

Chair's Report

The Friends of the Ochils continues to be involved in many issues affecting the Ochils. Threats to the landscape continue whilst on the other hand there are signs that more positive developments are underway. Its one of the characteristics of the role that we play to achieve our key aim of "protecting and



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conserving the landscape, wildlife and natural beauty of the Ochils and their historical and social character" that we don't always win the battles that we take on. However it is necessary that we remain positive and pick ourselves up from the setbacks. The campaign to protect the landscape from the Beaulieu to Denny powerline is a case in point. That decision is not going to be overturned but it is necessary to try and ensure that the visual damage from the powerline is mitigated as far as possible. As Nicki's piece demonstrates, we are providing as much input as possible to ensure that the fund allocated for mitigation measures is used in the best ways possible so that, although the powerline cannot be hid

completely, it is as intrusive as it is possible to make it in the landscape.

The same goes for windfarm development. We've lost a number of battles but continue to win others. Furthermore we believe that by continually responding to planning applications appropriately the message is starting to get across that there has to be a limit. The decision to refuse the Frandy application was important as it emphasised to all concerned that filling the gaps between existing windfarms is not acceptable and refusal can be expected.

The quarry applications continue to give concern as Malcolm has detailed in his piece. We are now into the fourth year since they were submitted and it is quite simply not acceptable that they have still not been determined by PKC. Furthermore there is no clear indication as to why it is taking so long and we are therefore left to speculate as to the reason for the delay.

Of growing concern are the applications to plant more commercial forestry in the Ochils. The most significant application in the system at present is that for many hundred of acres of commercial planting in the hills behind Mentrerie – the Jerah application. One has to ask just how acceptable it is to plant areas designated as Local Landscape Areas with acres of a monoculture. Not only does the a monoculture forest impact negatively on the landscape, it will damage the important historical area of Mentrerie Glen recorded in the publication of the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, "Well Sheltered & Watered".

Friends of the Ochils

Commercial forestry doesn't bare comparison with the attractive planting of woodland carried out by Woodland Trust Scotland in and around Glen Devon and it is not appropriate for the western Ochils. The Forestry Commission which has the responsibility for deciding on such matters will be making a decision on the application over the coming months.

On a more positive note we have contributed to a review that Perth and Kinross Council is undertaking in relation to the designation of Local Landscape Areas (LLAs) in the PKC area. The LLAs for PKC will be finalised in

Supplementary Guidance due to be published later this year but the early signs are that PKC is minded to designate the PKC Ochils as a LLA. If that materialises we can look forward to the Ochils within PKC, Clackmannanshire and Stirling having a single landscape designation, with the exception of the area within Stirlingshire to the north of the Wharry burn! That is an issue that we would wish to take forward with Stirling Council so that there would be no part of the Ochils not designated.

The work of Drew Jamieson who is one of our members about whom I wrote in our last Newsletter, is crucial in this respect. As someone who has a planning background and a deep knowledge of the Ochils, his advice and support, accompanied by some detailed and very professional papers on the strategies required for the hill range, is very valuable and influential. I am extremely grateful for his input into the debate as to how best to move the Ochils forward and I look forward to a

more strategic, coordinated approach to the Ochils by the three key local authorities and national bodies such as SNH.

Our membership numbers remains fairly static but it would be good if we were able to increase our numbers. If each of us were to recruit just one more member we would see a transformation in membership; to that end we have included a few FotO leaflets in with the Newsletter for you to hand out to interested parties!

On a more personal note, I would like to make comment about the work of the FotO Committee. As can be imagined, the past ten years of dealing with pylons and windfarms, and more recently quarries and commercial forestry, have not been easy. Nicki has done a great job leading the campaign against the Beaully to Denny powerline but she has now felt it necessary as explained in her piece, to stand down as Vice-Chair. Malcolm has agreed to take over and I am very grateful to him for that! However we are only a small group and the work load has increased now that Catherine Kilgour, after undertaking some sterling work on the website and as editor of the Newsletter has, due to other commitments, withdrawn from those roles. (This newsletter has for example been edited by myself – I trust that it doesn't show too much after benefiting from Catherine's professional editing skills for many years!)

