

# Kyleakin Local History Society



Website: [www.kyleakinlocalhistorysociety.co.uk](http://www.kyleakinlocalhistorysociety.co.uk)

Email: [kyleakinlocalhistorysociety@gmail.com](mailto:kyleakinlocalhistorysociety@gmail.com)

## **Spring 2013 Issue 7**

### **Diary Date**

The day and venue for the winter talks is changing – see back page for further information.

If any of you have any suggestions for talks, please contact any of the committee members.

Dates of other events taking place in the village can also be included in this section – please send the details to Sue.

### **Committee:**

Caroline Clouston  
Hector Grant  
Sue Lyons  
Margaret Macrae  
Roddy Morrison  
Anna Belle Robertson  
John Robertson  
Karren Smith  
Mike Taylor

## **Welcome to the Spring 2013 newsletter.**

If you haven't already renewed for this year, please contact AnnaBelle as soon as possible.

We are still looking for volunteers for the Bright Water Centre over the summer season – if you would like further information before committing yourself, please speak to Caroline.

Has anyone got any films of Kyleakin and the local area; do you have cine or video films lurking in your attic; did you or your parents record a special event in Kyleakin; have you any pictures taken at gala days? If so, and you would like to share them with the members, please get in touch.

Help is still required to transcribe some of the talks i.e. type up the talks which have been recorded on a Dictaphone. If you think you can help and have hours of spare time, please contact a member of the committee.

It would be interesting to have a collection of local wedding photographs over the years, especially to see how fashions have changed. If you have any wedding pictures where the bride or bridegroom (or both) lived in the village that you would be willing to share, let us know. Photos will be scanned and returned as quickly as possible and it would be helpful if you could name the people on any of the pictures.

We are still looking for a room/building to rent so that we can house our collection of pictures, artefacts and other memorabilia and somewhere to operate from.

If you can help with any of the above, please contact Caroline.

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We are still trying to identify how the village developed in relation to:

- ❖ Churches
- ❖ Hotels
- ❖ Fishing
- ❖ Schools
- ❖ Shops & Cafes
- ❖ Tourism
- ❖ Organisations i.e. SWRI
- ❖ Kyleakin Highland Games
- ❖ Gala Days
- ❖ Sport
- ❖ Military
- ❖ Families
- ❖ Ferries

If you have a particular interest in any of these sections, or you think that there is something missing, please get in touch.

## Now and Then:

Do you have old pictures of your house and do you know roughly when they were taken? Can you take a picture of your house now – i.e. in 2012?

If so, can you let us have copies so that we can form a display of what the village used to be like and what it is like now?

The majority of the houses in the village have undergone some form of extensions/ alterations, have you found anything unexpected that you think would be of interest to the Society?



1973ish Kyleakin Old School

There were some errors in the names of some of the children in this picture both in the last newsletter and on the website. Hopefully the names are now correct:

Back row, left to right: Michael Taylor, Jonathan Macrae, Donnie Ross, Hamish Graham, James Urquhart, Neil Robertson

Third row, left to right: Fiona MacKay, Helen Graham, Elspeth Campbell, Fiona MacDiarmid, Morag MacLeod, Christine Morrison, Margaret Robertson, Ellen Robertson and Janette Ross

Second row left to right: Ann Ross, Michelle Branson, Jacqueline (Jackie) Cameron, Christine Reid, Heather Campbell, Helen MacIntosh, Wendy Cornish, Catriona MacAskill, Maureen Robertson and Margaret Taylor

Front row sitting left to right: Angus MacLennan, Donald MacLennan, Norman Ross, Andrew Webley, Ronald Reid, Cameron Reid, Angus Macrae, Evander Macrae and Roderick Macrae

We would still like to know the exact date (month and year) to complete the details and also if you think any of the names are wrong, please let us know.

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## Can you help

We have a large number of old photographs of various views in the village; do you have the time to take photographs of the same views now?

We are looking to collect enough photographs so that we can organise a "now and then" display.

We would also like photographs of the harbour, fisheries pier and the boats. Whilst not considered historical now, in years to come, your grandchildren may be asking what it was like when Kyleakin had a working harbour!

**Membership application forms are available from in Camerons old shop/Post Office, or from AnnaBelle.**

**If you have any photos and documents of interest to the Society, they can be scanned and returned quickly.**

**Please send ideas for items/articles in the newsletter to any of the committee members.**



We now have some more information on this picture (received from Will MacLean):

The photograph was taken in 1937 to celebrate the coronation of King George VI

The boy on the left is Ian Robertson; the boy with the kilt is Dougald Munro and is standing next to the little girl who is Ella Munro. The "Minister" (who was their father) was the Church of Scotland Missionary Dugald Munro. Before his posting to Kyleakin he had previously served on St Kilda for which he was given special dispensation to carry out Sacraments usually preserved for Ministers such as Weddings, Baptisms and Communions. His wife was Welsh; Margaret nee Pugh, and their son Donald Pugh Munro is listed on the War Memorial. During World War II Mr & Mrs Munro ran a canteen in the old Village Hall for the Forces personnel and their families based in Kyleakin, under the auspices of the "Church of Scotland Huts and Canteens". They lived in the house called "Clarion" which the Church of Scotland rented for Missionaries before building the Mission House behind the church in the early 1960s.

Two of the ladies standing on the right of the picture relatives of current committee members; Hector Grant's mother - Annie Grant is the third lady in from the left and Caroline Clouston's mother - Agnes Soper is the lady with the black hat.

