



“Wha daur meddle wi’ me?”

Dear Kinsmen,

Thank you so much for the cards and good wishes over Christmas. We had a rather chilly one in Wales this year and then nearly got snowed in at Redheugh following New Year. Luckily our little snow plough kept us connected to the outside world but it is proving a long cold winter in the Borders.

You will all be receiving by mail a new Membership List and I apologise in advance for any mistakes. We do try and be as accurate as possible but are not always successful.

In this issue, I am proud to feature a book written by my husband, Christopher Wilkins. It is a scholarly but readable account of the turbulent 15th Century and ranges through Spain, France, Brittany to the foundation of the Tudor dynasty. It has had a good reception from academics of the period. The author’s gene runs throughout his family as his father Vaughan Wilkins was an historical novelist and a niece, Rose Wilkins, is a successful writer of “chick-lit.”

A great loss to our small local organising group is Aurea Telford. Many of you who came to the Gathering will remember her officiating in the Clan Room. Her obituary is in this issue.

In this issue, I have mined from a past newsletter, a peppery article by the historian, Alistair Campbell of Airds on the correct method of wearing the kilt which I hope will be helpful. As a Borderer, it is also correct for men to wear tartan trews as we were a riding clan and some people may prefer that option.

The new Elliot regime in the US is settling in and James Elliott in Australia has hatched some great ideas including a suggestion that I should visit. As you can imagine, this idea has been well received!

Margaret Laurenson in New Zealand has tragically just lost her husband, Bill, after a long and happy marriage and our sincere condolences to her.

We are still adapting to on-line life and I hope our members are reading the newsletter. The Editor would welcome any suggestions and suitable articles.

Yours Sincerely,

Margaret Elliott of Redheugh

Clan Room: To avoid disappointment, please warn us if you intend to visit Redheugh. Email or telephone us on the following UK number: **013873-75213** or **redheugh@btinternet.com**

ELLIOT CLAN SOCIETY

Redheugh, Newcastleton
Roxburghshire TD9 0SB
www.elliotclan.com

Chief: Margaret Elliott of Redheugh

Newsletter No. 64 - Spring 2010

“Here’s to all Elliots and Elliot’ bairns
And them that lie in Elliots arms.”

Aurea Goodfellow Telford (nee Elliot) 1928-2009



Aurea was the oldest child of Alice and Robert Elliot of Whintington. She was educated at Bewcastle Bailey and Brampton Secondary School with her sisters, Rosie, Vera and brother Joseph. When she left school she worked with dogs in Warrington and then taught infants in Bewcastle and Stapleton schools. She also worked as a farm maid in Southwaite.

Aurea married Joe Telford in 1950 and lived at Holmehead farm. They had two children, Marilyn and Jimmy, who predeceased her but gave her three grandchildren, Neil, Angela and Marie.

She was tireless in her work for the Knowe church and many local committees and she loved doing the flowers for weddings and christenings. She was a stalwart of the Elliot Clan Society and had been a member of the Executive Committee since Sir Arthur’s time as Chief. Always available to help in whatever capacity, she helped stuff newsletters into envelopes, did flowers, traced ancestry and looked after the Clan Room at all the Gatherings. She had wide knowledge of local history.

The photograph shows her at the gathering last July in the Clan Room.

Selkirkshire and The Borders

A personal view of the Archaeology and History – by WALTER ELLIOT

Book 1 – From the beginning of Time to AD 1603

This volume begins with the Berwickshire farmer, James Hutton, who first defined the immense age of the world. It continues with the last Ice Age and the colonisation of the borders by plants, animals and people. During the Stone Ages from 8000 BC to 2000BC settlers began to leave their mark on the landscape.

By the time the Romans came north in AD 80 society was more structured and when the Imperial Army left the first faint traces of Christianity were beginning to take root. Little evidence survives from the Dark Ages but placenames give some sense of the changing linguistic map.

When the Normans were introduced in the 12th Century

by David I, they insisted that records were kept. The Border Abbeys faithfully kept their documents, most of them listing land grants and giving little sense of the lives of ordinary folk. It is only in the 16th century with the Selkirk Court Books and the documents known as the Walter Mason Papers that the people of Selkirk move into the centre of the narrative.

