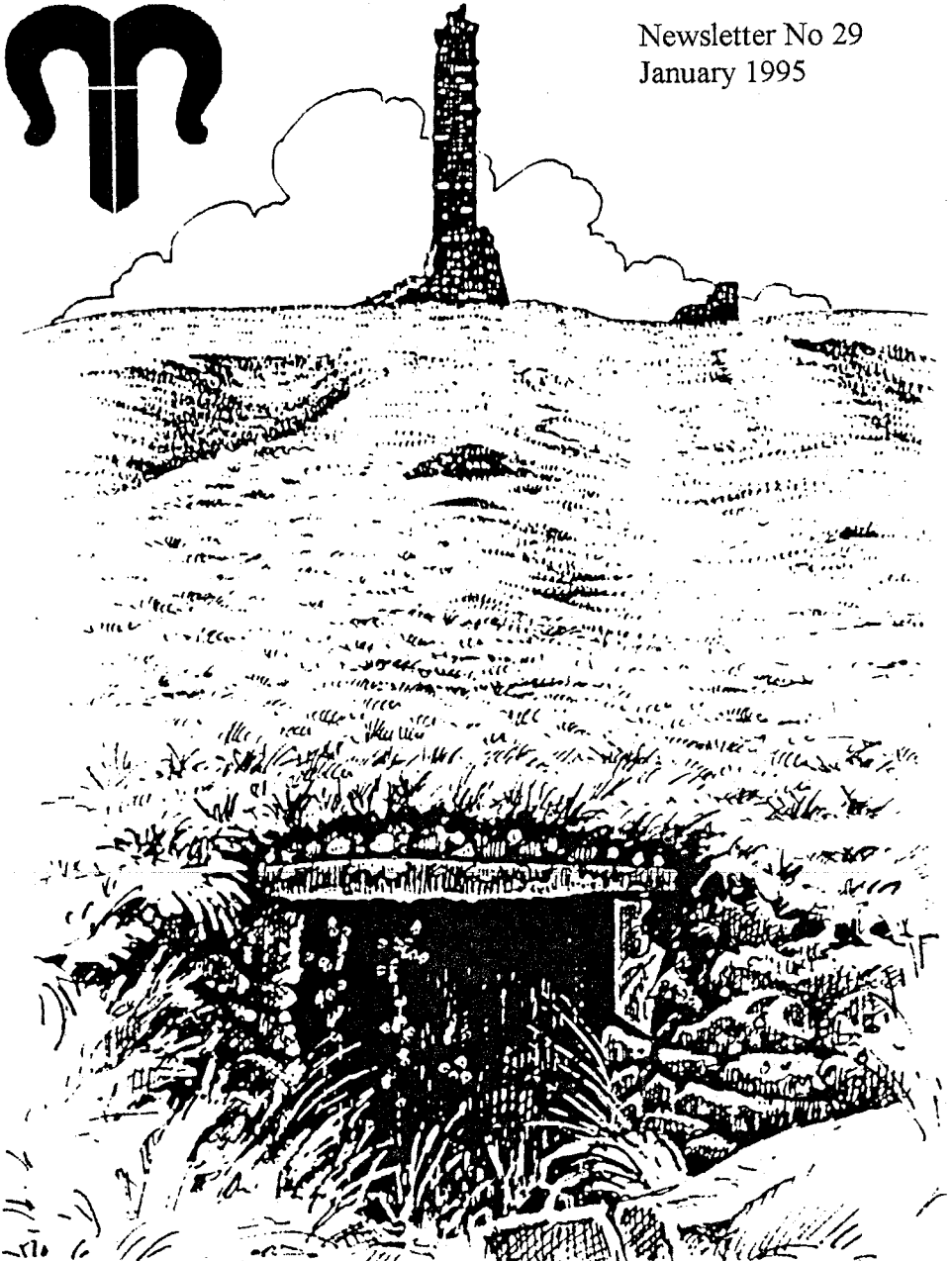


Carsphairn Heritage Group

Newsletter No 29
January 1995



WOODHEAD MINE

For the sake of members who cannot attend our Annual General Meeting I shall give a brief report on the Group's business in 1994.

We had a successful year with a growth in membership and well supported social events. The Centre was well attended and produced a modest profit for the first time. This success would not be possible without local response and the committee appreciate, fully, how lucky we are to have the support of such a generous and hard working community.

Our opening exhibition for this year will be "Arts and Crafts in Carsphairn 1995" as a follow on to last years Trades and Crafts of the 1890s.

