

Exploring the effects of the past on the present and future of our community

Bonnyseen

The magazine from Greenhill Historical Society

Issue Number 20 September 2022



Reliant Robin



Rev. Jackson

Jim Beveridge



Introduction

Welcome to Bonnyseen edition 20. It's amazing that the community, from far and wide, has submitted enough of their stories and photographs to allow us to keep the magazine going for so long. We need you to keep up the good work as there is still a wealth of historical reminiscences to be recorded for future generations to enjoy.

As we are gradually getting over the worst of the pandemic, we have been able to engage with local schools and the Sensory Centre in Camelon to share our local history. The visit to St Joseph's was most enjoyable, with the pupils really interested and asking many insightful questions. We also had a local history walk with P5 classes in Bonnybridge Primary School but as it was very late in the term, we were unable to process the photographs and the story. It will be included next time but, in the meantime, a huge thank you to the pupils who were interested and inquisitive about the history around them. Their behaviour out and about in busy Bonnybridge was exemplary. We had planned in 2020 to visit Antonine Primary School but Covid intervened. We are hoping we will be able to reschedule a visit in this school session.

The adults at the sensory centre were very enthusiastic and they related many stories of Bonnybridge, especially of the industrial history. We are delighted to have been invited to join them again this year to expand on the story of Bonnybridge.

P Swierczek

Front Cover : *Rev. Jackson buying his new Reliant Robin from Dealership and Garage owner Jim Beveridge*

Back Cover : *Walter Alexander Charabanc*

CONTENTS

	<i>Page</i>
Rev. Jackson's Reliant Robin	Front Cover
Introduction	2
When could you buy a car in Bonnybridge	3
Putting on your TopHat	4
Obituary	5
Robert John Morris. Missing Presumed Killed in Action	6 & 7
Summary of the Roman Empire in Britain and the Antonine Wall <i>Part 2</i>	8
Grand Finale of Antonine Wall Project	9
Take a Hike ..Along the Rough Castle Trail	10 & 11
Repurposing an Industrial Site	12
End of an Era	13
More fond Memories from Greenhill	14 & 15
The Brides of Paterson Place (<i>continuation</i>)	16
Famous the World over	17
A Narrow Escape	18
Broomhill School	19
Walter Alexander Charabanc	Back Cover

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Greenhill Historical Society

WHERE TO FIND US



**GREENHILL
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY**

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Meetings

The Society meets every Friday in the Bonnybridge Community Centre from 2pm till 4pm and all are welcome to join us.

When you could buy a car in Bonnybridge

P Swierczek



Jim Beveridge left Graham High School on a Friday and went straight to nearby Miller's Garage and asked for a job! He started on the Monday as an apprentice motor mechanic. He was doing a job he loved and he passed his apprenticeship with flying colours. When a promotion was offered at Harrington Motors in Brighton, Jim jumped at the chance and took up the post of Underservice Manager. He was working in the garage one day when a naval officer came in to pick up her car. Jim had always had a notion to use his mechanical skills on board ship which would give him employment and a chance to see the world at the same time. He asked how to go about securing a position on a ship and she advised him to go down to the docks and make enquiries. He did as advised, went to the docks and asked who he should speak to about a job as an engineer. He was in disbelief when he was directed to Jim Beveridge! His namesake gave him a position on of the ships which was owned by Ffyes bananas! Not sure if he ever came up the Clyde on it though.



Ford Anglia



Fiat



Skoda

When he returned to Bonnybridge he set up the Ford Garage followed by the Mill Garage where he repaired and MOT'd cars of all makes. He was offered a Dealership with Reliant (see front cover for Rev Jackson buying his brand new Robin) which he accepted and built the show room to accommodate the new three-wheeler cars. This Dealership led to others with Ford, Polski Fiat and Skoda. It was such a successful venture that Jim and his wife Diana were treated to complimentary trips to the Bahamas, Thailand and Arizona all expenses paid!

He also took ownership of the Cowden Petrol station now known as the Jet garage. Jim didn't just enjoy repairing or selling cars. He loved driving and was an avid racing fan, taking part in the uphill races at Knockhill for many years. This inspired his young sons, Jon and Paul to take up karting. The boys were very successful and won multiple Scottish Karting National Championships. Jon was also a member of the Scottish junior team which travelled to Ireland for a competition which they won.



Jon Beveridge, Scottish Open 100 TON Junior Champion 1983-84
Paul Beveridge, Scottish Cadet Champion 1980-84

MILL GARAGE

PUTTING ON YOUR TOP HAT



Alex Burns



In 1978 my nephew, Robert Burns aged 16 years, was preparing to perform in the musical 'Oliver'. He asked around family and friends to see if anybody had a top hat they could lend him to use in the show. My family lived next door for many years to the Power family in Bonnybridge and it turned out that Mrs Power still had a top hat belonging to her late husband, John. She was glad to give it to Robert and said he could keep it in case it could be useful for any other amateur dramatic shows.



