
NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS



As we settle in to 2015, I'm happy to report that Bothwell Historical Society is in good heart. Membership numbers are stable and attendances at Speakers' Meetings are very encouraging. Already we have our programme of

speakers for 2015/16 in place and details will be given to members in due course. Our website has had an astonishing range of "hits" from across the globe. Liz Denton continues to update the site so you should be encouraged to check it out regularly.

Our schools liaison programme is in good shape and we look forward to continuing cooperation with teachers and pupils during 2015. Committee members have been outreaching the society's work by speaking to community groups. We have

also been dealing with questions about local history sent to us by people both locally and from farther afield.

Thanks to our intrepid secretary, Bill Gow, and following the sell out of "Lest we Forget", we have another book project underway. The proposed book, as yet untitled, will cover many aspects of the village's past and will have contributions from across our community. We have been encouraged in this project by our Honorary President Professor Sir Tom Devine. Your help and support however, in providing us with any photographs of family and local interest for inclusion in the book would be greatly appreciated. These will be returned to you after being copied. Please get your albums out and have a search.

As always I would like to thank the office bearers, the committee members, Mrs Liz Denton and the membership for contributing to the success of Bothwell Historical Society I look forward with confidence to another year of history.

Jack Gallacher

THE BOTHWELL VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

The Bothwell Village Association was formed in 1971 with the inauguration of the 'Main Street Improvement Committee' which led the following year to conservation status for part of the Village. The Association was disbanded in 1988 and is fondly remembered for its organisation of the nostalgic Gala Days.

Anne Waterston was latterly the Secretary of the Village Association and she has donated to the

Historical Society a file of papers, newspaper cuttings etc. relating to the BVA. It is a treasure trove of information about the village and has been placed in the Historical Society's archive.

The archive is a repository of papers and memorabilia about Bothwell and is held in a filing cabinet at the library. If members wish to access this material please get in touch with a committee member.

OUT AND ABOUT

The Society is often called upon to give talks to local community groups on various aspects of the history of the village. At the beginning of February, two committee members, Brian Sharp and Bill Gow were invited to give a talk to the Parish Church Guild on *"The Fighting Men of Bothwell."* Brian talked about Christian attitudes to the Great War and the memorials that were erected at the end of the war. Bill then recounted some of the stories about the men of Bothwell who died in the conflict. The evening's talks were very well received.

Next month our Vice Chairman and mining expert, Professor George Maxwell, will give a talk to members of the Tuesday Club on mining in the Bothwell area. It is hoped that children from St Bride's primary 6 who recently had a trip to the National Mining Museum at Newtongrange in Mid Lothian will be present to sing a song which they composed for their visit to the museum.

Cameron Graham, a first year pupil in Uddingston Grammar, was given the task of finding out the oldest gravestone in the Parish Church Kirkyard.

How on earth could anyone be expected to find one grave marker in the maze of mortality that is the churchyard? To the rescue came Committee member and Parish Church Historian, John Hart. By removing a considerable amount of botanical detritus, John was able to reveal the gravestone of 1612, although sadly time has eroded the name of the person buried there. Cameron was able to report the information back to his teacher.

As we go to print, we are attempting to answer a question posed by a lady keen to know of the family who occupied Bothwell House in the early to mid nineteenth century. She thinks her great grandmother may have been a scullery maid in the aristocratic mansion. Her enquiry also included a reference to 18th century Bothwellpark House, still one of the architectural gems of the village.

The society will continue to make a big effort to record and preserve as much as we can of the village's heritage and any information members may have to help us in our efforts will be gratefully received.

THE CASTLE COLLIERY



An early stage in the reconstruction of the coal hutch

The Castle Colliery commenced operations in Bothwell in 1878. By the time of its closure in 1953 about 200 men were working there. In the pit, coal hutches, running on rails, were used to transport the coal from the face to the bottom of the shaft.

To mark the heritage of coal mining in the village, Brighter Bothwell obtained from the Summerlee Industrial Museum a set of bogie wheels. With the assistance of the Historical Society the wheels have been used to reconstruct a representation of a coal hutch. It has been built and is presently on display at Bothwell Community Garden. It is intended to make application to South Lanarkshire Council to site it in front of the Community Hall in Fallside Road.

