

The Jim Hamilton

Heritage Society of Coalburn



Newsletter 49

Winter 2017

Chairman's Remarks



First of all I would like to thank Gillian Farrell for her help as treasurer in the past two years following the death of Jean Savage. Unfortunately Gillian has had to give up the post for health reasons. We have been able to fill the role as Marion McBain has agreed to step in and take over and I would like to thank her for so doing.

Again we have endeavoured to bring some new faces to the Bowling Club during the first part of 2018, see the Syllabus elsewhere in this issue.

I have been visiting John Zawadzki regularly over the months as usual to let him know what we are doing, the Newsletter is also sent to him.

Several emails have been received since the last issue, mainly people seeking information about ancestors who lived or worked in the collieries in the district.

One of our forthcoming speakers, Lindsay Freeland, is keen to learn about Isaac Dishington Reid who came from the village and was killed in the First World War. There were many Reids in Coalburn over the years, however we have not been able to find anything about Isaac. Any information would be appreciated.

The annual Christmas Dinner will soon be upon us, so with that in mind I would like to wish all A Merry Christmas and the best of health in 2018.

Peter McLeish 20th November 2017.

In deepest sympathy Coalburn related deaths:

Mary Mathieson (Turnbull)

Billy Ross

Robert Smith

Grace Davidson (Lott)

Marigold Walker (Mathieson)

Barbara McGregor

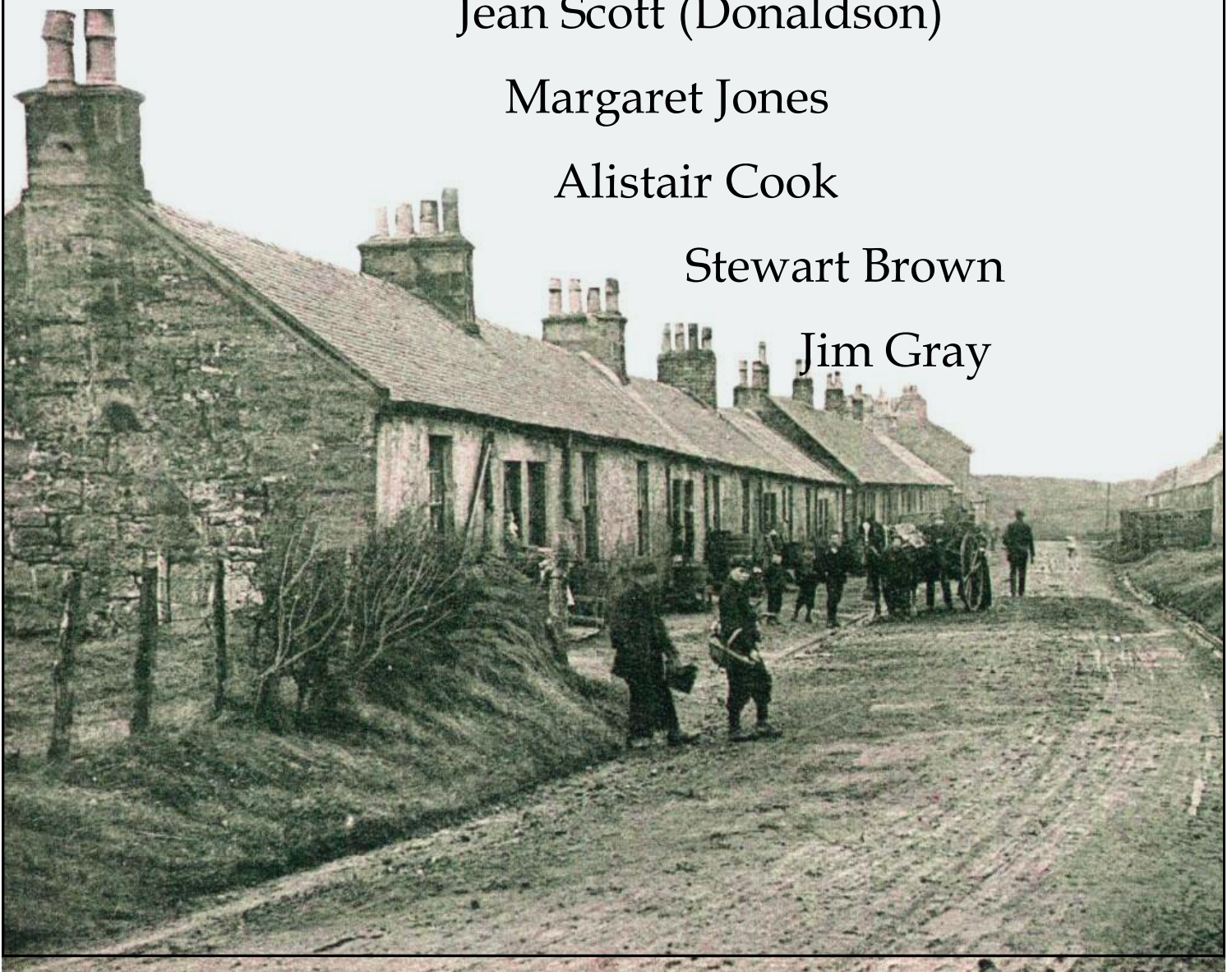
Jean Scott (Donaldson)

