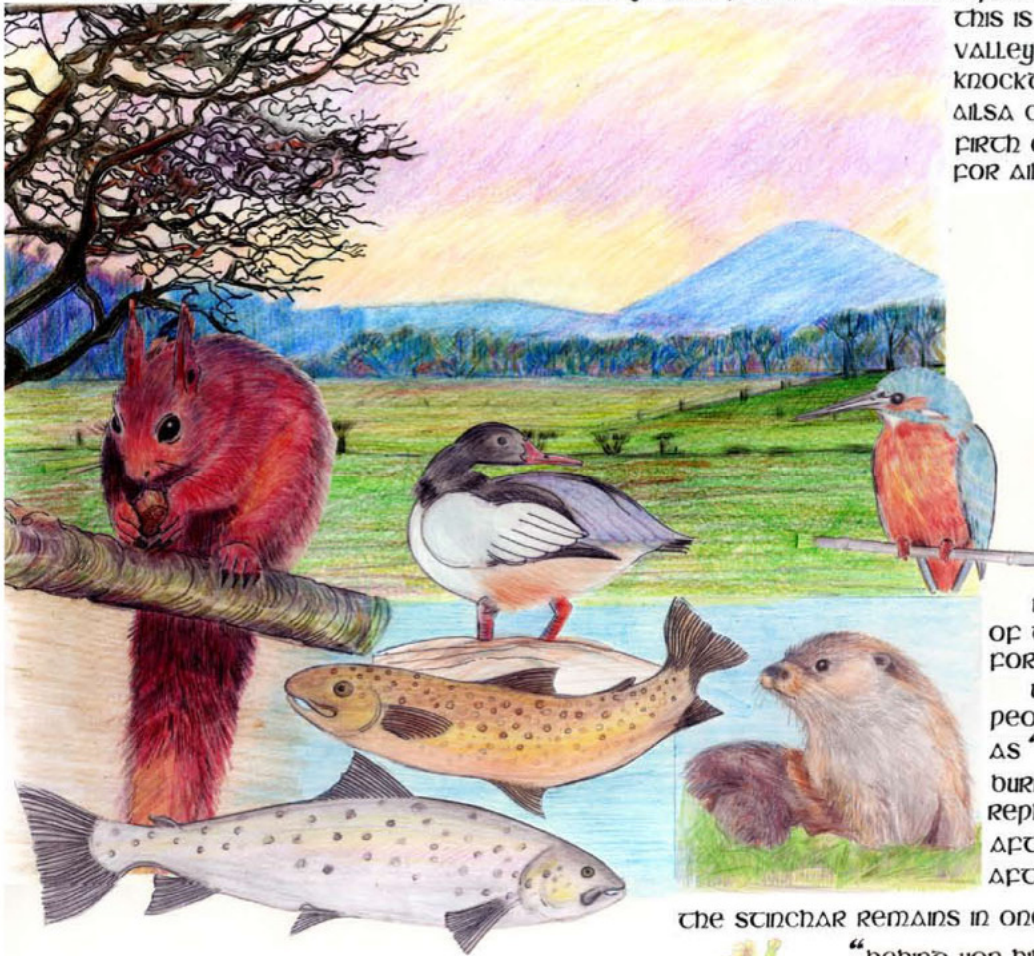


Jubilee BRIDGE PICNIC AREA

THIS PICNIC AREA IS ALMOST ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER STINCHAR AT THE JUBILEE BRIDGE. THE ORIGINAL BRIDGE WAS BUILT IN 1887, THE YEAR OF QUEEN VICTORIA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE. IT WAS REPLACED IN 1960, BUT THE NAME REMAINED THIS IS THE UPPER PART OF THE LOWER STINCHAR VALLEY. IN THE DISTANCE IS THE CONICAL KNOCKDOLIAN HILL, AN ANCIENT VOLCANIC PLUG LIKE AILSA CRAIG. ANCIENT MARINERS, SAILING THE FIRTH OF CLYDE, OFTEN CONFUSED KNOCKDOLIAN FOR AILSA CRAIG, WITH DISASTROUS RESULTS.



