

# NEWSLETTER



*At last our website is up and running!!*  
[www.bothwellhistoricalsociety.co.uk](http://www.bothwellhistoricalsociety.co.uk)

Please give us feedback and let us know what information you would like to see on the site. For example, more photographs, general information, short histories etc. Some ideas please. Contact us by e-mail [bothwellhs@gmail.com](mailto:bothwellhs@gmail.com) or contact our chairman Jack Gallacher (01698 852324) or our secretary, Bill Gow (01698 858505). The projects page contains a few short audio clips taken from some of our Oral History recordings and the picture gallery has, as its background, a lovely piece of

music composed and performed by one of our local posties, Michael Mc Gowan and his friend Douglas Robertson.

**Bothwell Tasmania** We have made contact with our namesake organisation in Tasmania and have exchanged tourism leaflets. We have also sent copies of our newsletters and intend to keep in touch with “down under”. We have contact details for Gwen Hardstaff and Mary Ramsay of the Historical Society and Kathy Bradburn of Central Highlands Council (Tasmania) who sent a pdf copy of their “Let’s Browse Bothwell” leaflet, a copy of which is now in our library. Interestingly their town also sits on a river named “Clyde River”!

## CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS



We in Bothwell Historical Society look forward with anticipation to our second year. While much has been achieved in 2011/12 we are neither complacent nor self satisfied. Frequently we ask our members for feedback on what has been done and for suggestions for future programmes and we are grateful for the response we have received. It is to be hoped that all our members will not only renew their subscriptions but also encourage others to join. Members will be advised by Bill Gow, our Secretary/Treasurer on the arrangements for renewal.

Plans are well ahead for our exhibition during the Scarecrow Festival in September. The 2012 Photography project is under way and some of the material will be on display in the Community Hall in September, together with the fascinating recorded reminiscences of Bothwell people of the older generation. The young people of the

village schools have been playing their part too and details of this are recorded elsewhere in this newsletter

Our programme of speakers has been drawn up including a talk by our Honorary President, Professor Tom Devine.

Our website has been launched to critical acclaim, proving that although we are an historical society, we are still up to date with information technology and modern methods of communication.

As always, we continue to be grateful for the support of the community of Bothwell and beyond. Please send us comments, criticisms, suggestions and possibly the occasional accolade if you feel it is deserved. We need your feedback to progress the work of the society.

## Oral Interviews

We now have 9 voices recorded with a possible 5 more to follow soon. From these recordings a selection of short stories is being extracted to make what we hope will be interesting and sometimes amusing listening at the September exhibition. Audio playback equipment has been organised including 4 sets of lightweight headphones. The recordings will be available at two stations with two headphone sets each. This will allow visitors to listen in pairs. The recordings are being duplicated on to CDs and the playback units will be set to continuously repeat of the entire CD.

We encourage anyone who would like to take part in an oral history recording to contact any member of the committee to make an arrangement for one to be done. Recordings are made in the person's own home to ensure as relaxed a time as possible.

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## Photo Bothwell

The Society's project to photograph all the streets and prominent buildings and features of Bothwell is now well underway. Sixteen volunteers have been given an area of Bothwell to photograph and 5 have already completed their task. Some have been waiting for the sunny days of summer in order to get the best shots, but unfortunately these days haven't been too numerous.

When completed the photographs will be archived for future generations to see what Bothwell was like in 2012



Silverwells Crescent

## The Schools Project

As a community Bothwell is singularly fortunate in having two first class primary schools, St Bride's and Bothwell Primary. Both Head Teachers, Mrs Denise Pacitti at St Bride's Primary and Miss Mhoraig Gwynn-Davies of Bothwell Primary have been very encouraging and supportive in our efforts as an Historical Society to involve young people in our work. Indeed, encouraging our young people to be aware of their heritage and to appreciate our modern community are both central to the aims and objectives of the society.

