

# Jock the Jingler by Tom Sorbie

When I was a boy I recall my father telling me about Jock the Jingler. That line of the Sorbie family were called Jingler Sorbie's due to Jock. Robert Sorbie a nephew who knew him told me that he shook due to infantile paralysis, this was until we found his discharge papers from WWI, stating his medical discharge is clearly shell shock.

The kids of Stonehouse were threatened to behave by the parents saying "If you don't behave I'll get Jock the Jingler tae y'i". I have a feeling that certain people in the village made a fool of him not knowing he had served his country and was wounded in the mind, this is why I wrote the wee short poem (below).

Born 1882 he died in May 1941, employed as a labourer in 1901, and lived in 35 King Street. Locals remember him living in a house through the pend close at the Bank. The poem is in the Sorbie website under Trongate.

**Rank:** Private John Sorbie No.236233  
**Regiment:** 359 Res. Emp. Company  
**Date of discharge:** 14.12.1917 Aged 35  
**Intended place of residence:** Kirk Street  
**Occupation:** Carter  
**Discharge:** spasm of muscles right hand and mental stupor (shell shock)

*Jock the Jingler, standing at the Bank close.  
Waiting and blethering in his normal pose.  
His poor arm and hand continually shaking  
Jock's voice was slow and for ever breaking*

*Jock 's appearance and general condition  
Gave the locals a totally wrong impression  
To small children his name would strike fear  
Which was unfounded, as you will now hear.*

*Going over to France to help out the Frenchies.  
Jock was sadly injured in the WWI Trenches  
The damage in his mind is called "shell shock".  
This small poem is for honour to our "Jock".*

## Lest we forget

On November 8th a memorial service took place to honour and recognise men from Stonehouse who were not previously recognised on the memorial. This project was initiated by the Heritage Group who researched and sought funding address this matter. In recognition of the event South Lanarkshire Council held a Civic reception with a dedication service at the cemetery attended by local organisations and military dignitaries.



Postcard commemorating those killed in conflict



War Memorial erected in 1921 in cemetery

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS 2008

Meetings are open to the public and normally scheduled for the third Monday of the month in the Public Institute Stonehouse starting at 7.30pm.

Monday 17th November 2008  
Monday 15th December 2008

# Stonehouse - A New Town too far (cont.)

Strathclyde Regional Council were clearly opposed to yet another new town as its strategy now was to increase jobs and tackle urban deprivation in Glasgow rather than continue the drain on its population. The economic climate at the time reinforced these views as there was a risk of spreading investment too thinly across the region.

The Basic Plan was published in March 1975, but soon after the Development Corporation began expressing its frustration at the delays, and state of limbo that the New Town now found itself in, despite the facts that: the site for the first factories had been prepared at Canderside; tenders for building them obtained; and the first phase of housing was almost complete.

The first 96 houses were completed in May 1976 but, within two days of the first tenants moving in, the government finally took the decision not to go ahead with the development. As a result, local building growth halted and then declined. Improvements in amenities and services to the area, many postponed for up to 10 years in anticipation of the new town, were delayed again.

With the New Town (Stonehouse) Revocation of Designation and Winding Up Order 1977, the process of disposing of assets began: with land sold back to the former owner or on the open market; ground leases in residential properties sold to tenants; and the embryo Canderside industrial estate sold to the Scottish Development Agency which was supposed to continue development of this once important part of the new town strategy - but it too came to nothing.

The Stonehouse Heritage Group Oral History Committee would like to hear from anyone with memories or views on the events of the time during the 1970's when Stonehouse almost became another East Kilbride or Cumbernauld.

## Stonehouse - A New Town too far



Stonehouse was set to be Scotland's sixth New Town, located between Stonehouse village in the north and Blackwood in the south.

It all started with a White Paper in 1965 which identified areas of Lanarkshire with potential for industrial growth followed by a 1967 feasibility study which focused on a large area west of the M74 and south of Larkhall.

At the time Glasgow Corporation was planning to reduce the city's housing density and raise its environmental standards. At first, extensions to both Motherwell and Hamilton were seen as a possible solution, but that would have put too great a strain on the existing infrastructure in those towns.

