

5/51

# Finzean

WHITEHOUSE ALFORD  
ABERDEENSHIRE AB3 8DR

TEL: Whitehouse 209  
(STD 033 63 209)



25<sup>th</sup> August 1980.

Dear James,

Very many thanks for your letter of 14<sup>th</sup> August, which I found on my return from a few days in the South, enclosing the very excellent Beauchief Guide: I do hope you also feel that all the effort you obviously put into it has proved worthwhile - it certainly is a publication of which you should be very proud. Many congratulations!

I am afraid I rather jumped the gun over the Finside Community Council's pamphlet. As you will see from the enclosed copy, the editorial content

was reduced to rather less than two  
pages and my piece on Bernachie condensed  
to one line at the bottom of page 11! I  
had no ~~fore~~ forewarning that this was likely  
to happen and can only hope that perhaps  
next time a little more editorial content  
will be included to give a more balanced  
appearance to the publication.

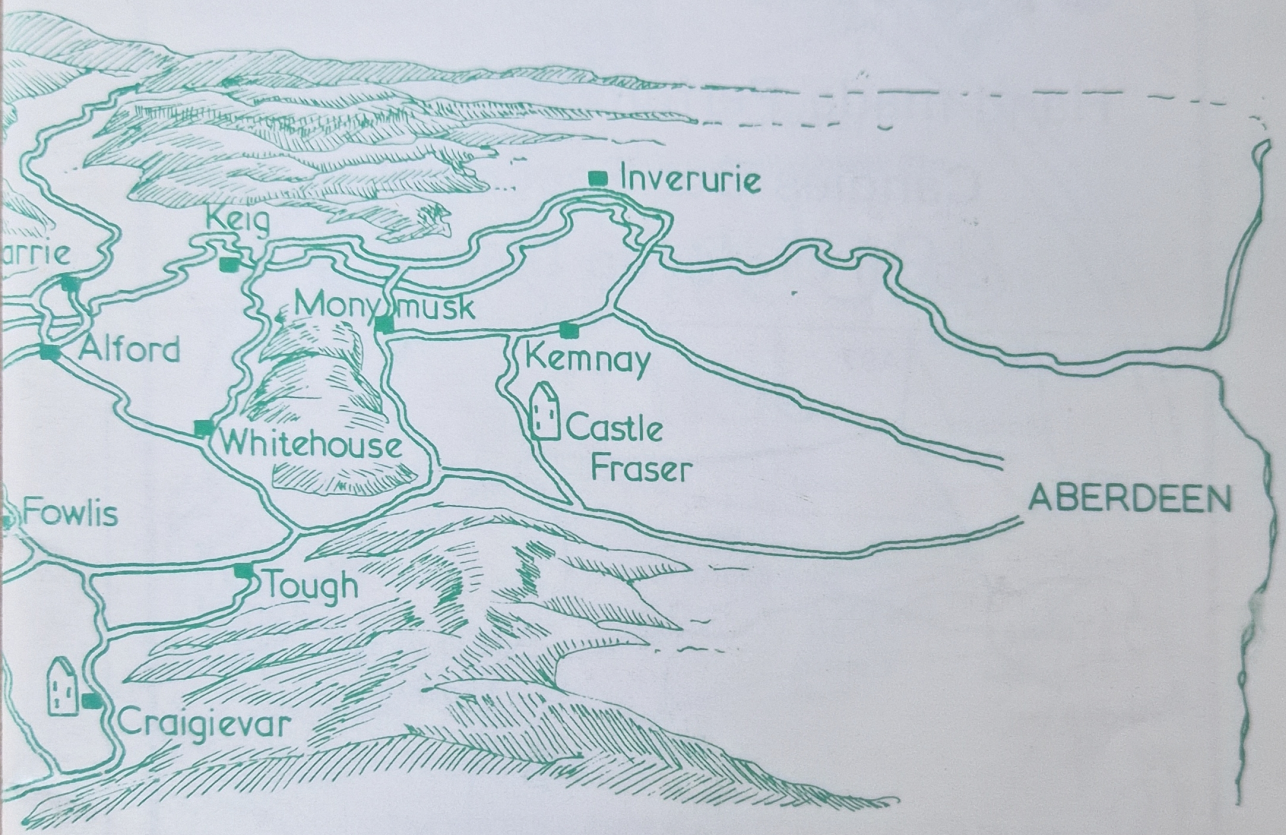
Yours sincerely,

Maxwell

15/5

# DONSID E

## GRAMPIAN



**MONTGARRIE** 19

**WHITEHOUSE** 3

**ABERDEEN** 6

**MUIR OF FOWLIS**  
13, 18

**MONYMUSK** 16

**CORSE** 14, 15

**KEMNAY** 19, 20

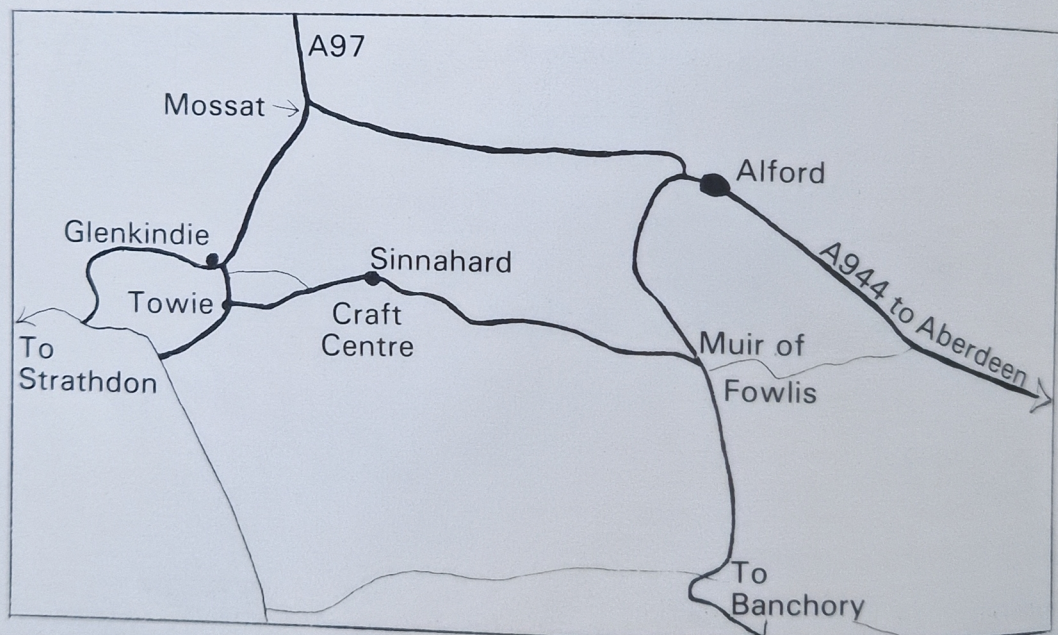
**ALFORD**  
2, 3, 5, 7, 12, 13,  
15, 17, 18, 19, 20

**KEIG** 4

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Hand made Perfumed Decorative  
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Local Crafts on Display



Tea Coffee Home Made Cakes  
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**J. COOMBER**  
Telephone Kildrummy 224



