
CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS



Once again I am happy to report that the society is doing well. Attendances at Speakers' meetings are at record levels and we look forward to this continuing. In the library developments at the Heritage Centre are going well and further details may be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Also in the library, the large television screen needs constant updating and so we would be grateful for any contributions you may have.

Two major projects have come to fruition. Together with the Parish Church we restored the Dixon Gate which has been taken back to its original condition.

We participated with Brighter Bothwell in the magnificent poppy cascade in the Jubilee Gardens. Many people were involved in this splendid project on the centenary of the 1918 Armistice to remember the men of Bothwell who died in World War 1. Our thanks to all those who gave their time and talents in this outstanding community exercise. Once again local schoolchildren were involved and the exhibition mounted by them in the Donald

Institute was the subject of a great deal of positive comment.

We continue to have good relationships with our two excellent schools. It is important that we encourage our young people to participate in the life of the community and we are grateful to the head teachers and their staff for allowing us to be involved in the life and work of the schools.

Most of you will know of the work of the Historical Society through attendance at our speakers' meetings. A great deal of the Society's work happens elsewhere and I am grateful to committee members for their contribution to this. As always Liz Denton brings her outstanding professional talents to the presentation of our newsletters as do those members whose lively literary contributions make for interesting reading. Finally, my thanks to you our members, for your loyal support. We are always on the lookout for younger people to join our committee and if anyone would like to join our working group, please contact me.

Jack Gallacher

SCOTTISH LOCAL HISTORY JOURNAL

The Spring Edition of the Scottish Local History journal is now available to readers in Bothwell library. As always, it includes some interesting articles.

There are stories of the history of the River Kelvin in Glasgow and its watermills, information about the people who wrote the Old Statistical Accounts, the various failures of bridges over the river Tweed and WW1 trophies brought home from the battlefields.



MORE MEMORIES OF BOTHWELL MAIN STREET IN THE 1950s

The Donald Institute, now Bothwell's Library and home to The Historical Society's Heritage Collection was gifted to the village by the industrialist James Donald. At the beginning of the twentieth century, philanthropists and others were concerned by the amount of alcohol consumed by the working classes and in Bothwell's case, particularly the local miners. They sought to address the problem by providing alternative facilities to the public houses.

The Donald Institute provided recreational facilities in the form of a reading room, non alcoholic refreshments and a billiard room. Today the building is listed and gives a different but equally valuable service to local people.

The present library car park was the site of Thorntree House, a large sandstone building, now demolished. The former primary school of c1898, now flats, remains a prominent landmark and must generate many memories in the lives of an older generation who attended the school before going on to secondary education in Uddingston and Hamilton. Crossing Green Street we come to Oldhall. Now a mixture of residential and commercial premises.

The Bank of Scotland building remains much the same as it was in the 50's except that it no longer operates as a bank. The small premises now functioning as a dog parlour was formerly a gent's barber shop.

In the 1950's the site of the present coop supermarket was a garage and showroom. The Bothwell Deli was

formerly McMillan's the butcher, followed by the Buttercup Dairy and a ladies' hairdresser which in later years became Lightbody's the baker. Louis' café was the social hub of the Main Street where locals would gather for hot peas and vinegar, hot Bovril or Vimto. The Italian proprietor ably assisted by his son Reno made the best ice cream ever. Between the café and the post office was a tiny narrow shop which sold weekly bus tickets. You could purchase a ten journey or a twelve journey ticket to Glasgow.

The Post Office for many years was efficiently run by Miss Hamilton until her retirement when it was taken over by Gordon and Elsie Whiteman.

The Douglas Arms has an interesting history. In years gone by it was a coaching inn on the main road south. A stone effigy of one of its owners, "Cleanly Meg" is carved on the south side of the parish church. Meg Steel is reputed to have lived in a property behind the pub..

Immediately after the present church office is Paulo's hairdresser and Mackie the optician. In Westport was the hardware department of Winnings whose main premises were on the other side of the road. David Corbett's hairdressing salon was a private home.

Mary Mc Whinney.

