



# Stow Parish Archive

## Newsletter

### February 2008

**We are now meeting on last Wednesday of each month and are trying to have a different theme for each one. This month's theme is School Days and to get us started we now have in the archive an interesting account from Alistair Moore.**

Alistair Moore, now a resident of Bo'ness, has written a lively and detailed account of his time spent in Stow as a wartime evacuee. He left Edinburgh on 2nd September 1939 and he and his three siblings were billeted with different families in the village.

Alistair joined Stow school for P4 and remained there right through to P7, he also tells how some classes were held in the Town Hall. Mr. Moore recollects the people who took him in and the various teachers he encountered. He also talks about what it was like to be an evacuee in a very insightful and entertaining way.\*

#### **School Board 1874**

The new census was submitted which showed the number of children in Stow district to be 217, Fountainhall district 155, and Catitha 17. The numbers of children not attending school were 77 of whom 28 gave no excuse, 35 were taught at home and 8 claimed to have been the statutory time at school. The board was unanimous in regard to the propriety of putting the compulsory clauses into effect against those who gave no reason for non-attendance and of making others pass through the necessary examinations, but in consideration of the

limited school accommodation, waived action for the present.

#### **1874 - Proposed School Site Under Water**

The heavy rains since Sunday flooded the Gala Water and its tributaries although not to such an extent as have been seen in some spring floods. On this occasion however the rising of the river has been viewed with some interest as it has partially covered the proposed site for the new school and teachers house. Judging from the appearance of the ground during the rains, it is very evident that the members of the school board who objected to it have a pretty strong case for opposing the erection of the buildings there.

#### **August 1874**

Two proposed sites for the school offered by Mr Mitchell were, No 1 – a field adjoining the village of Stow and No 2 – a in the corner of a field at Killochyett.

#### **February 1877**

Mrs Mitchell has offered a new site overlooking Dr. Middleton and next to Mr Lees house. Some thought it too elevated above the public road and that it was against the interests of the community as it would put a stop to the erection of villas. Mr Wilson could not understand why the site been offered had to be so hurriedly decided upon.

#### **September 1878**

The new school was opened in the presence of a large assemblage of the ladies and gentlemen residing in the district and about 150 children. The Rev. Robertson said that the school would be an adequate and proper place for instruction for many generations to come.

**Please come along on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> February from 7.30 onwards and help us add to the Archive anything of interest on the theme of School Days. We can copy any photos or documents or we can simply make notes on any memories that you have that would be of interest.**

\*A copy of this account can be read in the Town Hall Reading Room.