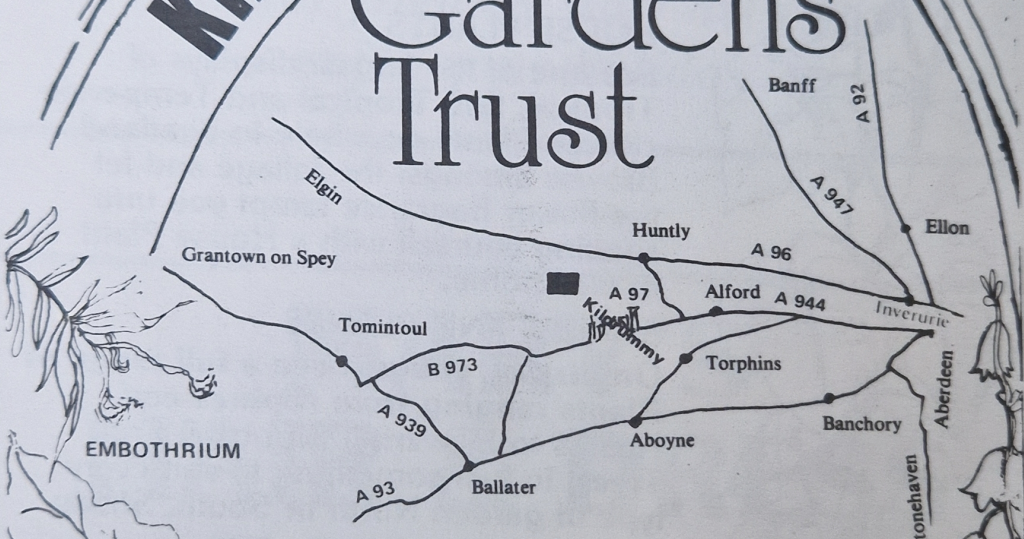
ABERDEENSHIRE

ON DONSIDE  
A 97 off A 944



# KILDRUMMY CASTLE Gardens Trust

OPEN DAILY  
9-5p.m. April–October 31st

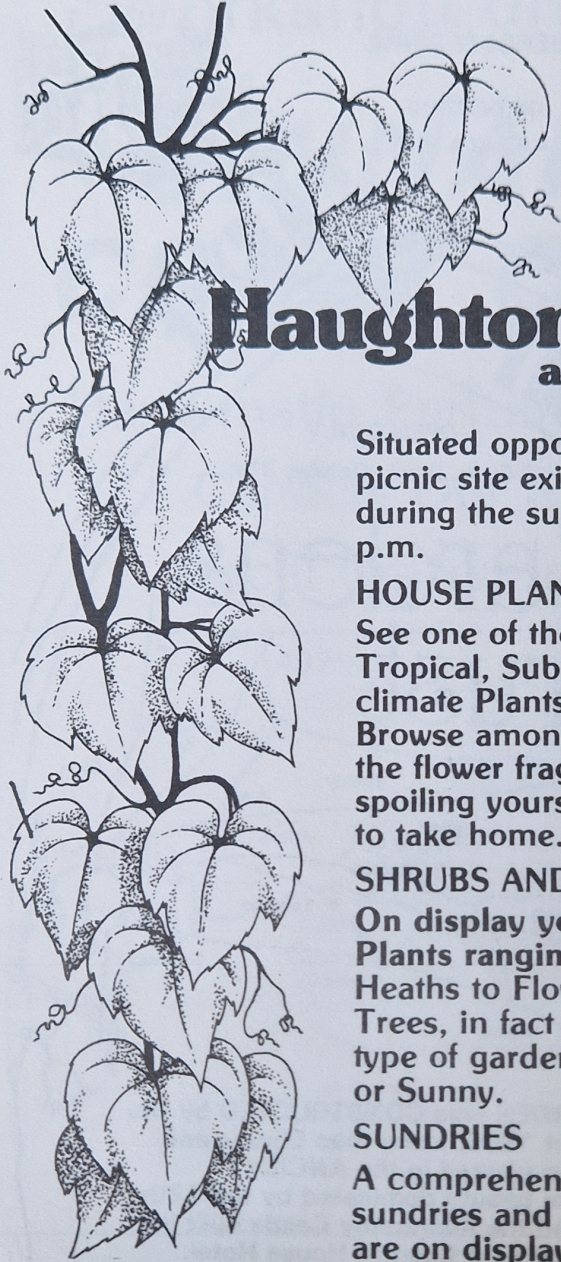


EMBOTHRIUM  
QUERCUS ROBER  
PURPUREA

The **WATER GARDEN** was **CONSTRUCTED** by the Japanese in about 1906, since then Shrubs and Alpines have been planted in the **ANCIENT QUARRY**; its calm beauty dominated by the 12th century Ruins, and the Kildrummy Castle built in 1900, later opened as a Country House Hotel.

