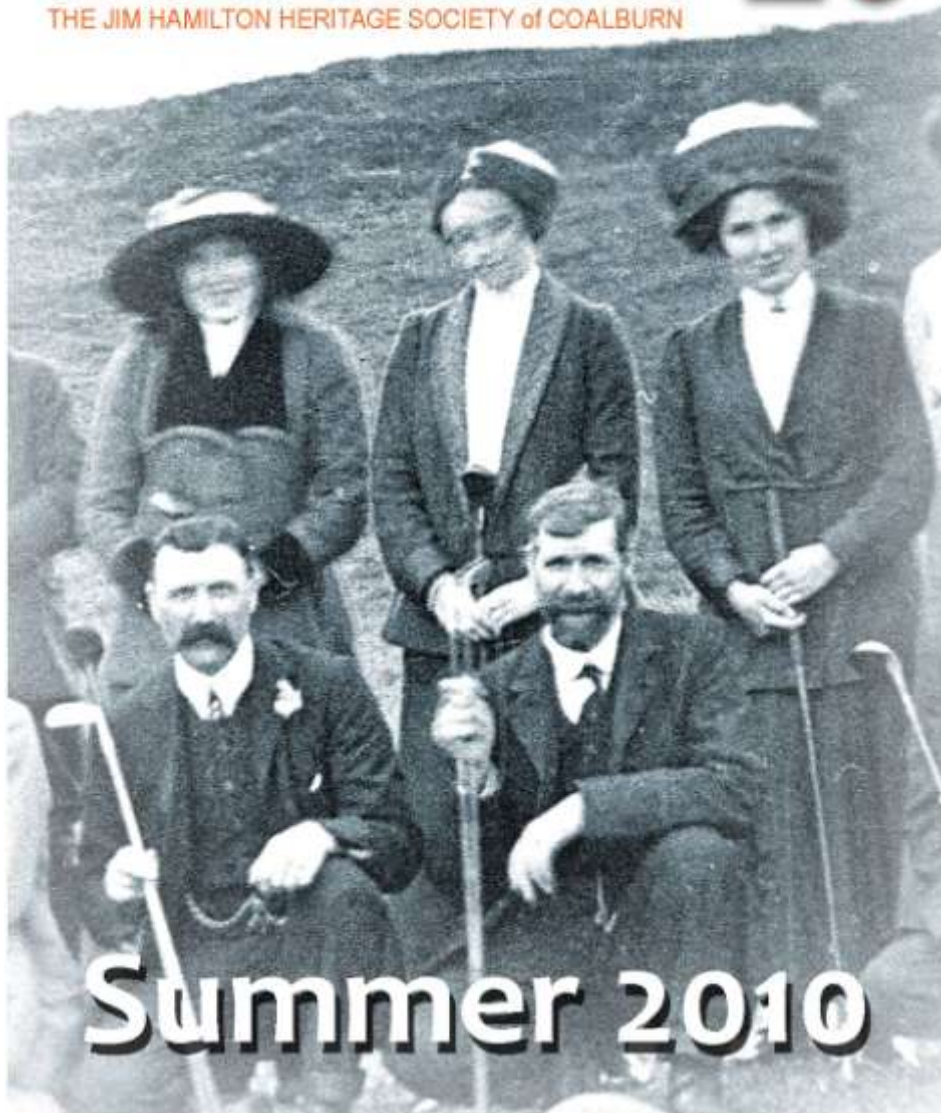


# newsletter 23

THE JIM HAMILTON HERITAGE SOCIETY of COALBURN



## Summer 2010

Published by  
The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn

### Message from the Chairman

As we look forward to another Gala Day it seems no time in coming round, maybe I am just getting old! Since the last Newsletter we have held a second Coffee Morning during which display boards were put up in the Heritage Centre and these attracted a lot of attention during the two hours.

Thanks to Jean and Anna for their presence at that time. The Gala Day will again provide the opportunity for many former residents to make their annual pilgrimage to the village and we look forward to meeting old and new faces in the Leisure Centre at that time. Not forgetting of course the current crop of residents who also make their way to view the items which are on show.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the Coalburn Calendar which has become almost an institution in the district. John Zawadzki is currently working on the content for this coming year and it will feature at the Leisure Centre.

On the back page of this Newsletter can be seen the syllabus from September through until December, some new names will be seen, while previous guests will be making a further visit to entertain and inform.

We continue to try and vary the content of the talks so that as wide a subject matter as possible can be seen and heard. Numbers continue to be encouraging at our meetings and our thanks to the members of the Bowling Club for allowing us access to their premises over the past few months, thereby enabling us to attract additional visitors.

Sadly, I must record the loss to the Society of John Young, one of our founder members. John, over the years was involved in many organisations in the village, among them the Bowling Club, where he was a Past President, in the Church he was the longest serving elder. The Flower Show was another passion of his and he also held office a number of years ago in the local football club, so it was of no great surprise that he, together with his wife, Zena, should be in the forefront of the formation of the Heritage Society.

