House names often incorporate Gaelic words e.g. “Tigh na mara” (House by the sea) or “Caladh na sithe” (Haven of peace).

Grammar, expressions and words

The proposition is a very powerful part of speech in Gaelic, being used to denote possession, attributes and state of being. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the expression “I love you” – “Tha gal agam ort” literally “Love at me is on you”. Other examples might be “It’s raining” - “Tha e inntinn air fear”, “It’s a warm day” - “Tha a h-uile eagaidh air fear”, “I am thinking” - “Tha fear agam ort”. The verb is always placed at the beginning of the sentence.

In Campbeltown the constructions used in Gaelic grammar have become part of everyday speech, e.g. “The weather is just not in it today” (the weather is not good today), or “I saw her man (i.e. her husband) yesterday” or “I’m just after my dinner” (I’ve just had my dinner) or “He’s doing his joiner just now (He is training to be a joiner just now). The present continuous tense and the present tense are one and the same in Gaelic, so that “I am thinking” might well be heard instead of “I think”.

Gaelic In Kintyre

The Education (Scotland) Act of 1872 required that English would become the language of instruction in Scottish schools. This dealt a fatal blow to Gaelic. Soon those to whom it was their first language, found their mother tongue being systematically and quite literally “beaten” out of them.

The Headmaster of Bellochantuy School recorded in June 1882 that “could we at the outset reach the intelligence of these Gaelic-speaking children, their progress would be much more rapid” and “the fact that Gaelic is their vernacular demonstrates that we have serious difficulties to grapple with.”

With the passing of the Gaelic Language (Scotland) Act in 2005 and with Argyll and Bute District Council being chosen to help implement the Gaelic Plan, this is a leaflet issued in support of the aspiration that “the Gaelic language should be an official language of Scotland commanding equal respect to the English language”.

Since the passing of the Act great progress has been made in reviving the language through the success of Gaelic medium-schools, bilingual road signs and other efforts to secure the future of the language. This leaflet examines place names in and around Campbeltown, and shows the influence of Gaelic generally in Kintyre.

Sources

Dialect of South Kintyre – Latimer Mchmnes, pub.Campbeltown Courier

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The Place Names of the Parish of Campbeltown, pub. Kintyre Antiquarian Society, 1943

Published by: The Campbeltown Townscape Heritage Initiative on behalf of the Campbeltown Heritage Trail Group.

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A bust of Dr Norman MacLeod called “Caraid nan Gaidheal” (Friend of the Gael)
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**Grammar, expressions and words**

The proposition is a very powerful part of speech in Gaelic, being used to denote possession, attributes and state of being. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the expression “I love you” – “Tha gaol agam ort” literally “Love at me is on you”. Other examples might be “It’s raining” - “Tha falt fada oirre”, literally “Long hair is on her”. The verb is always placed at the beginning of the sentence.

In Campbeltown the constructions used in Gaelic grammar have become part of everyday speech, e.g. “The weather is just not in it today” (the weather is not good today), or “I saw her man (i.e. her husband) yesterday” or “I’m just after my dinner” (I’ve just had my dinner) or “He’s doing his joiner just now” (He is training to be a joiner just now). The present continuous tense and the present tense are one and the same in Gaelic, so that “I am thinking” might well be heard instead of “I think”.

Gaelic words which are still in use include “burach” (a mess), “mougrin” (surlly) and “twig” (understand). Another Gaelic expression in common parlance in Kintyre might include the use of the word “wild” e.g. “It’s a wild warm day” meaning “it’s a very warm day”.

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The proposition is a very powerful part of speech in Gaelic, being used to denote possession, attributes and state of being. Nowhere is this more apparent than in the expression “I love you” – “Tha aig mi a stiùbhartailt” literally “Love is on you”. Other examples might be “It’s raining” – “Tha an turas” literally “The wind is in it”, or “She has long hair” – “Tha faith sa cheal” literally “Long hair is on her”. The verb is always placed at the beginning of the sentence.

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A bust of Dr Norman MacLeod called “Carna n'an Gaidheal” (Friend of the Gael)
House names often incorporate Gaelic words e.g. “Tigh na h-Airde”, meaning “House of the Shoulders”. MacKenzie also mentions the many Gaelic words which have been passed into standard English. Examples are ben, strath, glen, loch, cairn, cairngorm, ceilidh, galore, bard, whisky, etc.

