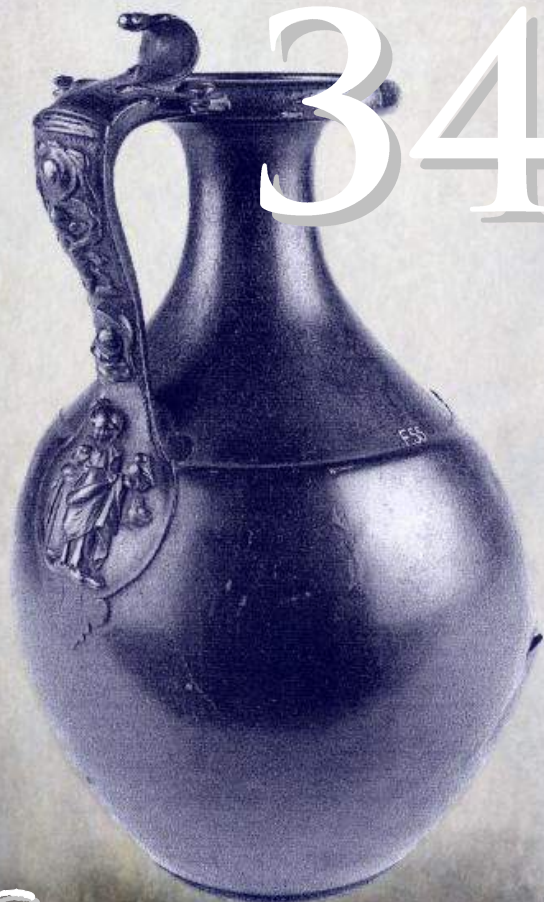


newsletter

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SPRING 2013

jz

FRONT COVER

The Lesmahagow Flagon

Wanted

Items, documents, books, etc relating to the history of coal mining, and social history of Coalburn in general, required for display at Coalburn Heritage Centre. If you have a suitable item you would like to donate to the Heritage Centre, please call in any Tuesday or Thursday, 10am – 3pm.

Deaths

Chrissie TOMKINS (Strang)
Audrey RALSTON (Bryson)
Edward HILLAN
Mary SPANTON (Brown)
Valerie BUCHANAN (Potter)

Office Bearers

2012/13

Chairman

Peter McLEISH
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Vice-Chairman

John ZAWADZKI

Secretary

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Tel. 01555 820276

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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

The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn

Chairman's Report

Now that Spring (?) has arrived, our thoughts are turning towards this year's Gala Day which will be held on 6th July. Once again, we will have a presence at the Leisure Centre, where we look forward to seeing old and new faces.

Our Secretary, Betty, has been busy over the last few weeks consolidating the syllabus for the new season commencing in September, not always an easy task as we have discovered during the last few months.

The annual calendar will be put together over the next few weeks in order that it will be available for the aforementioned Gala Day. The calendar has proved popular since its introduction some years ago.

Over the coming months we will probably have the usual visitors from abroad which we come to expect and make welcome. Equally on the home front information is sought by people whose former families lived in the area.

Articles of interest continue to be added to our collection for which we are most grateful. Of particular interest was a painting of Lintfieldbank by local artist, Archie Logan, as it was before the demolition of most of the properties.

My thanks once again to the volunteers who religiously come along on a Tuesday and Thursday to the Centre to ensure a welcoming service to all who visit. In addition the attendances at our meetings continue to be excellent and I offer my thanks to all for their commitment to the Society.

Peter McLeish 26th March 2013.

An Evacuee's Story

Part FIVE

Haymaking at Aikmanhill

My favourite time of all at Aikmanhill was undoubtedly haytime, I suppose partly because that was when I was most often there. Once it had been cut, the hay would be turned by machine, or sometimes we even turned it by hand with a fork. It was raked into bundles using a horse drawn rake. The tripods from stobs would be stood up and the hay built around them to the ricks, or as they were also called, rucks! There would always be extra men and boys at these times, including those mentioned earlier, off-shift miners and others

When the time came the ruck would be manoeuvred onto the ruck-lifter by putting a rope round it and winding it by hand onto the platform. The rucks were then taken to the hayshed and stacked, a hot and dusty job, especially when you got high up under the tin roof! These were the days of the big dinners, for, of course, everybody who worked got fed! That said, the high point of the day was the 4 o'clock, when the ladies would come out to the field or to the shed with the jeely pieces, scones and tea, and the horse got the crusts!

