

5 JUNE  
2015

OFFICIAL  
PROGRAMME

# THE GOVAN FAIR

AN ANNUAL CELEBRATION BY THE PEOPLE OF GOVAN LONG BEFORE 1756





THE OUTGOING  
GOVAN FAIR QUEEN  
2014



Cari Morrin  
Ibrox Primary School



THE NEWLY ELECTED  
GOVAN FAIR QUEEN  
2015



Roksana Sipa  
St Saviour's Primary School

# ORDER OF EVENTS

A procession much older than its first written recording of 1756 shall layer the footsteps and wheels of time on June 5<sup>th</sup> 2015. The coming of the procession will be heralded this year by a Steam Engine in homage to Govan Roads old Steam Trams.

The procession itself will then be headed up by the newly appointed "Deacon or Standard Bearer" Colin Quigley who will be carrying the ancient relic of a Sheep's Heid because of his tireless community and heritage work. In the interests of a larger and enhanced Fair this year, the route has changed. We will still trace the footsteps of those annually elected Deacons through the heart of Govan.

The procession will emerge from the main gates of Elder Park on Govan Road at 6.30pm and will be joined by all vehicles as they ceremoniously emerge from the yard workers gates of Fairfield Shipyard at the Junction of Govan Road and Elder Street. The procession in its entirety will then continue east along Govan Road.

The procession will then turn right into Orkney Street and continue on to Summertown Road. At the Old Govan Town Hall (Film City) it will then turn left back onto Govan Road, proceeding to the Pearce Institute at Govan Cross. The procession will stop at the War Memorial outside Govan Old Church where a wreath will be laid in remembrance of the fallen of WW1 & WW2.

The procession will then continue west to Elder Park for 8pm where pedestrians will enter the park and where celebrations will continue. Other than a few selected ones, all vehicles will be directed further along Govan Road and dispersed. Any procession vehicles carrying participants that wish to proceed to Elder Park should enter Fairfield's and carry on by foot to the Park.

## Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June - The Govan Fair

Around Govan and in Elder Park from 2pm there will be ceremonies contributing to the building of the procession and atmosphere. Please consult [www.thegovanfair.org](http://www.thegovanfair.org) for updates or event staff at the info points at Govan Cross, Fairfield's Gates and at Kittle Corner in the Elder Park.



6.00PM Crowning of the new Govan Queen in Elder park

6.30 - 8.00PM Procession

## Weekend Activities

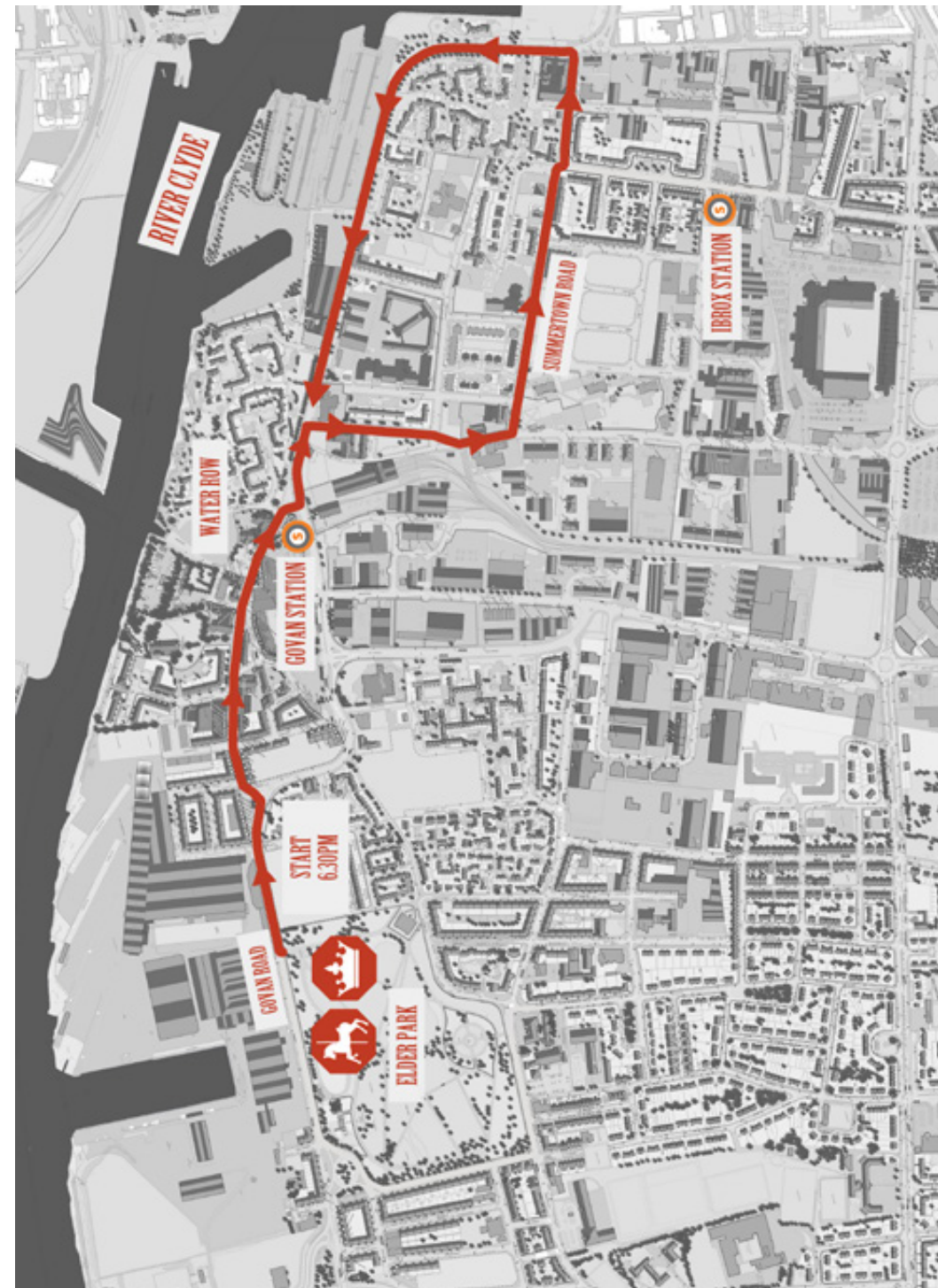
Throughout the weekend there will be activities and facilities in the Elder Park, including music, theatre, games, a heritage fairground, community stalls, catering, Zippos circus and a greasy pole.



Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 12.00PM - 10.00PM

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June 10.00AM - 10.00PM

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 10.00AM - 10.00PM



# Hi Folks,

Here I remain in Govan fighting for the rights of my community. With my committee, we are navigating the changing landscape of the Old Govan Fair. I served my time as a Rope Boy at the circus and I know the joy Fairs can bring. We are doing our very best to make this the very best Fair in decades.

I am very proud to hold the Chair of this very ancient and very special Govan Fair Association. It acts as custodian of something belonging to Govan and its people. I was destined to have a shot at this role; as creating something out of nothing runs in my family. 3 years ago, The Govan Fair was all but over!

Everything requires nourishment, and sometimes a good kick-start is helpful! I was born weighing 2lbs whilst my parents were touring the Fairs in a brand new Mollycroft Showman's Wagon. After being unexpectedly born as a twin in a ladies toilet and after my mother had held me by the foot and given me several 360 degree loop-de-loops, she got me breathing.

I was put in a drawer lined with cotton wool and silver lining paper stripped from a Tea Chest. My home made incubator was finished with a see-through cake stand lid and a salvaged Tram Car lamp for warmth. My 3 elder sisters tended me like a garden seedling or dolly. Just which one of these 2 kids do you think is me?

As Govan Remembers WWI, thanks to the Heritage Lottery Fund, I'd like to remind everyone that the Fair belongs to all the people of Govan. Those here, those gone and those just far away. It is your Fair!

As the present custodians, we know the legacy that we are duty bound to protect. These remain to be uncertain times - not unlike 1914 when people's minds were not at rest. In just such a moment the Govan Fair died out. This small Committee relies on folk stepping up and contributing to it. Every Thursday night throughout the Winter the Association meets and continues its hard work!

The constitution does not and must not allow for any politics, sectarianism or outside authority to dominate or affect the Fair. It's never been that way and never will be as long as I am Chairman.

We have secured Patronage from our First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Sadie Docherty. We hope their gaze will help protect our ancient Pageant for future generations.

The route of the Govan Fair has changed many times over many centuries. Where this affects you we will endeavour to put something back. The park will be lively throughout the weekend.

I would like to thank my committee for their tireless support in this very difficult year, as without them there certainly would have been no Govan Fair. It is going to be the best of days and so from myself and my Honorary Chairperson the wonderful Dorothy Courtney.

People of Govan, your Fair needs you!

You are the community and whether in times of War or Peace, you are expected to congregate. Once gathered please enter into the spirit of the Govan fair safely, joyfully and respectfully!

*O aye, the Govan fair.*

*John James Stringfellow*  
Chairman, The Govan Fair Association



John James Stringfellow, Chairman of The Govan Fair Association.



Our wonderful Honorary Chairperson, Dorothy Courtney.

# THE GOVAN FAIR ASSOCIATION 2015

We are very honored to receive the patronage of:

Scotland's First Minister - Nicola Sturgeon

Lord Provost of Glasgow - Sadie Docherty

The Govan Fair is organised annually by a dedicated committee & group of local volunteers.

## HONORARY MEMBERS

Margaret E Maclean J.P  
Evelyn Sherry

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS & CONVENORS

Honorary Chair Person: Dorothy Courtney  
Chair Person: Jimmy Stringfellow  
Vice Chair Person: Peter Matheson  
Acting Treasurers: Dorothy Courtney & Sandy Black  
Secretary: Sandy Black  
Chief Marshall: Fred Hunter  
Football Co-ordinator: Fred Hunter  
Programme distribution: Linda Yates

This year's advisors in keeping the Fair alive have included:

Co-ordination: Liz Gardiner  
Editor of Transactions: Andrew McAvoy  
Graphics: Liam O'Shea  
Photography: Julia Bauer  
Health and Safety Officer: Dr Wan Cheah  
Event Management: Louisa Taylor & Emma Farrell  
Web: Ingrid Shearer

WWI 'Govan Remembers' content has been undertaken by:

Project management: Fablevision  
Volunteer Co-ordinator: Emma Farrell  
Event management: Fablevision Studios  
Co-ordinator: Louisa Taylor  
History: Morag Cross & Graham Hunter

# ORDER OF PROCESSION

6.30 - 8.00pm

## Section 1

The Ministers - Sheep's Heid  
Chief Marshall - Fred Hunter  
Chairman & Guests  
Renfrew Pipe Band  
The Govan Fair Queen on her Horse and Carriage  
Official Cars  
Chairperson, Maids & Escorts  
Outgoing Queen, Maids & Escorts  
Dignitaries on open top Bus  
205 Field Hospital - Regimental Soldiers

## Section 2

Marshall Sandy Black  
Zippos Circus Troup  
GYIP Govan Youth Information Project  
Sharron Breen Dance Troup  
Park Villa Football Club  
Govan Reminiscence Group with Mary Barbour's 1915 Rent Strike Army of Rattles and Whistles  
Saint Saviors Football Club.  
Govan Reminiscence Group & Accessible Carriage

## Section 3

Saint Francis Pipe band  
Riverside Halls Community Group  
Rivvy Totts Toddlers + Infants  
Tunnocks Van  
Govan Gdansk Industrial Twinning group

## Section 4

Michelle & Donna's School of Dance  
Shaw Street Cycles - Amazing & Ingenious Apparatus  
Palace Park Football Club  
Urban Roots  
Salvation Army Band  
Tom McNally Kids Pipe Band

## Section 5

Riverside Museum  
Mary Barbour Carriage  
Glasgow Woman's Library Activists  
All other pedestrian Un-sundre, Re- flocked

## Section 6

Robin Campbell Old commercial vehicles  
David Grey Classic Cars  
McGills Buses  
All other Vehicular Un-sundre – Gathered.  
Strathclyde Fire Brigade  
Kingdom of Strathclyde Viking Ship  
The Last Marshall

NB: All information correct at time of printing.

2014



# THE FAIR QUEEN CROWNING CEREMONY 2014



Fair Queen Cari Morrin is crowned by Sadie Docherty.



The 2014 Fair Queen with her Maids & Escorts.  
L - R : Brooke Wilson, Sam McCann, Cari Morrin, Leila Khan, Akash Dhillon

# THE INCOMING QUEEN, MAIDS & ESCORTS



This year's Queen Roksana Sipa with [L - R]: Scott MacCormack, Taylor Kettle, Megan McDougall



The Queen and her maid Precious Moroke

# A HISTORY OF CONGREGATION



Engraving, David Allan, 1820. The Clyde and Water Row seen from the pointhouse.

Govan has a very long heritage as a gathering-place, where folk come together to talk and celebrate, to work and worship. It has always been a people hub, a place to meet and congregate.