Hector MacKenzie, former Rector of Campbeltown Grammar School, wrote that, “Gaelic was unquestionably the language of nearly two-thirds of the people of Campbeltown are Gaelic speaking.” and Gaelic remained the language of the greater part of the population right up to the beginning of the 20th century.

As a result, Gaelic found itself in competition with the English. To this was added the trend towards the eradication of Gaelic. Towards the end of the Roman Empire in Britain. To this was added the trend towards the eradication of Gaelic. Towards the end of the Roman Empire in Britain.

Caraid nan Gaidheal (Friend of the Gael) was the title later generations would bestow on Dr Norman MacLeod, minister of the Highland Parish Church from 1808 towards the end of the Roman Empire in Britain. To this was added the trend towards the eradication of Gaelic. Towards the end of the Roman Empire in Britain.

Writing in Edition 3 of the Kintyre Antiquarian Magazine, Hector MacKenzie, former Rector of Campbeltown Grammar School, wrote that, “Gaelic was unquestionably the language of the entire Kintyre peninsula up to the second half of the seventeenth century. At that time the Argyll family encouraged numbers of settlers from Renfrewshire and Ayrshire to come to South Kintyre.”

As a result, Gaelic found itself in competition with the English language which was spoken by the Lowland settlers and a decline set in its use. In the Statistical Account of 1794 we read that “nearly two-thirds of the people of Campbeltown are Gaelic speaking.” and Gaelic remained the language of the greater part of the population right up to the beginning of the 20th century.

The log book of Bellochantuy School contains several entries up to 1913 in which the schoolmaster bemoans the fact that none of the Gaelic-speaking children could be understood by the teachers. In Campbeltown the constructions used in Gaelic grammar would be something like “I love my man (i.e. her husband) yesterday” or “I’m just after my dinner” (I’ve just had my dinner) or “He’s doing his joiner just now (He is training to be a joiner just now).” The present continuous tense and the present tense are one and the same in Gaelic, so that “I am thinking” might well be heard instead of “I think.”

In Kintyre mention could be made of -

Beinn na Lice – (mountain of the flagstone) the scene of the Chinook helicopter crash in 1994.

Bengullion

Bengullion is formed from two Gaelic words – “beinn” and “ghuidheal”. “Beinn” means “a mountain”. “Ghuidheal” means “shoulders”. So, “Bengullion” means a mountain in the shape of shoulders. To appreciate this shape, Bengullion has to be viewed from the north, looking south.

The word “ben” exists in place names all over Scotland. The best known are –

Beinn Na Caillich – he highest mountain in the UK.
Beinn Mac Dubh – the highest mountain in the Cairngorms
Beinn an Turach – the mountain which dominates the landscape on Loch Lomond
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Beinn an Turach – (hill of the boar) the highest mountain in Kintyre and site of Kintyre’s first wind farm
Beinn na Lice – (mountain of the flagstone) the scene of the Chinook helicopter crash in 1994.
House names often incorporate Gaelic words e.g. "Tigh na Moine ruadh – Head of the Loch of the Red Moors". MacKenzie also mentions the many Gaelic words which have been passed into standard English. Examples are ben, strath, glen, strath, caoimhín, galore, bard, loch, creel, cran, whisky among others.

Bellochantuy – Bealach an t-Suidhe – Pass of the seat of the Head of the Loch of the Church of Kiaran

Writing in Edition 3 of the Kintyre Antiquarian Magazine, Hector MacKenzie, former Rector of Campbeltown Grammar School, wrote that, "Gaelic was unquestionably the language of the entire Kintyre peninsula up to the second half of the seventeenth century. At that time the Argyll family encouraged the use of Gaelic to the extent that it would become the language of instruction in Scottish schools. This dealt a fatal blow to Gaelic. Soon those to whom it was their first language, found their mother tongue was brought to Scotland by colonists from Ireland and Ghàidheal (Gaelic In Kintyre)

Argyll

The word Argyll derives from two Gaelic words – Earr and Ghaidheal – meaning “coastland of the Gael”.

As a result, Gaelic found itself in competition with the English language which was spoken by the Lowland settlers and a decline set in its use. In the Statistical Account of 1794 we read that "nearly two-thirds of the people of Campbeltown are Gaelic among others.

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The word Argyll derives from two Gaelic words – Earr and Ghaidheal – meaning “coastland of the Gael”. Gaelic was brought to Scotland by colonists from Ireland towards the end of the Roman Empire in Britain. To this place where the landscape resembles a mountain in the shape of shoulders. To appreciate this shape, Bengallion has to be viewed from the north, looking south.

