

The Jim Hamilton
Heritage Society of Coalburn
Newsletter *60*
Autumn 2020



*A View from Bellfield of the Electricity Station
at Huldton Heights*



Chairman's Remarks

I opened my remarks in the last Newsletter with a mention of the beautiful blue skies and sunshine, today it's a bit different no blue sky to be seen, hence no sunshine; just grey clouds and rain.

As the lockdown continues throughout the UK, "rules" varying between the four countries it may be some time before I come back home. Despite that I have managed to keep in touch with what is happening, such as the flags being put out on what would have been the Gala Day, a good idea by somebody.

Thanks to Helen for producing the last Newsletter and to Betty for ensuring everyone got their copy.

Helen and I were invited to a Zoom meeting recently it was held by the Lanarkshire Heritage Forum and introduced by Ed Archer, there some well known faces to be seen such as Dr Kane and Paul Archibald. It was interesting to listen to what other groups were involved with. However, when we will be able to get together for meetings may well be some time away. At least by way of the Newsletter we are doing our best to keep in touch with everyone.

I have included a few lines I wrote shortly after I arrived in Devon, I hope you don't mind me putting in the Poetry Page.

I trust that you are all well at this difficult time. Take care, as you know, Guid folk are scarce!

Peter McLeish

29th June 2020

Post Script August 2020: Sadly Guid folk are even scarcer as there have been a number of Coalburn related deaths over this summer. Those who are no longer with us include stalwart Jim Hamilton Heritage Society member and pillar of the Coalburn community Jim MacLean, who passed away this month. We have an appreciation of Jim and his lifelong contribution to the life of the village in this newsletter.

