

# Bitesize Newsletter

Snippets from BNA & Outside Source

From The Cairn of Lochwinnoch matters

by Andro Crawford

## PLEWING KEMPING, AT SANCT JOHN'S HILL.

**T**HE Lochunyoch Ferming Demsters' Yeirlie Bonspeill sall tak place, on Setterday, the secont day o' Mairch neist, on the Wapenschaw-aiker, at Jonshill, perteinand to Mr. William Orr.

The Owrsmen sall be on the Kemp-Grund gin Hauf Aucht, in the morning; the Kempers sall draw cutts for the Butts, at a Quarter afore Aucht; and the haill Pleuchs maun be boun to begin the crouss abaitment gin Aucht Hours o' the neck.

The Pat Luck sall be in the Wheit Sheif Inns, at fyve hours efternune.

**LOCHUNYOCH, 18t Feberwar, 1839.**



Witnessed at the Marina on Saturday 18th September 2021



Mr James Whitten  
Last owner of Calder Glen mill.  
More [here](#)



The crowd look on as someone runs off with a wheelie bin!  
2004

1850

THE HILL OF STAKE BY BAROMETRICAL OBSERVATION WAS ASCERTAINED TO BE 1731 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL AND THE HIGHEST HILL IN RENFREWSHIRE

1875

LOCHWINNOCH CONCERT FOR THE POOR RAISED THE SUM OF £16 AFTER EXPENSES. THE COMMITTEE HAS ALLOCATED £1 TO THE HOWWOOD DISTRICT

1877

THE CALDER HAS SWEEPED AWAY PART OF THE EMBARKMENT AND HAS COMPLETELY FLOODED THE BAR MEADOW CAUSING GREAT DAMAGE TO THE VALUABLE HAY

Written in ..... September 14th 1861!



**T**he town of Lochwinnoch bids fair to earn for itself this unenviable notoriety. Were it only in the case of the late unprecedented floods that this town deserves the title, it would perhaps, be unfair to apply to it this designation, but it is a well-known fact, that at all times when the waters are partially swollen, the inhabitants or visitors must have a conveyance from the railway to the town.

It is now hoped that now, when the water has made a breach in the embankments, and also in the dyke, dignified with the name of a wall, the Lochwinnoch Lairds will bestir themselves and cause such repairs to be made on this thoroughfare, that their beautiful situated little town may no longer be entitled 'Unapproachable'



Amongst the memorabilia that Dr Cairnie, the original laird of Curling Hall, Largs, gathered for his once popular little book on curling (published in 1833]



"There was an extraordinary and tedious frost in 1745 or 1746 at Lochwinnoch" says Dr Cairnie. "The inhabitants of the south side of the loch walked over the ice to the kirk on thirteen Sundays successively. The wells, fountains, and burns were dried up by hard frost. The people suffered great hardships. The ice was bent and bowed down to the bottom because no water entered into the loch. The curling ceased on account of the curve of the ice."

# Bitesize Newsletter

Snippets from BNA & Outside Source



## The opening of the new golf clubhouse 28th December 1974



Photo contributed by Amanda Mackie

The Club was formed on 31st. August 1897

Names L - R, W Cochrane, Mrs. H Murray, J Kilburn [secretary] G Herron, J Shaw, Mrs L Forteith, J Orr [vice captain] L Innes [captain] W Kincaid, Mrs J Wallace [lady captain] D Brown, J Dolan [match secretary] J Mc Gough [bar convenor]

1823  
A FAMILY  
IN THE TOWN OF  
LOCHWINNOCH, IN  
RENFREWSHIRE, THERE IS A  
FAMILY WHICH CONSISTS  
OF SIX GENERATIONS. THE  
ELDEST PROGENITOR IN  
THIS SINGULAR FAMILY  
HAS NOT ARRIVED AT THE  
AGE OF ONE HUNDRED

1897  
MUIRSHIEL AND QUEENSIDE  
BELONGING TO MR CYRIL  
LAMBART, WILL AGAIN  
THIS SEASON BE OCCUPIED  
BY MR G T BATES, WHO  
HAS HAD THESE  
SHOOTINGS FOR SOME  
YEARS BACK

1886  
THE FIRST ANNUAL SUPPER  
OF THE LOCHWINNOCH  
FOOTBALL CLUB WAS  
HELD IN THE EAGLE INN.  
MR.DALGLISH PRESIDENT.  
  
