

TODAY'S NEWS

Have I got old news for you?

Lochwinnoch early 1800's

1862

Great joy was manifested at Castlesemple and Lochwinnoch on the occasion of the birth of a daughter to Henry Lee Harvey and Lady Elizabeth Erskine. Flags were unfurled and bonfires were lit at many points in the village.

1896

Sir Thomas Glen-Coats has intimated that he will present a Billiard Table to the Liberal Club

1899

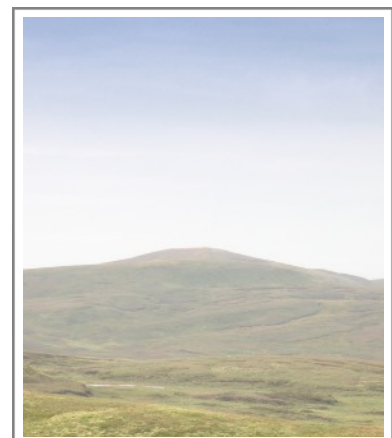
Continued ...An **angling friend** informs me that netting operations have been resumed on Castle Semple Loch but few pike are being got, which looks as if they had been pretty well thinned. Work at the hatchery has been going on satisfactorily, and the Lochwinnoch Angling Association should be able to show practical results at an early date. To be continued @pbthecairn



The name Lochwinnoch seems to refer the large loch and to the principal island which it contains, Innich being the genitive case of the Celtic word "Innis," which signifies a small island. This etymology is confirmed by the fact that a number of names of places in the parish are of Celtic derivation ; and it agrees nearly with the manner in which its name is pronounced by its present inhabitants, as well as with some of the ways in which it was anciently spelled.

The Parish contains about 19,250 English acres. It is bounded on the south by Beith; on the west by Kilbirnie and Kilmalcolm; on the north by Kilbarchan; and on the east by the Abbey Parish of Paisley.

There is a range of hills stretching along the west coast from Greenock to Ardrossan. The highest of these are the Misty Law and the Hill of Stake.



1887

Co-Operative Society fifty-sixth quarterly report shows sales of £975 7s 6¼d. Profit of £120 14s Dividend to members of 2s 6d per £ and to non-members 1s 3d per £

1884

Mr **Henry McDowall** of Garthland, with his usual thoughtfulness for the suffering poor of the village of Lochwinnoch, is now causing to be delivered to a large number of deserving poor, cart loads of coal, which is being received with much gratitude.

1896

The **Parish Council** has procured a loan of £2,000 for cemetery purposes, to be repaid over 20 years. It was remitted to the Cemetery Committee to report as to the advisability of limiting the number of lairs to be sold to one person.

1886

Continued **Opening of Waterworks.** The contractors were Keith Bros. Lochwinnoch who have done their work admirably. They have laid two and a half miles of pipes, made 2000 joins and built a tank to contain 33,000 gallons of water

1819

Continued ... Good news for children. **Children of 9 to 16 years** are now, by law, restricted to working a maximum of 12 hours per day in the Cotton Mills.

“Lochwinnoch is a very thriving village, built on a regular plan of one main street (which is half-a-mile long) with some streets crossing, it at right angles. The houses are generally of two storeys in height, and covered with slates. The situation is indeed very pleasant, as it is exposed only to the south-east, being under shelter in all other directions, either by rising grounds or thick plantations.”

This description is strictly applicable to the new



town: the old, which is only a small portion of the village on the north, is meaner and more irregular in its appearance. The churches and mills will be noticed afterwards; and besides these, there are about eleven superior houses belonging to the wealthier inhabitants, such as professional men and the proprietors of cotton-mills.

Population, from 290 families in 1695 to 1530 in 1755 to 2,933 in 1811. From the above statement it will be seen that the population has increased rapidly. The chief reason of which was the erection of cotton-mills about that time and the stimulus which these gave to every other kind of business.

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Sometime ago we had an **agitation in favour** of the earlier closing of public houses which was brought to a successful issue.

But licensed grocers for many years were open at 7a.m. but they have received notice **not** to open till 8 a.m.

1898

The villagers - at least the younger section of them - have plenty of outdoor entertainment provided for them this week. A number of shows are paying their annual visit to Harvey Square and they have been well patronised

1903

Continued ... **Castle Semple Loch** contains something like half a million trout of good size, all hatched and reared by the association.

It may be interesting to add that the **Angling Association** has been negotiating for the purchase of a large dwelling house to accommodate members at the weekends and holidays.



Poor and Parochial Funds.

