

Bitesize Newsletter

Snippets from BNA & Outside Source



RATEPAYERS AND THE SCHOOL BOARD

1900 Mr. MacDowall proceeded to deal with the question of a new school for Lochwinnoch and the merit certificate. Addresses were also delivered by Rev. Mr. Russell, Messrs. Browning and Cornelia.

Mr. Johnstone dealt at some length with the school accommodation in Lochwinnoch. Speaking on the Public School he said he did not know one redeeming feature in its favour. It was built on an unfortunate site, it had not sufficient ground for extension or for playground purposes, and its amenity was likely to be seriously affected by the new railway passing quite near to it. The railway was expected to give a great impetus to trade and building in the village, and he thought the School Board were justified in looking ahead and considering how best to provide for the growth of the village. It might be asked what could be done with the present school in the event of a new one being built. It could be sold or turned into a public institute for the benefit of the village. On questions being invited, a ratepayer suggested that the schoolhouse and garden be used for the purpose of extending the Public School. A hearty vote of thanks was awarded Mr. MacDowall for presiding, and the meeting terminated. [edited]

1884 EXTENSION OF TRADE

Mr Crawford, woollen manufacturer, Calder Glen, is in progress with a large additional building for the manufacture of wool, which will be of advantage to the town. The large cotton mill is still idle and there has thus been a want of employment, which the projected works will help to remedy.

1885 DESERVING POOR

Sir Shand Harvey of Castlesemple has just made arrangements with the Inspector of Poor for Lochwinnoch for the distribution of provisions for the deserving poor of the town. Each person is to receive a pound of tea, 4 loaves of bread, and half a stone of oatmeal.



Alex Valance
[Silk Mill More here](#)



Struthers 2019
[VIDEO here](#)



One way to break the Ice!
[More oddball photos here](#)



1905 This handsome new school, is to be opened by Sir Charles Renshaw. It is erected on the high ground to the north of the village, on the east side of the Calder Glen-road, where the breeze from the south and west will get freely round the building, and where it will be so far sheltered from the north and East winds by the rising ground behind.

The old school, besides being now inadequate, has always had the objection of being on a low level site where the movement of air is less refreshing and where proper drainage was impracticable. The Board have acted wisely, and in the best interests of the youth of the village, in selecting a more elevated and bracing site for the new school.

The entrances to the school are quite distinct for boys and girls, and the playsheds are so situated that the scholars can be arranged in order in the shelter sheds and matched without confusion into their various classrooms. Male and female teachers' rooms are provided on the ground floor, and assistant teachers' cloak rooms and lavatories on upper floor. Cloak rooms and lavatories for the scholars are provided immediately inside the main entrances.

The whole school is heated by an improved application of hot water pipes and radiators from an independent boiler in the heating chamber, and fresh warmed air is admitted into all the classrooms by means of inlets all round the building in connection with the heating radiators. The vitiated air is extracted by means of ducts from the walls and ceilings connected to ventilators on the roof. The gas lighting of the hall is by means of Lucas lamps, and of the classrooms and other apartments by means of appropriate pendants and incandescent lights.

The general architectural treatment, both of the exterior and interior of the building, is in a Continental Renaissance style.

[edited].

OLD JOKE OF THE MONTH

“Children, how many of your parents say grace?” Asked the Sunday-School teacher.

“What's that?” asked the girl.

“Why Maggie” exclaimed the teacher, “Is it possible you don't know what grace is? Doesn't your father say something before you begin to eat?”

“Oh!” responded the girl, with a glow of intelligence. “Yes, he does; he always says; “Don't make pigs of yourselves; that's all the butter there is in the house”

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Captain Hunter of Lochwinnoch 1831

Captain Hunter of Lochwinnoch has sent to his friends in that quarter a curious head of a naive Chief of New Zealand, with the following account attending it:-

“The head of Tekaro, a Chief of Wycatto, an island town of the North Island of New Zealand. He was killed in battle by Whero-Whero, great Chief of Koweir, after having seven musket balls passed through his body in different parts. His head was severed from his shoulders, and taken in triumph to Koweir, where it was steamed over his own body, that was being baked for refreshment to the Chiefs of Whero-Whero, and afterwards presented to Captain Scott of the Harlequin of Sydney, by Pero, son of Mero-Mero, and now presented by Captain Scott to Captain Hunter, of the ship Greenock of Leith.”

The skin is preserved by a process like tanning. The hair is black, fine, long, not curly. His skin is of copper colour; his teeth are white and beautiful; his beard and his whiskers are thin and spare; his nose is well formed, approaching to the Roman shape. He has been much tattooed. His skull and face are formed almost, or nearly, like the European, and his countenance handsome.



