CLAN CHISHOLM SOCIETY
UK BRANCH

An Cirean
Cean Cinnidh



NEWSLETTER

NUMBER 80

MAY 2025

Welcome to Issue No 80 - UK Branch Newsletter

Dear UK Branch members.

I hope you enjoyed reading the 2025 Clan Chisholm Journal which as usual was filled with many interesting articles. Martin (Journal Editor) is keen to get material from all branches of the Society and with topics of interest from around the world. We thank him for another excellent edition.
If you have articles you think may be suitable for publishing in the journal or even just ideas for future pieces please get in touch with Martin. His contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

As notified in our last newsletter the Clan Chisholm Society has held the AGM electronically. Minutes of the meeting are included with this newsletter.

The date for our own **UK Branch AGM is Friday 5th September 2025** at The Priory Hotel, Beauly, by Inverness IV4 7BX. Lunch is provided from 12:30 and the AGM will follow.

The City of Inverness Highland Games is to be held on Saturday 12th July and for the first time in many years we will not be able to man a Chisholm table. Unfortunately there are not enough of us available to cover the very long day. We hope to be able to place some Clan Chisholm Society information and flyers on another clans table. The previous day on behalf of the Society I will attend the AGM of the Association of Highland Clans and Societies. This is to be held at 6pm in the Riverbank Room, Ness Walk Hotel, Inverness IV3 5SQ. The business meeting will be followed at 7:30 by a lecture by Roddy Young on clan crest silver.
The AGM of the AHCS has historically been held immediately after the Games but it has been very difficult in the last two years to fit this in hence bringing it forward to the day before when last minute plans for the Games day and parade can be discussed.

Yours in clanship
Susan

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A reminder that Annual Subscriptions are due on 1st January each year. Note that subscription rates have not been raised since 2013.

Annual membership - £12.00

Annual over 60 - £9.00

10 year membership - £65.00

10 year Family membership - £74.00

Payment by cheque (or PO) to:- 'Clan Chisholm Society - UK Branch' and sent to Hon Secretary/Treasurer, Susan Chisholm. Or a bank transfer may be made to our bank - Natwest, Bury St Edmunds –

sort code 60-04-16, a/c 30250633. (IBAN GB55 NWBK 6004 1630 2506 33)

If you elect to pay by bank transfer please let me (Susan) know.

For **Life Members** who wish to continue to receive the Annual Clan Chisholm Journal - a payment of **£5.00** per annum is requested to help cover the cost of publication and postage. NB. Life membership ceased to be offered after 1996. *There is no charge for branch newsletters which are produced 3 - 4 times a year.*

ROBERT STEWART (BOB) CHISHOLM

4th January 1937 to 21st March 2025
Funeral on 8th April Worthing Crematorium.

Sadly, we have to report the death of Bob Chisholm who did so much for the Society. He was appointed Genealogist for the UK Branch and subsequently took over management of the rudimentary genealogy database of the Clan Chisholm Society from 2008 with support from Ian Chisholm in Canada and created the system our members can access and use today. Bob built on the huge body of the work carried out by Wilfrid Medlam and ensured that all data once validated was added to our store of knowledge. He also managed the genealogy forum where members and non-members can post queries about their family history research before he handed these responsibilities over to Alastair Chisholm of Minstead. The database and forum continue to be supported by the Society. In 2007 in recognition of his work on clan history and genealogy Bob was granted honorary life membership of the Society.

Our condolences have been sent to Bob's wife Muriel and their two sons, Robert and Miles. Muriel and Bob married on 5th April 1958. An article on paragliding written by Robert was featured in our newsletter number 27.

The Clan Chisholm Society hopes to add a plaque to the bench at Cannich Brae which was installed in memory of Wilfrid Medlam.

For our first UK Branch Newsletter in July 2022 Bob wrote a piece on his interest in genealogy – part of this is reproduced below.

