

NEWSLETTER

THE JIM HAMILTON HERITAGE SOCIETY of COALBURN



Coalburn School memories

RIGHTS of WAY

Tom
Wilson's
WW2
Memories

SUMMER
2007

SNAPSHOTS from
Coalburn Bowling Club
& Auchlochan's
30th Anniversary
Garden Party

Issue No.

11

**HERITAGE
DISPLAY** at
Coalburn One
Stop Shop from
Tuesday 17th July
until Friday 10th
August.

Opening times:
10am-4pm (Mon,
Tues, Thurs & Fri);
10am-12.30pm
(Wed & Sat).

Admission FREE

Front cover

*Coalburn Silver Band's
Alan Court and George
Pirrie at Auchlochan's
30th Anniversary Garden
Party*

The Jim Hamilton
Heritage Society
Of Coalburn

**Office Bearers
2007/08**

Chairman Peter McLeish

Vice – chairman James Hamilton

Secretary Mrs Betty Bell

Treasurer Miss Jean Savage

Membership Secretary
Mrs Anna McLachlan

Committee Members

James McLean
William Struthers
Kathleen Purdie
Gilbert Dobbie

All enquiries, contact:

The Secretary

Mrs Betty Bell

Tel **01555 820276**

NEWSLETTER

Editor / Design

John Zawadzki

Coalburn Heritage Centre

Website

CHECK OUT the Heritage Society's microsite on the South
Lanarkshire website www.theguidlife.net

Access the site directly with the following address:

www.theguidlife.net/site/organisations/microsites/jhhsc/home

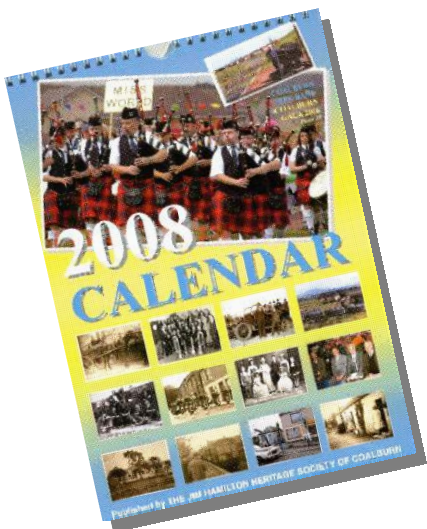
SOCIETY News

AGM

The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society's Annual General Meeting was held on Wednesday 16th May at Coalburn One Stop Shop. The Society's Office Bearers and Committee members were re-elected en bloc.

2008 Calendar

The Society's 2008 Calendar will be available at Coalburn Post Office from the first week of July and at the Society's heritage exhibition at Coalburn Leisure Centre on Gala Day (Sat 7th July). Price £5.



Display at Flower Show

The Society will again have a display at the annual Coalburn Flower Show which will be held on Saturday 25th August at Coalburn School. Admission FREE.

Grants

The Society was successful with all four of its grant applications in 2007:

£10,000 from Awards For All

£2,100 from Windfarm Trust

£6,000 from Leader Plus

£2,500 from SCISF

The funding will be used to extend Heritage Support Worker John Zawadzki's part-time contract for another year; pay 12 months rent for the new Heritage Centre; and to purchase IT equipment and furniture for the Heritage Centre.

Committee meetings

The Society's Committee will meet on the first Wednesday of June (4th,) July (7th) and August (1st) at Coalburn Heritage Centre.

Heritage Centre

In July Society members will begin work on setting up a Heritage Centre at Coalburn One Stop Shop. It will be open to the public as from Monday 20th August.

New publications

Chairman Peter McLeish has compiled a booklet called A History of Coalburn Post Office. Price £3. John Zawadzki has compiled a booklet listing all the Gala Queens from 1937 to 2007. Price £2. Copies of both booklets available at Coalburn Post Office from Monday 9th July.

Heritage slide shows

Heritage Support Worker John Zawadzki has been invited to put on a Coalburn Heritage slide show at the New Trows WRI's first meeting of its new session on Wednesday 12th September and also at a meeting of the Lesmahagow Old Parish Church Guild at the Church Hall on Monday 7th January 2008.

