

STONEHOUSE HERITAGE GROUP

NEWSLETTER Issue 23 March 2013

By the time you have read this Newsletter the Heritage Group will have moved into a room in the new lifestyle community building at Udstonmill Road Stonehouse.

Access at 4/5 the cross was unsuitable for many of our older generation and this move will provide better access and allow the group to work alongside the Library. We have been given a room and storage space by head manager Josephene Gillies and hopefully it will attract some new members.

This newsletter is about past news articles, and school diaries and a few other snippets I have managed to dig up. I hope you enjoy it, and look forward to meeting you at our new home (just ask the girls if we are in and they will direct you to our room).

SUB POSTMASTER FAILS TO BLOCK BANK'S ALTERATION PLANS

A move to stop the Bank of Scotland moving a pen close and demolishing a derelict building behind their premises in Stonehouse, was made this week by the village's sub-postmaster.

But the move by Mr James Cowper, 13 Trongate, who appealed to a special sub-committee of Hamilton District Council's Planning and Development Committee, was in vain.

Mr Cowper resisted the bank's proposed extension on the grounds that it was a threat to the security and stability of his sub post office and wanted the committee to ensure that the Bank would "tie a wall into the existing gable wall, dress the wall off to its full height, and put a gate on the new close which could be locked to ensure security of his busy sub-post office.

But the Bank resisted the bid claiming it would be impracticable to put a gate on the close and lock it, as this was the only access to flats above the bank.

They also said they believed the derelict property was more of a threat to Mr Cowper's security than an open close would be.

A legal representative of the Bank told the sub-committee that his client had a great deal of experience in security matters and felt the derelict property in question afforded cover to any possible intruders and, if removed, they could be more easily seen.

The Bank wants to move the pen close and demolish the old building to extend their banking facilities and car park in view of the development of a new town.

But Mr John Urquhart, Director of Administration, said the council had no powers to prevent the Bank having the building warrant for the extension.

NEW ADDRESS OF SURGERY

From Thursday, the new address for the surgery at Willowlea, Strathaven Road, Stonehouse will be 12 Vicars Road,

which was the former Congregational Church Manse.

The telephone number has not been changed. The new site is more central for the residents and nearer the chemist for

prescriptions.

RESIDENTS COMPLAIN OF RUSTING CARS

Residents in Union Street, Stonehouse, this week angrily criticized the dumping of two abandoned and rusty cars in a field behind their houses.

And mothers highlighted the dangers that these cars present to their children.

For one car – a Morris – is slowly sinking in the mud behind Union Street, and rainfall causes the mud to rise up to the side of the car.

However, a woman in the area – whose son owns the cars – blamed the sanitary inspectors for not uplifting the cars following phone calls to them.

However, Mr James Hamilton, Environmental Health Officer at Larkhall denied Mrs Blake's statement. He said: "It was me who first contacted Mrs Blake. I gave her a couple of numbers to try. These were of firms who would remove the cars free of charge.

But why had this department not dealt with the matter?

Added Mr Hamilton: "Because the cars are not really abandoned. This woman admitted that the cars belonged to her son. It's his responsibility. But I have done all the running about – not Mrs Blake". He said he had asked Mrs Blake to move the cars to the side of the fence, ready for pick up. He

appealed the firms a previous Both cars field last all the stripped. 65 Union an eye-



to Mrs Blake to contact that he had given her on visit.

were abandoned in the summer, and since then metal and inside has been Miss Marion Perrie of Street said: "The cars are sore. They attract a lot of

children who sometimes play near them.

VANDALISED HOUSES TO COME DOWN

Four unoccupied houses in Queen Street, Stonehouse – which have come under constant attack by vandals – are soon to be demolished to make way for a new old folks' home, and when site work commences – sometime between now and next April – it will effectively remove one of the worst “eyesores” in the area.

Since the tenants moved out of the houses – at 50-56 Queen Street – vandals have been responsible for a large amount of damage which has taken place at the homes.

At one back door, a jagged piece of glass menacingly protrudes from a smashed window pane. An unsuspecting child entering the house could receive a nasty accident if the danger goes unnoticed.

