

# CUMNOCK HISTORY GROUP



## NEWS LETTER

April 2025

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### Management Committee

Chair: Kay McMeekin  
info@cumnockhistorygroup.org

Membership Secretary: Ailsa McInnes  
CHGmembership@gmail.com

Vice Chair: Sadie McNair

Treasurer: Elaine Corbett

Committee Members:

Kevan Aitken, Scott Daily, Anne Lawrence, Alex Lennox, Robert Stevenson



Auchinleck Estate

### Monday Meetings

Dumfries Arms Hotel 7.15 pm on 3rd Monday of the month.

Our November speaker was Bobby Guthrie and in January Nancy Stuart, February Ailsa McInnes on the Landscape of Auchinleck House and in March we saw old photos of Cumnock



Anne and Alex welcome you

**Monday April 28th** April June Wiggans on A Servant's Life

**19th May AGM** followed by Ayrshire Yeomanry history and memorabilia by Robert McMillan.

**16th June** Kenny Brophy of Glasgow University on the Cup and Ring Marks of Ballochmyle and elsewhere.

Most talks will be posted on our [YouTube Channel](#), though maybe not right away!

**2 walks** are planned to Auchinleck Estate on Saturday 24th May led by Ailsa McInnes and to Ballochmyle Cup and Ring Marks on Saturday 31st May led by David McMeekin. Get in touch for details and to book your place as numbers are limited. Free.



Cup & Ring Marks near Ballochmyle Viaduct

# CUMNOCK HISTORY GROUP



## Membership

It's that time of year! Membership of CHG runs from April to April, so unless you joined for the first time since January this year, your annual membership of £10 is due. Amount of £10 is unchanged in 10 years!

You can pay via **PayPal** in the online shop

<https://cumnockhistorygroup.org/product/become-a-member-of-chg/>

Or using **Sumup** <https://cumnock-history-group.sumupstore.com/product/membership>

Or by **bank transfer**. Why not set up a standing order?

Cumnock History Group, Royal Bank of Scotland

Sort Code: 83-17-21 AC: 14240303 (new business account)

You can also still use our older Treasurer's account, if you have that set up. Thank you.

## Christmas lunch

16 attended on Monday 16 December at the Dumfries Arms Hotel.



2024 Christmas lunch

## Kirk Session Account Books and Wills

Having completed first the Kirk Session Minutes for Old Cumnock, our intrepid volunteer Yvonne Saunderson, has worked her way through the account books. There are 2 large spreadsheets listing names and details, eg "Widow" Hutchison 5s 3d awarded for shoes 30/04/1799

I have converted them into pdf but it doesn't all fit. Have uploaded them anyway. If anyone can help with pdfs, please get in touch. Find the Kirk Session records under Publications Menu [here](#)

These may be the only records of some of these people's existence. If a relationship to another person is mentioned then they are added to the Cumnock Connections tree.

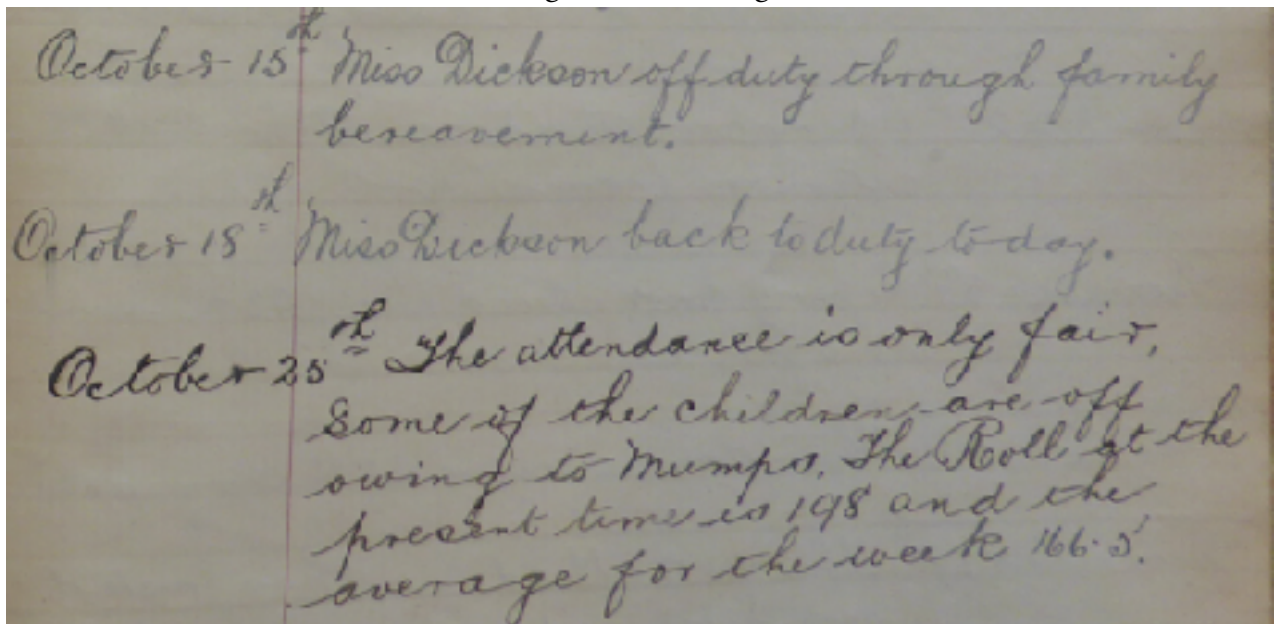
[cumnockconnections.tribalpages.com](http://cumnockconnections.tribalpages.com)

Yvonne is also tackling wills dating from the 16th century! What a woman!

## Cumnock Public School log book 1874-1921

Volunteer Ian Fraser has photographed all 259 pages, a big undertaking. I have transcribed some of them. Most is just about attendance or visits of school board members but there's mention of the pupil teachers by name: Marion Crichton Dawson, Jane McKerrow Hillhouse, Christina Nisbet, John Taylor Smith. These were girls or boys aged about 14. There was quite a turnover. The painter Thomas Bonar Lyon 1873-1955 was art adviser in 1913. Again the names and information are added to the Cumnock Connections tree.

Thanks to all our volunteers who are adding to our knowledge base.



1920, a typical entry



# CUMNOCK HISTORY GROUP

## Parish Project: Cumnock

The History Group was happy to be involved in this cultural project managed by Rab Wilson And Seán Gray.

The group created a Cumnock Alphabet and the resulting poster, coasters and tote bags are available in our online shop.

<https://cumnockhistorygroup.org/shop-products/>



John McGhee in Antarctica 1961

One of the most read stories so far is **The Italian Connection** by Roberta McGee

She traced the Luni, Quadri and Tognini families who all came from Castelnuovo, Tuscany to Cumnock, whose cafés are gone but are fondly remembered. Read about them [here](#)

## Migration stories

We are getting some great stories for our project called Many a Lang Scots Mile including a Cumnock man who had a mountain in Antarctica named after him: Mount McGhee!

Any submissions should be in by the end of May. The aim is to have a book ready by November.

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



Ayr Road corner