

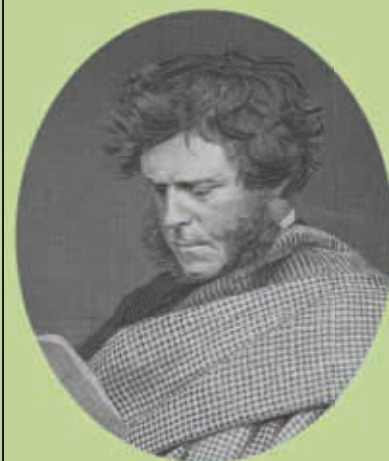
Issue No 32  
Summer 2017

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Secretary

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# Hugh's News

Newsletter of  
The Friends of Hugh Miller



## THREE BIG STEPS FORWARD

This summer and autumn will see The Friends running, or participating in, no less than three vitally important events, including, for us, the one most critical of all to our success.

The latter is, of course, our own conference:

- **"The Old Red: Hugh Miller's Geological Legacy,"** taking place at the Victoria Hall, Cromarty on 9th/10th September.

Letters and emails will be going out shortly to every one of our members inviting them to register as delegates. We shall also be inviting all the signatories to the Scottish Geodiversity Charter, established by the Forum of which we are members, to send a representative. The hall has a capacity of 100, and we should obviously like to fill it.

Our correspondence will indicate that it is entirely possible to attend for a day, rather than the two which feature in the conference programme, given the distances many will have to travel. The conference flyer, full programme, and booking form, are again included in this edition.

- Another most significant "legacy" development will be our sponsorship, with others, of a **second Hugh Miller national writing competition** over the winter of 2017/18.

A launch is planned in Edinburgh, provisionally on 1st November, as the climax of the Forum's Geoheritage Festival, of which our conference is one element. It is envisaged that this competition's entries should focus on the inspiration of current geological exploration sites, and the landscapes which embrace them (see story ps 6-7). Our management committee member Lara Reid will again be the key organiser.



*Cromarty Primary School pupils visited the Birthplace Cottage as part of a term-long study into the life and work of Hugh Miller. They processed through the streets from the school to the Cottage and back, proudly carrying The Friends' banner, loaned to them specially for the occasion.*

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- The Friends has also been selected for a place in another major Forum initiative, its choice of **"The 50 Best Places,"** that is to say, Scotland's most highly valued geological sites. This will be given ongoing publicity in all its communications, and thus hopefully promote visitor numbers to them all.. "The Hugh Miller Museum and the Black Isle" is number 24 on the list.

Other themes covered in this edition include the Geopoetics Festival on Seil Island, Argyll, in June, and the renewal of the Forum's Charter.

Find us on   @friendsofmiller

# PIRATES AHOY!

CROMARTY Primary School children - the entire roll of 60 pupils - revelled in a visit to the Birthplace Cottage, most of them dressed as pirates.

They had learnt from studying Hugh about his great great grandfather, the buccaneer John Feddes who built the Cottage about a century before he was born, and many decided to dress accordingly.

The costumes were inspired, many of them home-made. Some girls wore gowns first seen in the Bicentenary (2002) children's opera, *Hugh Who?* Others had done some fearsome-looking face paint, or wore eye patches and tricorne hats.

They had previously visited Miller House, and the monument overlooking the town, and other associated sites, and some brought drawings of fossils, and of the statue. It became clear just how clued up they were when they correctly answered an entire questionnaire put to them by manager Dr Alix Powers-Jones.

This concerned the provisioning of a ship which would have sailed in Feddes' time, such as where he could have got water, food and light, and how he sought the time, and direction of travel, using materials in the Cottage and its environs.

It was most encouraging to see the next generation learning in such a vivid manner about our local hero, as a course in the Curriculum for Excellence.