A new acquisition for the Reference Section is a slide projector, with large, built-in viewing screen, for look at the growing collection of old photographs. We felt it important to collect and preserve as many old photos as possible. Local residents lent us their albums, and the Stewartry Museum Service kindly gave us slide copies taken from these, for the Centre.

The guest exhibition in July will be a display of selected, enlarged photos of Carsphairn and the Glenkens, shown by the Museum Service.

Our busy Newsletter editor, Carol, has copied the information and illustrations from the Timespan boards to produce leaflets to sell in the Centre. She has also printed a Newsletter Index which will be a great help in finding information, particularly for visitors in a hurry.

Ian Watret left the committee at the A.G.M. and we extend our thanks to him for his valuable input, especially his help with the wildlife video and the trails.

People living on the spot often miss seeing the obvious - so please let us know if you have any subject you wish to see researched or exhibition you would enjoy. Ideas are always helpful.

Hugie Adamson

Membership subscriptions for 1994-5 are now due. Those who haven't yet paid will be receiving a reminder with this Newsletter. Rates are the same - Family £5.00; Individual £3.00; Senior Citizen £1.50 to be sent to Carol Cathcart please - address on page 8.

The Woodhead Lead Mine by Anna Campbell

Extracts from an article published in *Scottish Local History*

Vol. 31 June 1994 divided into three parts for this Newsletter . Part 1 appeared in Newsletter no 27 July 1994

Part 2 - The Working Mine

Little remains of the surface operations of the Mine at Woodhead. The remains of the smelting complex are still obvious as are the chimneys higher up the hillside. One still stands high enough to be seen from the main road, the A713, just south of the village. The measurements for the new smelt mills for two hearths were: *'outside walls 2'; width 33'; length 29'*. *The house containing two roasting furnaces was 46' in length by 26' long outside'*. There may have been two wheels, one of 24' in diameter and the second of 30'. The line of the 6 miles of lades and the reservoirs which controlled the flow of water to power the wheels can still be defined. Water from the mines was drawn off *'by the beautiful balance-machine, first invented by Brindley, and ore raised on the same principle as often as necessary. The ore is conveyed - whether to the break-mill or the washing sieves, shaken by overshot wheels - by branches of railway'*. Nothing remains of the rails nor of any of the central workings, as much of the spoil was carried away to improve local roads between the wars.

The total tonnage raised at the mines was 6,712 tons. The peak year of production was 1842 when 905 tons were raised and for the next ten years there was gradual decline until the slump of 1853. The bars of lead were transported by cart to Dalmellington where they were stored at the *'leidyards'* and sent out as the market demanded to Ayr and then for export, primarily to the Netherlands where they were used for roofing, drains and ammunitions. Around 1843, 17 bars of lead weighing ten and a half stone were being made daily, but there had been as many as 25 to 35 daily in earlier years .

There were 7 levels underground, each shaft with its ventilation shaft, some of which can still be seen today. The deepest shaft, sunk in 1843 was 52 fathoms deep. *'Miners were enclosed between masses of whinstone, compact as high, in the centre of which a seam of metal, to all appearance inexhaustible, dips at an angle of nearly thirty degrees'*. Working conditions were difficult and dangerous; miners worked in dark, cramped passages with just the flicker of a candle as a guide (Colonel McAdam Cathcart referred to two banksmen who were to have three candles each for 12 hours and the overseer Charles Wilson to 5,961 candles costing £173.17.3.)

The miners were paid per fathom dug, although there is an early reference to a bargain. In January 1839, Colonel McAdam Cathcart estimated that he would pay 16 miners £150 over the following 3 months. In the few surviving pages of his journal, he stated that the *'ore in bottom of sump appears to grow weaker... and the men complained of not making wages in this Bargain. As the water increases and the rock (gets) much harder; taking into account the Turnhead which cut without powder, they have made fully 14/- per week... I entered into a new Bargain with 8 men to carry down the sump for 2 fathoms and a half at 5 per fathom'*. Later, probably around 1843, the miners - around 70 - were paid *'at a certain rate per fathom, their earnings being from 18s weekly and upwards and they work only 6 hours out of the 24'*. The miners' labourers, who work two *'shifts'* in the day are also paid so much per fathom and earn from 12s to 14s a week.

