

Gala related material on SCRAN

Armadale

W.MS.2001.20

Booklet: 'Programme for Armadale Children's Gala Day, Saturday 17th June 1989; printed by Sanderson of Larbert; cover has lucky number 0138 printed on it. Donation 50p, 68pp

SCRAN 000-000-464-592 (GN) SLA

A decorated arch over the main street during the Armadale Gala Day, West Lothian, 1907.

Describing the Galas during the 1920s and 1930s local man William Sneddon said: 'At that time on the Gala Day morning there was always a pipe band would come up to Cappers Corner (miner's rows of houses), and play and all the women and men would have a good two or three dances. When the band left to go back down to the school, all the children followed and that was the start of our Gala Day.'

Tap o the Toun, Autumn 1994. History of Armadale Association (see W.MS.1995.19.5)

SCRAN 000-000-464-911 (GN) SLA

A prize winning arch on the main street of Armadale during the Gala Day, West Lothian, 1909.

In the early years of the Gala Day, the miners constructed huge arches to span the roads in front of the homes of the Queen and her Chief Lady. In following years, various miners who lived in different parts of the town would then compete with each other to build bigger and better arches outside their particular street. The practise of building the large green and boxwood arches has now all but died away.

SCRAN 000-000-464-917 (GN) SLA

Crowds line the street to watch the procession during Armadale Gala Day, West Lothian, 1913.

Gala Days were most commonly found in areas of coalmining throughout Scotland. The Star Inn and other buildings along the procession route are flying flags and bunting for the occasion. The procession, involving local schoolchildren, consisted of miners' horses and ponies and a series of decorated carts.

Breich

SCRAN 000-000-464-754 (GN) SLA

West Calder Pipe Band leading the Gala Day parade up the Main Street at Breich, Midlothian, 1931.

Children play a vital role in the proceedings of the day, often marching in a procession to a local park where a Gala Queen is crowned by a local dignitary. The appearance of the pipe band to lead the procession adds colour and noise to an already eagerly looked forward to occasion.

Dalkeith 1924 & 1933 <http://movingimage.nls.uk/film/1562>

Darvel

SCRAN 000-000-463-360-C SLA

The burgh band at the Lace Queen Festival, Darvel, Ayrshire, 1951.

During the 1930s and 1950s a day was set aside during the Darvel Holidays for the crowning of a lace queen. This Gala Day was an ideal opportunity for the burgh band to parade around the town.

One resident of Darvel, Morag Ritchie, speaks fondly of her time as the lace queen: 'At the time I was Lace Queen I worked in a sample department... Each lace factory was asked to nominate two employees who had to be resident in Darvel and unmarried. The firm I worked in had some new designs and I was allowed to choose a design and the dresses were made locally. I'll never forget the thrill... And I'll never forget seeing a sea of faces... To me it looked like ten thousand people. A lot of people, mostly I think with Valley connections would come back. It was a day that families got together. I think the town has lost a lot by this being dropped'.

SCRAN 000-000-466-006-C (GN) SLA

Davidsons Mains

<https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-058-579&>

St.John's Ambulance Team photographed at Dunbar, East Lothian, 1920.

These ambulance men are lined up in front of the ambulance, they were on duty at the local Gala Day.

W.MS.2003.98

Bookmark commemorating Dunfermline Children's Gala Day, 1985

DUNFERMLINE

1932

<http://movingimage.nls.uk/film/1360>

1951

<http://movingimage.nls.uk/film/1365>

1961 WET WEATHER <https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-068-257&searchdb=scan>

East Linton

SCRAN 000-000-465-992-C (GN) SLA

'Mr. Speedy', a winning horse at the East Linton Gala, East Lothian, 1922.

'Mr. Speedy', a Clydesdale horse, was the overall winner at the East Linton gala in 1922. The horse, from Tavinlea farm, Oldhamstocks, is wearing a spectacular show harness complete with decorations. Many hours would be spent cleaning and polishing the harness in order that the horse might look its best and hopefully win a prize and recognition. The owner of the horse is proudly holding the prize winning cup.

