

Archie



Archie's History of Bothwell



Hello Boys and Girls.

Bothwell is a very old village with lots of interesting history. I'm going to tell you all about the village with the help of the Bothwell Historical Society.

I helped launch the first Bothwell Scarecrow Festival in 2011 and have been seen around the village ever since.

My ancestors all came from Bothwell and I want to tell you about the places where they worked and fought.

My friends in the Bothwell Historical Society helped both Mrs McHenry's P7 class at Bothwell Primary School and Miss Slater's P3 class at St Bride's Primary School in their class history projects. Posters and artwork prepared as part of their project were on show at the Historical Society's Exhibition in the Library, during my very own 2016 Scarecrow Festival.

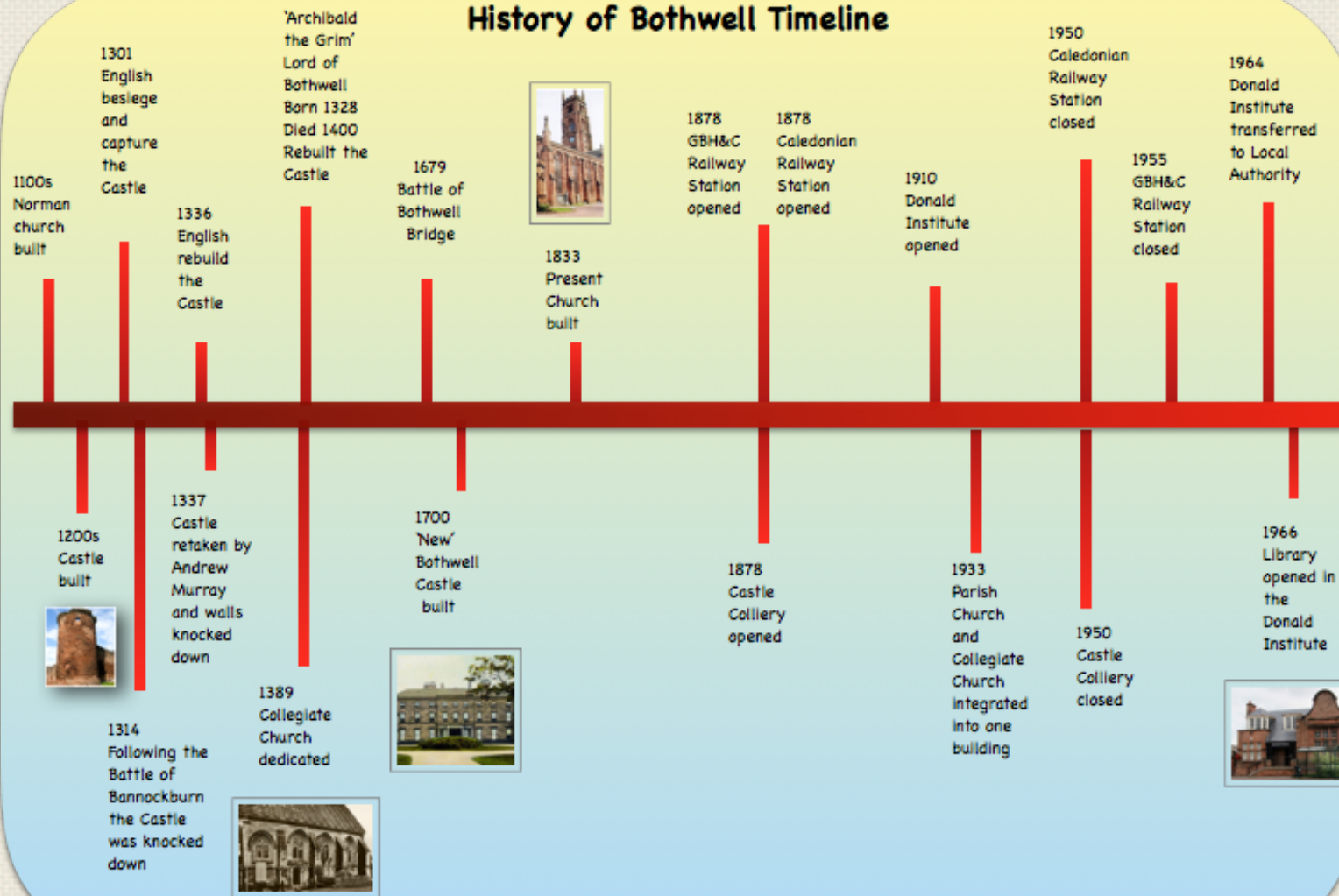
I would like to thank the members of the Bothwell Historical Society who helped me with this book.

I would also like to thank my personal assistant Harry Marsh who does so much to help me organise the Scarecrow Festival.

Thanks also to Tony Docherty, 'The Kilted Caricaturist', who drew the portraits of my ancestors.

Archie the Scarecrow
September 2016

History of Bothwell Timeline



'Archibald the Grim'
Lord of Bothwell
Born 1328
Died 1400
Rebuilt the Castle



Bothwell Castle

Archie's great, great, great, great, great, great, great grandfather was called 'Archibald the Glum'. He was a vassal to the Lord of Bothwell Castle, Archibald Douglas, known as 'Archibald the Grim'. He was known as 'Archibald the Glum' because he got all the rotten jobs to do such as clearing up the mess after a night of feasting and drinking in the great hall of the castle. The job he hated most was cleaning the blood and gore off his lordship's armour after a battle and polishing it up for the next fight.

Nearly 200 years before Archibald's time, King Malcolm IV of Scotland granted the lands of Bothwell to a nobleman called David Olifard. He built a castle at Bothwell, somewhere near the present parish church. We have a street today in Bothwell called Olifard Avenue, named after the first great Lord of Bothwell.

