

MEMORIES OF OUR VILLAGE
FORTH 1946 to 2020
THROUGHBURN TO FOOT OF TOWN

- Tom Gracie, Haulage & Coal Merchant, Lower Throughburn. It was Tom who demolished Wilsontown Big House which was built by the Wilson Bros of The Ironworks, Wilsontown.
- George Stark, Professional Greyhound Trainer, West Forth Cottage. Previously the home of the Gracie family including our Gently Giant, Geordie.
- West Forth Farm, Animal Feed Supplies.
- Bank Farm owned by Mr. Wilson (now Bank Hall Sheltered Housing). Mr. Wilson also owned the land of what is now The Haven. This land was given to the people of the village for the purpose of building The Miners Welfare. Before Tinto View was built, there was a Filling Station (Sutherlands) at the site on the Main Road. This was tended by our Gently Giant, Geordie Gracie.
- Willie Weirs Shop sat in the corner of the field where Jim Patersons bungalow now stands. This bungalow was built by Starks Coal Business and subsequently also owned by Ian McGilvary.
- The Wee Kirk is now a dwelling house.
- John Walkers Butchers Shop and Van.

FORTH – MAIN ST (FOOT OF TOWN) TO WILSONTOWN

- Bob Moffat General Store followed by Bill Orr General Store then a Chinese Takeaway and now converted to dwelling house.
- Forth Inns (Licencees to date) -Ronnie McLeod, Penny Roddie Dawson Lambie, Marshall (Dempster). Brewers Managers –

Andrew Heggarty and Davie Flemming , then private again Harry & Mary Ruddle and presently Margaret and Davie Burden.

- John McGilvary Butcher Shop and Van. Subsequently Ian McGilvary and currently Billy McCafferty (Butchers).
- Pretoria Building – Maggie Mansells Shop, then converted to Post Office and Shop owned by Wm Gray, Hugh Wilson, Jack Paton, Stuart Graham but sadly now closed. Andrew Harrison once lived in this building and operated a milk van from there before dwelling upstairs.
- Peter McCallum & Sons Bakers Shop, Bakehouse and Vans. There was a hall above the bakehouse to the back of the shop used by Tom McCallum as a gym. When McCallums closed, it was converted to the Talisker Inn – (Licencees) Cathy Gibson (during her time, the Alber Hall was used for dances, weddings and social occasions). Billy Whyte, Duncan Fleming, Catto Darrach and present owner George Beattie.
- Tennant Butcher Shop & Van then Davie Forsyth took over butchers shop. The Forgie Brothers had a Bakehouse in the Garage to the rear. When this closed, the shop converted to a Chip Shop (Ernest Skea, Janette Alexander), then became The Rainbow Café with various owners but is now closed.
- A Griffins Garage & Filling Station, now owned by A & C Ross, operated by Margaret Fowler. The ‘Shows’ used to come to the ground behind the garage and Church for the Gala Day.
- Forth Church Halls belong the Forth St Pauls Church (Church of Scotland). Current Minister Elspeth MacLean who resides in The Manse, 22 Lea Rig, Forth.

- Police Station which was relocated to Climpy Road. The Main St building is now used as a Medical Clinic.
- Jenny Smith Shop & Smiddy Café. Accommodation was also let to the rear of the shop. The Shop and Jenny were legends, selling anything from a needle to an anchor.
- Thomas Marshall General Store & Van, famous for cheese bought directly from Ayrshire Farmers (1ton at a time). To the rear of the shop, the Council roadmen kept their 'big barrow', brushes and shovels. Tom Chalmers (Joiners) workshop was also there. McCallum (Coal Merchants) also kept their lorries and taxi here followed by Jonny Young, George Rivett, then Burt & McConnel (Joiners) operated from here. The Brass Band also used the area for rehearsals.
- William Hepburn, Shoe Shop & Cobbler. The shoe shop was subsequently owned by Sinclair, then Nelson. It is now a dwelling house.
- West Calder Co-Op (Forth Branch) Shop and Vans. The shop consisted of Groceries, Drapery, Hardware, Bakery. When the shop closed, it was sold and became a supermarket with half of the building being sold off to J & M Thomson (Honda). The supermarket is again owned by the Co-Op and is the largest in the village.
- The Willie Waddell Sports and Community Centre is situated in the Recreation Park (affectionately known by locals of a certain age as Tammy's Park). Tammy Watson, Park Keeper stayed in Skylaw. At that time, there were Tennis Courts, Putting Green, Table Tennis and Draughts in the White House Pavilion. Now an all-weather Football Pitch and Kids Playground.