In deepest sympathy - Coalburn related deaths

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Steven Burt

Alex Graham

Jim MacLean

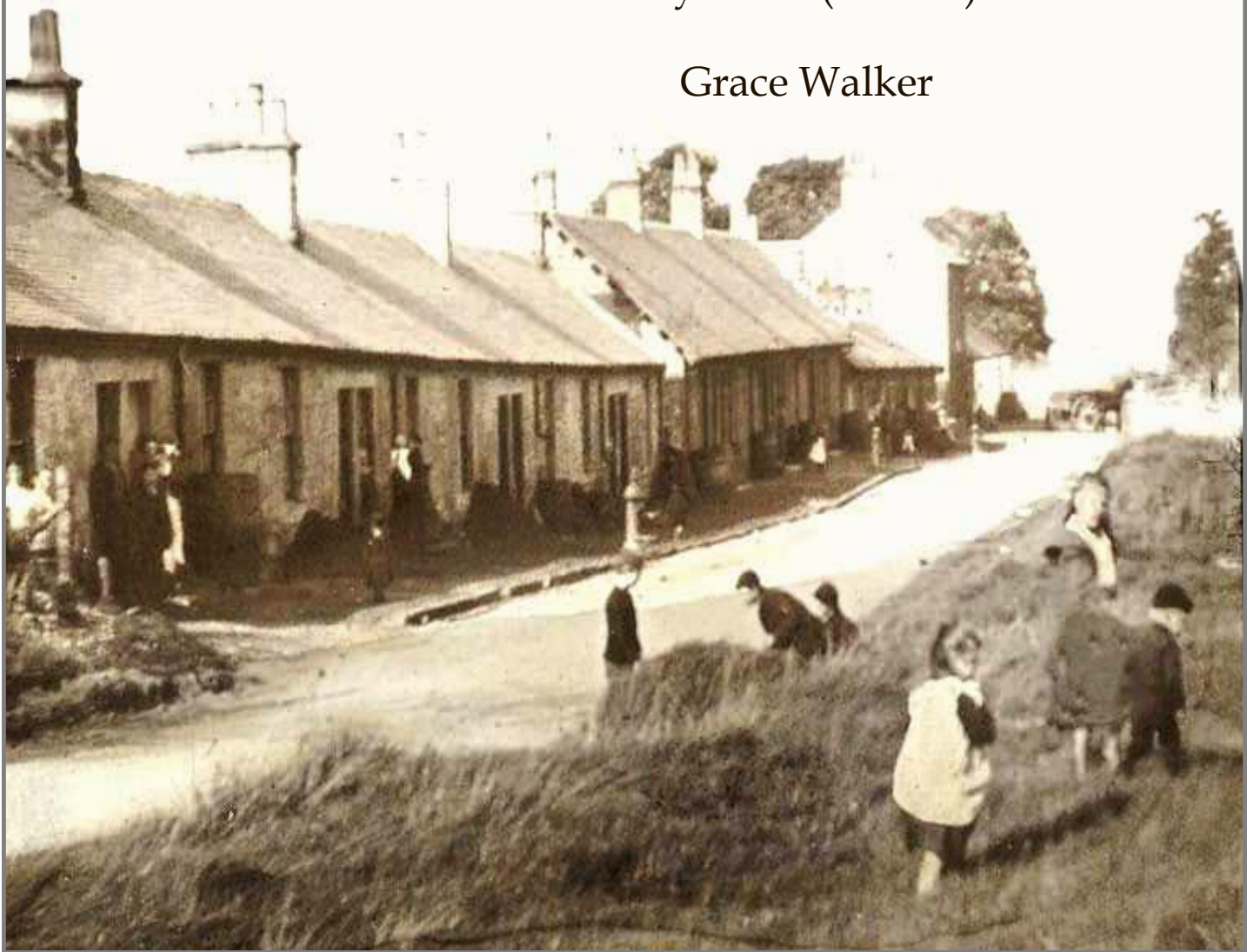
Scott Murray

John Sim (a member from the Isle of Wight)

Louisa Rae

Mary Shaw (Wilson)

Grace Walker



# Memories of VJ Day

August 2020 saw the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II, with Victory over Japan (VJ) Day on August 15th marked in various ways throughout the UK - albeit in a more muted fashion than would otherwise have been the case, due to the ongoing viral pandemic.

Alex McMurdo, born in Coalburn in 1926, served in WWII in the Far East and to mark the occasion he agreed to share some of his memories.

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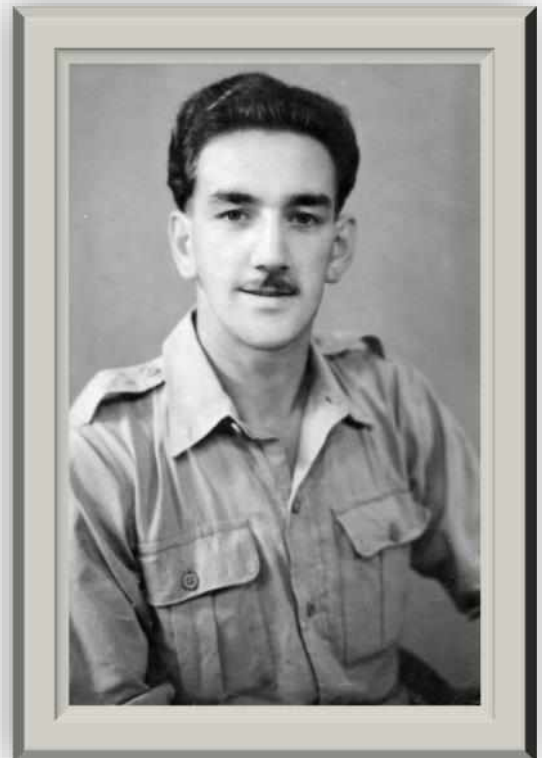
WWII ended in Europe in the spring of 1945, with the unconditional surrender of the German armed forces on May 8th. However that day saw me at training camp in Louth, Lincolnshire, preparing to go to war in the Far East where I was to serve as a dispatch rider in the RAF Motor Transport Section, attached to the Medical Corps.

We duly set out on July the 28th on HMS Duchess of Richmond. This was a Glasgow built ship that had no keel, having been constructed with the icy waters of the St Lawrence River in Canada in mind. The journey began very rough, with a gale in the Bay of Biscay, and I was terribly sick until we reached the calmer waters of the Mediterranean.

We had not been informed of our destination. Years later I made enquiries and discovered that I had been *en route* to Japan. This plan changed after the atomic bomb attacks on August 6th and 9th. At the time, we were informed over the Tannoy about this offensive and warned that that we may notice “a rumbling”.

A day or two later we were advised of our destination: Singapore.

The whole journey took over a month. After 34 days at sea, eating and sleeping below the water line, it was good to reach dry land. Technically the war was still in progress when my ship docked in Singapore on August 28th. However the Japanese had stopped fighting and the formal surrender was signed soon afterwards, on September 2nd.



In Singapore I was attached to RAF Mobile Field Hospital 81, which set up quarters in what had been a mental hospital prior to the war. On occupation by the Japanese it had been cleared of its patients and taken over to tend their war wounded. Now the RAF was in charge of the place and it housed wounded servicemen of both sides.

