



Broughton Tolbooth 1582–1829

BROUGHTON HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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Editorial

In 1832 Thomas Carlyle wrote: 'I have often remarked that the present generation has lost the faculty of giving names. The modern streets of towns (London for a chief example) ... are proofs of this ... We cannot now give so much as a nickname. Giving a NAME, indeed, is a poetic art: all poetry ... is but a giving of names.'

In December's edition of the newsletter I argued that place nicknames were part of Broughton's history, often saying something about what people did at different local places over the years. It would be worthwhile gathering them together, for ourselves and for future generations. Judging from what we've come up with so far – we've only spoken to a dozen people or so – maybe Carlyle was a wee bit previous: there are nicknames remembered from the 1930s and on through to the '70s. Having said that, it's also true that some long-standing Broughton residents can't remember any, and others only one or two. I hope our special extended feature in this edition will stir some more memories.

Looking into place nicknames has already had interesting spin-offs: discussion of different takes on the same nickname; personal memories triggered by the mention of a particular nickname; and the spur to go and check things out in written records. For me, that's the magic of local history:

the combination of community interaction with the thrill of piecing together a puzzle through research.

Source: Thomas Carlyle, Journal, 18 May 1832; quoted in James Ritchie's The Singing Street (Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh, 1964), page 1. The first chapter of Ritchie's book discusses a number of place nicknames throughout Edinburgh.

John Dickie

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Ideas or contributions for our next edition?
Phone John Dickie on 0131-556 0903 or e-mail
john.dickie@blueyonder.co.uk

Broughton foundry still making history

Charles Laing & Sons Ltd have just completed their biggest international project since opening for business nearly ninety years ago



Charles Laing opened his foundry on the west side of Beaverbank Place in 1920. The business moved across the street to its present premises in 1942; a few years later D P Thomson described Beaverbank as a thriving manufacturing district:

'Much of the industry is in the category of "Engineering and Allied Trades". Here, close to one another, you will find the boiler works of J and R Slack, the brass foundry of Charles Laing and Sons Ltd., and the electrical engineering works of Miller Bros., while not far from one another are the

plumbing works of David Blake and Co. and the workshops of that interesting concern, the Purdy Patent Machine Co. The Motor Trade is well represented ...'.

Beaverbank is a very different place today, but the foundry still thrives there. When most of the casting industry modernised in the 1950s, it stuck with traditional techniques using the old process of greensand moulding for casting work. The company's own website describes its work: 'brass and iron founders, jobbing foundry, general engineering castings, architectural cast iron, commemorative bronze plaques, vintage vehicle parts, conservation work, railings, sculptural castings, practitioners in the traditional greensand process'.

When the Corporation of Hamilton, the capital of Bermuda, wanted to restore its 121-year-old bandstand it turned to Laing & Sons: the bandstand had originally been cast in Glasgow in 1888 using the greensand method; and the Broughton company already had experience in restoring bandstands.

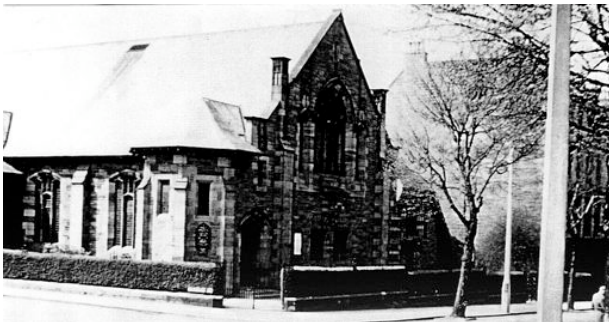


This one was nearly 48 feet high, and made from cast iron and wrought iron. Third-generation managing director Andrew Laing and a colleague carried out a full survey of the bandstand in 2007. Last year he and three others went and dismantled it for shipping to Scotland. The work was carried out at Beaverbank Place and the company's workshops on Camps Industrial Estate in East Calder, and completed early this year – with brilliant blue and gold paintwork, which unfortunately we cannot show here! In April four Laing employees spent three weeks re-erecting the bandstand. And last month members of the company joined the celebrations in Bermuda when the bandstand was officially re-opened.

