
NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



As I write there is just a suggestion in the air that better weather may be on the way. If this is the case, it may encourage us to use our energies to look out old photographs and artefacts which might be of interest to future generations and to allow the Society to borrow these for inclusion on our archive. Many of us

derive a great deal of pleasure from looking at the images of past generations; what they wore, what they did for leisure and recreation, what their houses and gardens looked like and so on. Those who come after us will doubtless be interested to see what life was like in the twentieth century and the early part of the twenty first century. Please get busy and help us to collect a record of our times and earlier if you are fortunate enough to have something on record.

Bothwell Public Library has recently been gifted a collection of books on local history. This material formerly in private hands is now available to all of us in the local history section of our library. Go along and have a look. The Librarians, as always, will point you in the right direction. Once again if you have anything of local interest in your home, please share it with us.

Our Speakers Programme for January to March this year saw members turning out in force to hear Revd. Peter Price give a lively talk on the Covenanters and our Honorary President, Professor Tom Devine give a stimulating and forceful address on the Scottish Diaspora. We look forward to continuing our highly successful speakers' evenings in the autumn.

Behind the scenes, the work of the Society is continuing. The World War One project is progressing with volunteers planning visits to military records in Edinburgh and Stirling as well as the usual computer searches nearer home.

Two committee members attended a seminar in April to mark the opening of the Scottish Oral History Centre at the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow. A more detailed article on this visit is included in the newsletter. We hope to continue our own oral history project and again we are looking for willing volunteers to be interviewed. It really is an interesting and enjoyable experience. Don't be shy about coming forward.

We are grateful to Marjorie Robertson and to Diana and Norman Richardson for their careful editing and detailed commentary on the "Bothwell Remembered" project. This will bring together in book form a pot pourri of material by various authors dealing with events and personalities in the story of the village.

The links with the schools are encouraging and I have been invited to visit St Bride's Primary, Bothwell Primary and Holy Cross High over the next few weeks. I look forward with pleasure to meeting staff and pupils at the schools.

Finally I would like to thank the committee for their enthusiasm and dedication, to the membership for their support and to Liz and Eric Denton for their excellent work on our website and on our newsletter.

As always we would welcome any suggestions you may have to further the work of your Society.

JACK GALLACHER

ORAL HISTORY RECORDING

Two of our committee attended a seminar on "*Oral History in the Community*" on Monday 29th April. The seminar was held in the Strathclyde University Curran Building. The Curran building has recently been completely refurbished and the Scottish Oral History Centre (SOHC) moved in to the new purpose built laboratories on the 6th floor. The facilities the SOHC has include workstations for teaching and post production of oral history, archive and special projects rooms, interview rooms for both audio and filmed interviews, editing/recording equipment and specialist software and hardware for all post production of interviews.

The seminar was most interesting with several speakers touching various aspects of the use to which they put oral history recordings. The speakers represented a wide range of areas including several Glasgow, Greenock, North Lanarkshire and Edinburgh museums, all with interesting stories of how they gather and use the recordings. One way several of the museums use their recordings is to give a spoken description of some of the slightly more obscure items they have been given or inherited. Some of these items could be specialist tools or equipment used only by limited trades or individuals and unknown to the museum staff. Unknown that is until one day someone visiting the museum recognises an item and is happy to record memories of how, where and when that item was used. That type of oral interview, played back to visitors on loudspeakers or headphones, can give a wonderful knowledge of a trade or profession from the voice of a person who actually used it in times past.

We in Bothwell Historical Society are doing our best to encourage you to become a voice to be recorded for posterity. You may well think that the things you remember are so commonly known that they are not worth recording. Wrong! At the seminar we heard some of the oral recordings made for museum use. The recordings were very varied in content with one in particular rather amusing, regarding the shift changeover in Ravenscraig Steelworks from "back shift" to "nightshift". More often than not the changeover took place in a local pub over a pint or two! Ravenscraig has now of course long gone, but

the main thing is that the memories remain and should be recorded. There are so many stories out there that have been heard by only a few people, but if presented to a wider listening audience, now and in years to come, those stories would give a great deal of listening pleasure to many.

The Historical Society has been inspired by the SOHC and will continue to gather oral recordings, but we would especially welcome our younger villagers becoming involved. Young people see the world in a completely different way from adults and they could present a fascinating new aspect to oral history recordings in what they see, think and do. If our young people would become the interviewers, their inquisitive minds would probably bring out questions for an older generation that may not cross the mind of an adult interviewer.

We do already have a collection of oral recordings in our archive, but we will always welcome more memories and stories before they are forgotten and lost in the mists of time.

Please get in touch with us to make a recording. Remember, you don't have to be a hundred years old or to have lived all your life in Bothwell. All of us have stories to tell and memories of days gone past and those days don't have to be from decades ago, every day creates memories and tales well worth remembering. Remember, the recording you make today will last for many many years and will be treasured by your family, your children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and friends to whom you may give a copy.



