



Carsphairn Heritage Group
Newsletter No 37

January 1997



SCHOLASTIC SOUVENIR CO. L



1910-1955

Silver Jubilee Year of their Majesties, the King & Queen.

Easter will be early this year and attention is focused on the next exhibition, but I feel I should write a brief report on 1996 for members who missed the AGM in December.

Members of the Heritage Group contribute so much that is positive in this small community and all our activities last year show elements of this voluntary involvement.

Anna Campbell entertained at the **Buffet Supper in May** with her well rehearsed slide show on the **Monuments, Memorials and Forgotten Buildings of Carsphairn**. Many of those slides were donated by another member, Mr Ken McAlpine, who trod the hills in all weather conditions to film the most remote sites for us.

The Colonel and Doug Lewis organised the **wild flower walk** with **botanist Olga Stewart** which was enjoyed by many members and their friends. The Hunter Blairs provided the venue and Joyce the excellent tea. Members of the D & G Archaeological Society were treated to a conducted tour of the Leadmines and we played host to a coach party of American and Canadian members of the Clan McMillan Society in September.

At the **AGM** in December **Ian Watret** treated us to his excellent **wildlife slides**, mostly taken when he worked as Ranger for the Forestry Commission.

The Heritage Centre was well attended in 1996 with visitor numbers higher than in previous years, but competition is increasing every year and we will soon have a rival Visitor Attraction nine miles down the road in Dalry.

Our final visitors to the Centre last year were members of a volunteer group hoping to start a Wartime Museum in Gretna. They asked for a meeting with Rhoda Campbell and myself to 'pick our brains' and it was very gratifying to hear that we were recommended as 'one of the best run voluntary organisations in the Region'. There is official recognition and appreciation of our determined aim, started by Rhoda and continuing today, to keep our spending within its limits through our independent control of this Group and all its activities.

The Heather Garden is to be scrapped in early February and will be replaced with grass for a few years. The 'horsetail' weed, which came with the top soil, thrives in our climate and has resisted all our efforts to destroy it. By repeated weed wiping, spot spraying and conventional weeding we did more harm to the heathers than the weed, which is now simply smothering them one by one.

The committee will try to take cuttings, but propose burning the heather plants which have horsetail roots growing through them. None of us want to risk taking the dread weed home, but if any local member wants to try lifting plants and cleaning the roots - we shall be digging them up on **Sunday afternoon, 2nd February**.

Training Session for Stewards

We are going to hold a pre-season training session for stewards this year in the form of a general get together, with a glass of wine, and make sure that all our volunteers know what the exhibition is about; what other information we have in the Reference Section and where to find it.

It goes without saying that any suggestions from stewards are welcome on the day.

Hugie Adamson

COMMITTEE MEMBERS for 1996-7

Chairman	Mrs Hugie Adamson , Lamloch, Carsphairn	tel: Carsphairn 220
Secretary	Mrs Joyce Hunter-Blair , Marbrack, Carsphairn	" 207
Treasurer	Mr Charles Cathcart , Culraven, Borgue, Kirkcudbright	01557 870247
Membership Secretary &		
Editor	Mrs Carol Cathcart , Culraven, Borgue	" " "
Committee	Mr Colin Burnie , 2 Muirdrochwood, Carsphairn	Carsphairn 226
	Mrs Anna Campbell , Holm of Daltallochan, Carsphairn	" 208
	Colonel John Clark Kenndy , Knockgray, Carsphairn	" 225
	Mrs Sybil Gray , 2 Deugh Cottages, Carsphairn	
	Miss Anne Rutherford , Schoolhouse, Carsphairn	" " 643
	Mrs Sylvia Sinclair , Carnavel Farm, Carsphairn	" " 224

The Newsletter Index has been updated to include the 1996 issues. Please let Carol Cathcart know if you would like one sent to you with the next Newsletter; her address is above.

Carsphairn School 1936

Contributed

At Easter time in 1936 a change of teacher took place in Carsphairn School. The first few years will be remembered as the peaceful era, before the clouds of war gathered. The community spirit was good and friendly.

The dams were almost completed, and many workmen left. Kendoon village had come to life, and children from these houses added to the roll of the school. They had to cross to the main road to join the public bus. Other pupils, from further afield, had to trudge over the moors to reach the main road. Others were driven in a taxi.

Two children, from 'over the hills' had a long way to walk, and were excused from being admitted at the age of five. The boy was six and a half when he joined us - but his parents had taught him the basics, so there was no delay in joining his age group. When I was assessing his ability, I found that he could read and do simple arithmetic. I tested him with a 'long' division. He studied it suspiciously then declared - "No! I canny man't"! He wasn't long in "manning" the problem when I explained. He was keenly interested in geography. Alas! He never had the opportunity of visiting any of the foreign countries.

His sister followed soon after. When she eventually reached the transfer age, I consulted her mother, as she wanted to be a teacher. In spite of all my coaxing the reply was "No, no, she'll have to work for her leevin". (No compliment to me - and my kind)

Our roll was composed of pupils from the homes of farmers, shepherds, villagers, and the group of electricians from the new houses. All the classes were in one room - and everyone was busy - and happy.

Highlights of these years were school trips, music festivals, and one great adventure to an Exhibition in Edinburgh.

However - the peaceful days were coming to an end. As War approached, children from the cities were evacuated to the rural areas. In advance of the arrival, I, as Evacuation Officer, had to go round the parish, inquiring how many residents had rooms to spare. As usual, some were helpful - and some were not! But I managed to find homes for all our homesick visitors. Their arrival was a pitiful sight - all those little people with bags - and gas-masks.

