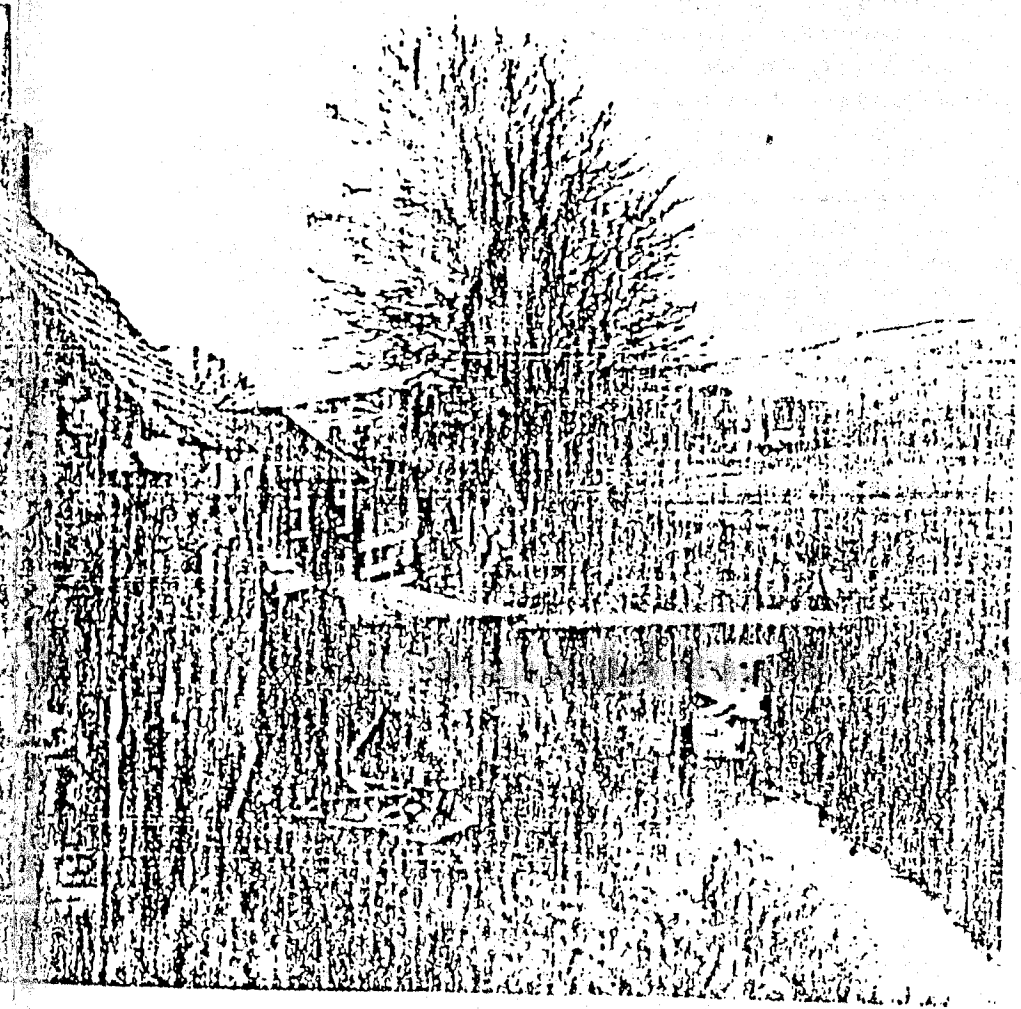


CARSPHAIRN  
HERITAGE  
GROUP



Since the January newsletter members of the Carsphairn Heritage Group have been busy organising social events and activities of historical interest for the Spring and Summer of 88. As promised in the previous newsletter, details of these along with other items related to the history of the area are included in this publication.

Please contribute with letters of comment and information; we would be delighted to hear from you. We would also ask you to inform us of any old photographs or artefacts related to the area you may have.

We now have approximately eighty members of the Carsphairn Heritage Group and are most encouraged by this response. Some of you enclosed letters with your membership application forms and your comments and ideas were gratefully received.

Members will find enclosed with this newsletter two items: firstly five maps giving details of easy, historical walks within the Parish of Carsphairn and secondly, a leaflet published by the Scottish Tourist Board advertising Scotland's Industrial Museums. Details of the former may be found in this newsletter but should non-members wish copies they will be available, free of charge, at all Scottish Tourist Board outlets and in The Shop, Carsphairn.

## Membership of Scottish Tourist Board

The Group has decided to join the Dumfries and Galloway Tourist Board. Membership entitles us to display any of our material in the tourist offices in the region and includes us in any general publications which the board produces.

### Did You Know?

#### 'Green Well' Gold

Many believe that the 'green well' at Lagwine contains gold belonging to the Covenanters. Below is an extract from Rambles in Galloway published in 1876 giving quite a different theory:

"In what are called the gold wells of Cairnmore, it is said\* that a Dr. Dodds, a sort of alchemist in his day, placed paper-mills, with which he collected the gold dust from the water; and near the roadside, on the lands of Lagwine, he erected his smithy for converting the gold into coins of the West Indian Islands.