Top left  
Children assembling in the courtyard for the questionnaire



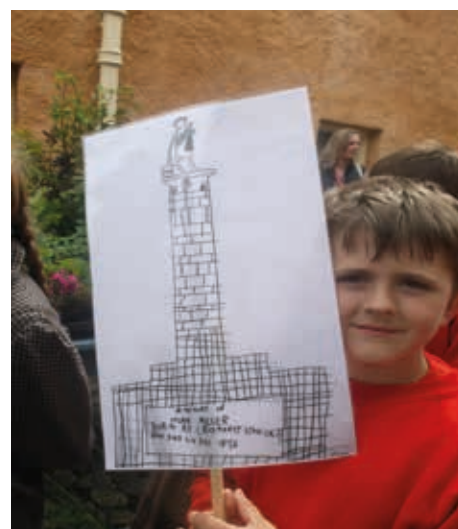
Top right  
Looking the piratical part



Bottom right  
Holding aloft a striking sketch of the monument



Bottom left  
Alix in the courtyard holds up a picture of a sundial as part of her questionnaire





11th AGM REPORTS

## AN AFTERNOON OF ENCHANTMENT

OUR folklore gig, the highlight of the day, made for an enchanting session, lit up by the performances of story-tellers Heather Yule and Lizzie McDougall.

Heather is a tutor of harp music, who has given tutorials at the annual Cromarty Arts Trust "Harp Village" schools in Cromarty. She came all the way up from East Linton in the Lothians, to bring us two sets inspired by Hugh's legends.

She opened with a tribute to Hugh's great great grandfather, the buccaneer John Feddes, with a piece by the internationally acclaimed Paraguayan harp soloist, Alfredo Orlando Ortiz, an educator like Heather.

She followed this with one of Miller's best-known and loved stories, Captain Reid and the Mermaid, in which the captain wrests his three wishes from the siren, including the hand of his heart's desire. She gave the utmost drama to the battle of wills.

For that most touching of tales, Fiddler's Well, Heather brought to us the thrills of the bee buzzing round Willie Fiddler, as he mourned the death from consumption of his best friend, until the bee told him in the voice of the deceased to "dig and drink," as a result of which he opened the well which is still with us, and recovered from his own fever.

For her finale, Heather roused us bringing to life the thoroughly scary encounters with the fairies of Eathie Ravine, concerning Donald Calder and Tom McKechan, the latter never being seen again after spending a night in an abandoned mill.

Heather's mother is a folklorist, and her father makes harps, and her thrilling thrums and trills bore witness to her consummate musicianship. She takes part in performances and workshops in Edinburgh's annual 12-day Tradfest and at the Scottish Storytelling Centre in John Knox House in the Royal Mile.

In between Heather's two sets, Lizzie McDougall unveiled again her Gold and Silver Darlings Ceilidh Quilt, first seen at this venue last September, and now brought to The Friends for a second showing, to the audience's dazzlement. She accounted for how six communities up and down the north-east coast had helped to create it with her, including Dunbeath, Taret, Tain, Cromarty, Rosemarkie, Avoch and Strathpeffer.



Top:  
Heather the enchanter

Middle:  
Lizzie and her dazzling quilt

Bottom:  
Chairman Bob Davidson produced this superb specimen of *Glyptolepis* at the meeting

## COMMITTEE CHANGES

# THANK YOU, NIGEL!

TRIBUTE was paid to Professor Nigel Trewin, founding chairman and patron of The Friends, who has been compelled to resign from the committee on grounds of ill health. Nigel will continue to serve as an invaluable adviser.

He and current Chairman Bob Davidson are the inspiration behind our great legacy conference. Nigel, together with colleague Roger Jones, is the donor to the Museum of "The Big Fish" : (*Homostius milleri*) reported in the last issue, along with several important previous donations and articles for this newsletter.

We also accepted the resignation of Liz Broumley, our Friends' website manager, because of her other increasing commitments elsewhere, although she will continue to assist in that capacity.

To lose two members almost simultaenously was quite a setback. However, we have elected one replacement: Jim Mackintosh, of Perth, poetry prize-winner with his piece, *Pterichthydoes milleri*, entitled *Old is Tomorrow*, featured in our last edition. Jim is a prolific writer, with a potentially exciting scheme in mind for the legacy (see story, *Residency prospect* below)

A vacancy now exists on the committee, and a nominee would be welcomed from within the membership who would be willing to help us make the important decisions between the AGMs.



Above:  
Nigel Trewin

Below:  
Jim Mackintosh, an enthusiastic new member.