Finally could I ask if you feel able to help out on the Committee, even in a small way, that you get in touch with me and we can talk through what joining the committee might involve. You may have experience in forestry

issues or the new local development planning process; or you may be good on the marketing side or dealing with the press. Whatever you feel you can bring to the Friends of the Ochils, I would love to hear from you!

I trust that you enjoy this edition of the Newsletter. It is good that we are able to include the articles by Robin and Drew to give some respite from the somewhat depressing news about all of the campaigns with which we are involved.

Stuart Dean, FotO Chair

Beaully-Denny Powerline: Some Hints of Movement?

Time gallops on and, as you may have seen in areas to the north of us, the Beaully - Denny power line is getting constructed apace. The Stirling area, to be constructed by Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN), is the last part of the line to be built. Already, SPEN have started construction in the Denny area, and are moving backwards towards Sheriffmuir-Logie, their final stretch of line. We understand they will start constructing the 8-kilometre, temporary, access track across Sheriffmuir – from the A9 to the Ochils scarp – in late summer.



The construction process will of course cause considerable disruption to anyone wanting to use the Dumyat / Cocksburn Reservoir area. We have had preliminary discussions with SPEN about this. They tell us they are working on plans to develop alternative parking arrangements, probably using the Forestry Commission's Pendreich Wood car park; with a new path to bring people from the parking area to the reservoir and Dumyat paths, and construction traffic control mechanisms that will give priority access to walkers and other users of the area. SPEN also assure us they will restore the area to a good state after construction, including improvements to the roadside parking.

And at long last, things are starting to happen in relation to the Stirling Visual Impact Mitigation Scheme (SVIMS) – the £4-5 million fund that is to be used for projects that will alleviate the visual impact of the line, in the Stirling area.

The process of identifying and prioritising projects to be funded by SVIMS has now been in effect taken over by a “partnership group” comprising Scottish Power, the Scottish Government, the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) and two Stirling Council officers, and is advised by consultants Ironside Farrar, appointed by the Scottish Government. The group held two public consultations – in Menstrie in February, and Bridge of Allan in March – at which they set out the power line plans, invited ideas for projects, and set out their framework for deciding which projects to accept.

We believe the ideas for mitigation that we have been putting forward for the last 3½ years – particularly improvements to landscape quality, through the large scale renewal of dry stone walls, improvement of paths in the Dumyat / Cocksburn Reservoir area, and carefully thought-through planting – should prove potentially acceptable. However, our ideas will be in competition with others', and it remains to be seen how the decision-makers will decide on the priorities. We have held meetings with SPEN,

"At long last, things are starting to happen in relation to The Stirling Visual Impact Mitigation Scheme"

Ironsides Farrar, and expect to meet with a Council officer shortly, to explain our thinking. While the ideas appear to have been met positively by these other parties, this is no guarantee at all that they will be included in the final scheme for funding and implementation.

We are however concerned that the partnership group should keep sight of the Scottish Ministers' statement, when granting the money for SVIMS, that particular attention should be given to the Ochils and the Plean area, where the public inquiry showed would be the worst-affected by visual impacts of the line. We will do what we can to get this perspective endorsed.

To finish on a personal note: I've been feeling rather burnt out for quite a long time now, due to a combination of Ochils and family issues. A year ago, I was able, with relief and gratitude, to pass on the duties of Treasurer to Malcolm Best, and of Membership Secretary to David Scott. More recently, I have also been able to pass on the office of Vice Chair, to Malcolm Best. I'm sure he will bring new energy and ideas to the role. I shall continue to serve on the Committee for now; and along with David Scott, am starting to get involved with the website, which needs urgent ongoing attention, as you may appreciate.

