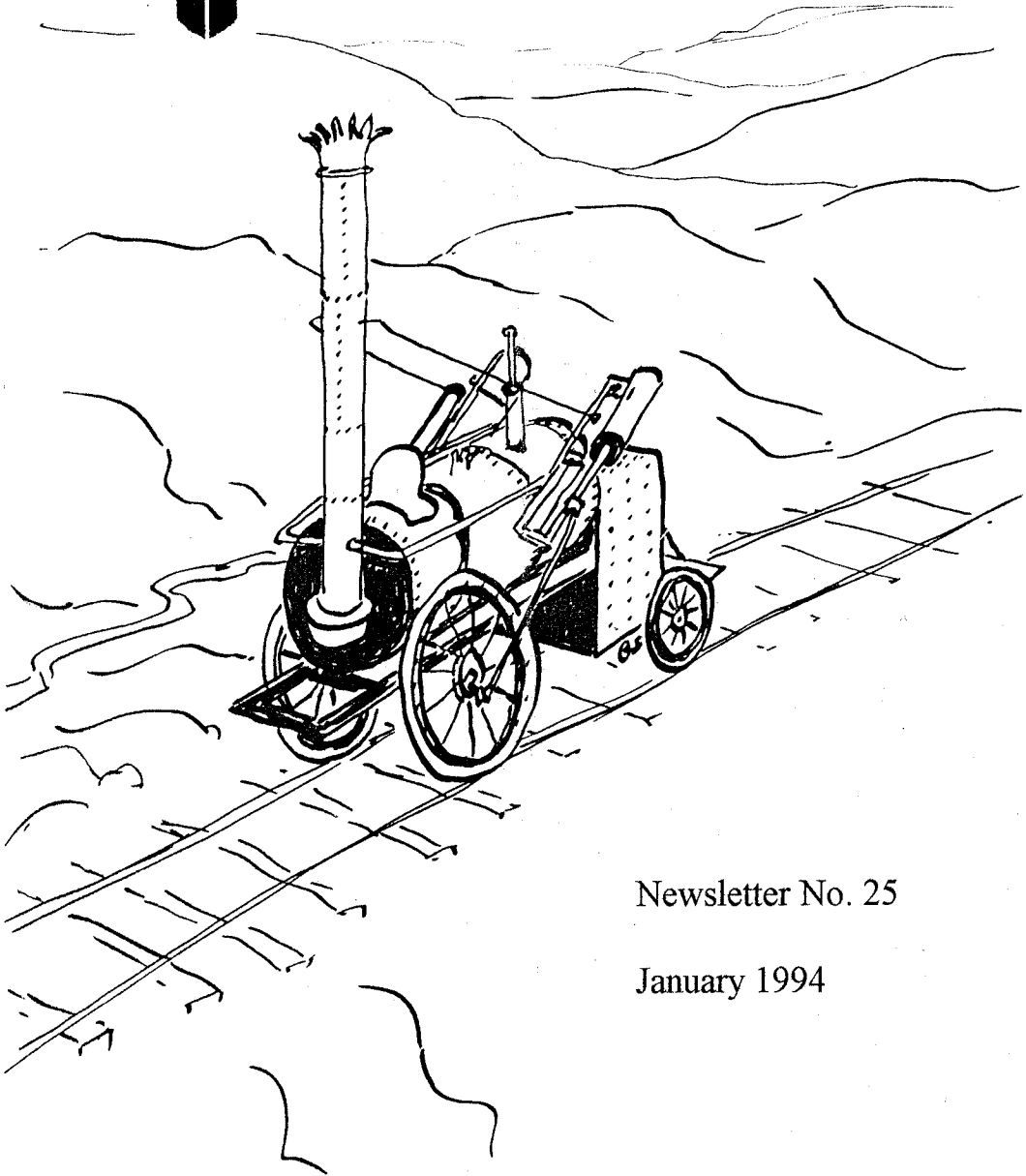




Carsphairn Heritage Group



Newsletter No. 25

January 1994

## Chairman's Notes:

A number of committee members wished to stand down at the end of 1993 and we are indebted to them for all their hard work in getting the Heritage Centre up and running so successfully. **Rhoda Campbell**, as chairman, had the mammoth task of steering the project through financial planning, physical planning, construction, landscaping and display. **Robin Ade** gave freely of his time and talent to ensure the success of the Newsletter and of the interior displays in the Centre. **Pauline**

**Tilbury** found time, despite her busy work schedule, to act as secretary and we are grateful to them all.

I should also like to take this opportunity to thank **Doug Lewis** who has been busy during the winter refurbishing our trail markers. The black logo is proving inadequate now that the posts have weathered and will in future be a vivid yellow.

