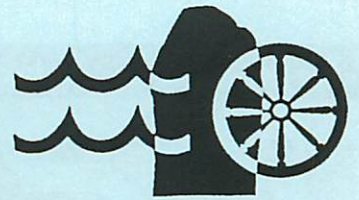


# The Stonehouse Lantern



STONEHOUSE YOUTH FORUM

ISSUE **SYF** no.17

## Exhibition a world wide hit!

Stonehouse took a step back in time in October when the Heritage Group recreated a weavers cottage in the 19th century. One and a half thousand visitors from as far a field as Australia, Holland, USA, Ireland and Larkhall, came to visit what has been a resurgence of local interest in preserving and investigating our villages history. The information and artefacts handed in has far surpassed last years exhibition in which many residents have traced their ancestors back 200 years within the village.

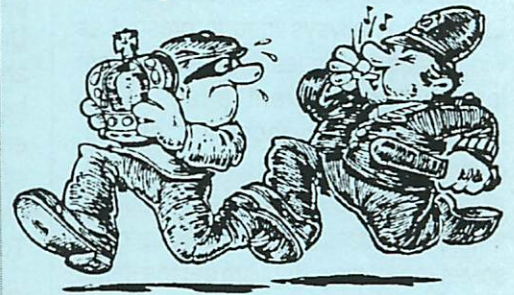


The heritage Group is growing fast and accumulating information every week from all over the world. Every year we envisage creating a whole new exhibition attracting people time and time again with the eventual aim of acquiring a small museum to permanently display the wealth of history within the village. This years event raised over £500 for the organisation which will all go on providing future events. This years display included a display by the Cander Quilters and a spinner from Lothian was there on the last day too as a highlight of the weaving industry. The Heritage Group closed this years event by staging a Ceilidh in the Public Hall which proved a great success yet again and may prove to be a regular event in the village.



## Policeman spotted patrolling village !

Reports were coming through today that a policeman had been spotted patrolling the streets of Stonehouse but as yet this sighting cannot be confirmed by residents of the village.



If the report is confirmed sightings of policemen may one day catch up with the number of sightings of Nessie.

Yesterday a youth was seen breaking into a house in Lockhart Street, but by the time the police got there from Larkhall the criminal had retired due to old age and was living in Spain, Phase 2 of the bypass was complete and Sean Connery was President of Scotland.

Despite the number of house break-ins and car thefts in Stonehouse and the drugs den found in Lockhart Industrial Estate the Police find no reason to increase policing, leaving PC George Paterson to hold the fort himself like Custer's last stand.

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The word Secaurin as in Secaurin Avenue' comes from the time of the Romans and means 'Home by the river bank' (Latin).



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## The Land that time forgot

It was a cool but glorious afternoon as we set off to find Ringsdale Castle equipped with lunch, camera and waterproofs. Leaving the car at Lawrie Street we started off on our expedition down past the Linthaugh aiming uphill first past the farms of Crofthead and Kittymuir, then taking a right into the road presently used by the open cast.



Already our food supplies were seriously depleted as we past the farms of Kittymuirhill and Glenavon. We had come to the site of Kittymuir Well but were unable to find it despite the strong sulphurous aroma it is said to give off. Crossing a couple of barbed wire fences trying to keep my manhood intact we came to the edge of the woodland undergrowth that stretches the length of the Avon gorge.

Making our way down through the wood we unsettled an Owl that made haste to the bank of the Avon on the opposite side of the river. While trying to find the remains of the castle we decided to make camp and finish what was left of our gammon sandwiches.

We knew the castle was near to the water but where exactly we didn't know so we tried to find a route down the gorge to the

water. Grabbing branches, plants and anything that came to hand we lowered our way down the rock face to the waters edge. We had reached our destination, Ringsdale Castle.

