

Bonnyseen

The **free** magazine from Greenhill Historical Society



Traction Engine : *Photograph courtesy of the Forrest family*



This edition is kindly sponsored by:



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



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Issue Number 5 DATE Nov 2012



Introduction

P. Swierczek

Welcome to the November 2012 issue of Bonnyseen. We have sad news, good news and fantastic news this time around! We are all very sad that Gillian Cowell, our Community Learning and Support worker, mentor and friend has left Bonnybridge to return to her roots in Paisley. We owe Gillian a debt of gratitude for her tireless efforts on behalf of Greenhill Historical Society and wish her every success in her new endeavours. The good news is that we now have a new Community Learning and Support worker to assist us and we extend a warm welcome to Gail Slater. One of Gillian's final efforts in association with GHS was to complete an application to the Lottery Fund, Awards for All, to allow us to continue the work of producing Bonnyseen. The fantastic news is that this has been successful and we have been awarded the sum of £2950 to ensure the continuation of Bonnyseen in 2013. We will always be very grateful to our previous sponsors and in these economically challenging times it is good to know that for one year at least we do not need to pass the hat round to cover the production costs.

The success of the magazine has exceeded our wildest dreams and we continue to receive communications from Bonnybridge folks at home and from around the world. We hope you will find this magazine informative and enjoyable as we strive to preserve the history of the town for future generations. We welcome contributions in all forms and are happy to conduct interviews with anyone who is unable to attend our local meetings.

Thanks to the Awards for All Lottery Fund for Sponsoring the November 2012 edition of the Bonnyseen Magazine

Please feel free to join us in Bonnybridge Community Centre every Friday from 2.00 pm till 4.00pm or mail us at www.greenhillhistoricalsociety.org.uk or greenhillhistoricalsociety@gmail.com

An article regarding the traction engine on the front of this issue will appear in the next issue of Bonnyseen

Continuing the story of the Bonnybridge Doctors

Margaret Murray

Dr. Thomas Reilly M.C.

Dr. Thomas Reilly M.C. started his practice in approx. 1935 after he had proved to be a very talented surgeon at Stobhill Hospital. The practice was adjacent to his home on the Falkirk Road and Dr Reilly served the people of Bonnybridge until the outbreak of WW2. He volunteered for military service where he attained the rank of Major and was decorated for gallantry many times.

When the war ended he returned to his practice in Bonnybridge and married his wife Jane who had been a nurse serving her country during the war. Like all the village doctors he was kept very busy and was not only known as a G.P. by many of his patients but as a friend you could tell your troubles to and who would listen and give advice if needed. He always had a kind word and a smile for all.

With the industry in Bonnybridge including Foundries, Brickworks, Clay mines, Railways and the Canal, the work was hard and often dangerous. The doctors were called out when anyone was injured and sometimes they had to go into some dangerous and dirty places to treat the injured.

Dr. Reilly helped with the development of the Bonnybridge Social Club so that the villagers could have some place to relax and forget about work for a few hours. He served the community until his retirement but even then he was never really idle as something was always going on in Bonnybridge for him to get involved with.

On his 90th birthday the road that leads from High Bonnybridge to Greenhill was renamed Reilly Road and the housing estate on the road was named Reilly Gardens. A Plaque was erected at the entrance to the estate in honour of his commitment to all in the Bonnybridge community and far beyond.

He was a much loved doctor and friend to all and will always be remembered in Bonnybridge

Memories of Growing up in Bonnybridge. Part 2

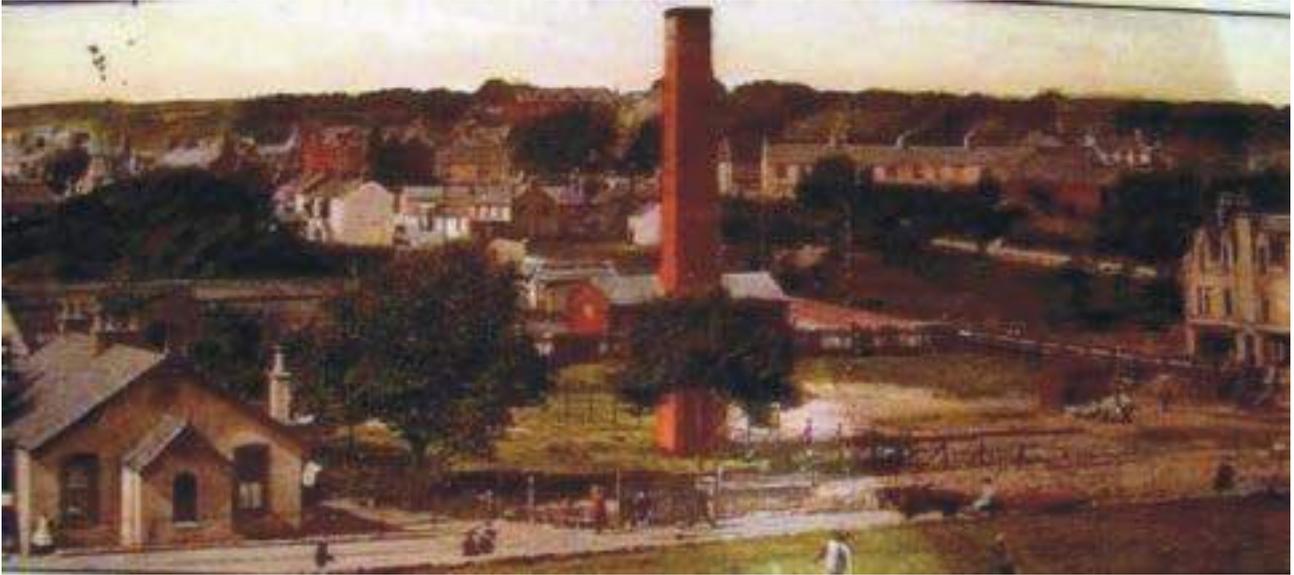
M McDougall (Aytoun)