Hugie Adamson

✱ ✱ ✱

## The Committee for 1993-4:

Chairman: **Mrs Hugie Adamson**, Lamloch, Carsphairn DG7 3TJ tel: 220

Vice-Chairman: **Miss Anne Rutherford**, Schoolhouse, Carsphairn DG7 3TQ tel 643

Secretary: **Mrs Joyce Hunter Blair**, Marbrack, Carsphairn DG7 3TE tel: 207

Treasurer: **Charles Cathcart**, Culraven, Borgue, Kirkcudbright DG6 4SG  
Newsletter Editor & Membership Secretary: **Mrs Carol Cathcart**, tel Borgue 247

**Mrs Anna Campbell**, Holm of Daltallochan, Carsphairn DG7 3TH tel 208

**Mrs Beryl Hamilton**, Marskaig, Dalry DG7 3UG tel Dalry 385

**Colonel Clark Kennedy**, Knockgray, Carsphairn DG7 3TF tel 225

**Ian Watret**, Marscalloch, Carsphairn, DG7 3TE tel 239

## Family Trees

Since the Roots week's exhibition in May 1993 there have been several visitors who have come to Carsphairn specifically looking for their ancestors. We have been able to trace some families and have helped build up several family trees.

Two families are descended from miners who have lived at the leadmines. **Mr Cowan** of **Hamilton** discovered his great, great, great grandfather, *James Affleck*, was a miner in 1841.

**Dr Anderson** of **Dollar** has sent material showing that his great, great grandfather was *John Park* overseer of the mines in 1841. In Colonel

Cathcart's diary of March 1839 there is a reference to John Park who died in 1845 at the mines.

**Mr McCormack** from **Stranraer** has been tracing back the *McCormacks/McCornoeks*.

Some of them lived at *Carminnow* in the nineteenth century and several are buried in the kirkyard here at Carsphairn.

**Mr Bryan Fergusson** from British Columbia came to the Centre looking for any material on the *Trotter* family from *Dalshangan*. Can anyone help?

Anna

Campbell

✱ ✱ ✱

Although Anna Campbell has officially stepped down as editor of this Newsletter I would like to make it plain I regard myself as merely the typist. She continues to provide material for me to bash into shape and I hope will continue to do so. On this subject I would be most grateful if members would send me articles so we don't all come to rely on Anna's valued and interesting contributions.

editor

⊗ ⊗ ⊗

Annual Subscriptions are now due. For those who have not yet paid please see enclosed letter.

Carsphairn Heritage Group

Stewards' Questionnaire - Analysis of replies

How far in advance do you like to plan your stewarding duties

1 month - 10      1 week - 11

We would like an indication of some of stewarding. Some suggestions are given and add any others which apply to you.

Like

Meeting people 23

Talking to visitors 19

Giving information to visitors 13

Reading/looking at the exhibition 23

Being busy 11

For what length of time do you prefer to do duty?

half day - 26

Ideally, how often would you be prepared to be on duty?

1 per month = 6      1 per 2 months = 3      2 per month = 1 (summer only)

1 per week = 2      1 per 2 weeks = 3      1 or 2 whole days = 3

Comment: Family commitments  
Not permanent residents  
Length of journey } 4 affected by these factors

What is the maximum number of half-days you would like to be on duty during the season (Easter to October)?

1 = 1    2 = 2    3 = 3    4 = 2    5 = 1    6 = 1    7 = 1    8 = 1    10 = 3  
12+ = 3

COMMENTS

Not everyone made additional comments, some issues which need to be considered expressed are listed below.