Not much is known of the Castle and not much remains, only scattered stones remain of this once majestic castle that once stood at the top of the gorge next to Glenavon cottage. The stones had long since fallen into the river banks. As we stopped to view the remains I took the camera from the rucksack only to find the batteries were dead. Suddenly the air went blue as I expressed my feeling at the

misfortune, for we had walked, climbed and scrambled for two hours to get to this point only to find we had no means to record the event. An artist by trade I didn't even have a pencil and so we were left with only our memories.

We were now left with a dilemma, whether to climb back up the gorge or cross the river to the easier ascent on route back home. Taking off our socks and boots we prepared for the crossing. I wasn't even a third of the way across when the sheer pain of the ice cold water sent me scurrying back to the shore. And so up we went, trying to pull ourselves up the gorge by grabbing brittle and dead branches.

At the top of the gorge heading back towards Stonehouse we came upon the site of Glenavon Cottage of which all that was left was a small corner of the wall and the outline of the foundation walls. Next to

it lies the site of Ringsdale Castle before it collapsed into the Avon. Like Cot Castle, Craignethan and the Iron age fort at Double Dikes, Ringsdale Castle must have been almost impregnable protected on all sides but one.

Homeward bound we followed the banks of the Avon along the roof of the gorge. On route we glimpsed another Owl bringing down a pigeon and found an old well on which a farmer had placed a ceramic bath to feed his livestock. We followed the cattle track for most of the journey home knee deep in mud at some points, or at least we thought it was mud!

As we passed in awe of the pillar supports of Scotland's once longest viaduct we were now on impulse power alone, carried on only by the thought of a bath at the end of our great adventure. Throughout my journey I could not stop thinking how much the youth were missing in their learning and growing years in not seeking out adventure and interest in the hidden treasures of our countryside. Next year I hope to return to this Lost World, complete with batteries!

### Millheugh Road Enquiry

It is expected that in November or December there will be a public enquiry into the repair or closure of the Millheugh road to Larkhall. It is estimated that it will cost approximately £300,000 to repair the road, yet if the road were to close it may cost the region more in paying compensation out to farmers. It was the quickest way to Larkhall, Hamilton and East Kilbride and was well used, yet every year the decaying road gets worse as does the Linthaugh road down to the park which has fallen away. If an accident occurred on the Millheugh Road even to a pedestrian due to the present damage it could cost the Region thousands in being sued.

It is in the best interests of the Region and ourselves to support the reintroduction of the road not only as an alternative route but also as an emergency exit in the event of the main road being blocked. If you have any queries or complaints on the bypass phone the Roads Engineer on 792287.





## Carrot and Tomato Soup

The Youth Forum are still looking for readers to send in recipes for a booklet they are hoping to produce for club funds. Already the booklet is at an advanced stage but we are still keen to receive items from the village, even vegetarian dishes. Please write to us at 19 Townhead Street, or contact us via the school Monday to Thursday.

- 1½ lbs carrots
- 1 medium sized onion
- 1 large potato
- 14 oz tin tomatoes
- 2 pints chicken stock
- 1 tablespoon orange juice
- 1 teaspoon sugar

### Method

Dice carrot, onion and potato. Add to chicken stock and bring to the boil. Add the tin of tomatoes and boil for 20 minutes. Liquidise. Reheat and add orange juice and sugar. Serve with a whirl of cream on top.

# BEAT 37

## Crime Statistics

The following are the crime statistics for the months May-August 93.

- 19 House break-ins
- 18 Car thefts
- 6 Break-ins of locked premises
- 5 Other thefts
- 2 Assaults
- 1 Drugs related offence

Though these figures may seem a lot for a village of 5033 the underlining trend of crime is down on the national average. At a meeting of the Crime Prevention team of which Stonehouse Community Council has one representative the Police asked for suggestions and improvements that could be applied to our village. I am sure our first objective would be 'Please could we have Policing'

Some residents believe the Police Station in Stonehouse (small, derelict looking building next to old folks home) are actually the public toilets. What I would like to know is, has anyone seen the inside of the station as it always seems to be closed. (probably to prevent a break-in).

