

Volume THREE

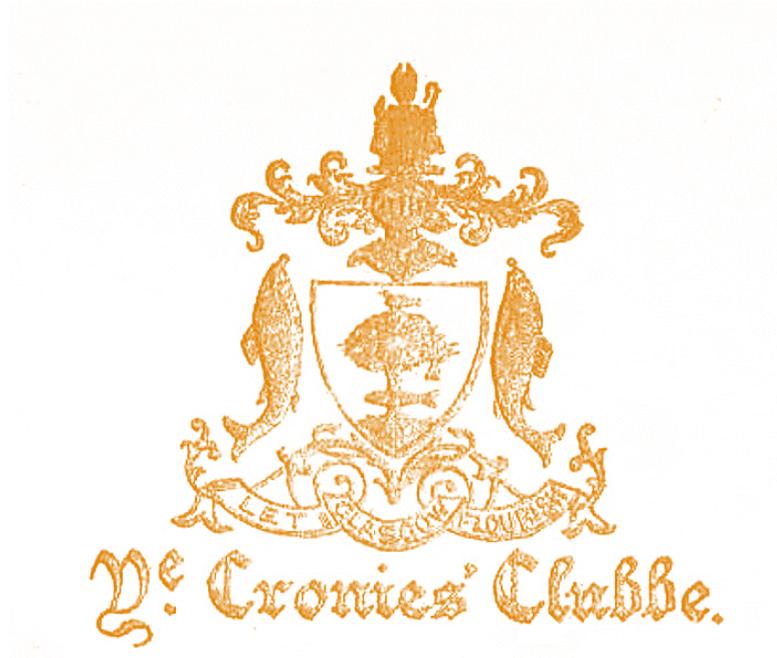
1920 - 1949



Our Story

A collection of minutes, pictures, programmes,
and anecdotes from the Ye Cronies Archives.

Collated by
David Cameron
January 2021



CEAD MILE FAILTE

"One Hundred Thousand Welcomes"

Contents

Volume Three

	<i>Preface</i>	1
Chapter 1	<i>The 1920s</i>	3
Chapter 2	<i>The 1930s</i>	35
Chapter 3	<i>Ye Cronies Graces</i>	58
Chapter 4	<i>The 1940s</i>	63
Chapter 5	<i>Reflections of a Concert Director (1905 - 1945)</i>	94
Chapter 6	<i>“Ye Cronies Theme”</i>	103
Chapter 7	<i>Meeting Minutes & Programmes (1943 - 1946)</i>	108
Chapter 8	<i>Acknowledgements & Sources</i>	135

END

Preface

Volume Three

It has become a regular surprise when I reach the end of another volume, step back and realise its even bigger than its predecessor!

I wish I could say this is by design, but the truth is starting a new volume always comes with a degree of fear that I won't find enough content to make it a worthwhile read.

Volume Three was no exception to this, more so because much like Volume Two, there are no official records of the club's operations from the 1920s and 1930s, and so much further research was required to uncover their secrets. And secrets there were aplenty!

If there's one thing I've learned in collating this material its that the small things of today, can and are of much more importance and interest in the future.

The more we take the running of Ye Cronies today, the more we run the risk forgetting how our actions continued to shape it for future generations to reflect on. The 1930s are a testament to this, as we know virtually nothing as to how the Club was run or how it reacted to the outbreak of the Second World War.

Following the book of poetry by John F. Fergus that I discovered for Volume Two, where Mr. Fergus made reference to Ye Cronies in his preface, my research this time led me to the autobiography of honorary Cronies member Horace Fellowes.

Further to my point above, the Cronies minutes in the 1940s noted that Fellowes had in fact asked the committee for contributions to his memoirs. This appeared to not be as forthcoming as Fellowes would have hoped and resulted in a rather brief and formal summary of what the club entailed. No doubt a shame for all involved, and certainly a loss for those of us who now take an interest in this period of history.

Preface

Volume Three

By no means am I looking to criticise the record-keeping of Cronies during this time, as I am still certain these records exist somewhere, gathering dust on a lonely bookshelf. Until then we can only rely on the characters involved and their influence on Glasgow's society and/or the wider musical scene.

One such instance in Volume Three is the last of the 'long-reigning' Presidents, Mr. John F. Duncan, who as Provost of Helensburgh was pivotal in establishing the Helensburgh Cenotaph in Hermitage Park.

More of the Club's long-lasting traditions were also established in this period, such as the limitation of Presidential terms to two years, and the creation of a Children's Charity fundraiser, which originally took the form of a sponsored cot at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children.

Given the current restrictions we continue to face in 2021, its also rather timely to see that Ye Cronies found a way to continue its concerts throughout the Second World War, without interruption! Whilst the club inevitably faced restrictions on such things as food, timings, and attendance numbers, they continued on and I'm pleased to say the Club's Archives kept a solid record of these events from 1943 onwards.

The 'Reflections of a Concert Director' is of particular interest as William Storry gave a farewell speech in 1945 summarising his 40 years as Ye Cronies' Concert Director. His recollections are invaluable and further demonstrates our need to be diligent in recording and appreciating our own experiences of this incredible Club called Ye Cronies.

I sincerely hope you enjoy this latest addition to the 'Our Story' series, and once again I would encourage you all to submit your own memories, stories or biographies of key members from our past as this will only add richer flavour to these pages. Enjoy!

David Cameron
5th January 2021

Our Story

Chapter 1



The 1920s

Provost John F. Duncan | Committee Photos | Queen Alexandria
Children's Charity Fundraiser | Golden Jubilee Celebrations | Presidential Terms
The 'Nearly' Men | 7th Club President | Hamilton Testimonial Gifts

Cronies in the 1920s

Post-War Recovery

Charitable Gestures

At the end of The Great War, long-time committee member and President W.D. Main passed on the chairman's gavel to John F. Duncan.

As will be seen, Duncan was very much a man who believed in society and charity, and these values were evident in the actions of the club in the 1920s.



1926 saw the Club introduce an annual fundraiser that continues to this very day—supporting local children in need of support. Each Christmas the club's members would donate towards funds to support a cot at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children. The initiative would prove so successful that further charities would be sought in future decades, but many sick and poor children were helped thanks to the actions of President Duncan and the members of Ye Cronies.

Half Century

December 1927 would see the Club celebrate yet another key milestone in its history as it reached its 50th year in operation. A lot of musical societies had come and gone in Glasgow since Ye Cronies was established, and so to reach this age was no mean feat. Others would follow, but Ye Cronies was certainly one of the first to pass its Golden Jubilee in very good health.



Presidential Gifts & Restrictions

The end of the 1920s coincided with the end of the 'unlimited' reigns of Ye Cronies Presidencies. As President Duncan's final act as Chairman, he proposed that all future Presidents should be limited to two years with the gavel.



To cap this remarkable period of Ye Cronies, the longest-serving President, John Hamilton, bequeathed his testimonial gifts to the Club, serving as a reminder of the camaraderie shared amongst our members and how supportive they continued to be for the "man in the chair".

Ye Cronies Calendar

1920 - 1929

Year	Month	Date
1920	January	29
	February	26
	March	26
	October	28
	November	25
	December	30
1921	January	27
	February	??
	March	22
	October	27
	November	24
	December	23
1922	January	26
	February	23
	March	30
	October	26
	November	??
	December	28

Year	Month	Date
1923	January	18
	February	22
	March	28
	October	25
	November	??
	December	27
1924	January	31
	February	28
	March	27
	October	30
	November	27
	December	18
1925	January	29
	February	26
	March	26
	October	29
	November	26
	December	29
1926	January	28
	February	25
	March	25
	October	28
	November	26
	December	28

Year	Month	Date
1927	January	27
	February	24
	March	31
	October	27
	November	??
	December	28
1928	January	26
	February	23
	March	29
	October	25
	November	??
	December	27
1929	January	31
	February	28
	March	26
	October	31
	November	??
	December	19

CANCELLED

Ladies Evening

No Records

Setting the Scene

World events in the 1920s

- 1920 - *The Summer Olympics are held in Belgium with an emphasis on reconciliation after The Great War.*
- 1921 - *Albert Einstein lectures in New York City on his new "Theory of Relativity".*
- 1922 - *The Irish Free State is established.*
- 1923 - *King Tutankhamun's Tomb is opened by Howard Carter.*
- 1924 - *The first around-the-world flight is completed in 175 days.*
- 1925 - *Ghandi becomes President of the Indian National Congress.*
- 1926 - *The famous magician and escape artist Harry Houdini dies from a burst appendix at the age of 52.*
- 1927 - *First broadcast is made by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).*
- 1928 - *Women achieve the same voting rights as men in the UK, ending 56 years of suffrage.*
- 1929 - *Wall Street Crash triggers economic disaster in the U.S.A. and the start of the Great Depression.*

Our Timeline

The 1920s

1920s



28th December 1926

Ye Cronies host their first annual Children's fundraiser for Glasgow's Royal Hospital for Sick Children.



