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“Charles Close Society Scotland tour”

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The Charles Close Society was founded in 1980 to bring together all those with an interest in the maps and history of the Ordnance Survey of Great Britain and its counterparts in the island of Ireland. The Society takes its name from Colonel Sir Charles Arden-Close, OS Director General from 1911 to 1922, and initiator of many of the maps now sought after by collectors.

The Society publishes a wide range of books and booklets on historic OS map series and its journal, *Sheetlines*, is recognised internationally for its specialist articles on Ordnance Survey-related topics.

Charles Close Society Scotland Tour

Gerry Zierler

A dozen or so members from all over Britain assembled in Edinburgh on Thursday, 19 April for a three-day tour of map firms and the National Library, organised by John Davies. The weather proved kind, and some of the dining proved excellent. In particular, the splendid Scottish fare at Dubh Prais in Edinburgh High Street is worth recommending! Despite the whisky and the hour the night before, members made their way early on the Friday by train to Stirling for the first of their trio of visits.

Stirling Surveys

We were greeted at their small and modern trading-estate premises by Stirling's managing director, David Barbour, with founders Pat Blashill and Steve Barrett, and designer Nathan Stevens.

Now in their twentieth year, Stirling produce *Footprint Maps*. We saw the original process for mapmaking, using stereo pairs. For Scotland, 1988 photography was used because it was pre-tree cover. Air photos allowed the plotting of subtleties of shape between the contours. We were shown the interesting contrast between the original processes (drawing / colouring layers / use of Scribcoat etc.) with today's entirely digital production processes.

Originally specialising in maps for orienteering, the founders' own favourite sport, several BCS awards have been won for outstanding work in map design. The firm soon went into walking maps too. The first was the *West Highland Way* in 1988, using a German waterproof paper. 1927 out-of-copyright OS maps were used as the basis: one-inch Populars, six-inch and some 1:25,000. One day's walk checking the map results in two weeks' work in the office!

Stirling Surveys' first cycling map, for Sustrans, was in 1995, the C2C map of Cumbria to Newcastle. Sustrans maps now cover the whole country, with thirty titles. Their work on long-distance paths has developed into localised maps too, e.g. for Stirling itself, with guides for a number of Scottish areas plus the English Lake District. Only three maps had been discontinued during their twenty years including, somewhat surprisingly, that for the Ridgeway.

We were grateful to the small team at Stirling Surveys for an interesting visit to a successful and very enthusiastic specialist firm.

Harvey Maps

Our second visit was to Doune, a small town in beautiful country some ten miles from Stirling and home of Harvey Maps, where we were greeted and shown around their four hundred year old premises by founder Robin Harvey.

Harvey started thirty years ago, producing orienteering and walking maps, originally at a scale of 1:40,000 – felt to be a good compromise – and later at 1:25,000 for the *Superwalker* series. More recently, Harvey has produced the British Mountain Maps series with the BMC, also at 1:40,000. We heard of interesting policy changes in colouring over the years – light green in place of yellow for farmland, for example, now the reverse of OS colouring using pale yellow for access land. Right from the start, Harvey Maps used aerial photography – originally OS material – and original photogrammetry. All maps are on waterproof paper, and BMC maps are tearproof too.

Harvey now have a range of route maps – steadily covering National Trails and most National Parks. BMC maps of Snowdonia, the Lakes, Peak District and, soon, Glencoe are backed with BGS geological maps in 3D. Also covered is the South West Coast Path in six sections, and three maps of Ireland, as well as cycling and local town plans.

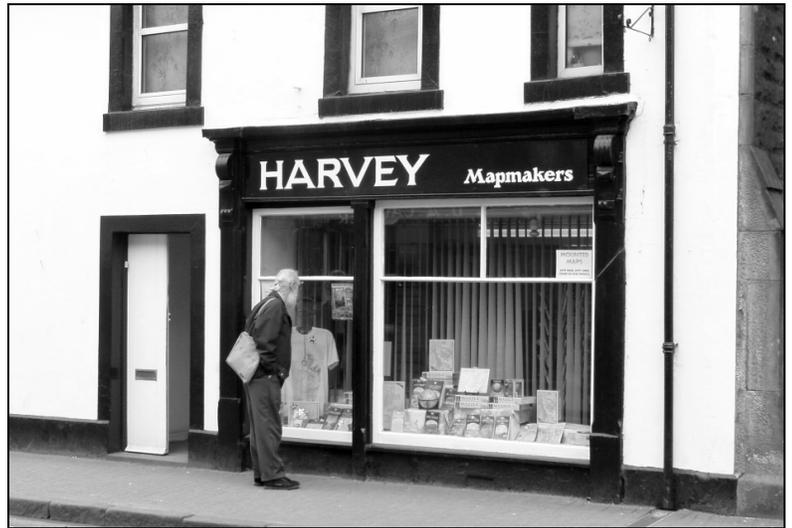
All Harvey maps are now printed outside, but originally they did their own A2 work. We saw a Wilt A8 press (ex Danish Survey) and a Galileo Stereo Simplex G6, used for plotting contours digitally. Harvey's was non-GIS, Robin explained, because their interest was in making data easy to read and understand. Adobe Illustrator 8 was used, though versions 9, 10 and CS2 were also available.

Although Harvey's biggest business was now via the Internet, CCS members showed their appreciation, and helped to reverse this trend, after their tour by carrying away considerable amounts of Harvey's excellent range, including maps, atlases and even jigsaws.

National Library Of Scotland

The final official visit of the CCS tour was on Saturday morning to NLS at Causewayside in Edinburgh, where we were treated by map collections manager Diana Webster to a special display of items from the considerable Bartholomew archive.

Edinburgh's famous firm of John Bartholomew (& Son) was founded in 1826 by John Bartholomew the first, a jobbing engraver. All generations of Bartholomews had links with German and Swiss cartographers, and the bust of



CJH

Harvey's of Doune: Rodney Leary goes window-shopping

John Junior's mentor August Petermann from Justus Perthes in Gotha was much in evidence.

There were not only many fascinating Bartholomew maps on display. Many unique and fascinating items had also been brought out for CCS members, including a set of engraving tools not only used but also made by a Bartholomew apprentice in the 1930s. A recent and expensive acquisition was a beautiful paperweight made of Mauchline Ware from Ayrshire, featuring a map of the Americas, for which Bartholomew had produced the right-side engraving for transfer by paper to the pottery.

A tour of the depths of NLS showed how huge the Bartholomew archive is. Rows of map presses and many shelves were taken up by – who knows what? Much of the material is yet to be catalogued in detail.

Although not quite the end of the visit to Edinburgh for some members, the 2007 CCS tour of Scotland concluded by thanking Diana Webster for her enormous generosity and effort in preparing a fascinating display.