Who can tell what the Main Street will look like in the future? If you have any memories of the Bothwell of yesteryear, please let us know.

ROYAL WEDDING AT THE COLLEGIATE CHURCH



In February of 1400 Mary Douglas, daughter of Archibald "the Grim" Douglas married David Stewart, Duke of Rothesay and eldest son of King Robert III. The details of the wedding, including who was present, are unrecorded. However, what is known are the details of the power struggle between the Bridegroom and his uncle, Robert Stewart Earl of Fife and Monteith.

On the afternoon of November 27th John Hart steered the audience through the events of the two years leading up to the Royal Wedding and the gruesome episodes of the early 15th century which followed the wedding. Members left the meeting with greater knowledge of Scottish history and extremely grateful that present day Bothwell weddings no longer had such serious and terrible consequences.

THE KENTIGERN WAY

A 150 mile (240 km) long-distance walking/pilgrimage trail leading from St. Kentigern's episcopal Seat at Hoddom near Annan, and passing through Bothwell to arrive at his tomb in the Crypt of Glasgow Cathedral.



In recent years there has been a growth of interest in long distance walking as a leisure and health-giving activity along with a reviving interest in the traditions of pilgrimage; the daily rhythm of the walk giving space for contemplation and spiritual reflection. The Kentigern Way may be undertaken either as a pilgrimage or simply as a long-distance walk through the magnificent Southern Scotland countryside with much of historical interest to provide diversion along the way.

Kentigern, otherwise known as St Mungo, is the patron saint of Glasgow. Much of his life story is based upon a collection of myths and miracles, commemorated in the Glasgow coat of arms - the bird, the bell, the tree and the ring. He was however, a real person who lived in the second half of the 6th century about 150 years after the departure of the Romans from Scotland. He was contemporary with St Columba whom, it is claimed, he met. At that time Strathclyde was part of a North British kingdom which encompassed southern Scotland and Cumbria. It was ruled by powerful princedoms who owed a loose allegiance to tribal kings and it was surrounded on all sides by hostile nations. Constant warfare on the borders and among rival princes would have been the norm. Add to this, the clash between an insurgent Christian evangelism and the established Druidic orthodoxy and it can be surmised that the activities of a Christian missionary would not have been without incident.

From the tangle of legend, myth and scant historical fact we can discern with qualified confidence that Kentigern was well-connected. He was the son of

princess Teneu (Enoch) daughter of LLanddeu king of the powerful Goddodin tribe in Lothian. He was born out of wedlock and it is speculated that his father was a Christian king, Owain mab Urien who ruled in Rheged. It was probably this liaison that led to serious upset and Teneu was banished from the Traplain court of her Druidic father. She sought refuge in Culross on the north side of the Forth Estuary where the young Kentigern was brought up in the care of the monks of St Serf. They gave him the nickname Myncho (Mungo) meaning 'Dear Boy'. The later name of 'Kentigern' is a title derived from Kendyern meaning 'chief lord', possibly reflecting his increasingly important status. On reaching adulthood he left the monastery in Culross and headed west to establish his monastic cell on the banks of the Molendinar burn where it flows down to the Clyde and where Glasgow Cathedral is now sited.

For reasons that are not documented, he was obliged at some point to leave his Glasgow base, most likely as a result of a change in fortunes in the ongoing power struggle between the forces of Christianity and Druidism. He fled south and found protection at the court of Owain mab Urien in Cumbria where he continued his evangelical activities. Owain gifted him a piece of land at Hoddom situated on the banks of the Annan just north of the present town of that name. There Kentigern established an episcopal seat which, it is said, grew to rival Lindisfarne in importance. Nothing remains of the buildings today but the site can be seen to have been well chosen, situated in a fertile valley capable of supporting a large community and strategically located for forays south across the Solway into Cumbria and Wales. Kentigern spent many years directing his evangelising activities from Hoddom

until he was eventually recalled to Glasgow where he presided over an extensive See until his death.