Thousands of years ago, folk were first drawn here as travellers and settlers. They came because of a fording-point where the River Clyde shallowed its waters so that people could cross safely on foot. In time, the ford became the focus of a village of farmers and fisherfolk. The weaving trade lay far off in the distant future, as did the building of mighty ships, but this small village thrived. The river was clean, salmon were in abundance and the fishing was good. The early Govanites were a community, sharing their lives with the land and with one another. Like all communities, they needed places where they could gather for special events and rituals. Where did they meet? Did they congregate on sacred ground where the old parish church

stands today, or did they assemble on the hill beside the river - a huge artificial mound that they had made themselves? They called the mound 'go-ban', which meant 'little hill' in the ancient language of Clydesdale. From it we get the modern place-name 'Govan'.

Centuries later, in about 500 AD, Christian monks built a small wooden church where Govan Old stands today. By then, the valley or 'strath' of the Clyde was ruled by kings who resided at Dumbarton Rock. When Dumbarton was sacked by Vikings in 870, the kings of Strathclyde moved upriver to make a new centre of power around the ford at Govan. On the north bank, at Partick, they gathered with friends and relatives in a great feasting hall to make merry. On Sundays, the royal family worshipped in the church at Govan, praying and chanting as members of the congregation. The artificial mound beside the river was re-shaped as a venue for public assemblies. From its newly flat-

tened summit the kings hosted important ceremonies and issued decrees. Like similar man-made hills around the seaways of the North Atlantic in the Viking Age, Govan's hill became an essential part of the apparatus of government. A flavour of the gatherings it hosted can be seen today on the Isle of Man, where the Manx parliament still holds ceremonies on Tynwald Hill.

In later medieval times, long after the kings were gone, the traditional gathering-places of church, palace and hill continued to be used. The church was still the main place of worship for ordinary folk, but the royal palace at Partick was taken over by the bishop of Glasgow as a country residence, while the riverside hill became an open-air law court presided over by a magistrate or 'doomster'. By 1500, an annual fair may have been established at Govan, adding another layer to a long tradition of meeting and congregating. A fair brought fun and entertainment, as well as a chance to trade goods or livestock, and the oldest Govan fairs were probably held on common land such as rough grazing, or in a 'fair field' where no crops were grown.

Time passed, and the bishops eventually moved on, their palace making way for a fortified house - Partick Castle - in the early 1600s. In the following century, the hill at Govan ceased to be used for justice and was then constituted as common ground. Known locally as the Hillock or Doomster Hill and lying adjacent to the village green, it may have become the focus around which the annual fair wrapped itself, just like the Magistrates Hill at Irvine which still plays a role in the famous Mary-mass festival. Sadly, the Doomster Hill was completely destroyed in the nineteenth century, and the castle at Partick was also removed. Even the village green is no more, swallowed up by industry and buried beneath Govan Cross. Only the old parish church survives, a last reminder of the commonties and gathering-places of former times. So, when you congregate at the new 'Field of Fair' in the Elder Park this first weekend of June, take a moment to think about what was happening all those years ago...just along the road in the ancient landscape around Water Row.

**Tim Clarkson**

Author of "Strathclyde and the Anglo-Saxons in the Viking Age", published by Birlinn Books of Edinburgh.





# FAIRFIELD: THE NAME



Detail from Richardson's map of Glasgow (1795), showing a large, two-storey house called Fairfield, with the owners name beside it (Cumming Esquire). Image from <http://maps.nls.uk/>

I have been asked to answer the question: does Fairfield in Govan mean 'a field associated with a fair', and therefore does it indicate the traditional site of the Govan Fair? As is often the case with place-names, complete certainty is not possible. But it is equally the case that, even when a definitive answer is not forthcoming, any attempt to grapple with a place-name is always an interesting, worthwhile, and often revealing, process.

A starting point of any place-name research is always: when is the name first recorded, and in what form and context? The earliest record so far identified is from Richardson's map of Glasgow from 1795, where a big hoose called Fairfield is shown (belonging to Cumming Esquire).

The problem as far as the name is concerned is that in Scots, as in English, fair (with older spellings fayr(e) etc.) can have many different meanings, e.g.: (1) as an adjective 'lovely, beautiful; (light-coloured, when applied to hair, skin etc - but I think that is a more modern development - and 'favourable' in connection with weather), to say nothing of its

meaning as 'just, equitable' (as in 'that's no fair!') and (2) as noun 'a fair', as in the Govan Fair - which can also be used adjectivally as the first part of a compound, as in a fair-day (as opposed to a fair day!). And then there is fare, which can also be spelled fair in older sources, with its various meanings of 'food, sustenance' etc. For the best idea of all the different meanings of this word in Scots at different times, see the excellent website [www.dsl.ac.uk](http://www.dsl.ac.uk), which combines on-line the two multi-volume Scots Dictionaries, Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue (up to c.1700), and Scottish National Dictionary.

In the so-called Age of Improvement, which spanned roughly the later 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, fair in its first meaning (i.e. 'lovely, beautiful') was sometimes used in names to indicate that the owner was a dedicated follower of Improvement, as well as having Romantic overtones, also very fashionable at that time. Until more evidence comes to light, we cannot rule out entirely this meaning in the case of Fairfield, Govan.



Bartholomew Fair by Benjamin Robert Haydon, 1830s.

If, however, it can be shown 'beyond reasonable doubt' that the Govan Fair was held on the lands that Fairfield House was later built on, then 'a field where a fair is or was held' is the most likely interpretation of the name. More research is needed not just in Govan, but also elsewhere where place-names are found with the element fair. There is, for example, in the parish of Crawfordjohn, Lanarkshire, a place called Fairholme recorded in 1613 (Retours no. 98). This is well before the Age of Improvement, and so probably means 'a holm (low land by a river etc) where fairs are or were held'.

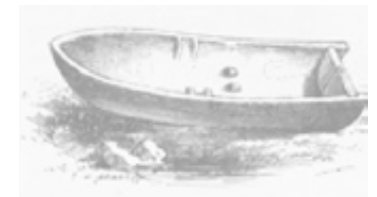
There is one other thing to throw into this pot. As can be seen in the Scots dictionaries on the [dsl.ac.uk](http://dsl.ac.uk) website, sometimes 'ferry' can appear without the final, unstressed syllable, so another possibility might be that Fairfield is originally from Ferryfield, 'a field associated with a ferry'.

If anyone can help shed more light on the derivation of Fairfield, Govan, please let me know.

**Simon Taylor**

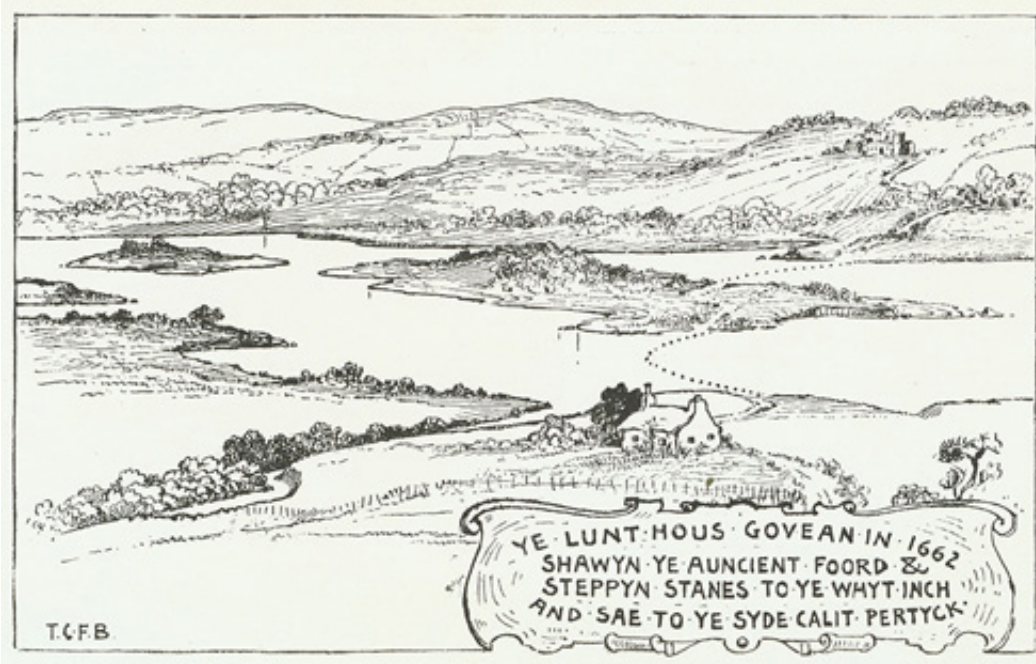
University of Glasgow  
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My thanks to Ingrid Shearer and Andrew McAvoy for their help with this piece.



# GLACIAL DISRUPTIONS

## CLYDE NAVIGATION & THE EFFECTS ON GOVAN



'Ye lunt hous Govean' in 1662, drawn by T C F Brotchie in 1918.

In the early ages of our planet a large inland sea covered what is now the Clyde valley up to Johnstone and Paisley, narrowing around the Ibrox and Pollockshields ridges. As the ages passed the land rose slowly and the inland sea disappeared over time leaving the marshlands of the Govan area.

Initially the Clyde drained from its source in the Southern Uplands through The Biggar Gap and into the Tweed to the south. At some point and it is not known exactly when or how, the river broke the watershed near Biggar and took a new course to the west along its current line.

The earliest map of the area is 1641 by Blaeu, at which time there were 3 fords over the Clyde in the Govan area, one of which was near Braehead called Marlin Ford, a second near Water Row, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> at the east end of the village of Govan.

There is a sketch of Govan in 1662 showing only one house being there called Ye Lunt House and the stepping stones crossing the river via Water Inch Island. In the river there were 3 main Islands, Water Inch on the west side of the river Kelvin, White Inch and Buck Inch just west of Linthouse.

The deepening of the Clyde started in 1768, with John Golburne an engineer, devising a solution that would increase the flow of water and scour out the river bed. He used dukes (stone walls) to channel the natural scouring power of the water. By 1775 low water at Pointhouse was as little as 15 inches and high water 3ft 3 inches. This allowed small coasters to sail past Govan up to Glasgow, though in most wind directions they were becalmed at Elderslie woods and had to be manhandled most of the rest of the way.

Around 1790 a ferry service for horse drawn vehicles began operating, making the Govan ferry the oldest ferry route on the Clyde. Due to the deepening of the river by 1809 rowing boats were used as ferries, they were 30ft long with an oarsman and helmsman, licensed to carry 33 people.

In 1800 with the continuing deepening of the Clyde the sailing ships were of such a size and number that it was no longer profitable to continue manhandling them up from Elderslie woods that a tracking path was built from Renfrew through Govan to Glasgow allowing the ships to be drawn by horses up river. Due to the invention of steam tugs, it was stopped using horses in 1825, though it did continue to be used as a public right of way until 1914. This tracking path was so important to the movement of shipping, that shipyards had to have moveable parts of it across their slipways and could only move them for launching ships.

The river was deep enough by 1818 to allow foreign trading vessels to sail up to Glasgow and by the 1820's natural scouring of the river no longer worked and dredging was started. Initially using hand dredgers, followed by mechanical ones. Even-

tually a dredge using chains and buckets was built in 1850 to scoop soil from the riverbed. Her working life lasted 60 years.

In 1861 the ferry crossed from Govan to Partick where the passengers rushed the boat capsizing it, drowning 7 passengers. A steam ferry took over in 1865 between Govan and Pointhouse with passenger numbers of 100 and 7 vehicles, this was a chain operated ferry.

The deepening of the river which started in 1768, saw the changes in the fortune of Govan as industry changed over a period of time to shipbuilding which saw the Govan and the Clyde a major contributor to the British war efforts and success.

Harry Silvers

Clydebuilt Association, Friends of Glenlee



Clutha No. 9 arriving at Water Row jetty, c. 1910.

# THE DEACONS' CHOOSIN'

Whilst the young men were away fighting in WWI and shortly after the 28-year legal saga in which the City of Glasgow consumed the police burgh of Govan, certain elders of Govan came together to write up and protect its heritage.

The Old Govan Club were busy recording what the old burgh boundary had protected. They could find no royal charter to protect the Fair that they were seeking to reinstate, but found and reported in 1918 that 'it was generally understood that Govan's Fair was ecclesiastically chartered in the 15th century.'

In the living memory of many Govan people in 1918, the Fair was best remembered for its procession, which they knew to be older than the recently extinguished industry of weaving. They lost the Fair for 33 years.

In 1918, when they were thinking of bringing it back, what they knew and had a record of was that in 1756 the Govan Weavers had decided to re-enact what was already a very old tradition. They did not know the origins of the tradition of carrying a sheep's head, but they did know it predated the Weavers.

TCF Brotchie reports the tale as presented by the Weavers who joined the Old Govan Club in 1918 as follows:

*Long Long ago , ages before great ships were built in Govan or driven over the Ocean by steam, there came to strive in the manse of Govan , a young woman of pre-possessing appearance. For the hand of this maiden a lover made overtures. The minister however had objections. Who the lover was, what he was to trade, no one in the village of Govan knew....and the minister put his veto upon the alliance.*

*The lover was not daunted by this interference, and says the legend, succeeded in carrying off the belle. In celebration – perhaps in revenge of the event, he took the strange step of cutting the heads of every one of the sheep in the glebelands of the manse. These grim relics were left on the ground. The villagers siding with the young couple against the minister, took the choicest specimen of the sheeps heid and did it an honor publicly by carrying it on the Fair Day....all along the village to the ancient "Ferry Bot" Hostel at the Water Row.*

*Wherein we may believe they all got "roarin foo an'unca happy, drinking the healths of the now happy young couple".*

Thus the legend of the sheep's head.