SCOTLAND AND THE SALE OF SLAVES



The October meeting of the new session heard our Honorary President, Professor Sir Tom Devine, articulate on a theme of late 18th and early 19th

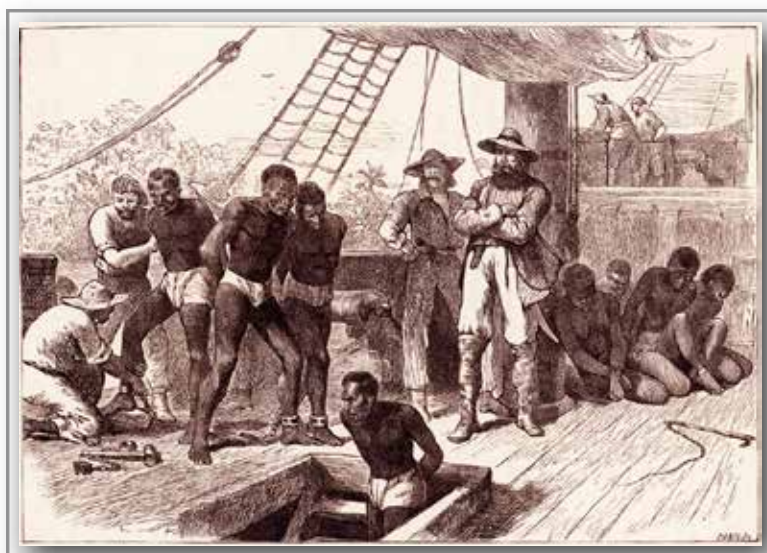
Century significance. This was the selling of African slaves to the Eastern States of America and to our Caribbean colonies for use as workers on the cotton, tobacco and sugar plantations.

Sir Tom has made a lifetime study of this period as far as it refers to trading by sea from Glasgow, Liverpool and Bristol to markets in the New

World. In particular he has researched the role of the Glasgow merchants in the trade with the American colonies and the Caribbean Islands. He reminded us that the merchants had in a typically Presbyterian attitude (my view not his) proclaimed that their hands were clean of the trade of buying Africans and sailing them across the Atlantic to be sold as slaves. The merchants laid the blame for this particular trade on the merchants of Liverpool and Bristol. Through his library research, Sir Tom has proved that although their ships played no part in the transport of slaves, the Glasgow merchants were fully committed to financing the trade.

He then went on to describe the strange way the Scottish public has accepted the merchants' attitude up until the present day.

Finally, the meeting was impressed that Sir Tom delivered this lecture without once referring to any notes.



Courtesy of Mary Evans Picture Library

LANARKSHIRE'S 'THIN BLUE LINE'

On Tuesday 25th November 2014, Bothwell Historical Society (BHS) hosted the second "Talk" in our programme for 2014/15. We welcomed Mr George Barnsley of the Lanarkshire Police Historical Society (LPHS), who gave us a very informative account of the history of policing in Lanarkshire.

The LPHS aims to preserve and promote the history of policing in Lanarkshire, including:

Airdrie Burgh Police 1822 – 1967

Coatbridge Burgh Police 1886 - 1967

Hamilton Burgh Police 1855 – 1949 and 1958 – 1967

Motherwell and Wishaw Burgh Police 1930 – 1967

Lanarkshire Constabulary 1857 – 1975

Strathclyde Police 1975 – 2013

Police Scotland (Lanarkshire Division) 2013 onwards

He told us that on 16th August 1967, the former Burgh Police Forces of Airdrie, Coatbridge, Hamilton, Motherwell and Wishaw were amalgamated to form a new larger Lanarkshire Constabulary. This new constabulary remained in that format until May 1975, when it became a part of the new Strathclyde Police, with three Lanarkshire Divisions. In April 2013, Strathclyde Police ceased to exist and became a part of "Police Scotland", the new national police force. George then brought his narrative up to date, by explaining that once again Lanarkshire had become a single police command known as Lanarkshire Division, in effect covering the same geographical area as Lanarkshire Constabulary in 1975.

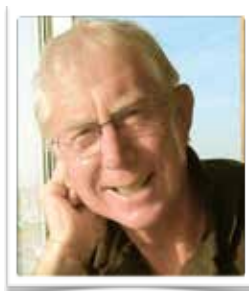
He went on to describe items of police memorabilia and equipment that he had brought along with him, such as decorated batons, insignia, badges, handcuffs and other artefacts. He is hopeful that items of memorabilia can be collected and ultimately be part of a permanent display somewhere central in the Lanarkshire area. He rounded off his talk with some fascinating information relating to several noteworthy Lanarkshire police cases, some of them with Bothwell connections, (e.g. the astonishing "I.R.A. arms raid"). George concluded his talk by affirming that LPHS aims to act as a focal point and network for all who are interested in the history of policing in Lanarkshire.