Recently Ben asked me when I first became interested in genealogy.

Hmm, I cannot say exactly. For as long as I can remember I have been fascinated by "where I came from". I constantly enquired of my mother and other relatives who would listen, regarding my forebears.

I often felt my questions were deflected with statements such as *what do you want to know that for?* This left me wondering why they were so uninterested, or perhaps there were skeletons in the cupboard!

Therefore, as a young boy I did not progress far.

Among the gifts I received on my birthday in 1946 was a small book titled "The Scottish Tartans". Inside was a short piece on Clan Chisholm. I believe it was this small book that fired up my imagination. What was this Clan Chisholm? Why did I live in Newcastle upon Tyne and not Strathglass with the rest of the Chisholm's? (or so I thought at the time). The questions were unending.

Sadly, my father was killed during World War II fighting in Burma with the Chindits against the Japanese. He was not therefore around to pass on any family history to me at the age when I became so interested.

My father and mother had moved South to Newcastle in 1936 away from both their families. As a result of the war and the distance between us I did not see much of my relatives.

It was not until I was in my twenties in 1957 that I was able to travel to Galashiels to visit my father's family. Too late, my grandfather Chisholm had died in 1956. I could ask him no questions. The remaining family members fielded my questions with the usual *"what do you want to know that for?"*

I really needed to know where my grandfather was born but the family were very evasive. The best I could get out of them was that they thought he had been brought up by foster parents in Kingussie. So, there I was with only my father's birth certificate containing the names of his parents and not much idea of what to do next. Having established the "tree" I felt a list of names of people, places and dates did not make for very inspiring reading and it would be more interesting with some foliage. This has proved to be much more difficult than building the family tree. To do this you really need someone who is famous or even infamous in each generation. However, even after all the years of research little pieces of information keep coming to light. There are a lot of Chisholm's to be found in the Kiltarlity Parish records in Inverness-shire, and I feel that there must have been a family relationship between many if not all of them. I have put together small family groups that I came across during my own research.

Bob continued his research and went on to add to his own family history information.

GLEN AFFRIC – SHOCKING BEHAVIOUR BY CAMPERS

from Inverness Courier, Press & Journal and other papers 10th April 2025

Reckless campers in Glen Affric recently destroyed trees and left behind a "disaster area," according to reports from Forestry and Land Scotland.
Six trees were hacked down to support a tarpaulin, and a campfire was set despite a wildfire warning, leading to public outrage. The irresponsible behaviour also included leaving behind over 50 glass bottles including alcohol bottles and piles of litter.
“We understand people want to get out and enjoy the countryside, especially in this spell of weather – and in one of Scotland’s most beautiful locations. But there is no excuse for this sort of antisocial behaviour.
The littering and vandalism is bad and, with the blatant disregard of warnings against campfires, it is pure luck that things were not much worse.”



Some images of the damage done to one of the most beautiful parts of the Highlands

2,500 YEAR OLD WOOLLEN TWILL – THE OAKBANK TEXTILE

from various newspapers 22 - 24th April 2025, Alba and University of Glasgow News

A fine piece of woven fabric lay buried in the bottom of Loch Tay in Perthshire for nearly 2,500 years, naturally preserved by the silty bed.
Believed to be one of the oldest of its kind in Britain and dating back to the early to middle part of the Iron Age, it was found in 1979 when an Iron Age loch dwelling house, known as the Oakbank Crannog, was excavated on Loch Tay.
Now, the public will be able to see this ancient textile close-up when it goes on show for the first time at The Scottish Crannog Centre’s Iron Age village, visitor centre and museum, on the banks of Loch Tay.

Previously thought too fragile to go on display, the textile will become a permanent exhibit at the Centre. Thanks to a painstaking stabilisation and conservation process, funded by Museums Galleries Scotland, it will be housed safely in a climate-controlled cabinet.

The ‘Oakbank Textile,’ has been analysed by archaeologists at the University of Glasgow who have radiocarbon dated the material to between 480 - 390BC.

