

NEWS

Letter 1

December 2004

Compiled by John Zawadzki

Heritage Support Worker appointed

ON THE 1st of June 2004 John Zawadzki commenced the part time post of Heritage Support Worker at **Coalburn's One Stop Shop**. John (46) has lived on the outskirts of the village, in the Waterside area, for the past 15 years.

John has long held an interest in local history, an interest which also led him to his association with Clydesdale horses, a hobby shared with his wife Shona Harrison.

For the past ten years John has published a quarterly journal on the breed and has done considerable research on the breed's origins and development in the district of South Lanarkshire.

'It's a real privilege to be working with the archive of the late Jim Hamilton,' says John, who is looking forward to promoting the work of Coalburn's eminent local historian and making the collection more accessible to interested parties.

John's main duties during the 12 month post are to plan, co-ordinate, develop and monitor the heritage activities of the centre.

An initial task is the setting up of systems to preserve, catalogue and store the archive.

Mainly photographic in nature, this unique collection is safely based at Coalburn's **One Stop Shop**.

Up and running.....



Back row, left to right, Anna McLachlan, Kathleen Purdie, Gilbert Dobbie, Billy Struthers and John Munro. Front row, left to right, John Young, Peter McLeish, Betty Bell and Jim MacLean. Photo: JZ

SIXTEEN PEOPLE attended a public meeting at the **One Stop Shop** on the evening of Monday 5th July 2004 and a new Coalburn heritage group—called **The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn**—was established.

A committee was formed with Peter McLeish as chairman, Betty Bell as secretary and Anna McLachlan, Kathleen Purdie, Jim Hamilton, Gilbert Dobbie, Billy Struthers and Jim MacLean as members.

The heritage support worker John Zawadzki was introduced to the meeting and he outlined the work he is carrying out.

The group agreed to hold monthly meetings at the **One Stop Shop** on the first **Wednesday** of each month at 7.30pm, commencing in September.



Coalburn Miners Welfare

One Stop Shop

The One Stop Shop concept is a national initiative launched in 2000 by the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation.

A successful Lottery bid enabled the organisation to employ development workers to promote the work.

There are around 50 schemes at various stages of development in the UK with 7 in Scotland. The ethos is to create a facility which will be self-supporting by ensuring long term funding and developing the skills of those who will manage it.

Background

In this way it will be responsive to change in the long term. Essentially its role is to create a welcoming place which will provide variety of community facilities under one roof.

The Coalburn project has been completed in three phases. **Phase One** was a £45,000 upgrade of the premises to ensure that they were competely accessible to people with disabilities, which included a disabled lift and toilets.

Phase Two was a £550,000 renovation of the premises to make it suitable for community use.

The final Phase was to access £142,000 of funding to staff the facility over the next 2/3 years.

What you see today is the result of years of hard work, providing a facility which the people of Coalburn can be proud of, a facility that will be a major part in the continuing regeneration of the area.

General Services

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- ◆ Advice & Guidance
- ◆ Training Facilities
- ◆ Conference Facilities
- ◆ Catering/Coffee Shop
- ◆ After School Care
- ◆ Internet Access
- ◆ IT Suite
- ◆ Training Delivery

Tel. Joe or Gillian

01555 820060

ONE STOP SHOP SERVICES WINTER 2004/05

AFTER SCHOOL CARE

Mon to Fri, 3.00pm - 6.00pm during term & holiday times
Contact Michelle Gallacher 01555 820608

CISCO SOCIAL WORKER

Every second Wednesday from 11.00am - 1.00pm
Contact One Stop Shop 01555 820060

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

Friday 11.00am - 1.00pm. By appointment.
Contact One Stop Shop 01555 820060

JOBS ACCESS SERVICE

Every Monday 10.30am - 12 noon. No appointment necessary. Contact Lorna Greaves 07785 550428

LOCAL COUNCILLOR SURGERY

Councillor Meikle will be available on the first Saturday of every month between 10am and 12 noon.

PUBLIC ACCESS COMPUTERS & PHOTOCOPYING MACHINE

Four computers, with internet access, plus full colour and black & white photocopying machine, available.
Monday to Friday, 9.00am - 5.00pm

Cruets Café

DECEMBER 2004

Mon, Tues & Thurs 10.30am—2.30pm
Plus CHRISTMAS DINNERS on:

Fri 5pm—9pm

Sat & Sun 12 noon—7pm

Contact Libby **01555 820060**

Coalburn Miners Welfare

One Stop Shop

42 Coalburn Road

COALBURN

ML11 0LH

**For further information contact
Centre Manager Joe Gahagan**

**Heritage Support Worker
John Zawadzki Tel. 01555 820060**

Darby & Joan Club

EVERY MONDAY, 12.15pm—2.15pm

New members welcome. Tel. Peter McLeish, 01555 820287

One Stop Shop Tel./Fax 01555 820060 Email: joe@coalburnmw.org.uk



The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn

September Meeting



At the first meeting of the Society held on Wednesday 1st September, Jim Hamilton of Braefoot, a cousin of the late Jim Hamilton after whom the heritage society is named, was elected vice chairman. Secretary Betty Bell was also appointed treasurer.

A sample constitution had been obtained and it was agreed that this be looked into to form the basis of a constitution for the Society.

It was also proposed that there be a membership fee of £10 per annum for adults and £2 for children.

Heritage Support Worker John Zawadzki was asked to design a logo for the new Society in time for the next meeting.

Pictured is vice-chairman Jim Hamilton. Photo JZ

The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn

October Meeting

At the meeting on Wednesday 6th October Lesmahagow Archivist Robert McLeish gave an informative talk on the time he has spent on the work, and pleasure he has had, in setting up the Lesmahagow Parish Historical Association.

His interest in local history started when he was introduced to a copy of the annals of Lesmahagow Parish.

