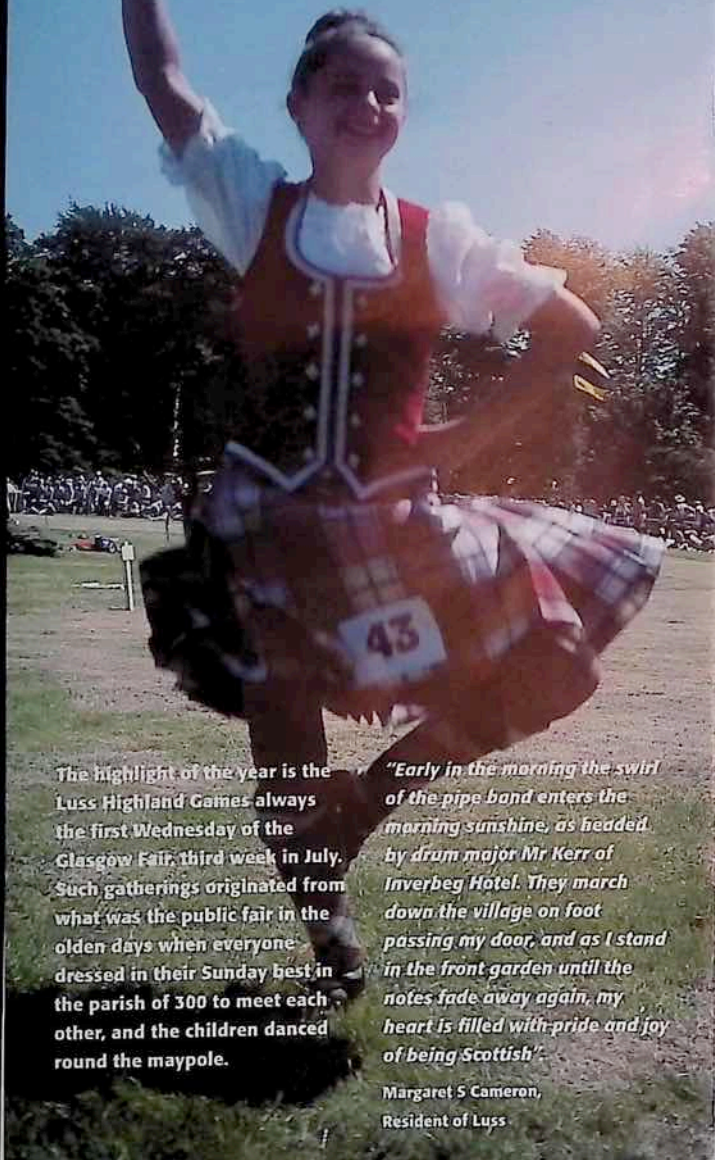


LET THE
games BEGIN...

The highlight of the year is the Luss Highland Games always the first Wednesday of the Glasgow Fair, third week in July. Such gatherings originated from what was the public fair in the olden days when everyone dressed in their Sunday best in the parish of 300 to meet each other, and the children danced round the maypole.

"Early in the morning the swirl of the pipe band enters the morning sunshine, as headed by drum major Mr Kerr of Inverbeg Hotel. They march down the village on foot passing my door, and as I stand in the front garden until the notes fade away again, my heart is filled with pride and joy of being Scottish".

Margaret S Cameron,
Resident of Luss

LOCH LOMOND PARK CENTRE

The Loch Lomond Park Authority offers this facility. The main exhibit provides an insight into the landscape, wildlife and cultural history of Loch Lomond. "The First Wonder" slide presentation reveals the beauty of Loch Lomond and her wildlife through each changing season. Our friendly staff are always available to provide advice and assistance. Park Authority Rangers organise walks and other events throughout the Loch Lomond area. A small gift shop offers a wide range of gifts and locally produced craft. The centre is open Easter to October 10.00 to 5.00 daily. Luss has been widely proclaimed the prettiest village in Scotland, please help to keep it that way.

THE LOCH LOMOND PARK AUTHORITY HAS BEEN SET UP TO

- ◆ conserve the natural and other heritage values of the area,
- ◆ promote the enjoyment of the area, and
- ◆ promote the economic and social interests of the local community.

PARK RANGER SERVICE

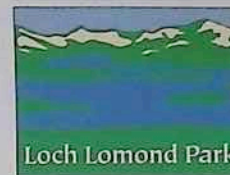
The Park Authority's Countryside Rangers are a source of advice and help, and can be contacted at Balloch Castle tel: 01389 758216, the Park Centre in Luss tel: 01436 860601 or the Park Centre in Balmaha tel: 01360 870470.

THIS LEAFLET WAS PRODUCED WITH
SCOTTISH NATURAL HERITAGE FUNDING SUPPORT



Published by the Loch Lomond Park Authority
The Old Station, Balloch Road, Balloch G83 8SS
Telephone: 01389 753311

The Loch Lomond Park Authority is a joint Committee of
West Dunbartonshire Council, Argyll & Bute Council and
Stirling Council.