In 1242 the Lordship of Bothwell passed by marriage to a great Norman noble called Walter de Moravia. Scotland was becoming a more prosperous country as would have been seen in the important new buildings. The old castle at Bothwell had seen better days and needed replaced by a bigger, stronger and more modern castle. Walter de Moravia looked around for a more suitable place to build a new castle and he found it on the banks of the river Clyde about a mile from his old residence. Here was a great lump of sandstone rock, protected by the river. The sandstone would provide a very solid foundation for the new fortress.

Toward the end of the thirteenth century, all European countries looked to France, the richest and most sophisticated country on the continent, as an example of how to do things including building castles. So it was that the new castle built at Bothwell was not built by Scottish people but by experts from France. Great blocks of red sandstone were extracted from local quarries to build the towers and high walls of the castle. To begin with, the great circular tower known as the donjon was constructed to create a grand residence for the lord and his family. The



*When Archibald the Grim
was lord,
Down there in Bothwell
Castle,
An ancestor of Archie's,
Served him as a vassal.*

*This fellow looked so
miserable,
No happy chappie he,
His name was Archibald
the Glum,
Well named you will
agree.*

Archibald the Glum

donjon had its own moat and the idea was that even if the rest of the castle were captured, the donjon was so strong that it might be able to hold out for longer. The prison tower was then built and linked to the donjon by a high wall. It looked as though Walter de Moravia was all set to become the owner of one of the largest castles in Scotland.

By 1292 Scotland had a new King, John Balliol. Initially he fell under the influence of the English King, Edward I. However two years later King John set up an alliance with England's greatest enemy, the King of France. Edward was furious and invaded Scotland, burning, looting and killing. Bothwell Castle was captured and it appeared as if Scotland would just be part of England and that England would take over the whole of the British Isles.

Some Scottish noblemen were not happy with the situation and Andrew Moray joined forces with a Scottish knight, Sir William Wallace, to oppose the English. Andrew Moray was a member of the de Moravia family and the brother of the Lord of Bothwell, They fought and defeated King Edward's forces at the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297. For a time it looked as though Scotland might be a free country again. Bothwell Castle was taken back from the English once more. Fighting between the two nations was on-going and finally King Edward decided to take control and came north.

The English king arrived at Bothwell in August 1301 to besiege the castle. Before the age of gunpowder, castles were difficult to capture. The besiegers could either sit outside the castle and wait for the garrison to run out of food or water, or they could attempt to burrow underneath the castle walls to undermine them and cause them to collapse. Bothwell Castle was built on natural solid rock so undermining was not possible. King Edward was in a hurry; he did not have time to

wait for the castle to be starved out. His solution was to create a fearsome weapon of war called 'the belfry', a great wooden tower to roll against the castle walls. To build it Edward cut down all the woods in the area. Bothwell Castle was unfinished but it was still a great stronghold. The walls were 4.5 metres thick and wooden balconies were built on the towers to help the defenders to fire arrows on the besiegers.

King Edward's carpenters built the huge siege engine and covered it with hides soaked in water to prevent the Scots trying to burn it down. Inside were platforms linked by ladders so the soldiers could climb to the top level when the machine reached the castle wall. The king also had a wooden road built so the belfry could be pushed against the walls. We can only imagine the horror of the men inside the castle when they saw this fearsome weapon being constructed. They managed to hold out for a month before surrendering. The ordinary soldiers inside the castle were hanged after laying down their weapons as a lesson to anyone opposing King Edward. These were cruel times, especially for ordinary people. Nobles were spared and ransomed which meant they had to pay money to gain their freedom. Bothwell Castle remained in English hands until 1314 when the Scots, under King Robert the Bruce defeated the English at the Battle of Bannockburn. The day following the battle, Bothwell Castle surrendered to the Scots and the English nobles had to pay a heavy ransom to gain their freedom.

King Robert felt that as long as there were powerful castles in Scotland, the English could come back, capture the castles and use them to control Scotland. He ordered that all the fortresses including Bothwell should be destroyed. The great tower at Bothwell (the donjon) and the castle walls were knocked down and left in ruins for some years.

In 1328 a treaty was signed between England and Scotland in which Scotland was recognised as an independent kingdom. It looked as though peace had come at last but sadly it did not continue. The kings

of England still had ambitions to add Scotland to their territories and Edward the third was a strong warrior like his grandfather. He came to Bothwell Castle in 1336 and lived in the castle for a month. He instructed his master mason (his chief builder) to repair the castle so that it could become the headquarters for the English forces. The following year after King Edward had gone to France to fight there, the Lord of Bothwell, Andrew Murray, recaptured his castle using a great siege engine. People at this time liked to give names to instruments of war and Murray's siege engine was called 'boustour'. Once again the castle was ruined by its owner and it would stay this way for 25 years.

The direct Murray line to the Lordship of Bothwell died out and another family took over the lordship, the Douglas family. Archibald Douglas, who was born around 1328 and died in 1400, was known as Archibald the Grim, Earl of Douglas and Lord of Galloway. He married Joanna Murray and became Lord of Bothwell. He was a famous warrior and a great diplomat. Archibald travelled on

behalf of the King of Scots to the great courts of Europe and to Rome to meet with the Pope. Bothwell was his favourite home and he rebuilt the castle. In 1398 he built a collegiate church at Bothwell and dedicated it to St. Bride, the patron saint of his family. He was the first of the great Douglas family to live at Bothwell.

His son, also called Archibald made extensive changes to the castle making it more like a palace than a fortress. He built a great gatehouse, a hall and a splendid chapel as well as a residence for himself and his wife, Princess Margaret, daughter of King Robert III. He became a powerful person at the court of the King of France. Normally the title of duke was reserved for members of the French royal family but Archibald was created Duke of Touraine, the first non-royal person to be given such a title. This made him an immensely rich man and he was able to pay for the huge developments at his birthplace, Bothwell Castle.



