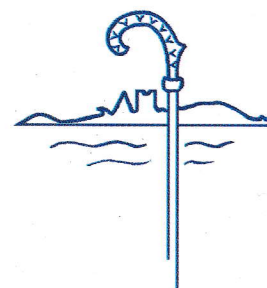

St. FILLAN'S CROSIER



St. Fillan's Church News

Autumn 2009 Edition



St. Fillan's Harvest Appeal 2009 donated over 100 back packs and £... in aid of Mary's Meals. This is a campaign to set up school feeding projects in communities where hunger and poverty prevent children from gaining an education. Mary's Meals began in 2002 in Malawi by feeding 200 orphaned children. Today around 330,000 children receive Mary's Meals.

Also Inside

Letter from the Manse	Page 3	Giving to St. Fillan's	Page 8
Family Fun Week	Page 6	Parish & Congregational Register	Page 9
Tribute to Jim Fairlie	Page 7	Chernobyl Children	Page 10
Changes!	Page 8	The Hewitt Family	Page 10



Fun was had by young and old at the Summer Family Fun Week. *Page 6.*



You are always guaranteed a welcoming smile from Sandra, Ewart and Catherine at St. Fillan's lunches. *Page 9.*

Anyone wishing to contribute to future editions of the Crosier please contact Shiona Doig on 01383 860791 or send and 3mail to allan@hame.org.uk

GOOD LUCK - TANIA

During 1998 Sunday School started their sponsorship of a little girl called Tania. This was done through the help of a company called Biblelands and enabled Tania to start and finish her schooling at the Evang.Luth. Primary & Secondary School, Talitha Kumi, Beit Jala, Palestine. Sunday School made their contributions by the saving of their weekly collection and this was sent on once a year through Biblelands. We received a yearly progress report, photograph, Christmas and Easter cards from Tania and the children were always pleased to hear how Tania was developing. It was always a good yearly lesson on how a few coppers each week can make a huge difference to another person's life not as fortunate as their own.

Tania has now come to the end of her school years and our most recent letter from Tania encloses a "school prize giving" photograph and Thank You letter for our support over the years.

The Sunday School Leaders both present and past thank all the children and their parents over the years who have helped provide Tania with an education.



Letter from the Manse.

2009 brought two very happy occasions to my Family: my Parents' Golden Wedding anniversary and my Father's 95th birthday a week later. At a family dinner we had a lovely time, sharing memories, telling tall tales and having fun.

My parents have faced many challenges in their long lives; war, illness, the death of younger siblings, and the arrival of two very noisy, boisterous and headstrong boys into their quiet lives! What struck me in July was my Parents' great love and respect for each other, which shone through their speeches and anecdotes. Both spoke movingly of their shared Faith, and how it had sustained them in difficult and in happy times.

On my Father's birthday he was joined by an old Resistance colleague, now in her eighties. Seeing them together it was hard to imagine the two of them during the Second World War, robbing Coupon Offices at gunpoint, to be able to get food for Jews in hiding!

By contrast, one of the saddest experiences of the past year for us as a nation has been the growing death-toll in the Armed Forces in Afghanistan. At the time of writing this grim total has reached 216.

I am intensely moved when I watch the repatriation ceremonies from RAF Lyneham, and the slow progress of the hearses through Wooten Bassett. Hundreds of people standing to attention, distraught families throwing flowers, be-medalled old soldiers and primary school children side by side in silent respect. In many other villages between there and Oxford people come out of their houses and simply stand as the coffins come by. No politician has organised it, no Army bands to accompany it – hundreds of people in spontaneous outpourings of grief and admiration.

It has been a tradition within the Christian Church that Priests and Ministers go wherever people go, and this is very evident in the work of the Chaplains to the Forces. In May the General Assembly heard a moving report on the work of these Chaplains and their service in Afghanistan.