SCRAN 000-000-465-995-C (GN) SLA

Clydesdales parade at the East Linton Gala, East Lothian in 1923.

The horses, dressed in their spectacular show harness, are lined up waiting to be judged. Great care and pride was taken in the preparation of horses for shows and ploughing matches. Many hours were spent in cleaning and polishing the harness in order that it might look its best and hopefully win a prize and recognition.

SCRAN 000-000-466-007-C (GN) SLA

The prize winning horse and owner Mr. Bisset at the East Linton Gala, East Lothian, in 1924.

The horse came from Little Spott farm and is wearing a spectacular show harness complete with decorations.

Guardbridge

SCRAN 000-000-465-792 (GN) SLA

Alex Bayne with his prize winning horse after the Guardbridge Gala Day, Leuchars, Fife, 1924.

The horse has been dressed up in its harness and decorations for the Guardbridge Gala Day.

Grangemouth

SCRAN 000-000-570-630-C (GN) SLA

John Burnett and Malcolm MacCallum. Grangemouth Children's Day, Bo'ness Fair and Lanimer Day at Lanark. Review of Scottish Culture, Volume 14 Edinburgh: European Ethnological Research Centre, 2002

Inverness

SLA.31.20.11

Black and white photograph, copy negative, of a performer and his bike at a Gala day, Inverness, 1923.

Juniper Green

SCRAN 000-000-467-692 (GN) SLA

The Co-operative Society at a gala parade, Juniper Green, Midlothian, early 20th century.

This packed photograph shows the banner of the Co-operative Society and young pipers being watched by the assembled crowds. At the front of the procession there are young lads dressed up as adults with suits and bunnets on.

Larnark

SCRAN 000-000-541-462 (GN) SLA? 1974

Little boy dressed as a city gent with bowler hat and broly in the Lanimer Day parade taking place in Lanark in June 1974.

ON FILM 1997

<https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-196-424-C&scache=1761hturit&searchdb=scran>

<https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-196-462-C&scache=1761hturit&searchdb=scran>

ON FILM 1996

<https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-196-461-C&scache=37hqx84109&searchdb=scran>

Loganlea

SCRAN 000-000-464-894-C (GN) SLA

The Stoneyburn Brass Band at Loganlea Gala, Addiewell, West Calder, Midlothian, May 1949.

Millerhill

SCRAN 000-000-463-379-C (GN) SLA

William Knox and Thomas Ramsay with a dressed horse and a cart in front of cornstacks at Woolmet Farm, Newton, Midlothian, 1928 - 1930.

SCRAN 000-000-464-436-C (GN) SLA

A horse and cart ready for the Millerhill Gala, at Shawfair Farm, Portobello, Midlothian, 1931-1932.

Many hours would be spent in cleaning and polishing the harness in order that it might look its best on the Gala Day. This Niddrie & Benhar Coal Company horse and cart has been made ready for the Millerhill Gala; it may be employed to carry children on the parade. Standing by the horse are Mrs Fisher, the manager's wife and Willie Liddle, the first man.

Milnathort

SCRAN 000-000-463-935-C

Lochgelly silver band parading through the streets of Milnathort, Orwell, Kinross-shire, 1937.

SCRAN 000-000-467-079-C

Mussel sellers Mrs Barr and Mrs Murray photographed with their daughters at Inveresk, Musselburgh, Midlothian, c. 1940s - 1950s.

The small girls are dressed in the distinctive striped upturned skirts of the fishwife. The job of gathering and then shelling the mussels was usually given to the fishermen's wives or children. Mussels until recently have mainly been used as bait in Scotland rather than as a foodstuff in their own right.

