

The Jim Hamilton

Heritage Society of Coalburn

Newsletter 48

Coalburn Gala 2017. Photographer: Geoff Brown.





Chairman's Remarks

We look forward to a new session in September with a number of new faces among our speakers with a variety of topics

As in previous years we have had a number of visitors to the Heritage Centre from many places including Canada, Germany, Helensburgh, New Zealand and Larkhall

The display at the Leisure Centre on the Gala Day was well supported as we welcomed past visitors as well as new faces which is encouraging. Thanks to all who helped out on the day, it was very much appreciated.

I have been visiting John Zawadzki on a regular basis and I let him know what is going on within the group.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that calendars are in production this year again, the photos are of groups which are no longer active in the village. There was a good uptake at the Gala Day.

Copies are finally available of "A History of Coalburn School". It has been encouraging that at both the school award ceremony and the Gala Day a good number of copies were purchased.

Peter McLeish

In deepest sympathy Coalburn related deaths:

Richard Gray

Wilson Anderson

Mary Hannah (Blackwood)

Graeme Shankley

Jimmy Weir

Linda Hillan (Walker)

Roy Scott

Raye Duffy (Bryson)

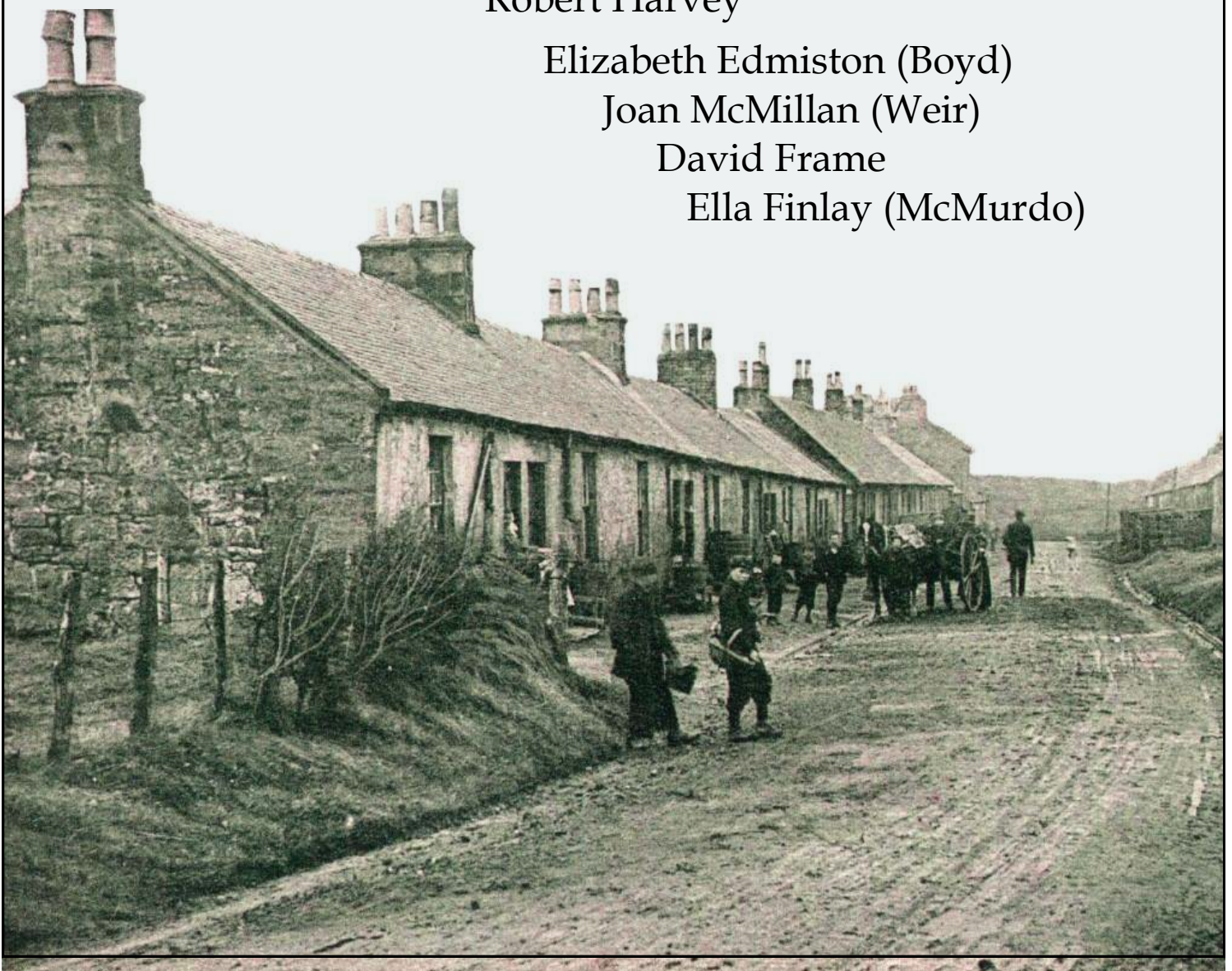
Robert Harvey

Elizabeth Edmiston (Boyd)

Joan McMillan (Weir)

David Frame

Ella Finlay (McMurdo)



Times Remembered Past

Miners Meeting

The men of Auchlochan colliery held a meeting on Thursday Afternoon to reconsider the discussion recently made to observe an idle day on the occasion of the children's Gala Day in July. This decision was made on a majority vote at the A.G.M.

But in view of the rather acrimonious controversy which has resulted in the district committee arranging this meeting and recommended that the decision be rescinded. It was contended that the Gala Day was not a miners affair entirely and consequently that was unfair to cause men out with the district to be idle.

On a vote it was decided that the first decision be annulled and that the men should attend work as usual. A similar meeting of the Arden colliery men is also to be held.

1937

It will be interesting to the people of Coalburn to know that the Gala Day Committee have inaugurated a queen crowning ceremony at the annual Gala Day to be held on Saturday 13th July 1937. The first Gala Queen will be Miss Grace Wilson, Burnhead Farm who is a pupil at Coalburn School. Arrangements for the day are being speedily completed and an appeal is to be made to the householders to endeavour to make the village have the appearance of a carnival day by a lavish display around their dwellings.

Times Remembered Past

1946

