

C O L I N P R I O R

E L E M E N T A L S



A C A L E N D A R F O R 2 0 2 3

FROM SCOTLAND'S FOREMOST LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHER



Derry Cairngorm, Ben Macdui and Loch Etchachan, Cairngorms National Park

Jan
2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue
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Traigh Seilebost, Sound of Taransay, Harris

Digital Sample

Feb 2023

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2023	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24



Stob Coir'an Albannaich, Meall nan Eun and Stob Ghabhar, Loch Tulla

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Mar 2023	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
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Bidean nam Bian, and Buachaille Etive Mòr from Ben Starav, Glen Etive

Digital Sample

May

2023

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Sail Mhor, Beinn Eighe and Liathach from Beinn Eoin, Flowerdale Forest

Jun 2023	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
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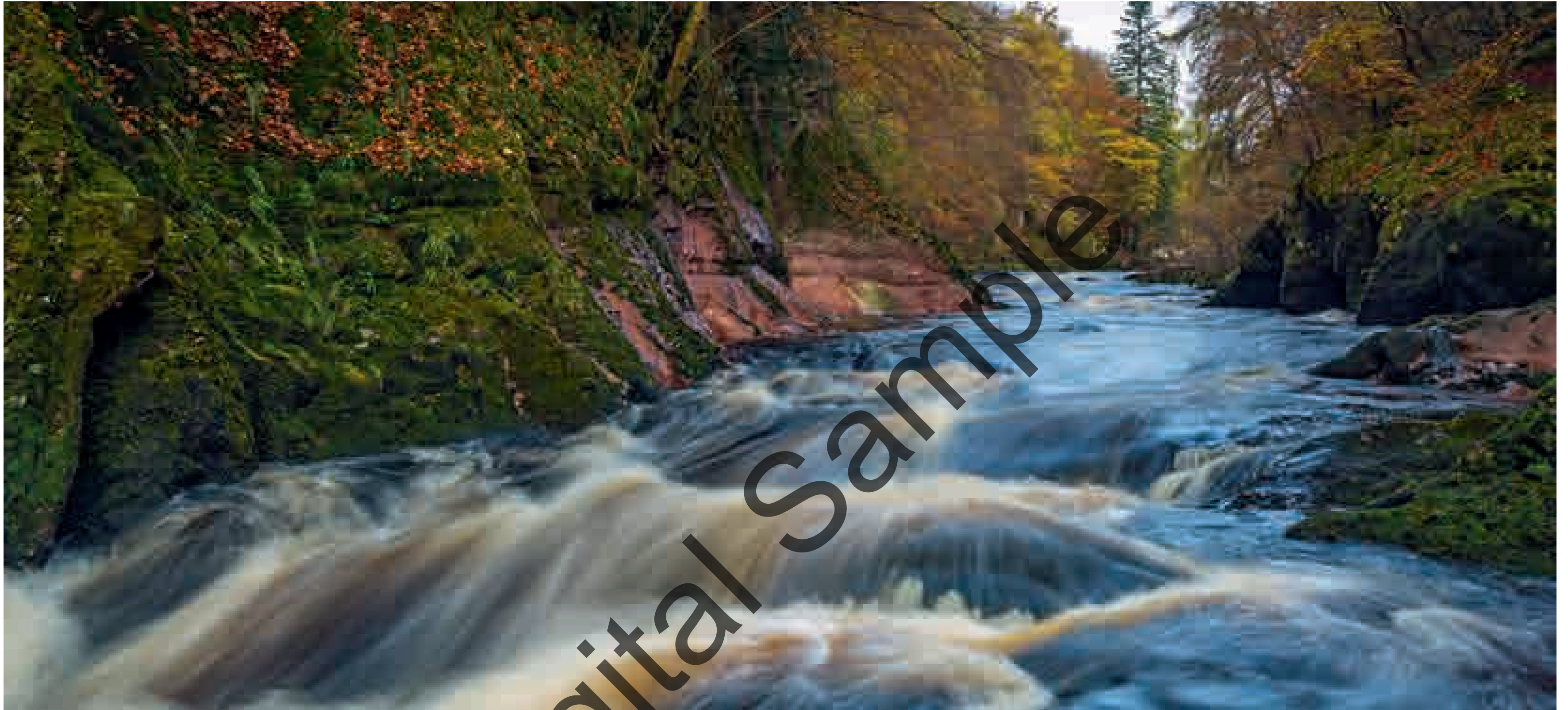
Gylen Castle, Isle of Kerrera