This photograph looks as though it was taken during a local gala, most probably the Fisherman's Walk. There is a brass band resting in the background. The Fisherman's Walk celebrations are held at the beginning of September to mark the end of the Summer fishing season. Originally a friendly society, the Musselburgh Fisherman's Walk Society provided help and pensions to fishermen and their families in Fisherrow. In 1912 the Society was dissolved as fewer people were involved in fishing, or able to pay their contributions. In 1930, however, the Society was revived by Alex Craig, and since then the annual Fisherman's Walk has been preserved.

SCRAN 000-000-467-081 (GN) SLA

A group of fishwives 'Riding the Marches' at Musselburgh, Midlothian, 1950s.

The fishwives are 'riding the marches', that is walking to the boundaries of the town. The fishwives' gala costume usually consisted of a blouse of spun rayon printed with flowers, an underskirt of navy blue and cream striped wool, and apron of navy blue and white striped cotton, a shawl of cream wool printed with sprays of flowers, a pair of black silk stockings, a pair of black leather shoes, and a tie-on pocket of spun rayon.

Newburgh

SCRAN 000-000-464-719 (GN) SLA

Newburgh Brass Band, Newburgh, Fife, 1909.

These local children are marching along with the band as it makes its way along the street. Brass bands were particularly popular in the mining communities. Playing in a band offered a temporary relief from working, often in very unpleasant conditions, down the pits.

Brass bands often acted as symbols of pride in the town or pit. They were particularly popular during Gala Days, when local bands would enter competitions with bands from surrounding towns and villages with both prizes and prestige to be won.

Newmilns

ON FILM 1949

<https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-590-723-C&scache=15o5hnavtk&searchdb=scran>

<https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-590-724-C&scache=15o5hnavtk&searchdb=scran>

Newtongrange

SH.2013.32.1 & 32.2; SH.2013.33-36

Items made to commemorate Newtongrange Gala centenary year, 2013.

ORAL AUDIO CLIP

<https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=005-000-005-112-C&scache=323ki5ftw&searchdb=scran>

Linda Lawrence was born and raised in the mining village of Newtongrange to a family of miners. She is currently employed as the senior receptionist in the National Mining Museum Scotland. In this extract she remembers her childhood experiences of the Gala Days in Newtongrange in Midlothian. She reflects on the local community today and how it has changed. The Newtongrange Gala Day was a tradition begun in 1913 and was sponsored by the Dean Tavern public house in Newtongrange, which runs on the Gothenburg system of using profits to fund community projects.

SCRAN 000-000-569-003-C (GN) SLA

Offence to consume alcohol in public places in Newtongrange and that the penalty for doing so is a fine of up to £500. Hogmanay night and the Gala Day celebrations are exceptions, when the drinking of alcohol in public places is permitted.

North Berwick

FILM 1930s

<https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-566-275-C&scache=323ki5ftw&searchdb=scran>

<https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-566-277-C&scache=323ki5ftw&searchdb=scran>

SCRAN 000-000-464-982-C (GN) SLA

Children on the stage at Harpers Brae Gala, Penicuik, Midlothian, c. 1928 - 1932.

Children play a vital role in the proceedings of the gala day, often marching in a procession to a local park where a specially appointed Gala Queen is crowned by a local dignitary. In this instance, the gala queen has just been crowned, the rest of her attendants surrounding her are holding bouquets of flowers, while lots of the other children are in fancy dress for the occasion.

Many of even the smallest villages and towns continue to hold their gala days to this day. They continue to be a symbol of local pride and an eagerly looked forward to event that unites the community.

