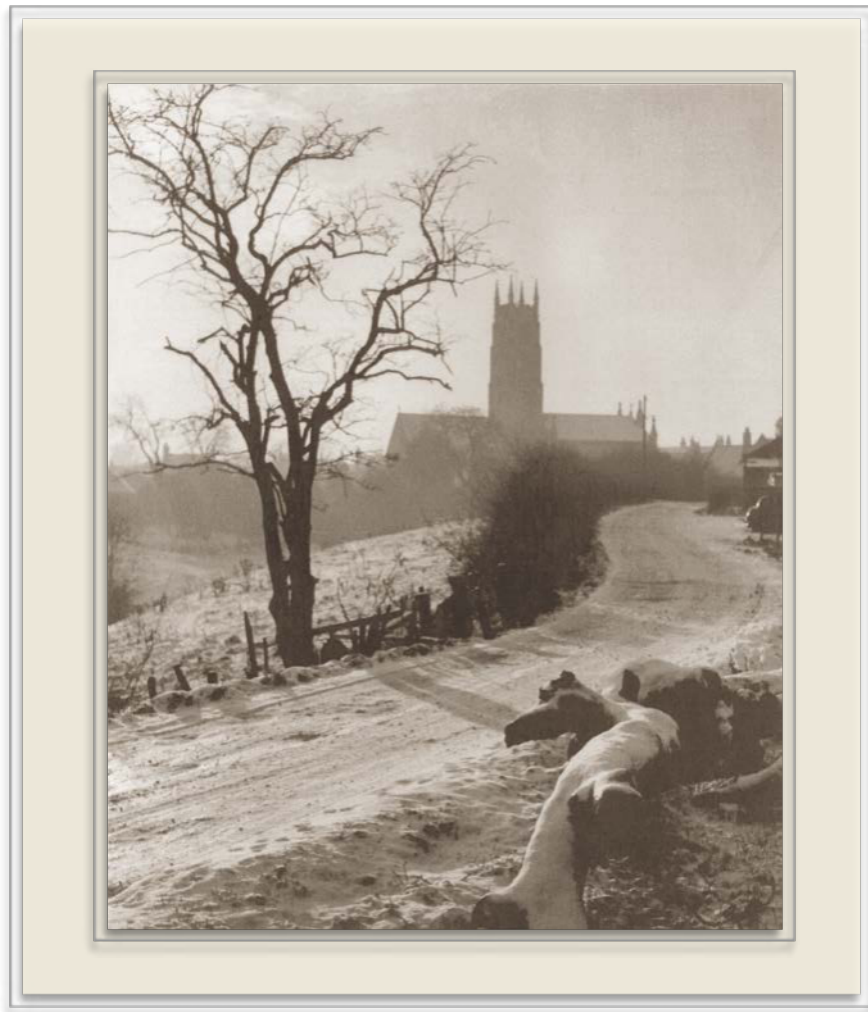


Bothwell Stories



Bothwell Historical Society
2015

Bothwell Stories



Sketch of Bothwell Station by Anna Fraser

*An Anthology of stories, reminiscences and photographs
of Bothwell in times past.*

FOREWORD



It is a personal pleasure to welcome the second publication, *Bothwell Stories* by Bothwell Historical Society after the well-deserved success of their *Lest we Forget*, which commemorated the role of the town's citizens in the Great War.

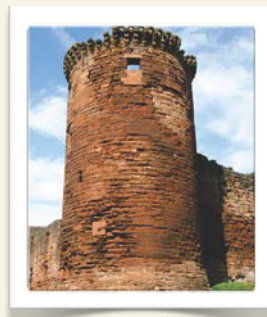
This new collection of short essays is eclectic, in the sense that its variety provides something for everyone to read and enjoy. The features range from the fifteenth century to the twenty first and contain stories of achievement, success, tragedy, the history of local institutions such as the BBs and the Golf Club, distinguished citizens and much else.

Once again the Historical Society has done well by evoking days past for the benefit of those who live in Bothwell today or who have an association with the town. A strong sense of local identity depends on many influences but one of the most important is an awareness of heritage, of seeing the present in the context of what has gone before and understanding the roots of how a community came to be the way it is today. History is our social memory.

I wish the current venture every success and look forward to future projects delivered by the vibrant Bothwell Historical Society!

Tom Devine

*Professor Sir Thomas Martin Devine OBE
Honorary President
Bothwell Historical Society*



Bothwell Historical Society

INTRODUCTION



No one can question the fact that Bothwell is one of the nation's most historical communities. Many great matters of historical importance have taken place here. Kings and courtiers have come, sieges have been undertaken, battles have been fought, painters and poets have lauded the area's beauties and ordinary people have lived their lives though all of this It would be an impossible task for any one individual to write a comprehensive history of Bothwell so we will have to content ourselves with doing what we can to record our village's story and to recognise that we leave much to be done by those who follow after us.

The Historical Society has undertaken a number of oral histories of several of the older residents of Bothwell. Excerpts from some of these recordings are included in this book. If you or anyone you know would like to participate in these oral history recordings, please let us know.

I would like to thank members of our Committee who provided the articles contained herein and I would specially thank Joan Gray, Mary McWhinney, Louise McLean, Jean Hamilton, Hamish Watson, Margaret Allen, Susan Fotheringham, Elizabeth French, Joyce Scott, Helen Carlton, Drew White, Gareth Rees, Don and Mary Riley, Teresa McCluskey, Nicol Rennie, John and Janellen Young, Brenda McFarlane, Joan Marsh, Tommy Loughran, Mary Cox, June Cook, Myra McMurdo and Morag Smith for contributing photographs and articles. The photograph of the Chancel in the article on the Royal Wedding is by Jim Aldebert and the photograph of the planting of the hutch in the article about the Miners' Memorial is by Elizabeth Ann Stewart.

Marjory Robertson, Norman Richardson and May Gow are to be thanked for proof reading the book and Liz Denton deserves a special mention for her publishing skills.

Thanks to the energy and imagination of Bill Gow, this project has come together to create a potpourri of reminiscences of life over the years in the village. In so doing we hope to create a record for future generations put together not by academic historians but by ordinary everyday citizens. I am confident that *Bothwell Stories* will be well received in our community and beyond.

Jack Gallacher

Chairman

Bothwell Historical Society

2015

www.bothwellhistoricalsociety.co.uk

BOTHWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL P6 2012 HISTORY PROJECTS

This book is about the history and the memories of some of the older residents of Bothwell. But the Historical Society must also look to the future and encourage a new generation of historians.

In 2012 the pupils of Bothwell Primary School P6, under their teacher Mrs McHenry, were each given a research project on the village of Bothwell. Their task involved locating Bothwell on a map, writing a summary on the village then investigating a place of historical interest in Bothwell. The 32 reports from pupils in the class were excellent and gives encouragement to the Historical Society that there is a new generation growing up interested in the heritage of our village.



Unfortunately space precludes reproducing all of the reports here. However the following is a small selection of some of the (verbatim) comments from the reports.

“Bothwell is a fascinating village full of interesting history. During this investigation I realised that Bothwell isn’t just a village it’s a place full of fun, history and beautiful restaurants. Lauren Gracie.”

“After studying the castle I have decided that my favourite room is the great hall, because of all the entertainment and fun people must have had in it throughout the centuries. My least favourite room is the donjon, because it looks so dark and eerie. Lois Wintrip.”

“All in all I think Bothwell is quite an amazing village for its size: there was a real proper battle right on our doorstep! James Culton.”

“I have looked at books, used the internet, visited the library, walked some of the lovely woodlands and nature walks, and went to some of the local shops – even bought some delicious cup cakes (yum yum!) Hannah Wilson.”

“Bothwell is mainly a residential village. There are no big factories and there are lots of houses with some of them being listed buildings. There is a long and weary history of Bothwell castle. At one time there was also a railway that ran right the way through Bothwell, there were also a lot of mills in Bothwell that is why there is a street called Blantyre mill road. Rob McConnell”

“Bothwell has been around for a long time and has kept changing as well. Train tracks have become nature trails and ruins of Bothwell Castle are all round the village. It has become more of a residential village instead of coal mines and factories everywhere. Lots of big accomplishments have been achieved by people from Bothwell, such as Marion Gilchrist, who was the first woman in Scotland to graduate in medicine. Ben Paterson.”

“I have chosen Bothwell Castle within Bothwell as this is a very interesting castle and makes my project on Bothwell great fun and this is the best project I have ever done and I absolutely love it. I love staying in Bothwell. Romi Bryson.”

“Bothwell is a very interesting village and very fun to study and I definitely enjoyed studying about it. Kiran Mahmood.”

“Everyone should come to Bothwell because it has very good history like the castle, Bothwell Parish Church, Bothwell Bridge and even more. You can go for walks and cycles at the River Clyde or Bothwell Castle with your dog or if you don't have a dog you could go with your family or friends. Alyson Samwells.”

Even though Bothwell is not a big residential place it is still an important role in history which is still fascinating people to this day. Niamh Gillan.”

“Bothwell Primary School has had three locations throughout the years. First it was where the flats in Bothwell are now, Then it moved to the location it is at now, a few years later the school had to be rebuilt as it was sinking into the ground so it moved to an old school in Hamilton, after they had finished rebuilding it moved back to the same location. Bethan McLeish.”

“I love living in Bothwell because of its interesting history, it has a good Main Street and also has a great community which has a community garden. It is a really good place to live. Eilidh Strang.”

In the early years Bothwell was mainly an agricultural village which then moved on into a weaving community. Following this period the village became a holiday resort and then it became a mining community which changed the village considerably. This lasted almost 80 years until the pit closed in 1951. Modern Bothwell is largely residential because of excellent commuter links to both Glasgow and Edinburgh. Olivia Wilson.”

“The Castle Pit became the village's focal point. My great grandfather, James Ramsay worked as chief fireman in the pit until it closed. Russell Laird.”

*“My main place of interest was Bothwell Castle and I have explained who lived in the castle and how it was used in the Wars of Independence. I also tried to imagine what it would have been like living in those times and to have fought in those wars. **Katie Hull.**”*

*“I have found out lots of things I didn't know about the village history such that most people in the past worked in the local coal mine and that Bothwell Primary is one of the oldest schools in Lanarkshire. **Joe McSherry.**”*

*“In this feature I have tried to give you some of the history and why it is so important and popular. My favourite fact is learning about the battles which took place here. **James Crossan.**”*

*Weaving was the first industry in Bothwell, initially at home but then a mill was built. In the 1800's coal was discovered which brought miners from all over Scotland and Ireland looking for work.” **Hannah McIntosh.**”*

*“I have chosen as my main place of interest Bothwell Parish Church. This is because it has a long history, it is still used by the community today and it is a fascinating building as the stained glass windows will tell us stories from the past. **Grant Menzies.**”*

*“Bothwell Main Street has phenomenal shops like Humble Pie, there you can buy the nicest cup cakes ever. ‘I Love Food’ also has the sourest sweets you will ever taste in your life, they are called sour bombs. **Katie Trainer.**”*

*“I really enjoyed learning about my village – Bothwell. **Emma Menzies.**”*

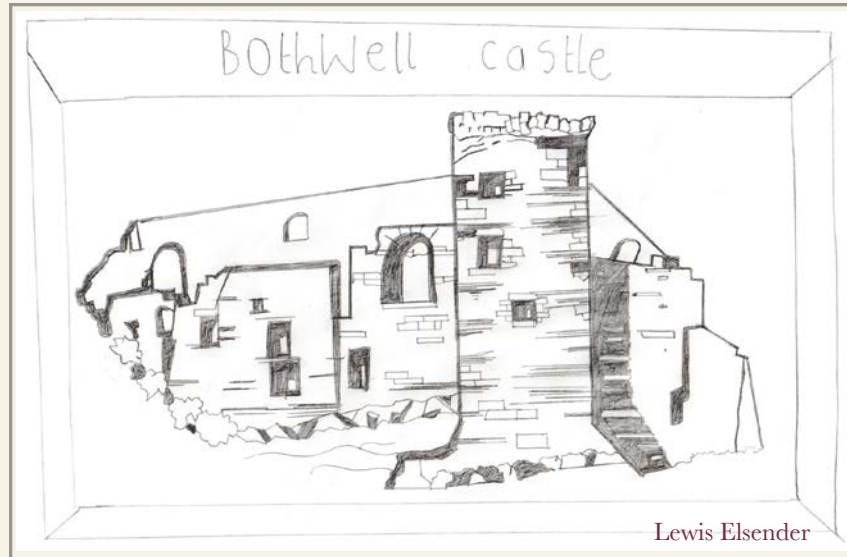
*“Bothwell was a very green and healthy place to stay years ago and lots of people moved here from the city of Glasgow. **Brad Hunter.**”*

*“Bothwell has some very old buildings. The library used to be the Donald Institute which had the very first flushing toilet. A very rich man James Donald left money to build the institute to keep the miners out of the pubs. **Ryan Cunningham.**”*

*“There has been a battle, there's a Castle, rumour has it that Mary Queen of Scots slept in the Castle. **Jamie Conroy.**”*



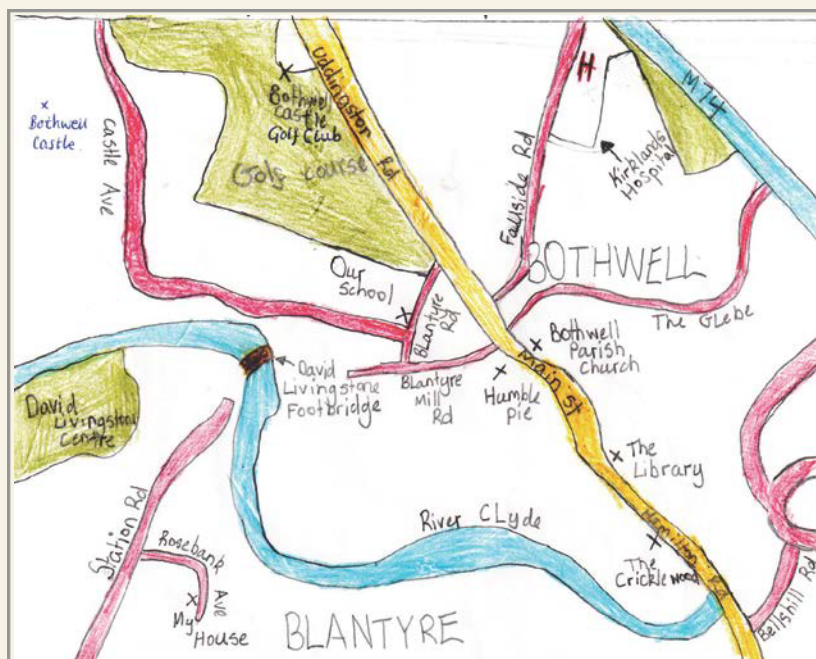
“The reason I chose Bothwell Castle is because I think the history of Bothwell Castle is very interesting. Also because you can see it and walk round it, and because someone with a brilliant name of Archibald the Grim lived there. Lewis Elsander.”



“Bothwell castle was, in its day, one of the grandest in Scotland. It was started by the Murray family. Dario Sargo.”

“I learned about Bothwell Parish Church and about Archibald the Grim, all the historical windows inside the church and about outside the Church. Bothwell is an interesting village and nice. Andrew Smyth.”

“Throughout this report I have discussed the village of Bothwell and the magnificent Bothwell castle. I have very much enjoyed writing about all of these amazing things. Shannon Robertson.”



Map of Bothwell by Bethan McLeish

"I enjoyed learning about Bothwell and didn't realise there was so much history. It was interesting to imagine life around Bothwell from the early days as a home for the rich and powerful Archibald the Grim with his Royal connections. I like imagining what his daughter's wedding would've been like as they left the church and went back to the Great Hall in Bothwell Castle for the party.

There would've been many soldiers going back and forward from the Castle in the days of the sieges and battles. I don't think I would want to be around then.

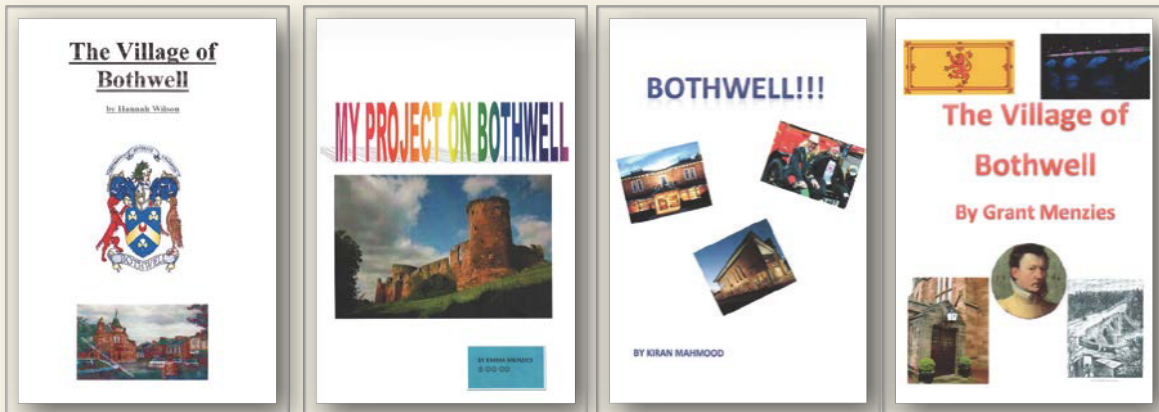
It was great thinking of the coal miners, weavers and mill workers who've lived and worked here and what life must have been like for them. Some of their children and grandchildren still live here and they will have stories to tell. The rich merchants coming home from their warehouses in Glasgow would have different stories to tell.

It is sad to think of all the young men of Bothwell who died in the First and Second World Wars and I discovered that Woodlands estate was built in 1919 as part of the "Homes for Heroes" campaign and Wooddean was built following the Depression.

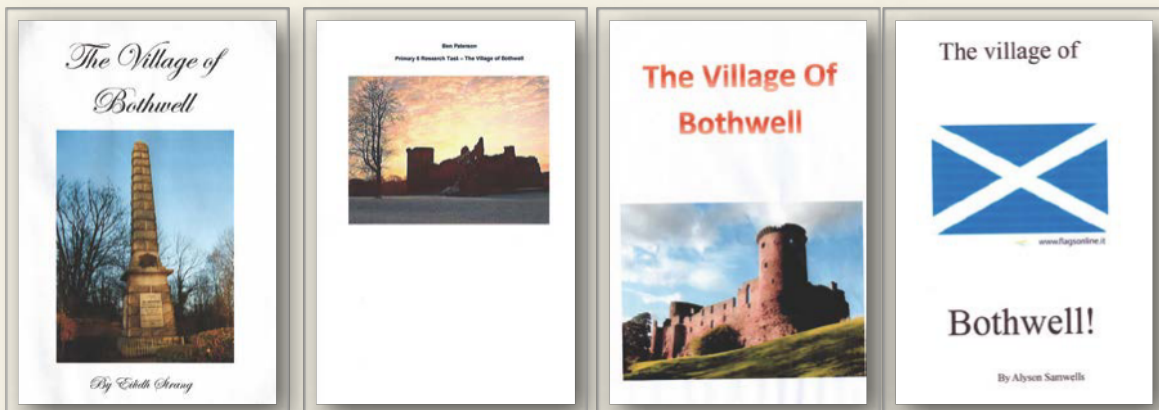
It must've been a really beautiful place to live before all the modern houses and the motorway were built. There were farms and woodland and people came here for the day. It's still a beautiful place but it must've been so different. I wonder if I would recognise it before the roads and houses were here.

I learned that my Gran was born the very day the last passenger train ran through Bothwell, so I'll never forget 10th July 1955. I like to walk along the Nature Trail and look at the Station platform. I can picture coal covered miners going through the tunnel under the bridge so they wouldn't be seen in the street above.

Bothwell's brilliant! Niamh Singleton."



Some of the P6 2012 Reports



BOTHWELL HOUSE

Bothwell House was located one or two hundred yards to the east of Bothwell Castle. Almost nothing is known of the original Bothwell House built by Archibald Douglas, 1st Earl of Forfar (1653-1712). The Bothwell estates passed to the Earl in 1669 and so it is probable that construction of the House started in the late 17th century. An engraving, *The Prospect of Bothwell Castle* by John Slezer in 1693, shows what must be taken as Bothwell House to the east of the Castle. Slezer depicts a traditional Scottish house, gabled, possibly L-shaped but its height and extent are unclear. In 1725 Walter McFarlane's Geographical Collections Relating to Scotland mentions Bothwell House.

'The Castle was once a very great and stately structure of very fine and curious workmanship, but is now altogether ruinous much defaced by length of time and some considerable part of it thrown down by the late Earl of Forfar who from the ruins thereof built a very handsome new house.'

The second enlarged version of the House, for the Duke of Douglas (1694-1761), was of a classically Palladian form, constructed circa 1759. The only known image of this version of the House is the 1781 Bothwell Policy, an extremely informative survey plan from the Douglas-Home archive. It shows the west front of the House closely overlooking the old Castle, the south windows commanding a bend in the river and the east elevation facing towards Bothwell and the collegiate church. The slightly rectangular corps de logis (principal or entrance part) communicates with a pair of pavilions by quadrant-shaped features – corridors or colonnades. Sketchily-drawn apartments are shown behind the smaller

north pavilion, suggesting they are proposed either for construction or removal. The corps de logis is shown in three equal bays, the central bay advanced slightly.

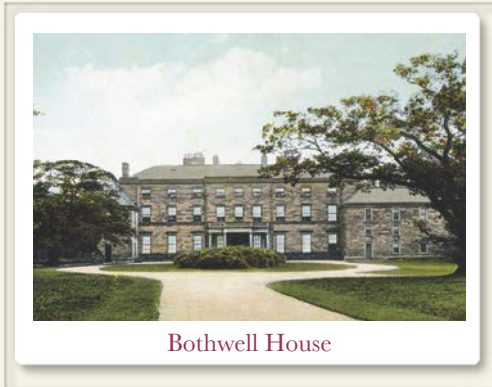
Archibald James Edward Stewart (1748-1827) legally changed his name to Douglas on 9 September 1761, being served heir to his uncle the Duke of Douglas. As the new Lord Archibald Douglas he employed architect James Playfair to remodel Bothwell House into a large, neo-classical mansion. Playfair recorded his business dealings at Bothwell, starting with a trip to Scotland in 1784. In 1788 he drew sections for the Hall, Great

Stairs, Anteroom, Dining Room and Billiard Room. Another entry, 19 June 1790, states 'Sent off design for Lodge - Bothwell Castle and gates.' This is the only remaining part of the great House and is now the entrance to Bothwell Castle

Golf Club. Except for a few photographs this final version of the House is scarcely recorded.

The grounds surrounding the house were extensively landscaped with two broad avenues of trees planted, orchards, paths and rides. There was also a walled kitchen garden (where Royal Gardens now is), Bothwell Castle Home Farm (where Tesco now is) and the Poultry building (on Castle Avenue, now converted as part of a dwelling).

Lord Archibald James Edward Douglas, 1st Baron Douglas of Douglas, died on 26 December 1827 at Bothwell House. The title passed through successively less secure possession of four of his five sons, all dying



Bothwell House

without issue, until James, 4th Baron Douglas, died in Bothwell in 1857 when the Barony became extinct. Of Lord Douglas's four daughters, only Jane Margaret had issue and upon her death in 1859 the great Douglas estates passed to the Homes, through Lord Douglas's granddaughter Lucy Elizabeth Montague-Scott, wife of Cospatrick Home, 11th Earl of Home. The 12th Earl adopted the surname Douglas-Home upon the death of his mother. The owner of Bothwell House at the time of its demolition was the 13th Earl of Home, Charles Cospatrick Archibald Douglas-Home.

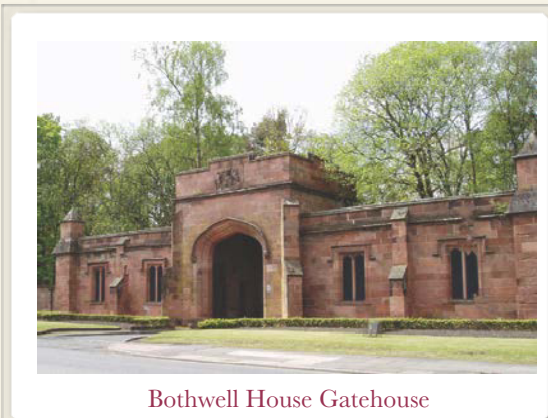
In the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland of 1925 W Douglas Simpson wrote 'The splendid ruins now belong to the Earl of Home, and have been maintained in good repair, although now their safety is gravely menaced by coal mining underneath the site.' A

detailed survey of the ground levels, carried out between 1923 and 1934 at the Castle and House suggests that extensive mine workings from Bothwell Castle No 3 & 4 Pits, directly across the river, caused catastrophic subsidence around the Castle and House.

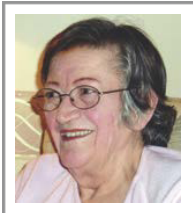
The final days of Bothwell House were recorded in an article in the Hamilton Advertiser dated 9 August 1930. 'The building has been acquired by the Dundee contractor Mr Charles Brand and the work of demolition began on Monday last. It was dismantled a dozen years ago of its furniture, pictures and books. The library, or large portion of it, was sold in Glasgow. The house has therefore been empty and incapable of occupation for a term of years. The last period of its occupancy was during the war, when some Belgian refugees and nuns were housed in it. Sir James King Bart was tenant for five years towards the end of the last century. For long before that the Home family lived little in it 50 years ago or more. Lady Antrim who was we believe a relative of the family, was its most constant occupant.'

The ruins of Bothwell Castle were taken into state care in 1935 and this Scheduled Ancient Monument is currently managed by Historic Scotland. The other lands of Bothwell Castle estate were eventually sold by the Earl of Home in the mid-twentieth century, for housing developments.

This article was abstracted from a historical review of Bothwell House by Scott Bain, dated 2012.