Having secured the site, the first task was to assess the large number of Japanese who were wandering freely through the grounds wearing first aid armbands. Some were indeed medical staff from the hospital. Others were simply masquerading as such.

One of our most important duties was to open up Changi Prison. Among the prisoners liberated there was a 14 year old Dutch girl called Louisa, who had been imprisoned in Changi together with her mother. She went on to meet George Rae of Coalburn, who like myself was in the Far East on military service. They married and set up home in the village, next to McKenzie's store. Sadly, I have just learned that Mrs Rae died recently. She had lived in Coalburn until earlier this year.

Coming back to 1945, with the surrender just effected we found that we had to stop a few times when travelling from Singapore to the mainland to respond to Japanese soldiers who were giving themselves up by the side of the road.

In the course of my duties I would be sent to the flat of the Governor, Lord Louis Mountbatten, to deliver dispatches from the hospital. On other occasions I would travel from my base in the opposite direction, to Changi and the house of Sir Keith Park, who was in charge of all RAF personnel in South East Asia. I recall that Sir Keith's wife was mindful of my welfare and would instruct staff to "*get something for the officer*" by way of a refreshment whilst I waited for her husband's response.

I also recall that there was a leper colony located just next to my hospital base, and once a week we would visit and take sweets to the youngsters there.

When due for demobilisation I was posted to a Personnel Transit Camp. I was there longer than intended as the troopship experienced a cholera outbreak while en route from Hong Kong to collect us. It was into 1947 before I left Singapore on the long journey home to Coalburn.

I have never left Britain since.

Alexander McMurdo, Glasgow, 5th September 2020

We hope to post a longer account of Mr McMurdo's recollections on the Heritage Society website, with further photos. This could also be made available on request to members who do not have access to the internet (please contact Peter McLeish).

History of Birkwood

Part III



William Augustus Scott

Part II of our history of Birkwood ended in 1894 with the death of proprietor David Elliot MacKirdy, the youngest of the five offspring of John MacKirdy and Mary Elliot and the last of his generation. Only his sister Susan had had a family and Birkwood was now to pass to her eldest, William Augustus Scott.

Quite a concentration of wealth and assets accrued to William Augustus Scott. In Part III we have a closer look at the land, property and other wealth acquired by the family and the choices made concerning the succession of their heritable estate.

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***The Elliot family*** John MacKirdy 'of Demerara' married Mary Elliot in 1802. The Parish Annals style Mary as "*eldest daughter of David Elliot, of Liddesdale*". However her father David was also a Glasgow merchant - and a slave owner, in Demerara. Here he had owned an estate he called 'Windsor Castle'. It appears that David Elliot was in financial difficulty at one point, and so it is unclear if Mary was able to access the funds that her father had placed in trust for the occasion of her marriage. However records do reveal that David Elliot was one of many Scottish merchants who was awarded compensation following the abolition of slavery, receiving £188 18/- in 1835 for the 'loss' of 94 previously enslaved persons, this time in Jamaica.

Mary Elliot's mother was Susan Bogle, daughter of tobacco merchant Robert Bogle of Shettleson and his wife, Mary Wood. The Bogles were a wealthy and well connected Glasgow family. No records have been found of slave ownership on the part of Mary Elliot's grandfather, Robert. However this cannot be said of her uncle, his brother Archibald. Her cousin Helen Bogle, a daughter of Archibald, was married to a provost of the City, John Hamilton.

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Local interests Prior to the purchase of Birkwood Estate in 1807 neither the Elliots nor the MacKirdys appear to have had any connection with the parish: neither land, nor property, nor business interests. That was to change, and dramatically.

This first becomes evident when records emerge in the 1850s, showing eldest son John Gregory MacKirdy - by then proprietor of Birkwood for some twenty years - the owner of a range of local property in addition to Birkwood House itself. He owned: five farms; two houses at Turfholm (occupied by weavers); around half a dozen houses and a shop in Abbeygreen (i.e. Lesmahagow); Monkstable, Abbey and Underwood Cottages; 'Old Birkwood'; and a house at Auchtykirknal. These

brought in a rental income of around £330 a year (almost £36,000 today).

John Gregory MacKirdy also owned extensive premises in Virginia Street, Glasgow, occupied by a range of businesses and two homes. In 1855 the total annual rent due was in the region of £500: in excess of £54,000 today. He also owned a house and shop on Clyde Place, Govan parish, with an annual rental value of £80.