Margaret Jones

Alistair Cook

Stewart Brown

Jim Gray





William Muir (cont)

The 1901-02 season had begun well for Everton and they were at the top of the League when, 12th of October 1901, they travelled to play Nottingham Forest at the City Ground.

The visitors, who played badly, were beaten by 4 goals to 0. The Everton Directors then decided to replace Muir with George Kitchen and this made him angry. He never kept goal for the Goodison Park club again and left the club to join Dundee at the end of the season. The circumstances which contributed to this event, were told later in a Scottish newspaper... *Muir was annoyed that his many brilliant performances were lost sight of and his career blighted by one indifferent display and in no uncertain manner told the Directors what he thought of them, thus widening the breach that existed. When the Everton team came on tour to this district last April, a representative of the Dundee club approached the Everton secretary for Muir's transfer and was informed that he could, he could get it for £300. On hearing this Muir appealed to the league and, at a special meeting held in Manchester, his case was adjudicated upon. The Everton delegate, in eloquent terms, appealed to the League to uphold the committee decision but Muir upstaged him by producing an agreement signed by the Everton secretary guaranteeing him a benefit and a weekly wage of £5 for 2 years.*

and, as the FA had decreed that no player could be paid more than £4 per week, the matter seemed serious for the Everton club, until Muir told the League that he had forgone his claim to the terms of agreement, and excepted £4 per week for last season thus losing the sum of £52. On hearing this the League ordered Everton to put him on the transfer list for £100. The Dundee Directors, with commendable promptitude, at once wired Muir to come and see them with a view to arranging terms and he came from Liverpool without delay. (Dundee Evening News, 21th of January 1903.)

Willie Muir, who was granted a benefit game, had played 137 games for Everton when he departed for Tayside where he immediately took over the first team goalkeeping duties. He quickly became part of the fixtures and fittings at Dens Park so much so that a local butcher, who supported the club, supplied him with a free joint of meat each time he kept a "Clean Sheet". Gooley went on to play 147 games for Dundee without gaining any major honours. He did however, win one International cap when he represented Scotland, 16th of March 1907, in a 3-0 win over Ireland at Celtic Park in Glasgow. In 1907 Muir moved back to England and signed for Division 2 side, Bradford City where he was joined, February 1908, by Tom McDermott who had been signed from Everton. Muir spent a single season with the Yorkshire club, playing 28 games, and helped them to gain promotion before returning to Scotland to join Heart of Midlothian.

His daughter Emily was born, 1909, during the time he lived in "Auld Reekie". Muir proved his worth to the Tynecastle club, making 85 appearances until, at the age of 33, he announced his retirement. Nonetheless, when approached by the club secretary, he agreed to keep goal for Scottish Division 2

making 85 appearances until, at the age of 33, he announced his retirement.

Nonetheless, when approached by the club secretary, he agreed to keep goal for Scottish Division 2 side Dumbarton and 18th of November 1911, and helped them to defeat Ayr United by 4 goals 1. Muir made another 7 appearances for the “Sons of the Rock” before finally retiring from the game.

The Muir Family are to be found in Bootle when the 1911 census is taken and Willie declares himself to be a Gentleman who is working, in the Drapery Trade, as a Commercial Traveller. During the month of May, 1923, he was interviewed by a journalist while watching the Scottish Junior Cup final between Musselburgh Bruntons and Arniston Rangers and was reported as saying...*he knew the Musselburgh players well as his business interests were centred in the town.*

The death of Willie Muir, which was featured in Daily Record newspaper, took place at Sandbank near Dunoon. He was later buried, 21-10-1941, in the cemetery adjoining the parish Kirk at Inveresk in the County of East Lothian.

Footnote;

In the last issue of the Newsletter his mother's maiden name was given as Canning, it was in fact, Callan.

Bellfield School by Joe Hart

Bellfield Public School has long since vanished, but at the turn of the century it was a busy place indeed.

This small four-roomed school boasted a roll of many hundreds and pupils were often instructed in outside play shelters.

I have been in and out of school for 55 years now and have seen the abacus, the coloured bead counting machine, replaced by the computer, yet in all this time I have never experienced the shock, the drama of my first eventful day at Bellfield school.