They wish to encourage the preservation of archives and artefacts, and promote their accessibility to the general public.

BHS wishes George and his colleagues every success in their endeavours.



THE DEVELOPMENT OF BOTHWELL 1800-1914



The Society's January talk was well attended despite the wintry conditions. Ian McKellar spoke about "*The Development of Bothwell 1800-1914*." He described the numerous sources which he researched including the back numbers of the Hamilton Advertiser,

census returns, nineteenth century post office directories and old maps. During the course of his research he uncovered the fact the 1892 book "Bothwell Antiquities" was not written by the Rev John Pagan as everyone had assumed but in fact was written by his son. Ian's fascination with gravestone

inscriptions also proved a valuable source of information. His talk continued with a description of the development of Bothwell from the time the village consisted of two streets, Main Street and

Green Street up to the development of the Victorian villas and the Miners Rows. The talk was well illustrated and Ian's enthusiasm for his subject was clearly evident.



DISTILLING IN LANARKSHIRE



The talk to the Society on the 24th February was by Bob Boyle one of our members. Bob is retired now but spent a lifetime in the distilling business. His talk was about the history of distilling in Lanarkshire. Bob took us from the distant days of the illicit

stills up to the present production based industry. He described each of the Lanarkshire Distilleries shown in the accompanying table although on some of them there was very little record.

Bob then told the story of how Harry Publicker, a Ukranian immigrant to the USA set up Publicker Ward

Distilling Co in 1913 which became one of America's largest distilling companies. In 1965 Publicker set up Inverhouse Distillery on the site of the old Moffat Paper Mill on the outskirts of Airdrie. It was named Inverhouse after the home at Radnor, US of the then company president. However failing profits and Publicker family feuding led in 1979 to Inverhouse Distillery being acquired by Standard Brands. Nine years later the distillery was the subject of a management buy-out. It was then sold in 2001 to Thai Beverages, one of the largest alcohol beverage companies in south east Asia.

There were over fifty who attended Bob's talk and it was well received by the audience. Our thanks to Bob for his talk and to those attending who contributed £65 to the Society's funds.

Lowland Malts

Tobermore	Airdrie	1793-1852	Caldercruix	Caldercruix	1827-1837
Airdry	Airdrie	1795-130s	Glendown	Lanarkshire	1827-1831
Boggs	Lanarkshire	1795-1830s	Bishop Bridge	Cadder	1830-1835
Hamilton	Hamilton	1795-1830	Glen Flager	Airdrie	1965-1985
Kirkfieldbank	Lanark	1821-1937	Killy Loch	Airdrie	1965-1985
Wilsontown	Carnwath	1825-1834	Isle Brae	Airdrie	1965-1985
Clydesdale	Wishaw	1825-1919	<i>Grain</i>		
East Monkland	Airdrie	1825-1830	Gartloch	Chryston	1831-1921
Avonglen	Larkhall	1827-1830	Garnheath	Airdrie	1965-1985

The 100th anniversary of the start of World War I generated a great deal of response from all areas of the community. Class 6 in St Bride's Primary School, Bothwell created an extensive and exciting project on the war. The Chairman of the Historical Society, Jack Gallacher, was invited by the class teacher to visit the school to see the pupils' efforts and to talk to the young people about the war. Such was the enthusiasm and the energy of the children that a visit scheduled to last 30 minutes went on for over an hour and a half. It was encouraging to know that an interest in both national and local history is being stimulated in our local schools and that future members of the Historical Society are enthusiastically waiting in the wings.



At the Festive Season, the Chairman again visited St Bride's to see the junior classes perform a nativity play which was greatly enjoyed by everyone present. Together with committee member, Eric Denton, the Chairman also accepted an invitation to attend a performance of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" by the senior pupils of St Bride's. The play was a sell out and was very well received by everyone in the hall. Following the performance, Jack Gallacher presented a certificate of Honorary Membership of Bothwell Historical Society to St Bride's Primary School.

We are grateful to Mrs Pacitti, Head Teacher of St Bride's and her staff for the warmth of their welcome and for their support for the work of the Society.