As luck would have it, Primary 6 in Bothwell Primary with their teacher Mrs Tracy McHenry were already doing a project on Bothwell which included amongst other things researching some aspect of Bothwell's history or studying a local building of historic importance. To bring the story up to date, some significant modern institutions such as "The Chapterhouse" and "Humble Pie" were felt worthy of mention in several of the 32 projects and why not !



All the work was of a high standard and when the Chairman visited the school he was singularly impressed by the enthusiasm of the young people for the project and by their pride in their community. He asked the teacher and her pupils if the Historical Society could use their work as part of our September exhibition and this was agreed. Visitors to the exhibition will have a treat in store.

Meanwhile down in Ailsa Drive, St Bride's pupils were developing a project on the Battle of Bothwell Bridge. Here too there was commendable enthusiasm for the idea of exhibiting the pupils' efforts. This project is still under way and will be completed in time for the exhibition.

Last year representatives from both schools opened the exhibition so this year 2012, we are delighted that the schools are playing a major part in the work of our society. We look forward to welcoming grannies, grandpas, mums, dads and family members as well as other folk to the exhibition, including the schools' projects, in the Community Hall on September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>

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## Local History Collection.

Bothwell Library in the Donald Institute has a growing and comprehensive collection of local history material including items on the Parish Church such as - "The Reconstructed Church": "The Book of the Restoration" and "The Discovery of the Norman Church at Bothwell."

Copies of books on the history of the village such as "By Bothwell Banks" and "Antiquities of Bothwell" are available for reference purposes together with old maps and census information. Bothwell Castle, Bothwell Bridge and the Covenanters together with items of more recent history such as the story of the twinning with Jouay en Josas may be researched. The mining history of the area is well represented in the collection making the Donald Institute and the Public Library a must for visitors and locals alike.

Our Archivist, John Hart is also collecting important material dealing with the village's long and exciting story and this too will be displayed in the Library. Thanks to the efforts of local people, some historic gems have come to light and we would hope that on investigation, attics and other storage areas will reveal more treasures. Please contact us if you have anything of interest that we may record before returning them to you.

## “O Bothwell Bank, Thou Bloomest Fair”.

With a little help from Sir Walter Scott legend has it that a Scottish knight in Palestine on a crusade came across a woman sitting on a river bank singing to herself. As he listened carefully, he realised she was singing a song in Scots.

*“O Bothwell bank thou bloomest fair,  
But ah thou mak’st my heart fu’ sair,  
For a’ beneath thy woods sae green,  
My love and I would sit at e’en,  
While daisies and primroses mix’d  
Wi bluebells in my locks he fixed,  
O Bothwell bank thou bloomest fair,  
But ah thou mak’st my heart fu’ sair.”*

Her love, a soldier, had died in Palestine, leaving her an exile from the green banks of the Clyde. In the eighteenth century the song was set to music by John Fergus (1767-1825) with words by John Pinkerton (1758-1825). Thanks to the kind efforts of Miss Anne Strachan of the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, the music has been arranged for the voices of school children for use in St Bride’s Primary School and Bothwell Primary School. It is hoped that the children will be able to give a public performance of Bothwell’s song at sometime in the near future.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

#### Scarecrow Festival Exhibition of Old Bothwell

Community Hall, Fallside Road, Bothwell  
Sat 8<sup>th</sup> September 2012 11am-5pm  
Sun 9<sup>th</sup> September 2012 11am-5pm

#### Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2012

*AGM followed by:*  
*“Archibald the Grim”* Talk by Ian McKellar.  
Community Hall, Fallside Road at 7.45pm

#### Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2012

*“The Story of Passports,”* Talk by Robert Wilson CBE  
Community Hall, Fallside Road at 7.45pm

#### Thursday 21st March 2013

*The “Death” and Reinvention of Scotland*  
Talk by our Honorary President Professor Tom Devine  
Community Hall, Fallside Road at 7.00pm