TWO HERALDIC MEMORIALS IN BOTHWELL PARISH CHURCH

At either side of the East Window in Bothwell Parish Church stand two magnificent heraldic memorials. To the untutored eye they appear to be the same but, in reality, they are not.

They are memorials to a father and son, placed there by a grieving widow and mother, the Dowager Countess of Forfar. She was Robina, the daughter of Lockhart of Lee, who died in Bothwell Castle in 1749.



North Side

KEY TO TINCTURES:

Argent	Silver (or white)
Or	Gold (or yellow)
Azure	Blue
Gules	Red
Sable	Black



South Side

The memorial on the North side (left when facing the window), bears the Arms of Archibald Douglas, Earl of Forfar and Lord Wandell & Hartsyde. He was born in May 1653 and created Earl of Forfar at the age of eight; he died in December 1712 aged 59. The shield bears the impaled (set side by side) Arms of Douglas and Lockhart. In the top half of the sinister side are the Arms of Douglas (*per fess Argent a man's heart Gules Imperially crowned Or, on a chief Azure three stars Argent*) (as seen on the sign outside the Douglas Arms Public House in the main street) below which are four quarters representing the Lordship of Galloway (*Azure a lion rampant Argent crowned Or*) (top left), the Lordship of Abernethy (*a lion rampant Gules debriused by a bendlet Sable*) (top right), Jedforest (*Argent, three piles in point Gules*) (bottom left) and Stewart of Bonkyl (*Or, a fess chequy Azure and Argent surmounted on a bend Sable charged with three buckles Or*) (bottom right). The dexter side are the Arms of Lockhart of Lee (*Argent a man's heart Gules within a fetter-lock Sable, on a chief Azure three boars' head couped Argent*).

The memorial on the South side bears the Arms of his son, Archibald Douglas, 2nd Earl of Forfar and Lord Wandell & Hartsyde, who died, aged 22 and unmarried, in December 1715 as a result of wounds received at the Battle of Sheriffmuir. The shield is identical to the sinister side of the memorial on the North side of the window. The tinctures (colours) in the Douglas and Jedforest Arms have become discoloured and should be Argent.

Both monuments have identical coronets, helmets, crests, supporters and mottoes as follows:-

EARL'S CORONET

PEERS HELMET

CREST: *a salamander in flames and spouting fire, all proper*

SUPPORTERS: **DEXTER;** *a savage wreathed about the loins and temples with laurel holding in his dexter hand a wooden club resting on his shoulder, all Proper and hanging round his neck a chain Or from which depends a man's heart Gules Imperially crowned Or.*

SINISTER: *A stag Proper attired with ten tynes, gorged with a collar Azure, charged with three stars Argent from which depends a man's heart Gules Imperially crowned Or.*

MOTTO: JAMAIS ARRIERE (Never back)

It may be of interest to note that the Arms in the four quarters also appear on the gates to the rear of the Cairn Lodge (Happendon) Service Area on the M74 20 miles south of Hamilton. These, along with the gatehouse, formed the main entrance to, the now demolished, Douglas Castle. Here the painter has, for some obscure reason, used pastel shades instead of the conventional colours!!

EDWARD J.H. MALLINSON

COMING TO BOTHWELL

Before getting married in 1966, I had lived all my life in Glasgow although my husband and his family were local to the Bothwell area. When first married we lived in Uddingston and a few years later came to live in Bothwell. Bothwell Village was unlike anything I had experienced in Glasgow.

At that time there was still a real village feel and it was possible to complete most of the weekly shopping on the Main Street.

There was a 'supermarket' at the corner of Old Mill Road and farther along the street an old fashioned fish shop with water running down the window to keep the fish cool. The ladies who served in the shop still wore the traditional long black aprons and wore clogs to keep their feet dry. Stuart Howat had a shop that sold flowers on one side and fruit and vegetables on the other, Darroch's fruit shop and newsagents were also on the Main Street. There were butchers shops, bakers shops and a 'scone' shop in the building that is now the China Cottage. The ladies there made tea and scones unlike anything I had tasted.

There were obviously many other shops but these are the ones I remember best.

Being a keen cook, my favourite shop was Minto House where almost anything that might be required, from rubber seals for pre-1939 Kilner jars to hardware, like rising-butt hinges and everything in between could be purchased or ordered. The proprietors were Aida and Bill Fotheringham and if the item required wasn't in stock the reply always was "*we'll get it on Tuesday*" and they did! Many of the culinary items were things I had never seen before and all were best quality.

I remember commenting to Aida that shopping on the Main Street was like going back twenty years. She was quite taken aback until I explained that it was because all the shopkeepers took time to chat and learn who you were. The atmosphere was relaxed and friendly.

I have nothing but fond memories of coming to live in Bothwell.