## RESIDENCY PROSPECT

An exciting potential prospect has opened up for a Hugh Miller Writer in Residence in Cromarty, in which our new committee member, poet Jim Mackintosh of Perth has registered an interest.

The day following the meeting, Jim, Alix Powers-Jones and I held an exploratory discussion on what could be involved, in which gaining external funding would be critical. It was agreed that the National Trust for Scotland should take the lead in scoping out the possibilities of a residency, starting from 2018.

Jim, among whose many interests is that of Poet-in-Residence to his beloved St Johnstone, presented The Friends with a signed copy of his latest volume, *The Rubicon of Ash*, which contains his Hugh Miller Writing Competition winner, *Old is Tomorrow*.



# FRIENDS OF HUGH MILLER

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2016/17

The following financial statement is a true and fair assessment of the income and expenditure for the Friends of Hugh Miller for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017

Financial Statement as at 31 March 2017

Opening balances as at 1 April 2016		£5,681.25
INCOME		
Membership subscriptions	£2,843.00	
other	£657.58	
Bank interest	£3.57	
Conference	£1,788.5	
	£5,292.65	£5,292.65
EXPENDITURE		
Website / online services fees	£157.20	
AGM Meeting requirements	£444.00	
Expenses	£97.92	
Honorarium	£700.00	
Auditors fees	£210.00	
Newsletters	£102.50	
Gravestone restoration	£140.00	
StAnza Festival	£200.00	
Storytelling at Quilt Event	£70.00	
	£2,121.62	-£2,121.62
Closing balance as at 31 March 2017		£8,852.28

Prepared by Sue Busby

Treasurer

Friends of Hugh Miller

14/04/2017



# A UNIQUE AND POTENTIALLY INSPIRING EVENT

by Lara Reid

OUR writing competitions are unique in that they are the only ones which specifically have geology as their subject. We are happy to announce that the second of these will be launched later this year.

The first, 2015/16 competition was directly inspired by Hugh Miller. The second will retain his name, but broaden in scope so that entries are invited which relate to recent palæontological finds in Scotland and the landscapes in which they are set.

They can be in prose or poetry, fiction or non-fiction, and, as with the first one, they will be awarded first, second and third prizes in both categories. The competition will be launched, provisionally on 1st November, and run till a completion date and prize-giving in late spring or early summer of 2018. Dates will be announced later.

It is envisaged that both the launch and finale will take place in Edinburgh, the former during the forthcoming Scottish Geoheritage Festival, and the latter at a special celebratory ceremony, date and venue to be announced when confirmed.

I am taking on the role of lead organiser, and am planning to establish an organising committee and dedicated website shortly. The Scottish Geodiversity Forum and The Friends of Hugh Miller have already pledged their support. We are seeking new sponsors, who have connections with either geosciences or Scottish literature or both.

Organisations and individuals who may be interested in a sponsorship are invited to get in touch with me to discuss this. My email address is [reid.lara@gmail.com](mailto:reid.lara@gmail.com).

I hope that we will have a good response among the members of The Friends. This is a very important event in promoting Hugh's legacy.

*FOOTNOTE: By way of whetting appetites we reproduce on the facing page one of the prize-winning poems from the first competition.*



Lara Reid

# Pterichthyodes milleri

by Michael Davenport

A specimen sits in glass-cased silence.  
But I hear the clink, clink of his hammer and chisel,  
clear like a stonechat in the morning air.  
Miller, in his search for fossils,  
*an explorer of ravines, loiterer along sea-shores,*  
*climber among rocks, labourer in quarries.*

He splits a nodule to reveal the first example  
of a 'winged-fish' from the Old Red Sandstone.  
*I opened it with a single blow and there lay the effigy*  
*of a creature, fashioned out of jet, two 'arms' articulated*  
*at the shoulders, head lost in the trunk, long angular tail.*  
Its armoured plates remind him of a turtle.

In *My Schools and Schoolmasters* he describes  
his life in Cromarty, family history, education,  
work as a stonemason, fascination with geology.  
To Miller fossils were *Footprints of the Creator*  
that he reproduced in detailed diagrams.  
He believed in successive creations by the deity.

A Cromarty churchyard: cold echoes of his trade.  
Miller carves the headstone of his child, Eliza.  
*The last time he ever put chisel on stone,* his wife reported.  
Years later, different reverberations:  
alone at home he shoots himself.  
Despair from religious doubt? Fear of brain disease?