Conservation Village



A LOOK AT

Luss



Postcard pretty Luss is in the Colquhoun clan countryside. Famed for roses around the doors of picturesque cottages,

it is set at the foot of the glen, where the Luss water runs into the Loch.



L U S S V I L L A G E



The village is familiar territory to some three million armchair fans as "Glendarroch" in Scottish Television's popular soap - "High Road". Many of the cottages that distinguish Luss were originally erected to house workers in the cotton mill and slate quarries of the 18th and 19th centuries. The homes have been restored and now Luss is justifiably designated a "Conservation Village".

The village was first known as Clachan Dubh (the dark village) because of its mountain setting, giving two hours less sunlight in the evenings, particularly in the winter time.

The name Luss is considered by some to be derived from the Gaelic "Lus", a plant, although others have suggested that it comes from the French "Luce", a lily. Several stories exist about the derivation of the present name. One related to that of Baroness MacAuslin, who died in France, whilst her husband was fighting at the siege of Tournay. Her body was brought back to Luss covered with flowers, especially the fleur-de luce. Some of the flowers grew to the surface of the grave

"and became a most efficacious medicine for the cure of the plague then raging in the country."

No-one knows how long there was a village in Luss, certainly many years, possibly much older. A nation of Norway undoubtedly passed through Luss in 1263. His Vikings dragged their ships over the land from Arrochar to Tarbet, plundering the communities of the islands and Lochside. Only tantalising clues remain, like the 11th Century Viking Hog-backed grave-stone now in the churchyard (at least one Viking never made it home).



L U S S V I L L A G E

A settlement probably developed at the head of the glen more than two thousand years ago. Luss has changed dramatically over the centuries. Before the present cottages were built, the old style "But and Ben" (literally "Out and In") was used, which was similar to the blackhouses of the West and Islands. This traditional building technique had changed little since the Viking times. James Denholm, in 1804, describes this early form of house in Luss:

"the houses, in general, appear exceedingly uncomfortable. They are mostly built of loose stones, perhaps with a layer of turf betwixt each row are covered with rushes; the produce of the lake (loch). They are likewise very low and the



croftland, "the infield", the most productive and planted mainly with oats and bere (a form of barley), and the "outfield" beyond, used principally for grazing but partly cultivated. Both infield and outfield were marked by the characteristic broad furrows, still clearly seen in Glen Luss.

The farming was not quite as basic as later writers often suggested, but made the most of limited resources.



door, before which is a thick layer of fern, so difficult to access that a person must stoop considerably before he can enter. The interior in general corresponds to their outward appearance, being dark and often full of smoke which is discharged as plentifully out of the window and the door as the ordinary aperture."

The early farmers who lived in these houses used the run-rig system. The land was divided into

Work was often completed on a community basis.

For four centuries the infield and outfield system was practised, until the introduction of Black faced sheep to Glen Luss at Glenmollachan Farm, in 1749.

Throughout the highlands this story was repeated and many people were evicted to make way for the sheep. This infamous period became known as "The Clearances".

A CHRISTIAN

tradition

6th Century

Saint MacKessog or Kessog brought Christianity from Ireland and founded a monastery on neighbouring Inchtavannach (island of monks) in the 6th Century. He may also have built a church in Luss although no trace now remains. The monk/soldier is alleged to have been martyred at Bandy, just south of Luss in AD 520.

7th/8th Century

The churchyard contains many interesting stones and is well worth a visit. The earliest gravestones lie at the main entrance to the church, two slabs, each with a simple cross from the 7th or 8th century.

14th Century

King Robert the Bruce granted Luss a three mile gyth or Sanctuary in 1315 in honour of God and the Blessed Kessog.

**15th Century**

The first record of an actual building is from 1430 when Bishop John Cameron of Glasgow built a "theekit" (a simple thatched building), in memory of St Kessog. The overgrown remains of a building can still be seen in the churchyard.

18th Century

In 1771 the second parish church was built where the present one now stands. When the site was cleared to make way for the new church some stones were removed and used in the construction of a cottage south of Luss, known locally as "Tombstone Cottage". In the 18th Century when the military road was being constructed a stone effigy of Saint Kessog was found in a cairn of stones and is now held in the church.