They shed new light on the Flodden period, the efforts of Henry VIII of England to force a dynastic marriage with Scotland, the ward of the Reformation, the plans for the Union of the Crowns, the rise of Galashiels to rival Selkirk and the heyday of the Border Reivers.

Published by Deerpark Press. The Henhouse, Hartwoodburn, Selkirk TD7 5EY. £20.00.

The Last Knight Errant

Sir Edward Woodville and the Age of Chivalry
by Christopher Wilkins.

Published by I.B. Tauris. www.ibtauris.com £17.50.

Sir Edward Woodville was the mediaeval knight par excellence – except that his life coincided with the beginning of the renaissance. With this vivid and long-awaited biography, Christopher Wilkins demonstrates how Sir Edward carved out an important role for himself in the 15th century, marrying the old-fashioned values of a chivalric age with the modernising trends that were dramatically reshaping Europe. Far from an anachronism, *The Last Knight Errant* reveals how this quintessentially mediaeval figure, riding from battle to battle across Europe, was also profoundly engaged in the events that built the post-mediaeval states of England, Spain and France.

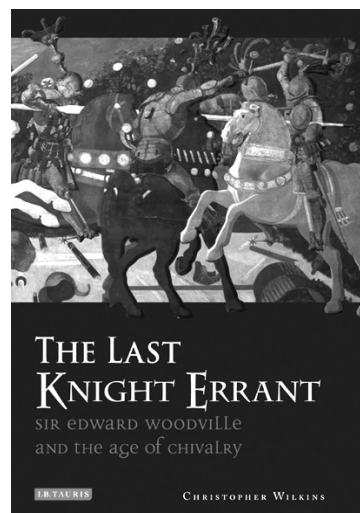
The Last Knight Errant is the first full biography of this pivotal figure in English history for over a century and reveals him to have been a true hero whose significance in the politics of the period is often overlooked. Drawing on original research throughout Europe, Christopher Wilkins draws out

Sir Edward Woodville's fascinating life and unusual character in the context of his remarkable family, who have been traditionally cast as among the most unpopular in English history.

The Last Knight Errant restores Sir Edward Woodville to his rightful place at the heart of power in 15th century England and represents him as a true hero whose reputation suffered at the hands of that genius of propaganda, Richard III.

Christopher Wilkins saw active service in Aden, the Radfan and Oman. He attended the School of Military Intelligence and read for the Bar before joining The Sunday Times. He subsequently built up a very successful business and was a member of the Scottish Economic Council for more than ten years.

He lives in London and in the Scottish Borders with his wife, Margaret Elliott.





**FLIGHT
LIEUTENANT
JOHN
LIVINGSTON
HOPKINS
BOSWELL ELIOTT**

*Royal Canadian Air Force.
1916-1942*

John was working in the United States at the outbreak of war where he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force and was attached to the RAF Bomber command in England.

No 9 Squadron was based at Honington, Suffolk. One of eleven Royal Canadian Air Force bomber squadrons who flew the aircraft in the European theatre from 1941-1944. Their Vickers Wellington was shot down near Rostock on Operation Warnem on 8th May 1942.

All the crew are buried in the Berlin 1939-45 War Cemetery.

For the first four months of the war No.9 Squadron conducted daylight anti-shipping sweeps over the North Sea, taking steadily increasing losses until 18 December 1939 when five aircraft were shot down and after that the squadron concentrated on night time operations. In all the squadron lost 79 Wellingtons while they were stationed at Honington from July 1939 to September 1942.

The Wellington built up a great reputation for reliability and ruggedness in night bombing operations. In April 1941 they were the first to drop the deadly "blockbuster" bomb during a raid on Emden and they helped to initiate the Pathfinder target-indicating tactics.

New President of Clan Society in the US:

JUDITH MARIE ELLIOTT was elected to the post of President at the last AGM. She is a retired Art Educator living in Florida and has been a member of the Society since 1980 when the then President **JIM ELLIOTT** visited Florida and immediately became very active as Secretary. Eight years later she replaced her father as Commissioner of Florida and was Second Vice President under the

presidency of Robert Elliott. She became First Vice President under Patricia Tennyson Bell. All this while working and raising four children who have become active members. As an artist, this year she won two best of show ribbons in juried competition as well as being accepted in the University of Central Florida Alumni and Faculty Show at the Orlando Museum of Art.