## Hospital Assaults

Stonehouse Hospital has recently become the target of assaults and thefts especially among staff making their way home at night from their shift.

During the darker winter nights these incidents can only increase as there are no security patrols or precautions taken within the hospital. With Stonehouse Hospital about to gain trust status this problem can only get worse due to probable cost cutting measures.

There seems to me no solution to the attacks other than to avoid carrying bags and valuables with you, as we seem to be living in an age where profits come before safety. The Police however do pass through the hospital on occasion when passing through the village.

In an ever changing society and environment it is up to us to be as vigilant in order to protect the close community that exists within Stonehouse.

If you ever witness or suspect a crime is about to take place phone Larkhall Police Station on 881100.

## Say NO to strangers





## Village Centre Project

For many years Stonehouse has suffered from the impact of traffic on the A71. This has created physical and environmental problems for residents, particularly in the older area around the Cross. The construction of Phase One of the Stonehouse Bypass provides the opportunity to redress these long standing problems. To that end the Environmental Improvement Group of the Hamilton Enterprise Partnership has agreed that a study of the village centre, leading to early implementation of a face lift should be a priority. This could be as soon as August - October 1994. The study area is between Lockhart street and Queen Street with a further phase of improvement to Trongate/Argyle Street, Union Street and Camnethan Street. The study will look at the total environment of the area and will identify the opportunities under the following headings.

- 1 Landscape improvements
- 2 Renewal of rainwater goods
- 3 Stone cleaning/painting of properties
- 4 Traffic management/traffic calming/pedestrian priority
- 5 Treatment of gap sites/development opportunities
- 6 Refurbishment/reuse of buildings

It is intended that the study will be managed by the Planning Department aided by Council Departments and the Regional Roads Department.

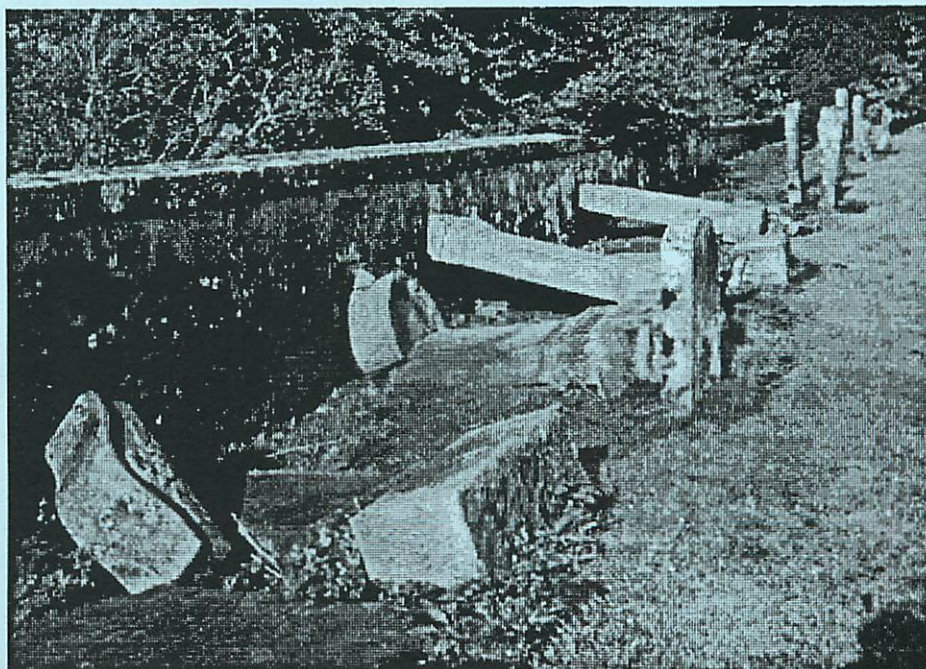
One possible calming measure may be the introduction of Conservation Area signs indicating areas of historical interest. Hopefully some drivers on seeing these signs may slow down and respect the area they are travelling through.



