View west over the flatlands around Loch Leven towards the Ochil Hills, from the lower slopes of Bishop Hill between Scotlandwell and Kinnesswood. Nearly all of this scene is within Scotland's two smallest pre-1975 counties, Kinross-shire in the foreground and to its west Clackmannanshire, where the Society's autumn conference is to be held, at Dollar. It was taken within Bishopshire, named like the hill from long ownership by the bishops of St Andrews, but less readily found on modern maps, and an instance of the use of 'shire' for smaller parish-sized units.

EDITORIAL

Folk etymologies are, practically by definition, linguistically unsound. They can only arise where place-names have lost the transparent meanings with which they were coined. They are commonly based on resemblance to words which mean something in the language currently in use, even if they were formed in a different language. Whereas place-names recording specific events are quite rare, stories often figure in folk etymologies.

A delightful example was encountered on a tourist boat trip from Stockholm to the Viking Age (or as the Swedes have it, late Iron Age – up to AD 1050) trading town of Birka. As the steamer passed a steep, rocky small island called Kungshatta, the guide explained how locals account for the name: according to legend it is named 'King's Hat' because long ago a king, while out riding, had to flee from a band of Estonian raiders and in his desperation jumped over a cliff into Lake Mälaren while still on horseback. The king escaped with his life and even his horse, but left behind the eponymous royal headgear which had fallen off during his frantic ride.

Such stories, however implausible, are not to be despised, as they can reveal what people have believed or speculated about names of the places around them. Some folk etymologies are strongly traditional, and not all are whimsical. Edinburgh as 'Edwin's Burgh', for instance, is still current and has a very long pedigree indeed. The Ordnance Survey Object Name Books of the mid 19th century noted many traditional explanations or associations of place-names, which can be of great value to modern place-name studies and to local historians, even where they have no sound linguistic basis. The traditions recorded about Cluny and its Loch near Dunkeld, for instance, are all the more striking for the fact that Cluny was the find place for two of the most spectacular Pictish brooches in the national archaeological collections.

Unfortunately the microfilms of the Name Books are, for most of us, relatively inaccessible at West Register House in Edinburgh. The microfilms are not arranged in a convenient geographical order and for ease of use are scarcely 21st century technology. So congratulations to Fife Council for supporting the digitising and distribution of the microfilms of the Object Name Books for Fife and Kinross, as explained by Andrew Dowsey later in this issue. It is very much to be hoped that other local authorities will follow this admirably cost-effective investment in assets for local history and place-name research.

SPRING CONFERENCE IN THE BORDERS

The conference on 7 May at Tweed Horizons near Newtown St Boswells was gratifyingly well attended and again justified a venue away from the most populous central belt. For the benefit of those who could not be there, or as a printed reminder of an interesting day for those who could, here are summaries kindly provided by speakers.

Birds in Place-Names of the Borders

I've always loved hill country, birds, place-names and maps, and this talk brought these together in an illustrated tour of place-names in south-east Scotland which appear to denote various bird species. Such place-names - mainly low-profile features of the landscape - are, inevitably, largely undocumented other than appearing in a range of maps: names known to generations of local country folk, and transmitted orally to cartographers. Only three birds of these species no longer occur in the area, and many still occur in the named sites – thus gratifyingly justifying the claims made for their meanings. This summary of the talk briefly analyses the etymology of less than half of the local names covered in the talk - both as lexical items, and in terms of their species-denoting constituent elements. Although in most instances place-

names tend to have been generated in respect of conspicuous breeding species, a few denote non-breeders (winter migrants) and small 'non-descript' resident species.

I made use of information I obtained from a study for an MSc I carried out a few years ago, which dealt with the etymology of non-standard bird-names in south-east Scotland known to members of the local (mainly elderly) population. Most of the bird-names discussed in the talk were known to, and/or still used by the informants.

Each entry consists of a named species, followed by (a) its local name(s), (b) the place-name(s) claimed to contain the term(s), and (c) the suggested etymology of the ornithological component of the term (# = no longer used as local name, * = reconstructed/not recorded. Species). BM=summer (breeding) migrant, WM = winter (non-breeding) migrant, E = 'extinct' in the area (previous breeder): all others denote resident species.

County names quoted are those pre-1975 reorganisation – Berwickshire (Bk), Roxburghshire (Rox), Selkirkshire (Sk), Peeblesshire (Pb), East Lothian (EL), Mid Lothian (ML), eastern Dumfriesshire (Dm)

Languages underlying the bird-denoting components of the place-names to be discussed are indicated by the following abbreviations: -

Cu Cumbric (i.e. name given to form of P-Celtic formerly spoken in part of the region), Fr French, Gk Greek, Gm German, L Latin, ME Middle English, ModEng Modern English, N Norse, OE Old English, OFr Old French, OGm Old Germanic, ON Old Norse, OSc Old Scots, Sc Scots, WGm West Germanic, W Welsh. I use Sc to denote either Scots or Scottish Standard English.

onom = onomatopoeic bird-name, **imit** = imitative bird-name; * marks places illustrated on back cover

<u>selected species and their place-names</u>

bittern (E): (a) many (lit. only) e.g. 'boomer'# 'bull o' the bog'# 'mire-drum'#: (b)1 Bemersyde (Bk), (b)2 Butterdean, Butterlaw (Bk): (c)1, Bemersyde - standard derivation OE *bēmere* 'place of trumpeting (booming) bird (bittern)', transferred meaning fr OE *bēmere* 'trumpeter'): (c)2, Butterdean , Butterlaw (bittern dean, law): bittern, borrowing fr OFr *butor*, L *buteo* 'bittern', fr *butire* ('boom like a bittern') **onom**. L

nickname *Taurus* 'bull' – hence 'bull o' the bog' etc: Fr *butor* conflation of *but-* + *taurus*?

black-headed gull: (a) pickiemaw: (b) Pickie Moss (Bk): (c) Sc pickmaw (1450) fr. Sc pickie, shortened form of pickiemaw OE *pic* 'pitch' + OSc *maw,* ON *mār* 'gull' + Sc dimin suffix *–ie.*

buzzard/kite a) gled: (b) Gladhouse* (ML), Gladsmuir (EL), Gledswood (Rox): (c) ME *glede,* OE *glida* 'glider'. .

cormorant and **shag**: (a) scart: (b) Scart Rock (EL): (c) Sc variant of ON *skarfr* via Norn (Orkney and Sh) – **?imit.**

curlew: (a) whaup: (b) Whappenshaw (Pb): (c) OE *hwilpe* 'sea-bird' occurs in 9thC OE poem, *The Seafarer*, but precise identity of species unclear: **onom**.

cuckoo (BM): 1(a) gowk: (b) Gowkie* (Bk): (c) OSc name for cuckoo 'gokh', ON *gaukr* (**onom**). 2(a) cog#: (b) Penicuik (ML): (c) W/Cu *cog* 'cuckoo'.

hen-harrier: 1(a) pyttel# (b) Peatle Hill (Sk), Pittlesheugh (Bk): 2(a) puttock# (prob = buzzard/kite, not harrier (b) Craigenputtock (Dm)]: (c) ME *putian* 'hurl against/thrust' + OE *–uc,* trad. bird-name suffix.