Whatever the rights or wrongs of our country's involvement in this conflict, our support for the men and women serving in the Forces is more necessary than ever. As a Congregation, we pray every Sunday for those serving in dangerous places, and for their

Families back home, as they wait for news, or mourn a death.

And earlier this year we rejoiced with one Aberdour family as they were joined in Church by their son and brother, home safe after a dangerous tour of duty in Afghanistan.

-o0o-

Images of happy families, of parents growing old, of soldiers dying and families mourning their passing; all these jostle with other realities of daily life, jobs or redundancy, illness and holidays, loneliness or long-lasting friendships. In Ministry and in many other walks of life we seem to dash from one thing to another, hardly ever stopping to take stock or to sit quietly.

Yet we are meant for more than dashing, more than always being active. Although the pressures of life can be intense at times, we need to remember there is a place for rest, relaxation and re-creation in our God-given lives.

During the past weeks a hymn written by Shirley Erena Murray has given me comfort and encouragement. Part of it reads:

*Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the space where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.*

*Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace;
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, touches base,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.*

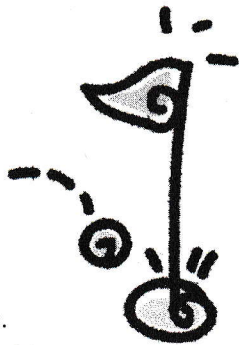
May the peace of God, which exceeds all human understanding, keep your heart and your mind in the knowledge and love of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Peter Gerbrandy-Baird

Parish Minister

Christian Aid Golf Week

The Golf Week was held during the first week in June. The money raised amounted to £850 of which £497 will be donated to Christian Aid and £353 to Macmillan. In addition to money raised, Aberdour Parish have retained the Rutherford cup for yet another year. A big thank you to all who took part in this worthy annual event.



ABERDOUR SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

The Club celebrated its 30th Birthday in February. 40 members attended plus 10 guests who were amongst the very first members of the club in 1979. We enjoyed a light supper and reminisced over old photographs and the original attendance record book (many weel kent faces remembered!)

Dancing started again on the 16th September in St. Fillan's Church Hall.

This is an adult class up to the age of 80 and beyond! Dance to live music.

Why not try something different this winter! Look out your dancing shoes and come and give it a try.

Cost is £2 (including tea and biscuits)
(All proceeds go to St. Fillan's Church)

For further information telephone Sandra on 01383 823454.



Musical Supper

The musical supper held in the Church hall on Friday 6th March proved to be an enjoyable evening attended by around 90 members and guests. After a very fine supper (thanks again to the ladies who once again turned up trumps by providing salads etc and most delicious sweets) the entertainment was provided by five members of the Dunfermline & District Strathspey & Reel Society who produced foot tapping tunes and a good, old fashioned, sing song.

Although the event was primarily held as a social occasion, the surplus amount of £386.54 was donated to the Chernobyl Children Life Line organization.

David Robertson
Social Group Convener

Has Anyone Seen Our Tables?

On June 20th this year, while a group of Girl Guides were setting up for a sleep over in our Church Hall, a man came in to borrow three of our fold down tables. He has not been back to return them and we use them often for various group activities. Does anyone know where these tables could be or who it was who borrowed them? Perhaps someone else was to return them or did return them but to the wrong Church Hall? If you know where they could be or if you have seen them lying in a shed or garage, would you please let someone from St Fillan's know. We would be grateful. Thank you.



Green Fingers

St Fillan's member Jim Thomson has again for the 19th time won the coveted title of 'Best Vegetable Garden' at the village flower show, in fact he has been the 'Fife Wide' winner 10 times, a contest that stretches from Kincardine to St Andrews. Jim's lucky friends and neighbours enjoy his harvest of Leeks, cabbages, cauliflower, sprouts carrots, beetroot and much more.

OPEN DOOR 2009/2010

begins again on Thursday 8th October at 10.30am

St. Fillan's Church Hall

... enjoy each month's event ... bring friends ... make new ones ...