DANCING WITH GREAT  
SPIRIT WAS KEPT UP TILL  
THE EARLY HOURS



**Calder U F  
Church Xmas  
Fayre in the  
McKillop Hall  
2019**



**Castle Semple  
Rowing Regatta  
2021**



**Playing Marbles  
Keepsies**

**The aim is to  
knock as many  
as you can out  
of the circle**

## Snippet from a series of articles written in 1877

**In 1836 there were 3730 of the inhabitants of Lochwinnoch who belonged to the Established Church**

The sabbath schools flourished and became numerous. The two ministers, Mr Smith and Mr. Shoolbraid, with their two congregations, Established and Secession, wrought heartily and harmoniously together in this good work.

Mr Shoolbraid furnished several of the annual reports for the Sabbath School Union of Scotland, with which the Lochwinnoch Society was, in those days, connected. The Unions report for 1833, under the heading of Lochwinnoch reads thus;-

“The Rev. John Shoolbraid has sent the following for that parish:- the Sabbath School Society has seven schools, 615 scholars. Our sabbath schools are prosperous. There has been an additional school started at Howwood where it was greatly needed, and we trust it will be useful.



The sum total of our scholars is greater than at any former year. The teachers are actively and willingly engaged in the work of religious tuition; and, upon the whole, the children are improving in knowledge, and we would fain hope in piety.”

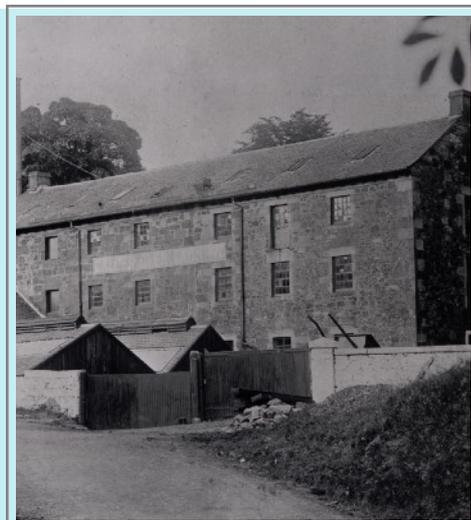
One of those seven schools met in an old school room at the corner of Factory Close, where a public house now stands. The classes were taught by Mr. John Barbour, East-end; Mr Robert Ralston, Johnshill; and Mr. James Clark, Factory-Brae, all earnest and willing workers in those good old times.

**May Lochwinnoch never be without such ministers and useful men, such schools and scholars as were to be found within her borders in the generations that are passed and gone.**

## 1886 - FLIGHT OF A WOOL SPINNER

Allan 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 on a charge of forgery and uttering forged bills for fugitation.

His is the only case from the Upper Ward of Renfrewshire at the ensuing Circuit Court, and, should Rothery not appear, sentence of outlawry will be pronounced against him.