heron (R): 1(a) cranie: (b) Cranshaws (Bk): (c) OE and OSc *cran* 'crane' + Sc 'dimin'. suffix *–ie.*

2(a) hersie# (b) Hersie Cleuch (Sk): (c) Fr loan *heronceau* 'young heron' (*-ceau* Fr dim. suffix), **onom**

magpie: (a) pye/pyat: (b) Pyetshaw (Rox): (c) ME *piet* (1225) Fr *pie* + Fr dim. suffix *–et,* OFr *piot,* L *pica* 'magpie' (ModEng *pied* 'black and white' derived meaning fr *pie*).

meadow pipit: (a) titling: (b) Titling Cairn (Bk): (c) ON *titlingr* 'sparrow' from tīt 'small creature' (**onom** - imitation of pipit's call) + *-lingr*, ON equiv. of OE suffix *–ling* 'young of bird/animal'

merlin: (a) merlin: (b) merlin cleuch (Sk): (c) merlyon (1325), Anglo-Norman *merillon,* OFr *emerillon,* older form *esmerillon,* WGm *semril,* ON *smyrill* (all denoting 'merlin'). Final –l dimin?

peregrine: 1(a) faucon: (b) Falcon Craig (Dm): (c) OFr *faucun,* L (late) *falco* 'sickle'. Not in OE, 2(a) hawk: (b) hawkness (Bk): (c) OE *hafoc* (ON *haukr*), root *hav-* + bird-dim *–uc,* cognate with L *capere*

raven: (a) revin: (b) Raven Burn (Rox): (c) OE *hrefn* (first attested 800): 2(a) corbie: (b) Corbie Heugh (Bk): (c) dimin form of ME corb, fr Fr *corb* (variant of *corp*), or of its derivs *corbin/corbel,* L *corvus*: 3(a) bran#: (b) Carrifran* (Dm): (c) W/Cu *brân* 'raven'

ring ouzel (BM): (a) hill blackie: (b) blackie sike (Sk): (c) reduced form of *blackbird* [recent only], OE *blæc* + *bridd* 'young bird'. Blackbird previously

rendered by *ouzel.* Before c.1300 crows and ravens were known as 'black fowles' since before that date 'bird' could only denote 'small bird'.

skylark: (a) laverock: (b) Laverockbraes (Bk): (c) ME *lark*, OE *lāwerce* 'little song' – **onom.**

swallow/house martin (BM): (a) swallie: (b) Swallie Dean (Bk): (c) OE *swealwe,* ON *svala,* OGm **swalwo* 'cleft stick'.(refers to appearance of black-barred crossed flight-feather tips at rest).

thrush [(a) song- and (b) mistle-]: (a) mavis, big mavis: (b) Mavishall (EL): (c)= song thrush (1400), adoption of Fr *mauves,* Spanish *malvis* (pre-1150 – borrowed from Fr): earlier forms and meaning unknown.

white-tailed eagle (E): (a) earn#: (b) Yearn Gill Knowe (EL): (c) ME *ern,* OE *earn,* OGm *arn,* ON *örn.* Celtic (W) *eryr,* Gk ορνις [ornis] 'bird' – taboo word.

wood pigeon: 1 wood pigeon / feral pigeon: (a[i]) skemie: (b) Skemie Law (EL): (c) etymology unknown, ? fr Sc (l.18-e.20C) *skimmer* 'glide along easily and quickly': (a[ii]) cushie: (b) Cushat Knowe (Sk), (c) ME *coushote,* OE *cu/scote ? cu* (sound of bird) + OE *sceotan* (noun derived fr. vb. *sceotan* 'to move rapidly like an arrow from a bow'. No Gm cognates. 2 rock dove: (a) doo: (b) Dowlaw (Bk): (c) Sc *doo* la14C, OE *dūfe,* Gm root **dūv-,* **imit.**

Chris Cameron

Pentlands and other Borders hill-names

Most place-names contain standard toponymic elements: in village and farm names, are found elements like Aber- or Bal- or Kil- or Pit-. In hill-names there are also such elements: in Gaelic there are Ben, Sgurr, Carn, etc or Norse Fell; in the Borders we would naturally expect Scots or English elements. The Pentlands are normal in that they contain many of the standard name-elements of the Borders hills. This is not a new discovery. Back 230 years ago, a Captain Armstrong of Innerleithen wrote thus:

"Hills are variously named according to their magnitude: as Law, Pen, Kipp, Coom, Dod, Craig, Fell, Top, Drum, Tor, Watch, Rig, Edge, Know, Knock, Mount, Kaim, Bank, Hope, Head, Cleugh-head, Gare, Scarr, Height, Shank, Brae, Kneis, Muir, Green, etc" (1775)

Some of these elements are inaccurate – a hope is invariably a valley, for instance – and he misses out some other common ones like cairn, pike, seat and side. However over half of these elements are found in the Pentlands range.

So what does Pentlands itself mean? It has nothing to do with the Pentland Firth (a corruption of Norse Pictland or Pettland), for there are no Norse names round here. The earliest occurrence is of the habitation name, circa 1150, as Pentlant, a little east of the northern part of the hills: the hamlet is still there, now Old Pentland, near IKEA. On Blaeu's map, one hill in the north of the range – possibly Castle Law or nearby – is named as Pentland Hill. Now hills are sometimes named after farms at their foot (e.g. Turnhouse Hill, Carlops Hill), and very rarely vice versa. And it is likely that by chance this one hill, named after the hamlet or farm, in turn gave its name to the whole range. So what did the hamlet name mean? *Pen* is clearly Welsh or Cumbric, meaning 'head' (cf Penicuik, Pencaitland), while *llan* (pronounced *thl* - note Blaeu's Penthland spelling) can mean a church, or simply a glade or enclosure. Seeing a 'range' is a relatively modern concept: in Gaelic, the Cairngorms are the Monadh Ruadh (i.e. singular); in southern Scotland, the Lammermuirs (from *lambre mor*) and Moorfoots (from *mor thwaite*) began as singular hill-masses, becoming plural only latterly. Individual hills were named earlier, but "seeing" a whole and distinct range came later – thus 'the Pentlands' was a convenient label when travel speeds advanced sufficiently for them to be passed or negotiated in a day, before moving on to other areas.

Moving to individual hills, let's look at them in their probable language groups.

The oldest names are apparently of Cumbric or Brittonic origin. Caerketton, towering over the Hillend ski slopes, was often mapped as Kirkyetton, but there is no such church anywhere near here. There is however an old fort on the eastern shoulder, which would suggest an origin in *caer*, a fort. Carnethy, the second highest in the range, may come from the root *carn*, since there is a large prehistoric cairn on top. A connection has also been suggested

with the Welsh 'Munro' called Carneddau (meaning cairns), plausible because it fits very well with the Welsh pronunciation. [A 1682 map had it as Kairnathur (which invokes the legendary king) but this is surely a phonetic misinterpretation.] The Cumbric word *mynydd*, still found in Welsh, and meaning hill or mountain, is almost certainly the root of Mendick; and may well be the source of the several nearby hills with mount names – The Mount, Byrehope Mount, Faw Mount and Mount Maw, and The Black Mount. Further north in Scotland mount is derived from Gaelic *monadh* – The White Mounth, Mount Blair – but these seem to be an exceptional cluster, away from Gaelic source areas, and near Mendick.