Digital Sample

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River North Esk, Gannochy Bridge, Glen Esk

Digital Sample

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Stac of Glencoul, Loch Glencoul from Unapool

Oct
2023

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Sep
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Nov
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Slioch and Caisteal Mòr, Loch Maree

Nov
2023

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Oct 2023

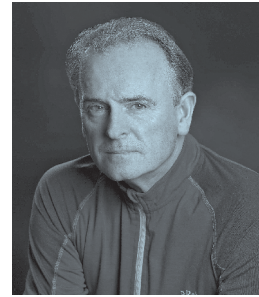
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Dec 2023

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COLIN PRIOR - ELEMENTALS

In a career spanning forty years, Colin Prior photographs capture sublime moments of light and land, which are the result of meticulous planning and preparation and often take years to achieve. Prior is a photographer who seeks out patterns in the landscape and the hidden links between reality and the imagination. He has produced nine books that include, *The World's Wild Places* and *Living Tribes*, which were published internationally and has just completed a seven year project in Pakistan's Karakoram Mountains. His most recent project, *Fragile*, explores the links between birds, eggs and their habitats and was published in September 2020 by Merrell. Colin has been the subject of three BBC documentaries entitled *Mountain Man* and is Patrons Ambassador for the RSPB.



Throughout my lifetime, my work as a photographer has evolved. Following some initial success with underwater photography, I turned my attention to landscape photography, to express my passion for the natural world through this genre. Two photographers inspired me as role models: Galen Rowell, a prolific climber, photographer and author and who, in 1986, published *Mountain Light*; and a Japanese photographer, Shinzo Maeda, an internationally published photographer. Galen's work spoke to me deeply and he made great efforts to reach remote, inaccessible locations to capture rare moments when light and land converged. His work shone a light on the path I would eventually follow. His example motivated me to climb mountains and to reach locations where I would photograph at dusk and dawn.

Shinzo Maeda produced 17 books and worked predominantly with Hasselblad cameras and lenses and also with large-format equipment. The quality of his published photographs was incredible and his example convinced me to work predominantly with a large-format camera. It was also Shinzo who introduced me to the concept of shooting intimate images within the landscape, a pursuit that continues to give me great pleasure today. Both their examples helped to shape my own journey as a photographer which, in time, developed into a recognisable style.

Today, I continue to search for inspiration, and take great pleasure in the landscape paintings of Gordon Beningfield's *Countryside*. He too, was shaped by a childhood in the countryside and later trained as an ecclesiastical artist but spent his life painting the countryside of southern England. He wrote 'I want to capture seasons and moods to such an extent that you can almost smell the subject of the picture, whether it is a portrait of a fox, or a landscape of a bluebell wood.' His words resonated with me deeply and I recall thinking exactly the same thing when I began to work with large format cameras. Often, it is not so much about what is in the picture, but where it takes you.

Today, I continue to search for inspiration, and take great pleasure in the landscape paintings of Gordon Beningfield's *Countryside*. He too, was shaped by a childhood in the countryside and later trained as an ecclesiastical artist but spent his life painting the countryside of southern England. He wrote 'I want to capture seasons and moods to such an extent that you can almost smell the subject of the picture, whether it is a portrait of a fox, or a landscape of a bluebell wood.' His words resonated with me deeply and I recall thinking exactly the same thing when I began to work with large format cameras. Often, it is not so much about what is in the picture, but where it takes you.

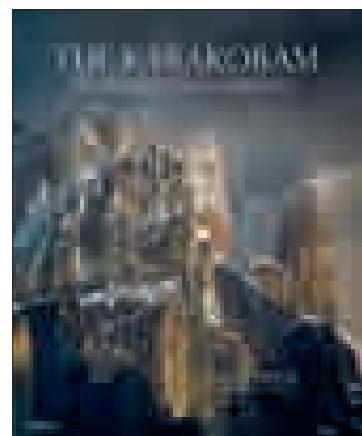
AWARDS

National Adventure Awards, Winner Business Category, 2015.
Scottish Award for Excellence in Mountain Culture, 2020.



Fragile | 2020 | ISBN 978-1-85894-688-7

The Karakoram | 2021 | ISBN 978-1-85894-687-0



COLIN PRIOR WORKSHOPS

If you are interested in developing your photographic skills, why not join one of Colin's workshops? With trips to Knoydart, Glencoe, Skye, Harris and Assynt there are numerous opportunities to photograph some of Scotland's wild and iconic landscapes. Our workshops are designed to give photographers access to some of the best photographic locations in Scotland where knowledge and expertise is communicated at an individual level. Aimed at photographers who are already familiar with their cameras, our workshops offer adventure where learning is complemented with excellent food and accommodation.

