

TODAY'S NEWS

Have I got old news for you?

Lochwinnoch - Bits & Bobs 1897

1897

The **Parish Council** have agreed to **double** the allowance to the **poor** for the week in which the Diamond Jubilee celebration takes place.

1897

Not a few people in the district were disturbed in the early hours of Wednesday morning by the heavy fall of **rain**. The River Cart and its tributaries overflowed their banks, submerging fields, at one point flooding the railway line, and rendering many roads **impassable**.

1897

In Lochwinnoch **U.P. Church** on Monday evening, Mr Whytock delivered an interesting lecture, illustrated with lime-light views, on "**Missionary work on the Congo**" to an appreciative audience.

At the meeting of the Guild in Lochwinnoch **Parish Church**, last Sabbath afternoon, Mr Robert Blair read an able paper on "**The Lost Sheep**"

Within the last year or so no fewer than eighteen two-storey tenements have been added to the village, and there are indications that the boom is not yet over. A large block is at present being put in High Street, and a cottage being erected at Braehead. Amongst prospective additions is a large hall in connection with the Parish Church, subscriptions for which are being raised.

Since the unfortunate burning of Calder Cabinet Works about six months ago, the firm of Messrs. Hunter, Hamilton, and Crawford has been broken up. Mr. Hunter has built a large factory upon the old site, and Messrs. Hamilton and Crawford have erected a commodious establishment, which they have designated Lochhead Works, upon ground immediately behind the Parish and Free Churches. Cabinet-making has now been commenced in both works, but it will some little time before they are in full swing. The number of cabinetmakers employed by the old firm was 150 and it is stated that the two new works could accommodate double that number.

I have read with interest your correspondents "True North " letter on the cardinal points at Catrine. We have a similar case here. Part of the Parish Church spire was re-built some years ago The cardinal points were renewed and re-set, and, as has

1897

Fair Holidays.— The local works closed on Thursday for the annual Fair Holidays, and will not open till Monday week. Special facilities for travelling are being offered by the Glasgow & South-Western Railway Company, and these are likely to be largely taken advantage of.

1897

The weather during the week having been fine, many farmers in the district have commenced to cut their hay. On one or two farms the hay is standing in **ricks**. The crop is a fairly good one.

1897

The **Fair holidays are over** for another year, and the local holidaymakers have all returned to their daily labours **refreshed and invigorated**. I hope, after their brief period of relaxation, Mr Williamson's laundry resumed operations towards the end of last week, the Cabinet Works opened on Monday, and Tuesday morning saw the Silk Factory started. But while there were many families in Lochwinnoch enjoying themselves at the coast and in the country last week, their places in the village were taken for the time being by **Glasgow visitors**, who, in the presence of that section of the community who cannot be tempted to spend their holidays and their money away from home, caused the village to present a lively aspect.

been done at Catrine, instead of being set to the true north have been set to the then magnetic north, and of course by this time neither point to the magnetic nor true north.

Children's Excursion from Renfrew to Lochwinnoch.

There were 250 youngsters present, and they were driven in ten brakes, each drawn by four horses, kindly granted Councillor John Clark. By the kind permission of Provost Mackenzie, Milliken, and Mr. Shand Harvie, Castle Semple, the brakes were allowed to be driven through the policies, and the privilege very highly appreciated. The party were afterwards driven to Lochwinnoch, where, after abundant refreshments had been served, an interesting programme of sports was gone through. Valuable prizes were competed for, and in addition the children were presented with articles of clothing.

When last at Lochwinnoch I noticed that a new pillar oil lamp had been erected at the south-west corner of the new bridge over the Calder—a much-needed illuminator—though only of oil. Also that the overhanging branches of the trees on the right-hand side of the road from the new bridge to the old bridge had been cut. Another boon and blessing to travellers by that way on dark nights.

Is the "last word" for 1897, I wish our readers "A Happy New Year and many returns."

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Snippets of News from 1865

1865

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.

