

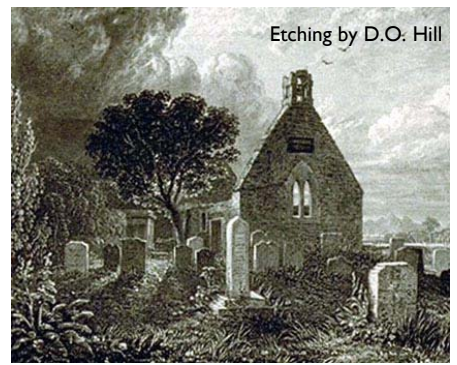
Tracing St Kentigern at Burns' birthplace

2009 marked the 250th anniversary of the birth in Alloway, Ayr of Robert Burns, Scotland's national poet. It was also Visit Scotland's *Year of Homecoming* with tens of thousands of Scots returning to their roots. It is appropriate that a long-forgotten connection between Glasgow's patron Saint Kentigern (also known as Mungo) and the Ayrshire Pilgrim's Trail should be brought to our attention.

Thanks go to John Skilling of Alloway Parish Church for the illustration of an ancient stone in the care of the Kirk there. It appears to have been a way-marker for pilgrims heading to Whithorn as the ancient Brig o Doon would have been the only safe crossing of the river for centuries.

The Auld Kirk of Alloway, made famous in Robert Burns' poem *Tam o Shanter*, was dedicated to Glasgow's St Kentigern. The belfry is of 17th century date but the double lancet window is

Continued on page 3



Etching by D.O. Hill

The Cluny 2010 Scotland Joint Organising Committee gratefully acknowledges the support of its main sponsors:

HISTORIC SCOTLAND



Renfrewshire
Council

The Barcapel Foundation

Ayrshire charity boosts Cluny 2010 Scotland programme

The Barcapel Foundation

We are delighted to report that a charity based in Ayrshire has generously grant-funded our celebrations and ensured that our Conference and Medieval Fair will take place. The charity's themes are heritage, medicine and youth and these will be addressed at both events.

The conference, on Scotland's Cluniac heritage, features leading experts in the fields of history and archaeology and it is particularly fitting that Dr Antony Freeman of Lewes Priory Trust will present a paper on sites close to Cluny as well as elaborate on the origins of the Cluniac priory of Lewes in Sussex.

Dr Freeman initiated the first meeting of UK Cluniac sites in 2008 at Much Wenlock, Shropshire, from where the first monks of Paisley Abbey came in the middle of the 12th century.

It was at that meeting that Alistair Campbell of Paisley Abbey and James Brown of Maybole Historical Society agreed to organise Scotland's celebrations for 2010.



Dr. Anthony Freeman has written on a variety of historical topics, ranging from the emergence of the national state of Israel and civil disorder in Sussex to Anglo-Saxon coinage and aspects of the National Health Service. He is a member of the Federation of Cluniac Sites and has introduced the Federation to its patrimony in Britain. Dr Freeman is currently closely involved in work to open up Lewes Priory, Cluny's first foundation in Britain, to a wider public.

JOIN THE CLUNY NETWORK !

<http://www.cluny.eu/>

<http://www.sitesclunisiens.org/>

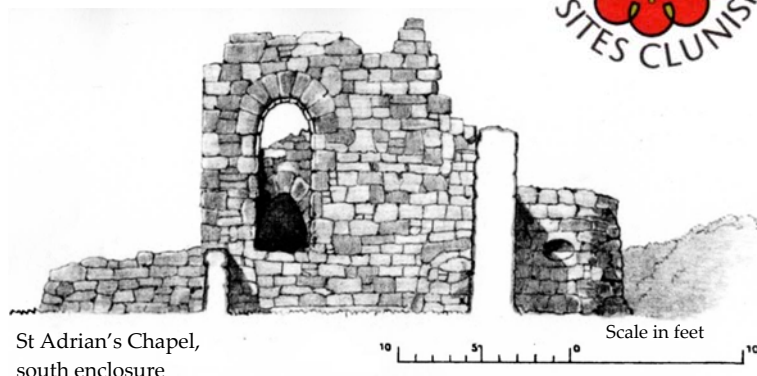
<http://www.cluny2010.info/>

Bookmark these pages and visit them often — there is news coming through all the time. And while you are on [cluny2010.info](http://www.cluny2010.info/), why not leave a fraternal comment?



