

# TODAY'S NEWS

*Have I got old news for you?*

## Water Mills around Lochwinnoch

Written in 1866

*Of these there were several in this parish at an early period, but the date of erection, of any of them is not known.*



"The Old Mill of Glen"

"The Old Mill of Glen" is that at Millbank, about a mile to the west of Lochwinnoch. It was the mill which the Church Barony of Glen was for the most part suckened, and must have existed long, because the lands on which it stands have for centuries been called from it, "Millbank."

"The New Mill of Glen," or Calder Mill, was situated upon the east side Calder Water, and in the Glen of Calder, less than an a mile north of Lochwinnoch. To it the Muirland of Glen was suckened, as well as part of the lands lying

### 1908

The annual **Social and Dance** of West U. F. Church Choir was held in the Eagle Hall on Friday evening. About 20 couples sat down to tea, which was tastefully purveyed by the ladies committee. During the course of the social Miss J Russell, organist, was made the recipient of a Ladies Companion, comprising of a silver mounted brush, comb and hand-glass. Dancing engaged in to the merry strains of Mr. Walker's Band.

### 1923

In Lochwinnoch was **en fete** yesterday, the occasion being the fifth annual sports carnival on behalf of the **Infirmaries Fund**. As befitted to a town whose chief industry is cabinet making, the principal prizes were useful as well as handsome pieces of furniture. [Rangers win in the final of the five-a-side was very popular]

### 1865

**Calderhaugh Cotton Mill** for Sale. 20,00 spindles all in excellent condition. Power consists of a Water Wheel and a Steam Engine.

## 1899

The Mile and a Half **Scottish Skating Championship** was competed for at Lochwinnoch. There were about **6,000** people on the ice which was in capital condition. Tebbits [Kettering] won in a time of 5m 8.5s and received the £10 cup.

## 1893

**Teams of carvers** from Viewfield and Calder Cabinet Works met at Field Park, Lochwinnoch, on Friday night. Joe's eleven beat Hunter's somewhat easily by 6 goals to 2.

## 1886

On Tuesday, Allen Rothery, the sole partner of the **Lochwinnoch Spinning Company**, carrying on business as wool-spinners at Calder Glen Mills, Lochwinnoch was to have been examined in bankruptcy in the Paisley Sheriff Court, but he did not appear. It is understood that the bankrupt has fled from Justice, he being wanted by the police of Renfrewshire on a charge of forgery and uttering forged bills for fugitation. Should Rothery not appear, sentence of outlawry will be pronounced against him.

contiguous to it on the west side of the Calder Water, as Bridgend, Linthills, etc.

Auchengown or St. Bryde's Mill, is on the Lochwinnoch side of St. Bryde's Burn, and in the Barony of Sempill. The lands of the Lords Sempill would be suckened to it, as we presume, all those at least lying in its immediate neighbourhood, as the Baronies of Sempill, Corsford, and Corslet.



The New Mill of Auchengown is upon the Mere or Muirburn, at the eastern extremity the Barony Auchengown Stewart. The lands of this Barony were suckened to it, and it still exists as a mill, although, the sucken was sold a considerable time ago. The name New Mill would infer that there was an old mill of Auchengown somewhere, but the site of it is not known.

If the respective Baronies of Calderhaugh, Risk, Auchenbathie, and Belltrees, were suckered to any of these mills, or to any other, it is not certainly known; only the probability is, that they were served at some of these mills, and paid what is called the "outentowns multure," and other services.

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**1952**

**Mr Ian L. Struthers**, a 46-year-old mineral water manufacturer and motor engineer, of Lochwinnoch, died of injuries received in a crash at the Scottish Sporting Car Club's hill climb at Bo'ness on Saturday. It was the first fatality at any organised motoring sports event in Scotland.

**1888**

**A LOCHWINNOCH** man has narrowly missed being the Glasgow bowling champion. The final tie in the Glasgow Individual **Bowling** Championship lay between Mr J. W. Davidson, Rutherglen, and Mr D. Davidson, Pollokshields, who belongs to Lochwinnoch, and resulted in the former winning the trophy. Mr D. Davidson received the second prize, value **two guineas**.

**1879**

A **petition** regarding the repair of Lochwinnoch **Manse**, which was built 1824, was then submitted for transmission the Church's Committee of Buildings. The petition stated that there were eight ordinary rooms the manse, and there had been, some time ago, considerable alterations made in the building at a cost of **£90**.