The Sports Centre provides a range of sporting activities, group classes

and gymnasium with rooms to hire.

- War Memorial is also on this site which was moved some years ago from its previous location which is now a Gateway Garden maintained by FCRC.
- Forth Wanderers Football Park now in its hundredth year.
- James McCallum, General Store and now dwelling houses including Dan's taxis.
- Doctors Surgery before re-locating to Manse Road and now a dwelling house.
- Wm Robb, Drapers, General Store and Van – now a dwelling house.
- Chemist Shop before relocation to present site – Bob McColl (Manager for Hilston) now Lindsay & Gilmour.
- Royal Bank of Scotland originally managed by William Stevenson now closed. Bank was previously John Wilson, Saddlers. John Pollock, Cobbler was upstairs behind the Bank.
- Bob Gibson, Chip Shop formerly Maggie Robinsons, Mrs Muir Sweet Shop now a dwelling house.
- Scotts Post Office and Newsagents – Mary McKenzie now a dwelling house.
- Weirs Shop, General Store – Thomson & Orr. Roy Thomson, General Store & Newsagents shared store with Bill Orr, Butchers. Roy later sold to Billy Ritchie but has since been owned by 1st for Convenience and now McColls Supermarket and Post Office.

- J & R Gibson Drapers, Jim Gibson's daughter and husband (Gordon Wilson) later used as a carpet shop and this is now a Chinese Takeaway.
- Masonic Building – Used for Masonic Meetings and Social Events. Tom Carmichael once used a downstairs room as a Gents Hairdressers.
- Dwelling houses (Now Chemists) and one time Mission Hall. Previously used by Tom Cunningham Cobbler and upstairs by Tommy & Arthur Little as a weightlifting gym before conversion by Boy Alexander to a pram shop.
- Peggy Rose Shop “Knic Knacks” then taken over by Mrs Orr as a wool shop – now a swelling house.
- Lynn McCallum, Physiotherapist (Kirk Green). Liz Young, mobile Hairdresser.
- McArthur & Bob Miller, Newsagents & Gramophone Records. When this closed there were various occupants (Mrs S Orr, Ina Gallagher, Mary Pretswell). David Pollock also used the shop to sell motor spares. G Stark & G McKenzie, Photo Frames. Now a dwelling house.
- Dick Gibson, Shop and Bakehouse with Van. The Gardiner family later took over the shop selling baby clothes and wool. Hugh Gallagher later opened the premises as shop and bakehouse but now a dwelling house.
- Peggy Hamilton, General Store (burned down). When rebuilt by Boy Alexander to sell toys, fancy goods and ironmongery. Later became Rocco's Chip Shop and Takeaway.

- Old building next to Rocco's was used as a Cobblers by Tom Cunningham.
- Jim Thomson (New Row) bought these premises which was converted to a Chip Shop worked by Roy Thomson & Sanny Marshall. 'Big' Jim Alexander then bought the premises and his daughter Annie and husband Dick Patterson then upgraded it to include a sit-in café. Joe Lannie – Ice Cream Shop Later sold to an Asian family but now used as a Cancer Charity Shop.
- Tennant Transport Yard & Garage. Haulage company which also had an extensive Bus Hire. Business has now relocated to purpose-built premises at Hyndford, Lanark.
- Watson – Gents and Ladies Hairdressers. When closed, these premises remained empty for many year but later used but hairdressing by Catrina Steel, Angela Bishop and Pauline McManus. More recently became the 'Copper Rose' Hairdressers and Sweet Shop.
- James Alexander (Big Jim) Garage, Shop and Billiard Hall. There was also a Petrol Pump at the entrance to the premises. Son George ran the garage which then also sold bicycles and operated a taxi service. Now closed.
- Dr. Reid's house and Surgery now Sam Dornan Car Sales.
- Catholic Church.
- Tinto Cinema, owned by Gourock Rope Co but later sold to manager David Fleming. It ended its life as a Bingo Hall before being demonished to make way for Sunny Brae pensioners houses.