My first encounter was with Jean Scott, who had been teaching since education in Scotland had come to matter with the 1872 Education Scotland Act. I feel that Miss Scott and I have spanned nearly a century of teaching in Scottish schools.

Miss Scott was a woman of undoubted personality who held sway in room 1. There she commanded the whole infant department end, also some Juniors.

Classes were named after the price of the reading book being used. So we had the halfpenny class to the sixpenny and half sixpenny.

The walls of the classroom were bare of decoration except for the framed print on either side of the blackboard. On the right was a picture of Tom the Piper's Son and I have forgotten what the other print showed.

To me Miss Scott was a terror and her demands were firm and unrelenting. That first morning was too much for me.

She had taken up a position of advantage near the blackboard, armed with a long wooden pointer which she bumped on the floor for silence.

Immediately all was still as teacher glided to her desk and laid the pointer there like a gavel. Then with great reverence the Lord's prayer was offered.

It was still my first day as I sat in the Halfpenny Class that I was introduced to the story of Abraham and Isaac with dramatic content. As a five year old I had many times said my prayers but Miss Scott made me feel that she was in some way part and parcel of the deity. She was always seemed to be passing on God's order.

Heaven's first rule is order, or cleanliness is next to Godliness. By the look of most of our pupils they were very far removed from Godliness.

Miss Scott's teaching of reading commenced on the very first day and she employed the identical methods that are being used in our child guidance clinics today. This phonetic method was sure and certain and very few non readers were left at the end of the day.

The abacus or counting machine stood on Miss Scott's left hand and was used every minute of every day. The large vanished beads of this machine provided a bright touch of red, green, yellow and blue. The teacher hinted that this one legged, square faced monster posed secret powers.

Most of the written work was done in framed slates which were dutifully carried home by the pupils. Homework started from your first day at school and had to be copied onto your slate. The wooden frame of the slate was decorated with designs and the pupils initials. This was usually done by the parents using a red hot knitting needle.

It would be right to say that one was taught the basic skills in spite of oneself, as Jean Scott used to scream "I taught your mother and I taught your grandfather and by god I will teach you"

Joe Hart was reared at Netherfauldhouse Farm, Cairnhouse, Coalburn and was educated at Bellfield School, Lesmahagow Higher grade and Hamilton Academy. He graduated as a teacher before studying to become a psychologist.

Times Past Remembered by WD

April 1863

At Lanark Sheriff Court Robert Hastie and David Fairfoul both miners at Bellfield in Lesmahagow Parish were sentenced on the 18th March to two months imprisonment each for night poaching on the land of Major Brown of Auchlochan and at the end of which, have to find caution for £10 or suffer a further six months imprisonment.

1934

George Meikle proposes to open a boot repair shop on Monday first opposite Coalburn Welfare Institute and solicits a share of your patronage.

1936 Peace Sunday

The annual service associated with armistice time was held in the Parish Church on Sunday last when there was a good attendance . There was a parade of Rangers, Girl Guides and Boy Scouts.

1939

A bus passenger service between Coalburn and Douglas Water commences today. Finlay Bros who are at present conveying miners to Douglas Water have been granted the license for this purpose. On weekdays the times of departure are as usual but extra buses will be available on Saturdays and Sundays.

The route is via Lesmahagow, Alton, Cairnhouse and Fockerton Mill.

THEN and NOW

Pasta had not been invented, it was either macaroni or spaghetti

Curry was a surname

Take away was a mathematical problem

Pizza was a leaning tower

Bananas and oranges only appeared at Christmas time

All crisps were plain

Oil was for lubricating, fat was for cooking

Tea was made in a teapot with tea leaves and never green

Fish never had fingers in those days

Nobody ever heard of Yogurt

Healthy food was anything edible

Seaweed was not a recognised food

Kebab was not even a word never mind something to eat

Sugar was regarded as white gold in those days

Prunes were medicinal

Pineapples came in chunks in a tin, only seen a picture of a real one

Water came out of the tap, if someone had suggested bottling it and selling it for more the price of petrol, they would have been laughed at.

One thing we never had on the table in the 50's Elbows, Hats and mobile phones



The Jim Hamilton
Heritage Society of Coalburn
Syllabus

10th January	Quiz Peter McLeish
24th January	Dr Robert Flowerdew
7th February	David and Rozsa Halls
21st February	Sheila McKenzie TBC
7th March	Film Show
21st March	Lindsay Freelaand
4th April	Ethyl Smith
18th April	AGM – Ed Archer

Why not come along and hear the speakers.

Coalburn Bowling Club at 7.30pm

ADMISSION FREE