



Stonehouse Is The Place For Old Age.

What do you say when you meet someone over 90?

Stonehouse is famous for having been blessed with residents living to well over 100. The late Jean Leishman, Barbra Brooks both lived to 106. The two Monie sisters, Bell (Summers) 100, and Millie 103, are examples of what can be achieved by living an active life, however the story you are about to read is from an article from the year I was born 1947, and written by Jack House of the Evening Citizen. The information is a direct lift from Jacks aticle. The story is about old Wull Reid 92 years old from the Holm Farm.

When Jack spoke to his editor on Monday morning he recalled, "I've just been among a bevy of ancients and the contemplation of so many years awed me into silence."

I was in that high, wind swept covenanting town of Stonehouse, where old age is as natural as the gentle soot from heaven upon the Glasgow Street, it is a great place for the aged. I met my first 90 year odd character soon after arriving, he was Wull Reid of Holm farm 92 last month.

Wull sat by the fire in the farm kitchen, he was wearing a bunnet, but took it off when I came in, he was naturally in his shirt- sleeves and he was not bothering about boots. I gathered that he was seriously thinking of shaving, but he was feeling rather put out about the fact that he hadn't managed to get to the Lanark show-- "First time I've missed it for 50 years," he said.

When he was 91 Willie Reid decided to retire from the running of the farm. Oh I still work with the kye, he told me but this last year's been the weariest year o'ma life." He shook his head and gazed enviously at the one-eared white cat which had evidently not retired.

The Alcoholics

Got 34 Goals

I dare say I should have asked Willie Reid what, at the age of 92, he thought of the Modern Girl, but between you and me what I really wanted to know was he a teetotaller or not, I just met David Brown ("90 gin March") and discovered that he had signed for the Good Templars when he was 20. So he hasn't had a drop these last 70 years or

so. Now I don't specially want to live to 90.

My interest in habits conducive to longevity is purely academic, but my guide to Holm Farm was Bill Brown host to the Thistle Inn at Stonehouse, and he had just been showing me the report of a football match in Sweden between the Confirmed Alcoholics and the Temperance Advocates. The score was 34-0 for the C.A.s.

So my mind was was running along liquid lines. I was delighted to discover that Willie Reid two up on Davie Brown is not a teetotaler, indeed he has no rules at all for reaching the age of 92. "I've jist worked away a'ma' life" he said.

Wull Reid looked at Bill Brown and said: "So it's you that's got the Kind Wife's?" The Thistle Inn is never called that in Stonehouse. It's the Kind Wife's in memory of a Mrs Forrest who in the Eighties would never turn a thirsty traveller from her door, and who was known for her generous use of the slate (Tick).

As we got up to go, I asked Wull Reid if he didn't have a wireless set. "We had ane ordered an peyed for," said his

daughter but he wouldna hae it.

I couldnae be bothered wi'they blethers, said Wull.

We left the farm in the darkling afternoon, and crossed Lanarkshires holy river the Avon, and went up by Stonehouse public park to St Ninians kirkyard. On the way we passed David Brown out for his constitutional.

He was making a good pace along with a youngster of about his own age.

The attitude to age in Stonehouse is quite frightening, when I pointed out an elderly-looking chap, to Bill" he said: "Oh, him he's only 84!"

Bill Brown was a hand loom weaver he worked in silk, and he remembers the time when there were around 400 hundred weavers in the village the remains of one of the looms are still in his cottage.

Nowadays, Stonehouse is largely a mining community though there are no mines there anymore.

There are still thatched cottages in the village, and parts of one looks like a set from one of these American films about Scotland. What intrigued me was the imitation of Glasgow to be seen right in the middle of Stonehouse.

The centre of Stonehouse is the cross, from it comes a thoroughfare called The Trongate. Trongate doesn't go very far before it is renamed Argyle Street.

Now, this seems too much to be a coincidence, it may be of course, that Glasgow copied this nomenclature from Stonehouse.

Bill Brown took over the Kind wife's not much more than a year ago, and he found a treasure trove of ancient newspapers. **Drink prices** were so low that I dare not quote them.

Newspapers that showed as far back as 1859, a Stonehouse worthy was paying for his drinks by instalments, and farrier's bills from 1800. One of the early innkeepers was a farrier too.

