

THE JIM HAMILTON HERITAGE SOCIETY OF COALBURN



The new school was officially opened on 19th November, 2015 by Councillor George Greenshields.

NEWSLETTER Number 42

MARCH 2016

www.coalburnheritage.org.uk

The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn

Guest Speakers

1st and 3rd Wednesdays, September to April

Everyone welcome-Free admission

Meetings commence at 7.30pm

Tea/coffee at the close of meetings.

at

COALBURN BOWLING CLUB

Syllabus

March 2nd- Lorna Davidson (New Lanark Trust)

March 16th - Paul Archibald (Clydesdale Inn)

April 6th - Helen Foster (Scran)

April 20th - Jim Brown (New Trows) and AGM.

COALBURN HERITAGE CENTRE

ONE STOP SHOP,

42, COALBURN ROAD,

COALBURN,

LANARK ML11 OHL.

TEL-01555 820060

OPEN ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS.

10am until 3pm

(Front cover photo courtesy of David Halls.)

Chairman's Remarks

As you are no doubt all aware we have not had the benefit of John's knowledge and ideas for a few months now due to his incapacity and he has been greatly missed. He is now in Wishaw General Hospital which makes visiting so much more convenient for his family. We look forward to hearing of his return to better health in the near future.

At this time I would like to thank those of you who were able to be present at the Christmas Dinner at Hollandbush Golf Course where an excellent meal was provided and set the tone for a most enjoyable evening.

Sadly we lost one of our members in January, Jim Kirk, who died in Lady Home Hospital in Douglas. See Obituary.

By the time of the next issue we will be thinking of a theme or themes for the annual display at the Leisure Centre so now is the time to bring forward your ideas so that we have time to put them into action. Believe it or not we are currently considering which photographs we should use for the calendar for next year.

Thanks for your valued support once again,

Peter McLeish.

Bits and Pieces

Over the years we have been fortunate that we have been able to add to the amazing archive which Jim Hamilton had accumulated during his lifetime. Recently we were given items from Ann Herkes, the daughter of the late Andrew and Nancy Hamilton, some of which were included in the last Newsletter, since then we have been given access to photos which were collected by Mollie Brownlie, many of which were of Bellfield School classes which we did not have copies. To continue this theme further donations have been made by Tom and Jim Findlay late of School Road. One particular piece of local history was among the package received, a watch which was given to their father, Jim senior, in 1933 for 5 years perfect attendance at Coalburn School. I suggested that such a unique present should be retained by the family, however I was advised that as none of them lived in the village they felt that because of the local attachment the watch should be available for display in the Heritage Centre.

As was stated in the previous Newsletter Coalburn Church Guild celebrated its 80th Anniversary in November. I was asked to go along to it and gave a presentation which was basically a history of the Guild. Much of the information was gleaned from the early Minute Books and photos which were freely given so that the presentation could be put together. PM

We are always looking for members to make use of the Heritage Centre with a view to producing an article for inclusion in a future Newsletter. There is no lack of information available to assist anyone who wishes to use the facilities



Coalburn Rows.



Middlemuir.

The following is reproduced by kind permission from South Lanarkshire Council
Operation Services Department and taken from the Education Newsletter dated 24th
November 2015.

Official Opening of Coalburn Primary School and Nursery Class.

On Thursday, 19th November 2015 Councillor George Greenshields officially opened Coalburn Primary and Nursery.

Thanks to everyone at Coalburn Primary School for making the official opening event such a success.

The warm welcome extended to all the guests by children and staff was appreciated by everyone who attended.

The children's performance of "*Strive For The Highest*" was first class and their singing very impressive.

It was great to see the children resplendent in their school uniform and being excited to take part in what was a special day for the school.

The performance by the whole school singing "*I Can Do It*" and "*Just Sing*" was excellent.

The children certainly showed how Coalburn Primary School and Nursery has talent and the class groups deserve to be commended. A special mention must go to the solo performers, Emma Kerr, Katie Miller and Sarah Lamb for their performance of "*The Best That I Can Be*".

A lot of work by staff and children went into organising the programme and our thanks go to everyone involved.

A special thank you must go to the children of Coalburn Primary and Nursery for putting on a show which they can be proud of. They are a credit to themselves, their parents and of course the school.

A selection of the photos taken by David Halls





Obituary

We have lost yet another of our well known members, Jim Kirk. Born in the village, Jim was the eldest in his family, with two brothers, Guy and Fred and a sister, Mary. On leaving school he started his working life like so many of his peers as a miner. However his desire was to become a policeman and this he achieved in March 1950 when he joined Lanarkshire Constabulary at Cambuslang. He later made the short trip to Hamilton where he was with the

CID. It was at the time of the notorious Manuel case and Jim was a member of the squad which brought it to a successful conclusion. He was promoted to Detective Sergeant and then he attained the title of Detective Inspector while at the Lanarkshire Headquarters in Beckford Street. A keen photographer which he made use of with the CID, he was well known in the force for his unique methods while examining a crime scene and recovering evidence. When regionalisation came in 1975 he worked in the Support Unit at Hamilton, then at Motherwell. In 1977 he was one of the few police officers to be awarded the Queen Elizabeth 11 Silver Jubilee Medal. His next journey took him to Coatbridge and was from there in March 1980 retirement came. He then worked as a civilian at Airdrie Sheriff Court. He filled his days with his photography. Handy with his hands he made items in metal and wood. He was a regular attendee at our meetings and on the 24th January 2007 he was our guest speaker. After a short spell in hospital, Jim passed away on 3rd January, 2016 in Lady Home Hospital, Douglas three years after he had lost his long time partner, Mollie Brownlie. In his later visits to our gatherings he was accompanied by his sister, Mary or Mollie's niece, Helen Brownlie. Several members attended the funeral.

