



THE 1ST MARQUIS OF MONTROSE SOCIETY

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Members of the group gathering to await the arrival of our Glen Roy guide Ronnie Campbell. The view to the north is the picturesque Glen Roy through which Montrose led his men on the way to the battle of Inverlochy.

INVERLOCHY WEEKEND

The autumn weekend gathering (9/10 Sept) was held this year at Inverlochy and the group of 23 who came together were blessed with a glorious weekend of both good weather and good company.

The weekend started at Aonach Mor chairlift where we met up before making our way to the Nevis Bank Hotel for lunch.

We were joined here by local historian and Schoolteacher Ian Rose who conducted us on an excellent tour of first Inverlochy Castle and then the battlefield itself.

Ian has spent much time in recent years studying the battlefield and the surrounding area and the contents of Ian's talk, along with the quality of its delivery, were greatly appreciated by the group.

Much discussion was had about the probable route of Montrose's descent from the heights above Inverlochy and the line of the assault on the Campbell's who were positioned to the west of

Inverlochy Castle. Ian fielded all questions with great spirit and talked us through the conflict as he saw it.

Accommodation had been arranged at the Croit Anna Hotel on the shore of Loch Linnhe and, following our evening meal here, we all had time to relax and enjoy a discussion on the days events.

The following morning broke clear and dry and following breakfast we headed off to our visit to Glen Roy.

Montrose led his army through Glen Roy prior to the battle of Inverlochy and we were led on our tour of the Glen by local farmer and historian Ronnie Campbell.

Ronnie led us up and down the Glen stopping at some of the many points of interest. We saw the sharpening stone with its deep groove where Montrose's soldiers were said to have stopped to sharpen their swords.

Ronnie also took us further down the glen to the remains of the tree upon which



INVERLOCHY WEEKEND CONTINUED....

Montrose had promised to hang Ian Lom MacDonald if it had been found that he was lying about the Campbell's being at Inverlochy.

Luckily for Ian Lom he was not lying and what followed soon afterwards was one of Montrose's greatest victories.

Full of Ronnie's fascinating stories of the glen we headed off for lunch at Roy Bridge where Ronnie joined us. Those fortunate enough to be at his table were treated to another round of stories!

A most memorable weekend came to a close after lunch and our gratitude was expressed to Ian Rose and Ronnie Campbell who both had entertained us wonderfully over the weekend.

Mention must also be made of our own Duncan Brown who piped us in great style during our visit to Inverlochy and Glen Roy.



Duncan in full 'Skirl' at Inverlochy Castle !

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AT CARBISDALE

Members will no doubt be disappointed to learn that a previous application to construct a property on the battlefield of Carbisdale, thought to have been defeated, has been resubmitted to Highland Council.

The proposals have once again met with strong resistance from local historians but it appears that the council, which is to reserve judgement until after a proposed visit to the site, is seriously considering the application.

The previous application inspired a 'Call to Arms' on the Clan Graham website and The

1st Marquis of Montrose Society also lodged a formal objection to the proposals.

Historian Dr Walt Hopkins from Kinross, who wrote his university thesis on the Battle of Carbisdale, addressed the planning committee, informing them that the site was sacred ground.

He also stated that the only structure which should be considered on the site should be a memorial to those who lost their lives in the battle.

Watch out for further developments.

SOCIETY HONOURED BY NEW MEMBER

The members of the Council are delighted to announce that **The Honourable The Master of Napier** has become a member of our society.

The Napier family has long been distinguished amongst the premier families of Scotland and The Master of Napier has paid us a great honour by being attracted to the 1st Marquis of Montrose Society.

The 1st Lord Napier was Montrose's brother-in-law and it was he who died in the company of Montrose at Fincastle in 1645 (see Venture Faire December 2005).

The present Master of Napier is heir apparent to the 14th Lord Napier.

Most of our members will know that it was Lady Elizabeth Erskine, wife of the 2nd Lord Napier, who had Montrose's heart removed secretly following his execution in 1650.

The Napier family for many years played a

major part in preserving the heart until it was lost to them during the troubles associated with the French Revolution.

The present Master of Napier is well aware of the noble qualities of the 1st Marquis of Montrose and he decided that he would like to be associated with our society. He wrote, *"I am still puzzled to hear why there is little recognition of this remarkable man especially in this century. We must do something about it and that is why I wish to join this society"*.

Sentiments shared, I am sure, by us all. We welcome The Honourable The Master of Napier to our society and we very much look forward to the opportunity to involve him in the society's future efforts to honour the name of The 1st Marquis of Montrose.

BWR

"I am still puzzled to hear why there is little recognition of this remarkable man especially in this century. We must do something about it and that is why I wish to join this society"

Local historian and schoolteacher Ian Rose leads the group in discussion about the circumstances of the battle at the recent society visit to Inverlochy.



SOCIETY JOINS 'THE BATTLEFIELD TRUST'.

The members of the council recently took the decision to become associate members of The Battlefield Trust at an annual cost of £30. This came about following our recognition of the Trust's fine website, which includes a comprehensive battlefield section.

Members will know from recent circulars that we have recently been trying to update our website and to create a battlefield section, although it was recognised that the creation of a battlefield section of our own would have required a considerable amount of work.

Having discussed this with the Trust's representatives it

was agreed that a link could be established between our websites to allow us to access the Trust's battlefield section.

In this way we can concentrate our efforts on developing other parts of our website but still provide members with useful information on Montrose's battles.

Have a look at the Battlefield Trust website on:
www.battlefieldstrust.com

Have a look at our own website as well, you should notice one or two changes.

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SOCIETY NEWSLETTER****Society Chairman:**

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'Venture Faire' will shortly be going to press and articles are invited from anyone who would like to submit something for inclusion. Topics need not necessarily be related to Montrose so anything with a loose historical theme would be suitable. Ideally articles should be anything between one and four pages of typed script. Good quality photos could also be included. Articles should (if possible) be typed in WORD format and sent as e-mail or on disc to the secretary. Please have your article submitted no later than November 15th.



Guide Ronnie Campbell addresses the group at the Sharpening Stone in Glen Roy

SOCIETY TO MAKE PRESENTATIONS AT MUGDOCK COUNTRY PARK

Mugdock Country Park at Milngavie, on the north side of Glasgow, is to be the venue for an evening of presentations by members of the 1st Marquis of Montrose Society.

The Country Park, in the grounds of Montrose's old castle of Mugdock, is a wonderful place to go either to enjoy the natural surroundings, or to learn about wildlife and the countryside in the excellent centre which has been developed there.

The complex also has a fine amphitheatre and events are held all year round in the form of musical evenings, cinema, theatre, film shows, wildlife and historical talks. There is a large group of 'friends' of the park and these evenings are usually well attended.

Some Council members attended a recent talk on 'The Martyrs of the Covenant' by Robert Watson and it was following this that the centre manager Ian Arnott suggested that the 1st Marquis of

Montrose Society should put together a similar presentation for a future evening.

Rising to the challenge we accepted the offer and Malcolm McVittie, Nivon Russell, John McDougall, David Bennison and Brian Robertson have been working on a series of slide shows and presentations for the event.

The evening will take the form of three presentations on 'Montrose and the Covenant', the 'Annus Mirabilis', and 'Carbisdale, The Last Campaign', in all totalling about two hours. The sessions will be divided by a break for a buffet and a glass of wine.

Tickets will be on sale by Mugdock Park (probably at around £10).

The date for this event has been set provisionally for Monday 27th November 2006. Anyone who is interested in attending should express their interest to either the Secretary, or directly to the booking staff at Mugdock Country Park. Phone 0141 956 6100.