The new innkeeper has been trying to find out how old the Kind Wife's is. He has a special licence issued for a wedding in 1846. In these days the opening hours were from 8 a.m. to 11p.m. This special licence allowed the wedding party to continue celebration from 11p.m. to 5a.m. Then doubtless, the Kind Wife's staff would have to work like mad to prepare for their ordinary shift three hours latter.

Stonehouse and District Beekeepers Association.

The Association was formed on 4th Dec 1944 in the Dramatic Club Hall on King Street. Records show a meeting of Stonehouse Beekeepers was held in the above hall for the purpose



of forming an Association. Mr William Melvin was in the chair and after a good discussion the ten Beekeepers present unanimously agreed to form an association and call it Stonehouse and District Beekeepers Association.

Office bearers and Committee were then appointed as follows:-
President Mr Joseph Brown.

Vice President Mr William Melvin. Secretary Mr John Johnstone. Treasurer Mr Robert Craig.

Committee Alexander Watson. Thomas Watt Jun. James Dobson. John Dick. Thomas Johnston.

It was agreed to make application for affiliation to the Scottish Beekeepers Association. The membership was to be 4 shillings per member to be paid at the AGM meeting in January each year.

Each member would give a donation of 2/6 to establish a fund to meet expenses which the association may incur.

The association went from strength to strength and as numbers increased, lectures on beekeeping were a great success visiting nearby apiaries always had new ideas for beginners.

Mr James Rattery station master at Stonehouse would organize the annual bus outing which were always well attended. Sadly beekeeping was on the decline in the late 60s and with some poor harvest years and the deaths of some members they ca

rried on until 1973 when there were only 5 members left and it was decided that the remaining members should either join up with blackwood and district association as it was the only association still in this area.

A letter was sent to the association saying that Stonehouse and district beekeepers association had now been terminated on June

1973.

Extracts from Robert Naismith's book on Stonehouse published in 1885

GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY:

In common with the district west of the Clyde this parish has its coal-formation and subordinate strata of limestone, sandstone, basalt, tuff, etc. This formation runs along the west side of the Clyde, from below Glasgow to the Nethan, extending more or less through the parishes of Glassford, Stonehouse, Lesmahagow and Douglas, all having their dip towards the Clyde.

Grit, caesarenaria, with freestone and sandstone, abounds in the parish. The whin or top rock is found in the parish, and makes an excellent road metal. There is abundance of limestone to be had, although the only work in operation of that kind for a long time has been that near to Catcastle. It is allowed by geologists that limestone, quartz, feldspar, mica and hornblende are the most abundant minerals in nature. The coal strata in the immediate neighbourhood of the town of Stonehouse appear to be mostly of thin seams abounding with 'troubles', and interrupted with dykes. Ironstone has been wrought in the district, but not to any great extent. The parish is rich in fossils. James Thomson, Esq.

Glasgow, an eminent geologist, is well known to many here. At a scientific meeting, "Mr Thomson exhibited a slab of Carboniferous shale from Stonehouse, containing several head and numerous bones of the teeth of supposed the earliest flat form fishes, sting-rays. The teeth of fishes are and being attached by only a ligament to the membrane of the mouth, they soon fall off in the decomposition of the fish and get strewn over the sea bottom and sink into the sediment. It is seldom therefore, that many of them are got along with the cranial bones. In the Jermyn Street Museum there is a specimen with about 60 teeth, but the specimen now exhibited contains upwards of 100. The identity of *D. gibbosus* with *Pleuracanthus lavissimus* - a barbed fin spine of which species is figured by Hugh Miller in the 'Testimony of the Rocks' - has been established by Sir Phillip Egerton.



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www.stonehouseheritage.co.uk

This article and poem was by James B Miller after his time in Stonehouse Hospital.

Having had the privilege of working at a Hospital in Lanarkshire, and also having been a patient, on six different occasions in the same hospital, and six weeks in Glasgow Royal Infirmary I got to know many of the staff personally. I got to know their likes and dislikes and had plenty time to see these Sisters of mercy at work, and to study the bond of understanding, and love between the nurse and her patient. The little intimate touches, here and there showed the true dedicated nurse.

It is from these incidents I had the inspiration to write the "Story of a Nurse's Lie" and thus revealing the true feelings of these girls who have dedicated their life to the aid of suffering humanity.

