



# NEWS LETTER

**Autumn 2022**

## Management Committee

Chair: Kay McMeekin

[info@cumnockhistorygroup.org](mailto:info@cumnockhistorygroup.org)

Vice Chair: Sadie McNair

Treasurer: Elaine Corbett

Membership Secretary: Ailsa McInnes

Committee members:

Billy Anderson

Neil Given

Alex Lennox

Anne Lawrence

Robert Stevenson

## Newsletter

Editor: Kay McMeekin

Membership costs only £10 a year due in April. You will be supporting our work.

You can join or renew online in our online shop.

email me for other ways to pay

## New Treasurer

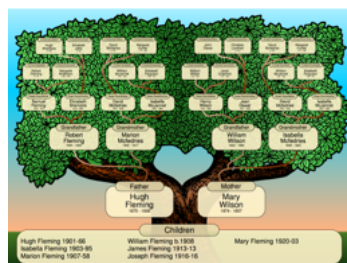
We thank Shaun Lowrie who has kept the books for over two years and wish him well in his new teaching career. We welcome Elaine Corbett as the new treasurer. She has been a farms researcher and was the driving force behind the Cumnock Cookbook. She baked and tested a lot of cake in her research!

## Trip to New Lanark

On the 8th of July a party of CHG members and friends joined our first ever trip to New Lanark Heritage Mill Village. The sun shone. It's well worth a visit.



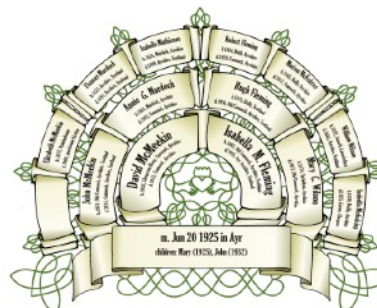
## Family tree gifts



tree



vine



Irish

Looking for an original gift? We may be able to make you a family tree fan chart showing your or a parent's ancestors, as long as some of your ancestors are already on the Cumnock Connections tree. There are three styles: tree, vine fan chart or Irish chart. We will have the chart printed and laminated professionally at A4 or A3 size. The cost will depend very much on the time involved doing the research and how much you can help us. It could be as little as £10 or go to £75. If you are interested, email me details of the person the chart is for and I can give you a better idea of cost. If it is needed for a specific date, please allow at least 3 weeks and Christmas orders by 15 November.

## The Ploughing Up Our Past Book

We are busy gathering our findings into a book which we hope will be published in time for Christmas. The price will be no more than £20 and it will be packed with local information on the history of farming in Auchinleck, New Cumnock, Old Cumnock and Ochiltree with quotes from the interviews we conducted and lots of photos. We will keep you posted on progress. It will be on sale in our online [shop](#) and some local outlets. It would be helpful if you pre-order it in the online shop.



steam engine pulling the big mill

The landlord would just look at the hardest working tenants and they would get another farm added in so he could make more money.

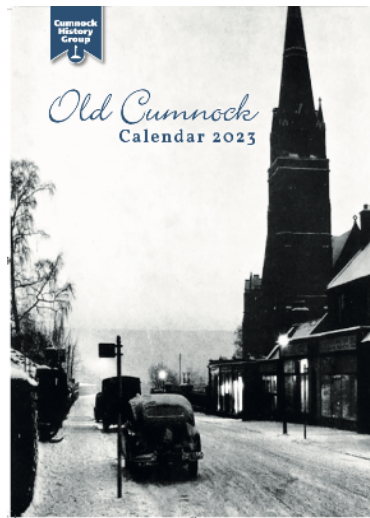
Willie Watson



Hugh Wallace at Clydenoch 1950s



# CUMNOCK HISTORY GROUP



## Calendar

This year's calendar is available on the online [shop](#) £6. It will be on sale at the October and November meetings. We won't run out.

## Future Talks

All meetings are in the Barrhill Community Centre, Bank Avenue, Cumnock at 7.15 unless otherwise stated.