A keen genealogist, Robert gifted to Coalburn copies of the parish census for 1901, the last date available to the public. Thanks go to Robert for a very interesting talk.

Robert McLeish, on left, is pictured handing over a copy of the parish census to brother Peter, chairman of The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn. Photo JZ



The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn

November Meeting

The meeting at the One Stop Shop on Wednesday 6th November was an open meeting at which members unanimously accepted the final draft of the proposed Constitution.



The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn
*All enquiries please contact: The Secretary
 Mrs Betty BELL Tel. 01555 820276*

A suggestion to continue interviewing local folk, in the tradition of Jim Hamilton, was approved. Gilbert Dobbie volunteered to be 'camera' man and Betty Bell and Billy Struthers volunteered to assist with the task.

Heritage Support Worker John Zawadzki, pictured left, confirmed that the group's first newsletter will be available at the next meeting.

Following Society business, members spent some time identifying photos from the archive and putting names to faces.



Coalburn Miners Welfare Institute

A brief history by Peter McLEISH, Chairman, Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn

COALBURN Miners Welfare INSTITUTE was opened in 1925 at a cost of £6000. This sum only paid for the building alone. The money came from the Lanarkshire Welfare Fund, set up by a levy of one penny per ton of coal extracted locally going towards the 'social betterment of mining districts'.

This came about thanks to the Sankey commission. Ayrshire miners decided to pool their finances and purchased a mansion house and estate in the county to benefit their colleagues while the Lanarkshire miners preferred to build local institutes, of which Coalburn was the 68th. It had been thought of much earlier, in 1913, but the Great War put an end to that.

There was a delay in its opening due to lack of funds for chairs and equipment. Thanks to a strong case being submitted by the local committee a further grant of £1500 was awarded to complete the work.

The opening was performed by Mr William B. Small, the General Secretary of the Lanarkshire Mineworkers Union, in front of a large and very representative gathering including Mr Stephen Mitchell MP, Mr Gavin Hamilton, Convenor of the County, and numerous other local dignitaries.



Coalburn Miners Welfare Institute opened on 3rd July 1925

Over the years the facilities have been well used. In addition to a billiard room there was a reading room, lending library and space for carpet bowling as well the prominent upstairs hall which could accommodate up to 600 folk.

This factor was put to the test over the years when concerts were performed by local as well as visiting artists. Film shows were a regular and popular feature, while dancing and badminton were provided by demand on a weekly basis.

The advent of television saw a drop in the number of people who were using the building and in 1959 it was decided to incorporate a social club in the downstairs area. A grant was received to carry out the necessary alterations.

Since its inception the building has been home to a number of groups, many of them still to the fore. Within this small but busy community there are up to 30 different organisations vying for support and getting it. For example, we can boast of two bands, the Pipe Band and the Silver Band, each over 100 years old.

Organisations which currently use the facilities on a regular basis include the Box and Fiddle Club, Darby and Joan Club, Coalburn Entertainers, Country and Western Club, the WRI and several local Committees, e.g. Old Folks and Gala Day, both of which are greatly dependant on support from the proprietors of the building. An active charitable society, the Miners Welfare giving generously to groups outwith as well as within the village.

COALBURN MINERS WELFARE INSTITUTE

A quote by the late Jim Hamilton.....

In the year 2000 (75 years after opening), a grant from the Coal Regeneration Fund provide money for the installation of a lift. No more is it necessary to carry the elderly and handicapped up the stairs. Even the world famous comedian, SIR HARRY LAUDER, by then an old man, had this humiliation when he appeared at a war charity concert in the upstairs hall in 1942 !



Report & Photograph from **HAMILTON ADVERTISER**

One Stop Shop in running for award

The Coalburn One Stop Shop was one of just five Scottish community projects specially selected to exhibit at a recent prestigious business event at the Signet Library in Edinburgh.

Secretary of State for Scotland, the Rt Hon Alistair Darling MP, and the Scottish Executive's Minister for Communities, Margaret Curran MSP, attended the event which was hosted by the Coalfields Regeneration Trust (CRT).

The purpose of the event was to encourage Scotland's business community to become involved in community projects in coalfield regions through their Corporate Responsibility policy by emphasising how both companies and the projects can benefit.

Coalburn One Stop Shop was selected to exhibit as they are seen by the regeneration trust to be an excellent example of a community project that already works closely with local commerce.



ONE STOP SHOW: Mr Darling and Ms Curran are pictured with Clive Mather of Shell, CRT Chief Executive, Janet Bibby and Trustee Nicky Wilson as they meet Gillian Farrell and Joe Gahagan from Coalburn One Stop Shop.

The one Stop Shop project is part of a national initiative launched in 2000 by the Coal Industry Social Welfare Organisation. Through the CRT, Coalburn Miners Welfare has acquired the funding for the renovation and extension of the Miners Welfare building and create the new One Stop Shop.

The role of the One Stop Shop is to provide a variety of community facilities under one roof.

Coalburn One Stop Shop manager Joe Gahagan said: "We are delighted to have had this opportunity to promote Coalburn One Stop Shop at this level," adding:

"As a social economy organisation we are keen to explore possible partnerships with the businesses represented at this event.

We are confident that working together we can make a significant contribution to the regeneration of Coalburn and across the Scottish Coalfield area."

Report from **LANARK GAZETTE**

Ministerial visit

Depute Rural Development Minister Allan Wilson visited Coalburn One Stop Shop on Wednesday 25 August when he launched the Scottish Rural Partnership Fund for 2005/06 of £1.5 million.

He was introduced to members of the One Stop Shop steering group by centre manager Joe Gahagan.

Along with MSP Karen Gillon and local councillor

Danny Meikle he was taken on a tour of the building where he met Coalburn Ceilidh Band, members of the Darby and Joan Club, Happy Valleys, the Heritage group, After School Care and local correspondent Jim McLean who was in the IT / computer suite, busy compiling next week's Coalburn news for the Lanark Gazette.