The National Museum: *Beginnings, Life in the Mid-Devonian.*  
A sandstone slab, small fish fossil secretive through rise and fall  
of species, mass extinctions, the appearance of reptiles,  
mammals, advent of *Homo sapiens* – until released by Miller.  
I focus on the label *Pterichthyodes milleri* and see a symbiosis,  
two existences confirmed by the power of naming.

Eons between the lives joined in this binomial.  
I whisper *Pterichthyodes milleri*, a 'winged-fish'  
swims in warm seas and Miller moves clear  
of tragedies and struggles. He's part of a community  
of discovery and the mystery of how, through transient beings,  
the world begins to comprehend itself.

# KIRKMICHAEL KIRK CAMPAIGN - A TRIUMPH OF PERSEVERANCE

By Martin Gostwick

"A fifteen year-long rollercoaster," is how Dr Jim Mackay describes the challenging yet rewarding campaign to save and restore this unique 15th Century church. "There have been some almighty highs, but some awful moments."

He is jesting, but not entirely joking; there have been far too many delays and setbacks for this to have been anything other than a tortuous path. But he is understandably a lot happier, and, justly, not a little proud that the rebuilt kirk is now well on the way to a lasting and important future as part of the Black Isle's visible history and as a key point on the tourist route.

In fact, the old kirk was already partially a ruin even in Hugh Miller's time, and ivy spread was starting to induce rapid deterioration as far back as the 1970s, and by the early 21st Century it lay desolate, falling into roofless ruin, while the community struggled to raise funds in the face of ever-rising costs. In the end the Kirkmichael Trust, of which Jim is chairman, have raised upwards of £750,000.

My partner, Frieda Gostwick, and I have been inspired like so many thousands of others, by the atmosphere of the kirk embracing so much history, and basking in the supremely tranquil setting of Udale Bay, and so we were thrilled to arrange with Jim to give us a tour of the extensive works last month.

It was a joy first just to see the walls back up, and the roof on, after years in which many despaired of its rescue. It has to be said, however, that it has lost some elements of its picturesque character as a ruin.

Jim took us in the first instance to a set of five ornate stones, unearthed from below the ground, lying flat in the grass by the east wall, which are set to be installed in wall recesses in the chancel. They are of great beauty, loosely representing a crucifix, often with calvary steps at their base, with a central stem leading upwards, off which hang branches of tree leaves or fleur de lys designs, feeding into elaborate wheel-shaped crosses.

These are medieval, reflecting earlier Pictish art. Miller the stonemason would be extremely impressed by two such new stones, copies specially recreated by carvers David Lindsay and Richard Groom, already sitting in the chancel.

Other stones show great swords, daggers and hatchets. Later post-Reformation slabs are, just as in Cromarty East Kirk, full of the grim symbols of mortality, skulls and crossbones, skeletons, dead-bells, hour-glasses and coffins.

Several more tombs are being unearthed as the work progresses. Jim describes how slabs were, down the centuries, re-used over and over again, the graveyard diggers obviously completely unaware of their historical value. Jim believes that the "best preserved ones" have survived







Above:  
Top: The Grants of Ardoch mausoleum with new red sandstone balustrades replacing the stolen originals

Middle: The south walls of the nave and chancel

Bottom: One of the ornate "wheel-cross" tombstones awaiting installation in the kirk

Right: The kirk in 1994 as seen in a painting by Frieda Gostwick

Opposite:  
Top: Jim Mackay at work

Middle: The kirk in its last stage of disintegration

Bottom: The stone stile erected using old tombstones

only because of this re-use. The later tablestones, built to impress, have mostly sunk deep into the graveyard soil; the ones still standing proud have older stones lying beneath them.

Even the stone stile either side of the west boundary wall was borrowed from old graves. Jim found a pair of initials in one of the steps he never knew was there.

As we go round, Jim fills us in on some of the horror stories that have periodically beset the whole project – the roof of the nave falling in, the stealing of balusters of the Grants of Ardoch mausoleum. How, we wondered, did the thieves manage to cart off these heavyweight objects, and why?

