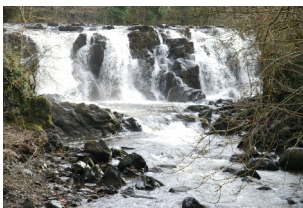


FOCUS

The Magazine of Busby Parish Church

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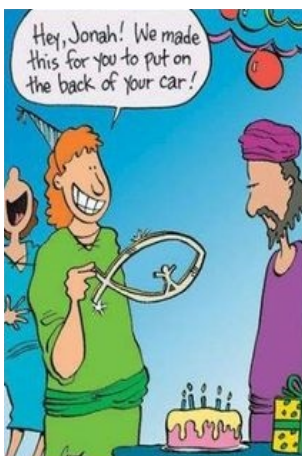


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The Band Played On



Sunshine gave way to rain and clouds on the day of this year's Garden Party. But it didn't spoil anything or put anyone off their stride. We moved everything into the Church Hall and had a wonderful afternoon. Over 130 people were fed, watered and entertained by three superb music acts. Bellshill Brass got things started, followed by Scots singer Ella Munro who performed a mixture of Scottish, American and Irish traditional songs. The afternoon was rounded off by singer/songwriter Scott Bonnyman, formerly of Glasgow band The Imagineers. Scott has played at T in the Park and the Wickerman festival as well as appearing on the Late Late Show in the USA and his set included some of his own songs as well as cover versions of the Beatles, Radiohead, Bob Dylan, Coldplay and U2.

Meanwhile, condemned to sizzling in the rain, Mark Bradley and Steve Smith kept the sausages and burgers coming and our amazing team of volunteers served it up to an eager audience.

It was great to see so many people there, especially the children who, as well as enjoying the face-painting, dragged their parents out to the bouncy castle.

No spirits were dampened and the unanimous verdict was that it had been a great day, bringing our community together, young and old, for a lot of fun and some wonderful entertainment.



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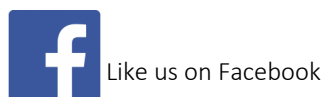
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or left in the Church
Vestibule on Sunday
Mornings

Visit our website at
busbyparishchurch.org.uk



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Message from the Manse

Jerry Eve



There are always a lot of anniversaries, and one of the biggest of these will take place this autumn, when we remember something that happened 500 years ago on Halloween. Called the Reformation, this was just the start of a rather painful (albeit many would argue, necessary) process that unfortunately resulted in one of the two major schisms the Church has lived through during its 2000 year history – the other taking place in the year 1054. And I've wondered how best to mark this momentous milestone as, half a millennium after 31 October 1517, we remember 95 theses pinned to the door of a Church in Wittenberg by Martin Luther.

All sorts of events are being planned in Germany itself, and a Church outing to Saxony would certainly be fun. Given that one of Martin Luther's most famous quotations is, "Whoever drinks beer, he is quick to sleep; whoever sleeps long, does not sin; whoever does not sin, enters Heaven! Thus, let us drink beer!" I know some of the celebrations are set to involve ale. But, whether or not our own are, we will at least have a special service on the nearest Sunday morning, and if anyone has any good ideas what else might be done to mark the occasion – short, of course, of vandalising our own Church door here in Busby, and sparking a new reformation – then do please let me know.



Robin Bulmer

Message from the Session Clerk

The sun is shining brightly as I write this and indeed has been doing so all afternoon. Disappointingly it's an afternoon of contrasting weather to that which we enjoyed yesterday when the Church hosted our annual community summer garden party. Nevertheless the latter, which largely took place in the Church Hall, was a great success with well over one hundred young and old folk alike enjoying a period of fellowship and good food entertained by some wonderful musicians. It was rewarding to see that the attendees truly represented a goodly cross-section of our community.

Similarly this morning when our service of worship included an infant baptism that attracted a large number of friends and family including many children who considerably swelled the ranks of the Sunday School. Coming, as all of this did, at the end of a week during which the Kirk Session reflected on our future place in the community along with friends from Greenbank Church, it was good to see the work of our Church and congregation in action in these welcoming ways at the heart of our community.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another." Hebrews 10, 24:25.