In 2022 Robert was clearing out his loft when he came across the hat, still in its box and in perfect condition. He brought it to show me and had been amazed to find a piece of paper tucked into the hat band which read, *John Power esq . Headmaster, St Joseph's school, Bonnybridge*

I took it to our next Greenhill Historical Society meeting and we had a discussion on what to do with it. It was decided to contact the Head teacher of St Josephs to see if the school would be interested in seeing it. To say they were delighted would be an understatement. This was a piece of the school's history and not only did they want the pupils and staff to see it, they invited us to give a short talk on the history of Bonnybridge to the whole school. The finale was when I walked in wearing the hat and read out the inscription.

The school had all the details of previous Headmasters and we were able to see that Mr Power was born on 10th October 1885 and was in charge of the school for 17 years from 1933 to 1955. I talked to my nephew and we agreed to donate the hat to St Joseph's. It is permanently on display in the school and will be used in the curriculum for the pupils to carry out further investigation.



Obituary



RONALD MOCHRIE
10/09/36 - 10/05/22

In May 2022 Greenhill Society lost a dear friend and devoted member of the team. Ronald had a deep knowledge of and appreciation for the history of Bonnybridge. He contributed his expertise to Bonnyseen Magazine by writing articles and assisting others as they composed their stories. He was a true gentleman with a great sense of humour and he will be sorely missed by all his friends at GHS.

One of our fondest memories is of Ronnie when he was a volunteer with the Seagull Trust and arranged for the historical Society to take a sail on the Wooden Spoon Barge on the Forth and Clyde Canal. What an amazing perspective you see of Bonnybridge from the waterway with the abundance of flora and fauna along the way. Ronald was Company Secretary for SSPCA before he finally retired and was a fantastic guide to have on the journey from Falkirk to Bonnybridge.



He worked for many years in the offices of Smith and Wellstood's in Bonnybridge. He was one of their apprentices selected to go to the Moray Sea school, an experience he thoroughly enjoyed. He did national service in the RAF which took him to Europe and Africa.



L-R:
Hunter Blair, Sandy Beaton, Jim Stevenson,
Alistair Scott, David Leitch, Ronald Mochrie,
Robert Philips, Andrew Reid.

He dedicated a great deal of his time as a volunteer with the Scout movement and held many senior roles within it including District Commissioner for Denny and Bonnybridge and rising to Leader Trainer for Forth Valley. Ronnie was awarded the Medal of Honour and the Silver Acorn for his services to scouting. Scouts in the area enjoyed many trips with Ronnie including to London and Ireland



Ronnie was also an active member of Falkirk rotary club and was involved in their many charitable enterprises in local communities. But a very important part of his life was as a member of Bonnybridge St Helens Church. During his church membership he was a member of the Youth Fellowship, a Sunday School Teacher and rose to become an Elder of the church in 1967.

We send our sincere condolences to his wife Helen, son Kevin and daughter Ann. Greenhill Historical Society will remember him with fondness and gratitude for his contribution to preserving the heritage of Bonnybridge.

P Swierczek

Robert John Morris. Missing Presumed Killed in Action

This was the devastating message received by the Morris family of Allandale in 1940. Bobby Morris was born in Allandale in 1911 and spent his early years in Glasgow. When he left school, he worked as a delivery boy with a fruit and veg firm and then with Bilsland's Bakery, where he met his wife, Mary. When they moved back to Allandale his dad got him a job as a moulder in Steins Brickworks.

Unbeknown to his family, Bobby had not been killed but had been taken prisoner by the Germans. He spent the next five years in various camps in Europe and although he survived the ordeal, he returned home with his jet-black hair turned to pure white! But Bobby was made from girders and lived to the magnificent age of 96. This is his story.

RECOLLECTIONS OF 2983352 PRIVATE JOHN MORRIS

Aldershot



I was already a member of the local territorial army company for nearly two years before the outbreak of war as I had joined the Argylls with my pal George [Dodie] Anderson.

Although we trained regularly locally, we also trained at army camps – always our favourite time and I particularly remember the Strathpeffer camp with the rigorous training, good wholesome food and the Army tea. We really enjoyed the fitness regime as it made a welcome change from working in the brickworks.

In May 1939, the newspapers were warning of impending war so in May 1939, as I was a territorial, I was enlisted into the regular army at the age 28 and sent to Aldershot where I was trained in how to use an Anti -Tank rifle. It was awkward and heavy to use – you dug a hollow in the ground, positioned yourself and the gun and fired. It had a vicious recoil. The ammo for the gun was an armour piercing bullet, effective in piercing just over half an inch of armour plating and was carried in a pouch. We were allowed some recreation time to relax and go into Aldershot for a glass of beer. We went to a place called “The Rat pit” where I and many of the boys got our first tattoo. The army also “gave you the needle” and we had quite a few inoculations. After training we were told we were going overseas. We felt ready. We knew we had a job to do and all the lads, though apprehensive, seemed happy enough about what the future would hold.