In 1969 the government decided to support the creation of a new town in the Stonehouse area to encourage industrial expansion and provide decanting space for Glasgow. The potential of the M74 to link Central Scotland with England, and beyond was also an important factor.

The designation order, bringing the New Town into existence, was published in 1972.

In January 1973 the task of planning the sixth New Town was given to the East Kilbride and Stonehouse Development Corporation and meetings were held in Stonehouse and Blackwood to involve the public in the process.

An Outline Plan, completed in April 1974, had the following key features:

- 1 initial intake of 35,000 people - rising to a maximum of 70,000
- 2 construction of 22,000 houses in new residential villages
- 3 creation of four employment parks to provide 30,000 jobs
- 4 development of four areas of ecological or scenic importance
- 5 prioritisation of public transport – including the re-introduction of train services

Gala Day, which had lapsed in 1964, was also revived as the New Town Festival 'gala week' in 1975. The Development Corporation grew concerned that Glasgow city council now wanted to concentrate on regenerating its urban areas, and was well aware of the effect this would have on investment in Stonehouse and, even as the New Town Growth Point sign was being erected with much pomp and ceremony, the writing was on the wall. *(back page)*

## Court Trials involving Stonehouseians

Extract of the Circuit Court of Justiciary, Glasgow which was held on Tuesday 20th September 1791 involving inhabitants of Stonehouse. At ten o'clock on the said day the Honourable, Lords Hailes and Stonefield opened the proceedings after the Rev. Dr. Taylor, Minister of the High Church said a prayer.

The Jury (all men) were called of which two did not appear and were fined one hundred Scots merks for their disregard of their obligations under the law.

The court records state 'John Millar, a wright at Stonehouse was brought before the bar, accused of theft, when he presented a petition, craving to be banished, to which the Advocate depute consented, the court likewise delayed passing sentence till the time above mentioned.'

Extract from a trial brought before the Circuit Court of Justiciary, Glasgow held on Tuesday 23rd April 1839 involving inhabitants of Stonehouse. The Honourable, Lords Meadowbank and McKenzie opened the proceedings after the Rev. Dr. Smyth, Minister of the St. George's Church said a prayer.

The court records state 'John Corbet, George Swan and Thomas Walker, weavers of Stonehouse were brought to trial for housebreaking, the former two were sentenced to 7 years transportation, whilst Thomas walker was outlawed.

### Forthcoming events

MONDAY 1st DEC. 7.30pm

Heritage Group AGM

THURSDAY 4th DEC. 7.00pm: Slide & Film Show (St.Ninian's)

SUNDAY 7th DEC. 3.00pm:

Christmas Festival Ceremony (King St.)

# Awe ye go!

## Some interesting facts and trivia about Stonehouses contribution to events in world history... wha's like us?

### Longest chute in Scotland

Erected in 1933 the chute in Stonehouse attracted thousands of visitors in its day, to come along and take the opportunity to break their legs at the bottom as you came wheechin off the end. Alas the thrills and spills led to the chute being dismantled in 1967.

### Longest recorded execution in Scotland

Another first for Stonehouse, the martyr Patrick Hamilton, born in Stonehouse 1504 was burned at the stake at St. Andrew's by Cardinal Beaton for his religious convictions. He suffered a slow and agonising death, succumbing to the fire after six hours.

### Oldest computer programme in the World

Exhibited within the National Museum of Scotland is the Jacquard weaving loom of Robert and James Hamilton of 66 Cam'nethan Street. Donated within the collection is the oldest 'computer programme' in the world. A weaving pattern punctured with holes to create intricate silk woven materials.



### Cinema built from the Kaisers ship

In 1937 John Sheran opened the Rex Cinema in Argyle Street regarded at the time as the 'King of Lanarkshire's Picture Houses'. The interior of this 'B listed' building was reconstructed from the Kaiser's ship the Columbus, later to become the Homeric launched in Leipzig, Germany in 1913.

### The 'Bloodstone' that bites back

Within the old kirk cemetery in Manse Road rests the 'bloodstone'; a memorial headstone whereby inserting your finger within the mouth of a carved skull your finger is bitten and weeps blood! Alas the illusion is created by a red ochre seam running through the sandstone but effective all the same.

