



Smiles all round at Sauchieburn School - 1930s

This vivid photograph of the pupils at Sauchieburn School around 1932 was given to Community Councillor Peter Hayward by Mr Ian MacGregor. Mr MacGregor's sister Betty can be seen third from the right in the middle row. Betty was born in 1926 and spent her early years at Craighend Farm. Does anyone in our area recognise any of the other children?

Peter has also spent some time looking through the archives of the school in the late 19th and early 20th century. These throw a fascinating light on school life at the time, some of it rather un-politically correct by today's standards!

Dec.23. Attendance of girls good, of boys very irregular.... Standards III and IV still very stupid. Singing not so good.
Dec.30. Average attendance this week twenty-two. Several very stupid.'

As well as comments on academic progress (or lack of it), there are also quite graphic accounts of the children's ailments.

"Alex Smith has a festering gland; Peg Macguire has something wrong with her nose; A. Findlay has ring-worm".

Apart from such awful afflictions, children were often absent with colds or because of the violence of the weather-no 4X4's in 1900! And the archive helps to remind us of something else: that children were expected to work, especially at harvest time. On March 13 1908, Agnes Forsyth was absent 'helping mother'. And on another occasion 'W. Thomson and R. Gilvear at threshing mill at Cauldbarns today.' The Gilvear family of course still farm in the area.

The condition of the school building itself clearly fell some way short of what might be expected in 2014, so that even in 1945 it was noted that "the building has many unsatisfactory features. The offices are dry and primitive in type. The classroom floor is rough and uneven. The recent installation of a modern stove has, however, been a welcome improvement."

Continued on page two.....

Continued from page one.....Finally, it's worth quoting the Inspector's Report of May 1911; ***"This little school, whose numerous classes are in the charge of one hard-working teacher, is in a very efficient condition. Reading makes most rapid progress in the upper classes: Recitation is fluently delivered and the passages are well understood. Arithmetic is good in all its branches, Composition exercises are neatly written, and, as a rule, show very fair knowledge of sentence-formation. Questions on the work professed in History and Geography elicit ready and accurate answers, and the aim of Nature Study is well kept in view. Needlework is very good, and Singing and Drawing satisfactory. In Physical Exercises it would be well to adhere to the course outlined in the syllabus issued by the department."***

As Betty Macgregor and her classmates smile out at us from their rough-and-ready school more than 80 years ago, can we learn anything for modern times in that Inspector's charming and eloquent expressions and his gentle affirmation and support for "one hard-working teacher"?

Closure of Riding for the Disabled at Sauchieburn

It is with great sadness that, after a long hard battle, RDA Bannockburn has been closed. After complex negotiations, some of which are still on going, the decision to move the organisation from these premises was made because of a variety of reasons. Those being; unsuitable road access, severely falling income and the threat of an unsafe vicinity for staff, visitors and the horses.

As of the 14th of August, the RDA no longer officially occupies the Sauchieburn Centre. It has been greatly stressed that this is **not** the end of RDA Bannockburn and the organisation are pursuing plans to create a brand new "RDA Equestrian Centre of Excellence" in the Stirling area. However, in the meantime, RDA Bannockburn are working to begin collaborations with RDA UK and various local riding schools to assist established equestrian centres



.....with the equipment and experience needed to help people with disabilities to still enjoy their favourite horsey activities.

The Sauchieburn Centre has been home to RDA Bannockburn for over 20 years and over that period the fabulous work and dedication from all the staff and volunteers has provided hundreds of people with riding hats full of unforgettable memories. For many people, being around the horses left them with a great sense of individuality, there is often no amount of trust between a human and an animal that can beat that of a horse and rider. Being around these animals—even just for an hour a week—can provide someone with a moment of happiness that can last a lifetime. Each of these wonderful horses that work alongside the staff and volunteers are either being retired after fulfilling careers, or returning to their owners (I'm sure they'll love sweet grazing and lazy days in the field). Many, however, will return to work with the RDA again once it is back up and running, bigger and better than ever before!

A Superb Summer for Fishing

This summer has proved to be one of the best in recent history for fishing in and around the Carron Valley area.

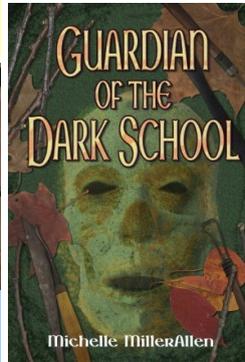


Victory was well deserved by the Scottish Youth Team this season. Winning gold at the Home International Competition in Cambridgeshire left all the participants with a trip to remember.