The process of acquisition both locally and more widely may well have begun in his father's time. However it is clear that John Gregory MacKirdy continued to develop extensive local property interests during the forty five years in which he was proprietor of Birkwood. In this regard the wealth of his first wife, Augusta Bradshaw, may have been a facilitating factor. Consider the residual payment due to her estate of around £17,000 - this in 1882 - representing interest accrued on two funds connected with her marriage settlement, funds which fell to John Gregory MacKirdy during his lifetime but did not apply during the 13 months it took following his demise to settle his estate.

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*'I leave and bequeath ...'*

*Susan MacKirdy (1807-1852)* made an advantageous marriage in 1841, to Glasgow merchant and cotton mill proprietor Andrew Scott. They had a family of four. Susan at the age of 44. William Augustus was ten years old, her youngest just a baby. This sad occasion was perhaps the first of the many times that William Augustus Scott inherited, for his mother had made provision in her marriage contract in respect of any children of the marriage, which came into effect on her demise.

*Mary Wood MacKirdy (1803-1858)* was the eldest of the family. She came to Birkwood as a child and it is possible that she spent the rest of her life there. Mary remained unmarried and the 1851 Census shows her at Birkwood with her brother, John Gregory, and his wife. Mary is described as a 'fundholder' so it appears that she was bequeathed or otherwise endowed with specific funds to support her. Mary at the age of 55. It is likely that her estate then passed to her surviving siblings and the offspring of her deceased sister Susan.

*Andrew Scott (1802-1868)* remarried in 1858, to a first cousin of his first wife Susan MacKirdy, on the Elliot side. They had three daughters. In his Will Andrew Scott made equal provision each of his offspring.

*John Gregory MacKirdy (1806-1881)* At the age of 72, twice widowed and childless, John Gregory set about settling his affairs. In respect of Birkwood Estate and his extensive local property portfolio, he had: "*lately executed a Deed of Entail to take effect at my death of my Lands and Estate of Birkwood and others in the County of Lanark*" This meant that he was bequeathing to a series of heirs, so that the immediate possessor was not at liberty to dispose of the estate at will - effectively setting out a rule of descent in perpetuity.

In the absence of access to the Deed of Entail we can only infer from what happened next. Here the evidence is a little puzzling. A legal document from 1882 describes brother Charles Clark as "*now of Birkwood in the County of Lanark and residing in Glasgow*". Yet the 1885 valuation roll shows David Elliot MacKirdy in possession. Is it possible that Charles had transferred the Birkwood Estate to his younger brother? On the face of it, he would not have been at liberty to do so. Might the Deed of Entail have contained a clause regarding fulfilment of certain conditions - such as residence at Birkwood - which were distasteful to city dweller Charles?

In terms of the Will itself, having specified certain legacies - including £2,000 to brother David Elliot and £100 to nephew William Augustus Scott - John Gregory MacKirdy directed his Trustees to expend the residue of his estate:

*in the purchase and lands in the County of Lanark or of Lands ... partly in the County of Lanark and partly in one or more of the immediately adjoining Counties and ... I recommend them to confine the said purchases as much as possible to Lands in the immediate vicinity of my said Entailed Lands and Estate of Birkwood.*

These lands were to be Entailed in the same manner as Birkwood Estate, thereby tying up the bulk of the inherited wealth in land in the local area in perpetuity.

Thus it would appear that the executors, who included his brother Charles, had a not insignificant task in settling John Gregory MacKirdy's affairs. As an executor Charles was bequeathed the sum of £100.

*Charles Clark MacKirdy (1811-1891)* was the first to be born locally. However he spent very little of his adult life at Birkwood, settling in Glasgow at the desirable address of Blythwood Square. A cotton merchant, Charles Clark had the means to retire as he grew older, while sustaining a household of domestic servants.

Charles Clark remained single. In his Will he specified a number of legacies, including the sum of £5,000 to his nephew William Augustus Scott. The residue of his estate he left to his surviving sibling, David Elliot MacKirdy.

*David Elliot MacKirdy (1813-1894)* was keen to ensure that Birkwood should be occupied and that the MacKirdy name continue for posterity. He therefore instructed that a sum of £100,000 be invested and the interest paid to "*the actual proprietor, and some months yearly resident in the house or Castle of Birkwood and whose final name is Mackirdy.*" He further directed that the property he had acquired in the area in his own right - *i.e. "the lands of Letham and Letham Mains and the feus in the village of Lesmahagow"* - be Entailed in a similar manner to Birkwood. The residue of his not inconsiderable estate was to fall to his nephew William Augustus Scott - "*on taking the name MacKirdy*".