Potatau Te Wherowhero

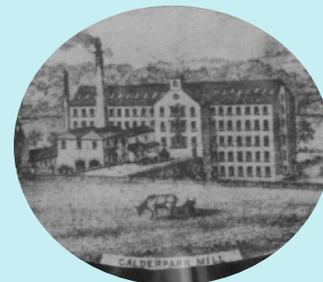


BARYTES MINE
2005
[now demolished]

More info [here](#)



The PALACE CINEMA



CALDERPARK MILL

More info [here](#)

1881

THE PAISLEY MIDDLE
CHURCH CHOIR

HELD THEIR ANNUAL PICNIC
AT LOCHWINNOCH.
THE BARR CASTLE WAS
THE RENDEZVOUS

1939

THE SILK MILL OF
CALDWELL, YOUNG & CO.
LANARK TO CLOSE.

THE FIRM'S WORK WILL
BE CARRIED ON AT
LOCHWINNOCH

1949

SCOTTISH INDUSTRIES'
EXHIBITION

A LOCHWINNOCH FIRM
HAS SOLD £25,000
WORTH OF DINING ROOM
SUITS IN A FEW DAYS

Clochodrick Stone

Written in 1858



This striking object in the landscape, no traveller who has gone between Kilbarchan and Lochwinnoch could have failed to observe, has formed the subject of much antiquarian fable. That it may have formed part of a Druidical temple there is reason to doubt, for the supposition is countenanced the name—" *Clock-y-Drywd*," *the stone of the Druids*; but no one will believe that a stone some hundred tons weight was hewn from a quarry in the neighbourhood. It belongs the trap formation of rocks, is identical in texture with the rocks below and around it, and was formed *in situ*. To explain its insulated and prominent position, it is only necessary to refer to the drift period of geologists. The less coherent and softer rocks around this nucleus had been carried off by denudation, and left this prominent block standing.

N.B. *Spelling is as it appears in the newspaper. The plaque at Clochodrick Stone states that the stone differs from the rock below but similar to bedrock a few miles away; and it was carried by glacial ice.*

FEBRUARY 6TH 1885

Yesterday, in a paragraph about a doughty warrior, a compositor with more regard to liberal accuracy than his copy, set it up as "drouthy warrior"

It must surely have been the same compositor who, in setting up the account of an accident at Lochwinnoch, where some ladies were described as being up to their waist in water, made the extent of the ladies immersion appear somewhat indefinite by putting it that they were up to their "wrists in water"



Photo: Contributed by Amanda Mackie

Doughty: brave and persistent Drouthy: thirsty

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PUBLIC MEETING March 10th 1938

A public meeting of the inhabitants of Lochwinnoch, presided over by county councillor Wm. Johnstone, was held to consider a proposal to approach the Department of Agriculture for Scotland with a request that, as the department have recently purchased Castle Semple estate, with the object of cutting up the landward portion into smallholdings, the rights of control of the loch should be secured for the inhabitants of Lochwinnoch for recreation and physical fitness purposes.



Opposition to the proposal that Lochwinnoch people should secure control of the loch was voiced by Mr. Clapperton, the shooting tenant, who was supported by the Rev. Graham N. Warner.

The following resolution was submitted and, on a vote, accepted by the meeting:- "That this public meeting of the inhabitants of Lochwinnoch desire to secure the rights of Castle Semple loch, so that the amenities of the loch may be preserved for the use of the public of the district."

A committee of seven, with Mr. R. E. Muirhead. Meikle Cloak, was elected, with instructions to communicate with the Department.



COVID RESTRICTIONS

March 2020



RAB the BEAR

More locals [here](#)



JOHN GREGOR PL.

Skating on thin ice
Dec. 2008

1954

DURING THE RECENT SNOW-STORM TELEPHONES IN SOME PARTS OF LOCHWINNOCH WERE OUT OF ORDER FOR SEVEN DAYS

1851

PATENT BY WILLIAM MELVILLE, LOCHWINNOCH. CALICO- PRINTER FOR IMPROVEMENTS IN MANUFACTURING AND PRINTING CARPETS AND OTHER FABRICS

1827

WEAVERS

IN LOCHWINNOCH WHICH CONTAINS ABLOUT 350 WEAVERS ALL IS BUSTLE AND ACTIVITY IN THE HEAVY TRIMMING LINE

The ANNUAL VALUATION COURT for RENFREWSHIRE 1870

Mr Thomas Speir, President

Mr Wm. Connell, writer, Lochwinnoch. appealed against a house being valued at £20 when the actual rent was £19 17s 6d. Mr Connell assured the Commissioners that the rent was a *bona fide* one. The valuation was fixed £19 17s 6d.

