

# west lothian heritage

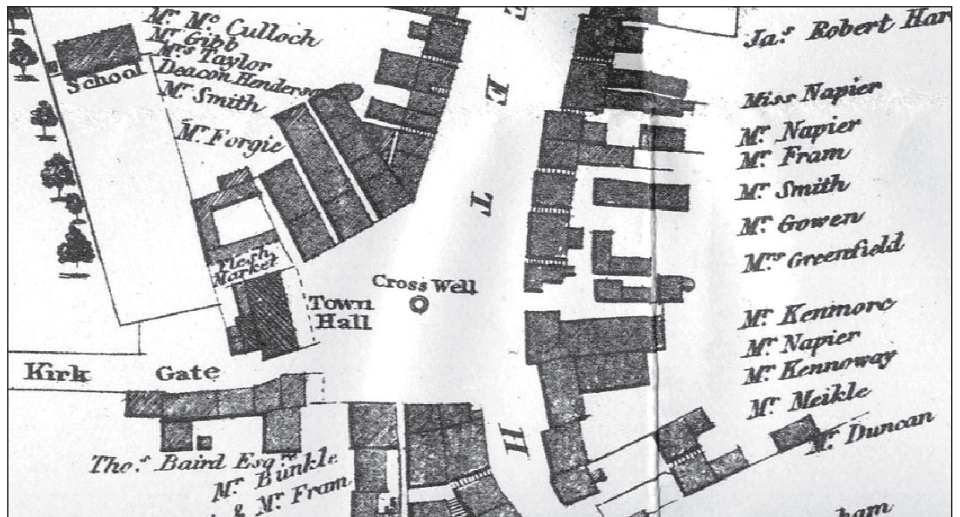
Newsletter of West Lothian Heritage Services

Spring 2008

## Archaeological investigations at the Burgh Halls, Linlithgow

Archaeological investigations at Linlithgow Burgh Halls The Linlithgow Burgh Halls, located to the north of the Cross and on the east side of the Kirkgate, occupy an important position in the medieval core of the town. The garden area to the rear of the halls is bounded by the graveyard of St Michael's Parish Church. Documentary sources suggest that a school was situated close to the church in 1187, whilst an almshouse is known to have been located on the east side of the Kirkgate, to the south of the cemetery, from at least 1448 until it was removed in the 17th century. Documentary sources indicate that a new school was erected in 1625, but both the school and almshouse were demolished during the Cromwellian occupation of the burgh, in order to provide stone for the refortification of the Palace and Peel.

The programme of refurbishment of the Burgh Halls includes a proposal to construct an extension in the garden area to the rear of the halls. Building work in the 1980s identified human bone in this area, in addition to medieval or post-medieval pottery. This material was recovered from a depth of around 3.5m, and it is possible that it may have derived from previously undisturbed burials associated with the graveyard of St Michael's, which may at one time have extended into this area. Though work undertaken at that time was likely to have involved a significant amount of ground disturbance, there remains some potential for similar material to survive in situ.



John Wood's plan of Linlithgow 1820

Archaeological work was undertaken for the council on the site in July 2007 by Headland Archaeology. Two trenches were opened in the garden area to the rear of the Burgh Halls. This confirmed that the works undertaken in the 1980s had involved a significant amount of disturbance, but also served to identify the survival of archaeologically-significant deposits in certain areas of the site. The evaluation exposed what may be the corner of a substantial wall that appears to predate Wood's map of the area in the 1820s. While no dating evidence was found in direct association with the wall, the deposit surrounding it (and therefore post-dating it) contained occasional butchered animal bone and oyster shells, in addition to some building materials likely to date to the 17th century.

Cartographic evidence from the 1820s onward showed no structures at this location, and Headland therefore considered that these walls may relate to one of the structures in the vicinity of the Kirkgate demolished by Cromwell around 1650, such as the school, or the almshouse known to have existed in the area from before 1448. Another possibility identified in the Headland report is that the wall may have formed part of the Cromwellian refortification itself. Cromwell is thought to have added one or perhaps two sets of ditches, cutting the promontory off from the town, and it is known that St Michael's Church was incorporated within this defensive circuit, meaning that there is a strong possibility that the defences would have passed through the area to the rear of the Burgh Halls.