And so it came about that, on the death of David Elliot MacKirdy at his winter home in Cannes in January 1894, the new proprietor of Birkwood was William Augustus Scott-MacKirdy.



# A Grand Day Out .... *for some*

## Supplement Autumn 2020



Coalburn Brownies by Love's bus, trip to Netherurd (near Peebles), early 1960s

Back row: 1. Moira Carmichael 5. Sheila Dempster 6. Grace Walker 7. Elizabeth Muir  
8. Ann Scanlon 9. Marilyn Cook.

Middle row: 1. Ann Knowles 2. Sandra Archibald 3. Maureen Hamilton

Front row: 1. Mary Birch 2. Margaret Campbell 3. Agnes McGill 4. Mary Morrison.

Ann Middlemiss, Jan Lockens and Betty Grant are somewhere in the picture; the names of the remaining girls are unknown.

**Bus Trips.**—The "Rural" had a mystery bus tour last Saturday, and Girvan ultimately proved the chosen venue. Luckily the weather held and the ladies had a grand day in the Ayrshire resort.—Not so fortunate the ambulance class, which set off early for Dunoon. Misty conditions blotted out the beauty points en route, and when they arrived at Dunoon the rain commenced and seldom let up. A road accident "taigled" the trippers on the homeward journey and, incidentally, gave some of the class a real practical chance to show their skill in tending some injured motorists. It was "weel on" on Sunday morning when the bus got back.

1949 - and a pleasant excursion to Girvan for the Coalburn branch of the Women's Rural Institute; a busman's holiday for the "not so fortunate" Ambulance Class



## Where the Logan Meets the Nethan

*I'm living in a foreign land, faur ayont the sea,  
But ma thoughts gae back tae Scotland where ma hert will ever be;  
I'm thinking 'o that bonnie spot that lies below Whiteside  
Where the Logan meets the Nethan on its journey tae the Clyde.*

*Every neuk and craney along their banks I ken,  
Every birk and rowan tree that's growin' in the glen  
When ma schule day's task was over, I would rin frae Waterside  
Tae watch the Logan meet the Nethan as they journey tae the Clyde.*

*On simmer days aboot Muir braes I could often be seen  
Fishin' wae the best I had - a stick, bit string and preen,  
I hadna ony tackle then and I didna need a guide  
Tea fish the Logan and the Nethan as they wannered tae the Clyde  
An' tho' I'm faur frae Scotland noo, yet me thoughts will ever turn  
Tae that wee cot wi' thackit rif that stands beside the burn,  
Wha's white-washed wa's like driven snaws, the bushes canna hide  
Frae where the Logan meets the Nethan as they wanner tae the Clyde.*

*It's a bonnie glen where upright men, its path hae often trod,  
Who focht for faith and liberty and their right tae worship God,  
When I think o' that green hallowed spot, ma bosom swells wi' pride  
Where the Logan meets the Nethan on their journey tae the Clyde.*

*Tho' well possessed wi' worldly gear and some o' fickle fortune fame,  
There's aye something wantin' an' some day I'll wanner hame,  
Tae keep that promise that I made tae her wha'll be ma bride,  
Where the Logan meets the Nethan as they journey tae the Clyde.*

From 'Poems of the Coalburn District', collected and presented by James Hamilton.

The writer is unknown.

*another picture of this vicinity appears on the back of this Issue*

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Cruise on the launch of the 'Q4'

- Queen Elizabeth 2 -

I believe my grandmother Helen Brownlie went on this cruise and that she had also attended the launches of the Queen Mary and Queen Elizabeth.

I never did hear any reports of this outing being recounted by family back at Coalburn. However I do recall my entire primary school were ushered into the school hall to see the launch on television, eagerly anticipating hearing what the 'Q4' was to be named.

Perhaps, like me, you have wondered why - since there had been *two* previous 'Queens' - this ship was code named 'Q4' and not 'Q3'. I recently learned that there had been plans for another, larger, ship which had got as far as preparation of a tender. However the 'Q3' never left the drawing board. Plans were re-worked and realised as the 'Q4'. *H Brownlie*

Q4
SPECIAL LAUNCHING CRUISE

P.S. "Caledonia"
WEDNESDAY
Sept. 20, 1967

GLASGOW
BRIDGE WHARF
(Southside)

