

## John Bartholomew

1923 to 2008

It is with great sadness that we report the death of our Honorary President, John Bartholomew, on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2008. He had a very long association with the Society, having been first appointed a director in 1984. He became President in 2004.

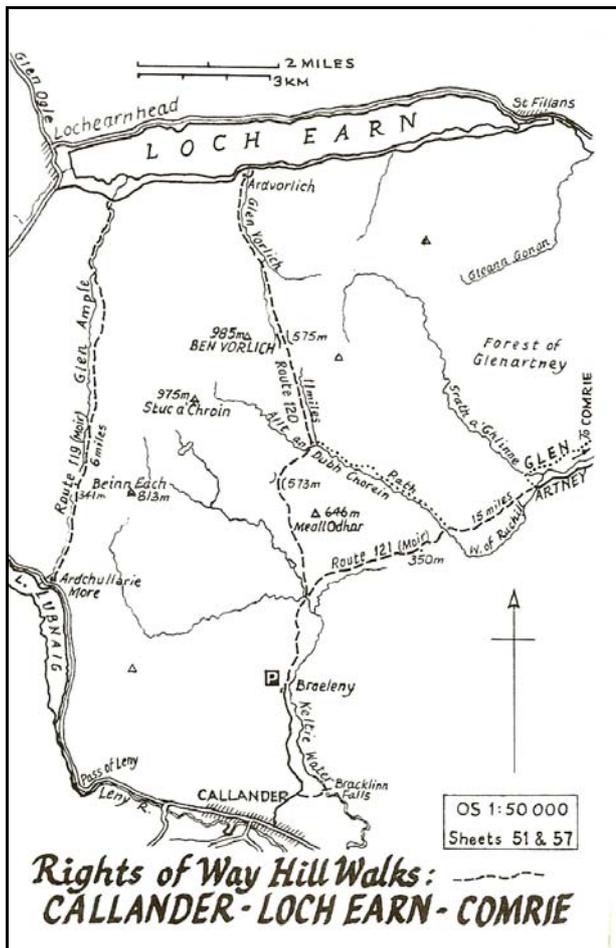
John Bartholomew and two of his brothers, Peter and Robbie, were the last of the Bartholomew dynasty involved in the world-famous map makers, John Bartholomew & Son Ltd. The firm is now part of HarperCollins Publishers, but their mapping publishing is known as Collins Bartholomew, so retaining the family name. The company relocated to Glasgow in 1995, after being based for some 170 years in Edinburgh. John co-operated with George Russell, through the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, to organise a commemorative view indicator for the Braids (see photograph). At the packed funeral service, John's son said that this view indicator had been John's favourite of his physical legacies. Others are a view indicator on North Berwick Law and the sundial at Hermitage of Braid.



John Bartholomew (left) with his wife and family members on his last visit to the Braids view indicator. Photo Ivon Bartholomew.

ScotWays has been a major beneficiary of John's professional and personal passion for maps that combined sharp accuracy with elegant clarity. Cartographer David Langworth recalls collaborating with John on ScotWays projects: "I came to appreciate his style and enthusiasm in the various projects with which he was associated. Together we compiled a map of Scotland's hill tracks and rights of way which was later used to produce the maps for the third edition of *Scottish Hill Tracks*. These do not do justice to the complex collection of map layouts, overlaps, page sections etc that John compiled before the maps were finalised. With John, map editing and checking was a continuous process that went on right up to the final day before the 'finished' artwork went to press and sometimes after! For an early edition of the ScotWays Cairngorms hill tracks map, John supplied me with old Bartholomew maps and he was indignant when Ordnance Survey wrote querying our source material. He wrote back in immaculate detail, sourcing every single piece of information shown on the map, and nothing more was said."

The Bartholomew family has had a long connection with ScotWays, with several generations having been represented on the Board. John took on this role with his usual zest. Despite his many and varied interests he always found time for ScotWays and rarely missed a Board meeting. His wealth of experience made his contributions to Board discussions invaluable. He was enthusiastic about our new Heritage Paths Project and one of his final outings was to attend the December Board meeting where he spoke in support of the Project. He will be very much missed by all of us who were privileged to know him.



Map prepared by John Bartholomew for ScotWays' membership card, 1992.

### Objects of the Society

The preservation, defence, restoration and acquisition for the public benefit of rights of access over land in Scotland, including public rights of way and their amenity.