# Bitesize Newsletter

Snippets from BNA & Outside Source

## MEMORIAL TO THE LATE MARQUIS AND MARCHIONESS OF CONYNGHAM 1877



On the top of one of the highest peaks of the Renfrew hills, near the Muirshiel, Lochwinnoch, there has this week been completed the erection of what will be a striking landmark in the landscape for centuries to come. Lord Francis N. Conyngham, M.P., proprietor of the estate of Muirshiel, has placed a handsome red Aberdeen granite polished obelisk — which, with substructure, rises to the height of twenty feet above the top of the hill. The obelisk with its die and base weighed over three tons. It bears the following inscription:

*“Erected by Lord Francis N. Conyngham, M.P., in loving memory of his beloved parents— Francis Nathaniel, Marquis of Conyngham, K.P., G.C.H., P.C., born June 11, 1797, died July 17 1876; Jane, Marchioness of Conyngham, born 13th — October, 1798, died 26th January, 1876  
‘Him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out”*

The whole is enclosed by a handsome bronzed and glided rail, and the work was carried out and erected by Mr Legge, sculptor, Aberdeen.



**Kaim Dam  
Showing the old  
original wall  
2009**



**Foundations for the  
footbridge over the  
River Calder  
2005**



**Advert for  
ENO'S “Fruit Salt”  
To combat 3 o'clock  
tiredness**

1897

### SKATING IN SCOTLAND

ON SATURDAY 8,000 SPECTATORS WERE PRESENT AT LOCHWINNOCH TO WITNESS THE RENFREWSHIRE AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIPS

1903

SOMEONE EAGER TO ADD TO THE GAIETY OF THE NATION PERHAPS, CIRCULATED A RUMOUR THAT A SALMON HAD BEEN CAUGHT IN CASTLE SEMPLE LOCH

1888

LOCHWINNOCH CASTLE STROLLERS v BEITH VICTORIA

RESULT:

HOME TEAM WON BY 13 GOALS TO 3

## Wonderful phenomena at the Lochwinnoch Cattle Show 1852

The annual show of cattle, by members of the Lochwinnoch Agricultural Society, for the present year, was duly held at that respectable village on Tuesday the 25th ult.; and we have reason to believe that the whole affair passed off in a creditable manner, not excepting the dinner in the Eagle [Inn] at 4 o'clock. We beg to call the attention to one or two remarkable items at the Lochwinnoch bill of fare at the Show, which, we must frankly confess, have puzzled us not a little, but which, we presume, simply demonstrate that the members of the Lochwinnoch Society are much in advance of similar societies in other parts of the world. The show-bill or play-bill or whatever it may be called, is lying before us at this moment, having been kindly sent us by a correspondent for our special edification on the subject of fat and dairy stock, and we find that the fifth premium on the list is as follows:-

*“for the best one year old cow, in calf or milk, £1. 0 0  
For the second best ditto ditto ditto 0 10 0”*

Now we must give it as our humble opinion that a premium of £1 was too little for such an extraordinary animal as a one year-old cow in milk. It must have been exceedingly difficult to rear such a phenomenon, although in this wonderful days of precocious green pease, premature potatoes, winter grown strawberries, and chicken hatching by steam, we do not assert that a one year-old cow in milk, with or without a calf, was not actually produced at the Lochwinnoch Cattle Show.

The next item is, if possible, still more extraordinary:-

*“For the best one year old quey in calf or milk, £0 15 0  
For the second best ditto ditto ditto 0 7 6”*

“Well, we never!” Is the only reply which we can make to the very natural query of our correspondent, “Did you ever” These one-year-old milk kine and queys, with calves to boot, are probably indigenous to Lochwinnoch.

Glossary: ult. = previous month. quey = young cow. kine = domesticated bovine animal.

### LOCAL VOLUNTEER'S RETURN 1901

Private William Gilmour Logan, son of Mr Alexander Logan, Postmaster, and one of the Active Service Company of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders returned to Lochwinnoch on Monday night. A large crowd of villagers awaited his arrival at the railway station and gave him a most enthusiastic welcome. Accompanied by the local flute band he was carried shoulder-high from the station to the Court Hall, where it had been arranged to hold a meeting in honour of his return. Mr McDowell, who presided, paid a high tribute to the Volunteers who had obeyed the call of their country and had undergone the arduous experiences of campaigning in South Africa. He also referred to the good work done by the company of which Private Logan was a member and expressed his great pleasure and that of the inhabitants of Lochwinnoch at his safe return. Mr Shand Harvey and Mr Joseph Johnstone also joined in the cordial welcome to Mr Logan.