Nicki Baker

Stop the Quarry : Save Glenquey!

In our April 2013 Newsletter I wrote about the quarry planning applications for the Cemex owned site at Glenquey Moss and explained there appeared to be significant confusion as regards the process the PKC Planners are following. Well, the confusion continues! You may recall that in May 2013 the planning officer wrote to the community councils of Auchterarder & District, Fossoway, Muckhart and Dollar and Clackmannanshire Council seeking comment on "new" submissions from Cemex. The "new" submissions related to traffic and road safety and tourism. Interestingly Cemex had argued the Development Management Committee (DMC) had, when they deferred a decision on 7 March 2012, requested clarification from the

Friends of the Ochils

planning officers on the information already submitted by Cemex and for further consultation to take pace. They also went on to say the DMC did not require Cemex to submit new or additional information. An interesting interpretation and one with which we completely disagree!

Based on this interpretation Cemex had sought to assist the DMC by collating all the tourism information they had already submitted and commissioned an additional traffic impact statement – the “new” submissions. It was on these documents that the planners sought comment from the four

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community councils and Clackmannanshire council, all of whom have been robust in making adverse comment on the interpretation, the content of the “new” information, particularly as regards the additional traffic impact statement, and the process that is being followed.

If you that would like to read the letter from Cemex’s agent and the responses from the four community councils – you can find them on the PKC website (www.pkc.gov.uk) under the planning reference 10/02181.

Unfortunately PKC has still not put

Clackmannanshire Council’s response on their website, if you would like a copy please send me an email and I will forward it to you?

The next step in this long running saga occurred in November 2013 when the quarry planning applications appeared on the DMC agenda for consideration at their meeting on 13 November 2013 and once again the planners were recommending “Approval”.

Despite it having taken the planners 20 months since the DMC deferred a decision to get the applications back onto the DMC agenda - they then pulled them off the agenda on 10 November! Amazing!

We understand the quarry was pulled from the DMC agenda because the planners had received new information and needed time to fully consider that information. We know 2 letters were submitted to PKC just before the meeting and are of the opinion that neither of these letters contained any new information! We are none the less delighted the Planners are at last taking the time to give proper consideration to the numerous concerns that exist.

At the time of writing this article we know the quarry is not on the DMC agenda for the 14 May meeting – the next DMC meeting is on 18 June 2013 and we continue to monitor the situation!

Some good news - some time ago Tayside Geodiversity expressed an interest in the Glenquey Moss and carried out a survey. They have recently produced a paper which sets out their findings and concludes the site should be protected as a geologically important site. Their paper will shortly be submitted to PKC. Such a designation is not a

statutory designation but is advisory and PKC are expected to take it into consideration when making a decision on the quarry. Last year PKC signed up to the Scottish Government charter on Geodiversity so we are hopeful.

Other interesting developments include the possibility of PKC designating their area of the Ochils (which includes Glenquey Moss) as a Local Landscape Area – see Chair’s Report. Since Cemex submitted their planning applications way back in December 2010 much work has been done by many in producing some top class documents containing very powerful information showing why PKC should refuse the applications. These documents have been passed to the planners, councillors and various MSPs and MPs.

The most recent documents have been produced by Drew Jamieson (a FotO member) who spoke at our AGM last November. Thank you Drew and everybody else who has taken the time to lobby the politicians and the planners – it is hard to see how the DMC can possibly approve these planning applications! That said unless we keep up the pressure there is a huge risk they will! That pressure includes ensuring as many people as possible attend the PKC offices when the quarry applications finally reappear on the DMC agenda!

Malcolm Best, FotO Vice-Chair

Windfarm Report.

Applications for windfarm developments in and around the Ochils continue to be made along with applications for smaller, individual turbines. In 2013 alone the Friends of the Ochils commented on at least 15 applications and continue to do so in 2014.