Maureen Kerr, an experimental archaeologist and volunteer at the Centre, said: “"The exciting thing is that there's nowhere else in Scotland that has textile of this size and of this age.”
“The weave on this fine textile is called a 2/1 twill which is really unusual for the time in southern Britain and northern Europe as most twill weaves were 2/2. This sheds considerable light on the technologies society had in the Iron Age.”

“Twill weaves, which this textile is part of, is a dense, flexible fabric, very similar in appearance to our modern denim weave. It has been made, we think, on a two-beam loom, or a warp-weighted loom.
"This, combined with the fact that there are the remnants of a possible hem indicating that it could have been part of a piece of clothing, makes it a rare and special discovery.”

Below – Experimental archaeologist Isobelle Hanby with the piece of woven fabric showing the size of the artefact.

Right – the fabric conserved

Photo’s Martin Shields





Dr Susanna Harris, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Glasgow, carefully examined the textile on behalf of the Centre. She said: “There are very few early textiles of this date and we think this is the first one of this type, of 2/1 twill, in Scotland. Wool was such an important material in Scotland it’s been exciting to analyse this piece.
“It’s great that the Scottish Crannog Centre has taken this step. It’s really important finds like this go on display. It may be a small piece of textile but it tells us a lot about the heritage of Scottish textiles.”

Mike Benson, Director of The Scottish Crannog Centre added: “We are absolutely thrilled to be able to invite the public to come and see this amazing find.
"This piece would have been made by a whole community, from the shearing of the sheep, to the processing and dyeing of the wool to the weaving of the textile.
"Our Centre today is very much about community and the one thing that unites all of us is our common humanity through the ages.
"Through our work with communities and like-minded organisations, we invite all kinds of people to our Centre, for instance, refugees and people struggling with their mental health. As well as making our prehistoric history accessible to all, we’re also making history together through the different interpretations people bring to our artefacts. It’s been amazing to hear the fresh insights people from other cultures and backgrounds can offer.
“We're really looking forward to finding out what people make of this rare textile, which is part of our past but also a hugely important part of our present and future. We hope people will be drawn to see this exhibit, and the rest of our extensive collection, for years to come.”

Crannogs were dwelling houses built on stilts or stone over water and usually had a bridge connecting them to the shore. Very few exist outside of Scotland and Ireland. The first crannogs in Scotland were built on lochs from Neolithic times.
In 2021 the Scottish Crannog Centre was dealt a devastating blow in 2021 when a fire burned down the site’s reconstructed crannog, built by archaeologists in 1997.
The Centre opened to visitors on its new and enlarged site near Kenmore last year and the build team is well on the way to completing a new crannog using sustainable and historical construction methods.

NB. Our Branch newsletter No.72 of May 2023 carried an article on another textile discovered in Scotland in a Glen Affric bog – the oldest surviving example of a tartan dated to between 1500 and 1600.

3,500 YEAR OLD BRONZE AGE SITE NEAR INVERNESS

from Daily Express, Scottish Herald, Inverness Courier and others 3rd th April 2025

A range of historical items, including a 3,500 year old Bronze Age cremation urn, have been found during the construction of a new golf course, near Inverness.
Archaeological excavations at Old Petty at Castle Stuart have uncovered a range of historical evidence dating back thousands of years. The discoveries include remnants of Neolithic wooden buildings, a prehistoric ceremonial circle and evidence for medieval field systems and grain-drying kilns.



Medieval settlement ditches at Lonnie



Medieval animal enclosure at Lonnie.

The excavations, conducted by Avon Archaeology Highland, revealed at least 25 prehistoric wooden buildings alongside artifacts such as flint tools, quern stones, and a rare prehistoric chariot wheel.
These findings are said to paint a picture of ancient life in the Highlands, from ceremonial practices to agricultural innovation, between the Middle Ages and 6,000 years ago.



