

The Jim Hamilton
Heritage Society
of Coalburn

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Summer 2012

www.coalburnheritage.org.uk

Chairman's Report

We are approaching a particularly busy time of the year what with the special Gala Day event and the demolition of the current school building which we hope to be able to record one way or the other.

With regard to the latter it seems to me a great pity that the old part of the building could not have been retained similar to Bent School which is still in place with a fair sized extension.

The AGM took place earlier this month and other than the post of Membership Secretary all other office-bearers and Committee members remain in place.

A change to the constitution was made with regard to future AGMs inasmuch that instead of being in May they will be held on the third Wednesday in April.

As can be seen elsewhere in this issue the syllabus has been compiled for a full year and as has been the practice every endeavour has been made to add new speakers alongside some previous visitors.

You may recall that in the previous issue mention was made of an application for Lottery Funding, I regret to advise that we were not successful on this occasion.

Peter McLeish
1st JUNE 2012

Office Bearers 2012/13

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Peter McLEISH
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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**

FRONT COVER
Miner's carbide lamp
on display at Coalburn
Heritage Centre.
JZ Photo

Gala Memories...

“No doubt persons of my era will remember getting dressed up and with a ‘tinny’ affixed to one’s person by a length of white tape or string, proudly joining the procession and marching to the public park. There we enjoyed our bag of buns, including a ‘Paris’ bun, ‘Empire’ biscuit, currant square (known to schoolboys as a ‘flies’ cemetery) and sandwiches. We all got new ‘gutties’ to take part in the races on Gala Day, and I should imagine these would cost around 2/11d the pair.”

- Jim Hamilton, **April 1987**.
Coalburn Chronicles, Part 35.

The late Jim Hamilton at Coalburn Gala Day 1937



Continuing the article contributed by David Gwynne.

Aikmanhill – An Evacuee’s Story

Part Two

The People

I should say that Jockie, who was a gentle soul, but no doubt had all the usual worries of the small farmer and also suffered badly from asthma, was never anything other than warmly welcoming to us, as was everybody at the farm. He used to smoke Hinksman’s asthma cigarettes, which had a powerful though not altogether unpleasant smell. I think he depended a lot on his uncle, Andrew Young, and according to my sister was also pretty much under the thumb of his aunts, especially in the matter of girls!

The first and foremost of the aunts was the lady I knew as Auntie Nellie, who pretty much held the whole thing together and to whom the modern term “feisty” could well have been applied!

By one of those curious quirks of memory, I remember her standing at the farm door saying to someone “this is oor wee ‘vac.” I very much regret that although I have a small number of photos from the farm, for some



reason I don’t have one of her. I do have a picture of Auntie Bessie, who was a more genteel person altogether.

Andrew Young, who farmed at Middlefield, was a big jovial man with a red complexion with a white stubble, with which he used to get my mother! We mainly saw him on Lanark market days, when he and Jockie would wear their best clothes and shiny boots!

The only other time I remember people getting dressed up was when the Banker came, which was generally in the evening, and on occasion at Mary and Guy Twaddle's cottage, opposite Netherfield Farm. Guy was a cobbler and very bent and I think he must have made a big impression on me as a small boy, for I have a clear mental picture of him, but of Mrs Twaddle none at all.

Lintfieldbank village was still lived in during the time I was at the farm. My great friend and mentor was Willie Shaw, who was a few years older than me and was always about the farm. He had a brother Davie and a sister Betty. I believe they were related to Jock Shaw, a well-known footballer of the day.

I also remember Jim and Nettie Tait and a few of the other names from Mrs Sykes' list, including Katy Cairns, who kept the shop. Another lad who came about the farm a lot, although he wasn't from Lintfieldbank, was Geordie Gray. He had a severe cast in one eye, which didn't prevent him from eventually joining the Cameronians!

The few photos which I do have of the farm show myself aged I guess about 7 or 8 and my sister therefore about 10 or 11, which would put it just about the end of the War. The Clydesdale mare in the photos with Jockie was always called Old Tib, and was I believe in her twenties-she certainly looks it!

The big dog in the slightly later picture was called Roy and the little brown, black and white collie, a lovely little dog, was called Maid. One of the photos shows a little donkey cart, which I don't remember; the girl with the bow is my sister and the other children were from Lintfieldbank.

Parts III and IV to follow.

First Notes of the Gala Day

The first minute found regarding a Gala Day was of a meeting held on 29th July 1927 . Here is the precise copy of the minute:

A meeting of the above Committee was held in Mr Todd's Garage on above date. Mr. Richard Barr, presiding. Members present were, Messrs Todd, Mathieson, McLean, Turner, Campbell, Jas. Smart, Muir, Stewart. Mr. Todd moved & Mr. Mathieson seconded, that the same procedure as last year be adopted regarding Collections. Mr. Todd agreed to type Sheets. It was agreed to notify last year's collectors to attend a further meeting on Monday 5th August at 6.30pm, also to post Notices inviting persons interested to attend. This concluded the business.