Kentigern travelled widely throughout Strathclyde, upper Tweeddale and Annandale on his missionary activities and would have journeyed periodically between the two important religious centres in Glasgow and at Hoddom. The exact route of these journeys is, of course, not recorded but we can indulge in some informed speculation. He would almost certainly have followed riverside pathways south eastwards along the Clyde Valley and beyond Lanark. It is recorded that he frequented Stobo Kirk for occasional retreats and it is likely that he would have stopped there en-route. Continuing his journey southwards over the head of Tweeddale on ancient well-trodden pathways he would have reached the head of the Annan river near where the town of Moffat is now situated, whence he could continue down Annandale along the road system left behind by Agricola's legions and so directly to Hoddom.

This is the route adopted as the basis of the Kentigern Way.

The creation of a walking trail requires many things: the choice and mapping of the route, the construction and maintenance of footpaths, negotiations with local landowners for access, installation of gates, styles and signage. It is a substantial undertaking and this is where some good fortune came to the aid of this project. Practically the entire route from Hoddom to Glasgow can make use of existing, fully-maintained pathways.

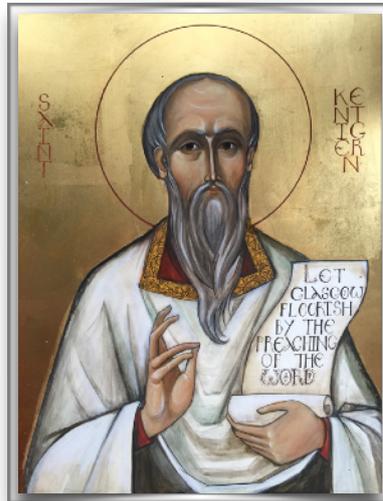
From Hoddom the *Annandale Way* can be followed to Moffat where a section of *the Southern Upland Way* leads over to Traquair. From there *the Cross Scotland Drove Road* heads across to Peebles where

the traveller will encounter the *John Buchan Way* leading to Biggar. A series of byways can then be followed past Tinto Hill to the start of the *Clyde Walkway* which leads all the way, through Bothwell, to Glasgow Green and finally to Glasgow Cathedral. In total this represents a journey of some 150 miles which can be undertaken in a dozen relatively easy stages with food and accommodation awaiting the weary pilgrim at the end of each day.

The Kentigern Way represents a fine addition to a growing number of Scottish pilgrim routes and long distance walking trails. It traverses a wide variety of landscapes, encompasses superb scenery and leads the traveller past a great many places of interest which span six millennia of Scottish history. It can be tackled as a single expedition or, if preferred, in a series of separate outings.

So what stage is the project at now? The entire route has been surveyed and sub-divided into walkable sections with accommodation options identified. Discussions have been held with representatives of the five Local

Authorities who are responsible for the upkeep of the various sections of the paths. The creation of walking maps and the construction of a website is underway. A Kentigern Way Steering Group has been established, affiliated to the Scottish Pilgrim Routes Forum (SPRF) with Jack Gallacher our Chairman and the Rev Jim Gibson represented. Given a fair wind and no obstructions the Kentigern Way should be launched later this year, possibly with an inaugural walk - so get your boots ready!



St Kentigern

Bill Jack

CENTENARY OF THE WW1 ARMISTICE

To commemorate the centenary of the armistice that ended the Great War, the Historical Society in partnership with Brighter Bothwell, created a 4m high cascade of knitted poppies at the Jubilee Garden, Hamilton Road, Bothwell. Around 130 people helped to knit and crochet around 5,000 poppies. There was also a large wooden poppy, with 111 knitted poppies representing the men of Bothwell who died in that war. At a ceremony on the 8th November 2018, Provost Ian McAllan of South Lanarkshire Council unveiled the display. He then invited children representing Bothwell's two primary schools to complete the 111 poppy display by adding the final 14 poppies.

Bothwell Library also hosted a related exhibition of posters from both schools.

The two organisations then arranged for a holly tree to be planted at the site of the cascade at the Jubilee Garden. A plaque marking the event has been placed on the wall alongside the tree and was unveiled by pupils from the two primary schools.