- Need for library/reference section
- Increase number of items of local interest
- Abolish entrance fee
- Move desk from current position - too intim
- Make better use of space available - temp
- Reduce height of display boards
- Improve heating/floor loft
- Permanent site for video
- Improve lighting
- Simplify instructions and have them typed
- Simplify stock-taking and cash procedures
- Stewards need to feel valued
- Difficulty of carrying out activities during op
- Key for display cabinet to be available to st
- Improve publicity

Other concerns expressed included:

- Sunday morning opening
- Number of hours open
- Display of minerals can not be seen easily

Do you mind being on duty on your own?      Yes - 5

No - 22

Why do most people come into the Centre? (these are opinions expressed)

View exhibition - 15      Ask for information - 12      Look for toilets - 17

Other (please specify): Refreshments - 5      Directions - 1      Curiosity - 1

Would you be prepared to take part in an activity during your steward's duty?

19 - dependent on activity, number of visitors, access to materials, etc.

the things that people enjoy or dislike about below. Please tick any that you agree with.

Dislike	
Boredom	11
Operating video	9
Too many instructions to read	9
Instructions not clear	3
Temperature - too cold	14
too warm	
Asking for money	19
Keeping daily sales record	5
Counting money - at beginning of day	4
at end of day	5

but those who did highlighted that there are by the committee. Those most frequently

on permanent display eg photographs

validating to visitors

temporary exhibitions too cramped

opening hours (Q8)

rewards

Now that the Heritage Centre is about to enter its third year, it is time to evaluate what we have been doing over the past two years to see if we can make any improvements.

Those of you who have been stewards in the Centre will remember that a questionnaire was sent out in the summer. On the left is an analysis of the replies which we received. You will see that several issues have been raised, and the committee will try to address these over the next few years.

At the last meeting, it was agreed that this year, we would investigate better use of the space in the Centre, and try to simplify the procedures for keeping track of stock.

There is also a strong feeling that we ought to abolish entry charges, and find alternative ways of parting visitors from their money!

If any of you have any bright ideas, or suggestions to make about possible improvements which could be made in the day-to-day running of the Centre, then please let us know.

Anne Rutherford

## Railways in Carsphairn Parish

You may have noticed that the last special issue of postage stamps which came out on January 18th was marking the 150th anniversary of the formation of a number of British Rail Companies.

The first railway in Britain, between Stockton and Darlington, was built in 1825. As early as 1802, Quentin McAdam of Craigengillan, Dalmellington was asked for his opinion on rail roads and his reply was - "As to a Rail Road I can give no opinion, as I do not know what it is".

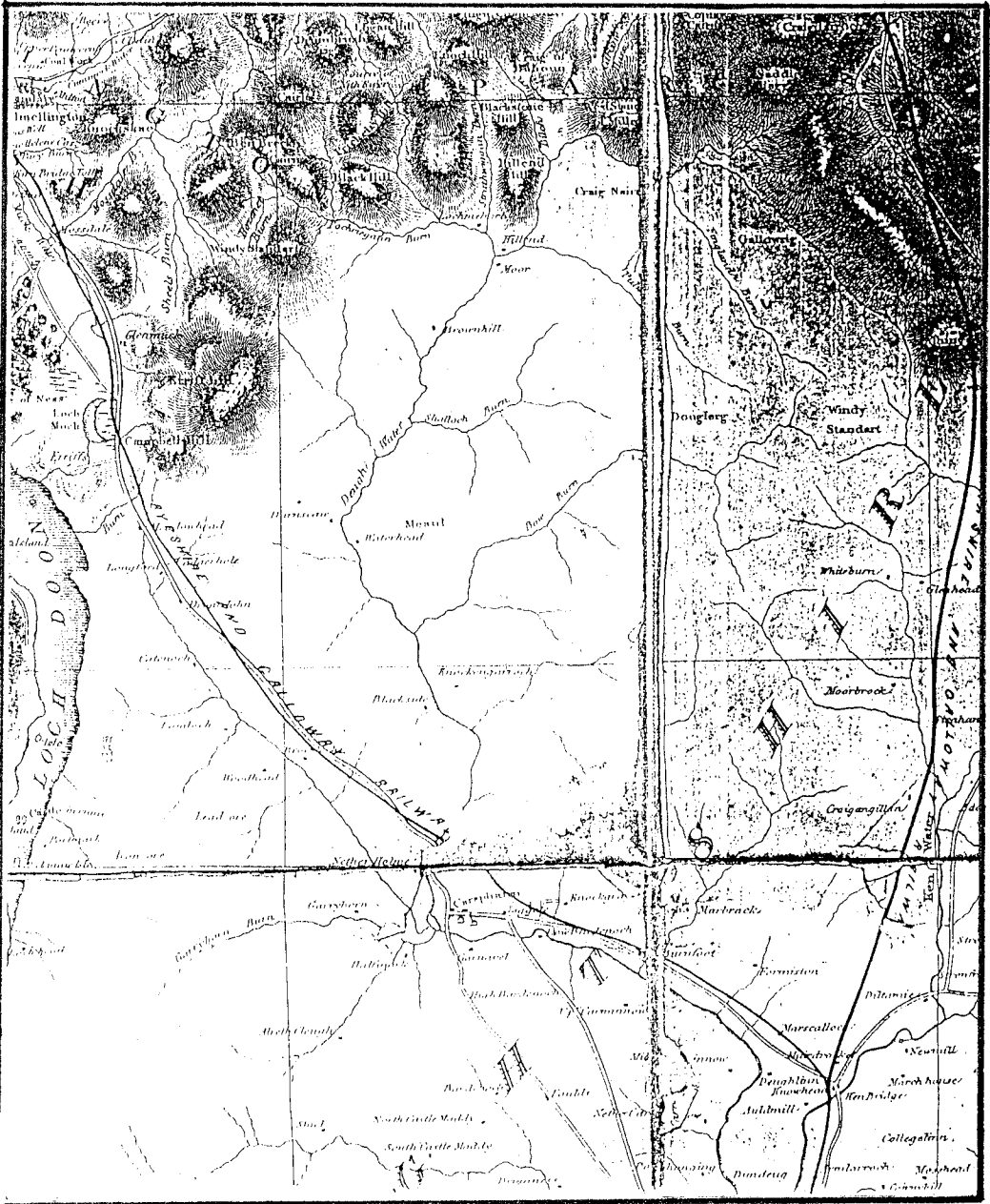
In the rush to develop railway companies in the 1840's there was even a plan to have a railway passing through the parish of Carsphairn and to have a junction with the Lanarkshire and Galloway railway at Knowehead.