Bothwell House Gatehouse



My mother was never off her feet there was always work to be done. She was upstairs, downstairs, constantly finding things to be done. When I think about it now how she managed I just don't know. We did not have washing machines in those days so when it came to things like washing the blankets for the bed, she would fill the bath with water and sprinkle some soapflakes in it and put the blankets in then we kids would jump in the bath and trample the blankets which was great splashy fun and did a good job of the washing. She could make doing housework interesting and at the same time keep us amused. I remember that when she would have to scrub the living room floor, which had a linoleum surround and a large rug in the middle, she would put the table in the middle of the room and sit us on it then she would get down on her hands and knees and start scrubbing. Of course there was foam while she scrubbed and we would shout down to her "draw a cat mummy, draw a dog mummy". That kept us entertained and at the same time kept us out of the way of the work. Then when the floor had dried, she would put Mansion Polish on the lino and tied bits of rag to our feet and we would skate up and down to make the polish shine. All great fun and made a chore seem easy.

Extract from an oral history interview given by Olive Spence

A TRAGEDY FOR THREE BOTHWELL FAMILIES

On a dark, wet, foggy night, off Lands End a tragedy occurred devastating the lives of three Bothwell families. On the night of the 22nd May 1868, the SS Garonne sailing from Bordeaux to Liverpool struck rocks off Penzance and sank taking the lives of 16 passengers and 4 crew.

In the mid 1860's the three prosperous Bothwell families, neighbours and friends, lived in the vicinity of Silverwells Crescent. Mr Alexander Turner, aged about 63, lived at the Grange and was retired from the firm of Martin Turner and Co, Singapore Merchants, based in Glasgow. He was unmarried and supported his nephew William Turner and his niece Mrs Thomasina MacLellan. William Turner 30, had previously been in Melbourne, Australia as a merchant but was in delicate health, suffering from consumption.

James Muir and his wife Mary lived at Dunclutha House (demolished in the 1900s to make way for the houses of Dunclutha Drive.) They had 4 children, Mary aged 10; Margaret aged 8; Matthew aged 6 and Anna aged 9 months. Around 1867 they moved from

Dunclutha House to live in Glasgow. James Muir, aged about 45, was a partner in the firm Matthew Muir & Sons owners of the Tradeston Flour Mills.

The McEwan family lived at Greenknowe House. James McEwan was 50 years of age and worked for the firm of Smith and Sharp, Wholesale Grocers and Tea Merchants in Glasgow although latterly he was described as

a sugar merchant. He was married to Elizabeth and they had 4 children, Mary aged 8; Jessie aged 6; Daniel aged 4; and James aged 2.

The three families had decided to spend the winter months of 1867/68 at the milder climate of Pau in the south of France. They sailed

from Liverpool to Bordeaux in the SS Garonne. It must have been a pleasant crossing for it was their express desire that berths be reserved for them in the same vessel so that they might return together.

The SS Garonne was a schooner rigged, iron screw steamer of 499 tons owned by Messrs James Moss and Co of Liverpool. She was 225 feet long, not more than two years old and furnished with a 90 horse power engine, watertight compartments and 5 lifeboats. The ship traded between Liverpool and Bordeaux but also carried passengers. In charge was Captain Benjamin Drew who had been 20 years in the service of Messrs Moss & Co and sailed between Bordeaux and Liverpool no less than 77 times. He was a highly esteemed officer with the company and a skilful and experienced navigator. Captain Drew was supported by a full complement of crew numbering 22.

On that fateful voyage the SS Garonne set off from Bordeaux in the early hours of the



Dunclutha House



Greenknowe

morning with a cargo chiefly of wines and brandy. The 18 passengers consisted of Mr Turner, his nephew William and Christina Mackenzie, William's nurse; Mr and Mrs Muir, their 4 children and two maids; Mrs McEwan, her 4 children and two servants. William Turner was extremely weak due to consumption and had to be taken on board on a stretcher. It seemed that there was no chance of him reaching his native country alive if he returned by rail. Captain Drew even surrendered his own cabin to William in order to make his voyage more comfortable.

The following day, the 22nd May 1868, at 10 o'clock in the evening the Longships Light should have been seen but it was raining and there was dense fog. Suddenly the dreaded coast loomed and the order was instantly given to reverse the engines but it was too late. At about 11.25pm the Garonne ran onto the Buck Rocks almost at full speed and within 25minutes had sunk.

The Captain gave the order to abandon ship and members of the crew managed to launch three lifeboats. Other members of the crew jumped into the stormy water and were picked up by the lifeboats. Captain Drew declined to get into a lifeboat when he had the opportunity to save his life and went down with his ship. The first mate and two stewards remained onboard and also drowned.

The passengers had been in their berths when the ship struck the rocks and by the time they got out of their cabins onto the poop deck, the main deck was awash and the ship keeling over. Due to the proximity of the rocks the lifeboats

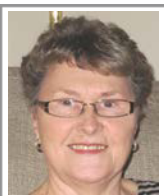
were not able to get close but the passengers were encouraged to jump. The only one to do so was James Muir who picked up his son Matthew and flung himself into the sea. He was rescued by a lifeboat and Matthew was only saved when a seaman grabbed the leg of the 6 year old as he was swept past the lifeboat. All the remaining 16 passengers, huddled together on the poop deck, perished when the boat sank.

The ensuing Board of Trade Enquiry found that Captain Drew was responsible for the disaster. In mitigation it has been surmised that the disaster may, to some measure, be due to the anxiety of the Captain to land in Liverpool, his passenger William Turner, whose life was evidently ebbing away. Two weeks after being rescued Mr James Muir died at Penzance. He had been in ill health and it is thought that the shock of the shipwreck must have hastened his end. The only passenger to survive the shipwreck and its aftermath was young Matthew Muir.

It was a tragedy indeed for the three Bothwell families..



The Grange



In February we had what came to be known as Snowdrop Sunday, when most of the village would go down to the Castle Grounds. The grounds had been opened especially for this day. We even had a Bluebell Sunday a little later in the year. On both days people just spent the day strolling in the grounds, there may have been an ice cream cart there but I can't remember clearly. Another great Sunday out was to go down to Bothwell Bridge and the Lido. The Lido was a lovely area with flower beds, lawns and well maintained pathways. When the weather was good the place would be packed, parents sitting on the grass chatting while the kids played.

Excerpt from one of our oral history interviews given by Jean Miller

AN INCREDIBLE JOURNEY

THE STORY OF SHEILA BURNFORD



Sheila Burnford née Every was a novelist whose book "The Incredible Journey" became a best seller. It was made into a Disney film in 1963 and remade in 1993

under the title "*Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey*".

Sheila Every was born on 11th May 1916 at Hyndland, Glasgow, to Wilfred and Ida Every. As a child she lived with her parents, and her brother, Henry (Hal) in the family house "Normanville," in Silverwells

Crescent, Bothwell. Her grandfather Henry Every was a chemical manufacturer who lived at St Andrews Lodge, Brooklands Avenue, Uddingston. Wilfred Every was a successful businessman and the family was well off, employing, as was not unusual for the time, a number of maids, a cook, and a gardener. There was also Clarke, the chauffeur, who Sheila always claimed, raised her, her mother apparently being frequently occupied, with her feet up, studying next week's racing form!

In early childhood and indeed throughout her life Sheila's greatest love was walking. *"Of all the precepts instilled in me from early childhood in Scotland none has remained more firmly to this day come rain or shine, hell or high water, that no able bodied person should spend all day indoors ...Once outside, if not otherwise actively engaged, one should go for a good walk."*

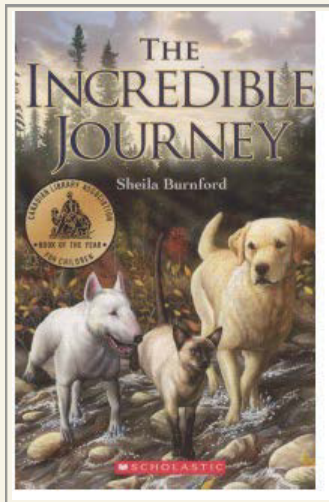
Sheila was educated at St George's School in Edinburgh and later Harrogate Ladies

College. After completing her education, she spent several happy years continuing her passion for walking and exploring throughout Europe. In 1937, she obtained her Aviator's Certificate through the Royal Aero Club of the United Kingdom, but she had little opportunity to fly for by 1939 Britain was at war and Sheila joined the Red Cross.

In 1941 at St Andrew Episcopal Church, Uddingston, Sheila married Dr David Burnford. He was a graduate of Cambridge and Guy's Hospital London. He had also rowed for Cambridge and participated in pairs sculling in the 1936 Olympics in Berlin. David spent part of the war on the destroyer "H.M.S. Jackel" as a Surgeon Lieut-Commander and later participated in the Normandy Invasion of June 1944.

Sheila then moved to London to help with the war effort becoming a certified Ambulance Driver in 1942. She later moved to Keymer in Sussex.

In 1948 David and Sheila, with their three daughters, Peronelle, Jonquil and Juliet and their nanny Joan, set out for Canada where David had been offered a post as a paediatrician in Thunder Bay (then Port Arthur), Ontario. Sheila spent many happy years in Thunder Bay, a cold,



northern city in the centre of Canada. She continued her tradition of walking and exploring in the woods around Thunder Bay searching for mushrooms,



Normanville, Bothwell

fossils, birds and wildflowers and many of these adventures became part of her early writing.

Sheila claimed that she wrote much of the early manuscript for her famous novel *The Incredible Journey*, while sitting in a duck blind in northern Manitoba.

Sheila's parents, Wilfred and Isa Every continued to live at Normanville until the early 1960s when they retired to Seamill, Ayrshire. Their house, Normanville, was then divided into three apartments.

Sheila Burnford wrote several books but is best known for *The Incredible Journey*, the story of three pets, a labrador, a bull terrier and a Siamese cat travelling through the Canadian wilderness in search of their beloved master. The book received instant

acclaim when it was published in England and the United States in 1961. But it was in 1963, when Walt Disney Co. made it into a movie that *The Incredible Journey* achieved world-wide fame. It was translated into many languages and continues to sell exceptionally well 50 years later.

Sheila wrote several later books. *Bel Ria*, for example is about a small dog who finds his way from war torn France aboard a destroyer to eventually end up in a small Scottish village.

In the early 1960s Sheila and David's marriage ended and she returned to England to live near Beaulieu in Hampshire. She died of cancer in April 1984.



JOANNA BAILLIE

Joanna Baillie, poet and dramatist, was born at the manse of Bothwell on 11 September 1762. Her father, Rev. James Baillie was Minister of Bothwell Parish Church and briefly, during the two years before his death, a Professor of Divinity at the University of Glasgow. Her mother Dorothea Hunter was a sister of the great physicians and anatomists, William and John Hunter. Joanna Baillie was the youngest of three children and she grew up in close companionship with her sister, Agnes and brother Matthew who became a celebrated London physician.

Baillie's early years were marked by a passion for the outdoors. Uninterested in books, she preferred playing in the garden, riding her pony, splashing on the banks of the River Clyde, and listening to ghost stories by the fireside. Baillie's own gift for narrative invention revealed itself early in stories told to her companions or acted out in impromptu amateur dramatics.

Though her brother attended school, Joanna Baillie did not, relying instead on her father for her education. In the early 1770s, both Baillie sisters were sent to a Glasgow boarding school, and it was there that Joanna first developed an interest in books, writing and adapting stories to entertain her classmates. It was in Glasgow that she visited the theatre for the first time, kindling a passion which was to continue for the rest of her life.

Following the death of the Rev Baillie in 1778, the family became dependent on Dorothea's brother, William Hunter, who provided them with financial security as well as residence at his estate in Long Calderwood, near East Kilbride. There they led quiet lives as country gentlewomen. Matthew Baillie went to Balliol College, Oxford, following in his uncles' footsteps in the study of medicine. Dr. William Hunter, died in 1783, leaving Matthew Baillie his house at Windmill Street, London, medical school and private museum collection (which is now the University of Glasgow's Hunterian Museum and Art

Gallery). Shortly thereafter Joanna, Agnes and their mother moved to London to manage the household for Matthew. There Joanna



Baillie met the literary society through her aunt Anne Hunter, the wife of Dr. John Hunter. Mrs. Baillie and her daughters settled, after two or three moves, in Colchester. By 1802 Joanna Baillie had moved from Colchester to Hampstead, then on the outskirts of London, where she and her sister spent the remainder of their lives. The two sisters, having inherited a small competence from their uncle Dr. William Hunter, chose not to marry. Admired both for her literary powers and her sweetness of disposition, Joanna's home became the centre of a brilliant literary circle and she counted the likes of author Sir Walter Scott and poets William Wordsworth and Lord Byron among her friends.

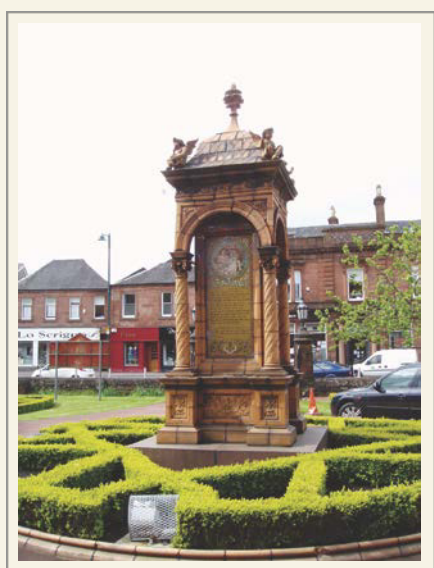
Joanna Baillie's first publication in 1790 was an anonymous volume called *Fugitive Verses*. In 1798, also anonymously, the first of her "plays on the passions", under the simple title of *A Series of Plays* was published. This book was highly successful and was followed by a second volume in 1802 and a third in 1812. Her other works included *Miscellaneous Plays* (1804), the *Family Legend* (1810), published in Edinburgh under the patronage of Sir Walter Scott, and three volumes of *Dramas* (1836). While popular in print, Baillie's plays were not successful on the stage. Joanna Baillie was extraordinarily respected in her lifetime. Sir Walter Scott frequently mentioned her in the same breath as Shakespeare. He claimed: "If you want to speak of a real poet, Joanna Baillie is now the highest genius in the country."

Lord Byron said, "Women, except Joanna Baillie, cannot write tragedy."

Joanna Baillie died in 1851 in Hampstead aged 88. Her sister, Agnes, lived on to be 100. Both sisters were buried alongside their mother in Hampstead parish churchyard, and in 1899 a sixteen-foot-high memorial was

erected in Joanna Baillie's memory in the churchyard of her birthplace at Bothwell. Joanna Baillie's first poem was "A Winters Day" and is evocative of the winter sights and sounds in the neighbourhood of Long Calderwood. The following opening lines describe the dawning of the day.

*Strutting before, the cock leads forth his train,
And chuckling near the barn-door 'mid the straw,
Reminds the farmer of his morning's service.
His grateful master throws a liberal handful;
They flock about it, while the hungry sparrows,
Perched on the roof, look down with envious eye,
Then, aiming well, amidst the feeders light,
And seize upon the feast with greedy bill,
Till angry partlets peck them off the field.
But at a distance, on the leafless tree,
All woe-begone, the lonely blackbird sits;
The cold north wind ruffles his glossy feathers;
Full oft he looks, but dare not make approach,
Then turns his yellow beak to peck his side
And claps his wings close to' his sharpened breast.
The wandering fowler from behind the hedge,
Fastens his eye upon him, points his gun,
And firing wantonly, as at a mark,
Of life bereaves him in the cheerful spot
That oft hath echoed to his summer's song.*



FORGOTTEN CHURCHES OF BOTHWELL

Bothwell Free Church

On 18th May 1843, at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, held in St. Andrew's Church in Edinburgh, what has become known as the Disruption occurred. Dr. Thomas Chalmers led 190 clergy out of the Established Church to form the Free Protestant Church of Scotland. Eventually 474 ministers out of a total of 1,203 joined the new church. They believed that congregations should have the ability to choose their own ministers, rather than it being the responsibility of the local laird or heritors.

The first Free Church congregation in the Parish of Bothwell met in a school building in Bellshill Road, Uddingston. In 1860, when Bothwell Free Church was built on a new site at Kirkfield, 12 Uddingston Road, Bothwell. By 1900 there were 259 in the congregation.

Bothwell United Presbyterian Church

More or less in parallel with the formation of the Free Church, the Relief Church (formed in 1761) and the United Secession Church (formed in 1820) came together in 1847 to form the United Presbyterian Church. The first congregation set up by the united body was the Blantyre United Presbyterian Congregation and they held their meetings in the Blantyre Works schoolroom. The congregation soon became self-supporting and resolved to find a permanent place of their own to worship. A plot of land was obtained at Wooddean on the Bothwell side of the river and the foundation stone of the new church was laid on 26 March 1853.

The Church was opened on the 21 August 1853 by the Rev Peter Bannatyne.

Records show that in the following year at the outbreak of the Crimean War the session meeting agreed that *"there is to be a general cessation of ordinary employments on Wednesday 26*

April 1854 in conformity with a Proclamation by the Queen to observe that day as one of humiliation and prayer with reference to the recently declared war."

The membership of the Church, which was 96 when the Church was built, increased to 155 in 1859 with some Bothwell and Uddingston people among the new members. In 1860 the use of the Church on a Sunday afternoon was granted to Bothwell Free Church congregation, as they were building a new church on the site of their old one.

In 1878 the City of Glasgow Bank collapsed causing a commercial crisis which affected the whole community. In reply to a query from the Presbytery as to its financial condition, the Wooddean Session replied that *"although the congregation had to some extent suffered with others owing to the hard times, yet we hoped that with a little skilful management to be able to meet our liabilities."*

A memorial window was donated in 1886 and during its installation the Congregation worshipped in the new Bothwell Public Halls. The Jubilee of the congregation was celebrated in 1897. To mark the occasion eight new tinted side windows were installed along with a new scheme of Church decoration.

Bothwell United Free Church of Scotland

In 1900, the Free Church of Scotland came together with the United Presbyterian Church, to form the United Free Church of Scotland, the second largest presbyterian church in Scotland, with a membership of approximately half a million adherents. (A largely Highland minority continued as the Free Church – the "Wee Frees").

The union was celebrated in Bothwell by a Social Gathering, held in the Public Hall, the minister of the former Bothwell Free Church presiding over the first part of the evening, the minister of Wooddean United Presbyterian Church for the other part.

Wooddean United Free continued with vitality although by 1910 the congregation had dropped to 124.

Kirkfield and Wooddean Church of Scotland

On 2nd October, 1929, The Church of Scotland (the "Auld Kirk") and the United Free Church, came together to form what is now the present Church of Scotland. Kirkfield Church and Wooddean Church, as former United Free churches, became Church of Scotland congregations, making a total number of three Church of Scotland communities within the Parish of Bothwell. Wooddean Church continued as an independent Church of Scotland congregation until 1941, when it united with Kirkfield Church to form the Church of Scotland charge of Kirkfield and Wooddean based at Kirkfield. Kirkfield and Wooddean Church continued until 1976, when



Wooddean Church

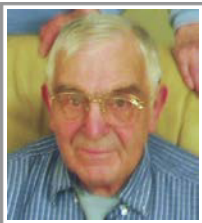
it united with St. Bride's Parish Church to form the present Bothwell Parish Church. The Kirkfield and Wooddean Church building remained unoccupied until 1984, when it was regrettably demolished. The Wooddean Church building, which was situated in Wooddean Park, at the foot of Blantyre Mill Road, remained unoccupied for many years after the congregation moved to Kirkfield in 1941. It was demolished sometime after the Second World War.



Kirkfield Church



Demolition of Kirkfield Church



When I was courting my wife I stayed in Maryhill and she stayed in Birkenshaw. One night after taking her home I had to get a bus home but I had missed the transport so I had to run down the Sheddens past the golf course to the tram depot where I could get a tram that could take me home to Maryhill, but I missed that as well, so I had to run back up the Sheddens, go to the next door neighbour, knocked the door gave him two bob and borrowed his bike and cycled from there to Maryhill. It was cobbles most of the way and oh, my backside was raw for ages. The thing that really worried me was I had to take the bike back again, this time with a big cushion on it and I didn't even get my two bob back.

Extract from an oral history interview given by Joe Leitch

DASTARDLY SHOOTING IN BOTHWELL

Shortly before two o'clock on a cold October night in 1920, police constables McKay and Gray were on patrol in Bothwell. As they walked down Langside Road they saw about twenty men loitering on the opposite side of the road from the Army Drill Hall which was located half way down Langside Road. As they approached the men, constable Gray called out "What are you doing here tonight, boys?" The response to this innocuous query was for several of the men to draw revolvers and to command the constables to put their hands up. However constables McKay and Gray were not to be outdone. They drew their batons and faced the hostile mob, some of whom had bayonets and other similar weapons. Shots were fired hitting constable McKay in the arm while another bullet grazed his side. As he lay wounded on the ground one of the men stood over him and fired at point blank range. Later constable McKay was to remark "he wasn't a very good shot and missed me!" Not content with having shot the policeman, one of the men then kicked him savagely in the side as he lay on the road. The assailants then moved off, apparently assuming they had killed constable McKay.

Constable Gray, left to face the mob alone, realised the hopelessness of his situation and went to get assistance. He was chased by the assailants across adjoining fields until he lost them in the dark.

Meanwhile constable McKay with a great effort struggled up Langside Road to the home of Mr Mitchell, a dairy keeper. His daughter, Miss Mitchell, who had been awakened by the commotion, helped the wounded constable McKay into the house. The family rendered first aid and summoned Dr Denness who arranged for the constable to be taken by ambulance wagon to the Royal Infirmary, Glasgow.

It appeared that the gang were members of Sinn Fein and that they had designs on the armoury in the Drill Hall. The ringleaders, Patrick Martin, James Rodgers, Patrick Moan, Charles McGinn, William Docherty, Robert McErlane and Patrick Clark were caught and charged with mobbing, rioting and attempted murder at Langlands Road and Laighlands Road, Bothwell. They were brought to trial on the 7th February 1921 at the High Court, Glasgow. The first four were found guilty and were sentenced to penal servitude of 8 to 10 years. In the case of the last three men, the jury returned a verdict of not proven.

As for constable McKay, he recovered from his wounds and returned to live with his wife and 12 year old daughter at Hawthorn Bank, Uddingston. Commenting on the affair, a colleague of constable McKay remarked "He was the last man to have held up his hands to anybody!"

The drill hall where
the shooting took place



BOTHWELL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

The first recorded reference to the Bothwell Horticultural Society was in the Hamilton Advertiser in which the following report appeared.

The Bothwell Floral and Horticultural Society held their 16th annual competition on Saturday the 12th September 1857 in the school room Bothwell. The show of the stuff was above the average both in quality and quantity. The day was very unpropitious for visitors, being wet.

Cash book and newspaper articles



continued to record the Society's activities up till 1882. Thereafter it appears that the Society fell into abeyance.

A number of years later a local GP, Dr J Walls, called a meeting on 26th October 1923 for those interested in horticulture. This meeting resulted in the resurrection of the Bothwell Horticultural Society, which continues to this day.

The revived Bothwell Horticultural Society held its first Annual Show on Saturday 10th September 1924. Preceding the Show the Hamilton Advertiser reported

An event of next week that is exciting eager anticipation is the first Annual Exhibition of the revived Bothwell Horticultural Society. Wednesday the half-holiday is the day of the Show; the public Hall is the place and Lady Wilson of Airdrie will perform the opening ceremony.'

The entries to the Annual Show of 1929 were a remarkable 769, a record that has

not been beaten. Society membership at that time was 224.

The Show of 1934 was opened by The Hon Lady Bridget Douglas Home and Show entries had risen again to 722. In his report that year Mr Chas Robertson, the Show Secretary, stated;

"We also have a new force which will make its presence felt in the way of increased entries and keener competition, that force being Colonel Vandeleur's deathless army stationed at Bothwell Castle. I only hope some of their number will take up the cultivation of flowers, if even in a small way, so as to combine the beautiful with the needful."

On the 29 September 1939 the Secretary in his annual report stated

"In presenting the Annual Report for the current year it is with real regret that the outbreak of hostilities brought our activities to an end and in accordance with the Committee meeting of 31 August, the Flower Show stood cancelled."

And so with the outbreak of the Second World War, the Bothwell Horticultural Society ceased to function.

After the war the Society's activities resumed as recorded in the minute book.

As a desire had been expressed by a few members of the old Bothwell Horticultural Society and others interested in horticulture in the village, to revive the Society, a meeting was called by Mr William Sharp, Treasurer of the old Society to be held in the lesser public hall on Thursday 28 October 1948. The meeting was duly held and in an atmosphere of good will it was unanimously decided to revive the Society.'

The Countess of Home opened the 1952 Annual Show before a large attendance and praised the beautiful gardens of the village. She said that Bothwell with its lovely gardens must be a happy place to live in. An innovation to the Show that year was the stall staffed by the Library Department showing all the best and latest books on horticulture with facilities to issue these on the spot.

The Society did not restrict its activities purely to horticultural matters, but took an active interest in the general affairs of the village. At the 1952 AGM *'the meeting was made aware of the position in respect of the safety measures proposed for Main Street. So that the people of the village might be further enlightened it was proposed that the Road Safety Officer call a public meeting with Police, Road Surveyor and Councillors and that they would endeavour to answer any queries which might be raised and be willing to examine and comment on other such suggestions as might be brought forward.'*

In 1966 and 1983 the Society was the host for the BBC's popular radio broadcast 'Gardeners' Question Time.' The chairman of the show, Franklin Engelmann, described Bothwell *'as situated south east of Glasgow on the A74, once a mining village, it is now a residential area. The soil is very variable, northwards being heavy clay with lighter soil to the south east and a band of sand to the west. It is very fertile and the area has an equitable climate.'*



The late 1960s was a particularly successful time for the Society. Social occasions proved popular with themed evenings such as 'Magic Sausage Roundabout Social', an 'Alice in Wonderland Platter Party' and a 'Good Old Days' Party'. The annual Gala Days organised by the Village Association were enthusiastically supported by the Society and the Society would deck out with flowers a float used in the gala

parade.

The Society faced a new challenge in 1970 when the Public Halls at the top of Fallside Road closed. These halls had been the venue for the Flower Show since 1923. The Show was then held in the village school halls until it was established in the Parochial Hall and the Russell Memorial Hall on alternate years.

Through the latter years of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first century the Society continues to prosper with popular social events and with the Flower Show going from strength to strength.



