

THE WELCOMING GLEN

In 1825 the workers at Lennox Mill presented John McFarlan with a silver plate to thank him for *“making all the world welcome every day of the week”*, (except during Sunday church service!). He had issued a notice opening his land to the public, earning the title ‘the Liberal Laird’. Miss Lennox of Woodhead followed suit, opening her side of the Glen in 1830. In 1841 the Rev. Robert Lee wrote that so many people were visiting that *“the quiet and decency of a country sabbath are here quite destroyed during half the year”*.

Despite the Reverend’s misgivings, the Glen remained open and by the early 20th century there could be up to 1300 visitors in a day. In 1904 the Glasgow Aberdeenshire Assoc. brought a group of 500 and proceeded to hold their own Highland Games, complete with pipers!

The Campsie Glen bus from Glasgow’s Buchanan Street Bus Station is a much loved institution, giving city dwellers the chance to escape to the countryside. Writer and mountaineer Tom Weir often used it to get to the hills in his youth. He is now remembered on a cairn in the Clachan car park.



Bishopbriggs Boy's Brigade (182 Glasgow) at a picnic in Campsie Glen in 1949

BALLENCLEROCH HOUSE



Ballencleroch House, the ancestral home of the McFarlan family, stood just to the west of the Clachan. A carved stone in it’s wall dated 1665 celebrates the marriage of James McFarlan and Mary Keith. The house was destroyed in a fire in 1982 but has been re-built as the ‘Schoenstatt’ (beautiful place), a retreat and conference centre.



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CAMPSIE GLEN CULTURAL TRAIL



CLACHAN LIFE THROUGH THE AGES

A QUIET PLACE?

Clachan of Campsie may be a quiet, restful place today but during the 19th century this was a bustling hive of industry.

At one time there were 50 weaving looms working in the village, a smiddy, a meal mill and kiln. Ground near the river to the north of the village saw service as a calico printfield and later as a bleachfield. In 1851, fifty one people were employed at the bleachfield and there were 28 households in the Clachan. By 1881 there were only 9 occupied houses. Textile manufacturing was becoming more mechanised and the population of the Clachan gradually drifted away to the bigger towns.

Times have changed again and now, at least at weekends, there are more people in the Glen than there have ever been.



The car park where the Glen meets the Crow Road is a wonderful viewpoint over Strathblane and out to the West. This hillside provided an ideal spot for an anti-aircraft position during World War II, giving Glasgow advanced warning of approaching German bombers.



photo: Brian D Osborne

JAMIE WRIGHT'S WELL

Jamie was a colour-mixer at the Lennox Mill calico printing works and keen angler who regularly walked over the Crow Road with his pal Sandy McKay to go fishing. He 'tapped the rock' to provide a convenient source of drinking water for their journeys. Late in the 1800s poet James Slimmond penned the poem which was eventually inscribed on the well when it was improved with money raised by a public subscription.

*"Hail to your dimplin', wimplin' drop.
Clear, caller, caul'.
That bids the drouthy traveller stop,
An' tak' his fill."*

A ladle has often been added to the well but has always gone missing!



LAYERS OF LAVA

When you look along the line of the hills, you can see layers like steps. These are ancient lava flows, 300 million years old.