... enjoy tea, coffee and home baking ...

8 October	<i>... Old Aberdour - Part Two</i>	<i>... with John Taylor</i>
12 November	<i>... Why Talk Matters</i>	<i>... with Shirley Sim</i>
10 December	<i>... Cod and God</i>	
	<i>- Dr Wilfred Grenfell in Newfoundland</i>	<i>... with Chris Short</i>
14 January	<i>... Barra</i>	<i>... with Arthur Lloyd</i>
11 February	<i>... Food and Climate Change</i>	<i>... with Mike Small</i>
11 March	<i>... Turkmenistan or 'Absurdistan'</i>	<i>... with Richard Lloyd</i>
	<i>... there will be a FAIRTRADE stall each month ..</i>	



Prompted by Peter's children's address recently, I hope you enjoy the following!

What does love mean?

- 1 When my grandma got arthritis, she couldn't bend over and paint her toenails anymore. So my grandpa does it for her now all the time, even when his hands got arthritis too. That's love. Rebecca (age 8)
- 2 When someone loves you, the way they say your name is different. You just know that your name is safe in their mouths. William (age 4)
- 3 Love is when a girl puts on perfume and a boy puts on shaving cologne and they go out and smell each other. Kari (age 5)
- 4 If you want to learn to love better, you should start with a friend who you hate. Nikki (age 6)
- 5 Love is when your puppy licks your face even after you left him alone all day. Mary (age 4)
- 6 When you love somebody, your eyelashes go up and down and little stars come out of you. Karen (age 7)
- 7 And the winner was a child whose next-door neighbour was an elderly man who had just lost his wife. When the child saw the man cry, the little boy went over into the man's garden and sat with him. When the boy's mother asked him what he said to the neighbour, the little boy said, "nothing, I just helped him cry".

SUE LLOYD

FAMILY FUN WEEK

On July 18th we welcomed back Phil Wray, Director of Regional Ministries with Scripture Union Scotland. Phil came with four of the team who worked with us last year, plus four new members who soon became firm friends and co-workers. They all came to link with our local team who, like our visitors, had kindly set aside July 18th -July 26th to help run the Family Fun Week, planned and organized by St Fillan's Church and St Columba's Church in Aberdour and supported and led by Scripture Union Scotland.

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of village people, our visiting team had local and much appreciated hospitality throughout their stay. We were glad to do this for them especially as several give of their annual holiday to serve in this way. Homemade soups for lunch and invitations to have dinner in church members' homes in the evenings added to their enjoyment of being in Aberdour again. In so many many ways, villagers contributed to what was a very special week for the children and young folk, who came along day by day to enjoy the fun. We warmly thank every one of you who contributed in any way.

- * This venture is called the Family Fun Week and fun it certainly was! From the little ones who came to the new activity called Toddle-Time where play, stories and a song were enjoyed as mothers and carers had a time of tea/coffee chat; through Blast Off into SPACE for those in P1-7; to Fusion Café for Secondary School young folk in the evenings, friendliness and fun abounded.
- * 'Blast Off' took place each morning with great enthusiasm as the teams, Rockets and Comets, set off once more for the

day's adventures. Crafts relevant to the theme were well done, amazing rockets were made and raced, games were played and songs sung. One of many daily highlights was when the Time Machine became active! From it each morning, through the mist, came a team member dressed and acting as a character from the Bible who had met Jesus in his/her life. Phil cleverly interviewed that character the disciple Peter; the little boy who brought his five loaves and two fish; Mary; the Ethiopian; thus teaching the children about different ways in which Jesus can become known to each of us.

- * Fusion Café for the older young folk, was in the Upper Room this year, made cosy and comfortable with chairs, cushions and softer lighting. There hot chocolate, coffee and goodies were enjoyed, as were the more challenging talks they had with the leaders at the end of the evening for half an hour. The evening was divided into Café times, then hilarious and vigorous games downstairs until the need to sit down and have something to eat and drink again became much needed!

