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# NEWSLETTER

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## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



Even although Spring is a time for renewal and looking forward, I would like to take an opportunity to look back at one of our major projects for last year, Bothwell 2012. Back in 2011, it was decided to photograph every street in Bothwell as it appeared in 2012. The main beneficiaries of this would be future generations who would have access to an archive containing pictures, not only of the historic buildings and streets but of the highways and byways where most of us live and which we tend to take for granted.

With this in mind, an army of volunteers armed with cameras could be seen in the course of the year all over our community taking pictures. Bothwell has 166 streets and every one of these was recorded in 1,600 pictures: a tremendous achievement. In addition the River, Nature Trail and other prominent features around the village were photographed, resulting in a total of 1627 photographs. These photographs are now archived for future generations to see what Bothwell was like in 2012.

In another part of this newsletter, Nicol Rennie has given us a perspective of the project from the point of view of one of the photographer/volunteers and on behalf of the Historical Society I would like to express our appreciation to everyone who took part namely;

George Waterston, Eric Denton, Nicol Rennie, Matt Reid, John Seaton, Ian McKellar, Ken Hamilton, John Hart, Stewart Logan, Dennis Walker, Harry Marsh, Bill Jack, Iain Inglis, Ian Beckett and Bill Gow.

Our major exercise for 2013 will be to research the stories of the 71 men who fought and died in World War 1 and whose names are on the village War Memorial. A group of volunteers is already working on the preliminaries for this project but we need as much help from members as possible. If you would care to join the voluntary group please contact either myself at 852324 or Bill Gow on 858505.

We have been making extensive enquiries to trace any living descendants or relatives of those who died in the war. So far we have had a response from three families. There must be more out there somewhere in Bothwell and Lanarkshire. Please get in touch with us if you have any information.

Attendances at our speakers' meetings have been encouraging and we have recruited new members. Our Honorary President Tom Devine will give a talk on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March in the Community Hall, Fallside Road at 7.30. His talk will be "*The Global Migrations of the Scottish People from Medieval Times to the Present.*"

As always we are on the lookout for new members, for old photographs and documents that we can copy for the archive and for suggestions on how we might progress the work of the Society. My thanks to everyone who has contributed to the success of Bothwell Historical Society.



## Photographic Village Record

I can now sympathise with the postman. Taking the photographs was the easy part but trying to confirm the exact house number and name proved rather trickier. It is astonishing how many properties have no number displayed (my own included) and when you consult the various available lists chronologically numbering is theory only. Gaps in numbers appear for no apparent reason and the number 13 is omitted from many.

Taking the photographic record over a few months brings home to you how important it will be in the future as even over this short period changes have taken place. Extensions added, frontages altered and roads updated all contribute to an ever changing landscape.

The reaction of householders to having a photograph taken of their property, ranged from total indifference to enthusiastic support and resulted in many pavement discussions taking place on the village as a whole or the history of a particular property.

### *NICOL RENNIE*

*Nicol Rennie, former Captain of Bothwell Castle Golf Club and long time village resident is keen that old photographs of Bothwell houses and streets, presently held in private collections in the village could be made available to the Historic Society to make copies to allow comparisons to be made with properties as they are now.*

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## My House by Nicola Fordyce

My house is called Whitehall and is over 150 years old. It was built in 1860. I don't know the name of the architect who designed it or the name of the building company who built it but it is one of the oldest houses in Bothwell. It is made of sandstone and is on the main road which runs between Bothwell and Uddingston.

An interesting fact about my house is that Cosmo Lang who became Archbishop of Canterbury in 1928 used to visit it. It belonged to his gran, Anna Lang. He loved to come to Bothwell and wrote lots of letters to his grandmother. These are now stored in the library of Lambeth Palace which is the official residence of the Archbishop of Canterbury. He christened the Queen and crowned her parents King George VI and Queen Elizabeth.

Sometimes at night when I hear cars go by on the road outside our house I think about long ago when there were tramcars and old fashioned motorcars on the main road and a famous man used to stay here.