A medieval corn-dryer excavated



Iron Age roundhouse enclosure

Stuart McColm, vice-president of Golf Development, Cabot, said: "This has been a remarkable journey from pre-historic times to the present, right here on our doorstep. It's humbling to think that our new championship course, Old Petty, will rest on such historically rich ground. We're proud to preserve this heritage while creating a world-class golf experience."
In keeping with Scottish archaeological best practice, efforts have been made to ensure the preservation of key features, including the prehistoric ceremonial circle, which has been carefully reburied in-situ.



Left. Iron Age Quern Stones

Below. Iron Age Chariot Wheel Tyre

Right. Bronze Age Cordoned Urn before reconstruction





Andy Young, principal archaeologist at Avon Archaeology Highland, praised the collaboration:
"The partnership with Cabot Highlands has been exemplary. Their commitment to preserving the past while shaping the future is a model for responsible development."
"I'm always happy to see new archaeology emerge from the ground but some of the discoveries we have made, particularly relating to early Neolithic settlement and later prehistoric ceremonial/funerary activity, are properly exceptional."
"The evidence gathered during the Cabot Highlands project adds a substantial and important new body of information for past human activity in Scotland as a whole but, most significantly, for the history of Highland Region."
The findings will be documented in detail, with final reports and radiocarbon dating expected in 2025, coinciding with the opening of the new Old Petty golf course.
Finds (artefacts such as pottery, worked stone, flint tools and metal objects) will ultimately be submitted to Treasure Trove Scotland and, depending upon their perceived importance, will most likely will be retained by either The National Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh or Inverness Museum.

DR JEAN MUNRO - Clan Historian

The Strathspey & Badenoch Herald of 8th May 2025 as part of the VE Day commemorations ran an article on the many ladies who worked at Bletchley Park on code breaking.
Jean Munro previously of Edinburgh and Nethy Bridge is now living at Lynemore Care Home and they also celebrated with Jean and posted a few words and a picture on their website.
Dr Jean Munro, now 101 and a resident at Lynemore in Grantown, who was a member of Hut 6 at Bletchley Park, the team responsible for deciphering German Army and Air Force Enigma messages.
She wasn't able to reveal her work to family and friends until the 1980s. Historians believe that breaking the Enigma code may have shortened the war by two to four years, potentially saving hundreds of thousands of lives: "I never thought of it that way, but if I think about it now, I think I'm really glad."



Jean at Lynemore giving a 'V' for victory sign.

ALLTBEITHE – GLEN AFFRIC

Many years ago I was given a copy of Historic Tracks, Exploring Britain's Heritage by Des Hannigan – the book was published in 1997 and I hadn't really looked at it much. News of the authors death late last year prompted me to start reading it. The first chapter deals with The Road to the Isles – Cannich to Sheil Bridge. It gives some information on Chisholm's although he spells this without the second 'h'. There was mention of another keen walker/climber/writer Arthur L Bagley who had spent many weeks in the Highlands in 1911. Des Hannigan was not complimentary about Bagley thinking him rather patronising to the locals as he offered gratuities for assistance given and showed surprise when this was rejected. I determined to read Bagley's accounts and make up my own mind about him. I purchased a copy of 'Walks and Scrambles in the Highlands'. I found his accounts of his hill-walking exploits quite amusing. The chapter called Through Glen Affric did have a bit of nonsense about what a strangers' reception might be in the Highlands. The area was still owned by the Chisholm family. Bagley had heard tales of tourists not being welcome in the area or in the 'cottages'. I think the way Bagley writes is simply 'of his time' and from the perspective of a stranger from a very different part of the world.
On his journey through Affric he describes his route past Dog Falls, Loch Beneveian to Affric Lodge. He continued to Aulthbeith where he was given 'a copious tea'. He offered payment which was at first refused by the girl. Bagley notes that "I feel it my duty to record that what I had heard as to the treatment of tourists in this district appears to be at least greatly exaggerated."
NB. In 1911 the family living at Alltbeithe would have been the Scotts.
A few years later in 1915 the Scott's would supply hospitality to another walker, the Rev Ronnie Burn. See Burn on the Hill, Elizabeth Allan 1995. This book shows a photograph of the Scott family - Mr & Mrs Scott, Angus and Christina with six children including Katie (Kate) who was mentioned in some detail in Burn on the Hill. Burn mentions seven children in 1915. There is also a photograph in the book of Katie as a young woman.