The blocks of houses in Singer Place where I was born had four houses upstairs and four downstairs and ours was a room and kitchen. There were four children in our family and mum and dad slept in the bed recess in the kitchen and I shared the only bedroom with my brother and two sisters. One end of the building had two washhouses, shared on different days, and we got bathed in the tub after the washing was finished. At the other end of the building were four toilets shared by the eight families. The fence outside the toilets separated us from the railway which ran down the side of the building to Seabegs road where the council yard is now. This branch of the railway ran up to the Greenhill line and at 5pm we children would get a run inside the steam engine up to where the track joined the mainline then walk back down. Our mums used to bake and give the train driver and fireman some goodies for their tea break. In return they used to throw out big lumps of coal and everyone went out with a bucket and a hammer to break up the free coal for our fires. During the war my dad and next door neighbour built an underground room in our garden as an air raid shelter. We had lamps and a toilet (a pail with a wooden seat over it!) We could speak to the neighbours in their underground room in the next door garden.

Jim and I went to Bonnybridge Junior Secondary School which was where the Social Club is now. On our way to school we would buy ice cream from Smith and Wellstood's canteen where our grandmother worked as a cook. We would also often get a shot on the swing bridge if a boat happened to be coming through. I was sometimes sent to the Smith and Wellstood office to collect my dad's pay so mum could buy from the co-op butchers and fruit and veg carts when these horse drawn vehicles came round to our street. The building that was the office for S&W still stands (where the take away van sits) and my sister used to go there for treatment with ultra violet rays. She had to wear goggles for this and I had to sit outside in case the rays affected me.

When I was 11 years old (1947) we flitted to Roman Road and my sisters went to Broomhill School. My brother still lives in Roman Road and my sisters in Woodburn Crescent. I had a paper round as a youngster and delivered papers for the two Misses Robertson. My run was from the Toll newsagents, up the High Street, Jubilee Place, up the side of the church, into Dunure Street and up to Wheatlands House. The Ure family who lived in Wheatlands gave me a tip every Saturday. My run continued along Larbert Road and Highland Dykes Crescent to Isa Lockhart's farm (just before the Golf Course). My tip on Saturdays from Isa Lockhart was a big goose egg which I shared with my dad as nobody else in the family would eat it.

When I went to work in the B.A.T factory (British American Tobacco Co.) everyone wore white overalls and caps but you only got the white cap when you turned 16 years. So I was called a blue cap and I had to sweep floors and run errands etc. until I was 16 and got different jobs on the machines and my white cap. Mr Sands, the manager at B.A.T., was a huge fan of Harry Lauder and every morning when we clocked on he would have the song 'It's nice to get up in the morning but it's better to lie in your bed' playing to welcome us. Then at lunch time he would play 'Keep right on to the end of the road' and at finishing time it would be 'Show me the way to go home'! We had great wages and conditions and my machine was number six. This put the cellophane and a tear off on the John Player packets of ten cigarettes. Sometimes we had special orders to supply the NAAFI so we would hide our names and addresses inside in the hopes that a soldier would find it and become our pen pal. The danger was that quality control would find it first as they opened random packets to inspect them! I got a letter from a soldier stationed in Cyprus and he came for a visit to Bonnybridge when he was on leave in his home town of Durham. The Singers Place railway line had a siding which ran into the rear of the B.A.T. factory and the boxes of cigarettes were loaded onto the train for dispatch through the railway system. The factory was closed in 1958 or 59 but the building still stands next to Moffat's and was used for many years as an office and depot for Falkirk Council. It was only vacated by the council in 2011 so it will be interesting to see what its next use will be. The company found us all new jobs before they closed the Bonnybridge works. Some people went to their new factory in Stirling but I got a job in Mains Gas Cooker factory in Camelon and when it later became the Wrangler factory I worked there for a year. This is now the site taken over by the new Tesco Supermarket.