Liz Denton

nails pails dishes for snails
 mugs jugs and electric plugs
 eaters beaters paraffin heaters
 hocks crocks locks clocks
 mixers fixers catches latches
 brackets brace and braces ratchet
 riddles griddles pans and flans
 watering and jerricans
 hoses cosies food for roses
 glasses tassies bowls for posies
 glues screws barbecues
 ties dyes hooks and eyes
 horse for clothes
 trap for mouse
 you'll get them all at
 MINTO HOUSE



A BOTHWELL TRADITION:

It seems that writing poetry about local events and worthies has long been a Bothwell tradition. Older residents may remember one of the “classics” of the Second World War- “The Specials of Bothwell”. Here is an example of a poem by an anonymous author dating from the early 1800’s

The morn was wet, the thunder loud,
Yet without dread or care
From amnt quarters folk did crood
To Bothwell Holy Fair.

Some cam to hear the Word laid doon,
Some drink wi’ Meg or Askin.,
There’s goodly folk frae Holytoon,
And colliers frae the Faskin.

As for oor ancient Bothwell toon,
We’ve nae sauncts worth the namin’
Unless we put the old laird doon,
An oh he’s but a lame one.

The day did lower, and munny a shower,
Richt sare the sauncts were drookit,
But when at last the tent dismissed.
A’ hame in droves they flockit

The puir precentors drooth was great,
He’d sang out loud and shrill,
Thocht noo the time was come to trate
His lass wi tuns and yill

This poem and one other featured in the brochure of the June 1981 Bothwell Gala Week . Local traders were keen supporters of the Gala by advertising in the brochure. These included:

the Silvertrees Hotel, the Elizabethan Hotel, Da Luciano, Lindsey’s Fashions, Robert Cochrane Butchers, M.L. Brown the chemist, Stewart Howat’s Lanarkshire Flower Centre, Central Garage and Edgcumbe Instruments. The only surviving advertiser still on the Main Street today is Donald’s the butcher. The Gala Queen was Claire Marie Farrell of St Bride’s Primary school and her Champion was Wilson McKee of Bothwell Primary.

If this stirs any memories for you, please share them with us.

OOR CHANTIE

Or as they say in Lanarkshire, “*Wir chantie*”.

A regular feature of our meetings and exhibitions is the presentation of a long retired Victorian chamber pot now given a new lease of life as a means of raising funds for the society. The “pottie” is one of a pair of English Copeland pottery chamber pots.

To date, thanks to the generosity of members and friends, the “chantie” has raised approximately £300 for the Society’s funds- not a bad record for the oldest of our pensioner members. We are hopeful that the memories stimulated by him/her/it will encourage members to spend a penny (Inflation taken into account) to help finance the work of the Society



A KING'S PLEASURE PALACE

Looking at our astonishing mediaeval castle today it is not hard to visualise battles and sieges and knights in shining armour. It is harder to visualise Bothwell Castle as a Scottish seraglio yet it was here in Bothwell that James IV (1488-1513) kept his young mistress Janet Kennedy in some splendour. Here the king would escape from the affairs of state to have romantic assignations with the much younger Janet and create another chapter in the fascinating history of one of Scotland's most majestic castles.

On Sunday June 16th 2013 at 12.00pm until 4.00pm Historic Scotland will be presenting "Royal Pursuits". You are invited to "Enjoy the exclusive company of King James IV and his court for a day of royal revelry. Relive the spectacle of knights clashing in combat, see the ladies parade the fashions of the day and try your hand at archery."

Hs.events@scotlnad.gsi.gov.uk



Pictures from 2012 Event

ON VIEWING THE PIT PONIES

In the ring at Bothwell Castle Show, Wednesday 10th June 1914

O many a chain was cast aside on the tenth bright morn of June,
While the colliery drivers, filled with pride were humming a merry tune,
And many a pony fresh and fleet was drawn from the grim coal mines,
To dance in a meadow 'mid daisies sweet where the bright sun always shines'

We watched them go round at the Bothwell Show and we all were proud to find,
That the ponies wrought in the mines below are tended by masters kind.
Their conditions spoke of sufficient oats, their health of the ostler's care
While the gloss and glitter of silky coats prove the drivers groom them fair

Good luck to the ponies kept underground, good luck to the lads who drive,
And may more be found when next show comes round to tell how pit ponies thrive
For we who dwell in the old mining town, we who understand the toil,
Would guard every creature taken below to labour beneath the soil.

W.M Kilburn.

Poems were popular with newspaper and magazine readers at the beginning of the last century and poets were respected members of the community. William Murray Kilburn born in Alva spent most of his life in Bellsbill. As a child he had been blinded in an accident. His poems were published regularly in the "North East Lanark Gazette" and covered local and national events including the sinking of the "Titanic" and the First World War. He died in Bellsbill in 1942.

Bothwell Historical Society member Mae McClymont is presently collecting and editing her uncle's extensive collection of poems in conjunction with Motherwell Heritage Centre for publication next year,