<b>CAR PARK</b>	10p	<b>PARTIES BY APPOINTMENT</b>
<b>ADMISSION</b>	25p	<b>COACH PARK</b> 50p
<b>CHILDREN</b>	5p	

**PLANTS FOR SALE FESTIVAL**  
JUNE 8th 1980 1.30 p.m., SUNDAY  
Tel; Kildrummy (STD 03365) 264/277



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MONTGARRIE ROAD  
ALFORD  
ABERDEENSHIRE  
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## **Houghton Nurseries** and Garden Centre

Situated opposite the caravan & picnic site exit. Open every day during the summer from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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See one of the largest displays of Tropical, Sub Tropical and Temperate climate Plants anywhere in Scotland. Browse amongst the foliage and let the flower fragrance tempt you into spoiling yourself with a House Plant to take home.

### **SHRUBS AND PLANTS**

On display you will see a full range of Plants ranging from Alpines and Heaths to Flowering Shrubs & Fruit Trees, in fact something to suit every type of garden North or South, Shady or Sunny.

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A comprehensive range of garden sundries and garden care products are on display, Tools, Fertilisers, Weed Killers, Plant Foods, Garden Furniture, Pottery, Bulbs, Bedding Plants etc. in Season.

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*A Welcome to Donside from*

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OPEN TO NON-RESIDENTS



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Good selection of John Scott Knitwear and Tweed Skirts for the Ladies.

Vast selection of Household Linens, Gent.'s and Boys' Clothing

A warm welcome awaits at our Furnishing Store

Browse around at leisure. Three floors of interesting items. You must visit the Norscot Picture Gallery

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£3.50 per person

*Afternoon Teas*

*Home Baking*

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Mossat Guest House

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Alford

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262 or 336

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**STRATHDON**

Traditional Salt Glazed Stoneware  
Showroom Open 7 Days—  
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**POTTERY**

Telephone Strathdon 241

## **Glenbuchat Pottery**

Where we make hand thrown Terra Cotta  
Gardenware Plant Pots, Parsley Pots,  
Patio Pots etc.

There is a Gallery/Shop on the Premises  
which always has a wide range of our pots  
for sale

Open daily from April to October  
9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Glenbuchat Strathdon**  
**Aberdeenshire 097 53 355**

40 miles west of Aberdeen

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Interesting original Knitwear in a wide range  
of designs and colours and yarns

Commissions undertaken, individual  
designs made

The Gallery has a large collection for sale all  
through the spring summer and autumn

**Glenbuchat Strathdon**  
**Aberdeenshire 097 53 355**

40 miles west of Aberdeen



## **COLQUHONNIE HOTEL**

### **STRATHDON**

Beside the ruins of the old Castle and commanding superb views over the valley of the River Don the Colquhonnies Hotel offers friendly service, excellent food and all the comforts of your own home. We have central heating throughout and electric blankets in all rooms.

**Fully Licensed**

**Salmon & Trout Fishing Permits Available**

(Proprietors: G. C. & E. McIntosh)

Non-residents are very welcome at all times

**Tel. Strathdon 210**

## **Old Semeil Herb Garden**

Phillip & Gillian Cook

Strathdon Aberdeenshire

Tel: Strathdon 343

Over 50 varieties of Culinary,  
Aromatic and Medicinal Herbs

Open everyday from mid-May to  
mid-October 10 a.m. -6 p.m.

*Please send S.A.E. for mail order list*

## DONSIDER

Donside, as the name suggests, takes in the lands along the North and South of the River Don. Looking from the river's mouth at Aberdeen and moving West up river, you will pass through the rich barley-growing lands into the mixed farming areas around Alford and finally into the foothills of the Highlands themselves, where the river has its source. It has also been called Castle County, as in the past many famous families in Scottish history held lands and castles along the Don; the most notable names being Forbes and Gordon.

Even though farming is the main occupation, Donside retains its unspoilt beauty with the hand of man intruding very little on the countryside. You can find, for example, many an old watermill along the Don, some ruined, others complete, and one still working at grinding oatmeal (you can buy this in the local shops). Nearly everything is built of local granite, with quarries still in the area. And the folk who will be giving you directions will answer you more than likely in the Doric, the old Scots dialect.

The best known product of the area is the world-famous Aberdeen-Angus breed of cattle, now in many cases crossed with Charolais and other Continental breeds to produce an ideal beef animal.

Alford is the market town for the area, with the usual services. Doctors at Alford and Strathdon.

*Where to stay:* most of the hotels in Donside have advertised in this brochure, likewise places with Bed and Breakfast; caravan sites at Alford and Glenkindie.