The Story of A nurse's lie

**The ward was still and silent, outside the wind was wild,
A nurse walked quietly to a bed, the death bed of a child.
She stood beside the sufferer's bed; her heart was sick
and sore. She gently touched the fevered brow, as she'd
often done before.**

**The sands of time were running out, for the curly headed
waif, Who'd never known a mother's love, or a dad to hold
her safe. A weak voice gently murmured, "Nurse you are
so kind" The tears sprang to the nurse's eyes, for the little
child was blind.**

**Then to her breast she raised the child, with tender loving
care, She knew that death was very nigh, she could feel
its presence there. My Mummy's coming isn't she nurse?
is that her step I hear? Then gently raised her little arms,
saying, "Tell her to come here".**

**The nurse then offered up a prayer, as she stroked the
curly head, Dear God, forgive the lie I tell, were the only
words she said. I'm here my darling, said the Nurse, you
knew I'd come today, A smile lit up the tired face, then her
spirit passed away.**

**To dwell with him , who reigns above, in the land beyond
the skies. Who promised He would wipe away all tears
from our eyes. Where sin and sorrow are no more, and
pleasures never die, And he who is Mercy, truth and love
will forgive the Nurse's lie.**

**By James B Miller
Stonehouse.**

**Stonehouse Community Council
Council Meetings 2012
Venue Lifestyle Centre 7.30 pm**

Mon--20th August
Mon--17th September Mon--15th October
Mon--19th November Mon--17th December

All Minutes of the Community Council
can be accessed on their website
www.community-council.org.uk/

They came from Stonehouse.

Continued from Issue 21.

Footballers that played at Professional Level.

Tommy Todd Accies Legend.

In January 1951 Accies manager Jimmy McStay gave new signing Tommy Todd his Debut against Elgin.

With 6,198 in attendance Wattie Rothera gave Accies the lead before Tommy netted a couple more to seal the tie for the visitors. Quite a debut!

Born in Stonehouse he played Juvenile with a Muirkirk club. He then moved to the Juniors.

It was while in this grade, that he was part of a successful Burnbank Athletic in season 1944-45, which reached the Scottish Junior cup final, following a 1-0 win over Pollock at Shawfield.

The final was a local derby, as Cambuslang Rangers were there opponents. The Athletic had last won the cup in 1911, the same year Accies appeared in the Big Cup against Celtic.

With 32,650 looking on at Hampden the Cambuslang team won 2-1 with Tommy netting for Burnbank. Following a successful protest over Malcolm Morrison of Cambuslang having been retained by Stirling Albion and being ineligible to play. The replay took place in front of 25,000, Tommy scored twice in a 3-1 win to Burnbank.

He had provisionally signed for Motherwell in 1944 for a signing on fee of £20 with the Fir Park club paying Tommy £1 per week.

While in the forces he was stationed in Co. Down. He was retained for season 1946-47, before joining Airdrie in October 1948. He appeared in their first team on several occasions before reverting back to the junior with Stonehouse Violet.

Tommy was a hard working and a strong running player and was signed by Accies as a centre forward, Tommy also scored many goals when he moved to inside forward. In all he appeared in 90 first team games with Accies.

Tommy was a member of the team that were promoted to A Division in 1953 and he scored in the 2-0 win over Celtic in Accies first match in the higher Division.

When Tommy left Hamilton in season 53/54 he signed for Crew Alexandria, however after 13 matches and 3 goals he moved, when Derby County made an offer for him, and were pushing for promotion and succeeded from the English third division.

Injury finished Tommy at Derby and at the close season was released. Then following a brief spell at Rochdale before Tommy returned to Scotland and joined Elgin City where another former Accies player, Ian Rae was the manager. Quite a coincidence that his Accies career should commence at Elgin and then end at the same club.

Jim Barrie

Jim was a great football fan, and supported Glasgow Rangers

While Jim was doing his National Service in 1950-1952 he played for Bristol city

Billy Paterson

Junior legend Paterson once scored a hat-trick against the senior club that let him go.

The veteran of seven Scottish Junior Cup finals. The man who is idolised at Cambuslang Rangers after helping them lift the Cup three times in four finals from 1971 to 1974.

Billy was, a joiner to trade, he started his Junior career with Lesmahagow before joining up with Hamilton Accies. He had three seasons at the wrong end of the old Scottish Second Division. When a new manager arrived it signalled a change of fortunes for the striker, when he was released.