Some issues have been resolved since our last Newsletter, the most significant of which were the applications for extensions to the existing Burnfoot Hill windfarm. The original number of additional turbines applied for was eighteen and we have finished with an extra eight turbines. The application for an additional seven turbines on Frandy Hill between Burnfoot Hill and Green Knowes was refused on appeal whilst the Rhodders application, reduced from nine to six turbines was however approved on appeal after Clackmannanshire Council Planning Committee refused the application. The additional two turbines described as the Burnfoot Hill Extension were approved by the PKC Development Management Committee.

Sadly we can expect further windfarm applications in the future. We have heard only recently that Scottish Power intends to extend the Green Knowes windfarm although as yet we have no details as to how many additional turbines or exactly where they wish to site them. Also permission was given to erect a wind monitoring mast in the Little Rig forest above Dunning which could be the precursor of another application in that area.

Friends of the Ochils

At the time of writing yet another application has been submitted for nine 80m high turbines in the hills above Dunning at Knowes Farm. This is close to the site for an application that goes back to 2005 for turbines at Snowgoat Glen which was refused by PKC and turned down on appeal after a Public Local Inquiry.

The continued attempts by the developer to erect turbines at Tillyrie above Milnathort reached a conclusive stage in January when for the second time in recent years the Reporter dismissed an appeal against a decision by PKC to refuse planning permission for turbines on the site.

Re submitting applications for turbines when previous applications have resulted in refusal for turbines on the same or very similar sites gives a feeling of Groundhog Day about the whole process. It is very frustrating for all concerned including the local communities nearest to the site.

Furthermore we continue to be concerned about turbines close to the hills but not within them. Such turbines add to cumulative impact of views both from the Ochils out across the surrounding countryside and of views into the Ochils. For example of late we have objected to applications for extremely high turbines of up to 115m in the neighbouring Cleish hills at Outh Muir and Blairadam. It was good to hear recently that Fife Council have refused the Outh Muir turbines but at the time of writing we do not know that decision on Blairadam wind farm. However, even when a local authority refuses an application, it can still go

to appeal and be approved as was the case with the Rhodders application.

And so it goes on! However we search for signs that a line has been drawn under even more attempts to turn the Ochils into a windfarm landscape. One such indication actually came from the Reporter's Decision Notice on an unsuccessful appeal into a decision by PKC to refuse a windfarm on Mull Hill, north east of Crieff. In the section on cumulative landscape and visual impact he made reference to the windfarms in the Ochils when he wrote, "It may be inferred that the Ochils are now close to, if not at their limit for further windfarm development."

After ten years of trying to protect the Ochils and surrounding countryside from more and more turbines it would be good if such observations were to be reflected in future decisions. However whilst companies such as Scottish Power continue to propose extensions to developments such as Green Knowes continual vigilance will be necessary in our attempts to protect the Ochils further windfarms.

SHOCK! HORROR! IN BLAIRLOGIE.

So, what on earth's all this about? Well, those of you who have used the little car park at Blairlogie of late will have noticed that great works have been undertaken – re-surfacing, a pathway leading to a set of steps and a new self-closing gate onto the hill, a zigzag path for the disabled leading to the same gate and general earthworks which, when colonised by

Friends of the Ochils

grass and sic-like greenery, will look quite interesting. All of this has been carried out by the Ochils Landscape Partnership and, while the refurbishment has its critics, that which really sticks in the collective craw is the new signage at the entrance to the car park: Blairlogie Meadow. 'Shock/horror'? Bit on the strong side I suppose, but anything more unlike a meadow is hard to imagine and, I fear, this is just another example of a heid honcho (in this case of OLP) having what he/she considers a great idea and implementing it without consulting anyone who knows something of the history of the place – and there are plenty of us about!

I first became familiar with The Orchard, Blairlogie (its official title though Blairlogie Orchard is quite acceptable) in the mid-1940s at which time it was a field of about three acres containing a derelict row of 18th century cottages (three in number and to the left of the new pathway and steps), a small wood and brick bungalow (at about the start of the zigzag path) and an extensive belt of fruit trees to the back which gave the place its name.