**The Over Kirkhope
Stone**

In the mid 1850s WALTER ELLIOT, shepherd in Over Kirkhope near the top of the Ettrick Valley, decided to enclose a portion of the hill next to the farmhouse to make an in-bye field. With help from his son JIM, he ploughed the rough ground, dug some drains and used the stones turned up by plough and spade to build an enclosing wall. While they were doing this, they noticed that some of the larger stones had rude figures carved on one side.



The stone was recognised as being of some importance and was exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1885 and temporarily placed in the Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh; it can be seen today in the Museum of Scotland in Chambers Street.

The stone is of an Orans, a figure of frequent occurrence in early Christian art. It is very crude and the treatment of the hair may be compared with poor Roman provincial work. The cross on the breast is an indication of the beatified state of the person whom the stone commemorates. It has been dated from the 5th or 6th century. Its discovery near an ancient church site in a remote upland valley inevitably suggests the gravestone of a hermit, whose prayers were desired by the neighbouring communities.

Charlotte Elliott – 1789-1871

Miss Charlotte Elliot was the daughter of CHARLES ELLIOTT of Clapham and Brighton and granddaughter of the Reverend H. Venn of Huddersfield. Although an invalid for most of her life she wrote some 150 hymns, the one most well known is the following:

*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bid'st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, tho' tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind-sight,
riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need in Thee to find
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

The Elliott School, Putney and Southfields, London



The school is named after SIR CHARLES ALFRED ELLIOTT, KCSI – 1835-1911 who was the son of The Reverend HENRY VENN ELLIOTT and his wife Julia Marshall. He was educated at Harrow and Trinity College, Cambridge. He entered the Indian Civil Service, became a member of the viceroy's Executive Council in 1888 and was finally appointed Lieutenant Governor of Bengal in 1890. He served in this appointment for five years. After returning to England he acted as Financial member of the London County Council. He was present at most of the fighting of the Indian Mutiny. He married Louisa Jane Dumbell and had a daughter and four sons. The badge of the school reflects his Indian connections.

LOOKING FOR CANNONS

Taken from Admiral Sir George Elliot's privately printed 'Memoir.' He was the son of the 1st Earl of Minto.

At the Battle of the Nile he was Signal Midshipman to the 'Goliath' and was wounded. "During the 3rd I had, with the assistance of some of the crew, got the jolly boat so patched up that I thought we could get her to swim to a French frigate lying on her side full of water – and probably get many use-ful things for refitting our ship; and here I made my first acquaintance with Captain Hardy, as he afterwards reminded me. The ship was lying much on her side the upper part of the lower deck hatches under water. Our greatest want was cannons, and I dived in the 'Trio' in hopes of finding some, expecting to have air enough towards the upper side where it was above water; in this I was right, and I also found much more light than I expected, reflected in some way through the water, for there was no direct passage for light.

The first thing I met was a dead French marine, swelled up and floating like a cork; he was by no means a pleasant companion where fresh air was scarce, and it was with no little difficulty that I forced him under the beams into the open hatchway. Captain Hardy had come on board to see what was to be had, like myself, and just as he looked down the hatchway up bobbed the marine, and shortly after up came a naked figure with a bandaged head and neck, which of course he thought was another dead body, but to his surprise it shook its head and called for a rope's end to haul up the marine and put him overboard.

On asking my men who I was and hearing my name, he knew all about me, and good-humouredly said as I was before him he would not interfere with my wrecking; indeed he could get nothing but by diving for it, which was not in his line. I got most useful supplies from this ship, which greatly assisted our refit.

Hardy mentioned this interview with me, at table in 1800, to Nelson, who said no wonder I smelt out a Frenchman in the dark. Poor Nelson had such a horror of all Frenchmen, that I believe he thought them at all times nearly as corrupt in body as in mind."

From 'Elliot Traditions and Family Anecdote's by Lieutenant-Colonel the Hon. Fitzwilliam Elliot, privately printed in Edinburgh 1922.