*There was a man lived close to me named Burt Milligan, he worked for Angus McMillan and various folks on farms including Mabel Dalrymple, her maiden name was Barr, her father had a farm down in Barrhead. The Dalrymples had a cow they wanted to send to Barrhead. So Burt Milligan got the job of taking the cow to Barrhead, he just walked it all the way, mostly through the night and got there early in the morning. The farm workers were all out on the farm so the farmer's wife said to Burt just to help himself to porridge, there was a big pot of porridge on the stove. Burt had a big plate of porridge and then he had another plate. When farmer Barr came in he saw the state of the pot, it was nearly half empty. Burt was just preparing to go, the farmer said to him, just you go out to the midden and have a good s***e, you're not taking all that porridge home with you!*

Extract from an oral history interview given by Ken Chisholm

BOTHWELL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY



1977 Mad Hatter's Ball

From left: Derek Gear, Alex Craig, Penny Kain, Mary Craig, Mary Foulis, Nancy Chisholm, Betty Watson, Joyce and Jack Ralston, George Waterston.

Kneeling in front: Alex Braidwood and Ken Chisholm.



Annual Dinner Dance

Back row: Russell Thompon, Tom Smith, Lizzie Ross, Archie Yuill, Stewart Howat, Isa Anderson, Dr. Ken Chisholm

Front row: Eleanor Thomson, Marabel Logan (nee Thomson), Margaret Yuill, Beth Smith, Nancy Chisholm



Flower Show

Derek Harley, ?, Andrew Young, Archie Watson,
Stewart Howat

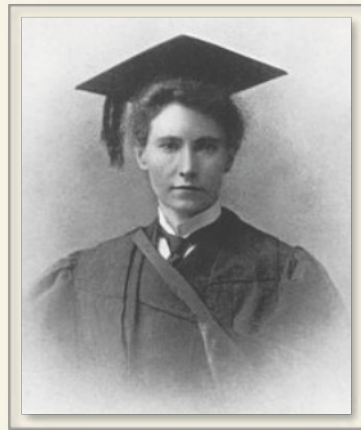


DR. MARION GILCHRIST

Marion Gilchrist was born at Bothwell Park Farm on 5th February 1864, the daughter of William and Margaret Gilchrist. Her father was a successful tenant farmer of 249 acres on the Bothwell Park Estate. Life at the farm was comfortable and the young Marion would walk a mile each day to the local parish school located close to Bothwell Church. At that time academic success was not expected of girls and so she left school at 13 to work on the family farm. However, encouraged by her elder brother, she continued to study taking correspondence courses in English and later attended Hamilton Academy, at that time a prestigious fee-paying school.

In 1887, she was admitted as an arts student to the Queen Margaret College for Women, University of Glasgow. In 1890, having sat exams at Queen Margaret College and at Paisley, Marion Gilchrist was

awarded the degree of Lady Literate in Arts (LLA) from the University of St. Andrews. In this same year, Queen Margaret College set up a medical school and Marion was one of the first nine women to enrol. In 1892, Queen Margaret College became part of the University of Glasgow, and women students were then able to obtain the same degree as men. Marion graduated MB and CM in 1894 with a high commendation, becoming the first woman to gain a medical degree in Scotland and also becoming the first female graduate of the University.



Marion Gilchrist 1894

Marion not only persevered against hostility from male students and sections of the profession but also played a full part in university activities. She was Vice-President of the Queen Margaret College Student Union; Vice-President of the Literary and Debating Society; Convener of the Queen Margaret College Committee of the Glasgow University Liberal Club and on the 22 January 1894 was elected President of the Women Students' Representative Council at its first meeting in Queen Margaret College.

After graduation Marion Gilchrist entered general practice in the west end of Glasgow and following the death of her father in 1903, she was able to set up her own practice at 5 Buckingham Terrace, Glasgow, remaining at that address for the rest of her life.

Specialising in ophthalmology, Dr Gilchrist was appointed Assistant Surgeon for

Diseases of the Eye at the Glasgow Victoria Infirmary, a post she was to hold from 1914 to 1930. During the First World War Marion ran the department. In 1927 she was also appointed a consultant ophthalmic surgeon at Redlands Hospital for Women, Glasgow. She served there as a clinician and as a fundraiser until the end of her life. Dr Gilchrist also gave of her time on a voluntary basis as physician (1903-11) to Queen Margaret College Settlement's Invalid Children's School.

She was a lifelong member of the Medical Woman's Federation, a leading member of the British Medical Association for 54

years and a trustee of the Muirhead Trust which supported female medical students.

Marion Gilchrist's financial and professional independence allowed her to pursue political and diverse interests. She was an active, but not militant suffragette joining the Glasgow and West of Scotland Association for Women's Suffrage in 1903, but she left in 1907 to join the more radical Women's Social and Political Union and the Women's Freedom League. With an interest in music and the arts she had a wide circle of friends from all walks of life. Dr Gilchrist was an early motoring enthusiast and her garage and chauffeur's flat were situated in Ashton Lane for her Wolseley Landulette.



In 1940, Marion donated an area of ground off Green Street as a garden of rest for the residents of Bothwell. The 'Gilchrist Garden' was refurbished in 2011 by the Brighter Bothwell Environmental Group. Brighter Bothwell also created an exhibition in Bothwell Library on the 60th anniversary of her death to mark her remarkable achievements. Marion Gilchrist died in 1952 at the age of 88 and her ashes were placed in the family grave at Bothwell Kirkyard.

The Marion Gilchrist Prize was established in 1952 from Marion Gilchrist's bequest and is awarded annually by the University of Glasgow to *"the most distinguished woman graduate in Medicine of the year."*



Brighter Bothwell commissioned the well-known artist Adrian Wiszniewski, one of the New Glasgow Boys, to design a memorial sculpture for the Marion Gilchrist Garden. It was unveiled in October 2013. Adrian Wiszniewski is in the middle of the picture alongside Marion Gilchrist's great niece.

ASSORTED PICTURES



1968 Sunday School outing

Janette Morrison, Mary McWhinney with sons Douglas and Ian, Heather and Iona McLean, Morag Munro with daughter Margaret, Valerie Pringle with son Kenneth.



Assistants at Howat's Flower Shop

From left: ?, Mrs Howat, ?, Florrie McCammon

*MRS WHITEMAN'S RETIRAL FROM POST OFFICE
SILVERTREES HOTEL, 1960s*



From left: Nancy Chisholm, Evelyn Rennix, Irene Kirkland, Betty Freebairn,
Helen Ogston, Moira Kerr, Louise McLean

ASSORTED PICTURES



From left: Jim and Katie McDonald, John and Florrie McCammont



From left: Hettie Best, Sam & Isobel Greenhalgh, Florrie McCammont
at Port William

ASSORTED PICTURES



John McCammont, Palestine 1946



Morag McCammont and Brian Sneddon
at Gilchrist Gardens



Mary and Don Riley
Woodlands Swing Park 1953

ASSORTED PICTURES



Bothwell Scout Troop on Hamilton Road at Silverwells Crescent.
Possibly returning from a conventicle at the Covenanters' Field



St. Bride's Choir

KIRKLANDS HOSPITAL

The following article appeared in the
Glasgow Herald on 19 April 1872

“The district of Bothwell and Uddingston, in common with other places of easy access from Glasgow by omnibus and railway, has, within the last few years, greatly increased in wealth and importance. It is very favourably situated for those whose health has become enfeebled through long residence in a city, or from chest or bronchial affections. Bothwell is nicely sheltered, the land is well cultivated and drained, gently sloping to the river Clyde, whose waters at this point – 10 miles or so above Glasgow – are entirely free from those emanations from mills and manufactories which so greatly pollute the stream cityward. Such being the case, it is not surprising that a great many Glasgow merchants and others have availed themselves of its advantages as a place of residence, so that within a short time the district has become quite transformed by the erection of handsome detached villas, cottages and other buildings.

In the month of June last the Bothwell Asylum, which has been erected at Kirklands, was opened. The institution is a private one, and has been erected for the imbecile of the upper and middle classes. The structure is imposing, is admirably suited to the wants of those for whom it was erected and is quite near the Convalescent Home in connection with the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, standing about midway between the new Bellshill Road on the north and the village of Bothwell on the south. The site of the building is open, with remarkably pleasant surroundings, the grounds immediately adjoining being tastefully laid off in green plots and curving walks, while shrubbery abounds at all points. The more distant parts of the ground are used entirely for agricultural purposes, in which pursuits the patients, if so minded, can lend a hand. The frontage of the building extends about 300 feet. There are three wings at right angles and the principal portion of the structure is two storeys high. There are two spacious quadrangles set apart for airing grounds, and walled in for security. The general dining hall is well fitted and timbered and is also used for religious services, concerts, lectures, readings and dancing purposes. The east wing is reserved entirely for female, and the west for male patients. Each wing contains spacious sitting rooms, bed rooms and dormitories with all needful modern

requisites. Every precaution is taken against the possibility of fire. The gas is reflected into the sleeping apartments through a square panel above the door, which answers the dual purpose of lighting and letting out the heated air. Strong rooms, lined with wood, are prepared for those who may require them at the extreme point of the transverse wings. Baths, hot and cold, lavatories and earth closets are provided, and everything that modern experience suggests of a useful nature has been taken advantage of. There are fireplaces in every sleeping apartment, as well as in all the other rooms, and, proper attention having been given to ventilation, the atmosphere is healthy and agreeable. Dr Fairlees has built the house more especially for boarders of the upper and middle classes, and it is capable of containing above one hundred inmates. The building is in all respects complete, and has been erected at a cost of £10,000 to £12,000. Although this institution is distant and somewhat isolated in the meantime, the prospect of increased railway accommodation in the neighbourhood, and additional stations, will render it easy access from all parts, the projected stations being about 10 minutes walk from the building.”



In 1879 the Glasgow District Board of Lunacy bought Kirklands Asylum. The Board decided to enlarge the existing building and it was ready for use in 1881. The asylum then had accommodation for 200 juvenile and imbecile patients. In 1888 the management of the asylum was transferred to a Joint Committee of the

District Lunacy Boards of the City of Glasgow, Govan and Lanark.

In 1900 the Glasgow Lunacy District relinquished its share in the asylum and thereafter it was managed solely by Lanark and Govan Boards. In 1904 a new nurses home, caretaker's house and attendants cottages were built. In 1911 the Board leased part of Longdales Farm for hospital use. In 1930 responsibility for Kirklands passed to the Lanarkshire Mental Hospitals Joint Committee, which also managed Hartwood and Birkwood hospitals.

On nationalisation in 1948 the Committee became the Board of Management for Lanarkshire Mental Hospitals. In 1964 the name changed to Central Lanarkshire

Hospitals. Lanarkshire Health Board took over control of the hospital in 1974.

In 2005 Kirklands Hospital housed around 100 people but by 2012 had 22 beds offering care to adults with learning disabilities.

There is also now a Medical Education Training Centre at Kirklands with a suite of conferencing and training facilities operated by NHS Lanarkshire.

In 2011 NHS Lanarkshire moved its headquarters from Beckford Street, Hamilton to Kirklands, converting part of the former hospital buildings to office accommodation.

Archive material courtesy of NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Board Archivist



I can remember being issued with my gas mask in a little cardboard box. The main London Road passed through the village at that time and I remember seeing tanks travelling through. We were taken to see a Junkers that had been brought down near the Miners' Welfare at the end of Fallside Road. The German bombers targeted the gas works and a bomb exploded outside our house. We had shrapnel in the wardrobe and the windows were blown out. We had felt put in the windows instead of glass which stayed for the remainder of the war. We had our ration books for 2 ounces of sweets a week and I remember the bunting out for the soldiers coming home after VE Day. That was a time when bread and dripping was a great favourite - but you couldn't always get it.

I have seen major changes in medicine in my lifetime. When I started there were 3000 beds in Glasgow for the treatment of tuberculosis. I can remember seeing children going off from Central Station with a little hand box and a label. They were going off for treatment and very few came back. There were epidemics of poliomyelitis and rheumatic fever from living in damp conditions was prevalent. When I was a student the brightest and best went into infectious diseases, that's where the challenges were. Now the incidence of these diseases is very much diminished. There have been amazing changes. When I started, a patient stayed in bed for 6 weeks after heart surgery and was only allowed up after 3 weeks. We experimented with mobilisation after 10 days with a consequent reduction of 20 days hospitalisation time.

Extract from an oral history interview given by A R Lorimer

MINTO HOUSE

Recollections by Susan Fotheringham

My folks bought the shop in the late fifties. Previously a baby linen shop, it had lain empty for some time and although they were clear that they wished to reopen it, neither of them had any idea what kind of shop it should be. So when they were painting the premises they left the door open and the decision was very quickly made for them by local people... what Bothwell needed was - an ironmonger's shop.

Under the floorboards my brother found an old postcard addressed to a previous owner at *Minto Place, Bothwell* and so the shop became Minto House linking it to James Vallance Minto, who built the shop, house and adjoining properties in 1850.

There was no till of course. The takings were kept in the original 19th century wooden bowls in a small drawer in the wide mahogany counter. There was a special bowl at the back of 'The Drawer'. It contained over sixty silver threepenny pieces that the kind-hearted people of Bothwell gave to my parents 'for luck' when the shop opened. Those coins were greatly treasured.

The business started with fifty pounds worth of brushes, tools, cleaning materials and crockery. Among the orders taken in the first month were those for a garden shed, a dishwashing machine and a porcelain ewer and basin " *Nothing fancy, it's only for my maid.* ". The shop was soon full to the brim with items needed in Bothwell – like *Slipperine* for ballroom floors, *Reckitts Blue* for sparkling white linen

and *Bordeaux Mixture* and *Clensel* for the garden. There was also something called *Spanish Whiting*. What on earth was that used for?

My mother was always a good cook and being a great fan of Fanny Craddock, she sourced all kinds of high quality cookware from France and Scandinavia. Our large black cat, Biffy, was particularly fond of a large cast iron frying pan which warmed up nicely when the morning sun shone into the shop window, until a customer came in one day and asked to buy 'Biffy's bed'.

She took great pride in being able to supply what customers needed. If it wasn't in stock – she'd get it for you. If she had one at home, she'd lend it meantime. There was no such thing as a wedding present list. You just let her know what you liked and she'd guide your friends and family in the right direction. That worked too for Mothers' Day, anniversaries and Christmas. All these gifts whether large or small, were wrapped in full Minto House style- magenta and white striped paper with a huge matching cellophane bow.

Then of course there was the Christmas tree which went onto the roof of the shop window every year. With its twinkling lights it was a small way of celebrating being part of the good community that makes Bothwell so special.

That's a bit of Minto House tradition that I intend to keep going - for as long as I can get out on that roof!

nails pails dishes for snails

mugs jugs and electric plugs

eaters beaters paraffin heaters

hocks crocks locks clocks

mixers fixers catches latches

brackets brace and braces ratchet

riddles griddles pans and flans

watering and jerricans

hoses cosies food for roses

glasses tassies bowls for posies

glues screws barbecues

ties dyes hooks and eyes

horse for clothes

trap for mouse

you'll get them all at

MINTO HOUSE



Sweethope House had a wall that ran all the way down the "crow brae" with two gates at the bottom and had a staircase down from the house. The huge metal gates from that entrance were taken away during the war as scrap metal for the war effort. At the bottom of the garden was a curling rink lined with Aberdeen granite and a pigeon loft where my father kept his racing birds. There was also a garden for soft fruits with gooseberries, raspberries and blackcurrants also fruit trees with apples, pears and plums. Another stairway led up to the vegetable garden where there was a small round building and in there the vegetables were prepared before being taken up to the big house. Also in that garden were beehives and at one time two Glasgow policemen had around twenty five hives there. My father and I had the opportunity later of cultivating that ground to grow vegetables that we sold around Bothwell village. I was only about sixteen and drove a horse and cart.

Another big house was Fairyknowe House and that also had a curling rink which I think is still there, because when other houses were being built, building was not allowed at that spot as there was a badger family living there. A man, Tam Johnstone, lived in Fairyknowe and it was he who knocked down the big house and built a bungalow on the ground. He originally came from Paisley and was the first man to operate buses there. He had another business along the main road to Edinburgh, still there to this day, known as "Tam's Loup Quarry". He was a man of many talents, one of which was the making of wooden clogs. He would get the local children to help him harvest some silver birch trees that grew like weeds along the railway embankment and use the timber to make the soles for the clogs. He would measure your feet and cut and shape the wood to fit properly, but he needed the old uppers from your old boots and nail those to the new wooden soles. I remember too that he had a spaniel dog that he had made a collar for and the label on the collar read "Ah'm Tam Johnstone's dug, wha's dug are you?"

Extract from an oral history interview given by Billy Deans

MISCREANTS AND MISDEMEANOURS

The Role played by the Church in the control of public morals in the Parish

Anyone reading the early minutes of the Kirk Session of Bothwell Parish Church for the first time will be immediately struck by the fact that the subject which appears to be most prominent in them seems to have been the imposition of discipline and the regulation of public morals.

This may be partly because, in an era when the ideology of the Church was still formed and dominated to a large extent by the teachings of John Calvin, these matters were considered to be far more important than is the case today and partly because all matters relating to the management of the property and finances of the Church and Parish were in the hands of the Heritors (property owners) of the Parish.

Broadly speaking, unless people expressed 'heretical' beliefs or led a life of blatant immorality or disorderly conduct, the Roman Catholic Church had been content not to interfere too much in the everyday lives of ordinary people.

The Reform Church, on the other hand, especially where it was Calvinistic in character, as was the case in Scotland, assumed the power to scrutinize almost every detail of people's behaviour and in particular, their sexual morality.

One phenomenon that greatly troubled the Calvinist moralists of the Scottish Church, was the institution of 'handfasting'. This was an ancient and time-honoured custom, which seems to have been encountered chiefly in rural areas. It most commonly involved a couple meeting together at the Lammas Fair in August – almost always in front of witnesses – joining hands and becoming betrothed. According to long-established custom, they might live together as man and wife for a year and a day, after which they were obliged to marry formally in front of a clergyman.

Handfasting was in no sense intended to be a 'promiscuous' type of relationship. It was regarded as fully binding on both parties and

was seldom entered into lightly – especially since it was usually witnessed by kin, close friends and neighbours of the couple concerned. It was also accepted that any children born or conceived in the meantime were the responsibility of the father.

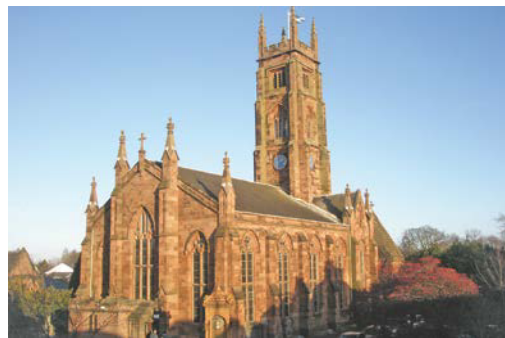
The Reform Church, however, frowned on what it considered to be 'the immorality of irregular marriages' and not only were those who contracted them publically rebuked and humiliated before the Church congregation, but they were often fined as well. These fines were entered in the Kirk Session receipts, of which they sometimes formed a considerable proportion. Records of this kind exist at Bothwell from 1720. Fines for irregular marriages and illicit sexual intercourse varied from £1 to £4, then a considerable sum of money for ordinary people, and it should be remembered that in levying these fines, the Kirk Sessions were acting in complete accordance with Statute Law. Two Acts of the Scottish Parliament, enacted in 1649, made both breaches of the Seventh Commandment and Irregular Marriages punishable offences.

The problem with irregular marriages was compounded by the fact that fully qualified ministers were in very short supply – with the result that there were a number of men who masqueraded as ministers and who were willing to perform weddings, christenings etc. For the marriages they often supplied their unsuspecting clients with documents that purported to be genuine marriage certificates. Many of these men were actually 'sleekit ministers', men with some basic training in Divinity who had failed to complete their course of training.

Most 'sleekit ministers' became 'Dominies' or schoolmasters, having ample qualifications for that occupation, and became highly-respected members of the community. But, as in the case of any profession, there were always a few bad apples in the barrel! In such cases, the documents which they supplied to their victims could sometimes have harrowing

results. The following is an account of the 'Breckenridge Case' in which, late 1709, a couple was summoned to appear in front of the Kirk Session of Bothwell Parish Church for contracting an 'irregular marriage'. The description of the incident has been lifted straight out of the Kirk Session records and much of the original language has been retained in order to give a flavour of just how people were treated by the Kirk Session.

A point worth noting is that this 'irregular marriage' must have been contracted between the years 1703 and 1709, at a time when there was no full-time Minister at Bothwell, and the Breckenridges may have encountered genuine difficulty in finding someone to marry them, so that when they finally did encounter Mr Samuel



Bothwell Parish Church

Mowat (who appears to have been a 'sleekit minister') they seem genuinely to have believed him to have been a properly qualified minister.

Bothwell 6th November 1709 ...the officer (beadle), being interrogate if he had again called John Breckenridge and Mary Robison, his spouse, according to the appointment of the Session, reported that he had, whereupon they,

Being called compeared (this was a word commonly used to indicate that people had answered a summons), the said John, but not Mary. He, being interrogate if he was married to the said Mary, answered that he was. Being further interrogate if he could produce any document of his marriage, he produced ane testificate signed by one Samuel Mowat. The which testificate the Session found uniformly insufficient in regard that it bore no date, either as to the time or place where they had been married, nor had it any witnesses either mentioned in it or signing it. Being further interrogate if he was guilty of fornication, he confessed that he was.

The Moderator (Minister) did earnestly exhort him to repentance and amendment of life. The Session thought it expedient to call them both before them (the Kirk Session) that they might publickly own their marriage and promise mutual adherence (to each other) before they (the Kirk Session) would enter them upon discipline leading to absolution. Whereupon the said John was sudded (summoned) to appear before the Session next Lord's Day and to bring his wife alongst with him in order to own their marriage and promise mutual adherence, with certification that if they did not, they would be delated (reported) to the Presbytery. In the meantime, they are both appointed to discourse with William Wardrope, Elder of the quarter (district of the Parish) in order to be brought to a sense of their sin.

A week later both John Breckenridge and his spouse Mary Robison appeared before the Kirk Session. There they admitted to 'antenuptial fornication' and were 'gravely admonished for the evil of their sin'. By that time John and Mary had three children who had not been baptised and for this the Session ordered that they be declared 'scandalous persons'. The children were then to be denied the benefits of baptism unless their father could provide a 'sponsor'. The following week John Breckenridge and Mary Robison were publicly rebuked before the congregation for the scandal of antenuptial fornication.

Happily, on the 25th December 1709, John, Janet and Elizabeth, children of John Brackenridge and Mary Robison were baptised. Another case that emerges from a study of old Kirk Session records, illustrates the extent to which people seem to have kept a watch on their neighbours, as appears from the tragic-comic case of Thomas Culen recorded in Bothwell on 3rd August 1710.

John Whittlae (Elder) reported to the Session that a report was being spread that Thomas Culen had taken his cow to the bull upon ye Sabbath Day; and therefore given offence to ye Lord's people. Thomas was called before the Kirk Session and 'confessed his fault, professed sorrow for ye same, and promised never to be guilty of ye like in time to come'. The Session were of the opinion that 'it would not be for edification to bring scandals of that nature too publickly, but thought that many would rather mock at the same; and therefore inclined that he should rather be privately rebuked, with certification that if he were to be found in the like again, he should be proceeded against with ye utmost vigour'.

BOTHWELL & WILLIAM BAIRD & CO.

The lands immediately surrounding Bothwell sit above one of the deepest parts of the Lanarkshire coalfield. The exploitation of this part came late in the 19th Century because of the excessive cost of sinking shafts. The William Baird Company, a major iron producer with sixteen blast furnaces at Gartsherrie north of Coatbridge, took the risk of investing this financial capital.

The Bothwell Park Colliery sinking was begun in 1873, Craighead Colliery in 1874 and Bothwell Castle Colliery in 1877. Each colliery had two rectangular, wood lined shafts more than 1000 feet deep. The shafts were completed in two years except for the two at Craighead. Excessive water was produced by the strata in the upper part of the Craighead shafts adding a year to their completion.

The landlord owned the coal seams. The major landlord for Bothwell Park was the Duke of Hamilton, for Bothwell Castle it was the Earl and Countess of Home and for Craighead was George Alston the owner of Craighead House and its estate. These landlords and a few minor landlords leased, ie rented, their coal seams to William Baird & Co.

In Scotland, these rents were about one eighth of the pithead value of the coal extracted. Unlike a building or a surface property, the colliery property, ie the coal seam, would be destroyed and would never be returned to the landowner at the end of the lease. This rent was known as a royalty. Although the local coalfield contained four thick seams and six thinner seams, only one was a blast furnace coal. Such a coal required to be hard and tough and so able to stand up to the weight of the surrounding iron ore and limestone inside the furnace providing a permeable,

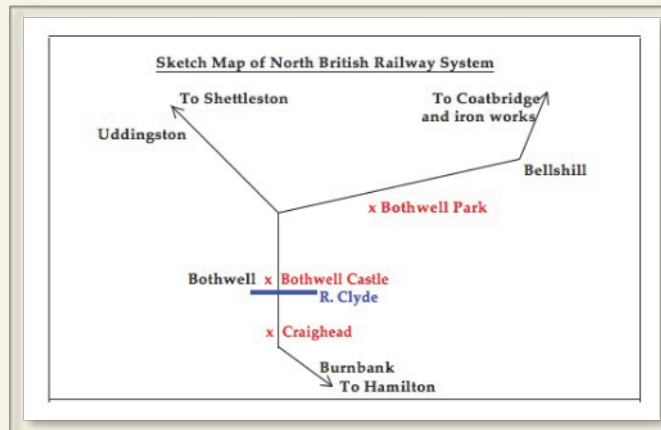
glowing mass without choking the draught. It was known as the Splint Coal. It was extracted by the miners in large blocks without much dross. It was the deepest of the four thick seams. All six shafts were sunk to this seam.

The Splint coal was underlaid by a softer coal, so close that the two seams became as one forming a working seven feet high. The under seam was worked first before the morning piece break and the Splint seam afterwards. In this way the two coals were brought to the surface separately. The furnaces at Gartsherrie produced about 3,500 tons of pig iron per week consuming 8,000 tons of Splint Coal and further 1,500 tons of normal coal to heat the blast air. The three collieries would also be expected to produce domestic and industrial coals and export coal.