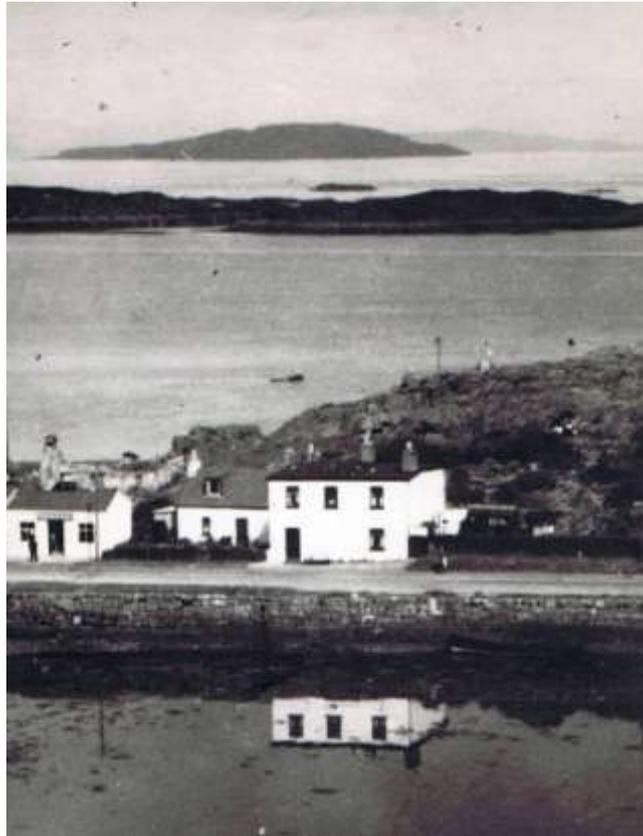
*Thanks to AnnaBelle Robertson, Margaret Macrae and Hector Grant for this information, if anyone else has knowledge about the event or the people in the picture, please let us know.*

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It would seem that a number of people have lived in Coille Bhurich over the years.

What are the origins of the house; did you or your relatives live in this house; where did it get its name from?

Do you know anything about the house next door; did you work in the shop on the left?

Why has this house always had a flat roof, are the doors and windows in their original places, did the building have a use before it became a house?

We would like to draw up a time line for Coille Brurich going back as far as we can from the current occupiers.

Other houses will feature in future newsletters.

The history of these houses will be lost in years to come unless we record the details now!

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Ena and Wacek's Golden Wedding Poem - 15th February 1991

I remember the White Heather in days of long ago  
When it was called Pier Cottage and belonged to the Boyo  
He lived here with his sister who was known as Ann the Cook  
She died lonely in the lamplight as she read the sacred book.

Now Ena joined the Forces and left the old farmhouse  
In her usual Fair Isle jumper - tartan kilt and blouse  
She exchanged them soon for khaki and from her head down to her sole  
Then at a dance in England she met a gallant Pole

This handsome foreign airman and Ena soon were wed  
But Poland to most Sgianachs was underneath the bed  
Catriona Mairi-Uilleam was taken quite aback  
And enquired of Ena's mother - if your daughter's husband black?

Proud Wacek lost his country - his language - ways of life  
But found great consolation in a bonnie Scottish wife  
Their hard won establishment stands squarely on the pier  
If it were not for Adolf Hitler there would be no Sikorskis here.

So here's to the chain of circumstance  
Fine golden links of length  
May all your loved descendants  
Share your fortitude and strength.

Composed by Helen MacRae

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## Dates for your diaries:

The talks for the 2013/2014 winter season are moving to Mondays and will be held in Kyleakin Connections Day Centre. Provisional dates are:

Monday 4th November 2013

Monday 2nd December 2013

Monday 6th January 2014

Monday 3rd February 2014

Monday 3rd March 2014

The 2013 Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 23rd September starting at 7.30 pm in Kyleakin Village Hall – please do come along with ideas of how you would like the society to progress.

Do you know which the oldest house in the village is? At least one house was built in 1891 (according to the deeds) – but was your house built earlier than this? Despite the possibility of numerous renovations, you may be living in what was the first house built in Kyleakin – or do you have any old maps - if so get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.

For most of the twentieth century, the little turntable ferry an ingenious, local invention, able to load at any state of tide and sparing motorists the bother of reversing was a Highland institution, bearing carts and cars, locals and tourists, over the straits and sea lochs of Scotlands western seaboard. By the late 1960s, they had become a victim of their own success and rapidly gave way to much bigger vessels, bypass roads and bridges. Robert Beale and John Hendy tell the tale of these sturdy wee ships, the routes they served and the men who sailed them. If turntable ferries had not the glamour and elan of the great Clyde steamers, they abounded nevertheless in character; they linked isolated communities; they opened the West Highlands to the motorist and bequeathed today's flourishing tourist industry. Size two-thirds A4, 104 pages.

Profits from the book will be donated to Glenachulish Preservation Trust

The book is available from Ferry Publications ([www.ferrypubs.co.uk](http://www.ferrypubs.co.uk))

Barbara and Kevin are brother and sister and are looking for information regarding their mother and (grandparents) - Christina Sophia (born on 13th February 1935) and her younger sister Avril who lived in the area with their parents "Jack" John Henry Lacey and Jessie Lacey. "Jack" John Henry Lacey was in the navy and stationed at Kyle of Lochalsh, from the late 1930's onwards, and any information to help them find out more about their families time in the area would be appreciated.

Thank you

[beresfordbarbara@gmail.com](mailto:beresfordbarbara@gmail.com) and  
[kevindoe191@btinternet.com](mailto:kevindoe191@btinternet.com)



We know who these people are and when they were married. Do you have any pictures you can loan us to scan for a future exhibition?

If you attended a wedding in the area and have pictures of friends and family, you think may be of interest; or do you know of any local traditions regarding weddings, or newspaper cuttings, if so get in touch with any member of the committee.