The boys and women are employed in breaking the ore with hammers, and washing it, earn upon an average from 1s to 13.3d per day. Boys became leadwashers before becoming miners. In 1841 there were 12 leadwashers aged 14 and under, and of those, 6 were aged 10. The ore, after undergoing the operations already named, is put through riddles by labourers, whose wages are from 12s to 14s per week. It is afterwards conveyed to what are technically termed the *'smelt mills'* where it is smelted into lead; and the smelters each earn 18s per week with free house and fuel. This was probably the period of greatest prosperity at the mines.

There was a huge slump in the amount of ore raised between 1852 and 1853, from 194 tons down to 93, from which there was no recovery and the population declined swiftly. According to Charles Wilson, the overseer, on 14th February 1852 - pay day - 23 miners, 6 banksmen and 2 labourers were warned to quit at the end of March. In 1853 several families emigrated to America and many returned to Wanlockhead and Leadhills. The school closed and in the 1861 census 16 houses were occupied by 88 people; by the 1871 census the population had risen to 109 but, strikingly, many were Cornishmen who had come up to Scotland to seek better times than in their tin-mining industry. Many, such as the Pascoe family, only stayed a short time before moving to Welsh leadmines. By then lead-mining was almost finished at Woodhead and by the 1891 census, 3 houses were occupied by 14 people; the community had almost disappeared.

Part 3 - People and the Mine *will be published in a future Newsletter*
The Sources from which Anna Campbell drew information for this article appear at the end of the original article in Scottish Local History vol. 31 June 1994

**CARSPHAIRN HERITAGE GROUP
ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 OCTOBER 1994**

INCOME			EXPENDITURE	
1993	1994		1994	1993
137.00	248.50	Membership		
8,402.54	350.00(a)	Grants		
20.00	20.30	Donations		
120.00	166.00	Sponsored Walk		
541.60	432.26	Dance	436.93	489.36
	244.23	Buffet with Butler	116.72	
237.40		Cheese & Wine		243.66
75.50	56.80(b)	Raffle		45.95
		Trails	188.30(c)	
72.63	615.15(d)	Interest		
		Heat & light	336.54	369.21
		Insurance	145.89	215.89
		Tourist Board membership		68.15
		Donation to Samaritans	20.00	20.00
738.16	20.44(e)	Heritage Centre	409.21(f)	961.13
		Capital Purchases	583.30(g)	
	1,013.31(h)	Sales & Donations		
		Purchases	307.20(i)	
457.50	-	Heritage Centre admission		
192.95	-	Heritage Centre sales		493.75
10,995.28	3,166.99		2,544.09	2,907.10
5.72	1.13	Opening balance - cash		
419.73	8,499.95	Treasurer's account		
2,942.12	2,942.12	Nat. Savings Investment account		
365.78	365.78	Nat. Savings Ordinary account		
-	-	Abbey National Charity account		
171.16	183.71	Deposit bond		
		Closing balance - cash	5.63	1.13
		Treasurer's account	2,639.60	8,499.95
		Nat. Savings Investment account	3,390.14	2,942.12
		Nat. Savings Ordinary account	384.26	365.78
		Abbey National Charity account	6,000.00	-
		Deposit bond	195.96	183.71
14,899.79	15,159.68		15,159.68	14,899.79

Examined and found to be in order and in accordance with the books and vouchers seen.

2 November 1994.

James M Kirk

James M Kirk

Notes

- (a) Regional Council Rights of Way Grant
- (b) Dance raffle £15.00
Buffet with Butler raffle £41.80
- (c) Includes cost of reprinting leaflets for Walks and repairs to way markers
- (d) Interest obtained from
 - 1 Treasurer account at the Bank of Scotland
 - 2 Abbey National Charity account
 - 3 National Savings accounts
 - 4 Deposit Bond
- (e) Repayment of float
- (f) Lagwyne Hall £71.73
Photocopying £106.40
D G Tourist Board £45.83
Wire racks £51.47
Administration £133.78
- (g) Items treated as capital expenditure and refundable from from Abbey National Charity account
- (h) Includes all items sold in the Heritage Centre plus any donations made
- (i) Items purchased specifically for re-sale

Committee Members for 1994-5

- Chairman:** Mrs Hugie Adamson, Lamloch; tel: Carsphairn 220
Secretary: Mrs Joyce Hunter-Blair, Marbrack; tel: " 207
Treasurer: Mr Charles Cathcart, Culraven, Borgue; tel: Borgue 247
Membership Secretary & Newsletter
Editor: Mrs Carol Cathcart, " " " "
Committee: Mr Colin Burnie, 2 Muirdochwood; tel: Carsphairn 226
Mrs Anna Campbell, Holm of Daltallochan; " 208
Lt. Colonel John Clark Kennedy, Knockgray; tel: " 225
Mrs Sybil Gray, 2 Deugh Cottages, Carsphairn
Miss Anne Rutherford, Schoolhouse; tel: " 643
Mrs Sylvia Sinclair, Carnavel; tel: " 224