The average number of persons on the Poor Roll for the last seven years has been 50. A pauper receives from 9 pence to 5 shillings a week. Besides regular paupers, however, there are a great many who receive donations and occasional assistance in various ways. A large sum is expended in this way, because it keeps persons for some time from becoming regular paupers, and is intended to encourage a spirit of independence, which is fast giving way in this part of the country. In order to form some idea of this matter, it may be stated that in the course of the year 1832, the sum expended in the regular allowances to those on the poor roll was £203, and the occasional donations amounted to £135 6s. 2d. It is but fair to remark, however, that the greater part of these donation were given to those who were likewise receiving regular parochial aid. Many rents are paid when extraordinary



1906

The **Bowling Club** completed a new green and pavilion the total cost being over £700.

Almost £300 was contributed locally and about £50 by donors outwith the Parish.

Events are being planned to clear off the remaining debt.

1908

A **football match** between Married and Single took place on Calderside Park in aid of the Bowling Club Fund.

The Married men won by 3 goals to 1

[NB I have the names of the players and the play]

1881

1881 Joke!

"How do you pronounce s-t-i-n-g-y?" the professor asked the young man nearest the foot of the class. The smart boy stood up and said it depended a great deal whether the word applied to a man or a bee. "Go to the head, young fellow"

assistance is wanted in peculiar circumstances.

The whole average expenditure for a year, both in occasional donations, and for the regular poor, during the last seven years, has been £321 17s. 3d. This sum is raised in the following manner:

Average annual amount of collections for the last seven years:

£93 17s. 4d. Parochial collections
 £6 10s. Hearse and Mortcloth,
 £14 4s. Proclamation of Banns of Marriage

The remaining part of the funds was once raised by a regular annual assessment upon the heritors, feuars, and householders but for some time past it has been raised by occasional voluntary contributions as they are required, in the same proportions, every person contributing as formerly according to his property, which is intended to retard the increase of expenditure.

Of this sum, the heritors contribute by far the greater part: the feuars and householders paying only £35, when the heritors pay £166.

Feuar: One who holds a feu.



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1856

The annual **Curling Competition** between the Old and New Town, for a Silver Jug, came off. 6 rinks a side when after a keen contested game, victory was in favour to the Old Town, by a majority of 6 shots.

1899

Woodvale v St Winnoch "A"

The opening stages of the game were hotly contested. The home team led 1-0 at halftime and the game ended in a **win** for Woodvale by 4 to 2. The Lochwinnoch lads have intimated a **protest** on a plea of the goal-posts being half an inch too high.

1925

St Mirren win Easy Chairs at Lochwinnoch Sports.

The prizes were of local manufacture and a fine array of ornate house furniture of Queen Anne and similar design.

The crowd numbered about **5,000** so that there would be a substantial addition to the fund already raised for local and other charities.

The National Game



Castle Sempie Loch

Curling is peculiarly entitled to be called a National Game; but until recently it was quite unknown in the Highlands. The origin of the game is hidden amid the mists of antiquity, and it is impossible to say whether it is of native or of foreign growth; but in whatever way it may have originated, it has taken a deep and apparently ineradicable hold upon the Scottish people. It has been celebrated in the verse of Burns and of Hogg, and in the prose of Scott, and has been illustrated by the pencils of Harvey and of Lees. It even possesses a literature of its own, for its attractions have been set forth, and the exploits of its champions not only in innumerable songs and anecdotes, but in grave essays and amusing memorabilia, and the annual of the grand Caledonian Club now extends to 35 instances.

The game of golf is played at a season when those who earn their bread by the sweat of their brow must be engaged in their daily work; and, besides,



1899

National Skating Association

have found that it is more convenient to hold their championships races on Castle Semple Loch than Loch Leven, hence the great crowds of skaters from all quarters.

1920

Mr Manders, who is well known in the world of entertainment in Scotland has made arrangements to open a new Kinema in the Ayrshire village of Lochwinnoch. He has already begun building operations in Calder Street. It is hoped the new Kinema will seat between 400 and 500 people.

1900

Johnny "What's the difference between sense and sensation, papa?"

Papa "When I come downstairs to whip you, and you run out of the door, that's sense"

"When I grab you and apply the whip, that's sensation"

as the competitors are matched two and two, golf can scarcely be regarded as a social amusement. Football, again is a game for boys and young men rather than for staid and elderly gentlemen, parsons, and peers. But curling is followed at a season when the earth is snow-bound and ice-locked, when agricultural labour is necessarily at a stand still, and a healthy spirit-stirring out-of-doors game is required to fire the blood and cheer the heart.