**I was now number 2983352 Private Robert John Morris,
C. Company 7th Battalion The Argyll and Southern Highlanders.**

On arrival in France in early 1940, we made our way to the town of Annoeullin where we encamped. I found the French people to be friendly and kind to the Argylls. Our battle equipment consisted of standard British battledress, steel helmet, gas mask, Lee Enfield rifle with 50 rounds of bullets and a bayonet. In my backpack a coat, vest, pants, Balmoral cap, water bottle and an emergency food ration which was a block of chocolate in a tin.

The times spent in the trenches seemed endless – they were so cold and damp. We were looking forward to a bit of leave when word came through the Germans were on a push. We were moved to defensive positions in woodland near Abbeville around mid-May 1940. Enemy planes were always strafing and dive-bombing targets. The Germans attacked and we could see men and armour on the move. At this point we had no idea what was happening to other companies of the Argylls.



Continued...

Robert John Morris. Missing Presumed Killed in Action

During a lull in the battle, Sergeant Sinclair instructed us at first light to make our way to the coast. Ammo was low, we had casualties and the enemy had surrounded us. We set off but ran into a large force of Germans and we were forced to surrender. The Germans seemed a lot like us. They were not better equipped but travelled lighter than us. We always seemed bogged down with heavy packs and their armour was better than anything we or the French had.

It is not easy to say how you feel when taken prisoner, but it is not a good feeling I can tell you. We were taken along with them, and it felt like there were hundreds of us. We would march and stop for the odd rest. During one rest, myself and two others, Paddy Quin and Bugs Murray [Royal Scots], decided to make a run for it. We hid in bushes till the order to march was given and we stayed behind. 5 days later we were caught a second time when walking in a sheltered country lane when we heard "Halt Tommy Halt". For the next 12 days we marched through France and Belgium into Holland, with very little to eat, then we were transported by train, in cattle waggons, through Germany and on to Poland. As we passed through Holland people would try to throw food for us into the wagons which we shared among us.

"Paddy" and "Bugs" stayed together till we reached Stalag Landsdorf where name, rank and number were taken. You were given a bed in a wooden hut with two blankets and boards to lie on. There was a stove for heating, shower areas and toilets consisting of wooden boards with a pit below. Guards patrolled the fences all the time. A German Doctor would come to examine you from time to time. Letters would be issued but letters you sent would be censored by the Germans. Red cross parcels were treasured as you did not know when you might receive another one. (The Red Cross had now informed my parents of my capture). I was in several camps as you were forced to work and were moved to where the Germans needed you. I worked on farms, in wood yards, shovelled snow in towns but the worst assignment was in the Black Hammer mine which was said to be Goering's prized mine. But with hard labour and little good food I became run down and was hospitalised with very painful ulcers all down both legs. I have to say the German doctors treated me well. In 1945 we had been hearing for weeks that the war was nearly over and the Germans were beaten. Our guards were replaced by veterans of WW 1 and one glorious day they ran away and the Americans arrived to tell us we were free. The Brits turned up soon afterwards and after being checked by the Army doctors we were on our way home on an American Dakota plane. I was not demobbed until 1946 as I was patrolling German prisoners in the Scottish borders. Tables turned!

A "welcome home" sign greeted me on arrival in Allandale. I was so glad to be home! I had not seen my family for 5 years and it takes time to get used a normal life again. Then it was a break to recover then went back to work at Steins.

I don't suppose that we gave it much thought back then about what we all went through. We just got on with life. That's how it was.

Bobbie Morris.

Inside Polish Prison Camps



Summary of the Roman Empire in Britain and The Antonine Wall Part 2

By a 'History Buff'



Roman Emperor Claudius decided to invade the British Isles in 43AD, almost 100 years after Julius Caesar's withdrawal. The tribal prince, Caractacus, fiercely fought the invaders but was subsequently captured and, with his family, paraded through Rome as a 'trophy'. A major uprising against the Romans took place in 61AD led by Queen Boudicca against the ruthless actions of the then Governor Suetonius and his troops in the aftermath of the conquest of Anglesey. Boudicca and her army were brutally defeated after a heroic, if savage, attempt to expel the Romans. A new Governor Agricola, appointed in 78AD, established a more benevolent rule, reconciling native leaders to Roman rule and its way of life. The population of the Central & Southern part of Britain became 'Romanized', developing a dominant, Latin speaking, landowning class, well ordered, economically successful and generally peaceful way of life for many years: the so-called 'Pax Romana'. North of Hadrian's Wall the history is less clear but evidently the local tribal structure continued, developed and maintained a sort of accommodation with the Romanized south.

