

ARMADALE
PUBLIC HOUSE SOCIETY LIMITED
OCTOBER 1901 — OCTOBER 1951



Historical Record and Programme for Jubilee Celebration
Social Concert—Dance, on Friday, 26th October 1951.

Social

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Chairman MR JOHN LOVE

Grace - - - - - Mr J. KERR

Supper

Toast - - "The King" - THE CHAIRMAN

Chairman's Remarks

Song - - "My Old Shako" - ELLIOT DOBIE

Song - - "Sea Wrack" - FLO BLYTHMAN

Toast - - "Town and Trade" - Mr J. CURRIE

JAMES STODDART, Entertainer, in selections from his repertoire

Reply - - "Town and Trade" Provost J. McKEOWN

Song - - "You are my heart's delight" DUNCAN BALL

Toast - - "The Goth" Ex-Provost H. WOTHERSPOON

PEGGY MAXWELL, in latest Dance and Film Hits

Duet - - Selected FLO BLYTHMAN and
ELLIOT DOBIE

Reply - - "The Goth" - THE CHAIRMAN

Interval

Song - - "For You Alone" - DUNCAN BALL

JAMES STODDART, in Song and Story

Toast - - "Our Guests" - Mr J. EWART

Songs - (a) "Still as the Night" | FLO BLYTHMAN
(b) "Arise, O Sun" |

Songs - (a) "Scotland Yet" | ELLIOT DOBIE
(b) "Leanin'" |

Reply - - "Our Guests" - Dr W. ANDERSON

PEGGY MAXWELL, Entertainer at the Piano (Selections)

Duet - - Selected DUNCAN BALL and
ELLIOT DOBIE

A Bedtime Story JAMES STODDART

Votes of Thanks - - Mr J. C. CESSFORD, C.A.

Dance

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Music by THE LOCARNO DANCE BAND

Master of Ceremonies—Mr C. HUNTER

PROGRAMME

Circassian Circle

Circle Waltz

Fox Trot

St. Bernard's Waltz

Eightsome Reel

Military Two-Step

Fox Trot

Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders

Hesitation Waltz

Dashing White Sergeant

Marine Four Step

Fox Trot

Drops o' Brandy

Circle Waltz (Ladies' Choice)