Sources: Charles Laing & Sons' own web site (www.laingsfoundry.co.uk). Peter Stubbs's website (www.edinphoto.org.uk). D. P. Thomson's 1949 booklet *By the Water of Leith: the Life of a North Edinburgh Parish, Chapter Four, McDonald Road Church*. Evening News article, 22nd January 2009.

McDonald Road Church

Piecing together a picture of a local church long gone



McDonald Road Church stood on the corner of McDonald Road and McDonald Street – where Martin and Frost's car park was more recently. (Not to be confused with St James' Church, which once stood opposite the entrance to Hopetoun Crescent – and which I have seen referred to as 'McDonald Road Church' very recently.) It was established by the congregation of a church in Rose Street, which had decided to move to an area where a new population was rapidly developing. They arrived in 1904, to worship in a hall that had been built for the purpose until the church was completed. By 1949 D. P. Thomson described the church's parish as 'stretching from Warriston Road by the waterside to Hopetoun Street with its printing

works, and from Bonnington Railway Bridge and Redbraes Housing Scheme to Melgund Terrace in East Claremont Street'.

In 1974 the McDonald Road congregation united with Broughton Place Church (whose original congregation had been a splinter group from the same Rose Street church mentioned above, away back in 1821!). No buyer being found who it was felt would use the redundant church building 'in a fitting manner', it was decided demolition was the best option (1977).

For our summer 2007 edition Diane Chisholm sent us a photo of the church (above), and her own description of it: 'It was a red sandstone building with a grey-tiled roof, very much in keeping with the style of Broughton Primary and Secondary Schools at the Broughton Road end of McDonald Road. The church hall can be seen on the right of the photo. There was a very nice garden in front of the hall, and I can remember sitting happily on the grass, as a Brownie, making daisy chains!'

Alex Dow responded with a photo of the wedding of Edith Donaldson and Leslie Richmond in 1956, giving us another glimpse of the church, which we published in the following edition.



Above is Alex's 1956 photo. Now we have received three photos from Alastair Donaldson, from his own wedding in 1962. The first shows 'the side door of McDonald Road Church'.



The other two take us inside the building: first the interior of the church viewed from the gallery; second, the minister (Rev. Peebles) with the bride and groom, signing the register in his study.



Sources: Joyce Wallace, Broughton McDonald Road Church 1785 –1985: from Bristo to Broughton, *Edinburgh, 1985*. D. P. Thomson, *By the Water of Leith: the Life of a North Edinburgh Parish, McDonald Road Church, 1949*.

Place nicknames in Broughton

'I remember that The Barney Street Keelies were a tough lot'

In December's edition we printed Robert Garioch's poem 'Fi'baw in the Street'. He was born in 1909, wrote the poem in 1926 as a young student, and presumably drew on boyhood memories going back to around 1917 to 1919. In the poem the boys dodging away from the police go via Cockie Dudgeons, the Sandies and the Coup, on their way to Puddocky.

Puddocky/Puddockie

Of those four names Puddocky is by far the most-remembered by people we have spoken to, and in print and online: 'I think every child in the district knew Puddocky', says Dorothy Newlands. Garioch wrote 'that's doon by Logie Green': people sometimes remember slightly different parts of the Water of Leith as the scene of their youthful exploits. 'Martin Lauder and I used to guddle in the Water of Leith there (Canonmills) for tadpoles and sticklebacks,' says Ronnie Cramond, 'and take them home in triumph to our mothers – who promptly flushed them away!' And Archie Bell: 'Puddocky was where we used to catch minnows just under the bridge at Canonmills.' Whereas Jean

Meiklejohn cherished a different spot: 'We spent many happy hours paddling up and down *our* stretch in front of Waterstons trying to catch minnows and beardies, which we carried home in jam jars with string around the tops. We had to wear old footwear to do this, as it was all stones – no plastic shoes then. We took a picnic and sat on the banks to enjoy it – you felt a million miles from any city.' Dorothy Laing writes in her book *The Logans of 12 Bellevue Gardens*: 'The contours of the river were quite different before the walls were strengthened after the floods of the late forties when a number of racing dogs were drowned in their kennels at Powderhall. Then we could paddle and fish for minnows and beardies quite safely.' And Betty Allan remembers: 'Beside Powderhall, where the river got narrower'.