In this era, present day Scotland was largely inhabited by two tribes: the Macatae in the south & Caledonians towards the north. The Caledonians were fierce warriors and frequently raided the Roman controlled area. As the Romans advanced into Northern Scotland a confrontation was inevitable, culminating at Mons Graupius (believed to have been in Perthshire), where in a fiercely fought battle in 84AD the better organised Romans overcame a larger force of the northern tribes followed by a massacre of those captured. The remnants of the Caledonian army melted away into more remote parts from where it could continue to harry the Romans.

The emperor Antonius pious ordered a new occupation of Southern Scotland and gave his name to the construction of a wall across the narrow neck of Central Scotland, between the Firths of Forth and Clyde to mark the extent of Roman rule and a protection against raids from the Caledonian tribes. The construction of the Antonine Wall started in 142AD taking up to 12 years to complete. It was 39 miles long and formed of a stone foundation supporting a bank of turf & probably a palisade for observation purposes on the top, complete with a deep ditch on either side, military road and forts at intervals along its route. These structures are very evident in the Bonnybridge area. The wall was, in effect, the most northerly boundary of the Empire when it was at its greatest extent.

Antoninus was unable to subdue the northern Scottish tribes and a new Emperor, Marcus Aurelius, ordered the abandonment of the Antonine Wall after less than 20 years, and Hadrian's Wall was reinstated as the main defensive barrier in 164 AD. Historians disagree on the causes of Rome's decline and eventual fall. A militaristic society, the empire was founded on the fighting power of its legions; their organisation and discipline, training that enabled them to maintain cohesion in the height of battle, coupled with an ability to quickly build camps, roads & bridges. Over the following centuries there was an inevitable mix of good & bad emperors. Many were deposed by assassination or other nefarious means and successions were often contested. From its height around 200AD there was a gradual decline and then a more catastrophic decline from around 376AD when Barbarian attacks started to threaten Rome itself. The roots of decline lay principally in poor leadership & political instability, a huge landmass to control without the benefit of modern communications, dependence on slavery to sustain the economy, the migration of displaced barbarian tribes into the Empire after the arrival of the Huns from the east and finally to a lesser degree the impact of Christianity following the conversion of the emperor Constantine in 306AD.

As Rome's power lessened, the long-felt sense of security in Romanized Britain started to weaken as the country fell under the threat from resurgent Barbarians from Europe, and the newly dominant Scots and Picts in the North, over several decades until the 400sAD. Thus the long Roman rule over much of Britain ended soon after 400AD.

Grand Finale of Antonine Wall Project

Severine Perichou

The project named Rediscovering the Antonine Wall, aimed to raise awareness of the Northern Frontier of the Roman Empire in Scotland. The project was funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the five local authorities through which the wall runs and Historic Environment Scotland. Every local authority was asked to submit ideas for an instalment which would reflect the aspects of the legacy of the Roman Occupation.

Bonnybridge selected the replica plinth which is installed at the entrance to the heritage park at the community library campus. The plinth was designed to relate the industrial skills of the Romans to those of the native Scots, such as brick making and iron working. It also has a reconstruction model of Rough Castle Fort on the top. There are information plaques included and a QR code which is designed to give an audio description to aid anyone with sight impairment.

The project is now completed and there are some truly amazing sights to be seen along the line of the wall. These include five Roman themed playparks, five replica distance stones and an enormous sculpture of Sylvanus, the Roman god who was the protector of forests. There is a wealth of information, including directions to the installations, available at <https://rediscoveringtheantoninewallproject.org> The photos represent some amazing monuments which are relatively close to Bonnybridge.



Sylvanus at Croy Hill



Bonnybridge Plinth



Roman Themed Park Play Areas



Kinneil Monument



Cow Wynd Distance Stone

TAKE a HIKE!...Along the Rough Castle Trail

Paul Cortopassi

From the Falkirk Explored programme of the Great Place Falkirk team

Back in October 2020 the Great Place team invited local communities to explore the idea of developing heritage-inspired walks in their local area.

The proposal was to develop, Falkirk Explored, a mobile-phone app which guided walkers from point to point along a route with audio descriptions at each stopping point.

I approached the Greenhill Historical Society (GHS) with the idea and they gave me the go-ahead to develop a Bonnybridge version.

The outline plan was simple. Starting at Bonnybridge and District Heritage Park beside the Community Centre, the trail would cross under the canal at the Radical Pend, continue up Bonnyside Road to Rough Castle Fort, cut through Tentsmuir woods to the Falkirk Wheel tunnel, approach to the Union Canal, walk down to the Wheel visitor centre and return to Bonnybridge via a casual stroll along the canal towpath. Approximately the 7km (4.5 miles) length suggested by the Great Place team.

Along the way walkers, would be regaled with recorded stories of the area history at various points of Interest (POIs).

At least that was the original idea and all the research was completed for the Bonnybridge to Falkirk Wheel trail and sent in to the Falkirk Explored app editors!