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[westlothian.gov.uk](http://westlothian.gov.uk)



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Council

# Before the railway came

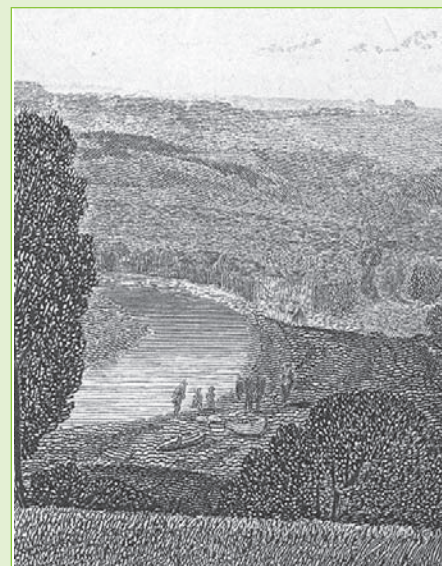
The Canal Museum has acquired a view of Linlithgow looking west – with a small section of canal. The interesting thing is that the date of the original engraving is 1 November 1823, and since the image is of a harvest scene the sketch for it must have been done at least a couple of months earlier, if not the previous year. The canal had only just opened in 1822 so the picture is virtually contemporary, giving us a local backdrop for the canal's earliest days. Perhaps fancifully on the part of the artist, the picture includes what appears to be a small boat drawn up by the water.

The image was given to Linlithgow Union Canal Society (LUCS) thanks to Roddy Simpson, who noticed the canal curving round the left margin of the picture, realised the significance of the date, and generously given us a copy print and source information. The artist is A.W. Callcott, one of those commissioned by Sir Walter Scott to supply images to be engraved for *The Provincial Antiquities and Picturesque Scenery of Scotland*, (Edinburgh, 1826).

The early sight of the canal is the bonus for LUCS, but the image is full of detail of

more general interest. The foreground is a captivating scene of harvest time, with interesting details of dress. Towards the bottom right three of the women have laid aside their rakes and are taking refreshments, watched by a hopeful collie dog. The crop itself is a puzzle. Did it really grow as tall as this – shoulder high? It is not being put into stooks to dry, but is being piled directly on to a cart, which can be seen on the far side of the field. Apparently barley was treated in this way, and according to the Statistical Accounts barley was a common crop in the area on account of the number of breweries and distilleries. Readers may be able to throw light on whether this remarkably healthy looking grain is just artistic licence or a genuine representation.

Scott's entry about Linlithgow in *The Provincial Antiquities* concludes with a description of a view which must have been from a similar viewpoint to Callcott's as he sat to sketch this picture, though probably farther off. 'In coming to Linlithgow by the Edinburgh road, the first view of the town, with its beautiful steeple, surmounted by a royal crown, and the ruinous towers of the



palace arising out of a canopy of trees, forms a most impressive object. All that is wanting is something of more elevated dignity to the margin of the lake...' Whatever it was about the loch that disappointed Scott's eye, however, has been tactfully obscured in Callcott's depiction, leaving us with a delightful image of the town before the railway age.

**Nuala Lonie, LUCS**

# Granny's getting younger!



Today's Grannys (and Grandpas) were young in the 1950s, 60s and even 70s. Have you got souvenirs of these days tucked away in your attic? If so West Lothian Council Museums Service would like to hear from you. Demand for 50s, 60s and 70s objects from schools' reminiscence groups is growing and the Museums Service is working on a project to make more material available.

Our session for primary schools, 'When Granny was a girl', begins in the morning when Mum puts on her wrapover peenie and gets the coal fire started ready to begin a busy day of washing, ironing, cleaning and shopping – in old money. She finds a little time for relaxation in the afternoon listening to Women's Hour on the wireless, but is still busy reading the pattern as she is knitting a cardigan for one of the children.

We would like to have a wider selection of objects to tell more of the story. The second part of the project is to create three themed boxes of 50s, 60s and 70s souvenirs to add to the ten topics already available to reminiscence groups. If you would like more information about these services or have objects to donate, please get in touch with Elizabeth Henderson on 01506 776347 or email [museums@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:museums@westlothian.gov.uk) – it might be your granny whose memories are brought back to life!

# Simply Samplers make a comeback



*Sampler sewn by 13-year old Janet Taylor in 1858*

There's another chance this spring to see a fabulous travelling exhibition of samplers from all over the east of Scotland, including West Lothian, Fife and the Borders, as it will be on show at Hopetoun House during May and June. The exhibition includes around twenty samplers, many of them exhibited for the first time.