### "Some time we'll understand"

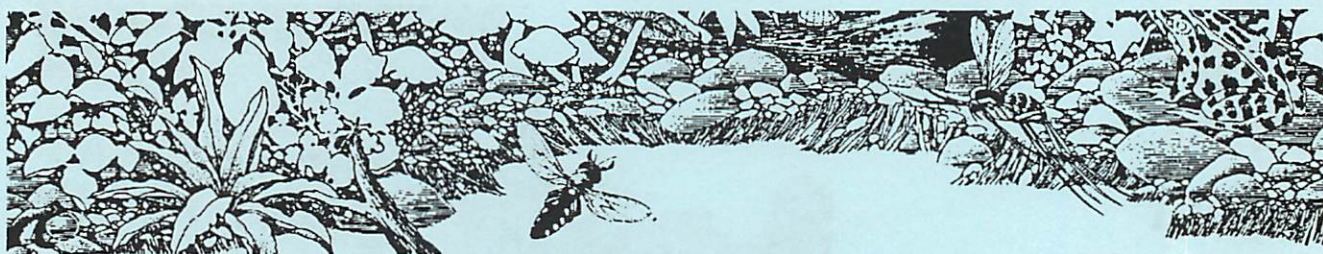
This was the inscription on one of '125' grave stones pushed over and vandalised in the St.Ninian's old kirk graveyard recently. This quotation says it all for what excitement or pleasure can anyone get from mindlessly destroying what are probably descendants of the vandals that have caused the damage.

This problem is not local it is a nationwide insanity of which there seems no cure. It seems to be a social problem which may only be solved by educating our younger generations to respect and preserve our heritage. All over Scotland Heritage Group's and preservation projects are becoming more common and popular than ever before as the people are learning that if we don't take action now, our children may never be able to experience and learn of the historical wonders of our past.



Stonehouse graveyard dates back to at least the 4th century but stone by stone it is decaying and being vandalised into extinction. If we don't act now we may have no history to preserve.





## Avon Walkway Update

In the not to distant future Stonehouse may be seeing the creation of an Avon walkway. Already the walkway has wound up the Avon from Strathclyde Park to Chatelherault and is currently under construction to Millheugh brig.

It is envisaged that the walkway will continue its path up the Avon to Glassford Brig and eventually as far as Strathaven. Under a steering group, surveys, feasibility studies and consultation with landowners are being discussed in bring to the village an outstanding opportunity for outdoor recreation and environmental education. Implementation of the project will take account of the landscape and heritage features close to the route including signs and promotion of the walkway.

There are several routes under discussion but the most scenic and popular would be that along the top of the Avon gorge, avoiding the potential erosion problems of the lower option. This though would be unfortunate as many points of interest may be missed such as the Shale mines, remains of Ringsdale Castle, wildlife on the Avon and many rare plants but financially it seems the most feasible option. Board walks and a bridge crossing may half to be constructed in accessing areas.

The course of the Avon is about 30 miles from its source near Darvel to its confluence with the Clyde at Strathclyde Park. The river runs through a deep wooded gorge for approximately 8 miles of its length and much of this spectacular