'I'd totally forgotten the Water of Leith was called Puddockie there,' Bryan Gourlay has posted on Peter Stubbs's EdinPhoto website. 'I used to look over the wall, fascinated by the water rats which were as big as cats.' On the same site Gerrard Grannum has: 'During the school summer

holidays the Water of Leith from Puddiekie (sic) to the dam at Redbraes was our happy hunting ground. If we weren't fishing for minnows and sticklebacks there was always a wooden raft we would be playing with.'



'A certain stretch of waterside below Canonmills Bridge has served many generations of children as a happy hunting-ground for frogs and tadpoles. It is called "Puddocky" – the exact equivalent in Scots of the Seine's "La Grenouillère", James Ritchie wrote in his book *The Singing Street* in 1964. According to Stuart Harris (*Place Names of Edinburgh*) the name goes back a long way. 'The name is early Scots paddok haw, haugh noted for frogs or toads', he writes. 'In 1724 it was recorded as Paddockhall, 'hall being the typical spelling for haw in the eighteenth century.'

Cockie Dudgeons/Cockie Dodgies/Dodges

'It was Cockie-Dodgies to me. I never heard it called Dudgeons,' says Ronnie Cramond. 'I knew it because it was behind what was then Cramond's Garage – owned by a cousin of my father's.' No one we've heard from recognises Robert Garioch's version of the name. There seems to be general agreement about approximate location. Elsewhere than in his poem, Garioch himself writes: 'Opposite our house [109 Bellevue Road] was the Nursery, and beyond that was Cockie Dudgeon's, where the bus depot is now. The show folk would come there for Christmas.' Archie Bell remembers: 'Cockie Dodges as we called it in days gone by was a big yard off East London Street always full with old vehicles, mainly army if I remember correctly. We used to play among them. Where the name originated I know not. The entrance was at the gable end of the tenements on the north side.'

Why 'Cockie'? Albert Mackie, writing about Gayfield House in the *Evening News*: 'In my boyhood it was occupied by a contractor called Cockburn, who gave his name to "Cockie Dodges", the waste land behind the villa, now built over.' A check in the Edinburgh & Leith P. O. Directories confirmed that Gayfield House was already occupied by 'William Cockburn, contractor and manure merchant' by 1917 – in time for Garioch's boyhood; and Cockburn continues to be listed

there until 1922. Another suggestion is that 'Cockie' came from the occupant of a garage next door to the House: 'I remember Martin saying Cockie-dodges was near Gayfield House,' says Alice Lauder, 'perhaps just behind Cockburn's Garage in East London Street'; 'Cockie' – there was a garage there,' says Betty Allan tentatively. The P. O. Directories do not list a garage or similar business nextdoor to the House until 'Adam Cramond & Son, motor hirers and funeral directors' appear in the 1948 – 49 volume.

What about 'Dodges'? Betty Allan: 'The lane alongside Gayfield House led round to the back, through to Annandale Street. "Dodges" because boys used it as a way of dodging away from the police.' Alex Dow also mentions such a lane 'coming out between the Central Garage and BERL, British Electrical Repairs Limited.'

Asie Bendie

Alex Dow: 'There was something like Asie Bendie. But I am not sure whether that was the lane from Broughton Point down to Beaverbank; or the lane from the side of Gayfield House coming out between the Central Garage and BERL, British Electrical Repairs Limited.'

The Sandies/Sandy Hills

In Garioch's poem, the boys pass the Sandies on the way from Cockie Dudgeons to The Coup. Elsewhere he writes: 'I had recently dug as much as I could of our allotment. It was full of couch grass, or rack, as we called it. That was a poor bit of ground named "the Sandies", opposite our house [109 Bellevue Road], a disused sand-pit.'