ANNIVERSARY

28th December 1927

Ye Cronies celebrate their Golden Jubilee, 50 years after the Club was first instituted.



25th October 1928

Presidential terms are officially limited to two years following J. F. Duncan's retirement from the Chair.



May 1929

Ye Cronies host their first members Golf tournament to compete for the 'Jack Duncan' Trophy.

Committee Members

1920 - 1929

Ye Conies Club Presidents

John F. Duncan



1919 - 1928

James 'Monte' Wilson



1928 - 1930

Vice-President

1920	Henry M. Steele
1922	Thomas B. Dunn
1924	James Monte Wilson
1928	Thomson Brodie

Secretary / Treasurer

1920-22	Aif A. Todd
1922-28	Arthur Moffat
1928-29	E. E. Crooks

Musical Director

1920-29	J. Crossland Hirst
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Concert Director

1920-29	William Storry
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Club President

1919 - 1928



JOHN F. DUNCAN

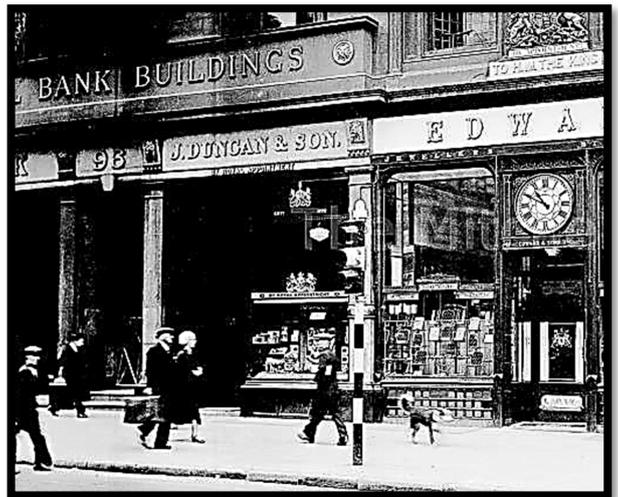
b. Jul. 1867 d. 31 Dec 1935

Despite being heavily associated to Helensburgh for the majority of his life, John F. Duncan was actually the first Ye Cronies President to be born south of the border, in Yorkshire.

Given John's father grew up in Aberdeenshire, and his grandfather in Paisley, his association to Yorkshire are not immediately clear. Shortly after John's birth, his father James moved his young family back home, settling in the small village of Rhu, near Helensburgh in around 1870.

By the age of 16, John had joined the family business founded by his grandfather and father - John Duncan & Son - a tobacconists at 94 Buchanan Street (now Buchanan Galleries shopping centre).

The elder John Duncan had purchased the firm in the mid-1800s and built the shop to allow for the manufacture of cigars in the top floor, retail kiosks on the ground floor, and extensive storerooms in the basement.



"Duncan's Mixture" was a very popular blend amongst smokers, with many travelling from afar specifically to sample it. This reputation was further cemented when John Duncan & Son became tobacconist to the Queen by special warrant in 1847.



John F. Duncan would go on to run the family-firm and became a Tobacco Merchant in his own right by the turn of the century, notably winning the Silver Medal for cigarette manufacture at the Paris Exhibition of 1900.

Club President

1919 - 1928

The start of the 20th Century was clearly a very profitable one for John F. Duncan, but his loyalty to Rhu, and Helensburgh by extension, remained strong. In 1908 Duncan hired William Leiper to design a prime example of Arts and Craft architecture at 6 Upper Colquohoun Street. Today this is a B-listed building and was last sold for over £1.5m in 2008.



John was not averse to doing his part for King and Country. In 1885 he joined the 1st Dumbarton Rifle Volunteers and by 1899 had been promoted to Captain, leading their B-Company in Cardross.

Such was his commitment to the Volunteers, John was made an honorary Major and conferred the Volunteer Officer's Decoration by King Edward VII on 26th March 1907. In 1908 he was appointed to the (Dunbartonshire) Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, a company his two sons would go on to serve with in both World Wars.



Socially, John was an incredibly busy individual, serving as a committee member of the Larchfield Academical Club and the Helensburgh Cricket Club in the early 1900s.



Cast Members, Victoria Hall, 1906

Musically, John also demonstrated his own taste for performance, being cast as a soloist in the local production of 'Hiawatha's Wedding Feast and Death of Minnehaha' at Helensburgh's Victoria Hall on April 18th 1906.

In later years he would join St. Michael's and All Angels Episcopal Church as a chorister and was appointed Honorary Vice President of the Colquohoun Pipe Band.

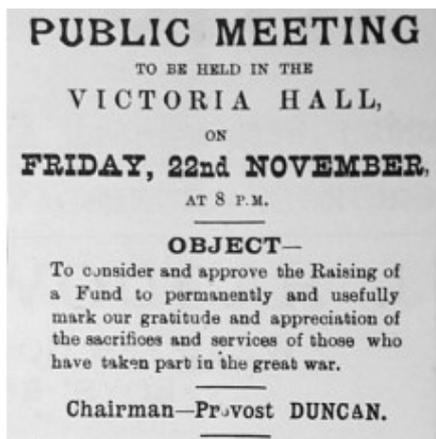
Club President

1919 - 1928

At the outbreak of World War I, John appears to have remained in Scotland and focused on training the Glasgow Volunteer Regiment. Unfortunately his eldest son, Harold, was killed in action on the Western Front in 1917.

Less than a year after the sad loss of his son, John became the Provost of Helensburgh, a position he proudly held until 1927.

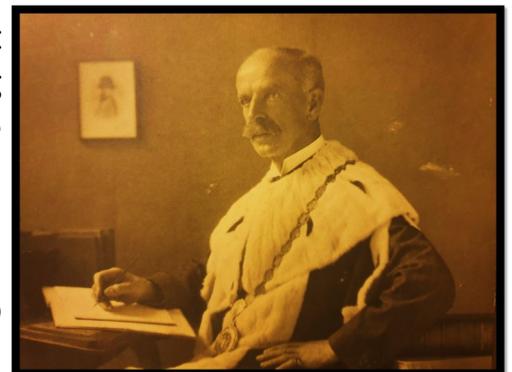
As an appointed “Justice of Peace”, John was responsible for announcing the end of World War I to a large crowd gathered in front of the Municipal Buildings on the 11th November 1918. Three weeks later he led a sub-committee to arrange a permanent memorial to “honor the noble dead”, which resulted in the Helensburgh Cenotaph in Hermitage Park where amongst the 214 locals lost to the war includes John’s own son Harold.



Two years into serving as Provost, John Duncan became the 6th club President of Ye Cronies in 1919. Serving in the Cronies Chair for the next 9 years, Duncan had the honour of hosting the Club’s 50th anniversary celebrations before stepping down in 1928.

The end of John F. Duncan’s reign as Ye Cronies President would signal the end of the Club’s trend of long-running presidencies as the club’s members agreed that all future Presidents would be limited to a term of 2 years.

This 2-year rule has remained in place ever since, with one of the earliest beneficiaries being his son, Alan, who became Club President in 1939.



Committee Photo

1923/24



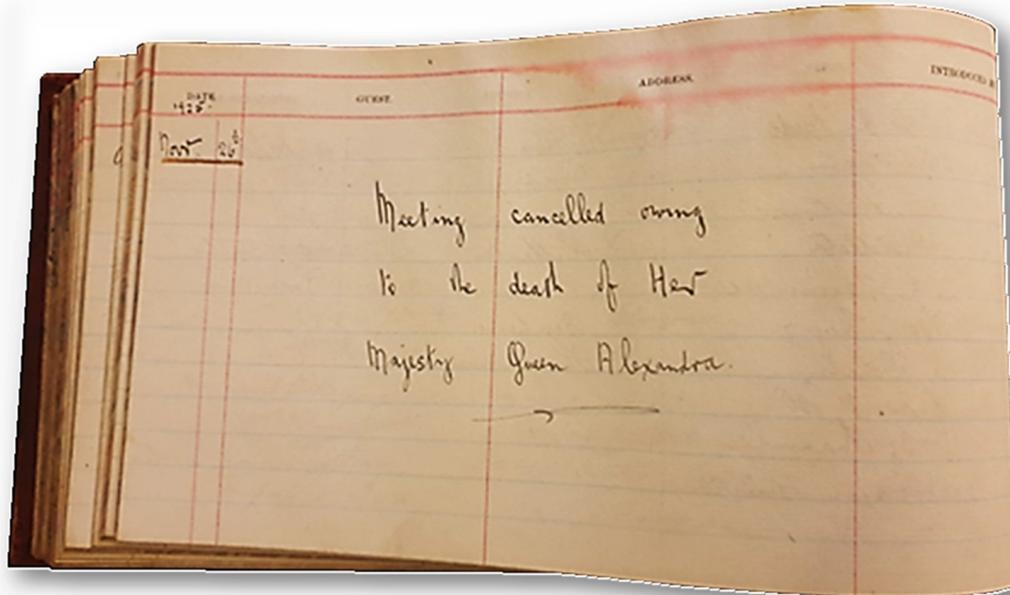
Back Row (L-R)
Bruce Rennie
John Sommerville
J. H. Nicholson
J. A. Burns
H. P. Tullis
J. Monte Wilson

Front Row (L-R)
William Storry
T. B. Dunn (V-P)
John. F. Duncan (P)
Arthur Moffat (S)

Event Cancellation

26th November 1925

In November 1925, Ye Cronies announced the cancellation of their scheduled concert following the death of Her Majesty Queen Alexandra.