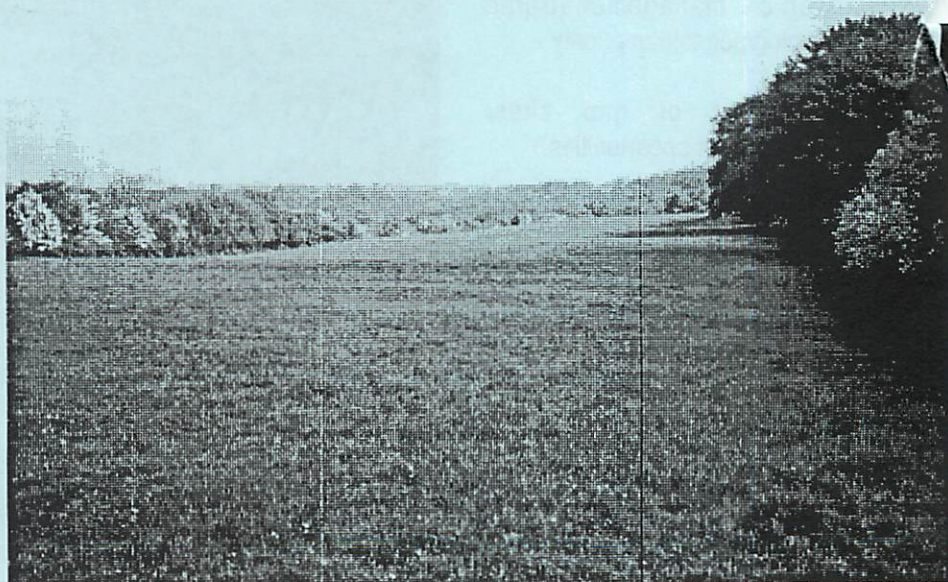
land form is contained within the study area. The Avon is bounded by less steep slopes upstream from Linthaugh Bridge at Stonehouse, while beyond Glassford Bridge it is transformed into a meandering river with gently graded banks and occasional haughs. The character of the landscape also changes from this point, becoming more open, with little woodland. The landscape is sparsely populated, and agriculture is the predominant land use. This is a less striking landscape than that downstream of Stonehouse, despite its rurality.

The Avon gorge is a special feature of the varied Lanarkshire landscape, its "unspoilt" character surprising because of its proximity to the urban fringes of the towns of Stonehouse, Larkhall and Hamilton. In some places, environmental problems arise from encroaching tipping and vandalism, but these do not tend to diminish the qualities of the gorge itself, its steepness discouraging access. The Cander gorge itself is a magnificent sight but not easily assessable unless you take the direct approach wading up the river.

## Bandstand's Laststand

After years of vandalism and misuse Stonehouse Bandstand has finally been bricked up preventing access within. The bandstand has been a favourite haunt for underage drinking in the village. Many would say this is not a bad thing keeping them away from the village centre but the problem is that they always leave their cans and broken bottles all over the park, while the bandstand is used as a public toilet. This proved a health risk for many of the young children that use the park and so action had to be taken. This action was regrettable as the potential of the bandstand either as a cafe, youth club or recreational function were all possibilities. I am sure that if anyone has suggestions the Department of Leisure and Recreation would be keen to hear your ideas.

Recently under new laws, Local Authorities have now the power to designate areas where consumption of alcohol in public places can now be prohibited and implemented by the Police. This would be a great step forward in Stonehouse but enforcing it is another matter.

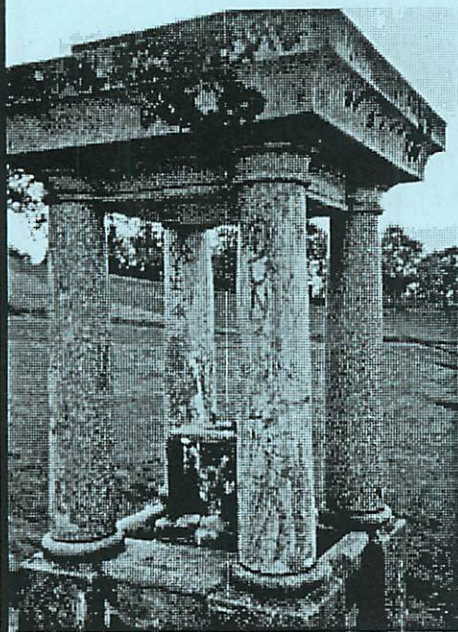


*Double dikes from Sodom Hill*



## Fountain to flourish again

As part of the improvement program of Stonehouse Public Park, Hamilton District Leisure and Recreation Department are looking into cleaning and repairing the vandalised fountain which was built in memorial to Alexander Hamilton the donator of the park to Stonehouse.



At the time of the Parks creation it created quite a stir in the village. Alexander Hamilton visited Stonehouse yearly on holiday from his base in India and it was his wish that he could leave his mark of gratitude to the village by giving something to the village to remember him by.

