

# Bitesize Newsletter

Snippets from BNA & Outside Source

## 1891 - TALES of SEWAGE - 1899

**1891 JUNE - THE DRAINAGE OF LOCHWINNOCH ALLEGED SERIOUS DEFECTS.** — Mr Johnstone called attention to the report of the Medical Officer in regard to the drainage of Lochwinnoch, and reported that the committee which had been appointed to confer with the doctor on the subject had decided to recommend that a drainage scheme for Lochwinnoch be agreed to. The case of Lochwinnoch, he might state, was a clamant one, and called for immediate action being taken.

**1891 JUNE** - The Clerk (Mr J. MacDougall) laid on the table a requisition signed by fifteen inhabitants of Lochwinnoch, asking the Council to form the village into a special drainage district.

Mr Johnstone moved that the prayer of the petition be granted, and in doing so said the doctor had furnished a very strong report as to the absolute necessity of attending to the drainage of Lochwinnoch.

Mr McDowall, in seconding the motion, said it was imperative that something should be done to improve the present condition of things. The Chairman remarked that there was not sufficient rating power within the district to meet the cost of the scheme. He thought the matter should be delayed, and moved accordingly.

After some discussion, the Chairman withdrew his amendment, and Mr Johnstone's proposal was thereupon agreed to.

**1891 JULY** - The Clerk reported that the Joint Standing Committee of the Council had declined to consent to the proposed drainage district for Lochwinnoch on the ground that there was no available assessment within the proposed area to meet the cost.

The Rev, Mr Murray said he should like to ask whether, when the Act compelled a district authority to make certain sanitary arrangements, another authority could come in and tell that authority it was not to do its duty in the matter.

The Chairman pointed out that the Joint Standing Committee had given its decision under the Act.

**1896 JUNE** - Water and Drainage.—Mr. Murray, sanitary inspector for Lower Renfrewshire, in his annual report, says:—This village has an abundant supply of good water, which has been introduced into most of the properties. There are also, however, street-wells. The waste from sinks, etc., is discharged into the run channels or cesspools. This state of matters is not commendable. The sub-



**Harry Fenion**

[His achievements here](#)



**On OAP Trip**

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**The CROSS**

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### **1879 Agricultural Society**

The Annual Exhibition was held in the Town Hall on Saturday.

Some beautiful house flowers in pots, and a magnificent cluster of grapes, were shown from the conservatories of Henry O. Lee, of Castlesemple, and Henry Macdowall, of Garthland.

### **1888 Abbey Asylum Trip**

On Wednesday, the inmates of the Abbey Asylum, accompanied by a number of the officials and friends, drove to Calder Glen, Lochwinnoch, in two buses and a brake. During the day, the weather was splendid, and the excursionist, appeared to enjoy themselves thoroughly.

committee is quite alive to the urgency of the case, but the assessment available for the purpose is at present all required to meet the debt connected with the water-supply. The County Council required to pay out of the Public Health General Assessment levied over the second district (exclusive of water supply districts) sums amounting "in cumulo" to £385, to meet the excess of the annual expenditure in the water district over what could be defrayed from the available assessment, hope, however, that the ways and means will be forthcoming in some way to carry through this much-required improvement.

**1899 JUNE** - That 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. It is true, matters have been allowed to lie dormant, in order to gain experience as to the best means for the disposal of the sewage. The local authorities have their eyes upon the Septic system, which was recently adopted by the Barrhead Commissioners; and in his annual report, just issued, Mr James Murray, C.E., remarks " that this is the best system for the village of Lochwinnoch, and must be faced without delay." In view of this important statement by the county sanitary inspector, the writer has been making inquiries concerning the new purification works at Barrhead. It seems that the system has been copied from the city of Exeter, in England, where a process of sewage treatment by septic tanks has been experimented with some success.

**1899 JULY** - The village had been constituted a Special Drainage District since **1891**; but no works had been undertaken, principally in consideration of the depressed condition of the local industries. With better times, and an increasing population, it appeared as if matters were ripe for an advance. The crux of the matter was the question of sewage disposal, so as to obviate the contamination of the fine sheet of water which forms the natural outlet for the drainage of the village, and Dr. Munro was instructed to report upon the subject. Dr. Munro, County medical officer advised that, while the question of the best methods of sewage, purification could not be regarded as finally settled, works constructed upon the bacterial principle would probably be found to yield satisfactory results. The chief sanitary inspector reported that the necessary work of main-sewerage and sewerage-purification could be carried out for a sum of about £2,300, of which about £1000 was for purification works. The clerk reported that a rate of 7d. per £ would provide the necessary funds. The sub-committee approved of the scheme, and the District Committee authorised an application to be made for the necessary sanctions for a loan covering the capital sum involved. Negotiations were then entered into with the proprietor of the lands upon which the sewage purification works would require to be established, for the purchase of a site. The necessary explanations as to the methods, etc., were furnished; but the proprietor finally intimated that until evidence could be produced that such works could be carried on over a series of years with satisfactory results, he was not prepared to treat with the committee. Under these circumstances, it was resolved to delay further procedure until further evidence bearing on the point could be obtained.

**1899 SEPT. - Inspection of Sewage System.—**

Last Thursday, Mr. Shand Harvey, of Castle Semple, and Mr. McDowall, of Garthland, accompanied by Dr. Campbell Munro, paid a visit to the new Sewage Works at Barrhead. These works are constructed on the septic tank principle, and are the first of the kind in Scotland. It is possible that the system may adopted in Lochwinnoch.

## **LOCHWINNOCH - QUEEN'S JUBILEE 1887**

A meeting of the ladies of this parish, convened by Mrs. Shand-Harvey of Castlesemple, and Mrs. MacDowall of Garthland, was held in the Court Hall, on the 15th inst. There was a good attendance. Mrs. Shand-Harvey presided, and briefly explained the objects of the meeting. Mrs. MacDowall was appointed hon. secretary and treasurer. Collecting cards were distributed to all the ladies present, and it was agreed that another meeting should be held on the 12th April, when all the collecting cards and sums of money would be received.