Bureaucratic obstacles were a challenge for the project, and it did seem at times as if the project was moving forward despite, rather than with the assistance of, the bodies charged with conserving monuments. Jim is diplomatic, considering. The bodies concerned continue to be partners!

There were historic maintenance horrors - the tablestone broken in half by having a big urn dropped on it during grounds maintenance; the attempt half a century ago to chemically clean the Hugh Miller-carved stone which eroded off half his lettering.

We finish at the George Gun Munro mausoleum, and an explanation for the building's squat, truncated shape which I had never understood. Where, I used to ask myself, was the belfry on top of the nave under which Hugh wrought his memorial?

The answer was that this Gun Munro, the Poyntzfield proprietor, between 1785 and 1805, rebuilt the eastern half of the nave into his family



mausoleum. The west gable with its belfry stood until at least 1906 and then disappeared – it is thought likely into the dyke of the graveyard extension. But where is the bell?

Inside the truncated nave lay a memorial marble slab, which once it had been washed, revealed itself to be the work of a celebrated London memorial sculptor, Charles Regnart (1759-1844), with his name carved on the bottom right corner. This counted as yet another sensational find.

The chancel was also used to house their private mausolea by two local proprietor families, Urquharts of Braelangwell, and Shaw-Mackenzies of Newhall.

But the feeling from our visit was that the exquisite craftsmanship of the stone-carvers, masons and sculptors are of the greatest importance in this restoration, rather than the self-aggrandisement of the lairds and proprietors.

A Royal opening has already celebrated the progress so far. There is much work still to be done, such as the tombstones still to be revealed and researched, the ones already in the open yet to be brought into the chancel, that missing lighting installed, interpretation panels to be mounted, turf replaced, a drystone dyke section relaid, and so on and so on.

The doggedly determined, unstoppable stalwarts of the Trust will continue this scheme to completion at their weekend workshops, in preparation for a grand community opening later in the year. Jim is soon to bring out a new book, *Tales from Kirkmichael*, including lots of the history, Miller's tales, and schoolchildren's creative work.

We take our leave of Jim, spade in hand in his unbelievably tattered woolly, with great thanks, thinking that he embodies the Duke of Gloucester's description of Kirkmichael as "an exemplar of a community heritage project."

## TALES OF THE TOMBS

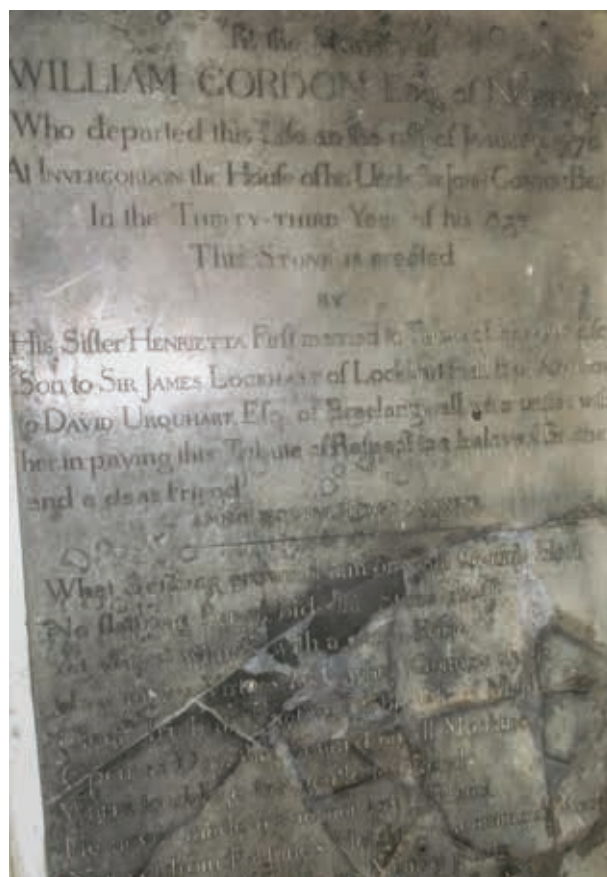
It is no exaggeration to say that the spirit of Hugh Miller permeates Kirkmichael, in his capacities both as a humble stonemason and a great folk historian. This is born out in one remarkable chapter of his epic work of local lore, *Scenes and Legends of the North of Scotland* (Chapter XXIX).