Samplers are collections of motifs and letters comprising a pattern book and test pieces of needlework skills. As fabric was expensive, these records grew over the years as more and more motifs were added. The samplers brought together in this exhibition date from the late 18th century to the early 20th century and are interesting and important social history objects providing insights into the life of the regions. They reflect the centrality of needlework in the lives of women throughout the ages and are a poignant reminder of the danger of losing manual skills.

Hopetoun House is an excellent context for the exhibition as it ties in with many

examples of needlework around the House, from a set of 18th century chairs embroidered by members of the family, to commercially produced gros point and petit point.

Other attractions this year at Hopetoun include recitals by young musicians on Sunday afternoons from May to August, many organized through Dr Colin Kingsley, former Head of Music at the University of Edinburgh. There will also be guides in costumes, revisiting the Hopetoun of the 18th century giving information on servants' duties, as well as tours of the house related to events in its history, Ranger led walks and family events. For more information, you can contact Hopetoun or visit the event calendar on the website at [www.hopetounhouse.com](http://www.hopetounhouse.com).

Hopetoun opens daily for the season on Good Friday until the end of September, 10.30am - 4pm, last admission 4pm. Volunteer opportunities are available, assisting visitor enjoyment and understanding of Hopetoun House.

## Museum venues

### Summer opening times

#### **Almond Valley Heritage Trust**

Millfield, Livingston Village  
West Lothian EH54 7AR  
Tel: 01506 414957  
[www.almondvalley.co.uk](http://www.almondvalley.co.uk)  
Seven days a week, 10am-5pm

#### **Armadale Library**

West Main Street, Armadale EH48 3JB  
Tel: 01501 678400  
[www.westlothian.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/libraries)  
Monday to Friday, 10.30am - 5.30pm  
Saturday 9.30pm - 1pm

#### **Bennie Museum Trust**

9-11 Mansefield Street, Bathgate EH48 4HU  
Tel: 01506 634944  
[www.benniemuseum.org.uk](http://www.benniemuseum.org.uk)  
April to October: Mon to Sat, 10am - 4pm

#### **Blackridge Community Museum**

Blackridge Library, Craig Inn Centre  
Blackridge EH48 3RJ  
Tel: 01501 752396  
[www.westlothian.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/libraries)  
Tues, 2pm-6.30pm  
Wed, 9.30am-12.30pm & 1.30pm-4.30pm  
Thurs, 2pm-6.30pm

#### **Broxburn Library**

West Main Street, Broxburn EH52 5RH  
Tel: 01506 775600  
[www.westlothian.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/libraries)  
Monday to Friday 10am - 6pm  
Saturday 9.30am - 1pm

#### **Hopetoun House Preservation Trust**

Queensferry, West Lothian EH30 9SL  
Tel: 0131 331 2451  
[www.hopetounhouse.com](http://www.hopetounhouse.com)  
Daily 11am-5.30pm  
Last admission is 4.30pm  
Fri 21 March - Sun 28 September 2008

#### **Linlithgow Heritage Trust**

Annet House, 143 High Street  
Linlithgow EH49 7EJ  
[www.linlithgowstory.org.uk](http://www.linlithgowstory.org.uk)  
Tel: 01506 670677  
Monday to Saturday, 11am - 5pm  
Sunday, 1pm - 4pm  
Friday 21 March to Friday 31 October

#### **Linlithgow Canal Centre & Museum**

Canal Basin, Manse Rd, Linlithgow EH49 6AJ  
Tel: 01506 671215  
[www.lucs.org.uk](http://www.lucs.org.uk)  
Sat and Sun: 2pm - 5pm  
22 March to 28 September  
Daily 2pm - 5pm, July and August

#### **Linlithgow Library**

The Vennel, Linlithgow EH49 7EX  
Tel: 01506 775490  
[www.westlothian.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/libraries)  
Monday to Friday 10am-5.30pm  
Saturday 9.30am-1pm

#### **Whitburn Community Museum**

Whitburn Library, Union Road  
Whitburn EH47 0AR  
Tel: 01501 678050  
[www.westlothian.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/libraries)  
Monday to Friday 10am - 5.30pm  
Saturday 9.30am - 1pm

# Banners and Benefits

A new exhibition on display at Blackridge Community Museum recalls the days before the welfare state when sickness benefit did not exist. There was poor relief, but funds were never very large and payments were made grudgingly so many people preferred to help themselves by paying into friendly societies.