There are some Gaelic names, but only a few, and their distribution is interesting – they are generally lower hills (five of them bear the symptomatically-small element *tor*) and are clustered around the western fringes of the range, unable to penetrate through to the east at all – it's as if the Pentlands were a barrier to the movement of Gaelic speakers. And of course protecting Peebles-shire cattle and maidens from the Gaelic caterans and reivers. Dunsyre Hill in the far south-west has ancient cultivation terraces striping its sides, and is probably *dùn siar* (western fort): where's the eastern one? – probably Keir Hill near Dolphinton, three miles east, *keir* being a Scots word for fort derived from *caer*. Mealowther on the west is probably Meall Odhar (dun-coloured hill), being mapped in 1821 as Millowderhill – there's another hill of this name near East Kilbride. The Gaelic *creag* appears in Craigengar (of the hare) and Craigentarrie (of the bull) – the latter a mere hillock which has lost its original reference to the name of a farm, now ruined too! Torweaving is possibly from *tòrr uaimhinn*, hill of horror or devastation – and it's such an innocuous swelling, too! And of course up in the north-west corner we have the three little 'uns – Torphin, Torduff, and Torgeith – volcanic pimples, one mainly quarried away, respectively the white, dark and windy tors.

The majority of the hills have Scots or English elements. (See the piechart on the back cover.) Some, like Turnhouse Hill and Spittal Hill, are simply named after the farm below them, whose stock were probably put out to graze on them in summer: Spittal is from the hospice (hospital) run by the monks at Newhall. Others are descriptive of the landscape, like Black Hill (formerly Loganhouse Hill from the farm below, but much better identified by its dark heather cover): above Dolphinton there are a Black Mount, heathery, and its neighbour White Hill, pale grass-covered. The West Kip (photos above and on back cover) is a lovely pointed hill seen from north or south, and has a little projection near the top seen from east or west, thus fitting the dictionary definition of a kip to a tee – as does the Kippit Hill in Dolphinton, said by legend to be where the devil sieved out the sand from the boulders he threw into Biggar Moss. But many of the greater and lesser names in the range find an echo from Captain Armstrong's 1775 list of elements: Bleak Law, East Kip, Dod Hill, Green Craig, Windlestraw Top, Cock Rig, Bavelaw Edge, Cairn Knowe, Muckle Knock, Faw Mount, Dun Kaim, Kay Bank, Greystone Head, Yield Brae and Allermuir. Not to mention two of The Pike, a Green Side, and a Seat Hill. Nearly a score of Scots hill-name elements, packed into a small but lovely range of hills.

Pete Drummond (text and photos)

Non-Celtic place-names of the Borders: a celebration of the work of May Williamson

Dr May Williamson needs little introduction, as she is known to many of you and is a long-standing member of the Scottish Place-Name Society. In recent years, May has focused on research into street-names. Her publications include several works on the subject: *The Origin of Burntisland and Kinghorn Street Names* (1992), *The Origin of Street Names of South Queensferry and Dalmeny* (1993) and *The Origins of Street Names of Dalkeith* (1996). She continues to be an active contributor to place-name studies and her latest work includes a number of articles on Aberdeenshire street-names which have appeared in the local magazine *The Leopard*.

The paper I read at the Newtown-St-Boswells SPNS Conference, however, focused on May's contribution to the study of the place-names of the Borders, largely through her PhD thesis of 1942, *The Non-Celtic Place-Names of the Scottish Border Counties*, which she wrote at Edinburgh University. Working through the charters of the monastic houses of the Borders and many other historical records, May collected the early spellings for many hundreds of names and analysed over one hundred place-name elements.

Unfortunately, her thesis was never published, and therefore much of her research has remained relatively inaccessible to the general public. It has largely fallen to other onomasticians to raise awareness of May's work through their own, and to acknowledge the advantages afforded to them by her ground-breaking endeavours.

In many cases, subsequent lexical and onomastic research has provided further support for May's interpretations of Border names. The raw material in her thesis remains of vital importance to ongoing place-name research, even when there are shifts in related lexical research, new onomastic discoveries take place, or over-arching theories change. For example, the current theory governing the chronology of Old English place-names in Scotland has changed significantly since 1942, but that in no way detracts from the fact that May Williamson was the first person to identify this group of names and recognise their collective importance. Future shifts in the perception of settlement patterns and name coinage will not diminish the value of her pioneering efforts.

The Conference paper illustrated several other ways - too lengthy to repeat here - in which May's work is still very relevant to onomastic research today, providing an excellent foundation for new onomastic research, and therefore continuing to influence related disciplines including historical linguistics and historical lexicography.

Maggie Scott

TWO PAPERS FROM INVERNESS CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 2004

[It would not have been possible to publish these two articles, based on talks to the conference at Inverness in November 2004, in the tighter confines of the spring 2005 Newsletter, without unreasonable truncation and loss of valuable details. Roddy Maclean's book on Inverness place-names was then newly published and is reviewed later in this Newsletter.]

Around Clach na Cùdainn: Some Musings on the Gaelic Place Names of Inverness

The City of Inverness, encompassing both areas long within the modest urban spread of the old town, and those which were until recently decidedly rural, boasts a considerable heritage of Gaelic place names. Indeed, the majority of locality names, or those for distinct geographical features, derive from Gaelic or have a distinctive and well-established Gaelic form in addition to their English form.

Clach na Cùdainn was long considered a palladium for the town and even today it sits in a prominent situation by the mercat cross outside the Town House. It means the 'stone of the tub', reputedly because washer women, or those collecting water, would rest their tubs on it on their journeys to and from the river. It is also known by an anglicised form established in the 19th Century – *Clachnacuddin* – still the name of a prominent local football team.

But not all features are as straightforward as *Clach na Cùdainn*. Indeed, there are a few whose location we do not know – in fact we can't be sure they actually existed in Inverness. An example is *Drochaid an Easain Duibh* ('burn of the small dark waterfall') known to us only in the Gaelic story, *Aonghas Mòr agus Na Sìthichean*, based around the fairies who famously inhabited Tomnahurich (*Tom na h-Iùbhraich*, 'hill of the yew wood') and whose presence for long coloured the culture of Inverness and most particularly the Leachkin (*An Leacainn*, 'the slope'), Craig Phadrig (*Creag Phàdraig*, 'Peter's Rock') and Craig Dunain (*Creag Dhùn Eun*, 'Rock of the Hill of Birds').