'I am sure my mother and her family mentioned them to me,' George Park told us. 'As far as I know this was a sandpit located on the site of the present Drummond High School.' Dorothy Newlands: 'The Sandies was a hillside behind Heriothill Laundry and backed onto Broughton Road. Heriothill Laundry was at the end of Heriothill



Along towards Broughton Point, part of the Sandies was up through the trees to the left

Terrace and was burnt and demolished after a fire, possibly in the '60s (certainly within my living memory!).' Stewart Dickson says on the EdinPhoto website: 'The now enclosed hill behind Broughton Road was the Sandy Hills.' Jim Duncan recently posted on

the same site: 'The cobbled street, off Rodney Street, north of the shops, leading to elevated waste ground was Heriothill Terrace, and the waste ground was The Sandy Hills'. And Jean Meiklejohn: 'The Sandies or Sandy Hills stretched from the top of Heriothill Terrace where a laundry used to be (now a nursery school) right along the back of the backgreens in Broughton Road. Their backgreens were flat and then the Sandies rose up to the backgreens of the new (1930s) villas built at the back of East Claremont Street. Some of these had to be refurbished/re-built – they were sinking – so much for building on sand! We had a lot of fun playing about there; the only problem being, if we got *too* noisy some of the owners of the villas threw pails of water over their hedges onto us.'

Just how substantial the sand was at Heriothill and above Broughton Road can be seen clearly on maps (for example the Ordnance Survey ones for 1914 and 1932): so this is probably where The Sandies *par excellence* were. But there were other old sandpits elsewhere in the Broughton area too.

The Coup

In 'Fibaw in the Street' the boys go from the Sandies to Puddocky via The Coup. No one has come up with a personal memory for this name so far. But Alex Dow suggests a plausible possibility: 'I suspect that The Coup may be The Destructor, i.e. the Corporation Refuse Department at Powderhall.' Dorothy Newlands says she enlisted the help of her brother-in-law: 'He reckons The Coup was household ashes which were dumped, levelled off and formed St Mark's Park.' But it seems likely this is a confusion with The Dump!

The Dump

Alastair Donaldson: 'The Dump is now St Marks Park, it was a large hole which was filled by landfill. We used to play football there and frequently got cuts from the glass emerging from below ground.' Jim Suddon: 'The Dump became St Marks Park. It was a large hole which was filled in by the City Council with household refuse. In those days this was mainly ashes as everybody had a coal fire. The dump was still being filled in in the very early fifties but by 1953 the trees were being planted around the edges. The planting was done by the pupils at Broughton Secondary to mark the Coronation and each tree was planted by two pupils, a girl and boy. I was one of the pupils selected ... For a number of years the topsoil was quite rough and it took some years to settle, but it was well used. The site to the west of the footpath which slopes down to the river had some refuse dumped but it was mainly landscaped to an even surface.'

Rumbling Bridge/Jews' Gallery

This was the bailey bridge across the Water of Leith into St Mark's Park, built in 1947 and demolished in 2008 to make way for a hardwood replacement completed this year. No more rumbling as you cross!

Rumbling Bridge overlooked Powderhall Race Track, as Jean Bell remembers well: 'I used to work on the Tote booths at Powderhall Dog Racing. Overlooking the racing circuit was St Mark's Park, and at the end opposite the Tote Board, which gave out odds betting on the dogs, there used to congregate a collection of unlicensed bookies and punters who preferred to bet illegally than pay the entrance fee to the Stadium. This was commonly known as "The Jews' Gallery".' And Dorothy Laing wrote in her book *The Logans of 12 Bellevue Gardens*: 'There were even "Thrupenny Bookies" taking bets on the dog races. I know – my brother was one of them aged 14 – naughty boy.'

The Longie/Longy

This was a narrow strip of land between Drummond Community High and Mansfield Place Church, running all the way through from Mansfield to Cochran Terrace. 'Neglected' or 'wild', depending on your view, it was landscaped in 2006.