Polka

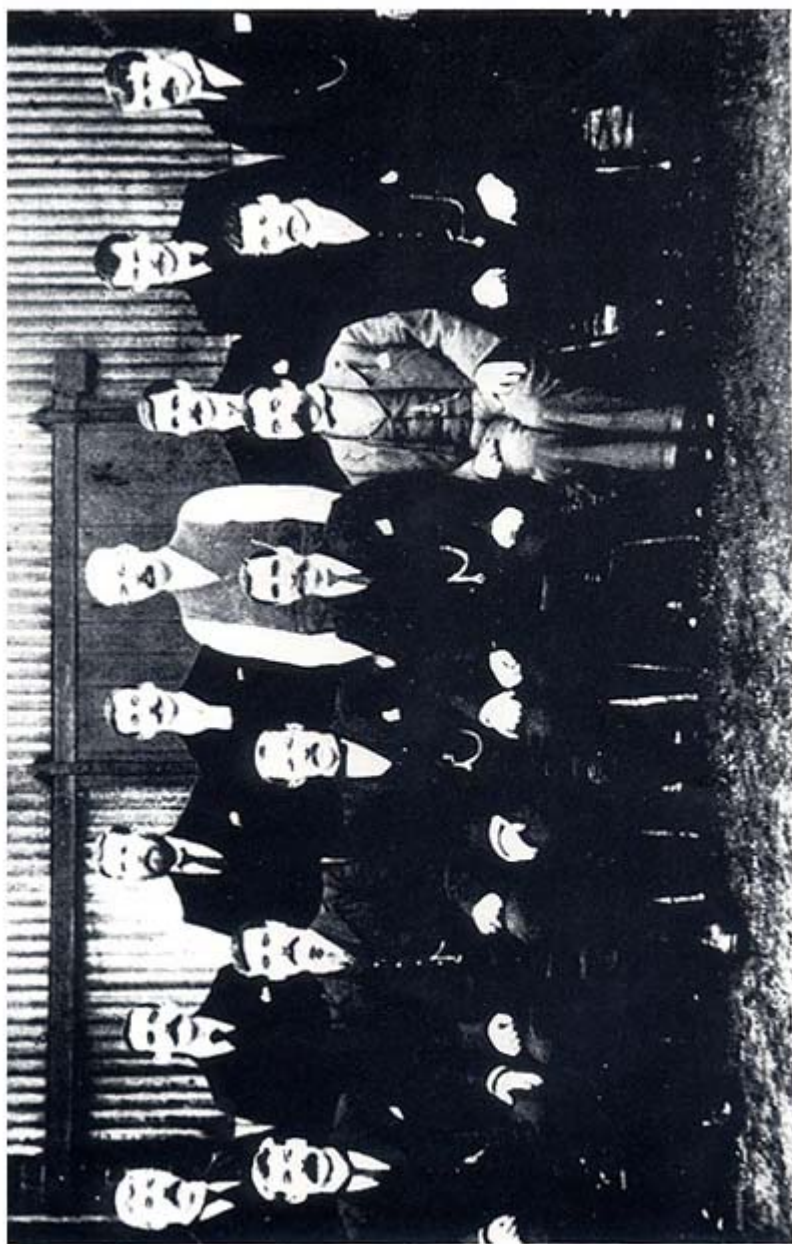
Pride of Erin Waltz

Military Two-Step

Canadian Barn Dance

Fox Trot

Circle Waltz



ARMADALE PUBLIC HOUSE SOCIETY LTD

COMMITTEE 1901

Back Row: H. FRIEL, R. SMITH, SECY., D. KERR, J. ADAMS, W. AIKMAN, MANAGER, R. WRIGHT, D. LOVE, T. WATSON

Front Row: J. RANKINE, VICE-PRESIDENT, W. DOUGLAS, M. MALLACE, PRESIDENT, J. SIMPSON, R. DRUMMOND, W. LOVE, TREASURER

HISTORICAL RECORD
ARMADALE PUBLIC HOUSE SOCIETY LTD.
1901-1951

The GOTH, that name, well known for its munificence to any worthy local cause, and its patronage to all local sporting organisations and cultural objects, is known far beyond the boundaries of West Lothian, and what was once described as a local institution, has now, to our knowledge become an inspiration to others, who, at this moment, are striving to emulate us, and to whom our best wishes for their success are extended. The fact of our existence is known over a very wide area, and locally is very much taken for granted; but comparatively few have ever paused to consider how it all came about. Now, after fifty years of business, we, the present committee of management, consider the time most appropriate to pay tribute to the pioneers of our society by publishing a summarised history, which we are certain will be a revelation to the great majority of our members and inspire pride and respect for those of over fifty years ago, who, by their foresight, courage, and consideration for others, made our heritage possible.

Fifty-three years ago, as everyone is aware, working and social conditions were vastly different from those prevailing to-day, with coal mining the principal, almost the only industry in ARMADALE; it will readily be appreciated therefore, in a community with such an industrial background, that the miners have had many thorny problems under review, and as to-day, many grievances and the remedies were first "mooted" in the congenial atmosphere of the public-house. Public-houses also at that time, left much to be desired, the majority being merely drinking

dens where cleanliness was not too strictly observed, and though spirits and beer were much more potent than to-day, were not always approved by discriminating customers.

About this time a few shrewd miners used to meet in "Calderhead's" or "Billy Edwards," regularly on Saturday nights, and after they had "howked their coals, and brushed their places" all over again, the conversation turned to the question of drink, its quality and price, and what more natural than that the Goth should be conceived in a public-house. They began to consider the possibility of setting up a public-house under the provisions of the Industrial and Provident Societies Act, 1893, which would provide good quality goods for customers, where members would have a say in the management, but above all, where some of the profits would, in some form, be applied for the benefit of the community.

