



The Edderton Newsletter

A Hill of Edderton

History Special

Spring 2025

Crofting History Of The Hill of Edderton —

A Story That Needs To Be Told

Janey Clarke

MY dad, Reay Clarke, owned the Hill of Edderton for two separate periods of time. He bought it when he came back from the war in 1947 aged 24, and sold it late 1970s, then bought it back about ten years later around 1988. In the first phase he used it for grazing livestock. Teenie Lachie was the last tenant to leave, in 1953.

Her cruck frame house is still standing and is a Grade 2 listed building.



The Tin House, Lower Hill of Edderton

When my dad bought the hill for a second time, he planted it with broadleaves including oak, cherry and birch on the lower slopes and Scots pine, larch and sitka higher up. He was always interested in the crofting history of the hill and would take people to see the Tin House and Teenie's. When I

asked him how he managed to tell people the same information over and over again, he said 'It's a story that needs to be told'.

After doing some research, I started to put information and maps about the crofting history



Ileen and a friend in front of the Tin House

of the hill and the Redburn Chambered Cairn into the Tin House last year. Colouring in the arable fields green on the 1881 first edition ordnance survey map brought their story to life for me. Generations of men and women worked these crofts for more than 200 years, cultivating their five or six acres to produce enough food for their families and pay their £4 or £6 a year rent.

There are eight ruined crofts which can still be seen, four on the west side of Redburn and four on the east side. If anyone is interested in visiting these old croft sites and learning



Ross family picnic outside Tin House. From left: Mrs. Ross, ?, Kate the Coul and her sister (?), Geordie Ross Redburn, Teenie Lachie. Front row Ileen Redburn Redburn.



Ileen with peat, her granny (?), George Ross at peat banks probably higher up the Hill of Edderton.

something of their history, I have written up four walks which take walkers to some of the croft ruins, the Viewpoint, the Tin House and the chambered cairn.

We are lucky to have photos from an album which belonged to Ileen Redburn, who lived as a young child at the Tin House. My dad rescued it from a skip when Ileen's house was being cleared after she died. There are many iconic photos of Ileen and her family's life on the Hill of Edderton, some of which are displayed in the Tin House.

For a copy of the walks and a map, please email me: lindsayandjaney@yahoo.co.uk

If anyone who enjoys learning about the history of the Hill would like to make a donation to my JustGiving pages raising money for the British Heart Foundation and Brain Tumour Research in memory of two of our family members, Donald Clarke and Matt Aitken that would be much appreciated. For Donald www.justgiving.com/page/hill-of-edderton-donald and for Matt www.justgiving.com/

[page/hill-of-edderton](http://www.justgiving.com/page/hill-of-edderton)

Directions: About a mile from Edderton, going towards Tain, take the right turn signposted Bogrow Road or, from the Dornoch Firth roundabout going towards Edderton, take the first left, signposted Bogrow Road. Go about a half mile up that road, past the houses and about a third of the way up the steep bit of the road, there is a car park on the left and a gate, the bottom gate, with a Scottish Water sign.



Mrs Ross Snr (?), Geordie Ross Redburn, George Ross and Ileen loading peats.

There is a second gate, the top gate, to the wood on the left at the top of the hill opposite a polytunnel.

What three words for the Bottom gate are
outdoor.laugh.backward

Many thanks to the people who have shown an interest in this project and have supported and helped me.

(Cover photo: The Ross family from the Tin House enjoying a picnic at Clach na Saobhaidhe - the Stone of the Foxes Den, between the Viewpoint and Teenies - shortly to be signposted.)

Edderton Hall Update



£10 per table. To book contact Julie on 0787 819 6624

SHOP LOCAL SUPPORT HANDMADE

THE Edderton Hall has a new Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/eddertoncommunityhall>—Thank you to

Emma! You can email the Hall Committee

here:

EddertonCommunityHallSCIO@gmail.com

Edderton Community Council Grants Available

Skill Seekers Grant Up To £300.00

THIS grant is available annually for anyone that doing some form of training/re-training, these include University costs, driving lessons, the list goes on...

Smoke Alarm Grant Up To £200.00

THIS grant is available to help with the costs of installing smoke alarms to the required Scottish Government legislation.

Energy Conservation Grant Up To £300.00

THIS grant is to help with the costs of installing insulation, double glazing and anything to help energy conservation.

NEW START UP GRANT AVAILABLE

A NEW grant is to try and encourage new groups to use the village hall to provide different activities for villagers has been launched. Setup grants of £300.00 available now.

For more information on any of these grants or a copy of the application form, please contact Nikki on eccsecretary@aol.com or 07483234172.

GARDENING CLUB

Meetings are held in Edderton Village Hall, at 7.30p.m. Everyone welcome.

Membership is £10 per person for the full season, £5 if joining after January 1st, and £3 per night for visitors. For more information, please phone 01863 766061 or 01862 811381, or email: pahannah@hotmail.com

5th May—Speaker: Gillian MacKenzie, with plants for sale and soft fruit growing tips.