Also present was Yvonne Howley from Leader+, one of the funders of the project.

They then retired to the café for tea and coffee provided by Libby and her helpers from Cruets.



Left to right, Councillor Danny Meikle, MSP Karen Gillon, Depute Rural Development Minister Allan Wilson, Coalburn One Stop Shop centre manager Joe Gahagan and Miners Welfare president George Greenshields.

Photo JZ



June 2004



ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG AT BIRKHILL

An archaeological dig with Lanark's Ed Archer and his team took place at the Talamh Centre, Birkhill House, Coalburn, on Saturday 26 June, 10am - 5pm. Photo JZ

July 2004

Coalburn soldier in gruelling Dutch marching test

A Coalburn soldier was among about 1200 British soldiers, airmen and cadets who had been putting their best foot forward over 100 miles in four days.

Lance Corporal Billy Muir (28) was taking part in the Nijmegen Marches, initiated in 1909 to improve the fitness of the Dutch Army.

This year the marches notched up their 88th gruelling challenge with the 44,000 entrants from 19 countries facing the problem of steady rain rather than the baking summers of recent years.

"This is my second march; we're used to this sort of thing," said Billy. "We've got a terrific set of guys, and we even held qualifiers of two 25-mile marches," explained Billy, who currently serves with 12 Transport Squadron at Rheindahlen, Germany.

Over 5,000 military marchers, who carry 20lb packs, stepped it out with a wide variety of civilians, covering about 30 miles a day around the town of Nijmegen from July 20-23.

LANARK GAZETTE

26 JUNE 2004

Former Coalburn councillor dies



The people of the Coalburn area were saddened this week to hear of the death of their former long-serving councillor, Samuel 'Sam' Allan.

Sam was born and bred in the village. A lifelong Labour Party man, he originally represented the village on the old 2nd District Council before reorganisation took him into the then Lanark District Council, later renamed Clydesdale District Council.

Sam worked hard to establish and consolidate Hollandbush Golf Club as a public facility and also negotiated hard to get the people of Coalburn the best deal out of the creation of the giant Dalquhany open-cast quarry on the fringes of the village.

He was an old-time constituency councillor and was a familiar visitor to just about every club and organisation in his area. He retired over a decade ago due to failing health.

A friend and colleague of many years, former Deputy Provost Esther Serrels, commented: "Sam might have been a small man in stature but he was a big man when it came to standing up for his community"

PUBLIC EXHIBITION

Scottish Coal staged a pre-planning application exhibition at Coalburn Miners Welfare on Tuesday 17 August, 2pm to 8.30pm. On display were plans of Scottish Coal's proposed developments at Poniel, Broken Cross and Spirlack.

BEREAVEMENTS

June

Mrs Nettie CALLAN
Colin HAMILTON
Adam BROWN
Sam ALLAN

July

Jimmy McLEISH

August

Tom CAIRNS

October

David AITKEN

COALBURN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Summer Assembly 2004

Lanark Gazette 15 JULY 2004

Coalburn Primary School held the 2004 summer assembly in the Coalburn Miners Welfare on Thursday 24 June.

Guests included Rev Aileen Robson, Councillor Danny Meikle, Mr Ken Arthur, Head of Specialist Services, Education Resources, Mrs Betty Bell, Mrs Marie Jennings, Home School Partnership Worker, Mr and Mrs Billy Kirkpatrick, Mr and Mrs W Paterson, Mrs T Turley, Chair of the School Board and Mrs S Strang, President of the PTA.

All of the guests were invited to present awards, as were Mrs M Brattey and Mrs A Mackay.

The large turnout of parents, grandparents and friends were entertained by the whole school and the choir.

P7 pupils spoke of their memories as they left to transfer to Lesmahagow High School and Strathaven Academy.

Representatives of each class also gave reports on the special events that had happened throughout the year.

The assembly closed as Mr Scott thanked all children, staff and parents for their support throughout the year.

The school chaplain, Rev Aileen Robson, pronounced the Benediction.

PRIZE WINNERS

Musical Merit Award

Jade Baxter, Paula Green

Perfect Attendance Awards

P1 Courtney Meikle

P2 Liam Bernard

P3 Amy Burnside, Julie Douglas, Yvonne Ridler, Sarah Lyon

P5 Rory Hillan

P6 Emma Miller, Allana Muir

P7 Steven Campbell

A Special Award was made to Steven Campbell who has had perfect attendance for the past five years.

Paterson Writing Award

P1 Jacqueline Hay

P2 Ross Mitchell

P3 Robert Hay

P4 Mathew Forbes

P5 Heather Ross

P6 Mark Walls

P7 Gale McCann

Handwriting Awards

P1 Kristi Aikman

P2 Andrew Sim

P3 Robert Crossan

P4 Tamsin Stewart

P5 Daryl Meikle

P6 Nicole Shearer

P7 Sheryl Graham

Betty Bell Awards for Endeavour

P1 Jamie Ridler

P2 Billy Stewart

P3 Yvonne Ridler

P4 Zoe Paterson

P5 Holly Strang

P6 Dee Dick

Merit Awards

P1 Cameron Miller

P2 Ross Cook

P3 Heather Mitchell & Claire Newlands

P4/5 Daryl Meikle

P6 David Buchanan

P7 Darryl Burnside

SPORTS AWARDS

Netball Team

Kelly Blackwood, Hazel Harvie, Jade Baxter, Melissa Aitchison, Zoe Kane, Nicole Lyon, Heather Ross, Holly Strang and Robyn Docherty

Netballers of the Year

Kelly Blackwood, Hazel Harvie

Miners Welfare Cup Winners

Jade Baxter, Alison Menzies, Robyn Docherty, Nicole Lyon, Christina Gilmour

Football Team

Danielle Hurst, Christopher Hurst, Jamie Thomson, Scott Little, James Stewart, Alexander McMahon, Steven Campbell, Daryl Meikle, Darryl Burnside, Oliver Findlay, Conor Mochrie and Jamie Turner

Footballer of the Year

Alexander McMahon

Whitefield Cup

James Stewart, Daryl Meikle, Nicky Williams and Christopher Stewart.