*I look forward to seeing as many of possible at the Gala Day.* Peter McLEISH, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

Website [www.coalburnheritage.org.uk](http://www.coalburnheritage.org.uk)

### Office Bearers 2010/11

**Chairman**  
Peter McLEISH  
Tel. 01555 820287

**Vice-Chairman**  
John ZAWADZKI

**Secretary**  
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**Treasurer**  
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Anna McLACHLAN  
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**Archivist / Newsletter**  
John ZAWADZKI

Newsletter published by  
**The Jim Hamilton  
Heritage Society of  
Coalburn**

**COALBURN  
HERITAGE CENTRE**  
Coalburn One Stop Shop  
42 Coalburn Road  
COALBURN  
Tel. 01555 820060

**OPEN  
TUESDAYS  
& THURSDAYS  
10am – 3pm**

## Listed Buildings Statutory List 1<sup>st</sup> January 1987

### Lesmahagow Parish

#### **B Old Lesmahagow Church and Graveyard**

##### **C(S) Turfholm Bridge**

A Craignethan Castle

B Dovecote, Blackwood House

A Corehouse

A Corra Castle

C(S) Dovecote, Corehouse

C(S) Mausoleum, Corehouse

A Clydesholm Bridge, Kirkfieldbank

B Crossford Bridge

B 1 Braidwood Road, Crossford

C(S) 81/83 Lanark Road, Crossford Village

B Clydevale

#### **B Auchlochan Bridge**

B Douglasmouth Bridge

B Harperfield

C(S) Stables, Harpefield

#### **B Birkhill, including stable wing**

B Greening

C(S) West Hawksland

B Folkerton Mill

#### **B 16 Bereholm, Lesmahagow**

B Stonebyres Coach House and adjoining buildings

### **Birkhill, Coalburn**

*The oldest building  
in Coalburn.*

*Built 1692,  
but some parts of  
Birkhill date back  
to at least 1590s.*

*JH Photo*

*Coalburn Heritage Centre*



## Listed buildings – what are they ?

A listed building is one which, because of its special architectural or historic interest, is included in the Secretary of State for Scotland's statutory list. The list identifies the name and / or address of the building and the accompanying notes grade the building and describe the age, style, main features and architect where known.

The list is a legal document, drawn up and revised regularly by Historic Building Inspectors on behalf of the Secretary of State. Owners of affected property are notified at the time of listing and the list is issued to local planning authorities as a guide in their work of striking a sensible and sensitive balance between preservation and development.

All types of buildings are eligible, including churches, castles, town and country mansions, cottages, industrial and commercial structures (corn mills, public houses, bridges, viaducts, steadings, etc). Public buildings (schools, town halls, etc) and more unusual structures such as dovecotes, gate piers and sundials.

A 64-page book **Historic Buildings of Clydesdale**, published by the old Clydesdale District Council in 1987, shows in photographs some of the variety of interest to be found among the 70 Listed Buildings of Clydesdale District. The book is available for viewing in **Coalburn Heritage Centre**.

### **Auchlochan Bridge**

*JH Photo*

*Coalburn Heritage Centre*





## WESTOUN GOLF COURSE 1908 - 1914

A description contained in a letter dated November 1974 to John Hamilton of Bellfield Road, Coalburn, from Allan Barr of 2 Gilmour Drive, Earnock, Hamilton.

**T**he course was laid out by Isaac Cook who was teaching in one of the Glasgow Schools and came every week-end on Friday nights and returned to Glasgow on the Monday mornings.

He would be the Captain or leading player as long as I remember, and Willie Clyde was generally next, he was an engineer at Bellfield Colliery, and had played a lot at Carluke, his home town.

The President all the time I remember was Mr Blackwood, and the Vice-President was Dr Robertson who lodged with the McKenzies at the bridge. I do not remember much about the competitions or the scores, but prizes such as a pair of clubs, such as a Driver and Brassie, were very popular.

The club would be started about 1908 or thereabout, and finished early in 1915, as quite a number of the fairways were ploughed up, owing to appeals for all possible cultivation for increased crops.

The course was rent-free and permission was granted for the spreading of slag on the fairways for the improvement of the growth of grass. This idea was to intensify the grazing of the sheep, and the fairways did not require to be cut. The green-keeper was John Clark and Hugh McLay was assisting him, and I am not sure if he had a period on his own.



The course started at the dyke out from the foot of the Clay Brae, on the low side of the style and gate of the Douglas Moor road. The drive crossed the road, and continued along the valley to the left of the road. The length I do not remember as I have lost the last card I had.

The name of **No.1** was **Tally Ho**. The second was from the rising ground to the right of and above No.1 hole and the green was above Hazelnut Plantation. The **second** was named **The Punch Bowl** as it was the one that was blasted out from the rock. The blasting was done by your father, Archie Hay, and John Clark.

