



# Supporting Notes

## 1 The Witches Stone

Situated in the wall at the front of the Police Station is a plaque commemorating the burning of witches on the nearby Cluny Hill. Legend has it that witches were placed in barrels and rolled down the hill. This spot being where they came to a halt.

## 2 Sueno's Stone

This ancient monument is impossible to date accurately, but it is believed to have been carved in the ninth or tenth century. It is made of grey sandstone of the type found locally. The main faces show a large cross with Celtic interlace on one side and, on the other, a battle scene. The narrow sides are interlaced with patterns and human faces.

## 3 Benromach Distillery

This distillery was designed in 1898 by Elgin architect Charles Doig, who was famous for designing the pagoda roof. Up until the early 1970's Benromach Distillery stood proudly with its pagoda roof over the malt kiln. Unfortunately, due to decay, the pagoda was removed by the owners as malting had ceased at the distillery in the late 1960's.

Over one of the outbuildings at Benromach Distillery is a weather-vane. Where the cockerel ought to be is the profile of a jaunty Highlander, kilted and brandishing a bottle. This is 'Old Angus', the original trade mark of the Benromach brand.

Charles Doigs plans included a revolutionary idea of taking cooling water out of the Sanquhar Loch and sending it back unpolluted - requiring a method of making water flow uphill. Nowadays the old fuel bond has been converted to receive the hot waters from the condensers for cooling to 30°C. From the Invererne Road you can see the



wonderful display that the colling water makes in the spray pond, before it is again safely returned to the Mosset Burn.

## 4 The Mosset Tavern

This hostelry stands on the site of the former Taylor Mills and Laundry. Part of the old building can be seen in Burn Green Lane at the rear of the inn.

## 5 Lord Strathcona's Plaque

Born Donald Alexander Smith, at the age of seventeen he left Forres for Canada. There he became the resident Governor of The Hudson Bay Company. He created the Canadian Pacific Railway (completed in 1885). In 1886 he was knighted by Queen Victoria and was given the title Lord Strathcona.

## 6 Sanquhar Loch

Sanquhar Loch is less than a mile from the High Street. Yet here is an oasis of peace and tranquillity where the walker can pause awhile to feast his eyes on this beautiful spot which was once part of the 2,000 acre Sanquhar Estate owned by distilling magnate, Alexander Edward. It is now much smaller than it used to be. It is estimated that 60% of the original water area has been lost to silting, progressing to colonisation by plants and trees which in turn has become a haven for birds and wildlife. As you walk round listen and watch for some of the inhabitants which include swans, wrens, moorhen, heron, dippers - they nest behind the cascading water at the waterfall - thrushes, blackbirds, mallards,

redwing, great spotted woodpecker, wagtails, tits, warblers have all been seen and heard here.

Walking round you will have noticed footpaths appearing, disappearing. The Loch is at the centre of a network of footpaths which invite you to return and sample the pleasures that await the walker prepared to explore a little further afield.

## 7 The Nelson Tower

Standing on top of Cluny Hill the tower is a conspicuous landmark for miles around. It was built in 1806, the year after Nelson's victory at Trafalgar. The tower is now a museum and is open six afternoons a week during the summer months. A magnificent viewing platform is available on the roof offering a spectacular vista of Forres and beyond - well worth the climb!

## 8 Grant Park

Once the site of Forres House, the sunken gardens are now a peaceful oasis on a hot day. Strolling amongst the floral displays you can appreciate the imagination of the designs that have brought numerous awards to this beautiful 32 acre park. Have a game of bowls, watch a cricket match or see young football stars in the making. Youngsters will enjoy a visit to the play area. There is so much to do and see here or you could simply sit a while and watch the world go by. This park has been instrumental in the towns success in 'Scotland In Bloom' and 'Britain In Bloom' over the years.