## Lochwinnoch Glasgow Soiree 1875

**The seventh annual soiree of the natives of Lochwinnoch held in Glasgow**

Part of a speech by Henry Macdowall, of Garthland

**A** new Lochwinnoch has been founded by Lochwinnoch men in the backwoods of Canada. When I first heard of this new settlement, it consisted of about a dozen houses, to each of which was attached a considerable number of acres of land, and in connection with the settlement was a church and a good school house and teacher, and they appeared to want nothing except and opportunity to revisit once more the old town and parish.

With regard to the old town of Lochwinnoch, which you all know and remember, I believe that for the first 50 or 60 years of the century it was a rising and flourishing village, till the time of the cotton famine; but when that crisis came,



and it was found impossible to continue working the mills, many of the old workers in

## 1888

The **youths** of Lochwinnoch have caught the "**gowf**" fever, and these fine evenings they may be seen at the game on the nine-hole course recently formed on the hills behind the village. The putting greens are natural; but it is intended that these should give place to made greens at an early date. The ground is fairly well adapted for a "**cleek**" game; but the enthusiast who prides himself on his "**brassey**" shots will be sorely disappointed. There are several hazards in the form of hedges and dykes, and a good player should go round in **50**.

## 1899

Lochwinnoch had a **fair share** of the Trades Holiday young men and maidens last Saturday. The majority of them came in brakes; but the traffic by rail was also heavy. **Calder Glen** is not likely to have such a large number of visitors on one day till next Spring. I had a turn through the village in the afternoon. Calder Street was lined on one side with brakes, the holiday-makers were moving about the streets in small companies, and opposite the Liberal Club one could scarcely get along because of the crowd which had congregated around trippers, who were **dancing** to the strains of a melodeon. Yes, the village was a **bit lively** for my taste.

the village had to leave it and seek employment elsewhere. Then the flax trade took possession of the mills, but it did not give employment to many of the native inhabitants of the town, though it materially assisted the prosperity of the villagers. I regret, however, to say that we had the misfortune five years ago to lose one of the mills by fire, and this has a considerable extent diminish the prosperity of the place. Yet I think there is a bright future in store for the village. We have at our command an immense water supply, - a power which is becoming every day more valuable as we know how to apply it more economically.



## Part of a speech by William Patrick

It has often said that the village of Lochwinnoch is on the decline - that its best days are over, and that the prosperity which it enjoyed in the past will never be enjoyed in the future. It is impossible for us to predict what the future of Lochwinnoch shall be; but I am sure of this, however, that we all desire that a new era of prosperity may dawn up on it. But whether this will be the case or not, of one thing we must all feel assured, that Lochwinnoch shall ever retain the strongest claims on our respect and esteem. I do not at present allude to the beauty of the scenery or of those natural associations by which it is endeared to every heart. But I refer to the fact that to Lochwinnoch a great measure we owe the education and training which we have received.

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1938

**INJURED PILOT** walks two miles for help. 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, Renfrewshire. The aeroplane was attached to Prestwich Aviation School, Ayrshire.

1938

**MAID'S WARNING** saves family from fire. Servant girl's warning enabled her employers and other servants to make dash **for safety** when fire destroyed part of Lochside House, the home of Mr R. A. Clapperton.

Mr Clapperton and his wife carried their two children, Ruth, aged two, and Charles, aged four months, to their gardener's cottage. They were **roused** by **Margaret Rice**, maidservant, who was awakened by **smoke** in her room on the top story. Two other servants were almost overcome by the smoke and were guided to safety by Mr Clapperton. West Renfrewshire Fire Brigade confined the fire to the servants' quarters.

## Disgraceful Scene at Lochwinnoch

**O**n Sabbath week this peaceful village was thrown into a state of great commotion, by the visitation of nearly a hundred miners, pitmen, and others, from the parish of Kilbirnie, bent on purposes of pleasure and something worse. It is commonly rumoured that a brutal fight was contemplated near the head of the Lake. In this, for the credit of humanity, they did not succeed.

During the day, several parties of these men found access to several of the public-houses in Lochwinnoch (not to the credit of those who keep them), where they drank without restraint. The churches were dismissing, it was truly painful to see so many young men swaggering along the streets in state of intoxication, outraging every feeling of decorum, and setting everything in connexion with religion and religious men at defiance.

Among others, the Reverend Graham, the minister of the parish, on his way from the pulpit to the manse, became the subject, first of their derision and then of their assault. One of the most outrageous and insolent of them, without a single word from Mr Graham, laid hold of him by the breast and demanded him to stop. Mr Graham presented his umbrella to his breast in return, and in an instant pushed him from his hold to a respectful distance. Several advances and as many repulsions took place were the minister got rid of his assailant.

## 1908

James Crighton, a man of eminently **respectable** appearance, admitted charge of **fire raising**, the indictment setting forth that had on New Year's day set fire to the grocer's shop occupied by him in **High Street, Lochwinnoch**, with intent to defraud the Northern Insurance Company.