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Bellochantuy – Bealach an t-Suidhe – Pass of the seat

Moine ruadh – reddish-brown moss (a place name in Carradale)

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Dhonnachaidh) (Duncan’s well).

The name also occurs on the Island of Luing, in the name of Tobermory (Tobar Mhoire) (the well of the Virgin Mary).

The word Dalintober is created from two Gaelic words “Tobar” and “Dail”, which means “a well” and “a meadow or a field” respectively. Joined together, they become “dail an tobair” (field of the well).

“Dail”, understandably, is very common throughout the farmlands of South Kintyre, existing in such names as Dalivaddy (dail a’ mhadaidh) (field of the wolf), Dalav radiator (dail a’ bhradaoin) field of salmon, Dalmore (dail mor) big field.

Perhaps best known of all, however, is the village between Campbeltown and Machrihanish – Drumlemlie (Durn an leamhan) – elm tree ridge.

Drummore

Drumore is formed from two Gaelic words – “druim” and “mor”. “Druim” means “a ridge”. [It is also used to describe “the back” in the human body.] “Mor” means “big”. So, “Drumore” means a place where the landscape forms “a big ridge”. The growth of housing has now largely concealed this feature on the outskirts of the town, so some imagination has to be used to identify it now. Similarly, west of Kilchrenzie lies a farm having the name “Drum”. “Mòr” is a suffix frequently used in Gaelic, as is its opposite “Beag” meaning “small”, e.g. “Drumbeag” – “a small ridge”.

The contours of the landscape around Glen Lussa have given rise to several names incorporating the prefix “Drum”:

- Drumhaan (Drum ban) - fair ridge
- Drumfin (Druim finn) - white ridge
- Drumgarve (Druim garbh) - rough ridge

Kilcarran

The name “Kilcarran” is an amalgam of two words, “Kil” and “Kerran”, “Kil” is the Anglicised version of the Gaelic word “Cille”, meaning a church or holy place, whilst “Kerran” is a variation of the word “Kiaran”, the Irish saint who is reputed to have brought Christianity to the shores of Kintyre. So “Kilcarran” means “the church or the cell of Kiaran”. The cave where Kiaran is reputed to have stayed can still be reached at low tide, along the rocky shoreline on the learside (east coast), some distance south of Campbeltown, after the road leaves the shoreline. In the cave, the inscribed stone, used now as their logo by McIlchere’s bakery on Main Street, Campbeltown.

The Gaelic name for Campbeltown is “Ceann Loch Chille Chiarain” i.e. “the Head of the Loch of the Church of Kiaran”.

The prefix “Kil” is very common throughout Kintyre and this reminds us of the great number of small chapels which existed on the peninsula in the past. Here are ten examples –

- Kilblaan - the church of St Blaan
- Kilchousland - the church of St Constantine
- Kilchrist - the church of Christ
- Kilkell - the church of St Columba
- Kilkavie - the church of St Bi (Bridge)
- Kilkedan - the church of St Cedd
- Kilmory - the church of St Colm
- Kilkerran - the church of St Cille Chiarain
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Knockscalbert is the hill dominating the northern aspect of Campbeltown Loch and guarding its entrance. The word “Knockscalbert” is formed from three words, one of which is Gaelic while the other two are Norse. There are many Norse place names surviving in the west coast of Scotland and this reminds us of the time when all of Scotland’s western seaboard was under the control of Norway, a period of just over 150 years from the year 1100 onwards.

“Knock” is the Anglicised version of the Gaelic word “cnoc” meaning “a hill”.

“Scailf” is the Norse for “a bald head”.

“Bol” is the Norse for “a steading”.

“Scalli” is the Norse for “a bald head”.

“Knock” is the Anglicised version of the Gaelic word “cnoc” meaning “a hill”.

“Knockscalbert”, originally called “Cnocscalopil” therefore describes a standing on a bare (bald) hill.

The words “Knock” and “Cnoc” survive in the names of many farms in Kintyre –

- Knocklayd - Yellow hillside
- Knocknabula - Hillside of the hill
- Knockcrich - Brinded (patterned) hill
- Knockmoyno - Hill of the plain

In the 19th century there were several plans to dig a canal between East Loch Tarbert and West Loch Tarbert in Kintyre, thereby assisting sailing vessels to avoid the stormy passage round the Mull of Kintyre 50 miles to the south, but these plans never came to fruition.