I have already recounted the episode of his "dreadful dream" foretelling the impending death of a cousin (see *Hugh's News* No 30, Winter 2017), and now the restoration is well on the way to completion, I hope some of the stories he related about those buried there will encourage people to visit their graves.

### A REALLY NOBLE NOBLE

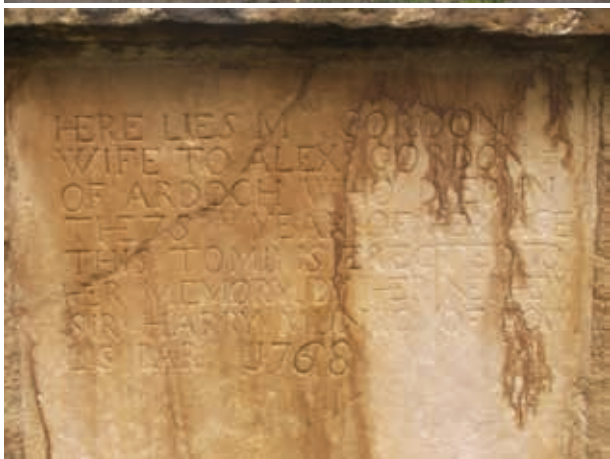
Inconsolable over the loss of her brother, Newhall proprietor Sir William Gordon, his sister was overjoyed when his remains were subsequently transferred by her husband from a cemetery in Invergordon, and re-interred in his own parish church of Kirkmichael.

Hugh Miller during one of his many visits transcribed the epitaph on the handsome marble slab, which has now been rehoused in the chancel, a poem which Miller only later discovered had been written by a famous friend of the deceased, Henry Mackenzie, renowned



The epitaph to noble Sir William Munro composed by Henry Mackenzie, celebrated author of *The Man of Feeling*





Top:  
The mausoleum of Mrs Ardoch

Middle:  
Mrs Ardoch's epitaph reads:  
HERE LIES MRS GORDON WIFE TO ALEXR GORDON OF  
ARDOCH WHO DIED IN THE 75TH YEAR OF HER AGE. THIS  
TOMB IS ERECTED TO HER MEMORY BY HER NEPHEW SIR  
HARRY MUNRO OF FOWLIS. BAR. 1768

Bottom:  
The vandalised grave remains of General Sir Hugh Fraser

author of *"The Man of Feeling"* (1771).

While the poem ascribes an almost improbable amount of virtue to Gordon, who "never made a foe or lost a friend," Hugh thought it worthy or reproducing in full in his folkloric masterpiece, for which Jim was grateful to him in having "saved me the trouble."

### PIOUS LADY ARDOCH

A magnificent mausoleum, in Hugh's words, "a square altar-like monument of hewn ashlar halfway between the chapel and the northern wall of the burying ground," marks the grave of Mrs Ardoch, "a woman of singular excellence of character."

It has been rescued from obliterating overgrowth, although its "altar" is still covered in flora, and its epitaph reveals it was erected by Mrs Ardoch's nephew, Sir Harry Munro, a baronet of Fowlis, on her death aged 75.

Miller tells at length of the military heroics of her Hanoverian elder brother, Sir Robert Munro, and the charming story of how he repaid with kindness the wife and children of a Jacobite enemy who had previously intercepted all his love letters to his sweetheart, and hers in reply.

Once widowed, Mrs Ardoch moved to Cromarty, where she befriended "a poor half-witted girl" mockingly described by neighbours as "Babble Hanah," and Hanah was a faithful attender at prayer meetings in the widow's house, sitting at the lady's feet. When the widow passed away, poor, pining Hanah was not long in following, and said on her deathbed that she was "going to the country of Lady Ardoch."

### BRAELANGWELL'S TYRANT

As we approached the broken, upended headstone of General Sir Hugh Fraser of Braelangwell outside the west nave, a new aspect of Hugh Miller's career came to light. It seems that the general was hated in his day, and Jim stated it was possible his enemies had tipped the stone over, although perhaps the heavy tomb just tumbled under its own weight.