However it was very strongly suggested (!) that the walk should start at the showcase Falkirk Wheel (where there was also plenty of parking space) so the whole route was flipped on its end so that POI 1 became POI 10 etc. Fortunately all the research into the POI stories remained the same so we agreed to the change.



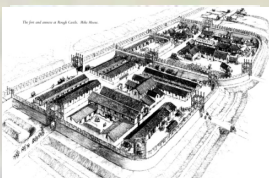
POI 1 The Falkirk Wheel

As a starting point below the Falkirk Wheel, the sight of the giant rotating boat lift is stunning! It replaced 11 derelict locks up to the Union Canal.



POI 2 Where Two Canals meet

Following paths under the viaduct, the trail comes across the top part of the Falkirk Wheel complex where the aqueduct from the worlds only Rotating Boat Lift enters the tunnel to link with the Union Canal. Retrace your steps a short way and follow the wooden waymarkers to...



POI 3 Rough Castle Roman Fort

Through the woods to one of the smallest forts on the Antonine Wall. Rough Castle fort is the best preserved due to its remoteness from good farmland and house-building sites and was less disturbed than more accessible forts.



POI 4 The Drove Roads of Scotland

From Rough Castle Fort down Bonnyhill Rd to the railway bridge walkers, follow the route of one of Scotland ancient Drove Roads to the cattle markets or Trysts. There several of these Trysts which moved from place to place but the Rough Castle was the last as, railways took over the transporting of cattle from Scotland to

England.



POI 5 Elf Hill and St Helen's Loch

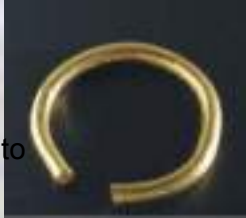
Walkers stop on the crest of the bridge over the Glasgow-Stirling rail line near the Chattan Industrial Estate. This stop provides a view of the egg-shaped Elf Hill (an ice-age drumlin) used by the Home Guard during WW2 and the semi-permanent St Helen Loch dammed to provide water for the district industries.



TAKE a HIKE!...Along the Rough Castle Trail *continued*

POI 6

A short walk beyond the bridge leads to the Chattan Industrial Estate. Here the commentary allows for a discussion of the former Chattan Brick Works (and former iron works) and the whole history of clay mining and brick making in the region.



POI 7 The Golden Torc

A longer walk down Bonnyhill Rd leads to a stop a short distance away from the entrance to the Radical Pend which allows us to tell the story of how a navy helping build a tramway around Cowden Hill uncovered a prehistoric solid gold wrist decoration called a torc. It can be seen in the National History museum in Edinburgh.



POI 8 The Smith and Wellstood Stove Works

A few paces further on to stop just before entering the Radical Pend. The Radical Pend faces a blank brick wall. This was a supporting wall for the S&W foundry and the opportunity to describe the impressive history of iron founding in the local area.



POI 9 The Radical Pend

This stop, part of the John Muir Way, explains the need for the pend before the canal bridge was built in 1900, and of the story of the Radicals in Scotland



POI 10 The Town of Bonnybridge

A brief account of Bonnybridge and its (unconfirmed) history of UFO sightings and an invitation to visit the displays in the Bonnybridge and District Heritage Park beside the Library.



POI 11 The Last Lap

An invitation to rest and be thankful in a local cafe or hostelry before a gentle stroll along the canal towpath back to the start.

There then followed the need to record the scripts for the POI audio descriptions at each point. My wife and I were persuaded to do the recording and were invited to the Waterfront Recording Studios beside the canal in Falkirk. For two retired teachers it should have been a breeze. However talking to a class and recording a script are two entirely different scenarios and we were both reduced to stuttering and giggling amateurs as we fought an unfamiliar battle.

Nevertheless, with skillful editing, the deed was done and handed over to the app designers for final production and the Rough Castle Trail was added to Falkirk Explored stories.

To find out more download the Falkirk Explored app from Google Play Store or Apple App Store. An unbiased review of the Rough castle Trail from the app site:

Rough Castle Trail

Just finished the Rough Castle Trail and really enjoyed it. The information talks were just the right length with the right amount of information to keep my teenager interested and I liked the way the App just started each talk as we approached the marker.

There is one bit where the App takes you off the trail to get to Rough Castle and you can walk that way but you can also stick to the paths and follow the wooden way signs both get you where you are going.

The paths are good enough for a buggy and possibly a wheelchair but some of the anti-cycle gates may cause problems, we didn't have a buggy or wheelchair with us but the path was great underfoot

Lovely walk on a lovely day and great to find out more about the local area.



REPURPOSING AN INDUSTRIAL SITE



Creosote Works

When the Caledonian Creosote works at Greenhill junction closed and the site was deindustrialised it returned to nature and gradually became covered in scrub, weeds and brambles. Local businessman, Colin Peat, saw the potential of this wild site and purchased it circa 2004. It took a great deal of work to clear the site, ensure it was not no longer hazardous because of the creosote, to cover it in topsoil and later seed it with grass.