Members free. Guests suggested donation of £2

Tea and biscuits

October 20th David McMeekin on Glenbuck

November 17th Jim Smith, Cumnock Heritage Centre, Preservation v Restoration

December social to be arranged

January 19th

Jim Johnstone on the Covenanters

February 16th to be arranged

March 16th Bruce Keith Are We Nearly There Yet?

April 20th Frank Beattie - Old Kilmarnock

May 18th AGM

June 23rd Laura McMeekin EALT on Dean Castle

## Ploughing Up Our Past

It has been an unusually busy summer for us. The Ploughing Up Our Past Exhibition continued its run at the Baird Institute until 27th August. We had a total of 720 visitors from all over the world. If you missed it, you can see some of it in the café at Ayrshire Food Hub at Crossroads. We had a Fun Day at the Baird on 11 August when there was butter-making, crafts, and other activities run by us and the museum staff. The same week we did butter making at Netherthird Community Garden.



Crossroads Food Hub open Wednesday-Sunday



# CUMNOCK HISTORY GROUP

## RIP

We are very sorry to hear of the death of member Anne McLanachan who participated in the Ploughing Up Our Past project by sharing her memories and photos. Our deepest condolences to her daughter, Claire, brother Hugh and all the family.



## Lost (Mining) Villages Project

Event this Saturday in Dalmellington, repeated in Muirkirk on 29th October and an online version in November

[Lost Villages website](#)



**Dalmellington Community Centre**  
**Sat 8 Oct, 11am -2pm**

**11am Tea/Coffee**  
**11.20 Short talk and Film Screening**  
**11.50 Music from Seán Gray**  
**12.05 Food**  
**1.15 Film screening**



## Other research

Yvonne Saunderson has been transcribing the Kirk Session Minutes from 1704. Hats off to her, as this is not an easy task. She is half way through the first volume 1704-1737.

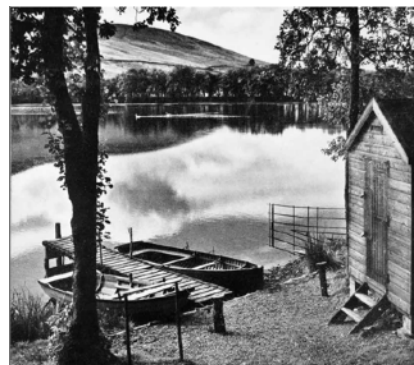
There is much name-calling, drunkenness and fornication. eg from 1706

*This day also the Session were informed by several of their number that John Woodrow and his wife Christian McRae scandalously slandered Martha Pollock servitrix to the minister by calling her an Eternal Whore and a Thief*

We (Yvonne, Alan Craig and I) did the most recent volume 1816-60 which can be accessed in the online shop. If anyone else would like to have a go at this, let me know. It is time consuming but quite fascinating. Minutes from 1777 - 1815 might be the next to be tackled

## Talk

On 20th October, a return visit by David McMeekin who will talk about the history of Glenbuck.



On 17th November, Jim Smith, lead trustee at Cumnock Heritage Centre will give a short talk and slideshow on Saving the Past for the Future.

# CUMNOCK HISTORY GROUP

## Photos

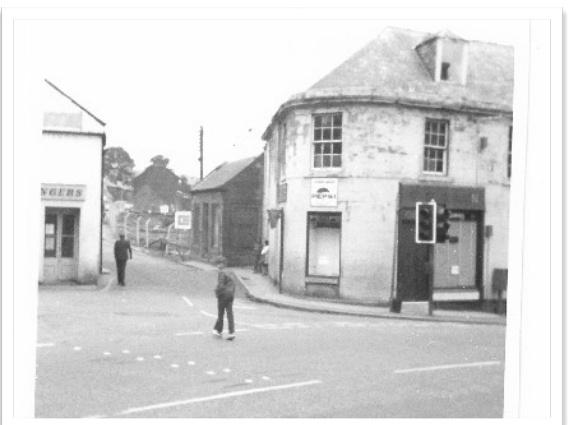
Helen Atkinson has given us a large pile of photos belonging to the late Jim Smith of Cairn Road, her mother's cousin.



Waterside Place



Glaisnock St



McCubbins corner, Townhead Street



Police station in Townhead Street



Slightly older one



McCubbins was built on the Gorbals Bridge