Bothwell House

He fought frequently in the wars with England and indeed, he was killed at the Battle of Verneuil in 1424. The Douglases in time became the most powerful noble family in Scotland, but their power was eventually broken. The castle had several owners before becoming the home of Janet Kennedy a great friend of King James IV. He was one of the most famous Kings ever to rule Scotland (1488-1513). King James IV's visits to Bothwell Castle were occasions for feasting, music and merriment. The great tapestry-covered walls of the old castle would echo to the sound of jollification as the brilliant King and his court set out to have a good time. The records show us that a fiddler was employed by the King to provide the music. Sadly these happy days were not to last as the King was killed fighting the English at the Battle of Flodden in 1513. Bothwell Castle was a place of great sadness when the news came through.

The castle eventually became a quiet backwater. With the coming of more peaceful times, it was no longer needed as a fortress. It came into the ownership of another Archibald Douglas who was given the title of Earl of Forfar. He was the Bothwell man who helped to bring about the union of the Scottish and English parliaments. Lord Forfar felt that the castle was too cold, damp and out of date as a residence. He decided to build a modern house close to the old castle. He pulled down a great part of the original castle so that he could use the stone to build his new house. When you see the castle today, the gap in the wall at the present entrance is the site of the great gatehouse tower pulled down by the Earl of Forfar. When he died, he was buried in the quire of the Parish Church in Bothwell where you can see his tomb and that of his son to this day.

The mansion built by Lord Forfar, sometimes called 'Bothwell House' or 'New Bothwell Castle' grew in splendour over the years. It housed beautiful furniture, a great library of books and many famous paintings. Such a splendid house was visited by many well-known people such as the poet and writer Sir Walter Scott, who wrote some of his most famous works when visiting Bothwell, and the English poet, William Wordsworth.

In the early years of the twentieth century, the castle's owner the Earl of Home, allowed local people to visit the castle grounds, which at that time were private. At the same time, the family lived less frequently in the house and eventually they left it forever. The last occupants were a group of Belgian nuns, refugees from the horrors of World War I. Demolition work started on the house in August 1930 and today nothing remains.

So ends the story of Bothwell's three castles, the original castle, the great medieval fortress and the splendid mansion house. The story has not quite ended, however. The middle castle, the ruin of the greatest Scottish castle of its time, remains and is in the care of a government body, Historic Environmental Scotland. This castle is visited by people from all over the world and is a source of pride to those of us fortunate to live in Bothwell. It is a place of great history, beauty and magic.



*Archie with Harry and Olivia McGuire
at Bothwell Castle*



In May 2016 the residents of Castle Avenue looking out their windows might have been forgiven for assuming an invading force of knights in shining armour accompanied by their beautifully dressed ladies was on its way to lay siege to Bothwell Castle. Closer examination revealed that the colourful procession was made up of the children of primary 3 from St Bride's Primary School Bothwell, accompanied by their class teacher, Miss Paula Slater. After exploring the Castle there was an opportunity for the knights to engage in some swordplay and in the age of equal opportunity some of the ladies joined in too.



Bothwell Church

Archie's great great grandfather was 'Gordon the Gravedigger' and he worked in the graveyard at Bothwell Church. Part of his job was to watch out for grave robbers who used to dig up newly buried bodies and sell them to medical schools to be dissected at anatomy lectures. Sometimes 'Gordon the Gravedigger' would help relatives of the deceased place heavy stone slabs or iron cages (known as mort safes) over the grave to discourage the body snatchers. Wealthier people like the Hamilton's of Bothwellpark had their own stone-built tomb with a locked door to keep out the body snatchers. Examples of these can still be seen in Bothwell churchyard.

In the centre of the graveyard is Bothwell Parish Church thought to stand on the site of a 6th century chapel. In the 12th century a Norman church was built probably by the Olifards who came originally from Normandy in Northern France. In 1157, King Malcolm IV gave David de Olifard lands in Lanarkshire which later became the Lordship of Bothwell. Carved stones from pillars and walls of the Norman church were found during the excavations for the foundations of the present church.



*Archie's great, great grandfather,
Was known to one and all,
For at the Church he dug the graves,
Some large and some quite small.*

*The headstones bore the names of those,
Who lay beneath the soil,
And Gordon always tended them, As was his daily toil.*

Gordon the Gravedigger

Douglas known as 'Archibald the Grim' on account of his bloodthirsty reputation. He built, by permission of Pope Benedict XIII, a Collegiate Church to replace the Norman one. He perhaps built it to make amends for past sins. The Church was dedicated on 10th October 1389 and had eight priests. Their role was to celebrate mass continuously for the benefit of the souls of Archibald Douglas and his family to shorten their time in purgatory. A royal wedding was held in the church when Archibald's daughter married Prince David, heir to the Scottish throne. Sadly the prince was killed and never became king. Archibald the Grim died in 1400 and was buried in his church at Bothwell where his body remains to this day.



Mortsafe to protect grave from grave robbers

Some of these carvings are very intricate, a credit to the skill of the 12th century stonemasons. The Norman church must have been very impressive compared with the surrounding cottages.

Bothwell Castle was the home of Archibald, Earl of

By the beginning of the 19th century the Church had deteriorated and was not fit for worship. The architect, David Hamilton, was engaged and a new Parish Church was built in 1933 abutting the old Collegiate Church. One hundred years later in 1933 Archibald the Grim's building and David Hamilton's Church were united in one harmonious whole and the resulting Church has been described as 'The Cathedral of Lanarkshire'.