Isle of May: Scotland's first, but forgotten, Cluniac site

Scotland's earliest lighthouse was built on the Isle of May soon after 1635. It was replaced in 1816 by the structure we can see today. The beacon for mariners in earlier times, especially from the 12th to the 16th centuries would have been the Priory which had been built to encourage pilgrims to make their way to St Andrews. Today the island is a bird sanctuary and regular summer sailings are made from Anstruther in Fife. <http://www.isleofmayferry.com/isle-of-may.asp>



View of the priory ruins from the east with the 1816 lighthouse on the far right.

In the Dark Ages when the Picts were being absorbed by the kingdom of the Scots, St Adrian (supposedly Hungarian but probably Irish) chose the rocky, exposed Isle of May in the Firth of Forth as his hermitage. Before the middle of the 12th century, David I, King of Scots, founded a monastery there and immediately granted ownership to the Benedictine Abbey of Reading in England which had recently been founded by his brother-in-law, Henry Beauclerc. A charter of David's grandson, William I, "*The Lion*" (1143-1214) records that the Priory was of the Order of Cluny. It seems to have been so for about 80 years. It was pillaged by the Norse in the mid-12th century and by the English in the late 13th century

The Abbey of Reading had an unusual relationship with Cluny. Although a Cluniac priory at least from 1121-3, its Abbot Hugh II became Abbot of Cluny in 1199, which must indicate that it was well within the Cluniac community, perhaps through its association with Lewes Priory.

Reading lost possession of the Isle of May Priory when it was bought by the Scottish king for St Andrews in the 1290s as it was believed that English occupation would encourage spies to enter the country during the Wars of Independence.



Drawings from:
Records of the Priory of the Isle of May,
edited by John Stuart, Edinburgh 1868

Alloway and St Kentigern

Continued from page 1

13th century in character and may have been saved from the original church there.

The Auld Brig o Doon, which features in the climax to the Tam o Shanter poem, is believed to have been built by James Kennedy (1408?-1465), Bishop of St Andrews and Chancellor of Scotland. He was the youngest son of Sir James Kennedy of Dunure (just a few miles from Alloway) and Princess Mary, second daughter of Robert III, King of Scots.

The modern Alloway Kirk is a thriving Church of Scotland place of worship.

<http://www.allowaychurch.org/>



Cambusdoon Cross in Alloway Parish Church possibly dates from the 8th century.

Free concert by Canty in Glasgow Cathedral

Thanks to the hard work of Rebecca Tavener (*below, right*) of *Cappella Nova*, Scotland's premier exponents of Medieval and Renaissance music, a free lunch-time concert will be held in Glasgow Cathedral on Friday, 14th May. Time and further details will be announced in the February newsletter.



Cluny visit planned for September, 2010

A "pilgrimage" is planned to visit Cluny for the climax of the 2010 celebrations there. The coach trip will take in visits to beautiful Cluniac sites in England including Much Wenlock in Shropshire which supplied Paisley's first monks in the 12th century.

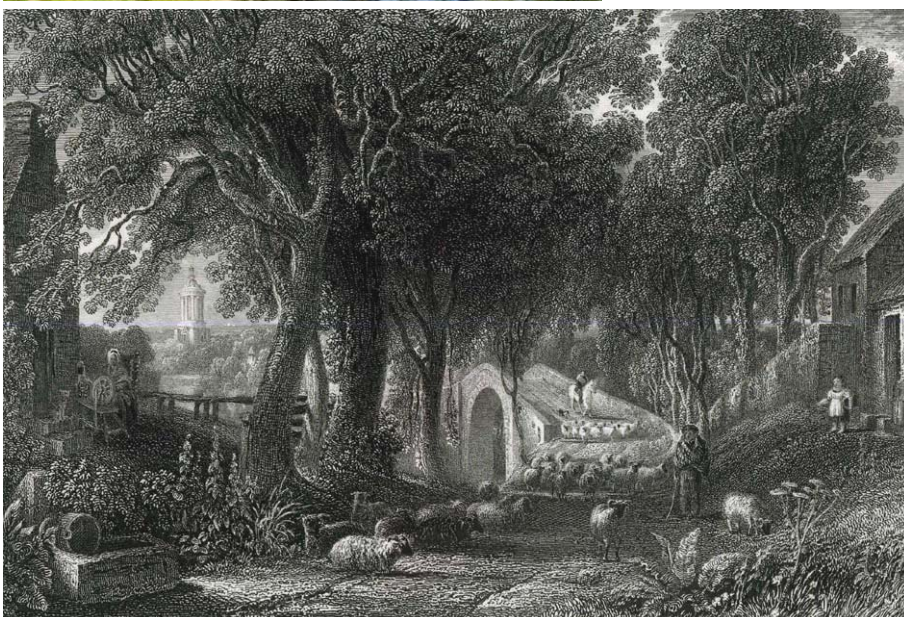
The main events will take place in Cluny on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th September as part of a great European gathering. Details of the tour, which is likely to leave Paisley on Tuesday 7th and return on Monday 13th, are being finalised. It is expected to be a sell-out so if you are interested, please register that by sending your contact details to Marion Sommerville or Rev Alan D. Birss at Paisley Abbey Office, Abbey Close, PAISLEY, PA1 1JG.