The Chairman and Eric Denton visited Bothwell Primary School to meet Mrs Paula Ross, the new Head Teacher. Mrs Ross extended a warm welcome to our representatives and indicated that she looked forward to the society being involved in history projects in the school.

HISTORY IS BEING MADE

History is being made today. Below are sample photos of the construction of the M74 motorway in the 1960's. One is a view of Maryville junction and the other is of the Raith interchange. The motorway is once again being worked on, this time to upgrade and improve the traffic flow at critical junctions. These photos show a snapshot of times past and are archive material for future generations to see how our main road systems have developed over time.

Have you thought about photographing the present roadworks? Any photos you do take will be, just as these ones are, valuable reference for the future. Have a think about it and make a determined effort to record the work at present under way on our doorstep. The Historical Society will be more than happy to store copies of your photos. Contact us if you can help with our archive system.

Maryville Junction



Raith Interchange



BOTHWELL AND WILLIAM BAIRD & CO.

The lands immediately surrounding Bothwell sit above one of the deepest parts of the Lanarkshire coalfield. The exploitation of this part came late in the 19th Century because of the excessive cost of sinking shafts. The William Baird Company, a major iron producer with sixteen blast furnaces at Gartsherrie north of Coatbridge, took the risk of investing this financial capital.

The Bothwell Park Colliery sinking was begun in 1873, Craighead Colliery in 1874 and Bothwell Castle Colliery in 1877. Each colliery had two rectangular, wood lined shafts more than 1000 feet deep. The shafts were completed in two years except for the two at Craighead. Excessive water was produced by the strata in the upper part of the Craighead shafts adding a year to their completion.

The landlord owned the coal seams. The major landlord for Bothwell Park was the Duke of Hamilton, for Bothwell Castle it was the Earl and Countess of Home and for Craighead was George Alston the owner of Craighead House and its estate. These landlords and a few minor landlords leased, ie rented, their coal seams to William Baird & Co.

In Scotland, these rents were about one eighth of the pithead value of the coal extracted. Unlike a building or a surface property, the colliery property, ie the coal seam, would be destroyed and would never be returned to the landowner at the end of the lease. This rent was known as a royalty.

Although the local coalfield contained four thick seams and six thinner seams, only one was a blast furnace coal. Such a coal required to be hard and tough and so able to stand up to the weight of the surrounding iron ore and limestone inside the furnace providing a permeable, glowing mass without choking the draught. It was known as the Splint Coal. It was extracted by the miners in large blocks without much dross. It was the deepest of the four thick seams. All six shafts were sunk to this seam.

The Splint coal was underlaid by a softer coal, so close that the two seams became as one forming a working seven feet high. The under seam was worked first before the morning piece break and the Splint seam afterwards. In this way the two coals were brought to the surface separately.

The furnaces at Gartsherrie produced about 3,500 tons of pig iron per week consuming 8,000 tons of Splint Coal and further 1,500 tons of normal coal to heat the blast air. The three collieries would also be expected to produce domestic and industrial coals and export coal.

The coals had to get to the iron works and to markets at Glasgow and throughout Lanarkshire. Fortunately in 1878, the Glasgow, Bothwell, Hamilton and Coatbridge Railway Company opened a double-tracked railway for both freight and passengers from Shettleston to Hamilton. James Baird, a director of the Coatbridge iron company, was a leading promoter of the line and had won the right to build a railway into the Clyde Valley against the wishes of the rival Caledonian Railway Company. This took the form of a branch line starting at Shettleston, on the North British Railway's Glasgow to Edinburgh via Bathgate connection, then across country to Mount Vernon, Calderpark, Uddingston, Bothwell and terminating at Hamilton. Mineral loops were put into both Bothwell Castle and Craighead collieries. In addition a branch was laid from a junction near Bellshill to Whifflet and the Gartsherrie Works with a loop into the Bothwell Park Colliery.

All that remained to do was to attract a workforce. Houses would need to be provided for rent. Each colliery had its mining hamlet built by the Baird Company. Thus Bothwell Park had its miners' rows across from Bothwell Park Cemetery, Bothwell Castle at top of the Fallside Road and Craighead at the Blantyre end of the Whistleberry Road. Unfortunately the development of these three collieries coincided with the zenith of the Scottish pig iron production, which was followed over the next twenty years by the decline of this industry. But that is another story.

George Maxwell