NEWSLETTER BINDERS

Now you can put past Newsletters into a smart dark green binder with strings for 28 copies of the Newsletter plus the Index. These are on sale from the Heritage Centre for **£3.50 + .50p** for p&p if it needs posting. If you cannot wait until Easter to obtain your binder please contact - Anna Campbell at Holm of Daltallochan telephone Carsphairn 208

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION 1995

Photos of Carsphairn and surround, particularly sites of interest on the Heritage Trails, are required.

The best ones may be chosen for postcards to sell at the Centre.

So be prepared this year, take out your camera, dust it off, load it up and have it at the ready wherever you go.

Prizes for children and adults Competition runs until October
Entry forms and further details in the April
Newsletter

EXTRACT FROM DALMELLINGTON PARISH BULLETIN JULY 1893

ON SATURDAY 1ST JULY 1893, A NOVEL PICNIC WAS ARRANGED FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN. MR CAMPBELL OF THE HOLM FARM, CARSPHAIRN, HAD OFFERED A FIELD AND SUITABLE FACILITIES TO HOLD A PICNIC.

LOCAL FARMERS PROVIDED HORSE DRAWN CARTS TO TRANSPORT THE CHILDREN, MR WILLIAM WALKER OF BELLSBANK HOUSE SUPPLIED A FOUR HORSE DRAWN CHARABANC TO ACCOMMODATE THE BAND.

AT 9A.M. THAT MORNING, THE CONCOURSE OF 18 CARTS HEADED BY THE BAND, MADE THEIR WAY THROUGH THE STREETS OF THE VILLAGE, WITH CHURCH BELLS RINGING, BANNERS FLYING, FLAG-WAVING CHILDREN, ALL EXCITED EN ROUTE TO A NEW ADVENTURE.

THE CAVALCADE LEFT THE TOWN AND MADE ITS WAY PAST MOSSDALE FARM, THROUGH THE MUICK GLEN AND ACROSS THE BOUNDARY INTO GALLOWAY. AT MEADOWHEAD FARM, THE CHILDREN WERE SUPPLIED WITH BUNS, AND THE HORSES COOLED DOWN WITH A WELCOME DRINK. THE PARADE RESULMED, THE BAND AGAIN ON FOOT, STRUCK UP A MARCH, THE MUSIC RINGING LOUD AND CLEAR OVER THE GALLOWAY MOORLAND.

SOON THE TRAVELLERS HAD REACHED BRIDGEND, TURNING FROM THE ROAD INTO THE SMALL GLEN AND THE GRASSY HOLM BY THE SIDE OF THE RIVER DEUGH.

IN FINE WEATHER, A WARM WELCOME BY MR CAMPBELL AND HIS WORKERS ENSURED ALL WOULD HAVE AN ENJOYABLE DAY. THE USUAL GAMES

AND SPORTS WERE ENTERED INTO, BY 6 P.M. THE ASSEMBLED COMPANY, CROUPED IN FORMATION, TO MAKE THEIR WAY HOME. WITH A THREE HOUR JOURNEY AHEAD, THIS EIGHT MILE SOJOURN INTO THE WILDS OF GALLOWAY WOULD NOT READILY BE FORGOTTEN.

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ONE HUNDRED YEARS ON, THE HORSE AND CART AS A MODE OF TRAVEL HAS LONG GONE.

THE CAMPBELL FAMILY STILL FARM THE LAND AT THE HOLM, CARSPHAIRN, AND DALMELLINGTON BAND FORMED IN 1864 STILL ENJOYS A HEALTHY EXISTANCE.



TIMESPAN - the history of Carsphairn

Members visiting the Heritage Centre and particularly those members who have been stewards and looked and looked again at the Timespan boards hanging in the Heritage Centre will now have no need to commit these facts to memory.

"CARSPHAIRN" - a history of the area as depicted on the Timespan boards hanging in the Heritage Centre is now available in booklet form complete with Robin Ade's marvellous illustrations.

Cost £2.00 from the Centre when it is open.

Those wishing to obtain a copy before the Centre opens this Easter may do so from Carol Cathcart, Culraven, Borgue, Kirkcudbright DG6 4SG. Tel 05577 247. Please send another **50p** for **postage and packing.**