Archibald, ninth Duke of Hamilton, who was a very keen curler, had for his usual skip a cadger named Tam Pate, who came from the Kirk of Shotts, and whose marvellous dexterity gained the victory for his Grace in the famous match which he played at Lochwinnoch in 1784 for a thousand guineas against McDowell of Garthland and a rink of celebrated curlers from Paisley.

One of the Hamilton party was a miller; another, who acted skip on the occasion, was a man above 70 years of age, and was called Hacketburn, from his lairdship or mailin. They gained the victory by a single shot.

played the last Duke's side, neukit stone When it struck did not stot or fly do, but it ran round



Tam Pate, who used a three-like a cocked hat. any other stone it off as stones usually about and lay still.

The spectators declared that Tam was a warlock.

The cheering which took place at his wonderful play was loud and long continued, but Tam himself never gave a smile nor uttered a single word amid the general rejoicing at the victory won by his single shot.



2010

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1889

The Lochwinnoch **Liberal Association and Club** are negotiating for the purchase of ground upon which to erect new and more commodious club-rooms. It is a hopeful indication of the healthiness of Liberalism in the village.

1889

Parish Council: "Considering there is a **felt want** in Lochwinnoch of a **park** for recreation purposes, a **committee** be appointed to inquire whether a suitable field can be obtained, and on what terms, the committee to report to an **early** meeting of Council.

..... **and 8 years later**

1897

It was **stated** in the "Gazette" few months back that Mr. George Ludovic Houston had intimated to the Lochwinnoch Parish Council his intention of presenting a **portion of a field** in the west-end of the village as a **public park** for the villagers.

The New Water Supply 1891



The new works which have been constructed to supply the village of Lochwinnoch with gravitational water were formally opened on Thursday. The following is a description the works now completed :—The reservoir, which has capacity between seven and eight million gallons, is situated on the Maich water on the Lady-land estate of Mr. R. W. Cochran Patrick, and about two miles to the south-west of Lochwinnoch. In order to prevent floods from entering the reservoir, a by-pass channel for the Maich has been constructed. By this means only the purer water will be admitted to the reservoir. The arrangements at the reservoir are most complete. The storage is ample, and will prevent scarcity even in the driest of seasons, being equal to 125 days supply. The main pipe from the reservoir is six inches in diameter. A short distance from the reservoir are situated the filter and tank. The filters are in two divisions, each capable of filtering 20,000 gallons per day, while the tank has capacity of about 20,000 gallons. Space has been reserved for the addition of other filters and second tank if

1889

The Cabinetmakers' Dispute.—

On Saturday, at noon, all the cabinetmakers and others connected with the trade in the town struck work because of the employers' unfavourable reply to the demands of the circular issued by the men some weeks ago. By the evening it was intimated that nearly all the masters had conceded the terms asked, and on Monday all of them had given in. On that forenoon the men took a holiday, and, headed by an instrumental band, **proceeded to Lochwinnoch**, when the cabinetmakers there also **struck work on being interviewed by those from Beith**. The masters, on being approached, agreed to the terms of the men, and the dispute thus ended satisfactorily.

1889

FUNERAL of SIR CHARLES FARQUHAR SHAND.

On Thursday, the remains of Sir Charles Farquhar Shand were laid to rest in the Old College at Castlesemple, the burying place of the Harvey family. The late Sir Charles was father to Mr. J. W. Shand-Harvey, the present proprietor, whose mother, Sir Charles's wife, was a sister of the late Henry Lee Harvey.

required. Here also the arrangements are most complete, admitting of the independent working of either filters or tank to supply to the town in connection with the reservoir, or the supply may be drawn direct from the reservoir without passing through either filters or tank.



From the tank a 4 inch main pipe is led to the town, and on the route a pressure relief chamber has been introduced. In Lochwinnoch the main pipes range from 4 to 2.5 inches in diameter. Altogether there are about four miles of piping. Street wells have been fitted up at the most convenient places, and numerous fireplugs have been put in along the various mains. Stop and scour valves have been provided at all necessary points, and the whole works have been designed so as to furnish a complete scheme for the water supply of Lochwinnoch. The works have been carried out by the Western District Committee of the Renfrew Council, and are the first of the kind which have been undertaken by that body. A rate of 2s 6d. per £ will be levied on the water supply district, and any deficiency that may arise—and it is expected there will be a small annual deficiency for the present at any rate—will have to be made good by the western district of the county. It is believed, however, by the more sanguine, that the introduction of the water supply will of itself give such an impetus to the sleepy village of Lochwinnoch that in a short time the local assessment will be sufficient to meet the annual outlay.