

Bitesize Newsletter

Snippets from BNA & Outside Source

1862 - DANCING RINGS

We presume that most people have heard of 'Dancing Rings,' many were extant* in the country not half a century ago. They were circular, or in some instances, oval mounds composed of earth and stones. According to tradition, parties after a marriage went and 'danced at the ring' as they called it.

A dancing ring existed on the farm of Balgreen, in the parish of Lochwinnoch, and another at Chapelton, in the same parish, close by the ancient chapel of Lochwinnoch, dedicated [we believe] to St Winloch, where in olden times, the festival of St Winloch was celebrated, and where on an adjoining hill, called Market Hill an accompanying fair was held, now known as 'The Fair o'Hill.'

Many still alive, we learn, remember these rings when entire, as it it not long since both were removed in the course of agricultural improvements. The one on Balgreen was within the great church barony of Glen; the other in the lordship or barony of Sempill; and leading to the one on Balgreen there was a footpath all the way from Lochwinnoch, which is more than a mile distant, a footroad which, as we are informed, is still in use. On one occasion some 40 or 60 years ago, an attempt was made to shut up this path, when inhabitants rose *en masse* walked along the path to maintain their rights preceded by a piper, and danced at the ring as their forbears had done in former days, being regaled the while by a competent supply of mountain dew, probably an improper innovation.

*Extant - still in existence; surviving

1858 The Cedar of Lebanon

There is fine specimen of this tree in the beautiful demesne* of James Lee Harvey, Esq., which has become venerable from age. Its date not well ascertained, but it is believed be two hundred years old, and singular to say, it has produced seed this season for the first time within remembrance. The cones resemble those of a Scots pine, and add much to the embellishment of its otherwise beautiful outline.

*Demesne - a piece of land attached to a manor and retained by the owner for their own use.

1821 King's Coronation

We learn that the eventful period of the Coronation of our most gracious Sovereign George IV., did not pass unnoticed in the village of Lochwinnoch, for a goodly number of Royal and respectable inhabitants both of town and country convened on the occasion, and not only drank the health of his majesty, the Royal Family, the Constituted Authorities of the Kingdom and County, and many patriotic toasts, but upon this occasion distributed bread in abundance to an assembled and loyal multitude without doors.



Calder 2010



Loch 2010



Fancy Dress
circa 1955



Medals - Peter Smith

LOCHWINNOCH FROM THE AIR



AN OLD CHESTNUT

This is a short story about four people named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it, but Nobody did it. Somebody got angry about that, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought Anybody could do it, but Nobody realised that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody when Nobody did what Anybody could have done.