Contact: www.colinprior.co.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/colinpriorphotographer Twitter: [#colinprior](https://twitter.com/colinprior) Instagram: [http://instagram.com/colinprior](https://www.instagram.com/colinprior)

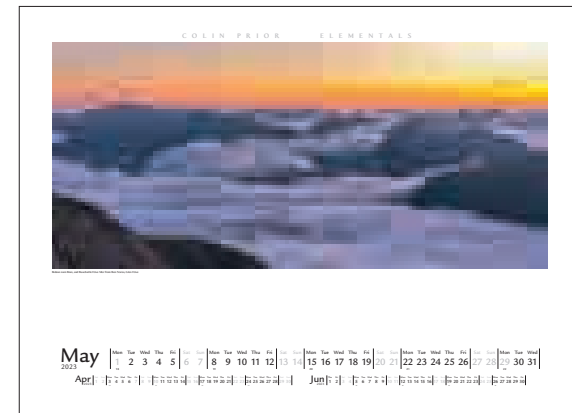
All photographs © Colin Prior



Jan | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31

JANUARY – Ben Macdui

The elevated plateau of the Cairngorms has created an environment, which is essentially Arctic in nature and is reflected in the landscape, vegetation and wildlife. The highest plateaux reach over 1200m in altitude, supporting large tracts of alpine heath and blanket bog which are home to dotterel, snow bunting and ptarmigan.



May | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31

MAY – Bidean nam Bian

Following a wild camp at the summit of Ben Sfarav, we awake to a cloud inversion. The cloud flowed like an ocean over the contours of the landscape in a motion that was almost hypnotic. To the left the distinctive profiles of Bidean nam Bian and Stob Coire nan Lochan rise like islands from the mist while the Buachaille Etive Mòr completes the panorama.



Sep | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30

SEPTEMBER – River North Esk

Close to Gannochy Bridge, the North Esk cuts its way through a deep sandstone gorge known as 'The Loups' - so named, as the salmon are required to loup before continuing their passage upstream. The North Esk is formed in the southern Grampians and flows for a distance of about thirty-five miles to enter the North Sea, three miles north of Montrose.



Feb | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28

FEBRUARY – Traigh Seilebost

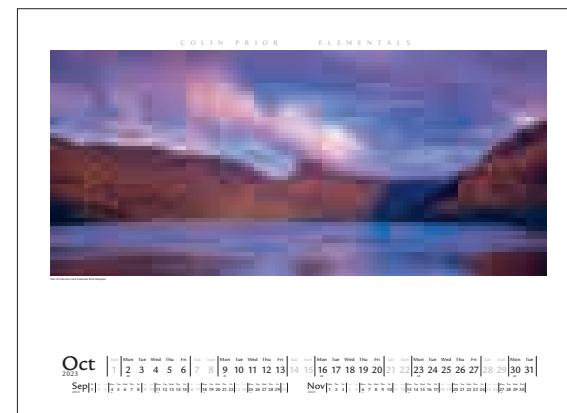
Beyond the rocky foreshore, a narrow belt of dunes dominated by the tough marram grass helps to stabilise the constantly shifting sands. Where shell sand has been blown over peat, a greatly enriched flora exists on the machair, which includes, purple and red soil heath, germander speedwell, red campion, and Hebridean orchid.



Jun | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30

JUNE – Sail Mhor, Beinn Eighe

Light is what turns the ordinary into the extraordinary and being in the right place at the right time seldom happens by chance. Around the period of the summer solstice, the sun is setting at its most north-westerly aspect and is ideally placed to illuminate the north facing corries of Scotland's biggest mountains.



Oct | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31

OCTOBER – Stac of Glencoul

The views from around the village of Kylesku and the road bridge across the narrows of the sea loch are amongst the most gazed upon in Scottish geology. The Glencoul valley provides a complete section through the Moine Thrust Belt with the Stack of Glencoul containing spectacular and important outcrops and its highly sheared rocks (termed mylonites).