By Jim's death, we have not only lost a valued member but someone who was a true gentleman at all times and was ever willing to share his wealth of local knowledge which we will shall miss without doubt.

BLASTS FROM THE PAST by Billy Dempster.

May 1926

Government dispute with miners leads to ten day General Strike.

1936-advert in Hamilton Advertiser

Mr J. Watson-Hairdresser

Wishes to intimate that he will visit Coalburn on Thursday, 31st October.

Appointments may be left with Mrs Whyte, 15, Mooredge, Coalburn.

November 1936

BBC launch first television service.

December 1936

King Edward V111 abdicates after only eleven months as King.

August 1946

Family Allowance and free milk for children in state schools introduced'

July 1963-Hamilton Advertiser

After 43 years devoted service, Dr David McFarlane retired from the medical profession. He now goes to live in Helensburgh. A Testimonial Fund was set up and achieved the remarkable total of £348-5/-. He arrived in 1919. A high compliment was paid to the doctor for his promptness in dealing with colliery accidents. Dr McFarlane was presented with a silver salver suitably inscribed and a bank draft for £286.

Dr McFarlane replied in a delightfully reminiscent mood. He spoke in regretful terms of having to sever his connection with the people and a district where he had spent such a pleasant time. He received a tremendous ovation when he finished.

He was an elder in Coalburn Church and after the service on Sunday the Rev Brian Cross presented him with book tokens.

Coalburn Sporting Personalities

Number two



Miners have always had a strong link to several sporting organisations over many years. Some of which, like the Quoiting Club, are no longer with us, and probably more surprisingly a football team. So it pleasing to record that one group which has celebrated over 100 years in the community is alive and well. It is the Homing Club to which I refer. The sport was very much a family affair as far as its members were concerned, such as Lightbody and Son, Carmichael Brothers and Scott Brothers to name but a few.

Peter Scott was an avid follower of Pigeon Racing for several years before 1950 and had an excellent knowledge in both the racing and the administration.

By 1955 he was President of the Lanarkshire Federation one of, if not the largest Federations in Scotland with 1,200 members. The meetings being held in Motherwell with up to 400 delegates attending. He was Lanarkshire's youngest President. In addition he was President of the Scottish Homing Union for three years from 1966 and Vice-President of the Scottish National Flying Club. He was Founder Member of the Long Distance Confederation of Pigeon Racing Unions of Great Britain and Ireland. The first meeting being held in the New Inn Hotel in Gloucester. He was also the first President of Young Bird Derby in the early 1960's. In 1986 he was named as Scotland's Pigeon Fancier. Peter Scott certainly made a name for himself in the sport.

Quite a list of achievements!

Society office bearers.

Chairman

Peter McLeish

Telephone 01555 820287

Vice- Chairman

John Zawadzki

Secretary

Geoff Brown

Telephone 01555 820379

Treasurer

Gillian Farrell

Membership Secretary

Betty Nicol

Archivist and Newsletter

John Zawadzki

DEATHS

Robin Fulton

Pauline Stamp (Dibb)

Jessie Strang (Sneddon)

William Bernard

Margaret Findlay (King)

Jim (Coshy)Reid

Jim Kirk

Isobel Aitken (Paterson)

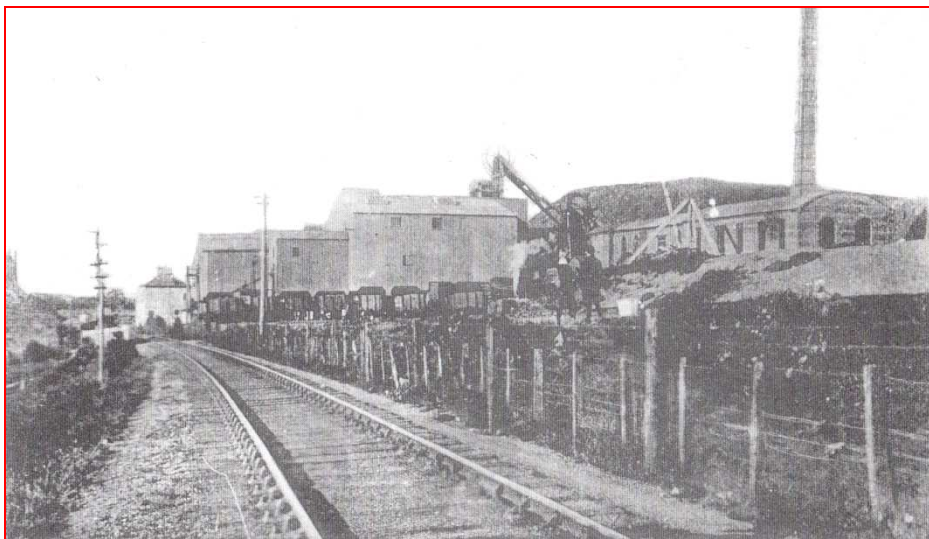
Betty Livingstone (Archibald)

Bill Livingstone

Betty Wilson (Wilson)

Eddie Thomson

Chrissie Black



Bellfield Colliery.



Sunday School Outing.