ROBERT BURNS LOVED TO WALK THE BANKS OF THE STINCHAR, WHICH WAS THE INSPIRATION FOR MANY OF HIS SONGS AND POEMS. UNFORTUNATELY, MANY ENGLISH SPEAKING PEOPLE OF HIS DAY MISPRONOUNCED STINCHAR AS "STINKER". AS A RESULT, THE MORTIFIED BURNS REMOVED STINCHAR FROM HIS VERSES, REPLACING IT WITH ALTERNATIVES SUCH AS AFTON, LUSAR AND SIRVAN. HIS SONG, "SWEET AFTON", BEAUTIFULLY DESCRIBES THIS VALLEY.

THE STINCHAR REMAINS IN ONE VERY EARLY BURNS POEM, "MY NANIE, O"
 "BEHIND YON HILLS WHERE STINCHAR FLOWS
 'MANG MOORS AN' MOSSES MANY, O,
 THE WINTRY SUN THE DAY HAS CLOS'D
 AND I'LL AWAY TO NANIE, O."

main picture top the lower stinchar valley looking west to knockdolian
 local fauna clockwise from top left
 red squirrel, goosander, kingfisher, loon, brown trout and salmon below



BURNS SOMETIMES STAYED AT NEARBY DALJARROCK HOUSE, THEN THE HOME OF PEGGY KENNEDY, SISTER IN LAW OF HIS BEST FRIEND, JAVIN HAMILTON. PEGGY WAS A TALENTED POETESS AND THE BARD PUBLISHED SOME OF HER WORK AS SONGS TO HIS MUSIC. THEY APPEARED IN JAMES JOHNSON'S, "THE SCOTS MUSICAL MUSEUM", IN 1787.

NEARBY, AT ALMONT, BEHIND THE COTTAGES, UPON A KNOLL, STANDS A UNIQUE LITTLE MONUMENT TO THE MEMORY OF JOHN SNELL, ONE OF SCOTLAND'S GREATEST EDUCATIONAL BENEFACTORS AND SON OF ALMONT.

THE RECTANGULAR MONOLITH, COMMISSIONED BY PUBLIC SUBSCRIPTION IN 1915, HAS A LARGE BRONZE PANEL ON EACH OF FOUR SIDES, BEAUTIFULLY LETTERED IN THE BEST ARTS AND CRAFTS STYLE.

JOHN SNELL (1629-1679), BEQUEATHED THE FAMOUS SNELL BURSARY TO BALLIOL COLLEGE OXFORD, IN HIS WILL.

BALLIOL COLLEGE HAD BEEN FOUNDED FOUR HUNDRED YEARS EARLIER, IN 1273, BY DEVORSILLA, "THE LADY OF GALLOWAY" AND MOTHER OF JOHN BALLIOL, KING OF SCOTS.

IT IS REMARKABLE THAT TWO SCOTS FROM REMOTE CARRICK AND GALLOWAY SHOULD HAVE BEEN SO CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH THIS WORLD FAMOUS ENGLISH UNIVERSITY.

THE NAME, ALMONT, IS PROBABLY VERY ANCIENT AND POSSIBLY REFERS TO THE KNOLL ON WHICH THE MONUMENT STANDS. IT IS LIKELY TO BE FROM THE ANCIENT BRYTHONIC, "ATHAL" (PR. A-AL) A MESSENGER, FIRE, LIGHT, ETC., AND "MONADON" (PR. MONA) HILL OR KNOLL. LITERALLY: THE KNOLL OF THE FIRE SIGNAL OR THE FIRE MESSENGER.



ABOVE THE SNELL MEMORIAL ALMONT UICH SISKIN



ABOVE THE BRONZE PANELS SNELL MEMORIAL

WRITTEN AND DRAWN BY KATHY AND BEERY DAWBY. PAINTED BY MARY POTTSLEY

THE AUTHORS ARE INDEBTED TO THE WORK OF THE LATE MR NEVILL MACDONALD (1844-1914) WHOSE BOOK CAERULA GALLOWAY IS AN INSPIRATION