Some names are not Gaelic, and belong to an older Pictish heritage – an example being the suburb of Drakies (G. *Dreigidh*). Some are of a later Scots heritage, presumably associated with the introduction of lowland speech in association with the establishment of the Royal Burgh. Examples are The Haugh (G. *An Talchan*), Holm (G. *An Tolm*) – both of these being riverine lands - and The Bught (an animal enclosure). But the oldest Gaelic names predate these by a long way – for example, Kilvean (*Cill Bheathain*, 'Religious Cell of St. Bean', reputedly a close relative of St. Columba) and the associated Torvean (*Tòrr Bheathain*, 'Hill of Bean').

Baile exists in a larger number of localities, indicating former discrete settlements of collections of buildings. The oldest on record is Ballifeary (*Balnafare*, 1244) which is *Baile na Faire* (the watch-town where watchers would keep an eye open for incursions from the west of the river). Many of these are anglicised as *Bal-* forms eg Balvonie (*Baile a' Mhonaidh*, 'hill steading')

although some are translated e.g. Hilton for *Baile a' Chnuic* or partially translated (e.g. Craigton for *Baile na Creige*).

Three different horse names occur in Inverness Gaelic place names. Two are meadows/islands in the former delta of the Ness – Merkinch (*Marc-Innis*) and Capel Inch (*Capall Innis*), and another, of a later vintage, uses the generic word common in Scottish Gaelic today – *each* – in its possessive form, *eich*: Dalneigh – *Dail an Eich* – 'field of the horse'. On the first OS map this was given as Dalneich and, indeed, this was the pronunciation known to older Invernessians well into the 20th Century.

A detail from John Home's map of 1774

The author's researches have uncovered a considerable number of Gaelic place names which have gone out of use (despite the continued existence of the feature itself) or that related to features which have themselves disappeared. Among those in the first group are The Balloch (*Am Bealach*, 'the pass') the name given to the pass between Castle Street and View Place, and *Slag nam Mèirleach* ('the robbers' hollow') adjacent to the Dores Road at Holm. The classic examples of the latter are the mussel scalps (eg *Scalp Phàdraig Mhòir, Rònach, Scalp nan Caorach*) which once existed at the delta mouth of the Ness and which were dredged to allow

shipping better access to the river. Yet another example is the *Allt Muineach* which now runs underground through the glen between the Culcabock roundabout and the Millburn roundabout. This locality had a strong connection to witchcraft and there are records of *cuirp chrèadha* (clay bodies) being placed in the burn as a curse on those for whom they represented.

Some old place names hang on today by the skin of their teeth. *An Loch Gorm* ('the green loch'), once an inlet of the Moray Firth near the Safeway Supermarket on Millburn Road but filled in during the 19th century, and later a district name (Lochgorm), is now retained only in the name of a furniture store in that vicinity.

Clachnahagaig (possibly *Clach na h-Eagaig*, 'stone of the small cleft'), an ancient stone which even today marks the upper end of the town fishings on the Ness once granted by royal charter, was removed during the building of the Caledonian Canal. But its position is marked, and the name retained, because of its importance with regard to angling rights. The Abban, now preserved in Abban Street, was a backwater channel of the river through which normal flow had ceased. It is a word (*àban*) unique to the Inverness locality and thus has tremendous heritage value, but it was almost lost when the first edition of the OS gave the thoroughfare as Abbey Street. Luckily the mistake was rectified in the 1905 edition.

Slackbuie is *An Slag Buidhe*, 'the yellow hollow', and is possibly so named for the masses of buttercups which flower there in summer.

Folk etymology has been at work in Inverness, just as it has in other places. The cryptic Longman was purported to be from the body of a 'long man' washed ashore in the locality and there is a delightful, if apocryphal, story of young love which gives *Loch na Sanais* its name (supposedly 'loch of the whisper'. In fact, local pronunciation gives away the name as *Loch na Seanais* (*Loch na Seann-Innse*, loch of the old haugh, according to Professor Watson) but the evidence of three local informants was discarded by the OS in favour of the single, but influential, opinion of local worthy and Gaelic-speaking MP, Charles Fraser-Mackintosh.

In summary, Inverness has a fascinating Gaelic heritage which is borne out today in its place names. More research might yet elucidate further insight into some puzzling names such as The Longman and The Cherry, an area of the river at its mouth which once applied to a dyke at the high water mark on the firth shore. Where the Gaelic name is known for sure, it should be applied where possible in signage so that the name is preserved and so that Invernessians of today, and visitors from other parts of Scotland and the world, can better understand the meanings and origins of the names and better appreciate the vital role that the Gaelic language has played in informing the heritage of the capital city of the Gàidhealtachd.

Roddy Maclean (text and photos)

Trouble with Gallstones
Difficulties with Ethnonyms in Scottish Place-names

This talk discussed some of the ethnonyms to be encountered in the place-names of Scotland and neighbouring areas, and some of the problems they present. An ethnonym is the name of an ethnic group – for the purposes of this part-time research with St Andrews University, defined as any distinctive linguistic or cultural group. I am currently determining what names may contain genuine ethnonyms, and then will be analysing secure examples from a range of ethnic groups "to determine what place-names can reveal of past ethnic settlement and relations in Scotland".

Toponymists have searched English place-names for Old English *Walh* 'Celtic Briton', while avoiding the pitfalls of the developed meaning 'slave' and *Walh* as a personal name. My current lead contenders for the ethnonym in Scotland are Waughton (*Walughton* 1296), Wallyford (*Walford* a.1198) and Walstone (*Wel(s)(c)htoun(e)* <1373) in Lothian and the two Wauchopes, in Roxburghshire (*Wauchope* 1529) and Dumfries-shire (*Waleuhop* 1200). OE reference to Brittonic speakers does of course feature in the name Cumberland (OE *Cumbra land* 945). Probably also in Cummersdale (Cumberland), Cummer-trees (Dumfries-shire), and possibly (Cumber) Colstoun (East Lothian). The southern boundary of the county Cumberland lay in Inglewood, OE 'forest of the Angles', but the Scottish examples of the name might well contain Scots ingle 'fuel'.

There are a fair number of Ingliston examples north and south (excluding Edinburgh's 'Ingjaldr's tún', but including Englishton by Inverness, *Inglistoune* 1471). In 1949 Douglas Simpson seemingly endorsed W Mackay Mackenzie's suggestion that such names represented "English settlement in the neighbourhood of an Anglo-Norman castle", but the surname Inglis is an obvious candidate too.

Not in English Mill (Aberdeenshire, *Inglismylne* 1592), however, given its location across the River Ugie from Scottsmill (*Molendinum Scoticanum* 1256) at "Scott's Pool". Scotsmill appears in several North East locations – possibly from an appellative?

More widely distributed is Scotsto(u/w)n, the oldest identified so far being in Laurencekirk parish (*Scottiston* 1242). Does the element refer to Gaelic speakers? Not directly in Scotsto(w)n in Banff at least, named for Provost William Scott.

Presumably the ethnonym appears in Scotsburn, Easter Ross, since it is in Gaelic Allt nan Albannach, and it was recorded as "Aldainalbanache alias Scottismenisburne" in 1610. The modern meaning of Albannach 'Scot' is problematic for names within Scotland, and may refer here and in Argyll and in Ayrshire to emigrants outwith the early medieval kingdom.

