

# CUMNOCK HISTORY GROUP



## NEWS LETTER

February 2026

### RIP Sarah Campbell McNair 1950-2026



Sadie McNair

We are deeply saddened by the loss of Sadie, a founder member and former Vice-Chairperson after an illness. She was a great support and a reliable volunteer.

### Newsletter Editor

Kay McMeekin

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

### Cumnock Connections family tree



Click below for our

**YouTube channel with  
previous talks**

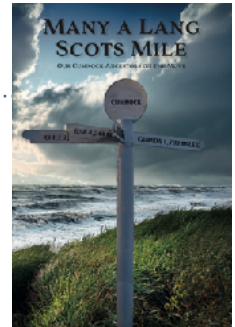
## Editorial

### The new book

It's been a while since our last newsletter in August. We've had a busy time finalising our latest book *Many A Lang Scots Mile - Our Scottish ancestors on the Move*. There will be a book launch on Tuesday 3rd March in Trinity Church Hall, Ayr Road at 7.30.

Thanks to the research and writing team and to all of you who submitted your own stories. Not all stories made it into the final cut and stories are still coming in, so there will be a sequel!

<https://langscotsmilecumnock.blogspot.com/>



### Meetings

Our meetings are now held in the Trinity church hall which is a comfortable, spacious and warm location. The next meeting on 16th February is a chance for us to showcase all our research over the last 14 years as a lot of recent members will be unaware of it. This includes Cumnock soldiers in WWI, Pennylands Camp, miners' rows, Ploughing Up Our Past, and the Cumnock Connections family tree which is about to surpass 70,000 names. Some of us will be having a meal in the 1906 bar at the Royal beforehand at 5.30. Let me know please if you are coming.

**Trinity Church Hall, Ayr Road at 7 pm for 7.15 start on the 3rd Monday of the month**

Zoom link will be sent out on the day. And a recording of the proceedings will go on our YouTube channel.

16 February CHG projects night

16 March Barbara Graham Internment of "enemy aliens" in the Isle of Man in World War 2

20 April Craig Burns on Historic Muirkirk

18 May AGM and Tamara Fulcher on Graveyard Stories

22 June Ailsa McInnes on Researching a House

# CUMNOCK HISTORY GROUP

## Management Committee

Chair: Kay McMeekin  
[info@cumnockhistorygroup.org](mailto:info@cumnockhistorygroup.org)

Vice Chair: Kevan Aitken

Treasurer: Elaine Corbett

Membership Secretary: Ailsa  
McInnes

Minutes Secretary: Maureen  
Paterson

Committee:

Scott Daily

Anne Lawrence

Alex Lennox

Robert M Stevenson

Committee meetings on  
second Monday of the month  
except July and August on  
Zoom in winter and in Rothsay  
house from March -October  
7pm. Any member may attend.

## Newsletter

Edited by Kay McMeekin

## Contact us

Email

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

Please address any snail mail  
to

Kay Mcmeekin

8 Richmond Gardens

Darvel

Ayrshire

KA17 0NL

## Other Events

### Christmas lunch at the Royal



## Supporting our work

Running the group costs over £2,000 a year. This is made up with web hosting fees, subscriptions to research sites and professional organisations, public liability insurance and so on.

You can become a member for £10 a year. Join or renew in the online shop <https://cumnockhistorygroup.org/shop-products/>. Renewals are due in April.

We currently have 110 paid up members worldwide.

If you don't want to join, you can buy us scotlandspeople vouchers for birth, marriage and death certificates online. We use them to ensure the Cumnock Connections family tree is accurate. You can pay by credit card or PayPal, different amounts from £7.50 to £40 They are valid for 2 years. [scotlandspeople.gov.uk/vouchers](https://scotlandspeople.gov.uk/vouchers)

Otherwise, you can send a PayPal donation to [pay@cumnockhistorygroup.org](mailto:pay@cumnockhistorygroup.org)

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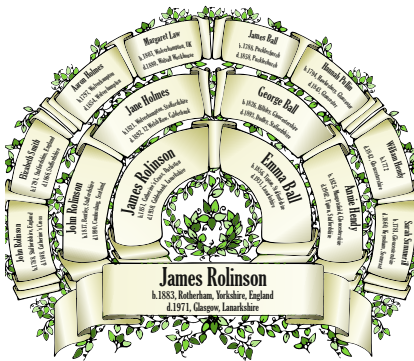
## Old Cumnock Kirk Session Records transcribed

All the work of volunteer Yvonne Sanderson.

Find them on our main website [here](#)

## Monumental Inscriptions

Click [here](#) to get Monumental Inscriptions emailed to you **free**. 10 local cemeteries. Huge thanks to member George McMillan for photographing and organising them, a mammoth task.



Cumnock Connections family tree can generate charts

## Facebook



We have several very active FB groups including

**Cumnock History Group page**

**Many A lang Scots Mile migration project**

**Cumnock Family History**

**Cumnock Today photos**

**Ploughing Up Our Past farm project**

[www.cumnockhistorygroup.org](http://www.cumnockhistorygroup.org)

Thanks to our recent speakers:

David McMeekin on the Buildings of the Irvine Valley

Dane Love on the Roadways of Ayrshire, his new book.

Fiona Barrie on Witchcraft in early modern Ayrshire

Catch up on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/@cumnockhistorygroup4110>



Cumnock Public School Barrhill road early 1900s The postcard was posted in 1917

## New project/s

Suggestions for our next project are

Education in Cumnock

and/or

Houses of Cumnock - "house through time" stories.

We could do both if we get enough volunteers to do research. Training and support will be given.

Let me know if you could contribute. Kay McMeekin, chair.

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