

# NEWSLETTER

*Welcome to our first newsletter*



The idea of forming a local historical society was first put forward in May 2011 as part of the Village's Scarecrow Festival planned for September 2011. Bothwell has a long and fascinating history and it was felt that an historical society would be an appropriate body to prepare and mount an exhibition reflecting aspects of the village's heritage. This would give locals as well as visitors some idea of the range of past events and interesting personalities associated with Bothwell.

The first meeting to organise the society was held on May 5<sup>th</sup> and an interim committee was formed to prepare a constitution and to formulate the aims and objectives of the Society. Jack Gallacher was nominated as Chairman, George Maxwell, Vice Chairman, and Bill Gow as Secretary and Treasurer.

Other committee members were Eric Denton, Ian Beckett, John Hart and Brian Sharpe.



The society aims to be a local focal point for promoting an interest in the history of Scotland in general and of Bothwell in particular. Efforts will be made to record and catalogue artefacts, documents and photographs of Bothwell's past. How many times have all of us wished we had paid more attention to the reminiscences of an older generation? The society will seek to collect a record of the memories of an older Bothwell by interviewing villagers who are Bothwell born and bred or who have lived here for many years and witnessed significant changes. History is being made every day and the society will undertake a project to record Bothwell as it is at present. One day this may be of interest to those who come after us. The society will join with and support the work of other village groups in preserving the environment and in opposing inappropriate development locally. Efforts will be made to encourage our young people to take an interest in the work of the society. We would hope to co-operate with local head teachers to prepare material for the classroom following the guidelines laid down in the Government's Curriculum for Excellence Programme. Finally a winter programme of speakers on topics of local interest has been prepared. In all of this ambitious programme the Society will need the support and the good will of the people of Bothwell.

## OUR HONORARY PRESIDENT.

Professor TM Devine OBE, DLitt, FRSE, HonMRIA FBA Senior Research Professor of History, Director of the Scottish Centre for Diaspora Studies at the School of History, Classics and Archaeology of Edinburgh University has kindly agreed to be the Honorary President of Bothwell Historical Society. Professor Devine, a Lanarkshire man, is one of the country's foremost historians and the author of many definitive books on Scottish history. We are greatly honoured and encouraged by having his support.



## HOW TO SUPPORT THE BOTHWELL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**PLEASE JOIN.** Application forms are available in Bothwell Library or from committee members. Family membership is £10 per annum.

**SCOUR YOUR ATTICS** or other storage spaces for materials, photographs or artefacts which the society will record for future generations

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS** do not have the monopoly of ideas. Send us your suggestions

**ENCOURAGE** your children, grandchildren or even great grand children to take an interest in their heritage.

**SUPPORT** our programme of talks.

## OUR WINTER PROGRAMME OF SPEAKERS.

*All talks will be held at 7:30pm in the Community Centre, Fallside Road, Bothwell.*

**Wednesday 16th November 2011**

**Jack Gallacher**, "Where a River Bends". Stories from Bothwell's fascinating past.

**Wednesday 15th February 2012**

**Bill Gow**, "Development of Bothwell's water and sewerage services".

**Wednesday 14th March 2012**

**George Maxwell**, "Blantyre Pit Explosion".

## THE HISTORIC BOTHWELL EXHIBITION DURING THE SCARECROW FESTIVAL

As part of the first Bothwell Scarecrow Festival, Bothwell Historical Society's first major project was to mount an exhibition of material relating to the story of the village. It was held in the Community Hall on the 9th, 10th and 11th of September and was formally opened by Luke Palmer of Bothwell Primary School and Olivia Vareille of St Bride's Primary School. The children were then each presented, by the Chairman, with a book on Scottish history for their school libraries. After a great deal of research and effort by committee members, several large posters (A0) and several A1 sized maps were displayed as part of the exhibition. This material, particularly the maps, generated a great deal of interest on the part of the visitors



many of whom felt that the exhibits should not be locked away after the display closed. This suggestion has now been addressed and some of the posters have been mounted by Eric Denton in Bothwell Library and are on view to the public. Consideration is being given to making the posters and maps available in the form of a DVD a CD or even small paper copies.

The Custodian at Bothwell Castle generously provided models of siege engines, guns and other weaponry from the castle's collections for the exhibition. These proved to be of great interest to visiting children. Staff from the Low Parks Museum mounted a display of washday materials from former times that were nevertheless familiar to many of the older generation.

Visitor numbers to the exhibition exceeded all expectations, a clear indication that the people of Bothwell are interested in their community's fascinating one thousand five hundred year old history.

The exhibition was one of the success stories of the magnificent community effort that was the Bothwell Scarecrow Festival of 2011.



### THE CONTRIBUTION FROM MINTO HOUSE

The items on display were supplied from stock left over when the ironmonger shop closed some years ago. Our thanks go to Susan Fotheringham for the loan of those articles.



The Committee would like to encourage members to undertake research into all aspects of Bothwell's heritage. This could be done individually or as part of a group. There will be no time limits on the studies but members are asked to let the committee know what they are tackling so that the work is not duplicated. It is intended that the Society will publish an occasional journal to record the work of the members.

The following are suggested topics that members may wish to investigate. Help and assistance will be available if necessary.

- People:** Do you know any local worthy? Or any person of interest who lived or worked in Bothwell? Their biography could be as short as a couple of paragraphs or pages long.
- Buildings:** Why not pick a building in Bothwell and research the history of it. It could be a house or a building on the Main Street.
- Businesses:** Hotels (Cricklewood, Silvertrees, Bothwell Bridge) shops, Belmos etc.
- Railway/Tram:** There is a rich vein of research, investigating the two railway stations in Bothwell and the tramway.
- Gas/electricity:** When was gas and electricity first introduced into Bothwell and where did the supply come from?
- Clubs & Societies:** The history of Bothwell organisations should be recorded. There are already books written about the Golf Club and the Horticultural Society but there are numerous others such as the BB, Scouts, Guides, Floral Society, WRVS and the Literary Society.
- War:** How did the war affect the people of Bothwell? And do you have any diaries of those who fought in the war.
- Development :** What was the timeline for the various housing developments in Bothwell.
- Governance:** How did local government operate in Bothwell through the years.
- Schools:** Possibly one for the school children.
- Hospital:** Kirklands Hospital

### CONTACT US

If you want to get in touch or have any suggestions about the above projects or anything else, please e-mail [bothwellhs@gmail.com](mailto:bothwellhs@gmail.com) or telephone the Chairman on 01698 852324