In the last edition Margaret Mc Dougall asked if anyone could identify the tall chimney behind High Street. The answer is that the chimney belonged to Gillies' Forge

Photograph Courtesy of Michael McMachon



As a result of the passing of the Turnpike Road Act in 1751 toll keepers had to be employed at the toll bars in the Village. There was one at Bonnybridge Toll and one at Seabegs Road to Castlecary.

Wee Willy Wyse was a little boy who drowned in the canal at Bonnybridge. He was buried but the grave robbers such as Burke and Hare, dug up his body and put it onto a barge going to Glasgow. Fortunately they were spotted and Wee Willy Wyse was retrieved and reburied in the Old Cemetery at Bonnybridge.

The plaque relating to the story/poem is on the wall of the Old Cemetery where the car park for the Library/Community Centre is now and was placed there courtesy of Billy Buchanan, Local Councillor.



An Apology to Wee Willie Wyse

W Buchanan on behalf of the human race

O' Willy Wyse I was angry to hear
What they did to your body, those men without fear
How your body they stole, those men without pity
And put on a canal boat to sell at the city.

But the good Lord was watching this terrible deed
And he alerted the captain to intercede
As he opened the box he let out a cry
When he saw your poor body he knelt down and cried.

It's poor wee Willy Wyse, the blind orphan boy
Whose violin playing brought us much joy
He was drowned and buried only a short time ago
When he fell in a canal and his head took a blow.

It was in Bonnybridge chapel yard he was laid down to sleep
But only hours later the body snatchers did creep
And over the wall they came in the night
To pull out his body in the moonlight.

But at Glasgow the Polis were waiting as they marched down the road
Carrying his poor mangled body was their dreadful load
And then he was returned to his chapel yard lair
By the canal boat company who took so much care
To lay him to rest and protect him from them
Those evil, those hated resurrection men.

Rest in peace wee Willy Wyse.

June Bell's Bonnybridge Story

**June Bell, 9 Woodside Village, Norton Way,
Rondebosch 7700, Cape Town, South Africa.**

I am June Bell, daughter of Robertson Bell, who lived in Dalmeny, Larbert Road and worked for Smith & Wellstood. He was born on 15th November 1880 and attended Hutcheson Grammar School in Glasgow. He worked in the Conduit Street Offices, London, of Smith & Wellstood before being transferred to their office in Bonnybridge in 1919. He was the seventh child of Finlay Bell, a tobacco manufacturer in Glasgow.

I was born in Dalmeny on the 12th January 1923 and lived there until I was married on 12th June 1946 and went to live in Rhodesia, eventually retiring with my husband, Donnie, to Cape Town in 1996. My memories are of an idyllic childhood, with help in the home, the last of whom was Betty Young who was my father's loyal housekeeper until his death on 19th October 1952.

On the other side of Dalmeny was the manse where the minister was (I think) Barty Sinclair. Next door to the manse lived Dr and Mrs Young with their two daughters Betty and Chrissie; later Betty became a physiotherapist and Chrissie was an artist. In the house next door to them lived Mr and Mrs Wilson the bank manager (see their daughter in picture) and later Mr David Baird, a relative of the Ure's who worked in S&W. The smaller house next to that was occupied by Mr and Mrs James White of S&W who had no children and were particularly kind to me. Wheatlands, the estate opposite Dalmeny, was the home of George Albert Ure and family; the youngest child was John, my contemporary. I attended a small private school run by Mrs Spence who was the wife of the headmaster of the Bonnybridge Public School.

The enclosed photo of the pupils shows: left to right, back row: Martha Leishman of Dunure street, Catherine Taylor of Falkirk, (front row) Kitty Mullins, Molly Miller, Yvonne Straw, Molly Wilson and June Bell. Mrs Spence eventually lived in 1 Larbert Road with her daughter Margaret an LRCM who taught music. Upstairs in 1 Larbert Road lived Miss Carrie Ure (known to all children as 'Aunt Carrie', sister (or cousin ?) of George Albert Ure.

The other photo was taken with my little Brownie Box camera in 1934, on the Scores, St Andrews, of my father (hatless), Dr John Young of Bonnybridge and my little sister Moira aged six.



Among the other villagers I remember is the Duncan Stewart family who used to take me to watch Ice Hockey in Falkirk; to this day I receive a Christmas card from the youngest Stewart, son Alan, who now lives in Dundee. Next door to them was Mrs Dorothy Ross, whose husband worked for S&W until his early death. Mr & Mrs Walter Bain lived in Ardmore on the Main Road, their daughter Olive was my friend when we attended Falkirk High School together. Olive had an older sister, Sheila, and a brother Murray who trained as a Veterinary Surgeon. Other Bonnybridge children who attended Falkirk High School at that time were Donald and Alan Forteach whose father was a Bonnybridge bank manager, and Barbara Gray who lived just off the Larbert Road. I remember playing golf at the Bonnybridge Golf Club with my father when I was quite young. Two others I do remember were Miss Humphreys and Annie Profit who I think was the Postmistress. I remember on Sunday afternoons going to hear the Brass Band playing in the War Memorial Park. When I was a little older I walked to High Bonnybridge to attend, with Olive Bain, the St Andrew's Ambulance Brigade first aid classes run by Dr Pearson who was our family doctor.