Announcements

BAPTISM	August 20th	Hugh Edward Brown (born 24th March, 2017)
WEDDINGS	June 24th August 12th	Laura Jane Jarvie and Matthew James Bailey Rachael Grace Mercer and Paul Matthews
BEREAVEMENTS	June July	Nan Martin, Mearns Kirk House Roy Birchall, Broomburn Drive Alan Turmeau, The Paddock Margaret Douglas, Cartsbridge Road

The Importance of Busby

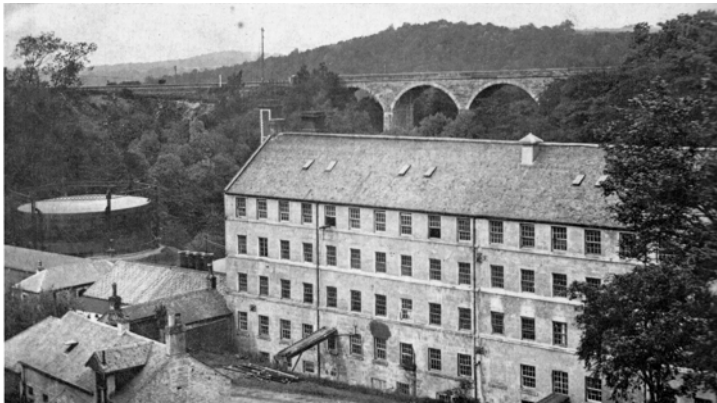
Stuart Nisbet

We are all proud of our home area, but how important is Busby on a national scale?

As a community, Busby was originally a small village or 'fermtoun' on the East side of the White Cart, in the vicinity of what is now the Railway Station. In 1778 a Glasgow merchant built a cotton spinning mill, Busby Upper Mill, on the West side of the Cart, on the crest of the waterfall, the highest on the river (pictured right). This was one of the earliest cotton mills in Scotland, years before better-known sites such as New Lanark.



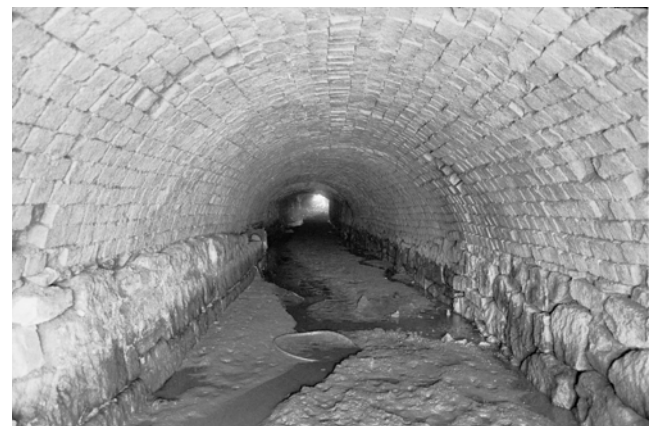
A decade later a Stockport merchant bought the mill and extended the lade to power a second and larger cotton mill, Busby Lower Mill (pictured below). Busby Printworks, along Field Road, followed shortly after. These big water driven industries attracted workers and their families to Busby from a wide area and Busby grew into a large village.



Busby is located at the corner of four parishes, Cathcart, Carmunnock, East Kilbride and Mearns. Initially villagers attended churches in the wider area. Busby West Church (1836) grew out of The United Secession Church and Busby East (1865) from the Free Church. The first Church of Scotland was Greenbank (1884), originally built to serve Busby, before Clarkston grew in size. The site was gifted by the Hamiltons of Greenbank and was the closest point on their estate to Busby. In 1929 the East and West churches gained their final names, when the Free Church joined with the Church of Scotland. Unifications of churches in Busby are not new and Busby East Church united with Busby West, and the East building was converted to flats in 1992.

Most Busby folk have a general idea that the village once had mills, but the sites, and the waterfall are largely forgotten. The falls are not easily accessible, although they can be seen from Busby Glen Park. Although the cotton industry ended in the 1880s, and Busby Upper Mill was demolished in 1900, the larger Lower Mill survived as a laundry. A neighbour remembers the huge fire which lit up the sky and destroyed the main mill building in 1968.

The writer grew up in Netherlee and from an early age was fascinated with mill remains on the White Cart. Since 1979 he has lived with his family in Busby Parish, and two of his children were baptised in the East Church. From the early 1980s he began exploring the remains. Although the buildings are gone, the dams, lades, tunnels and water power system survive (pictured right).



It was gradually realised that what remained on the riverbank was important, and the writer began to seek archive sources to resolve Busby's industrial origins. After floating a camera down the mill lade tunnel to photograph the interior, an initial article was published in 1988. This was followed by 'Busby Community Trail', published by the libraries in the early 1990s. Busby's remains led to exploring other cotton mill sites in the wider area. Although the author is an engineer, not a historian, he did a PhD on all the cotton mills in the old county of Renfrewshire in 2004. This found that the county had more than 40 big rural water powered cotton mills, half the Scottish total, and Busby was the first.

Over the years, Busby Upper Mill site was drawn to the attention of Historic Scotland and RCAHMS. Various experts were shown around the site, and all were impressed. In September 2014, Busby Upper Mill site was formally designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument. This gives legal protection to the site and recognises Busby as one of the earliest industrial communities in the country, dating from the very start of the Industrial Revolution in Scotland.