FILM 1953

<http://movingimage.nls.uk/film/1368>

ON FILM 1951, 1953-1957

<https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=005-000-000-976-C&scache=323ki5ftw&searchdb=scran>

<https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-567-676-C&scache=572vi17pgv&searchdb=scran>

<https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-567-675-C&scache=3cmi31re7t&searchdb=scran>

ON FILM 1954

<https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-567-678-C&scache=15o5hnavtk&searchdb=scran>
https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/results.php?searchdb=&scache=1761hturit&no_results=16&sortby=relevance&view=grid&search_term=gala&scache=1761hturit&offset=849

ON FILM 1955

<https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-567-679-C&scache=15o5hnavtk&searchdb=scran>
<https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-567-683-C&scache=3cmi31re7t&searchdb=scran>

ON FILM 1956

<https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-567-681-C&scache=37hgx84109&searchdb=scran>

ON FILM 1957

<https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-567-682-C&scache=1761hturit&searchdb=scran>

ON FILM 1958

<https://www.scran.ac.uk/database/record.php?usi=000-000-567-684-C&scache=1761hturit&searchdb=scran>

Roslin

000-000-502-691-C (GN) SLA

A decorated cart and horse belonging to Curtis and Harvey Ltd, Roslin, Midlothian, taken in July, about the 1920s - 1930s.

Mr. Fisher and Mr. Leadbetter are standing posing for a photograph, taken by a Mr. Ogilvie. The cart, with the name of the works on the side, has been decorated and would be used to carry children at the local Gala day. The horse has also been specially prepared for the day and is wearing a carefully polished harness.

Saltcoats

http://www.naheritagetrails.co.uk/heritagetrails_saltcoats_seaqueen.php

In 1528, Saltcoats Town was elevated to a Burgh of Barony (the right of buying and selling and holding markets and of electing bailies being given to the inhabitants), the charter being granted to the Earl of Eglinton by James V of Scotland. As part of the Quater Centenary celebrations in 1928, the Town Council inaugurated the Queen of the Sea pageant, styled after a mediaeval coronation ceremony. The Queen was elected from one of the four local schools by her fellow pupils

Shotts

SH.2005.62.1-6

Painted hard board panel depicting, made to decorate Jenny Milligan's house by her daughter, Jennifer Bastin, for the Shotts Gala Day, 2004

South Queensferry

SCRAN 000-000-467-544 (GN) SLA

Climbing the greasy pole during the Ferry Fair at South Queensferry, West Lothian, July 1982.

SCRAN 000-000-467-543 (GN) SLA

Playing sports, some less serious than others, is an integral part of most gala days in Scotland. While more serious athletic events take place, the main emphasis is placed on having fun with the holding of races like the 'three legged' race and the 'egg and spoon' race. In South Queensferry a pram race, and the climbing of the greasy pole ensures that adults are not left out of the proceedings!

SCRAN 000-000-467-540-C (GN) SLA

SCRAN 000-000-467-541-C (GN) SLA

Pram racing at the Ferry Fair, South Queensferry, West Lothian, July 1982.

In South Queensferry's pram race, adults are not left out of the proceedings! This pram, equipped with 'L plates' and a 'Long Vehicle' sign, contains an oversized 'baby' which is being hurriedly pushed along by the 'mother'.

The Ferry Fair is best known for the centuries old ceremony of the Burry Man. The burry man, an elected local, is clothed from head to foot in a special suit covered in hundreds of 'burrs' (the spiky seed cases of the burdock plant). The head of the burry man is crowned in flowers, as are the two decorated staffs that he holds whilst walking around the town.

Queensferry Community History Group, Doon the Ferry, 1991.

Woodmuir

SCRAN 000-000-468-643-C (GN) SLA

The crowning of the Gala Queen, Woodmuir, Whitburn, West Lothian, 1928.

The Gala was a local annual festival, held in the summer. The Gala day is most commonly found in coal mining areas like this one. Children played a vital role in the proceedings of the day. The Gala Queen, Grace Graham, is being crowned by a local teacher, Miss Arnott. The two maids of honour were Maisie Kerr and Jessie Cuthbert, the surname of the pageboy was Walkinshaw.

Although today the mines in these communities have shut down, many villages and towns continue to hold their gala days and they continue to be a symbol of local pride and something that unites the community.