Born Princess Alexandra of Denmark in 1844, "Alix" married Albert Edward, the Prince of Wales, in 1863. Albert would go on to become King Edward VII in 1902 with Alexandra becoming Queen Consort.

Following King Edward's passing in 1910, the crown was passed on to Alexandra's son King George V.

As Queen Mother to the King, Alexandra remained loyal to the United Kingdom through the First World War, despite her family connections to Germany. Emperor Wilhelm II was in fact Alexandra's nephew, but she had always greatly distrusted him and therefore supported her son in Britain's war with Germany.

Ye Cronies had 'history' with the Queen Consort as the Club's Musical Director, James Crossland-Hirst, had played for her son Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence at his 28th Birthday.

This would mark the second time a concert had been cancelled due to the death of a member of the Royal Family, having last done so in 1901 on the death of Queen Victoria.



Children's Charity Fundraising

Child Healthcare in the 1800s

In 1926, Ye Cronies started an annual fundraiser to support the health of children in Glasgow, a tradition that continues to this day. Here we look back at the circumstances that led to this charitable gesture.

Glasgow's Health Crisis

Since the middle of the 19th century, it was widely recognised that the health of children was deteriorating at an unacceptable rate - by 1861 it was reported that 20,000 of Glasgow's annual deaths were attributed to children under the age of five.

Vile living conditions and overcrowding of Glasgow citizens, particularly in the slum areas left children vulnerable to nervous diseases, convulsions, tuberculosis, scarlet fever, mumps and smallpox. Rickets (bow leggedness) had become so prevalent in the city it had become known as "Glasgow Disease".

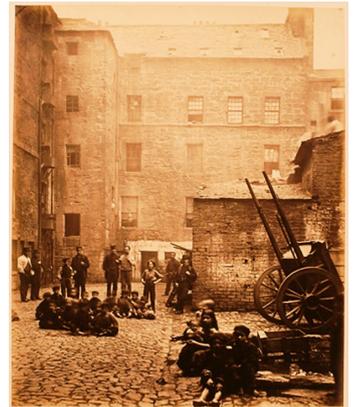
A study conducted in the 1860s confirmed what many feared - many children were dying without ever having seen a doctor. Major cities including Edinburgh, London, Copenhagen and Istanbul, were quick to react to this predicament, establishing Hospital's specifically geared towards the health of children.

Despite discussions taking place in 1860 regarding the creation of a new Children's hospital in Glasgow, it would take another 20 years before plans were put into action.

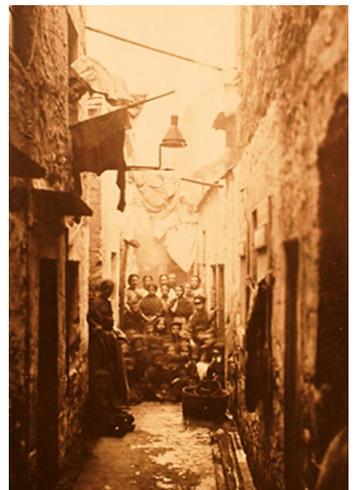
Faced with requests for a new children's hospital, the major medical and academic institutions of the time shied away from authorising one.

The core problem was a question of finance. With a National Health Service still decades away, existing medical services relied heavily on charitable donations from the public.

It would take 20 years before all parties accepted that creating a children's hospital was not only financially feasible, it was essential to address the shocking health of Glasgow's youth.



Playing on the streets
(Saltmarket, 1869)



Children watching on
(High Street, 1870)



Barefoot in the mud
(Govan, 1890)

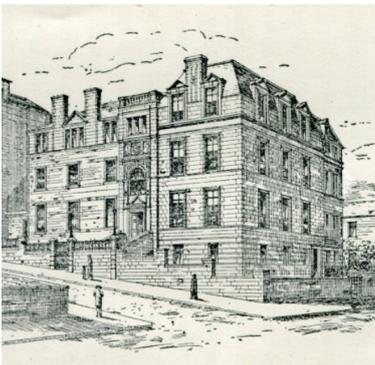
Children's Charity Fundraising

Glasgow's Hospital for Sick Children

Opening of Glasgow's Hospital for Sick Children

Standing at the corner of Scott Street and Buccleuch Street in Garnethill (in the heart of a local slum), the Glasgow Children's Hospital finally opened on 20th December 1882.

Boasting an operating theatre, an isolation ward (for infectious patients), and 59 "cots" for children aged 2-12, the new Hospital accepted its first patient in January 1883.



Garnethill Site, 1886

Of its many aims, one was to treat children from the most deprived areas of the city by setting up a dispensary for the provision of basic medicines and advice on the management of children during illness.

The popularity and success garnered in such a short space of time saw the Glasgow Children's Hospital receive a visit from Princess Louise in 1889 who gave them the title the "Royal" Hospital for Sick Children.



Dining at the Garnethill Site

By the early 20th century lack of space was becoming a noticeable problem at the Garnethill premises. With 70 cots serving a population of almost two million in the West of Scotland, the RHSC were often faced with a two-month waiting list of up to 200 patients awaiting diagnosis and treatment.

The Move to Yorkhill

Following a successful fundraising appeal for an additional £100,000, the RHSC commissioned James Burnet to build a new purpose-built facility in Yorkhill which would feature 312 cots and two operating theatres, as well as lecture rooms and laboratories.



Yorkhill Site

Having moved into their new building in 1914, the RHSC didn't enjoy their new facilities for very long as resources were soon diverted to the treatment of military casualties in World War I.



Life on the Ward, c.1925

After the war, Yorkhill's superior facilities did however prove their worth as the RHSC quickly established itself as one of the UK's leading specialists in the treatment of children's diseases.

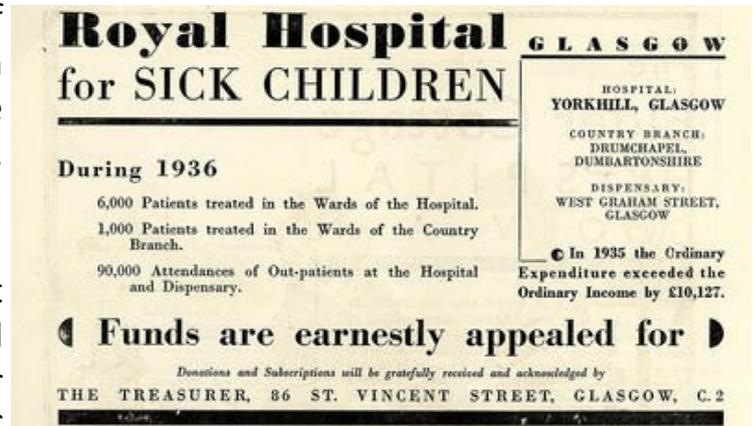
Children's Charity Fundraising

The "Ye Cronies" Cot

Funding Glasgow's Childcare

From its inception up until the creation of the NHS in 1948, the RHSC depended on various sources of income to function, the main ones being annual subscriptions, donations, and gifts in kind.

Whilst this source of funding was not unusual (Great Ormond Street Hospital and others were in a similar predicament), the affection for the RHSC in the hearts of Glaswegians and further afield was very evident.



Appeal for funds in 1936

Each year the RHSC recorded the source of all its income, with their annual report running to over 100 pages listing all forms of donations received from the public.

Despite this huge level of support, by 1924 inflation, the impact of the War, and much needed new developments put the hospital under greater financial pressure, triggering a new appeal to raise £75,000.



Patients in a sponsored cot

The "Ye Cronies" Cot

In December 1926, Ye Cronies would hold its first ever fundraiser for the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, raising sufficient funds to allow them to name a cot.

This festive fundraiser became an annual event, with the President making a personal visit to meet with the Matron and the latest occupant of the cot, offering children and staff gifts over the festive period.

Whilst donors were entitled to recommend patients for their cot, it was not a popular practice among doctors and so Ye Cronies would welcome patients to their cot on the recommendations of the Doctors.

Golden Jubilee

Premature Celebrations?



On 26th November 1926, Ye Cronies celebrated its Golden Jubilee.

The only slight confusion with this, however, is that the celebratory concert was held on the club's 49th anniversary (the Club having started in 1877).

Unfortunately Club minutes regarding the organisation of this event are not available to explain why the anniversary concert was held a year earlier than expected.

Perhaps members knew of President Duncan's impending retirement and wanted him to host the event...

...Or the simpler answer may be that someone miscalculated the date and tricked an overly keen membership into celebrating this great milestone a year earlier than would have been expected!