Fare 15/- leave 12 00
return 17 00

Packed lunches 7/6
Salad lunches 4/6
Available on board

The Caledonian Steam Packet
Company Limited

EVENING EXCURSIONS

EVERY SATURDAY To TROON, PRESTWICK and AYR
31st MAY until 23rd AUGUST

OUTWARD			RETURN		
COALBURN	leave	p.m. 2 58	AYR	leave	p.m. 8 40
LESMAHAGOW	"	3 11	NEWTON-ON-AYR	"	8 44
STONEHOUSE	"	3 25	PRESTWICK	"	8 49
LARKHALL (Central)	"	3 32	TROON	"	8 56
TROON	arrive	5 24	LARKHALL (Central)	arrive	10 47
PRESTWICK	"	5 32	STONEHOUSE	"	10 56
NEWTON-ON-AYR	"	5 37	LESMAHAGOW	"	11*14
AYR	"	5 41	COALBURN	"	11*26

Passengers change at Hamilton (Central) in both directions. *Change at Stonehouse.

SECOND CLASS RETURN FARES TO

From	Troon	Other Stations	From	Troon	Other Stations
COALBURN	6/2	6/7	STONEHOUSE	5/1	5/5
LESMAHAGOW	5/11	6/2	LARKHALL	4/10	5/1

EVERY WEEK-DAY To GLASGOW
9th JUNE until 13th SEPTEMBER

OUTWARD					
	SO	SX	SO	SX	SO
	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
STRATHAVEN (Central)	leave	—	4 32	5 46	5 58
STONEHOUSE	"	3 25	4 39	6 1	6 4
LARKHALL (Central)	"	3 32	4 45	6 14	6 11
GLASGOW (Central)	arrive	4 9	4 32	7 10	6 52

RETURN					
	SO	SO	SO	SO	
	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
GLASGOW (Central)	leave	7 10	8 20	10 15	11 10
LARKHALL (Central)	arrive	7 47	8 59	10 47	12 0
STONEHOUSE	"	7 54	9 6	10 56	12 7a.m.
STRATHAVEN (Central)	"	8 2	9 14	11 4	—

SO—Saturday only. SX—Saturdays excepted.

RETURN FARES FROM

STRATHAVEN		STONEHOUSE		LARKHALL	
1st Class	2nd Class	1st Class	2nd Class	1st Class	2nd Class
3/9	2/6	3/3	2/2	2/6	1/8

MID-WEEK PERIOD REDUCED FARE RETURN TICKETS

may be obtained at all Stations for Second Class travel to all Stations 100 miles or more apart. The tickets are available for travel:—

OUTWARD—Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday.

RETURN—Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday the next or following week.

Mid-week Period Return Tickets will also be issued to Ports and selected resorts in IRELAND until 25th September and to the CHANNEL ISLANDS until 30th October, 1958.

Passengers holding Mid-week Period Return Tickets except to Douglas (Isle of Man) and to Ireland can obtain tickets at approximately 20% less than the ordinary return rate for Dogs (with chain and collar), Bicycles, Perambulators, and certain other articles accompanying the passengers, valid in conjunction with and for the same period as the passenger's ticket.

Full particulars may be obtained at Stations.

TICKETS OBTAINABLE IN ADVANCE

at stations and are valid on the date for which issued and by the trains specified.

Children under three years of age, free; three and under fourteen, half-fare.

All information regarding Excursions and Cheap Fares will be supplied on application at stations or to E. Lees, District Passenger Manager, 50 George Square, Glasgow. Telephone No. DOUGLAS 7000.

NOTICE AS TO CONDITIONS—These tickets are issued subject to the British Transport Commission's published Regulations and Conditions applicable to British Railways exhibited at their Stations or obtainable free of charge at station ticket offices.

The impressive array of rail excursions running locally
May to September 1958

Poetry Corner

Self Isolating

*On March 21st, I had a call
from Fiona to tell me that Barbara and she
had had a discussion which concerned me
and that Barbara would be available, later that day
and then together we could all have our say*

*I wondered what was coming, what had I done?
That required this conference to take place
The meeting was by phone, not face to face
For an hour and a half, we had a debate
They wanted me to go to Devon, to self-isolate*

*Jean was in Beechgrove, though visits were barred
For how long, no one could know
That's why they'd suggested, to Barbara's I go
I wondered should I procrastinate?
And stay at home to isolate*

*I knew at heart they were thinking of me
After much soul searching, I said 'okay'
So, I was off to Southmoor the very next day
They shared the journey; Fiona early, Barbara late,
In the four hundred and fifty miles to self-isolate.*

Peter McLeish
28th April 2020

Coalburn Flower Show 2019



Jim MacLean



**Jim with his South Lanarkshire
Council Community Award**

It is with great regret that I have heard of Jim's death.