SOME THOUGHTS ON THE WEARING OF HIGHLAND DRESS

by Alistair Campbell of Airds

This article has already appeared in Newsletter No.29 in 1992 but for those members who have been members for less than 17 years, it is a practical and sensible guide through the largely unwritten rules of choosing how to wear the tartan.

Writing on the wearing of dress is a difficult task and on the wearing of Highland dress particularly so. Fashions, after all, do change, both from period to period and from place to place as well as from class to class. What is correct in one place at one time may be considered quite incorrect at another.

I have headed this article "Some thoughts on the wearing of Highland dress" since the kilt of today is exclusively Highland in origin. Lowlanders (or Borderers) regarded it as a savage form of attire and contemptuously christened its wearers "redshanks" claiming that their naked limbs were what today we would describe as "blue" with cold. But the kilt has now become the National Dress of all Scotland and Border chiefs whose ancestors would have shrunk from the idea are to be seen happily sporting a form of attire their ancestors would have regarded with disdain and derision.

A possible way to approach what is and what is not acceptable is to equate the various forms of Highland attire with its non-Scottish counterpart. The kilt has a range of uses, from full-dress evening attire through the equivalent of a suit to informal working dress and should be seen as a Scottish version of ordinary modern daily wear.

Gala evening occasions are one of the few times when I would suggest it is acceptable to wear everything you possess – if that is your wish; dirk, powder horn, brooch and plaid – although the wearing of this last particular article of dress has to all extent disappeared in Scotland and would be viewed somewhat askance if seen at one of the Gathering Balls. One thing seen overseas and never in Scotland at any time to my knowledge is the wearing of bonnets indoors which seems to be prevalent, possibly I suspect to allow the display of feathers which assumes a quite disproportionate importance overseas. But would you wear a hat indoors with your tuxedo? And would you wear a broadsword at the Office Party?

For the formal and semi-formal event by day when you might expect to wear some form of suit, then a tweed jacket and tie with the kilt would be the norm. Don't mix

evening wear with day wear; an ordinary coloured tie is not correct worn with an evening jacket by day – not unless you are in the habit of going to your office wearing a tuxedo and for the same reason your sporran should not be an ornamental evening one but something of more restrained pattern. And do NOT attempt to add to your day attire with a fly plaid and brooch; the fly plaid as sometimes worn in the evening is a purely ornamental article of evening dress. If you wish to carry a plaid by day it is the full and original length of tartan which is carried over the shoulder which can be used as it was in former days as a shield against the weather. In hot climates it is clearly superfluous and its use unnecessarily ostentatious. And the carrying of a broadsword or wearing of a dirk or any other weapon at normal, day events – unless you are in the habit of going about your daily life similarly armed – is not to be recommended.

One thing I have noticed around the world and including Scotland is that many people today are wearing the kilt far too long, right down over the kneecap so that virtually no bare leg appears between the hem of the kilt and the top of the stocking. The result is frequently grotesque. The edge of the kilt should cut the kneecap, not hang below it.

On a rather delicate subject, if you are wearing the kilt in the traditional way your MUST know how to sit in it correctly. I cannot but remember the recent overseas visit of a prominent Scottish functionary who was obviously wearing a kilt for the first time in honour of this trip and who on a succession of platforms revealed to those present views of Scotland which are not usually on the tourist itinerary. It doesn't take much practice in front of a mirror to get it right and avoid embarrassment.

And one entirely personal hate; the use of white stockings by day as well as by night with the kilt. I now see this described as 'traditional' – a word to be treated with the utmost suspicion whenever it appears. There is nothing historic about the practice at all; it came in, to the best of my knowledge, some twenty-five years ago or so when it was difficult and very expensive to get diced or tartan knitted hose for evening wear. Its use has now spread to day wear for which there is no historical precedent – white being a most impractical colour. It is a matter of little importance but next time you think of buying a pair of white stockings for evening wear, try substituting a pair of plain red, blue, dark green or even yellow ones. You may be pleasantly surprised.

For the Ladies: The sash should be worn on the right shoulder unless you are a chief or the wife of a chief and then you wear it on the left. Kilts are for men only and a tartan skirt is more suitable, worn long for the evening.