The plaque reads:

HOLLY TREE

At this location in November 2018
Bothwell Historical Society and Brighter Bothwell
created a Cascade of Poppies to commemorate the
Centenary of the WW1 Armistice and in remembrance
of the 111 men of Bothwell who died in that war.
This holly tree was then planted as a lasting memory
of that event and the men who died



Courtesy of the Hamilton Advertiser



Flynn McGuire and Kyle Murray
Unveiling the plaque

LOST MANSIONS AND HOUSES OF LANARKSHIRE



Mr Dan Sweeney gave a talk to the Historical Society on Tuesday the 5th February based on his research and book "Lost Mansions and Houses of Lanarkshire". Dan retired from an illustrious career in Education and has appeared on television

talking about Bothwell Castle.

Mr Sweeney talked about ten of his favourite houses. He used slides of photographs of these houses which allowed the audience to appreciate their grandeur and setting. They included Douglas Castle, Abington House, Carfin House, Milton Lockhart, Maudlie Castle, Ross House, Wishaw House, Douglas Support and Hamilton Palace. Most of the properties he spoke about are no longer in existence. Two exceptions are Milton Lockhart which was bought in the 1980s by a Japanese actor and was transported stone by stone on the Trans-Siberian railway to an island off Japan where it is now the main feature of a theme park. Ross House, which is situated between Motherwell and Hamilton, is still standing but is derelict and in a bad state of repair! It was described in the early 20th century as "one of the noblest specimens of Scottish architecture."

Mr Sweeney said that one of the main objectives in his book and talk was to show a 'vanished architectural heritage'. He pointed out that in the eighteenth and nineteenth century, along the upper and middle basin of the River Clyde, new landowners such as merchants and bankers built their grand country mansions. They had taken advantage of Lanarkshire's improved agricultural efficiency and the development of trade and commerce in the county over the first and second industrial revolutions. Lanarkshire was rich in coal mines, cotton manufacturing flourished and ironworks were established. By the 1830's Mr Sweeney pointed out that Lanarkshire had become the most populated and economically important county in Scotland. These new landowners had the

wealth to build great houses and use them as a status symbols.

However, industrial decline in the twentieth century along with a combination of social, political and economic factors saw the demise of the mansion house. They came to be seen as 'white elephants' and very uneconomical. Many were hardly lived in and not looked after properly and as a result, unloved. Coal mining had caused structural damage to a few of the houses including Hamilton Palace, but in many cases, it was easier to just demolish the mansions, as nobody wanted to buy them or pay the price for their upkeep. Today sadly, we no longer have the physical evidence of these structures and we have lost this architectural heritage forever. These were places, had they still been standing, we could have visited and appreciated their design and the craftsmanship involved in their making. We could have learned about the part they played in the history and development of our county.

Mr Sweeney's book chronicles 100 of these lost mansions and includes some of the important people involved with them and events which helped to shape Lanarkshire as we know it today. It is a work which records the existence of these places and will help to keep them from vanishing completely in the annals of time. The book is an important resource, not only of reminding us about our lost architectural heritage, but of providing a concise record for the future historian and interested party alike.



A LOST LANARKSHIRE HOUSE

Dan Sweeney's February talk, "The Lost Houses of Lanarkshire," served to remind us of the loss of a great local mansion, Bothwell House or as it was sometimes called, New Bothwell Castle. The following article is an extract from the "Hamilton Advertiser" of the 9th of August 1930.

"Such is our natural feeling when we learn that the modern Bothwell castle like Hamilton Palace has come under the hammer of the destroyer.

The building has been acquired by the Dundee contractor Mr Charles Brand and the work of demolition began on Monday last. It is to be razed to the ground, and is not to be replaced with another building by its present owner the Earl of Home: so the possibility of the Bothwell estate as a home for the lords of the soil has come to an end. As a matter of fact, it has for many years ceased to be such. It was dismantled a dozen years ago of its furniture, pictures and books. The library or a large portion of it, was sold in Glasgow. The house has therefore been empty and incapable of occupation for a term of years. The last period of occupancy was during the war, when some Belgian refugees and nuns were housed in it. Sir James King bart was tenant for 5 years towards the end of the last century. Even for a long time before that, the Home family lived little in it. 30 years ago or more, Lady Antrim who we believe was a relative of the family was its most constant occupant. The building, of course, though it has received some important guests, Sir Walter Scott was one, has no architectural merit which would cause its loss to be deplored on architectural or