The Fair and it seems the procession were pre-existing traditions which the Weavers embellished. The Govan Weavers instituted and organised themselves in 1756 and provided us with a written annual record of what they achieved. But they also retained a body of previous custom and became custodians of an existing tradition.... The Old Govan Fair.

The Govan Fair, like other well documented Fairs, will have belonged first to the bringers of what Simon Taylor covers in his article as Fair. It is logical that at this meeting of roads and rivers, elements of a Fair would congregate: makers, craftspeople, showmen, traders, farmers, stockmen and travelling labourers would arrive and set up at prescribed dates in the calendar on a cycle throughout the kingdom. See diagram on page 21 - a typical Fair of 1724 at a major intersection, by a river transposed on to Govan. Drawing by author.

It is worth reflecting on the origins of Govan's swagger and attitude, and why it has always been at the forefront of congregation, procession and action. It's the only place in Glasgow that has retained an industrial pageant like this.

Why ?



The banner of the Govan Weavers.

Well:

During the Roman occupation of Govan and with a major encampment and power centre on the York Hill, Govan's Fair would have been obliged to indulge, as per the rest of the Empire, in a celebration of the Roman lunar calendar.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of December every year the Roman masters had to physically serve their people in a feast entitled Saturnia, which lasted several days. Govanites appear to celebrate this role reversal.

We have the mistrust of the City and undertook a 28-year legal battle in the Court of Session to retain Govan's independence...which was only overturned by the onslaught of WWI.

We have the Weavers and their democratic remit, and later in the 20<sup>th</sup> century the shipyards, the unions, the apprentice strikes and finally the UCS work-in.

Democracy, fairness and protest are in the blood of Govan. Govan always set the tone...nationally.

Govan Old Church christens, marries and buries the greats of democracy. The Govan Fair is the annual pageant where this is voiced. It is where the yards empty to honor traditions and the passing of the greats of democracy. Its where industry expresses itself vocally and in pageantry.

This is Govan's Fair and its essence lies in decent honest questioning and cocking a snook at authority. It has always been tended by an independent organisation wary of authority.

The Fair is a day of philanthropy, equality, sharing and the celebration of all peoples.

This may go back to Roman Saturnia, who knows? Who cares really, it's still a living breathing thing with its own reason for being...its own sense or raison d'être.

In Scotland's Enlightenment, an age of reason overtook an age of religious belief. The Weavers held the balance of both ages and moved with it, but eventually their tenure was doomed. Before them the Fair procession will have been led by other



# FAIRFIELD AND WARSHIP BUILDING



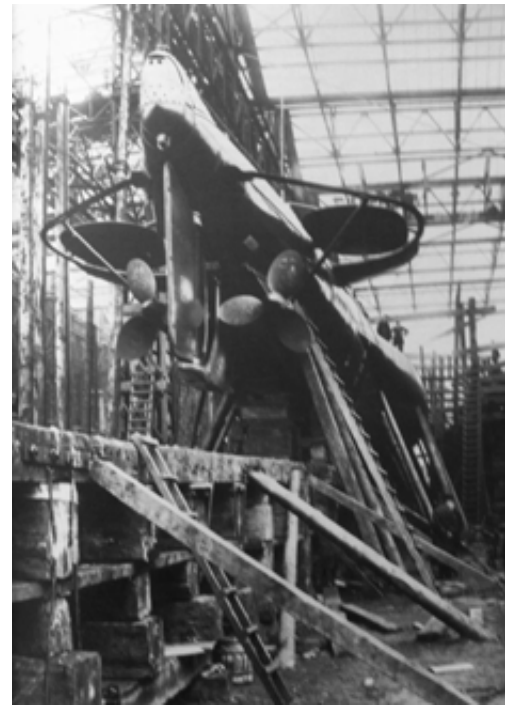
A drawing of Fairfield's Shipyard in 1898.

Fairfield's connection with naval shipbuilding began after 1886, when William Pearce, sole partner of John Elder and co, entered Parliament. To separate his private interests from the shipbuilding concern he set up the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Co Ltd, which could then seek Admiralty contracts. Naval shipbuilding was no novelty in Govan, for Robert Napier's East Yard had built the pioneering iron warships *Erebus* and *Black Prince* between 1855 and 1861.

The London and Glasgow Engineering and Iron Shipbuilding Co Ltd, which had taken over Smith and Rodger's Middleton Yard in 1864 had specialized in warship construction from an early date. There was thus a body of workmen in Govan experienced in Admiralty work. During the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century Fairfield invested in extensions to its engine and boiler works to build steam turbines and water-tube boilers: this capacity was fundamental to the expansion of naval shipbuilding immediately before and during the First World War. In 1907, when the periodical 'Engineering' published a souvenir volume about the Fairfield

yard the frontispiece was an engraving depicting 'The Fairfield Fleet', the warships that the yard had constructed up to that time. In 1912 Fairfield also invested in the building of a giant cantilever or 'Titan' crane, on the model of one installed in John Brown and Co Ltd's Clydebank yard in 1917. Fairfield's crane was, however, capable of heavier lifts; 250 tons rather than 150 tons. Such cranes could lift the enormous gun-barrels installed in the battleships and battle-cruisers being built at the time, and the massive steam turbines and boilers of both merchant ships and the larger warships. So the Fairfield yard and engine-works were well-equipped to deal with war-time demand, as were John Brown's Clydebank and Beardmore's Dalmuir Naval Construction Yard at Dalmuir.

During the First World War the Fairfield yard produced more than thirty warships, varying in size from a first-class battleship and a battle-cruiser to destroyers and submarines. The firm constructed a new west yard on ground on the west side of their fitting-out basin, and most of the 21 torpedo-boat destroyers built by the



Submarine manufacture at John Brown's, c. 1914.

company came from that yard. The best-known war-time products of Fairfield were two 'fleet' submarines of the 'K' class, K13 and K14. These large vessels had steam turbine propulsion for running on the surface, giving a speed of 24 knots, and diesel-powered electric motors for use when submerged. During trials of K13 in the *Gareloch* on 29 January 1916 the vessel sank out of control owing to the flooding of the boiler-room. Eventually the vessel was partly raised, and 46 survivors were rescued from the forepart of the ship. Among those on board was the Fairfield naval architect, Percy Hillhouse, who assisted in the rescue. The vessel was then raised and taken back to Govan to be refitted, entering service as K22. The 31 men who were killed in the submarine are commemorated by a monument in the Elder Park.

Before 1914 the Fairfield yard was best-known for its construction of passenger liners, indeed in 1913 it had delivered to the Canadian Pacific Steamship Co the magnificent liner *Empress of Japan*. Within a year the yard was fully on a war footing.

John R Hume



The Fairfield Fleet, 1914. Painting in ownership of author.

# A HEROINE OF SERBIA: DR AGNES PORTER & GOVAN



Female medical graduates, Edinburgh University, 1906. Dr Porter is second from the right in the back row.

Govan is famous as a hotbed of industry, political activism, and strong women – Mary Barbour, Isabella Elder and Lady Pierce, but some equally remarkable females have been unjustly overlooked. One such was Agnes Ellen Porter MD (1881-1956), physician, prize-winning scientist, suffragette and prisoner of war, who worked with impoverished communities in both Govan and the Outer Hebrides.

Agnes Porter's father came from a working-class family in Peterhead, Aberdeenshire. He was a 'self-made man', who had achieved personal success as a tea-planter in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), where Agnes was born in 1881. She was among the first women to study medicine at Edinburgh University, graduating with degrees in medicine and surgery in 1906.

Agnes, or 'Nellie', actively campaigned for women's rights and joined the Women's Social and Political

Union (WSPU). In 1908, she addressed a large crowd at the Mound, Edinburgh 'congratulating Mrs [Emmeline] and Miss [Christabel] Pankhurst on their release from Holloway Jail.' Journalists reported Dr Porter as demanding 'Fair wages for women, and 'Fair laws for women', as well as equal admission to university.

Dr Porter had an extraordinarily distinguished academic career in both Scotland and Germany, winning a Carnegie Research scholarship in 1911 and the Dr Jessie Macgregor Prize for her work in physiology in 1912. Agnes specialised in tuberculosis, a highly-contagious infection that was a major killer in impoverished communities in Scotland. She had a Diploma in Public Health, and held posts at both the the Royal Victoria Hospital for Consumption [ie tuberculosis] in Edinburgh, and at the prestigious Lister Institute in London.



Dr Agnes Porter; third from the left in the centre-row wearing a black hat, pictured with her fellow nurses in Salonika as it was known in 1915. Image © Lothian Health Services Archive

During World War I, many politically-active suffragettes like the WSPU decided to prioritise supporting the war effort above any other causes. Dr Elsie Inglis of Edinburgh suggested that all-female medical units could supplement military medical-staff shortages caused by male doctors being enlisted into the army. In July 1915, the Director General of Army Medical Services patronisingly dismissed her, 'frankly [...] there is no real need for such a hospital [which would] only draw upon personnel' and would be 'wasteful'. Undaunted, Dr Inglis and the WSPU created the Scottish Women's Hospitals for Foreign Service (SWH), entirely financed by voluntary donations.

Rejected by the British Army, the French and Serbian allies eagerly accepted the SWH's 1,000 skilled medical professionals and nurses, who eventually ran 14 hospitals, as well as staffing field x-ray units and ambulances. In 1915, Agnes Porter left a secure job in Staffordshire to join the Girton and Newnham Unit (funded by those two Oxbridge women's colleges) as a bacteriologist in France. She worked in their 200-bed tent-hospital at Troyes, a major re-

ception centre for wounded men evacuated from the trenches. In August 1915, she transferred to Salonika (Thessaloniki), Greece in support of the Serbian army's campaign against the Austrians.

Dr Inglis was amused by their improvised uniforms: Dr Porter and her colleagues 'all arrived in hats of their own devising, some with tartan, some without, every sort of shape'. However the advancing Germans and Austrians captured the SWH premises in November 1915, and when the women, including Dr Porter, refused to abandon their patients, they all became prisoners of war. The British staff endured artillery barrages, severe food shortages, degrading transport in horse-boxes, and months of sleeping on bare floors.

Dr Porter was repatriated in February 1916, and that May was appointed as Assistant Medical Officer at Govan Combination Hospital, Merryflats (now the Southern General), at £200 per annum. The Govan Press reported: 'A Heroine of Serbia; Important Appointment for a Lady', adding that she 'played a glorious part in the retreat from Serbia

[...] Govan Parish Council are to be congratulated on [appointing] such a distinguished lady'. Govan had already pioneered the appointment of women doctors, their first Schools Medical Officer in 1908 being Dr Kate Fraser (1878-1957), who became an eminent psychiatrist.

Agnes Porter moved to Lewis in early 1920, as the medical officer for both schools and TB, for which her experiences in Govan would stand her in good stead. Again, she dealt with diseases of poverty, and was interviewed in 1923 about the economic distress, and children's hunger caused by local crop and fishing failures, fuel and clothing shortages.

Dr Porter made a characteristically unconventional marriage, when she and Hugh Millar wed in 1922. Miller was the Lewis District Committee's clerk, the county council's locally-based officer dealing with roads, transport and health matters. As the Stornoway-born son of a fisheries cooper, he had a far more modest background than Agnes's middle-class Edinburgh upbringing. She continued to practise medicine until her only child was born in 1925, another unorthodox choice, as married women were typically expected to become full-time housewives.

Unfortunately, Agnes was widowed in 1933, when Miller died after an operation in Edinburgh. Agnes returned to Edinburgh in the mid-1930s, and lived to see her own son become a doctor, before her own death in 1956. Her remarkable life story, and the 'hidden biographies' of other Govanites like Dr Margaret Leitch, a Glasgow medical graduate in 1916, appointed to Shieldhall Fever Hospital by 1920, deserve much further investigation. It is hoped that Fablevision's volunteer research programme will shed some light on their obscurity, after having previously been outshone by the better-known shipbuilding and political campaigners mentioned earlier.

## Morag Cross



R: Govan landscape, 1950, Herbert Whone

# WORLD WAR & WINTER CARNIVALS



Mounting gallopers, c. 1950.

Once upon a time in Govan and before the Elder Park existed, there was a Fair on the common at the ancient crossing and gathering place at Water Row.

Showfolks have evolved over centuries from a culture of providing Fair and Fairgrounds. There are many different versions of history. In traditional communities with a strong oral culture, such as the Showfolks, the narrative might differ from the academic or orthodox version. That does not make it any less true or valuable.

Govan has sustained its community of Showfolk in proximity to what they uphold as the site of the Ancient Fair ground, in and around the church they have always attended. The Showfolks' story is that Govan's Fair is as old as congregation at Govan.

The Fair is said to have been ecclesiastically chartered and it's surprising that a record of this has

not been found. We know that there was a history of records being sent to the Scots College in Paris for safe keeping and a history of records being destroyed. Historian Morag Cross reminds us that "Records were used in the 19<sup>th</sup> century for fuel for burning when the southern tower of the cathedral, which had held the consistory court and the library, was demolished [...] I suspect lots of records vanished then [...] in the 1840's".