### *Events:*

**Kildrummy Rally** June 8th. Vintage Vehicle Rally

**Kildrummy Gardens Annual Festival** June 8th. Pipe Bands, Highland Dancing, Barbecue.

**Alford Cavalcade** July 26 – 27th. Vintage Vehicle Rally, Auction, etc.

**Lonach Highland Gathering** Bellabeg August 23rd. March and Games.

*Things to see:* this is just a brief guide – detailed pamphlets from Grampian Region, Scottish Tourist Board, etc. Please check with landowners beforehand as many are on private land and privately maintained.

**Prehistoric Stone Circles:** Old Keig; Castle Forbes, Keig. Late Stone Age/Bronze Age.

**Earth Houses** (underground refuges): 2 Kildrummy Muir; Buchaam, Glenkindie. Early Bronze Age.

**Standing Stones:** Glenkindie, opposite garage; north of Sinnahard Glenkindie; Lulach's Stone, Bridgend, Mossat.

**Hillforts:** Barmkyn of North Keig; Mither Tao, Bennachie; Tap o' Noth, Rhyne. Iron Age.

**Historic Mottes:** Doune of Invernochty, Bellabeg. 12th century Earl of Mar's seat; Peel of Fichlie, Glenkindie, 12th – 14th century.

**Castles:** Kildrummy. Seat of Earl of Mar. Best e.g. of 13th century stone courtyard castle in Scotland. Stormy history including 1306 held for King Robert Bruce against the English. Open all year. Corgarff. Built 1537. Burnt many times. 1643 Montrose's H.W. 1745 Jacobite Arsenal. 1750–1831 Govt. Garrison against whisky smugglers. Open April – September. Balfluir, Alford. Double tower built 1556. Terpersie, Tullynessle. 1561 Z-plan Tower. Ruin. Glenbuchat. Built by John Gordon 1590. Z-plan. May be viewed from outside. Castle Fraser. Built by Thomas Leiper 1576 for laird Michael Fraser. Z-plan. Completed John Bell 1610–1620. Open May–October. Craigievar. L-plan Tower House. Built by John Bell 1626 for "Danzig Willie" Forbes. Open May – October. Castle Forbes. Built by Archibald Simpson 1815 as extension to an earlier house.

**Battle of Alford** 2 July 1645. Montrose defeated the Covenanters under General Baillie from the hill at Ardgathen.

**Churches** Monymusk. 12th century sandstone arch. Bell 1745 Glenbuchat 1473. Bell 1643 18th century gravestones. Auchendoir, Lumsden. 16th century sacrament house. Tough. Mort. safe.

**Keig Bridge** built by Telford.

**Kildrummy Gardens** established by Col. James Ogstone 1904 + small museum, plants, etc.

**Alford** 3 mile 2' narrow guage railway. Haughton and Murray Park walks and nature trails Brithplace of poet Charles Murray, 1864 – 1941.

**Bennachie** Prehistoric sites. Walks and nature trails, restaurant.

**W. S. Rumbles**  
**BUTCHER**

31 Main St. Alford  
2123

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*Family Butcher &  
Deep Freeze Experts  
Competitive Prices*

*Free Delivery All  
Areas*

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*Repairs*



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Mrs. CRAWFORD, Westwood House,  
Lumsden—Bed & Breakfast; Evening Meal; TV  
Lounge; Parking; 2 Double Rooms, 1 Single, 1 Twin.  
Tel. Lumsden 281.

Glenkindie Caravan Site: 22' 6-Berth Caravan. A.  
COUTTS, Cuslachie, Glenkindie Tel: Glenkindie 236  
(after 6 p.m.).

Farm House Accommodation: 2 Double Rooms; Bed  
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Baking. Mrs. PETRIE, Chapelton, Lumsden, By Huntly.  
Tel. Lumsden 249.

Mrs. STEPHEN Chapelton Lumsden. Morning  
Coffees and Afternoon Teas with Home Baking.  
Lumsden 233.

Furniture Re-Caned L. WHITEOAK Heather Cottage,  
Cushnie.