antiquarian grounds. We have been told a story-which we believe is inconsistent with the facts- that the architect of the mansion house (which dates back to about the middle of the 18th century) was an ancestor of Professor Blackie, and that the building was little credit to him, or gained him so little credit that the poor man committed suicide. The story is probably a myth; but the house although solid, had so little outward beauty to recommend it that the story might be true. Had it been the old castle that was to be demolished that, of course, would be a different matter, but no one is more interested in its preservation than the present earl and its preservation for future generations has been secured as far as possible, it being placed under government protection as an ancient monument. The demolition of the modern building will no doubt prove a measure of economy to its late owner, as it will not be a rateable subject. The demolition or unroofing of country mansion-houses suggests the question whether the increasing of death duties on large estates has not proceeded too far and is not proving to be killing of the goose that lays the golden eggs."

The 89 year old newspaper article is in itself of historical interest, reflecting the different attitudes of the times in a different style from modern journalism. What is known about the story of Bothwell House has been recorded in a booklet by Scott Bain of Historic Environment Scotland and a copy may be seen in the Local History Collection in Bothwell Library.



PIT PONIES

ON VIEWING THE PIT PONIES

*In the ring at Bothwell Cattle Show
on Wednesday 10 June 1914*

Oh! many a tail chain was cast aside
On the tenth bright morn of June,
While the colliery drivers, filled with pride,
Were humming a merry tune;
And many a pony, fresh and fleet,
Was drawn from the grim coal mines
To dance in a meadow 'mid daisies sweet,
Where the bright sun always shines.

We watched them go round at the
Bothwell Show,
And we all were proud to find
That the ponies wrought in the mines
below,
Are tended by masters kind
Their condition spoke of sufficient oats,
Their health of the ostler's care,
While the gloss and glitter of silky coats
Prove the drivers groom them fair.

Good luck to the ponies kept underground!
Good luck to the lads who drive!
And may more be found when next show
comes round
To tell how pit ponies thrive
For we who dwell in the old mining town,
We who understand the toil,
Would guard every creature taken below
To labour beneath the soil.

The poem was one of many, written over the period 1909 to 1919, by William Murray Kilburn and published in the North East Lanark Gazette. William was born in Clackmannanshire, spent most of his life in Bellshill, and became totally blind when a youth. The poem reflects the changes which have taken place in Bothwell over the last century.



THE HERITAGE COLLECTION

“As well as attracting more visitors and generating income for the local economy, we hope that it builds local pride in the exceptional history of the town.” This statement refers to a project being undertaken in Dunfermline. Surely no one will accuse us of plagiarism if we say that this echoes what we hope to achieve in Bothwell Historical Society for our community. Like the ancient town in Fife, we too have an “exceptional” history here in Bothwell.

Although others locally have recognised this in earlier years, very little of their work seems to have survived in Bothwell. Our ambition is to ensure that the work of our Society is recorded and preserved for future generations. With this in mind our Heritage Collection has grown from modest beginnings and thanks to South Lanarkshire Council’s Leisure and Recreational Department, who have generously allowed us space in the Library in the Donald Institute, it is generating local and visitor interest.

Currently we have a collection of prints, original photographs, portraits of local personalities, a railway timetable and a piece from Bothwell Castle Colliery. Three attractive glass cases have been purchased and in the style of the 18th century cabinets of curiosities, a wide range of articles of local interest are on display. Most of this material has kindly been donated by local people and we hope that more personal treasures will be gifted or given on loan to the collection. Our latest donation is a charming small box, a souvenir of the Glasgow Empire Exhibition of 1938 which displays a picture of Thomas Tait’s iconic tower, the centrepiece of the exhibition held in Bellahouston Park which attracted several million visitors. We

are constantly on the lookout for additions to the collection. Please keep us in mind if you have anything of interest.