The longie ran between the wall in the photo and the boundary of the school grounds to the left

Gavin MacGregor has known the longie since childhood in the '40s and '50s. He thinks it got its name from the long grass you could disappear into then; or maybe it was because it was a long, narrow strip!

Coos' Lane

Annandale Street Lane

Mr J Costella, born in Baxter's Place around 1917, visited Broughton History Society's 1995 exhibition and told us he remembered stables 'in the first lane off Annandale Street' – which was known as 'Coos' Lane'. Gavin MacGregor says his



mother referred to the Lane by this name; and told him of cows there in the early 1900s. By 1964 the nickname was still widely enough known to be mentioned in James Ritchie's book, *The Singing Street*.

The Nail Kirk

The former Glasite Meeting House in Barony Street, on the corner with Albany Lane.

An essential part of their Sunday service was a simple meal together in the supper room upstairs: hence the nickname; whether it was always cabbage soup I do not know.

Barney Street

Barony Street.

Bert Bell, writing about the 1930s: 'I remember that "The Barney Street Keelies" were a tough lot. They used to come down and pinch our firewood which we had stored for London Street's Bonfire'.

The Shack

Bert Bell memories of the 1930s: 'At the far end, Barony Street came to a circular street (we used to call it The Market, but I don't recall any shops around it, except the shop where they made, or sold, "Marmet" perambulators (prams or baby carriages). Circling clockwise round the Market, you'd come to some very old buildings called The Shack'.

The Dizzie/Dizzy/Dissie

Two postings on the EdinPhoto web site, the first from Stewart Dickson: 'The area next to Broughton Road Bowling Green was called the Dizzy or Dissie.' And from Gerrard Grannum: 'Opposite the school was a Gents Public Toilet and to the right of it was the Public Bowling Greens (still there). But to the left of the toilet was our adventure area called The Dizzie.

We played Japs and Commandos, and we stored all our old wood, chairs and any other rubbish that was for the Bonfire which was burnt on the road at the junction of Broughton Road and East Claremont Street ... We also kept feral pigeons there in cages we knocked up from old

wood and chicken wire. The pigeons we collected from the old Chancelot Flour Mill which dominated the landscape.'

The Lockies

Alastair Donaldson says: 'My wife tells me that the area once occupied by the Royal Mail situated between Annandale Street, Hopetoun Street and Hopetoun Crescent was know as 'The Lockies' but I have no idea where this came from; although there used to be a small building at the end of Hopetoun Street variously occupied by trades including an upholstery, so it may come from the name of the occupier in the early '50s. There was a large building for mail sorting, telephone box and telegraph pole storage. I played there as a boy as one of my school chums' parents ran the Raycliff Guest House in Hopetoun Crescent and we played in their garden bordering onto this site – so we roamed freely over the area as it was pretty wild.'

There is a place elsewhere in Edinburgh with the same nickname: 'The playing fields to the north of Wardie School (on the East side of Granton Road) were known as Lockies in the 1970s,' says Peter Stubbs on his own website. 'This was the site of Lochinvar Camp, a naval training establishment in the 1940s. The camp was passed to Edinburgh Council in 1946 and was used for the next ten years to house homeless families who did not qualify for council housing.'

Humps, Bumps and Bruises

Alice Lauder gives this as the nickname for Hopetoun Crescent Garden, before it was acquired by the City Council and landscaped in the 1990s. 'My children and their friends played there once they had acquired their cycling proficiency certificates and were allowed to take their bikes out of Bellevue Gardens. They came along to the Crescent and cycled through the trees and over some very rough, uneven ground. There was almost no grass and no railings on the low wall. Their name for this place was the Humps, Bumps and Bruises.'

The Scabby Alan

'I recall the Salon Picture House in Baxter's Place, opposite Union Street, being known as the Scabby Alan', says James McEwan in a recent posting on EdinPhoto website.