- Forth Primary School.
- Mairn Boyds – Sweet Shop. Subsequently owned by Irene Dearie, John McGinty (Hairdressers) – now James Gardiner (Chartered Accountant).
- Liptons General Store. Subsequently used by Gordon Kay then Gordon Paton, now a dwelling house.
- Maggie Dempsters Shop which was then sold to the Weir family which then became Bobby's. Bobby married Jean Weir than passed to niece Lorna McGinty. To this day it is still known as Bobby's Store but owned by an Asian family.
- Kennedy & Gebbie – Static Fish and Chip van stood on site of Maureen Rankins house and later bought and operated by Jim Thomson.
- Cobblers who worked from home – Jonny Gaff (Hawkwood) Jock Smith (Skylaw). When the pits were working, there were always boots to patch and resole with knee pads to make too.

FORTH – MANSE ROAD TO FOOT OF TOWN

Frances McManus – Hen Run

Burt & McConnells Joiners Shop (formally Tennant Transport Store)

Boys Brigade hall (now derelict)

Behind hall, Barr & Jacks betting shop. Jim Blair (Dandy) collected betting lines & football coupons for them until emigrating to Australia in 1962. His brother Lance took over coupons until shop closed.

Royal British Legion

Grocers Shop – owners Browns, then Donaldsons. Later became a dwelling house but now demolished.

Behind the British Legion was Micky Mitchells betting shop. Tommy Doyle & Jock Stephen worked there until closed.

Also behind the British Legion was Willie Weir and Jim Thomsons piggery together with John Alexanders (Jake) dog kennels.

Shieldhill Transport converted this ground into a haulage yard. Bob Cleland owned Shieldhill & Fieldtrack. Latterly owned by Eve Transport No closed.

Bevan Huts – Residential complex for Miners – demonished.

Forth Pigeon Club

New Row – Samuel Thomson Fish Shop, Jim Thomson – Grocers Shop and van.

Army Cadet Hut (formerly Tennis Court) now demonishe and site of private dwellings.

Joane Young (Dressmaker) – shop burned down.

Gospel Hall

East Forth Farm

John Walkers – Butchers (right hand side at the bottom entrance to farm)

Gladys Black (Mrs Watson) had a shop (wooden shed) on right hand side at the top entrance to the farm. Tam Orr took over the farm when Jonny Robinson moved out.

Kingshill Medical Practice – Doctors : John & Mary Hacking, Donald & Pam McRitchie, Gill Murie and Dr. Shakah.

Site of former Miners Institute (Welfare Hall) incorporating the large hall and lesser hall below which was converted to a lounge bar. Tennis Courts, Bowling Green and Croquet Green. The Bowling Green is all that remains of what was a hub for the mining community. Hall and Green Keepers – Jimmy McGuffie and Davie French.

The new Haven now stands on this site and is a support network for life limiting illnesses.

The Little Haven which was founded by Jessie Griffin & Elizabeth Wilson has now been converted to a dwelling house.

Betting Shop built in 1960 by Gerry Burns of Carluke on the site of the former Quoiting Green. Ted Tennant, Davie Wilson & Willie Jackson worked there. The shop later belonged to White, Dawson, Roddie, Lambie and Jamieson. Betting shops in Scotland were not legal until

Joe (Watchmaker) Wilton Terrace

Maisy Carmichael Ladies Hairdresser – Beveridge Hall

HAYWOOD

Haywood Store – Licenced General Store & Van owned by ‘big Annie’.