The 14th century part of the Parish Church became known as the Quire and not surprisingly began to show its age. Following the winter of 2012 falling masonry inside the church alerted the Kirk Session to the Quire roof's deterioration. Investigations found that due to the weight of the massive roof



Grave Slab

slabs, the walls of the Quire had sunk into the clay over the centuries causing the walls to buckle. The £2 million needed to restore the Quire was raised and the work was completed in 2016.

If we go into the Church we will see some interesting old stones and monuments.

On the West Wall, just to the left of the entrance is a grave slab, which means that it once lay on top of someone's grave. There are only two carvings upon it. The first is a tall 'Processional Cross'- the type of cross which priests used to carry during a church service or during a special religious festival such as Easter. The second carving is a very rough drawing

of a sword. It is this carving of a sword that shows us that the person whose grave the slab used to cover was a knight.

Unfortunately, we have no idea who he was, because there was nothing written on the grave slab to tell us who was buried there. We do have a rough idea how old the grave slab is because experts tell us that it probably dates from the twelfth century. What do we know about Bothwell during the twelfth century? Not a lot to be honest, but we do know that around that time it was owned by the Olifards. Could the large grave slab actually have covered the grave of David de Olifard? It could, because it dates from the time he lived. However David de Olifard was a very important man in Scotland and he is more likely to have been buried in somewhere like Melrose Abbey, which was quite close to other lands he owned in south east Scotland. The large grave slab is more

likely have belonged to one of the knights of his household.

On another stone is carved an instrument called a 'mason's gauge'. It was used by stone masons to help them measure angles and draw straight lines in the building of churches and other structures. It has been suggested that one of the stone masons working on the chancel may have died and been given this strange monument as a grave slab.

Built into the walls of the present Church are niches containing pieces of the pillars of the Norman church.

The Ross Cabinet is named after a former Session Clerk of the Church. It contains a number of objects of interest. There are three large platters made of pewter, which is a mixture of tin and lead. They were used to take up Sunday collections on the occasion of special services.

There is also a wooden box with small squares of lead lying on top of it. These are Communion Tokens and you needed one of these tokens to be allowed to take Communion.

On the other side of the Church there is an old lock, the kind of old lock that would have been used in the old Collegiate Church.

Another stone has old fashioned writing on it and reads, 'Magister Thomas Trayll' The word 'magister' is Latin for 'Master' and it means that Thomas Trayl had studied at university and had gained a university degree. Quite a lot is known about Thomas Trayl. He tried to get himself made Rector or parish priest at Bothwell, but he seems to have been a short-tempered, quarrelsome man, who annoyed a lot of important people. In the end, he was removed from Bothwell because he annoyed the Earl of Douglas and said unkind things about the Pope. He did have one powerful friend, the Bishop of Glasgow, who made him the Treasurer of Glasgow, a job which he kept until he died in 1439.

Another gravestone has a 'Crest' or 'Coat of Arms' of a nobleman or a knight. It was worn so that he could be recognised in battle even if his face was covered by a helmet. This particular coat of arms belonged to the De Moray family. One of them married the last surviving daughter of the Olifard family sometime between 1245 and 1253 and took over the Olifard lands in North Lanarkshire.



Archie at The Church with Sean Houston & Campbell and Brogan Walker

Battle of Bothwell Bridge

Archie's great, great, great, great great uncle was called 'Wallace the Warrior' and he was a Covenanter who fought at the Battle of Bothwell Bridge.

The Covenanters were a group of people in Scotland who were involved in a struggle between their religious beliefs and their loyalty to the King in London. The resulting conflict lasted for at least 50 years from 1638 when protesters first signed the document known as the National Covenant, which set out their aims.

When Charles I came to the throne in 1625, he began to make changes to the way that Scotland was ruled, but he did not consider asking the Scots what they wanted! What really angered the Scots was Charles's meddling with the Church without consulting the General Assembly, the highest court in The Church of Scotland.

Charles loved the Anglican Church (The Church of England of which he was the supreme head). He wanted The Church of Scotland to be more like the Church of England, and he insisted that the type of worship used in English churches should be used in The Church of Scotland.

He even imposed a new prayer book, which was to be used in all Scottish Church services. Feelings were now running high throughout Scotland, especially in Edinburgh. The King and the people were now in direct conflict. From all parts of Scotland and And Archie's family speak of him, from all sections of the community, demands were made that the prayer book should be withdrawn, but Charles would not change his mind. He declared that anyone who opposed the new style of worship using the prayer book would be guilty of treason.

The response of the furious Presbyterians was to draw up the National Covenant. This document affirms "before God and the whole world" that Presbyterianism is "God's true religion".



Wallace the Warrior

*Wallace was a warrior,
At Bothwell Bridge he
fought,
He led his men in
battle,
As victory they sought.*

*A brave and valiant
soldier,
He died that very day,
And Archie's family
speak of him,
With pride in every way.*

The National Covenant, a great metre square sheet of parchment, was produced for signature in Greyfriars' Kirk in Edinburgh on 28th February 1638.

All ranks of society, from the nobility to ordinary folk, flocked to sign the National Covenant. It was regarded as a special agreement made between God and the people. An old name for a solemn agreement is a "Covenant", so the people who signed this special document were known as "Covenanters".

This was the beginning of the Covenanting Movement and the first of many events that led on to a fifty-year conflict in Scotland, known as the "Covenanter Wars"(1638 - 1690).

During the latter period of the Covenanter Wars, the government did not know how to deal with the Covenanters who continued to disobey the law, so they introduced harsher laws against them.

Some Covenanters thought the time had come for action. In 1679, nine armed Covenanters ambushed and murdered the Archbishop of St Andrews, James Sharp. The Covenanters considered Sharp a traitor, as he had been a Covenanter. However now he encouraged harsh penalties for those



Archie at
The Covenanters' Memorial

Covenanters who attended conventicles (illegal religious meetings held outwith the new Episcopal Church of Scotland authorised by the King).