It was good to see so many of our community enjoying the excellent Quiz Night in the church hall; the BBQ kindly run for us by Rotary and with all the fun at Silver Sands; the celebration and thanksgiving Church service to close this special week and the delicious Church Lunch afterwards.

Yes, it was a splendid week. Many people helped to make it so and we warmly thank each and every one. Please think of joining in next summer when once more the village Churches hope to join with Scripture Union to plan another Family Fun Week.

Kathleen Fergus

ALUMENDA PROGRESS

Information Coffee Morning
November 7th
10a.m.-11:30a.m
Church Hall
Entry £1
Coffee & Cakes

A Helping Hand

St Augustine once said, 'If I fall into a well, please don't peer over the top and ask me if I know how I got in there. Just help me out, will you?'

It is not for the Church to say, 'How did you get into that mess?' Instead, the Church should say, 'Would you like a hand?'

Tribute to Jim Fairlie (1929-2009)

Jim Fairlie's musical skills were demonstrated at Church organs across Scotland. A lasting memorial to this extra-ordinarily gifted musician will be the joy so many people derived from his music here in St. Fillan's and elsewhere.

Through using his wonderful talents in worship, Jim praised the God who created him. Jim wore his wide experience in church-music lightly; he never gave anyone the feeling they were musically inferior, but encouraged what little knowledge they had, in an attempt to educate and to motivate them to higher musical plains.

Kind and gentle, but also with a core of steel – Jim knew his own worth as a musician. When Dunfermline Crematorium started to use CDs to play music requested by Families, the Organists were expected to press the appropriate buttons.

"Well, this Organist won't", said Jim.

"Oh yes, you will", said his supervisor.

Jim answered: *"You can press your own buttons, Jim Fairlie is off",* and he gathered up his music and left.

When Jim and I discussed music, his favourite refrain was: *"You're the gaffer"*. This attitude would, however, be tempered by his facial expression and the shaking of the head, which encouraged me to pick something else pronto. I am sure Jim saved the Congregation from many a disastrous hymn!

Jim loved passion in music. He would encourage his choirs to sing with real deep feeling, as words and music demanded. He worked hard to find the right tune for the right occasion. The "RAF March Past" for Battle of Britain Sunday; "Crown Imperial" on Remembrance Sunday, something cheeky for a Children's Service; and who will ever forget his inimitable settings of hymns to the tunes of Rabbin Burns and other Scottish composers?

Jim spent time with brides (and, he would add, their mothers!!), to decide music for weddings. If a wedding party did not sing the hymns requested well enough, Ewart McSkimming and I would get the full force of Jim's wrath: *"But they asked for it and they did not sing it – ridiculous!!"* Jim's pet-hate was the bagpipes. *"No-where near my Kirk",* he'd say at weddings. *"You tell them, Minister, they can stand just beyond the arch there"*.

His fund of stories was never-ending. From tales of National Service days and being investigated by the Special Investigations Branch of the Royal Military Police, to hair-raising jinks on his motor-bike, and then the amazing "Tales of a Church Organist", which would usually end with the phrase, *"Eh, you couldn't make it up, could you??!"*.

He was a loving Husband, Father and Grandfather, and a loyal and welcoming friend, and I have never met anyone who had a bad word to say about Jim.

No-one who knew Jim could fail to notice his affection for a long-dead poet with Ayrshire connections. Jim lived and breathed Rabbin Burns. He could recite the poems, play the music, and tell the Bard's life into the minutest details.

Jim died peacefully at home, with his lovely Wife Pat, and the three children of which he was so proud, Mandy, Steve and Neil by his side.

I was proud to be allowed to call Jim my friend, and I will miss him, and his stories, and his endless generosity.