Many local people at the time thought a factory would be a good idea but it was his wish that a park be built and money be provided to maintain it. Some people at the time though he should have thought of a flatter position. Personally I think the park gives a spectacular view of the Avon valley.

The team working on the fountain have agreed to work with Stonehouse Heritage Group.

The fountain shall not however work again as fountain's have been dropped as part of Health and Safety policy.

## James Hamilton of Stonehouse

### *Scotland's forgotten hero*

The founder of this family was a descendent from the Raploch branch of the Hamilton family. James Hamilton was the eldest son of James Hamilton of Raploch and was to be the first branch of the Stonehouse Hamilton's. When he latter marries Margaret, daughter and sole heiress of Alexander Mowat of Stonehouse he acquired a considerable portion of the barony of Stonehouse by his wife.

During the reign of Henry VIII of England, Henry tried to reduce Scotland to a mere dependency of England by sending the earl of Hertford, with Admiral Viscount Lisle up the firth of Forth with a fleet of 200 ships, besides smaller craft and an army of 20,000 men to crush the Scots in 1544. When the news of this formidable force reached the ears of the Scottish nobbles they were terror stricken and fled for their own safety. Hertford disembarked his troops and artillery, occupying four days, and it was only when the English army was on its way to Leith that the earl of Arran, Huntly and Argyll raised a few troops that an attempt was made to prevent their passage further. Unfortunately they were repulsed and made haste their retreat to Linlithgow. The English entered Leith without further opposition, and the town was given to the army to plunder.

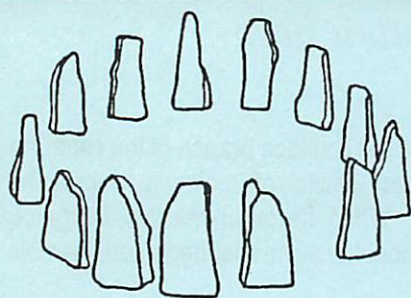
The inhabitants of Edinburgh attempted to resist the invading foe, and barricaded the gates as Hertford was coming with intent to burn and destroy. He stated that the one and only condition on which he would withdraw his army was that they would deliver up their young queen (Mary of Scotland). It was Henry VIII who wished to gain supremacy of Scotland by arranging a marriage between Mary and his son Edward but this was not the wish of the Scots.

This demand of Hertford's was sternly refused. The citizens prepared to resist and were deserted by their provost. Notwithstanding this the inhabitants made a desperate resistance, keeping Hertford at bay until the heavy artillery was brought from Leith. As night came, further resistance was hopeless and the citizens carried off as much as they could and abandoned the city. When Hertford returned next day he found Edinburgh deserted, except by the garrison, held by Captain Hamilton, laird of Stonehouse, a gentleman of great military skill and renown, one of the staunchest patriots, a valiant and courageous defender of his country from the ravages of the foreign invader.

The enemy overwhelmed the city and then laid siege to the castle; but, notwithstanding their heavy artillery, Hamilton displayed such heroic skill and valour in the defence of the garrison that the English found it impossible to capture the fortress. They constructed batteries and availed themselves of all the engineering skill at their command, but dauntless Hamilton kept up an incessant and harassing fire, which was directed with precision at some of the principal officers of the besiegers, compelling them to end the siege, the English, in baffled rage and disappointment, wreaking out their vengeance on the defenceless city. The city was said to have burned for three days. As the retreating English army proceeded slowly along the coast they destroyed all that stood in their path.

If it be one of the characteristics of a true hero to be cool and calm, to be brave and lion-hearted i a time of danger Hamilton was a hero worthy of the best days of Scotland. By his military skill and prowess, his heroic bravery, invincible courage, and patriotic valour, our country was delivered from the invading foe, and the castle rescued from the tyrant's grasp. Though history has not acknowledged his name to paper or song in his heroic deeds he deserves a place among the brave defenders of our country in the days of yore, of Wallace, of Bruce and Douglas. No monument records the valorous deeds of this illustrious Stonehouseian, but the world has not lost his name, and a grateful country ought to feel proud of his imperishable renown.