It appears to have been incumbent on the Cathedral librarian monitoring as we do – Great Changes, to pack away the scribed history of our geography as you would salt herrings in oak barrels.

We are told there is an old wooden ship now lying at the bottom of the Atlantic, one which was allegedly cannoned by Napoleon while it was on its way to Paris. One which was carrying ecclesiastical records from hundreds of years earlier.

If someone has, or indeed would care to find and salvage that ship, we might just find the Diocese records covering Central Scotland. Where the likes of Rutherglen had a royal charter, Govan did not and as such the records are harder to find.

The Old Govan Club in 1918 report that, "Govan's Fair was ecclesiastically chartered in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, prior to its embellishment by the Weavers in 1756" .

The ecclesiastical Charter was the commonly upheld belief in Govan, written down in 1918 by TCF Brochie. It may have been an alternative to the royal charters that other important Fairs had in place to protect them.

So let's say for now that down went the ship and there went Govan's written record of any protective charter.

Govan's history is overwritten consistently as new people come to claim it. You only have to read Andy Wightman's *The Poor Had No Lawyers* to understand this. When new titles to property are written, suddenly the narrative of a place is broken, its connection with its past is erased.

Govan's Common where the Fair happened was overwritten and the story of the Charter then became; in a century of Industrial focus, less important. It is hoped that one day someone Academic, will find the charter and we can establish more fully what went on in this ancient place. It would contain the History of this Fair and add something to the orally expressed belief that the Water Row Car Park is actually on Govans Common. But we must say it's rather more appealing that someone someday finds that old wooden galleon.

For now we would like to tell you a little about what we know of the period around much of what is covered by this year's programme – 1914 -1918. An eminent family of Showfolks, the Wilmots, resided at King Street in Govan in their chosen traditional habitat – a yard. Even when Showfolks were used to travelling huge distances to complete

an annual cycle of summer Fairs, they have always wintered in a familiar place. Govan has been a safe haven for them and a necessary busy confluence. In 1914 they posted an advert in the Govan Press outlining the contents of a Winter Carnival.

It read:

Show Ground King Street Govan  
Commencing 15th January 2014

Wilmot's  
Grand  
Carnival and Fair  
Racing Scenic motors  
Gallop and leaping Horses  
Stewarts Cycling racing Track  
Howards Steam Yachts  
Juvenile Horses and Swings  
Helter Skelter or Lighthouse  
Exciting Alpine slides  
Shooting Balloons + Daley Stalls  
Hoopla Football and Games  
Etc Etc.

The whole forming a grand array of  
Amusements for Old and Young  
Open nightly at 7 o'clock  
Saturday at 3

This is the last recorded Fair in the war period and we can only surmise that it did not happen in 1915 with the war escalating.

This year we are bringing back some of that WWI period apparatus.

'The Dreadnought'





# BRING BACK OUR GREASY POLE!

A very ancient form of congregational excitement that had an annual presence in Govan is coming back:

## *Our Greasy Pole!*

Those of you that have attended Irvine Merry-mass Fair will be familiar with it. The traditional pole, along with the ceremonial hill on which it is positioned at Irvine, has survived since the 15<sup>th</sup> century, along with the annual Hiring Fair and traditions of strongmen, carters and horses.

Due to Govan's proximity to the river and the success of our heavy industries we lost our hill, our village green, our hiring fair and alas the horses.

This year, however, we are erecting our pole once again and letting our local constabularies of police and firemen have the first shot. Miss that under pain of death.



The erection of the pole was for centuries one of the signals of the Fair to come.

The Govan Press in 1916 reports:-

*"Fathers, no doubt, will grow prosy and mothers sentimental in recalling the vanished glories of a long series of first Fridays in June – the day on which Govan Fair was wont to be held from time immemorial. Thirty –four years have passed and some since the last Greasy Pole was erected to test the athletic prowess of the Govan Youth."*

'The Dreadnought'



# THE STEAM MEN

As the world focused on mechanized war, the Showmen adapted. They were used to difficult logistics, movement and heavy apparatus. They were gainfully employed and they had embraced steam, traction and heavy pulling. They purchased their own engines and are largely responsible for keeping that apparatus out of museums today. They are not interested in being put in a box and labeled. It's a living tradition, so we are arranging for them to roll into Govan this year.

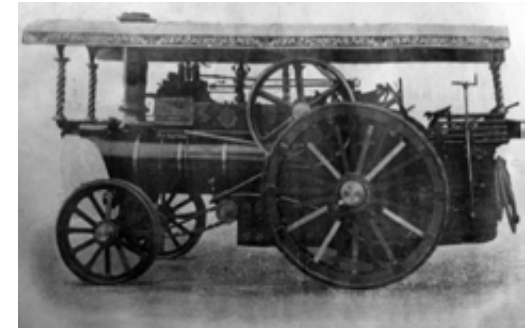
In bygone days, these steam engines were iron workhorses and not just for show. When they were not pulling their own apparatus, which included rides, booths, stalls, wares and Mollycroft wagons, they were contracting to farmers and landowners. Seasonal employment was important outwith the cycle of the fairs.

Successful show families commonly purchased secondhand rather than commissioned heavy steam traction engines and maintained them. They were consequently available to wrap around heavy industry. Around Glasgow and Govan they would be seen hauling and ploughing. Occasionally you would see three feathered plumes on their engines as the royal courts made a claim to their industrial prowess.

The high points in the annual calendar of ploughing and harvest would see them flat out with their engines. In between times they would be hauling to the fairs up and down the country.

If you wake early on a late August morning in, for instance, Dorset to find the ground shaking, you'll know what we mean. That was a common sensation in Govan.

Rise early on the day of the Fair this year and you may discover a rumble in Govan as a number of the steam men return. Our Chief Marshall Fred Hunter will be greeting them and keeping you safe.



An early three-speed steam engine.

It's said that a percentage of all Glaswegians are of the Showfolk. So you are all part of this fine tradition. We recycled your tram system and turned it into waltzers for your enjoyment. So consider them yours! As we remember 1914 we are remembering that it was the Showfolk who were called as well to surrender their profession and step up to the war effort. A great part of our tradition was taken by these wars and we are striving to bring some of that back.

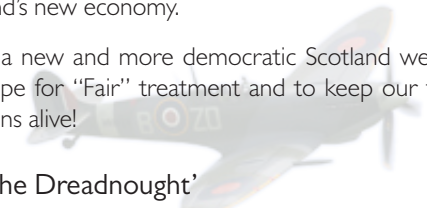
As the Showfolks' culture is pushed, prodded and manipulated and as their yards are extinguished in the name of improvement, give some thought to where innovations stem from and all the minor Industries that we created and maintain.

Where for centuries did all the color and delight of the Fairs come from and do you want an end to that? Like every aspect of any culture there are big dominating forces that are happy for prejudice to come in and bully the wee guys.

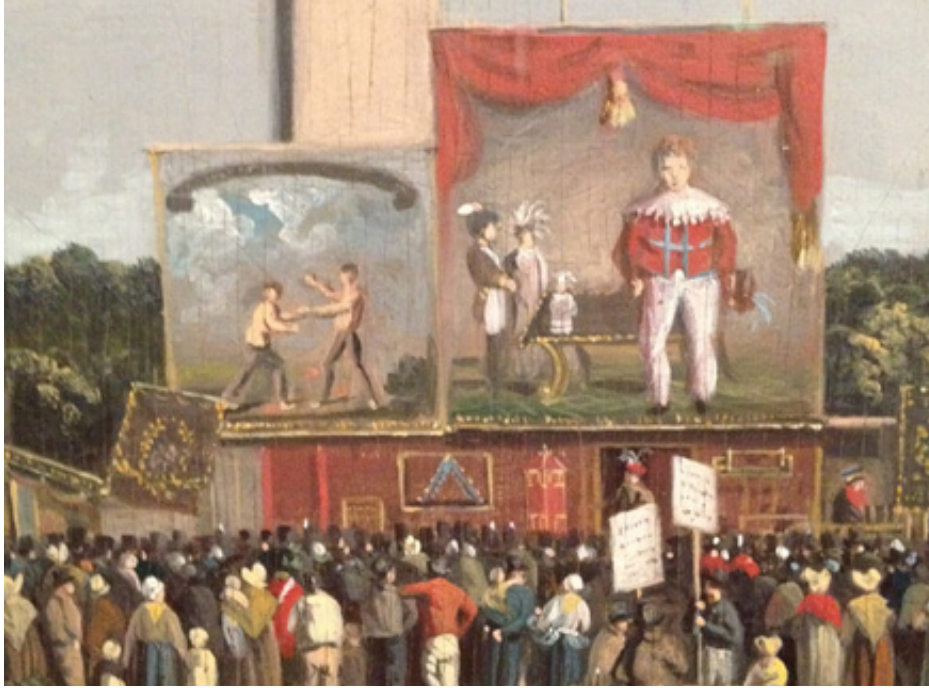
Show people and show ride manufacturers can continue to play a role in the development of Scotland's new economy.

In a new and more democratic Scotland we only hope for "Fair" treatment and to keep our traditions alive!

'The Dreadnought'



# JOHN JACK BROUGHTON



There is one other matter of pre war and Industry that the annual Fairs brought to fruition that we would like to raise in this publication. It's something of a refinement that we are not yet credited for - boxing.

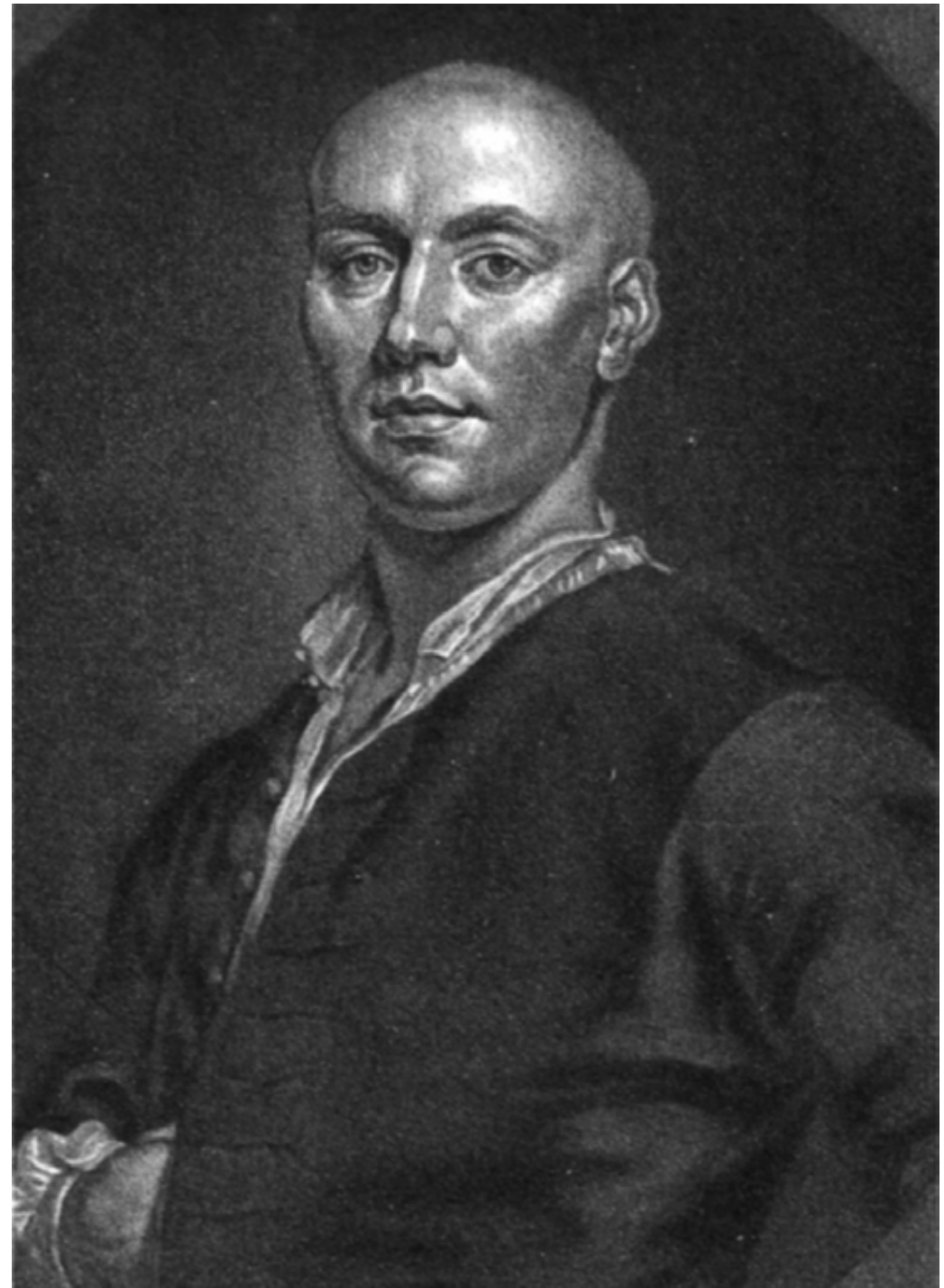
Traditionally Show men used to have to fight – fair and square for their rights to have a pitch at a Fair. That would of course happen out of sight of the Fairground. It did however introduce a familiarity with fisticuffs.