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“The Scottish Episcopal Church welcomes you” – literally “The Episcopal Church of Scotland puts a welcome on you”

An Taighbeart - Tarbert

The word “Tarbert” is found in the name of the town at the north end of the Kintyre peninsula. It is also found in the Outer Hebrides on the Island of Harris and on the westerly side of Loch Lomond where it is spelt “Tarbat”.

In Gaelic, the word “taibhbeart” means “an isthmus” while “an taibheart” means “the isthmus”. The word is composed of tar “across” and a form of the verb heir “carry”.

“Isthmus”, in turn, is a Greek word meaning “neck” and which describes a narrow strip of land connecting two larger land areas usually with water on either side.

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The word Dalintober is created from two Gaelic words – "Tobar" is probably best known in Scotland from the name of the principal town on the Island of Mull - "Tobar Mhoire" (the well of the Virgin Mary). The prefix "Kin" survives in countless place names throughout Scotland, e.g. - Kinlochbervie, Kinlochbain, Kinlochlaggan, Kinlochleven, Kinloss, Kinlochard.

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Drumore

Drumore is formed from two Gaelic words – druum and mòr. "Druum" means "a ridge". [It is also used to describe the "back" in the human body.] "Mòr" means "big". So, "Drumore" means a place where the landscape forms a big ridge". The growth of housing has now largely concealed this feature on the outskirts of the town, so some imagination has to be used to identify it now. Similarly, west of Kilchenzie lies a farm having the name "Drum". "Mòr" is a suffix frequently used in Gaelic, as is its opposite "Beag" meaning "small", e.g. "Drumbeag" – "a small ridge".

Daltolfray (dail smeuran) - field of brambles, Dalivaddy (dail a' mhadaidh) (field of the wolf), Dalavard (dal a' bhardain) field of salmon [a tributary of Glenbreckerie Water flows past this farm, and it has been known to overflow its banks and leave salmon stranded on the land!]

The contours of the landscape around Glen Lussa have given rise to several names incorporating the prefix "Drum"

Drumhaan (Drum ban) - fair ridge
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Perhaps best known of all, however, is the village between Campbeltown and Machrihanish – Drumlemble (Drum leannan) - elm tree ridge

The word "Dalintober" is created from two Gaelic words – "dail" (a meadow or a field) and "tobar" (a well). Joined together, they become "dail an tobar" (field of the well). The word also exists in an Anglicised form, as Springfield, e.g. Springfield House and Springfield Terrace are both to be found in Dalintober.

"Dail", understandably, is very common throughout the farmlands of South Kintyre, existing in such names as Dalivaldy (dail a' mhadaidh) (field of the wolf), Dalismeran (dail smeuran) field of brambles, Dalmore (dail mòr) big field Dalavard (dail a' bhardain) field of salmon [a tributary of Glenbreckerie Water flows past this farm, and it has been known to overflow its banks and leave salmon stranded on the land!]

"Tobar" is probably best known in Scotland from the name of the principal town on the Island of Mull - Tobermory (Tobar Mhoire) (the well of the Virgin Mary). The name also exists on the Island of Luing, in the name of a former slate-quarrying settlement - Toberonochy (Tobar Mhoire) (the well of the Virgin Mary). The prefix "Kin" survives in countless place names throughout Scotland, e.g. - Kinlochbervie, Kinlochbain, Kinlochlaggan, Kinlochleven, Kinloss, Kinlochard.

Kilchousland  - the church of St Constantine
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In the 19 th century there were several plans to dig a canal between East Loch Tarbert and West Loch Tarbert in Kintyre. So "Kilkerran" means "the church or the cell of Kiaran". The cave where Kiaran is reputed to have stayed can still be reached at low tide, along the rocky shoreline on the learside (east coast), some distance south of Campbeltown, after the road leaves the shoreline. In the cave, the inscribed stone, used now as their logo by McIichere's bakery on Main Street, Campbeltown.

The word "Dalintober" is created from two Gaelic words – "dail" (a meadow or a field) and "tobar" (a well). Joined together, they become "dail an tobar" (field of the well). The word also exists in an Anglicised form, as Springfield, e.g. Springfield House and Springfield Terrace are both to be found in Dalintober.

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Dalintober is a former slate-quarrying settlement. Toberonochy (Tobar nan Cnoc) is another name for it.

“Dail”, understandably, is very common throughout the farmlands of South Kintyre, existing in such names as Dalivady (dail a’ mhadaidh) (field of the wolf), Dalavraddan (dail a’ bhradain) field of the salmon [a tributory of Glenbreckerie Water flows past this farm, and it has been known to overflow its banks and leave salmon stranded on the land!]