The murderers fled west to join an enormous conventicle taking place at Drumclog near Strathaven. Government soldiers tracking them found themselves facing 1,500 Covenanters wielding pikes, swords and pitch-forks. The soldiers were forced to retreat to Glasgow, with a mob of Covenanters at their heels.

After their victory at Drumclog, the Covenanters set up camp at Hamilton to wait for more supporters to join them. In the meantime, the government gathered an army. The new King, Charles II, appointed his son James, Duke of Monmouth, to the post of commander-in-chief.

Monmouth mustered an army of 15,000 government soldiers and on 21st June, they arrived in Bothwell, where about 5,000 Covenanters held the far bank of the River Clyde.

In the early dawn of 22nd June there was an exchange of fire, prompting the Covenanters to ask Monmouth to accept a delegation to discuss the issues that had brought about the recent conflict. Unfortunately, their request was refused and the battle then started in earnest.

After a stubborn defence of the bridge itself, lack of ammunition and poor leadership contributed to the defeat of the Covenanters. Some four or five hundred were killed and over 1,200 taken prisoner. The rebellion was over!

Before the battle the King's army were stationed in the area bounded by what is now Hamilton Road, Orchard Avenue, Langside Road and Clydevale. The area is now known as the Covenanters Field and it down this sloping field that the King's army charged the bridge.

Until the middle of the twentieth century the Field was the site of an annual gathering to honour those who had fought there. On one occasion at least, an attendance of 3,000 people was recorded. The Field was subsequently passed to the Local Council in trust for future generations. It was also designated by Historic Scotland as part of the battlefield. In 2013 a planning application was made to build houses in Field but after a successful campaign by the Bothwell Historical Society, the planning application was rejected.

At Bothwell Bridge Brawl, the Covenanters Fall

Monmouth's men crush Covenanters in brutal battle

Yesterday there was an almighty Battle at Bothwell Bridge where the Covenanters fought hard against the Duke of Monmouth's men. The Covenanters were heavily outnumbered and brutally defeated. The battle was the result of many years of conflict between the two sides who disagree over how people should worship and who the head of their church should be.

The King had instructed his son, the Duke of Monmouth to raise a large army to bring the covenanters' protests to an end. As a result, 15,000 soldiers arrived in Bothwell to fight for the King. Unfortunately, the Covenanters were severely outnumbered and after a short initial battle requested negotiations to start. However, Monmouth refused and the battle started in earnest. Lack of ammunition and poor leadership brought the Covenanters' rebellion to an abrupt end.

Around 500 Covenanters were killed and over 1,200 were taken prisoner. John Sutherland, a defeated covenanter, complained, "It was horrible. We were outnumbered by thousands of Monmouth's men. We tried but we didn't succeed." Oliver Murray agreed, "The battle was horrendous. They just kept firing and when we tried to talk to them they just shut us down. I am so grateful I am even alive!"

However, a senior army chief from Monmouth's army stated, "They stood no chance. They tried to negotiate with us but we said no. We were glad to defeat them and stop their pointless protests." Another of Monmouth's men added, "So glad we won. We had the numbers advantage but still we had to fight."

**Reported by :
Primary 7, Room 12.
Bothwell Primary School.
23rd June 1679**

Bothwell Library

When Archie's auntie, 'Jane the Librarian' first started work, it was in the library housed in Bothwell Public Halls. This building was located at the corner of Fallside Road and the Main Street where the coal hutch now stands. The Halls gradually fell into disrepair and as money to refurbish them could not be raised they were demolished. On 29th April 1966 Bothwell Library was moved to the Donald Institute, where it is today.

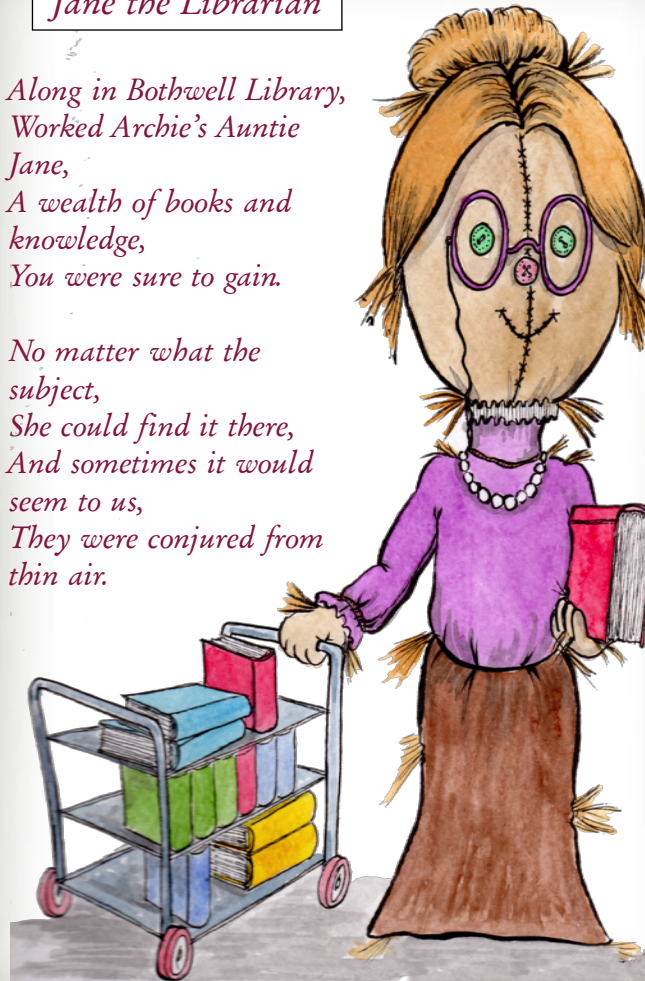
The Donald Institute was built with funds left by James Donald in his will. He was born in Bothwell although he did not stay in the village in his later years. James Donald was a successful chemical manufacturer and owned the company he had established. He always remembered his early years in the village and donated money to the village for several purposes. Some of the money he left to Bothwell included a magnificent stained glass window in the church and erecting the monument to Joanna Baillie in the church grounds. Mr James Donald died in 1905.