Sports Winning House

Bankend

Sports Champions:

Gold

Alexander McMahon and Sheryl Graham

Silver

Daryl Burnside and Allana Muir

Bronze

Oliver Findlay and Lauren Stewart.

Overall Winning House

Auchlochan

Kevan Cairns Award for Citizenship

Catherine Whyte

Head Teacher's Award

Conor Mochrie

Andrew Fergus Award for Character

Alexander McMahon

All Primary 1 and Primary 7 pupils received a book.

Choir Awards

All members of the choir received a certificate but Hazel Harvie and Kelly Blackwood received special awards as they transferred to High School.

HAMILTON ADVERTISER Thursday 22nd APRIL 2004

Tribute paid to mining historian JAMES HAMILTON

A MAN who chronicled the lives of Lanarkshire's miners died earlier this month at the age of 82.

James Hamilton lived in Oak Lea, Hamilton, but was born in Coalburn into a family of miners. His father, grandfather and uncle worked down the pits.

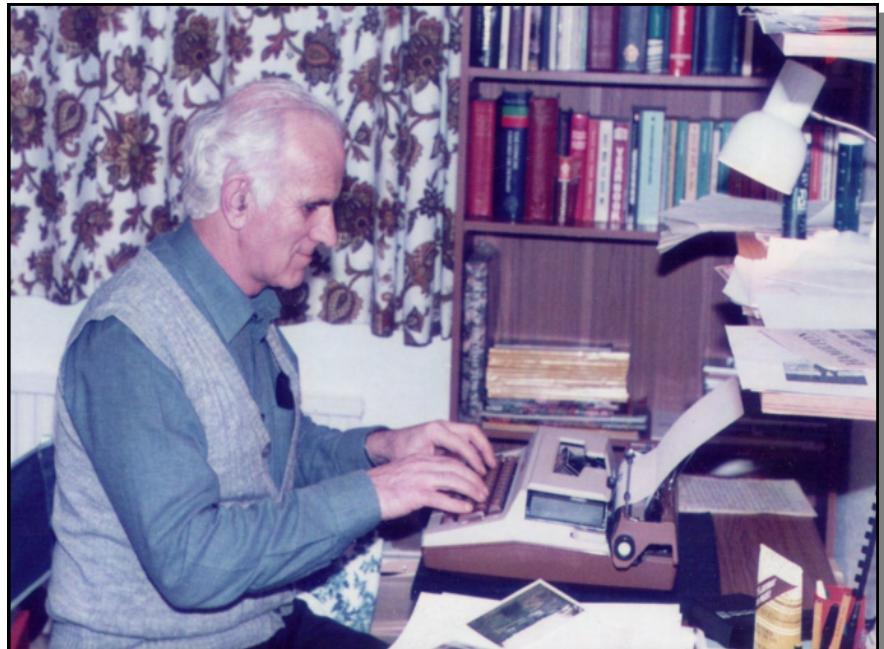
Although he didn't follow them into the job, he spent 30 years meticulously gathering material and anecdotes on Lanarkshire's mining heritage and wrote no fewer than 130 books and pamphlets on local history matters. He became proficient at shorthand and computer skills to help his historical research.

And two years ago, he received one of six awards presented each year by the British Association of Local History to people deemed to have made a major contribution to local history.

Last year, the retired social worker produced a book on the hardships experienced by miners and their families in Coalburn, Douglas, Douglas West, Glespin, Rigside, Douglas Water, Blackwood, and Kirkmuirhill.

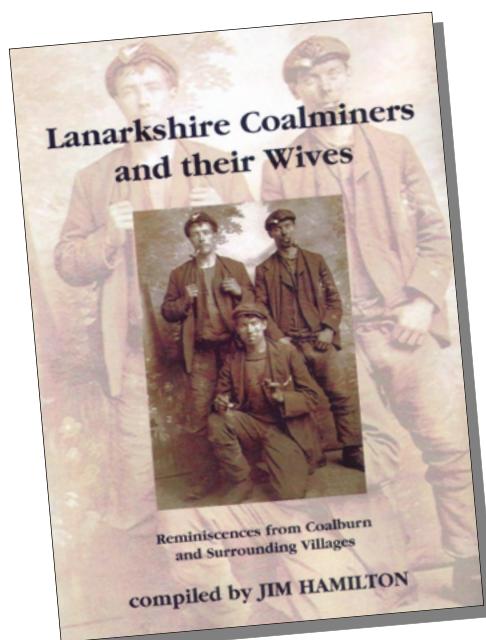
Mr Hamilton was a former chairman of Lanarkshire Cancer Care Trust, the body who raised money for the County's Macmillan Nurses, and worked for 46 years with Lanark County Council and Strathclyde Region.

He held senior posts in child care and social work and when he retired was head of social work in the Motherwell area.



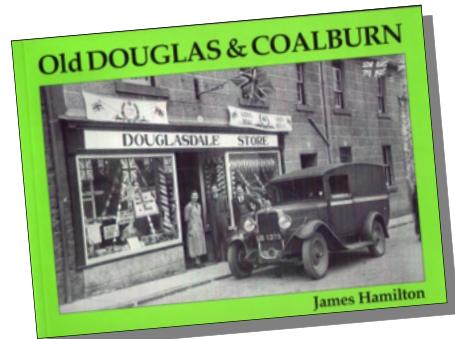
Mr Hamilton met his wife Maureen, the daughter of the station master in Coalburn, in 1948.