BRAEHEAD

The Last Shift Licenced Pub and Restaurant – Palmer, Sykes and Gilchrist, Cleland & Kerr, Johnstone, Graham and Currently Frank & Jan Jakanski.

Dornans Filling Station and Shop.

George Steel Joiner

School

Post Office No dwelling house.

McCartney Coal Merchant (foot of Back Brae)
Hendersons General Store

McKendricks General Store

Gibsons General Store

Tennant Transport Garage

CLIMPY

George Bryce Yard & Small Sawmill
Lakey Lauder Repaired & Rebuilt Bicycles
Adam Orr Fruiter & Grocer – Van

McKerr	Fencing
Sanny Munro	Joiner
Ian McCallum	Plumber
Bert Thomson	Electrician
Pauline Thomson	Driving School
McKerr	The Wee Distillery (Climpy Gin)
	Forth Mains Farm
M & P Stark	Coal Mine
Peter Stark	Haulage and Coal Merchant
McKenzie Haulage	Owned by Gordon McKenzie

CLIMPY ROAD TO FOOT OF THE TOWN

Backshot Farm – Tam Padkins, Davie Craig and John Gemmell. They all sold milk in the village and beyond and Marion Gemmell took over from her father. No longer in this business.

Haulage & Storage Yard belongs to West Forth Animal Feeds.

Climpy Ind. Estate – Loudon Precast, Scotts Engineering, Brown Steel Stockholders and other businesses have occupied part of the complex over the years.

Police Station - Now private houses.

Watt Waddells tomatoes houses later sold to James McCallum for a dwelling house.

Alex Porteous Shop, Bakehouse and Vans. Family business latterly run by daughter Sandra Frame. Now the site of Porteous Place.

Garage built opposite the Bakehouse later STU Pellings workshop and store (Builders).

Public Toilets – now closed.

James McCallums back yard, garage and tomato houses also now Porteous Place.

Joanne Young – Dressmakings later used by Beth Frood and Jennifer McKendrick as a Ladies Hairdressers. Now a dwelling house.

Mr Gracie (The Neuk) used to cut hair in his shed at the rear of his

house.

CLOGLANDS

Andrew Harrison built wooden premises at the top of Cloglands where the wooden houses finished. He then built a brick building where the shop still stands today. Some of the owners : - E. Gold, S. Russell, Mary Hodson, G. Kay, Cooper, B. Ritchie and currently Mamood. It was also used as a dwelling house by Martin Davis and wife during it's time.

George Stark

Photographer

ORGANISATIONS PAST & PRESENT

Boy Scouts & Cubs

Forth Badminton Club

Boys Brigade & Lifeboys

Forth Cycle Club

Army Cadets (Cameronians)

Forth & Wilsontown Bowling Club

Girl Guides & Brownies

Forth Brass Band

Forth Cage Bird Society

Forth Pipe Band

Forth Homing Club

Boys Brigade Flute Band

Rachabites (S & S Sneddon)

Forth St Pauls Church Guild

Womans Welfare Womens Rural

Gala Day Committee

Masonic Orders

Gentle Giant Music Festival

Forth Angling Club

Forth Initiative Group

Forth Community & Resource Centre
Forth & District Development Trust
Clydesdale Astronomical Society
Forth Bank Hall Braehead Lunch Club

**HORSE & CARTS THAT UPLIFTED WASTE FOOD (BROCK)
FOR PIGS**

Andrew Carruthers (Peem) – Stobwood
Willie Weir (Dickie Simpson) – Forth

TAXI OPERATORS IN THE AREA

Peely Waddell, Hall Thomson, McCallums (Jonny Young), Tennants,
Jim Alexanders, Deeks Jackson, Robert McMorran, Jocky Wilson
(Carmuir), Mary's Taxis, William Beattie, Dan Taylor and Willie Gracie.

COBBLERS WHO WORKED FROM HOME

Jonny Gaff – Hawkwood Jock Smith – Skylaw
When the Pits were working there were always boots to patch or resole
and knee pads to make.

