



CUMNOCK HISTORY GROUP

Summer 2022

Newsletter edited by
Kay McMeekin

Monthly Meetings

at **Barrhill Community Centre, Bank Avenue, Cumnock** on 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:15 p.m.

Members will be notified of meetings by email.

[CHG website](#)



[Cumnock Connections family tree](#) with close to 57,000 names and 18,469 site visits

[Online Shop](#)

We've added a Lugar Parish heart which we designed in conjunction with [Lugar Heritage Centre](#)



Editorial

It has been an incredibly busy few months getting the Ploughing Up Our Past **Exhibition** put together for opening on 30 April and adding to the website. And we were very thrilled to be awarded the John Strawhorn Memorial Quaich. We are having our first ever trip on the 8th of July. We've had visits from abroad of people seeking their ancestors.

John Strawhorn Memorial Quaich



Kay (left) was delighted to accept on behalf of Cumnock History Group the John Strawhorn Memorial Quaich awarded to us in 2022 in recognition of our outstanding contribution to Cumnock's heritage. This annual award is from Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies and was presented to us at our June meeting by Professor Elaine McFarland.

It is a tribute to all who have contributed, done research, shared information and photos, worked on transcriptions and digitising old material, adding names to the Cumnock Connections tree and adding to the website over the last 8 years.

Meetings

We have had talks from findmypast genealogy site, David McMeekin on growing up in Cumnock, the Commonwealth Graves Commission and Prof. Thomas Clancy on local place names. The AGM was held in May and the existing committee was re-elected. Thanks to the committee and office bearers for their support. The syllabus for next session is still being compiled. Suggestions welcome. The first meeting will be on Thursday 15th September.

CUMNOCK HISTORY GROUP

Management Committee

Chair & Secretary:

Kay McMeekin

Vice Chair: Sadie McNair

Treasurer: Shaun Lowrie

Membership Secretary: Ailsa McInnes

Committee Members

Billy Anderson

Neil Given

Anne Lawrence

Alex Lennox

Robert Stevenson

Contact Email

info@cumnockhistorygroup.org

Memberships of £10 renew in April.

Send any cheques, payable to Cumnock History Group to

Shaun Lowrie (Treasurer)

20 Skerrington Place

Cumnock

KA18 3AD

or ask for bank details for a transfer or pay by PayPal

Donate

You can send a PayPal donation to pay@cumnockhistorygroup.org

Trip to New Lanark

The first CHG trip is organised for Friday 8th July from Cumnock to New Lanark Heritage Village. A Liddell's bus will leave Cumnock at 10 am and return in the afternoon. Members go free and friends for £10. Nothing is planned for the time there, so you can do your own thing; go to the visitor experience, explore the village, have lunch in the cafe or hotel or take a picnic, go to the mill shop, go for a walk to the famous waterfalls. People from elsewhere might want to meet us there. A few seats are available. I will email details to those who have booked a seat nearer the time.



Focus on items on our website.

The site is full of amazing information, much of it uploaded by the late Bobby Grierson. This gem is from 1961 but with much older photos in it.

[Cumnock Banks and Bankers Shops and Occupants](#)

Cumnock Heritage Centre Open Days

There are lots of opportunities to visit the Heritage Centre at Caponacre over the summer. Be sure to register [here](#) first.



Ploughing Up Our Past Exhibition

Two years on and our work is drawing to a close. Our exhibition at the Baird opened on 30th April and runs until 27th August. There are photographs and information boards, maps, objects loaned to us in cases and slideshows on a TV screen. We weren't able to have headsets to hear the interviews but some are playing on the TV slideshow and you can hear them all on the website. We have far too much material to show everything (you have shared hundreds of photos with us) but we are adding everything to the main website in the [Industry/ Farming menu](#). Thanks to the core research team of Elaine Corbett, Roberta McGee, Ian McGhee, Ailsa McInnes, Robert Stevenson and project manager Kay McMeekin.

The opening hours of the Baird Institute are Thursdays 12.30 - 8, Fridays and Saturdays 10 - 4. We will be having a free family fun day during the summer. Details coming soon. The official opening is on 7th July by invitation due to restricted numbers.



Elaine and Kay



map with coloured pins denoting farms that are gone



Kay and Robert

CUMNOCK HISTORY GROUP

At the Baird Institute



Facebook links

We have several very active FB groups

[Cumnock History Group page](#)

[Ploughing Up Our Past farm project](#)

[Cumnock Family History](#)

[Pennylands POW Project](#)

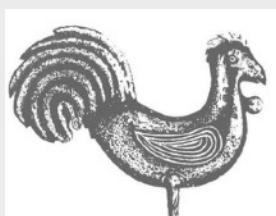
[Cumnock Today photos](#)

[Armistice Project](#)

[Old Cumnock](#)

[Old Cumnock Chitchat](#)

[Cumnock School Photos](#)



CUMNOCK WEATHER COCK

Ancestry Tourists

We told you last time about the American third cousins of member Mary Dalglish who were coming over to meet each other for the first time. The visit had been held up by Covid but finally on the weekend of 29th April they began to fly in from Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Florida, Massachusetts, and South Carolina. Mary and her family had organised the weekend, with son Colin hiring a bus to take them to sites associated with the Hadden ancestors and a get-together in the Bowling Green.



Mary, left, son Colin and grandson Jacob with the Americans at the grave of their common ancestor John Hadden 1839-73 in Auchinleck churchyard.



At Cumnock Bowling Green