Afterwards I wrote a poem about it - but I lent it out - and now all I remember is the ending

"And in a Scottish Country Manse,
A little Jewish boy"

The Glasgow school was Cardonald - evidently a well-controlled one, for we had no problems with discipline. One teacher was sent with each group - but was changed at intervals - which was unsettling. These changes took a good deal of organising, as the city teachers had no experience of teaching mixed classes. Eventually, as we know, the Evacuees were called home, and more adjustment was necessary.

On the subject of schoolteachers here is an advertisement from the
Ayr Advertiser of Thursday, November 16, 1843

TO SCHOOLMASTERS.

Wanted, for a SCHOOL at the LEAD MINES, near Carsphairn, a
TEACHER, who must be Married, and a Member of the Established
Church.

A liberal fixed Salary, and other advantages, will be allowed.
Further particulars may be learned by applying to the Rev. David
Welsh, Manse, Carshairn, by Dalmellington, with whom Certificates,
as to character and qualifications, may be lodged till the 30th inst.

Also

A FEMALE TEACHER for a Girl's Sewing School at the same place.
Application to be made, and testimonials lodged, as above.

(One Conceru)

Berbeth, 13th Nov., 1843

Membership Subscriptions for 1996-7 are now due.

Those who have not yet paid will be receiving a reminder with
this Newsletter.

Rates remain the same as last year :

Family £5.50; Individual £3.50; Senior Citizen £2.00.

To be sent to the membership secretary please -

Mrs C A Cathcart, Culraven, Borgue, Kirkcudbright DG6 4SG

**CARSPHAIRN HERITAGE GROUP
ACCOUNTS FOR YEAR ENDING 31 OCTOBER 1996**

INCOME			EXPENDITURE	
1995	1996		1996	1995
233.00	291.00	Membership	149.91	
500.00		Grants		
100.50	42.00	Donations		
	40.50	Botanical Walk		
55.50		Sponsored Walk		
303.85		Quiz Night		189.00
302.84	320.85	Spring Buffet	167.25	104.68
59.00	58.70	Raffle		
		Trails		230.25
648.58	509.56(a)	Interest		
		Heat & Light	230.70	377.28
		Insurance	192.88	243.84
		Tourist Board	72.73(b)	70.50
		Donation to Samaritans	20.00	20.00
		Heritage Centre	311.06(c)	517.07
		Capital Purchases	1,201.16(d)	
1,419.41	1,133.31(e)	Sales & Donations	165.96(f)	262.22
		Purchases	12.10(g)	248.12
		Stewartry District Council Exhibition		302.40
3,622.68	2,395.92		2,523.75	2,565.36
5.63	5.63	Opening balance - cash		
2,639.60	3,481.05	Treasurer's account		
3,390.14	3,585.07	Nat. Savings Investment account		
384.26	391.94	Nat. Savings Ordinary account		
6,000.00	6,000.52	Abbey National Charity account		
195.96	208.70	Deposit bond		
		Closing balance - cash	5.63	5.63
		Treasurer's account	2,918.43	3,481.05
		Nat. Savings Investment account	4,192.88	3,585.07
		Nat. Savings Ordinary account		391.94
		Abbey National Charity account	6,206.20	6,000.52
		Deposit bond	221.94	208.70
16,238.27	16,068.83		16,068.83	16,238.27

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

James M. Kirk

16 November 1996.

Notes attached to Carsphairn Heritage Group accounts for 1996

(a) Interest obtained from

1 Treasurers account at the Bank of Scotland	£74.77	
2 Abbey National Charity account	£205.68	
3 National Savings ordinary a/c (closed April 1996)	£9.73	
4 National Savings Investment account	£206.14	
5 Deposit Bond	£13.24	£509.56

(b) Membership of the Dumfries & Galloway Tourist Board

(c) Lagwyne Hall	£30.40	
Photocopying	£86.42	
Stationery/Stamps	£39.76	
Administration	£154.48	£311.06

(d) Sign board	£57.93	
Cupboard	£368.00	
Artwork for panorama	£250.00	
Additional lighting	£525.23	£1201.16

(e) Includes all items sold in the Heritage Centre plus any donations

(f) Items sold on commission

(g) Items purchased for resale

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From the Old Statistical Account published 1791 - 1799

Carsphairn - Population. In 1755, the numbers were 609. - At present 461. - Under 10 years 112 - from 10 to 50, 178 - Above 50, 70. No accurate parish register has ever been kept, but it is evident, from remains of old houses in every farm, that the inhabitants had at some former period been nearly double of what they are at present. They have increased a little of late years, and appear still to be increasing, from the building of a village which contains 60 inhabitants.

There is a copy of the Old Statistical Account in the Reference Section at the Heritage Centre in Carsphairn

Here, in the chill of January, is something to look forward to.
Contributed by a member

SIMMER

Amid the banks o' celandine
amang the birks o' May
the Mavie sings his bonny chime
the lee-lang simmer day.

The goudspink i' the slaethorn bush,
the Cushat i' the wood.
The lintie an' the yellowyite
a' lilt sae sweet and lood.

The watter waggie dances,
Whaur the sparklin' burnie rowes,
'mid dappled deep expanses,
whaur moss an' violet crowd.

Syne, at the simmer gloamin',
the warld returns tae rest.
Mid purple shadows homin',
we think oo'sel's richt blest.

Amid the banks o' celandine
amang the birks o' May
We've wandered for a happy time,
This bonnie simmer day.

Maureen Henderson