Gaelic Èireannach gives a good example of possible confusions. The Èireannach of the map could obscure Eibhreannach 'wedder goat', Eireannach 'plunger-churn' (round bay?), Aircheannach 'church steward', Iarnaidh 'ferrous', district names Èireann/Èirinn, and

Earrannaiche 'divider'.

Gall 'non-Gael, Lowlander, foreigner, Viking' – i.e. "the other folk" – similarly has a range of homographs, though mostly non-Gaelic themselves and, given the improbability of true hybrids, easy to identify. But another, old Gaelic meaning, 'stone, stone-pillar', has been overlooked by 20th century scholarship in Scotland (unlike in Ireland).

Scottish circumstantial evidence to date includes a landmark boulder at Corriegills / Coire a' Ghoill, Arran, the granite quarries of Cairngall, Aberdeenshire, stone circles at Dergall, Kirkcudbrightshire, and Geodha nan Gall – "unlandable with precipitous rocky cliff" in North Rona.

But stone cannot be all the story. Consider several examples of Baile nan Gall from Easter Ross to (possibly) Dumfries-shire – feudal immigrants? Achadh nan Gall in Easter Ross and East Lothian Aikengall (*Achingalle Auchingall* C15), the affix in Galcantray / Gall-Channtra near Inverness, several corries called Coire nan Gall, a number of small headlands called Rubha nan Gall, and so on. Norse – or 18th century fishermen, traders and soldiers?

One clear late reference was recorded from oral sources in Iona by Màiri MacArthur. A ruin associated with incomer quarrymen c1790 and known as both 'house' Taigh nan Gall and 'ruin' Tobhta nan Sasanna(i)ch.

Peadar Morgan

BOOK REVIEW

Maclean, Roddy, 2004: *The Gaelic Place Names and Heritage of Inverness.*

Culcabock Publishing, Inverness, 96pp.
ISBN 0-9548925-0-X. £5.99.

The Scottish Place-Name Society's conference held in Inverness on November 27th 2004 was greatly enlightened by a well-illustrated talk [for which see above] on the place-names of the Inverness area by Roddy Maclean, the author of this attractive little book. Separation of myth from fact, and of oral tradition from documentary record, has always been a problem with local surveys of this kind, but here, Roddy Maclean has successfully bridged these gaps, having scrutinised such sources as *Inverness Burgh Court Books* and other town records from as early

as the 13th century.

A short history of Gaelic in Inverness (pp. 15-44) contains much of interest to the onomastician, including the use of Gaelic patronymics among the inhabitants of 16th century Inverness, and the accounts of contemporary visitors and writers up to the modern period. Gaelic was spoken by a few old people native to the area, especially in The Leachkin, to the west of the town, right up to the 1950s, so the place-name record reflects this Gaelic tradition.

After dealing with a list of place-names no longer in use, such as *Clachan Donachy*, the old name of Culcabock village and *The Maggot*, a section of the town close to the river (on Hume's map of 1774 as *Maggat*) the main body of Inverness place-names is discussed and analysed (pp. 57-88). In each case, the Gaelic form is given where available, early forms discussed, OS grid references provided and illustrative material, such as road signs, map extracts, street signs and even a pub sign (in the case of the Clachnaharry Inn). The text is interspersed with short sections on specific names, such as 'Horses in Inverness Place Names' where *capall*, *marc* and *each* are found, and '*Baile* in Inverness Place Names' which discusses the process of *baile-* to *–ton*.

Overall, this booklet is not only informative but a good read. The people who use, or have used, these names on a day-to-day basis did so from consciousness of their own Gaelic heritage, and even as late as the mid-19th century one gets a feeling of a strongly bilingual situation which, despite the decline in Gaelic today, has left many Invernessians with a warm regard for Gaelic, even if they do not speak it. Roddy Maclean's book cannot but serve to encourage Gaelic in the city, and to reinforce the Gaelic consciousness of Invernessians in general. It is fitting, also, that he has dedicated the book to the memory of the late and sorely lamented Roy Wentworth, who would very much have enjoyed using it.

Ian A. Fraser

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The **SPNS Autumn Conference** will take place at the Civic Centre, Dollar, Clackmannanshire, on Saturday 5 November. A programme and tear-off booking form are included in this issue, but a photocopy of the form or a note with all the necessary information will be equally

welcome, for those who prefer to keep an intact collection of these Newsletters.

The spring 2006 conference of **SNSBI** (Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland) is to take place in Bristol, from 7 to 10 April. More details later through Scotplace website (address on page 2).

The **SPNS** will be ten years old next year and to celebrate this first decade the **Spring Conference and AGM** are to return on Saturday 6 May 2006 to the place of the Society's inaugural meeting, St Andrews.

On Friday 12th and Saturday 13th May, 2006, a **conference** is to be held **in Shetland** to celebrate the work of the renowned Faroese philologist, **Jakob Jakobsen** (1864-1918). Topics covered will include language, place-names, ethnology and folklore. Members of the Scottish Place-Name Society are welcome to attend and further information about the conference can be obtained from Doreen Waugh at doreen.waugh@ed.ac.uk.

NEW SUPPLEMENT TO THE SCOTTISH NATIONAL DICTIONARY

Scottish Language Dictionaries is about to add a **New Supplement** to the *Scottish National Dictionary* to the electronic *Dictionary of the Scots Language* (DSL); it will be available free of charge with the main dictionaries at www.dsl.ac.uk.

The DSL already consists of the *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue* (DOST, 12 volumes), covering the language from its earliest records in the 12th century up to 1700 and the *Scottish National Dictionary* (SND, 10 volumes), from 1700 to the 1970s, including the first Supplement.

The **New Supplement** now updates the record of Scots language to the 21st century. Sources are mainly literary works of the last three decades. Oral material is also included where possible.

This project has been made possible by a three-year grant of £90,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund, along with continuing funding from the Scottish Arts Council.

For further information please contact Scottish Language Dictionaries at 27 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD, phone 0131 650 4149 or email mail@scotsdictionaries.org.uk.

There is a separate website for Scottish Language Dictionaries at www.scotsdictionaries.org.uk.

(Thanks to Dr Maggie Scott for this information.)

WATER POLLUTION?

The 19 March 2005 edition of *The Scotsman*, in association with *Tiso* [retailers of outdoor equipment], published a map of Scotland's lochs and rivers. Unfortunately, the space-saving device used occasionally in English of dropping the generic in citing river-names on maps fell foul of Gaelic rules of grammar. This resulted in river-names such as Bhuirgh, Dhail, Bharabhais, Ghearadha and Ghriais, all of which are genitive forms and should be preceded by Gaelic *abhainn* 'river'.

All this comes from misconstruing new (Gaelic) data that has found its way into place-name data banks, especially as a result of the efforts of *SPNS*'s Place-names Committee. Collins Bartholomew Ltd claims copyright of the published map, but accepts no responsibility for, among other things, errors.