Let us introduce an Uncle to many of us, that we respect back on the path of time; John Jack Broughton, who lived 1703 – 1789 and achieved world fame for his boxing ability. JJB, like many showmen, first achieved his notoriety via an annual cycle of travel to established Fairs. Fairs that he had been brought up attending and helping at since he was able to stand and take a knock himself. He travelled right across the United Kingdom; carting with horses his family's flat pack boxing booth.

As well as Govan and Glasgow, he attended Nottingham Goose Fair Lothborough and Newcastle. He advanced Boxing as a sport and is believed to be responsible for the basic rules used today. It is said he first developed the idea of boxing gloves.

He was soon to attract Royal Patronage and his Boxing Booth was taken every year to the Royal Palace in London. Seasonally John Jack Broughton was employed as a Waterman on the Thames. He was 5 feet 11, weighed 14 stone, could man haul anything or anyone and was noticed while paddling round the edges of the Royal Court at Hampton.

His training was thorough and as a young man he became champion Boxer of England. If you travel to New York today and visit the World Museum of boxing you will be able to appreciate his importance. JJB was typical of a showman at that time, always striving, always innovating and always entertaining.



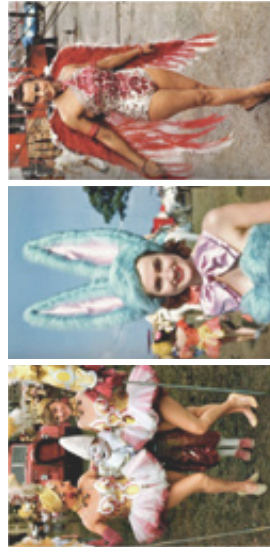
Picture him and his Boxing Booth this year in The Elder park as he no doubt appeared at Govan's Village Green at Water Row throughout the 18th Century before it was taken for Industry in increments by Mr Napier the Ship Builder.

# AS GOVAN REMEMBERS WWII ... LET'S GO TO THE CIRCUS!



## KEY

1. Entrance Gate
2. Heritage & Kid's Fairground
3. Kittle Corner & Info point
4. Stage
5. Greasy pole
6. Field of Fair
7. Zippos Circus
8. Community stalls
9. Catering
10. GFA Hospitality tent
11. Sport & tournament
12. Horse paddock
13. Circus tickets



For the first time in many years, the event plan for 2015 facilitates the traditional aspects of the Govan Fair happening in the Elder Park; crowning, congregation, circus, music, theatre, ceremony.

# AT HOME IN THE POOR HOUSE

When the Govan Fair was revitalised by the Govan Weaver's Association in 1756, personal care of the infirm and the destitute was a matter for the family or, in their absence, either the parish or individual benevolent societies. A principal motive of the Govan Weavers in forming their association was to provide a means to care for those of their own who had fallen on hard times.

Since that time, the nature and provision of care within society has followed a winding path. In the late 1700s, new ideas from France introduced the concept of the asylum - a place designed for the compassionate care of those in need. The first asylum in Glasgow was constructed in 1807, an example of the panopticon style layout which favoured a radial plan, designed to allow staff to observe and monitor 'inmates' from a central point. This was in contrast to the arrangement of many earlier institutional buildings which were based on a long corridor with rooms off, such as London's notorious Bedlam Hospital, built in 1676.



The David Elder Infirmary on Langlands Road, designed by Keppie and Henderson in 1924. The infirmary was founded by Alexander Elder, nephew of John Elder, the founder of the Fairfield Shipbuilding & Engineering Co to provide care for workers injured in the nearby shipyards. Private benefactors such as the Elder family, who also built the Elder Cottage Hospital on Drumoyne Road, sought to complement the work of the Combination Hospital. The Elder Infirmary was closed in the 1990s and subsequently demolished.



Nurse in children's ward in hospital (Old Govan series)  
No date - circa.1910

In Govan, a combination hospital, (incorporating an asylum, poorhouse and hospital) was first established in the mid-nineteenth century (1867-72) from which emerged the more familiar Southern General Infirmary. At the same time, in this period of rapid immigration fuelled by the boom in heavy industry along the River Clyde, philanthropy rooted in a concern for public health came to play an increasingly significant role in the lives of the population. Elder Park was a gift to the people of the burgh by Isabella Elder, intended to provide a healthy recreational space for the workers and their families.

As weaving, and the Weaver's Association, fell into simultaneous decline, new forms of organization took over responsibility for care, including the unions associated with the growth industries, such as shipbuilding. The subsequent decline of heavy industry,

and of the associated unions, coincided with a decline in care provided by philanthropists and worker's associations, leaving the main public hospital, currently shape-shifting into its twenty-first century form.

This latest and lasting change raises several questions. Though we may have an impressive new hospital filled with committed and capable medical staff, what other forms of care do we need in this still young century? We know the many things which afflict our society in the modern world: poor environment; poor diet; stress, anxiety and depression; isolation and loneliness, to name but a few. So what lessons can we learn about caring for each other from the actions of the Govan Weavers, over two and a half centuries ago?

As the German Artist Joseph Beuys said whilst installing old poor house doors in a cutting edge arts centre "I am at home in the Poor House". What he was really saying was ...we are all really just one step away from it. We have it in our own power to help avoid a need to make that anyone's home, if we care.

Ingrid Shearer, Alan Leslie & Chris Dalglish

# WE ARE LISTENING



For nearly a decade, Fairground rides had been absent from the Govan Fair – an embargo placed on the Fairs by Govan Police due to unacceptable levels of anti social behaviour and gang warfare that seemed to accompany them every year. Without analysis, there appeared to be a cause and effect between the presence of the Fairground and the running battles in the park, so the Fair was silenced, stopped, stigmatised.

A cycle of “blame” ensued. The Police blamed community members for not organising the Fair well enough and community members blamed the Police for a perceived lack of policing at the Fair. The result? a sadly dwindling Govan Fair that almost disappeared all together in 2013.

We Are Listening was a Police Scotland initiative funded by the Police, Creative Scotland and the Wheatly Group and delivered by Fablevision. During 2014 and 2015, artists Susan Pettie and Kathleen Friend worked inside Helen Street Police Station and out in community settings to transform

the “listening” for policing in our community. Key priority areas for focus were identified and the Govan Fair was one.

Throughout 2014, therefore, facilitated by artists and creative dialogue, the Police and community wardens worked together, trained together, met in Helen Street Police Station board room to plan strategy together. The result – a new relationship between the Police and community representatives that saw us understand our shared roles and responsibilities.

This has been an incredible journey of discovery: innovative, cutting edge and with all eyes upon us from Creative Scotland to Police Scotland to the Scottish Government. Our teams have continued to work together towards the 2015 event and we are only now beginning to appreciate the impact this work has had. Joint operational orders will be produced for this years fair (a first in Scotland we are told) and police officers on their days off intend to bring their families to the family-friendly

Govan Fair. Transformation is possible, solutions to seemingly intractable problems are discoverable through creativity and joint working practice. The local community planning partnership is listening to our experiences, Police Scotland are listening to our findings, the Scottish Government are listening and learning too.

We plan to continue our partnership working for the next 3 years at least – benchmarking with other European countries, sharing our approach with other communities and Police stations; influencing Scottish Government and Police Scotland. What if this way of working could become the default way to work within community settings? With on going support from Creative Scotland, Police Scotland and other partners, we plan to continue walking side by side – exploring – finding out and sharing our discoveries.

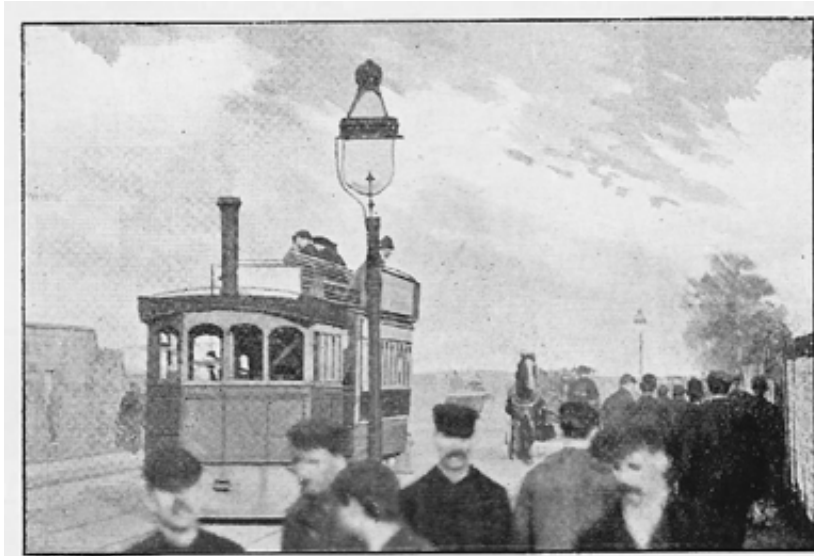
Liz Gardener & Anthony Bone



Mary Barbour being escorted to a polling station.



# OMNIBUSES & STEAM TRAMS



A Steam Tram pictured on Old Govan Road.

One of the hottest topics in Govan at the moment is Fastlink and the proposed £7 million modern interchange hub at Govan Subway and bus station, however; it is not the first time that the people of Govan have seen a 'Fast-link' service whisk people along the Govan Road and the proposed modern interchange hub has its roots at this location going back to 1861.

In 1861 John Hinshelwood (Govan Town Councilor 1864-1873) and James Abercrombie formed the company of Hinshelwood & Abercrombie, Omnibus Proprietors, Carriage Hirers, and Funeral Undertakers who had their stables and office at Greenhaugh Street, their canary coloured "Govan and Glasgow Omnibuses" were built by J & W. Wilson of Partick.

Children in Govan at the time joked that that 3 horses pulling the bus had only 2 good eyes among them, the horse in the centre was totally blind and the left side horse was blind in the right eye and the right side horse was blind in the left eye. In reality it was not such a shoddy enterprise with 6 horse-drawn buses running between the Silk Mill in

Govan and Miller Street in Glasgow at 15 minute intervals, with up to 57 trips on a Saturday, the new streamlined service replaced a much slower and less frequent service already running. The buses ran for the first time on 10th October 1861, there was a "Fair Day" atmosphere in Govan and some people were so taken by their new Fastlink service that they hired and decorated one of the omnibuses for a celebratory day trip to the Campsies.

In 1871 the Vale of Clyde Tramway Company obtained a parliamentary act to run what would be "Britain's first urban steam tramway", John was a director of this new company, his omnibus company of which he was now sole owner was trans-



The Old Govan and Glasgow 'Bus.

ferred to the Vale of Clyde Tramway Co. The company built a tramway along Govan Road between Linthouse and Paisley Road Toll with the stables in Greenhaugh Street now serving as the tram depot. Horse-drawn trams were initially used until mechanical traction was sanctioned in 1876, and for several weeks in 1877 the people of Govan had the pleasure of riding on horse-drawn, steam and pneumatic trams as the company tested several options of which steam was the preferred choice. The steam trams could be seen puffing along Govan Road until 1893 when the Govan tramway was leased to Glasgow Tramways.

The Vale Of Clyde Tramway Co, were not just pioneers in the use of steam trams but also in the design of the tramway itself, a unique gauge was ingeniously selected to allow through-running of trains from Govan railway station to the shipyards further along Govan Road. This gauge first

pioneered in Govan was adopted by tramways systems all over Scotland including Glasgow. This unique through running to the shipyards could still be seen in the late 1950s.

John Hinshelwood died in 1874 without ever seeing the steam trams running, I wonder what he would have thought when Glasgow Subway was built in 1896, now with rail, tram and underground stations all on Greenhaugh Street the Govan interchange was at its prime, but what became of those canary coloured "Old Govan & Glasgow Omnibuses", in 1920; at the first Govan Fair since 1881, the buses then under the ownership of the Glasgow Tramway Co. were in the procession "gaily decorated with flags and the horses with flowers".

Colin Quigley  
Govan Reminiscence Group



# THE MAKING OF GEORGE WYLLIE



George Wyllie's own photograph captures the unimaginable devastation in the aftermath of the Hiroshima bombing.

In the early hours of Hogmanay 1921 – the year in which the Govan Fair was revived after a hiatus of 33 years – George Ralston Wyllie drew his first breath. It had been raining for days and, as reported in *The Glasgow Herald* that day, boats on the River Clyde strained on their moorings as the watermark inched up to record high tide levels.

In contrast, almost 68 years later, on the day George launched a giant paper boat from beneath the Finnieston Crane on the Clyde, the spring sunshine gave the occasion a real holiday feel. By then an artist with a successful late-flowering career, George launched an 80 foot Paper Boat as an eulogy to the creative energy which had led to great ships being forged in nearby shipyards. By then, in stark contrast to the years following George's birth, the yards had finally fallen eerily silent due to lack of orders.

George was born in Shettleston in Glasgow's east end, close to his father Andy's workplace, James Bennie & Sons, an engineering and machine tool making firm, based in Polmadie. When he was just a toddler, the family moved to Craigton, a growing residential suburb, a short walk from Govan. This move brought them closer to Andy's new workplace, The Scottish Machine Tool Corporation in Govan. Like Bennie's, the company supplied heavy machine tools to firms like shipbuilding giant, Harland and Wolff.