Either way, we do have a copy of the notice sent to all members, and several copies of the evening's programme which we have digitally copied over the next few pages.

Golden Jubilee

Club Notice

YE CRONIES
INSTITUTED 1877

TEL. NO. 183 DOUGLAS.

180 W. GEORGE STREET,
GLASGOW, C. 2.

5th November, 1926

Jubilee Meeting,
Friday, 26th November, 1926,
at the Grosvenor Restaurant,
Gordon Street. Glasgow.

Dear Sir,

The Jubilee Meeting of the Club, to which Ladies may be invited, will be held on 26th November as above.

The hour of meeting has been fixed at 6 p.m. prompt. Dinner will be served at 6-30 p.m. and will be followed by a programme of Music with Dancing interspersed.

The cost will be 21/- for each person, including Wines etc., at Dinner and light refreshments thereafter as per Special Buffet Menu. Other requirements may be ordered by Members on the special chit which will be provided.

Please advise me as soon as possible, and not later than 12th November, if you intend to be present, giving the number of guests you propose to invite with their names and addresses so that I may issue a formal invitation to them with your compliments.

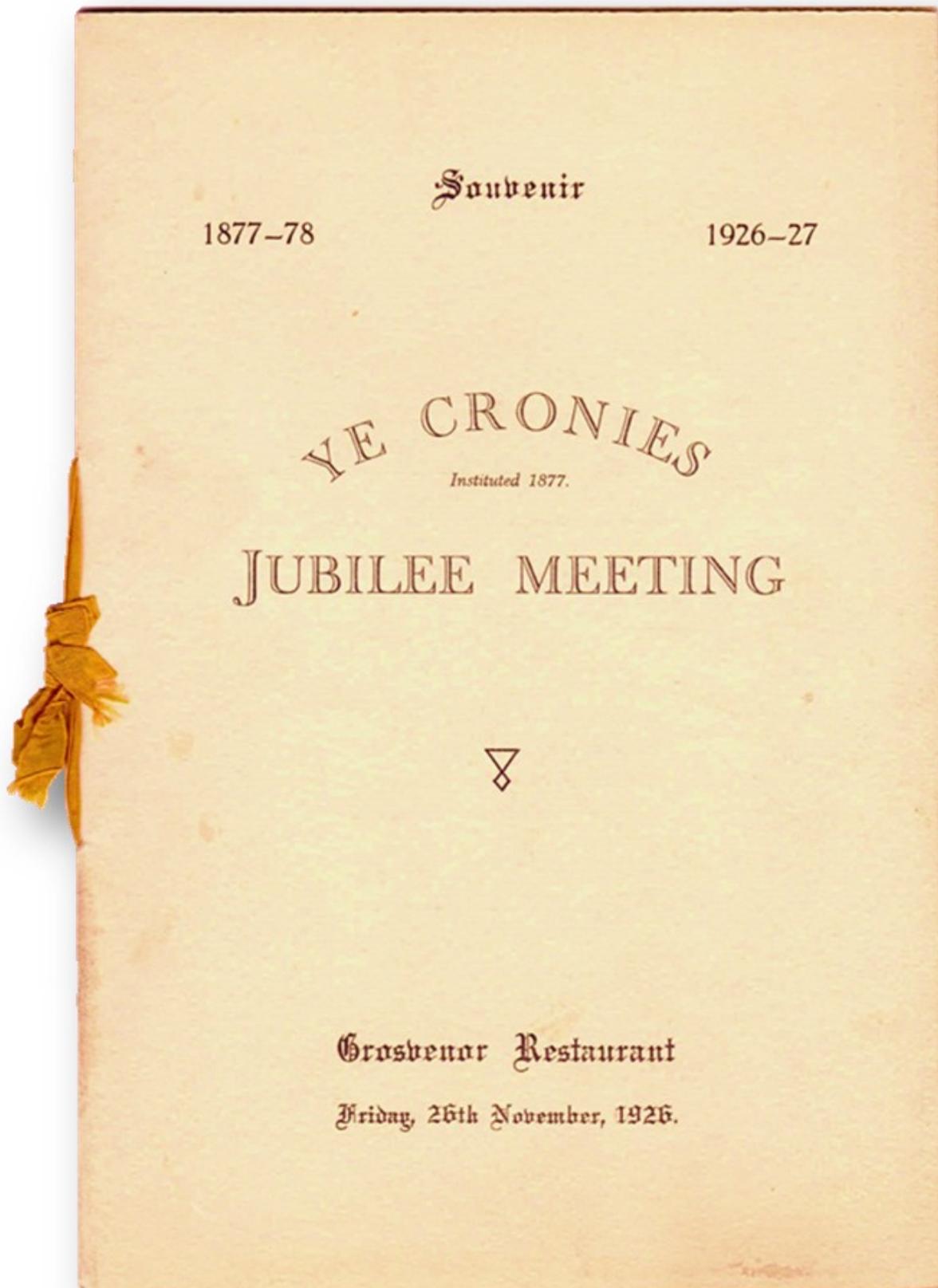
The Committee may require to restrict the number of invitations to accord with the space available. Applications will be dealt with strictly in rotation.

Yours faithfully,

ARTHUR MOFFAT,
Secretary and Treasurer.

Golden Jubilee

Souvenir Programme (1/7)



Golden Jubilee

Souvenir Programme (2/7)

THIS IS THE PROLOGUE!

A simple word or two in season,
That you may learn the all important reason
Why we have met to-night.
We are "Ye Cronies,"
A group of very estimable men.
Guilty, as one might say, of friendship now and then;
Meeting in winter once a month to show
How we can make the flower of friendship grow,
As Souter Johnnie once showed Tam o' Shanter,
But we're more careful tilting the decanter.
It is a joy indeed to be a Crony,—
It beats the wireless wonders of Marconi
To gain from pleasure such a fine sensation
Without the slightest sign of oscillation.
Johnnie and Tam, in point of fact, were dafter,
Had sad reflections on the morning after.
We are more modest in attempt to capture
That first fine careless rapture.
We meet, we dine, according to tradition
That's stood for fifty years sans intermission,
Then with an hour or so of song and story,
Revive the ancient glory.
One other point to which we stick like leeches,
We always put the shutters up on speeches,
Unless perhaps our President requests
That he should pay due tribute to our guests.
Thus we keep young, though age on us keeps stealing,
Thus in a measure we inspire that Kruschen feeling,
And now in this our year of Jubilee
We're quite a healthy lot as you'll agree.
And though we've reached the fifty span at length,
We look like going on from strength to strength,
So now you know for what Ye Cronies stand,
One of the best ideas ever planned,
And also so successfully matured,
That pleasure for to-night is well assured.—

RING UP THE CURTAIN.

Golden Jubilee

Souvenir Programme (3/7)

YE CRONIES' GRACE.

--

Music arranged by the late Montague Smith.

--

Some hae meat and canna eat,
Some wad eat that want it,
But we hae meat and we can eat,
And sae the Lord be thankit. (*Burns*).

Golden Jubilee

Souvenir Programme (4/7)

PROGRAMME.

1. **Dancing.**

- (a) FOX TROT, - - - - - Sad.
- (b) FOX TROT, - When it's June down there.
- (c) FOX TROT, - - - Pearl of Malabar.

2. **Music.**

3. **Dancing.**

- (a) FOX TROT, - Susie was a real wild child.
- (b) WALTZ, - - Perfumes of the Past.
- (c) FOX TROT, - - I'm lonely without you.

4. **Music.**

5. **Dancing.**

- (a) FOX TROT, - - Moonlight on the Ganges.
- (b) WALTZ, - When I say good-bye to you.
- (c) FOX TROT, - - - Move into my house.

6. **Music.**

Golden Jubilee

Souvenir Programme (5/7)

7. *Dancing.*

- (a) FOX TROT, - - - - - Why?
- (b) WALTZ, - - - - - Bygones.
- (c) FOX TROT, - - - - - Good-night.

Auld Lang Syne.



Hon. Musical Director:

J. CROSSLAND HIRST.

Hon. Concert Director:

WILLIAM STORRY.

YE CRONIES DANCE BAND.

Golden Jubilee

Souvenir Programme (6/7)

FINALE.

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And never brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot,
And auld lang syne!

Chorus—For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

And there's a hand, my trusty fiere!
And gie's a hand o' thine!
And we'll tak a right gude-willie waught,
For auld lang syne.

Chorus—For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

(Quicker).

Chorus—For auld lang syne, my dear,
For auld lang syne,
We'll tak a cup o' kindness yet,
For auld lang syne.

Golden Jubilee

Souvenir Programme (7/7)

YE CRONIES.

Session, - 1926-27.

Office-Bearers.

President, - - - J. F. DUNCAN.
Vice-President, - - - J. MONTÉ WILSON.
Secretary & Treasurer, - ARTHUR MOFFAT.

Members of Committee.

THOMSON BRODIE. A. W. WARDROP.
J. OSBORNE MARTIN. R. J. MACLENNAN.
J. A. BURNS. G. CARRICK MACFARLANE.