It then became Woodchips Livery Yard and Cattery with facilities for grazing and stabling horses. An indoor school was added along with outdoor arenas where riders exercise their horses and practise their show jumping and dressage skills. Later, an excellent boarding facility for feline friends was added to the site. The name of the yard derives from the huge piles of used or no longer required railway sleepers which were reduced to wood chips and stored on the site. The Livery Yard and Cattery are managed by the Peat family.



Long View of the Yard

Cattery View



Emily and Gem



Enjoying the Jumps



Any Treats in there?



Harry riding Arthur



Harry out at Woodchips



Best Buddies



Sleepy Heads



Ignoring the Trains

End of an Era

Bonnybridge Public school was opened in 1876 as a single storey building. It was designed to accommodate primary and secondary pupils with the maximum capacity being 300 pupils. This number was soon exceeded so a second storey was added to the building in 1891. There was also a cottage in the grounds to accommodate the school janitor. In the late 1950s the school was deemed no longer fit for purpose, so a new school was built in Denny for secondary age pupils and another in Wellpark Terrace Bonnybridge for primary pupils.

The primary school has been extended over the years as the population grew but the high school in Denny was replaced by a completely new building in 2009.



Bonnybridge Public School



Bonnybridge Primary School



Last Class in Public School 1952



Old Denny High School in the 1960s



New Denny High School

More Fond Memories from Greenhill

Alan Gentles

Prefabs were the original 'Kit Houses' and were an excellent solution to the shortage of up-to-date housing in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Many homes still had outside toilets, often shared by several families and some still had gas lighting, so the prefabs were a vast improvement. My family lived at 87 Woodburn Crescent, Greenhill, from about 1948 to 1955. The family at that time was, Dad Tom, mum Betty my brothers Jack, David, Tommy and myself. When my sister Jane was born, we had moved to 58 Woodburn Cres. The prefabs in Woodburn Cres formed an inner circle with the newer houses on the outside circle so as the family grew, we were housed in the more spacious new house. The prefabs all had odd numbers and the new houses even numbers. My memories are of the surprise and delight of mum when she found out there was a fridge in the kitchen! A rare appliance in the 1950's. It was great place to grow up in as there were plenty of places to play with the countryside surrounding us a burn to paddle in. *Happy days!*



Alan also submitted this photograph of Greenhill school football team in 1961. Jack Gentles is first on the left of the back row.

More Fond Memories from Greenhill *continued*

This letter and photograph were submitted by Alexander Adamson

Hi All,

I very much enjoy your magazine and all the snippets of information that revive memories of my childhood in Greenhill and surrounding district.



The above school photograph is Greenhill Primary School and is I believe primary four and the year would be 1954 but memory fails me in recollecting the exact date. The teacher was Catherine Dowie and will always be remembered for giving out a large squares of tablet during the year but I cannot remember the event only the joy of eating it. The pupils in the photograph as far as memory allows are: Back row: James Campbell, Lesley Dyer, Roddy Halliday, Tom Fairly, Sandy Adamson, Billy Ritchie, ?? , Thomas Michalosky, Middle Row: Rosemary McNaughton? Anne Conroy, ??, Maureen Fleming, Ann Williams?, Marion Ritchie, Johan Dingwall, Elsie Forsyth, Marie Mitchell, ??, Front Row: David Connell, Donald McLauchlin, Ann Leach, Sheena Fleming, Georgina Martin, ? Lees, ??, Pat Halliday, Jimmy Grant, Norman Wilson Front four: Blair Bernard, Andy Hagen, Brian Torrance, Tom Ferguson The photograph is taken with the railway in the background and most mornings at eleven, the Pullman would pass on its way to London from Glasgow drawn by a steam engine each with individual names such as Spion Kop, Union of South Africa, Dominion of Canada some were streamlined others known as shielders. The first Diesel engine to pass the school was greeted with excitement but little did we know that it heralded the end of the steam era. The headmaster at the time was John S McGregor not overly strict but commanded respect, nonetheless. Teachers were Miss Thomson in primary one who sometimes referred to a pupil as a turnip head, not a politically correct statement in today's world. Miss Buick was primary two and primary three I think was a Miss Munro. Slightly vague about the others apart from Miss Adams and Mr Monkman in primary seven. The completing of primary seven heralded with some trepidation the great move to Denny High School or Duke Street Prison as it was often referred to with the move to the great concrete monolith on the Glasgow Road some two years ahead. I hope the photograph will bring memories of those taken on the day and hopefully others may recollect the names I have missed.

