

THE PARISH OF ROSNEATH

by THE REV. DR. CAMERON DINWOODIE

Boundaries and Features. The parish of Rosneath forms the most westerly portion of the county of Dunbarton, and is a peninsula roughly in the shape of a parallelogram running from north to south; over seven miles long, it varies in breadth from about a mile at the north, where it joins the mainland, to fully three miles in the south; its area is 8,495 acres. It is bounded on the north at Garelochhead by the parish of Rhu, on the east by the Gare Loch, on the south by the Firth of Clyde, and on the west by Loch Long, which separates it from Argyll (parish of Dunoon and Kilmun). The ground rises to a height of from 500 to 700 feet all along its length, with a pass somewhat lower between Rahane and Peaton, while the great Highland Fault cuts across the south of the peninsula in the gap from Camsail Bay to Kilcreggan.

Climate. The climate of the peninsula is mild and wet. Often in winter there is little or no snowfall, though during the last war one or two seasons were among the coldest in living memory. Cold east winds are frequent in spring. The *Old Statistical Account* (1792) says "the air is naturally dry, but is frequently moistened with showers," and, although the *New Statistical Account* (1839) indicates a greater rainfall, either the writer of the earlier account under-estimated the rainfall or the climate is distinctly wetter now. The average rainfall is from 50 to 70 inches a year with least rain in the south-east and most in the north-west; in the wet year 1948 over 100 inches were recorded at Coullport. Because of the mild climate, and in spite of the dampness, the health of the population, especially that of children and old people, is generally good; for example, since 1939, only one child under 14 residing in the landward part of the parish has died. But the climate is naturally not good for those who suffer from rheumatic diseases.

Much of the peninsula is covered by moor and woodlands, and it is only on the lower ground that crops are grown. In general the soil is poor thin clay; the best is the shore land, which, though gravelly, is free-working and produces good crops, but there is not much of it. Most of what remains is on the Home Farm and Duchlage: that on the Clachan Farm was completely lost when the dockyard area of the Naval Base was built. One tradition mentioned in the earlier accounts, that the soil of the parish is "hostile to rats," cannot be upheld, as thousands of rats were caught and killed in the Naval Base during and after the war. The slate quarries above Clynder, worked for some time

in the last century, were abandoned as uneconomic, and there are no workable minerals apart from several small road-metal quarries. While the American Navy was in occupation of the base, it was reported that they tried to use the conglomerate of Wallace's Leap as road-metal, and there is now a large pit at the foot of it, from which gravel was taken.

Place-Names and Antiquities. According to W. J. Watson, in *Celtic Place Names of Scotland*, Rosneath means "the promontory of the Nemet," and the word Nemet is connected with the ancient Celtic word for a sanctuary or holy place, which often became the site of a Christian church. "The lands of Neved" are mentioned in early transfers of land, and it appears that these lay on both sides of the Gare Loch, to which the parish of Rosneath extended until 300 years ago. Almost all the old place-names are Gaelic.

Of historical interest is St. Modan's Well, Rosneath. The site of the well, now under the care of the National Trust, indicates the spot where St. Modan founded, in the sixth century, a church to which pilgrims travelled to hear his preaching and take the healing waters of his well. Rosneath is mentioned in Sir Walter Scott's *Heart of Midlothian* as the parish to which the Rev. Reuben Butler was presented by the Duke of Argyll. A small two-storeyed house opposite the graveyard, still occupied, which used to be the manse before 1770, would have been the home of Butler and Jeanie Deans had they been real persons. The "Captain of Knockdunder" lived either at Knockderry Castle (favoured by some because of the similarity of the names) or in a house that stood as late as 1850 near Parkhead, in the castle grounds. Two classical inscriptions, formerly at Hartfield, have recently been transferred to the garden of a house in Kilcreggan. One, in Greek, is the tombstone of a Christian woman; the other, in Greek and Latin, was set up in honour of a nurse. They are thought to have been brought from the Mediterranean in the last century by a Greenock sugar merchant named Richardson. The only old records of the parish previous to 1850 are the minutes of the kirk session, in the custody of the minister; but they go back no further than 1766 and are incomplete.