In September 2002 a group of UK branch members walked from Kintail though Affric and stayed overnight at Alltbeithe, now a youth hostel – see photograph below. An account of our walk was given in Newsletter No. 2, October 2002.



In the same newsletter New Zealand Branch Historian and Genealogist Audrey Barney wrote of the Chisholm family who had lived at Alltbeithe in earlier times. The full article is given below.

Aultbeath Lodge (Allt Beithe Lodge) by Audrey Barney – NZ Branch Historian

This lodge was the home of John Chisholm and his family in the late 1870's to early 1880's before they emigrated from Scotland to New Zealand.
John Chisholm was the second son of Kenneth Chisholm and Catherine McLennan, who had been married in the Catholic Church at Eskadale, Deanie, Glen Strathfarrar, Kilmorack on January 9th 1838 by the priest , Alex McSween. It appears no registration was made of John's birth, but from the census it was very early in 1841 at Mauld, Kiltarlity.

His parents, however, had left the Kilmorack parish before the 1841 census. Ten years later the family were settled in a cottage called Coire na Cuilean in the far North-East of the Kintail, Ross and Cromarty, inland from the Five Sisters between Lochs Mullardoch and Lungard.[1] Here, in this isolated area of mountain and lake Kenneth Chisholm was a shepherd for over 20 years, and it is where John and his elder brother Archibald grew up.

John had left Coire na Cuilean before he was 20, probably travelling down the side of Loch Mullardoch to obtain work as an agricultural labourer in the nearby Cannich area. When he married Ann Miller in 1868 at her home at the Shooting Lodge at Affric, he was working as a labourer at Tomich. It is likely that while here he was in the employ of Lord Tweedmouth whose family not only had built Guisachan House near Tomich but who had leased land right through to Glen Affric.

John Miller, Ann's father and John Chisholm's father in law, with his family had been in Affric since 1860 where he had been working as a gamekeeper for the first Lord Tweedmouth. A new lodge , Affric Lodge, which has been considered one of the most beautifully situated lodges in the Highlands, was built on the estate in 1870 alongside the old shooting lodge. Lord Tweedmouth came to a gentleman's agreement with authorities, that if they left maintenance on the old drove road which passed his new lodge on the side of Loch Affric unattended, so ensuring the track's degeneration and his privacy, he, Lord Tweedmouth would construct a path along the North side of the Loch to give the public good access through Glen Affric on their way to Kintail. This was done and traffic along the South side of Loch Affric decreased with the new track following the North bank until just East of Alltbeithe Lodge. Lord Tweedmouth was a barrister and MP and usually resided in Park Lane, London visiting his Affric estates mostly in the Summers to ride and shoot deer.

Maybe it was John's in-laws at Affric, or maybe it was his connection with Lord Tweedmouth, but sometime in the 1870's John and Ann with their eldest daughter Catherine moved across to the Glen Affric area with John working as a gamekeeper for Lord Tweedmouth, working from Alltbeithe Lodge. In the days when cattle came across the drove roads from Skye, Alltbiethe Lodge had been very strategically placed, being almost at the junction of the two routes that had diverged just East of Morvich. It became known as a "hospitable keepers' house"[2] but those days were over before John and Ann Chisholm were in residence, for there were few cattle left to drive. While living there, three more daughters were born to John and Ann and the four girls were brought up in this very scenic but isolated area. Their nearest neighbours were two McRae men, both shepherds who lived about three miles along the loch. Once past them Ann Chisholm would have another four miles to ride or walk before she reached her parents' home at the Shooting Lodge attached to Affric Lodge.