I also played hockey in the Village and had my bicycle repaired at Lockhart's garage in the Main Road. I remember watching Jimmy Lockhart racing on his motor bike at a meet on the West Sand, St Andrews, Fife, where we went for our annual holiday, by taxi!



My mother and father attended the annual S&W dance which I think was held in the Masonic Hall;

I enclose a photograph of one such occasion probably taken in the late 20s or early 30s. My mother and father are shown sitting in the front row (behind the man with a guitar!).

I have the happiest memories of the Village and send greetings to anyone who remembers me or anyone of my family. Kindest regards, June Donovan (nee Bell)

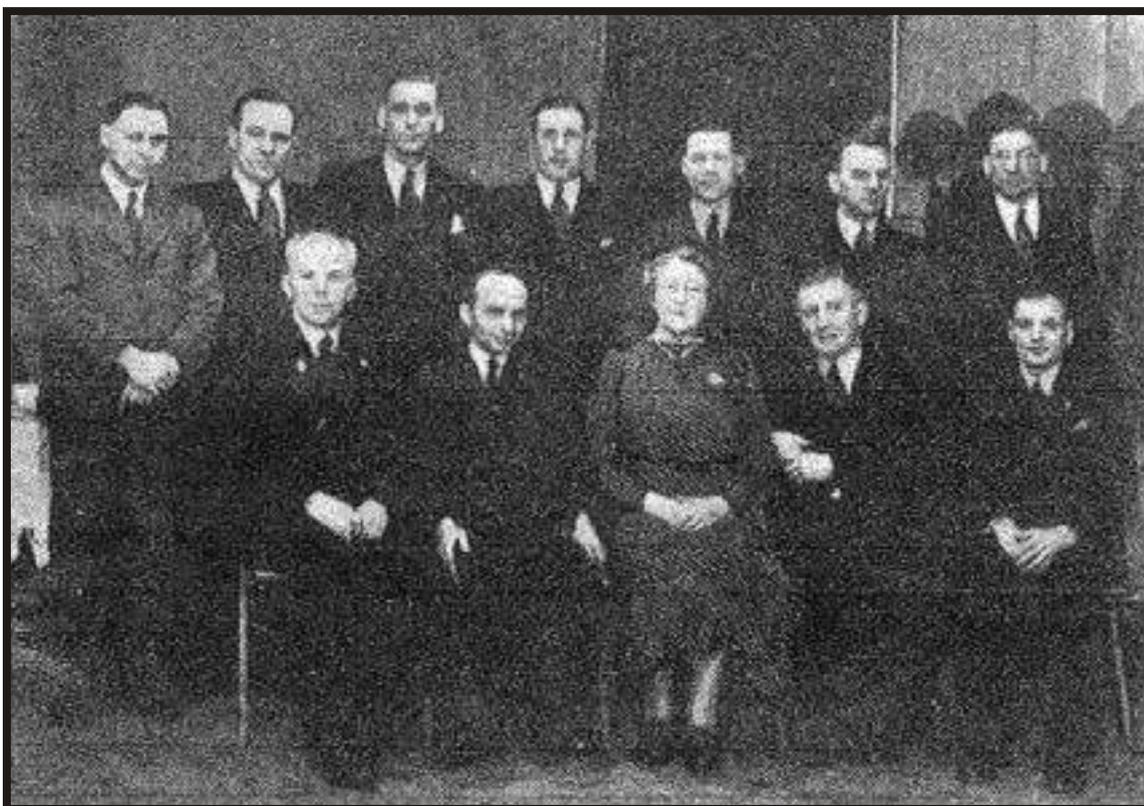
PS I am June's 93 year old husband, Donnie, the lucky person June married, 66 years ago, after a friendship and courtship of six years in Bonnybridge and St Andrews. June dictated this letter for me to write because her eyesight is now too poor to manage her own computer on which she kept 5 children, 14 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren together and in touch for many years until very recently.

The Wellstood Ambulance Brigade R Mochrie

As Smith and Wellstood Iron Foundry expanded and production increased with the installation of modern machinery and working practices it was recognised, that to deal with accidents and injuries, it would be beneficial to all to have trained First Aiders in the Foundry. Therefore on 23rd February 1943 the Wellstood Ambulance Brigade was constituted with thirty three members.