Estates. Until a few years ago there were only three estates in the parish—Rosneath, Barremman and Peaton. Before the death of Princess Louise (Duchess of Argyll) in 1939, Rosneath estate was in the hands of the trustees of the Duke of Argyll, but it passed in 1943 to Mr. Noel Woodward, except for the farms of Mamore and Mambeg, which had already been sold to the owner of Barremman. Mamore was sold again to Miss Paul, and some 4,000 acres of Rosneath estate went to various buyers; most of the 2,000 acres of the original estate remaining have been sold by Mr. Woodward to the tenant farmers. Through the "Rosneath Clachan Trust" recently formed, the tenants of the houses in Rosneath clachan have become owners of their own property. The area round the castle has been used for some years as a caravan site; the castle itself is now roofless.

The present area of Barremman estate is about 587 acres, and it

extends from Altmohr to Achnashie and to the top of the hill to the west. It was bought from the Cummings about 1870 by Robert Thom, who worked it as a "home farm" until his death about 1911. From then until 1926 it was administered by his trustees, who let it to several tenants. Then it was sold to Mr. A. S. L. Young, who used it as a sporting property, until it was bought back by Robert Thom's grandson, Dr. Malcolm MacGregor, in 1940. Peaton estate, now extending to roughly 700 acres, on the west side of the peninsula, is still in the possession of the Campbell family to whom it has belonged for many generations.

A hundred years ago Rosneath was an entirely rural community. In addition to the farms there were only a few groups of cottages at the Clachan, Kilcreggan, Barbour and Rahane. In 1825 the first feu was taken off Barremman at Achnashie, and during the next few years others followed in what is now Clynder. Building on a large scale began about 1840 at Kilcreggan, and by the end of the century the burgh of Cove and Kilcreggan (created in 1865)¹ and the village of Clynder had practically reached their present size.

Population. At various census dates the figures were: in 1801, 632; in 1851, 1,044; in 1901, 1,923; in 1931, 2,227. The census of 1951 recorded a fall in population to 1,924, of whom 837 were males, as against 1,029 males in 1931. The burgh of Cove and Kilcreggan in 1951 accounted for 887, as compared with 954 in 1931. The great increase during the nineteenth century was due almost entirely to the growth of Cove and Kilcreggan and Clynder and of the part of Garelochhead lying on the west of the Gare Loch. The smaller increase before 1931 was the result of industries springing up in Rosneath and Clynder.

The age level in Cove and Kilcreggan is higher than the average for the whole county. The age group 50-54 was the largest in 1951; 47 per cent of the population was over 50 years of age, whereas the comparable percentage for the county was only 24.4. There are many retired people whose families are grown up, and for those it is difficult to get work near enough to allow them to live at home. A number of local men are, however, engaged at the Coulport Admiralty research station. In recent years there has been an influx of new residents, mainly from other parts of the county and from Greenock, and some foreigners are still employed, for example at the Millbrae sawmill.

Communications. Until nearly the end of the eighteenth century there were only rough tracks, not suitable for wheeled traffic. One of these, which ran from Coulport by way of Peaton over the moor to Barremman, thence to the point where Clynder pier now stands and along the shore to Rosneath Ferry, was a drove road, by which cattle were brought from Argyll across Ardentinnny Ferry, on Loch Long, to the markets at Dumbarton and Stirling. In 1777 the Duke of Argyll made a road from Rosneath Castle to Whistlefield to join the

¹ The burgh arms, with their motto *Quis separabit?*, were approved in September 1957.

road on the east side of the Gare Loch going north to Portincaple. Another was made from Coulpport to Rahane, as well as the highest of the three roads round the south of the peninsula, that running from Kilcreggan to the Barbour. About 1830 a road was constructed by way of Kilcreggan to Cove and Knockderry along the shore. These are now all county roads. After most of the feus along the Kilcreggan shore road had been taken off, another road, higher up, was made, where more houses have been built; this and all the subsidiary roads are burgh roads.