Richard Cox

DIGITISING THE ORDNANCE SURVEY OBJECT NAME BOOKS FOR FIFE AND KINROSS

Fife Council's Archaeological Unit and Archive Centre have teamed up to provide local copies of the object name books for Fife and Kinross. They are available at the Archive Centre and will soon be available at Cupar, Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy libraries. Local historical societies will be able to get a copy of the object name books for their area.

The object name books are an important historical resource, providing a description of every town, village, building, archaeological site and natural feature in the landscape in Fife in c.1850. They were originally used by cartographers between c.1845 and 1855 during the compilation of the OS First Edition maps of Fife and include notes and observations on all features on the original maps published in 1856. Information contained within the object name books include the origins of these names and variant spellings. The National Archives of Scotland hold the originals. Users can see them on microfilm at West Register House.

Adrian Grant, a local researcher, asked Fife Council to get a copy. Douglas Speirs, the Council Archaeologist could see the benefit for other users. Initially the plan was simply to get microfilms for use at the Archive Centre. But we found them difficult to use. There are 135 object name books for Fife and Kinross on 11 reels of microfilm. Each parish is split between several books, often on different reels.

We decided to digitize the films. The work was done for us by McPherson Solutions Ltd. It cost £2,200. The object name books can be consulted as PDF files using Adobe Acrobat. This makes them much easier to use and to print relevant entries. There are 10 CDs. Image quality for some entries is variable due to faint areas on the microfilm. But most of the information is readable.

Local historians, archaeologists and academics were invited to a launch event on 9 May. This gave us helpful feedback about what to do next. Work has started on a basic index. We are grateful to Ordnance Survey and the National Archives of Scotland for permission to provide copies.

Andrew Dowsey

THE HILL-NAMES THEY ARE A-CHANGING …

Place-names do change. When I was at school (and most of you, too), our geography lessons took in Rhodesia, Leningrad and Burma: we are now quite comfortable with Zimbabwe, St Petersburg and Myanmar, all politically-inspired changes. But in Scotland, we're not used to this degree of political instability, and for almost all place-names the most that has happened over the last 500 years has been gradual change by anglicisation, particularly of Gaelic and Norse names.

Hill-names after however different – quite a few have changed. Unlike settlements, whose people use the local place-names daily, or farmers possessing the field and stream names, mountains have no such voice: no-one lives on them permanently, and they are rarely mentioned in old documents, because they don't pay rent or owe allegiance. In most cases they were first mentioned in maps, starting with Pont 400 years ago. The growth of hill-walking over the last century, bringing in onomastic outsiders with no cultural link to the mountain areas, has also affected them.

Ben Nevis (1344m), seen north-westwards across Glen Nevis from Binnein Mòr

Let's look at a few examples. English, the language, is often blamed for the gradual change (or corruption) of Gaelic names, like Ben Nevis (from *beinn nimheis*), but there are few wholesale changes to charge it with. Sgurr Alasdair, the highest peak in the Cuillin, was named after Sheriff Alexander Nicholson who was first to climb it in 1873: local guide John MacKenzie averred that it was locally known as Sgurr Biorach (pointed), to no avail. Similarly, An Stac became the celebrated Inaccessible Pinnacle. Who remembers the old names now? To be fair, the Cuillin are of little use to anyone but climbers, so who could begrudge them this little rocky corner. More regrettable has been a change in the hills above Arrochar, where the striking rocky peak is known almost exclusively now as The Cobbler. This name refers only to the central peak (of three), and is probably a translation from the Gaelic *an greasaiche crom*. Timothy Pont, late 16th century, mapped it accurately as "craggie hill, Suy Arthire", and although Gaelic usage changed *suidhe* to *beinn*, it is correctly mapped as Ben Arthur, after an historical figure. It's a pity that guidebooks like the Scottish Mountaineering Club's *The Corbetts* often now don't mention the 'Sunday name' of this fine mountain.

Few other English substitute-names have stuck. In the 17th and 18th centuries, Suilven in the north and Beinn Tàlaidh in Mull were both widely known to travellers and sailors as Sugarloaf Mountain, from their shape, but the original Norse and Gaelic names have won through, perhaps aided by the fact that most people today buy their sugar in cuboids instead.

The good Scots word pap is probably foreign to the young today, but has been around long enough to have secured Maiden Pap hills, singular and plural, in the Helmsdale and Hawick areas; but Schiehallion was also widely-known by this name in the 18th century, and is mapped as such by Roy's military survey ("Shihalin or Maiden Pap") and so-named in the Old Statistical Account. Not any more.

English speakers could probably be blamed for Ben Chichnes or *beinn nan cìochan* (mountain of breasts, from its nipple-like tors) becoming Lochnagar (especially with royalty moving in below it). And they were certainly culpable for the rocky peak above the Lairig Ghru, locally Bod an Deamhain (penis of the devil), becoming Victorianified to The Devil's Point. However, the mountain that dominates Glen Coe had probably an identical name, for Pont (who spelt in line with local pronunciation) mapped it as Pittindeaun or Boddindeaun; it is now known as Bidean nam Bian (peak of hides), possibly a corruption of the old name indeed, but a Gaelic rather than English one. Possibly it rather suited Canon MacInnes who claimed it was originally *bidean nam beann*, peak of the mountains.

Finally, there are many Gaelic hill-names that have simply changed, from Gaelic to Gaelic, perhaps simply because the people the OS surveyors got the names from were not the descendants of the ones who advised Pont or Roy. Thus Byn Yrchory (beinn reidh-choire, level corrie) for Pont is now Beinn Alligin; Pont's Bin Kerkill is now Meallan Buidhe (though the slope is still An Cearcail); Pont's Ben Leckderg (red stone hill) is now the bizarre Fuar Tholl (cold hollow); while the Munro now called Seana Bhràigh (old height) was Beinn Eag (notch mountain) in the early 20th century, and possibly the summit in 17th century texts called Scornivar (sgurr?). Perhaps, if a mountain was large enough to have several names, it was a matter of chance which one ended up with the approval of the OS: what is now known to hill-walkers as Creag Meagaidh, was recorded by an early surveyor as Bui-Annoc (presumably Buidhe Aonach, yellow ridge), and locally called Corryarder (from *coire ardair*) in the 19th century.

Pete Drummond (who is currently revising *Scottish Hill and Mountain Names* for a second edition, due 2006)

WHAT DOES THE PLACE-NAME AITH SIGNIFY? PLACE-NAME EVIDENCE FOR PORTAGES

I have recently been considering Aith names (from Old Norse *eið* an isthmus or neck of land) in both Orkney and Shetland and wrote an article about my research thus far for *The New Shetlander: Simmer Issue 2005*.

In it, I used the definition of *eið* given by Oluf Rygh in the introduction to his study of Norwegian farm-names *Norske Gaardnavne (1898)*. He says, and I translate: 'It [i.e. *eið*] is now used, as is well known, of a small piece of land linking two broader strips, and of a deep indentation in a hill, which affords an easier route between two rural districts or settlements. It gives rise to many place-names. In addition, in many other instances, the word seems also to have had another related meaning in former times: a stretch of land, whether short or long, where it was necessary for people to divert to a path overland, instead of across water or ice, which otherwise, because of the defective nature of the roads, had to be used as much as possible.'