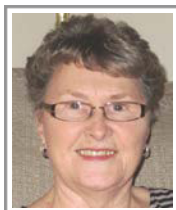
The coals had to get to the iron works and to markets at Glasgow and throughout Lanarkshire. Fortunately in 1878, the Glasgow, Bothwell, Hamilton and Coatbridge Railway Company opened a double-tracked railway for both freight and passengers from Shettleston to Hamilton. James Baird, a director of the Coatbridge iron company, was a leading promoter of the line and had won the right to build a railway into the Clyde Valley against the wishes of the rival Caledonian Railway Company. This took the form of a branch line starting at Shettleston, on the North British Railway's Glasgow to Edinburgh via Bathgate connection, then across country to Mount Vernon, Calderpark, Uddingston, Bothwell and terminating at Hamilton. Mineral loops were put into both Bothwell Castle and Craighead collieries. In addition a branch was laid from a junction near Bellshill to Whifflet and the Gartsherrie Works with a loop into the Bothwell Park Colliery.

All that remained to do was to attract a workforce. Houses would need to be provided for rent. Each colliery had its mining hamlet built by the Baird Company. Thus Bothwell Park had its miners' rows across from Bothwell Park Cemetery, Bothwell Castle at top of the Fallside Road

and Craighead at the Blantyre end of the Whistleberry Road. Unfortunately the development of these three collieries coincided with the zenith of the Scottish pig iron production, which was followed over the next twenty years by the decline of this industry. But that is another story.



Miners' Children, Castle Square Bothwell c1930



My father worked in the Bothwell Castle pit for many years and it was hard you know, if the miners were on strike they did not get paid and they did not get paid holidays, when it came the Glasgow Fair they had to go on holiday but they did not get any wages. And I can remember we used to get the big tin bath out in front of the fire and I remember washing my father's back and his back was all scratched, you know from crawling in the low bits of the coal seams.

Extract from an oral history interview given by Jean Miller

THE MINERS' MEMORIAL



In 2014 Brighter Bothwell and Bothwell Historical Society came together to arrange for the construction of a replica coal hutch to commemorate the miners of Bothwell who worked in the Castle Colliery. The hutch is situated at the corner of Fallside Road and Uddingston Road. These coal hutches held over half a metric tonne of coal and were pushed by the miners from the coal face to a rope haulage system deep underground from where it was hauled to the pit bottom. There the hutch was winched to the surface.

The Castle Colliery pit head was located in the area now occupied by The Fairways, off Blantyre Road, Bothwell and was opened by William Baird and Co in 1878. Underground the workings stretched as far as Uddingston Cricket Ground. It was transferred to the National Coal Board in 1947 by which time the coal reserves were exhausted. It stopped producing coal in 1949 but pumping pit water continued to 1953. Prior to its closure over 700 men, women and boys worked there. Many lived in the miners rows and tenements at the top of Fallside Road and at Waverley Court.

The plaque on the hutch was unveiled on the 23rd June 2015 by John Lindsay (91) and Harry Steele (88), the last two miners who worked in Bothwell Castle Colliery.

John Lindsay was born in Green Street, Bothwell and started work at the Castle Colliery aged 15. During WW2 he was called up to serve in the army in Egypt. However there was a need for miners to maintain coal

production back home and John volunteered to return to the Castle Colliery. In 1953 he married Netta and the newly wed couple moved into a room and kitchen at Castle Square, located in the vicinity of Waverley Court. The houses in their block were accessed by an outside stair and had a shared outside toilet. Netta remembers having to do the weekly wash in the communal washhouse and having to take her turn to clean the stair.

Harry Steele was born at Burnbank and, like his father and brothers, became a miner. In 1941 at the age of 14 he started work at the Castle Colliery, initially at the pithead helping to wash the coal. Before long he was working underground alongside his father, helping his brothers to fill the hutches. He married in 1951 and moved into Castle Square. He recalls that their rent (including electricity) was 5 shillings and 3 pence a week (26p in today's money). Electricity was included as the miners houses in Castle Square were supplied from the electricity generating plant at the colliery. The cable was laid though the tunnel under Uddingston Road connecting to Castle Square. Harry remembers the rumours that the tunnel was built to protect the douce residents of the new villas springing up in Bothwell from the sight of the miners coming and going to work! The bricked up entrance to the tunnel can still be seen from the Nature Trail on the north side Uddingston Road. During WW2 the tunnel was used as an air raid shelter. As a result of the Clydebank blitz in 1941 a couple and their two children became homeless. Harry's father took them in to his house in Burnbank and gave them a room. When the Castle Colliery closed Harry was transferred to the Priory Colliery (located across the Clyde from Bothwell Castle). There was a tunnel connecting the two pits and the pumps at the Castle Colliery continued to be operated to keep the Priory Colliery dry. However in 1959 the Priory also closed. After that, Harry worked at several pits, ending up his mining career of 43 years at the Cardowan Colliery.



Bill and May Gow with Brighter Bothwell members planting the hutch, Dennis and Sheena Walker, Diana Mallinson and Avril Clark.



John Lindsay and Harry Steele unveil the plaque on the hutch.

TWINNING

Following representation by the Bothwell Village Association a meeting was held in August 1975 between Robert Sherry, Provost of Hamilton District Council and Jacques Toutain of Jouy-en-Josas to establish a partnership between Bothwell and Jouy-en-Josas. In December 1975, a delegation from Bothwell went to Jouy-en-Josas to prepare the future twinning. The following June a one week promotion of French products was organised in partnership with Bothwell shopkeepers. This *"French Week"* met with such success that later that year French families were welcomed to Bothwell by Mr Russell Thomson, President of Bothwell Village Association. On December 18th, 1976, in Jouy Town Hall, Mr Russell Thomson and Mr Jacques Toutain signed the Charter of the twinning between the two Towns. Since then exchange language

trips between schools have multiplied. In May 1981, junior and senior footballers from Bothwell were received by the sports association of Jouy-en-Josas. For nearly 30 years, an annual exchange, in either Scotland or in France, is the opportunity for ceaselessly renewed festivities, during which reign friendliness, cheerfulness, sincerity and sadness when it is time to leave. At the beginning of the 90s, the Jouy golfers proudly went to confront their Scottish counterparts. For 20 years, biennial exchanges have taken place between Bothwell's golfers and those of Jouy, combining friendship and sportsmanship. The "19th hole" remains the most difficult but the most pleasant and the most fun. *"When I am in Bothwell, I feel at home"*. These quotes epitomise the love Jovaciens have for their Bothwell friends.



Reception at the Silvertrees Hotel hosted by Provost Casserley of Hamilton District Council for delegation from Jouy en Josas.



Bothwell Delegation to Jouy en Josas, December 1976

Mme Monique Le Saint of Jouy en Josas, Lily Leckie, Eleanor Thomson, Russell Thomson, Seggie Sloss, Sam Leckie, Helen Sloss, Alison McKellar, Jim Healy, Jean Hammerton, Ian McKellar and Cllr Terry Grieve.

Ode to Twinning by Mary McWhinney

'Twas way back in the '70s when Twinning first began,
Some Bothwell folk, you know them well signed the oath with Jacques Toulain.
Russell Thomson and Sam Leckie, Seggie Sloss and others too,
Were part of a committee who saw the Twinning through.
Events to help raise money, the floats on Gala Day,
The paintings by the children, shown in the library.
Stalls with home made baking, tombola, hot dogs, pies,
And onion soup with french bread was for us a big surprise.
Bothwell shops with all things French in windows on display,
The tricolore, the can-can girls, cheeses, wines, pates.
Pupils writing letters to their French pen-friends so new,
Guides and scouts all hoping to arrange a visit too.
Then of course there were the Ceilidhs with the French shown how to dance,
With instructions in broad Lanarkshire they didna stand a chance.
There were outings round the Trossachs, with here and there a stop,
At some distilleries to buy whisky from the shop.
Great times we've had in Twinning, may the memory of them stay,
So here's to Entente Cordiale with our friends across the way.

JOUY EN JOSAS VERSUS BOTHWELL FOOTBALL MATCH



Top row: Graham Shanks, Des Bonar, Alec Davidson, Bill Convery, David Lingard, Harris Muir

Front Row: Bill Downie, Tommy Loughran, John McDermot, Jim Jordan, Peter Jenkins, Henry Mitchell



Back Row: JJ. Derobert-Masure, ?(French), Hugh Sharkey, Bill Kirk, Alec Davidson, Les Hutchison, ? (French), Donald Gillespie, Michael Spencer.

Front Row: Charlie Gilluley, John McDermot, Jim Jordan, Peter Jenkins, Tommy Loughran, Alan Park

RECOLLECTIONS OF A TOUR MADE IN SCOTLAND 1803



Dorothy Wordsworth was a poet, author and diarist who is best remembered as the sister of the romantic poet W i l l i a m Wordsworth.

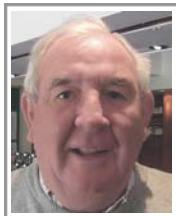
Recollections of a Tour Made in Scotland, A. D.

1803 is an account by

Dorothy Wordsworth of a six week, 663-mile journey through the Scottish Highlands with her brother William and, for part of the journey, their friend Samuel Taylor Coleridge. It has been called Dorothy's masterpiece and is rightly regarded as one of the best accounts of Scottish travel literature accounts. In her account she describes travelling from Hamilton to Bothwell Castle

"We saw the ruined castle embosomed in trees, passed the house, and soon found ourselves on the edge of a steep brow immediately above and overlooking the course of the river Clyde through a deep hollow between woods and green steeps. ... It was exceedingly delightful to come thus unexpectedly upon such a beautiful region.

The Castle stands nobly, overlooking the Clyde. When we came up to it I was hurt to see that flower-borders had taken place of the natural overgrowings of the ruin, the scattered stones and wild plants. It is a large and grand pile, of red freestone, harmonizing perfectly with the rocks of the river, from which, no doubt, it has been hewn. If Bothwell Castle had not been close to the Douglas mansion we should have been disgusted with the possessor's miserable conception of 'adorning' such a venerable ruin; but it is so very near to the house that of necessity the pleasure-grounds must have extended beyond it, and perhaps the neatness of a shaven lawn and the complete desolation natural to a ruin might have made an unpleasing contrast; and besides, being within the precincts of the pleasure-grounds, and so very near to the modern mansion of a noble family, it has forfeited in some degree its independent majesty, and becomes a tributary to the mansion; its solitude being interrupted, it has no longer the same command over the mind in sending it back into past times, or excluding the ordinary feelings which we bear about us in daily life. We had then only to regret that the castle and house were so near to each other; and it was impossible not to regret it; for the ruin presides in state over the river, far from city or town, as if it might have had a peculiar privilege to preserve its memorials of past ages and maintain its own character and independence for centuries to come."



My first kind of ambition was to be an airline pilot and unfortunately I was given bad advice. I was told that to be an airline pilot one was put in a "G" machine and whirled round at an astronomical speed and the very thought of that scared me, because in Wooddean park there was a roundabout and if I went round that twice I would be sick. I now know that that was only for military flying and I suppose I could have gone privately for commercial flying lessons but I'm sure my parents wouldn't have been able to afford that. I can't remember where I got that advice, at school or elsewhere, but I remember there was a chap I knew who lived down Clyde Avenue called Lancelot Harrison who I think actually ended up as an RAF pilot and it may well have come from him.

Extract from an oral history interview by John Young

ELMWOOD HOUSE

Elmwood House was built in 1819 by Mr Shaw, a wealthy ironmonger from the Trongate, Glasgow. No expense was spared and the resulting house was considered by many to be one of the finest in Bothwell. The grounds were laid out with lawns, terraces, classical gardens, fountains and ponds. Surrounding it all were magnificent wrought-iron railings and gates specially imported from the Continent. These were considered so valuable that the Ministry of Defence was refused permission to take them to be melted down for munitions during World War Two.

The arched doorway of the house opened into a spacious hallway flanked by the morning room, dining room and parlour. To the rear was the kitchen with butlers pantry, housekeepers rooms and wine cellar. From the hall an elaborately carved staircase led upstairs to the bedrooms and, hidden from view, a spiral staircase led to the maids' rooms in the attic. The hallway and principal rooms were embellished with exquisite mouldings. Prominent amongst these was the head and shoulders of John Knox.

By 1861 the house was owned by William Shaw, a merchant and calico printer with offices at Exchange Square, Glasgow and a printing works employing 50 men and 40 girls at the Gallowgate. It is not known whether William Shaw and Mr Shaw, the original owner, were related. In the early 1870s Elmwood was bought by the Glasgow Bothwell, Hamilton and Coatbridge Railway Company. William Shaw, his wife Agnes and their 9 children continued to live in the house until the mid 1870s. At that time the household also included a nursery maid, a house and table maid, a cook and a coachman who lived in the gatehouse.

In 1877 the railway line opened, passing along the east side of the property and the following year work started at the Bothwell Castle

Colliery abutting the property to the north. It is probably due to this industrialisation of Mr Shaw's sylvan retreat that he took himself and his family to live in Great Western Terrace, Glasgow.

In the 1870s the Franciscan Sisters had a flourishing boarding school in Glasgow. Conditions in Glasgow at that time were poor and the Sisters were conscious of a need to move the boarders of their school to a healthier environment. When Elmwood House came on the market it seemed the perfect solution. In those days however it was virtually impossible

for the Sisters to buy property and so they enlisted the help of a kindly gentleman in Bothwell who bought the house on their behalf - and was subsequently black-balled from the bowling green for having done so. And so Elmwood House became the property of the Franciscan Sisters in 1878. It was initially used as a holiday home for the pupils they were

teaching at their boarding school in Glasgow. In 1888, it was turned into a boarding school for girls with a wing added in 1893.

The School flourished and by 1910 when the parish of St Brides was established, the Sisters were ready to extend their work and took charge of the new St Brides Primary at Bothwellhaugh which opened in August 1910 with a roll of about 100 pupils. Elmwood School grew steadily under Sister Mary Gertrude and then Sister Mary Anthony until 1974 when the decision was taken to close it. Despite all the efforts to keep Elmwood alive it eventually closed its doors on 29th June 1977 - one year before its centenary. Over 1000 people attended the Open Day and subsequent Closing Mass.

Elmwood House is a Grade B listed building. About 1980 it was converted into eight apartments with retirement homes built in the grounds.



Elmwood House today



Elmwood School for Girls June 1936

Mary McGhee (mother of Don and Mary Riley) top row third from left



Elmwood School for Girls June 1956 Class 1A3

Top Row

Anne Baker, Glades McGill, Liliias Docherty, Ellen Brown, ?, Patricia Quinn, Margaret Melia, ?, Margaret Sweeney.

Second Row

?, Jean Farrell, Ann McCabe, Ann Connin, ?, ?, Claire Cochrane, ?, ?.

Third Row

Rose McCann, ?, Patricia McGuire, Florence Ann Smith, ?, ?, Maureen Cairney, Josephine McLean, ?.

Fourth Row

Maureen Docherty, Patricia McDonald, Josephine Montgomery, Ann Duffy, ?, Sheila Fletcher, Irene Gilmore, Mary Mackle, Cathleen Murray, Maureen McDermott.

Front Row

Elizabeth Weir, Mary Bush, Anita McGinley.

MAKING YOUR MARK

Have you ever wandered round an old building and noticed lines forming the shape of a letter or small symbol carved into the stonework? These are the marks of the stonemasons who built the walls. Stonemasons' marks can still be found on very old stones as far back in history as the Egyptian pyramids although time and the elements have made some of them difficult to see. Masons' marks can be found in almost every country in the world. The variety of marking styles is very varied, some countries seem to favour swirls and curves, others have symbols similar to Chinese characters while others insist on straight lines.

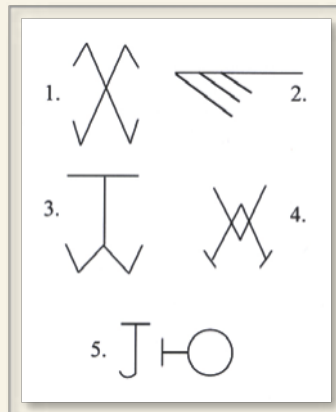
There are suggestions that some of these marks may be 'setting out marks' so that a particular stone had to be set in one special position. Others believe that the vast majority of the marks are the 'signature' of each stonemason. The masons made their marks for several reasons. One is that to ensure each man would be paid for his work, another is that if there was a fault in the craftsmanship then the overseer would know who was to blame.

Sometimes marks that look very similar can be attributed to the initial carving having been done by an apprentice who would use his master's mark then the tradesman would finish the stone and slightly modify the

mark to his own. At one time it was the law relating to stonemasons that they had to register their marks and could not change or alter them in any way. In some countries there were rules for the shape of marks, there had to be at least two lines and an angle between them, the circle should be avoided and if one was used then there had to be a line joining to it and had to have another line at an angle to that line. It was rare to have a mark passed on from father to son but was known to have happened.

Our own Bothwell Castle is quite rich in masons' marks and merits a close look at some of the walls. Many of the exterior walls have suffered from erosion over the years but many of the interior walls are well worth a study. Inevitably people have over the years had a go at carving their own marks on the walls, but one way to spot the difference between graffiti and a genuine mason's mark is to have a good look at the marks and try to find the same mark in a position (usually much higher up on the wall) that is too high for some casual scribbler to have done it.

It appears that there has never been an attempt to catalogue the masons' marks in and around the castle, so why not start one yourself? It would make a very interesting day out in the fresh air and would be a great project.



Masonic Marks on the Donjon, Bothwell Castle



Hamilton Road, Bothwell



Elmwood Manor, Bothwell

BOTHWELL PUBLIC HALLS

The Bothwell Public Hall Company was incorporated in 1885 with the object of acquiring a hall for the purpose of affording accommodation for public and private meetings. Ten shareholders, all from Bothwell, invested £1,500 each to set up the Company. They included a grocer, coal master, builder, paper maker, chemist, mining engineer, ship owner, writer and iron merchant. That year the Company bought a plot of land from the North British Railway Company located at the corner of Bothwell Main Street and Fallside Road. A commission was given to Wilson and Stewart, architects, Glasgow and they prepared plans for new halls designed in the early English Tudor style. There was a concert followed by a dance in the new Halls on 21 April 1886 attended by the Duke and Duchess of Hamilton and the Earl and Countess of Home at which the Earl performed the opening ceremony.

The Halls were never profitable and by 1937 they were needing refurbished and a new heating system. The Hamilton Advertiser reported that *'The fund for the restoration of the Public Halls has made substantial advances within recent weeks and amounts to £470. The trustees of the late Duke of Hamilton, recognising the useful function of the Halls, donated £20. Small offerings of even a few shillings are very welcome, so far as indicating a recognition of the popular view of the Halls by those of humble means.'*

Thirteen years later the Hall Company's financial position had not improved and at the Bothwell Horticultural Society's AGM in 1950 there was a proposal to make a contribution towards purchasing curtains for the Halls. The Halls Company had not for many years paid a dividend and necessary work left the company with an overdraft.

Seventeen years later in 1967 the future of the Public Hall was in doubt. Mr Archie Watson, one of the directors, reported that the matter was very complicated as some of the other shareholders were now deceased or could not be found. If the property was sold

it was likely that all proceeds would go to the Crown. If it were not for the fact that the Belmos Company [*located in what is now Station Court*] used the Hall as a canteen, the upkeep of the property would be beyond the present directors.

A year later Sir Norman Cadzow, chairman of the Halls Company, Mr McMurdo, company accountant, and the directors of the Halls Company agreed to write to the Local Council to request the Council take over the Halls but no agreement was reached.

Finally on the 1 April 1970 Bothwell Public Halls closed its doors for the last time.

The Hamilton Advertiser dated 2 April 1970 reported that *'An attempt to have the Public Hall in Bothwell reopened for community use is doomed to failure because it will take an estimated £10,000 to meet new fire regulation standards. The plight of the Hall was first raised in the Hamilton Advertiser last May when an action committee was formed at a public meeting to fight the intended closure. The meeting was told the privately owned hall was in such a poor condition that £2,000 was needed for repairs. The owners offered the hall to the District Council who refused it on financial grounds. The County Council turned it down for the same reason. Since then the Hall has been unused and its condition deteriorated through vandalism.'*

After 83 years of community use, Bothwell Public Halls were finally demolished in December 1971.

The Bothwell Public Halls Company was voluntarily wound up in February 1973. At that time the directors were Sir Norman Cadzow, Arden, Bothwell; Mrs Jean Campbell, the Manse, Bothwell; Mrs Leah Lawrie, Barrogill, Bothwell; Mr A D C Watson, Dunlop Crescent, Bothwell, Mr N McMurdo, North Dean Park Avenue, Bothwell; and some 53 shareholders (some recorded as deceased) scattered throughout the country. The Company was finally liquidated in 1982 with assets of £88 (balance in bank) and amount owing £88 (cost of liquidation), net surplus nil



A ROYAL WEDDING IN BOTHWELL

In February 1400 a Royal Wedding took place in Bothwell Parish Church. The bride was Mary Douglas, only daughter of Archibald Douglas "The Grim" Lord of Bothwell and Galloway, Third Earl of Douglas and leader of the "*Black Douglases*". The bridegroom was David Stewart, First Duke of Rothesay, who was the eldest son of King Robert III and heir to the Throne of Scotland.

By the early 1380's the health of Robert II, King of Scotland, was deteriorating. When his eldest son John, Earl of Carrick was badly injured after being kicked by a horse Robert II appointed his third eldest son Robert Stewart as

Guardian of Scotland. Robert II died in 1390 and the crown passed to his eldest son John who took the title King Robert III. With the new King still suffering from the effects of his injury, his brother Robert Stewart continued to wield power in the Kingdom.

In 1395 Robert III's son, David Stewart, 'married' Elizabeth Dunbar, daughter of the Earl of March. As they were close blood relatives, Papal dispensation was required but was not received. As a result the couple separated two years later.

By 1398 the King's health restricted him to the extent that the Scottish Parliament appointed his son David, as First Duke of Rothesay and Lieutenant of the Kingdom.

It was two years later that David Stewart married Mary Douglas, daughter of 'Archibald the Grim' at Bothwell Parish Church.

The main reason behind this wedding was the power struggle between the young David Stewart, First Duke of Rothesay and his uncle, the ruthless and

ambitious Robert Stewart, Earl of Fife and Menteith and First Duke of Albany and the real ruler of Scotland at the time. The young Duke of Rothesay hoped that by marrying into the family of Archibald "the Grim", who was then the most powerful man in Scotland south of the Forth and Clyde, he would be able to resist his uncle's ambitions. Robert Stewart was hereditary governor of Stirling Castle the most powerful fortress

in Scotland. He built Doune Castle and it was from here that he virtually ruled Scotland. In 1382 he became Chamberlain of the Kingdom of Scotland.

So the wedding went ahead and

took place sometime early in February 1400. We do not know the exact reason why Bothwell Parish Church and not Glasgow Cathedral or Paisley Abbey was chosen. One possible reason was that Bothwell Parish Church is close to Bothwell Castle that was one of Archibald the Grim's main strongholds and which could provide support in case of any attempts to interrupt the wedding. As it turned out, however, the marriage did not give David Stewart the degree of support and protection he had expected. There were basically two reasons - the young Duke of Rothesay's lack of political finesse and shrewdness and the ruthlessness and single-mindedness of his uncle, the Duke of Albany.

As Lieutenant of the Kingdom David Stewart was forced to accept a Council - ostensibly to advise him but in reality to make sure that his uncle could limit his freedom of action. It quickly became obvious that he understood the significance of all the moves that his uncle had been making over the years,



Bothwell Church 1718 - 1833

and that he intended to do all he could to neutralise his uncle's plans. He did this by personally touring the East Coast of Scotland, lifting all the Royal customs or taxes from Royal Burghs like Edinburgh, Dundee, Montrose, Aberdeen and others. In doing this the young Rothesay was largely ignoring or circumventing the Council.

Robert Stewart's entire scheme of territorial expansion in the West of Scotland and the Central Highlands depended, above all, on his



The Chancel

ability to control Crown revenues and patronage, ie the granting of lands and incomes to his supporters which required a steady and uninterrupted flow of cash. If the Duke of Rothesay continued for any length of time to divert the customs of the Royal Burghs into the

coffers of the Crown, and away from Albany, the latter's carefully laid plans would be wrecked. It also escaped nobody's notice that young Rothesay was largely ignoring or circumventing the Council. Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany decided that something had to be done and the opportunity came late in 1401. In the summer of that year, old Bishop Trail of St. Andrews died. While he was up in the North East collecting his taxes, young Rothesay received news that those who held St. Andrews castle were willing to surrender it to him. It seems to have been part of a carefully-laid trap involving members of his own household who were also working for Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany. Shortly after they crossed the River Eden on the outskirts of St. Andrews, young Rothesay was seized and made prisoner by men of his entourage, led by Sir John de Ramornie, and taken to St Andrews Castle, where he was held prisoner for a short time on the orders of Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany. He was then taken to Falkland Castle where he died in mysterious circumstances, either of dysentery or starvation in 1402, and was buried at Lindores Abbey in North-West Fife.

It would appear that he had good reason to be fearful at his wedding.



My earliest memories of Bothwell centre on Castle Square where my father was born and where his family lived until the coal mine closed in the early 50's. Life seemed so simple then, nothing to worry about, the war was over and my father had returned safely home from the Far East. Work was plentiful and father started work as a bricklayer (he was originally a stonemason) rather than go down the mines. Housing was in short supply so we had to move in with my mother's parents in Fallside Avenue but still made the almost daily walk back to Bothwell to see our friends and family.

The best day was always Sunday, when after Sunday school in the church hall at the side of Kirkfield and Wooddean, we kids would play our games in Castle Square and sometimes go round to The Waverly to meet others. Just about lunchtime the miners who had been early shift would come home using the tunnel from the mine. We used to dare each other to see who would venture farthest into the tunnel, it was completely dark and very smelly. We would gather there asking the men if they had any "pieces" left over. A piece that had been down the mine and back up tasted like no other. I think that they were, almost without exception, cheese, or just bread and margarine. The miners had euphemistic names for some of their pieces, one of these was "a Carluke Steak", meaning a jeely piece.

Eric Denton

DR. J.K. CHISHOLM

I began my medical career in October 1940 at the age of 17, I fondly remember these student years moving between Glasgow University and Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Training in those days also included fire duty as the city was on constant alert due to the threat of air raids.

I graduated in 1945 and took up locum duties as a General Practitioner whilst a local doctor took his holiday leave; this was followed by 6 months

in Glasgow Royal Infirmary which was intensive work, long hours of duty and very little sleep.

