

No stone here

L354-7 John Stevenson of Oban

B Mrs Matilda M Stevenson, 17 Jul 1844 (72)

Thomas Stevenson, 4 Aug 1845 (75)

I (Handsome monument)

Front Er. By John Stevenson.. imo (Matilda) Maule d. July 1844 (72) & her Husband Thomas Stevenson d. 4 Aug 1845 (75) ... George 4 July

1857 ...Son of Alexander. The above John Stevenson d. 10 Apr 1869 (69)

Side imo Thomas Stevenson d. at Glasgow 28 Mar 1860 (38) -verse- & of Jane Felce Thomson, his wife, d. at Mells Somerset 5 Apr 1898 (67)

L364-5 Duncan Whyte, Watchmaker

I Er by Duncan Whyte imo beloved wf Jean Stevenson d. 26 Jan 1881 (72) & Whyte family names

L466 Donald Campbell, Glensheloch

B Nicol Campbell 22 May 1849 (92)

I (worn at top) also John Stevenson late of Glenample his brother in law d. at Oban 7 Dec 1880 (88) Also Mary Stevenson, wife of Donald Campbell d. 7 Jun 1884 (82)

Dr Nicholas Morgan of United Distillers has written a coherent account of the Oban Distillery encompassing two generations of Stevensons (in two pages!). My purpose here is to fill the gaps from facts which are believed to be accurate, but which will stand correction.

LAHS AND AREA NEWS

Annual General Meeting 2nd November 2001

Alistair James retired as Treasurer and Duncan Campbell was elected in his stead. Maureen Saalfeld took on the daunting task of housing and managing the Society's extensive library. We thank her predecessor Richard Bourne for his unstinting work in previous years. Angus Matthew and Michael Kidd joined the Committee. The next AGM will be held on 1st November 2002 at a venue to be announced in the autumn Newsletter.

Public Events

Once again, the Society was represented at the 2001 Argyllshire Gathering, with a stand manned by members. Several artefacts were available for visitors to handle and this added to the interest of the poster displays. A further opportunity for the Society to 'show its wares' was presented by *The Big*

Do (see below) where we were successful in recruiting at least one new member!

LAHS Winter Programme 2001/2002

John MacFarlane again put together an interesting selection of talks, ranging from the excavation of Dunadd to the role played by the Campbell's of Barcaldine in the British Army in the 18th Century. Those attending enjoyed some excellent presentations, prompting questions from the audience and in some cases causing new information to come to light. Having moved to the Caledonian Hotel at the start of the season, a combination of circumstances resulted in a search for an alternative venue. The programme was completed in the undercroft of the church centre in Glencruitten Road.

LAHS Library

The Society has a collection of over 100 books plus reports and maps. Kenny Carmichael is cataloguing the contents of our volumes of the *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, and Robin Harvey is updating the general library catalogue.

Archaeology

There has been relatively little activity in the area, other than the excavation of a small section of the Bronze Age field boundary at Black Crofts, North Connel. Headland Archaeology carried out the work as a watching brief accompanying planning permission for new homes. This was Headland's second visit to the Black Crofts in three years, the first turning up nothing of archaeological interest. Copies of the report and the paper by Ritchie *et al.* on the 1970's excavation are held by the Society.

Progress with the new Nursing Home in Benderloch has been slow. A pre- construction evaluation of the site was carried out in the summer of 2001, with a large number of narrow trenches being dug by machine under the watchful eye of a consulting archaeologist. No archaeological evidence was found. The topsoil was removed just before Christmas 2001, but no further construction work has been done at the time of publication.

Benderloch Urn

The Bronze Age cremation vessel discovered in September 1996 finally went on public display at Kilmartin House on February 2nd. Members attended a preview on the evening of the 1st. The urn, in its new environmentally controlled case, formed the centrepiece of an exhibition entitled 'Death and Ritual'. A number of illustrated boards, put together under the direction of Deborah Long, were on display. These documented the discovery, excavation and analysis of the contents of the urn, as well as examining the rituals associated with death at this time. Meanwhile, a replica of the urn was being made for the finders, Robin

and Fay Harvey, by Edinburgh potter Su Nutgens - a frequent visitor to Kilmartin Museum, where she runs occasional classes in ancient pottery. This will eventually reside in their home at Benderloch, just a few metres from the spot where the original was discovered. The latter will return to its owners, Argyll & Bute Council, at the end of the exhibition.