The office bearers were:

Commandant	D Walker
Hon Surgeon	Dr W Welsh
Ass Commandant	D McLaren
Secretary	J Lennie
Sergeant	G Melville
	J Torrance
	D Keir



On 10th August 1943 the Brigade became part of The St Andrews Ambulance Association, and was registered as The Wellstood Welfare Core. They held their meetings in 'The Huts' (the Wellstood Club) where they ran Junior and Senior training courses. Over the years, the Ambulance Section has been on duty at many events throughout the country including the Ibrox disaster in 1968. To this day they continue to provide First Aid cover at football and rugby matches and a vast range of public events, including those taking place at Stirling Castle.

Members of the Smith and Wellstood Ambulance Brigade represented Scotland at:

- Royal Review, Ibrox 1947-1954
- Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance 1971
- Festival of Remembrance Albert Hall, London 1992

The Wellstood Welfare Ambulance Core has, for sixty nine years, provided a valuable resource in the community. They continue to meet in their premises in Main Street, Bonnybridge and new members are most welcome.



**Greenhill Historical Society would like to express our special thanks
to a Bonnybridge couple and their dog.**

While out walking by the Bonny Water the couple's dog was having a great time running in and out of the river, but to the couple's surprise he came back to them with a 'present' of a Victorian child's boot. They were amazed, but realised how important this boot could be in a historical setting. They took the boot to Callendar House and the historians told them it was mid to late Victorian, had possibly belonged to a little girl and, because of the style, the family would have been of some standing in the community.

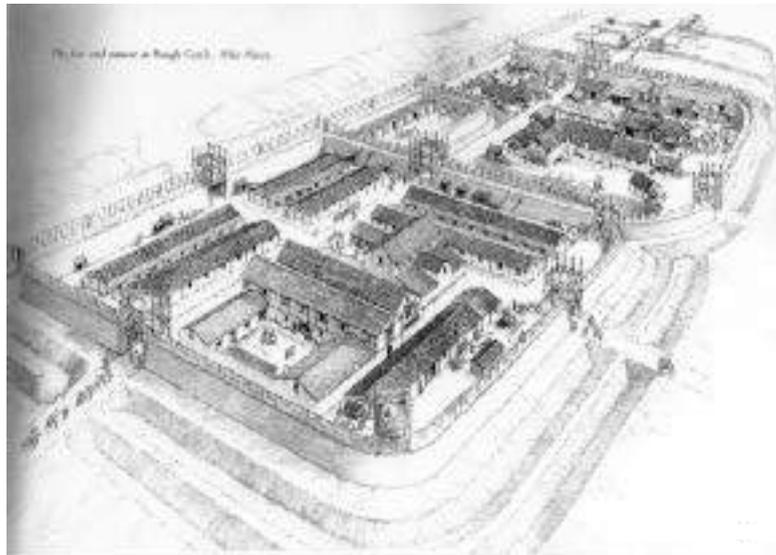
Callendar House suggested to the couple that Greenhill Historical Society might be interested in keeping the artefact retrieved from the Bonny Water. So at our Friday meeting in May 2012 they arrived with this wonderful gift for which we are very grateful. We also appreciate the thoughtfulness of Callendar House for suggesting it be given to us.

The Victorian child's boot inspired the writing of a possible story about the family, how it could have been lost, ended in the Bonny Water and about the little girl.

If any reader has or finds anything they think might be of interest to ourselves we would be more than happy to receive it at our meetings every Fridays between 2pm and 4pm in the Community Centre.

In 2003 the Antonine Wall was nominated for World Heritage status by the Royal Commission of Scotland with the support of the five local authorities along the line of the wall: East Dunbartonshire, Falkirk, Glasgow, North Lanarkshire and West Dunbartonshire. In 2008 this magnificent example of Roman engineering became Scotland's fifth World Heritage site. The others are the island of St Kilda, Edinburgh's Old and New Towns, New Lanark and the Heart of Neolithic Orkney. Illustrious company indeed! So maybe now we can add an addition to the normal response you get when you say you come from Bonnybridge. As well as, 'Isn't that the UFO capital of the World?' it would be great to hear; 'Don't you have a World Heritage site there?'

The Antonine wall was built in AD142 as a defence against the Caledonians who vastly outnumbered the Roman occupiers and who waged a guerrilla war against them. The wall stretches from the River Forth at Bo'ness to the Clyde at Old Kilpatrick, a distance of 37 miles, and has 19 forts along its length. Unlike Hadrian's Wall the Antonine was not built of stone but of turfs laid on a stone base with a wooden palisade on top and a defensive ditch on the North side. One of the best remaining examples of the ditch can be seen at Seabegs wood and Rough Castle Fort, although not the largest fort on the wall, gives us an excellent outline of what it would have looked like almost two thousand years ago. The sketch below, reproduced with the kind permission of the artist, Mike Moore, gives us a very good idea of the extent of the buildings and the imposing nature of Rough Castle Fort.



An interesting surviving feature at Rough Castle is the Lilia which were placed between the ditch and the rampart to deter potential invaders. These were oval pits which had sharpened stakes embedded in the bottom with the spike facing upwards then covered with twigs and bracken. Anyone unfortunate enough to step in one of these pits would be impaled and injured at best but would certainly make enough noise to alert the guards.