Insuring against sickness may sound dull but friendly societies were very popular and added a splash of colour to life round the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th. Colourful processions were held in many towns and villages every year to celebrate the societies' success and advertise their value to local people.

Picture the scene... behind a local band comes a large silk banner fluttering in the breeze followed by a group of men with plaids fastened round their shoulders, Tam O'Shanter bonnets on their heads and carrying crooks. These are the members of the Order of Ancient Shepherds. Behind them comes a figure on horseback dressed as Robin Hood. He is followed by his fellow Foresters with their bright Lincoln green sashes. Next a group of ten little girls dressed in white, carrying lovely bouquets of flowers, leads a procession of Gardeners in smart black suits which set off their blue sashes to perfection. Another band brings up the rear as the procession wends its way through the streets and ends up in a local park where the day continues with sports and an outdoor picnic with music and dancing.



*Procession of Shepherds in Blackburn*

Absent from this scene is the Independent Order of Rechabites. The Rechabite friendly society was also a temperance organisation and frowned on the drinking which tended to take place on procession days. However its red, white and purple regalia was used for its own events. The Rechabite friendly society was open to both men and women and it tried to offer alternatives to a night in the pub. The Rechabites held lectures, magic lantern shows and soirees, which were often accompanied by a cup of tea.

The exhibition *Banners and Benefits* shows a range of the colourful regalia worn

on these occasions. The centrepieces are a hand embroidered Gardener's apron from Armadale and a silk banner from Bathgate, which hangs from the museum ceiling.

Accompanying the display is a set of panels telling the story of friendly societies in West Lothian over 300 years. By the mid 1960s local friendly societies had almost disappeared in West Lothian and their past importance and colourful ceremonies were largely forgotten – until now!

*Banners and Benefits* runs at Blackridge Community Museum until 17 May during library opening hours. It transfers to Whitburn in June.



## Can you help?

These SMT bus drivers and conductresses were based in the Broxburn depot in the 1950s. Second from left is Cathie Welsh, but none of the others are known.

If you can identify any of them, Sybil Cavanagh of the Local History Library would be pleased to hear from you.

Tel: 01506 776331 or email [sybil.cavanagh@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:sybil.cavanagh@westlothian.gov.uk)

# Lost mansions of West Lothian

## Boghead House

If you drive out of Bathgate by the Falside road, just before you go up Sibbald's Brae you'll see on your left a small lodgehouse. This was once the gatehouse to Boghead, one of Bathgate's five ancient estates, which oddly enough all began with a B – Bathgate, Balbardie, Ballencrieff, Boghall and Boghead. From at least the early seventeenth century, Boghead was owned by the Durham family

and included the farms of West Mains, Little Boghead, Birniehill and Bogside, plus houses at Whiteside, Falside and Meadowhead.

During the 19th century, Boghead cannel coal was mined on the estate for the production of oil at Bathgate Chemical Works. To house their workers, the coalmasters built a new village on Boghead land in the 1850s and called it Durhamville. Local jokesters turned this into Durhamville, so the coalmasters

quickly changed the name to Durhamtown.

The house was built in the late 18th century and its grounds included tennis courts, a croquet lawn, hothouses and a vinery, a doocot, and a curling pond. The last laird was a keen golfer and had a small private course built in his grounds. The strange glass box on top of the house was added in the late 19th century by order of the lady of the house. She hated tobacco smoke and banished smokers to 'The Cabin'.

The house was sold by the Robertson Durhams in 1929 and after passing through several hands, was demolished in 1962. Traces of its front steps, walled gardens and doocot can still be seen and the atmosphere of an old estate lingers among its plantations.

**More information about Boghead and the other Bathgate mansions and estates can be found at the Local History Library in Hopefield Road, Blackburn.**

**Tel: 01506 776331 or email [sybil.cavanagh@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:sybil.cavanagh@westlothian.gov.uk).**



# Rediscovering Tom Hanlin

Forty years ago, an Armadale coalminer made quite a splash in the literary world with three novels set among miners in a mining village which strangely resembles Armadale.