In 1946, due to national service I joined The Kings Own African Rifles and was posted overseas to France, Egypt, Greece and finally Kenya where I was made Port Medical Officer. Following my discharge from the army in 1949 I went into general practice with Dr. Denness in Bothwell and received a salary of £550 per annum. My first impression of Bothwell was of a friendly village community of 2,900 population, with lots of green spaces.

The mining village of Bothwellhaugh which was situated where we now have Strathclyde Park also came under the care of the Bothwell G.P practice. I remember the real community spirit that thrived there. The Haugh had its own football and bowling teams and even a pipe band, brass band and allotments. Housing was poor, two storey flats each with a room and kitchen, no hot water and box beds, laundry was done in the wash-house outside. The miners suffered from chronic coughs due to their working conditions. Overcrowding was also a problem, and any infectious diseases spread rapidly amongst the children of the community.

There was a Polio scare in the fifties, a vaccine was available and a vaccination programme was arranged for our patients; my wife Nancy recorded the names of all those receiving the vaccination.

Bellshill maternity at this time comprised of a series of wooden huts and only complicated cases were treated here, the G.Ps and local midwives dealt with the majority of births in the community. Difficult forceps deliveries were sometimes encountered, these delayed



labours involved forceps and a mask onto which chloroform was dripped to render the patient at least semi conscious throughout the painful delivery.

Tuberculosis was around at the time and until the use of Streptomycin, it was treated with "Fresh Air" the patient being kept in bed with the window open at all times. I recall a story of a doctor who was visiting such a patient and found that the window

was not open as per his instructions, whereupon he took his walking stick and put it through the window shattering the glass.

When the family sent for a joiner to repair the window the joiner refused to do so until he had instructions from the doctor to say this would be in order, such was the power of the family doctor in those days.

There weren't many cars about in those days but there was a scheme to prioritise doctors, so after a year I got an Austin 12 which was always breaking down. Communication wasn't easy, patients would often contact the doctor by simply knocking on his door.

During the miners strike our own home was very cold due to fuel shortages, after visiting a miner's daughter to deliver her baby I discovered that the grateful miner had filled the boot of my car with coal.

Our present medical centre is a far cry from the practice I joined at 77 Main Street (Now the Clydesdale Bank) where I first worked alongside Dr. Denness, Dr. Hamilton, and Dr. Keith Foulis in general practice. The premises were totally unsuitable comprising a large partitioned room, the partitions did not even reach the ceiling, so there was no privacy at all.

I appealed to the local council to condemn the premises and find us a more suitable place to practice. After some time the practice moved to the old nursing school but this building was also demolished and eventually the piece of ground that our medical centre now occupies, was purchased for the grand sum of 100 pounds and a prefabricated purpose built premises was erected. These premises evolved into our present medical centre that was built by Braidwood the builder.

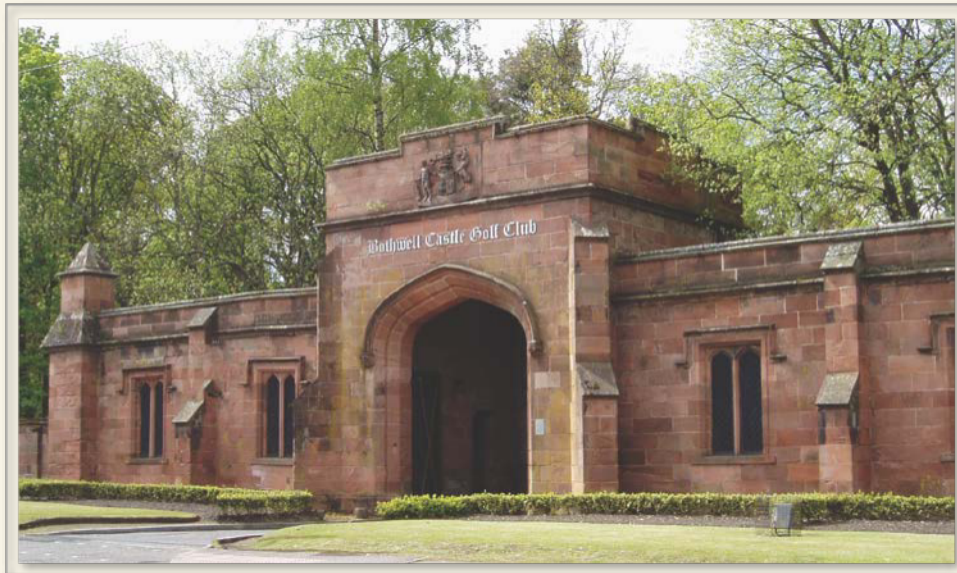
BOTHWELL CASTLE GOLF CLUB

Abridged from "Bothwell Castle Golf Club – A History" by Sheila Beckett

The Twenties

It's hard to imagine Bothwell without its golf club but in the nineteen twenties the village had not changed much from the time before the Great War. It was a mix of fine Victorian and Edwardian villas and miners rows and importantly Bothwell was separated from Uddingston by the many green acres and woodland of the estate owned by the Earl of Home. Two railway stations provided a train

Castle Estate had been obtained for twenty one years at a rental of £200 per annum. The mineral rights were reserved for the Earl of Home but the club was given the grazing rights of the fields. Already a great deal of work had been done not only in securing land but in establishing a sound financial footing for the future club and the all important construction of the course. In December 1922 a committee was elected, office bearers



service to Glasgow for the well-to-do business men who had settled with their families in this pleasant spot by the river Clyde. In July 1922 a group of local men held a meeting in the Bank House in Bothwell. Their aim was to establish a golf club in Bothwell. Of the nine "promoters," two were ministers of religion, one was a doctor and the others were businessmen. A new modern world was emerging in the aftermath of war. Leisure pursuits were to become available not just to the wealthy but to the middle classes and eventually to all.

In December 1922 the "promoters" called a meeting in the Bothwell Public Hall. There was a large turnout. The founders of the Club reported that the 110 acres of the Bothwell

appointed and more sub-committees formed. The Earl of Home was insistent that membership of the club should be open to all, artisan and professional, with priority given to local people.

On the 16th of June 1923 the Earl of Home hit the first ball on the new golf course. By September that year the membership consisted of 343 men, 260 ladies and 67 juniors and the village had a definitive landmark.

The Forties

When war broke out everything changed. Membership of the local golf club with all the enjoyable sporting and social activities which that entailed became a dream for many. The course itself was in danger on two counts.

There was a lack of petrol for the machinery and the government needed agricultural land. The golf course had been given the grazing rights to the land in the initial leasing agreement. To begin with sheep were grazed then as the nation's need for food became even more desperate the Agricultural Executive Committee for Lanarkshire required that dairy cattle be introduced and many acres were ploughed for food production. Concern for the protection of the course was tempered with the patriotic duty to support the war effort. In 1943 the farmed area was increased to about 30 acres. The Douglas and Angus Estates did not want to renegotiate the lease until the end of the war. A committee member suggested the possibility of one day purchasing the course but in November 1942 Bothwell Castle Golf Course was more important as a farm than a golf course.

The Seventies

In 1960 John Loudon bought the Castle Policies from the Douglas and Angus Estate. He agreed to honour the Lease with the Golf Club. By the seventies the natural woodland which surrounded the golf course and stretched down to the Clyde changed as expensive houses were built on the land and the Golf Course became part of the village rather than on the edge of it. A great deal of work was carried out on the development of the course and the reconstruction of the clubhouse. All this was the calm before the storm. In 1975 the first indication of trouble was a notice printed in the national press. A Receiver had been appointed to enquire into the affairs of William Loudon & Son Ltd. It was decided that the members should try to buy the course.

On 29th November 1975 a Special General Meeting of all members was called. A great deal of work had gone into negotiating a price and the means of funding the purchase. The special committee entrusted with this strongly recommended that the members take this opportunity. The motion was carried unanimously.

In 1976 Bothwell Castle Golf Club was bought by its members for £70,000.

The Nineties

In August 2002 disaster struck. The clubhouse burned down. The blaze on a late summer evening was spectacular. The next day only ashes remained where the clubhouse had once stood. The course was not damaged. During the war there had been a clubhouse and little course to speak of, in the nineties there was a course but no clubhouse. The committee swung into action and very quickly a temporary modular building was provided but controversy arose over the kind of clubhouse which should replace the old and very importantly whether it should be situated on the site of the previous building or whether the opportunity should be taken to change the position of the clubhouse and alter the playing pattern of the course. After a great deal of debate it was decided to sell off the area on which the clubhouse had stood and build the new clubhouse at the heart of the course. The building was designed to blend into the natural woodland and incorporate the best of modern design fit for the twenty first century. The old castle gates provide a grand entrance and in keeping with the original intention of the club the members are mostly local and come from all walks of life. Who knows what comes next? That's for future historians to record.



Purchase of Golf Course, 1st February 1976



Captain John Gilchrist handing over the cheque for £70,000, the sum required to purchase the golf course, to Secretary and Treasurer John W Pollock. In attendance the sub-committee specially appointed to consider all details concerned with purchase
Past Captain *Ian Horn*, Past Captain *Graham Ingham*, Vice Captain *James Morris*, Past Captain *Alex Braidwood*, Ways and Means Convener *George Carlton*



GOLF CLUB PICTURES



Presentation to the first winners of the Cadzow Quaich 1954

Left: Irene Wardrop, Ladies Champion. *Rear:* Sir Norman Cadzow, Mens Captain. *Front:* David Watt and H. Learmouth receiving the Quaich from Molly Stewart, Ladies Captain.
Right Roy Hill, Club Secretary.



First Pro-am

Alex Braidwood, Peter Thompson, PGA Captain, Lee Johnston, Winner, Jack Wallace, Janellen Young, Joyce Scott, Ian Duff, Vice Captain, John Young, Captain

GOLF CLUB PICTURES



50th Anniversary, 'Captains Side versus International Select.' 8th July 1973
John Anderson, Roger Anderson, Nicol Rennie and Archie Watson



Bothwell Castle Golf Club, Pro-Am. 1987-88

Back Row: Nancy Chisholm Ian Duff, Alex Braidwood, Florence McHenry, Eddie Gallon, John Young.
Front Row Captain Jim Hamilton with representatives of the recipient charities

GOLF CLUB PICTURES



Bothwell castle Golf Club Ladies Team 1990

Back Row

Mhairi McKay, Fiona Scott, Ladies Captain Jean McDonald, Katie Young, Nancy Rennie.

Front Row

Anne McGregor, Joyce Scott, Fiona McKay, Margaret Allan, Jennifer Wiles.



Presentation to Mrs Sheena Campbell, widow of the Revd T.K. Campbell, on the occasion of her leaving Bothwell to live with her daughter in Ireland. The presentation of a bracelet was made by the ladies of Bothwell Castle Golf Club.

GOLF CLUB PICTURES



John Young's Captains party 1985
Betty Watson and Irene Smeaton



John Young's Captains party 1985
Bill Smeaton, Joan Gallon, Edith Braidwood, Ian Coombs

GOLF CLUB PICTURES



John Young's Captains party 1985

Bill Smeaton, Lorna Hamilton, Alex Braidwood, Janelen Young, Hamish Hamilton,
Betty Harris



John Young's Captains party 1985

Helen Carlton, Jack Wallace

GOLF CLUB PICTURES



John Young's Captains party 1985
Irene Smeaton, Warrie Rennie



John Young's Captains party 1985
Janey Rennie, Albert Harris

PUBLIC HOUSES IN BOTHWELL

Today we have two pubs in Bothwell, the Douglas Arms and the Camphill Vaults. There are other venues in the village retailing food and alcoholic drinks but here we will look only at public houses.

The oldest pub in the village today is the Douglas Arms at 42 Main Street. Although we cannot find exactly how old it is, it is shown on an ordnance survey map dated 1859 as a "Tavern".

Farther down the main street is the other pub, the Camphill Vaults, at 1 Main Street, shown on a map dated 1898.

There was another pub in the village called The Swan Inn. That one is shown on the map of 1859 marked simply as "P.H.", a public house. Its location was directly opposite the Douglas Arms on Main Street where a different building now stands. The equivalent building we see today is at No. 67 Main Street.

The landlady of the Douglas Arms was Meg Steel (cleanly Meg, so called because she kept a very clean establishment). At that time the pub across the road, called The Swan Inn, was kept by Thomas Askin and seems to have been less reputable. In 1862 the landlord of The Swan Inn was David Porteous and the landlord of The Douglas Arms was James Crawford. On the map of 1898 the building that housed The Swan Inn building is shown as still there but it is no longer a public house, but by that date the Camphill Vaults had appeared.

A poem from By Bothwell Banks says:

*The morn was wet, the thunder loud
Yet without dread or care
From many quarters folk did crood
To Bothwell's Holy Fair*

*Some cam tae hear the Word laid doon
Some drink wi' Meg or Askin;
There's Godly folk frae Holytoon
And colliers frae the Faskin*

The patrons of Thomas Askin's pub were not *'of the most reputable order'* and at times expected credit. It is said that when they approached Meg on this point she said *'Try Thomas Askin: he can write, I canna write'*.

The Register of Scotland dated 1876 records the land upon which this pub stood being transferred to a Mr James Hamilton residing at Avonbridge Toll,

Hamilton. The records do not show the buildings on the land but it is possible that that pub was on the land at that time. It is also possible that the pub had been there before the Douglas Arms was built making it the earliest one in the village.

The land upon which the Camphill Vaults now stands was first mentioned in 1839 sold to Mr James Young, a merchant of some kind and

later in 1860 being transferred to Mr Matthew Patrick from Mr William Stout, a grocer and spirit dealer. The land was described in 1883 as being called "The Hill", at that time covering more than 2 acres including land in Ferry Road. The land changed hands again in 1888 to Mrs Jessie Small Thomson described as residing in "Camphill, Bothwell". In 1897 the land was sold to Mr Hugh Donald, spirit merchant, including the Camphill Vaults public house. There is a photo of the pub with the owner's name above the door. The photo is poor quality but is interesting because the dormer windows had not been built at the time.

The Douglas Arms pub has changed hands many times over the last 160 years or so with most of the new owners described as "wine and spirit merchants" or "innkeeper" and at one time in 1899 by the firm of "Stewart, Pott and Company", wholesale wine and spirit merchants of Glasgow.



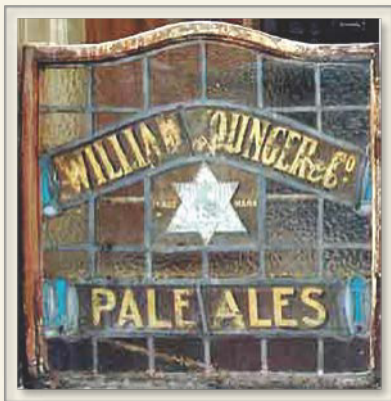
Meg Steel
'Cleanly Meg'



Camphill Vaults 1897



Camphill Vaults 2015



Camphill Vaults
Stained Glass Windows



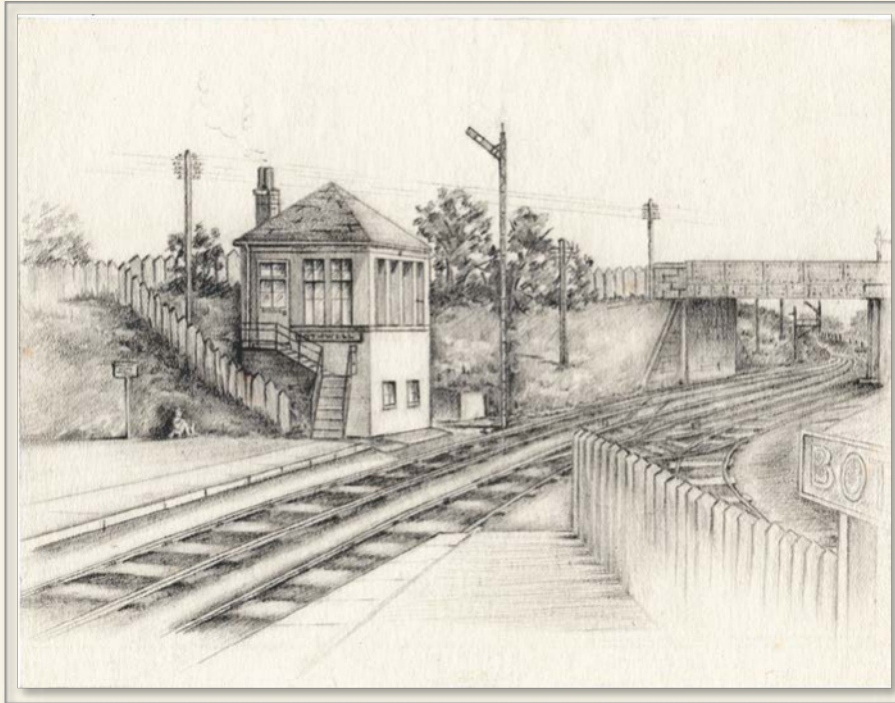
Douglas Arms 1975



Douglas Arms 2013

ANNA EVELYN FRASER

Anna Fraser was an art teacher. She and her sisters were brought up at Dunclutha House where their father was the gardener. Latterly she lived with her sisters in North Deanpark Avenue. Two of her sketches are shown below.



Bothwell Signal Box



Gardener's Cottage, Dunclutha 1944

1ST BOTHWELL BOYS BRIGADE



The initiative to form a Boys Brigade Company in Bothwell was taken at a meeting in the Russell Memorial Hall on 5th September 1934. The outcome of that meeting was that the Company was enrolled in December of that year as the 1st Bothwell Company.

In that first year the Company consisted of Captain Neil McCutcheon, Lieutenants John Cunningham and James Henderson, Chaplain Rev R J Thomson and 28 boys, ranging in age from 12 to 15.

The following year in October 1935 the Life Boy Team started and two years later the first Company Bible Class was held in the ante-room of the Russell Hall.

In the early years of the Company discipline was strict and if a boy was considered 'unsatisfactory' he was asked to leave and this was accordingly noted on his record. Those who reached the age limit and left the Brigade moved to a wide variety of careers including ship's apprentice, telegraph boy, cobbler, message boy, bank apprentice and pit boy.

By the late 1930s Company activities began to flourish with jumble sales, social, football, a whist drive and a Halloween party with the Girl Guides. The first Annual Inspection was held on 25th May 1939 with Lt Col C B Vandeleur DSO as the Inspecting Officer. The usual activities on a Friday night included marching, games, handicrafts and percussion band work.

At the AGM of the Company on the 17th June 1940, the Captain, Mr McCutcheon, made the following report on the preceding session "Owing to the outbreak of war and the uncertainty with regard to the occupation of the Church Hall by soldiers we did not begin to function officially until November." During the winter a 'Club Night' was held on a Monday night with table tennis, darts, dominos and miniature billiards. At Christmas the Company sent a small parcel to ex-

members serving with the Forces." Wartime difficulties proved too much and later that year the Company went into abeyance.

The 1st Bothwell Company resumed after the war with the first meeting on the 7th September 1945. 26 boys enrolled that year. In 1954 Neil McCutcheon retired after 20 years sterling service as Captain of the 1st Bothwell BB.

His replacement as captain was Walter Robb who was followed by George Reid in 1959.

In October 1961, at the Annual enrolment service, the Company was presented with new colours by the Kirk Session. These were dedicated by the Rev T K Campbell, Company Chaplain. The Annual Inspection that year was noted for the presentation of the Company's first ever Queen's Badge to Corporal David Reid.

The annual camp was always popular and well supported by the officers and boys. In the late 1960's and into the 1970's camps were held at various locations such as Switzerland, Stonehaven, Penzance, Bournemouth and Cleethorpes. Long weekend camps also proved popular although they tended to be closer to home including Whitecleuch and the Cairngorms. Robert McLean took over as captain in 1973.

In 1984 David Sneddon was appointed captain and two years later took the boys to an International Camp at Rozelle Park in Ayr to celebrate 100 years of BB camps. The 1st Bothwell Company excelled at drill and their efforts were rewarded in 1996 when they became the Scottish Open Drill Champions in the contest class. In 2005 David Sneddon stepped aside as captain to be replaced by Robin McLean.

There are around 70 boys presently in the company split into three sections Anchor Boys, the Junior Section and the Company Section.



1996 Drill Squad, Scottish Open Drill Champions, Contest Class

From left back row: Alan Bain, Craig Fleming, Martin Armstrong and Christopher Sharp

Middle row: Christopher Haddow, Craig Ferguson, Captain David Sneddon, Paul Meenaghan and Jonathon Sharp.

Front row: Jamie Cole, David Bennie, Gary Meenaghan and Blair French.



1998 Queen's Badge Boys.

From left back row: Jonathan Sharp, Niall Gibson and Christopher Haddow.

Front row: Alan Bain, Martin Armstrong and Blair French.



Captain Walter Robb accompanies Inspecting Officer, Dr Ken Chisholm, at 1st Bothwell Boys' Brigade display c1953.



Grandfather was a miner and after he had had his bath (in a tin bath in the bedroom, no pithead baths or showers then) we would all gather to have Sunday lunch. If we were lucky it would be a chicken, a treat in those days but it had to go a long way. As soon as the meal was finished and the dishes washed, the table was cleared for the ubiquitous game of cards. Newmarket was the game the adults played which bored my mother silly. She would seem to glaze over at times and would miss a card that would be pounced on at the end of the game by my Aunt Minnie if it did not appear in the "sleeping hand". We kids had snakes and ladders and some other games I can't remember, or if the weather was nice we would go outside to play, but it all made for a long and pleasant Sunday. When the time came to return to home to Fallside we would walk back along the "Asylum Road". At certain times of the year we would walk with the leerie (lamplighter) who started his walk from Bothwell, it seemed to take much longer than usual because he always had a story to tell and sometimes had to replace a gas mantle or two and that always took a minute or so longer. We of course had to pass the asylum on that road and my father used to tease me mercilessly about the "padded cell", pointing out a section of the building and warning me that if I was not a good boy, I could be put in there!

Eric Denton

BOTHWELL AND DISTRICT FLOWER CLUB

An initial meeting was held in the home of Mrs Fleming on Thursday 27 April 1961 to determine if there would be sufficient interest in forming a flower club in Bothwell. Those also attending that meeting were Miss Gibson, Mrs McGirr, Mrs Watson, Mrs A Taylor, and Mrs Attwood. Three days later a further meeting was held and joining the aforementioned ladies were, Mrs Herman, Mrs W Taylor, Mrs Cargie, Mrs Smith and Mrs Harley.

It was agreed that a first open meeting be arranged to gauge the interest. At the inaugural meeting of Bothwell and District Flower Club, held on Thursday 18 May 1961 in the Bothwell Public Hall, a total of 183 people attended and it was agreed that there was indeed enough interest to form the Club. Mrs A Taylor was elected the Club's first chairman.

Mr J McCormack Thomson, President of Bothwell Horticultural Society, was asked to become Honorary President. On the death of Mr Thomson, Mrs Audrey Smith of Blantyre was asked to become the Club's second Honorary President, and remained so until the Club disbanded in June 2011, the fiftieth anniversary of its formation.

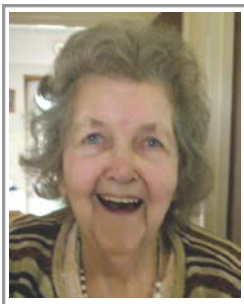
The Club meetings took place initially in the Bothwell Public Hall, but after that had

various venues during the years including Silvertrees Hotel, Hamilton College of Education, Kirkfield and Woodean, the Russell Memorial Hall with the last venue being Bothwell Evangelical Church.

The Club held a varied programme of events during each year, competing at Scottish level in SAFAS events. Some members took part in various flower festivals, both locally in South Lanarkshire, and farther afield, also taking part in flower festivals in both Glasgow Cathedral and St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh.

In the early days, demonstrations were given by local flower arrangers, but latterly National and Area demonstrators came from all over the UK. Various members' nights took place during the years ranging from "Food and Flowers", "Fashion and Flowers", "Night at the Movies", etc, with the members demonstrating their talents. Workshops also took place where members could gain experience in arranging their own flowers.

Although the Flower Club had in the region of 60+ members when it's final dinner was held in June 2011, it was due to lack of people willing to take on the commitment of Office Bearers which finally heralded its demise with great regret to all members.



During the war there was a big boom across the Clyde so that the German submarines couldn't get up the Clyde to sink the ships in harbour, but they didn't know about the wee tiny submarines, and one of those got under the boom and sank one of the butter boats coming from New Zealand that was called the Wyvera. The ship sank and lay at the bottom of the Clyde but what happened was that butter is self sealing and was retrieved. The butter was sent to a company, Murchies, in Edinburgh, where it was cleaned and all the residue removed and that was what people were eating, so the rations that week consisted of butter that had been under the Clyde for a month.

Excerpt from an oral history interview given by Mabel Cunningham



An early function of the Bothwell Flower Club

From left:

Bill Lowry, Dorothy Lowry, Alastair Taylor,
Audrey Smith, Mary Scott, John Scott, Beth Simmons, John Simmons and May Taylor



Bothwell Flower Club Committee at the 30th Anniversary Dinner held in the Albany Hotel, Glasgow on 2nd May 1991

Back Row from left: Jean Hamilton, Liz Wemyss, Linda Lorimer, May Mackie, Janette Sanderson, Margaret Duff, Grace Whitton, Etta Park, Ellen Buttery
Front Row from left: Sally Rutherford-Young, Lynda Deans, Dorothy Wilkie, Iris Anderson

GIRL GUIDES

1st Bothwell Girl Guides at their camp at Robertson, late 1950s



Back Row

Evelyn Geeson, Alison Middleton, ?, Patricia Reid, Anne Smith, Dorothy Rankine, Lisbeth Rae, Marion Keenan, ?, Ray Crawford.

Middle Row

Eileen Chisholm, Irene Durrant, Judith Geeson, ? Dunn, Sheila Stannard, Myra Hutchison.

Front Row

Elsbeth Smith, ?, Enid Craig, ?, Marion Keen, Ray McMillan, Myra Docherty.

1964 Bothwell Girl Guides Christmas Party



Middle Row

Evelyn Thomson, Linda Brownlie, Sheena ?

Front Row right

Enid Craig, Susan Chadwick, Elizabeth Alexander, Joan Haddow

BOTHWELL BOWLING CLUB



1976 Mrs McRae L Pres., Mr Mrs McGhie Hon Pres., Mr Moore G Pres.



Mrs McRae and Mrs McGhie

*BOTHWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL
PRIMARY 3/4 1947*



Back row

?, Jackie Rae, Don Hutton, Willie Sharp, ?, Jim Deans, Jim McNeish, Carlyle Smith, Sandy Sloss, Lance Harrison.