In spite of the massive amount of work that went into building the Antonine Wall from AD 142 onwards it was abandoned in AD 165 and the Romans retreated back to Hadrian's Wall. Was it the ferocity of the natives which led to the retreat? Maybe, but when you factor in our climate and the dreaded midges maybe they just had enough!

However, the World Heritage site at Rough Castle remains very much a mystery to many travellers and tourists. Why? Mostly because they cannot find it as recorded by many on the Trip Advisor web site! The signage is poor to say the least, especially at the junction of Seabegs Road and Bridge Street. Many of the tourist sites recommend a visit in conjunction with the Falkirk Wheel experience which is fine if you are fit and able enough to walk from the Wheel along the pathways to Rough Castle and back. There are very few parking slots at Rough Castle and there is no chance of a tour bus gaining access on the road as it is at the moment. Perhaps the problem is achieving a balance between allowing the public to enjoy this unique site and preserving it for future generations. Whatever Scottish National Heritage do with the site in the coming years I hope they will make it more accessible and raise its profile, not only for visitors, but for local people who have long regarded Rough Castle Fort as a special and atmospheric site.

My early days in Greenhill

by David Gourlay

Dadgour2@aol.com

I first heard of Greenhill in 1932 when I was six years old and my family lived in Edinburgh. My dad worked for the LMS railway company and was transferred to Greenhill as a carriage and wagon examiner, this meant we were heading to an unknown country village.

I remember the December day we arrived by train at High Bonnybridge railway station, Dad, Mum, my younger brother and baby sister. It was so different from Edinburgh much quieter, not any traffic here. We then set off along the footpath known locally as the Pad heading for Greenhill and the railway buildings. On the way we passed the brickworks and a solitary farm but not one person, it seemed like the song "There is a Greenhill Far Away". We eventually reached the end of the Pad and there they were, The Railway Buildings. At first sight there seemed to be just three small buildings, one small shop and another wooden building, the local branch of the Coop, but then we found another building behind the three and it was the one we were going to live in. The four buildings were two storeys, there were four room and kitchen houses at ground level and four room and kitchen plus attic room houses above, each building had a block of outside toilets, with four toilet cubicles. Two families shared each unit, there was a community wash house block with four separate wash units with deep sinks and coal fired boilers. There was a rota within each block for use of the wash house.(I later found out that the wash house was also used as a bath house, after the clothes washing was finished the younger members of the family were bathed in the deep sink or in a zinc bath tub.) This was life in Greenhill in the early thirties.

After we settled in and started to explore our surroundings, we visited the local paper shop run by the Thomson family. One of the daughters, Mary, seemed to be the one who was most active in running the shop. The Coop branch, managed by Malcolm McCallum, was the centre of the village supplying the groceries and provisions. Through the tunnel under the LNER railway we came to Wilson Terrace, with the School and Schoolhouse and a row of modern council houses. This was the other side of the tracks, a class better than the railway buildings. The local amenities were the Railway Hall and the Maxwell-Muller Hut, where there were occasional dances and concerts as well as all the meetings of the local organisations such as the Scouts and WRI etc. I read in your magazine re the demise of the old corrugated shed that we called the railway hall. My dad, while working on the railway, was also the caretaker of the hall. We enjoyed many dances there dancing to Tommy Kane on drums with accordion accompaniment.

The Headmaster of the school was Paddy Ireland a very popular and friendly character assisted by a staff of about six. I remember all their names but will name one who was infamous "Miss Bachelor of the Belt." She kept her strap beside her and used it regularly with vigour, every boy knew about it and respected it. School was all right but days off and holidays were better. There was so much to do in Greenhill; we played all kinds of games around the buildings including football. (We had a well-known footballer who lived in the buildings Alec Low played for Falkirk and once for Scotland).

The railway yard was a very busy one in the early thirties. It had a locomotive shed and a turn-table. We used to go behind the railway hall where we were able to watch the engines and wagons being shunted around. A few years later the shed closed and the buildings were disused and left empty and we used to sneak in and play in them.

The Greenhill moors were great places in the summer. We played in the woods and walked to Clayknowes, the Targets and Poly Halls. We built dams in the burn and swam in them: we built shelters with branches and ferns for our gang hut and fished in the quarry for perch. In the winter we skated on the Glenyards Quarry. They were great days. I moved from Greenhill and Bonnybridge some time ago, and have moved around a fair bit, but I could never forget my early years in Greenhill.



Memorial Arch Unveiled

Mae Blackwell

The Memorial Arch at the war memorial grounds in Bonnybridge in memory of the young men who gave their lives in the 1939-45 World War was unveiled on Sunday 18th September 1949.

Councillor David Mann, J.P., chairman of the District Council presided at the ceremony. He was accompanied by Lieut-General Sir Gordon MacMillan, Lady MacMillan, Captain Mitchell, the Rev A.E.M. Thomson, the Rev James S Malcolmson And Mr F Brown.