Jim Maclean was a very well known member of the community as he was locally born and was involved with many organisations in the village including the Bowling Club, the Darby and Joan Club, Lintfieldbank Carpet Bowlers - and of course the Heritage Society, of which he was a founder member.

Jim was also the secretary of the original Community Council for some time and was on the Liaison Committee when the opencast discussions were taking place.

Such was his commitment to Coalburn that he gave so much of his time to so many local activities.

Someone once said to me that there were no 'worthies' left in the district. But Jim was most certainly in that category. The gap he has left will be difficult to fill.

Peter McLeish, August 2020

School Memories of Andy Brownlie

I started at Bellfield School at Easter 1938, joining my twin brothers Miller & Jim who were one set of five twins in the school at that time. My brothers are pictured on the left. The other boys were called Hamilton and on the right are Annie and Margaret Brodie.

Also there was my sister Mollie who was the Dux that year before going on to Lesmahagow Higher Grade where she was Dux three years later.

I remember on my first day I had to take a halfpenny to buy three slate pencils and hounded the poor teacher Miss Watt - who was probably only a teenager in her first teaching job - until I received them.



Frank Wills was the headmaster at Bellfield. He was transferring to Coalburn School after the summer holidays that year and was to take with him six girls and six boys. My brothers and I were part of that group and I began to attend Coalburn School. It seems odd in these days of 'health & safety' that our route was by trespassing unaccompanied up the railway from the bottom terrace to 'Wee Coalburn Farm' then jumping the burn to head up the field - where the pit ponies were kept at the Glasgow fair week when the pits were closed - and entering the school by the back gate. This was a much shorter route from my home at the foot of Railway Road than walking up onto the main road and round in a long loop past the post office, across the bridge over the burn, past the hotel and on to the school. On occasion we had to stand aside to let a train pass by. Of course, these were steam trains and could be heard from quite a distance (thankfully).

I joined Miss Barr's class at Coalburn that August of 1938. My teachers were: *Infants 1* - Miss Martha Barr; *2* - Miss Isa Gilchrist; *Primary 1* - Miss Jessie Purdie; *2* - Miss Agnes Thornton; *3* - Miss Mamie Craig; *4* - Miss Mary Harvie; *5* - Miss Marion Jeffrey.

Other random trivial memories

When in the class of Miss Jeffrey (known as 'big Min') where I think I was a bit boisterous, I sometimes was made to sit in the seat nearest to her desk instead of my ability position. Best pupil at the back then working forward, reset after every test but not always for me!

We had annual visits from the Dentist for examination & extractions. We always had to bring a scarf & hankie for the journey home.

When in Miss Thornton's, once a week when we would have a quiet assignment, she would sit and file her nails with a long file (real trivia !?). 'Wee Aggie' as she was known, was one of three spinster sisters who were all teachers, the others at Blackwood and Lesmahagow.



Agnes Thornton 1938

The school janitor was 'Tammy Broom'. I was always fascinated by him pushing the piano mounted on a wheeled pallet around to whatever class required it for singing lesson. Also in winter when we were able to make the frost into a slide with our tackety boots before classes, we always blamed him when the slide was unavailable at playtime, having melted.

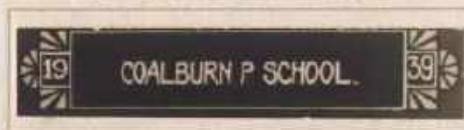
When in Miss Craig's class during the war we had an artillery regiment in the village and had a visit from an officer asking us to bring rags to the school for their collection to clean guns *etc.* The teacher was almost drooling over him but us kids were unimpressed with his very posh accent and mimicked him for days.

I still have a class photo and I think I can still name most of my fellow pupils. I may even have got some of them right! I wonder if anyone reading this recognises themselves, or a friend or family member?

Andy Brownlie, Frimley, Surrey, August 2020



Classroom - 1938



Back row - left to right
John Purdie, Willie Wilson,
John Cook, Willie Walker,
Alan Campbell, Robert Steele,
Dan Smart, Andy Brownlie,
Bobby Greenshields, Sandy
Turner,

Middle row - Robert Nicol, Willie Munro, Willie Overend, Lizzie
Fotheringham, Rachel Bryson, Helen Ross, Helen Cook, M. McLean,
Bert Brown, John Baxter, Donald Black;

Front -
Cathie McGaffney,
Ina Overend, Jean Currie, Nettie
Davidson, Mary Shaw, Chrissie Strang,
Margaret Marshall, Willie White;
Seated front -
Alex Marchbanks.