The Brides of Paterson Place

Sheena Lambie



(This is a continuation from issue no16 from May 2018 on the Poem on the Brides of Paterson Place. Having only the first names of the brides and no names for the grooms and no time scale, it was a case of help from local people and the Mitchell Library and Scotland's people, I can say that all the couples I found were living at Paterson Place at the time of marriage, I am grateful to the late Ronald Mochrie for his very helpful list of names of people who once lived in Paterson Place this helped me so much. The only marriage certificates I have are Mary Mulls Scott, Mary Marshall Miller, Mary Furlong, Annie Jane Furlong, Jean Torrance Gillies, I hope some of you find someone from your family who once lived in Paterson Place)

No 3 Paterson Place. 25th February 1936 We find Mary Mills Scott the daughter of Duncan Scott and Isabella Finlay getting married to Charles Thomson the son of William Thomson and Jane Heggie in the Church Scotland Bonnybridge.

1936 .20th November 1936 at Paterson Place, no? We find Jean Torrance Gillies the daughter of William Gillies and Mary getting married to Alexander Lindsay the son of George Lindsay and Magdalene Gray took place in the manse at Dennyloanhead

1939.8th September at No 11 Paterson Place We find Mary Marshall Miller the daughter of Robert Marshall Miller and Elizabeth, getting married to Nigel Turnbull Bennie the son of William Bennie and Rowena Turnbull the marriage took place in the lesser Public Hall Bonnybridge in accordance with Church of Scotland Banns.

1941. 16th May at No 12 Paterson Place we find Janet Brownlee Ramsay the daughter of William Ramsay and Jessie Brownlee getting married to Edward Lewis the son of George Lewis and Sarah Burrell the marriage took place at Bonnybridge Church of Scotland, I have a Marriage Certificate

1941. 23rd May at No5 Paterson Place we find Annie Jane Cosgrove Furlong the daughter of James Furlong and Margaret Stirling getting married to Thomas Bell the son of Thomas Bell and Alice Ann Yule. The marriage took place at Church of Scotland Bonnybridge

1943.11th December at No 5 Paterson Place We find Mary Furlong the daughter of James Furlong and Margaret Stirling, getting married to Andrew Crichton the son of Thomas Crichton and Jean, the marriage took place at Church of Scotland in Bonnybridge

1945. 25th August at No 4 Paterson Place we find Ann Hunter Atkins the daughter of John Atkins and Isabella Mitchell, getting married to Robert Boyd the son of William Smith Boyd and Margaret, the marriage took place in the Church of Scotland then onto the Masonic Hall in Bonnybridge

1947. 6th September at No 11 Paterson Place We find Elizabeth Miller the daughter of Robert Marshall Miller and Elizabeth getting married to Edward McKinlay Moffat the son of David Moffat and Mary, the marriage took place in Bonnybridge?

1948. 19th April No 8 Paterson Place We find Mary McPhie the first of 3 sisters to get married from Paterson Place, Mary is the daughter of Robert McPhie and Helen Gordon Kirk, she is getting married to Robert Watt in St Helens Church Bonnybridge

1951.23rd March at No 8 Paterson Place we find the double wedding of the McPhie sisters we have Jessie Gordon McPhie getting married to James Marshall Cordiner the son of William George Cordiner and Jessie Marshall, and sister no 3 is (Ina) Robertina Helen McPhie who is getting married to Robert Marshall

1949.1st February at no 2 Paterson Place We find Rose Ann Wright Campbell the daughter of Thomas Campbell and Christine, getting married to Peter Dobbie the son of Archibald Dobbie and Janet, the marriage took place Church of the Scotland Bonnybridge

1949.19th November at No 9 Paterson Place We find Netta (Janetta) Duffus Getting married at St Helens Church Bonnybridge to James Alexander Taylor the son of James Taylor and Margert Dowson

Famous the World over

These Smith & Wellstood stoves were discovered in various far-flung countries.

This highly decorative Stove was spotted in a market in America and there is some debate about whether or not it was designed specifically for the American market.



The Hostess Stove is also destined for a new lease of life with its new owner in Ireland! Thanks to Billy Buchanan, the details of the company who took over Smith & Wellstood when it closed in Bonnybridge has now been forwarded in the hopes that spare parts and advice might be of help.

THE "S.D. DURBANIAN" RANGE



The Durbanian Range stove was purchased in South Africa with the intention of restoring it and using it in a catering environment. As you can see from the photograph of the stove when new I would think it was designed to be used for large scale catering.



We had a request to assist with information on a Smith & Wellstood Hostess Stove which was being constructed in miniature for a model of a gypsy caravan. We are delighted with the result. Happy to be of help and look forward to seeing the final caravan in its full glory.
What a talent!



A Narrow Escape!