Hon. Musical Director, - J. GOSLAND HIRST.
Hon. Concert Director, - WILLIAM STORRY.

End of an Era

The Introduction of Presidential Terms

**JAMES
MUIR**



**1877 - 1882
(5 YEARS)**

For the first 51 years of Ye Cronies, only six individuals held the position of Club President, serving an average term of 8 years each.

The Club's original Constitution never specified any limitation on how long someone could serve as President.

Given the varying lengths each of the first six individuals served as President (ranging from 3 years to 19 years), we have to assume that as long as the sitting Chairman had the support of their membership, it was left to the individual to decide when to step down.

**JAMES
COWAN**



**1882 - 1891
(9 YEARS)**

After 9 years as Club President, John F. Duncan proposed a change to the Constitution - to limit a President's reign to just 2 years.

One might conclude that the pressure and expectation placed on each President to continue in their role might have been a contributing factor in Duncan's thinking, alongside his strong values in the importance of social justice.

Presented to the membership at the AGM on 28th October 1928, this proposal was approved and made effective immediately.

James Monte Wilson, having served as Mr. Duncan's Vice-President for the previous four years, became the first Club President to know that his term would end in 24 months time.

To this very day, the Ye Cronies President has only been allowed to serve for a maximum of two seasons, with their Vice-President then stepping up to take the Chair.

**JOHN
HAMILTON**



**1891 - 1910
(19 YEARS)**

**WILLIAM R.
BROADFOOT**



**1910 - 1913
(3 YEARS)**

**WILLIAM D.
MAIN**



**1913 - 1919
(6 YEARS)**

**JOHN F.
DUNCAN**



**1919 - 1928
(9 YEARS)**

Vice President Roll-Call

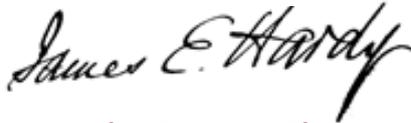
The 'Nearly' Men (1877—1928)

James Kerr

A handwritten signature of James Kerr in dark ink.

(1877—1882)

Dr. James E. Hardy

A handwritten signature of Dr. James E. Hardy in dark ink.

(1895—1899)

David Kemp

A handwritten signature of David Kemp in dark ink.

(1913 - 1914)

11 men would serve as Ye Cronies Vice President from its founding in 1877 up to 1928. Of those 11 individuals, only 5 would actually go on to become Club President.

Following the decision at the 1928 AGM to place a limit on a Presidential term all but one individual elected to the office of Vice-President would go on to become Chairman of Ye Cronies.

To mark this turning point for the Club, we recognise the six 'nearly' men, who served the Club as Vice-President but never made the final step up to Club President.

Sheriff T. A. Fyfe



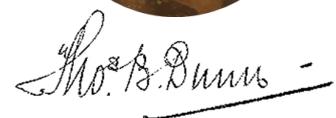
(1919 - 1920)

Henry M. Steele

A handwritten signature of Henry M. Steele in dark ink.

(1920 - 1922)

T. B. Dunn

A handwritten signature of T. B. Dunn in dark ink.

(1922—1923)

Club President

1928 - 1930



JAMES "MONTE" WILSON

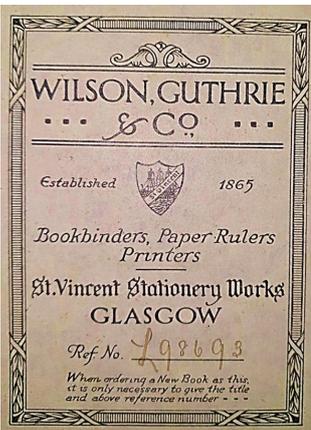
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James - Monte Wilson".

b. 25 Jul. 1868 d. 12 Apr 1933

The Club's 7th President, and first to assume office for a constitutionally limited term, was Mr. James Montgomery Wilson.

Born and bred in Glasgow, Monte (as he preferred to be known), was a well known stationery wholesaler who ran the business founded by his father called Wilson, Guthrie & Co.

Specialising in accounting books, Wilson's firm employed 150 staff and operated both nationwide and abroad, manufacturing various stationery products. Their purpose-built facility at 36 North Frederick Street still stands today as a listed building.



Wilson's expertise in the stationery industry was recognised when he became Vice President of the Scottish Alliance (Printing & Kindred) in 1923. This network proved particularly helpful to Ye Cronies as Wilson, Guthrie & Co. provided the Cronies Members sign-in book that was used between 1933 and 1964.

Whilst there are no signs that Wilson was musically inclined, he was a long-time member of Ye Cronies, and served on its Committee for a total of 11 years, including four years as Vice-President.

As the first to serve under the Club's new limit on presidential terms, Wilson stepped down from the Chair in 1930 and remained on the Committee until his passing in 1933.

He was survived by his wife and two daughters, including Louisa who passed away in 2009 at the age of 102. Louisa worked in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force during World War II, and went on to serve in the Royal Air Force before receiving both an OBE and CBE for her duty to the country.

A Ye Cronies “Golf Outing”

May 1929

In 1929, some friendly rivalry was introduced to the membership of Ye Cronies in the form of a “Golf Outing” arranged by the secretary.

This outing was given a competitive edge by the unveiling of the “Jack Duncan” Cup, named after Past President John Duncan who had recently retired (Jack being John’s informal nickname).

Unfortunately due to lack of minutes from the 1920s, we cannot confirm where the competition was first held, but we do know that George Fairbairn was the inaugural winner.

This competition has had a troubled history over the years, but continued to be played intermittently up until 2016.



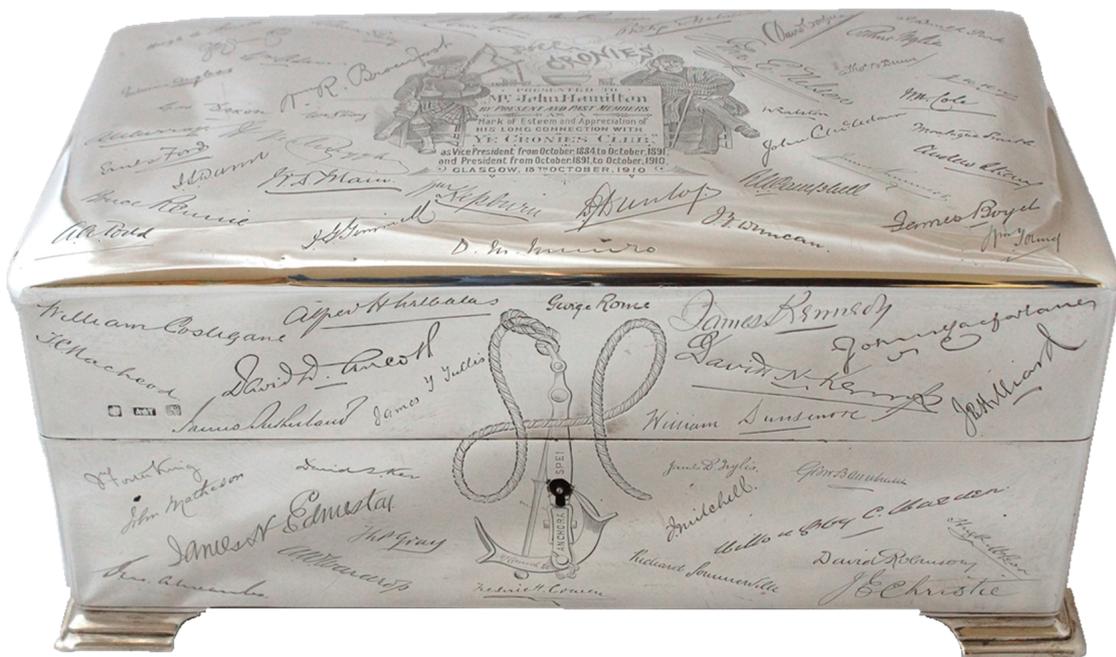
A Parting Gift

John Hamilton Testimonial

In 1910, after 19 years serving as Ye Cronies President, John Hamilton was presented with a specially made gift set - a specially engraved cigar box, and a personalised Chairman's gavel.

The box in particular was a very unique item, as it features the signatures of all Ye Cronies members alongside several Cronies illustrations.

A year prior to Mr. Hamilton's death, he bequeathed these gifts back to the Club and they have remained in our custody ever since.



Over the next few pages we provide some further detailed photographs of these items which are now over 100 years old and remain in fantastic condition.

A Parting Gift

John Hamilton Testimonial



Top Face

The top face of the box features a Ye Cronies illustration originally designed by William Ralston (WR) which featured heavily in Club invitations between 1880 and 1910.

Within the illustration, additional wording as been added as follows:

PRESENTED TO
Mr. John Hamilton
BY PRESENT AND PAST MEMBER
----- AS A -----
Mark of Esteem and Appreciation of
HI LONG CONNECTION WITH
"YE CRONIES CLUB"
As Vice President from October 1884 to October 1891;
And President from October 1891 to October 1910,
Glasgow, 13th October, 1910

Surrounding this illustration and message are further signatures of Ye Cronies members from the 1909-10 season.