Lintfieldbank Rural - Golden Jubilee November 1970

Lintfieldbank W.R.I. held a social evening to celebrate their golden jubilee. After a dinner, over 60 members and guests enjoyed a programme of games and dances.

The 50th anniversary cake was cut by a founder member

(Hamilton Advertiser)

Piping Success. — A product of Coalburn Rechabite Pipe Band, Piper John Dyet of the Highland Light Infantry, at present serving with his regiment in Egypt, has been gaining considerable distinction in the bagpipe world. At a sports meeting held recently he won two silver cups and a medal in the piping competitions. He took first place in march, strathspey and reel; and, considering the contest was open to several regimental bands, his achievement was of no mean order. Piper Dyet also had the honour of being the first H.L.I. piper to have his name inscribed on the Moffat Cup.

Local Notes.—Last week-end provided a "moving" scene with fittings making

'Piping Success' - Piper John Dyet

September 1954

'Local Notes' - and lots of them

1949

Local Notes.—First blood in the young bird races went to W. McLaren, with Hughie Smith second and third. Last week J. Aird clocked the first and second birds.—The juveniles commence the new season to-day, when they entertain Ross Rovers. The football pavilion is looking swell since it was roughcast a few weeks ago.—The Discussion Group met on Monday after a short recess. It was agreed to arrange a panel of speakers for the ensuing session.—Recently in this column reference was made to an ex-Coalburn footballer, Jock Clark, being a reserve for a Canadian XI against Belfast Celtic. Actually Jock took part in the match and was a prime factor in a 3-1 victory.

Noticeboard - Autumn 2020

Lintfieldbank SWRI - 100th Anniversary

This November sees the 100th anniversary of Lintfieldbank SWRI. Congratulations are in order. Celebrations may be on hold for the time being, so it's nice to be reminded of closer times - see facing page. Can you help put names to faces?

Old Coalburn on the web

'Scran' hosts over 400,000 images, sounds and films:

www.scran.ac.uk

If you have a South Lanarkshire Library card then access to the site is free:

<https://www.scran.ac.uk/user/librarycard.php>

If you don't, then now is the time to browse this great site. With a view to enabling learning from home during the coronavirus pandemic, free access is available to all until the end of October. Individual subscriptions normally cost £10.

There is a charge for any images you may wish to order.

The search box on the home page is where you can name the issue or area you are interested in. 'Coalburn' is a good place to start!

Erratum Issue 59

Apologies to Pipe Major Donald Williams, wrongly named as Donald Williamson in the last issue. This occurred in chairman's remarks but it was actually my fault. Those extra letters snuck in as I was typing.

Helen Brownlie

Thanks to those who have contributed items for this Issue

Contributions for Issue 61, due December, are welcome.

Corporal John Docherty

A little more information has emerged concerning Corporal John Docherty. As you may recall, Corporal Docherty is one of several local soldiers featured in *'The Fallen of Lesmahagow Parish'* regarding whom information is lacking.

The 1911 Census shows John at Bellfield Terrace with his mother Elizabeth, four brothers and three sisters - including Martha, known as Mattie (not 'brother Matt', as had been thought). John is 22 years old and a miner.

We haven't been able to find out any more about his military service or how he lost his life in WWI. Corporal Docherty is commemorated on the Coalburn Miners' Welfare Roll of Honour. His resting place is unknown.

The Jim Hamilton

Heritage Society of Coalburn

www.coalburnheritage.org.uk

Annual memberships are normally payable when meetings commence in September for the new season. However, while we continue to produce the newsletter, sadly it is not possible to predict when we will be able to meet again.

In the present circumstances we are making payment of membership subscriptions entirely voluntary. Should you wish to pay your normal membership fee of £15 we would be glad to receive it. Payments should be sent to the Treasurer, Marion McBain, at 14 Bellfield Road, Coalburn ML11 0LA. Please make cheques payable to: Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn.

Should you wish to make a bank transfer on line, the details you will need are: sort code 83-24-38; account number 00205430; account name as above (it doesn't matter if there isn't space for the full account name, just the start will be fine). Please provide your name as otherwise we won't know who it is that is making the payment. Look for the box called 'reference' (or similar) for this purpose. If you cannot see how to identify yourself on line please use another payment option. *Many thanksand stay safe, one and all.*