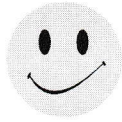
Jim's funeral at Dunfermline Crematorium saw a huge turn-out of friends from all over Scotland; the Hymns were sung to the Scottish tunes "My love is like a red, red rose" and "Auld lang syne", and Jim's successor as St. Fillan's Organist, Dave Crawford, played the folk music Jim had requested with panache.

At Jim's death his Family has lost a wonderful Husband, Father and Grandfather; our Congregation has lost a friend and great worship-leader; the country has lost one of its great church-musicians, and Heaven has gained a bright star, whose memory among us will never fade.

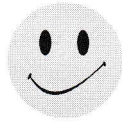
Changes



Changes



Changes



Changes



"We've got to change just to stay as we are"

That phrase floated so easily over the airways recently one morning on "Pause for Thought".

The guest Preacher's words so provoked thoughts about change and how the mere suggestion of it is so resisted, that, sadly, the remainder of that morning's message was lost to me. What did he say?

What did he mean?

Change. Why is it so strange? Is it because we feel it a challenge to our own little comfort zone?

In what state would we all be now if our ancestors had resisted change?

..... Change from living in the wild - to living in houses;

.... Change from the need to go out in all weathers to hunt for food and clothing - to just popping into a dry, warm, well stocked shop/shops; (open 24/7 in some cases)

.... Change from cooking on a camp fire - to gas, electric, or even micro-wave cooking;

We can now just flick a switch for light and entertainment. As for the technology of communication - well, that has and continues to change almost beyond belief.

We think nothing of "changing our mind", changing our clothes, our hairstyle, our car, our holiday venue, and sometimes even our address. We are even known to actually pray for a change in the weather!

Yes, things have changed, and it was only recently the Minister transported our minds back to what worship and the Communion Service would have been like in our Church in the 1560s and 1660s. and I don't believe I'm alone in thinking many of us would not have liked to be here then. Yet, at this time of change taking place in the Church as a whole - because there are fewer Ministers, fewer people coming forward to train for Ministry, and decreasing financial balances - we are not so willing to accept the challenge of change, but seem rather to have accepted an attitude of "it's aye been" and should remain so.....but can it?

Remember the opening phrase?

Whilst talking of remembering, do you remember "Muffin the Mule", "Andy Pandy" (first time around), "The Jellikins", "Balamory", "Tele-Tubbies" and/or currently "The Night Garden"?

Yes, these are all television programmes we, our children and even our grandchildren have watched over the years. The names may have changed, so too the characters and presentation, but all have and continue to deliver the same message of friendship, help and how to do things together.

Life without some change would become static and boring (to use the "youth word"). After all, it is said "A change is as good as a holiday!".

So, let us not become too concerned with any changes that may come from time to time, but remember the only one constant in life. The unconditional, all-encompassing and everlasting Love of God and His Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

GIVING TO ST FILLAN'S - THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW

St. Fillan's Church is almost totally dependent upon the money given to it by its members. The purpose of this article is to explain the implications of the different ways this can be done. You need to know where your money is going.

Funds. There are three types of fund;

- Unrestricted. These can be used for any approved purpose.
- Designated. These are funds designated by the Congregational Board for specific purposes. These purposes can be changed by the Board.
- Restricted. Restricted Funds can only be used for the purpose designated by the donor.

Allocation to the Central Funds of the Church of Scotland.

St. Fillan's annual Allocation to the central funds of the Church of Scotland is based upon the annual General

Income of the congregation, which includes all income whose specification is at the discretion of the Board. (Designated or Unrestricted). St Fillan's Allocation for 2009 is £44,287, which equates to about 60% of the General Income base. Only about 30% of our Designated and Unrestricted income is available for local expenses.