A public meeting was held in September 1906 in the former public hall in Fallside Road to decide what to do with the money. Mr Donald had bequeathed to the village. The minister of the Parish Church, Dr Pagan insisted that he would like, if possible, "a place called 'The Donald Institute' for the young men of the village. It should include a reading room for newspapers and magazines and a place for games

Jane the Librarian

*Along in Bothwell Library,
Worked Archie's Auntie
Jane,
A wealth of books and
knowledge,
You were sure to gain.*

*No matter what the
subject,
She could find it there,
And sometimes it would
seem to us,
They were conjured from
thin air.*



for the young men of the village. There might also be tea and coffee rooms and a section set apart where relics and objects of interest in connection with Bothwell would be preserved and cherished". Thanks to the insistence of Dr Pagan it was agreed at a later meeting that a new building should be constructed with the ideas for its use implemented as he had recommended.

In November 1908 the land on which the Donald Institute stands was sold to 'the trustees of the James Donald Bequest' for the sum of £1050. It took almost two years for the new building to be completed. Mr Donald's daughter, Mrs Busby, formally opened the new building on 8th October 1910.

The building did have reading and games rooms. Games tables, including snooker and billiards, were installed. In the early 1900s coal mining was a major source of employment in the village and coalminers were well known for their appetite for beer and other alcoholic drinks. The Institute did prove an attraction for them and was indeed an alternative to visiting the local pubs. Visiting the Institute had the added bonus to the miners

of not spending their hard-earned wages on beer. Teas and coffees rather than alcoholic drinks were sold in the Institute.

In March 1964 the trustees agreed to transfer the building to the local authority for the purpose of providing and equipping a District Library in Bothwell. The transfer was not legally

completed until May 1968. For a few years the librarian of the day lived in the top floor of the library. When the librarian left, the top floor was then rented for a period to a series of small companies as office space but was eventually left unoccupied.

In keeping with Dr Pagan's ideas of the early 1900s, the library now houses a collection of "relics and objects of interest in connection with Bothwell" that is now growing thanks to the efforts of Bothwell Historical Society. Some of these relics are on display on the walls and some are in storage. The

documents, photographs and other items in storage are being catalogued for future generations and visitors to examine.

The library now houses a wide selection of books, CDs and DVDs. Internet access is available and the library staff are very knowledgeable and helpful. The library also has an information screen provided by the Historical Society showing photographs of Bothwell and details of events around the village.



Archie with Emma and Jessica Ogsten & Anna and Eve Connell

Bothwell's Railways

Archie's uncle, 'Stan the Stationmaster' looked after Bothwell Station and made sure it was kept neat and tidy with well tended flower beds.

Bothwell actually had two railway stations. The first, built by the Caledonian Railway Company, was located on the site of the present Old Station Court and behind where the War Memorial now stands. It served a branch line from Fallside Junction (between Uddingston and Motherwell) to Bothwell, where "a rather grand station" was built in 1877. In 1923 the Company was absorbed into the London, Midland and Scottish (LMS) Railway Company. The line closed in 1950 and on the site of the station a factory was built. The factory eventually closed in 2000 and was demolished to make way for the houses and flats at Old Station Court.

Bothwell's other station was located to the south of the railway bridge at Uddingston Road near to the Medical Centre.

In 1874 the Glasgow, Bothwell, Hamilton and Coatbridge Railway Company was formed. The Company then built a 19 km railway line from Shettleston to Hamilton via Bothwell, and a 5 km branch line to Coatbridge.

The branch line allowed iron ore and coal from the Bothwell and Hamilton areas to be carried to the ironworks at Coatbridge, The main line to Shettleston provided a passenger link to Glasgow.

The line opened between Shettleston and Hamilton on 1st November 1877 for goods traffic and passengers on 1st April 1878. There was a spectacular bridge over the River Clyde south of Bothwell. It was known as the Craighead Viaduct and had lattice girders supported by tall stone piers. In August 1878 the GBH&C Railway Company was taken over by the North British Railway Company.

By 1952 the Craighead Viaduct was in need of substantial repair and the decision was taken to close that section from Bothwell to Hamilton. At the same time, Castle Colliery closed and the line was no longer needed to transport coal from the colliery. Passenger traffic declined and the Bothwell to Shettleston section of the railway closed in 1955.

With the closure of the line, the rails were lifted and the Craighead Viaduct partly demolished leaving only the piers standing. The route became overgrown and unsightly. When Brighter Bothwell was formed in 2000 one of the group's first projects was to arrange for the creation of the Nature Trail. As you walk along the Trail today you can still see the old railway

bridges and if you look closely, the remains of part of the station platform. Look also at the information boards along the Nature Trail which tell you something about the flowers, insects and animals you may see as you walk along.





Remembrance Day Service at the War Memorial with the former LMS Station in the background



Bothwell's North British railway Station



Archie with Ellis and Finlay McNeil at the location of the North British railway Station

Bothwell Colliery

Archie's grandfather, 'Mick the Miner' worked at Bothwell Castle Colliery and lived with his wife and family in one of the miners' houses at the top of Fallside Road.