In his opening remarks Mr Mann explained that when the District Council agreed that some suitable memorial ought to be erected in memory of the 50 young men who gave their lives in World War Two, a public meeting was called in Bonnybridge. At that meeting a committee was elected for the purpose of fund-raising. The people of Bonnybridge worked hard to raise the funds and he felt sure that the completed work was a fitting tribute, not only to those young men of the area who made the supreme sacrifice, but also to others who served their country during the six years of war. Continuing, he said that they were indeed honoured to have Sir Gordon to perform the unveiling ceremony.

General MacMillan, in his opening remarks, said that it was an honour for him to have been invited to come to the dedication of the memorial. Especially so because of his position as Commander of the Army in Scotland and also as Colonel of the County Regiment, the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. He went on to say that on the memorial which he was about to unveil, they would see the names of 50 men from Bonnybridge and District. Those men served in all services which helped to win the war. The General's concluding words were "Let us not fail them". He thereupon unveiled the Memorial Arch which was then dedicated by the Rev. A.E.M. Thomson (in the absence of the Rev. B.D Sinclair who was unable to attend because of illness). The two minutes silence

was observed and wreaths laid by the General, relatives of the fallen and all organisations who took part in the parade.



A lament was played by Pipe Major J McConachie, Allandale Pipe Band, and the Last Post and Reveille by bandsman Frank Burnett. Prayer was led by the Rev. A.E.M. Thomson and after the singing of "O God Our Help in Ages Past", the benediction was pronounced by J.S. Malcolmson

At the conclusion of the unveiling and dedication, the parade which was led by Allandale Pipe Band, reformed and marched past the saluting base where the salute was taken by General MacMillan.

After the march past the platform party, councillors and invited guests adjourned to the Co-operative Hall for tea. Mr Mann presided and gave a vote of thanks to all who assisted in making the day the success it was.

Let's test your knowledge

William Parker

- ? The house which once stood on the canal bank and was owned by the Forrest family was called BONNYBANK but does anyone know why it was so called?
- ? Does anyone know or has anyone ever heard of a “rats’ flitting”?
- ? Does anyone remember or know where we would be able to find a **statue** erected to some person, in the Bonnybridge area?
- ? Does anyone have any photographs of “**the huts**” in the area of Paterson Place?
- ? Does anyone have any photographs or can give us information about **the prefabs** in Bonnybridge?

Anyone who can help with any of these questions should come along to Greenhill Historical Society or leave the information in an envelope at the Community Centre, Bonnybridge, addressed to Greenhill Historical Society.

Do you remember

William Parker

The Bonnybridge Co-operative

Bonnybridge – a very small village in the 1949/50’s had 2,084 Co-op Members.

Co-operative offered a wide range of services such as –dressmaking, electrical, French polishing, wheel wrights, hairdressing, cabinet making, radio, library, cinema and ballroom halls, etc.

Bonnybridge Co-op had stores at Seabegs, Greenhill, High Bonnybridge, Allandale, Thornton Avenue, Wheatlands Avenue and Dennyloanhead.

Co-op Checks – Different coloured plastic money which was only available in or could be spent in Co-op stores or Co-op Offices. Different Co-ops had their name on the check e.g. Falkirk, Bo’ness etc.

Vacuum tubes in Co-op stores, where money was sent in little tins up to and down from the office.

Small wooden offices built inside the Co-op Stores with their little windows for all transactions to pass through.

Huge mounds of butter to be patted into various amounts on the Store shelf.

Queues at the Co-op Offices on Dividend Day.

The one armed man called Davie Nelson who did the milk run with his horse and cart. Reportedly the horse new every stop on the route.

Jimmy Philips and Jock Spiers delivering bread and cakes from the bakery to the stores in their specially shelved vans.

**Apparently Hopalong Cassidy, the 1950's TV and Film Cowboy Star,
had/has relatives in Bonnybridge.
(He is pictured below with his horse Topper)**



Mr Jim Douglas of J.D. Joinery in Bonnybridge tells us that in 1869, his great grandfather's sister (Mary) and her brother (James) went to America. James returned but Mary stayed and married into the Boyd family. (Hopalong Cassidy's real name was William Boyd).

In 1969, a Rolls Royce car arrived at Dougals' Brickworks in High Bonnybridge with two Americans in it. They were trying to find their ancestral family – the Douglas's, but they were unsuccessful and left to return to their hotel at Gleneagles and it was only later that it was realised, that this could have been Hopalong Cassidy and his sister. In 1984, another American named William Madden, stayed at the local Royal Hotel and his mother was Eleanor Boyd, but again, he also had no success in finding his ancestors or relatives although he wasn't given much help! William Boyd (Hopalong Cassidy) was born in 1895 and died in 1972, but he did attend the funeral of the legendary lawman Wyatt Earp (of Gunfight at the OK Corral fame), who died at the age of almost 90. William Boyd is buried in Forest Lawn Memorial Park along with many other T.V. and film stars.

