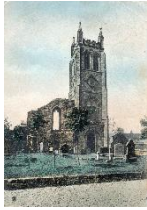


Kilwinning

Heritage News

November 2023



Welcome to your update on what's been happening in KH. Please let us know what you think.

Talks and Visits

In September, Jeni Park presented a talk about the work that she and her volunteers have been doing with the "Frew Archive" collection of solicitors' papers, mainly from the 1800s. The project is to clean and record as many papers as possible before they are handed over to Ayrshire Archives for safe keeping. Some fascinating stories are emerging about the life and times of Kilwinning residents and businesses of the past. (See *Kilwinning Stories* below).

October's talk was by Chris Hawksworth, who told us about the history of Kilwinning's mining industry.

November's talk followed the AGM as Veronica Hartwich took us on a trip down memory lane with her photographic presentation about the changing face of Irvine and Troon harbours.

All talks were well attended. Note that our talks are always free, and everyone is welcome.

Our last visit of the year was to Seagate Castle, Irvine. On a rainy day, this was also well attended and we are grateful to Roger Griffith for telling us about the history of the castle.

Abbey Tower Heritage Centre

The total number of visitors so far this year is 1,042. This is encouraging news as we are almost back to pre-Covid numbers in spite of reducing opening hours from 6 hours to 4 hours per week. Recent group visits have included Ramblers, W Kilbride Men's Group and Abbey Primary School.

The total number of people who have visited us since our records began in 2012 is now a staggering **11,852**. All have been offered guided tours.



This is a fantastic result, and an achievement of which our fabulous volunteers should be justly proud.

Light Up Red 2023

Once again, we showed our support for the UK Poppy Appeal by lighting up the Abbey in red on Armistice Day. It was a dry, still evening, and lots of people turned up to see the lighting show and for 57 lucky people, this included a visit to the roof of the Tower for a unique view of Kilwinning at night. Thank you to our Chairman, Craig for organising and to Kilwinning Community Council, North Ayrshire Heritage and Cultural Services and North Ayrshire Libraries for their support in making this happen.



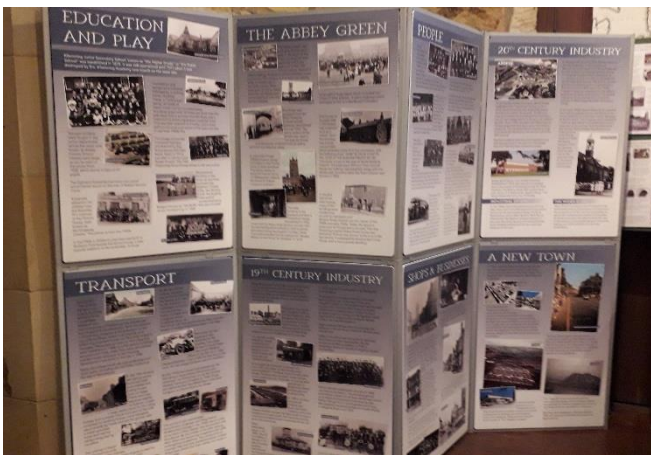
Dorothy Lynam

We were saddened to learn of the death of Dorothy, who at the age of 101 had been a lifelong supporter and Committee member of Kilwinning Heritage and previous heritage groups

in the town. Her energy, enthusiasm and determined pursuit of community issues are fondly remembered and she will be greatly missed by the many people who knew her.

Heritage Centre Displays

We are slowly but surely improving our displays in the Abbey Tower, thanks to funding made available by North Ayrshire Council's Town Centre Regeneration Fund. A recent addition is new information boards within the ground floor display space. We will be moving on to cabinet displays on the ground floor, and a new look for the clock floor.



During September we had a special display of Kilwinning High School photographs from 1964-67. These were donated by Hazel McGibney and were the work of her father, Kilwinning photographer, Tom Crawford.

If you missed it, the collection is currently on display in Kilwinning Library, where it will remain until mid-December.

Funding success

We were delighted to hear that our PB funding application for £1000 has been successful. We will use the money for the Frew Archive Project. It will be used to purchase essential equipment to help the project move forward.

Many thanks to everyone who voted for us.

Kilwinning stories

We now have 6 stories from Kilwinning Heritage available for everyone to read on the North Ayrshire Heritage blog pages:

<https://naheritage.co.uk/blog>

- *Law and Order: the Frew Collection* by Jeni Park
- *Kilwinning Across the Pond* by Heather Upfield
- *World War 1 and Three Kilwinning Men* by Christine Watson
- *Kilwinning Heritage Publications*
- *Hidden History of the River Garnock* by Heather Upfield
- *Accidental Discoveries* by Christine Watson

We do hope you can dip into these and enjoy a short read about our wee town.

Let us know what you think of them, and any suggestions for future stories.

Annual General Meeting 2023

On 10th November we held our AGM which was attended by 18 members and 2 visitors.

Office bearers remain unchanged: Craig McLellan (Chair), Jim Watson (Vice Chair), Christine Watson (Secretary) and Jeni Park (Treasurer). Committee members are Bert Hill, Jill McColl, Bernie Noone, Ted Somerville, Heather Upfield and Drew Wilson. The meeting agreed to keep the annual members' subscription at £5. If you have already paid for 2024, your membership e-card and acknowledgement will be with you shortly.

I shall contact members with a reminder of how to renew your subscription.

Christine Watson
(Secretary)

To keep up to date with all our news, be sure to "like" our Facebook page @KilwinningH
We are also on "X" formerly known as Twitter @KilwinningH

Email us at kh.2011@hotmail.co.uk

Or contact us through website

www.kilwinningheritage.org.uk