It was of course all horse-work at that time, but I know that in later years Jackie did acquire a little grey Ferguson tractor. It seems to me now, looking back, that life on this kind of farm changed more in the 20 years from about 1950 than it had in the previous 200. One telling point about all of this occurs on visiting farming museums, where you can see some of these very machines and other items from that time displayed as museum piece.

Miscellaneous

This is a collection of random memories, of things which must have made a lasting impression on me at the time.

The view from the front, ie, the south-facing side of the house, looking over to Douglas and Tinto Hill.

The deep-set windows which always had geraniums in them.

The Scottish Farmer and Hamilton Advertiser and the Ayrshire cattle herd books, which gave me a fondness for Ayrshire cows which has lasted to this day, even though they are much bigger and lack the graceful horns, which I must say we never seemed to find a problem.

The gramophone and collection of 78 inch Beltona and other records, mainly of Robert Wilson, Will Starr and, of course, Jimmy Shand, something else which I still enjoy in the form of CD re-issues.

The swallows which nested in the angle of the porch and which were always swooping about, feeding their young and twittering on the wires. In the same connection, the constant calling the curlews on the moss, especially in the evening, another thing which has stayed with me ever since.

The bluebells on the back road over the hill to Burnhead.

A traveller in something or other, whose favourite tippie was two raw eggs in a glass with milk, I couldn't believe how he could do it!

The sound of heavy lorries grinding their way up the Carlisle Road.

Epilogue

Above and beyond all of these, and without wishing to overstate the case, I think what I remember best is the peace and quiet and security of the place, especially perhaps in the afternoons, when there was no immediate work to be done and also in the evening, when it was done.

David Gwynne

Down Memory Lane.... c1964



COALBURN RAILWAY STATION

Photograph kindly donated by Mrs Helen Walker in January 2013

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The Thoughts of John Hamilton

History begins with the Christian era, while Roman soldiers were crucifying Christ others were invading England. While the Gospels were being written a Roman army was in the south of Scotland. Agricola compiled a line of forts from the Forth to the Clyde about 86 AD and the Antonine Wall in the same locality was built in 146 AD. The Romans however never subdued the wild inhabitants in these parts and soldiers were probably glad to be withdrawn at the beginning of the 5th century.

After more than 300 years of fighting, the Romans left few traces in these parts except such as the camp at Ravenstruther, near Carstairs and patches of roads at Elvanfoot and Crawford. In the Lesmahagow district there are no traces at all. But here I must relate the story of the Roman Vase known as the Lesmahagow Flagon.

In the year 1807 a Bronze Jug was found embedded in a small ford on the Saddlerhead Burn near to the farm of Saddlerhead at Lintfieldbank, Coalburn. Before it was discovered the side that lay uppermost (fortunately that opposite the handle) had suffered considerable damage from the feet of cattle. This was the celebrated Roman Flagon, now known as the **Lesmahagow Flagon** because of the fact of it being found in the parish of Lesmahagow. One of the family of Mr James Minto, tenant of the farm, was herding cows when he discovered it and it was given to the proprietor of the farm, the Rev. David Dow then Minister of Cathcart, near Glasgow who presented it to the Hunterian Museum attached to Glasgow University, where it is one of their most prized possessions.

The flagon is 12” high. It consists of five distinct parts all neatly connected-the mouth, neck and shoulder, body, bottom and handle. The body is plain, but the handle is richly ornamented with embossed figures.

The conjecture regarding this interesting relic is that it formed part of the baggage of a Roman officer and was lost on an exploring expedition westward before the formation of the western road.

The Saddlerhead Burn rises near Shoulderigg and runs past Muirburn and Forkins. The Coal Burn joins it below Auchlochan Signal Box, its course then taking it past Burnhead, Aikmanhill, Lintfieldbank and Saddlerhead, before it joins Poniel Burn at practically the same spot as the Fauldhouse Burn.



The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society
Of Coalburn

Annual
Heritage Exhibition

at
Coalburn Leisure Centre

on
Coalburn Gala Day
Saturday 6th July 2013

11am – 3pm

Admission
FREE

The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn
www.coalburnheritage.org.uk