A March Back in Time with the Pipers of Allandale: The Story of One Remarkable Family's Wartime Sacrifice

A talk, a play, a walk, a tea and an exhibition (9 Apr – 7 May)

SUMMARY OF THE STORY...

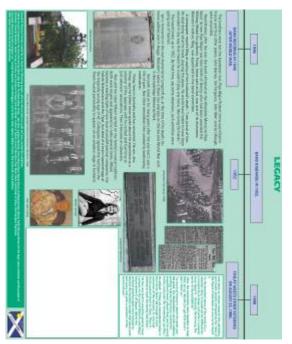
IT IS a long, long way from a small red sandstone cottage in Allandale to the deserts of North Africa and a Japanese prisonerof-war camp. Discovering how far, and just how dear the cost, has given members of Greenhill Historical Society one of their
most fascinating experiences of "time travel" to date as they retrace the heroic journey taken by four brothers from one family
during the Second World War.

"This story is especially dear to my heart," said historian John Reid, whose talk on the Pipers of Allandale is launching the history group's weekend of events. Inspiration for the project is the moving story of the MacLachlans, a family of 14 who lived in Allandale because some of the menfolk worked at Stein's brickworks and clay mine.

Malcolm, nicknamed "Pipey", the second-eldest of nine sons, taught some of his brothers to play the pipes. He and his father, also Malcolm, were the driving force behind setting up a pipe band that was to become the pride of Allandale. Stein's workers helped to kit out the bandsmen by paying a small levy from their wages, while the women of the village held daffodil teas, jumble sales and sold toffee apples to raise more funds. The MacLachlans' cottage shook to the sound of pipe-and-drum practice as mother Mary let the band rehearse in her kitchen. The band swept the board at the Cowal Games in 1938 and became world champions.

As the clouds of war gathered in 1939, the whole band marched to Bonnybridge to enlist in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders (bar those who were too young). Malcolm and brothers Ian and Kenneth were posted to North Africa: brother

LEGACY







Greenhill Historical Society

A March Back in Time with the Pipers of Allandale: The story of one remarkable family's wartime sacrifice

baking , Malcolm's wife Meg's toffee-apples, and jumble sales. Would you get that now?

bandsman with their uniform and instrument, yet Allandale community came together to help pay involving the finest crockery and delicious home voluntary weekly contribution towards the band series of recurring events woven into the social received assistance from co-workers at Stein's prices it would cost around £2000 to outfit one rom their wages. But, most of the funds came around thirty pipers and drummers. They also rom significant efforts by villagers through a Pipe bands in Scottish communities were earning modest wages, equipped a band of for the Allandale Pipe Band. At present day brickworks and clay-mine who paid a small Allandale, with only a few hundred people community-driven and financed. The

Community

COMMUNITY

EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS: We have created four themed postcards to accompany the exhibition:

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BACKGROUND TO OUR INVOLVEMENT

of original historic artefacts from the family (letters, newspaper clippings, poetry, war books) and would we like to organise an exploration of where we are living, and an engagement in discussions surrounding what it is like to live in a physical community community, geography, war and industry. Given Bonnybridge is also a village with many new residents, the place of local exhibition of these artefacts. From there the project grew into a multi-faceted exploration of this historic event, but also moved to and investigating the issues that such historical events have on our present day area. another level in terms of the story as a springboard to discussions around the themes that arise from engagement with it: time on the story of the Pipers of Allandale. He agreed, and from this initial discussion John then told us he was in possession We approached the local historian John Reid, who had undertaken a talk for us before Christmas about doing another talk, this history more generally in a contemporary community is something we want to explore. Local history for us, then is an

MULTI-LAYERED HISTORICAL 'EXPERIENCES

(Allandale, the clay seam, the village itself and how it was formed, a general exploration of the physical aspects of Allandale and Bonnybridge); (3) War (the role that the area played in WWII); (4) Community (the role of community during this time, to weeks until 7th May) there are educational materials in the form of picture postcards and Diffusion e-booklets encouraging materials given to John by the family which capture the horror and devastation of this event but also the bravery and fun of the encourage reflection on where we are today). This exhibition is an active exploration of what it means to live in Allandale and family as a whole. Then the exhibition involves displays on specific pieces of the story from the perspective of the soldiers, the which introduces the topic and provides a background to the events. Within the talk there are excerpts from the letters and that would allow residents to engage with this historical event on a variety of levels. We have firstly the talk (on 9th April 2010) residents to engage with (1) Industry (the family were heavily involved in the brickmaking of the area); (2) Geography family in the past and the family now as a way to set the story in context. Within the exhibition (which is available to view for four Therefore, as well as a talk on the subject, John Reid, history group members, Janice and myself worked on a series of events

