

# The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn

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MARCH 2015



THE  
JIM HAMILTON HERITAGE SOCIETY  
OF COALBURN

MEETINGS HELD TWICE MONTHLY

*Featuring Guest Speakers*

1st & 3rd Wednesdays

SEPTEMBER – APRIL

Admission is FREE  
Non Members Welcome

ALL WELCOME – BRING A FRIEND – Tea/Coffee at 8.45pm

**Wednesday, 7.30pm start.**  
Access from 7pm.

VENUE

**Coalburn Bowling Club**

**SYLLABUS 2015**

**APRIL**

**1st** – Jean BARR, Carlisle Historical Society

**15th** – AGM + Duncan Arthur & Janice Clelland, Clyde Valley Orchard Group

**- SUMMER BREAK -**

**PUBLIC MEETINGS WITH GUEST SPEAKERS RESUME IN SEPTEMBER**

## *Chairman's Report*

**N**ow that Winter's behind us (I hope), we look forward to the warmth of Spring and Summer. As many of you will know, Geoff Brown has taken over as Secretary. A presentation was made to Betty Bell on 4<sup>th</sup> February to thank her for the service she has given over the years.

In similar vein, Jean Savage has intimated that due to ill-health she will relinquish the Treasurer's post at the AGM in April. She too has been of great value to the group and she continues to be at the Centre in a Tuesday and Thursday as a volunteer.

Though it is some time until the Gala Day, the Leisure Centre has been booked for the 4<sup>th</sup> July. The theme for this year has yet to be decided and we will endeavour to have something different.

We look forward to our usual influx of overseas visitors over the next few months as it always interesting to meet and assist where we can. As a group we can also learn from them.

It is a pleasure to record that members and friends continue to attend our meetings in good numbers which is encouraging.

I would like to thank the two lady volunteers who spent a great deal of time in cleaning and polishing the articles in the display cabinets in Coalburn's Heritage Centre. They also realigned the items within the display area.

I would once again appeal to those members who have not yet visited the Centre to consider doing so as there are many items of interest (not the volunteers) to be seen.

**Peter McLeish, 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2015**

### *Office Bearers 2014/15*

**Chairman** Peter McLEISH, Tel. 01555 820287

**Vice-Chairman** John ZAWADZKI

**Secretary** Geoff BROWN

**Treasurer** Jean SAVAGE

**Archivist / Newsletter** John ZAWADZKI

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### *FRONT COVER PHOTOGRAPH*

*Lintfieldbank's Cathie TAIT, c1930s*

*Scottish Highland Dance World Champion in 1942*

## ***Blast from the Past (Part 1)***

**Hamilton Advertiser 1<sup>st</sup> September 1951**

### **COALBURN**

**Pigeon Racing**-Smith & Son won the last Federation race from Preston, and also took third position. Morrison Bros. took second place and won the young bird and the combined averages, with Smith & Son runners-up in both. In the 12-young-bird average, the positions were reversed, Smith & Son being first, and Morrison Bros. second. J. Aird, by winning the old bird trophy, would seem to have broken up a monopoly. A loft of long standing, Morrison Bros. now win a major prize for the first time, and they are to be congratulated for the patience and perseverance which brought overdue success in their train.

**Praise for N.C.B. Course**-Mr James Cowan, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Samuel Cowan, Coalburn Road has just completed a three-month course of instruction at Dungavel Lodge, where the N.C.B. has a preparatory training school for budding miners. Jim and his parents are full of praise for the treatment meted out to them by the officials, staff and instructors. A feature of the course is the parents' visiting day, and many of the fathers have been so impressed that they would not mind undergoing a course themselves. It is gratifying to learn that such good care is taken of the youngsters at the most impressionable stage of their lives.