The couple had three grown-up children—Linda, Millar and Graham—and grandchildren



He was taken ill earlier this month and died in Hairmyres Hospital from heart failure on April 9. His funeral took place on Friday at 1.45pm at Daldowie Crematorium.

Maureen Hamilton, who survives him, said: "He was always interested in how the miners lived and worked and his last book was essentially about the miners' wives who were, in many ways, the backbone of the community. It proved to be very popular."





LANARK GAZETTE Thursday 15th APRIL 2004

Obituary: JAMES HAMILTON

LOCAL historian Jim Hamilton, well known for his chronicles of the Coalburn area, his work with Lesmahagow Parish Historical Association and his recent book on Lanarkshire coalminers, died on Friday after a brief illness. He was 82.

Jim gained national respect for his work, receiving a parchment award from the British Association for Local History in 2002, but more importantly he collected memories and photographs to preserve the very human history of his area for the pleasure of the local community and future generations. Families sought out his work and carefully preserved it as the record of their own background.

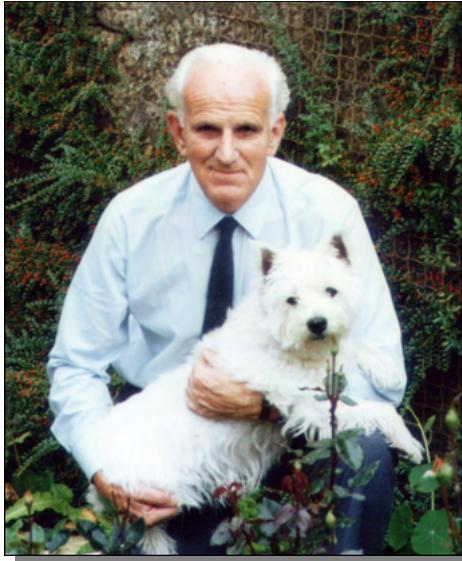
Jim Hamilton was born in 1922 and made his career in social work with the local authority, being responsible for social work in Motherwell when he retired from Strathclyde Regional Council. But all his life he had been interested in local history, and retirement gave him the time to pursue that with even more dedication.

Jim's father and both grandfathers had been coalminers and Jim's interest in family genealogy and the history of his own village, Coalburn, led firstly to a series of 200 hundred articles in a local newspaper.

He then started producing publications preserving the memories of local families and the history of organisations, backed by thorough research at New Register House in Edinburgh.

This led to publications including 80 booklets on the Coalburn Chronicles, and booklets covering Lesmahagow, Blackwood, Douglas, Rigside, Glespin and Braidwood.

Jim was also deeply into photographs, building up a large collection of old photographs, which he was happy to make available to a much wider audience, among other ways supplying them to newspapers.



Other photographs old and new were assembled into videos in a "Then and Now" series covering various villages in Clydesdale and the surrounding area, which proved overwhelmingly popular with those returning to trace their family roots.

He took his own photographs too, and built up a record first on cine film and then on video of local events such as school festivals and concerts, creating archives for the future.

Last month Jim attended the opening of the One Stop Shop in Coalburn. A heritage room is to be created there, and Jim was looking forward to having much of his material placed there where the local community could have access to it.

Jim was busy up until his death. Last year he produced an acclaimed volume of photographs and reminiscences of those involving in the mining life in Coalburn and the surrounding villages. It was called "Lanarkshire Coalminers and their Wives" as Jim had a lot of respect for the women who struggled to keep their families going on the pittance paid as wages in those days.

And with Archie Cameron of Coalburn he had embarked on his latest project interviewing on film local men who had been in the Vietnam and Korean wars, to preserve their memories for posterity.

Jim had many other interests, and for 10 years chaired the Lanarkshire Cancer Care Trust, but it will be for his compilations of local history that he will be remembered for generations to come.

"This was always part of his life," said his cousin Helen Walker this week. "He just dedicated himself to it, and it has given so much pleasure to individual families who have received records of their families."

Jim, who lived in Hamilton, leaves his wife Maureen, sons, Millar and Graham, and daughter Linda, as well as 3 grandchildren.

*Photos: Jim Hamilton Archive
Coalburn Miners' Welfare*

IN HIS OWN WORDS..... Extract from Jim Hamilton's forward in Issue 40 of the COALBURN CHRONICLES:

My aim is to make the books readable to all; my hope is that they will still be read in the years ahead. One elderly lady, whose family history I recorded in a booklet, bought 20 copies—one for each of her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, secure in the knowledge that her offspring will want to know specific aspects of their family history and its link with Coalburn in the generations ahead..... As I prepare Issue 40, it has been suggested to me that Coalburn now has possibly the best-documented set of family histories for any village in Britain. What I am certain is that the source of stories about the village and its inhabitants seems boundless.



Report from [LANARK GAZETTE](#) Thursday 9th SEPTEMBER 2004

Coalburn Flower Show

COALBURN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY held its annual show in the primary school on **Saturday 28 August**.

Mr Jim Hamilton, president, gave a small speech before introducing his guests. In his speech he spoke of past members who had passed away this year: Mr John Weir, honorary vice-president, who was society treasurer for many years, Mr Jim Hamilton of Hamilton, ex honorary president, a keen friend of the society, and Mr George Scanlon of Douglas who had judged at the shows for many years.

He then introduced his guests Mr and Mrs A Brown of Auchlochan. Mr Brown spoke of the variety of flowers, plants, industrial and the many children's entries in the show. He also spoke of the time he arrived at Auchlochan of how the gardens had been reintroduced and were now a joy to walk through.

He spoke of the villages around Auchlochan and hoped and hoped that the show would continue as that helped keep a village together.

He then declared the show open, Kirsty Mathieson presenting Mrs Brown with a token of thanks.