A Parting Gift

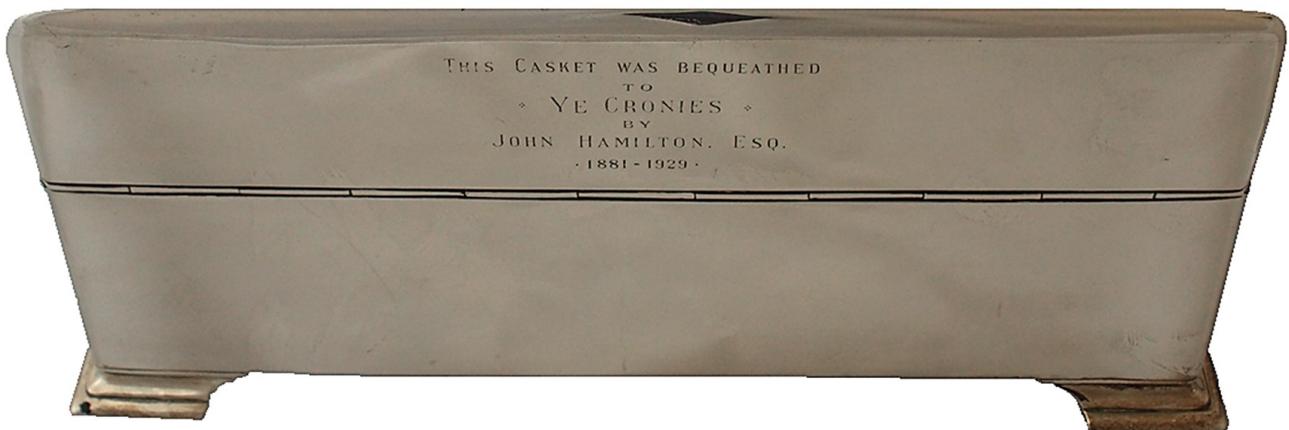
John Hamilton Testimonial



Left / Right Panels

Both sides of the cigar box feature the earliest known Club illustration that signified good fellowship and continuing friendship.

Further members signatures surround both engraved illustrations.



Back Face

On the reverse side of the box there are no signatures, but an additional inscription has been added in 1929 indicating John Hamilton's wish to bequeath this item to the club:

THIS CASKET WAS BEQUEATHED
TO
YE CRONIES
BY
JOHN HAMILTON ESQ.
1881 - 1929

A Parting Gift

John Hamilton Testimonial

Personalised Gavel

John Hamilton was the first President to make use of the Chairman's gavel at both Ye Cronies Committee meetings, and the event themselves.

The introduction of this 'accessory' clearly made an impression with fellow members as he was presented with a personalised gavel featuring his name and years of service as President.



Personalised Gavel presented to John Hamilton (1910)

To date no other President has received such items. Having bequeathed them to the Club in 1929, they were regularly displayed at Cronies events on the President's table and have been carefully looked after as can be seen in these pictures.



**Personalised Gavel
(Front facing)**



**John Hamilton with Chairman's gavel
(c.1902)**

Our Story

Chapter 2



The 1930s

The “Missing Years” | A Trophy of Thanks | The Jack Duncan Cup
8th Club President | Ladies Night in the 1930s | Horace Fellowes | 1932 Register
Sir John Barbirolli | Committee Photo | Col. Alan M. Duncan

Ye Cronies Calendar

1930 - 1939

The Members Sign-in Book kept records of all events held up to 1904

Year	Month	Date
1930	January	30
	February	27
	March	27
	October	30
	November	??
	December	18
1931	January	29
	February	26
	March	26
	October	29
	November	26
	December	17
1932	January	28
	February	25
	March	31
	October	27
	November	29
	December	29
1933	January	26
	February	23
	March	30
	October	26
	November	??
	December	07

Year	Month	Date
1934	January	18
	February	22
	March	22
	October	04
	October	25
	December	27
1935	January	31
	February	28
	March	28
	October	03
	October	31
	November	19
1936	December	26
	January	??
	February	29
	March	26
	October	01
	October	29
	November	17
	December	24

Year	Month	Date
1937	January	28
	February	25
	March	23
	October	07
	October	28
	November	16
1938	December	30
	January	27
	February	24
	March	31
	October	06
	October	27
1939	November	24
	December	29
	January	21
	February	23
	March	30
	October	??
	November	23
	December	28

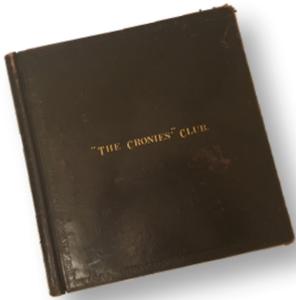
CANCELLED

Ladies Night

No Records

Cronies in the 1930s

The "Missing Years"



As noted in Volume 2 of this history series, there is a very definitive gap in the record-keeping of Ye Cronies between 1904 and 1943.

Records were clearly kept as we do possess Guest Sign-in books throughout this period, and the Members Sign-In register from 1933 onwards.

Unfortunately it appears the minutes and concert programmes that would have been stored in one of the Club's leather-bound ledgers has been misplaced or lost over the years as records have been passed from one Secretary to another.



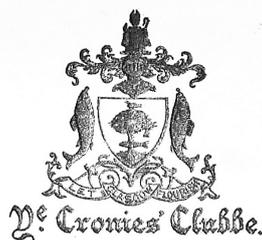
Our understanding of the Club's activities in the 1930s has been the hardest hit by this loss of information.



Whereas the previous decade gave us other mementoes such as John Hamilton's testimonial gifts and key decisions on Presidential terms, the 1930s consists of one concert programme, a few committee photos, and some notable names from society.



These precious few materials have still allowed us to make some deductions as to the club's activities, but the members' response to and wider impact of key events such as the outbreak of the Second World War remain largely unknown at this time of writing.



Setting the Scene

World events in the 1930s

- 1930 - *U.S. Astronomer Clyde Tombaugh discovers the planet Pluto (later re-classified as a dwarf planet in 2006)*
- 1931 - *First non-stop trans-Pacific flight made.*
- 1932 - *King George V makes first royal Christmas broadcast to the British Commonwealth and Empire.*
- 1933 - *"The Lone Ranger" is broadcast for the first time, on American radio*
- 1934 - *U.S. gangsters Bonnie Parker & Clyde Barrow are shot dead by police.*
- 1935 - *George Gershwin's opera "Porgy & Bess" premieres.*
- 1936 - *Sergei Prokofiev's "Peter and the Wolf" premieres.*
- 1937 - *San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge is opened.*
- 1938 - *John Logie Baird demonstrates the first colour television.*
- 1939 - *Germany launches the battleship Bismarck, pre-empting the start of the Second World War.*

Our Timeline

The 1930s

1930s



January 1934

New lead conductor of the Scottish Orchestra, Sir John Barbirolli, is appointed Honorary Member of Ye Cronies.



October 1934

Ye Cronies elects its 10th Club President, Mr. James Chrystal.



October 1938

Son of Past President John F. Duncan, Alan M. Duncan, becomes the first “second generation” President of Ye Cronies

Committee Members

1930 - 1939

Ye Conies Club Presidents

Thomson Brodie



Thomson Brodie

1930 - 1932

A. P. Newall



A. P. Newall

1932 - 1934

James S. Chrystal



James S. Chrystal

1934 - 1936

John Sommerville



John Sommerville

1936 - 1938

Alan M. Duncan



Alan M. Duncan

1938 - 1940

Vice-President

1930	A. P. Newall
1931	George Carrick Macfarlane
1932	James S. Chrystal
1934	John Sommerville
1936	Lt. Col. Alan M. Duncan
1938	J. A. Burns

Secretary / Treasurer

1930-35	E. E. Crooks
1935-	W. Kerr Simpson

Musical Director

1930-	William Storry
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Concert Director

1930-	J. Crossland Hirst
-------	--------------------

“Jack Duncan” Cup Winners

1930 - 1938

Following its inaugural competition in 1929, the Cronies’ annual golf outing would continue throughout the 1930s, albeit intermittently, until 1938 when it had to be put on hold at the outbreak of World War II.

It took only six events before the Cup found its first two-time winner in the form of Mr. J. A. Corbet, who took “back-to-back” wins in 1933 and 1936.

Traditionally the winner held the rights to looking after the “Jack Duncan” cup between competitions, and so when the golf outings were disbanded in 1939, the cup disappeared from the club’s memory for nearly 30 years until it was re-discovered in the mid-1960s and triggered the competition’s revival.



A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "J. A. Corbet".

Year	Winner
1930	R. W. Whyte
1931	D. C. Walker
1932	George Carrick MacFarlane
1933	J. A. Corbet
1934	[NOT PLAYED]
1935	[NOT PLAYED]
1936	J. A. Corbet
1937	[NOT PLAYED]
1938	J. Ferrier Connell
1939	[NOT PLAYED]

A Trophy of Thanks

1930

At the start of 1930, Ye Cronies received a very generous gift from a long-term member of the club.

