



Stow Parish Archive

Newsletter

February 2009

Welcome to the Archive's February newsletter where once again we dip into some old local news stories. At the end of this you will also see that we are planning a very interesting and exciting new event for April.

February 16th 1911

J.G. Aitchison had an outstanding success in winning the Scottish Eastern District Junior Cross Country Championship at Saughton on Saturday. One newspaper report said that, " He fought his way to the front in determined style and wound up his performance by outdistancing the pack and winning by over 50 yards (the distance being about 7 miles) and won in 43 minutes and 40 seconds. This was Aitchison's third appearance in the above contest and in the first two years he took 5th place. Aitchison has had a remarkably successful career since he started running three years ago. In all, including club events he has one eleven first prizes, two seconds and three thirds."

February 20th 1913

There was an hour and a half of excitement in Stow when a bull, who along with 2 cows, who were being sent to Gorgie market escaped. In the process Mr. Adam Rathie chauffeur to Miss Milroy met with a serious accident. When attempting to drive the bull into a wagon at Stow Station it turned on Rathie and on catching him tossed him some distance into the air. He fell heavily with his face striking the ground and the bull tried to follow up his attack was prevented from doing so. Mr. Rathie was immediately conveyed to the local doctor and in addition to being concussed and bleeding from the head had a broken arm.

Meanwhile the infuriated bull ran up and down the station enclosure, then into an adjoining field and broke through a hedge into another field. The attempts to capture it at this stage had proved to be unsuccessful and it now had broken from the field into parts of the village. After numerous attempts it was finally lassoed, led back to the station and was later safely dispatched to Edinburgh.

February 27th 1913

Time was when the Stow Hiring Fair was a great local institution and the hiring on the second Tuesday in March was to the youth of the Parish the red-letter day of the year. A number of years ago the now defunct Gala Water Farmers Club re-instated a hind's hiring market on the Friday before the last Monday in February. A few years ago this flourished while the original fair declined. Now it seems that its time has also come when last Friday only two seed and manure merchants, four farmers and one farm servant attended.

February 16th 1928

The Rev. Robert Elliot comes to Stow with a fine record. He is the son of the manse, his father being the Rev. William Elliot, Ballinsloe, Ireland. He was educated in Dublin, and Edinburgh University New College. In 1915 he joined the army and as a private in the Cameron Highlanders and saw service in Macedonia and elsewhere. He laboured in Perth and Dumfries and in 1918 was ordained and inducted to the charge of U.F. Church, Oban. Eight years later he went to Trinity Church, Renfrew and was minister there for the next four years.

Stow Parish Archive Group has been collecting information of local interest since 2005 and we continue to try to find different ways to make the photos, stories and other materials available for everyone to look at and enjoy. We are in the process of applying for a small grant to buy a laptop that will allow us to update the catalogue more easily. We are also thinking of different ways to display things. Kenneth Lewthwaite, the esteemed guardian of the Town Hall, has overseen the re-decoration of the Reading Room and he has asked the Archive group for a selection of old photographs – these are now on display in the Reading Room - open from 9am – 5pm every day – please have a look and tell us what you think. We also have folders in the cupboards there with a selection of local history material for you to browse through.

"Who do you think you/ they are?"

We are also planning an event on **Family History** towards the end of April (date to be confirmed). If you are interested in your own family history, or perhaps interested in the old families of the area, we are inviting along some experts to help give advice and to highlight some of the best sources of information. This should prove to be a most interesting occasion and we will do our best to make it fun as well!

Our next meeting is on Wednesday 25th February, in the Town Hall from 7.30 onwards. Please help us add to the Archive anything of interest and discuss how to make our catalogue and material more accessible to the community. We can also copy any photos or documents or we can simply make notes on any memories that you have that would be of interest.