Following a letter from Central S.M.T. stating that they are still unable to provide the extra bus necessary to expand the Glasgow to Coalburn service to the housing scheme in Bellfield Rd.

It was agreed that representatives of the company be asked to meet the Council at the nearest meeting to discuss the question

Bankend School Excursion

Thursday last week was a great gala day with the young people of Bankend. The weekdays as well as Sunday scholars having had the honour of being invited by Lady Alston to the beautiful grounds and mansion of Stockbriggs.

By Ten o'clock they were all marshalled and drilled by Mr James Campbell.



Gala Day

1937

W.D.

Joe McGill



Joe McGill was only 66 of age when he died. He was born in the village of Glespin, coming from that small village to work with the Coalburn and District Co-operative society when he was in his early twenties.

For a time he cycled between his home and work, a distance of eighteen miles daily.

On his marriage he took over the shop at Burnside which formerly had the name "Ritchie" and "Mackenzie" above the door

This thrived and he was in partnership with his son Walter, working until a few days before his fatal illness.

When it was decided to have a registrar in the village, after agitation over many years – previously registration of births, deaths, and marriages for Coalburn had been undertaken at Lesmahagow. Joe was appointed and held the post until 1951 when Margaret Simpson, widow of Bobby Simpson, took over.

During the 1939-45 war, Joe was chief warden for air raid precautions, at the time of his death, he was treasurer of the Coalburn Royal Arch Chapter and was also a past master of the local Masonic lodge.

A keen outdoor sportsman, he was equally proficient with rod or gun and just revelled a day on the moors.. We can remember well on one occasion, when a rat appeared at Nellie's Well near the former bus terminus at the brig, Joe quickly came out of his shop with his gun and shot the rat.

Of a extremely pleasant manner, Joe was fond of company and his agility on the dance floor had to be seen to be believed. His civility , attentiveness and generosity to his light hearted jocular nature, made him a prime favourite in the community.

I have memories of going to his shop for an odd message or two as the bulk of our purchases were made at Abbeygreen Co-op store. Joe's was a compact shop, redolent of the aroma of cheeses and ham. Facing the door as you entered was a stand holding containers in which were a variety of biscuits. After being served Joe had toted up the various items, often on the back of a poke, he would take the money, give the change, then tear out the number of black and white stamps due. These were affixed to a book and when full could be exchanged for a gift.