Mr. D. Campbell took it upon himself to purchase a grand trophy, similar in shape to that which features in the Cronies illustration on the top of the club's menu cards.



On the front of the trophy are inscribed the following words:

TO
YE CRONIES
FROM
R. G. CAMPBELL
AFTER
51 YEARS HAPPY MEMBERSHIP
1879 - 1930

Unfortunately, very little else is know about Mr. Campbell, mainly due to the lack of meeting minutes between 1904 and 1943, but the trophy has remained in safe storage within the club's archives and is in great condition.

Committee Photo

1931/32



Back Row (L-R):

A. Scott
J. S. Chrystal
John Blackie
J. Crossland Hirst
A. M. Duncan
J. A. Corbet

Front Row (L-R):

William Storry
G. Carrick MacFarlane
Thomson Brodie (P)
E. E. Crooks (S)
J. Monte Wilson

Absent:

A. P. Newall (V-P)

Club President

1932 - 1934



ARCHIBALD PARK NEWALL

A. Park Newall

b. 1880 d. 18th February 1950

Canadian-born Archibald Newall was a well known engineer in Britain who, following an apprenticeship with the Acme Steel & Foundry Co. in Glasgow, purchased his own land in Possil Park and founded A.P. Newall & Co. at the age of 21.

Using his knowledge and extensive research on steel alloys, his firm grew to specialise in the manufacture of various fixtures. In 1917 the company was producing "rafwires" and swaged rods, and by the mid-1920s Newall was marketing a new form of heat-treated bolts marketed as "Newall Hitensile".



3 names synonymous with STRENGTH

"Newalloy"
These bolts have a tensile strength of 6575 tons. Not only are they stronger than ordinary bolts, but they are made by a process which gives them great security.

"Newall Hitensile"
These bolts have a tensile strength of 4532 tons. They are the first heat-treated bolts to be placed on the market and have a very well established reputation for quality.

"Newallastic"
These studs and bolts are based on scientific principles well known to engineers. They are essential for all highly stressed work.

A. P. NEWALL
AND COMPANY LTD.
POSSIL PARK GLASGOW, N.

Like his father before him, Newall travelled extensively around Europe and North America, visiting larger bolt-making plants to further his own knowledge of the industry, leading to further innovations in the use of alloys and steel to manufacture fixtures and fittings.

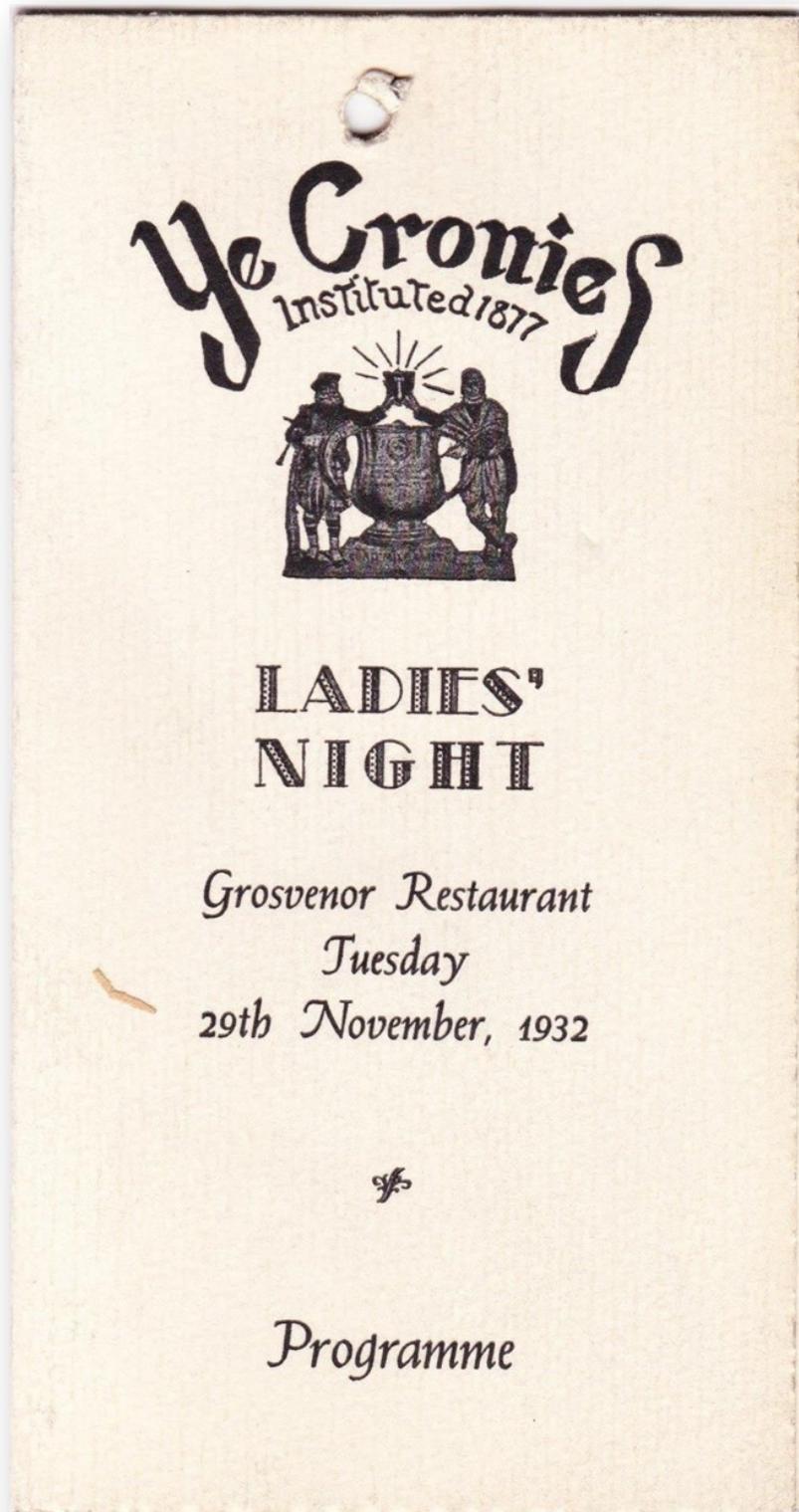
In 1932, Newall became the 9th Ye Cronies President, and much like Provost John F. Duncan before him, was a Justice of the Peace in Helensburgh.

His avid interest in furthering his engineering knowledge and skillset saw Newall join the Institute of Mechanical Engineers in 1934.

Remaining a loyal member of Ye Cronies until his death at the age of 69 in 1950, Newall's tenure as President was a small reminder of the rich ship-building industry that once held such sway over the running of the Club at the turn of the 20th century. Unfortunately following the Second World War, this once-rich industry would start to suffer a slow decline.

