

# newsletter

# 24



**AUTUMN 2010**

Published by The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn

## News in brief



**CONGRATULATIONS** to Coalburn-born Kay Barnett (nee Timmins) – pictured above when she attended Coalburn Primary School. In July 2010 Kay was elected President of Scotland's largest teaching union, the Educational Institute of Scotland. Kay has taught History at Fraserburgh Academy since 1987 having graduated from Aberdeen University with a Bachelor of Education degree in English and History. Married with two sons and a daughter, Kay's husband, Jack, was Principal teacher in Fraserburgh for nearly 30 years and also served as national EIS President, 2005/6.

### Deaths

John McNEISH, Phemie DERRICK  
Yvonne MOCHRiE (Dale)  
Janet ARBUCKLE (McEwan)  
Craigie McGHIE (Maitland)  
Margaret Clelland (Dickson)

### Office Bearers 2010/11

**Chairman**  
Peter McLEISH  
Tel. 01555 820287

**Vice-Chairman**  
John ZAWADZKI

**Secretary**  
Betty BELL  
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Newsletter published by  
**The Jim Hamilton  
Heritage Society of  
Coalburn**

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

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



## Message from the Chairman

**HERE we are again at the start of a new session. Over the summer, yes we did have a summer this year, the Centre has been very busy with visitors from around the globe. We are always pleased to welcome enquiries about the village and residents, both old and new.**

As in previous years the **Gala Day** provided us with another healthy attendance at the Leisure Centre, and my thanks to all who acted as volunteers during another busy day. John and Geoff were busy with their cameras as we witnessed at our opening meeting of the current session.

On Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> September, John was again at the forefront when **Princess Anne** visited Coalburn to unveil a plaque concerning the refurbishment of the Silver Band Hall. I had prepared a small display depicting a potted history of the Band with photos and documents for the event which she studied with interest.

A number of local organisations are due to celebrate anniversaries this year. **Coalburn** and **Lintfieldbank WRI's** are both 90 years old, while the Church Guild will reach 75 years in November. The following month the Darby and Joan Club will have been functioning for 45 years. The oldest group in the village, the Horticultural Society held their first Exhibition 120 years ago, in August 1890, a remarkable achievement. Congratulations to them all.

A date for your diary is January 28<sup>th</sup> 2011 when we will be hosting our first **Burns' Supper**. Jean Savage has arranged an excellent array of artists for the event and I am looking forward to it. Further details will be given nearer the time with regard to the price of tickets etc..

Again a varied syllabus has been put in place, some new speakers and also some well kent faces, while Betty, our secretary, has several dates from January to May already confirmed.

Finally, it is with regret that I record the passing of another of our members, Ian Stuart. Ian and his late wife, May (Clark) lived in Aberdeen and were welcomed at the Centre on several occasions when they were in the area.

Peter McLEISH

Extract from report in Hamilton Advertiser, 11<sup>th</sup> September 1920

## LINTFIELDBANK

### FORMATION OF WOMEN'S RURAL INSTITUTE

**A** meeting for the purpose of forming a Woman's Rural Institute for Lintfieldbank and district was held in **Birkhill Barn** on the evening of Wednesday the 8<sup>th</sup>. There was a very good attendance. **Mrs Smith of Birkhill** was in the chair and introduced **Miss Brown of the Board of Agriculture for Scotland**, who gave a most interesting outline of the work the institutes were doing throughout Britain, emphasising the particular need for them in a country community. **Mrs Douglas of Auchlochan** spoke of the institutes at New Trows and Lesmahagow. On the question being put to the meeting it was unanimously decided to form a **Women's Rural Institute** for the district. Forty six members were enrolled and proceeded to the election of office-bearers as follows:- President, **Mrs. Smith of Birkhill**; vice-president, **Miss Hamilton of Poniel**; secy. **Miss Hay, Heatherview**; treasurer, **Miss Stewart, Fairhill**; and eight additional members of committee - **Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. Lockhart, Mrs. Twaddle, Miss Jack, Miss Edgar, Miss Kirkland, Miss Neilson and Miss Prentice**. Votes of thanks were accorded to Mrs Douglas and Miss Brown. The next meeting is on Tuesday evening, 5<sup>th</sup> October, when additional members will be welcomed. (*Over twenty new members were enrolled in October*).

