

CUMNOCK HISTORY GROUP



NEWS LETTER

Summer 2023

CHG website and shop

cumnockhistorygroup.org

The Cumnock Family Tree

[Cumnock Connections](#)

Management Committee

Chair: Kay McMeekin
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Membership Secretary: Ailsa McInnes
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Vice Chair: Sadie McNair

Treasurer: Elaine Corbett

Committee Members:

Scott Daily, Neil Given, Anne Lawrence, Alex Lennox, Robert Stevenson

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The AGM

Took place in the Barrhill Centre on 18th May. A zoom link failed due to connection problems at the centre. Vice-chair Sadie McNair chaired the meeting as Chair Kay McMeekin was planning to Zoom due to illness. The existing committee was duly re-elected with the welcome addition to the committee of Scott Daily. The Chair's report and Finance report were emailed out to members.

New venue for meetings

From September our talks will be in the Dumfries Arms Hotel. This will be more comfortable and less stressful for the committee. More info on page 3 sidebar.

The June meeting

was successfully zoomed with log-ins from USA and New Zealand. Speaker Laura McMeekin of East Ayrshire Leisure Trust took us through 675 years of the history of Dean Castle in Kilmarnock focussing on the people.

Robert, 1st Lord Boyd, d. 1482, hits the big time

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Recreating Our Past - new “then and now” photo project



We know that people really love looking at old photos of Cumnock and reminiscing. Our town has changed vastly over the years, especially the town centre. Younger people may not even recognise where exactly the old photographs were.

Our proposal is to attempt to retake the old photos from the same position and compare them possibly using an app which morphs or slides from one to the other. We have selected 60 old photographs to be retaken. “Old” photographs could be as recent as 2016 before town centre redevelopments. Photos below from 2016 and 1966.



The Thistle Inn



By Tommy Samson

Netherthird Day

On Thursday 10th August we will be doing butter making workshops at Netherthird Community Garden 12:30-2:30

Newsletter

Edited by Kay McMeekin

Donate to CHG on Paypal



Gravestone Inscriptions

During lockdown, member George McMillan photographed stones in 12 local cemeteries. He has transcribed and published 7 of those but needs help with the remaining 5. The cemeteries needing done are **Sorn** Churchyard, **Dalrymple** old and new, **Muirkirk** new, **Catrine** new and **Mauchline** new. We are grateful for the assistance of experienced family historians Marlyn Melvin and Roberta McGee who are tackling this!

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Meetings - New Venue!

Monthly Meetings will now be held on 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:15 pm in the **Dumfries Arms Hotel**.

We are grateful to the Dumfries Arms for giving us a good rate. We think this will be a more comfortable setting with the possibility of a drink in the bar or even a meal beforehand.

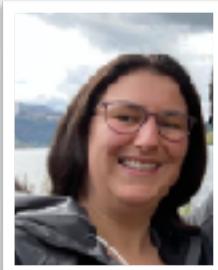
September 14th we welcome local professional genealogist **George English** whose talk is entitled 'The Delano and Cooke Ancestors, The Mayflower and Scottish Connections'

This line he has researched includes several US presidents.

October 12th we welcome local historian **Roger Griffiths** who will give a presentation on Ayrshire's Crannogs.

Other speakers will include return visits from Edwin Lawrence and Barbara Graham.

June's speaker



Laura McMeekin

The Cumnock Connections Family Tree

has now over 60,000 names of people with a connection to Cumnock.

Ancestry Tourism

We get a steady stream of visitors from all over the world who come to walk in the footsteps of their ancestors. With a bit of forewarning we can locate places, gravestones and are happy to show people around. We do also get last minute phone calls asking about where such and such a place is.

We are planning an **ancestry tourism pack** to leave in hotels and tourist venues. It will include the Cumnock Heritage Trail leaflet; layout of Cumnock old graveyard in Barrhill Road; information on places to visit with opening hours, etc.

We're also writing an information sheet for those planning a visit.

If you are a local business or venue and would like to be included in these, please email

info@cumnockhistorygroup.org with your details.



Susan Snow from Arizona finds her ancestors in Auchinleck graveyard



Photographing the ancestral pile

Annual Outing

Our outing this year is on Thursday 13th July to Dean Castle in Kilmarnock.

A Liddell's 16-seater bus will leave Cumnock bus stance at 10 am. On arriving at Dean Castle & Country Park our first stop is the Treehouse Café in the visitor centre to meet up with those coming by car. Then we'll head up to the castle, which has undergone a multi million pound renovation, for a tour. There are a lot of steps up to the grand hall in the keep which houses the tapestries and armour but for those who can't manage them, there is a video fly-through on the ground floor. The other building, the Palace, which houses the musical instruments collections also has some stairs.

Then we'll head to Café Da Vinci Italian restaurant in the town centre for lunch.

The bus and visit are free to CHG members. You pay for your own food and drink. We still have a few seats on the bus. If coming by car, don't forget to let me know, so I can advise the castle and the restaurant of the total numbers.