info@paisleyabbey.org.uk



Two Brig o Doon images courtesy of Loretta Layman, USA

Below: Etching by the world-famous pioneering photographer, David Octavius Hill (1802-1870) for his 1840 two-volume work, *The Land of Burns*, shows the bridge from the north side with the Burns Monument in the background.



Choral & Organ Concert Saturday, 15th May, 2010 7:30 pm

The glorious interior of Paisley Abbey will be the backdrop for a concert with a strong French theme both in the music and the famous two manual and pedal organ built by the Parisian Aristide Cavallé-Coll in 1872.

Performances will include *Requiem* by Duruflé and French music from the 13th and 14th centuries.

Tickets are £15 (gallery) and £10 with a £5 concession for students at the door on the night on presentation of a valid student identity.

Remember the dates!

14th - 16th May, 2010

More information on:

www.cluny2010scotland.info

Paisley buddies in the nave



Paisley Abbey choir

Paisley Museum exhibition

from Friday, 14th May, 2010

*"Charters and Chamber Pots:
Aspects of Mediaeval Paisley"*

This exhibition aims to explore the wide-ranging influence of Paisley Abbey. It will feature mediaeval items from the collections including sculpted stones, carved woodwork, manuscripts and some of the material excavated from the Great Drain of the abbey illustrating the daily life of the monks.

Highlights will include the Papal bull of 1265, the Arbuthnott Missal, a French manuscript with exquisite illustrative pages and the Elderslie Cross which was last displayed in the Museum more than 25 years ago. Also featuring will be a triptych depicting the career of Sir William Wallace, the Balgonie Altarpiece and other artworks that feature views of the Abbey.

Digital documentation displays

The Project Gunzo work on the 3-D recreations of the abbey of Cluny and the priories of Romainmôtier (Switzerland) and Calw-Hirsau (Germany) will be on display at the conference venue. It is hoped to have Historic Scotland's digital documentation of Rosslyn Chapel and other important sites also shown to give an idea of what lies ahead for Crossraguel Abbey as part of a €120,000 initiative by the Federation of Cluniac Sites and ENSAM of Cluny.



<http://www.cluny2010.info/search/label/Gunzo>

Conference tickets: £25

(includes refreshments and light lunch)

Contact: James Brown

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Tel: 01292 610 790

baltersan.castle@btinternet.com

Cheques payable to: Cluny 2010 Scotland

Conference Saturday 15th May, 2010 Paisley Town Hall

Organised by Maybole Historical Society Charity No. SC034056

Sponsored by Historic Scotland and The Barcapel Foundation

Scotland's Cluniac Heritage:

a conference to mark the 1,100th anniversary of the founding of the monastic Order of Cluny in Burgundy. Leading historians and archaeologists will present papers on various aspects of monastic life around the abbeys of Paisley and Crossraguel and consider French influences in Scotland from the 12th to 16th centuries.

Chair: **Dr Barbara Crawford**

President, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

Speakers:

Dr Anthony Freeman (Lewes Priory Trust)

The Federation of Cluniac Sites, Cluny Abbey and the Order in Britain

Dr Matthew Hammond (Edinburgh University)

The first 100 years of Paisley Abbey's patrons

Prof. Stephen Driscoll and Bob Will (Glasgow University)

Recent archaeological excavations at Paisley Abbey

Prof. Richard Fawcett (St Andrews University)

Architecture of Paisley and Crossraguel Abbeys

Adrian Cox (Historic Scotland)

Archaeological finds at Crossraguel Abbey

Peter Yeoman (Historic Scotland)

Pilgrimage, especially Paisley to Whithorn

Prof. Charles McKean (Dundee University)

Scotland as a French Colony in the 16th century

