

THE JIM HAMILTON
HERITAGE SOCIETY
OF COALBURN

WINTER 2007

newsletter
13



Mrs
Maureen
Hamilton
officially
opens
Coalburn's
new Heritage
Centre

Message from the Chairman

Peter McLeish

Since our last Newsletter, as you will have seen from the cover, we have had the Opening of the Coalburn Heritage Centre which was carried out very graciously by Mrs Maureen Hamilton. There was an excellent attendance of members and guests on the day and thanks to all who assisted in making the day such a success.

Last month we held our 3rd Annual Christmas Dinner at Hollandbush Golf Club and again there was a very good turn out as you will see from John's photos.

We had two special guests on that occasion, Rae Miller and Jessie Prentice. Both of these ladies are employed in the Post Office and have been especially good at selling Calendars and Booklets for us as well as directing visitors to the Heritage Centre.

We look forward to 2008 with enthusiasm thanks to the support and encouragement from the members who turn out to support the Committee and John, our incomparable Heritage Worker. We are indeed fortunate to have him with us.

As usual we endeavour to have as varied a programme of Guest Speakers at our meetings and I am sure that the next few months will prove that to be the case. *(See 2008 Syllabus on back page of this newsletter).*

Can I also say a particular thanks to the volunteers who have toiled faithfully in indexing so many of the photographs in the collection.

There are still a number to be dealt with, (photos, not volunteers), however I am certain that this task will be completed fairly soon.

Keep up the good work !



Office Bearers 2007/08

Chairman **Peter McLeish**
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Vice Chairman **James Hamilton**

Secretary **Betty Bell**
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Treasurer **Jean Savage**

Membership Secretary
Anna McLachlan
Tel. 01555 820750

Archivist / Newsletter
John Zawadzki

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Heritage Society of Coalburn

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www.coalburnheritage.org.uk

News in brief

School Centenary

Coalburn Primary School have been busy planning ways of celebrating their 100th anniversary in 2008. The school's PTA received a grant of £600 from Clydesdale Area Committee to help them organise events to celebrate the centenary. Chairman of the CAC, councillor Hamish Stewart, said: *"We are delighted to be able to help the PTA mark such a momentous occasion in the school's history. They have informed us that a series of events covering the history of the school will take place throughout 2008 and I am sure the whole community will embrace the celebrations"*.

Church news

Coalburn Parish Church held a **St Andrew's Night** ceilidh in the Miners Welfare. Proceedings began with a suitably attired Jamie Duffy playing an excellent selection on the pipes. Thereafter the evening continued to the music of the Robert Allison Band and the dance floor was well used by an enthusiastic company. There was an excellent atmosphere and both young and old participated. A supper was provided and it was much appreciated.

Charity Ceilidh Night

In aid of Coalburn Primary School Centenary at **Coalburn Miners Welfare** on **Saturday 26 January 2008, 7.30pm till late**. Dance to the sound of Richard Smith and enjoy a Burns Buffet. **TICKETS £10 NOW ON SALE. Tel. 01555 820060**

Whisky galore !

Developers have been toasting planning approval of their proposal for a £125 million whisky storage and blending facility to be built on 43 acres of agricultural land at Poniel. At full capacity the Bacardi-owned Dewars plant will employ 30 full-time staff

Homing Club

Coalburn Homing Club held their annual presentation social on **7th December** at the Miners Welfare, along with Lesmahagow Homing Club. Following a meal and presentation of trophies, live music was provided, as usual, by Coalburn's Johnny Weir.

Darby & Joan

Final meeting of 2007 took place in the Miners Welfare on 3 December in the form of a Christmas Party. Proceedings commenced with an excellent meal provided by Cruet's Catering before Charlie Thomson and Danny Hannay musically set the scene with Christmas carols. Soon the dancers were on the floor in a selection of old and modern styles. During the afternoon Ruby Brodie, Mary Gray and Sadie Miller entertained with verse and song to the delight of all present. The next session will commence on Monday 25th February 2008.