A congratulations also goes out to the both England A and B Teams who managed to earn gold and silver at the Five Nations Tournament. A special thanks goes out to Gilles Breckinridge for organising the fantastic event and to Stirling Council for their support of the local businesses during the Stirling Fishing Festival.

Another Successful Year at the Annual 'Kirk O' Muir' Service

The annual outdoor ceremony at Kirk O' Muir graveside in respect of the covenanters was conducted on Sunday the 3rd of August by the Rev. Gary McIntyre. Attended by over 100 people, it was reported to be one of the best ceremonies at this venue in recent years.



Following the sad loss of Michelle, previous co-editor of this newsletter, we are delighted to announce that the launch of her completed novel took place on the 8th of June and her book is now available in both hard copy and e-book from Amazon.

Guardian of the Dark School - Michelle Miller-Allen

A Seasonal Recipe to Warm Us into Autumn - Tomato Chutney



Ingredients

2 1/2 lbs apples, 1 lb. raisins, 2 pts. vinegar, 1 tbs. salt, 1 1/2 oz. mustard seeds, 2 lb. green tomatoes, 2 lb. onions, 1 lb. 6 oz. demarara sugar, 1/2 tsp. cayenne, 2 oz. root ginger

Method

Peel apples, chop or grate. Wipe and slice tomatoes and put in a pan with half the vinegar. Cook slowly until soft. Rub through a sieve. Add raisins, chopped onions, sugar, rest of the vinegar, salt and cayenne. Bruise ginger and tie in muslin with mustard seeds. Boil for 30 minutes or until thick. Bottle in warm jars.

By Christine Logan



A Beautiful Walk for a Fresh Autumnal Morning

BORESTONE / NORTH THIRD RESERVOIR / LEWIS HILL CIRCUIT

Well known locally for historic, industrial, scenic and wildlife interest, the area around and overlooking North Third is well worth exploring. This route is just one of many possibilities and the effort will be rewarded. Get a bus out of Stirling to the 1314 Inn, then backtrack to Turnbull's shop (great for a sandwich or other lunchy things). Go down Fairhill Road that's opposite, passing a wee school, the Field of Bannockburn visitor centre, the bowling green, through Chartershall village and across the motorway, to a four way junction beside a house about 1.3km from the start. If you've come by car you might be able to find roadside parking somewhere between the main road and here but please not at a gateway.

From the junction take the right of the three choices, signed to Swans' Water Fishery, and in 130m turn right on to a rougher track. Pass the ponds of the fishery on either side (great place to do some fishing some other day; also bird watching for ducks, swans, ospreys, herons, goldeneye and lots more), to the top of the hill ahead. Turn left and head uphill keeping the forest to your right until past the cottage before a gate. Go round the gate and straight on steadily uphill with trees on both sides for a further 1.2km, looking out for roe deer and, if you're lucky, red squirrels. At the top the forest track narrows and curves to the right downhill to meet a wider track at a gap in the crags. Turn left here to pass through Sauchie Crags into an area now felled. Follow the wide track ahead down and then gradually up, as it narrows to pass through a gateway to approach North Third Reservoir, between the two dams. This was originally built to control the flow of water in the Bannock Burn, rising in the moor up stream, to power numerous small mills between here and its entry into the Forth. Not much now remains of these mills barring the odd section of mill lade. Later in the 1930s the dam was enlarged as part of the water supply network. Now, once the dam has been renovated, it will return to being a rather good trout fishery. Once again see how many different water birds you can spy.

From here turn left along the dam and up the banking at the far end; through the fence and left along the edge of the forest . About 200m along look out for a path signed up to the right that zigzags steeply up to the top of the slope and to the upper forest edge. Turn right here and walk carefully along between the forest and the cliff top along a pleasant narrow path. There was once a sizable Pictish fort here, and you may be able to spot the outer protective mounds and ditches. Carry on steadily up for about 650m, with increasingly good views, to the trig point at the top of Lewis Hill (266m). Now stop and admire your situation (while being especially careful about children and dogs at the edge of the cliff). North Third is down below, with the Carse of Stirling in the distance and Ben Ledi, Stuc A'Chroin and Ben Vorlich amongst the hills beyond

To return to the start, either go back the way you came or

continue along the path beyond the trig point. In 150m, in a dip by an old wall, turn left into the forest, and soon the narrow path becomes a broad forest track. Follow this for 800m as it curves first left then right to a T-junction. Turn right then almost immediately left through a self closing gate, and straight on treading down to another similar gate. You may get glimpses out east towards Grangemouth, and even as far as the Forth bridges and Arthur's Seat. Keep on down hill to curve sharply left just before a house. You are now on the old coach road that once linked Stirling to Glasgow. Old Sauchie and its castle are ahead over the fence.