Mr Malcolm Mallace, "Auld Maikum" to all his friends, and associates, and his immediate circle of friends, were prime movers in the matter. All keen co-operators, Mr Mallace himself member of the then School Board, Parish Council, and other local bodies, was convinced it could be achieved, and imbued all in contact with him, with his keen spirit and enthusiasm. Messrs Wm. Love, David Love and David Kerr, dour rugged Scots of the old order, who gave serious matters serious consideration, highly respected by their fellowmen and whose word was their bond, were whole heartedly in support. Jimmy Simpson, Johnnie Rankin, Will Douglas and Hughie Friel who, still with us, is the sole survivor of the first committee of management and many others, were all for the idea. Several local merchants, David Young, M. Russell, co-operative employees and others, Dr John Anderson, father of ARMADALE's most respected citizen, gave it their

blessing and later financial support. In a short time this became the chief topic of conversation in the town. Of course, apart from business interests, there were many who were bitterly antagonistic to such a revolutionary idea, but, after the "inner circle," had studied the reports of "feelers," they considered sufficient support and encouragement would be forthcoming to warrant taking the first step toward the fulfilment of their dream.

A public meeting was called, at which the objects in view were explained by various speakers, and the public invited to subscribe by taking up shares of five shillings each. Mr Mallace was appointed President ; John Rankin, Vice-President ; Mr W. Love, Treasurer ; and Mr R. Smith, Secretary. The remainder of the committee being Messrs H. Friel, D. Kerr, D. Love, R. Drummond, J. Simpson, R. Wright, J. Adams, W. Douglas. After a reasonable period of propaganda, it was found that the financial resources were insufficient to carry through the contemplated programme, and although a little disappointed their optimism was unshaken. Mr Mallace through his public offices had many influential friends, and he headed a deputation of three to interview Mr James Wood, local coal master and benefactor with a view to obtaining financial support. Now, many of us who, in later years, became intimately acquainted with "auld Maikum" know why that interview was so successful : his pawky humour, broad Scottish tongue, and sincerity could not fail, and so the deputation returned with the assurance of backing to the extent of one thousand pounds, which to-day would be equivalent to around four thousand pounds. With all financial worries removed, things began to take shape ; building controls and permits were unheard of then ; everything was plentiful except the chief ingredient in all things. The property of Mr Marshall, baker, was taken over and

altered to suit the business, which though modest compared with the present premises, was clean, tidy, and well appointed, and in modern language, "sticking out a mile," in comparison with the overwhelming majority of local "Pubs." Nevertheless, other interests had not let the grass grow under their feet, and to the consternation of members and well wishers alike, although ably represented at the licensing court, the application to open was refused. This was a severe blow to all their aspirations but by no means a knock out: naturally where hard earned money was concerned, there was no giving way to despair or feelings of frustration; obstacles had to be overcome and stratagems were not the monopoly of politicians. Mr Thomas Watson, later councillor, a Pillar of Orangeism locally, and nationally, therefore politically Unionist, was approached and convinced that a "GOTH" was an urgent necessity for ARMADALE, was conveniently co-opted to the board of management and placed on a deputation to interview Colonel Hope of Bridge Castle, a man of great influence in the county, and one time Tory M.P. for Linlithgowshire, who was chairman of at least one local organisation of which Mr Mallace was a Member. This master stroke of diplomacy had the desired result, and permission to open was granted in OCTOBER 1901.

Mr Wm. Aikman was appointed manager, and business commenced in traditional fashion. Drinks on the house, and well-earned congratulations to Mr Mallace and his committees. Business for the first year was very gratifying, and amply justified the action taken; so much so, that after only fourteen months in existence the first nursing association in ARMADALE was formed, mostly comprised of wives of the members of the committee, and Nurse MacAffee (well remembered and loved by the older generation), was appointed district nurse, uniform and wages

paid by ARMADALE PUBLIC-HOUSE SOCIETY LTD. This continued for eleven years when the Association was taken over by a local body. During that time, those pioneers, not one of whom had the benefits of free education, proved themselves no mean economists and business men, as by then the buildings were entirely the Society's, and all outstanding accounts discharged ; including the thousand pounds to Mr Wood. Nor had other bodies been neglected, as from 1903, the band, flower shows, bowling club, and others, had had over four hundred pounds donated among them ; a truly creditable achievement.