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**Drumore**

Drumore is formed from two Gaelic words – drum and mór. “Drum” means “a ridge”. [It is also used to describe the “back” in the human body.] “Mór” means “big”. So, “Drumore” means a place where the landscape forms “a big ridge”. The growth of housing has now largely concealed this feature on the outskirts of the town, so some imagination has to be used to identify it now. Similarly, west of Kilchrenie lies a farm having the name “Drum”. “Mór” is a suffix frequently used in Gaelic, as is its opposite “Béoig” meaning “small”, e.g. “Drumbeig” – “a small ridge”.

The contours of the landscape around Glen Lussa have given rise to several names incorporating the prefix “Drum”

Drumbaan (Drum ban) - fair ridge
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Perhaps best known of all, however, is the village between Campbeltown and Machrihanish - Drumlemble (Drum leumhan) - elm tree ridge

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The prefix “Kil” is very common throughout Kintyre and this reminds us of the great number of small chapels which existed on the peninsula in the past. Here are ten examples –

- Kilblaan - the church of St Blaan
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**Knockscaibert**

Knockscaibert is the hill dominating the northern aspect of Campbeltown Loch and guarding its entrance. The word “Knockscaibert” is formed from three words, one of which is Gaelic while the other two are Norse. There are many Norse place names surviving in the west coast of Scotland and this reminds us of the time when all of Scotland’s western seaboard was under the control of Norway, a period of just over 150 years from the year 1100 onwards.

“Knock” is the Anglicised version of the Gaelic word “cnoc” meaning “a hill”

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The words “Knock” and “Cnoc” survive in the names of many farms in Kintyre –

Knockbay - Yellow hillock
Knocknaha - Hillock of the kiln
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The word “cnoc” is more correctly pronounced “crock” or “crochick”. This can be found existing in a place beside Lepheanmrah Bridge called “Crockan” (a little hill or hillock)

**Kilchrenie**

Kilchrenie is a small hamlet on the outskirts of Campbeltown. The name means “a place where the landscape forms “a big ridge”.

The prefix “Kil” is a common prefix in many place names throughout Kintyre.

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**Kilchrist**

Kilchrist is a small farm on the West Loch of Campbeltown. The name means “head of the loch” and, Kilchrist Road, as one approaches Campbeltown Loch and guarding its entrance. The word “knock” is the Anglicised version of the Gaelic word “cnoc” meaning “a hill”.

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“Dail”, understandably, is very common throughout the farmlands of South Kintyre, existing in such names as Dalivaddy (dail a’ mhadaidh) (field of the wolf), Dalismeran (dail smeuran) field of brambles, Dalmore (dail mòr) big field Dalavraddan (dail a’ bhradain) field of the salmon [a tributary of Glenbreckerie Water flows past this farm, and it has been known to overflow its banks and leave salmon stranded on the land!]

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**Dunnachaidh** (Duncan’s well). The name also occurs on the Island of Luing, in the name of Tobermory (Tobar Mhoire) (the well of the Virgin Mary).

**Drumore**
Drumore is formed from two Gaelic words – “drum” and “mòr”. “Drum” means “a ridge”. [It is also used to describe “the back” in the human body.] “Mòr” means “big”. So, “Drumore” means a place where the landscape forms “a big ridge”. The growth of housing has now largely concealed this feature on the outskirts of the town, so some imagination has to be used to identify it now. Similarly, west of Kilchrenzie lies a farm having the name “Drum”. “Mòr” is a suffix frequently used in Gaelic, as is its opposite “Beag” meaning “small”, e.g. “Drumbeag” - “a small ridge”.

The contours of the landscape around Glun Lussa have given rise to several names incorporating the prefix “Drum”

Drumhaan (Drum an ban) - fair ridge Drumfìn (Drum fiòn) - white ridge Drumgarve (Drum garbh) - rough ridge

Perhaps best known of all, however, is the village between Campbeltown and Machrihanish – Drumlembell (Drum leamhan) - elm tree ridge

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“Scalp” is the Norse for “a steading” meaning “a hill”.

**Knocknaha** - hillock of the kiln
**Knockbay** - Yellow hillock
**Knockcroich** - Brindled (patterned) hill
**Knocknayo** - Hill of the plain

The word “cnoc” is more correctly pronounced “croch” or “crock”. This can be found existing in a place beside Lephemthram Bridge called “Crockan” (a little hill or hillock)

**Knockmoy** - Hill of the plain
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“Bun” - a “cave, the inscribed stone, used now as their logo by McIlchers’s bakery on Main Street, Campbeltown.