Legacies and Donations. The General Fund relies upon regular giving, however there are occasions when someone wishes to make a special donation or perhaps to arrange for a Legacy. In these cases donors need to consider Gift Aid (which will add 25% to the value of the donation, but not to a legacy) and importantly how they wish their money to be spent. They need to remember that donations and legacies simply to St. Fillan's will be allocated to the General Fund of which a significant proportion will go to the central funds of the Kirk. If they wish their donation to be available only to St. Fillan's they should specify a Restricted Fund. ie. The proposed Church Fund, or for a specific purpose such as fabric. The Treasurer can advise on the best way to achieve their purpose.

Parish and congregational register

Bereavements

2009

March 15 - Blair Jordan; **March 26** - Peter Hamilton; **March 31** - George Scott;
April 6 - Agnes Inglis; **May 4** - John Stodart; **June 23** - Mrs. Enid Henderson;
June 30 - Milly McLaren; also in **June** - Peter Maxwell and Bob Seaton;
July 13 - Mrs. Margaret Balfour; **August 27** - James M. Fairlie and John Kerr.

*Things beyond our seeing, things beyond our hearing, things beyond our imagining
have all been prepared by God for those who love Him* *Corinthians 2: 9*

Marriages

Erratum 2008 **December 6** - Daniel Prescott and Imogen Curtis

2009

May 2 - Ross Turbet and Alison Weatherup; **May 29** - David Hague and Angela Chalmers;
July 18 - Dean Yates and Claire Wanliss

Baptisms

2009

March 22 - Emma Robertson and Alexander Alan Ross; **August 9** - Natasha Cooper Hendry;
August 23 - Magnus Alistair Pretorius Tidswell and James Johan Schoeman

Jesus said "Let the children come to me"

Joining by Resolution of the Kirk Session

Mrs. Daphne McFarlane; James M. Fairlie; Simon Baxter

We welcome and hope you enjoy your fellowship here

(NOTE: Please advise editor of any omissions from above – these will be included next time)

ST COLUMBA'S AND
ST FILLAN'S CHURCHES
present

SCRIPTURE UNION FAMILY FUN ADVENT WEEKEND

Friday 11 December

The "Dave Crawford" Singers

An Advent Concert, featuring
Dave Crawford and his Singers.

Traditional and new Advent & Christmas Music
and Community Carol Singing
St Fillan's Church – 7.30pm

Entrance free – donations welcome!

Saturday 12 December

A Morning of Christmas Crafts

Scripture Union & Captain Phil are back!

Make handy-crafts with a Christmas theme
all ages welcome.

10.30 – 12.30 in the Church Hall, High Street.

And, by popular demand:

The SU Christmas Quiz

An evening of Quiz Fun, led by Phil Wray
7.30 pm. All are welcome!

Sunday 13 December

An SU Family Fun Advent Service

Aberdour Primary School Hall - 10.30am
and afterwards: tea/coffee/juice and Mince Pies!

St. Fillan's Lunches

On a very dreich day in February we were all very pleasantly surprised to receive and serve the 97 (!) diners who braved the elements to come for lunch, and as if that number wasn't amazing enough, in June we served **101(!)** diners... then increased our Festival total to **141 (!)**which proves just how popular the place to be, on the first Thursday of each month, is The Church Hall !!!



For anyone who does not yet know - Soup and Filled Rolls, plus tea/coffee and biscuits are served there from 12 noon to 1.30p.m. at a cost of £2.00. Do come to try our good food and take the opportunity to share in some great Fellowship. *We have managed to secure the help of some extra volunteers this year, but more are always very welcome and should speak with Sandra - (Tel. 823454) or Catherine (Tel. 860611).*

The second edition of our popular "Soup"er Recipe Book has been printed and is on sale (priced £2.50). There are still one or two copies available if you would like one!