Sources: Conversation and correspondence with Broughton residents past and present. Peter Stubbs's EdinPhoto website (www.edinphoto.org.uk). Robert Garioch, 'Early Days in Edinburgh', in As I Remember: Ten Scottish Writers Recall How for Them Writing Began, edited by Maurice Lyndsay (Robert Hale, London, 1979). James Ritchie, The Singing Street (Oliver and Boyd, Edinburgh, 1964). Dorothy Laing, The Logans of 12 Bellevue Gardens, 1994. Stuart Harris, The Place Names of Edinburgh: Their Origins and History (Gordon Wright Publishing, Edinburgh, 1996). Edinburgh & Leith Post Office Directories.

The Jean Armour connection

David Watt of Bellevue Place tells how an anecdote told him by his father led him to investigate the connection between an Edinburgh stationer and Robert Burns's wife



My father became a stationery apprentice with John Irving & Son, 63 Queen Street (now Stewart Christie Ltd, Tailors) in 1910. His boss lived at 31 Scotland Street. The firm's clients were mainly legal and its speciality the cutting of quill pens using a penknife (hence the name).

Like his contemporaries, Father joined the rush to enlist in 1914 before the War ended by Christmas time! His boss invoked an ancient law that prevented apprentices enlisting without their master's permission – this undoubtedly saved Father's life, as few of the 1914 joiners survived the War. He eventually joined the cavalry in 1915, but was not demobilised until August 1919.

On his return home he found John Irving had died and the business been acquired by Michael Thomson, a George Street stationer. Father's first sad task was to clear out the Queen Street shop and while doing this he found an envelope marked 'Jean Armour's Wedding Ring'. He took the ring to the lawyer winding up Irving's estate who told him that Irving was related to the Armour family and thanked him for his honesty in handing it over.

I made investigations to connect John Irving and Jean Armour, starting at each end of the puzzle. Using Edinburgh Post Office Directories, I noted that in 1891 John Irving had his shop in George Street, and lived at 'Mossgiel', Corstorphine. Mossgiel was a farm rented by Burns and his wife Jean. Ten years later, in the 1901 Census the enumerator erred in spelling Irving with an 'e' instead of a 'g':

**John Irvine (head) Married, age 61 years,
Stationer, born at Dumfries.**

So he must have been born in Dumfries in 1840.

From the other direction, I got in touch with Mr P. J. Westwood, who is the author of a book on Jean Armour. In the book he shows in a family tree that Janet Armour was the youngest sister of Jean Armour. She married a joiner, William Lees, and they had a daughter, Jessie Lees. Jessie later married William Irving, a shoemaker in Dumfries. And in 1996 in a Burns exhibition in Glasgow there were two small wooden cases stated to have been made from the break-up of the poet's deathbed: a card explained 'Given by Jean Armour to her niece, Jessie Lees, wife of William Irving, Dean of Shoemakers, Dumfries.'

Now the key to it all was to connect my John Irving (born Dumfries 1840) with William and Jessie Irving. In the Scottish Genealogy Society's premises, in the Dumfries Birth Records, I found that John Irving was born on 10th May 1839, to William Irving and his wife Jessie.

So my father's anecdote has been vindicated – John Irving was related to Jean Armour. How the ring came to him I know not.

And which ring was it? In answer to our enquiries, Dumfries and Galloway Council's Museum Services told us they have two gold rings attributed as Jean Armour's wedding ring. 'The finer ring is broken and our theory is that it was worn thin and split, and Jean acquired the other ring to wear as a replacement.' They also know of a third ring, held at Alloway. They do not feel that the provenance of any of those rings seems to fit with our story: so maybe there's another one out there somewhere?

Sources: David would like to acknowledge the help of the Edinburgh Room of the Central Public Library (Edinburgh & Leith Post Office Directories, and the 1901 Census); The Scottish Genealogical Society (Dumfries Birth Records); and Mr Peter J. Westwood (with whom he has been in touch), author of Jean Armour, Mrs Robert Burns: an Illustrated Biography (1996) and editor of Jean Armour: My Life and Times with Robert Burns (2001), both published by Creedon Publications, Dumfries. We would also like to thank Joanne Turner of Dumfries & Galloway Council's Museums Service for her helpfulness over the question of Jean Armour's wedding ring(s).