**Farm Holiday  
Accommodation**

**Bridgeton Farm**

Alford, Aberdeenshire

Mrs. D. Robertson

Telephone Muir of Fowlis

272

*Terms: Bed and Breakfast  
£4.00 per night*

Reduced rates for children  
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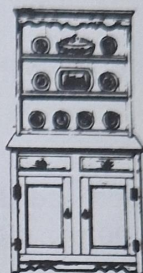
*Call and have a look*

## C & G PINE FURNISHINGS

COMPLETE RANGE OF FURNITURE

WHITEHOUSE,  
STRATHDON.

TELEPHONE: 246



Foggieley Croft  
Craigievar Alford  
Aberdeenshire

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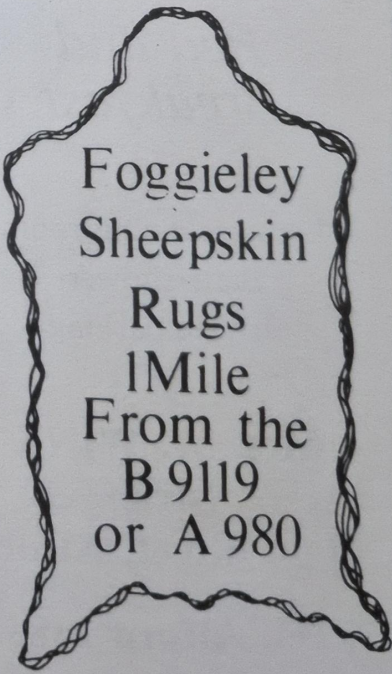
### TOUR OF TANNERY

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Sheepskin  
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1 Mile  
From the  
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or A 980

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**On B9119 Main Aberdeen-Tarland Road—  
Only 24 miles from the city**

*Enjoy a meal in this beautiful Scottish Country Mansion Home,  
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*Restaurant open for all meals.*

***For all enquiries and table reservations please telephone  
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***Tel. Lumphanan (033-983) 662***

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**LUNCHEONS, DANCES, DINNERS & TEAS**

**Our Own Farm Produce**

**Spacious Private Hall**

**THE PLACE for your WEDDING, SMOKER  
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**All Parties Specially Catered For**

**Fully Licensed**

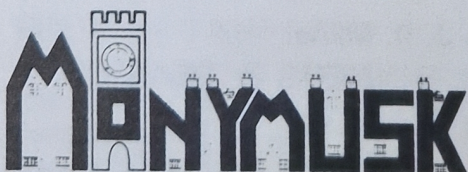
**Telephone: Alford 2205**

**Under Personal Supervision**



Lonach Highland Gathering & Games Bellabeg Park, Strathdon Saturday 23rd August at 1 p.m. March of clansmen 8.30 a.m. 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

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18th CENTURY COACHING INN, situated in historic Donside Village, fully licensed. 15 bedrooms, six with bathrooms. Central heating throughout.

*Excellent cuisine and comprehensive wine list.*

**EXCLUSIVE RIGHTS TO SALMON AND TROUT FISHING ON TEN MILES OF RIVER DON.**

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AA

Centrally situated for sightseeing and outdoor activities

RAC

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Please apply to Hotel Manager for colour brochure.**

James and Christine Morrison

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**Fully Licensed**

**Bar Snacks, Outside Catering, Weddings,  
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**Moderate Charges**

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Prop.: Harry Geddes

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*Licensed Food Hall  
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*Family atmosphere*

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*Come and see our range  
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Open seven days a week  
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We try our best to  
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**ANTIQUES**— Visit our upstairs showroom where an ever-changing selection of Antique Furniture, Clocks, Watches, China, Pictures, Jewellery and Bric-a-brac awaits you

*Inspection of our stock is welcomed*

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On edge of village in  
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Colour T.V.

