

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

COMMUNITY



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

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



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

Greenhill Historical Society

LEGACY

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

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.

"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.

IT IS a long, long way from a small red sandstone cottage in Allandale to the deserts of North Africa and a Japanese prisoner-of-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.

SUMMARY OF THE STORY ...

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)

BACKGROUND TO OUR INVOLVEMENT

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

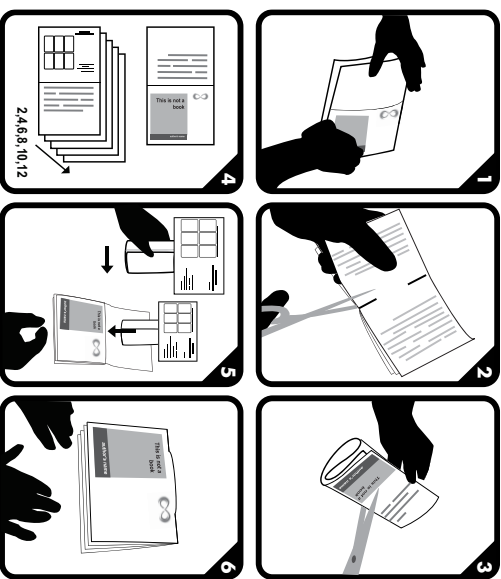
MULTI-LAYERED HISTORICAL 'EXPERIENCES'

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

...often plan an event which precedes a talk, a play or a talk, a play, a walk, an exhibition, and a daffodil tea - as well as offering a weekend program of events to engage with the issues it brings up. There will also be a few extra discussions on this story and more widely with the theme of change and decline in the Bonnybridge area through the themes of Geography, Industry, War and Community Learning about the history of the area and what our community is like this in the present-day. We hope the series of events will encourage an understanding of why Bonnybridge is like this in the present-day. We hope the series of events will encourage an understanding of why Bonnybridge is like this in the present-day. We hope the series of events will encourage an understanding of why Bonnybridge is like this in the present-day.

EXHIBITION AND TALKS

Letters from the MacLachlan brothers which feature a wealth of information including scanned artefacts, images, newspaper articles, maps and poetry. Kenneth writes from a military hospital about his extraordinary battlefield meeting with Ian, but not least that his 20-year-old brother and Malcolm had been killed until months later. Kenneth later offers a weekend program of events to engage with the issues it brings up. There will also be a few extra discussions on this story and more widely with the theme of change and decline in the Bonnybridge area through the themes of Geography, Industry, War and Community Learning about the history of the area and what our community is like this in the present-day. We hope the series of events will encourage an understanding of why Bonnybridge is like this in the present-day. We hope the series of events will encourage an understanding of why Bonnybridge is like this in the present-day.



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Created by Greenhill Historical Society
April 2010
greenhillhistoricalsociety@googlemail.com

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EXHIBITION PANELS: themed panels that explore the story

INDUSTRY

1792 The first brick factory was established in Bonnybridge. At the time, bricks were made in the industry of Scotland. It was a major industry which saw the birth of Cadzow. This factory provided relatively cheap bricks for the building of the new mill in the area. The Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway and the Scottish Central Railway were built in the area and so it is not surprising to find that developed here was not surprising with the firm of Smith and Co. that opened. However, as well as iron foundries, chemical works, engineering and printing were all included in the district.

1844 One Twelfth Street Mill, one of the oldest brickworks in the world, was built in Bonnybridge. It was one of the first brickworks to use steam power.

1923 The start of Cadzow. From 1923 onwards, the Cadzow Brickworks was established to produce high quality bricks for the building of the Glasgow Subway. A line was opened with the Marquis of Zetland Estates on Whit Sunday, 1923, for minerals and 28 other goods. The line was extended and a further option to connect for a further 31 years.

1928 The works site lay on a strategic site of railway and inland waterway, with the choice of land and sea routes for the shipping and rates for the dispatch of goods.

1933 The first shift was begun on 20th April 1933. The works were closed on 4th November 1933.

1945 Mass production of the bricks became the norm after 1945 and the Cadzow Brickworks was developed. Stacks of Cadzow bricks were and clay mines were closed in February 1982.

ABOUT US

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

If you are interested in joining us please email us at greenhillhistoricalsociety@googlemail.com or contact Janice Macfarlane on 01324 823396. 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.

Greenhill Historical Society members are: George Dalgette, Linda McTaggart, James Nolan, Allan Ogilvie, William Parker, Phil Swierczek, Frank Walton
With Gillian Cowell and Janice Macfarlane

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



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 and experience the place from the perspective of the past. Then the series of events will end with a Daffodil Tea, 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 of local history and how it can encourage residents to see their place over different points in time and contemporarily to evidence a rich and meaningful place in which to live for new residents and those who have lived here a long time.