### Would you know it... Merlin the poet!

Records state that a 'prominent bard' by the name of Merlin resided in this district during the 6th century. Curiously actor Nicol Williamson whose parents resided at Hazeldean played Merlin the wizard in the film 'Excalibur'.

### Bonnie Charlie marches South

An obituary of 1880 recalls a Mrs William Alston whose father William Lawrie climbed a tree at Kittymuir farm aged 10 in 1745 to see the highland army of Edward Stuart marching along Carlisle Road to seek the throne.

### Past links with World leaders

Past Prime Minister William Gladstone's great-grandmother resided at Tofts farm, Stonehouse formerly sited where the hospital is now located, while Winston Churchill's father-in-law, Sir Henry Montague Hozier also resided for a time in Stonehouse. Rev. Henry Angus Paterson's grand-neice was married to President Steyn of the Orange Free State (South Africa) and President Eisenhower is said to have toasted VE Day with a bottle of whisky won at a raffle from Stonehouse!

### Opposition to the Union of 1707

In the year prior to the Union with England, the lairds and common people of Stonehouse had a petition read out in the Scottish Parliament in protest against the Union. A notice was adhered to the kirk door encouraging people to march on Edinburgh bearing arms.

### The William Wallace connection

In fear of William Wallace regaining control of Scotland after his defeat at the battle of Falkirk in 1298, Edward I of England sent forth an army to engage forces gathering in Scotland including an army encamped in Stonehouse under Sir Simon Fraser in 1302.

### The Stonehouse (Gloucester) connection

Past proprietor of Stonehouse Sir William Douglas hastened Edward II's return to England after the Battle of Bannockburn in 1314. Thirteen years later Edward was murdered at Berkley castle at the hands of four men including John Maltravers, proprietor of Stonehouse in Gloucester.

### Stonehouse minister hoists the Jamaican flag

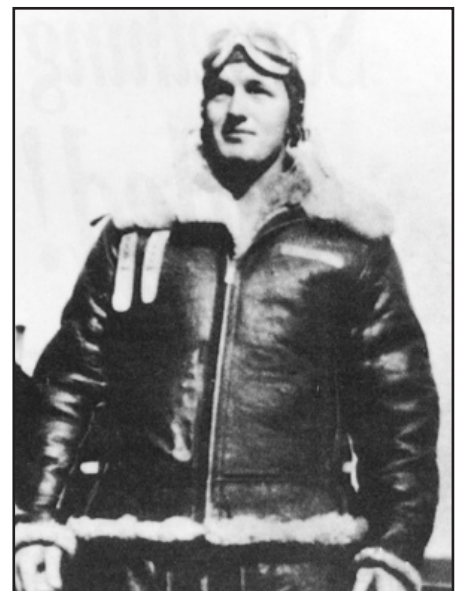
Former minister of St. Ninian's Church, John McGhie accepted a call for missionary work in Jamaica in 1957. As a friend of the Jamaican, Prime Minister, he was asked to design a flag in recognition of their independence in 1962. John McGhie based the design of the flag on the St. Andrew's cross.

### Bandstand's illustrious past

Erected in 1924, this 'B listed' structure entertained audiences at the Great Exhibition of Glasgow at Kelvingrove Park in 1911. The bandstand remains one of only a few remnants of an event that attracted near 10 million people in celebration of Scottish culture and industry.

### Stonehouse man wins Americas highest military honour

In 1944 Stonehouse born Archibald Mathies was posthumously awarded the Congressional Medal of Honour. Having emigrated with his parents to Pennsylvania, Staff Sergeant was killed struggling to save the lives of his fellow airmen while attempting to land his badly damaged B-17 bomber.



## **Defending Scotland's Empire in Panama**

In 1696 Rev. Archibald Foyer of Stonehouse Parish Church published a book entitled 'A Defence of the Scots at Darien...' concerning the ill fated attempts of Scotland to build an Empire in South America. The venture nearly bankrupted Scotland and in part led to our loss of independence in 1707.

## **Heidmaister takes a dip in the Silvery Tay**

In 1879 Townhead School master Alexander McIntosh was one of only a few survivors of the Tay bridge rail disaster.

## **Warlocks, fairies and witches galore**

In days long past the fairer sex of the village were accused of witchcraft and evil doings. To protect themselves from their evil powers, visitors and traders would carry sprigs of rowan tree as a charm of protection against any curse placed upon them.