Second Row

Helen Aitken, Jean Miller, Cathy Kirkwood, Sheena Hamilton, Wilma Falconer, Mary Jackson, Elspeth Smith, Maureen Drummond, Helen Pollock, Joyce Todd, Mary Mitchell.

Third Row

George Aird, Gordon Hannah, Ian Martin, Helen White, ?, ?, Eleanor Fortune, Davie Barrie, John McCart, Sam Thomas.

Front Row

Gordon Smith, Barclay Hamilton, Kenneth Harden, ?, Willie Galloway

*BOTHWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL
1950 PRIMARY 7*



Back row

Jim McNeish, Hugh Donnan, Alistair Stewart, Sandy Sloss, Jackie Rae, Lance Harrison.

Middle Row

Barclay Hamilton, Stewart White, Kenneth Harden, Stewart Campbell, Gordon Smith, Sam Thomas, Ian Martin.

Front Row

Elspeth Smith, Pearl Gilchrist, Ruth Walker, Shirley Gray, Marjory Smith, Eleanor Dunsmuir, Helen Aitken, Jean Miller.

Front three

Gordon Hannah, Mary Mitchell, George Aird.

***BOTHWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL
PRIMARY 1 1955-56***



Back row

?, Douglas Glass, Jim Hutchison, Hamish Watson, Wallace Mair, David Lowe, Kenneth Best

Second Row

Moirra Mason, Betty Scott, Susan Gow-Brown, Susan Robertson, Judith Geeson, Elizabeth Wilson, Eileen Chisholm, Jennifer Eadie, Elizabeth Hill.

Third Row

Ian Hutton, ?, Alastair Mathieson, Susan Watson, Elizabeth Thomson, Margaret Gillespie, Rae McMillan, Philip Prentice, Kenneth Mack, Robert Maxwell.

Front Row

Archie Travers, Tom Scott, Alan Wright.

***BOTHWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL
1956/57***



Top Row

Jackie Hamilton, Paul Guzzan, Peter McGillivray, ?, Billy MacArthur, ?, Alastair Chisholm, Peter Cox, ?.

Middle Row

Heather Stannard, Sacha Waddell, Louise Wilson, Isobel Prentice, Catherine McGormley, Anne Allen, Mary Best, Elizabeth Alexander, Christine Love.

Front Row

Graham MacStrawick, Ewan Morrison, Alan McCallum, ?, Mary Robertson, Isobel Steele, Evelyn Thomson, Hannah Gillespie, Linda Brownlie, Gordon Kerr, Derek Hutton, Jim Mair, Jim Steven.

Thorntree House - now the Library carpark is in the background

***BOTHWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL
1957/58***



Top Row

Brian Reid, Alan McCallum, Alistair Chisholm, Paul Guzzan, Billy McArthur, Douglas Haggerty, Ian Ross, Peter McGillivray, Duncan Chalmers, Derek Hutton.

Middle Row

Elizabeth Alexander, Elizabeth Chapman, Isabel Prentice, Sacha Waddell, Marion Bennet, Anne Allen, Mary Best, Fiona Lough, ?, Iona Wood.

Front Row

Jim Steven, Ewan Morrison, Irene Rae, Marjory Fisher, ?, Heather Stannard, Hannah Gillespie, Evelyn Thomson, Jasmine Saunders, Jim Mair, Graham McStravick.

***BOTHWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL
PRIMARY 4 1958-59***



Back row

Stewart MacGregor, Dan Stevens, Norman Reid, Eric Winning, Stephen Roberts, Colin Sommerville, Kenneth Best, Alan Fowlis, Tom Scott, ?, David Freeland

Second Row

Elizabeth Gould, Mary Copeland, Kay Adam, Lynn Johnstone, ?, Susan Robertson, Betty Scott, Isobel Ferguson, Beth Boyak, Marilyn Guzzan, Yvonne McMillan

Third Row

David Wray, Elizabeth Hill, ?, Morag McCammont, Susan Watson, Rae McMillan, Elizabeth Thomson, Marion Gillespie, Hilary Cannon, Dorcas Gavigan, David Moore

Front Row

William McMillan, James Reid, Billy Napier, Alan Moore

BOTHWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

1960



Top Row

Margaret Henderson, Janette Bryant, Barbara ?, ? Dunn, Marie Haddow, Linda Brown, Elizabeth Fisher, Ann Robertson, Janet ?, Shirley Jones

Second Row

?, Tony Guy, George Swanson, John Riddle, Ian Woods, ?, Donald Gillespie, Arthur Morrison, Tom Coughtree

Third Row

David Beveridge, Peter ?, Fraser Hutton, ?, ?, Christine Thomson, Sheena McCammont, Willie Mair, John Lindsay, ?, Alan Cunningham, Ian Duncan

Front Row

Gary ?, ?, Jim Brownlie, Leslie Hutchison, ? Moak

***BOTHWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL
PRIMARY 6 1960/61***



Top Row

Ian Steven, David Freeland, ?, Kenneth Best, Hamish Watson, Philip Prentice, Ian Taylor, Norman Reid, David Moore.

Second Row

Irene Dunn, Elsa Swanson, ?, Elizabeth Wilson, Jennifer Eadie, Betty Scott, Isobel Ferguson, Beth Boyak

Third Row

Kay Adam, Morag McCammont, Susan Watson, Elizabeth Thomson, Myra Docherty, Rae McMillan, Mary Copeland, Marion Gillespie, Lynn Johnston, Moira Mason

Front Row

Maxwell Paton, Tom Scott, Eric Winning, Kenneth Mack, Stewart Macgregor, Ian Hutton, Alan Moore, James Reid, Campbell Greer

***BOTHWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL
PRIMARY 5/6 1960/61***



Back row L to R:

Fiona Lough, Isobel Prentice, Yvonne McMillan, Anne Allen, Susan Chadwick, Elizabeth Chapman, Enid Craig, Christine Little, June Dumbreck, Louise Wilson, Susan Fotheringham.

Second back row L to R:

Elizabeth Hill, David Wray, Duncan Chalmers, Billy Napier, Iain Ross, Billy McArthur, Doulas Haggerty, Ian Ross, Willie McMillan, Paul Guzzan, Elizabeth Alexander

Seated row

Jasmine Saunders, Heather Stannard, Hannah Gilliespie, Anne Geddes, Marjory Fisher, Iona Brown, Janet Ryrie, Evelyn Thomson, Hilary Cannon, June Swanson, Helen Nicholson, Irene Rae.

Front Row L to R:

Brian Reid, Graeme McStravick, Ewan Morrison, Billy McCartney, Jim Steven, Derek Hutton, Jim Mair, Peter McGillivray, Billy?, Alan Urquhart.

***BOTHWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL
PRIMARY 6/7 1962***



Top Row

Linda Brownlie, Joy Steedman, Isobel Steel, Morag McPherson, Joan Haddow, Sally Ann Connel, May Lynch, Marilyn Jack, Janice Lennie?

Second Row

?, Alan Taylor, Melvyn Gibson, David Swanson, Robert Wilson, David Beveridge, David Clark, Billy Scougal, ?

Third Row

?, Joyce Street, ?, Lyn Thomson, Elizabeth Fisher, Margaret Rollo, Barbara ?, Moira Stanard, ?

Front Row

Douglas Kerr, John Overend, Jimmy Greenhalgh, Douglas Yuill, Peter Jones.

***BOTHWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL
PRIMARY 7 1961/62***



Top Row

Anne Geddes, Margot Forsyth, Anne Allen, Enid Craig, Elizabeth Chapman, Susan Chadwick, Fiona Lough, Louise Wilson, Isabel Prentice.

Second Row

Graham McStrawick, Duncan Chalmers Ian Wood, Michael Dymock, Alastair Forsyth, David Russell, Jim Carson, Craig Bowman, Jim Mair, Alan McCallum, Derek Hutton.

Third Row

Fiona Brownlie, Marjory Fisher, Irene Rae, Susan Fotheringham, Elizabeth Anderson, Jan Ryrie, ?, Evelyn Thomson, Hannah Gillespie

Front Row

Brian Reid, Brian Burgoyne, Ewan Morrison, Peter McGillvray, Jim Stevens David Gray, ?.

BOTHWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

1964



Top Row

Donald ?, Alison Haddow, Mary Morrison, Fiona Gordon, Doreen Moore, Gill Brown, Ronald ?

Second Row

Keith Plum, Stephen ?, Stephen Bowman, Graham Russell, James Maxwell, ? Gillespie, Colin Masterton, Alan Hotchkiss, ?

Third Row

Susan Hendry, Jackie McPherson, ?, Sandra Mcmillan, Elaine Black, Jennifer Brownlie Evelyn Mair

Fourth Row

Arthur Cook, ?, Fiona Paterson, Lynn Waddington, Diana Tye, Jackie ?, ?, Mary Gray, Jean Flemming

Fifth Row

?, ?, Alan Cunningham, Grant Flemming, Andrew Lindsay, ?, Gordon?

BOTHWELL LIBRARY & THE DONALD INSTITUTE

Bothwell Library has a long history of providing services to the community. Earliest records show that a public meeting was held in the Mission Hall in November 1875 “*to consider the expediency of founding a public subscription library*” and by the following February funds of £209-19/- had been raised. The library opened in July 1876 at the Mission Hall and the first librarian was Mr. Robert Horne, the local schoolmaster. The Library Committee organised lectures and concerts which proved a fruitful source of income, The Literary Association joined forces in similar fund raising ventures and donating books to the library. By the end of the second year of opening the library had 964 books and the number of book exchanges during the year was 3919.

By 1890 the Mission Hall was proving to be too small for the increasing book stock. The Halls Company were approached and the proceeds of a bazaar held in November 1890 were used to add an upper storey to house the library. A lease was granted to the library for fifty years at a nominal rent of one shilling.

In May 1941 it was agreed to start negotiations with Bothwell Library Committee over a possible merger into the County Library system, by June 1942 an advertisement in the Hamilton Advertiser announced that the merger was completed. At this time the

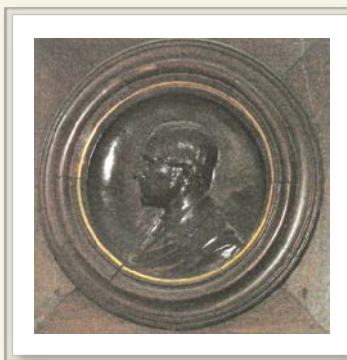
library was still located in Bothwell Public Halls with the entrance in Fallside Road.

In May 1966 the Library moved from the room in the Public Halls at Fallside Road to the Donald Institute which had been renovated and re-furnished as a Library as a result of the generosity of the Trustees. The Donald Institute was originally opened in October 1910 as a result of a generous donation of £3000 by Mr James Donald, a businessman who was born in Bothwell and had made his fortune in chemical manufacturing.

Institutes were commonly set up in mining communities to improve the quality of life and to act as a distraction from the pub. The Institute originally had a games room, a reading room and a billiard room at the rear with space for three tables. It was a natural home for the public library and the A

grade listed building is still the home of the library.

James Donald also presented to Bothwell Parish Church a large stained glass window, the subject of which is “The Parables.” He contributed to the restoration of the old Parish Church. The laying out of the ground fronting the Church was at his expense, along with the beadle’s house and the monument to Joanna Baillie. Prior to his death in 1905 he was a major subscriber to the fund for the Covenanters Monument at Bothwell Bridge.



IT'S ONLY A STORY... (OR IS IT)?

Legend has it that there is a tunnel under the river Clyde joining Bothwell Castle with the priory in Blantyre. The Blantyre priory has long since been demolished but some remains can still be found directly over the river from the castle. The tunnel was said to have been dug during the construction of the castle but the reason for its construction has never been clear. The people who designed and built the castle were apparently brought from the continent to use their experience of castle building there and to make Bothwell Castle high status. A lot of castles in France and Germany apparently have secret passages and escape tunnels built in at the time of construction. The river Clyde is not all that wide at this location and a boat would seem to have been a much simpler method of crossing it. But...

There are lots of fairly plausible stories and photographs surrounding this old story, some can be easily dismissed as fanciful imagination and some of the photographs can be seen to be old drains or other garden constructions, but one or two of them do make one sit up and wonder. There are stories of the stonemasons of years ago who claimed to know the location of an entrance to what was indeed a tunnel, but kept it a secret to themselves. There are other stories of children playing on the Blantyre side of the river who found a tunnel entrance there. One of those stories continues to say that two of the children went out to play one day and did not return home until very late in the day, much to the concern of their parents.

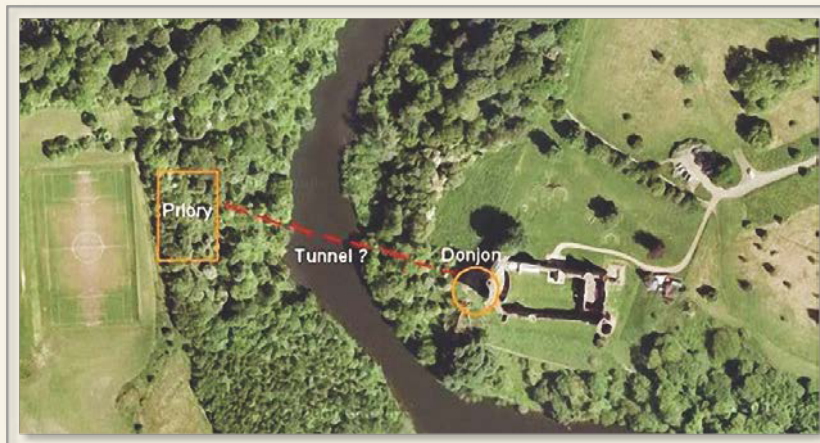
The children claimed to have found the tunnel entrance and had actually gone through it and emerged near the castle on the other side of the river. Their father made the children show him what they had found and promptly blocked it to prevent any further probably dangerous escapades underground.

In 2009 and 2010 several people joined up through an internet website to go exploring round the castle and the old priory remains on the other side of the river. They came up with some stone constructions that they claimed could be, just possibly, confirmation of the entrance to a tunnel. Several photographs are available of their findings along with various explanations of what they think these obviously man made constructions may be. One or two of the photographs show what looks like the start of an underground passage but some look more like old drains.

There are several stories of ghosts in and around the castle but maybe the best known one is of "*Bonnie Jean of Halloween*". This story concerns a young lady resident in the castle who was in love with a young peasant man who lived on the other side of the river. She had planned to elope with him, but on the night of her escape over the river by boat, the boat sank and she drowned. That night was Halloween.

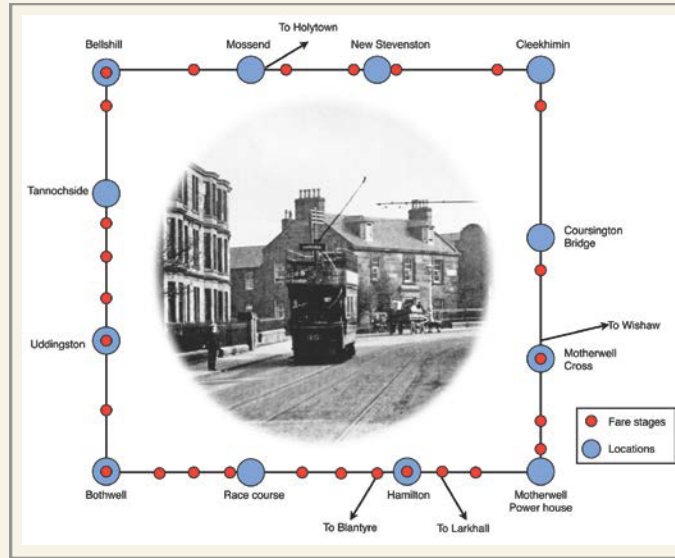
Wonder why she didn't use the tunnel?

Have a look at this website!
www.secretscotland.org.uk/forum.



LOCAL TRAMCAR SYSTEM IN THE EARLY 1900s

The main system of public transport in the early 1900s was a fairly well established tramcar route round the local district covering the main populated areas, mostly the mining communities. Travel was cheap, one penny covering the whole circuit, leaving the kids of the day a pleasant way to spend a day out going first one way then the other all the way round the circuit.



From the local system it was possible to travel quite a long way as at several places along the route other tram companies had laid tracks close to town centres allowing, with some changes, a fair distance to be covered.

One of the longest using the Lanarkshire Tramways Company system would have been from Newmains or Wishaw to Balloch on Loch Lomond, a distance of around 40 miles.

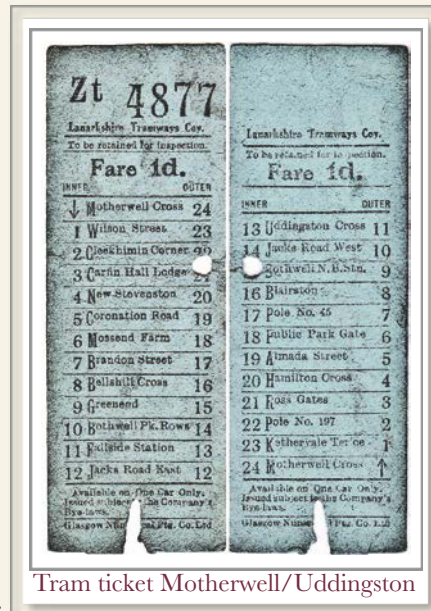
The rail tracks were laid over a period of time causing a great deal of disruption as roads were dug up to lay tracks and poles for the overhead cables were installed. The final section of track that passed through Bothwell was laid in June 1909 consisting of double section along the main street but as it passed to Uddingston the line became single section and had to incorporate some small sections of double track to allow passing places when trams met going in opposite directions.

The tramcars were of various designs, some open topped and some closed, some single decked and some double decked and some had the driver's position in front as an unenclosed space. The drivers had to put up with the weather whatever it was.

The former Lanarkshire Tramways Company generated the electric power for the trams in their own coal fired power station located in Motherwell near where the old SMT bus garage was on Hamilton Road. Most of the tram companies had their own power stations as at that time the National Electric Grid system had not been developed, that did not come until the 1940s.

The tram system did not survive all that long as petrol powered buses began to take over the role of public transport and, as in the early

1900's when laying the rail tracks had caused so much disruption, removing them caused just as much upheaval. The tram service in this area finally stopped in 1926 although Glasgow kept the city centre trams system going into the 1960s.



Tram ticket Motherwell/Uddingston

DR. MACPHERSON

Dr William Grant MacPherson was a well loved and respected doctor in Bothwell. He was a son of the manse, born in 1862 at Canisbay, Caithness where his father was the local minister. William graduated in medicine at the University of Edinburgh in 1888. In the same year he went as assistant to Dr Bruce Goff in Bothwell. Described as full of energy, clever and tactful, he quickly became intensely popular over a wide area, and rapidly developing an already large practice, he was soon taken into partnership. Married in 1900, he took up residence with his wife at Barrogill in Bothwell.

His early death in 1916 at the age of 54 years stunned the community of Bothwell and surrounding district. The depletion of home medical ranks by the war placed a heavy strain on those left behind to carry on and it is reported that he more than bore his share and practically died in harness. He responded to calls made upon him with a complete disregard of his own personal ease and comfort. Continuing to visit his patients despite a severe chill, he finally succumbed to acute pneumonia. So great and unexpected was the loss that the ministers of the area announced from their pulpits that a public funeral would be held. This unusual step was fully justified as the old Parish Church was thronged, a large body of mourners followed the hearse on foot to Bothwell Bridge, and the public thoroughfare was lined with sympathetic crowds. The shops

were closed, the church bell tolled and the colliery flag was flying at half-mast.

The movement to commemorate the doctor's memory began with the Library Committee in which Dr. Macpherson had taken an active and lively interest. A committee was formed and public subscription raised £300 to erect a monument. This was a magnificent sum at the time of the dark days of World War I. In the drizzling rain and in the presence of many interested and sympathetic spectators, the unveiling ceremony was performed on the 29th September 1917. The Rev. Douglas Ferrier gave a fine and moving eulogy on the life and work of Dr. Macpherson. The Chairman, Mr. James T. Forgie, hoped the monument would stand as a perpetual memorial to one that was so respected and beloved by the people of Bothwell.



On the monument it is inscribed

“For 28 years (1888 - 1916) he practised as a physician in Bothwell and the surrounding district. Skilful and devoted in the work of his profession, a public spirited citizen, a warm hearted friend, in all things he gave lavishly of his best. Cheery, direct, forceful in speech and manner, he inspired confidence and strength. The poor blessed him for his kindness. He passed away in the prime of his vigour and usefulness and his memory is fragrant. With abiding gratitude this monument is raised by the community whom he served.”

WW2 COMES TO BOTHWELL

The following abstracts are from the BBC People's War. The first is part of the War Diary of George Edward Whiting about his experiences being billeted in Bothwell before being sent to North Africa in 1943.

George Edward Whiting



“At Bothwell we were within easy reach of Glasgow and I went there often with Bill Nyberg, a fellow signaller.

The Paramount cinema used to be our favourite haunt. They always gave a good programme and it was a sumptuous place. Afterwards

we would pay a visit to the Church Army canteen for sausages and chips or something else tasty for a ridiculous price, or free.

Sundays in Scotland finds everything closed but that happy band of Roman Catholics at Uddingston treated us to an excellent Sunday evening tea and concert afterwards absolutely free. I played table tennis with Bing Corsby (another signaller) there one night, went in the intelligence bee another night and won a bottle of beer, good beer at that. Vi smiled when I told her they cut the froth off the top of a glass of beer with a knife in Scotland. I saw it being done in some of the public houses there. The nearby town of Hamilton saw Bill and I there once or twice a week for pictures, with always a fish supper afterwards and what fish suppers they were too. If I ever forget Scotland's kindness, sociability or generosity, which I hope I won't, I will remember those fish suppers.

We were billeted in a disused school on top of Bothwell's mine workings and the school was propped up because it was sinking. It was considered unsafe for children, but safe for soldiers. But we were very comfortable in the big room upstairs, which was in use as a chapel when the school was in use and the organ was still standing there. With someone at the organ, Bing on his ukelele and Goodall exercising his gums many a pleasant hour was passed away.”

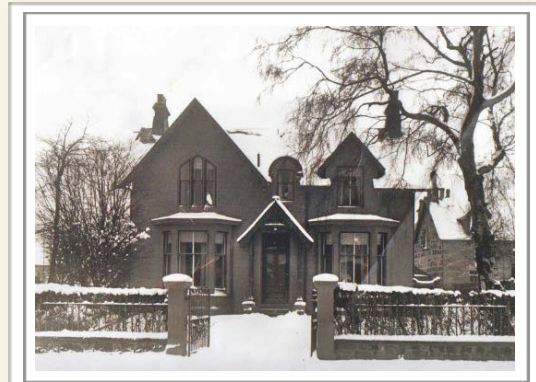
William Edward Roland

“My grandfather, William Forbes Rolland, a bank manager at Bothwell, served with the Observer Corp during WW2. In WW1 he served with the Scots Guards at Ypres and was awarded the Military Medal for conveying messages under heavy machine gun fire

The Observer Corp post was situated on the golf course on the edge of Bothwell. Also on duty was the local greengrocer who by all accounts would fall asleep as soon as he arrived on duty, the only time he would wake up when he heard a plane long before anyone else. On this particular night the greengrocer awoke and said he could hear a plane. The others could hear nothing! A few minutes later, sure enough, a single plane appeared. They identified it as German and reported it to HQ. It was not until much later that they found out that the plane was that of Rudolph Hess on his way to meet the Duke of Hamilton. The Bothwell observer post was the first to report the plane.”

Winton House, Bothwell

Gerry and Debbie McGuire of Winton House, 13 Silverwells Crescent, recall the previous owner of the house telling them



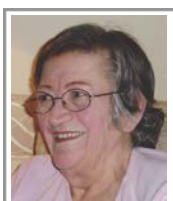
Winton House Bothwell

that on the night of a bombing raid on Clydebank a German parachuted out of his stricken plane and landed in the back garden of their house. The householder then gave the downed airman a cup of tea and then took him to the local Police Station.

The first two articles are from WW2 People's War an online archive of wartime memories and contributed by Peter Whiting and Madanlter.



The disused R.C. Primary School where George Whiting was billeted. The school was located at the bottom of Langside Road and the photographs taken during the construction of the M74 in the mid 1960s”



My father could keep the neighbours amused sometimes with his antics. On one occasion when he was having a bath, he kept calling for mother to bring more hot water as the hot water tank had no hot water left. After several trips upstairs with more hot water, mother had the bright idea of taking a jug of cold water to him and pouring it over his head, which she did. When the cold water hit father, he screamed and so did mother. Mother ran downstairs and out of the back door, but she could hear father following her and thought, if I stay in the back garden he will catch me, so she ran to the front garden and along the street hoping he would not follow her. Little did she know that he had hurriedly put on his undershorts and, still dripping wet, chased her along the street and caught up with her. He picked her up and put her over his shoulder to carry her back home, much to the amusement of all the neighbours, all the time shouting to father to put her down, which of course he did not.

Extract from an oral history interview by Olive Spence

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The Bothwell Buttery

Morning Coffee :: Luncheon
Afternoon Tea :: High Tea :: Dinner
SMALL PARTIES CATERED FOR
Telephone: BOTHWELL 853627
27 MAIN STREET, BOTHWELL

BETTER FAYRE QUALITY GROCER

87 MAIN STREET, BOTHWELL.

Telephone 852330

John Gilchrist D.A. Eric N. Smith D.A.

Goldsmiths, Silversmiths, Jewellers and Designers

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Jewellery of Original and Distinctive Design
in Silver, 9ct. and 18ct. Gold
Diamonds International Award Winners
1969, 1970 and 1974

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ALL TYPES OF ELECTRICAL WORK CARRIED OUT
ESTIMATES FREE

J. J. CRINES

WINES and SPIRIT MERCHANT
LARGE SELECTION

MAIN STREET, BOTHWELL.

Telephone 853488

The Spinning Wheel

69 MAIN STREET, BOTHWELL

Telephone : BOTHWELL 852623

FASHIONS FOR ALL
NICE SELECTION OF BABY WOOLS

MILK and EGGS
DELIVERED DAILY



DOUBLE CREAM

WILLIAM DEANS

Trading as N. DALRYMPLE

LAIGHLANDS FARM

A N D

33 MAIN STREET, BOTHWELL

Telephone : 3109

Stewart A. Howat

Floral Artist and Greengrocer

20 MAIN STREET - - BOTHWELL

Telephone : Bothwell 3338

Consult us with confidence. Only the finest
Home and Imported produce stocked.