The first premises, in reality, were more or less a temporary expedient, and served a highly interesting purpose, giving the committee of management and staff experience in the trade, and also served to estimate the custom likely to be maintained in future. The feu was quite capable of allowing extensions for all reasonable purposes and the present front part of the shop was built, a large horse-shoe bar, with two rooms, and occupied in the first 4 years and proved a success from the start. Naturally, a few changes in committee were inevitable and other personalities well known locally were elected. Mr James Currie, later Bailie, and father of the present secretary James and his brother Campbell, who are following in father's footsteps by giving valuable service to the cause. Bailie Currie was a hard-working and talented man, capable of telling a good story against himself, with a lovely tenor voice which has given much pleasure to many members of the committee by rendering *The Maid of Llangollen*, one of his many favourites. Billy Stewart, another, well remembered for many witticisms, principally "the Bum-bee law" (according to Mr Stewart, If you don't work you don't eat), and his claim to Edinburgh Castle as his home, by virtue of his name. The business maintained steady progress, and as international tension

loomed up before the 1914-18 war, the business instinct became evident again and a deal was made which carried them through a difficult period, and apart from a few minor donations to local bodies, when war actually broke out, "Jock's Box" and other organisations for helping the services were the principal beneficiaries, during the whole war period as well as for some time after.

In 1920, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary was feeling the financial strain, and their appeal ably augmented by Mr McLeod, local bank agent, received two hundred pounds. 1921 found the Ambulance Association in need of a new ambulance. The "Goth" bought a garage and up-to-date ambulance, total cost two thousand pounds. This was handed over officially at the Cross by Mr Hugh Friel, Vice-President in 1922, before a large gathering, and an incident which took place must be recorded.

Mr Mallace had been unwell for some time and was bed-fast at the time, but the ambulance was taken along to his window where he could see it, and he managed to wave. The old chief was satisfied and after twenty-one years as President, he died in May 1922, mourned by the whole town. Mr Friel, as President, carried on where Mr Mallace left off.

In 1923 the local bowling, and Redding Pit Disasters accounted for three hundred pounds, out of a list of donations of seven hundred and eighty-one pounds which included a donation of four hundred and fifty-one pounds to ARMADALE PUBLIC BAND for a set of new instruments. 1924 and 1925 totalled over three thousand pounds, the Miners Welfare Institute collected two thousand pounds of that amount. 1926 found the old senior football club hard up and David Young and William Nimmo succeeded in getting £200 from the "Goth." The two succeeding years were modest as far as donations were concerned.

Most organisations appeared to be financially sound. But the old folks were apparently being neglected and so in 1929 one or two of the committee suggested the now familiar grant of ten shillings to Old Folks, Widows and Blind People. This has been maintained ever since and six thousand pounds has in that time found its way to many who are grateful for the timely grant. In all about twenty thousand pounds has been returned from profits, surely justifying a conviction held by a few miners fifty years ago.

To continue the story of management, however, Mr Smith resigned in 1914 owing to pressure of municipal duties, and the secretarial work was taken over by Mr Aikman until his death in 1916, when Mr D. Hamilton became Secretary, and Mr Philip Kerr was appointed Manager. On the resignation of Mr Wm. Love in 1918 Mr Brown was elected Treasurer, and, as one period of eighteen years faithful service ended, another long period began in this office. Mr Friel, as has already been mentioned, carried on as President until 1926 when Mr John Ramsay was elected, and this remained the official structure until 1935.

In the economic depression of the '20s and early 30s business as may well be imagined was modest indeed, nevertheless in 1929 an extension to the premises was formally opened, and consideration given to the plight of Old Age Pensioners and Widows now "Persons of 65 years and over, Widows and Blind People," and the scheme inaugurated.

In 1935 Mr Hamilton who had been in ill-health for some time became seriously ill in OCTOBER and Mr Wm. Hunter, a member of the Committee, was invited to take over the duties of Secretary pending Mr Hamilton's return.

Unfortunately Mr Hamilton died in NOVEMBER, and, his death among other things may be regarded as the indirect cause of an alteration of the constitution which, fortunately, has worked very satisfactorily, due mainly to the whole-hearted co-operation of committee and officials concerned.