After about a ten year stay at Alltbeithe Lodge, John and his wife Ann with their four daughters, Catherine, Mary, Ann and Jessie left Affric on the long journey to New Zealand where from the beginning of 1886, John was employed as a shepherd and manager on Longburn station near Palmerston North in the North Island

Their descendants remain in New Zealand today.

(1) When the dam was built at Mullardoch (1947 – 1952), with the rising waters, Lochs Mullardoch and Lungard were joined as one and it is thought the old home of Kenneth and Catherine Chisholm at Coire na Cuilean is about 32 feet under the surface at the West end of the old Loch Mullardoch.

(2) Clan Chisholm Journal, No.18 - 1975

A National Record of the Historic Environment – Canmore website shows a NTS survey of November 1997 which states:-

The settlement of Alltbeithe is noted in the 1841 census and is marked on the 1st edition OS map. It consisted of 5 roofed and 2 unroofed buildings the majority of which are sited W of the burn and are within an enclosure that crosses the burn. Two of the buildings recorded in 1874 appear to be extant or remodelled. The others have either been destroyed or lie in ruins.

The undated/unaccredited photograph in The Burn on the Hill shows three buildings with chimneys and two to three outbuildings.

JEANETTE ANNE CHISHOLM

Airdrie, Lanarkshire
Died 2nd April 2025 aged 88

We are informed of the death of longstanding member Jeanette by Dr Margaret Collin; Jeanette was the wife of Margarets late cousin James McDonald Chisholm.

The funeral service took place on 10th April 2025 in Airdrie and thence to Holytown Crematorium.

Jeanette joined the Clan Chisholm Society on 29th April 1977 a few days after husband Jim. The couple would both later take out Life Membership of the Society. Ben and Juliette remember them attending meetings and ceilidhs in Edinburgh adding that Jim was a very good dancer. Jim passed away after a period of poor health on 14th December 2013.

Ben & Juliette Chisholm-Broomfield have sent their condolences to Margaret and the family, daughter Glenda and husband William, both personally and on behalf of the Clan Chisholm Society.

WILLIAM (BILL) CHISHOLM MBE

12.02.45 – 28.02.25
Barelees, Cornhill-on-Tweed, Scottish Borders

Taken from the funeral announcement in the local press.
Peacefully, following a short illness fought with bravery, humour and dignity in the Margaret Kerr Unit surrounded by his loving family. Beloved husband of Carol, adored dad of Mark and Lisa, devoted Papa to Leighanne and the late Scott and Pappy to Harry and Rory, loving great grandad to Josh, Brooke and Jay and a loyal and generous friend to many.
Service at Borders Crematorium on Wednesday 12th March 2025 at 1 pm, to which all family and friends are respectfully invited. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired may be made in aid of Macmillan Centre and the Stroke Unit.

The following was published in 'The Scotsman' where Bill worked as a reporter for very many years.

Bill Chisholm, an award-winning journalist known for his fearless reporting and lifelong service to the Borders, has died at the age of 80.
Respected for his integrity, tenacity and commitment to local journalism, Bill spent decades uncovering public interest stories and mentoring younger journalists across the region. A former reporter with The Scotsman, his career spanned more than 50 years and earned him an MBE for services to journalism.
Born in 1945 in Barelees, Cornhill-on-Tweed, William (Bill) Chisholm was the only child of Jock and Essex Chisholm. Shortly after his birth, the family moved to Grindon Farm near Norham, where he spent his childhood in the heart of the Borders countryside. It was here, with the strong encouragement of his mother, that Bill developed his love of words, even if he modestly claimed he had to "scrape through" the 11-plus to attend Berwick Grammar School. Though sport played a big part in his youth – particularly cricket and football – it was journalism that would become his calling. At just 16 he took up a trainee role at the Smith freelance news agency in Berwick. One of his first tasks was to report on a 4-4 draw between his beloved Berwick Rangers and Queen's Park – an early indication of his enthusiasm and determination.