WORLD CHAMPIONS

Celia Orr Highland Dance Champion
John Kerr Drumming Champion

MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

Tom Steele (Labour) Alex Wilson (Labour) John Ryan (Labour)

REGISTRARS OF BIRTH/DEATHS AND MARRIAGES

John McKendrick (Main Street) Hector Burton (Longdales)
Ian Smith (Cloglands)

VANS THAT SERVED THE AREA

MILKMEN

Jonny Robertson	East Forth Farm
Willie Barrie	Mossplat Farm
Co-op (Dominic McCaully)	West Calder
Boyds Dairies (Geo Cook & Will Haston)	Lanark
Andrew Harrison	Pretoria Buildings
Tam Padkin	Backshot Farm
John Gemmell	Backshot Farm
Marion Gemmell	Backshot Farm

ICE CREAM VANS

Santini	West Calder
Coia	Carluke
Camp	Shotts
Mr Whippy	?
Sammy Douglas (factory & van)	Wilsontown
Billy McGill	Forth
Gillespie	West Calder

CHIP VANS

Alastair & Barbara Murray	Forth
George Walker	Pleasance Row
David & Jan Pollock	Forth

FISH VANS

Neil Tough	Newhaven
Samuel Thomson	Forth
Tom Gordon	Forth
Ian Smillie	Forth
Isabel Gray	Forth

Jean Carswell/Ina Sinclair	Forth
Joy Somerville	Forth
J Thomson Jnr	Fife
Stewart Kerr	Fife

BUTCHERS VAN

James Tennant (Andrew Robb)	Forth
John McGilvary (Ian)	Forth
John Walker (Jimmy)	Forth
West Calder Co-op	West Calder
Will Pryde	West Calder
Alf Tucker	Woolfords

BAKERS VANS

Alex Porteous (John McKendrick, Adam Aitken)	Forth
Dick Gibson (Robin Gibson)	Forth
Peter McCallum (Joe Kennedy, Hall Thomson, John Bell)	Forth
West Calder Co-op (Sanny Ritchie)	West Calder
Sam Train & Wallace	Carluk
Andrew Smith	Carnwath
Grant	West Calder
Dalziel (Rolls)	Airdrie

DRAPERS

Bert Ross	Lanark
Alex Main	Carnwath
Wm Robb (Jean Cook) & groceries (Jock Mackie)	Forth
R J Gibson	Forth
Jim Gibson (Jim Gibson Jnr)	Wilsontown

COALMEN

Tennant	Forth	Hastie	West Calder
McCallum	Forth	Barbour	Coatbridge
Stark	Forth	Bryce (Briquettes)	Shotts
Black	Stoneyburn	McCartney	Braehead
Gracie	Forth		

MOBILE HAIRDRESSERS

Karen Stark Forth
Pauline McManus Forth
Francis Thomson Forth
Angela Bishop Forth
Wendy Govan Forth
Mary Young Forth
Delia Bingham Carluke

DRESSMAKERS

Mrs Reid Skylaw
Mrs Thomson Muirlaun
Lily McDonald Hawkwood

TRAVELLERS (SHILLING 'A WEEK' MEN

Sloans - Lawsons - Household - Provident - Stevens

PARAFIN LORRY

West Calder Co-op

DOCTORS

Dr. Shirkey - Dr. Reid - Drs John & Mary Hacking - Dr
Wright
Drs Donald & Pam McRitchie - Dr De Wett - Dr Jill Murie
Dr Shakah

NEWSAGENTS & SOME PEOPLE WHO DELIVERED

Bobby's Shop Mary McKendrick's (Scott) Willie McKendrick
Co-op Roy Thomson Betty Young & Willie Geddes
Bob Miller Billy Ritchie Ina Gallacher
RS McColl Warner Bros (Shotts) evening papers

THESE ARE SOME OF MY MEMORIES
FROM 1946. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO
CORRECT OR ADD YOUR OWN BY
EMAILING:-

ISABEL@FORTHDEVELOPMENTTRUST.COM

ROBBIE ROBB