The English word 'portage' is, of course, borrowed from French, and it implies some form of carrying of boats, supplies etc. between navigable waterways. Emphasis has tended to be placed on this aspect of activity associated with *eið*-names. I am not denying that boats were sometimes carried across isthmuses but I think the place-name element *eið* has much to tell us about wider aspects of communication and transportation in former times as well.

I would be very interested to hear any stories you may have heard about places which are called Aith. Were such places recognised as meeting places? Were boats carried across and do you have tales about specific instances of such activity in recent or more distant years? Were there well-established paths between rural districts which began or ended at an *eið*? Did *eið*s occur in places where it was desirable to avoid particularly rough stretches of coastal water? And so on …

Doreen Waugh

You can send me an e-mail (doreen.waugh@ed.ac.uk) or write to me (Scottish Place-Name Survey, 27 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD).

Scottish Place-Name Society
Comann Ainmean-Aite na h-Alba

<u>Day conference – Saturday 5th November 2005 – Dollar Civic Centre, Park Place, Dollar, Clackmannanshire</u>

Programme:

1030 – 1100 Registration and coffee

1100 – 1200 Andrew Breeze - "Scotland's oldest place-names"

1200 – 1245 John Reid – "From Tacitus to Tesco" – place-names near the Forth

1245 - 1345 Lunch

1345 – 1430 Simon Taylor – "The Clackmannanshire Place-names project"

1430 – 1515 Peter McNiven – "The *gart* place-names of Clackmannanshire"

1515 – 1600 Dr David Munro – "Maps and plans as sources for the toponymy of Clackmannanshire and Alloa"

1600 – 1615 Farewell coffee and biscuits

The cost for the day will be **£15**, inclusive of conference, tea/coffee on arrival and departure, and buffet lunch.

If you would like to attend please complete and send the form below (photocopy acceptable) OR send a letter with your name, address and phone number, and a cheque for £15 per person payable to SPNS, to Ian Fraser, SPNS (conference), c/o Dept of Celtic & Scottish Studies, 27 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD, preferably by October 28th – although late bookings can usually be accepted.

Travel directions: Park Place is off the south side of the main A91 road through Dollar, and just east of the burn which flows between the distinctive parallel streets West Burnside and East Burnside, which are a landmark on the opposite, upstream side of the main road.

A street map with the location circled can be found online through the Civic Centre's website by using a search engine for 'Dollar Civic Centre'.

SPNS Dollar conference, Saturday 5th November 2005.

Name _____ Phone number _____

Address_____

e-mail address (to which more detailed directions to the venue can be sent)_____

Please find enclosed a cheque for £ ___ for ___ person(s) for the above conference.

Send to: Ian Fraser, SPNS (Conf.), 27 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD

The Journal of Scottish Name Studies

ANNOUNCEMENT

A new scholarly journal, *The Journal of Scottish Name Studies*, has been established, which will publish articles and reviews on place and personal names relating to Scotland, her history and languages. The Journal will be refereed, and an Advisory Panel is being formed.

The Journal will be available to members of *The Scottish Place-Name Society* at a discount.

CALL FOR PAPERS

The inaugural volume of *JSNS* is due for publication in the first half of 2007. Articles to be considered for publication in this and future issues should be sent to the Publisher's address below.

Notes for contributors are available from the Publisher, or on-line @

www.clanntuirc.co.uk/JSNS.html.

SPELLING VARIATIONS

The mention of the OS Name Books for Fife prompts thought about how much the First Edition OS maps must have done to fix the spellings of place-names in the forms now generally used – though the variation in minor names, between recent maps, can be surprising.

A small-scale map of Scotland on a wall at the Lochgair Hotel near Lochgilphead, Argyll, is an odd-man-out among the illustrations of the magnificent fish that guests may hope to catch while based there. It was published "under the superintendence" of the magnificently Victorian "Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge". No date is given but it must have been after publication of the 1851 Census, because the population of Scotland, including islands, is given as 2,870,784 in 1851, and presumably before publication of its 1861 sequel: hence at about the last moment before the wide availability of OS maps would have tended to standardize spellings.

No place of publication is stated but it seems unlikely that compilers and proofreaders were particularly familiar with southern Scotland, otherwise errors such as Blainsbie for Blainslie near Galashiels, or a spurious Berwick on the Kirkcudbrightshire coast – probably for Rerrick – would have been less likely to pass through. However, there are more than a few other differences from the spellings that we are now familiar with; on a hurried look through they seem to be predominantly in southern parts.

A check of early forms would indicate whether 'Abingdon' for Abington in Clydesdale shows the influence of a Thames-side town perhaps more familiar to the compilers. Most of the differences from modern spellings are much less likely to be accidental, however.

There are numerous very minor variations, such as in Galloway 'Sorby' for Sorbie, 'Dalbeaty' for Dalbeattie, 'Tongueland' for Tongland and 'Wigton' for Wigtown; 'Tantallan' for Tantallon and 'Preston Pans' for Prestonpans in East Lothian; 'Penecuick' for Penicuik in Midlothian; 'Aberfoil' for Aberfoyle in Perthshire (as was); 'Moneekie' for Monikie in Angus; 'Fordon' for Fordoun in the Mearns; or in the north 'Doughfour' for Dochfour by Inverness and 'Beauley' for Beauly. None of these implies a significant difference of pronunciation.

The same may be true with 'Broxbourn' for Broxburn by Dunbar, East Lothian, 'Eymouth' for Eyemouth, Berwickshire; and even 'Kilmalcolm' for Kilmacolm, Renfrewshire. 'Frith of Forth', as late as the mid 19th century, may be more surprising; likewise adjacent 'Musselburg' (in Midlothian as was) without the final *h*. Were the compilers using a far from up-to-date map as their source? 'Canobie' for Canonbie just over the Border from Cumberland and once within England, may reflect local pronunciation. Also within Dumfriesshire, 'Ecclesfechan' for Ecclefechan, 'Haddam' for

Hoddom, 'Dornoch' for Dornock and 'Locherby' for Lockerbie are less easy to regard as definitely homophones of the modern forms. 'Lacmaben' for Lochmaben in the same county is quite strange.

Whether 'Inverleithen' for Innerleithen in Peeblesshire is a late occurrence of an early form or is influenced by better known places with 'Inver-' spellings can only be guessed. Accidental spelling error is unlikely to be behind 'Tippermair' for Tibbermore west of Perth. It can be ruled out in the case of 'Goolan' for Gullane in East Lothian, which local novelist the late Nigel Tranter recorded as being the pronunciation of indigenes, and is consistent with Prof William Watson's topographically apt suggestion of Gaelic *gualainn*, 'at shoulder'. (How the hyper-genteel 'Gillen' pronunciation arose would be an interesting study in itself.)