**No. 3** went from there, and followed the course of Poniel Burn and was named the **Burn**. **No. 4** went from there over the moor road again to the top end of the small rookery and was named **The Rookery**.

Back up in the direction of the Clay Brae to the top of the knowe, this was the tee for the **No. 5** which was over a fence in the direction of the caves, the name of 5, I'm not sure of. **No. 6** went from there downhill towards Westoun and the hole was at the dyke in full view of the Big House, and was named **The Road Hole**.

**No. 7** went from there back up the hill to the junction of two dykes, and was named **The Dykes**. A style over the dyke to **No. 8** tee, and the hole was pretty well opposite the Caves and was named **The Caves**. **No. 9** went from there back towards the dyke, and was on the other side of the moor road from the start, and was named **Home**.....

....I have been thinking a lot about the layout of the course, and I think the best thing would be to have a walk round arranged. I hope the workings of the Sinclair Mine have not altered the shape of the surface.

I am sure a walk round can be arranged, and that will be the best picture. **George Chalmers**, a mining engineer who surveyed Bellfield Colliery, surveyed the course and put it on plan.

Hope this will help you in your quest.

*Yours truly,* **Allan Barr**

**Members mentioned in a poem written by John Hamilton in 1975, two years before his death, include - Ladies** – Miss Ann Lang, Trows; Helen Lundie, Glaisnock; Mary Steele, teachers Martha Barr and Miss Barbara Arneil, Bellfield Terrace; Miss Blackwood; Bessie Lawson; Maggie Brown. **Gentlemen** – Jock Arneil; Dr Alfred Brown, George Chambers, John Storrie, Tinto View; Tammy Johnston; miners John 'Wee Pud' Smith, Jimmy Smart, Jim Steele and Sannie Reid, Danny Morrison and Garrett brothers, Archie, Charlie and Willie. Tammy Johnston, Jimmy Clark of Railway Terrace. Teacher Charles K. Wells. Three colliery clerks – Auchlochan's John Carmichael, Myrabella's Peter Black and Dalquhandy's Willie Mearthur; grocers Willie McGregor and James Hamilton. **The poem was published in issue No. 47 of Jim Hamilton's Coalburn Chronicles**, pages 2161-2164, published **September 1988**.

*Photos*  
**c1914.**  
*Taken at 9<sup>th</sup>*  
*Hole with*  
*Wallace's*  
*Cave in*  
*background*



## EMAILS via our website...

from **Joe McGILL**, 29<sup>th</sup> May 2010

*“Many years ago I lived in Coalburn, the family owned McGills shop - now demolished – anyway, long story, but my stepfather died recently here in Victoria, Canada and I had to clear out the house - I have my grandfather McGill’s (Joseph W. McGill) mason’s apron and the lodge sash - I do not know if the lodge in the village is still active but perhaps someone could contact me on this. Thanks for your time.” Joe McGill*

*“Sorry, second email - I just noticed the name of your Secretary - yes "Aunt Betty" this is Agnes's younger brother - you were school secretary when Mr. Bell was headmaster and my teacher - (I know - only yesterday)!! Take care.” Joe McGILL*



Joseph W. McGill at the door of his shop in Coalburn. Joseph died aged 66 in 1951. At the time of his death he was treasurer of Victory Royal Arch Chapter in Coalburn and was also a Past Master of the local masonic lodge, Lodge Newlands 949. His wife was Nettie McKenzie who died in 1962 aged 72. The shop was demolished in 1987. A history of the McGill family is documented in **Part 48** of **Jim Hamilton’s Coalburn Chronicles** (First issued **February 1989**).

THE JIM HAMILTON HERITAGE SOCIETY OF COALBURN

## Syllabus 2010

**ALL WELCOME – BRING A FRIEND – Tea/Coffee at 9pm**  
**Wednesday, 7.30pm start. Access from 7pm**  
**Coalburn Bowling Club**

**1 Sept John ZAWADZKI**

Slideshows, incl. images from Coalburn Gala

**15 Sept John YOUNG**, Stonehouse Heritage Society

**6 Oct Tam WARD**, Scotland’s Earliest People

**20 Oct Ian FORSYTH**, Earl HAIG’s Poppy Scotland

**3 Nov Rae COOK & June FEARNs**, Coalburn School Teachers’ Memories

**17 Nov Millar STODDART**, Lanark

**1 Dec Robert McLEISH**, The Covenanters

**Friday 17th December Annual Christmas Dinner**  
**Coalburn Miners’ Welfare Club**

### Deaths

George RAE, John YOUNG, Margaret JOHNSTONE (Hendry)  
Jock HICKIE, Marian McGLYNN (Grierson), Bill INCH  
Dot THOMSON, Catherine CRAIG (Rankin)  
Jim GRAHAM, Mary HAMILTON (Nicol)