1865

Lochwinnoch **HAIL SHOWER.** -On Monday evening, at 7 o'clock, a heavy shower of hail fell along the high grounds of this parish. The **stones** were of **great size**, and had the ryegrass hay not been harvested, farmers would have sustained a serious **loss** from the shedding of the seed.

1865

Fatal Accident.

Last Friday afternoon, a surfaceman, named **Archibald McLean**, aged 47, whose house is in High Street, Lochwinnoch, was killed by an engine on the down line of rails, about a quarter of a mile from Lochwinnoch Station.

07/01/1865 Charity from Australia

Seasonable Charity.—A few days ago, Robert Smith, Esq., Melbourne, son of the Rev, Dr. Smith, Free Church minister of Lochwinnoch, sent £100 to distributed to the poor of his native parish, without regard to any religious denomination. This is noble and generous, and worthy of imitation. Frequent donations of a similar kind have been sent by this Christian gentleman.

28/01/1865 Curling - Grand Provincial Match

This match comes off today (Saturday), and those who wish to enjoy a treat, and see one of the finest lochs in Scotland in winter garb, can go by the Glasgow and South-Western Railway to Lochwinnoch at very moderate return fares, and where skaters from all parts are to be seen on the ice. Should the frost continue, a gathering of about 300 curlers will convene at twelve noon to compete for the honours awarded by the Royal Club to their 12th province. Should the day prove fine the turnout of spectators is expected to be numerous. There is ample room for skaters on this large sheet of water, and the proprietor, J. O. L. Harvey, esquire, is glad to see the citizens of our large towns enjoy themselves on the loch.

28/01/1865 Death of Rev. Dr. Robert Smith

Dr Smith was ordained by the Presbytery of Paisley and Greenock as minister of the parish of Lochwinnoch, on Thursday, March 2, 1815,

1865

The Lochwinnoch **Public Library** for some years past has been in a state of **insufficiency** for want of public support. A number of energetic and **public spirited** of the village convened, formed a committee, deliberated on what means might be adopted to revive the library, and render it available for the **social, moral,** and **intellectual** improvement of the community.

1865

A soiree in connection with the Free Church Sabbath Schools, was held on Tuesday evening last. The **attendance** was considerable - there being at least **300** young persons present, beside a large number of friends interested in the sabbath schools, or **attracted** by the entertainment promised in the published program of the soiree.

1865

A farm servant from Lochwinnoch reported at the **Police Office** that, on the previous evening, while sauntering along the street, he had met a smart **young damsel**, who had introduced herself to him as a servant out of place, and with the view of feeling* her he had gone with her into a public-house, but could not come to terms with her, and they parted. He very soon afterwards discovered he was **minus** his **watch**, and not having been able to find the young woman again, he was obliged to call in the aid of the police.

within a few weeks of fifty years ago.



20/05/1865 Police Station House and Hall.

The Commissioner of Supply for the county of Renfrew have just completed contracts for the erection of a station house for the county police with a hall over the same. Mr Lamb, of Paisley, is architect. We understand the building will be commenced immediately. The site selected is on the east side of Church Street.

26/08/1865 Monster Boiler

On Monday forenoon there was quite a sensation created round here by the approach of one of the largest boilers which has ever been brought into Lochwinnoch. The boiler—which was drawn by 18 or 20 of Wordie and Co,'s powerful horses—measured not less than 30 feet in length, 8 feet in diameter, with two large internal furnaces, having Galloway's patent water tubes in ditto, and a large steam dome top. The boiler is for the new flax mill of the Messrs. Crawford Brothers. The entire village was nearly turned out during the removal of the boiler from the carriage, which we are glad to say, was safely brought to terra firma.

*make a payment to (someone) in return for services.

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The Grand Roundup of Old News

1916

Johnny Manders in reply to increased cost of rail fares; "It will keep the beggars in Lochwinnoch"
It should be explained that many local people go to Glasgow for their "pictures"

1881

The Rev. Geo. Carruthers chose 'Conversation' as the subject for his lecture. He referred to the advantages of speech as being the only means of imparting information previous to the introduction of the printing press.

1939

Viewfield Rovers lose to Murrayfield Amateurs in the final of the Scottish Amateur Cup.