The other means of communication natural to a peninsula are ferry and steamer. The ferries from Rhu point to Rosneath and from Coulpport to Ardentinnny must have been in use very early, and before the coming of the steamers others operated between Rosneath and Kilcreggan and Gourock. In 1830 the *Caledonian* began weekend trips from Glasgow to Garelochhead. At first barges came out from the shore to the steamer, and it was not until 1845 that piers were built at Rosneath and Garelochhead. The piers at Kilcreggan and Cove were built about 1850, and, although Cove pier has been out of use for several years, the burgh has all along been well served by steamers from Greenock and Craigendoran, and by a ferry to Gourock. About 1880 the *Lucy Ashton* began her long career as the Gare Loch steamer, and by the end of the century other piers had been built at Clynder, Shandon and Mambeg.

These communications sufficed for the needs of the peninsula until some years after the First World War, when a bus service was added; this had the effect of making the smaller piers, such as Mambeg, unnecessary. Another great change came with the establishment, in 1941, of a naval base on the shores of the Gare Loch and Clyde, stretching from the Clachan House southwards along the shore as far as Portkil, and bringing to the parish for the first time (except for the fort at Kilcreggan before and during the earlier war) the immediate impact of a wartime situation. This base, capable of holding over 4,000 men, was occupied by the American Navy for most of the war years, and by the British Navy from 1945 to 1948. Towards the end of the war an Admiralty research station was set up at Coulpport. The roads were used by heavy service traffic and larger buses. During the war, too, the Gare Loch was closed to civilian navigation and the Rosneath-Rhu ferry was stopped, nor were steamers allowed to call. After the war civilian transport was re-opened, and for a time a ferry ran between Clynder and Gully Bridge, north of Rhu, but this proved uneconomic and was given up. The steamer service has never been re-started, so that for the eastern half of the peninsula the only means of communication with the rest of the country is the time-wasting and never really satisfactory bus service. Cove and Kilcreggan were fortunate in not experiencing so directly the upsets of war.

Public Services. The only public services in the parish before 1935 were the water and gas for Cove and Kilcreggan. In 1882 water was supplied to the burgh from Lochan Ghlas Laoigh, and this covered the

area from Portkil to Coulport. The Cove and Kilcreggan Gas Company was formed in 1871, with works on Loch Long, near the Barbour cemetery. The service is now nationalised, and consumption is rising. Until recently the landward part of the parish was living in the oil-lamp and parish-pump age. There was no public supply of water till 1937, when the pipeline from Whistlefield reservoir, already serving Garelochhead, was extended to Rahane, Clynder and Rosneath. In 1945 the completion of Auchingaich reservoir in Glen Fruin made a larger supply available.

Electric power was first brought to the peninsula in 1935 by cables under the Gare Loch from Rhu to Rosneath and Clynder, thence by overhead lines to Kilcreggan and Cove. By July of that year 42 houses in Rosneath and Clynder and 33 in Cove and Kilcreggan were using it. The numbers are now respectively 119 and 411, nearly 100 per cent in both areas. The Admiralty depot at Coulport is served by overhead cable from Garelochhead, and a sub-station at Baron's Point provides a standby supply for Dunoon by submarine cable.

Street lighting in Cove and Kilcreggan, Garelochhead and Rosneath, is now by electric light. Public scavenging schemes operate in the burgh and landward villages. Sewage disposal is generally by pipes running out to sea below low-water mark. For the year 1955-56 burgh rates were 16s. 9d. in the £ and landward rates as high as 23s. 6d.