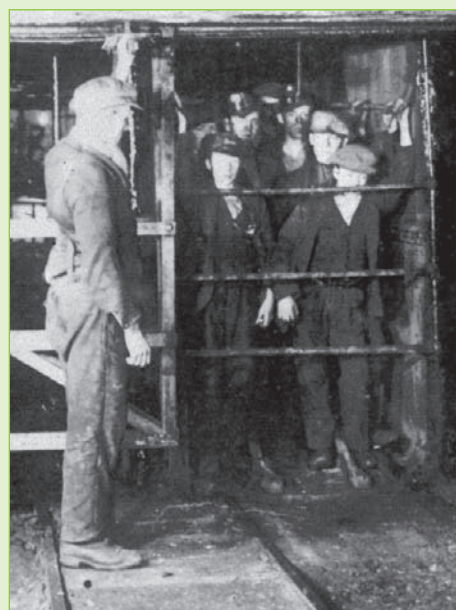
Tom Hanlin left school at 14, went down the pits and worked for 20 years at the backbreaking labour of a miner. His ambition, however, was to become a writer, but he lived with his parents and five brothers and sisters in a two or three-roomed miner's cottage. To get some peace, he chose to work the afternoon shift from two to eleven. When he came home, the rest of the family was in bed and he could get on with his writing.

Success did not come overnight. He wrote dozens of short stories and eventually got some of them published. Then in 1946, his short novel, **Once in every Lifetime**, won a literary prize and was published the next year to great acclaim. He followed it up with another novel, **Yesterday will Return**, and with this success, he risked giving up coalmining, becoming a full-time writer and moving to London.

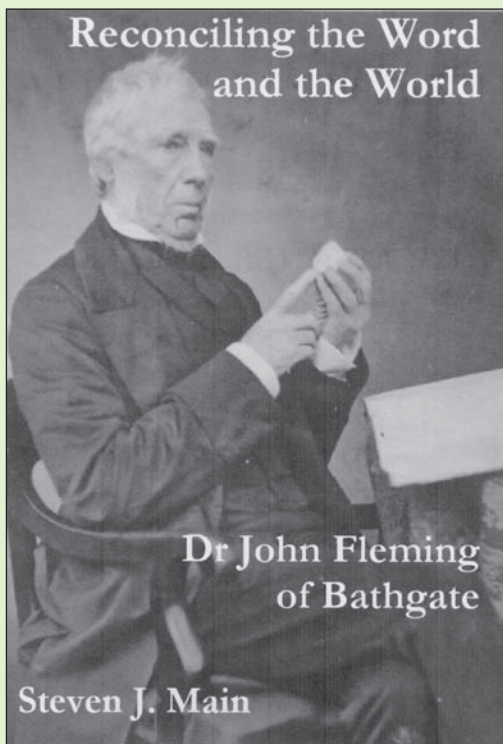
His most successful novel came out in 1949 - **The Miracle at Cardenrigg** – a tense story about a mining disaster, interwoven with the story of a Catholic girl and a possible miracle. The book was serialised in the Edinburgh Evening Dispatch, and was widely reviewed in Britain and America. Sadly, this success was cut short by illness. Tom Hanlin came home to Armadale and died at the early age of 46 in 1953.

The novels and short stories are out of print now, but can be borrowed from any local branch library or from the West Lothian Local History Library. An exhibition on Hanlin's life and books is on display at Armadale Library during the month of April. Admission is free.

**For more information phone Sybil Cavanagh on 01506 776331 or email [sybil.cavanagh@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:sybil.cavanagh@westlothian.gov.uk).**



**Hanlin's stories are set in mining villages such as he had grown up in at Armadale. As you read you can identify well-known local places under their literary guises: 'Whitevale' in Yesterday Will Return is clearly Armadale, and 'Kelly's Land' in The Miracle at Cardenrigg is Bathville.**



# Fleming of Bathgate

Ask somebody to tell you a famous Bathgate native and you're sure to get James Young Simpson. But others just as worthy of celebration have been forgotten, and local man Steven Main wants to change all that and bring back to prominence the Rev. Dr John Fleming of Bathgate.

Fleming died some 150 years ago. A famed and respected academic, one of the world's leading zoologists and a forerunner of Charles Darwin, he was born at Kirkroads, Bathgate, in 1785, and developed his interest in geology and wildlife during childhood wanderings round the Bathgate Hills. Like many a 'lad o pairts' he entered the Church and became minister of Bressay, an island off Lerwick in the Shetland Isles. His interest and knowledge expanded and he began to make a name for himself. After moving to Fife, he got married, and his devoted wife copied for him, by hand, the whole of a rare Danish zoology textbook – 687 pages and 1,308 colour illustrations!