By rights, Andy should have been called up to fight in the Great War. In 1909, aged eighteen, he had been enlisted to serve with Glasgow-based Territorial Force, the 5th Battalion Scottish Rifles. A reservist until September 1913, luckily Andy was not called up in 1916, when conscription became mandatory. His job as an engineer's clerk in the munitions supply chain was considered essential war-work.

This single fact probably ensured that he survived to become a father and that we had George at all. In the Glasgow area alone, around 18,000 people – mostly men – died in active service, and by the time Andy and George's mother, Harriet, married in 1919, the city was in a state of mass recovery, as people and businesses tried to get on with their lives.

At his work in Govan, Andy was a rate fixer; an unpopular job which saw him setting the rates for piecemeal work. But he was a cheerful man; and a hard worker; always singing and making up ditties, which endeared him to both shop-floor workers and management alike.

Although the Great War was considered the '*war to end all wars*', Andy's elder son George would end up leaving the family home in Cardonald (where they moved in 1938) in 1942 to fight for his country as an officer in the Royal Navy. By then an engineer with the General Post Office, he became an Electrical Artificer, which entailed maintaining and repairing electrical apparatus, instruments and torpedoes aboard HMS Argonaut; a light cruiser.

From 1944 until 1946, George saw active service at the D-Day Landings, in the Aegean for the liberation of Greece and in the Pacific. His abiding memory of war-time though was witnessing first-hand the devastation wrought by a uranium-filled bomb which dropped on the city of Hiroshima in the south west of Japan in August 1945.

Between 60,000 and 80,000 people died instantly in this attack. Many simply vanished in the explosion, such was the intense heat. The final death toll was calculated at 135,000 because so many subsequently died of long-term radiation sickness.

During a spell of shore leave in January 1946, George and two fellow crew-members walked around the city for hours. Every tree was black and charred; the granite stone used in building had shattered and turned to dust. Stone had crumbled and glass had melted.

Years later, George made countless artworks informed by a vehement anti-nuclear position. Particularly affecting was *The Difference*, an installation at Glasgow's George Square to mark the fiftieth anniversary of VJ Day in 1995. It was marked out by stark charcoal like stumps of tree trunks on a criss-cross grid-like system.

Right up to the end of his long life, which ended in 2012, George Wyllie was consumed by the desire to make artwork which made statements about mankind finding balance in nature. The sound of heavy engineering was a soundtrack to his life. Even though he didn't witness the first one, two devastating world wars ran through George Wyllie's story. His story is everyone's story.

## Jan Patience & Lynne Mackenzie

The George Wyllie Foundation

Together with Louise Wyllie, arts writer, Jan Patience, has co-written a biography of George Wyllie, called *The Making of George Wyllie*. It is being published by Birlinn in autumn 2015.

For more information about the George Wyllie Foundation, see [www.georgewyllie.com](http://www.georgewyllie.com)



George Wyllie illuminates his paper boat in New York.

# APPRENTICE JIMMY REID

At 19 years old, Jimmy Reid discovered his Scottish heritage and at the same age began his 'relationship with shipbuilding'. He said he 'learned of our Scottish history of nationhood' not from the education system, but in the Govan library. Jimmy joined British Polar Engines in Helen Street in 1951, where he began not only his 'relationship with shipbuilding' but with active trade-unionism as a young apprentice in the Apprentices Strike of 1951. In his book 'Reflections of a Clyde-built Man'<sup>1</sup>, here is Jimmy in his own words.

"Wages (for apprentices) were miserable at 30 shillings a week for a first year apprentice [...] An agreement was signed giving us a paltry percentage rise. We were all pretty incensed and called a meeting in Govan for all apprentices. We also organized a demonstration for the next Saturday in Glasgow. The demonstration

gave a lead that many had been waiting for. Committee meetings now became mass meetings with every major Clydeside establishment represented. Some of the men called for immediate strike action; others, including myself, wanted to broaden our base beyond Clydeside first. We sent messengers to the East of Scotland and the north of England, and there was a half-day token strike. Then an All-Britain Apprentices Conference was convened in Glasgow, and a decision taken there that called for an additional offer or we would all stop work. Not surprisingly, our ultimatum met with no response. So we arranged for a Clydeside walk-out and organized another march and a meeting. When the appointed hour came the factories went on but the apprentices went out. The demonstration grew as we neared the meeting place, and when I got there it was clear that the great majority (of apprentices) had responded."

According to historian Sandy Hobbs<sup>2</sup>, at that time "[...] victimisation by employers meant that the token strike action in 1952 snowballed into the next large-scale apprentice action. Clyde apprentices had organised a half-day strike on 7<sup>th</sup> February but when they returned to work next day some were suspended. When news of this spread, apprentices in many yards and factories came out in sympathy. The feeling generated led to a full scale strike in March with many thousands out in Scotland and England".

Jimmy describes the strike as it spread into England; "[...] it's generally believed that about 40,000 apprentices joined [...] It was impressive to watch how the young men had organized in a responsible and disciplined manner".

According to Jimmy the action ended only when the employers said they would meet the unions with an offer. They went back to work united in the resolve that they would meet to consider the acceptability of any offer. In the event the money was acceptable (although only half of what they wanted), but represented a significant increase.

The story of the apprentices strike in 1952 gives an interesting historical perspective on Govan shipbuilding and its young men and women. There's was a fight predicated on engaging people across the country and marshalling arguments to persuade people to support them. The strike was organized in a strategic and disciplined way – a forebear of the UCS work-in to come – and peculiarly Scottish in its breadth, engagement and solidarity with people nationally.

Eileen Reid



Jimmy and his daughters Eileen & Shona protesting against the Vietnam war in 1960s Glasgow.



Above: Shipyard apprentices protest  
Right: Jimmy addresses a meeting of the striking apprentices



1 As above  
2 Sandy Hobbs Clyde Apprentices' Strikes see <http://citystrolls.com/a-real-peoples-history/sandy-hobbs/>



# INDUSTRIAL CHAPLAINCY: GOVAN OLD



The commissioning ceremony of the frigate HMS Chichester in Fairfield's basin. Photograph courtesy of Ian Johnston & Fairfield Heritage

Govan's story is an unusual one: once very important in its own right, in later centuries it became a cameo of urban industrialisation, mirroring, and heralding, the changes to the City of Glasgow.

From its period of medieval significance in the Kingdom of Strathclyde, Govan became a prosperous, rural parish, supported by the economic activities of salmon fishing and farming and, later, by a cottage weaving industry. During the beginnings of industrialisation, in the early 18th century, Glasgow's wealthy merchants moved to an unspoilt Govan and built their estates along the river, within easy reach of Glasgow warehouses and businesses. However, that relative tranquillity was about to change, irrevocably, with the deepening and widening of the Clyde to allow for ship-building. New technologies emerged, and the working population increased ten-fold between the years of 1865 and 1905, putting severe pressure on the infrastructure of Govan and its surrounding lands. It makes an interesting footnote that, of the 15 subway stations

built as a means of transporting the workforce from home to the centres of industrial production, 10 of them were within the extended parish of Govan.

Such a degree of social change had consequences in every aspect of life, including the church. The church was responsible for poor relief and for education: huge tasks, given the migrant nature of much of the labour force and their families. However, Govan Parish responded to the changing situation not merely reactively, but proactively. Two incarnations of the parish church were built in the 19th century – the church which eventually became Elderpark Church (1826) and the 'People's Cathedral' of John Macleod, still in current use (1888). Additionally, the industrial expansion was viewed as an opportunity for mission, and funds were raised for new ministries in other areas of Glasgow experiencing industrialisation. Govan Parish encouraged more than 30 daughter churches across the City.



Chaplains were present on numerous emigration trips during the 1950s and 1960s.

This provision of ministry and churches was one way in which the church served the working population; offering the 'ordinances' of religion, pastoral care, and endorsement of working achievement. However, it was equally true to say that concern for the life conditions of the workers: their material well-being; as well as education and social life, and the constant spectre of poverty, were issues of similar concern to the churches.

Govan Parish, with strong links to the Iona Community through the ministry of George Macleod and his successors, has always demonstrated that practical and careful concern, whether in times of expansion and plentiful jobs - or facing the decline of heavy industry and increasing disadvantage and poverty. The in-between nature of the church's role, produced some strange accommodations along the way with the blessing of warships, for example, where men would have to live and, during two world wars and other conflicts, to fight.

Nonetheless, that in-between nature of the church's role continued to be appreciated both by those at the work bench and those in the board room, and the role led to the development of industrial chaplains and worker priests across Scotland. Initially, these appointments were attached to heavy industry, but in a modern context Work Based Chaplaincy is placed in supermarkets, shopping centres, smaller businesses, hospitals, colleges and universities. The learning place of the churches in the forefront of industrialisation, like Govan Parish, is still with us in working chaplaincies across our towns and cities.

Rev Dr Moyna McGlynn

# MAINTAINING CONGREGATION



Govan Cross Church c. 1900 with functioning horse troughs, public toilets and water fountain.

The churches have witnessed further changes in Govan over the last year. Thanks to the support of the Townscape Heritage Initiative and the Central Govan Action Plan, additional funding has come in to the town centre to restore heritage buildings (as in Water Row) and to improve more shop fronts. The churches have an interest in this infrastructural development, and further funding bids have been successful for an improved walkway along the River, landscaping, and interpretive and restorative work in the graveyard at Govan Old.

The three churches, all listed buildings, have benefited from public funding as part of the restoration programme of Govan's heritage, with further phases of work to come.

Also, 2014 saw the approval by OSCR of the Govan Heritage Trust, which is a charitable corporation, designed to take over the management and administration of the Govan Stones and the historical and archaeological elements of Govan Old

Church. This step is the beginning of a new process which secures a long-term future for Govan Old. Continuing worship is considered entirely compatible with the building's main future use as a Visitor Centre.

Restoration work at the Church at the Cross will also take place over the summer, although progress for subsequent phases is slow.

The churches continue to host and encourage a wide range of social and artistic events and activities within the community.

With this in mind we offer our heartfelt support for the Govan Fair, and our appreciation of those who work hard to make the Govan Fair an important annual event in continuity with Govan's long history.

**Rev Dr Moyna McGlynn**

Puppets in Partnership (Cran Theatre and Govan and Linthouse Churches 12-14th June 2015) congratulate the Govan Fair of 2015.



Building Transylvania with Pirrie Park Children - Puppets in Partnership Festival 2015.

# ZEITGEIST!



The Old Water Row Cottages + Ferry Bot Inn being demolished after 250 years service to make way for ship building in 1912. Drawing by Muirhead Bone

In 1914, when the Old Govan Club was formed, the emphasis was on recording and saving the history and traditions of Govan. The physical presence of the landmarks, the street pattern and the geography were being overwritten by industry.

Ships and shipyards were increasing in size and hundreds of years of history were being overwritten in the blink of an eye. The people of Govan were concerned that their familiarity, their story and their traditions were being removed by decision makers in central Glasgow as opposed to their own Burgh buildings.

That dissonance resulted in the Old Govan Club and a membership of 780 in 1924. The Ferry Bot on the Water Row was under threat as a larger ferry to serve industry was required. The shipyards had already taken the village green and space for

leisure had been displaced to the Elder Park. Incrementally, commons and ancient rights were being chipped away at and paid off by money being placed in a bond or trust held by the corporation of Glasgow. That fund is known today as the Common Good Fund and can be approached for community-based activities.

Eminent ship builders like Mr Napier at Water Row wanted a few extra feet and filed for demolition of once round corners and new boundary walls.

The burgh surveyor had been replaced with a district surveyor and he was now elsewhere...not so accessible.

The Kittle Corner, which kept Govan in check via localized banter and which provided a specific place to talk back and address gossip, was removed. It's a facility sadly missed in the Govan of today.

Govan was very fortunate in having over its wide geographic boundary the best of academics. Glasgow University had moved from the east end to Partick and had an interest in the independent burgh within which it sat. The members of the Old Govan Club were well aware of a history predating the now dominant city.

In coming together and publishing their annual transactions, they instilled in Govan a very noticeable pride of place. In days of philanthropy this was instrumental in the upkeep of societal consciousness. The residuals of that can be sensed in Govan today. A *genus loci* or spirit of place. A careful eye & quiet voice saying 'Watch it or else!'

In 1914, when the world's eyes were on war, the traditions of the Fair were all but extinguished. The Wilmot family hosted their last winter carnival on January 15th 1914 and it took The Old Govan Club til 1920 to restart the tradition of the Fair on the first Friday of June. They reflected in the Govan Press of 1918 on some of the colour and tradition lost.

They noted that Govan Weavers, in their last procession in 1882, had retained and paraded some very important apparatus. The apparatus they describe tells something of the origins and democratic nature of the Govan Fair.

Two important items have been lost. These are said to have been placed for safekeeping in the basement of the Pearce Institute and were used every year in the procession before the Weavers came to power and during their stewardship of the Fair.

The Sheriffmuir Flag was carried in 1715 to the battle at that place by the heritors and inhabitants of Govan, who raised a voluntary Corps, to aid the Government in quelling a rebellion. That old piece of cloth, representative of a component of the community, was '*put in the hands of the Weavers*' in 1756.

The Weavers' records stated that it was in a rather fragile state and worthy of retiral toward the end of their reign...so around 1880. If anyone knows anything about that, please let the Govan Fair Association know.