He later worked for the Berwick Advertiser and Kelso Chronicle before joining The Scotsman in 1967. Based in Edinburgh, one of his earliest assignments was to take shorthand notes down a poor phone line from the great John Rafferty, covering Celtic's European Cup win – a baptism of fire which he handled with characteristic calm and skill. It was during his early career in the capital that he met Carol, who worked in advertising at the Edinburgh Evening News. They were married in Stockbridge Church in 1969 and shortly afterwards settled in Jedburgh, where they raised their two children, Mark and Lisa.

Throughout the 1970s and '80s, Bill became a well-known figure in Borders journalism. Among his most high-profile stories was an investigation into the sale of Scottish Special Housing Association properties in Galashiels, some of which had been sold for as little as £1. His reporting prompted a National Audit Office inquiry and questions in the House of Commons.

He believed deeply in the role of local newspapers in holding power to account, particularly as national titles became increasingly driven by political agendas. He championed the work of weekly publications such as The Southern Reporter, where his daughter Lisa would follow in his footsteps.

Upon his retirement, he was awarded an MBE, a moment he approached with typical humility – almost missing the ceremony at Holyrood Palace due to an urgent last-minute shoe purchase. He remained proud of the honour, which marked a career defined by public service, not personal glory.

Even in retirement, Bill continued to write. He contributed regularly to local news stories and maintained his blog, Not Just Sheep and Rugby, which scrutinised public decision-making with the same incisiveness that had long defined his work.

The Scotsman's longtime Falkirk Correspondent and friend John Smith said of Bill: "He was quite simply one of the best journalists in the business, and widely admired and respected by his peers.

"He was fiercely proud of being an 'old-school' reporter, with a formidable array of contacts, and possessed an unerring eye for a good story.

"For 35 years as the Scottish Borders correspondent for The Scotsman, most of the articles he wrote were self-generated – but when a big story broke Bill could be guaranteed to provide fast and accurate coverage for the paper.

"In providing an unrivalled account of Borders affairs for readers, Bill really came to the fore with his investigative reporting. He would persistently uncover confidential goings-on that caused a great deal of discomfiture to the councillors and officials involved.

"Many individuals outwith the council were less than happy to come under Bill's scrutiny. But over the years Bill would be recognised by many of those as having written a fair, balanced and accurate story.

"With his well-developed sense of humour Bill appreciated the touch of irony on being awarded a bronze statuette by Borders Council for his 35-year coverage of the authority – but he was also quietly flattered by the recognition.

"After Bill left The Scotsman for health reasons at the age of 60 in 2005, retirement did not sit easily on Bill's shoulders. He didn't do paid-for freelance work but continued with his investigative reporting. Much of the outcome was contained in his aptly named blog Not Just Sheep and Rugby, which had a large following."

Beyond journalism, Bill was a passionate cricketer – playing for Roxburgh District Council and regularly earning Man of the Match titles. He remained a season ticket holder at Berwick Rangers, a keen snooker player, and a devoted family man.

His dry humour, even in hospital, was legendary; when asked how he stayed fit, he would wryly say it was "a fine balance between walking to the shops and sitting on my bum watching sport on TV".

Bill Chisholm is survived by his wife, Carol; his son, Mark; daughter, Lisa; granddaughter Leighanne; grandsons Harry and Rory; and great-grandchildren Josh, Brooke and Jay. He was predeceased by his grandson Scott.

Bill Chisholm will be remembered as a principled journalist, a mentor to many, and a man whose integrity never wavered. His words carried weight, his actions earned respect, and his legacy – both in print and in the lives of those he touched – will endure.

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