



Carmunnock Heritage Society

Chair's Report

April 2025 - March 2026

It has been a relatively short time since our last AGM in October 2025 but we have decided to move these meetings to April each year which gives a better tie in with the financial year. This report covers activities since April last year and our future endeavours.

Our activities 2025/2026

We had a successful stall at Gala 2025 and it was made even more special with the visit from the last Laird of Carmunnock's great grandson James Stuart Stevenson. He was asked to crown the Gala Queen and walked in a very rainy parade! A rep from the Society was also invited to a lunch with Mr Stuart Stevenson and his wife alongside History Societies from East Kilbride and Castlemilk.

Heritage Talks

As part of Gala week in June we had our first heritage talk as Tam McGarvey took us in the footsteps of King Arthur in the Scottish Lowlands. These talks have proved to be very popular and we have had great feedback. So far we've had a total of 8 talks from a wide selection of wonderful speakers who have transported us from days of Mary Queen of Scots to the hidden village of Grahamston. We've gone 'Doon the Watter' and been delighted by the Art Deco period in Scotland. The talk on the history of Linn Park actually led to a pleasant guided walk there and we are planning to run another walk in the Summer for members. These talks have been a great fundraiser for the Society and I'd like to thank everyone who has come along to support us.

We have managed to secure a great selection of speakers going into 2027.

- May 14th 7pm - The Archaeology of 70's and 80's Glasgow - Prof. Ken Brophy Glasgow University
- June 11th 7pm - Mungo, Mugs and Memories, Glasgows 800th Birthday - Norrie Wilson - Lost Glasgow
- September 10th - The Commonwealth War Graves Commission - Fred Ellsworth
- October 8th - Blantyre History Project - Paul Ververka
- January 14th - Dave Campbell Astonishing Glasgow - title TBC
- Feb 4th - The history of Eaglesham. Eaglesham History Society



Other Activities

In July, thanks to a grant from the Linn Area Committee we refurbished and painted the 4 historic directional fingerposts. They look so much better now.



In September we took part in another successful Doors Open Day in partnership with the Church. We had around 100 visitors to our exhibition of photographs in the hall and a good number of Heritage Trail participants. We took part in the Church Flower festival with a beautiful flower arrangement from Tracy Crawford paying homage to the Carmunnock washer women.



In November as requested at the last AGM we carried out trimming of the bushes in front of the Church to clear the view. Our thanks go to Derek Scott and Alistair Young who made this happen! We also laid a wreath at the War memorial along with other Village Societies.



We also had a stall at the Christmas Market selling a range of Carmunnock merchandise and candles. Thanks go to Alistair Young for the wonderful tablet.





The Glebe

A tree survey carried out in December identified that two lime trees in the Glebe are infected with a fungus which will eventually kill the roots. For safety they need to be felled. There are also another three lime trees that need dead wood to be removed. We obtained two quotes and have applied for a £2000 grant from the Linn Area Partnership for the work. The Society will contribute £400. We plan to plant several new saplings in the Glebe to compensate. On the bright side the tree surveyor commented on the health and unique nature of the group of large 200yr old sycamore trees at Sycamore Way.

The Heritage Trail

We continue to promote our Heritage Trail both online and by distributing leaflets at many local tourist spots. We are looking forward to some more visitors over the Summer. Eaglesham Heritage Society have been so impressed by our tour that they are planning a similar one.

Total sessions in year April '25 to March '26 631 (possibly two people each session)

Total video views 1,645

There was a peak around Doors Open Day with 118 single video views on the day.

The promotional trail video on the Heritage Trail facebook page now has 45k views up from 37k in October 2025 with the page itself having 305 followers, up from 292 in October.

Our Heritage Society Facebook page now has 658 followers up slightly from 634.

We are also trying to build content on our Instagram page - thanks to Rebecca Ferries who is taking this forward.



On going projects

We continue to monitor Planning Applications. Thanks to Joy Crooks who is keeping an eye on the Glasgow Planning Portal and also the South Lanarkshire one.