## 1908

**Castlesemple Estate. Lochwinnoch,**



was exposed for sale in Edinburgh this week at **£100,000**, but there was no offer.

## 1907

A series of **thefts** have been perpetrated in the district during the last two weeks, and are receiving the strict attention of the police. The most notable one was the theft of the two



small **ancient cannons** which stood in front of Castlesemple House.

## 1900

**Lochwinnoch Golf Course:**

J. W. Cooper succeeded in lowering the record for the course, doing the double round in 79 strokes.

The affair was committed to the care of the Procurator Fiscal, who soon captured the daring outlaw, and, after a judicial examination, found it necessary to transmit the offender to the Paisley Prison to receive the reward of his deeds.

## Improvement in Trade 1827

**I**t is with pleasure we state, that in Renfrewshire and Ayrshire, there are decided appearances of improving trade. The cotton works, woollen factories, printfields, bleachfields, lime works, etc., are all brisk; and there is no scarcity of employment of some sort or other.

The two cotton works at Lochwinnoch are going full time, and give bread to about 400 of the inhabitants of the village. In all the villages the people are in much better spirits than formally.

In every part of Renfrewshire, there is a great demand for all kinds of harness work, and prices have advanced fully one-fourth. Weavers cannot in fact be procured to the extent required. In Lochwinnoch, which contains about 350 weavers all is bustle and activity in the heavy trimming line.

The earning of the harness weavers will average from 3s to 3s 6d a day. The muslin weaving has, however, only experienced a slight advance; and the lappet weavers, although they get abundance of work, not average more than from 5s to 7s a week.

There is no building this spring in Lochwinnoch, and the same may be said of every village in Ayrshire.

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## 1879

Alexander Steel, a bricklayer, residing in Lochwinnoch, was charged with the crime of **theft by housebreaking**, he having on various dates from a house in course of erection at Hillside Lochwinnoch, stolen four candles, 🙄 sorry, four trowels. Steel pleaded guilty and having previous convictions was sentenced to 12 months imprisonment.

## 1859

A piece of **ground** has been set aside by Mr Buchanan of the Calderhaugh Cotton Mill, as a **bowling green** for the workmen in his employment.

## 1893

### Measles Epidemic

About **50 cases** of measles have been notified as having occurred at **Lochwinnoch**. The sanitary authorities believe the outbreak can be traced to one person - a member of a family which came from **Glasgow** some time ago.

The sanitary authorities **spotted** the person a mile away. 🙄 Ha Ha [Sorry, I'll stop - editor]

## Affray at Cross 1814

Last night an affair took place here, in Lochwinnoch, which had nearly proved serious. A few days ago, some weaver lads, belonging to the town, and some Irishmen, employed by James Adam, Esq. of Barr, in draining Barr Loch, having differed, perpetual jarrings between them were since kept up; and they met at the Cross last night, between eight and nine o'clock, to the number of between three and 400, to decide the quarrel by combat. Both sides seems equally desirous for the fray, and alike confident of success. A little before 9 o'clock they engaged most furiously by pugilling, in which some science was exhibited by the weavers, scarcely to have been expected; from this, recourse was had to stones, sticks, and bludgeons, and it is more than probable, that most serious consequences would have resulted, had not the proper and timely interference of some of the most respectable inhabitants of the town dispersed the crowd and prevented further damage. A good deal of blood was shed, and it is reported, that one or two of the Irishmen have been seriously hurt; but it is hoped, not fatally.

It is much to be regretted, by the inhabitants of this good town and parish, that although they have three most commodious houses for religious worship they have neither a minister nor a Justice of the Peace in the place.

1893

**Robert Weir**, Cabinet Maker, Calder St. took **action against David Imrie**, farmer. The Pursuer alleged that the defender's **cattle** had broken down and come through the hedge, which is the mutual fence between the proprietors, and **destroyed** his flowers and vegetables, which he maintained were valuable for showing purposes. He estimated damage at £5 5s. The defender contended that he was not responsible for any damage done, as he was only the tenant of the grass field for the season, and under no obligation to maintain the fence. The sheriff sustained the defenders plea.

1884

At a recent meeting of the **Lochwinnoch Liberal Committee** they unanimously passed a resolution approving of the general home and foreign policy of the government, and especially desiring to see the **Franchise Bill** passed into law the session. The secretary, Mr. Robert Reid was instructed to forward notice to **Mr. Gladstone**.

**Reply: 10, Downing Street**, Whitehall, June 28, 1884. "Sir, I am directed by **Mr. Gladstone** to inform you that he has received the communication which you have done the honour to send him, and to convey to you his thanks for the expression of approval and confidence in Her Majesty's Government which it contains." I am etc. G. Leveson Gower.

