

## TEMPLE VILLAGE ( BALANTRODACH )

### Familiarisation and History

On Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup> August 2012 Grand Prior Elect Chev. Archie Young KGOTpl organised a day out for the Knights and future Squire of the Autonomous Grand Priory of Scotland.

Balantrodach was at one time the chief seat of the Knights Templar in Scotland gifted to the Templars by King David I of Scotland in 1129.

Unfortunately only five could make it on the day as the other Knights were either working or it was too far to travel, the weather started off being lovely and warm but as the day went on drizzle appeared then heavy rain.

Present were HSE. Grand Prior. Chev. George Stewart KGCTpl, Grand Prior Elect Chev. Archie Young KGOTpl, Chev. Ian Morrison. KTpl, ( Treasurer ) Chev. Kevin Dixon. KTpl. ( Quartermaster ) and future Squire Mr. Glenn Lamont.

The Grand Prior Elect started off by saying a prayer that the Knights Templar had written whilst they were held captive in France between 1307 and 1314. After the prayer he then started with the history lesson of the area and how the original name of ( Balantrodach ) was possibly given, he handed out literature of the possible layout of the Chapel in the 12<sup>th</sup> century that he had drawn.

The Grand Prior Elect then gave a handout of the local Templar Mill and what it may have looked like, he had drawn this up using a photo of the ruin and adding graphics to the photo to build it up.

After the explanations and early history the Grand Prior Elect then gave a tour of the grounds explaining what happened in the area and the Chapel after the Reformation had taken place, with that it was back to the seat at the entrance gate for a wonderful Picnic that Chev. Ian Morrison's wife Margaret had made up for us.

After the snack questions were asked about what had been covered earlier with the talk and tour, the Knights were satisfied with the answers they were given and the handouts that were issued to them.

The Grand Prior Elect was given the new Squires Mantle that has been designed by the Order, this is a marked change with what had been issued to Squires before and the new one went down well with all the Knights giving their approval.

During the visit some holiday makers were touring the site and asked about the history of the site and area, the Grand Prior Elect explained in depth about the Knights Templar and their connection with Temple Village, he also pointed out the difference between them and the Knights Hospitaller (Knights of St. John ).

The Holiday makers asked more questions and were satisfied with all the answers they had been given, after a while they wanted to be on their way and gave us their thanks with the information they had been given and then they left with a good handshake all round.

It is gratifying that the Autonomous Grand Priory of Scotland can be of help in this way to visitors, the Order continues to be an Ambassador for Scotland due to its historic link to the Knights Templar.

Grand Prior Elect.

Chev. Archie Young. KGOTpl.