At the cross tracks go straight on, steadily downhill. Off to the right is a ruined doocot and beyond that Howietoun Fishery, one of the oldest commercial fish farms in Europe, now managed by Stirling University as part of their aquaculture department.

Swing right at the wee lodge on to a private (to vehicles) tarmac estate road. Go through the black gate or over it if locked, and straight on at the T-junction (left did lead to excellent but now closed Riding for the Disabled centre). Over a stream at a zigzag, uphill, past two pairs of houses, and you will be on familiar territory. Straight on takes you back to the main road to Stirling.

What to take:- instructions / map, sturdy supportive footwear, waterproofs, a warm extra layer, picnic lunch / snacks / drinks (all remains and litter to be brought back with you), a small first aid kit, sunscreen / insect repellent (camera and / or binoculars).

(11.5km, 4-6 hours)

Article by Margaret Porter

Councillor Surgeries

16/09/14 - 6:30pm, Cambusbarron Community Centre, Christine Simpson

17/09/14 - 6:30pm, Borestone Primary, Scott Farmer
- 6:45pm, Stirling High School, Christine Simpson

06/10/14 - 6:45pm, Information Station (Near Central Library), Neil Benny

15/10/14 - 6:30pm, Borestone Primary School, Neil Benny

21/10/14 - 6:30pm, Cambusbarron Community Centre, Scott Farmer

03/11/14 - 6:45pm, Information Station (Near Central Library), Christine Simpson

12/11/14 - 6.45 pm, Stirling High school , Neil Benny

Still trying to enjoy the last of the summer? We're here to help! Take a look at our top picks for some last minute summer entertainment.

Bannockburn 700:

Ending on September 7th, there's still time left to visit Bannockburn 700 and experience this fascinating exhibition. Open every day except Mondays, Bannockburn 700 is sure to have something for all the family to enjoy. Bannockburn 700 is also being celebrated in an exhibition at The Smith Art gallery until 12th October.

Wha's Like Us:

For one day only (13th Sep), the Tolbooth in Stirling is hosting an exciting interactive event which is guaranteed to teach everyone something about their past. "Wha's Like Us" will allow you to spend a day with your ancestors, providing information on how you can trace your own past and those in our wider community. Featuring various speakers, historic pictures and memorabilia, this event is certain to leave you wiser than you were before.

Bloody Scotland:

The country's first ever crime writing festival will be taking place on the 19th to the 21st of September. Bringing together writers from all over the world. scene at various venues throughout Stirling. scene at various venues throughout Stirling. At various venues throughout Stirling, the festival will showcase both fresh and established artists. For more information, visit www.bloodyscotland.com

"Outlying Islands"

Set on a remote Scottish island in the Atlantic in 1938, Crawford Logan will be appearing in "Outlying Islands" by David Greig at the MacRobert on Oct. 17th and 18th. A poetic evocation of youthful enthusiasm and the passing of an island way of life as modern life and the threat of experimental anthrax poisoning loom large. There is some nudity but not—readers will be relieved to hear— involving your Community Councillor!

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Application For Wind Turbine Rejected

The recent application to erect a wind turbine near Craigend Farm, Auchenbowie, has been rejected by Stirling Council.

Valley Renewables Group

(Submitted by Barbara Wilson in anticipation of a successful event on Sat 30th August)

A big thank you goes out to all who attended the VRG's Open Day at the end of August. It is always nice to meet up with everyone, even if the Scottish weather can be challenging with its ability to both soak and scorch you in equal measure. We hope that you picked up some useful information on what is available in ways of simple measures and high tech solutions to keeping your home warm this winter. If you go to the expense of heating your house it is probably best that you benefit from your efforts - the cheapest and simplest draught proofing measures can introduce the words "snug and cosy" into your household's vocabulary. Many "eco-friendly" technologies also attract annual government payments so you can actually get paid to turn the heating on!

We are about to place an order for heating oil, we usually get about 2p to 4p off per litre, so if you wish to join this bulk purchasing scheme and have not already done so please get in touch. www.valleyrenewables.co.uk has a link to an order form. We are also likely to place another order in November - about the time we get reminded winter has started after a week of endless rain and gales and pitch black nights.

To lift your November mood we wish to invite VRG members to a fine evening out Thursday 13th November at 7.30pm at the Howietoun Fish Museum. Free tea and biscuits are available at our AGM as we update you all that your board has been doing on behalf of the VRG. We are always keen on recruiting new Directors - if you feel you have a special skill in finance or organisational talents, or simple determination; or just want to contribute to your community please get in touch.

NOTICE: If you wish to receive your next newsletter by email in digital form. Please email dorothy@sauchieburn.plus.com with your details. Thank you.



Foundation Scotland

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