Something older than that and much more significant, something known and cherished in Govan, was Robert the Bruce's spear, allegedly carried at Bannockburn in June of 1314. According to the annals of the Old Govan Club, it was an important element of the annual procession, being '*covered in crimson velvet*'. Its authenticity is unknown. It explains the presence of crimson velvet in the 20<sup>th</sup> century apparatus and costume. These items were important regalia and carried every year.



The Ghost of Water Row. & Govan Old Church. Photograph by Tom Manley.

The Govan Fair has been a holiday and industrial pageant since 1756 and before that it was a pageant celebrated by the previous custodians of the village of Govan. It was led by community leaders, elders of the church, farmers, funeral societies, early trade guilds, showfolks, producers and makers and who knows who else.

Below you will find a sketch of a fair typical of those held throughout the kingdom in 1724, normally at a crossroads or by a river. It has been transposed on to the geography of Govan and perhaps gives some indication of what might have been gathered at Govan Cross on the first Friday of June.

It has always been Govan's voice and a measure of society and where it finds itself in that particular year.

In Germany they say, '*Der zeitgeist spricht.*' As the procession moves on June 5th and Govan remembers WWI, the ghost of time is speaking.

Andrew McAvoy

# MARY BARBOUR IS COMING BACK TO GOVAN



A portrait of a young Mary Barbour.

Mary Barbour née Rough was born the third of seven daughters to a Weaver on 22nd February 1875 and died on the 2nd April 1958. She became a legend in her own life time. Her achievements in the rent strikes of 1915 put greedy landlords on the back foot and led to social justice. Mary, whilst moonlighting from thread twisting, changed housing legislation for the better through her activism. The effect of that has lasted one hundred years.

Her legacy continues to inspire young woman and men today. She contributed to the platform of community activism and societal reform for which Govan is famous.

You can read more in the article 'Mary Barbour' by historian Morag Cross on Glasgow City Council's



WWI website: [www.firstworldwarglasgow.co.uk/index.aspx?articleid=11384](http://www.firstworldwarglasgow.co.uk/index.aspx?articleid=11384)

Historian Catriona Burness is 'looking for Mary Barbour' and gives a rounded picture here: [www.remembermarybarbour.wordpress.com/2014/01/16/dr-catriona-burness-on-looking-for-mary-barbour/](http://www.remembermarybarbour.wordpress.com/2014/01/16/dr-catriona-burness-on-looking-for-mary-barbour/)

For a timeline of the strikes, Strathclyde University's emerging digital library is very thorough: [www.gdl.cdlr.strath.ac.uk/redclyde/redclyindex-events.html](http://www.gdl.cdlr.strath.ac.uk/redclyde/redclyindex-events.html)

There is a campaign to have a statue of Mary Barbour erected close to the site of her early activism at Govan Cross. <http://womenslibrary.org.uk/shop/mary-barbour-monument-exclusive-ltd-edition-collage-by-sharon-thomas/>

Chairwoman of the Remember Mary Barbour Association, Maria Fyfe, is working with artist Sharon Thomas in seeking a shortlist of artists to be commissioned to produce scale models (maquettes) of Mary Barbour. The maquettes will be toured around Glasgow and the people's consensus gauged. The most appropriate will then be produced at full size.

It has been said that Mary Barbour was a dangerous woman because of her activism. See what you think! <http://womenslibrary.org.uk/?s=march+of+the+women>

If you would like to see Mary in action, the film available at this time is Red Skirts on Clydeside. Research has been ongoing since 1984 when this

was made and an update is being discussed. Please contact Maria Fyfe with proposals: [fyfe\\_maria@hotmail.com](mailto:fyfe_maria@hotmail.com)

There will be a poster campaign from now until the centenary of the rent strikes in November 2015 – watch out it's 'Striking season'.

Mary Barbour employed the youth of Govan in her action! See if you can spot her contemporary army of rattles and whistles, causing us to take notice, in the Govan Fair Procession this year at 6.30 on the 5<sup>th</sup> June.



# THE SPIRIT OF THE GOVAN FAIR



My mother Margaret Black holds me as a new-born baby.

Margaret Black always loved the Govan Fair and was delighted when her daughter, Isobel, was chosen in 1980 to be a maid of the Fair Queen.

Isobel was selected that year from the old Saint Saviours primary school. It was a great excitement to her. Margaret was heavily pregnant that year; and on the night of the Fair, went into labour at home with Sandy Black and his twin brother, David. Both twins were still-born in the tenement family home.

The Govan Fair Procession continued as normal with the brave faced and newly crowned and elected Queen and her maids at its head. As the procession passed the family home of Isobel on

Arklett road, it was halted by the Chief Marshall. It had been decided that the constitution of the Fair should be upheld and that it should show respect to the young Maids family in their grief. The still born brothers were brought to the door of the family home, so that 11 year old Isobel Black could say goodbye to her two baby brothers.

As she lent over to kiss her baby brothers, one moved, breathed, and was whisked away to be operated on. The surgeon announced that "*the baby boy was a miracle child who would grow up to have a huge talent - A talent that would more than compensate for his fragile frame.*" He was to be given the best of care.

I am Sandy Black. I was that miracle baby.

The spirit of the Govan Fair has been in me, since that miraculous Govan Fair night of Friday, the 7<sup>th</sup> of June, 1980.

The first 16 years of my life were spent in Yorkhill hospital where they let me out every first Friday of June to allow me to attend the Govan Fair. They had no choice, after all - it is part of me and I am part of it.

As soon as I was finally released from Yorkhill, I became a Marshall for the Govan Fair Parade: serving under Gordon Young while our wonderful Dorothy Courtney chaired the Fair Committee. Every year, Matt Barlow blew his whistle to announce that the Parade was setting off. As soon as I heard that whistle, my heart leapt with excitement. I knew we were off!



My sister, maid Isobel Black (far right) in 1980.

When Jack Sweeny took over as Chief Marshall, I continued to assist him, followed by John McKenzie. In the last years I have served my role under Fred Hunter.

When Jimmy Stringfellow took over the Chair of the Govan Fair, I was proud to be promoted to Secretary. This is my life: and the Govan Fair is a most important part of that life. It has me, throughout the year of preparation, excited passionate and committed.

I will be doing the Govan Fair every year of my life for as long as my health allows me to do it.

The talent that was foretold by that surgeon on that miraculous night of the 7<sup>th</sup> June 1980, was music. I have played the piano since I was two and I play both piano and organ for services, weddings and funerals in the Churches of Govan and beyond.



A younger me at the keys.

The Govan Fair highlights all the good and bad in the life of a community. And as the Govan Fair resiliently carries on, sadly it is amid sadness as well as joy.

Last Fair Friday brought tragedy for our family as my younger brother died in a freak railway accident. Amid the usual energy of the Govan Fair his body was brought back home to Govan. With the support of the Govan Fair Association I continued with my duties as normal - my mum Margaret Black took the loss of my brother very badly and she didn't really get over it.

I found myself playing the organ at her funeral in March of this year.

Margaret wont be standing at her usual spot watching the procession this year; but in the spirit of the Govan Fair, I Sandy Black will be carrying on as normal.

I carry with me as I walk and Marshall, the spirit of the Govan Fair.

Onward.

Sandy Black



# THE GOVAN FAIR FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT 2014



2014 Football trophy winners Pirie Park Primary.

## Semi-Final Results 14<sup>th</sup> May 2014

St Saviours 5 v 1 St Georges

Riverside 0 v 10 Pirie Park

## Final at Ibrox Complex 28<sup>th</sup> May 2014

St Saviours 2 v 8 Pirie Park

Welcome back to all the teams this year. After a difficult time last year getting venues for the 11 a-sides, I have had to revert to the 7 a-side again for this year.

Taking nothing away the teams gave their all, but found a very strong Pirie Park Primary and winners of 2014. The venue will once again be at Ibrox Community Complex on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May 4 - 6pm. Do come along and support your school so that you see them holding the cup in the procession.

If anyone wants to lend a hand or suggest any ways to support this, Glasgow's oldest football tournament, please come along on the 28<sup>th</sup> or call me on 0141 445 6323. If someone wants to write up the history of this tournament, we have some boxes requiring organising! Who knows what names could be found on all the plaques and medals!

See if you can spot the Premiership Cup on loan for the procession again this year.

**Fred Hunter**

Football Co-ordinator, Govan Fair Association



# THE GOVAN FAIR MUSIC FESTIVAL 2015

This year will see a series of musical and theatrical events taking place on the stage in Elder Park. Please refer to the map in the centre-fold pages for locations of the various events happening throughout this special weekend.

It is with great pleasure that we can share with you this exciting timetable. Be aware that all information is correct at the time of printing and ensure that you arrive promptly to see acts. We look forward to a stimulating line-up, see you on the dance floor!

Time	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Saturday 6 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday 7 <sup>th</sup>
1.00PM		SARAH SUMMERS	
1.30PM		MUSICAL THEATRE	
2.00PM		EMMA KELLY	
2.30PM		REAL DEAL	
3.00PM		REAL DEAL	ATM DANCE GROUP
3.30PM		REAL DEAL	ATM DANCE GROUP
4.00PM		SCOTIA	EMMA KELLY
4.30PM		SCOTIA	NICOLE BROWNIE
5.00PM	TOM KEREN	OUR LUCID REALITY	ERIN GOODALL
5.30PM	ANDY MARTIN	OUR LUCID REALITY	
6.00PM	CROWNING CEREMONY	THE LEMONS	
6.30PM	PROCESSION	THE LEMONS	
7.00PM	PROCESSION	THE LEMONS	THE CASSETTES
7.30PM	PROCESSION		THE CASSETTES
8.00PM	PROCESSION		
8.30PM	PROCESSION	PACIFICS	
9.00PM			

This year the Govan Fair Association have worked tirelessly in digging deeper into the origins of the Govan Fair and reinstating some of the lost tradition. This reinstatement and this Programme would not be possible without leaning heavily on the best of people to write the content for this Programme.

As Editor of the programme, I have had the pleasure in working closely with the Contributors and they have been more than generous with their time. A heartfelt thank you to all of them.

As local newspapers become a thing of the past and focus on advertising revenues rather than Community, it becomes incumbent on the Govan Fair Association to move their annual publication counter culturally back toward the very roots of the Old Govan Club. We take the cue from TCF Brotchie's endeavours of 1914 - 1924. We hope you enjoy the freshness and authenticity of what has been written and contained. Govan's story just becomes more amazing the deeper you dig. The possibilities for the Fair are endless.

**Andrew McAvoy**

Editor of Transactions

# SUPPORTERS OF THE GOVAN FAIR 2015

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 The Cassettes  
 The Coming Home Group  
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Robin with his Betty  
 (Beloved & long serving)

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Robin Campbell 5<sup>th</sup> May 1939 - 13<sup>th</sup>  
 January 2015

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 contributor to The Govan Fair Procession.

The GFA bids you a fond farewell.  
 Roll On.

Robin's resourceful nature and fascination with  
 all things on wheels continues.  
 Look out for his Albion in this years procession.  
 Keep those big wheels turning at :-

Block 4B  
 Vale Of Leven Industrial Estate  
 Dumbarton  
 Dunbartonshire  
 G82 3PD  
 T: 01389 753 362



Robin with his Albion  
 (First ever recovery vehicle)

## Remembering Govan

The Govan Reminiscence Group is a local history group who have been active in Govan for 27 years helping keep the memories of Govan alive.

The group started by recording oral histories of members with some great recollections going as far back as the 1920s.

Would you like to share your favourite memories of Govan? Did you love going to one or all of Govan's picture halls? or did you prefer going to the jiggling in Govan Town Hall? Whatever your memory we would love to hear them.

