

Financial Support.

The Heritage Centre is extremely grateful for the financial support being given by Milngavie Community Council and Milngavie Arts Council who have contributed Grants to assist in the presentation and running of past and present Exhibitions. The Centre is also very grateful for the membership subscriptions and generous donations from the Heritage Centre Members and also donations from the General Public at our Heritage Exhibitions.

This support is very welcome to help offset the running costs incurred by the Centre in staging the Exhibitions and meeting the Room Hire Let Charges by East Dunbartonshire Council.

Membership. Milngavie Heritage Centre has over 50 members. All our members are being sent a copy of this Newsletter No.6. We do hope you have been able to visit our previous Exhibitions and look forward to welcoming you to this coming one. We would also like to invite you to our AGM (see below) at which we shall be pleased to hear suggestions with regard to the service provided by the Centre.

Although we have an adequate Committee membership, we are always delighted for new members to join our enthusiastic committee and if you would like to become involved in preserving and presenting Heritage of Milngavie and its neighbours to the wider community we would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact anyone of the existing committee (see previous page).

Membership Subscription. The Annual Membership Subscription of the Heritage Centre is retained at £5 per person.

We greatly appreciate each and everyone's continued Membership of the Centre as it provides financial and considerate support for the work we are doing to relive, remember and document the Heritage of our past.

We will also be pleased to welcome New Members to join our Heritage Centre and receive first hand copies of our Newsletters and AGM Circulars.

The **Annual Membership New / Renewal Form** is enclosed with this circular and should be returned with the appropriate fee, £5 per person, to :-

Keith Moody, Membership Secretary, 3 Stirling Drive, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 4NX prior to or at the AGM on Friday 20th May this year. (Cheques made payable to Milngavie Heritage Centre). We will also be pleased to receive any additional financial support to run the Centre.

AGM Notice. The Heritage Centre 2016 AGM will be held in the Court Room in Milngavie Town Hall on Friday 20th May at 7pm for 7.30pm. All members are welcome to attend.

Refreshments will be available at the end of the meeting.

Milngavie Heritage Centre Website : www.milngavieheritage.org



Milngavie Heritage Centre

Newsletter – No.6.

March 2016.



Douglas Academy, Milngavie – New Building.

The next Heritage Exhibition by Milngavie Heritage Centre Group –“The History of Education in Milngavie” – will be held during Local History Week in the former Court Room of Milngavie Town Hall from Sat 5th to Sat 12th March 2016 and from 10am – 3.30pm except Sun 6th and Wed 9th March.

All are welcome to this Free Exhibition.

Milngavie Heritage Centre Website : www.milngavieheritage.org

March 2016 Exhibition.

Councillor Eric Gotts, Chairperson of the Group said, “I am really excited about the next March Exhibition which will trace schooling from the 19th century right up to the present day and will be illustrated by photographs of pupils / staff past and present from all our local schools.

We have written to all the local primaries asking them to forward any old or new photographs highlighting the history of their Schools and hope that local people might recognise themselves as former pupils during visits to the Exhibition.

We have also been working with the Staff of Douglas Academy, Mrs McConnachie the School Librarian and Mrs Docherty and Mr Sinclair from the History Department. It is intended that some of the pupils will help prepare material for the Exhibition, especially about the history of Douglas Academy (50th anniversary in 2017), which can then be displayed. Some of the pupils may even act as guides while the Exhibition is running.”

If you have any old photographs or stories relating to Education in Milngavie, which you would like to share with the local Heritage Group, then please email eric.gotts@eastdunbarton.gov.uk and for Mrs McConnachie at Douglas Academy office@douglas.e-dunbarton.sch.uk.

September 2015 Exhibition.

The Milngavie Heritage Group’s 7th Exhibition in the former Court Room of Milngavie Town Hall was officially opened by Depute Provost Anne Jarvis on Monday 14th September 2015 to coincide with East Dunbartonshire’s programme. The ceremony was attended by members of the Heritage Group, local Councillors and some senior pupils of Douglas Academy.

The Exhibition was titled “The Industries of Milngavie”. By displaying historical photographs and other artefacts, it traced its industrial history from a largely farming village with its corn mill (Gavin’s Mill) to becoming a small industrial town with its cotton spinning, bleaching, dyeing and calico printing works. Finally, with the coming of the railway, it eventually turned into very much the commuter town of today serving Glasgow and beyond.

As a precursor to the start of the Exhibition, Donald Shankland, one of Milngavie’s local history experts, led a historical walk along the banks of the River Allander, describing the remains of bygone industries near by.

Councillor Eric Gotts, summed up its success : “The Exhibition was well attended and well appreciated. Some visitors related stories of their experience from living in Milngavie. Others brought in personal artefacts to add to the growing collection already gathered by the Heritage Group. All four local primaries sent classes to the Exhibition, the highlight of their visit being the quiz sheet, the answers from which could be gleaned by carefully studying the materials on the display board.

The success of the Exhibition was partly due to the tireless efforts of the committee for their preparation, displaying and communication of the exhibits to the visitors”.

Local History at Douglas Academy. In addition to the involvement of Douglas Academy pupils in the current Exhibition, the School are pleased to report that following on from the success of Douglas Academy’s banners project, first year pupils are now having the opportunity of taking part in a Local History Elective which involves pupils learning about local history one period a week for a block of around 11 lessons.

The programme has included a talk on Scotland’s People website by David Smith from EDLC Trust, an introduction to the archives at Brookwood Library by EDLC Archivist, Janice Miller, and a guidance on Oral History Techniques by Helena Koumbousis, committee member of the Heritage Centre.

Heritage Group. At the 2015 AGM, Jim Russell (Chairperson) and Fiona Risk (Secretary) resigned from their respective offices in the Group and the new elected office bearers are Councillor Eric Gotts, Chairperson, and Donald Martin, Secretary. Thanks were given to both Jim and Fiona at the AGM for their dedicated and hard working services to the Group. The current committee comprises a further 10 members namely :- Betty Black, Jon Edwards, Irene Gardner, June Kerr, Helena Koumbousis, Keith Moody, Ailsa Millar, Donald Shankland, Neil Weir and Andrew Summers (Treasurer).

The Group will be pleased to hear from other members of the community who would be interested in joining the committee with its forward looking objective of developing and maintaining a Heritage Centre in Milngavie.

Collections and Museum Objects. A survey of all the group’s archive material and collections has been completed and catalogued by Nicola Maksymuik, a qualified archivist, into a digital version for computer access, and a Donations / Loans Form has been initiated for the accession of archive material which the Group will be very pleased to receive.

One item which has been recently donated by the family of Percy Couch is Percy’s wonderful sketch book. Some of the drawings have been displayed in previous exhibitions and the book is currently located in one of the display cabinets.

Grant. To offset the cost of presenting the September 2015 Exhibition, the Group were very pleased and grateful to receive a Grant from Milngavie Community Council. A Grant has also been confirmed from Milngavie Arts Council to assist with the costs in presenting the forthcoming March 2016 Exhibition.

Historical Walk – Saturday 12th March at 10.30 am. This year, the Historical Walk will follow the Local History Week Theme, “Industry and Innovation in Milngavie”. All are welcome for this local 1½ hr walk describing the sites of some of the innovative schemes that took place in Milngavie. It will start from Milngavie Town Hall and will be led by Centre Member Donald Shankland.

Publications. A second edition of Nigel Orr’s popular book, “Milngavie the Village” is to be produced as a reprint and suitable sales outlets are being investigated. Bearsden and Milngavie Ramblers have produced a walking book, “Popular Walks in Easy Reach of Milngavie” and is available for purchase from Ramblers Committee members.