Now also at

21/23 HAMILTON ROAD, BELLSHILL

THE ESSENTIALS FOR GOOD HEALTH ARE :
FRESH AIR - SUNSHINE - EXERCISE
AN INTEREST IN LIFE & NOURISHING FOOD.

The first four are acquired in the Garden, but the
most nourishing Food is FISH, and it must also be
Fresh. So make certain of buying it from—

Semple & Armstrong

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Telephone : 3153

IRENE SCOTT

65 MAIN STREET, BOTHWELL

for

HIGH CLASS LADIES
AND CHILDRENS WEAR

KNITWEAR.

SKIRTS.

SLACKS.

LINGERIE.

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DARROCH**

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SILVERTREES HOTEL

Proprietor: Mrs Iva Gibson

Silverwells Crescent
Bothwell

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Receptions, Dinner Dances
and all private functions

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JOHN GILCHRIST

DESIGNER
GOLDSMITH
JEWELLER.
SCOTLAND.

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Tel. 854185

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BOTHWELL

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Licensed Coffee Shop

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All Home Baking
Carry-Out Service

DR WALLS AND DR DENNESS

After the death of Dr William Macpherson in 1916, Dr William Denness joined the Bothwell Medical Practice in 1917. The following year Dr James A Walls joined the practice.

Dr Denness was born in Bothwell in 1875 and was brought up in Uddingston. After serving an apprenticeship as a druggist he graduated in medicine at Anderson College, Glasgow in 1900. He served for 17 years in general practice in County Durham before returning to Bothwell to become a partner of Dr John Goff.

Dr Denness died in 1954 at his home at Barrogill, 3 Blantyre Mill Road, Bothwell. The house was formerly owned by Dr McPherson. Adjacent to the house is the stable block which had a small room in the attic where the stable boy/groom lived. Mrs McCluskey, the current owner of the upper apartment of Barrogill, recalls workmen uncovering an early form of central heating system in the stable block. The doctors obviously looked after the welfare of their horses as well as their patients. She also remembers being told that Dr Denness, on hearing the siren sound at the Castle Colliery, would grab his bag and run to the colliery to give aid to injured miners. This was at a time when few of the miners were registered with a doctor and the NHS was a far off dream.

Dr Walls was born at Inverkeithing in the kingdom of Fife, and educated at the village school and at Dunfermline High School. He took up pharmacy in 1903, and acquired the chemist's business in Bothwell. His heart was, however, in medicine, and he graduated M.B., Ch.B. at Glasgow University in 1918. Next year he purchased a share in the one-time largest practice in Lanarkshire, and this he very successfully conducted until struck down by illness. He took his full share in all the Bothwell activities, the bowling green, the library, and especially the Bothwell Brig Commemoration Services. It was Dr Walls who, in 1923, organised a meeting to revive the Bothwell Horticultural Society and

became the first President of the new Society. The previous year Dr Walls was one of nine local men who resolved to establish a golf club at Bothwell, thus establishing the present Bothwell Castle Golf Club. Dr Walls died in 1940 at Bothwell, after a prolonged illness borne with exemplary patience. A large and representative gathering at his funeral signified his place in the affection of the people.

In 1957 the Bothwell Horticultural Society raised, by public subscription, the necessary funds to erect a monument to Dr Denness and Dr Walls. Permission was received from Hamilton District Council to erect the granite column, topped by a sundial, in the gardens at the corner of Hamilton Road and Hamilton Drive. The monument was unveiled by Mrs Watson daughter of Dr Denness and dedicated by the Rev Campbell.

Over the years the Memorial Garden became neglected and overgrown. The sundial and coping of the monument were stolen. Half the population of Bothwell did not know the garden existed and only a handful ever visited it. It had become an eyesore and so, in 2014, the Bothwell Horticultural Society decided once again to take action. Funding was raised for the necessary materials and the work carried out by volunteers assisted by participants in the Community Payback Scheme.

The Garden has been now been turned into a special place that can be accessed by everyone, especially the young and the old. The Memorial that gave the garden its original purpose was retained with a new sundial to replace the original that had been stolen. The garden was enhanced by making it an open and attractive place to visit. Seating was provided along with raised flowerbeds. Wooden carved sculptures are a special feature and the layout of the lawns, paths and stepping-stones make the garden a special place for children. The end result is a garden that is eco and bee friendly, stimulating the senses, and place of rest and relaxation; it is called a Sensory Garden.



Unveiling ceremony by Mrs Gertrude Watson, daughter of Dr Denness, and Dr Forrest-Hamilton President of the Horticultural Society



Some of the volunteers who helped create the Sensory Garden
Lindsay Robertson, Nicol Rennie, Joan Marsh, Joe Mullholland, Harry Marsh, Avril Clark, Bill Jack and Bill Gow

BELMOS / EDGCUMBE PEBBLES

Thomas Coughtrie, erstwhile resident of Fairfield Lodge in Bothwell, began producing mining switchgear in a shed at Bellshill in 1919. The firm, Belmos, became a private company in 1920. By the 1950's Mr Coughtrie was chairman of the Belmos Company Ltd with four factories in Scotland and one at Newcastle.

In 1950 the Caledonian Railway station in Bothwell closed and lay derelict until 1955 when a cement manufacturing firm started negotiations with a view to purchasing the land for a cement works. However protests by Bothwell residents against the cement works were successful and the proposal was withdrawn.

At that time the Belmos Company was looking for suitable ground to build a factory to replace their Newcastle works. The Company then opened negotiations with British Rail for the purchase of the old station ground and this was concluded in September 1956.

Mr Coughtrie took a special interest in the building of the new Belmos factory at Bothwell. He personally briefed the architects, Gavin Paterson and Son of Hamilton, on the need for preserving the amenity of the village and of producing a building to blend with the adjacent War Memorial, St Bride's Church and dwelling houses.

At that time all that had remained of the old station were offices and two high parallel walls. It was decided to retain and

repair the station walls and by reducing them in height to recover some of the old stone for decorating the frontage of the new building. Auchinlea stone was agreed upon for the main frontage and the architects designed a random rubble effect to lend height to the single-storey factory. To accentuate this feature further and to break the low line of the building a water tower, also built from the old stone of the station, was designed. Contractors for the works were Scott & Co (Builders) Ltd, Motherwell.

The new Belmos precision engineering plant opened for business early in 1958 and over the space of a weekend key workers and machinery were transferred from Newcastle to Bothwell. 80 workers were initially employed in the new factory.

By 1961 the Belmos Company was manufacturing switchgear and control equipment in their works at Bothwell, Blantyre, Bellshill and at Hendon, London. In that year they merged with Bruce Peebles, an electrical manufacturer in Edinburgh, to form a company with 1,100 employees. The factory at Bothwell then became part of the Bruce Peebles Group of Companies and traded as Everett Edgcumbe & Co Ltd producing electrical measuring instruments. By 1968 the factory was operated under the name of Edgcumbe Peebles. In December 1985 Edgcumbe Peebles Ltd went into voluntary liquidation and after 42 years the Bothwell factory closed in 2000.



Edgcumbe Peebles 1978

THE COVENANTERS' FIELD

On the 22nd June 1679 the Duke of Monmouth, sent by king Charles II to defeat the Presbyterian supporters within the Church of Scotland, formed up his 5000 strong Government army in this 'field' in preparation to engage the Covenanter forces defending the then bridge across the Clyde at Bothwell. Without the present large trees and housing they had an excellent panorama of the ensuing battleground. A geological survey of part of the field in 2006 revealed a firing line consistent with the likely position of the Government forces during the initial action. Shot and associated articles were found in the field as it was easily within the range of the 'fire' from the Covenanters' position at the bridge. After stout defence of the bridge, the lack of ammunition and an uncoordinated leadership resulted in the heavy defeat that followed.

The Battle of Bothwell Brig Commemoration Committee was set up



Covenanters' Memorial

about 1897 to organise and annual service of commemoration. The first few services were held on the south side of the river but later in the field now known as the Covenanters' Field. The Field lies on the left hand side of Hamilton Road halfway down the the hill leading towards Bothwell Bridge. In 1901 a number of gentlemen from Bothwell and

neighbourhood felt it their duty to raise a Monument at the Bridge to commemorate the battle as a '*struggle for liberty and valour*' of those who fought and fell. By public subscription the money was raised to create and erect '*The Bothwell Bridge*

National Memorial' which was unveiled by The Right Honourable Lord Overtoun of Overtoun on Saturday 20th June 1903. The press of the day estimated the crowd to be between 20,000 and 30,000 coming not only from Lanarkshire but as far afield as America. The monument is of Rubislaw and Creetown granite having a height of 40 feet from base to apex.

The 'conventicles' held in the Covenanters' Field took the form of an open air church service with, at times, many thousands attending. Armed sentries were posted round the boundary of the field facing outward to replicate the nature of the unlawful gatherings and commemorated the the struggle and sacrifice of the Covenanters. They continued in the Field until 1961 with a special conventicle being held in in 1979 to mark the Tercentenary Year of the battle.

Until 1942 the field was owned by neighbouring house owners, initially The Anchorage and then Hay Lodge. At that time the Commemoration Service Committee issued a public appeal that raised £475.9.3 and the Field was acquired with ownership invested in the Committee. In 1987, due to falling attendances and insufficient funds to maintain the ground and its surrounds, ownership of the Field was gifted to Hamilton District Council for safekeeping. The District Council paid the legal fees and donated £500 to Bothwell Parish Church to help pay for commemorative services for the next 10 years. Ownership of the Field now lies with South Lanarkshire Council.

In 2006 an application was made by Cala Homes to build up to 20 houses in the Field but this was later reduced to 17 houses. The application was rejected by a Reporter appointed by Cala Homes and the Scottish Covenanters' memorial Association who had jointly requested the Scottish Government's intervention because of 'lack of decision' by SLC Planning Department.

In 2013 a further application was made to build 15 houses in the Field. A vigorous campaign led by Bothwell Historical Society and Brighter Bothwell raised more than 300 letters of objection and along with a strong response from Historic Scotland, Cala Homes was forced to withdraw the plan in December 2014.

Historic Scotland has listed the Field in their inventory of Scottish battlefields and it is hoped that the 'Field and Monument' will continue to be a fitting monument to the Covenanters and the battle they fought at Bothwell Bridge.



Conventicle in the Field



Every day was the same down the mine, the only excitement one day, two things happened, one was about bad communications, the colliery manager had brought down a party of visitors late one day, about 7 at night but he hadn't told me, he hadn't told anyone, and when the horse went into the narrow roadway pulling a hutch of coal with me at the back of it, when the horse saw all the lights of the visitors coming towards us, it got a fright and stopped dead. Because the roadway was narrow, I couldn't get past the hutch or the horse, it was just too tight. So there I was standing behind the hutch shouting at the animal, throwing bits of coal at it and saying rude words to it, but eventually it moved forward and then I discovered that the visitors were the Salvation Army, oh boy, did I feel rotten. I felt like saying, why the hell didn't you tell me who the visitors would be?

Excerpt from an oral history given by George Maxwell

EDWARD MCGIRR



Edward McGirr was born in 1916 and graduated MB, ChB(Glas) in 1940. He served in the RAMC in the Far East from 1941 to 1947 and then joined the University Medical Unit in Glasgow Royal Infirmary. His research in the disorders of the thyroid gland led to the degree of MD with Honours and the Bellahouston Medal. He held the Muirhead Chair of Medicine from 1961 to 1974. His tenure was marked by the quality of its research which was acknowledged internationally. Professor McGirr's extensive contributions to the university and to medicine were recognised by many awards including CBE (1978), honorary DSc (1994), fellowship of the

Royal Society of Edinburgh, fellowships of various Royal Colleges and the post of Dean of Faculties at Glasgow (1992-94). He published many medical research papers and also an authoritative biography of Dr William Cullen. Dr Cullen (1710-1790) was born in Hamilton and became medical advisor to James, 5th Duke of Hamilton. He became Professor of Medicine at Glasgow in 1751 and Physician to King George III in 1773.

Professor McGirr lived with his wife Diane and four children in 'The Anchorage' in Orchard Avenue from 1950 until his death in 2003. Edward McGirr was a member of the Parish Church and chaired the committee which organised the restoration project of 1983.

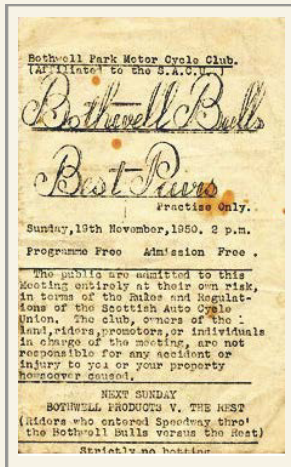


One of my earliest memories is of being lifted from my bed and running down to the air raid shelter during the war. Until I was eight I went to Uddingston Grammar primary department then I transferred to Bothwell Primary. We were given milk at school and in the winter we had to put the milk bottles beside the heating pipes to melt the ice on top. The headmaster was a formidable man. He didn't smile much. In those days the headteacher would belt pupils even wee girls. After Bothwell Primary I went to St John's in Hamilton and then finished my education at Hamilton Academy.

My mother worked in Gillies' dairy which is now the dry cleaning shop in Bothwell. The milk was delivered by horse and cart and came from Sweethope Farm which is now a private housing estate built by Bovis. There was part of a dairy farm at the top of Green Street in Bothwell and at the bottom of the street where there are now luxury homes there was a piggery. My mother would knit and sew and darn as during the war clothing was rationed. It was important to have these skills. Monday was wash day. Everything was hand washed. There were two sinks in the kitchen with a wash-board and a hand wringer. Eventually this was replaced by an electric wringer then a washing machine. Tuesday was ironing day. My favourite was Friday which was baking day. I loved butter and syrup with hot scones. Biscuits and cakes were all home made. My father was born in Bothwell in the railway cottages that at that time were on Fallside Road. He had an allotment and showed at the Bothwell Horticultural Show. Father kept ducks and he got swill to feed them from the convent giving them some of the eggs as a thank you..

Extract from an oral history interview given by Mary McWhinney

BOTHWELL SPEEDWAY



The sport of speedway riding started way back in the 1920s and went through boom times and bust times. The riders were, in the main, usually in their twenties and thirties and rode their motorbikes just for the joy of racing. The tracks they used

were sometimes in large stadia such as White City in Glasgow but some were located in more out of the way places. One local one was "*The Bothwell Speedway Track*". It was not actually in Bothwell but in an area between the main railway line to Edinburgh and one of the pit bings created by the Bothwellpark Colliery. The colliery had closed many years before but the bings remained until their materials were used for road construction.

material from the bings and some blaes brought in from elsewhere. The track did not however last very long for racing, the first race meeting being held around November of 1949 and the last one during February of 1951. The races did have quite a following and some of the riders went on to make a name for themselves at other venues.

The organisers had gone quite some way to have the racetrack equipped with safety barriers and a proper starting grid with tape gate and a spring loaded starting mechanism. There was even a "grandstand" although that consisted of an area of the bing levelled a little. Music was provided and drinks and food were available too. I doubt if royalties were paid for the music!

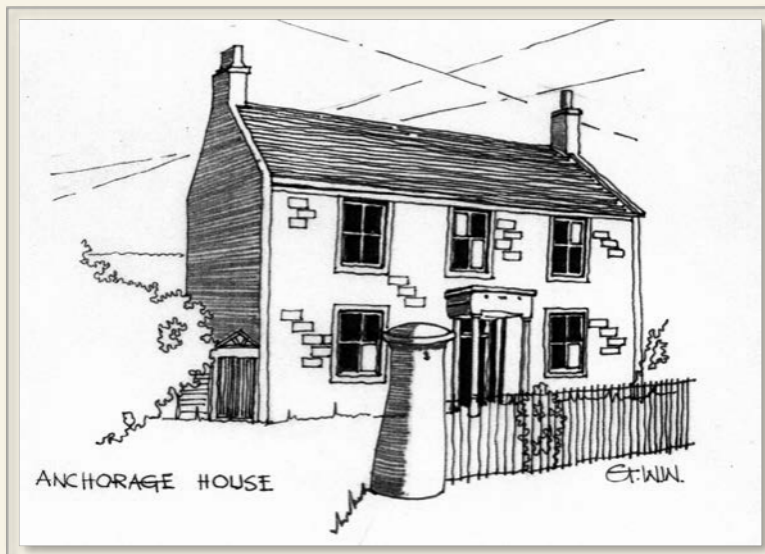
Some things common to all speedway tracks were: the noise of the bikes, the smell of the "dope" used in the fuel to give a huge boost to the octane rating of petrol and of course the mud and flying gravel as the bikes tried to keep upright at the bends.

There was another speedway track near Bothwell just over the river in Blantyre and that one survived into the 1980s. That track was built on the grounds where the miners' rows of Stonefield had been (Craighead Rows). Today that ground is used as a parking area for Parks of Hamilton's coaches.

The starting line



*THREE OF THE OLDEST HOUSES IN BOTHWELL
SKETCHED BY LOCAL ARCHITECT GEORGE WATERSTON*



FRANK BROWN



Frank was born and brought up in Bent Crescent in Viewpark. He first started work at the age of 10 years old as "the boy" on a hawker's van round and when he got to the age of 15 the van driver asked if he was interested in a proper job. He was offered a job as a butcher but really wanted to be a

policeman. Frank enquired at police headquarters in Pitt Street, Glasgow but since the police did not take on cadets in those days he took the job as a butcher - and has been one ever since. When Mr and Mrs Auld bought the butchers shop in Bothwell they offered Frank a job and there he still works. His first task was to go to various customers' homes to take orders, return to the shop, make the orders up and take them back by bicycle, to the customers.

In those days the working day could be quite long, not finishing until after 7:30 in the evening and on Saturdays, starting at 6 o'clock in the morning. Payday was Saturday, just to make sure you turned up for work that day! The contents of the butcher's orders were different in those days compared to today. The convent at the corner of Fife Crescent gave free breakfasts to all the unfortunates, consisting of a bowl of soup and a piece of bread and ordered all the meat requirements from this shop. There were many well-off customers for the shop including a Miss McCrae, who employed a chauffeur to drive her large expensive cars, Bishop Scanlon, The Beardmores, the Robertsons of Blantyre and Dixons the Hamilton photographers. Of course all the orders for those customers were

delivered to the back door tradesman's entrance. Most of those houses had maids who would invite him in for a cup of tea and a freshly made scone. The shop delivered meat to the whole of the village, from the big sandstone villas to the miner's rows in Castle Square.

Today customers have different types of orders from those old days. Nowadays many of the younger housewives don't have time to do a lot of preparation e.g. cooking, soups, stews, mince and so on and rely more on microwave ready meals.

There even used to be sides of beef and lamb hanging on hooks outside the shop. The window was full of beef, but you can't do that nowadays, it all has to be refrigerated and sawdust can no longer be used on the floor as it had been for years. The sawdust was collected from the sawmill for the coalmine that cut pit props for the miners. Since there was no refrigeration the miners collected meat and tripe last thing on Saturdays and left it cooking all night so when the men came home from a nightshift on Sunday mornings, they could have a hot meal. Nowadays some folks would not give a meal of tripe to their dogs!

Frank finds nowadays that a lot of the older customers of the shop like to stay a while to have a chat. Many of them live on their own and hardly meet anyone all day so they love a simple natter

A. DONALD BUTCHER

Some of the shops nearby were Keith's, a high class grocer whose business was run from their headquarters in Hamilton in a building next to the town hall; then there was Mr Brooks, a cobbler; Lightbody's the bakers; Semple and Armstrong the fresh fish shop, and of course Winnings' shops that seemed to take up a lot of the main street. The current shop had been a butcher's shop before Alex Donald took it over from W D Paterson. Another shop was Neil Dalrymple's dairy and then there was even a Maypole grocer's shop. The pubs then were, and still are, the Camphill Vaults, a man's pub, no females allowed in those days and the Douglas Arms although nowadays females are welcome.

BOTHWELL WEDDINGS



Wedding of Bill Miller and Jean Roy at Bothwell Parish Church on 11th October 1963

Anne Jardine, Thomas Miller, Margaret Miller, Bill Miller, Jean Roy, Robert Roy, Jean Roy and Craig Miller. The flowergirl was Jean Flemming.



Wedding of Hugh McWhinney & Mary Mitchell at Bothwell Parish Church on 7th Sept. 1961.

Fred Munro, Meg Mitchell, Jimmy McWhinney, Morag Munro (nee Mitchell), Hugh McWhinney, Mary Mitchell, John Marshall, Peggie McWhinney, William Mitchell, Jean and John Mitchell

COLOUR-SERGEANT WILLIAM GARDNER

Born in 1821 at Nemphlar, Lanarkshire, William Gardner became a gardener by profession but later joined the army. In 1858, aged 37, he was a colour-sergeant in the 42nd Royal Highland Regiment of Foot, later to become The Black Watch.

When news of the Indian Mutiny reached England in July 1857, the Prime Minister, Lord Palmerston, offered the then Lieutenant-General Sir Colin Campbell the position of Commander-in-Chief of India. Sir Colin, born in Glasgow in 1792, was famous for commanding the 'Thin Red Line' at the Battle of Balaclava. After reaching Calcutta he led a force of 4,500 men to relieve the besieged garrison at Lucknow on 16 November 1857. The

following year he led campaign to Bareilly in northern India to suppress an uprising there. It had been reported that a large force, chiefly consisting of Lucknow rebels, was collected there. On 5 May 1858 the British Army, including the 42nd Regiment of Foot, confronted the rebels at the Battle of Bareilly. About 10am the enemy made a bold attempt to turn the British left flank and the 42nd were ordered forward in support of the 4th Punjaub Rifles. Just as the 42nd reached their new line, they were met by the Punjabees in full flight, pursued by the enemy in great numbers. The charge had been made by 360 Rohilla Ghazis who were fanatical Muslim

warriors. Sir Colin saw them coming and called out, "Ghazis, Ghazis! Close up the ranks! Bayonet them as they come on."

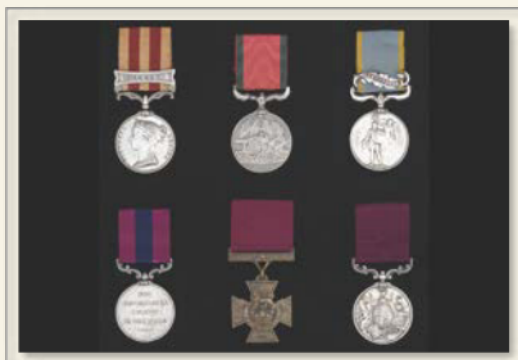
Some of the Ghazis broke through the ranks of the 42nd. Three of them seized Sir Colin in rear of the line, and dragged

him off his horse. Colour-Sergeant Gardner stepped from the ranks and bayoneted two of them. He was in the act of attacking the third, when the Ghazis was shot down by another soldier of the Regiment. The Colonel escaped with only a slight wound on his wrist. For this act of bravery William Gardner was awarded the Victoria Cross in India in February 1859.



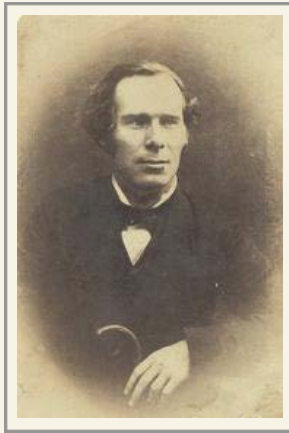
After a distinguished career in the army, he returned to his former profession and became a gardener at the Anchorage estate in Bothwell where he brought up his family. He became a conspicuous figure locally and when he died in 1897, the shops in Bothwell closed as mark of respect. William Gardner is buried in Bothwell Park Cemetery.

His medals including the Victoria Cross, the Distinguished Conduct Medal, the Crimea Medal, the Indian Mutiny Medal and the Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal were sold by his great grandson, Dr David Gardner in 2008 for £135,000 and the money given to charity in his great grandfather's name.



William Gardner's medal group displayed on rotation at The Lord Ashcroft Gallery: Extraordinary Heroes exhibition, Imperial War Museum

RAMBLES AROUND GLASGOW



H u g h MacDonald, author, poet and naturalist was born in 1817 in Bridgeton, Glasgow. He is best remembered for his “Rambles Round

Glasgow” first published in 1854. Those described walks taken by himself and his friends around Glasgow with copious observations of the countryside and the natural world.

The following are extracts from his book.

We cross the Clyde by an elegant suspension bridge, and proceed to Bothwell. Like most other ancient Scottish towns, it is somewhat irregular and scattered; but, unlike the majority of them, it is remarkable for a characteristic appearance of cleanliness and comfort. It is composed principally of plain one or two-storeyed edifices, built with a peculiar and somewhat highly-coloured red sandstone, which seems to be abundant in the neighbourhood.

Most of the houses have garden-plots attached to them, and the neatness and luxuriance of these attest the general taste and industry of the inhabitants. In the vicinity a considerable number of elegant villas and cottages have been built in tasteful situations. Many of these, we understand, are, during the summer months, occupied by the families of some of our most respectable citizens, and by invalids who find here the benefits to health which result from a genial atmosphere, and an exquisite series of walks amidst scenery of the loveliest description.

Near the west end of the village is the parish church, a handsome structure in the Gothic style, which was erected in 1833. At the east end of this building, and attached to it, is the ancient church of Bothwell—a fine specimen of the ecclesiastical architecture of other days. We



are sorry to observe that this time-worn edifice is at present in a shamefully neglected condition. The glass is out of the windows, permitting a free passage not only to the sparrows, which are flying thickly about the nave, but also to the winds and the rain, which have already wrought sad dilapidation on the mouldering walls. The heavy tiles are beginning to manifest a tendency to obey the law of gravitation by tumbling inward.

In glancing over the memorials of departed mortality in the Churchyard, our attention is directed to a headstone with the following curious inscription:

“Erected by Margaret Scott, in memory of her husband Robert Stobo, late smith and farrier, Goukthrapple, who died May, 1834, in the 70th year of his age:

My sledge and hammer lies declined,

My bellows' pipe have lost its wind;

My forge extinct, my fire's decayed,

And in the dust my vice is laid;

My coal is spent, my iron is gone,

My nails is drove, my work is done.”