Guest Speakers March / April / May 2007



7 March Harold HART
**Memories of working at
Coalburn Railway Station**
*Pictured left with wife Helen and
Betty Bell*

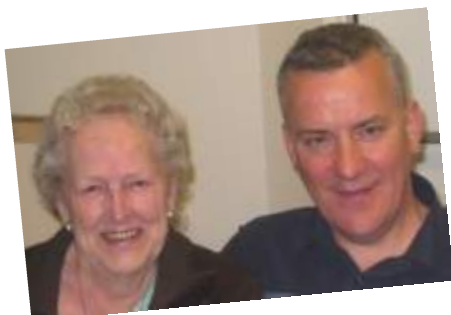


**21 March
John
ZAWADZKI**
Slide Shows



4 April Dr Sinclair SCOTT
Retired Douglas & Coalburn GP
Pictured left with Kathleen Purdie

18 April Mary DUCKETT
Coalburn memories.
*Pictured right with
Gilbert Dobbie*



3 May Donald WILLIAMS
**History of Coalburn Pipe
Band**
*Pictured left with
Margaret Findlay*

Personal memories of class teachers at Coalburn School by a former pupil who preferred to remain anonymous.....

my school memories

By **Anonymous**

1

Coalburn School celebrates its CENTENARY in 2008.

If you would like to share some of your memories of Coalburn School please call in at the Coalburn Heritage Centre.

“The teachers were all too fond of using the strap. **Min Jeffrey** and the man she married, **Bob Scott**, also a teacher at Coalburn School, strapped regularly.

They got support from the head master, **Mr Wallace** who, on occasions, was not unwilling to strap pupils for alleged misbehaviour.

Not all the teachers were ‘strap-happy’. **Wull Harvie** used the ‘tawse’ on few occasions and it had to be outlandish misbehaviour. He never used a strap on girls.

One girl stood up to **Bob Scott** one day and refused to take the strap from him. She stood her ground and when he tried to inflict punishment, grabbed him by the tie and held on.

Mr Wallace was sent for and when the class went out at ‘meenites’ (the afternoon break of ten minutes), he administered severe punishment, marked her hands and put the girl in a state of shock. He should have been charged with assault.”.

Reprinted from **Jim Hamilton's Coalburn Chronicles No. 66**

October 1991

First printed Friday 23 September 1977

Reprinted in James Hamilton's Coalburn Chronicles, No. 3, January 1983

Following enquiries from many Coalburn residents regarding the rights of way in the village, the intrepid Sam Allan and Jimmie Hamilton of Gall Cottage, paid a visit to the Lesmahagow District Office only to be told that there was no proper record available. Undeterred, however, the pair compiled a list for the public with the aid of a map which Mr Hamilton had in his possession.

DRAMBUIE to WATERSIDE BRIDGE over LOGAN WATER

Leave the Coalburn road at Manse View junction, walk west alongside the boundary of Abbeygreen Co-op Society shop to stile at Shoulderigg. At main road turn left and at yards turn left into Dalquhandy, Bankend—Douglas right of way. In a few yards meet the stile, go through, turn right, follow track through ruin of Chateringhall Farm towards narrow plantation with cart road and gate at each end—continue on track till meet Porterhall, Cumberhead road, opposite Stockbriggs Farm. Cross road, enter farm road, continue direct past farm buildings. Reaching River Nethan, cross over bridge, follow track passing ruin of Meadows cottage on left then Yonderton Farm on right. In a few yards, join main road at bridge.

SHOULDERIGG to BANKEND and DOUGLAS

Enter stile on left of right-hand bend on road at Shoulderigg—follow track to Bankend railway sidings. Cross to roadway on opposite side, follow road till you reach main road into Bankend. Across the road is a stile, follow path from it, cross over Poniel Water, follow track on foothills of Hagshaw to Long Plantation—meet path known as The Strip, down and over to Douglas Water to Douglas.

DALQUHANDY FARM to SITE of COMAC WORKS RAILWAY SIDING

Road from Porterhall to Cumberhead has a branch road to the left which serves Dalquhandy Farm and Stockhill Farm—just beyond first farm is a gate. Passing through this gate, turn left on to footpath which leads to railway. Using railway can reach right of way—Shoulderigg to Bankend and Douglas.