Twelve year old Nicola Fordyce lives with her parents and brothers in "Whitehall" in Uddingston Road, Bothwell. This is a house with an interesting historic background. Bothwell has many houses which must have a story to tell. Does yours? The Historical Society would be interested to hear from you if you live in a house with an interesting past.

## Dastardly Shooting in Bothwell

Shortly before two o'clock on a cold October night in 1920, police constables McKay and Gray were on patrol in Bothwell. As they walked down Langside Road they saw about twenty men loitering on the opposite side of the road from the Army Drill Hall which was located half way down Langside Road. As they approached the men constable Gray called out "What are you doing here tonight, boys?" The response to this innocuous query was for several of the men to draw revolvers and to command the constables to put their hand up. However constables McKay and Gray were not to be outdone. They drew their batons and faced the hostile mob some had bayonets and other similar weapons. Shots were fired hitting constable McKay in the arm while another bullet grazed his side. As he lay wounded on the ground one of the men stood over him and fired at point blank range. Later constable McKay was to remark "he wasn't a very good shot and missed me!" Not content with having shot the policeman, one of the men then kicked him savagely in the side as he lay on the road. The assailants then moved off, apparently assuming they had killed constable McKay.

Constable Gray, left to face the mob alone, realised the hopelessness of his situation and went to get assistance. He was chased by the assailants across adjoining fields until he lost them in the dark.

Meanwhile constable McKay with a great effort struggled up Langside Road to the home of Mr Mitchell, a dairy keeper. His daughter, Miss Mitchell who had been awakened by the commotion, helped the wounded constable McKay into the house. The family rendered first aid and summonsed Dr. Denness who arranged for the constable to be taken by ambulance wagon to the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow.

It appeared that the gang were members of Sinn Fein and that they had designs on the armoury in the Drill Hall. The ringleaders, Patrick Martin, James Rodgers, Patrick Moan, Charles McGinn, William Docherty, Robert McErlane and Patrick Clark were caught and charged with mobbing, rioting and attempted murder at Langlands Road and Laighlands Road, Bothwell. They were brought to trial on the 7<sup>th</sup> February 1921 at the High Court, Glasgow. The first four were found guilty and were sentenced to penal servitude of 8 to 10 years. In the case of the last three men, the jury returned a verdict of not proven.

As for constable McKay, he recovered from his wounds and returned to live with his wife and 12 year old daughter at Hawthorn Bank, Uddingston. Commenting on the affair a colleague of constable McKay remarked "*He was the last man to have held up his hands to anybody!*"



Elmwood Manor Lodge  
Blantyre Mill Road

## World-wide Viewing of our Website

We get lots of information from our web host server (Forth Hosting) showing how many visitors have looked at our website. We receive graphs and the numbers to go with them that sometimes can be difficult to interpret. There is no point in reproducing all the graphs here (that would take up a couple of pages anyway) but we can reduce the numbers to allow an appreciation of the popularity of the site. Remembering that the site went live in June 2012, we seem to have done rather well so far.