On the seclusion of his retirement being disturbed by some officers of the Crown sent to apprehend him it is generally believed in the district that he threw his whole coining apparatus into what is commonly known as the Green Well

of Lagwine. This well is in the middle of a solid rock; is about thirty feet in circumference; is supposed to have no outlet, and though much rubbish has been thrown into it at different times, it is still of great depth. At one time its waters were used as a cure for scorbutic diseases. The Doctor was tried at Edinburgh, but it is not known what became of him afterwards."

\*Statistical Account Carsphairn Parish.

The Green Well, near Bridgend Cottage, is shown on one of the walks on the map produced by the Carsphairn Heritage Group.

Any other theories?

Shepherds' Ball 1846

extract from Dumfries Standard 21/1

"The Shepherds' Ball, which annually takes place here on the first night of the New Year, was held at the Salutation Inn, on the evening of Thursday se'nnight\*. The company amounted to forty couples, consisting of shepherd lads and bonnie lassies, and the dancing was kept up with great spirit. The refreshments, provided by Mrs. Dempster, were highly creditable, and the company separated in good humour at an early hour"

\*se'nnight - a week

The location of the Salutation Inn is well documented and photographed but do you know exactly where the "Crosskeys" Pub was situated in the village?

Wanlockhead Trust

We have been thrilled to receive a donation from the above organisation to allow us to enlarge and mount some of the photographs of the lead-mines that we have in our collection. Many of them will be familiar to you, having been on display at our Summer Exhibitions. We hope to show them in their more impressive form at our next social event.

Forthcoming Events

Our theme for the social events of Spring and Summer '88 is "Local Legends and Tales".

1) Quiz

This will be in the same style as the last one and based on tales and legends associated with famous or notorious characters in the Parish.

It will be available in the Shop,  
Carsphairn from mid April price  
25p for non-members and 10p for  
members.

Answers to be submitted to

David Brown  
Greenhead Mains  
Carsphairn

by 21st May.

## 2) Cheese and Wine

Keep May 28th free for this event.  
It will be held in the Village Hall  
Carsphairn during which the answers  
to the above quiz will be given in  
the form of slides and prizes  
awarded to winners.

This evening's entertainment will  
be offered at £1.50 to members £2.00  
to non-members and 50 pence to  
children aged 9-16 years who must be  
accompanied by an adult.

Tickets will be on sale from  
Committee members from the begin-  
ing of May.

### Added attraction

Our new mounted, enlarged photo-  
graphs will be on display at the  
Cheese and Wine evening. We look  
forward to seeing you there!

## 3) Summer Event

Information and news of this will  
be announced at the Cheese and  
Wine so don't miss it!

### Next Committee Meeting

May 17th at the Holm of Daltallochan  
at 8 p.m.

### INTERESTING HISTORICAL FACTS

July 31st, 1635 Charles I regranted  
the lands of Lag and Makcraweshill  
to Sir Robert Grierson and erected  
a burgh of barony on the property  
allowing the inhabitants to hold  
weekly markets. At that time  
Carsphairn was known as Scars-  
fernholme. Charles II confirmed  
the grant to Grierson on 26 May,  
1671.

1419 Drum John known as Drumgeran.  
1816 Drum Joan.

1475 Lamford known as Longfurde.

1475 Holme of Daltallochan known  
as Daltallochane Holme.

1365 Stroangassell known as  
Strongassill.

1456 Castlemaddy known as Castelmaddy.

1190 Carsphairn known as Keresban.  
1801 Carsefairn.

1798 Marbrack known as Mulbrack  
1801 Marbrack known as Marbreck.

FROM THE DUMFRIES STANDARD.

1801 "A petition to the Trustees has been lodged with the clerk, for a grant for building bridges on the high road ..... and an application for a grant of one hundred pounds for a bridge over the water of Deugh, near the kirk of Carsefairn."

## BRIDGES

1794 From the Dumfries Standard  
Bridge over the River Ken ( to be built of wood) near New Galloway.

"Sufficient fund could not be obtained from the County for building a bridge across it and a subscription is proposed. The dimensions are 1 arch of 140 feet ( in wood) length, twenty feet broad in the end and twelve in the middle and to carry any carriage of two tons weight". The five subscribers from Carsphairn were Mr. Quintin Mitchell, Garryhorn 10s. 6d, John Kennedy Esq., Dumfries for Mr. Kennedy of Knockgray £3.3.0., Alexander Birtwhistle of Dundee £5.5.0, John McMillan of Holm £2.2.0., John Wallace, Knockgray £1.1.0., James Hastling, Holm of Daltallochan £1.1.0. In 1795 Alexander Birtwhistle gave a further £21 for a loft to go on the bridge. "

## TRIPS AND TOURS

### Waterside

An evening trip around the Waterside site between Patna and Dalmellington has been arranged for members of the Carsphairn Heritage Group on Friday, June 24th. In the brochure about Scotland's Industrial Museums which is enclosed with this newsletter you will find a section about Waterside. At present it is in the early stages of becoming a very exciting industrial museum and this is the first year that guided tours will be taken round. Our evening trip will include Waterside and Minnivey and will finish at the Cathcartston Centre in Dalmellington. We are to meet at Waterside (just over the railway bridge) at 6.45 p.m. and the tour will finish at approximately 9.30. It would be helpful if you could let Mrs. Campbell (Carsphairn 208) know if you can come that night so that she can pass numbers on to Mr. Butler, the Director of the

Dalmington and District Conservation Trust. Transport from Carsphairn can be arranged through Mrs Campbell. We will leave here about 6.20.