He pointed out that Fraser had been a strong opponent of the then newly-formed Free Church of Scotland, established in May 1843 in the event known as

The Disruption. He played a prominent part in trying to settle against the wishes of the parishioners the unwanted new minister in Resolis, following the Rev Donald Sage joining the new church. The parishioners staged a mass protest at Resolis against the settlement, keeping a steady barrage of stones thrown on the Presbytery and gentry trying to reach the church, which resulted in



shots being fired at them, and the Riot Act read. Next day 29th September 1843, they sprung the minister's arrested dairy maid, Meg Cameron, from Cromarty Courthouse jail.

Fraser carried a pistol throughout the Resolis melee and was among those authorities overheard to say some of the protesters should have been shot.

Jim stated his belief that Hugh Miller, then editor of the pro-Free Church paper, *The Witness*, was a witness for the defence of some of the Resolis Rioters during the trial proceedings in the High Court of Edinburgh, on 10th and 11th January 1844. "Hugh Miller now or lately residing at Number sixteen Archibald Place Edinburgh" appears on the roll of witnesses to be called in exculpation of the indictment.

Hugh Miller was not present at either the riot or the jailbreak, being busy in Edinburgh editing his paper. However, his mother in law, Mrs Elizabeth Fraser, who lived next door to the Courthouse, did try to intervene to keep the peace.

Altogether 58 witnesses gave evidence in the two cases.

Three of the 12 defendants got light jail sentences, one on a recommendation of leniency from the jury. Charges against two were found not proven, and against four, dropped.

A reliable account of the events can be found in *The Resolis Riot*, by David Alston, a Cromarty Courthouse publication, 1996.

### HUGH'S OWN SHADOW

Finally we can imagine the young mason carving the stone on behalf of a mother who had lost her four children to an early death, as he listened to the wind whistling through the belfry which stood just above him.



Gravestone of four children at Kirkmichael, the work of Hugh Miller.

## THE OLD RED: HUGH MILLER'S GEOLOGICAL LEGACY

This two-day meeting is being convened by 'The Friends of Hugh Miller' in Cromarty on the Black Isle. The content is aimed at everyone in the general public who is inspired by the natural world. It will appeal to all those interested in fossils, geology, landscape, Miller's writing, and Scottish history and culture. The theme "The Old Red: Hugh Miller's Geological Legacy," and the wide range of talks will show how Miller's 19th century geological contributions, and observations of the natural world still have relevance in the 21st century.

# CONFERENCE TIMETABLE

## DAY 1      Saturday 9th September 2017

10.00	Welcome to Cromarty and Hugh Miller Museum. Mr Martin Gostwick / Dr Alix Powers-Jones
10.15	Professor John Long, strategic professor of palaeontology Flinders University, Adelaide, South Australia. <i>Sex in an old Scottish lake: How Orkney fossils revealed the origins of complex vertebrate reproduction.</i>
11.15	Coffee
11.45	Mr Gavin Berkenheger, consultant geologist, and managing director of GreenOre Gold Plc. <i>Hugh Miller: an inspiration to a modern geologist.</i>
12.15	Dr Martin Brazeau, lecturer, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Dept of Life Sciences, University of London <i>Cromarty in the tree of life; Hugh Miller's lasting impact on our understanding of vertebrate evolution.</i>
12.45 - 14.00	Lunch
14.00	Mr Alan McKirdy, popular author on Scottish geology, formerly head of information, Scottish Natural Heritage <i>Geology and landscape, from Miller to modern times.</i>
14.30	Professor John Hudson, professor emeritus of geology, Leicester University <i>Hugh Miller's Jurassic rocks and fossils.</i>
15.00	Dr Elsa Panciroli, PhD candidate, Edinburgh University. <i>Mesozoic Mammals from the Isle of Skye: palaeontological research in Scotland's Inner Hebrides.</i>
15.30 - 16.00	Coffee
16.00	Mr Bob Davidson, palaeontologist, North Sea oil industry consultant. <i>Putting flesh on fossil bone, from Miller's paper models to 3D printing</i>
16.30	Mr Roger Jones, oil and gas consultant. <i>New insights on Homostius milleri; Hugh Miller's 'Asterolepis of Stromness'</i>
17.00	Panel Discussion, close

A cast of the spectacular new *Homostius milleri* specimen featured in Roger Jones's talk will be on view as part of a guided tour of the Hugh Miller Museum in Church Street, Cromarty, which will be on offer to delegates at the close of the first day's sessions by the National Trust for Scotland's property manager Dr Alix Powers-Jones.