1812

Mr Brown of Lochwinnoch, a few days ago, dug from one potato sett, 68 sizeable potatoes, one of which weighed 42 ounces, and was 18 inches in circumference.

1890

A meeting of the workers of **Calder and Viewfield Cabinet Works** resolved to ask the masters for an increase of 2 shillings on weekly wages and time and half for overtime after 51 hours. The men threatened to **strike** in the event of the masters not accepting the terms.

1891

The bowlers of the Old and New town had their annual friendly encounter. 3 rinks a side, which resulted in a **win** for the New Town by 7 shots.

1900

Two nurses are now working in the Parish. In 12 months 4953 visits were paid to 309 patients. Donations £50 4s 3d of this £4 12s 2d was from grateful patients

1863

A Lochwinnoch **Copper Mining Company** meeting passed a special resolution requiring the company to be wound up voluntarily.

1880

Sunday traffic in hotels, having proved a source of annoyance to the inhabitants of Lochwinnoch, have been closed.

1890

Meeting of the Masters
Continued ...It was unanimously resolved that the Association should **not** concede to the demands made by the workers.

1867

West of Scotland Ladies Skating Club at the loch. They disported themselves gracefully on the ice, and nearly all being attended by gentlemen, were readily caught when at any time they chanced to stumble.

1964

At the annual **International** Show of Racing Pigeons in London, The Champion of Champions was Jeffreystock Jim, a two year old blue cock, owned by brothers William and Peter Holmes of Lochwinnoch.

1891

**LOCHWINNOCH'S
INSANITARY CONDITION**

District Meeting. The Clerk laid on a requisition asking the Council to form the village into a special drainage district.

In seconding the motion, Mr McDowall, said it was imperative that something should be done.

1896

**LOCHWINNOCH'S
INSANITARY CONDITION**

"The village has an abundant supply of good water into most properties. There are also street wells. The waste from sinks etc. is discharged into the run channels or cesspools. This state is not commendable"

1899

**LOCHWINNOCH'S
INSANITARY CONDITION**

The village of Lochwinnoch has been making great strides in many respects will be generally admitted, but there is one matter upon which it is, unfortunately, open to reproach. The question of drainage is one which has troubled the local authorities for some time. The county sanitary inspector has, in his annual reports, declared the village to be in a very unsatisfactory condition, from his point of view.

1862

James Young and Robert Watt, both of Lochwinnoch, have been caught poaching in the pursuit of game at Castle Semple.

Mr Harvey allowed them to escape without prosecution on condition that they paid to the Inspector of the Poor the sum of £1 for behoof of the poor of the parish, and has been paid.

1897

The new Golf Course at Lochwinnoch is to be opened tomorrow with a match between a few professionals.

1875

On the occasion of the opening of the **Black Bull Hotel**, as a **temperance** hotel, a soiree was held in the large hall adjoining.

1900

An advertisement:

Many ladies and gentlemen have by them old or disused **false teeth**, which as well be turned into money. Fraser of Princess St. buy old false teeth.

1748

Wanted: A Negro Lad named CATO, the property of Colonel McDowall of Castle-Semple. Whoever secures him so as to be returned to Colonel McDowall, the owner, shall be sufficiently rewarded.

1938

Four occupants of an R. A. F. aeroplane were injured when it crashed in thick mist and heavy rain about 1,000ft above sea level near Lochwinnoch. The pilot and one passenger were able to get help. The rescuers were able to free the others and stretcher them to the ambulance wagon. [10 years later, an B.E.A. Viking on London - Glasgow service crashed on the moor. All survived]

1969

National Mod

A Lochwinnoch music teacher, Miss Helen M. Guthrie, especially distinguished herself by taking four first places and one second.

1950

At Rangers F. C. Sports **John McManus**, Lochwinnoch A.A.C. won the 220 Yards in 21.8sec.

1875

J.P. Court Lochwinnoch.

At this Court there was no case for trial. A Maiden Court has not been held here for a long time, and the fact was commented on as indicating an apparent improvement in the **morals** of the village.