So if you belong to the extended Douglas family or have the surname Boyd and live or have lived in the Bonnybridge area originally, you could have a film star connection!

The Bonnybridge Social & Recreational Sports Bar (formerly known as The Bonnybridge Social Club) was formally opened on 17th December, 1969, and celebrated its 40th Anniversary on 11th December, 2009. The founding members were James Duguid, Jean Duguid, Alistair Ferguson, James Smith, Andrew Campbell, Jean Foster J.P. (Secretary), John (Ian) Foster (Chairman), Rev. Tom Scott, Robert Smith, John Cruse, Jean Scott and Charles Scott, who was subsequently voted as vice Chairman.

These people worked on the building and planned its opening for four years prior to the official opening. They and others put their own money into the venture to build Club Premises for the benefit of the community. Their aim was to provide “the furnishing of social amenities for the community.

To celebrate the 40th Anniversary, the Club held a Special Anniversary Weekend commencing on Friday, 11th December, 2009, with the following events:



Friday:

Golden Oldies Night

Saturday:

Dance with music by a Live Band, Westend

Sunday:

Cabaret and the final of “Has Bonnybridge got Talent” competition

The club continues to operate at the present date with a full programme of events every week. A number of members were presented with life membership of the club and displayed are two of the certificates.

Greenhill Historical Society

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

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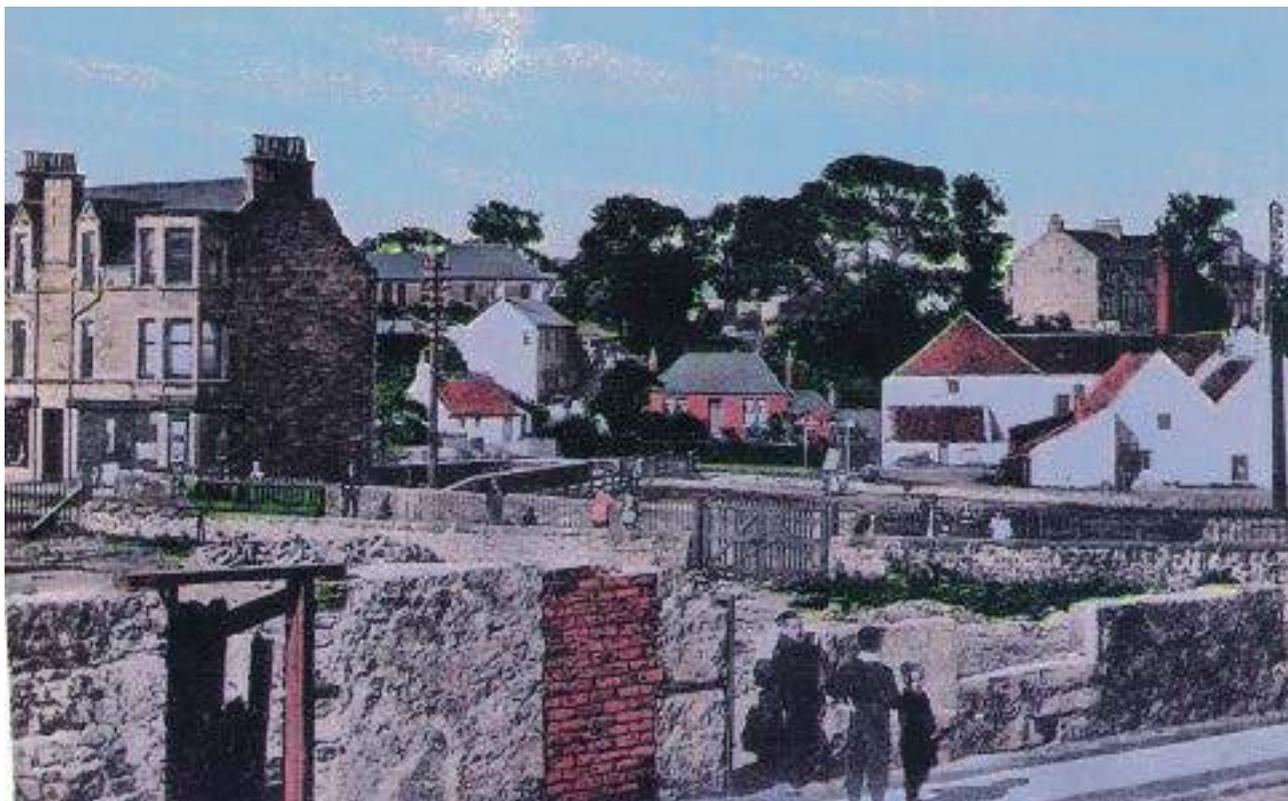
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Old Bonnybridge

The east side of Bonnybridge Toll with the bridge going over the Bonny towards Lade Road.



The Ford and Mill, Bonnybridge
Photograph courtesy of Michael McMahon

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