Sandra, Ewart and Catherine

CHERNOBYL CHILDREN

Once again this year I was invited to a party to meet the 'Chernobyl Children' who were visiting West Fife during July/August. They were a delightful bunch – just like any other group of 10-12 year olds really. Yet their lives are so different from ours, overshadowed as they are by a disaster which happened many years before they were born. Their leader, Tanya, had already brought another group over from Belarus to Edinburgh in July so was on her second summer trip to Scotland. The group leader bringing the West Fife children had to call off at the last minute and so without Tanya the trip would have been cancelled. Given that she had given up most of her summer holidays to chaperone children from Belarus to Scotland, Tanya was a pretty special lady. She was full of praise for her Scottish hosts and obviously liked, and respected, by her charges.

A most sincere thank you to all those who have faithfully collected their small change over this last year to help these kids have not only a great holiday, but more importantly, to improve their long term health. In the 6 years since we started sending these donations we have given the West Fife group over £1000 from simply collecting our small

coins. (St. Fillan's plus other village organisations have also sent generous donations.) It costs over £300 for one airfare and each year 10-12 children plus their leader come here to stay with local families and enjoy good food, clean water, fresh air and many and various activities. Meeting them certainly makes me want to re-double my efforts.

If you would like to know more look at

www.chernobylchildrendunfermline.co.uk

Perhaps you would like to be a host family for two or four weeks a year? I am told the children are extremely well behaved and appreciative of everything that is done for them. You are given lots of support and the children are taken on organised trips on a regular basis.

You can help by simply collecting your small change (ones, twos and five pences). Please bring your donations to church (give to me or to one of the church officials) or give me a call and I shall collect.

For more information please contact myself, Eileen Harper, on 860151, or at sophieharp@googlemail.com

The Hewitt Family

David Graham has researched and written this very interesting article on a family anyone who has been in St. Fillan's will be familiar with I do not want to omit any of his research so have split David's article in two and will publish the rest of his findings in the next edition of the Crosier.

Have you seen the plaques in the church about the two brothers who died during WWI? Picture the devastation of the parents receiving two telegrams within days of each other. I always wondered about the story behind the names.

James Francis Hewitt
Lieutenant of Cameron's (1st Scottish Rifles)
Who fell in action in France 26th October 1914 aged 26 years

William George Hewitt
2nd Lieutenant, 3rd Battalion Royal Scots
Who fell in action in France 14th October 1914 aged 22 years

The only sons of the Hon. William James Hewitt

Both died fighting for their King and country against the Germans
in the first battle of Ypres

Evelyn Francis Hewitt
Born 6th April 1862, died 21st October 1946

William James Hewitt
6th son of the 4th Viscount Lifford
Born 6th April 1856, died 28th October 1948
Factor to the Estates of the Earls of Moray since August 1904

They were obviously from a privileged family. Their father, William James Hewitt, born at Astley Castle, Warwickshire and educated at Bromsgrove and Trinity College, Dublin. He was the 6th son of the 4th Viscount Lifford (he had a large Irish estate and sat in the House of Lords as an Irish Representative Peer). Their mother Evelyn Francis Carey, was born in Knightsbridge, she was the youngest daughter of Francis Evelyn Carey (he was born in Ireland) the Honorary Lieut-General of the Scottish Rifles. Her parents lived in Winchester together with four daughters were four servants according to the census of 1881.

William and Evelyn were married on 26th April 1887. He was 31 and she 25. Not only did they have Irish connections but they had their birthdays on the same day! He became factor to his uncles estates of Broughton and Cally in Kirkcudbrightshire. Their first son James was born exactly 9 months later, followed by William four years later. Later James was educated at a private school in Winchester close to where his Grandmother (Ellen Carey) lived.

The 1901 census shows the Hewitt's have moved in with their great uncle and aunt in Cally House in Kirkcubrightshire. The uncle, Horatio G Murray-Stewart is an important land owner both in Kirkcubrightshire and Ireland. There is a famous picture of him as a child seated on sofa with long curly blond hair and wearing a tartan dress! His wife was the sister of the 4th Viscount Lifford's second wife. In the census entry, as well as the Great uncle and aunt, lives the mother Evelyn and the younger son William aged 8, also Evelyn's older unmarried sister and 14 servants ranging from a 55 year old housekeeper to a 15 year old page.