# Bitesize Newsletter

Snippets from BNA & Outside Source

## SHOWER OF FISH - Thursday 02 February 1854

The inhabitants of Lochwinnoch were astonished on Monday to see the banks of the Loch, near the village, literally covered with a small kind of fish. It has been a windfall to the villagers, some of whom are picking them up in cart loads.

## SHOWER OF FISH - Tuesday 28 February 1854

We lately inserted a paragraph regarding a shower of fish on the borders of Lochwinnoch Loch. We now learn that the facts are these—During the severe frost in January last great numbers of the fish in the loch (perch and braise \*) were either benumbed, or some other way affected, so that a hole being made in the ice they could easily be caught, and considerable quantities were got hold of in this way and carried to the village. The breaking up of the ice, when the thaw came, shoals more of the fish were found about the margin of the loch, dead, or dying. Some of these, also, were secured by the villagers. It may be worth while to investigate a little further into the cause of this curious natural phenomenon, but it was not a shower.



\*Editor: Braise, Scots for Roach



**Autumn in Parkhill Woods**

More local photos [here](#)



**Dumb Proctor Stone In Lochwinnoch Cemetery**



**Davy Andrews**

Employed in Struthers Lemonade Factory  
Further reading [here](#)

1865  
POLICE STATION AND HALL  
  
CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN COMPLETED TO ERECT THE BUILDING ON THE EAST SIDE OF CHURCH STREET

1878  
CLERK'S BRIDGE MILL TO LET  
SITUATED AT ABOUT 2 MILES FROM LOCHWINNOCH AND AT PRESENT USED AS A CURLING STONE FACTORY

1897  
Mr G. HOUSTON HAS INTIMATED HIS INTENTION OF PRESENTING A PORTION OF A FIELD AS A PUBLIC PARK FOR THE VILLAGERS

## FISH REARING IN SCOTLAND 1898

The experiment which is now being made at Lochwinnoch, on Castle Semple Loch, is chiefly interesting to the Angling Association which has been formed for the purpose; but it is one of those pioneer operations which may excite some public interest and point the way to public benefit. To "grow" fish for sport is one way of showing how to "grow" fish for food. There is no reason why we should not rear fish, as well as cattle, sheep, and poultry. Fish might be profitably reared to increase the food supply of the people. There are many things in which the Chinese have much to learn from us, but in this particular matter we have a good deal to learn from them.

## SHORTAGE OF WEAVERS BOOSTS WAGES 1828

Great activity prevails at present in Paisley in almost every department of business; the demand for weavers at present is greater than it has been since the year 1825. The consequence is, that during the present month a considerable advance has taken place on the prices paid for weaving. The sales in the shawl and trimming lines have been greater during the winter than usual; consequently the manufacturers are warranted in making active in preparations for the spring trade. This favourable state of things has likewise extended to the neighbouring villages particularly in Kilbarchan and Lochwinnoch. The population are fully employed, and are now able to earn better wages than they have had for some time past.

## LOCHWINNOCH GAS WORKS - MANAGER WANTED 1861

At Whitsunday, a Competent person to Manage, Make Gas, and Perform the whole Duties necessary about the Works. To a satisfactory Person a fair Salary will be given. Present Wages, 10 shillings per Week, with Free House, Fire, and Light. Apply to James Clark, Ironmonger, Lochwinnoch.

### RETIREMENT PRESENTATION 1901

Ladies and gentlemen and former pupils of Mr John Millar, who had been the parish schoolmaster for close upon 43 years, gathered In the Public School, Lochwinnoch, last Friday evening, for the purpose presenting him with a purse containing a hundred sovereigns, a gold watch, and a silver salver for Mrs Millar.

Further information [here](#)