Govan memories can be posted to our website at:

[www.govanremgroup.org.uk](http://www.govanremgroup.org.uk)

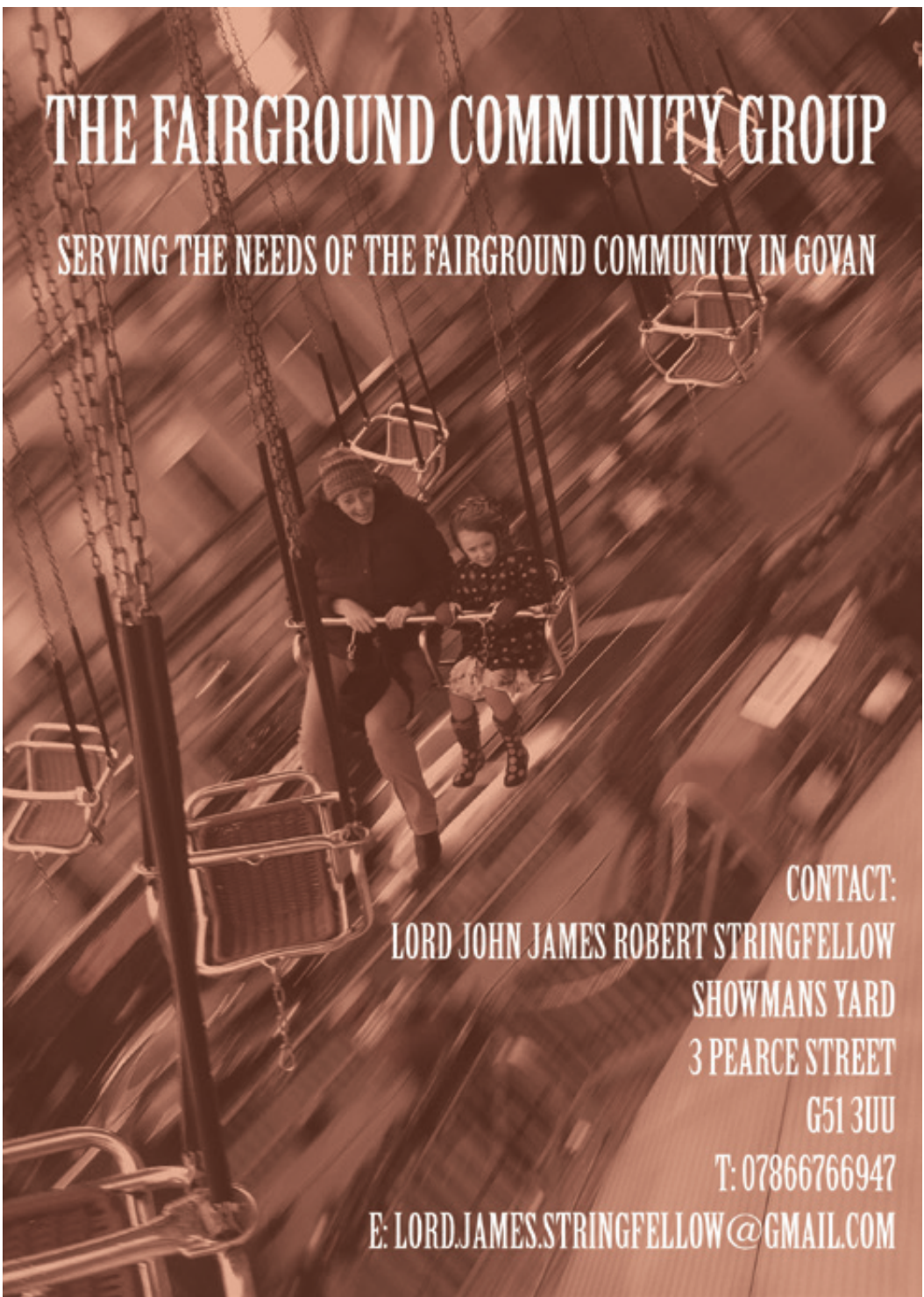
or if you prefer you can email your memories and photos direct to:

[info@govanremgroup.org.uk](mailto:info@govanremgroup.org.uk)



# THE FAIRGROUND COMMUNITY GROUP

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CONTACT:

LORD JOHN JAMES ROBERT STRINGFELLOW

SHOWMANS YARD

3 PEARCE STREET

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T: 07866766947

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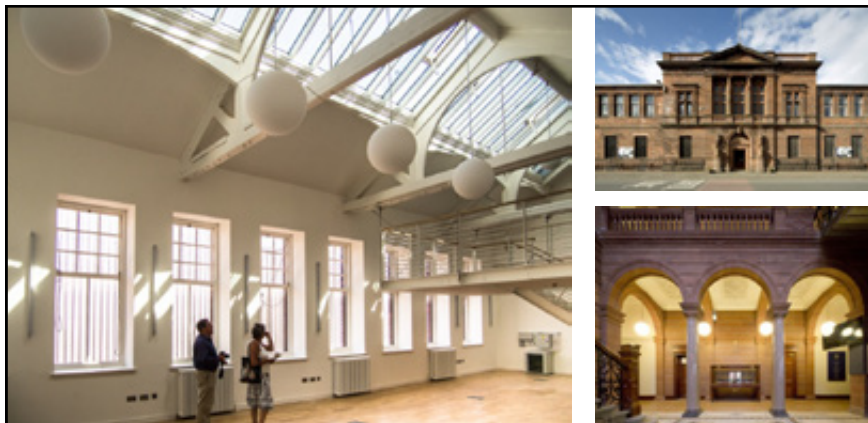
Contact: Elderpark Housing Association, 31 Garmouth Street, Glasgow  
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## Congratulations to the Govan Fair - a great Govan tradition

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SURF has been supporting community regeneration in Govan and across Scotland since 1992.

The team at SURF wish the Govan Fair every success for this year's event.



# SURF

[www.scotregen.co.uk](http://www.scotregen.co.uk)

## Glen Art Present:

**Sunday 7th June at 3pm**

at

**Govan Old Parish Church 866 Govan Road, Glasgow G51 3UU**

### **An afternoon of words and music to commemorate the people of Govan and the First World War**

Entry is free but there will be an opportunity to make a donation towards the upkeep of the beautiful Govan Old Parish Church.

In association with Music Co-Operative Scotland,  
the Govan Fair Association and Govan Reminiscence Group.



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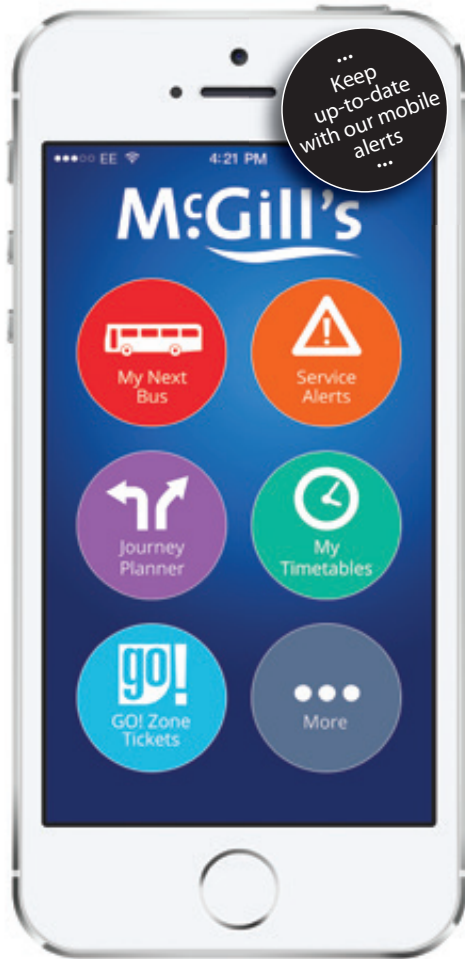
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## Govan and Linthouse Parish Church

The ministry team and congregation of Govan & Linthouse Parish Church wish the Govan Fair every success in June 2015.

Govan Cross Church  
796 Govan Road  
G51 2YL  
0141 445 2010

Govan Old Church  
866 Govan Road  
G51 3UU  
0141 440 2466

Linthouse Church  
9 Skipness Drive  
G51 4RL  
Web: [www.govanlinthouseparish.org](http://www.govanlinthouseparish.org)



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# Riverside Museum

Proud to be part of the Govan Fair



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**Supporting Govan Fair**  
**Nicola Sturgeon MSP for Glasgow Southside**

Nicola represents East Govan, Ibrox, Cessnock & Kinning Park

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**Humza Yousaf MSP**  
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**Drop-In Surgeries 2015**

**Pearce Institute**  
 (840-860 Govan Road, G51 3UU)  
 Third Monday of the month, 12:30pm - 13:30pm

**Pollok Civic Realm**  
 (27 Cowglen Road, G53 2EN) Third  
 Monday of a the month, 11am-12pm

**Cardonald Library**  
 (1113 Mossspark Drive, G52 3BU) Last  
 Saturday of the month, 11am-12pm



**Councillor James Adams**

James.Adams2@glasgow.gov.uk

**2nd Wednesday each month:** 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm, Pirie Park Primary School, 37 Langlands Road (No surgeries during school and public holidays)

**2nd Saturday each month:** 10.15 am to 11.15 am, Elder Park Library, 228a Langlands Road

**2nd Saturday each month:** 11.30 am to 12.30 pm, The Pearce Institute, 840-860 Govan Road



**Councillor John Kane**

John.Kane@glasgow.gov.uk

**1st Tuesday each month:** 12 noon, Whitefield Road Community Hall, 41 Whitefield Road

**1st Tuesday each month:** 1.00 pm, Riverside Hall, 29-31 Clydebrae Street.

**1st Friday each month:** 2.00 pm, Glasgow Club Bellahouston, 31 Bellahouston Drive



**Bailie Fariha Thomas**

Fariha.Thomas@glasgow.gov.uk

**2nd Thursday of month:** 6.00 pm to 7.00 pm, Kinning Park Complex, Cornwall Street

**4th Saturday of month:** 10.00 am to 11.00 am, Ibrox Library, 1-7 Midlock Street

**4th Saturday of month:** 11.15 am to 12.15 pm, Pearce Institute, 840-860 Govan Road

Council switchboard 0141 287 2000

Home visits can be arranged



**JOHANN LAMONT  
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## KEEP YOUR EYES PEELED

### FAIRFIELD HERITAGE

The entire Shipyard office building at 1048 Govan Road has now been restored to provide a heritage centre that is free for the public. It also offers office and conferencing space. Once described as the jewel in the crown of Govan, the restored building provides a magnificent venue for all for all kinds of events. The Fairfield Heritage Centre is open to the public Monday - Friday between 2pm - 5pm.

For more information about the project, please contact **Abigail Morris**, Fairfield Co-ordinator.  
T: 0141 445 5866  
E: [amorris@govanworkspace.co.uk](mailto:amorris@govanworkspace.co.uk)



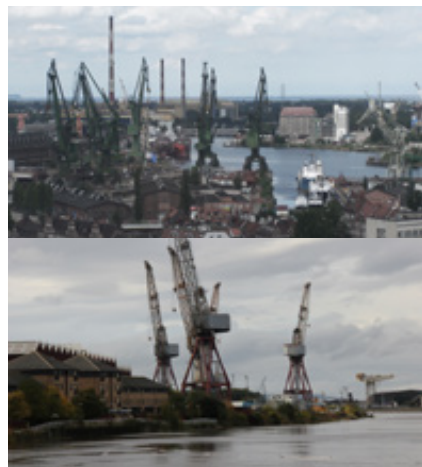
### GOVAN OLD CHURCH WALKWAY & CITY DESIGN CO-OP

The preparations for the new walkway are well advanced and the project will shortly be put out to tender. It is anticipated that work on the six month construction programme will begin this summer and that it will be complete by the end of the year. The path will follow the riverside from Water Row to a new access gate at the Govan Old Churchyard. The path will be 5m wide and will be fully lit at night time. It will restore public access to this section of the riverside for the first time in nearly 50 years. For more info see [www.citydesign.coop](http://www.citydesign.coop)



### REGENERATION OF WATERFRONT HERITAGE ZONES AND COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION: LESSONS FROM GLASGOW, GOVAN AND GDANSK

SYMPOSIUM, GOVAN, 7-9 JUNE 2015  
Organized by the University of the West of Scotland's Creative Futures Institute, School of Media, Culture and Society, in association with RSE-funded Interdisciplinary and Cross-Institutional Research Network Regeneration and Waterfront Heritage Zones in Northern Europe. A delegation from Gdansk will be in Govan in June and a Govan delegation goes to Gdansk in August 2015. To contribute please contact:  
E: [Katarzyna.Kosmala@uws.ac.uk](mailto:Katarzyna.Kosmala@uws.ac.uk)



## Thank you

A big thanks to our First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and to Lord Provost Sadie Docherty for accepting Patronage of the Govan Fair Association.

A big thanks to Saint Saviours Primary school for providing and tending this years Queen Maid & Escorts.

The Govan Fair Association is extremely grateful to Elder Park Library, the Pearce Institute and Fairfield's Heritage who have hosted our organising meetings over the year since the last Fair:

A big thank you to the following individuals:

Moyna McGlynn, Pat Cassidy, Harry Silvers, Eileen Reid, Colin Quigley, John Hume, Tim Clarkson, Simon Taylor, Ingrid Shearer, Tony Bone, Neil Baxter, Jon Haynes, Morag Cross, Maria Fyffe, Catriona Burness, Neil Shaw Finlayson, Allan Leslie, Olivia Lelong, Chris Dalglish, Jan Patience, Lynne Mackenzie, Graham Hunter, Rita Winters, John & Chanel Stringfellow, Shaunee Howat, Peter Cloherty, Darren Flemington.

Thankyou to our advertisers who cover the printing costs.

Thankyou to The Victory Christian Centre for many years of service to the GFA.

Thankyou to this year's volunteers: Dylan Foulis; Julian Bailey; David Costello; Shanice Hanton; Laura McSheffrey; Mark Wood; Ian O' Donnell; Craig Albert; Karolina Klimasevskytė

Finally a special thanks must go to you, the people of Govan, spread throughout the world for your continued support of the Govan Fair and its year long activities.

## Govan Remembers

The Govan Fair Association is proud to be helping *Govan Remember* WWI and will contribute it's findings to a nationwide archive! The Fair enables anyone to walk independently in the footsteps and wheel tracks of centuries of people and Industries. Get in the way of that at your peril.

Remember those poor people who died in 1914 -1918 and their families.  
Remember Mary Barbour and her Army of Independents who marched and warned the Corporation of Glasgow to look after its vulnerable people.

Watch out for the new tracks being laid down and don't fall into them.

If you like the sound, please dance.

If you don't like the look or sound - be careful and report them!  
They could be, as Govan's First Lady Councillor was once described, *dangerous!*



The Govan Fair Association is a registered Charity in Scotland (SC040936)

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