The committee thank all members of the public and sponsors for their valued support. Mr Hamilton then read out the prize-winners and Mr and Mrs Brown handed out the trophies.

Prize-winners 2004:

- **William Weir Trophy**, Cut Flowers **Mrs M McNeil**
- **McIntyre Rosebowl**, Chrysanthemum **Mr A McLean**
- **Bill Gibb Trophy**, Begonia **Mr J Hamilton**
- **Pearson Trophy**, Pot Plant **Mr J McNeil**
- **James Weir Trophy**, Classes 37-43 **Mr J McNeil**
- **Professor Kirkwood Trophy**, Vegetable Classes **Mr A McLean**
- **James Hamilton Trophy**, Potato Classes **Mr A McLean**
- **Andrew Scott Trophy**, Decorative Classes **Mrs M McNeil**
- **John Arthur Trophy**, Front Garden In Village **Mr H Clark**
- **William Gibb Annuals Trophy**, Best Exhibit **Mrs M McNeil**
- **Society Shield**, Best Exhibit In Industrial **Mrs J Gemmell**
- **McLean Trophy**, Most Points Baking **Mrs M Johnstone**
- **Society Trophy**, Best Baking **Mrs J Gemmell**
- **Gavin Arneil Trophy**, Best Children's Classes **Nicole Struthers**
- **Murphy Challenge Cup**, Miniature Basket **Kirsty Mathieson**
- **Society Trophy**, Junior Baking **Kirsty Mathieson**
- **Society Trophy**, School Classes **P3**
- **Cub Scout Trophy**, Tallest Sunflower **Nicole Struthers**
- **Society Trophy**, Two Plant Pots **Mr J McNeil**
- **Society Trophy**, Three Leeks **Mr A McLean**

Report & Photograph from [LANARK GAZETTE](#) Thursday 2004

Coalburn Bowling Club



The Bowling Club's annual dinner dance and presentation of prizes took place at the Miners Welfare Hall on Friday 5th November.

Ladies champion Isobel Logan won four out of five ladies competitions this year.

Gents champion was Brian Scott and junior champion was Richard Cairns.

COALBURN BOWLING CLUB on Wednesday 29 September presented cheques to three local organisations. This was the money raised at its charity day. The Darby and Joan Club and Coalburn Welfare of Old Folks received £200 each with £138 going to Coalburn Rural. The cheques were handed over on the green by president Roddy Campbell. Pictured with their cheques are, front, from left, May McNeil from Old Folks Committee, Peter McLeish from the Darby and Joan Club and Moira Mitchell from the Rural. Looking on are Jim MacLean, vice president, Roddy Campbell, president, Will Stewart, treasurer and Wull Mitchell, secretary.



Report From [LANARK GAZETTE](#) Thursday 8th JULY 2004

Coalburn Gala Day 2004



THERE WERE COLOURFUL SCENES at Coalburn Gala Day on Saturday 3rd July when Queen Hazel Harvie was crowned by 2003 Queen Stacie

GOD was good to his own son on Coalburn Gala Day when the heavy rain of the morning cleared at around 7.30am.

All the decorations came out and once again the people of Coalburn put on a marvellous show of colour for the gala.

The parade was also a sea of colour led by the Silver Band with the Pipe Band escorting the decorated floats.

The retinue accompanied the Queen Hazel Harvie on to the stage where retiring Queen Stacey Stewart crowned her Queen for 2004.

Lord in waiting Darryl Burnside then read out the proclamation.

After photos the retinue retired to the Welfare Club for lunch.



The Gala Day committee would like to thank all this year's sponsors, the judges, car drivers, caterers and the people of Coalburn for their marvellous effort in contributing to make it a great success.



PRIZE WINNERS 2004

Houses In Retinue

- 1 Mr & Mrs Harvie 2 Mr & Mrs Graham
- 3 Mrs & Mrs Thomson 4 Mr & Mrs McMahon

Other Houses

- 1 Mr & Mrs Kirkpatrick 2 Mr & Mrs Callan
- 3 Mr & Mrs Mattinson 4 Mrs Buchanan

Lorries

- 1 Alan Laird 2 Toddlers 3 Mrs Henderson

Decorated Wheels

- 1 Spider Man 2 Lone Ranger 3 Large Pony

Fancy Dress—Funniest

- 1 Jerry Springer 2 Bugs Life
- 3 Religious Figure

Fancy Dress—Prettiest

- 1 Turkish Delight 2 Doll In Box
- 3 Swan Lake

Fancy Dress—Most Original

- 1 Harry Potter 2 Indian 3 Disco Divas

Fancy Dress—Overall Winner

Henry VIII

Photos Peter McLeish



September 2004



Pictured left, three heritage group members, left to right, Betty Bell, Billy Struthers and Gilbert Dobbie, on duty throughout the day at the One Stop Shop's Open Day.

OPEN DAY

Coalburn One stop Shop held an Open Day on Saturday 11 September in the Miners Welfare building.

There were representatives from 18 organisations present who provided information on their services. Many had activities available and these were well used and appreciated by the public.

Groups with displays included Coalburn Mother and Toddler Group (bouncy castle and face painting), Artabiity Projects, East Kibride (arts and craft based activities), Talamh

Centre, Healthy Valleys, Coalburn Leisure Centre, Jim Hamilton Heritage Society, Catch IT Bus, Clydesdale Rural Transport Trust, Integrated Children's Service, Citizen's Advice Bureau, ALVO, CISWO, Cruets Café, CASC, Darby & Joan Club.

The main objective of the day was to publicise the centre and to give local organisations an opportunity to promote their services direct to the public in a relaxed and enjoyable way.

It was a major success in that everyone who attended had a wonderful time and took full advantage of the day.

October 2004

GOLDEN WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Jim and May Gemmell, pictured right, celebrated 50 years of marriage on Saturday 23 October. Jim was born and raised at North Bankend Farm, Coalburn but now lives at Auldhause, East Kilbride.