The houses themselves are littered with debris, and floors are covered with a large amount of broken glass, strewn throughout the property. The back garden is littered with an assortment of rubbish, including a heavy iron pole and barbed wire.

All the windowpanes are smashed and some floors are very unsteady, due to the dampness and dry rot, which has set in.

And this week a spokesman for the Social Work Department revealed that site work would start between now and April 1976. He added: “A completion date has been set for June 1977 and the houses will be demolished within the next year.

OLD FOLKS HOME ON SITE

We hope to start work on the home next April if site work is completed in time. We know that these houses have been receiving attention from vandals, but workmen will move in soon”.

One nearby resident – who refused to reveal his name – said “Sometimes the place is swarming with people, not vandals, but children of between five and thirteen. I’m just glad that these houses are to be demolished soon. The place has become a bit of a wreck”.

Former residents of the houses had left three or four years ago, following County Council plans for the building of an Old folks home.

When finally completed – around June ’77 – the residential old folks’ home will be one of the most modern of its kind in the Country. It will serve the village of Stonehouse, and also a good part of the catchment area as well, revealed the spokesman.

The home will provide accommodation for over 40 old folk,
The home in fact was not completed until the 1980s

HOPE FADES OF RAIL LINE TO STONEHOUSE

It is now unlikely that a proposed rail link-up between Hamilton and Stonehouse will go ahead.

For the re-opening of the railway line through Larkhall – hinged on the now abandoned New Town going ahead.

It is now generally accepted there will be sufficient demand to justify the cost of providing the rail-link and the whole plan will probably be scrapped. I think While Stonehouse New Town was a going concern, a rail-link from Stonehouse to the Hamilton-Motherwell-Glasgow circle line was considered a distinct possibility.

The rail-line was planned to terminate at the New Town Centre where facilities would have been provided for passengers to connect with local bus services.

This “inter-city” link was encouraged by the Scottish Association for Public Transport who were confident the rail-link would have gone ahead if the New Town had not been scrapped.

In November the Association, in conjunction with the Strathclyde Group Committee, formulated a transport programme as it would effect the region for the next five years.

It urged greater “Trans-Glasgow” services, with possible new rail routes leading from Hamilton and Motherwell to Larkhall and Stonehouse.

Strathclyde Regional Council are responsible for transport policy in the area and a Council spokesman said this week: “This rail-link proposal was, of course, linked with the idea of going ahead with a New Town at Stonehouse”.

“Now that this situation is not going to come about, the Council are having a serious re-appraisal of this situation.

There’s just not the population in that area to support further expansion of the rail-line or even to justify going ahead with such a plan with the costs involved. But, in due course, there will be further developments about this”.

STONEHOUSE MISSIONARY HOME ON FURLOUGH

The skirl of the bagpipes and the sight of the kilt greeted Salvation Army Captain Nancy Watt when she arrived at Glasgow Airport on Saturday.

For the Stonehouse missionary has returned home for a well-earned four months furlough after spending two and a half years at a medical clinic in Ghana.

The Scottish welcome was given by Nancy’s two nieces, 14 year old twins Margaret and Esther Watt who will have their aunt staying with them at 7 Cander Avenue, Stonehouse.

Now the Stonehouse missionary intends to relax visiting relatives and friends after her spell in Ghana where she worked in medical clinics set up by the Salvation Army to deal with the sick.

Nancy was educated at Stonehouse Primary and Larkhall Academy leaving at 14 to begin a career in nursing. She spent the first three years at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. A one-year midwifery course at Bellshill Maternity Hospital followed before a further three years as district midwife in Strathaven.

Then it was a year at the public health department attached to Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh and three years at a clinic to High Blantyre as Public Health nurse. Nancy was then promoted assistant supervisor at the public health department of the former Lanark County Council where another three years were spent in an administrative post.

But she decided her future lay in helping the needy abroad and attended the Salvation Army International Training College in London where her subjects were theology, history of the Christian Church "and a smarting of other religious beliefs - homiletics (art of preaching) and social services undertaken by the Army".

She was then posted to West Africa where she has spent 12 years in Ghana. "We have several clinics in Ghana and I have worked in four of them" said Nancy on Monday. Although her job is to deal with maternal and child welfare work more is demanded of her. "The medical services we provide caters for all emergencies" she added. She explained "I've been doing the work of a doctor by diagnosing illnesses, deciding treatment and dispensing proper drugs.