## Affray at the Risk 1840

**O**n Sunday week, a violent affray took place at Risk, in the neighbourhood of Lochwinnoch by a mob of Irish railway labourers, to the number of 150 at least, most armed with stabs, &c.. having proceeded to the house of **Robert Clark**, farmer at Risk, attack some Highland labourers who resided there. The family were at worship when the mob arrived, and two Highlanders then in the house having made their escape, the mob broke the windows and doors of the house, at same time threatening vengeance against the Highlanders. Another house was likewise attacked, but the landlord having no Highlanders lodging with him, he allowed his house to be searched, and no further violence was done. As Clark quitted the house, a number of stones were thrown at him; but got to Lochwinnoch on horseback, and gave information to the authorities, when a large body of special constables went to Risk, but as they reached it the mob had dispersed. Twelve of the most active in the riot have been apprehended and lodged in Paisley jail.

Fears were entertained on Monday that a more serious riot would have occurred, as upwards of 300 Highlanders marched in a body through Lochwinnoch for the purpose of attacking the Irish, but the Irish having kept out of the way, they dispersed without any violence being done.



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**1898**

## **Calder Glen**

Saturday is believed to have been a record day for visitors to Calder Glen. One estimate puts the figures at 1000, but unfortunately we have no means of checking it. How would it do to erect a turnstile at the entrance to the glen for this purpose?

**1898**

## **Exodus**

The exodus of Lochwinnoch cabinetmakers to England continues.

**1869**

## **Black Bull Inn for Sale.**

The Property is situated at the Cross of Lochwinnoch, and consists of the Inn with Hall, Coachhouse, Stables etc. Also a shop and several Dwelling Houses. The Inn is the oldest Established Inn, and best situated for business in the Village.

## **School Board 1876**



## **THE LOCHWINNOCH SCHOOL**

**BOARD CASE** - An important decision under the Education Act has been given by Sheriff Fraser. The question whether a married woman has the right to vote was raised in an action brought by a defeated candidate for the School Board, who wished to have the successful candidate lowest on the list disqualified because, among other grounds, five females whose names were on the valuation roll and who had recorded their votes were not entitled to do so being married persons.

This view was taken by the Sheriff-Substitute, who held that married women are legally incapacitated under the Act from voting. The case was appealed to the Sheriff-Principal, who recalled the Sheriff-Substitute's interlocutor, and found "in law that married women are not, merely because they are married, incapacitated from voting"

The learned Sheriff states the grounds of his decision in a lengthy note.



## 1900

**Keanie**, builder Lochwinnoch, is taking time by the forelock and adding another couple of tenements to his row of comfortable and substantial dwellings at the entrance to the village

## 1902

### Curling Fluid for the Hair

Melt white bees-wax about the size of a large pea in one ounce of olive-oil: to this add one or two drops of attar of roses, or any other perfume.

## 1872

### Scarcity of Coal

In **Greenock**, a Council Meeting to take into consideration the best means of providing a sufficient coal supply for the poorer classes. In **Lochwinnoch** the inhabitants have been supplied by Mr McDowall of Garthland, who has opened a pit on his estate near the village

## Pauper 1860

**H**eld that, under the 70th Section of the Amendment Act, a parish which granted interim relief to a pauper is bound to continue said relief, although the pauper has no settlement therein, and that another parish to which the pauper voluntary removes, and forthwith becomes chargeable, has a valid claim for repetition of advances against the former parish, provided the original destitution still continues.

Mary Ann McGavin or Johnstone, apparently a vagrant, a native of Ireland, aged about 30 years, and burdened with a sick boy, aged 4 and a half years, applied for parochial relief to the Inspector of Lochwinnoch on 23rd or 24th April, 1860. The application was sustained, and the pauper continued in receipt of relief till the 28th day of the aforesaid month, when she stated to the inspector her wish to leave Lochwinnoch, and get her boy placed in an Infirmary. She, accordingly, received ninepence for this purpose, with which she paid her fare per railway to Johnston Station, from whence she travelled to Paisley where, immediately on her arrival, she applied to the pursuer, as inspector of the poor, who at once received her and her sick child into the poor-house. The pursuer sent statutory notice of the case to the defender, claiming to be relieved by Lochwinnoch, on the ground of prior dealing. Lochwinnoch resisted the claim, and ultimately parties agreed to have the case settled by a small debt action.

Further: The Sheriff-Substitute decerns against the defendant [i.e. Inspector of the Poor of Lochwinnoch] for the amount of the account libelled, and finds him liable in the expenses.