A. Stewart M. S.

(Mr Todd was the Manager of the local collieries and his home, known as Coalburn House, later became the Church Manse).

The next meeting was again held in Mr Todd's garage and the secretary was instructed to approach the managers of Coalburn and District, Abbeygreen and Auchenheath Co-operative Societies regarding the purvey. Archibald Smith agreed to approach Mr. McArthur of the Brethren regarding the use of the marquee. Mr. Barr was to interview Mr. Jock Arneil about the erection of lavatories, swings and the marquee.

It was also decided to write the Schools Management Committee for the use of Coalburn school in case the weather was unfavourable. It was also agreed to write to the three bands in the village – Coalburn Rechabite Pipe Band, Coalburn District Pipe Band and Coalburn Silver Band to turn out for the gala day. If Coalburn Silver Band could not attend, the Lesmahagow Silver Band was to be asked.

The headmasters of the two schools, Mr Wallace at Coalburn and Mr Wills at Bellfield were to be asked to notify children to assemble on the gala day on the road (now named Belvedere Place) in front of Shanks' picture house (long since demolished).

In the early days the gala days were held on the first Saturday in September, it was also decided to admit local people to the field with stalls provided a donation of 5/- (25p) was paid to the gala day fund.

By 1933, it was confirmed that the date of the annual gala day be changed from September and ***“that the first Saturday in July be fixed as the statutory date henceforth”***.

Mention was made that the procession would leave from “the Inns Brig” and that Mr Carswell, janitor at Coalburn and Bellfield schools was to be asked to provide a loan of the bell for the ‘bellman’. That was in the days before the committee had the use of public address equipment.

The first mention of a gala queen was in the minutes of a meeting held on 25th May 1936 when ***‘Mr. James Smith brought forward a suggestion that there should be a queen as it would be of great interest and a big attraction as well. It was unanimously agreed to give this proposition every consideration prior to the 1937 gala day.’***

News in brief

New 75th Anniversary Gala Booklet

Our Chairman Peter McLeish has compiled an excellent new booklet called 'Coalburn Gala Courts'. A limited number will be on sale (Price £5) at the Society's Annual Heritage Exhibition at Coalburn Leisure Centre on Gala Day. The booklet features photographs and names of all the Gala Queens and Courtiers from 1937 to 2012. The booklet will also be on sale thereafter at Coalburn Heritage Centre (Tues & Thurs) and Coalburn Post Office.

Coalburn Chronicles, No. 35

A very limited number of Jim Hamilton's Coalburn Chronicles, Part 35, will also be on sale (Price £2) at our Annual Heritage Exhibition. Published April 1987, the booklet is packed with information and photographs of Coalburn Galas and its Queens from 1937 to 1987.

Deaths

Frank MILLWARD

Ian McMURDO

John STEWART

Jean WEIR

DIARY DATE

Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn

ANNUAL HERITAGE EXHIBITION

COALBURN GALA DAY

Saturday 7th JULY 2012

11am – 3pm

Admission FREE – Tea/Coffee Available - Donations Welcome

Syllabus 2012/13

Admission is FREE

ALL WELCOME – BRING A FRIEND – Tea/Coffee at 8.45pm

Wednesday, 7.30pm start. Access from 7pm

Coalburn Bowling Club

5 SEPTEMBER KEIR HARDIE SOCIETY. *Subject:* Keir Hardy

19 SEPTEMBER SUPT. Robert ALLAN. *Subject:* Police topic

3 OCTOBER TAM WARD. *Subject:* Scotland's Previous Earliest People

17 OCTOBER RON BLAKEY. *Subject:* Old Books

7 NOVEMBER KEN SOWELLS. *Subject:* Clydesdale's Mills

21 NOVEMBER PAUL ARCHIBALD. *Subject:* Lanark Heritage topic

5 DECEMBER ELIZABETH IRVING. *Subject:* Researching Your Family History

14 DECEMBER ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER. + JZ SLIDESHOWS

2013

9 JANUARY VINTAGE VIDEO NIGHT. *Subject:* Coalburn Past & Present

23 JANUARY BURNS SOCIAL NIGHT. + JZ QUIZ & SLIDESHOWS

7 FEBRUARY JOHN YOUNG. *Subject:* Stonehouse Heritage topic

21 FEBRUARY BOB DALZIEL. *Subject:* Edinburgh Royal Mile

6 MARCH Speaker from DAVID LIVINGSTONE CENTRE.

Subject: David Livingstone on the Bi-Centenary of his death

20 MARCH ED ARCHER. *Subject:* Lanarkshire Heritage topic

3 APRIL GORDON HUNTER. *Subject:* Pathe News Reels

17 APRIL Annual General Meeting

CLYDESDALE CAMERA CLUB PRESENTS

ART ^{1st} of **PHOTOGRAPHY**
PRINT EXHIBITION

SATURDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2012

ADM. **FREE** THE ATRIUM 10AM - 4PM

LANARK AGRICULTURAL CENTRE
HYNDFORD ROAD, LANARK, ML11 9AX



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ROBERT FULTON MPAGB, ETAP, BPS

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