At one time the occupants of the cottages probably worked the field through a mixture of grazing and cultivation though, clearly, the acreage would have been insufficient to support three families; I imagine work on local farms and gardens was necessary to supplement incomes. For nigh-on two hundred years, the three cottages, with not an amenity between them, gave basic shelter to several generations but, come the inter-war years, local health boards (or the

equivalent) decreed that housing without access to sanitation and water, at the very least, must be condemned. By 1940 therefore, the last of the three was empty and decay and general dereliction, already well established in the other two, was setting in. And then, along came Mr Evans.

Maybe his job as senior storeman with Kork-n-Seal (a firm making nifty bottle-tops for the drinks trade) was less than satisfying; maybe his life lacked the degree of independence many seek; maybe it had always been his ambition to own and work a smallholding. Whatever, Mr Evans looked on The Orchard, liked it, bought it and was immediately confronted by problem number one – accommodation for Mrs Evans and their children, Dougie (Douglas), Mossie (Maurice) and baby Sheila. To do anything with the cottages was, financially, out of the question but, a resourceful man, he bought a small, half-timbered bungalow in Condorrat, carefully dismantled and transported its component parts to Blairlogie and, with the help of a brickie friend, put it all together again. These early endeavours probably had an effect on Mr Evans' health because whatever plans he had for the rest of his property never materialised: some pigs, poultry and a large vegetable patch meant the family wouldn't go short of food (oh! and a big chunk of the field was destined to become Blairlogie Thistle's football pitch) but he was never in a position to give up the day job.

So, why and when did The Orchard, Blairlogie cease to be a smallholding and become a car park? The 'why' bit's easy. Next time you're there, look up and gaze upon the precipice

Friends of the Ochils

about half-way up Castle Law: the rock is andesitic (a mixture of lavas and ashes) and, due to excessive weathering, inherently unstable. Rock-falls, though not commonplace, had occurred in the past (still do though less destructively nowadays due to the smothering effect of the omnipresent gorse) but the one on the night of Sunday, July, 13th 1958 was something else.

A lot of rain had fallen in the previous week, but the blanket of mist and cloud that settled on Castle Law throughout the weekend produced even more. At the end of this particularly soggy Sunday, the Evans family retired for the night in preparation for the start of a new working week: their world was, almost literally, about to collapse round their ears. The crash and crack of rock on rock – louder by the second – was the only warning. Even had it been heard, it was far too late to do anything. Sleep became a confused and terrified waking as a massive blow struck the felt and sarking roof causing it to sag above the shocked heads below. Shuddering thuds and shattering glass heralded the partial collapse of the rear wall and the total demolition of the bathroom. Short of being caught in a night air-raid, I can think of nothing more terrifying than being on the receiving end of a night rock-fall. And, of course, they weren't to know if there was more to come. By the faint light in the northern sky, the rest of the night was spent emptying the broken wee house of that which could be salvaged and then they huddled together in the car until such time as relatives in Stirling, with whom they would find comfort and shelter, might be up and about.

Now that was a real Shock! Horror! in Blairlogie.

And when did the car park come into existence? The answer appears to be 1979. Clearly the whole ghastly episode had knocked the stuffing out of Mr Evans and, half-hearted use of the vegetable patch for a couple of growing seasons apart, he finally abandoned his dream to the vagaries of nature. I'm a little uncertain as to what happened next (by this time I was furth of the realm doing my National Service and then working), but at some point, The Orchard came into the ownership of Stirling County Council – whether Mr Evans got anything out of it, I know not. What I do know is that the inhabitants of Blairlogie, finding life more and more intolerable as hill climbers dumped their cars any-old-where in the village's narrow street and lanes, finally cracked and demanded that something be done. It was – eventually. One day, earth-shifting equipment moved in, obliterated all trace of cottages and bungalow, and constructed a rudimentary parking area. Unimaginatively, this came to be known as Blairlogie Car Park. But Blairlogie Meadow? Never!