There will also be an audio play that will be broadcast at the talk and then made available on a YouTube channel throughout the exhibition. This play involves the voices of three women of the family describing the deaths, injury and missing-in-action events during WWI (the play is around five minutes long and steeped in emotion), performed by the Falkirk Bohemians.

WAR - 1

WAR

THE START OF THE WAR

THE END OF THE WAR

THE AFTERMATH

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COMMUNITY & GEOGRAPHY

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WAR

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 pipes. He and his father were the driving force behind setting up a pipe band that became the pride of Allandale. 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, those of age in the band marched to Bonybridge to enlist in the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. Malcolm and brothers Ian and Kenneth were posted to North Africa: brother Finlay, to the Far East. Like his ancestors, Malcolm piped soldiers into battle at the start of the Second Battle of El Alamein in October, 1942 but was killed by a sniper after volunteering to take a message behind enemy lines. Kenneth and Ian 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 had been posted to the Far East, and taken prisoner by the Japanese after the fall of Singapore. He endured three years in a Prisoner of



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

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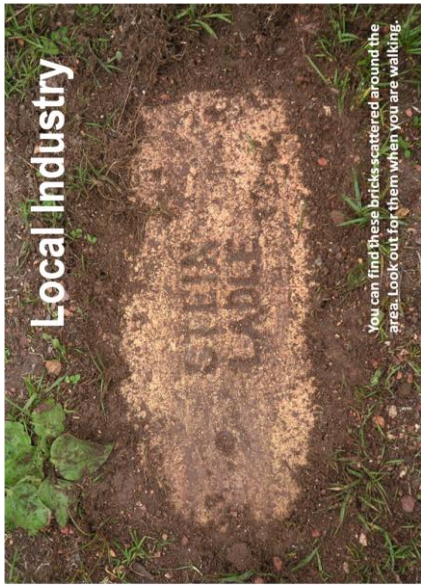
Falkirk Council Community Services; Provost Pat Reid; John Reid; The MacLachlan family – Nan Glen, Lachlan Marshall, Finlay MacLachlan; Naomi Kenny and Bonybridge Library Staff; Norman Brown for the logo; James Jamieson and the people of Allandale; Hannah Bateman; James Young of Denny and Dunipace Heritage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

THANK YOU

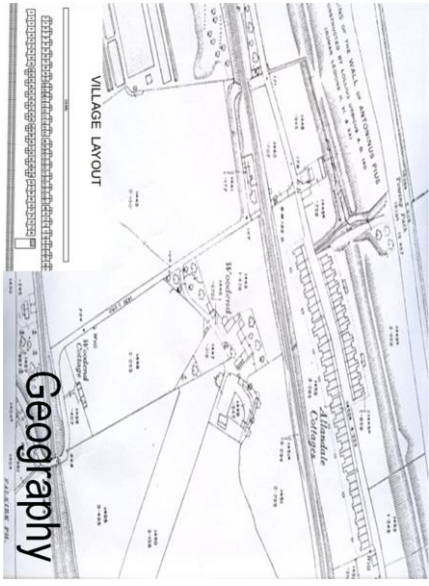
Greenhill Historical Society would like to thank the following people, without whose help we could not have created this series of events:

INDUSTRY

Geographically, Bonnybridge was well located to play an important role in the industry of Scotland. It lay close to major population centres in the central belt through which ran the Forth & Clyde Canal and then the construction of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway and the Scottish Central Railway, constructed mid-19th century. The area was also rich in minerals such as coal and iron-ore, thus the iron-founding industry formed here, with the firm of Smith and Wellstood becoming prominent. As well as iron foundries, chemical manufacturing, whisky distilling, paper making and saw-milling flouring all were practised in the district. Towards the end of the nineteenth century the manufacture of refractory bricks also became significant due to the local availability of large quantities of fireclay. **Stein's of Castlecary** began in 1899. The work site lay on a triangle of ground bounded by the LNER railway and Midland & Scottish Railway. The pit shaft was begun on 20th April, 1903, and clay was reached on 4th November, 1903. Mass production of fire bricks became the norm after 1945 and lasted until the demand for bricks dropped. Stein's of Castlecary brickworks and clay mines were closed in February 1980. Nowadays much of the industry in the area has disappeared. **Bonnybridge will never be as great as it once was. Do you agree or disagree?**



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



Allandale is a village between Castlecary and Bonnybridge. It contains two rows of unique red Dumfriesshire sandstone houses. The village and the accompanying brickworks were built and owned by John G. Stein & Co. to house its workers. Built directly on top of the Antonine Wall, Allandale runs alongside the Forth and Clyde Canal on the north and the former London, Midland, Scottish Railway on the south. Residents say it hasn't changed in the last 60 years. In the late fifties, the council built twelve more houses in Allandale, with another twelve cottages at Dundas to the west of Allandale where the office staff and management of Stein's were housed. Allandale is fascinating, with so much history hidden or absent for you to find!

GEOGRAPHY

WAR - 2