If members are unable to go that night two alternative dates have been arranged. Sunday, June 26th and Sunday, July 31st. Both days are "Open Days" at the Cathcartston Centre as well as "Steam Days" run by the Ayrshire Railway Preservation Society at Minnivey. It will be possible to visit both these places and also to go on a guided tour of Waterside on either day leaving Cathcartston at 2.30. Again please let Mrs. Campbell know if you intend going on either of these days so she can inform Mr. Butler. There will certainly be plenty of interest all ages whenever you are able to visit.

#### Local Walks

The group has published a leaflet showing five maps that give details of historical trails in the area. They are all within the Parish of Carsphairn and we hope that many people will take advantage of the walks during the summer months.

The maps will be enclosed with members' newsletters and to others interested will be available in The Shop, Carsphairn, and all

tourist board outlets, free of charge.

#### Tours of Leadmines : Woodhead

We are hoping to offer guided tours of the leadmines one day a week during the summer months but no final arrangements have been made.

Posters giving details will be displayed when this has been organised. Since the last newsletter we have been informed that Woodhead Leadmines are likely to be protected by the Scottish Development Department Ancient Monuments Division and this news is most encouraging.

#### HISTORICAL NOTES

Extracts from Ordnance Survey Object Name Books 1848.

Carsphairn - A small village on the road leading from New Galloway to Ayr and about 12 miles from the former. Its houses are one storey high, slated and in good repair, principally inhabited by Agricultural Labourers with a few Mechanics. It has one Parish Church and School, 2 Inns, 5 small shops, and a post office. Population about 100, formerly a coach passed through village from Ayr to Dumfries, but it is now discontinued.

Church - A small but neat edifice built in 1815, and repaired at a considerable expense in 1827. It is sufficient to accommodate with sittings about 400. The average number of communicants is about 200. The minister is the Rev. David Welsh whose stipend amounts to between £200 and £300 with Manse and glebe containing about 13 acres of arable good land.

Cross Keys Inn - A small house occupied as an Inn or public house. One storey high, slated and in good repair. Occupied by Mrs. McCrae. The property of Col. Cathcart of Craighyllan.

Salutation Inn - A neat and well constructed cottage occupied as an Inn in the village of Carsphairn. The property and in the occupation of James Dempster.

Preaching Knowe - A small arable knoll or eminence, situated a short distance west of Carsphairn Village. The origin of its name is from sermons having been preached here.

In response to the newspaper writing about the "Crosskeys Inn" which was included in the first letter it has been discovered that the Inn was marked on the 1851 6" Ordnance Survey Map. It was situated at right angles to the Greenhead Strand between what is now the Crofts and Kirkholm, formerly the United Presbyterian Church. A plaque in the gable end shows the date when the church was erected.

Object name books were compiled in 1848 and 1849 in preparation for the production of the 1851 Ordnance Survey Maps. Kirkcudbrightshire was one of the first six Scottish counties to be surveyed. The men who compiled the name books took meticulous details of every feature of the landscape. One of the men who took details of the parish was still living in the village in 1851 as he was registered in the census returns as being an engineer. Some examples from the local name book are included below.

#### MESOLITHIC FISHERMEN

In the past few years discoveries around Loch Doon and the upper Water of Ken have led to a revision of ideas about Galloway's ancient history. Previously it had been assumed that human presence in the interior of Galloway did not occur until the agricultural neolithic period began 5,000 years ago. The new finds indicate that hunting peoples were present in the remote hill areas in mesolithic times as long as 6,000 to 8,000 years ago and probably not long after the retreat of the glaciers of the last Ice Age.

Recent archaeological work has centred on an undistinguished-looking spot on the boggy riverside plain just east of Smittons Bridge. Tom Atleack of Moniaive excavated part of the ancient campsite in 1987, a few months before his death. Discoveries included

flakings of chert, a type of stone used in the same way as flint. The source of the chert certainly appears to be the outcrop of this stone found on nearby Moorbrock Hill. Significant amounts of charcoal were also found at the site.

Tom Affleck believed that among the various theories put forward to explain the human presence at this spot, the most likely is that it was a seasonal nomadic camp. It is situated near the Ken, a noted salmon river right up until recent times when the building of the Kendoon dams resulted in the species being unable to travel so far upstream. It is most probable that families would visit during autumn, when the salmon arrived prior to spawning, spearing the fish and drying them for winter food. Tom estimated the age of the site at 6,000 to 8,000 years; charcoal which is currently being carbon-dated should soon give a more precise date.

Contributions and Application for  
Membership

Please write to:

Mrs. Gillian Brown  
Greenhead Mains  
Carsphairn  
DG7 3TQ