Castle Colliery sat on Blantyre Mill Road next to Elmwood but on the other side of the road from the golf course. It belonged to a Coatbridge company named William Baird. Its business was making iron. The making of the iron required a lot of coal and the company had already used up most of the coal under Coatbridge. The company knew that there were seams of coal belonging to the Earl of Home under Bothwell. In 1875, he agreed that the company could take out his seams.

Two vertical shafts were dug down to the seams. The company took two years to dig these shafts which were 320 metres deep.

There are four coal seams beneath Bothwell. They lie one on top of each other spread out like sheets on a gigantic bed with at least 10 metres of rock in between each seam. The seams were not all of the same thickness. From the bottom of the shafts tunnels were made through each seam in directions north, south, east and west. These tunnels were called headings.

From these headings, smaller tunnels called side roads were made until the headings and roads formed a pattern like the lines on a chess-board. The front face of a heading was 4 metres wide and two colliers worked there. (Collier is the name given to the worker at the coal face. The other underground workers were called miners.) The front face of each road was 2.5 metres wide and formed the work place of one collier. Each collier drilled a hole into his coal face and filled this hole

with gunpowder. His work place was then inspected by a man called a fireman to check that no gas was present. The fireman lit the fuse

Mick the Miner



*Miner Mick worked underground,
He dug coal from the mine,
The seams of coal at Bothwell,
Were particularly fine.*

*He was Archie's great, great uncle,
And he came home late each day,
His face was black with coal dust,
As he wound his weary way.*

and he and the miner hid round the nearest corner until the gunpowder exploded. The miner then shovelled the broken coals into a small wagon called a hutch. The hutch was about the size of a shopping trolley. It was made of wood with two pairs of iron wheels. The collier produced 2.5 tonnes each shift.

The hutch was pulled away to a heading on a small sized railway by a pit pony. This heading was known as the haulage road. The pony was driven by a teenage boy. This was the first job for many boys when they left the school after their thirteenth birthday. The small railway extended along the floor of the haulage road back to a shaft. At the end of the haulage road furthest away from the shaft about ten hutches were coupled together. Either a large horse or a wire rope pulled the hutches out to the shaft bottom. The hutches were then uncoupled by a boy. Then this haulage arrangement was reversed so that ten empty hutches could be brought back to the coal faces from the bottom of the shaft. This work continued all through the day shift, which was ten hours long with a 15 minute break to eat your piece. There was also a night shift, when the old men would tidy up for the next day shift. Each week had twelve shifts. Sunday was not a working day.

Each shaft had two containers, known as cages, made of wrought iron. A cage was loaded with four hutches. A loaded cage was pulled to the surface by rope wound on a huge drum turned by a steam engine. A second

rope was wound on the drum, so that a cage of empty hutches was lowered to the bottom of the shaft.

After the full hutches were pulled from the cage at the pithead, they were emptied one after the other onto a moving conveyor known as a picking table. On both sides of the conveyor stood boys and girls, supervised by an old man. Their job was to remove stone and dirt from the coal.

When the miners were coming home from a hard day's shifts tired and with faces and hands covered in coal dust, they would often be met by local children calling, "Any pieces, Mister?" The youngsters found it exciting to eat the remains of the miners' bread with jam or cheese. No doubt the boys and girls would get a row from their mothers for bothering the tired men who were on their way home to sit in a big tin bath in front of the fire to wash off the grime of the coal dust.

The colliers and miners were given a house for rent on Fallside Road in what was called Baird's Square. These houses have since been demolished and replaced by the houses of Waverley Court. Baird Square consisted of two terraces of two-room houses, 56 in all, facing inward. The houses were either on the ground floor or up a flight of outside stairs to the floor above. Each house had one outside door, a window in each room, a big iron coal-burning

fireplace for heating and cooking in the front room, a small fireplace for heating in the back room, a gas-light above the big fireplace mantle, a sink with a cold-water tap beneath the front room window, an outside toilet and a coal bunker. There were four wash-houses in the ground space between the terraces shared by the 56 houses. Each wash-house had two compartments, each with an open cast-iron tub with its coal fire and a cold-water tap. The womenfolk had to agree with their neighbours to take their turn at the weekly wash.

The housework was considerable and girls usually left school to help at home. When older and experienced they would be employed as servants in other houses. Sometimes, they would live in a bigger house away from home with only a Sunday afternoon off work.

Unfortunately some of the residents of Bothwell objected to the sight of the miners walking to and from work. A tunnel leading to the colliery was therefore constructed under Uddingston Road. The entrance to the tunnel can still be seen today although it is now bricked up. If you are walking along the Nature Trail heading north, you will see it on the left, just past the Uddingston Road bridge.