19.30      Conference Dinner Royal Hotel

# CONFERENCE TIMETABLE

## DAY 2 Sunday 10th Sept 2017

10.00	Professor Ralph O'Connor, professor in the literature and culture of Britain, Ireland and Iceland, Aberdeen University and Dr Michael A. Taylor, honorary research fellow, School of Museum Studies, University of Leicester, and research associate, National Museums Scotland (NMS). <i>The Old Red Sandstone in literature and science; why it mattered in 1841 and why it matters today.</i>
11.00	Coffee
11.30	Dr Alison Morrison-Low, formerly principal curator, historic scientific instruments & photography, NMS <i>Early Victorian photography &amp; stereography with particular reference to the pioneers in the earth sciences.</i>
12.00	Dr Andrew Ross, principal curator of palaeontology, NMS <i>The Hugh Miller Collection, National Museums Scotland.</i>
12.30	Panel discussion
12.45	Mr Bob Davidson: Closing remarks
13.00	Lunch
14.00	Local excursion exploring Cromarty Fish Bed and history around Cromarty

At the close of the conference, delegates can join an afternoon excursion to the Cromarty Devonian fish deposits just to the east of the town which Miller discovered and made famous, and where a fine specimen of *Cheirolepis trailli* was found as recently as May this year.

We hope you will agree we have succeeded in drawing up a wide-ranging and exciting programme in which you will feel it is well worthwhile to participate.

## BOOKING

Please use the form on the back page to register as a delegate. The fee is a very modest £12, and you can choose which of the catering options you wish to take up.

Delegates are also invited to express an interest in a three-day post conference excursion further up the north east coast to see Jurassic rocks in the Brora/Helmsdale area and the Old Red Sandstone fossil localities of Caithness, including the Devonian fish deposits at the famous Achanarras Quarry at Spittal now run by Scottish Natural Heritage.

This trip is being organised separately from the conference – details and cost are dependent on demand. Please tick the box on the right at the bottom of the booking form and you will be contacted with more information nearer the time.

Booking Form available on our website: [www.thefriendsofhughmiller.org.uk](http://www.thefriendsofhughmiller.org.uk)

Further information from: [bobgdavidson@aol.com](mailto:bobgdavidson@aol.com) or 07759 231264





# **The Old Red: Hugh Miller's Geological Legacy**

**Keynote Speaker: Prof John Long  
Flinders University, Adelaide**

**Victoria Hall, Cromarty  
9 - 10 September 2017**

**<http://www.thefriendsofhughmiller.org.uk>**



The Friends of Hugh Miller Conference

## The Old Red: Hugh Miller's Geological Legacy

9 – 10 September 2017  
Victoria Hall, Cromarty, Scotland

Booking form<sup>1</sup>

<b>Title</b>		<b>First Name</b>		<b>Family Name</b>	
<b>Address</b>					
<b>City</b>					
<b>Post Code</b>					
<b>Email</b>					
<b>Phone Number</b>					

<b>Conference Registration Fee</b>	<b>£12</b>
<b>Optional extras</b> (Please enter the cost in the box on the right)	
<b>Lunch Saturday 9 September (2 courses: £13.50)</b>	
<b>3 Course Conference Dinner (with wine) Saturday 9 September (£45)</b> <small>Limited numbers so early booking is advised</small>	
<b>Total</b>	

**Completed forms and payment by cheque (made out to The Friends of Hugh Miller) to:** The Friends of Hugh Miller, Bob Davidson, Chairperson, 35 Millside Road, Peterculter, Aberdeen, AB14 0WG

If you are interested in taking part in a follow-on (11-13 September) 3 day excursion to northern Scotland to see Jurassic rocks in the Brora/Helmsdale area and the Old Red Sandstone of Caithness, including fossil fish localities such as the famous Achanarras Quarry – details and cost dependent on demand - please tick the box on the right and we will contact you with more information later.

<sup>1</sup> Please complete one form per conference delegate