Mar | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31

MARCH – Stob Coir'an Albannaich

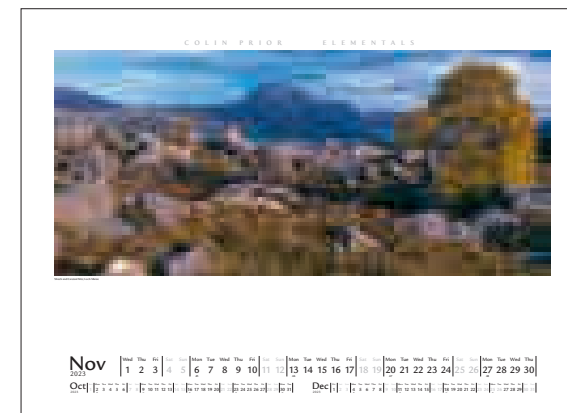
As the first rays of light began to illuminate Stob Ghabhar's deep sculpted Coire na Muic, the landscape began to stir to life. With an ambient temperature of -18 C there was little activity apart from some Scandinavian visitors – a large flock of fieldfares and redwings that chattered excitedly in the trees as they contemplated where to find their next meal.



Jul | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31

JULY – Gylen Castle

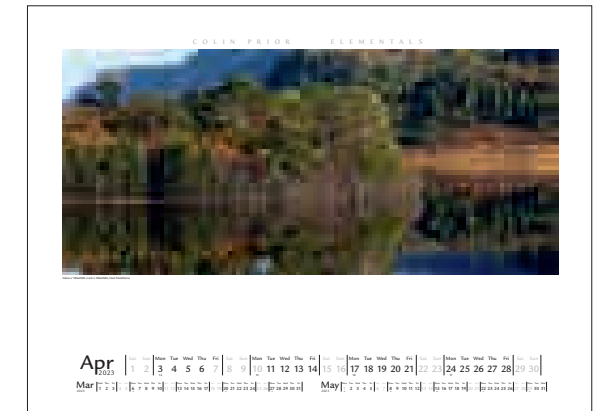
Perched high on a promontory at the south end of Kerrera, Gylen Castle was built in the early 1580s, and was a stronghold of the Clan MacDougall. Known as the 'Castle of Fountains', Gylen was strategically placed to control and survey the southern approaches to Oban by the narrow Sound of Kerrera.



Nov | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30

NOVEMBER – Slioch

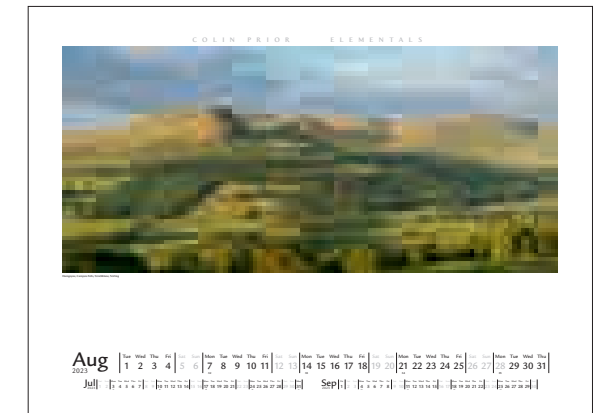
Fragmented and shattered by the colossal forces of ice, these boulders were deposited by glaciers and form part of the moraines. On the north side of Loch Maree, further evidence of exposure can be seen in the horizontal strata of the Torridonian sandstone including the spear-headed crest of Slioch, which ultimately inspired its Gaelic name; Slioch, the Hill of Spears.



Apr | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30

APRIL – Eilean a' Mhuilidh

Reminiscent of the native Scots pine forests that once covered much of the Highlands and provided homes for wolves, lynx, elks and other species. Land clearances for farming and felling for timber have destroyed most of that habitat leaving fragmented pockets of forest, but a rewilding initiative aims to return this lost landscape to some of its ancient glory.



Aug | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31

AUGUST – Dumgoyne

The Campsie Fells are a range of gentle, rolling volcanic hills which include, coal, oil shale and limestone. Erosion has revealed geological evidence of around thirty lava flows dating back to the Carboniferous period over 300 million years ago, along what is now termed the Campsie Fault. There is a diverse scenery - a rich mixture of open moorland, woodlands and peaks.



Dec | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31

DECEMBER – Glascarnoch River

The Glascarnoch River follows the route of the old 'Fish Road' constructed between 1792 and 1797 to provide a land link for the newly established settlement of Ullapool to the "outside" world. Whether or not fish were transported along it is debatable - the name was possibly adopted simply because the road was paid for by the British Fisheries Society.