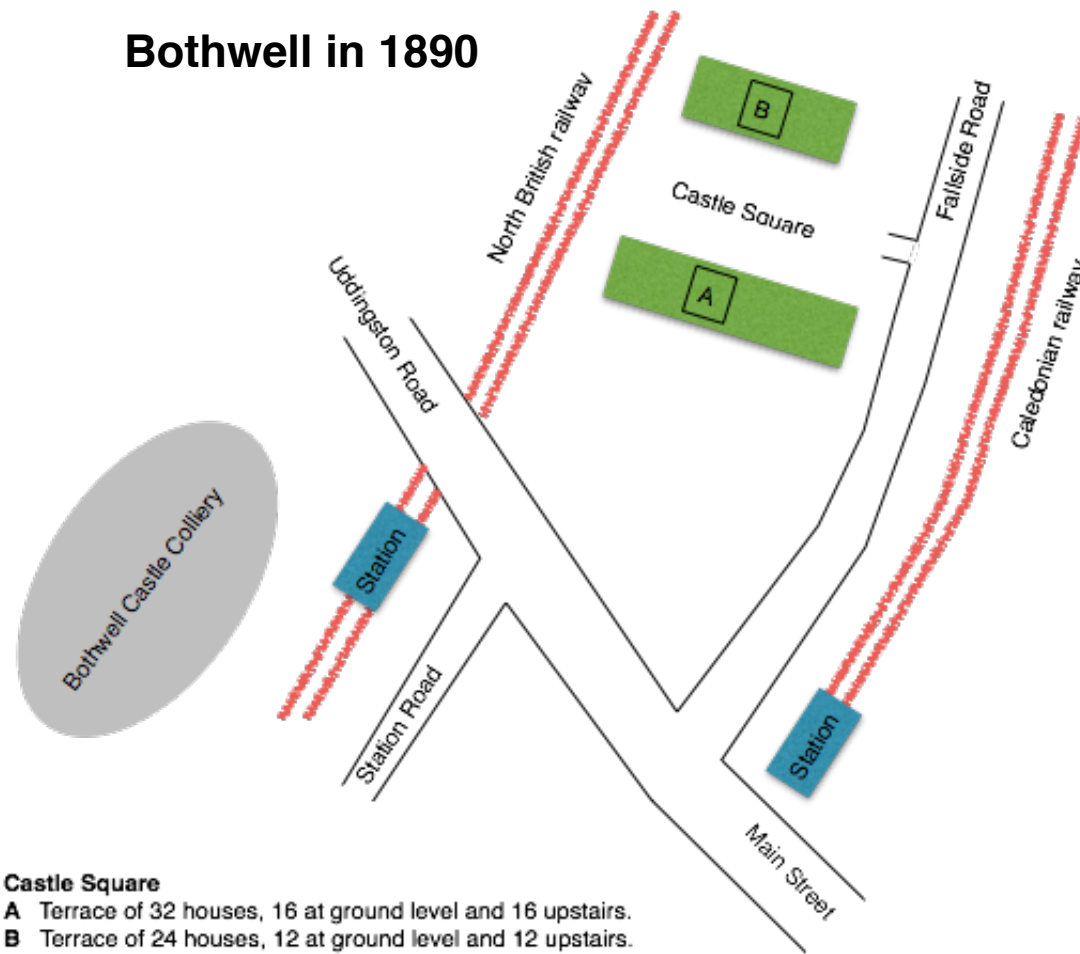


Archie with Ellis and Finlay McNeil at the Miners' Wildflower Garden



Archie with Sean Houston and Campbell Walker at the Coal Hutch

Bothwell in 1890



Bothwell showing the Colliery, Miner's Houses and Stations

The Jubilee Garden

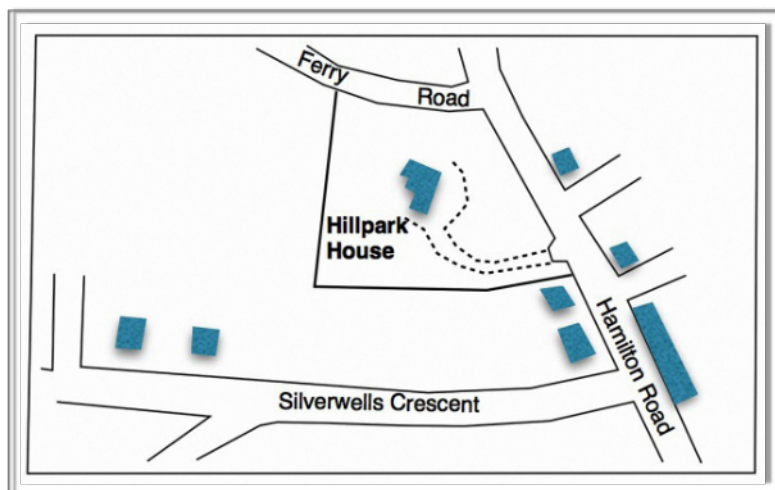
The Jubilee Garden is situated beside the main road between Silverwells Crescent and Ferry Road. It is there that you will find Archie during the Scarecrow Festival.

Many years ago it was part of the front gardens of Hillpark House. This mansion stood in extensive grounds occupying almost half of what is now Dunlop Crescent. During the First World War the house was given to the Red Cross Society by Colonel Robertson Aitkin for use as an auxiliary hospital. The hospital was under the direction of local GP Dr. John Goff and it

was fully equipped with 33 beds. In November 1914 the first batch of British and Belgian soldiers arrived from Stobhill Hospital, Glasgow to convalesce from their wounds. The hospital closed after the war in March 1919.

Shortly afterwards Hillside House was demolished and replaced in the mid 1920s by the houses at Dunlop Crescent.

In 2001 Brighter Bothwell planted out the garden with shrubs and trees and it was named the Jubilee Garden to commemorate the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002.



Archie at The Jubilee Garden with Cooper and Alex Goudie



Primary 7 at Bothwell Primary School learned about the history of Bothwell with the help of the Historical Society.



Well, boys and girls, we hope you have enjoyed sharing Archie's stories of what life was like in Bothwell many years ago. He hasn't told you everything about the history of the village as that would cover too many pages but you may want to know more of life in the past. How could you go about finding more stories? You could always ask your parents, grandparents or other family members what life was like when they were your age but always remember they are much younger than you might imagine and didn't live at a time when Bothwell castle was new.

If you want to go way back in time, ask your teachers who will have studied history to share what they have learned with you. Go yourself to the Library in the Donald Institute in Bothwell where you will find many books on the subject or go on the internet to use the latest method of learning about the past. You may not have Dr Who's Tardis to take you back in time but you can still have lots of fun finding out how people in Bothwell and other parts of the country lived many years ago. Archie will be pleased if you can do that.

Bothwell Historical Society

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