**Octogenarian's Death**-A familiar figure in Coalburn for over 30 years, Mr James Forrest, Bloomfield, died last week aged 80. Born in Biggar, Jimmy commenced work as a farm labourer and came to Scorrieholm Farm where he was ploughman for 19 years. Removing to Lesmahagow, he had a spell in the pithead squad before his appointment as a Council roadman. This work brought him to Coalburn and on retiring he had completed 27 years' service. A typical countryman, he was always keen on agriculture and horticulture. A healthy looking man in his prime, he possessed a very even temperament, and liked a "crack in the bygaun." The community's condolences are extended to the family.

**Local Notes**-The first home match of the juvenile season was a "washout." The referee didn't appear and the local deputy was compelled to abandon the game after twenty-five minutes.-Vandalism has cropped up at the football pitch again. After hard, laborious work by the committee, sinking railway sleepers three feet in the ground for rope supports, some ill-disposed person (or persons) have removed four of the posts. The matter has been reported to the police and everyone hopes that an example can be made.-The past week's rain has just been about the worst for over thirty years and made things exceptionally miserable for everyone. It affected the flower show attendance, finished the football match, negated the bowlers activities, and the "shows" at Bellfield bing lost their usual appeal.

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**76 YEARS AGO....** For more information about *Coalburn Drama Group*, call in at the *Coalburn Heritage Centre*, open Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10am – 3pm. Admission is FREE.

# COALBURN DRAMA GROUP

A Grand Concert will be held in  
**WELFARE HALL, COALBURN,**  
on  
**TUESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 1939,**  
by the Members of above Group  
who will produce the Famous Four Act Comedy,

# "KYE AMANG THE CORN"

BY JOE CORRIE.

CAST.

David M'Crae,	Farmer of Netherbrae,	Geo. Clark
Jean M'Crae,	His Daughter,	Margt. Hamilton
Mattie Houston,	Their Housekeeper,	Lily Steele
Jockie Rodger,	Their Ploughboy,	Gavin Shaw
John Hodge,	Farmer of Glenhead,	John Clark
Willie Hodge,	His Son,	Jack Lundie
John Strang,	The Policeman,	Geo. Bryson
Maisie Strang,	His Wife,	Betty M'Lean
Miss M'Cracken,	A Spinster,	Helen M'Clement
Mrs Nan Blaikie,	A Widow,	Barbara Reid
Robbie Simpson,	A Postman,	James Smith

Producer, John L. Sorbie

Supporting Artistes:—Kate Baxter, Juvenile Elocutionist; Alex. Brown, Violinist.

Chairman, - Mr CHARLES K. WELLS, Hon. Secy., South West Division S.C.D.A.  
Schoolhouse, Kirkfieldbank.

Doors open 7 p.m.

Commence 7.30 p.m.

Prices of Admission---1/6 (Res.), 1/-, and 9d. Children Half-price.

*The following information is from the*  
**Upperward Almanac & Handbook of 1922**

## Coalburn

**Church** -U. F., Peter Walker, M.A. Hours of Service, 12 noon and 6 p.m.

**Schools** -*Public* (Pupils on the roll), 387, A.T. Blackwood; Assistants, Jas. Waddell, Chas. Wells, M. Harvie, Miss H. Bruce and Miss Jackson. *Bellfield* (Pupils on roll), 236, Frank Wills; Assistants, M. Barr, Miss Hay, Miss Hepburn and Mrs A. Wilson.

**Post Office** -Postmaster, Jas. Hamilton. Box closes, 10.30a.m. and 6.45 p.m. (Sats. 2.30 p.m.); Mail dispatches, 11.3 a.m. and 7.21p.m. (Sats. 3p.m.) Money Order, Savings Bank, and Telegraph Office, open 9a.m. to 7p.m. Phone 27 Lesmahagow.

**Registrar** -*District of Coalburn*-Joseph McGill, Burnside.

**Railway Station** -Stationmaster, P. Hunter.

**Police Station** -Constable James Baird.

**I.O.R.-Bellfield Home Tent** -Secy., David Reid, Helenslea, Coalburn; C.R., Samuel Laird.

**Temperance Pipe Band** -President, James Storrie; Secretary, Malcolm Murdoch, Allerburn.

**Masonic** -Lodge, "Newlands" (949). R.W.M., C. Finlay; S.W., Wm. Wilson; J.W., Robert Smith; Secretary, James Hamilton; Treasurer, W. McKenzie.