Photos
John Zawadzki

November 2004

HOLLANDBUSH GOLF CLUB CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

A three part article looking back at the history of Hollandbush Golf Club was featured in the LANARK GAZETTE on Thursdays 18th and 25th NOVEMBER and 2nd December.

It was written by the Gazette's sport reporter Craig Goldthorp who was assisted in his research by Coalburn's Jim Hamilton, one of only three surviving members at the club.



DARY & JOAN CLUB Monday 25 October

Coalburn Ceilidh Band's Jim Brodie and Charlie Thomson.





Reproduced from Jim Hamilton's **COALBURN CHRONICLES**, Issue 61, page 3284

What *The People's Friend* said about Dickie McLean in 1938

WHEN the folk of Coalburn in Lanarkshire turn out to the pictures, it is almost certain they will see themselves, or someone in their families, starring on the screen !

For Coalburn has one of the most perfect pictorial records of itself and its people of any village in the country.

Many years ago, in 1880 to be exact, Mr McLean, a native of the village and a keen amateur photographer, began to put Coalburn on the screen. Now his son, Mr Richard McLean, of 14 Dunn Crescent, Coalburn, has in his possession a large collection of lantern slides, showing every phase in the village's life and growth during the last seventy years.

That the Coalburn folk appreciate the time and trouble the McLeans have taken with their living "history book" is proved by the fact that at the last public showing of the slides, there wasn't a vacant seat in the hall !

Mr McLean is still using the lantern used by his father 80 years when his lantern was the only entertainment the village had.

THE VILLAGE WHERE EVERYONE IS A STAR !

The local headmaster put into words that appreciation by referring to the 300 lantern slides as

"a pictorial record of incalculable worth in the history of our village."

"The real fun, of course, lies in the making of the slides," Mr McLean declares. "They range from the gay and comic to the natural beauties of the surrounding countryside.

Some of the earliest slides were hand-coloured before the coloured photo was even thought of.

The original colour slides as bright and colourful to-day as they were when first shown many years ago."

Every phase of village life is captured by the camera—if the folk of Coalburn want to know who played in the village band twenty years ago, who was captain of the football team in 1922, where the Sunday school picnic was held the year before the war—the answer can be found somewhere in Mr McLean's slide box.

The whole series, entitled **Coalburn 1880 to 1950**, shows the rise of the village from two small rows of simple houses to the thriving community of just under 3000—which it is today.

The picture story of a village is in demand by surrounding schools, for it is a grand—and very painless—way of learning history and geography.

The womenfolk of the village can watch a pageant of changing fashions — and even the gentlemen are surprised to find how much their appearance has changed from the days of mutton-chop whiskers and ribboned straw "bashers".

We congratulate the McLeans on providing for Coalburn a *Scrapbook of the Passing Years* which every other town and village up and down the country must envy !

Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn Monthly Meeting

Date Wednesday 1st December 2004 Time 7.30pm Place Coalburn OneStopShop

Subject The McLean Family's Coalburn Lantern Slides

Guest speaker Paul ARCHIBALD of Lanark Library where most of the original 332 3"x3" lantern slides are housed. Slides can also be viewed on the SCAN website.



Extracts from Jim Hamilton's COALBURN CHRONICLES, Issue 61, March 1991

Archie McLEAN 1846 - 1908

ARCHIE McLEAN gave stupendous service to Coalburn by purchasing a camera around 1880 and taking slides of local scenes and persons.

Archie died on 6 February 1908 at Coalburn at the age of 62 years. Cause of death was Pneumonia and Syncope.

Archie was a man of many talents. A fine musician, his contemporaries said he could nearly make his concertina speak. He was precentor for the Coalburn Church Choir up until 1900.

As well as having this gift for making music, Archie was an artist of local scenes.

There are thought to be three of his paintings still in the village.

The tradition of taking photographs of the village and villagers, started by Archie, was carried on by his two sons, Jimmy and Dickie.

It is unfortunate that, for a man who left Coalburn a wonderful legacy of a pictorial history of the village, there does not seem to be a worthwhile photograph of Archie McLean in existence.

The photograph on the right is of Archie digging in his garden.



Photos: Jim Hamilton Archive
Coalburn Miners Welfare

Extracts from Jim Hamilton's COALBURN CHRONICLES, Issue 61, March 1991

Dickie McLEAN 1900 - 1990

THE DEATH of DICKIE McLEAN in 1990, just a few weeks short of his 90th birthday removed from our midst one of the best known villagers of the present century.

His recollections about the history of Coalburn were fascinating. It may be that Dickie is the last to die of the men who worked at Auchenbegg pit which closed around 1921.

Dickie claimed he was the youngest student ever to be dux at Coalburn School. His subsequent career as a coalminer was the lot of many clever lads of the generations born before the Second World War when the necessity to bring in wages to help with the rearing of the family meant their leaving school at 14 years or earlier. For Dickie there was no choice as his father had died in 1908 leaving his mother with a large family to bring up.

Dickie was active in politics and was a prominent office-holder in Coalburn Labour Party for decades. Perhaps what has given Dickie the greatest pride has been his long association with Coalburn Silver Band.



Dickie McLean was the 'big drummer' in the Coalburn Silver Band for over forty years.

"It was in 1919 that I joined the band. Ma faither had been at the starting of it in 1902. The original instruments were bought—I hope they were paid for—from the old Territorial band."

'Catching the flavour of an evening's entertainment that villagers enjoyed at the end of the 19th Century....'

Hamilton Advertiser

5 January 1895

COALBURN MUTUAL IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

The business on the programme of the association for 31 December 1894 was the magic lantern entertainment.