BRAEHEAD ROAD to MANSE VIEW

Between 11a and 11 Bellfield Rd is Braehead Rd which had crossing gates at South Coalburn Farm, now 21 and 23 Braehead Rd—passes over Coal Burn. Follow path alongside burn and a left turn up hill reaches Coalburn Farm and joins Manse View.

BOGEY LINE to BRAEHEAD ROAD

Limekilns Rd end is at 53 Bellfield R, turn left and this roadway is a bogey line which goes direct to Braehead Rd.

PONIEL PIT THROUGH ROAD

Directly opposite 22 Bellfield Rd is a wide path which joins bogey line in 200 yards with first a gate then a stile.

R
I
G
H
T
S

O F

W
A
Y

LIMEKILNS to DOUGLAS

Leave Bellfield Road at 53 Bellfield Road, walk south past Westoun mine site down clay brae, follow path and stiles to private cemetery, turn right, cross over Poniel Water—path leads to culvert (under LMS railway, Lanark to Ayr) - follow until you reach Long Plantation (the strip) which is joined by Shoulderigg and Bankend and Douglas right of way.

BELLFIELD ROAD to SPORTS GROUND

Directly opposite Limekilns on opposite side of Bellfield Road is Railway Road, private road to Myrobella and sportsground.

BELLFIELD ROAD to SCHOOL ROAD

Beyond 99 Bellfield Rd turn left for Bellfield Farm—follow this track till it reaches railway gates at Railway Cottages, cross over rail, path down steps. Cross bridge at Over Coalburn and join School Rd.

BELLFIELD ROAD to COALBURN ROAD near ALLOYS FOUNDRY

Leave Bellfield Rd at 201 on the north side to Merchanthall Farm—by-pass farm, follow track, cross over Coal Burn by bridge at site of Auchlochan signal box on LMS. Coalburn to Lesmahagow railway—pass over railless track then follow cart track. Turn at ruins of Forkins houses. Cross by bridge over burn, follow track till it joins Coalburn Rd.

THE BEECHES to BUCHTKNOWES to READING ROOM at COALBURN ROAD

Site of the old school house at Buchtknowes road end between Crowhill Farm entrance and Lintfieldbank, on west a stile over stone dyke leads to path which skirts Merchanthall Farm, reaches LMS railway, crosses over old track to Coalburn and passes football fields, then through field to Coalburn Rd.

BUCHTKNOWES to NETHERFAULDS BRIDGE over A74

Commence at old schoolhouse on Main Road between entrance to Crowhill Farm and Lintfieldbank—this is also known as Buchtknowes road end. Before reaching hill turn left, follow footpath which leads to culvert under old railway from Alton Heights rail junction to Poniel Junction. Follow on round edge of hill until you reach the Coal Burn (not Poniel Water which is on your right and clearly visible) which you cross over on a narrow bridge then on another narrow bridge over Netherfauldhouse Burn beside you on right continue till you reach Netherhouse Bridge at A74

LIME ROW to JUNCTION with LIMEKILNS to DOUGLAS right of way

Opposite 23 Bellfield Rd is a stile. The path by-passes the site of Lime Row (5 dwelling houses), direct to stile on the boundary dyke between Braehead Farm. This leads to Westoun Estate. Turn left through second stile, follow path 700 yards where it joins right of way above at an angle.

Coalburn Bowling Club

Saturday 14th APRIL 2007



*SNAPSHOTS by
John Zawadzki*



Wartime Memories Tom Wilson

TOM WILSON was a son of Bob and Jean Wilson who lived at Rose Cottage, 260 Bellfield Rd, Coalburn.

“Alex Strang and I were called up on the same day, 12 December 1940 and we went by train to Newark. Miners were still being called up at the beginning of the war. I had been working at the Doosie with my father and Tam Findlay. We had been driving mines to reach the coal. Anyway Alex and I had to leave the pits to undertake army service. I was lucky enough to get an early discharge - Alex was to be killed in battle.