Pretoria Terrace consisted of two tenement buildings, each with six house downstairs and six upstairs, making twenty four in all.

The houses had a large living room with a high ceiling (very suitable for pulleys for drying clothes) and two small bedrooms.

During the entire lifetime of Pretoria Terrace (more often referred locally as “The Bloaks”) water was never led into the houses. Water had to be obtained from four iron pumps, two at the front of the buildings and two at the back. The families living upstairs had to carry the water up a long outside stair but used water could be poured into an outside sink and this was led away in pipes.

There were six wash-houses. (one for each of the four families and they had running water.

Washday meant taking the kindling from the house fire to the wash-house to start the fire under the boiler. Washing in the years of Pretoria Terrace entailed a lot of “elbow grease” and in the wet weather, there was the problem of having the weekly wash to dry then iron.

The toilets were outwith the tenement buildings and lay to the rear and were used by several families: a count revealed that eighteen persons were known to use one toilet.

It is not surprising that the toilet compartment required regular cleaning and disinfecting and it was not easy to have all the families take their share of this work, as standards of what would be considered as hygienically clean, varied considerably



William Muir

Following an enquiry from Tony Onslow an Everton FC historian, with regard to the place of birth of a former player who was said to have been born in Ayr, it was proved that in fact he was born in Coalburn, thus being the first footballer from the village to represent Scotland at International level, which means there have been two locally born men have being so honoured, Archie Glen of Aberdeen FC being the other.

The following is the information from Tony regarding William Muir's career

Peter McLeish

Everton appeared to have unearthed a reliable goalkeeper when they signed Willie Muir, but a dispute concerning his selection led to a premature departure. He was born on the 17th of January, 1876 at Coalburn in the Lanarkshire parish of Lesmahagow to John, a Coal Miner, and his wife Marion Canning. The 1881 census discovers the family now living at 7 Store Terrace in the Ayrshire village of Muirkirk and Willie is the eldest of 3 children. By 1891 the number of children has increased to 6 and Willie, now 15, has joined his father working down the Mine. It is around this time that he signed to play football for the famous nursery club, Glenbuck Athletic where he became affectionately known as "Gooley".

Muir soon developed in to an accomplished goalkeeper and was picked to play for Scotland, at Junior Level, against England at the home of Aston Villa at Perry Barr.

The game took place, 11th April 1896 and Scotland won 4-1. Muir briefly assisted Third Lanark before signing amateur forms with Scottish Division Two side, Kilmarnock. He played 16 league and cup games for the Rugby Park club and took part in the SFA Cup semi-final that saw them beaten, by Dumbarton, by 4 goals to 3. In June 1897, for a fee of £45, Willie Muir joined Everton and accepted a wage of £2.15s per week.

The Everton directorate unveiled their new Bullen's Road Grandstand when the season opened with the inter-club practice match and over 12,000 spectators saw Willie Muir keep goal at Goodison Park for the first time. He then took his place in the second X1 before making his Football League debut, in a 2-2 draw at West Bromwich Albion at Stoney Lane.

Muir now became the regular club goalkeeper and took part in the FA Cup semi-final, at Wolverhampton, where Everton were beaten, 3-2 by Derby County. During the course of the next three seasons, he missed only two games for Everton and proved to be a reliable goalkeeper.

Muir found romance during his time on Merseyside for he married locally born Emily Hardy, 20th of June 1900, at the Walton on the Hill parish church. The couple then settled in to their own home at



Antonia Street in Bootle where first child John Stanley was born. Their tranquillity however, was soon interrupted.

To be Continued in next Newsletter



The Jim Hamilton
Heritage Society of Coalburn

Syllabus

- 6th SEPTEMBER Geoff Brown Gala Day Photos*
- 20th SEPTEMBER Joan Barr Roy's Ordinance Maps*
- 4th OCTOBER Peter McLeish The Man from the Pru*
- 18th OCTOBER John Donnachie Clyde River Crossings*
- 1st NOVEMBER Bill Love Conan Doyle*
- 15th NOVEMBER Jim Henry Mining Memorials*
- 6th DECEMBER Alastair Dinsmore*
- Glasgow Police Museum*
- 15th DECEMBER Christmas Dinner Venue to be arranged*

Why not come along and hear the speakers.

Coalburn Bowling Club at 7.30pm

ADMISSION FREE