> The history group is offering a weekend programme of events so that others can share their discoveries - a talk, a play, a walk, an exhibition, and a daffodil tea - as well as a chance to engage in debate about the issues it brings up. There will also Bonnybridge area through the themes of Geography, Industry, War and Community. Learning about who we are now and what our community is relies on an understanding of why Bonnybridge is like this in the present-day. We hope the series of events Society is attempting to engage residents on this story and more widely with the theme of change and decline in the be a few extra discussion events to be added during the month of April; more information will come out on these shortly. will encourage reflection on what we want Bonnybridge to be and what makes it a special place in which to live and enjoy.

extraordinary battlefield meeting with lan, but poignantly, did not leam that his 20-year-old brother and Malcolm had been killed Letters from the MacLachlan brothers will take pride of place in the exhibition which features a huge wealth of information including scanned artefacts, images, newspaper articles, maps and poetry. Kenneth writes from a military hospital about his until months later. Kenneth subsequently had the grim task of relating to the family back home how lan and "Pipey" had died.

A TALK, A PLAY, A WALK, A TEA AND AN EXHIBITION

Frank Walton, a member of the Greenhill group, said of the Pipers story: "It brings together the history, the community spirit, of the place, everyone wanting to get involved with helping the band, and what life was like then. I don't think that spirit has disappeared, given half a chance."

Finlay, to the Far East. Just as his ancestors had done, Malcolm piped soldiers into battle at the start of the Second Battle of El Alamein in October, 1942. He was killed by a sniper after volunteering to take a message behind enemy lines. Kenneth and lan met by chance on the battlefield, where both were badly wounded. Ian later died of his wounds. Kenneth survived, but lived with severe pain for 50 years. Finlay, meanwhile, had been posted to the Far East and was taken prisoner by the Japanese after the fall of Singapore. He endured three years in a PoW camp, but survived his ordeal and now lives in Australia.

greenhillhistoricalsociety@googlemail Created by Greenhill Historical Society 2010-04-07 April 2010 made with www.bookleteer.com from proboscis 2,4,6,8,10,12 8

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EXHIBITION PANELS: themed panels that explore the story

INDUSTRY





ABOUT US

old areas is the biggest challenge we face variety of projects throughout the year including walks, talks, and discussion sessions. From time to time we also contribute to Greenhill Historical Society is a group of individuals who meet in Bonnybridge Library every Friday 2-4pm. We undertake a perspectives and piecing it together from people's memories, from objects, from fragments lying around in derelict, hidden and and old residents to come together to make a new place. For us, then, history has many versions, many stories, multiple particular interest is in how heritage is experienced and understood between those who have lived in the area a long time past on the present day geography, society, community and post-industrial areas of Bonnybridge and its environs. Our local and international conferences on the subject of heritage and local history. Our main remit is to explore the effects of the through engagement with residents who have moved here recently. We therefore develop projects that encourage both new

01324 825396. We are also always looking to interview local residents about their experiences and stories about the area, as well as gathering interesting materials and objects for future exhibitions and work If you are interested in joining us please email us at greenhillhistoricalsociety@googlemail.com or contact Janice Macfarlane on

Greenhill Historical Society members are: George Dalgettie, Linda McTaggart, James Nolan, Allan Ogilvie, William Parker, Phil Swierczek, Frank Walton

With Gillian Cowell and Janice Macfarlane

Exploring the present and future of our community through the effects of the past Greenhill Historical Society, Bonnybridge

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involves the voices of three women of the family describing the deaths, injury and missing-in-action events during WWII (the an audio play that will be broadcast at the talk and then made available on a listening post throughout the exhibition. This play The day after the talk there is a visit through the village of Allandale, with the beautiful bagpipe music of Pipe Major Mark Sutherland of Denny and Dunipace Pipe Band for the purpose of encouraging residents to simultaneously explore the area now of local history and how it can encourage residents to see their place over different points in time and contemporarily to popular in wartime, which will bring residents together over a cup of tea to discuss what they have listened to, seen, experienced, understood and interpreted over the whole series. The prime point of the work is to create an educational experience with many different layers that will engage in a variety of ways, and within this it is important that we work on the role and feel and experience the place from the perspective of the past. Then the series of events will end with a Daffodil Tea, evidence a rich and meaningful place in which to live for new residents and those who have lived here a long time. play is around five minutes long and steeped in emotion), performed by the Falkirk Bohemians.

also Bonnybridge, as post-industrial areas, and to what extent local history can be experienced and felt today. There will also be

THANK YOU

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Greenhill Historical Society would like to thank the following people, without whose help we could not have created this series of events:

Brown for the logo; James Jamieson and the people of Allandale; Hannah Bateman; James Young of Falkirk Council Community Services; Provost Pat Reid; John Reid; The MacLachlan family - Nan Glen, Lachlan Marshall, Finlay MacLachlan; Naomi Kenny and Bonnybridge Library Staff; Norman Denny and Dunipace Heritage Society; Niamh Conlon of Falkirk Council Museums; Pipe Major Mark Sutherland of Denny and Dunipace Pipe Band.