Steven Main has written a booklet tracing the life of John Fleming, drawing particular attention to the influence of Bathgate on his life and work. His booklet, *Reconciling the Word and the World*, is on sale, priced £1.50, in Bathgate Library and at Library HQ in Blackburn.

*For more information, phone Sybil Cavanagh on 10506 776331.*

## Conservation News

# Bathgate's Cinema Heritage

Historic Scotland is currently working with the Cinema Theatre Association Scotland to undertake a thematic study of Scotland's cinemas. This study is looking at two interesting buildings in Bathgate which were purpose built as cinemas.

The former Regal Cinema, now the Regal Community Theatre, was completed in 1938 to designs by AD Haxton of Leven. The building is a good example of a provincial cinema retaining a fine Art Deco interior and the best surviving work of the architect. However, it is particularly important on account of its internal decoration by John Alexander of Newcastle (1888-1974) who specialised in flamboyant interiors for restaurants, ballrooms and cinemas. The Regal contains one of only two surviving examples of his outstanding modelled plaster panels.

The former Pavilion Cinema, now Pavilion Bingo, in George Place, was designed in 1920 by John Fairweather in a plain Classical style. This building is a good, largely unaltered and rare example of post-First World War cinema



design and retains original interior detailing. Fairweather was designer to the George Green chain of cinemas who are best known for their 'Playhouse' establishments in Glasgow and Dundee. He was also the

designer of the Edinburgh Playhouse. The Regal is already a listed building and the Pavilion is being assessed for inclusion as such on the Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest.

## West Lothian County Council 1890-1975

Linlithgowshire County Council was formed under the terms of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1889 (52 & 53 Vict, c 50) which provided for the establishment of an elected body to be known as the county council.

The county councils took over powers from various authorities and bodies including the commissioners of supply, county road trusts, local authorities set up under the diseases of animals acts, and the justices of the peace (not including the licensing powers).

Linlithgowshire County Council held its first meeting in 1890 and later changed its name to West Lothian County Council. Abolished by the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (c65), the functions were taken over by Lothian Regional Council and West Lothian District Council. The town of Bo'ness was

transferred to Falkirk District Council and Central Regional Council and the town of Queensferry was transferred to Edinburgh City Council and Lothian Regional Council.

The history of West Lothian during this period can be traced through the records of West Lothian County Council. These records are managed and preserved in the Archives and Records Centre and include committee minutes, administrative files and accounts.

**For more information, or to arrange a visit to consult the records, contact:**

**Archives and Records Centre,  
9 Dunlop Square, Deans Industrial Estate,  
Livingston EH54 8SB.**

**Tel: 01506 773770 or email:  
archive@westlothian.co.uk**

## New Archivist and Records Manager

**Rob Pickering has joined the Archives and Records Management staff at Dunlop Square as job-share Archivist and Records Manager. His working days are Monday, Tuesday and alternate Wednesdays, spending the remaining half of the week in his other job-share post in East Lothian.**

**Rob will be working mainly on records management, disaster planning and IT, including the procurement of a new archives cataloguing and records management system. He will also share responsibility for the day-to-day management of the Archives and Records Centre.**

## LDC Technical Library photographic collection

The Livingston Development Corporation Archive Collection was transferred to West Lothian Council Archives and Records Management Service when the New Town wound up in 1997.

One part of this collection is approximately 6000 photographs from the Technical Library, part of the Planning and Landscape section. A member of staff at the LDC Records Management Unit began listing these archives prior to the transfer. Details of 4500 photographs were added to the LDC database RECMAN in 1997, later transferred to the Council's database ARMS. The same member of staff continued to add the balance of 1500 photographs to the ARMS database. This process was completed in April 2006.

Originally deposited in plastic sleeves in hanging files within metal cabinets, the process of preserving the collection was undertaken by placing each photographic print into an archival sleeve. Gradually the prints were transferred into archive boxes and are now stored in an environmentally controlled area within the Archives and Records Centre.

The index registers, card index system and other finding aids are also held. The dates covered by this material range from the mid-1970s to the end of the 1980s. The subjects covered by this collection are many and varied, including houses and factories being built; the Livingston Festival; the Queen's numerous visits; and members of the Royal family who came to open factories or offices.

During the time that LDC was in operation it employed two photographers, Roy Fowler and Robert Russell, both mentioned frequently in the index registers. Copyright for photographs taken by them was held by LDC but passed to the Council at wind-up. We also hold photographs taken by three members of LDC staff.