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A’Chleit means “the reef” and describes the geographical contour at this point on the peninsula.

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An Tairbeart - Tarbert

The word “Tarbert” is found in the name of the town at the north end of the Kintyre peninsula. It is also found in the Outer Hebrides on the Island of Harris and on the westerly side of Loch Lomond where it is spelt “Tarbert”.

In Gaelic, the word “tarbeart” means “an isthmus” while “an taibheart” means “the isthmus”. The word is composed of tar “across” and a form of the verb heir “carry” “Isthmus”, in turn, is a Greek word meaning “neck” and which describes a narrow strip of land connecting two larger land areas usually with water on either side.

In the 19th century there were several plans to dig a canal between East Loch Tarbert and West Loch Tarbert in Kintyre, thereby assisting sailing vessels to avoid the stormy passage round the Mull of Kintyre 50 miles to the south, but these plans never came to fruition.

“Kinaidh” – “A safe haven”

“Knock” – “A steep hill”

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“Bun-sgoil Dhail an Tobair” – “Primary School of the Castle on the Hill”

“Bun-sgoil Chno a’ Chaisteil” – “Primary School of the Castle on the Hill”

“Kilcolmkill” – the church of St Columba

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An Clachan – the village
Taigh an Lòin – House of the wet meadow
Ceann na Creige – the head of the craig
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Dalintober

The word Dalintober is created from two Gaelic words – “dail” (a meadow or a field) and “tobar” (a well). Joined together, they become “dail an tobar” (field of the well). The word also exists in an Anglicised form, as Springfield, e.g. Springfield House and Springfield Terrace are both to be found in Dalintober.

“Dail”, understandably, is very common throughout the farmlands of South Kintyre, existing in such names as Dalivaddy (dail a’ mhadaidh) (field of the wolf), Dalsmeran (dail smeuran) field of brambles, Dalmore (dail mòr) big field Dalavraddan (dail a’ bhraidein) field of the salmon (a tributory of Glenbreckerie Water flows past this farm, and it has been known to overflow its banks and leave salmon stranded on the land?)

“Tobar” is probably best known in Scotland from the name of the principal town on the Island of Mull – Tobermory (Tobar Mhoire) (the well of the Virgin Mary). The name also occurs on the Island of Luing, in the name of Tobermory (Tobar Mhoire) (the well of the Virgin Mary).

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Drumore is formed from two Gaelic words – “drum” and “mòr”. “Drum” means “a ridge”. [It is also used to describe “the back” in the human body.] “Mòr” means “big”. So, “Drumore” means a place where the landscape forms “a big ridge”. The growth of housing has now largely concealed this feature on the outskirts of the town, so some imagination has to be used to identify it now. Similarly, west of Kilchenzie lies a farm having the name “Drum”. “Mòr” is a suffix frequently used in Gaelic, as its opposite “Beag” meaning “small”, e.g. “Drumbeag” – “a small ridge”.

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The contours of the landscape around Glen Lussa have given rise to several names incorporating the prefix “Drum”

Drumbaan (Druim ban) - fair ridge
Drumfín (Druim finn) - white ridge
Drumgarve (Druim garbh) - rough ridge

Perhaps best known of all, however, is the village between Campbeltown and Machirnanish – Drumlembil (Drum leannan) - elm tree ridge

Knockscaibert

Knockscaibert is the hill dominating the northern aspect of Campbeltown Loch and guarding its entrance. The word “Knockscaibert” is formed from three words, one of which is Gaelic while the other two are Norse. There are many Norse place names surviving in the west coast of Scotland and this reminds us of the time when all of Scotland’s western seaboard was under the control of Norway, a period of just over 150 years from the year 1100 onwards.

“Knock” is the Anglicised version of the Gaelic word “cnoc” meaning “a hill”
“Scaili” is the Norse for “a bald head”
“Bol” is the Norse for “a steading”

“Knockscaibert”, originally called “Cnocscapill” therefore describes a steading on a bare (bald) hill.

The words "Knock" and “Cnoc” survive in the names of many farms in Kintyre –
Knockbay – Yellow hilllock
Knochahna – Hilllock of the kiln
Knocknich – Brindled (pattered) hill
Knocknay – Hill of the plain

The word “cnoc” is more correctly pronounced “crock” or “crockie”. This can be found existing in a place beside Lephemthruir Bridge called “Crockan” (a little hill or hilllock)