We welcome the following new members to the Society

UNITED STATES

- US3384 Elwood, Regina, Santa Rosa CA 95409-3502
- US3385 Zika, Michelle & Matt, Ripon CA 95366-9564
- US3386 Banks, Reginald, Bothell WA 98011-7609
- US3387 Elliott, Joseph W, Media PA 19063-4001
- US3388 Elliott, John G., Alexandria VA 22304-3525
- US3389 Elliott, Daniel A, Warrenton VA 20186-2307
- US3390 Elliott, Robert R., Sequin TX 78155-7421
- US3391 Elliott, Carlos & Camille, Simi Valley CA 93065-4752
- US3392 Sargent, Derek, Lawrenceville GA 30044-3813
- US3393 Elliott, Mr & Mrs. Ralph, Ocean Springs MS 39564-2569
- US3394 Elliott, John S., Phoenix AZ 85022-1942
- US3395 Johnson, Robert Alan, San Saba TX 76877-7522
- US3396 Elliott, Gregory & Valerie, Kingwood TX 77339-2346
- US3397 Elliott, Marion Samantha, Elkhart IN 46514-3717
- US3398 Pfister, Thomas Elliott, Winter Haven FL 33884-2600
- US3399 Elliott, Adam M., Manassas VA 20110-4829
- US3400 Cheers, D. Mark, Brush CO 80723-8503
- US3401 Elliott, Eddy B., Sachse TX 75048-3139
- US3402 Bartholomew, Ernest, Arthur IN 61911
- US3403 Sherman, Herold A., Haleiwa HI 96712-9608
- US3404 Anderson, HelenViola, Parkersburg WV 26104-2120
- US3405 Huebner, Christina, Harker Heights TX 76548-8723
- US3406 Elliott, Larry, Paris IL 61944-2137
- US3407 Bramer Paul

UNITED KINGDOM

- E435 Elliot, Terence Graham, Eyemouth
- E436 Phillips, Mrs. Elizabeth, Lillington, Leamington Spa
- E437 Gilhespie, Mrs. Joan, Gateshead, Tyne & Wear
- E438 Elliott, Mr. Steven, Wadebridge, Cornwall
- E439 Elliott, Mr & Mrs. Paul, Grosvenor Rd, South Shields
- E440 Halliday, Dr. Stuart, Durham
- E441 Balfour, Mrs. Jane, Purewell, Christchurch
- E442 Elliott, Mr. R., Tuckton, Bournemouth
- E443 Elliott, Susan, Dipton Mill Road, Hexham
- E444 Elliot, Susan, Shifnal, Shropshire

AUSTRALIA

- A294 Elliott, Jennifer Anne, Langwarren VIC 3910
- A295 Elliott, Ross Graham, Ellendale, Tasmania 7140

CANADA

- C1078 Anderson, Noel Stewart, Medicine Hat AB T1C 1P6
- C1079 Elliott, Jon Francis, 11667-72 Ave., N.W. Edmonton AB T6G 0B9

Details of new members received too late for publication will appear in the next newsletter.

A REIVER'S SWORD

A sword crafted by a Borders Goldsmith is one of the star exhibits in a major exhibition at Goldsmiths Hall in London.

Its wooden hilt has been carved from an ancient Teviotdale hawthorn root and the basket guard is of precious metals telling the tale of notorious reiver Johnny Armstrong. In the Moffatt family workshops at Teviothead near Hawick, Kenneth Erik Moffatt has spent more than 2,000 hours creating the new Scottish basket-hilted sword.

Fashioned and chased in yellow gold and silver, the pictorial narrative decorating the sword's basket guard illustrates the heroic 16th Century Ballad of

Johnnie Armstrong. One of the most notorious of all Border reivers. Armstrong and his men were hanged without trial from the trees at Caerlenrig in Teviotdale in 1530 by the young King James V.

Kenneth Moffatt said "The blade had been in the family for many hears without a hilt and dates to the 16th Century. It is of a type used in the Borders at that time, being a "backsword" (single-edged) and can be used for both cut and thrust. The blade is faintly signed Andrea Ferara, the semi-mythical bladesmith who is said to have settled in Scotland and whose signature can be found on Scottish swords as a mark of quality.