



# Stow Parish Archive Newsletter January 2011

Welcome to the 6<sup>th</sup> year of the Archive monthly Newsletter. This coming year will herald some changes to our activities and our presence in the Town Hall, but more of that at a later date. This month's edition has the usual parish tales of January in past times.

## **January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1859 Old Year Festivities**

The old year has made its exit and with the exceptions we note, has done so in a very unobtrusive manner. Our youngsters cling to the "caking" department very tenaciously and visit the various farms in the locality for about four or six miles round, dunning the gudewives from morn to e'en for the usual gratuities common to the season. The workers of Stow Mill had their usual tea party on Old Year's Night and under the kind superintendence of Mr Mercer passed a few hours in a happy manner.

## **January 1860 Old Hansel Monday**

Mr John Peake of Craigend, gave his workers their usual hansel in the shape of a supper with 20 individuals surrounding the festive board. Later in the evening after Mr Robert Cunningham proposed the toast, Mr Peake replied that the longer he lived he was more deeply impressed with a sense of the advantages of both the employer and the employed would derive from promoting kindly feelings between each other, as their interests were mutual. He deprecated the idea of frequent change among servants but thought that the longer they lived together

the better they know and understand each other's interests.

## **January 1863**

On Saturday evening last a brilliant appearance of the aurora borealis was observed by numbers of persons in our locality. The wind was high during the evening and the slight caused by the reflection of the "the lights" sweeping towards the zenith had a very striking yet beautiful appearance. Some of the aged matrons of the village think that "something awful's gaun to happen".

## **January 1864 Schoolmasters Salaries**

At a meeting of the Parochial Board Mr Walkers salary was to £50 yearly. Salaries for the teachers of Fountainhall a Caitha were agreed.

## **January 3<sup>rd</sup> 1873**

Mr and Mrs Frier of Cathpair have given their workers (ten families) a packet of tea and sugar each as New Year gifts. The children were treated to oranges and cakes on New Year's morning.

## **January 1874**

Attention has been called to several cases of sheep worrying in the neighbourhood by dogs, which are certainly a nuisance to everyone but their owners. He matter is now in the hands of the police authorities and if any action tends to diminish the number of dogs running about the village then the result will be a pleasant one indeed.

## **January 1874 High Floods**

The severe storm of Monday night and Tuesday morning again flooded the Gala and its tributaries with the haughs in the vicinity being more or less inundated. The mill cauld was damaged by the ice flood and efforts have been made to put it into temporary repair but the flood which is the worst in 20 years will it be feared, render these efforts abortive and cause considerable loss to Mr Mercer of Stow Mill.

**Please come along to our next meeting on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2011 from 7.30 onwards and help us add to the Archive anything of interest. We can copy any photos or documents or we can simply make notes on any memories that you have that would be of interest.**