The map below was Johnson's Map of the Country of Ayr (published in 1838) and the railways were drawn in at a later date. The Ayshire and Galloway Railway was promoted in 1846. Originally it was planned that it should run from Smithstone, Patna where there

was a terminus of a branch of the Glasgow and Belfast Union Railway to a port to be constructed on Balcarry Bay on the Solway. An 1847 Act allowed the section from Smithston to Dalmellington to be built but only four miles from Waterside to Dalmellington was constructed. It was planned that the Lanarkshire and Galloway Railway would join the Dumfries and Carlisle line at New Cumnock. There were to be two schemes for the Glenkens Railway, 1888 Parton to Dalry and 1890 New Galloway to Dalry but neither made any progress.

In February 1918 the Secretary of State for Scotland appointed a committee to consider the improvement of rural communication in Scotland after the War. One recommendation was that a light railway should be constructed between Dalmellington and Parton but again there were no further developments.

Anna Campbell



The engine making its solitary way above Carsphairn Lane is just a ghost train - a figment of the past. What might have been if the railway had been built in the 1840s.

# CARSPHAIRN (A)-MUSES

Dear Helen and Dear Alison  
How very kind of you  
To invite me to your Centre!  
Now, here's what I shall do.

The next time I am passing  
I'll not give the shed a thought.  
I'll come straight inside to see you,  
I'll be with you like a shot.

You'll have lots of things to tell me  
And I'll lend a willing ear  
To your stories of those warlike men  
Who fought not knowing fear.

I'm not interested in Sewers  
And I seldom need a pen,  
So tell of old folks and their stories  
Of who and why and when.

Of old-time farms and shepherding  
Of tup and lamb and ewe  
You'll be well equipped to tell me.  
AND you write nice verses too!

I do hope you'll keep on writing  
Till you're known to man and bairn  
As "The Lively Poetesses  
Of the Village of Carsphairn"

anon December 1993



The above reply to 'Ode to the Heritage Centre' was handed in poet(ess) unknown. It is a fitting and witty reply to Helen and Alison's ode published in Newsletter number 24 and I do hope inspires other budding poets. I hope that poems will continue to flow from the fertile minds of members and into the hands of the committee so we can all enjoy your thoughts about the Centre, the Heritage Group, or indeed any other facet of life in Carsphairn. Write on, please do ... ..