Cafe Royal Hotel and Restaurant

Elma Birse found this advert in the Edinburgh Room, Central Library. It appeared on the back of a Theatre Royal programme in 1897.

'Cafe Royal Hotel and Restaurant, West Register Street, Edinburgh (next to Register House)
The Hotel and Restaurant has recently been re-decorated and some bedrooms added.
Bedrooms from 2s. 6d. including attendance.
Private Rooms for dinners and suppers.
Best ventilated billiard room with five tables.'

Source: Restaurants, *Press Cuttings, Edinburgh Room, Central Library, ref. YTX 945.*

Feedback

Our article on Canonmills in the severe winter of 1879 posed two questions

First, who was I. E. Welch, the writer of those vivid descriptions that were published in the *Weekly Scotsman* in March 1941? If those were personal memories of 1879 (and they read like that), they must have been young at the time. We don't know if they were male or female, so they might not appear as Welch in Census or other records of the time.

So Alex Dow (ex-Broughton, now Fife) went online and listed every I. Welch he found in Deaths in Scotland from 1941 to 2006. There is just one that also has the second initial E: but she was not born until after 1879 – so she could not have experienced that winter firsthand. However Alice Lauder tells us, from her experience in working on her own family history, that 'you only get what the informant knows ... it is quite possible that the person registering the death would not know of the middle name'. In which case there are two deaths on the list, each for an Isabella Welch, born around 1868 and 1854 respectively, which would be worth tracing back to see if there is any connection with Canonmills earlier in life.

Second, there seems to be a contradiction between Welch writing that the millers had no work during the harsh winter on the one hand, and two secondary sources stating that the mill buildings had lost their original function in 1865, although the

mill lade continued in use until nearer the end of the 19th century. (Full references were given with the article.) The question remains to be answered; but we have some oral history about the continuing use of the mill lade post-1879. Kenneth McNair was interviewed by Drummond Community High School students in 1977, when he was 95. Asked if he remembered the mill at Canonmills, he said: 'Oh yes, I mind that. We used to watch an old miller with a beard and a pole. He used to pick out the foliage that collected on the grating to stop it getting into the sluice.' And Alex Dow brings the story much closer to the present day: 'Regarding the mill lade that runs down the east side of Canon Street, I think you'll find it continued in use as a source of cooling water for the Crystal Ice Factory which operated on the site into the 1950s. I recollect seeing the lade opened up on at least one occasion. On hot summer days we would divert in to Canon Street to acquire lumps of ice – with attendant warnings of "You'll ruin your teeth!" – as we went to and from Inverleith Pond.'

Sources: Alex Dow's notes on Deaths in Scotland, 1879 – 2006. "The View from Memory", In The Shadow Of Calton Hill, Drummond High School, 1977.

Society Business

Botanic Cottage



Douglas Bayne on the left, who lived in the Cottage for 14 years as a boy; Eileen Dickie; and Prof. Steve Blackmore, Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden

Eileen Dickie writes: 'First of all, thanks to all of you who came to the Botanic Cottage Event on the 6th May 2009. It was great to have so many folk helping the FHCG and the Botanic Cottage Project Group to celebrate the end of a fascinating, if very time-consuming, research and rescue project.'

I would be more than grateful for copies of any photographs you took in the Library and the Garden – please let me borrow your original prints/negatives to make copies or e-mail the digital ones (largest size possible) to me:

eileen.hopetoun@blueyonder.co.uk'

Missing book

Alice Lauder writes: 'As most of you will be aware, the Society Library has been closed. It has come to our notice that ONE OF OUR BOOKS IS MISSING! Please can you check your bookshelves for *Edinburgh From Old Picture Post Cards* by Andrew Cronshaw.

We would be pleased to receive this book back – no fines will be levied!

A belated acknowledgement from the Editor to Alan McIntosh, who has done the proof-reading of this and the previous four editions of the *Newsletter*. Thanks, Alan!

First meeting of the new session Monday, 7th September

'Scottish Pottery'

at Drummond Community High School

7pm for tea/coffee and Society business, lecture at 7.30pm

Contact for further information: Patrick Tyler – 556 5036.