Robin Kelsall

Friends of the Ochils

colours – the ultimate wild thing, the essence of the Ochil Hills. Not only is the wee trout hooked, so am I.

A TROUT ROD IN THE OCHILS **- Fishing in the Fifties**



Colin Gibson

The worm plops into the head of the pool and curls down the current. The line pauses expectantly - then suddenly dashes upstream towards the far bank. I jerk the rod upwards. A small brown thing curves up in a perfect parabola and lands in the grass behind me. Before it flaps its way back down the slope into the burn again, eager young hands grab and hold it tight. My first burn trout. It lies quietly - a thing of wildness and great beauty. A peat-brown back shades to butter-yellow flanks and a pale belly. It is covered in spots – black, brown and red – some with a blue corona around them. Its scales reflect the sky, a blue iridescent sheen, shot with cloud



“The ultimate wild thing...”

Alex Scott and I had fished the Gannel Burn, above Tillicoultry on many days that summer of 1954 before either of us caught our first trout. Setting off in the early morning with very basic kit - Alex's recycled aerial from a WW2 tank and my remaining six feet of an old 9-foot greenheart rod - we would fish the accessible pools on the Tillicoultry Burn and then turn right, up the Gannel, leap-frogging each other from pool to pool, trying to be polite about sharing the most likely bits but secretly competing to catch the most – or any - trout.

Friends of the Ochils



Alex on the Gannel

It was a long, but great, apprenticeship of exhilarating days in the rain or the sun, when the excuses for failure were many – too cold, too bright, water too low! But eventually we gained the knowledge. Which pools held the biggest trout; dull weather was best; a little colour in the water was helpful; when the trout fed – and empty baskets became less frequent.

Alex lived at Westerton, Tillicoultry. His dad, Ian, was shepherd on that whole swathe of hill east of Tillicoultry Burn, up on to the Cleuch and out as far as Maddy Moss. There was no part of that hill that he didn't know and he passed the knowledge on to Alex and myself. With growing confidence we explored further. The Daiglen had good fishing pools. The Burn of Sorrow could be reached over the watershed from the Gannel. One memorable day we crossed the watershed at Maddy Moss and like "stout Cortez" viewing the Pacific – we looked down the valley of the Brioch, to

the great lowland of Strathearn and the vast rampart of the Grampian Mountains beyond. Our horizons had suddenly exploded. Down the Brioch we fished and up the Grodwell. One long summer's day of east wind and clear blue sky we got – not exactly lost – but "temporarily unsure of our position!" We had fished up the Gannel and down the Brioch, crossed the ridge to fish down the Frandy and then set off for home - only to find ourselves in Glen Sherup. It was a long hungry hike back to Tillicoultry, but Leah Scott's banana sponge and fresh scones refuelled me for my cycle back to Tullibody.

At Easter 1955 we strapped camping gear onto our bikes and set up base in Dunning Glen, at the spot still used (or misused), by the Glendey burn. A cold weekend was spent extracting small trout from the burn as huge snow-clouds rolled down from the Arctic. Further up the Dunning road we found ourselves in the headwaters of the South Queich, catching pure-silver fingerlings, like small salmon, the progeny of the big trout which migrated upstream from Loch Leven to spawn in the back-end.

Menstrie was the other focus of our fishing. From early casts in the pools of the main Menstrie burn, I joined David in exploring the three Inchna tributaries. David's fishing diaries record days of 30 to 60 small trout, all put back in the water. For example, on 17 July 1958 in the Menstrie Burn and the Second and Third Inchna burns David records 58 trout. On 29 July that year Menstrie Burn, Third Inchna and Old Wharry burns produced 57 trout. The Gannel, Brioch and Grodwell burns were also productive in those days. On

Friends of the Ochils

6 July 1959 David's diary records 77 trout. Most of these were "tiddlers" and went back into the water to grow bigger. An eight-inch trout was a good one, a ten-inch fish was a monster with associated "bragging-rights". But not everyone was so conservation-minded in those far-off days and we recall coming across several "anglers" with polythene bags stuffed with tiny trout not worth the eating. No doubt their cats were well fed but burn trout don't reproduce or grow very quickly.