Medical and Nursing Services. A doctor resides in Kilcreggan, and the Garelochhead doctor includes in his area the landward part of the parish on the west of the Gare Loch. There are also two district nurses, one in the burgh and one in Garelochhead. The Cove and Kilcreggan Nursing Association was formed in 1903 and had several nurses before 1915, since when there have only been two. Rosneath and Clynder Nursing Association, formed in 1922, has had the services of only one nurse, Miss Martha McCracken, whose excellent work certainly deserves mention. Both associations have now been dissolved and their work and objects incorporated in the home nursing service provided by the county council under the National Health Act of 1947.

Housing. In Cove and Kilcreggan the self-contained villa of generous proportions predominates. In Clynder the same is true, though none of the houses there is as large as some of those in the burgh, and there is a greater proportion of smaller houses. There is no overcrowding in the usual sense, but many families urgently need new houses, and several need separate homes. Generally the houses are privately owned, though a block of four county houses was completed at Rosneath Clachan just after the war started in 1939, and since the war 34 others have been built there. Cove and Kilcreggan Town Council have 40 houses erected or under construction. All over the peninsula the demand for houses is shown in the breaking-up of larger ones into smaller units. As yet this is gradual, but the trend will no doubt continue. Domestic help and gardeners have always been difficult to get, and very few homes have either now, particularly in the landward areas.

Occupations. The great increase in the population of the peninsula during the last hundred years has meant not just a greater variety of occupations, but also a change in the relative numbers employed in them. In 1792, out of a total population of 521 there were 98 fishermen, 48 farmers and 28 tradesmen, while in 1839 "the great bulk of the population" was engaged in agriculture and necessary trades. An analysis of the population at the end of 1949 in the part of the peninsula extending from the castle to Rahane shows: number of families, 178; boat-building, 57; tradesmen, 29; agriculture, 24; Rosneath sawmill, 12; business, local and city, 23; commerce, 10; professions, 8; public services, 13; gardeners and domestic service, 19; naval personnel and employees, 26; married women and others engaged in household duties, 155; children at school and under school age, 126; over 70 and retired, 66. In the burgh of Cove and Kilcreggan there are no farmers, except for one or two market gardeners, and the few engaged in boat-building are employed in the Rosneath and Clynder yards.

Farming. In addition to the small estates of Barremman and Peaton, there are fourteen farms on the peninsula, ranging in size from from about 80 to 850 acres. The largest unit is the combined Home and Clachan farms, and this is the only farm, except the Barremman estate, which employs a number of married workers. Almost all the others are worked by the owners or tenants themselves or with a few unmarried workers. In all, there are about 35 families engaged on the various farms, eleven of them on the Home and Clachan farms.

Barremman estate has always carried a stock of sheep on the hill, usually blackfaced, and recently Dr. MacGregor has effected extensive reconstruction of buildings, and the low ground now has a small herd of tuberculin-tested Ayrshire cattle, mostly pedigree, accommodated in up-to-date conditions; milking is mechanical. Large numbers of poultry and pigs are also kept. Peaton estate carries mainly sheep and a few cross-bred cattle. All the others are dairy farms, and some carry blackfaced sheep. The stock is Ayrshire cattle, and almost all the herds are tuberculin-tested. Mechanisation is fairly general: William Calderwood & Sons were the first to get a tractor for the Clachan farm in 1936, since when most of the others have got them. Only one full-time worker is left on the old Rosneath estate, which has not been well looked after for many years; rapid changes of ownership and general wartime carelessness brought neglect. But the outlook for the future is brighter, since the new owners of small farms are more likely to take a personal interest in their property.

Much of the peninsula used to be covered by woodlands, but most of these were cut down during the war, and practically the whole of the rest will go in time. But the Forestry Commission is planting trees on Mambeg and part of Mamore, and the woodlands along the hill-top behind Clynder and at the Millbrae are being replanted.