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For country style shopping in  
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Friendly, efficient service  
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*Open Seven Days  
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Fun for the whole  
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newest ski centre

50 miles west of  
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2 Poma lifts

3 portable tows

Ski rental shop  
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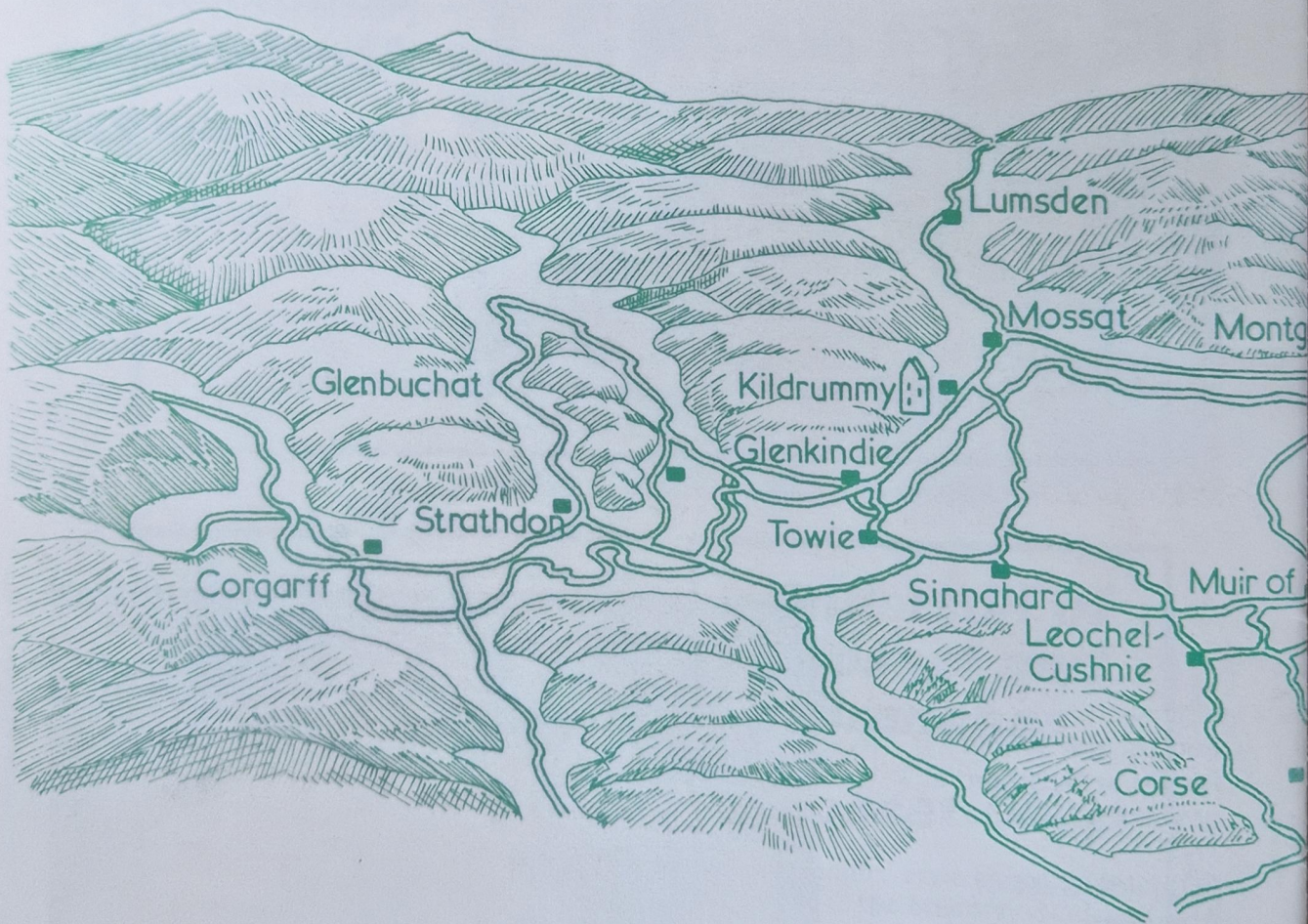
Ski school

Qualified BASI  
instructors

Free car park

Modern cafe  
(open in summer)





**CORGARFF**  
4 & Inside Back Cover

**GLENBUCHAT** 8

**STRATHDON**  
7, 9, 16, 14

**KILDRUMMY** 1, 17

**GLENKINDIE** 12

**LUMSDEN** 12

**MOSSAT** 20

**SINNAHARD**  
Inside Front Cover

**LEOCHEL-CUSHNIE**  
12