

THE PARISH CHURCH



Dominating the centre of the village is the collegiate and parish church. It is built on the site of a probable pagan shrine but it was dedicated to

Christian worship in the 6th century A.D.

The present building is a mixture of 14th century architecture and early 19th century late decorated perpendicular gothic. It was founded in 1398. In the summer the church is opened regularly to visitors. More information is available at the Church.

BOTHWELL CASTLE

Close to the church some ditches and earthen banks mark the site of the first Bothwell Castle erected sometime in the 12th century by the Olifard family. In 1242 the barony had passed by marriage to the de Moravia or Murray family who proceeded to erect a much more substantial stone fortress on a natural outcrop of rock on the banks of the River Clyde.

By the 17th century and being a more peaceful time, the old castle had become redundant and Archibald Douglas, first Earl of Forfar, pillaged stone from the castle and built a palladian castle nearby. It was here while being a visitor in the new castle, Sir Walter Scott wrote *Young Lochinvar* and was inspired to write *Old Mortality*, a tale of covenanting times. The 'new' castle is no longer standing and it is the 'old' castle we see today.

The Castle is in the care of Historic Scotland and is open to visitors. Leaflets are available at the castle.

LOCATION

Bothwell is situated just off Junction 5 of the M74 and its central location provides the motorist with easy access to the major cities and regions of Scotland. It is also served with a convenient bus and train network.

The village is located mid way on the Clyde walkway, a long distance walking and cycling trail that extends 40 miles through the scenic Clyde Valley and links the centre of the City of Glasgow to New Lanark in South Lanarkshire. The village sits on the national Cycle Route 74/75.

Strathclyde Country Park is situated nearby. It has a caravan and camping park and offers a wide range of water sports and other visitor attractions. It links to the nearby Baron's Haugh Bird Reserve (RSPB) and the Dalziel and Chatelherault Estates with their unrivalled variety of woodland and riverside walks.

MARION GILCHRIST

In the mid 1800s William Gilchrist farmed 90 acres of the Bothwellpark estate. His daughter Marion was born in 1864 and grew up in Bothwell. She was the first woman to graduate in medicine in Scotland. She subsequently practised as an ophthalmologist in the Victoria Infirmary. She died in 1952.

Her father put land into a Trust in 1879 and in 1940 the Trust gifted the area we call the Gilchrist Gardens to the Council as a memorial to her and her achievements in medicine and as a leader in the women's suffrage movement. More details are available on the Glasgow University website. Her gravestone is in the grounds of the Parish Church.

BOTHWELL

HISTORIC VILLAGE



Centrally situated on the River Clyde, ten miles south east of Glasgow and forty miles south west of Edinburgh, the historic village of Bothwell has a number of stimulating visitor attractions. The Georgian and Victorian core of the village still follows the mediaeval street plan and has attractive shops and a variety of hotels, bars and restaurants to cater for all tastes.

With the growth of Glasgow, based on tobacco, molasses and manufacturing, many merchants saw Bothwell as a greener, healthier place to live and they began to build a number of splendid homes. Many of these remain today giving a unique atmosphere to this historic community that remains a vibrant and exciting place for residents and visitors alike. The old road from Glasgow to London ran through the village and the bridge in Bothwell was the only crossing over the Clyde upstream from Glasgow.

A BRIEF HISTORY

Bothwell's name may come from the Gaelic for either "dwelling by the river" or "castle on the outcrop". Bronze age human remains, dug up in 1845 near Uddingston, proved that there had been habitation along the banks of the Clyde for a very long time before the Romans came to Scotland. Bothwell's history lies in agriculture with rich soil and clement weather. Weaving was popular in the 18th century and most was done at home. Merchants from Glasgow would bring the weavers the raw materials then pick up the piece work when ready. Bothwell Mill operated 90 power looms and brought about the demise of the home weavers.

Bothwell was transformed in 1878 when a large coal seam was discovered and for 80 years it became a mining community. Miners came from all over Scotland and Ireland looking for work. Two railway companies built lines into the town. The North British Company served the pit and was extended to Hamilton crossing the Clyde on a high viaduct. This viaduct was built by Sir Willian Arrol using pioneering building techniques. The Baird Coal company built houses for their workers close to the railway track alongside which was a path, under the main road, that connected directly to the pit head. A bricked up entry to an underpass can still be seen at the side of the main road. Tradition suggests it was used by the miners to gain access to the pit and keep them off the Main Street. The pit closed in 1951.



JOANNA BAILLIE



Joanna Baillie was a Scottish poet and dramatist and was well known during her lifetime. Her father was minister of the parish and she was born in the Manse in 1762. Her mother was a sister of the great physicians and anatomists William and John Hunter. The Baillies were an old Scottish family and claimed Sir William Wallace among their ancestors.

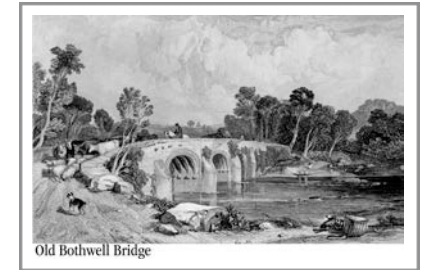
As a young child she lived with her family in Bothwell until her father was appointed to the collegiate church and the family moved to Hamilton. She was a close friend of Sir Walter Scott and when she lived in London she was very much a part of the literary set and counted the Wordsworths among her friends. She died in 1851 aged 89. A monument to her is situated in the grounds of the collegiate church.

THE DONALD INSTITUTE

The benefactor was James Donald, a Glasgow chemical manufacturer who left money in his will to build the Institute. It was opened in 1910 as reading and recreation rooms and run on strict temperance guidelines. It was hoped it would help keep residents out of the pub! It is now the public library and is located in the Main Street.



BOTHWELL BRIDGE



Old Bothwell Bridge

Bothwell has two river crossings, one at Bothwell Bridge, that contains at its core a much older bridge built c1400. It was modernised in 1826.

The second bridge is a footbridge (Livingstone Memorial Bridge) that links Bothwell to Blantyre and gives access to the David Livingstone Centre, site of the birthplace of the nineteenth century missionary and explorer. This is in the care of the National Trust for Scotland and is open to visitors. There is a fish ladder to allow salmon to travel upstream and avoid the weir. This can be viewed from this bridge.

BATTLE OF BOTHWELL BRIG

In 1679 the battle of Bothwell Brig took place in which the government forces, led by the Duke of Monmouth defeated an army of Covenanters that had gathered to establish their next move after their success at the battle of Drumclog. Although few of the Covenanters died in battle, many died after capture. 1200 were held for five months in the Greyfriars Churchyard in Edinburgh and more than 200 were shipwrecked whilst being transported in *The Crown of London*. A monument to the Battle can be seen on the north bank of the river close to the Bridge. A small part of the battlefield still remains and is in the care of South Lanarkshire Council.