**Loyal Order of Ancient Shepherds (A.U.)** -"Bellfield Star" Lodge. W.M., Joseph Ramage; D.M. Walter Black; Secretary, A. Stewart; Treasurer, R. Reid.

**Eastern Star** -"Star of Hope," No. 63. W.M., Margaret Wilson; W.P. Wm. McClure; A.M. Eliz. Purdie; A.P. Daniel Thomson; Secretary, Wm. Wilson (*pro tem.*); Treasurer, Martha Knight; Chaplain, Andrew Walker; Marshal, Marion Batters; Organist, Robert Logan; Conductress, Rebecca Cullen; A.C. Elizabeth Walker; Adah, Isabella Campbell; Ruth, Agnes Bond; Esther, Grace Tully; Martha, Elizabeth Smith; Elector, Maggie Gilles; Warder, Annie Donald; Sentinel, Robert Cullen.

**Royal Arch Chapter** -"Victory," No. 450-M.E.Z., Andrew Walker; H, Robert Cullen; J. Charles Finlay; S.E. John H. Young; Meets in the Masonic Temple third Tuesday of each month.

**Conservative Club** -President, W. Gibb; Secretary, John Currie.

**Motor Hirer** -James Hamilton.

**Inns** -Coalburn Inn, Mrs. J. Paterson; and Station Hotel, Mr. Webster.

**The Victoria Hall** -Secretary, Wm. Steele, Sunnybrae Cottage; Hallkeeper, James Hamilton, Shepherdene;

**Coalburn and District Flying Club** -Secretary, Herbert Smith, Glenview; Treas., Jas. Morrison, Avondale Cottage.

**Ancient Free Gardeners** -*Western Order*—"Heatherbell Lodge", No.81-R.W.M., Samuel Laird; S.W., James Richardson; J.W., Daniel Simpson; S.S., John Clark; J.S., George Wilson; P.M., Alex. Jolly; Officer, Walter Black; Secretary, Richard McLean; Treasurer, John Thomson.

**Coalburn Amateur Dramatic Club** -Organiser and Stage Manager, John Dickson; Musical Conductor, William Reid; Treasurer, John Sorbie; Secretary, James Cairney.

**Brass Band** -Secy., James Cringan; Railway Terrace; Conductor, Francis Sweeney, Garden Street; President, Wm. Dyet, Shoulderigg; Treasurer, Wm. McGregor, Station Terrace.

**Coalburn Thistle Football Club** -Secy., David Aitken, Coalburn Rows.

**Westtown Rangers Football Club**-Hon. President, Joseph Ramage; President, M. Jeffrey; Vice-President, Charles Garrett; Secretary, A. Buchanan, Middlemuir; Treasurer, A. McInnes, Bankend.

**Scottish Federation of Discharged Sailors and Soldiers** -"Coalburn Branch"-President, Robt. Dykes; Secretary, Frank Wills, M.A., Treasurer, Hugh Fulton Jr.

**Carpet Bowling Club** -BRAEHEAD-Hon. President, Joe Ramage, President, John Thorburn; Vice-President, Alex. Morrison; Secretary, Geo. Morrison; Treasurer, Jas. Fulton. Membership, 33; rinks,8.