The 1955 agricultural statistics for the parish, as supplied by the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, are as follows: tillage, 432 acres; rotation grass, 772 acres; permanent grass, 498 acres; and rough



Plate 8. TARBET PIER, LOCH LOMOND



Plate 9. BOATING ON LOCH LOMOND AND THE RIVER LEVEN AT BALLOCH



Plate 10. THE GARE LOCH FROM NEAR WHISTLEFIELD

*By courtesy of
magazine "Scotland"*

*Photographs by
The Scottish Tourist Board*



Aerofilms

Plate 11. HELENSBURGH AND THE ROSNEATH PENINSULA

The lay-out of Helensburgh gives a fine example of early town or estate planning.

grazings, 4,574 acres. There were 3,941 sheep and lambs, 819 head of dairy cattle and 155 beef cattle.

Industries. Among the industries of a hundred years ago fishing occupied first place, for the Gare Loch abounded in good herring and salmon. To-day only small numbers of white fish are caught, although the West Coast herring boats come in at times. The main industry, apart from farming, is now boat-building. Except for a small family yard in Kilcreggan, this is carried on at Rosneath and Clynder. The yard at Hattonburn (Clynder) is very much a family affair: all the directors and many of the workers are members of the family of Ewing McGruer, who started the business there in 1911. He and his son devised and constructed the hollow spar which became usual on the adoption of the Bermuda rig for yachts. The firm is world-famous for its sailing yachts, two of the best known being the *Nike*, which took part in the British America Cup race of 1937, and the *Johann*, which competed in the 1947 Seawanhaka Cup race, both designed by Mr. James McGruer. The other yard at Rosneath specialises in motor yachts, and stands on a site used for boat-building for over 70 years. The first builder was Peter MacLean, who gave place in 1912 to James A. Silver. The company is now a limited one, and the managing director since 1916 has been Mr. John Bain. The most famous yacht from this yard is the *Conidaw*, built in 1939, which took off over 1,000 men from the beaches at Dunkirk and is mentioned in Masefield's *Nine Days' Wonder*. Other sea-going yachts built to Mr. Bain's design are the *Cairngorm*, *Ormidale* and *Freya*, which won the Pavillon d'Or International Race in successive years 1947, 1948 and 1949. At present these yards each employ about 40-45 workers, most of them living in Clynder, Rosneath and Kilcreggan. During the late war they employed 100-150 workers and produced many small war vessels, such as motor launches and motor torpedo-boats.

Shops. The parish can supply some of the immediate needs of the people. In Cove and Kilcreggan there are four grocers, two bakers, two butchers, two small drapers, a chemist, a fishmonger, two ice-cream merchants and various tradesmen. Rosneath and Clynder have three grocers' shops and a butcher. There are four post offices on the peninsula, at Cove, Kilcreggan, Rosneath Clachan and Clynder, while the Kilcreggan branch of the Bank of Scotland (formerly Union Bank) operates one day a week at Clynder. The only licensed houses in the parish are the three hotels—in Clynder, Kilcreggan and Cove. There are no branches of the Co-operative Society, though many families are members of branches in Helensburgh and Greenock. Knockderry Castle is now a centre of the Co-operative Holidays Association.

Churches. Here, as elsewhere, the nineteenth century saw an addition to the number of the churches. A Free Church was built at the Millbrae in 1843 to serve the whole parish, while the *quoad sacra* parish of Craigrownie, stretching from Kilcreggan to Coulpport, was created in 1864, the church having been built in 1852. The United Presbyterians erected in Kilcreggan first a wooden church in 1858, and then the

present stone building in 1867. Meanwhile the parish church at Rosneath had been rebuilt in 1853 about a hundred yards east of the old churchyard in which all its predecessors had stood. Owing to a dispute in the congregation of the *quoad sacra* charge, a chapel was built at Kilcreggan, just outside its area, for some of the members. By the end of the century the Free Church also used a semi-permanent building in Clynder, and Craigrownie parish church had a mission church at Peaton, so that it was said that "Rosneath once had one church and seven pubs, but now has seven churches and one pub." These five ministers and seven churches served a population of under 2,000.