The MacDougall Trust

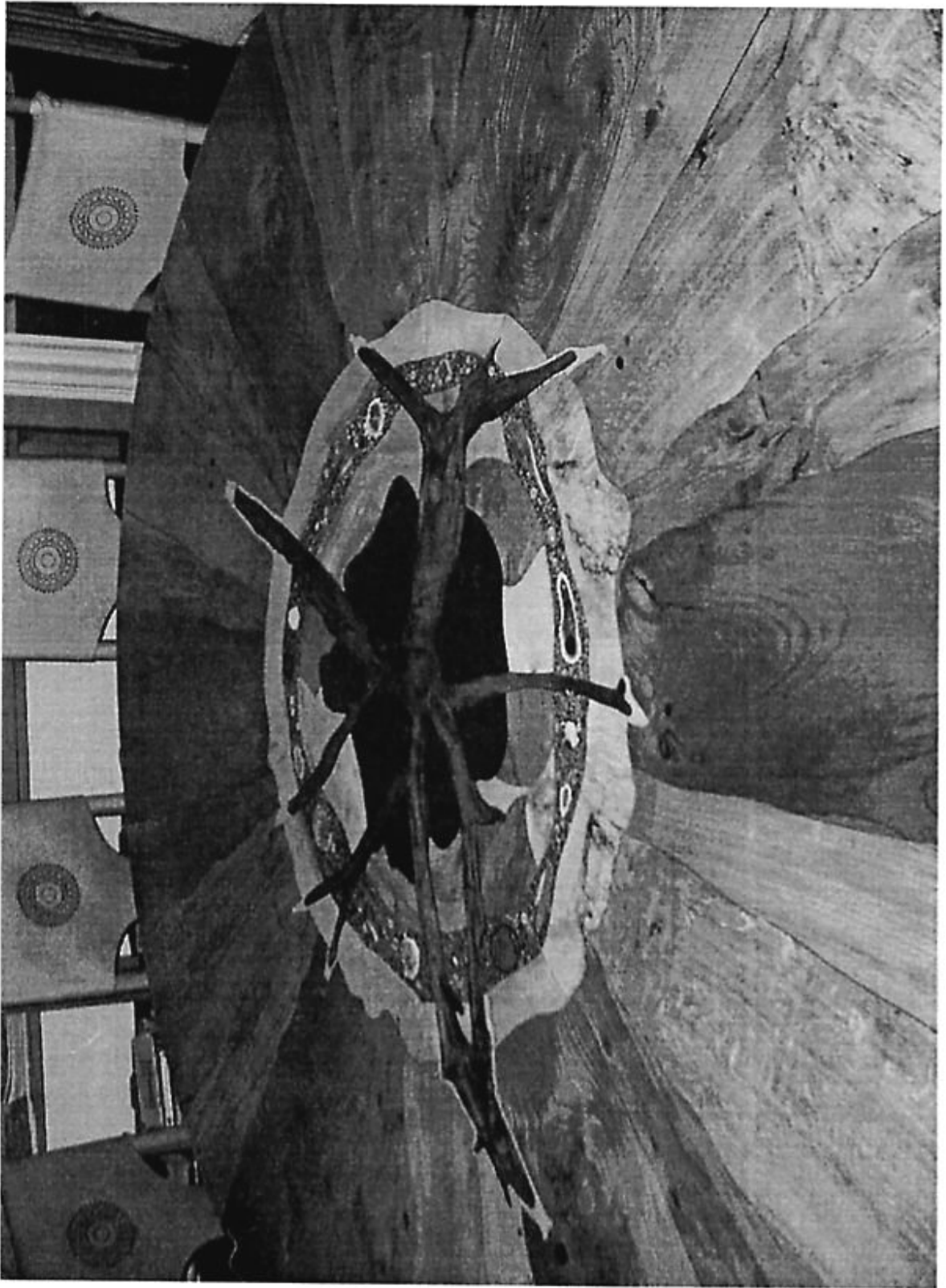
The tremendous news that the Trust has been awarded £74,800 in Heritage Lottery funding arrived at the start of 2002. This will be used to employ two part-time workers over three years to catalogue the collection left by Miss Hope MacDougall and carry out basic conservation. A number of other small grants will allow access to the collection via an Argyll & Bute-wide museum computer link. The project will be based at Dunollie by kind permission of Mrs Morag Morley.

As well as giving more people a chance to view parts of the collection, the project will also be addressing the widely recognised gap in museum and heritage provision in Oban. Schools will be a key part of the outreach programme and educational material will be developed to complement the artefacts. It is envisaged that themes such as spinning and weaving can be illustrated through the many items in the collection. Other community groups, especially the elderly, will also be reached. A further aim of the project is to train a network of volunteers to help care for the collection, take part in its documentation and explain its importance to the community.

Items from the collection have already been displayed at the Argyllshire Gathering 2001 and at the *Big Do* event in the Corran Halls in November, where local societies etc. had the opportunity to publicise their activities. Offers of additional artefacts for the collection have been received and it is hoped that these can be taken up once the core collection has been documented and shelved under one roof. *The Friends of the MacDougall Collection* are always looking for new members and helpers and can be contacted through their Treasurer Alison Chadwick tel. 01631 565213 or e-mail: a.mcnab@lineone.net.

Kilmartin House Trust

The Marion Campbell Library is now open at Kilmartin House and houses books bequeathed by Marion Campbell, the museum library and the library of the Natural History and Antiquarian Society of mid Argyll. With journal subscriptions being so expensive, any offers of relevant journals would be most gratefully received. The centrepiece of the library is a magnificent round table, the creation of Martin Murphy. The top of this has been imaginatively made from many different native hardwoods, bog pine, antler and bird quills, among other materials. Martin also made the wood chairs with embossed leather backs that accompany the table. King Arthur and his knights would have been impressed with his vision and craftsmanship!



The Library table at Kilmartin House Museum. Photo: Peter Lamont

In September 2001 the Trust welcomed new Director Colin Schafer who has moved from the south of England to take over the reins from David Clough. Colin's background is in business, rather than museums or archaeology and he aims to put his experience to use in ensuring a long-term future for Kilmartin House. This is timely, as financial pressures are all too evident in the heritage industry, which could have done without the adverse effects of foot and mouth in 2001. It is hard to believe that it is now 10 years since David and Rachel conceived the idea of the Kilmartin project. So much has been achieved, not only in terms of what is on display for the visitor, but also in the huge number of people who have been inspired and educated by the wide range of activities centred there. Deborah Long has also left Kilmartin and gone to work for *Plantlife* in Edinburgh. We wish them and the Trust every success for the future.

LAHS MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

If you have enjoyed reading this magazine and would like to join Lorn Archaeological and Historical Society, please contact the Treasurer, whose address is on Page 2 of this issue. The Subscription Year runs from 1st October each year, when a winter programme of indoor talks, slide shows and other events commences. Get your application in early to be sure of receiving a copy of the Winter Programme!

Subscription rates are:

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Material for inclusion in the next issue of *Historic Argyll* or comments on the content and style of this issue are welcomed and should be sent to the editor:

Robin Harvey

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