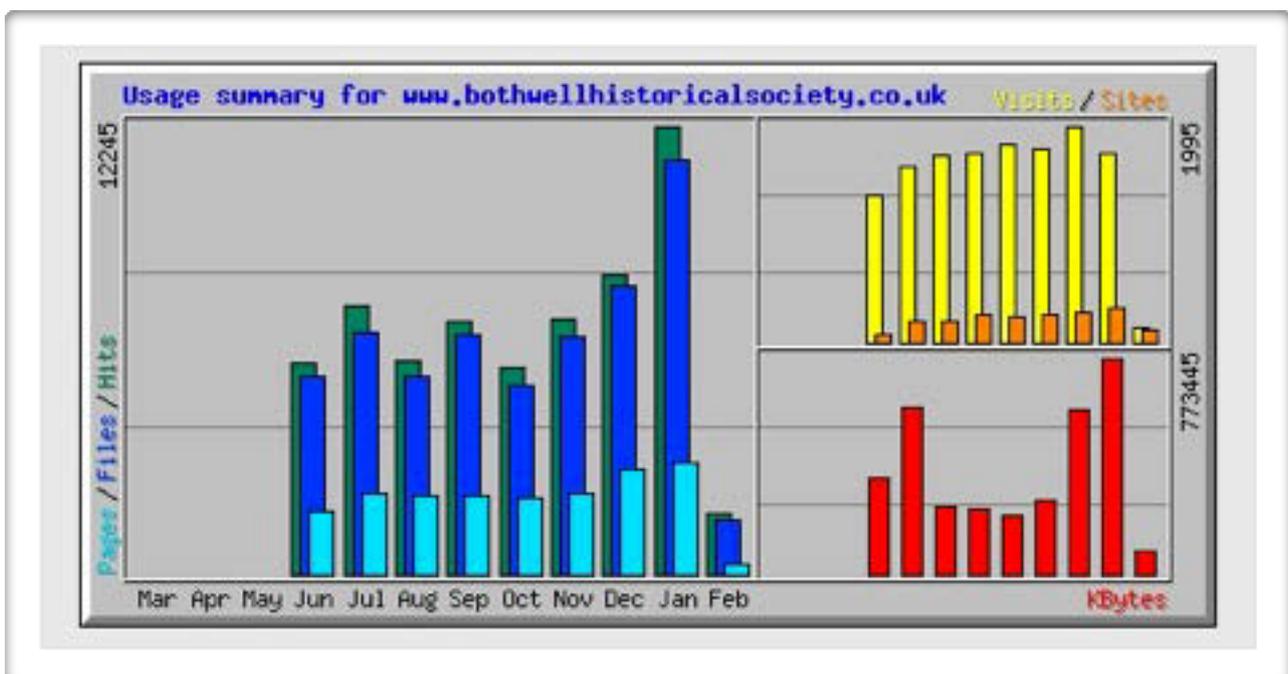
We have had visits from United States, New Zealand, Germany, Argentina, the Netherlands and the Russian Federation to mention only some. The visitors from *dot com sites* are a bit difficult to quantify from the graphs etc as they might be commercial companies throwing a wide net and including some words that could unintentionally lead them to us. These *hits* are possibly from the United States but equally they could be from anywhere in the world.

Some of the terms used in the statistics include *hits*, *files*, *visits* and *pages*. These terms have to be looked at carefully as they may not convey their apparent meanings. An example of this is the difference between *hits* and *visits*. We had thought that these terms meant the same thing, but no. *Hits* represents the total number of requests made to the server whereas *visits* represents the request for a page from our site for the first time, i.e. a new visitor. For example, in January 2013 we had almost 13,000 *hits* but 2,000 were first time *visits*.

*Files* represents the total number of requests that result in something being sent back to the visitor. In January 2013 we had 11,500 *files* downloaded.

The statistics show that the site traffic has almost doubled since it went live in June 2012.

If all this seems a bit confusing, don't lose any sleep over it we are all in the same boat. The "bottom line" as they say is that for a young society and an even younger website we have been looked at world-wide.



*This graph was created on February 3rd, so it looks as if we are heading for another good month.*

## Dux Medals 1904 and 1954

Recently whilst conducting an oral history recording with one of our now retired Local Councillors, Mr John Ormiston, an interesting point came up. He has been researching his family ancestry and discovered that in 1904 a member of his family had won the Dux Medal at Bothwell Primary School. He has the actual medal in his possession and a most impressive one it is too. It has a solid silver centre in an ornate mounting and a silver clasp pin for displaying it on clothing. The centre is engraved on the front with the winner's name and the name of the person who presented it and on the reverse with the name of the school and the date of 1904. The centre of the medal is approximately 40mm in diameter and overall is about 50mm diameter. A wonderful object to have as a family heirloom.



By contrast we have in our collection a Dux Medal from Tannochside Primary School dated 1954 that does not compare all that well with the older one. It would seem that 50 years later the School Boards had economised a bit. The later medal is also silver but only 25mm wide by 30mm tall and much thinner and lighter. It did not have a mounting clasp but a piece of blue ribbon for hanging it round the neck.



The building that was Bothwell Primary School still stands but has been converted to flatted accommodation. Tannochside Primary School has now been demolished and replaced by a new building.