

Templar Slab 2009

On the 27th October 2009 a Templar Grave Slab was discovered by Mr Crispin Philips the owner of the one time Manse, he was taking down the boundary wall for repair between the Manse and the ruined Church.

When he had dug down around three feet he came across the beautiful stone at this point he had no idea what to do, eventually he called in the Archaeologists to have a look at it, one thinks it goes back to the late 12th Century whilst another dates it between the 13th and 14th Century.

Two local historians gave their views on it, one said it was a fake whilst the other said it looked like the bottom part was of Viking Compasses, I don't know where these men got their findings but they are way off the mark.

If the stone is late 12th Century then I have a good idea who the Knight is and that would have been Robert, having done my own investigations I find that the stone was indeed placed in the Church, the markings on the stone are straight forward and easy to make out.

There were two stones found on the same day one was plain and had a Cross carved on it, this was a well shaped stone and the Cross was beautifully carved with straight lines, this would have been a Monks Stone and it was removed to the Museum in Edinburgh, after work has been carried out on it the stone will go on display.

Let us go back to the main stone that was found, it has been buried under the wall since the early 1700's and that has been the main reason why it is in such good condition, the problem now is how will it be protected from damage from vandals and the weather.

This is the second Knight Templar stone to be found at Temple, in October 2006 I discovered the first one that is now in Rosslyn Chapel for safekeeping, this stone is in the Crypt.

Chev. Archie Young. KCTpl. FSA Scot.