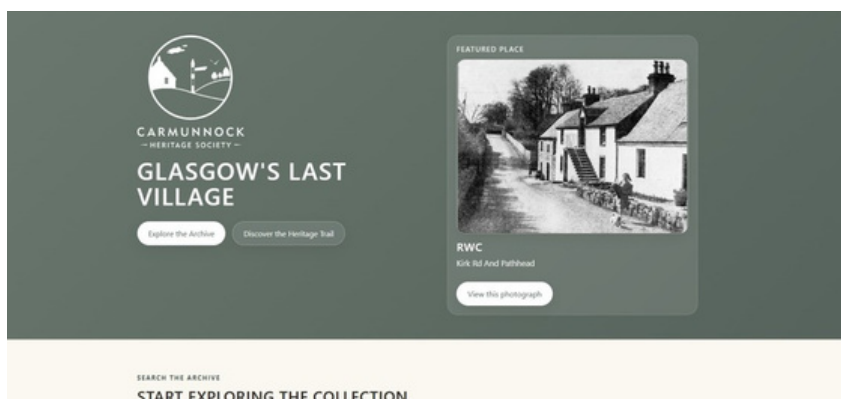
Joy is also working on collating a complete record of Gala Queens from 1952 to the present day. A great deal of work had been done by Peter Christie in the past but there were some gaps and missing information/photographs of more recent Galas. Thanks to all those who have contributed to the records so far.

We have also aquired more archive storage boxes and acid free protection for the archive and are looking forward to the day when we have a heritage room in the Castlemilk Hall!



New Website

We will shortly be launching a new website where you can access the photo archive, the oral history videos, information on the Heritage Trail and membership information. We have also included an electronic copy of Bea Herbert's book 'The Story of Carmunnock'. There will be a members area where we will provide extra information, speakers slides, documents and dates of events. If we have your email address you will be sent a link soon! Massive thanks to Ted Simpson who has been working on this for months.



Rights of Way

Part of our remit is to keep a record of the rights of way around the village. One needing attention is the lane which runs from Pathhead Rd to Craigsheen Avenue, behind the KGV playing field. The Society purchased this lane in 1988. On old maps it was a farm track that went all the way to Picketlaw Farm. The lane frequently gets overgrown and is uninviting. We are applying for funding from Glasgow City Council who have grants for privately owned lanes. We plan to improve it by removing dead trees, clearing undergrowth, adding bird and bat boxes, planting bulbs and adding some signage at the entrance making it a safe and pleasant path for all to use. We met with the Community Gardners who have agreed to assist us with ongoing maintenance.

Membership

See membership report. Thanks to Rosemary Morgan and Roy Laing for all the work they have done with the membership list.

Charity status

We are changing from an unincorporated organisation to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO). This offers several advantages for charities in Scotland, primarily limited liability for trustees and the ability to apply for larger funding streams. Thanks to Alistair Young who is taking this forward.

Future Plans

We are in the process of looking for funding for additional Heritage Trail signage sited at the cross with a map of the village and the interesting points to visit. Thanks to Joy who is progressing this.

We will be selling Bea Herbert's notelets in Booths and also via our facebook page/website.

Ken Kittridge is going to do some metal detecting in the Glebe and we are excited to see if he comes up with any finds.

In May we will be meeting with an MSc. Planning Student Iona MacDonald from the village who is completing her dissertation on the visual and physical impact that new developments have had on Carmunnock and their residents.

It has been my absolute pleasure to be Chair since October last year and I'd like to say a massive thanks to the previous Chair Tracy Crawford who was instrumental in highlighting the vision of Carmunnock as 'Glasgow's Last Village'. Thanks too to the Committee who are such a great team to work with. This year we were sad to lose Seonaid Cavenagh due to family commitments but gained a great new member in Lorraine McCoull. I'd also like to thank all the active members and village organisations who support us so generously throughout the year. I hope we can continue to put Carmunnock on the map and help to preserve our wonderful village.

Anne Simpson

Chair, Carmunnock Heritage Society. April 2026