne opening and the Allans, who were teetotal enjoyed themselves hugely on the lovely "lemonade". Frederick Morgan is commemorated in a window in Kilmore Church to which he was a generous benefactor. A history of Glengorm estate is being written by Janet Nelson which will be forthcoming in the summer of 2015.



*LOCH AN TOR /
OPENED /
18TH AUGUST
1899 /
BY /
MISS VIOLET
MORGAN /*

P/00468