Mr Henry Macdowall appealed against the valuation of Floors Mill, Johnstone. The Assessor's valuation was £182. Mr Macdowall stated that the mill was unoccupied, and the belting of the machinery had been sold three months ago. The mill had cost him £14,000. He would now sell it to any gentleman present for £1500. It was agreed to enter the mill "empty" and to restrict the valuation to £100.

Mr Allan Campbell Crawford, as proprietor, and Hugh and James Crawford, as tenants, appealed against the valuation of Calderhaugh Cotton Mill being entered at £300. Messrs Hugh and James Crawford held a lease for three years, at an annual rent of £150, from their brother Mr Allan C. Crawford, the lease of which was produced, and Messrs Crawford assured the Commissioners that it was *bona fide*.

The Assessor said the mill had been originally valued at between £400 and £500, but it was reduced last year to £300, which he considered merely a nominal valuation for such a work. Mr H. Crawford, in answer to a question, said the mill was to be occupied as stores and for other purposes, but not as a cotton mill. The machinery was nearly all out of it. The valuation was restricted to £150 on account of the mill not being at present a going work.



OCTOBER 6TH 1945

In his office in Paisley County Buildings, Chief Constable John Robertson, is racking his brains to rid Britain of her No.1 ration robber - the rat. For the past year Mr Robertson has been trying to perfect a rat catcher that will do the job thoroughly. This is only a hobby of Mr Robertson, but he is determined to fight the menace until an official rat-catcher is appointed.

We set a trap up at Lochwinnoch and it was very successful, catching 35 rats the first night and then 10 the next, but on the third night none.

The trap is on view at Barr Meadow, Lochwinnoch.



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The Salt, the Mustard, and the Pepper 1846

One of the Frees* located not far from Lochwinnoch, in visiting lately his parishioners, waited a respectable aged female, complimented her on her moral character and religious attainments - and on his urging her to leave the **Established Church**, the following colloquy took place:

"What fore, Sir, come oot o' the Establishment?"

"Because the Salt have seen it their duty to do so, and now there is no savour in it."

"I dinna ken what mean, Sir, by the Saut, but I ken verra weel that the Mustard and the Pepper ha'e gane awa."

The minister was taken aback; not wishing to yield, and still mindful of temporalities, replied that

"Pepper and Mustard were good stomachies."

"Stamicks !" says the old lady, "What need YE for your stamicks? Ye hae guid stamicks certes whan ye can swallow what ye ca' an Erastian Kirk and the Slave Dollars to the bargain."

*The Disruption of 1843. 450 ministers split from the Church of Scotland to form the Free Church of Scotland

1871

MR T. GREIG AND PARTY
KILLED ON SATURDAY
24 BRACE OF GROUSE
AT MUIRSHIEL + SOME
SNIPE AND HARES

1872

SCARCITY OF COAL
THE INHABITANTS HAVE
BEEN SUPPLIED BY MR
McDOWALL WHO HAS
OPENED A PIT ON HIS
GARTHLAND ESTATE

1955

Mr FOX SURELY ONE OF
THE BEST-KNOWN NAMES
IN THE WORLD OF SAILING
WILL HAVE A YOUNG
SURGEON Mr NORMAN
STRUTHERS OF
LOCHWINNOCH AS CREW



Photo contributed by

Anne Fleming



Photo contributed by

Christine McArthur



Photo contributed by

Irene Edmonton

Further photos [here](#)

Translation 2022

“But why, Sir, should I leave the Established Church?” She asked

“Because the virtuous have seen it as their duty to do so, and now there is no good left in it.” Replied the Minister

“I don’t know what you mean, Sir, by the ‘virtuous’, but I know very well that the great and the good have disappeared.”

The minister was taken aback; not wishing to give up, and still mindful of the benefits that came with his position, he replied that,

“The great and the good do much for the health and wellbeing of the Church; they strengthen its constitution, if you will.”

“Constitution!” exclaimed the old lady. *“What need have YOU of a stronger constitution, when you can stomach supremacy of the state over the Church in ecclesiastical matters, and Slave Dollars into the bargain?”*

FRIENDLY SOCIETIES 1800’s

There were once 8 Friendly Societies in Lochwinnoch.

There is a Female Benevolent Society, supported and conducted by the ladies of the parish, which contributes essentially to the comfort of the poor. The village is divided into districts, and visitors are appointed for each. The ladies visit all the poor in their respective districts, and after careful investigation, distribute clothing, fuel, etc., according to exigencies, so that no person can remain in a state of wretchedness and want.