Nancy was on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. "I never know what I have to deal with when I answer a knock at the door," she said.

But Nancy is constantly reminded of the people in the Stonehouse area. For it was through the generosity of people in Stonehouse and Strathaven and pupils at Blackwood Primary School that her clinic exists.

"A number of years ago we had a Christian Aid drive in this area and as a result of people's generosity, the clinic at the town of Duakwa was opened three years ago" But it could well be Nancy's last clinic in Ghana. She will learn after her furlough where her next assignment will be.

At the moment she intends taking it easy over the next four months when she hopes to visit relations and friends.



Nancy Watt

THEY CAME FROM STONEHOUSE.

Continued from issue 22. Gordon McBain came to Stonehouse as a young lad, he played for Ashgill Hearts in season 1955, then moved onto Shotts. Gordon signed senior for Third Lanark then after a spell signed for Kilmarnock. Gordon was sold to English 3rd Division club Rochdale. Gordon was promised a house for his family when he signed on at Rochdale, but this never came to fold, so in turn he broke his contract and returned home to Scotland finishing his career as a senior player both in England and Scotland

This was the article in the Rochdale press.

PICKED THEN SAID THAT HE WASN'T PLAYING

Rochdale manager, Jack Marshall, was ready to name his team yesterday with Gordon McBain at outside-left.... until McBain walked in and told him to remove his name from the sheet. "I'm not playing," said McBain. "I can't settle, and I'm going home to Scotland".

Last night Marshall told me: "He said he was catching an afternoon train back to Scotland, where his wife and child are living. He knows the risks involved. He knows his wages will be stopped immediately and that suspension must follow automatically, when the board meet next week".



Gordon McBain

Extract from Hamilton Advertiser December 4th, 1954

Presentation of Colours to Stonehouse Boys Brigade Given to Original Company 60 Years Ago. By unique coincidence, the colours presented to the newly-formed company of the B.B. in the hall of Townhead J.S. School last Friday were presented almost sixty years ago to the original company in the playground of the same school where the hall is now built. Mr James Curr of Larkhall, who was captain of the first B.B. company to be started in Stonehouse in May 1896, presented the colours which were received by Captain Ian Crosbie and re-dedicated by the chaplain, the Rev. W.R.F. McGhie, B.D. Following the ceremony, Mr Curr carried out an inspection of the company and addressed the boys. On Sunday, in the Church of Scotland, the new company attended morning worship at which the service of enrolment and dedication took place. The Rev. W.R.F. McGhie conducted the service and preached a stirring and inspiring sermon.

Stonehouse during W.W. II.

December, 1939
A.R.P.

At a mock raid on Wednesday evening much more was learned concerning the gas bomb and its effects and the work of decontamination from a squad from the Larkhall A.R.P. control organised by Mr. J.S. Campbell, controller, the local contingent being under the control of Mr. Robert Crawford, senior warden. The experiment turned out quite a success and the locals added smartness to their efficiency by turning out in twelve minutes from the time the warning message was received.

November, 1941

Russia Today Society

A meeting under above auspices was held in the Lesser Public Hall on Sunday evening last, when the speaker was Mr. Wm. Lauchlan. There was only a moderate attendance. This did not discourage the speaker, who gave a masterly analysis of the present world conflict - an analysis which stripped the veneer from the Nazi tyrants and turned the searchlight of truth on their Russian campaign. Questions and discussion followed the address, and these were directed and controlled by Mr. J. McIntyre, who made a very efficient chairman.

EXTRACTS FROM HEADMASTERS
SCHOOL DIARY 1882

9th January 1882
School Opening

This morning at 10 o'clock, this splendid, commodious, neat and comfortable, new Townhead school was opened by the school board. At 10 am prompt General Lockhart and his lady Miss Dunn, drove up to the gate, receiving a hearty cheer from the scholars. Then came the gentlemen of the school board, and awaiting to meet them all were messrs Smith the Architect, T & J Hamilton the joiners, Park the builder, Brown the painter and Riddle plumber. There were 186 scholars present, and all got seated in the largest room. A hymn being sung, Rev Mr dunn opened with prayers, and then read a chapter from proverbs. Then General Lockhart addressed the assemblage and declared the school open. Rev Messrs Dunn and Paterson followed with brief addresses chiefly as exhortations to the scholars. Mrs Lockhart next in a most interesting manner distributed the prizes gained by about 30 scholars for diligence and good scholarship. This over the general announced a holiday for the rest of the day, and all dispersed. The scholars were very tidy and neat, and behaved remarkably well.