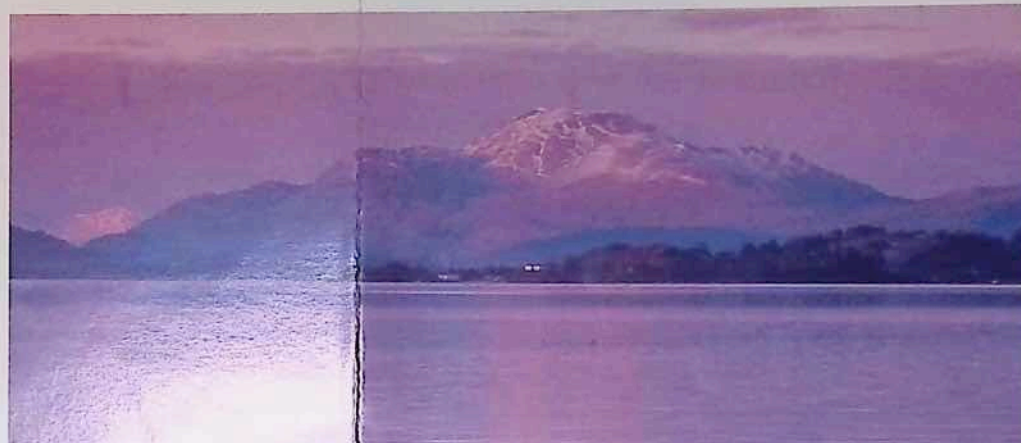
19th Century

The present church was built by Sir James Colquhoun in 1875 in memory of his father who died along with five ghillies in a drowning accident off Inchtavannach. The church has a magnificent raftered roof of Scots pine, fine stained glass windows dedicated to Clan Colquhoun and to Sir James Lumsden, past Lord Provost of Glasgow. An effigy of a medieval bishop, Robert Colquhoun of Argyll is on display. On the north wall is the so-called "MacFarlane stone", dated 1612, with its salutary reminder that "after death remains virtue".

THE

views

The wide vista of the southern loch can best be seen from the pier. To the north the bulk of Ben Lomond dominates the skyline. This is the most southerly of Highland mountains and is now in the care of the National Trust for Scotland. To the south Conic Hill marks the geological boundary between the highlands and the lowlands. The conifer plantations to the north of Conic Hill form part of the Queen Elizabeth Forest Park.



THE

islands

The southern section of the loch is dotted with numerous islands. From Luss, Inchlonaig is the large island directly off-shore. Legend states that King Robert the Bruce had Yew trees planted here in the 14th Century to provide wood for his bowmen. Yew wood is springy and therefore ideal for bows. It is the second largest island on the loch and like the largest, Inchmurrin, it was once a deer park used for hunting.



Fraoch Mòr is the first island once you enter the loch and also the largest. The hill on Inchtavannach is known as Tom na clag - hill of the bell, where it is said the monks from the monastery at the southern end of the island erected a bell to summon the inhabitants of Luss to worship.



Inchconnachan has a less holy past. This island was where the illicit whisky makers from Luss worked their hidden stills. The translation of Inchconnachan is Colquhoun's Island. Between this island and Inchtavannach runs a strait called the "narrows" which is one of the many beauty spots of Loch Lomond.

Boat trips set out from Luss to cruise the narrows between Inchtavannach, Inchconnachan and Inchmoan, island of peat, which at

one time supplied Luss with fuel. Dorothy Wordsworth, visiting the loch in 1803, summed up the narrows:

"... the sense of quiet was never lost sight of; the little peaceful lakes among the islands might make you forget that the green water of Loch Lomond, was so near; ...they have their own bays and creeks sheltered within a shelter."

The first pleasure steamer, the "Marion" started cruising Loch Lomond just a few years later.

Crianlarich
A82(T) 26 miles ↑

To Caravan
& Campsite

The Lodge on
Loch Lomond Hotel

LOCH LOMOND

Viewpoint

Loch
Lomond
Park
Centre

LEGEND

-  Picnic Area
-  Parking Area
-  Built Up Area
-  Telephone
-  Toilets
-  Footpaths
-  Amenities

Wooden Bridge

School

The Old Road

School Road

Police
Station

Colquhoun Arms
Hotel

Traditional
Cottages

Post-Office

Village
Hall

Play Area

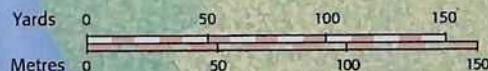
Pier Road

LUSS
CONSERVATION
VILLAGE

THE GAMESFIELD

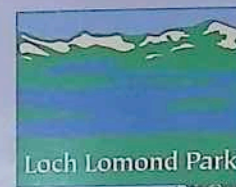
Loch Lomond
Rescue Boat

LUSS WATER



Dumbarton A82(T)
15 miles ↓

L U S S V I L L A G E



GLEN Luss

A walk out of Luss, over the A82 via the wooden bridge, leads up to Glen Luss. This road winds up through woods and fields and brings you to a stone bridge, about 2 miles from the village. An inscription, now only partially legible, reads: "William Johns built this bridge 1777". Below this, on the side of the bridge, is the carving of a tup's (ram's) head, which marks the introduction of the Linton or old Blackfaced sheep that prompted "The Clearances". The surrounding farms are working sheep farms, so please keep to the paths and keep dogs on a lead.