On the day of the census William senior and James are not at Cally house but in Winchester. James is at boarding school and it appears that William is visiting him as he is at the home of his mother-in-law widowed living with her two maiden daughters and an unmarried son (a captain in the Royal Navy) and three servants.

In 1904, the father aged of 48, became Factor (or agent) of the Earls of Moray Estates and the family moved to St Colme House, Aberdour. James was 16 and William 12. The father took a keen interest in the affairs of the community, a keen dog lover he bred and trained Labrador Retrievers and won many prizes and championships. His participation in outdoor pursuits never waned and he later became president of the Scottish Field Trials Association. He was also a Justice of the Peace as he had been in Kirkcubrightshire. He was probably an elder at St Colme's church as he was the convenor of the vacancy committee that appointed the Rev Johnstone in 1914.

The brothers did not attend the local schools, James went on to Haileybury School, a public school, near Hertford. Later after attending Sandhurst he joined the 1st Cameron's (1st Scottish Rifles) - his Grandfathers regiment. A military career was not intended for William. Educated at Edinburgh Academy, he progressed to Christ Church, Oxford in 1911 where he studied a variety of subjects, from Divinity to Rural Economy. William was in the Officer Training Corps both at Edinburgh and Oxford.

James accompanied his regiment to India, for a year, then to South Africa, for two years in the Mounted Infantry. He returned with the Cameronians to Glasgow where he was in charge of the depot at Hamilton. At the outbreak of war the Cameronians and James were on manoeuvres in the highlands and were in prime condition. On 26th August he accompanied the 1st Cameronians reinforcements to France attached to the 19th Infantry Brigade.

In June 1914, William left Oxford and on 6th August (2 days after Britain declared war on Germany) and before the conferring of his degree, he joined the 3rd Battalion Royal Scots based at Weymouth. The 3rd (Reserve) Battalion, a training unit, remained in Britain throughout the war. William however was attached to the 2nd Battalion, which at the outbreak of war was in Plymouth. After only a few weeks training William was sent to the front and joined his battalion as part of 8th Brigade in the trenches on 10th October. He fought continuously and on 13th a telegram was sent to his parent to say he was "missing", and then on the 16th a further telegram was sent to say he was "wounded". On the 18th they received the third telegram to say he was "found dead". The father was still not convinced and went to a lot of trouble trying to find what had happened, even enquiring of the American Consul in Paris. On 26th October a fourth telegram was received - this time saying James had been "killed in action". He had been in conflict since his arrival and was killed in action on 26th October and buried at La Boutillerie.

Later William's story emerged and the father received a letter stating that "he had been wounded on the 13th but he could not be picked up at the time owing to being under severe fire and that he was found dead on either the 15th or 16th by 2nd Lieut Pitman, 3rd Royal Scots, who knew him well as they were at Oxford together".

Later the personal effects of James were returned to his father but not William's. The matter was investigated and the result was; "The Officer commanding 2/Royal Scots reports that the kit of the deceased officer was handed over to the Rail Transport Officer on 19/10/14 and his sword may be among those now in the Quarter Master's stores, but cannot be identified as it bears no distinguishing mark. The watch cannot be traced, it was not in the deceased valise and may have been buried with him. The belt containing £11 was despatched to the base but was lost in transit." These was an enquiry about this but the officer at the front who posted it explained, "they were being heavily shelled and the transport loaded ready to move off being entrenched for days had difficulty in despatching mail and so a proper receipt was not obtained". The father said he was not concerned about



Great Uncle Horatio G Murray-Stewart



James Francis Hewitt



William James Hewitt

the money he just wanted his son's personal effects returned. The correspondence continued until July 1915. There is a suggestion that William was awarded the Croix de Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur but I have been unable to verify this.