### *Stonehouse Heritage Group*

After the success of this years exhibition the Heritage Group held its 3rd annual AGM on November 1st in the Crosskeys lounge. After a healthy treasurers report the chairman summed up the years progress before stepping down as chairman to concentrate more time on research and broaden the involvement in the group. The same was so of the secretary Helen Young. The new office bearers are as follows Chairman Lindsay Greenock, Vice Chair Tina Oversby, Secretary Shona Young and treasurer Ken Maclean.

Next years exhibition was discussed and Romans came out as the main topic of next years exhibition. Castles and the railway however will be highlighted in future years. School records are to be computerised and recorded as part of the family history sections progress as there was a keen interest shown in the log books displayed at this years exhibition. Other aspects to be followed up are the transferring of old film to video and the possibility of an illustrated walk through the village highlighting the points of interest such as the Covenanters walk at present.

A treasure hunt through the village is to be organised to raise funds and another Ceilidh is a certainty after the success of the last. This money and grants obtained are to go to purchasing a PC to record the groups work and family history information. A new logo is to be redesigned as it was more probable that it was three solitary stones that stood and not a circle as shown above.

The next meeting shall be in the Crosskeys at 7.30pm on November 29th, visitors are welcome to come along.

During the exhibition it was pointed out that the Picture house in New Street was not the one which was fitted out by an ocean liner. It was in fact Shearans that was furnished out in fittings from a ship. Unfortunately we have been given three or four versions of how and where the fittings came from. Firstly we were told that the fittings came from two German ships captured in the first world war and transported from Liverpool to Stonehouse train station. Secondly we were told that the fittings came from a luxury ship built for the Kaiser in the event of victory in the war. This ship was then captured and dismantled at Rosyth. Lastly we were told that it was a ship of a different name, still German, but as dismantled at Gareloch.

Whatever the true story is, it seems an extraordinary and interesting one which may be worth following up. If you know the true story please contact the Heritage Group at 16 Spinningdale, Stonehouse.

Out soon will be a book publication of old postcards of the village called Bygone Stonehouse. This should be available from most book retailers. Also available are copies of 'The Stanis Weavers' which tell of the life and work of the weavers during the 19th century. This booklet is fully illustrated and contains many pictures of old Stonehouse. It can be bought from the Heritage Group at a price of £2. The booklet has been sent to libraries as far away as the USA, Australia, Ireland and the Ivory Coast. Mugs left over from the exhibition can also be bought from the Heritage Group for £2.95. The winner of the questionnaire was Richard Laird of Ringwell, Stonehouse who won a £10 book token. There were over 200 entries and around 30 correct answer sheets.

**We are on the look out for old post cards and photographs of Stonehouse to boost our resources and would be grateful for any donations.**

*James Hamilton cont.*

Hamilton was made governor of Edinburgh castle after the invasion and as testimony of his valour in defending the castle, the citizens elected him provost of Edinburgh.

*Brave Hamilton of Stonehouse,  
Stern captain of the fort,  
Against the English army  
Defended every port.*

*Right gallantly he held his ground,  
Hemmed in on every side,  
And poured destruction on the foe  
In a red streaming tide;*

*Till the victor saw the vanquished  
Retreat, in proud disdain,  
Wreaking vengeance on the innocent,  
And plundering the slain.*

### **Did you know?**

Did you know the trials of the Scots arrested after the uprisings of 1715, 1745 and 1820 were all tried under English Law and in most cases in England to ensure convictions of all those who took part. This was done despite it being illegal under the Treaty of Union 1707. It was law that an English lawyer cannot work in the Scottish law courts without a Scottish Law degree and vice-versa as it is so today. Despite this many men were put to death with little defence, rights or evidence against them.



*Druid and hsi Stones, at exhibition*