As well as all of the above, we have now catalogued our extensive and fascinating archive of newspaper articles and other printed material as well as pictures and postcards. Our CD collection of interviews with local personalities, the photographic record of our 2012 project recording every street in Bothwell in that year and details of our extensive poster collection are also available to interested parties. This material is now stored in a filing cabin donated by John Beckett of Bothwell Bridge Associates and is available for reference purposes only, in the main library room in the Donald Institute. You will be asked to record your name in a folder together with the reference number of the items you examined. Once again we are grateful to local people who have kindly donated material to the collection and we would welcome further donations which you may hand in to the Librarian on duty.

The cataloguing of this part of the collection was a time consuming job, mainly because the cataloguers became too absorbed in reading the material. In time, the present members of Bothwell Historical Society too will become history. but the hope is that we will leave behind a record of what we have tried to achieve to those who come after us.

Please go along to the Donald Institute and see the collection. Comments and positive criticism will be welcomed.

THE BOTHWELL BELL

Many people in Bothwell will remember with pride, gratitude and affection the contribution to the life of this community made by the late Sheriff Frank Lunney. In his work with St Bride's Church and School, with the Community Council and with the Twinning with Jouay en Josas Frank laboured tirelessly for Bothwell. For many years he was custodian of the ancient village hand bell. His wife Elizabeth and their family have generously placed Frank's papers and the bell in the care of Bothwell Historical Society to remember all he did to make Bothwell a better place. The papers will be placed in our archive and the bell will be displayed in the Heritage Centre collection.

The bell is inscribed:

**PRESENTED
TO THE
VILLAGE OF BOTHWELL
BY
THOS LEADBETTER ESQ
ALDERBANK
FEBY 1861**

Thomas Leadbetter was born c1790 in Penicuik and married Grace Greenshields in 1826 at Lesmahagow. The couple lived in Lanark before moving to Alderbank, Bothwell and it was there Thomas died in 1872 aged 82. Alderbank House was located at the end of a tree lined driveway (now called Blairston Avenue) and had extensive gardens running down to the river. The property included two cottages, one for the gardener, the other for the coachman. The Leadbetter's had seven of a family and in 1857 their daughter Anne married the Rev Henry Calderwood FRSE LLD, Professor of Moral Philosophy at Edinburgh University.

Thomas Leadbetter was a Justice of the Peace and owned Thomas Leadbetter & Co, Plumbers, Lead Merchants and Brass Founders. The firm had premises at Gordon Street, Glasgow and works at Garnkirk Street. At the foundry the firm cast bells including those for The Old Church, Houston and St John Church, Ardrossan.



O.S.WILLIAM BREAKENRIDGE

The only gravestone erected in Bothwell Kirkyard by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission is to Ordinary Seaman William Breakenridge. He joined the Royal Navy in 1915 and spent a year on HMS Sutlej patrolling the waters off the west coast of Africa looking for German merchant ships. On his return to Britain he was transferred to HMS Valkyrie which was one of eight destroyers despatched to escort a small convoy from the coast of Holland. On a dark night on the 23rd December 1917 the Valkyrie hit a German mine resulting in the death of 11 of the crew, including William Breakenridge. He was 23 years old when he died but for some unknown reason although he is buried in Bothwell Kirkyard he is not listed on the War Memorial.

Remembrance Sunday last November was a special occasion marking the centenary of the Armistice to end the First World War. Poppy wreaths were laid at Bothwell's War Memorial in memory of the men of Bothwell who died in the two World Wars. However it seemed remiss that there be no acknowledgment of William Breakenridge's sacrifice at his grave and so our Society arranged for a cross of knitted poppies to be placed on his grave after the Remembrance Service.



“PORPHYRY CHIMNEYPiece” FROM HAMILTON PALACE

On a recent visit to the National Trust property of Hinton Ampner House near Winchester I noticed the reference to the “porphyry chimneypiece” in the entrance hall, which came from Hamilton Palace. Hinton Ampner House dates back to the late 18th early 19th century but the present building is largely the creation of Ralph Dutton, 8th and last Baron Sherborne, who in the 1930s remodelled the Victorian house into a sympathetic setting for his collection of 18th century paintings and furniture. It is thought that the chimneypiece was purchased during this period of restoration between 1935 and 1937. Sadly on 3rd April 1960 an extensive fire destroyed nearly all of the contents of the house. The chimneypiece survived but the records of its purchase did not.