Three or four of us were all keen fishers at that time and the search for bigger fish soon took us to the reservoirs. March 15 is the opening of the brown trout season and saw us for several years of our youth sitting frozen among the trees at Wharry Dam (Waltersmuir Reservoir) watching the sleet drift past and expecting our worms to catch the occasional, thin early-season trout. The important thing was to be out at the start of the season after the barren months of winter. Lossburn Reservoir and Balquharn Dam were other early-season expeditions with the occasional unofficial cast on Cocksburn, which was strictly preserved.

Another life-changing trip was a solo expedition from Balquharn Dam, up to the big pool below the waterfall, the Grey Mare's Tail, then further up the burn, deep into the glen. Lack of success tempted me up the hillside onto the ridge between Coalsnaur and Bengengie and then into the morass of Menstrie Moss. Eventually negotiating the peat-hags and the green quaking mosses I reached the Wharry Burn under the blue shoulder of Blairdenon and fished it down to

the Sheriffmuir Road. It was a long walk home to Menstrie and cycle back to Tullibody

By the spring of 1957, the new Upper Glendevon (Upper Frandy) Reservoir was flooded. Three of us cycled up one weekend, camped overnight and awoke to thick mist. Looking forward to this apparently wild and isolated location, we set off into the mist, to be confronted with two bus-loads of other anglers, already established every few metres around the reservoir, with cans of beer open and many plump trout already on the bank. Not quite wilderness fishing!

Eventually we graduated to fly-fishing and spread our wings beyond the Ochils. Alex died, all too young, in 1967 - 26 years old - and business took me far away. It was more than 40 years before I cast a line in the Ochils again.

*I see it now, years back across the moorland,
That what mattered was not the fish at all
But everything else.*

Kenneth Steven, "The Fishing"

Post Script

The fishing scene has changed. I hear that the burn-fishing is not what it used to be. Skilful fishers can still catch trout on dry fly in the Daiglen Burn but the reservoirs now provide permits for some good fishing. *Glenquoy Reservoir* is well-managed as a brown trout fishery by the Devon Angling Association.

Lower Glendevon, Glensherup and Castlehill are stocked with rainbow trout. *Cocksburn* is managed by Stirling Castle Angling Club. *Wharry Dam* is used for aquaculture but there are still lots of wee trout in *Loss Dam* – but none are as magical as the first one from the Gannel Burn all those years ago.

REMEMBERING ALEX SCOTT 1941-1967

“The fairy time o life, Tam,
Its noo the time of yore!
And whatna lovely world we lost
When boyhood’s hour was o’er.”

Hugh Haliburton “Boyhood in the Ochils”

Drew Jamieson

Sad news...

OBITUARY

JOHN RAMSAY

We have learnt with sadness that Friends of the Ochils member John Ramsay has died, at the age of 92. John only became a member in recent years, but gave us several generous donations, and his daughter Sarah was so kind as to make a collection, on the Friends’ behalf, at his funeral.

John was a lifelong lover of the Ochils, having been easily able to access them during his childhood in Causewayhead. He called in at my house, on spec, a couple of times, having time to spare, and having walked up the brae from Logie Kirk. On these occasions he gave

us the pleasure of sharing his reminiscences of the Ochils in decades gone by, and showing us photographs of outings to Blairlogie and to Paradise Pool, in the 1920s, with his fellow Boy Scouts.

It was a pleasure to make his acquaintance, albeit briefly.

Nicki Baker