I was posted to the Royal Engineers - there was no choice as I was just told where I was to serve. After the usual six weeks of basic training I was allocated to the battalion dealing with ‘chemical warfare’. Before I was posted I did not know that such a service existed.

We were trained in the use of gases as a possible weapon against the enemy. Gas had been extensively used by the Allies and the Germans during the First World War but fortunately neither side availed themselves of this terrible weapon during the Second World War.

Part of our training involved us going through gas chambers, wearing our masks and then entering and leaving the gas filled areas without our gas masks

Reprinted from Jim Hamilton’s
Coalburn Chronicle No. 64 (1991)

This seriously affected my breathing and it was the wrong type of service for me. I should explain that even as a small boy, I had been subject to asthma attacks and these were so severe that Dr. MacFarlane had to be sent for to come to our home on many occasions. When I had worked at Hamilton Bakery as a lad, the flour could set off an attack.

Following my attacks of breathlessness after being exposed to poisonous gas, I had some medicals when it was decided that ‘I was failing to fulfil army physical requirements’ and I was discharged on 12 April 1942. I returned to civilian life and worked until I was 65 years, the normal age for retiring.



21 year old Tom Wilson in army uniform January 1941

“It was a long walk frae Bankend to Coalburn schule and the road had no shelter so we were exposed to wind and rain and snow. The road wisna tarmacadamed so it wis often mucky wi’ plenty o’ puddles.

Miss Robinson, who taught yin o’ the wee classes, used to help us get our shoes and stockings aff if we arrived wet. She would place the shoes and stockings round the fire to dry off. The schule did not have central heating at first.

On the way to or from schule, and if the weather was bad, we often stayed for a while at Westoun Villa, where Andrew Cook and family stayed.

It was haufway between Bankend and the schule. Mrs Cook was a warm-hearted wummin.

In winter, she often gave each of us a hot cup o’ Bovril to heat us up. Many a pair o’ shoes she put on the feet o’ some deserving child.

my school memories 2

By Mairn NIMMO

nee COOK, formerly of 122A Coalburn Rd. Married to Wattie Nimmo.

Mr Blackwood was a very understanding head master. If the Bankend children were late in arriving, he had given instructions that there was to be no reprimands. He often said that the Bankend boys and girls were excellent attenders.

Coalburn School celebrates its CENTENARY in 2008. If you would like to share some of your memories of Coalburn School please call in at the Coalburn Heritage Centre.

Oor days at the schule were happy. There wis the occasional teacher who wis a bit strap-happy.

I remember yin o’ ma brithers got belted on the hand by a wummin teacher and his wrist swelled. She sent him oot tae put his wrist under the water tap. He went staight hame.

Ma mither wis doon the next morning’ at the schule and she gave that teacher laldie wi’ her tongue. Mither didna usually swear but she excelled herself that day.”

Extract from Jim Hamilton’s
Coalburn Chronicles No. 66
October 1991



Photo
JZ



PhotoJZ

Auchlochan celebrates 30 years with Garden Party

Saturday 30th June

Attractions included Coalburn Silver Band, Bellshill Salvation Army Band, Kidzone Corner, Teddy Bears Picnic, arts and crafts stalls and displays, vintage vehicles, canoes in loch, pony rides, face painting, photo displays, and much more..... **Photos JZ**



Photo
JZ



Phot
o



Phot
o

The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn

Syllabus 2007

7.30pm — 9.30pm **WEDNESDAY**
at Coalburn ONE STOP SHOP. *All Welcome*



Photo
JZ

SEPTEMBER

Wed 5 Alan BANNISTER — Rights of Way

Wed 19 **EVENING VISIT TO AUCHLOCHAN**

OCTOBER

Wed 3 Alan COURT — Coalburn Silver Band

Wed 17 Gordon RITCHIE — Carstairs Hospital

NOVEMBER

Wed 7 Joseph O'RAW — War Memorials

Wed 21 **MEMBERS' NIGHT**

DECEMBER

Wed 5 Dr Iain KANE — Photographic Slide Show

Fri 21 **Christmas Dinner at Hollandbush Golf Club**

Former sawmill office and canteen destroyed by fire



Photo
JZ

9.30pm, Wednesday 27th JUNE 2007