Access to the photographs is freely available but copyright issues regarding some of the photographs still need to be resolved. LDC used a number of external photographers over the years and the copyright is still held by them e.g. Robb, Campbell Harper (no longer in existence). Any researcher using this collection would need to ensure they did not infringe the copyright and be prepared to sign a declaration to this effect.

Local photographer Murrie Thomson (still in business) also took photographs for LDC. He has given the Archives and Records Centre permission to reproduce the photographs we hold that are accredited to him.



**The Archives and Records Centre welcomes researchers and can be contacted to arrange a visit on 01506 773770. The opening times are 9am - 12 noon and 2pm - 5pm Monday to Thursday, 9am - 12 noon and 2pm - 4pm on a Friday.**

# History of Armadale Association

Last year was a busy year for the Association. It came to our attention that the Armadale Public School Roll of Honour was in a state of disrepair. With the help of funds from local councillors and the Museums Service, the Roll of Honour has been restored. The design for the Burgh Seal, which is on parchment, was also damaged and has been treated by the Scottish Preservation Studio. Both of these will go on display at the Library.

One of our members, Rosie Wells, has indexed all the magazines and put a wealth of information about the Association and Armadale's history on the Armadale website [www.armadale.org.uk](http://www.armadale.org.uk). With the support of the Association and help from archaeological societies, Rosie and her husband John have also been investigating various sites in the area, chiefly looking at Woodend and Standhill in relation to the site of Ogilface Castle. See the website for more information.

This year, we are delighted to announce the publication of 'Armadale in Minutes', a chronological history based on detailed research by Robert Kerr. A grant from Awards for All has enabled us to publish the book, which will be available from mid March at a cost of £5. Over a number of years, Robert meticulously searched Town Council Minutes and other sources, recording details by hand, which give a fascinating insight into life in the Burgh from earliest times and into the twentieth century. Jim McGregor kindly edited the book for us and sourced photographs to complement the text. Copies will be donated to local schools, the Library Service, and community groups. The book will be a worthy source of reference and I'm sure Armadale people will recognise names and places and enjoy reading about events in the past. For more information, phone Betty Hunter on 01501 678400.



The Society is collecting photographs for Vol. 6 of its Picturing the Past series. If you have photos you would like to contribute, contact Betty Hunter on 01501 678400. This photo shows Jessie Gibb, who was dux of Armadale Public School in the 1880s.

## WLHAS

**The West Lothian History & Amenity Society completes its 2007-08 season with two more meetings and a Summer outing.**

**16 April, Ecclesmachan Village Hall, 7.30pm**

**Professor Jim Murray on 'The Empire Exhibition'.**

Opened in 1938 the Exhibition, held in Bellahouston Park, was a stunning display of architectural achievement and a reflection of the life and culture of Scotland and the Commonwealth. It was a bold statement telling the Scottish people that the Depression years were now behind them.

**24 May, Chalmers Hall, Linlithgow Bridge, 7.30pm**

**Imogen Gibbon on 'The Redevelopment of the National Portrait Gallery and using it as a reference source'.**

The Portrait Gallery also has a print room, reference section, library and archive of negatives, which form an invaluable resource for any visitor interested in the people and history of Scotland.

**31 May, Summer Outing**

**This year's outing is to the Earthship Visitor Centre, Kinghorn.**

This is an eco-friendly building, imaginatively designed using unconventional materials and renewable energy sources. We will also visit the Scottish Fisheries Museum, Anstruther. This museum tells the story of fishing in Scotland and its people from earliest times.

**Tickets £15. For further information phone Sandy Thomson on 01506 843870.**



## Comments? Suggestions?

If you've enjoyed reading this newsletter – or not enjoyed it – let us know. We'd like to hear the sort of articles that interest you, and your comments, suggestions, and feedback will be welcome. If you have any suggestions for future articles, or for improvements that might be made, don't hesitate to get in touch.

**Please contact**  
[sybil.cavanagh@westlothian.gov.uk](mailto:sybil.cavanagh@westlothian.gov.uk)

## History Fair

**The West Lothian History and Heritage Fair will take place on Sat 20 September at Linlithgow Academy, Braehead Road, from 10am to 4.30pm. It will feature stalls, talks and workshops highlighting Scottish and local history, family history and the built heritage. More details will follow, but meanwhile put the date in your diary!**