## **Stonehouse man captures Hitler's No.2!**

It is a little known fact that it was our own Jack McKenzie of Lockhart Street who was responsible for having pulled Rudolf Hess from his plane when he crashed near Eaglesham in 1941. As a Corporal in the Royal Signals he got no recognition for his efforts as his unit was only equipped with pickaxe handles and the military did not want the bad publicity.

## **Dr. Livingston I presume!**

In 1883 Arab Chief, Shiek Selim Hishmeh gave a talk at Paterson Church on his adventures in Africa as Stanley's guide when he discovered Dr. David Livingston.

## **Better bred in Stonehouse**

In 1882 John Small died aged 87 leaving behind him 139 grand children and great-grand children having contributed 11 children of his own during 70 years of marriage.

## **Wet behind the ears!**

In the 1881 census of Stonehouse a William 'Soddon' is recorded as living at 40 Cam'nethan Street. William's occupation is most appropriately given as 'field drainer'!

## **World Champion pipe band**

Formed in 1899 Stonehouse Pipe band became the first non military pipe band to win the Argyle Shield at the Cowal games in 1909 which at that time was recognised as the greatest accolade in the piping world.



## **Highway robbery at Cander bridge**

In 1892 desperados Thomas Summers of Cam'nethan Street and Alexander Brown of Hill Road held up the a coach carrying a bank agent for the Union Bank in Stonehouse at the Cander bridge. Chased by a posse from the village the assailants fled having stolen the wrong bag from the coach. The Cander bridge is Stonehouse's only 'A listed' structure.

## **Battle of Waterloo remembered in blood!**

In 1815 James and William Murdoch, weavers of Hill Road joined the 26th Foot Cameronians. Alas they were mortally wounded at the Battle of Waterloo. On the fly leaf of a bible they wrote their names with the only medium available to them... their own blood. The bible was returned to their father.

## **Scotland's forgotten hero**

In 1544 Captain James Hamilton of Stonehouse defended Edinburgh castle against an English army of 20,000 under the Earl of Hertford who had been sent by Henry VIII to bring Mary Queen of Scots south to marry his son. James succeeded in repelling the invading foe homeward to think again.

## **Coos to amuse**

In 1883 John Muir of King Street owned the unusual sight of a two headed cow... pull the udder one! Not to be outdone a Mr Steel of Hazeldean farm in 1913 attracted many visitors to see the unusual curiosity of a cow with a wooden leg!

## **Monster vegetables and eggs**

Various articles recall extraordinary finds to shock the farming world including a massive 21lb, three feet circumference turnip belonging to Allan Allison in 1860 and an incredible hens egg measuring 9 inches by 7 inches (5 ounces) belonging to Andrew Loudon of Cam'nethan Street in 1883... ouch!

## **Romans in the gloamin'**

It is said that there are only 50 miles of evidenced Roman road in Scotland. The section traversing the parish from Sandford, through Chapel farm, Dykehead and thence on to Tanhill can still we witnessed today. In 1986 an early Byzantine coin of Justinian I (527-565AD) was found on the banks of the river Avon in Stonehouse.

## **Early Christian settlement**

Stonehouse is one of the earliest Christian settlements associated with Ninian dating back to at least the 9th century. Ninian was known to have used the Roman road on his pilgrimages to convert the pagan Picts.

## **Sixth biggest town in Scotland?**

In 1973 Stonehouse was designated to become a 'New Town' with a projected population rising to 70,000 people supporting six secondary schools and twenty five primaries. The scheme was abandoned in 1977.

## **No.1 holiday destination for vampires!**

Our very own George Gray is recognised by the Guinness Book of Records for having donated more pints of blood than anyone else in the world; over 100 pints.

## **Land of the weird and wonderful**

Where the Avon meets the Cander river, at a place called surprisingly... the 'meetings' rests a large flat stone on the river bed. This rock is known as 'fairies rock' and it is said fairies would emerge after dark dancing through the night till day break.

## **Greyhound Derby Winner**

In 1990 the sports most prestigious prize, the National Greyhound Derby was won by Stonehouse bred Slippy Blue .