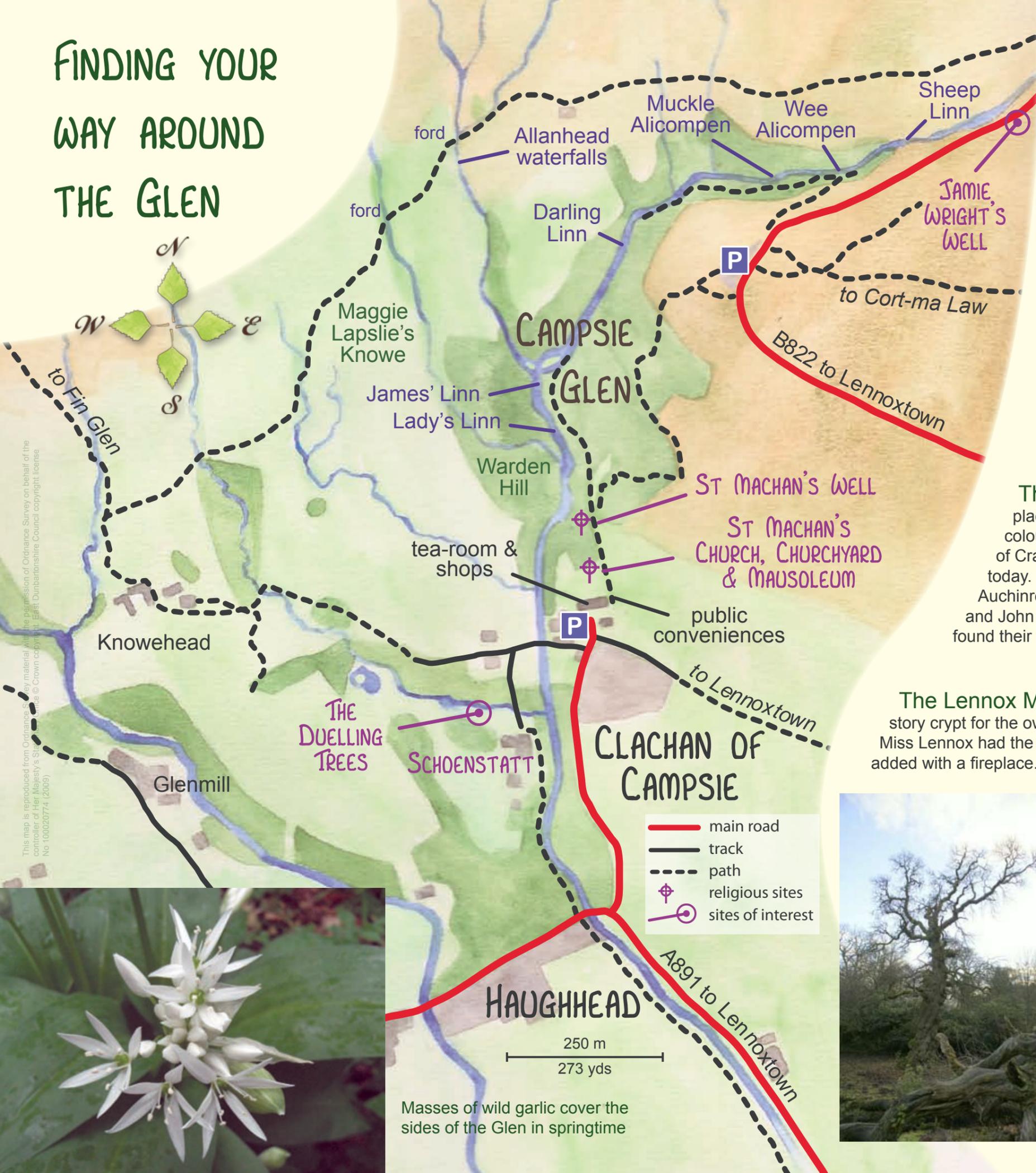


The Campsies are one of the most famous Scottish locations for jasper, a colourful semi-precious stone much prized by lapidarists (gem buffs!). Veins of Campsie jasper formed when hot water circulating through the rocks dissolved silica and then slowly deposited it in cracks and hollows.

If you want to find out more about the geology of the Campsies, this leaflet is available from the tea-room and local libraries.



FINDING YOUR WAY AROUND THE GLEN



Masses of wild garlic cover the sides of the Glen in springtime

As you make your way through Campsie Glen, you are walking through more than 800 years of human history...

St Machan was a Scottish bishop educated in Ireland. He founded a church here in the 6th Century. Nothing now remains of the saint's early chapel but a church was built in 1175, allegedly over his grave. It was re-built in the late 18th Century but was finally abandoned around 50 years later. A brass bell commemorating the saint was recently stolen from the car-park but it is hoped that it will be replaced.



The churchyard provides a final resting place for members of the Clachan's many colourful families. The tombs of the Stirlings of Craigharnet and Glorat can still be seen today. McFarlans of Ballenclerach, Kincaids of Auchinroch, William Boick the covenanting martyr and John Bell, physician to Peter the Great also found their final rest in the little graveyard.



The Lennox Mausoleum was built in 1715 as a single story crypt for the owners of nearby Lennox Castle. In 1819, Miss Lennox had the building restored and an additional storey added with a fireplace. She used this 'Waiting Room' as a place to prepare for church and as a sitting room for receiving visitors between services. She was buried there in 1832. In 1884, eight years after the final burial, the Mausoleum was sealed using two ancient tombstones of the Kincaid family dating back to 1604.



The Duelling Trees as they are known locally, are two Spanish Chestnuts in the grounds of the former Ballenclerach House. During the 1600s a feud between the tory Stirlings of Glorat and the Kincaid whigs resulted in a duel and the death of Malcolm Kincaid. While the trees mark the site of the duel, no-one is quite sure if they date to that time or if they were planted later. Unfortunately one of the trees fell over in 1990 but is still showing signs of life.