Mr Joseph McIndoe was engaged as Manager in NOVEMBER 1935 and in 1936 Mr Wm. Hunter was elected Secretary. With the meteoric rise to power of Hitler in GERMANY, the political situation in Europe was causing anxiety with the result that work locally, became more plentiful, particularly in the steel trade, and this was reflected in local business, and as usual we got a fair share. Owing to the alteration in the constitution Mr Brown had to retire from office in 1937, and Mr Henry Mallace was elected Treasurer in 1938, Mr John Ramsay after twelve years in office had to retire and Mr John Love was elected as President and in 1939 Mr James Currie was elected in place of Mr W. Hunter, Retiring Secretary. Members of the Board of Management also had to retire for one year, after each term of three years, with the result that more Members of the Society were becoming conversant with the business of management. So to date, the main officials and staff for the fifty years, have been :—

PRESIDENT				TREASURER			
Mr Mallace	. 21 years	. . .	Mr W. Love	. 18 years			
Mr Ramsay	. 12 years	. . .	Mr Brown	. 19 years			
				(and term of 3 yrs.)			
Mr Friel	. 4 (and term of 3 yrs.)	Mr Mallace	. 2 terms	..			
Mr Love	. 3 terms of 3 years.	Mr H. Knox	. 1 term	..			
Mr Reid	. 1 term of 3 years	Mr D. Love	. 1 term	..			
SECRETARY				MANAGER			
Mr Smith	. 14 years	. . .	Mr Aikman	. 15 years			
Mr Aikman	. 2 years	. . .	Mr Kerr	. 19 years			
Mr Hamilton	. 18 years	. . .	Mr McIndoe	. 16 years			
Mr Hunter	. 3 terms of 3 years.	Mr Paterson (almost 5 years during					
Mr Currie	. 3 terms of 3 years.	Mr McIndoe's service in the					
		forces)					

These figures include those in office with part of their terms incomplete.

With the coming of war in 1939, trade boomed and shortly after, we heard the now familiar phrase, "too much money chasing too few goods," and bar drawings moved up to a record in 1946. Taxation, however, kept pace with drawings and even surpassed expectations and taxes soared to an all-time record of one thousand pounds in 1947. Goods began to be in short supply and open market prices took on the appearance of an astronomer's calculations and would have made the pioneers turn in their graves. We were suffering many headaches in our endeavour to supply the demand, but thanks to the various finance committees and the manager, we managed to maintain all our charitable commitments, though the profit margin was shrinking. We have been toying with the idea for some time, of ploughing back the profits in the form of modernisation, and extra comfort for customers, but with devaluation of the pound sterling, the general state of world economy, and restrictions on capital expenditure our hopes must be postponed indefinitely, and possibly a policy of retrenchment introduced until more stability replaces the present chaotic state of world affairs. When we speak of retrenchment, we have no intention of cutting off any of our recognised annual obligations to the public and we feel we are also speaking for future Boards of Management in that respect, but while present conditions prevail, we must be careful in all financial matters.

△△△ We cannot conclude this abbreviated history of our Society without tendering our thanks to our many faithful customers, past and present, for their patronage. We hope we have deserved it, and shall endeavour to meet the requirements of the public in future, with our usual high standard of civility, service, cleanliness, and quality of goods supplied. We also appreciate the worth of our present staff to the Society, and have put our appreciation

in tangible form by providing them with some security while employed by us and in retirement, and in this again we feel we are pioneers. We are also grateful to our Town Clerk, Mr MacDonald, for many services rendered in his legal capacity (gratis). Also to the local Agents of the Commercial Bank, for assistance in various ways, to the sergeants, and members of the local constabulary for ensuring our drawings safely lodged in the bank, and many other services rendered. To Mr McGregor for advice in various local matters. To Mr J. C. Cessford, our Auditor, for thirty-three years of advice and guidance on many intricate points, and to Mr Shaw of Messrs R. Mcllwraith & Son, stocktakers and valuers, for advice and help during twenty-eight years with us. We also appreciate that through our association with the Society in an executive capacity we have made many friendships which we feel sure will last. Finally, while apologising for the brevity of this history of "THE GOTH" we are proud of its achievements, and respect the memory of the pioneers, and it is solely because of this, we decide to bring to your notice the names of those to whom to-night we pay homage.



ARMADALE PUBLIC HOUSE SOCIETY LIMITED

DIRECTORS AND OFFICIALS

President . . Mr JOHN LOVE

Vice-President . Mr JOHN KERR

Secretary . . Mr JAMES CURRIE

Treasurer . . Mr DAVID LOVE

Messrs HUGH BROWN, JOHN EWART,
CAMPBELL CURRIE, DAVID PRENTICE,
WILLIAM PIRIE, JOHN McKINNON,
PETER BURNS, JOHN PRENTICE.

Manager . Mr JOSEPH McINDOE.

Auditor . Mr JAMES C. CESSFORD, C.A., F.S.A.A.