The 1929 Union involved the delimitation of the areas to be served by the various churches, and the Kilcreggan area of Craigrownie parish was assigned to Lindowan. Rosneath church was made responsible for the eastern landward half, from Rahane to the castle grounds and the Millbrae; and that part of the village of Garelochhead which lies on the peninsula was, with the northern part of Rhu parish, put under the care of Garelochhead church. Craigrownie church was given the area from Coulport to Braeside Road and its landward parts. There were until 1952 three ministers and congregations of the Church of Scotland: at Rosneath, the original parish church; at Craigrownie, the *quoad sacra* parish, in Cove; and at Lindowan, the former United Presbyterian and later United Free Church in Kilcreggan. The small church at Peaton, in the parish of Craigrownie, is still used on summer evenings; and for some years at Rosneath half the evening services were held in church and the others in halls rented at Clynder and Hattonburn. The two Church of Scotland congregations in Cove and Kilcreggan (Lindowan) united in January 1952 under the name of Craigrownie. There is no Episcopal church in the parish; the nearest is at Helensburgh, but all except one or two families worship with the Church of Scotland folk.

Education. For fifty years, until his death in 1870, the parish schoolmaster was John Dodds, who taught navigation and land surveying, and whose son became minister of Corstorphine church. By the end of the nineteenth century, under the school board, there was also a school at Kilcreggan and for part of the year one at Peaton. For a time Kilcreggan was a junior secondary school, but now all secondary pupils from the two schools at Rosneath and Kilcreggan are taken by bus to Hermitage Secondary School in Helensburgh. Kilcreggan is a three-teacher school, with some 90 pupils; Rosneath is also a three-teacher school with a roll of just under 80. For many years there was also an excellent private school in Kilcreggan, of which the headmistress was Mrs. Kinloch; after her death in 1950 the school was not continued.

Flora. There are many cultivated varieties of flowering shrubs, azaleas and rhododendrons being outstanding. Tropical palms and shrubs are also grown, and primroses and bluebells are plentiful, although the lovely "bluebell wood" near Camsail Bay was a war casualty. The laurel, which abounds in private gardens, can be more

of a nuisance than an adornment nowadays, as it is quick-growing and harbours midges. The famous silver firs, "Adam and Eve," are now dead and stand completely exposed, owing to the cutting down of the wood round them.

Bird Life. At the end of the last century the moor afforded excellent grouse-shooting, and there were woodcock, pheasants, snipe and partridges; but now these birds are rare. Birds of prey are fairly numerous, particularly buzzards and hoodie-crows. Until 1940 there was a notable heronry at the Green Isle, but it disappeared with the building of the naval base; in the last few years one or two nests have been seen again at Camsail Bay. Dr. Smellie of Kilcreggan notes a great recent decrease in the number of swallows and martins there in the last dozen years; the numbers leaving in the autumn have gone down from thousands to hundreds. But many more swallows and martins have been seen near Rosneath Clachan during the last two years, and owls have also increased in number there.

Eminent Men. Several ministers of the parish have become noted Church leaders in recent times. The Rev. Dr. Robert Herbert Story was born (1835) in Rosneath manse and was minister of Rosneath parish (1860-1887), as his father had been from 1818 to 1859. He was appointed Professor of Church History at Glasgow University in 1886 and from 1898 till his death in 1907 was Principal of that university. (He wrote a *Life* of his father, who reported on Rosneath for the *New Statistical Account*; Principal Story's daughter published a *Memoir* in 1909). The Rev. Dr. John MacLeod, of Lindowan, Kilcreggan, is now Professor of Christian Dogmatics at Aberdeen, and the Rev. Dr. William S. Tindal, also of Lindowan, is Professor of Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology at New College, Edinburgh. Another son of Rosneath manse, the Very Rev. Charles L. Warr, was minister of St. Giles, Edinburgh, from 1926 to 1954; he is now senior colleague of St. Giles, and is Chaplain to the Queen and Dean of the Order of the Thistle.