Accordion & Fiddle Club

Coalburn Miners Welfare Accordion and Fiddle Club's first meeting of 2008 will be on **17th January** when the guest is John Morgan.

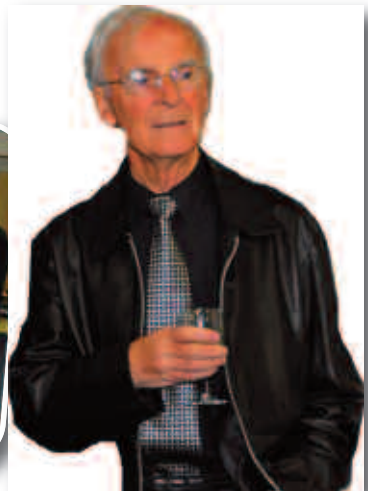


Snapshots by
John Zawadzki





Coalburn
Heritage
Centre
**Official
Opening**
Saturday
24th
November
2007



Profile by John Zawadzki

Mrs Anne Isabel DOUGLAS

Maiden Name Todd

Born Edinburgh 1869

Married Dr Charles Douglas in 1895

Moved to Auchlochan in 1900



“One of the greatest benefactresses ever to live in the parish was Mrs Anne Douglas. It was not that she merely gave money to good causes but more important have of her time” - the late Jim Hamilton, Coalburn Chronicles.

Mrs Douglas was an indefatigable worker for the local community.

Founder of New Trows and Lesmahagow WRIs

For ten years she was chairman of **Lesmahagow Parish Council**, holding the office during the difficult period of the Great Strike of 1926.

She established a **junior drama group** - the New Trows Players; directed an **adult drama group** which performed for charities in many surrounding villages; and trained a **junior choir** which competed at the Lanark Music Festival.

In 1930, at the time of The Great Depression, and with millions unemployed, Mrs Douglas started a toy factory known as the **Auchlochan Toymakers Group**, employing local men. The toys were mainly swinging parrots shaped in wood, toys with wheels, etc. The workshop was a garden shed to start with but later a larger room was provided by her.

Awarded **MBE** for her role managing **Women’s Land Army** in South Lanarkshire during Second World War.

Died Auchlochan, December 1956.

Buried at Lesmahagow New Cemetery alongside her husband.

Below: Councillor Danny Meikle's annual Christmas lights display, Bellfield Road



*Snapshots by
John Zawadzki*



*Above: Guest speaker at the meeting on Wednesday 5th Dec was **Dr Iain Kane** of Douglas, pictured with member Billy Struthers of Coalburn. Iain gave an entertaining talk and slide show of his recent trip to Peru*



Above: The Society's 3rd annual Christmas dinner was held on Friday 21st December at Hollandbush Golf Club. 46 members and their guests enjoyed an excellent meal and social evening during which a raffle raised £148 for Society funds.

JANUARY

Wed 9th

John FORSYTH
President of Lesmahagow
Photographic Society, Est. 1983

Wed 23rd

Marean JOHNSTONE
Coalburn. Memories of a
shepherd's daughter

FEBRUARY

Wed 13th

Peter McLEISH
Chairman, JH Heritage
Society of Coalburn.
A walk through Coalburn.

Wed 20th

John YOUNG
Stonehouse Heritage Society

Syllabus 2008

Heritage Meetings held at
Coalburn One Stop Shop

Doors open 7pm
for 7.30pm start

ALL WELCOME

Members, Guests & Non-Members

Tea / Coffee at end of evening

MARCH

Wed 5th

Paul ARCHIBALD
Lanark Museum Trust

Wed 19th

Matt SOMERVILLE
Member, JH Heritage Society
of Coalburn

APRIL

Wed 2nd

TBA

Wed 16th

James HAMILTON,
Vice-Chairman, JH Heritage
Society of Coalburn & Secretary
of Hollandbush Golf Club

MAY

Wed 7th

Betty BELL
Secretary, JH Heritage Society
of Coalburn

Wed 21st - A.G.M

Followed by slideshows by
John ZAWADZKI