

WHO COULD HAVE IMAGED that when 4 year old Beatrix Potter and her family disembarked at Birnam by train from London in 1870, the first of many annual holidays the Potters were to enjoy in this area, that the influence of these happy childhood experiences would result in stories now famous the world over?



The Beatrix Potter Exhibition reveals just how this came about through of the influence of this beautiful area and the local people she befriended. Her diary records:

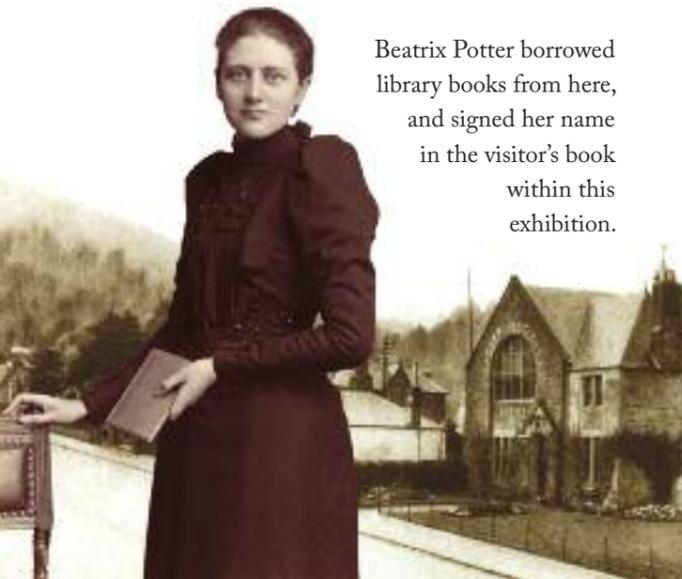
*"I remember every stone, every tree, the scent of the heather, the music sweetest mortal can hear, the murmuring of the wind through the fir trees...oh, it was always beautiful, home sweet home."*

THE OLD BIRNAM INSTITUTE also featured in her early life. John Kinnaird, who greeted the Potters on their arrival, was the local station master and a major benefactor of this building.



Beatrix Potter described him as "a rather fine looking gentleman, with a long white beard, a bluff red face, tall and sprucely dressed in a Stationmaster's blue frock coat with brass buttons... walks with a rolling gait, always with his hands in his pockets and looking towards his toes over an expanse of waistcoat and somewhat florid watch chain."

Beatrix Potter borrowed library books from here, and signed her name in the visitor's book within this exhibition.



HER MOST FAMOUS CHARACTERS and creations were drawn from around Dunkeld and Birnam. 'The Tale of Peter Rabbit' was written and posted from Eastwood, Dunkeld in 1893 to Noel Moore, son of Beatrix Potter's former governess. This was followed swiftly the following day by another story sent to Noel's brother Eric, the basis for 'The Tale of Jeremy Fisher'.



Mrs. Tiggy Winkle was based on the character of Mrs Kitty Macdonald, a local washer woman. In the story of Peter Rabbit, the gardener Mr. McGregor bears a striking resemblance to Charles McIntosh the local naturalist.

CHARLES MCINTOSH was a source of inspiration and encouraged and aided her knowledge of natural science. McIntosh lived at nearby Inver, and during his decades as a postman observed nature on his many miles of deliveries. He despatched specimens and commented on her drawings of fungi.



Fungi drawn at Tomgarrow

By his death in 1922 McIntosh was renowned as distinguished botanist, zoologist, geologist, naturalist, meteorologist and an antiquarian of no mean repute. He was also a skilled musician, indeed a man of many parts.

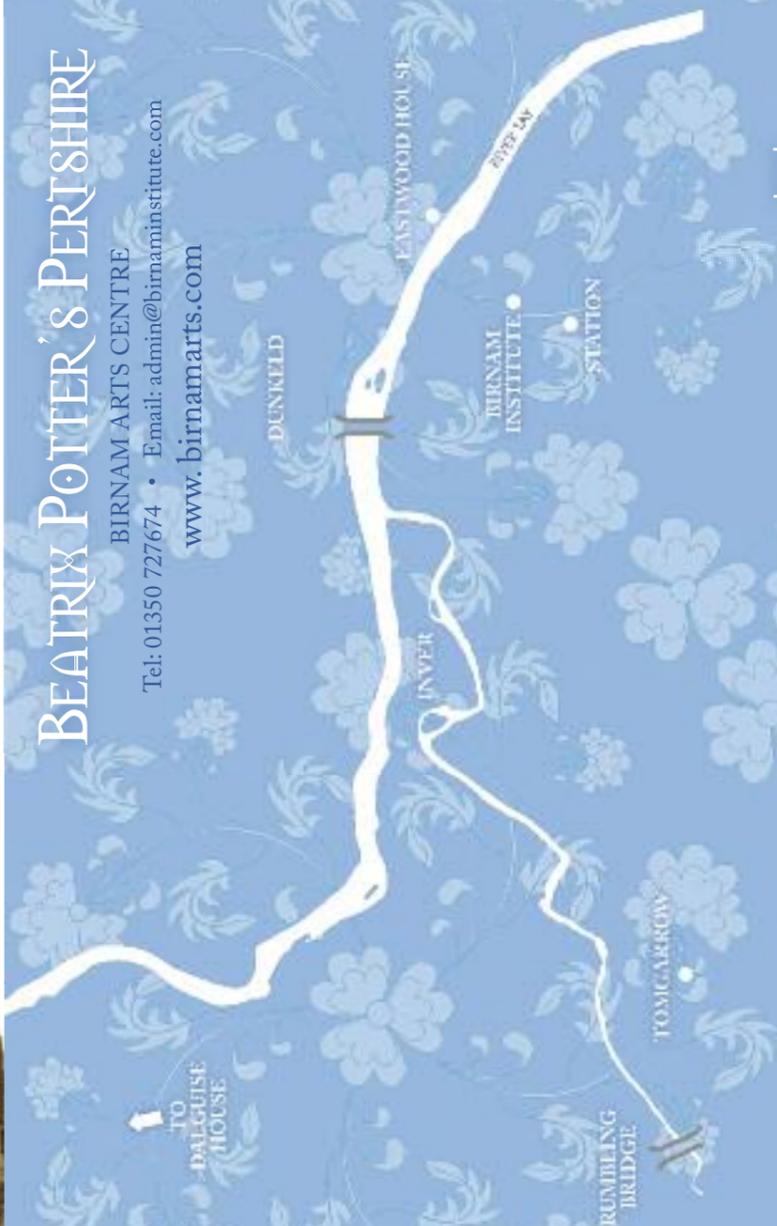


Charles McIntosh & Mr McGregor



## BEATRIX POTTER'S PERISHIRE

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## BEATRIX POTTER IN PERTHSHIRE



IDYLIC CHILDHOOD HOLIDAYS There became the inspiration for her most famous stories, her accomplished paintings and drawings and wide ranging knowledge of the natural sciences.