Mhoira Cameron
(extract from local newspaper)



A father of six had a remarkable escape from death this week when an overhead power line split and crackled to the ground exactly where he had been standing seconds earlier. Dan Cameron (29) had just unloaded unused coal from his lorry in the Co-Op yard in Bonnybridge and moved a few yards when the 440-volt low tension cable fell to the ground with part of it landing on a new co-op van. At that time Dan lived in Leapark Drive Bonnybridge with his wife and six children and he said after the incident 'I'll never be luckier. I had just stepped away when I heard a hissing noise above me. Sparks crackled all the way along the line and then the cable whipped to the ground right where I had been standing unloading the coal. Earlier that day I badly twisted my ankle and thought it was my unlucky day, but I can't speak about bad luck after that escape!'

John Muirhead and Eric Millken who owned the garage across the road alerted the Police and Fire services and the Main Street was blocked off. Mr Muirhead said that at first, he thought it was a fire because he saw sparks and flames. Realising that it was an electrical cable that had fallen and landed on a van John and Eric raced across the road in case there was anybody inside. Fortunately, the van was empty. A fireman wearing rubber gloves and a wooden stick pushed the cable off the car in case it caused it to catch fire and ignite the fuel tank.

The Electricity Board isolated the cable from the main supply and the folks in that area were without power for two hours at teatime until the line was repaired. Luckily the only casualty was the co-op van which was brand new and had never been on the road! The Electricity Board reported that the accident had been caused by an article been thrown across the cable. Apparently, it was not uncommon for kites and bike parts to land on the cables. A timely warning perhaps for folks thinking it was just a bit of fun to realise how serious this could have been for Dan and anyone else in the vicinity.

N.B. About five decades later, Dans son Robert, who is Mhoira's husband, wasn't quite so lucky. He was a car mechanic in Bonnybridge and during one massive winter storm he parked a car, which had just had work completed on it, ready for the owner to pick up later. As he walked back to the workshop a very large tree was uprooted by the storm, knocked Robert over and badly broke his leg. That was a Christmas he would rather forget.

Broomhill School

Tricia Wood



1943c - Broomhill School, High Bonnybridge. The headmaster was Gilbert Gray. Restored by me. In the photo are: Top Row: David Skinner; Alec Cunningham; Robert Stalker; David Moffat; William Sellars Second Row: Someone? Preston; Jack Ferguson; Jim Curran; Billy Brown; Willy Harrower; John Scobbie; James Scobbie; Russell Hill; Ian Lockhart Third Row: Margaret Burns; Marjorie Miller; Rita McPherson; Rena Harris; Myra Matheson; Janette Liddell; Essie Dawson; Margaret Bell; Nan Gardner; Marjorie Gillies; Helen Findlay Fourth Row: Jean Clark; Chrissie Sinclair; Agnes Turnbull; Kathy Fawcett; Sheena Sneddon; May Skelton; Jessie Taylor; Elma Wilson; Patricia Rich; Margaret McPherson Front Row: Anne Sneddon; May Shearer; Isabel Logan; Alison Hamilton

Broomhill School, High Bonnybridge - 1941c Names (with most personal comments from Mum removed) Restored by me ... please do not colorise. Top Row (left to right): Andrew Anderson; Willie Burns; Peter Liddell; Sandy Kerr; Russell Hill; Jim Curran; Billy Brown 2nd Row: Ian McPhie; Alec Neilson; John Gray; Jim Menzies; Ian Lockhart; Alex Cunningham; David Campbell. 3rd Row Mary Dalgettie; Rena Harris (family that ran the picture house); Margaret Burns; May Skelton; Elma Wilson (evacuee brought to stay in area); Stella Watson; Essie Dawson; Marjory Gillies; Greta Esplin; Marjory Miller 4th Row Rita McPherson; Lila Faulds; Florence Allan; Megan Rich; Mary Wallace; Jean Clark; Helen Findlay; Helen Taylor; Margaret Bell; Sheila Dunsmore. Front Row: Alison Hamilton; Rena Bell; Alison Brownlea (died at 14); Isabel Logan; May Shearer, Betty Torrance; Ann Moore.



A later Broomhill School, High Bonnybridge photo - taken around 1939-40 on what must have been a rather bright day judging by some of the screwed up faces! I restored this from the original - please do not colorise. Top Row (left to right): Miss Nicol; Stanley Thorburn; -?--; -?--; Jim Maxwell; -?--; Bobby Weir; Sam Lindy; Teacher 2nd Row: Isabel Wells; Mary Wallace; Betty Ferguson; Rita McPherson; Cathy Todd (policeman's daughter); Lila Faulds; Helen Findlay; Esther Halliday; Chrissie Higgins; Agnes Gault; Nan Newton; Margaret Russell 3rd Row: Annie Carson; Nancy McGibbon; Rena Halliday; Margaret Ferguson; Mary Douglas; Margaret Thorburn; Mabel Halliday; Mima Findlay; Margaret Willson Front Row: Ian Carson; -?--; -Sneddon?--; John Dickson; Thomas Maxwell; - Sneddon?--; Andy Sinclair?; Hamish McPherson; Graham McPherson





Walter Aexander Charabanc



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