ST. BRIDE'S BADMINTON CLUB



New Year 1950



1952

THE BOTHWELL VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

In the early 1960's the local authority planning department decided to re-align Bothwell Main Street and in the process demolishing many of the houses and shops. A group of Bothwell residents decided to get together to take action to prevent this desecration of the heart of the village. However construction of the M74 started thus relieving the traffic flow through Bothwell and negating the need for the road re-alignment.

The group then formed themselves into the 'Main Street Improvement Committee' and promoted conservation status for the village. In 1971 this group morphed into the Bothwell Village Association (BVA). Russell Thomson was appointed chairman, Councillor Terry Grieve secretary and Bill Rylie treasurer. In its first year the BVA gained approval from the Secretary of State for a Conservation Area for the village. That year they were also successful in having the site of the old public halls at the corner of the Main Street and Fallside Road properly landscaped.

In 1975 the BVA funded the repair of the Joanna Baillie monument and initiated a number of minor environmental schemes around the village. They also inaugurated the Bothwell in Bloom Committee and that year the Committee raised and donated well over £200 to the District Council to provide trees, roses and shrubs for planting in the village. As a result Bothwell was awarded a Highly Commended Certificate in the Britain in Bloom Competition.

The Queen's Silver Jubilee

The major event of 1977 in Bothwell was the Jubilee Gala Day. It combined the celebration of the Queen's 25th Jubilee with the Official Twining Ceremony between Bothwell and Jouy-en-Josas. In 1977 the BVA Jubilee Coordinating Committee was formed with Russell Thomson (convenor), Peter Farrell

(vice convenor), Elizabeth Lunny (secretary), Barbara Henderson (treasurer) and representatives of all the village organisations.

A wide ranging programme of events was organised including a youth disco in the Parochial Hall; Historic Bothwell Exhibition; 5-a-side football at Kirklands football field; Jubilee Orchestral Concert with Lanarkshire Youth Orchestra and Bothwell Primary School Choirs in Bothwell Parish Church.

The main event and Gala Day was on Saturday 14 May. There was a Civic Reception for the Jouy-en-Josas delegation at Hamilton Town House; a procession of floats, horses and children in fancy dress from Woodlands to Main Street; a performance by Strathclyde Pipe Band and Uddingston Grammar Choir; the Twining oath and formal signing of twinning charter with Jouy-en-Jous. In the evening there was a Scottish dance in the Scout Hall and a buffet supper for French guests in the Senior Citizens' Centre. The next day there were church services in Bothwell Parish Church and Bothwell St Bride's. The Official Twining Lunch was held in the Silvertrees Hotel. The Jubilee Sports and 5-a-side final were held at Wooddean Park and there was a Bowling Gala at the Bowling Green. The following week had a village dance in the Silvertrees Hotel and the Jubilee fortnight was rounded off with a fireworks display on Saturday 22 May.

1979 – 1988

1979 will always be remembered as the 'Year of the Thousand Roses'. The roses, purchased by the BVA, Bothwell in Bloom, the Horticultural Society and other friends, were planted by the District Council in areas selected by the BVA. The scheme won Bothwell a regional title in the Britain in Bloom competition. In the same year and after a five year campaign, the Roads Department

agreed to place a controlled crossing in the Main Street. By 1982 the BVA had 8 sub-committees, namely (1) Britain in Bloom (2) Social; organisers of a Burns Supper and Annual Dinner (3) Gala; organisers of the Gala Day with a fine array of floats and the annual art competition for primary pupils (4) Development Control (5) Historical; (6) Local Plan; (7) Improvements; and (8) Publicity.

For the BVA, 1983 was the year of the Local Plan. Much time and effort was expended by the members of the BVA Council in preparing and presenting submissions concerning the Plan. Objections were submitted regarding (1)

new housing developments resulting in increased population overloading infrastructure and threatening village life, (2) traffic and transport problems, (3) the lack of leisure and recreation

facilities and (4) the omission of certain environmental matters. The BVA did however support the Plan in relation to the protection of green belt areas, the village setting, the river banks, the prohibition of industrial expansion within the village centre and tree preservation. A public enquiry into the Local Plan was held in March 1983 at which the BVA was represented but unfortunately all the BVA objections were overruled by the Reporter.

The gardens at the electricity sub-station at Hamilton Road were re-designed and partly funded with money from the Bothwell in Bloom Committee. However, in that year, 1983, the Bothwell in Bloom Committee was disbanded.

With the formation of Bothwell Community Council in 1978, the BVA handed over its responsibilities for twinning, youth and sports to

the new body. By 1983 the Community Council were organising the Gala Day. Local planning matters were also handled by the Community Council and the raison d'être for the Village Association diminished.

At a committee meeting of the Horticultural Society in April 1984 the President, Dr Ken Chisholm, reported that a suggestion had been made to him that some form of amalgamation should take place between the Society and the BVA and he had been asked to place this matter before the committee. In November of that year Mr Ian Cowan, Chairman of the Village Association attended a committee meeting of



the Horticultural Society. In discussion it seemed that there was much in common between the two organisations. Mr Cowan stated that the Village Association had

considered, but rejected, any idea of formal amalgamation with the Horticultural Society. Nevertheless they wished to have close ties with the Society and would welcome exchanges of ideas and occasional joint ventures in appropriate events.

By July 1988, with shrinking support the BVA ceased to exist. After winding up the Association a cheque for the remaining funds, amounting to £149-54, was given to the Bothwell Horticultural Society.

The BVA is fondly remembered for its organisation of the nostalgic Gala Days although nowadays safety and traffic issues would probably preclude the gaily decked procession of floats.

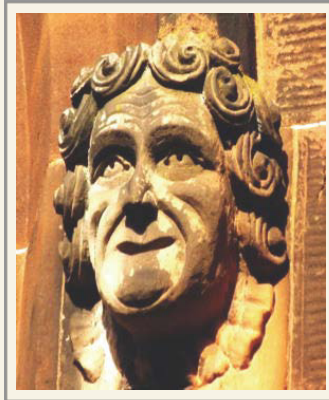
BOTHWELL'S WELLS AND WATER SUPPLY

Springs and wells were vitally important for drinking water throughout history and for sustaining settlements such as Bothwell.

Bothwell grew quite dramatically in size from a typical rural village with a population of roughly 470 in 1801 into a residential village of 1057 by 1861. The second half of the century saw a similar increase that was ultimately swollen by the arrival of the mining population in the 1880s and 90s. This put an even greater strain on the supply of water from wells.

In 1816 the Bothwell Wells and Water Committee was formed in order to prevent damage or pollution of the wells. It met for the first time in January 1817 and had a Clerk, a Treasurer and ten other members. It met once a year either in the Schoolhouse or in one of the members' houses. By 1821, the most widely used wells had been enclosed and made secure by locks - and a Water Bailiff, one Mr William Baird, had been appointed. Not all the wells were equally prolific. Some flowed all the year round but others tended to slow to a trickle in dry weather. It was decided that at certain times, access to some of the wells such as the Thorntree Well would be restricted to three hours daily - 7am-8am; 11am until noon; and 5pm till 6pm. Cattle were to be forbidden to drink directly from the wells - they were to be watered from the troughs. Attempts were made, with varying success, to collect subscriptions from householders for the upkeep of the wells.

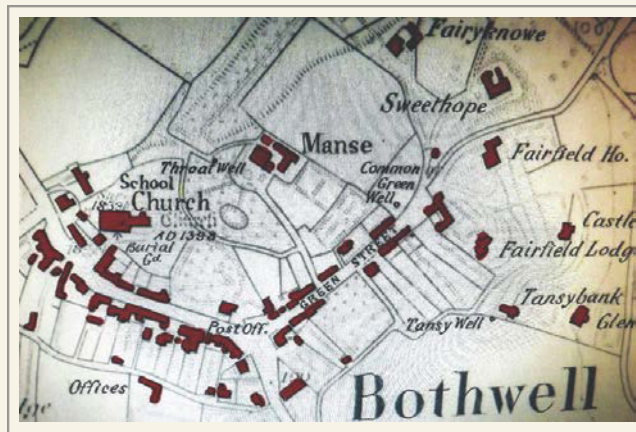
When the new Parish church was completed in 1833 the hood mouldings of the windows ended with sculpted, gargoyle-like heads of several 'worthies' of the time. One - on the right above the second window- is claimed to be a likeness



of Jenny Inglis who was a member of the Greens and Wells Committee. In 1823 Inglis was appointed keeper of the Thorntree Well and it would seem that her role in village life was recognised by inclusion of her portrait on the south wall of the church. It is a fitting tribute, maybe a trifle humorous, which also stresses the importance of clean water to the village.

The work of the Wells committee seems to have helped Bothwell to mostly avoid the serious outbreaks of cholera and typhoid which blighted many other places at various times throughout the 19th century. Indeed, by the middle of the century, Bothwell had become known as a healthy place for Glasgow citizens to come

to live, where invalids could recuperate from various bronchial illnesses and holiday-makers could enjoy good water



and a mild climate. From then on, as the village grew considerably, comments on Bothwell in newspapers and books consistently advertised its good water and healthy atmosphere.

The first Ordinance Survey map of Bothwell, published in 1862, shows a number of wells located near the centre of the village where most of the villagers lived and others in close proximity to the mansion houses, such as the Anchorage,

Fairfield and Sweethope. Probably there were even more, not included on the map, found usually in private gardens and in what became known as Silverwells.

The Rev John Pagan, in his book 'Antiquities of Bothwell', listed seven wells 'for common use': the Kiln Well, the Malt-Kiln Well, the Dyke Well, the Tansy Well, the Corsill Well, the Minister's Well and the Lady Well. The OS map of 1862 shows three of these wells; the Throat Well which is probably the same as that Pagan called the Minister's Well ; the Tansy Well and the Common Green Well.

Enabling legislation through the Public Health Act (Scotland) of 1867 encouraged Burghs and Parish councils to seek ways of raising funds to introduce reliable piped water supplies. For many places this was a difficult, slow and expensive process but Bothwell, as a relatively wealthy village, was able to take advantage of the measure.

In 1879 a Parliamentary order authorised the construction of two reservoirs at Dunside, 5 miles to the west of Lesmahagow. They were ready in 1881. Pipes were laid to carry Bothwell's water to a service reservoir in the Hillpark House garden, "about 70 yards from the mansion house, near to the main Bothwell/Hamilton road (i.e. close to the present-day Dunlop Crescent). Such an ambitious scheme was bound to experience delays. And some Bothwell residents were impatient.

A complaint about the 'scandalous delay' in completing the scheme was voiced by a Bothwell resident in the letters' column of the Hamilton Advertiser (16/10/1880) : he wrote: "*The hardship experienced during the long drought of this season strained the patience of many householders here who had neither water nor wine with which to bless themselves!*"

On 18 December 1880 the Hamilton Advertiser reported, "*The introduction of the gravitation water (in Bothwell) will be an accomplished fact within the next fortnight!*"

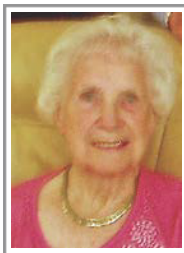
By then, Bothwell's population had risen to 1,520 and the piped water supply would make an enormous difference to the quality of life of all villagers.

Although the Wells Committee disbanded in 1881, some wells

continued to be used for another ten years or so.

The Thorntree Well, previously the responsibility of Jenny Inglis, was converted into a fountain erected by public subscription in 1889. It stood at the head of Green Street and can be seen in photographs of Bothwell. The last public one, the Kiln Well, was still in use as late as 1890.

Some private wells are still in existence but not used. And the name 'Silverwells' attached to the Crescent and also to a few houses, reminds us of the importance of Bothwell's spring water to the history of the village.



We used to live on Main Street at the corner of Green Street in a building known then as Fountain Place, later renamed number 6 Main Street. I remember looking out the windows and seeing tramcars passing, open topped then and if the weather was bad, the upper deck passengers would sit with their umbrellas up.

There used to be a fountain on Main Street near Green Street. It had metal drinking cups on chains for public use. Sometimes young lads would play with them making quite a lot of noise, much to the annoyance of the local residents. Complaints were made to the local Council resulting in the cups and chains being removed. The fountain itself was left leaving the upper bowls for the use of horses and the lower ones for dogs. In later years road traffic had increased so much that the old fountain became a traffic hazard and was removed completely.

Extract from an oral history interview given by Isobel Greenhalgh

HAPPY DAYS COMPANY 1938
RUSSELL MEMORIAL HALL



Back Row

Wallace Crowe, Margaret Miller, Robin Paul, ? Sharp, ? Sharp, Jean Fair, David Thomson

Front Row

Billy McIntosh, Sadie Lang, Willie Wright, Jenny Moore, Sam Robb, Betty Mumme (Watson), John Whitefield, Kathy Miller, Jim Mair, Agnes Robb, Bobby Moore (seated)



Chorus Line

Betty Mumme (Watson) Sadie Lang, Agnes Robb, Jean Fair,
Kathy Miller, Jenny Moore

Happy Days Company 1940



A Dinner Dance at Silvertrees Hotel 1968



Desmond Park, Sheila Bell, Ian Bell, Marilyn Park, Hugh McWhinney, Jean Chrichton, Mary McWhinney, Bill Chrichton

WOMEN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICE

In 1938 there was a proposal to set up an organization of women volunteers to cope with the problems which would arise in the expected war. Thus the Womens Voluntary Service was formed.

During the war years WVS played an important role in the evacuation of civilians from urban areas to places of safety, running canteens for troops, collecting clothing and being part of the air raid precautions. Up to 1968 WVS remained part of the Civil Defence and were on standby for national and local emergencies.

Queen Elizabeth became Patron in 1956 and granted a Royal Charter in 1966 so it became the WRVS. Its stated purpose was "to help people to maintain independence and dignity in their homes and communities, particularly in later life"

In 1953 Lady Reading came to Hamilton to address ladies of Lanarkshire and, following this meeting a group in Bothwell set up a branch of WVS. The first Organiser was Mrs Forrest-Hamilton. The ladies had to attend classes for Civil Defence Duties but their first local project was to set up a "Derby and Joan Club" for elderly residents. It was very popular. About 50 would attend each Tuesday in the Public Hall for tea and home baking provided by the ladies of WVS. There

were about 20 to 25 volunteers who took turns at the weekly meetings. Mrs Nancy Chisholm followed Mrs Hamilton as organizer and Mrs Beth Smith took over in 1963.

After the Halls were demolished in 1970 the Club had difficulty in finding accommodation and withered away. The Local Authority built a community hall in Fallside Road and it then became the venue for a new Senior Citizen Group which was run by its own committee.

Twice a year the Earl of Home opened the Castle Policies to the public. These were Snowdrop Sunday and Bluebell Sunday in aid of the Queen Alexandra Nursing Association. The WVS manned a field kitchen to serve tea and cakes.

The Bothwell WVS group was called out to set up a kitchen on the occasion of the Auchengeich mine disaster on 18th September 1959 and were there for almost three days.

During the "Cold War" the ladies attended classes to learn how to deal with the effects of an atomic bomb!!

Around 1962 Bothwell WVS joined the Meals-on-Wheels service which is still active although the number of clients has greatly diminished due to altered ways of providing social care.



WVS 1953 Derby and Joan Club in Bothwell Village Hall



WVS Presentation to Mrs Lizzie Ross on moving away from Bothwell. 1965

Back Row: ?, Mrs Mitchell, ?, Mrs Joyce Geesin, Mrs Margaret Yuill, Mrs Mary Jack, Mrs Nancy Chisholm, ?, ?, Mrs Anderston, ?, Mrs Betty Watson.

Front Row: ?, Mrs McGhie, Mrs Lizzie Ross, Mrs Beth Smith, Mrs Tina Eadie.

Do you know any of the missing names?



WVS 1953 Derby and Joan Club Christmas Party

Back Row: Mrs Forrest-Hamilton, Mrs Nancy Chisholm, Mrs Margaret Yuill and Mrs Rita Murray



WVS Medal Presentation

Back Row: Louie McGhee, Ena Cairnie, Joyce Geesin, Betty Watson, Isa Anderson, Margaret Stannard

Front Row: ?, Mary Jack, ?, ?,

Do you know any of the missing names?



Nancy Chisholm, Tina Eadie, Mr. McNeilage, Beth Smith

SUMMER FUN IN WOODDEAN PARK 1958

Children from Waverly Place at Wooddean Park.
The Beveridge's, Mair's, Watson's, Hunter's, Haddow's and Gormley's



FAMILY PICTURES



The Denton Family 1930 - taken across
from Castle Square

Back: Bill, Minnie, Jack
Front: Janie, George

The Denton Family 1946 - taken at
South Deanpark Avenue

L-R: Margaret, Eric, Rita



LIEUTENANT COLONEL CROFTON BURY VANDELEUR DSO

Lieutenant Colonel Crofton Bury Vandeleur spent his retirement years in Bothwell where his love of botany led him to be President of the Bothwell Horticultural Society.

The Vandeleurs were Dutch in origin and came to Britain in Elizabethan times and settled in County Clare Ireland. Crofton Bury Vandeleur was born on 28th March 1867 in India where his father was an Army Captain. Crofton spent some considerable time in Germany as a young boy, and learnt to speak the language fluently. The Cameronians had a recruitment centre in County Clare and it was there, following the family military tradition, that Crofton Bury, at the age of 19, signed up to join the Cameronians in 1886. After his training at Sandhurst, he joined the regiment in India, where he earned the reputation of being an excellent shot. The outbreak of the Boer War in 1899 gave the young soldier his first

taste of active service. After the Boer War, Crofton returned to London where he was married to Evelyn Hamilton in 1902.

Crofton Bury and his new wife immediately left for India where he rejoined his regiment. The family were then reposted to South Africa where Crofton developed an interest in botany. It was on a trip to the Transvaal that he discovered a new species of *Streptocarpus*, subsequently named after him 'Vandeleurii.' It is a beautiful unifoliate with an odd no-floral scent sometimes described as medicinal.

In 1911 Major Vandeleur left Cape town for Glasgow where the Cameronians were to relieve the Argyll and Southern Highlanders at Maryhill Barracks in

Glasgow. In August 1914 the battalion was recalled from exercises in the Highlands. War had been declared. Crofton Bury with the battalion entrained at midnight from Maryhill station and two days later the battalion was in France. There they took part in fighting at Mons and on the Marne and Crofton Bury was appointed Lieutenant Colonel.

Towards the end of 1914, Vandeleur was wounded and taken prisoner. Writing in

an official report some time later, he reported that *"he and his fellow prisoners were treated with the grossest inhumanity on their way to Germany"*. He was taken towards the German border and placed in a detention centre close to the Dutch border. With great ingenuity, he managed to escape after only six weeks, hiding by day and moving only at night, finally swimming across a canal under fire to make his way back to allied lines via Holland.

Vandeleur's ability to speak German would have been invaluable, and he was the first British officer to escape from the Germans during the First World War. Whether Crofton Bury's escape was wholly approved of by his fellow officers who remained in detention is not known. They had to suffer the withdrawal of their tobacco ration for a period of two weeks as a punishment for his escaping! On his return to Britain, Crofton Vandeleur was granted an audience with King George V to recount the story of his capture and ill-treatment whilst being held as prisoner.

Although he returned to active duty with the 2nd Battalion in France in 1915, Vandeleur's war did not last much longer,



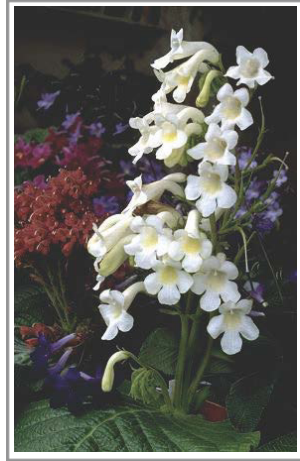
as he was wounded at the Battle of Festaubert near Aubers Ridge. He received serious wounds to his hip, which led to the arthritis which plagued him for the rest of his life.

Following a long spell in hospital, Vandeleur returned to command the Regimental Depot in Hamilton. For his gallant and distinguished service in France he was mentioned in Despatches and received the Distinguished Service Order in 1919. He retired from the army in 1922.

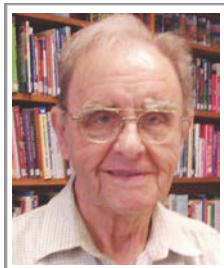
Crofton Bury Vandeleur lived at Inverclyde, Orchard Avenue, Bothwell. During his retirement he devoted

his time and energy to the welfare of the old comrades of his regiment, organising clubs, hospital homes and recreational

facilities as well as his involvement with other local community activities. The Cameronian Memorial which stands at the side of Glasgow Art Gallery owes much to Lt Col Vandeleur's fund raising ability. He was appointed President of the Bothwell Horticultural Society in 1937. He died in Canniesburn Hospital on September 26th 1947 aged 80. His funeral service was held in Glasgow Cathedral and he was buried at St Bride's Parish Church, Bothwell.



Streptocarpus vandeleurii



In the early 1960's the local authority of the time was the Sixth District Council and the planning department had decided to re-align the main street of Bothwell. The proposal was to straighten the main street by removing the bends at both ends, demolishing a lot of houses and shops. At this time, work had started on the M74 motorway. The motorway would bypass Bothwell relieving some of the traffic flow through the village. A group of Bothwell residents decided to get together to take action to prevent the proposed work to the village.

Through the local councillors they discovered that another village (Biggar) had been made a conservation village and both councillors were looking for other places that could be made either conservation villages or conservation areas. The local authority decided for some reason that Bothwell could not be made a conservation village but were willing to create a conservation area.

The village residents had another meeting where it was decided to form The Bothwell Village Association (BVA) to look after the interests of the village. This was in the days before Community Councils had been formed.

The group consisted of Russell Thomson, Jack Ralston, Bill Fotheringham, Bill Ryrie and others. Russell Thomson chaired the meetings with Bill Ryrie acting as treasurer. For many years the BVA did look after the village organizing gala days and other events. The group managed to achieve the status of Conservation Village for Bothwell

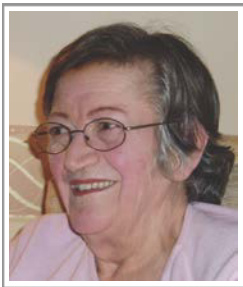
Extract from an oral history interview given by Bill Ryrie

REMEMBRANCE



Service of Remembrance at The War Memorial in the 1940s

On father coming home after WW2



My father came home in 1946, he had been fighting in Italy and had seen action in Monte Cassino. He had managed to send the occasional postcard home to me and my sisters and he also brought home some things for us such as little girls' shoulder bags that he had managed to get past customs. When he got home he was desperate to see his little girls, myself and Claire, whom he had not seen for three years but he had never seen his youngest daughter Monica. Real confusion started as Monica was so used to calling our grandfather Daddy because our mother addressed him as Daddy. So when Monica met our father for the first time she did not know who he was. She kept asking when this man would go home and didn't he have any little girls of his own. Father of course was heartbroken at this, Monica would be about nine years old before she eventually came round to accepting

that he was really her Daddy.

My other sister Claire was a bit of a tomboy and mother used to dress her in dungarees because it was difficult to keep her clean. Sometimes when people saw her they would remark "what a lovely little boy, what's his name?" and my mother would reply, Claire.

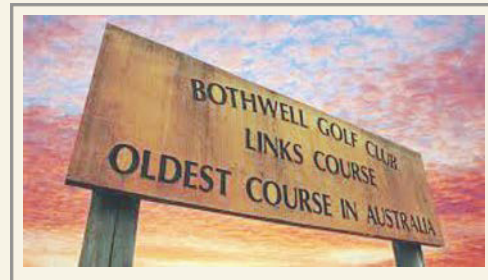
Extract from an oral history interview by Olive Spence

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS BOTHWELL?



Bothwell, Tasmania is a small town on the River Clyde with a population of about 400 located 74 km north of Hobart. It was named after Bothwell, Lanarkshire by Governor George Arthur. The town was laid out in 1824 with the two broad main streets being named Alexander (after Alexander Reid of Ratho) and Patrick (after Patrick Wood of Dennistoun).

The strong Scottish element in the early population is evident everywhere. The town's St Luke's Presbyterian Church, which was built between 1828-31, is the second oldest Presbyterian church in Australia. It is claimed that the first game of golf in Australia was played on Alexander Reid's property 'Ratho' in the 1820s - the course where this famous event took place is still in use and can be played by keen golf lovers.



Bothwell USA is a community in Box Elder County, Utah. It was founded as a farming community in 1894 and was originally named Rowville, after Mormon pioneer William H. Rowe. It was renamed Bothwell in 1918, to honour the builders of the Bothwell Canal, a project that aided farming in the area by bringing irrigation water from the Bear River.

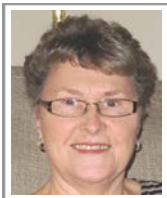
John R. Bothwell was president of the waterworks at that time.



Bothwell, Ontario, Canada is located 256 km SW of Toronto and only 132 km NE of Detroit USA. It was founded by the Honourable George Brown (born in Alloa) in 1855 who saw it as a good investment and bought four thousand acres of land. The Great Western Railway, which opened in 1854, ran through the middle of Brown's property and proved to be a good business opportunity. Brown had the land cleared and surveyed for the town he named Bothwell. He then sold the lots and established saw mills and a furniture factory. The first store in Bothwell was established in 1856 by Campbell and McNab.



In 1981 oil was discovered near Bothwell and the town expanded rapidly to a population of 3,500. However 7 years later the oil industry faltered and only in recent years has the town resumed its growth.



When we were kids we would play sometimes in the playfield across from Castle Square, it was only a small field, long and narrow and some people don't remember it was there. It had a maypole, not many playfields had one and it had swings and chutes. We also played skipping ropes, beds and other games in the middle of Fallside Road, in those days there was very little traffic. As we got older we were allowed to go to Wooddean Park, a big field where we would roll our Easter eggs. In the field today there is a large tree, where it stands used to be a sandpit for kids to play in. Next to the playfield was the miner's welfare hall where they held dances and social nights. In it there was a billiard room and two baths that the miners could use because the miner's rows did not have the luxury of a bath. Between the hall and the railway there was a tennis court with a pavilion. Next to the welfare hall are still some cottages that were the railway worker's homes and across the road from those is another cottage that was the mine manager's home.

Extract from an oral history interview given by Jean Miller