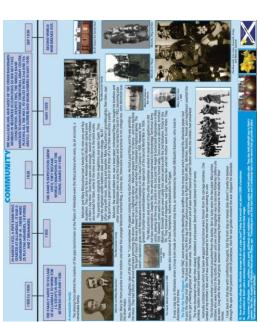
War camp. Finlay survived his ordeal, and now lives in Australia. **There were prisoner of war camps around Bonnybridge**

Singapore. He endured three years in a Prisoner of wounded. Ian later died of his wounds. Kenneth by a sniper after volunteering to take a message marched to Bonnybridge to enlist in the Argyll and and became world champions. As the clouds of band swept the board at the Cowal Games in 1938 prisoner by the Japanese after the fall of Finlay had been posted to the Far East, and taker survived, but lived with severe pain for 50 years. chance on the battlefield, where both were badly war gathered in 1939, those of age in the band behind enemy lines. Kenneth and lan met by Battle of El Alamein in October, 1942 but was killed piped soldiers into battle at the start of the Second Finlay, to the Far East. Like his ancestors, Malcolm and Kenneth were posted to North Africa: brother Sutherland Highlanders. Malcolm and brothers lan

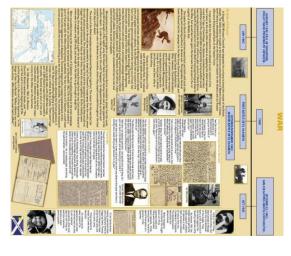


This project details the moving story of the MacLachlans, a family of 14 who lived in Allandale because some of the menfolk worked at Stein's brickworks and clay mine. Malcolm, the second-eldest of nine sons, taught some of his brothers to play the MacLachlans' cottage shook to the sound of pipe-and-drum practice as mother Mary let the band rehearse in her kitchen. The pipes. He and his father were the driving force behind setting up a pipe band that became the pride of Allandale. The

COMMUNITY & GEOGRAPHY



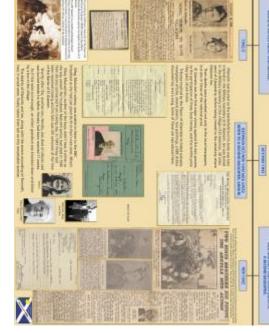




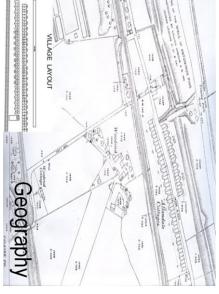
WAR - 1

WAR-3





GEOGRAPHY



Built directly on top of the Antonine Wall, by, John G. Stein & Co. to house its workers. accompanying brickworks were built and owned Dumfries sandstone houses. The village and the Bonnybridge. It contains two rows of unique red

Allandale is a village between Castlecary and

Residents say it hasn't changed in the last 60 Canal on the north and the former London, Allandale runs alongside the Forth and Clyde

Viidland, Scottish Railway on the south.

much history hidden or absent for you to find! were housed. Allandale is fascinating, with so where the office staff and management of Stein's cottages at Dundas to the west of Allandale more houses in Allandale, with another twelve years. In the late fifties, the council built twelve

What do you know or feel about the whole area, including Bonnybridge? Any good walking routes, derelict sites, etc.

that you find interesting?

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until the demand for bricks dropped. Stein's of Castlecary brickworks and day mines were closed in February 1980. Nowadays Bonnybridge will never be as great as it once was. Do you agree or disagree? much of the industry in the area has disappeared.

began in 1899. The work site lay on a triangle of begun on 20th April, 1903, and day was reached ore, thus the iron-founding industry formed here, on 4th November, 1903. Mass production of fire was also rich in minerals such as coal and ironprominent. As well as iron foundries, chemical manufacturing, whisky distilling, paper making and saw-milling were all practised in the districl Towards the end of the nineteenth century the with the firm of Smith and Wellstood becoming bricks became the norm after 1945 and lasted Midland & Scottish Railway. The pit shaft was manufacture of refractory bricks also became significant due to the local availability of large quantities of fireclay. Stein's of Castlecary ground bounded by the LNER railway and

Railway, constructed mid-19th century. The area Glasgow Railway and the Scottish Central

oppulation centres in the central belt through which ran the Forth & Clyde Canal and then the construction of the Edinburgh and Geographically, Bonnybridge was well located to play an important role in the industry of Scotland. It lay close to major

WAR - 2