Local research into the sale of the contents of Hamilton Palace has also proved unsuccessful. The contents of the Palace were sold in two separate auctions by Christie Manson and Wood, the catalogues for which are in Hamilton Reference Library. The sale of the fixtures and fittings, including the fireplaces, took place between 12th and 14th November 1919 and there is no mention of the Hinton Ampner one in the catalogue. Indeed if, as the National Trust believes, it was purchased in the 1930s it would have been from a “third party”. Sadly, it has not been possible to track the origin of the chimneypiece with any certainty. It is well known that the contents of Hamilton Palace were spread far and wide and it is nice to think that a little part of Hamilton now resides in rural Hampshire.



WEBSITE ENQUIRIES

Using our web site and email address a number of people have contacted us with queries about Bothwell and people who lived there.

One such person was Rose Watt from Oldham whose great grandparents, William and Susan Mair, lived in Green Street, Bothwell. She was seeking any information we may have about them. It turned out that William Mair's brother John was killed in the First World War and his family story had been researched for our book "Lest We Forget". All our publications are available in digital form on our web site and so we were able direct Rose to John Mair's story in the book.

We recently received another email from Wendy Glover who lives in Gloucestershire. She was seeking information about Thomas Paterson Purdie who lived in Craighends, Bothwell. Again it turned out that he was killed in WW1 and his story was in "Lest We Forget". Passing on the information to Wendy we received this reply;

"I have spent the morning reading the Lest We Forget book on the BHS website as you suggested. Firstly, I wanted to congratulate you all for an amazing book to recognise the men on Bothwell's War Memorial on

the anniversary of WW1. It is an enormous achievement to produce such an interesting read about these men, some of them very young who gave their lives for all of us, we owe them all so much. The book is a fitting tribute to all of them."

Interestingly it turned out that Wendy is not related to the Purdie's. Her story is that a few years ago a large amount of her family photos/letters etc were sold outside of the family on ebay. It was very sad for her when this happened and lost to her family forever. But, just in case, she always checks ebay to see if any of these items are resold. During a search of ebay she saw a large number of photos from the Purdie family up for sale. From what she could gather the photographs were from a house clearance in Staffordshire. When Wendy saw the Purdie album she purchased it and decided that she would try and find a modern day ancestor to whom she could pass on the album. With Bothwell named in the album Wendy contacted the Society for help. Unfortunately our research did not lead to any living Purdie relative but our best wishes go to Wendy in her search.

HIGHLAND CLEARANCES OR SCOTTISH CLEARANCES?



On Tuesday, 12th March 2019, members and friends of The Bothwell Historical Society had the pleasure once again of hearing a talk given by the Society's Honorary President, Professor Sir Tom Devine.

The intriguing title of Sir Tom's talk was "Highland Clearances, or Scottish Clearances?

New light on an old story."

Since the BHS was established in 2011, Sir Tom has taken an active interest as Honorary President in the work of the Society. He prefaced his talk by affirming how impressed he had been by the vibrancy of the Society since its formation. Sir Tom was particularly impressed by the quality of the Society's publications and our involvement and participation with local schools. From the outset, Sir Tom's talk proved to be captivating as he

highlighted the contrasting experience of the Highlands and Lowlands during the 18th and 19th centuries. We were given a detailed insight into the different aspects of the relationship between landowners and tenants in the Lowlands and Clan Chiefs and tenants in a kinship based society in the Highlands.

Sir Tom expertly went on to evaluate the case for seeing the clearances as a process that affected all parts of Scotland. A process which changed the Lowland countryside for ever, as well as the old society of the Highlands.

Sir Tom's talk was followed by a very lively question and answer interlude, when a number of points of interest were discussed in some detail.

Finally, during refreshments, we had the opportunity to purchase Sir Tom's new book, "The Scottish Clearances." A perfect end to a perfect evening!