19th May 1882
Measels

Measles are spreading, and the attendance is dreadfully down. The number present one day being as low as 120, which is about 100 under the number on the roll. On Monday the drawing examinations took place, 34 boys came forward, there were two subjects geometry and freehand. The rest of the scholars did not meet that day.

16th June 1882
Drinking Water

This week the well which supplies the school, was opened and cleaned out, gravel has been put in the bottom, and air passages to and from the well have been made to ventilate it freely. It is now excellent water and free from the smell it formerly had. Average attendance this week 163.9.

23rd June 1882
Cleaner Playground

The playground being now covered with red blaes, instead of black cinders, things are cleaner looking.

10th November 1882
Hill Road School Closed

On Monday the following scholars were admitted to this school. They all came from the Hill school, which is now closed. Every one of them, clever and dull alike, is very much behind their equals in this school the system adopted in the hill school must have been a very poor one, and these scholars have suffered a loss which the older ones most likely will never recover. Gavin Barrie in standard 6 for 5; James Stewart in standard 5 for 4; Kate Weir in 5 for 3; Nellie Millar in 5 put into 4; James Barrie in 4 for 4: Robert Archer in 4 for 4 Alex Borland in 4 for 4; Thomas Sorbie, Bethia Barrie, Bella Thomson, Mary Ferguson, Joanna Bruce, David Hamilton, Robert Valance, Alex Sorbie, John Weir, John Govan,

17th & 24th November 1882
Court Appearance

Today 17th I was obliged to appear at the Sheriff court at Hamilton as a witness for the defence in the case of Stonehouse Sanitary Committee versus Arch. Shearer, and a Banks. Miss Sym and the pupil teacher conducted the work of the school.

Yesterday 23rd I was again called to give evidence at the Sherriff court in the case of our school board, against Mr Loudon for neglecting to educate his child Helen Loudon. I left school this time only at half past two in the afternoon, and it carried on till 3 o'clock when the boys of standards 5 and 6 were sent home, while the PTS. kept the others occupied till 4 pm. Miss Syme had the girls sewing.

HERITAGE GROUP LOST A FRIEND

Willam Mackie died on March 21st. 2013. and will be sadly missed by the group. Wull as he was called carried out his work with great determination. His last project was on finding missing servicemen who died serving their Country during w.w.1./ w.w.2. then having them added on the War Memorial. On many Saturday mornings you would find Wull sitting in the resourse room working on family searches or printing off Photographs for someone.

STONEHOUSE COMMUNITY
COUNCIL.

Chairman: George Smith, 6 Naismith Court, Stonehouse. Email: george-pm244@aol.com
Secretary: Robert Freel, 75 Lockhart Street, Stonehouse. Email: robfreel@btinternet.com

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETING DATES
2013

Meetings are open to the public and normally scheduled for the third Monday of the Month and are held in the New Integrated Community Facility on Udston Mill Road Stonehouse starting at 7.30pm. (Members meeting at 7.00pm)

15 th April 2013
20th May 2013
17th June 2013
19 th August 2013
1 6 th September 2013
21st October 2013
18th November 2013
16 th December 2013

The Community Council have a website and facebook page. The website can be found at www.community.council.org.uk/stonehousecommunitycouncil For those accustomed to facebook issues can be posted on the Stonehouse Community council page.

HAVE YOU ANY FREE TIME.

If the answer is yes"then come along to one of our meetings held on the first Monday of the Month and meet the team". Or contact any member of our committee

Robert Freel. Chairman.
Email: robfreel@btinternet.com
Ian Kearsley Secretary.
George Rundell Vice Chairman.
Visit our website.

www.stonehouseheritage.co.uk