Social Activities and Way of Life. Owing to its geographical situation, the parish of Rosneath is even to-day almost self-contained, so far as its community life is concerned. For a few years, indeed, during and after the Second World War, conditions were quite abnormal, and, while men and women left Rosneath for the ends of the earth on active service, others, especially Americans and Dutchmen, came in thousands to live here for a time. They made local friends to such an extent that many letters from America and Holland pass through the village post office every year from those who still remember this part of Scotland with affection. Moreover, the people of Cove and Kilcreggan must do most of their shopping in Glasgow or Greenock, while those of Rosneath and Clynder go to Helensburgh or Glasgow. Nowadays, too, the register of births for the parish is no guide to the number of children who are counted natives, because it is common for expectant mothers of all social groups to go to nursing-homes in the city or large towns for their confinement. The steamers do not call late in the evenings in

winter, and there are few late buses, so that there are many thriving local social activities.

In Cove and Kilcreggan a well-supported Literary Association meets weekly, with varied programmes by the members, lectures by visitors, and dramatic entertainments given by companies from Glasgow and elsewhere. At Clynder the Achnashie Club, a social club originally provided for the village by Canon John Macleod Campbell, a descendant of the famous minister of Rhu, offers facilities for whist and carpet bowls. Both the burgh and Clynder have branches of the Scottish Women's Rural Institute, and for the men there is a Masonic Lodge domiciled at Rosneath. A branch of the Red Cross studies first aid and home nursing in the burgh, and a recently-formed Bee-keepers' Association meets in Rosneath school. For children and young people there are Scouts and Guides in both the burgh and Clynder, as well as football clubs and a Cove and Kilcreggan Youth Club, strong on dramatic and choral work. In Clynder there are senior and junior choirs and a Badminton Club. In summer tennis, bowling, and, above all, yachting attract much interest; on the Gare Loch the Schools and Universities Races take place at the end of July, and on Tuesdays and Saturday races for Dragons and naval craft are held, except during the Clyde fortnight, when the yachts are engaged at various other centres. The Loch Long Sailing Club, founded thirty years ago, and the Cove and Kilcreggan Sailing Club, three years younger, hold races, on Thursdays and Tuesdays respectively, for yachts of the Loch Long class.

The usual church work is carried on both on Sundays and during the week, though it is never quite separate from the ordinary life of the people, by far the greater part of whom have some church connection: in 1948 there were nearly 750 people members of the three Church of Scotland congregations, and about 100 or so young people and children in Sunday schools and Bible classes, while many of the rest—members, for example, of the Episcopal Church—are accustomed to worship with them. One change in religious life is the increase in recent years of the Roman Catholic population, which now number about 30 families on the peninsula: they worship in the burgh hall. In 1951 the Roman Catholics purchased a house for a resident priest, with a room set apart for a chapel. The Church of Scotland originated some of the activities which now stand on their own feet, such as the Badminton Club in Clynder. All the ministers and many of the elders and church workers are members, and often on the committees, of the various organisations.

Of course, not everyone in the parish is connected with one or other of the organisations that exist, but there are many occasions when all who are able turn out to some function during the week. For example, there may be from 100 to 150 men, women and children at a special service or organ recital in Rosneath church on a Sunday, as many again at a dance in one of the halls in mid-week, and an even bigger crowd at a concert by the children's choir at the end of the week. The

same is true of Cove and Kilcreggan, where the churches are often well attended on Sunday and the burgh hall (opened in 1893) may be filled during the week. There is much coming and going between the people of Kilcreggan, Clynder and Garelochhead for such special events. Almost the only thing for which they still depend on Helensburgh or Greenock is the picture-house, though films are shown in Kilcreggan in the burgh hall every Saturday.

So many activities make it impossible to avoid overlapping and disagreement, but, sometimes to the surprise of the city dweller, there is no lack of interest in the lives of the people, who are probably as happy as any others in the land.

June, 1950.
Revised 1952 and 1955.