**Undertaker** - John Arneil.

Jim Hamilton

**COALBURN CHRONICLES, No. 63**

*Extract From Family History Article – ‘The Lairds of Coalburn’.*

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“ **Charles K. WELLS**, a teacher at **Coalburn School** in the 1920s, who lodged with the Laird family at Roselea Cottage, prior to his marriage and residence in The Hostel at Coalburn School. Mr Wells was decorated for valour during the 1914 – 18 war. He was later headmaster at Kirkfieldbank School and was prominent with his wife in the field of amateur dramatics in the Upper Ward of Lanarkshire. ”



## ***Blast from the Past (Part 2)***

**Hamilton Advertiser 1<sup>st</sup> September 1951**

### **Coalburn Flower Show**

The 62nd annual exhibition of Coalburn Horticultural Society was held in Coalburn School last week. Mr Gavin Gibson, hon. vice-president, occupied the chair. Following well-chosen and appropriate remarks he called on the headmaster of Kirkfieldbank School, Mr Charles K. Wells to open the show. Mr Wells, who was accompanied by Mrs Wells, spoke of many experiences in preparatory flower show work during his stay in Coalburn many years ago. After declaring the show open he handed over the prizes to the various winners.

The chief awards were presented as follows; Earl of Home Cup (best vegetable exhibit)-Robert Carmichael; Pearson Trophy (cut flowers) – James Weir; Hugh Love Cup (best dahlia in show)-James Weir; Industrial section-Mrs J. Graham; best exhibit of tea cakes- Mrs D. Adams. The principal winner in the children's section was John S. Weir.

The committee wish to thank the Coalburn and Lintfieldbank Rural members for the lovely exhibition of handicrafts, etc., and hope that the entries in the ladies' sections will show a big increase next year. Thanks are also due to the judges, the school janitor, Mr Gibson, Mr Wells, Mrs Wells, donors, and the public who braved the stormy weather to patronise the show. Two founder members, Mr James Morris and Mr William Smith, were both present, and it was grand to see these two octogenarians, as enthusiastic as ever, carefully examining the many exhibits.

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**COALBURN RECHABITE BAND** - Dancing commences in Victoria Hall, today (Saturday), 1st September. Usual time. Admission 1/6.

**COALBURN LABOUR PARTY** - Monthly Meeting in Lesser Hall on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> September, at pm.

GEO. CLARK, Secy.

**COALBURN MINEWORKERS AMBULANCE ASSOC.** – Special General Meeting in Welfare on 4<sup>th</sup> September, at 7pm. Business – Consideration of disposal of part of funds.

J. HAMILTON, Secy.

# **Rev. Brian F. Cross**

**B**orn in Hampstead, London in 1927, he attended Finchley Grammar School until 1945 and on leaving there he joined the Army and was an officer in the Royal Artillery.

In 1948 he entered Edinburgh University where he obtained his M.A. degree. Wishing to get know something of the mining industry he worked underground as an on-cost worker in Devon Colliery in Clackmannanshire then at Hassockrigg Colliery in Lanarkshire.

On his appointment as a teacher by the County Education Department he went to Dungavel Residential Training Centre near Strathaven, for young miners. After two years he felt the call to the ministry and in 1957 he was the assistant at Granton in Edinburgh and from there he went to Crown Court Church in London.

In January 1961 he was inducted to the Coalburn charge. He became one of the longest serving ministers in the church's history and proved to very popular in the community. He was appointed as Moderator of Lanark Presbytery in 1973. One of the highlights of his term in the village was the celebration of the Centenary 1993. A bachelor, he retired in 1998 and went to live in West Linton before going back to London.

**His death took place on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2014.**

## **DEATHS 2015**

*Elizabeth LANG (Twaddle)*

*Janetta CLARK (Brodie)*

*Agnes HAMILTON (Brown)*

*Elizabeth McGREGOR*

*James PORTER*

*Agnes MITCHELL (Prosser)*

*Mary BIRCH (Thomson)*

*Jean SHANKLEY (Aitken)*

*Ina GRAY (Brodie)*

*Michelle SINCLAIR (Tait)*

The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn

# Annual Coalburn Gala Day

## Photo

# Exhibition

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> JULY 2015**

10am – 3pm

**FREE ADMISSION**

**ALL WELCOME**

VENUE

**Coalburn Leisure Centre**

The Jim Hamilton Heritage Society of Coalburn

[www.coalburnheritage.org.uk](http://www.coalburnheritage.org.uk)

Follow us on FACEBOOK *also.*