Billy got his own back on Hamilton, when Cambuslang, played the Accies in a friendly Cambuslang won 6-0 Billy scored 3 goals against his old team.

Billy went on to play for Albion Rovers. He won just one Scottish Juniors cap, against Wales during his final year at Sommerville Park.

After one injury-hit season, he returned to home-town club Stonehouse.

A fifth Cup final appearance followed before a former Cambuslang team-mate-turned Baillieson manager, Russell Craig, took him to Baillieston for finals six and seven.

The information from both these articles was obtained from the Internet.

He died for his faith

James Robertson belonged to Stonehouse, a parish in Lanarkshire. He was noted as a serious and religious person. He was what in that age was styled a merchant, and went up and down the country with a pack of goods.

In October 1682 he was in Kilmarnock, in the exercise of his calling, and visited John Finlay, then a prisoner in jail. While talking with his friend, without giving the least offence or provocation, he was seized and carried to the guard-house. His pack was taken from him and never returned, and he was kept in close confinement for ten or twelve days. "During this time," Woodrow relates, "he was brought before Major White, who would have him give his oath super inquirendis, which the prisoner absolutely refused to do, whereupon he was very barbarously used. My accounts bear that the Major himself pulled him by the nose and wrung it about, till it gushed out in blood. After this treatment he was sent back to prison, and when there, whilst he and his fellow prisoners offered to worship God together, the captain of the guard, getting notice, came in with great rage, and, pulling the Bible out of James Robertson's hand, swore bloodily he would burn it if he offered to go about this work again. In a few weeks he was carried into Edinburgh under a guard. At Linlithgow he was pressed to drink the king's health, which he refusing, the soldiers treated him very rudely, and tied his head and feet together with cords, and left him in that posture upon the cold earth all night. Tomorrow (i.e. next day) when on horseback, they tied his feet together, very hard, under the horse's belly and in that posture carried him into Edinburgh." He was several times examined by the Committee for

Public Affairs. The substance of his answers, as forming part of his indictment, is in Woodrow. In their fullest form, so far as Robertson himself remembered them, they are given here as the introduction to his testimony. No other evidence was brought against him except his answers to their questions. They were determined, however, to take his life, for they supposed that he was the person who affixed a protestation containing several pointed reasons against the Test upon the church-door of Stonehouse.

The jury found him guilty of treason, and the court sentenced him to be hanged at the Grassmarket, on Friday, December 15th, 1682.

As Woodrow says:- "This harsh and iniquitous sentence was accordingly executed. When James Robertson offered to speak upon the scaffold, he was interrupted by the ruffling of the drums, and when complaining of this, Johnston, the town-major, beat him with his cane, at the foot of the ladder, in a most barbarous manner. This abominable rudeness to a dying man, and the patience and cheerfulness of this good man in suffering all this, I know, was the occasion of a deep conviction to some who were present, of the evil of persecution and prelacy. And there are several yet alive, who can date their first serious impressions of religion from their seeing some of the persecuted party suffer, as they themselves have informed me."

James Robertson's testimony is the longest in the volume. He had more time for writing than many of his fellow-sufferers. He was tried on Monday, December 11, and was executed the following Friday, whereas not a few were tried the one day and hanged the other, and sometimes even on the very day they received sentence.

James Robertson mentions **Auchengilloch** as a place where a fast was held, at which both Donald Cargill and Richard Cameron preached. Auchengilloch is situated in the parish of Lesmahagow, in the centre of a wild moorland district. It is a glen at the source of the Kype water, and is formed by a depression in the moor of about forty feet in depth, and is of size that will give sitting room on its sides for at least five hundred people. Although so large, it is not seen when walking over the moor until the traveller comes immediately upon it. At its south end the hill rises about 200 feet above the moor, and commands a view of the country for many miles round. On this hill watchmen were posted when a meeting was held in the glen beneath. Its central position, six to nine miles from Muirkirk on the south, Strathaven and Stonehouse on the north, Lesmahagow on the east, and Newmilns on the West, and the three or four miles of rough moor that must be gone over ere it be reached rendering it inaccessible to cavalry, combined to make it a favourite spot, where the general meetings of the United Societies were most often held during the persecution.

The Heritage group meet on the 1st Monday of the Month at 4/5 the cross 7.30.p.m. (Next Meeting August) All members of the public are welcome to attend.