As a further hint of how different things were when Scotland's population was little more than half of the 5 million now crammed in to its limited habitable areas, the urban and industrial sprawl of Motherwell (Lanarkshire) is not even named on the map, its place still taken by the ancient parish name of Dalziel. (WP)

FORTHCOMING PUBLICATION

Cultural Contacts in the North Atlantic Region: The Evidence of Names

Edited by: Peder Gammeltoft
               Carole Hough
               Doreen Waugh

This substantial volume contains papers from the joint name-studies conference held in Shetland in April, 2003. The three societies – NORNA, Scottish Place-Name Society and Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland – are all well represented in the volume. Papers range geographically from the Isle of Man to Iceland, via Ayrshire and many other localities and all topics are of interest to name scholars. As Professor Nicolaisen states in his Introduction: '…this volume is more than a record of what went on at the conference: it is an independent collection of essays which gains cohesion from a central theme, as well as a sense of place and a view of the world.'

The volume will be available for purchase before the end of 2005 at the extremely reasonable price of £10.00 plus postage and packaging. This has been made possible by generous support from the Shetland Amenity Trust and the Dorothea Coke Memorial Fund. Details will be issued to members at the November conference and by post to those unable to attend.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Compiled by Simon Taylor, with help from Carole Hough and Doreen Waugh. Please let Simon Taylor know of omissions, and these will be included in the next *Newsletter*.

Allan, Norman, [2005], *The Celtic Heritage of the County of Banff* [Banff] [52 pages]

Isaac, G. R., 2004, *Place-Names in Ptolemy's Geography*, CD-ROM, CMCS Publications, Aberystwyth [this includes G. R. Isaac's Antonine Itinerary data base, 2002]

Márkus, Gilbert, 2004, 'Tracing Emon: *Insula Sancti Columbae de Emonia*', *Innes Review* 55, 1-9.

Nicolaisen, W. F. H., 2005, 'Seenamen. 3. Grossbritannien und Irland. c. Scotland', in *Reallexikon der Germanischen Altertumskunde*, 2nd edn, edd. H. Beck, D. Geuenich and H. Steuer, vol. 28 (Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter), 49–51. [names of lochs]

Nicolaisen, W. F. H., 2005, 'Shetlandinseln. I. Namenkundlich', in *Reallexikon der Germanischen Altertumskunde*, 2nd edn, edd. by H. Beck, D. Geuenich and H. Steuer, vol. 28 (Berlin and New York: Walter de Gruyter), 259–62. [Shetland Islands]

Smith, Robert, 2004, *The Road to Maggieknockater: Exploring Aberdeen and the North-East through its Place Names* (Birlinn, Edinburgh).

Taylor, Simon, 2005, 'The Abernethy Foundation Account & its Place-Names', *History Scotland* vol. 5 no. 4 (July/August), 14-16.

Waugh, D., 2005, 'From Hermaness to Dunrossness: some Shetland ness-names', in *Viking and Norse in the North Atlantic: Select Papers from the Proceedings of the Fourteenth Viking Congress, Tórshavn, 19-30 July 2001*, edd. A. Mortensen and S. V. Arge (Tórshavn), 250-6.

Waugh, D., 2005, 'What is an aith (ON *eið*)? Place-name evidence from portages in Shetland', in *The New Shetlander: Simmer Issue 2005*, No. 232, ed. L. Johnson and B. Smith (Lerwick), 33-8.

The Carrifran Burn, a tributary of the Moffat Water in the rugged upland country of north-east Dumfriesshire. The name has difficulties, but a Cumbric counterpart of Welsh brân, *'crow' or other corvid, is suggested for the last syllable. Raven Craig, the dark mass at the back of this scene, gives circumstantial support, while Bran Law, just north of the Grey Mare's Tail waterfall, is in the same group of hills. (Photo Chris Cameron)*
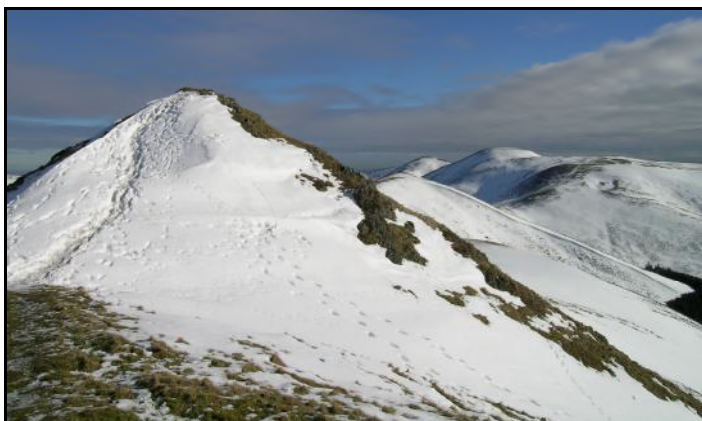

Gladhouse, Midlothian, with its well known reservoir, is named after the gled, *the gliding bird (buzzard or kite). (Photo Chris Cameron)*
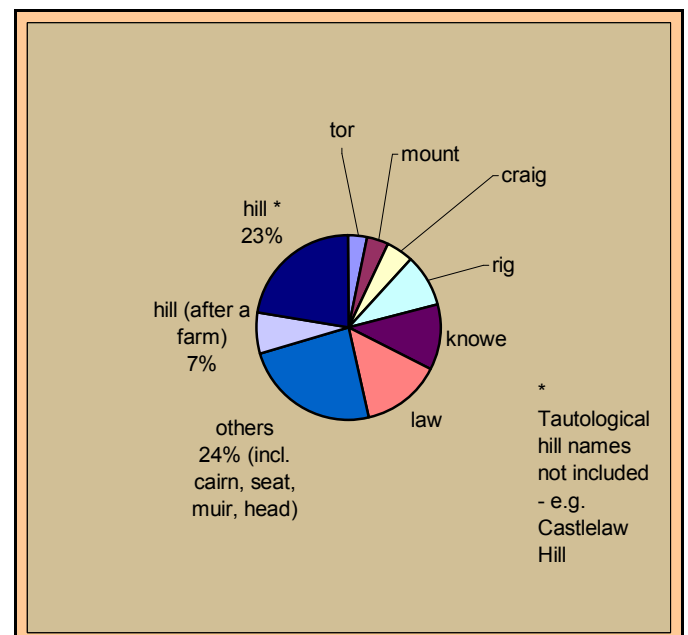

Gowkie Woods, Berwickshire, should be good habitat for the cuckoo (Scots 'gowk'). (Photo Chris Cameron)

Bay at Hillswick, Shetland: the book of the 2003 SPNS/SNSBI/NORNA conference is imminent!

West Kip is one of the most pointed of the Pentland Hills, in a straightforward and fairly common topographic usage of this Scots term for a jutting-out feature. DSL tells us that there are cognates such as Middle Low German Kippe, *'point, peak, tip', and Dutch* kip, *'beak'. Some topographic place-names, however, are more likely to refer to other elements such as Gaelic* ceap, *'block or shoemaker's last'. (Photo Pete Drummond)*

tor
mount
craig
hill *
23%
rig
hill (after a farm)
7%
knowe
* Tautological hill names not included - e.g. Castlelaw Hill
others 24% (incl. cairn, seat, muir, head)
law

Pie chart illustrating relative frequency of commoner elements in Pentland hill names. (See Pete Drummond's article, pages 3-4.)