### Email received via our website

**From Belinda CLARK, Australia** - My son Matthew Clark has a copy of Coalburn Chronicles No. 9. On page 225 the question is asked – **I wonder what befell Baldie's medal?** My son Matthew has the medal. It was given to him by my husband Graham Clark who is the second son of Archibald Clark and Esme Mills. After Graham's father passed away his mother gave the medal to him as Graham has always and still to this day has a love and vivid interest in his Scottish ancestry. I would have loved to have placed the medal on my fob chain but felt as I was not a Clark blood line was not worthy to wear such an heirloom. Our son Matthew like his father is proud of his Scottish heritage and so on his 21st birthday we gave him the Hozier Cup medal. Matthew has visited his Clark relatives many times in Lesmahagow [bindiclark@hotmail.com.au](mailto:bindiclark@hotmail.com.au)

## COVENANTERS

**T**he area was well represented in the cause of the Covenanters, in addition to the Steele connection yet another of the figures who figured at that time was Thomas Brown of Auchlochan.

He was present at Drumclog, where the fierce Claverhouse sustained a signal defeat by a handful of worshippers, who had been holding a conventicle near the place, on Sabbath the 1<sup>st</sup> June 1679. He fought also at Bothwell Bridge, where the power of the Covenanters was lamentably broken, and their army scattered.

If, prior to the rising at Bothwell, the furnace of persecution glowed with the intolerable heat, it was now kindled seven times; and the cloud that lowered over the afflicted Church grew darker and portentous, and threatened to discharge its ominous contents in one full and vengeful tempest on the defenceless heads of those who had hitherto outraved the fury of the storm, in the support of their civil and religious privileges.



### David Steel's tribute to his namesake

Sept 1986

A crowd of over 200 joined David Steel MP when he paid tribute to his namesake, forbearer and Covenanting martyr at Lesmahagow Old Parish Kirkyard and Skellyhill Farm. The original David Steele of Skellyhill, Waterside, Lesmahagow, was killed by Government troops in 1686. He was an active covenanting preacher and tenant farmer, later buried in the churchyard. **CC No.33**



Tercentenary ceremony at Skellyhill Farm marking the martyrdom of David Steel

Two of the troopers under the command of Claverhouse, came suddenly upon Thomas Brown, on the banks of the Nethan, a few yards above the house of Auchlochan. Brown stood on his defence, and with his sword drawn, warded off for some time the blows of his antagonists. At length, however, he was overpowered, and falling under the heavy strokes of the two powerful troopers, he was left for dead on the field.

At this juncture, the appearance of another Covenanter on the opposite side of the stream attracted their notice, and, leaving their victim bleeding on the ground, they crossed the river in pursuit. This man, whose name is unknown, was speedily overtaken, and killed on the spot.

Thomas Brown, however, though severely wounded, was not dead. He was stupefied by the loss of blood, and stunned by the blows he had received; but, by the kind attention of his friends, he gradually recovered. He was at this time in the flower of his age, and he lived till he became an old man.

**Extract from Jim Hamilton's Coalburn Chronicle Number 23.**

## LINTFIELDBANK WRI

Lintfieldbank WRI was formed 90 years ago, and originally met in a barn at Birkhill thanks to Mrs Smith of Birkhill House. The women moved to Lintfieldbank Hall in 1934, which in the beginning was designated as Lintfieldbank Miners' Welfare as the hamlet was a thriving community and for several years Gala Days were held there in addition to that in Coalburn. As the number of households diminished over the years which may well have brought about the end of the Rural, it says much for the determination of the members that the organisation has continued to flourish. Sadly the hall is no longer in a fit state and has not been for some time and the ladies now meet in the Miners' Welfare in Coalburn and no doubt the same spirit will see many of the current members participate in the Centenary celebrations in 10 years time.



**LINTFIELDBANK** Only the house behind the bridge still stands

### Email received via our website

From **Anne GRANT, Cambuslang** - My father, David Baxter, was born in Coalburn in 1920. I am trying to find info. about the village at that time. I believe his father was under manager of a coal mine. His name was also David and I believe he lost his life in a mining accident in the 1930's. I hope to make up a `This is your life ` for his birthday on Nov.25. Any help would be much appreciated. [anne\\_grant@btinternet.com](mailto:anne_grant@btinternet.com)

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

**3 Nov** Rae **COOK** & June **FEARNS**,  
Coalburn School Teachers' Memories

**17 Nov** Millar **STODDART**, Lanark Memories

**1 Dec** Robert **McLEISH**, History of Bankend

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

## 2011

**5 Jan** TBC

**19 Jan** Jim **SMALLS**, Forestry Commission

**Friday 28 Jan** **BURNS SUPPER SOCIAL NIGHT**  
**Coalburn Miners' Welfare Club – TICKETS NOW ON SALE**

The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn

# COALBURN HERITAGE CENTRE

OPEN

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS

10am – 3pm

Admission FREE

Website

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



AUCHLOCHAN  
2010

Photograph by John Zawadzki

COALBURN HERITAGE  
**CALENDARS 2011**  
ON SALE AT COALBURN POST OFFICE