For this purpose, Mr Weir, Headmaster of Bellfield school, had secured the use of The People's Friend slides 'Bonnie Scotland No. 1' and Mr Archie McLean, Coalburn, kindly provided lantern and managed same.

The meeting, being open to all and young folk especially invited, was held in the church and it was completely filled.

The Rev. Mr Walker opened the proceedings and the views were beautifully exhibited by Mr McLean while Mr Weir read the descriptive matter.

To enliven the proceedings, a choir of children from Bellfield School rendered a number of pieces suitable to the pictures.



Coalburn Silver Band

Lanark Gazette 3rd June 2004

COALBURN SILVER BAND became the West of Scotland champions at the Grand Hall, Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, on Saturday 29th May.

The band was drawn first and played a wonderful selection of pieces starting with the rousing march *Star Lake*, followed by Flugel horn player Alex Sheridan who played the Andrew Lloyd Weber favourite *I Don't Know How To Love Him*.

The deafening applause as he finished indicated just how beautifully he had played.

The band then played *Hine e Hine*, a beautiful New Zealand melody featuring the euphoniums and Flugel horn.

The band concluded with the impressive and demanding *Farindole* which ends in a fabulous crescendo.

Band members then had a long wait as the other bands took to the stage, including the Ayrshire brass band heavy weights of the first section, Dunaskin Doon and Newmilns and Galston.



Coalburn Silver Band pictured on Coalburn Gala Day 2004. Photo JZ

Band president Alan Court was on stage at the prize-giving and was delighted as Coalburn Silver Band became the West of Scotland Champions in the fourth section and collected The John Strathclyde Cup.

Alan was again called on to lift the third place trophy as the giant-killing feat was recognise and Coalburn swept away other bands 40 places above them in the rankings. It was a truly remarkable day for the band and their conductor Gareth Bowman.

Lanark Gazette 18th November 2004

COALBURN SILVER BAND became the Scottish Borders Brass Band Association Champions in the 4th section at the annual contest held at Jedburgh Town Hall on Saturday 13th November. The band played a varied and most entertaining programme featuring flugel horn soloist Alex Sheridan who played the Andrew Lloyd Weber number *I Don't Know How To Love Him*. Also included in their repertoire was the traditional brass band march *Star Lake* and the wonderful New Zealand melody *Hine e Hine*. The band, conducted by Gareth Bowman, was placed 7th overall in an exceptionally competitive field of 15 bands, beating five 3rd section bands en route. A huge roar from the Coalburn supporters greeted the news of the victory and band vice-president Kevan Cairns was on stage to receive the Harry Pearce Memorial Trophy and a cheque for £100.

Coalburn IOR Pipe Band

Hamilton Advertiser 10th October 2004

They may be 110 years old but **COALBURN PIPE BAND** is still proving to be amongst the country's best. The band had a highly successful season and are preparing for 2005 under Pipe Major Donald Williams, Leading Drummer Fraser Goodwin and President Bruce Shaw, who has been associated with the band as president and player for 62 years.

2004 RESULTS

Minor Contests, Grade 3

1st at Peebles, Melrose, North Berwick, Lesmahagow, Shotts, Bathgate; and 2nd at Dunbar.

Minor Contests, Grade 2

3rd at Peebles and Lesmahagow; and 4th at Melrose.

Major Contests, Grade 3

Cowal Championship, 1st; Scottish Championships, 3rd; World Championship, 11th.

110 years old and still going strong



Coalburn Pipe Band pictured at Lesmahagow Highland Games 2004.

Photo JZ



25 years service at Coalburn Miners Welfare

THE Miners Welfare Society held its annual staff dance on Wednesday 2nd June in the Welfare Club.

President George Greenshields welcomed all groups associated with the club for all their work throughout the year.

A presentation of certificates for 25 years service to the working men's club and institute union was made to Tom Williams, George Greenshields and Billy Simpson.

Libby Jamieson and her helpers provided a wonderful buffet and Johnny Weir the music. Davy and Marion provided sterling work behind the bar.



Pictured with their 25 years service certificates at Coalburn Miners Welfare are, from left, Tom Williams, George Greenshields and Billy Simpson.

Photo: Joe Gahagan

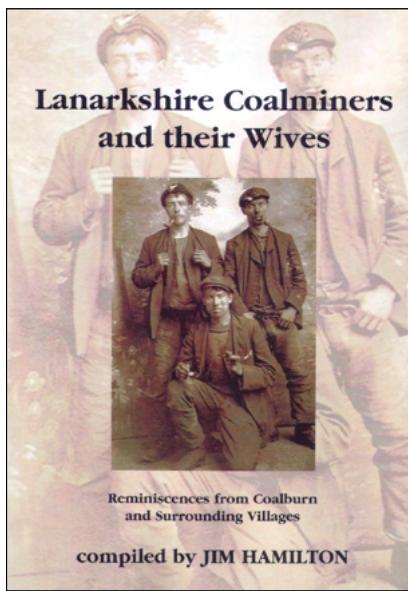
‘Reminiscences from Coalburn and surrounding villages’

FORWARD by the author, The Late Jim Hamilton

I have always thought that a tribute should be paid to the thousands of coalminers who laboured in the pits in and around Coalburn for so little reward.

At the same time appropriate acknowledgement should be put on record of the contribution of their mothers, wives and daughters, the unseen heroines who toiled to provide as much comfort as possible in the homes for their families amid primitive conditions.

This book primarily consists of personal recollections of life in the coalmining communities using Coalburn as the centre with other peripheral mining villages.



◆ Book prepared and published in 2003. The first edition of 200 copies was funded by **You And Your Millennium Awards**, Edinburgh.

◆ The Lanarkshire Family History Society now own the rights to the book. During the summer of 2004 the Society funded a second print run to meet demand.

COPIES of this acclaimed book can be purchased at **Coalburn's One Stop Shop**, price £10, with proceeds going to **The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn**.

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