



CARSPHAIRN
HERITAGE
GROUP

NEWSLETTER No. 1

January 1988

This is the first of what we hope will be many newsletters keeping you informed of the activities of our group.

We are anxious that the newsletter will be a two-way venture and would encourage those interested to write to us with information about the heritage of this area, anecdotes from the past or merely a passing thought stimulated by a piece of information contained in a previous newsletter. We would be delighted to hear from you.

Apart from reports of committee meetings and forthcoming events we hope to include, in some editions puzzles or queries about the area. We would like very much if as many people as possible would participate and any ideas on the above suggestions would be greatly appreciated. To date we have been touched and encouraged by the support we have received for our group. For two summers we have had events in the Lagwyne Hall and assistance and attendance have been well beyond our expectations. Thank you to everyone who has been involved and please continue to show your interest and enthusiasm.

This newsletter will be somewhat shorter than latter publications because our decision to print it was taken at the AGM in October.

And we wished to give you the opportunity to become members of the group as soon as possible. The news content,

therefore, is rather limited.

Details of membership are as follows :

£5.00 Family Membership

£3.00 Individual Membership

£1.50 Senior Citizens

Your membership will entitle you to reduced rates for CHG functions and four newsletters free published end of January, April, July and October.

Application forms are available from

The Shop
Carsphairn

or

Mrs Gillian Brown
Greenhead Mains
Carsphairn
Castle Douglas
Kirkcudbrightshire
DG7 3TQ

and completed forms and fee should be sent to our Membership Secretary Mrs G Brown (address as above)

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

THE NEXT MEETING WILL TAKE
PLACE ON TUESDAY 22nd MARCH
AT 8.00 pm AT THE HOLM OF
DALTALLOCHAN

'LEADMining AT WOODHEAD' Exhibition & Walks, 1987

During June and August 1987 over 300 people were taken up to the mines including a party from the Dalmellington Countryside Club and the local history class from Castle Douglas.

Among the visitors was a Mr McAdam from Midlothian attempting to trace his family in the nineteenth century. Information given in the censuses states that Mr McAdam's great, great grandmother was a sister of John McMath whose family lived longest at the mines from before the 1841 census to after the 1891 census.

Another visitor, Mr Sommerville from Cupar wished to find out about the Sommerville family who had lived at Garryhorn.

One of the descendants of the last lead-miner came from Hampshire with her family. Her great grandfather, Edward Pascoe worked at the mines in 1970. Photographs including Mr Pascoe were on display at the exhibition.

Those of us participating in 'guiding' the groups found it a most rewarding and interesting experience. We learned a great deal about all aspects of Woodhead from many of our visitors.

We would like to thank Mr D Wallace and Mr Charles Cathcart for their co-operation in this project.

At a recent antiques fair in Glasgow where old postcards were sold, a lady from Dalmellington bought a card of the houses at Woodhead Leadmines for £9. Do you have any old postcards of interest that you would be willing to allow us to see?

CAN ANYONE OFFER INFORMATION ON THE 'CROSSKEYS' MENTIONED IN THIS ARTICLE OF 1860?

Mary Kerr or M'Crae, Carsphairn, was accused of assaulting Mary M'Crae, her sister-in-law, innkeeper of the Crosskeys Inn in Carsphairn, by first pushing her down over a chair, and then knocking her down by giving her a blow with her fist below the eye, and throwing a spit-box at her. Panel pleaded not guilty. From the evidence it appeared that the panel's husband never left his sister's inn, and that she, feeling irritated at this, took his clothes and laid them on a table in a room of the inn where he was, saying "there were his clothes, and he might stay there," on which, after some words between the panel and Mary M'Crae, the latter took up the clothes and threw them in the face of the former, when she gave her the push as stated, and followed it with the blow. The judge considered the case a painful one, and, in the whole circumstances, could not but find it to be his duty to —oitzie the panel, when she was accordingly dismissed.

As you will have noticed many exciting developments have occurred during the past year and we envisage many more in the near future. We hope, in the next newsletter at the end of April, to report on further research at Woodhead and some of our ideas for social events for the Spring and activities in the Summer of 1988

If you would like to contribute to next quarter's newsletter please send your item to :

Fears allayed over museum curator plan

A round the table meeting between representatives of all the galleries and museums in the Stewartry, the Scottish Museums Council and the Stewartry District Council has allayed fears over the plan to appoint a new assistant curator.

Following a report from the Scottish Museums Council, Stewartry councillors had agreed to start talks with Wigtown District Council about employing a joint curator.

But the report was also sent to local groups who were concerned about various aspects of it that affected them. So the meeting with Carsphairn Heritage Group, Kirkcudbright Harbour Cottage Trust, the Stewartry Museum Associations, E. A. Hornel Trust and The Friends of the Hornel Art Gallery was arranged.

Mr T Ambrose, from the Scottish Museums Council, told the meeting that the assistant curator could give guidance or practical advice to the organisations or

point them in the right direction for information. They would also give advice about sources of finance and this would be a priority. They would develop a travelling service to make museum facilities district wide.

The assistant curator would not want to take over the administration of local museums and it was significant, he said, that 70% of museums in Scotland were independent and this was a strength.

Representatives felt that co-ordinated publicity would be of great benefit to the museums and there was talk of possible guided tours.

It was stressed to Mr Ambrose by several people that they were happy to take advice or assistance but must have the right to choose. They would co-operate with such an appointee, they said, after hearing details of the work envisaged.

The Stewartry District Council will now contact Wigtown Council about the project.

List of committee members

Mr David Brown	Chairman
Mrs Anna Campbell	Secretary
Miss Anne Rutherford	Treasurer
Mrs Jill Brown	Membership Secy
Mr Robin Ade	
Miss Rhoda Campbell	
Mrs Carol Cathcart	
Mrs Barbara Cruickshank	
Colonel John Clark Kennedy	
Mrs Mary Pringle	

Due to the deterioration of the original first issue of the Newsletter it has been re-worked for reasons of clarity. The header on the front cover IS a copy of the original