Ladies Night

29th November 1932



Ladies Night

29th November 1932

Le Cronies

SESSION
1932 - 1933

Office-Bearers and Committee

President

A. P. NEWALL

Vice-President

JAMES CHRYSTAL

Hon. Secretary and Treasurer

E. E. CROOKS, 180 West George Street, Glasgow

Committee

THOMSON BRODIE

J. A. BURNS - J. A. CORBET

A. M. DUNCAN

G. CARRICK MACFARLANE

J. MONTE WILSON

Hon. Musical Director

J. CROSSLAND HIRST

Hon. Concert Director

W. STORRY

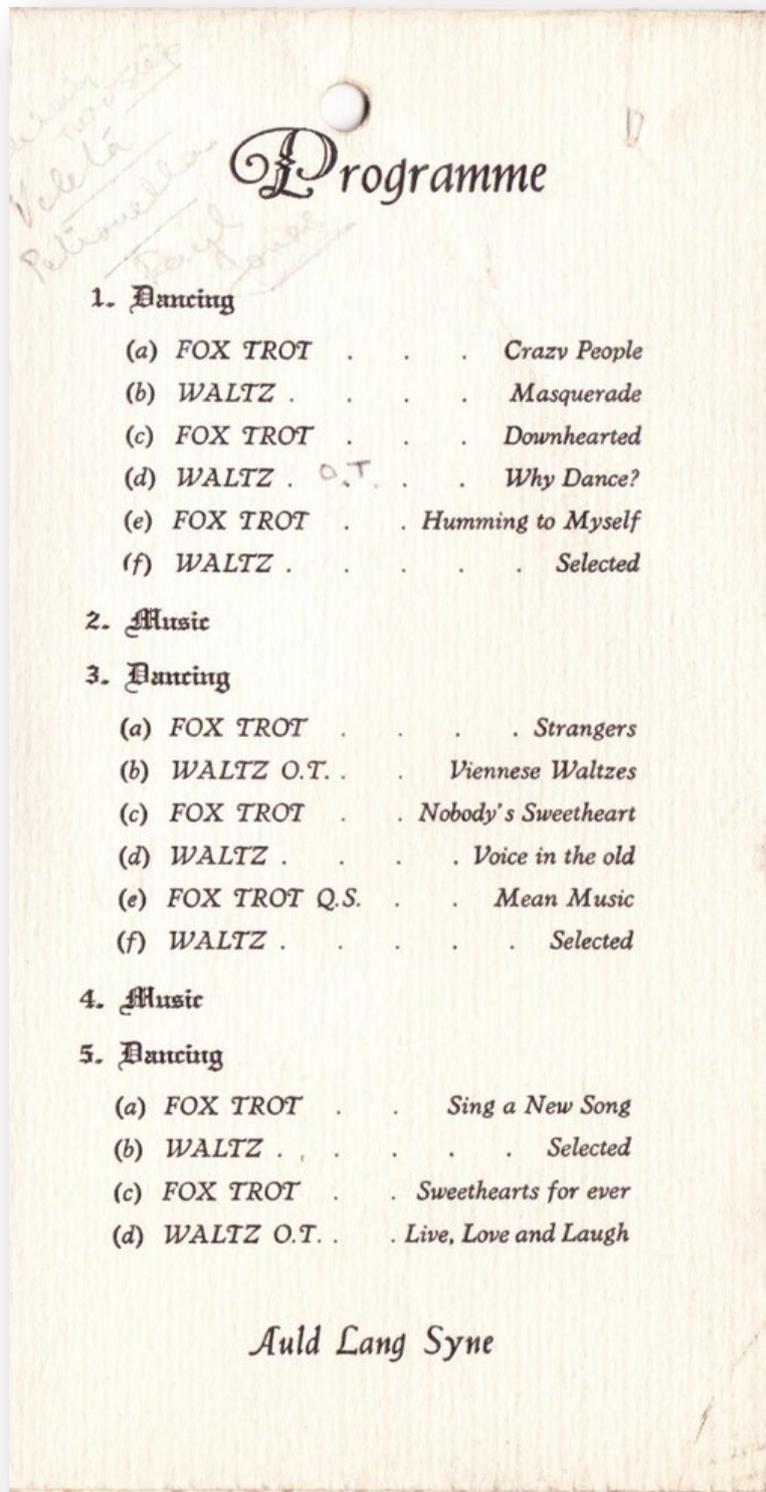
Hon. Auditors

JAMES LEDINGHAM

JOHN SOMMERVILLE

Ladies Night

29th November 1932



Honorary Member

Horace Fellowes



As leader of the Scottish Orchestra and Professor of Violin at the Royal Scottish Academy of Music, Horace Fellowes was privileged to know all the key figures in the music of his day.

Fellowes was a well known musician in Glasgow, and captured all the stories from his eventful career in his 1958 autobiography titled “Music in my Heart” of which Cronies have a 1st edition of.

As a child, Horace fell under the spell of his father’s violin and started receiving tuition at home under John Daly of the Athenaeum before joining the Cologne Conservatorium to study under Professor Willy Hess.

The outbreak of the First World War saw Fellowes returned to Glasgow to accept the position of leader of the Scottish Orchestra in 1914. He quickly fell back in love with the city of his childhood and began an association with the Royal Academy of Music that would last for the next 40 years.

Unfortunately the impact of the war meant the Scottish Orchestra was disbanded in 1916 and Fellowes was soon called up for military service. Due to his poor eyesight, Fellowes was excused and spent the rest of the war supporting the Choral and Orchestral Unions.

Of all Fellowes’ performances his annual recital of the Messiah on New Years Day at St. Andrews Hall caught the public’s imagination the most and was a “not-to-be-missed” event.

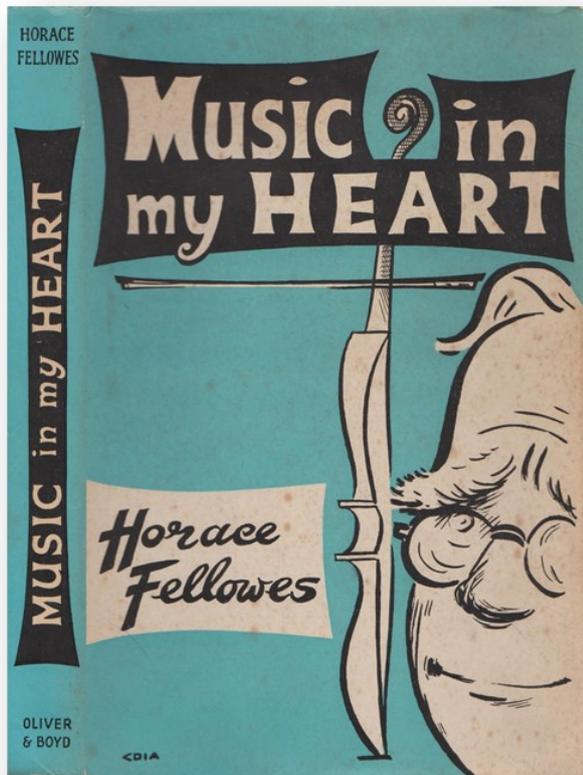
Fellowes was known to embrace many musical societies in Glasgow including the Palette Club, the Orpheus Club, the Grand Opera Society, and the Society of Musicians (of which he was President in 1922).

Fellowes would become good friends with many members of Ye Cronies including fellow honorary member Sir John Barbirolli, former Musical Director Philip Halstead, Cronies President James Chrystal, and regular Cronies performer Elliot Dobie.

These associations ultimately saw Fellowes perform for Cronies on a number of occasions, including one impromptu recital at the end of an AMG, and he became an Honorary member in the early 1930s. It’s likely Fellowes played a part in securing artistes for the club in later years through his work for the Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts (CEMA) during World War II.

Honorary Member

Horace Fellowes



Front cover of Fellowes' autobiography (1958)



Portrait in oils by Archibald McGlashan, R.S.A. Presented by the Glasgow Society of Musicians.



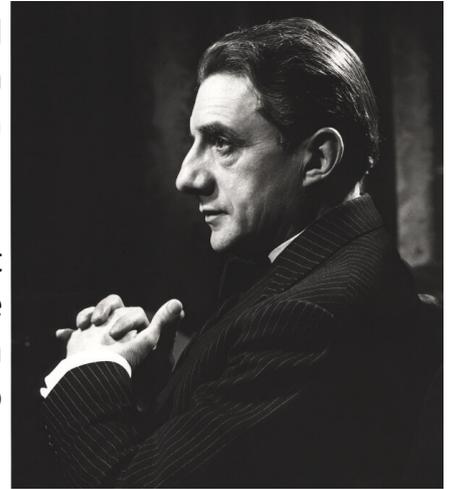
Fellowes (left) is presented with a portrait of himself by A. McGlashan to mark his Diamond jubilee as a professional violinist. Donald Miller, President of The Glasgow Society of Musicians (right).

Honorary Member

Sir John Barbirolli

Giovanni Battista Barbirolli, a rising star on the orchestral scene, was the latest conductor appointed to the Scottish Orchestra in 1933, and was soon after invited to become an honorary member of Ye Cronies.

Initially a cellist by trade, Barbirolli became the youngest player in the Henry Wood's Queen's Hall Orchestra at the age of 16, thereafter joining the London Symphony Orchestra where Elgar conducted the first performance of his Cello Concerto.



Joining the Army for a short spell at the end of the First World War, Giovanni adopted the anglicised form of his first name, John, to assist his sergeant-major during roll calls ("Who is this Guy Vanni?"). It was during his military service that John was given his first taste of conducting an orchestra.

Returning to civilian life in 1919, John now had ambitions of becoming a professional conductor but took up the cello once more for the LSO while he established the Guild of Singers and Players Chamber Orchestra which would allow him to gain crucial experience in conducting.

After catching the eye of the director of the British National Opera Company (BNOC) in 1926, John spent seven years serving as their conductor before taking up the same role with the Scottish National Orchestra in Glasgow in 1933.

Despite the SNO's season lasting only six months per year, Barbirolli still developed an extensive symphonic repertoire "rejuvenating the playing and programmes and winning most favourable opinions".

In 1936 the music world was taken by surprise in 1936 as the relatively unknown John Barbirolli was appointed conductor of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra.

Following a perilous journey over the Atlantic, Barbirolli returned to his family in Britain in 1943 with the goal of saving the Halle Orchestra from dissolution. John would see this as his greatest achievement and remained their conductor for the rest of his life, receiving a knighthood for his contribution to music in 1949.

Committee Photo

1934/36



Back Row (L-R):

E. E. Crooks (S)
G. Carrick MacFarlane
A. M. Duncan
James Ledingham
J. H. Nicholson

Front Row (L-R):

William Storry
John Sommerville (V-P)
James Chrystal (P)
William C. Hamilton
Thomson Brodie

Club President

1938 - 1940



ALAN M. DUNCAN

b. 11th Dec 1896 d. 14th Oct 1948

At the 61st Annual General Meeting, and just 9 years since his father stepped down as Chairman, Alan Mellish Duncan became the 12th President of Ye Cronies.

This appointment was a new 'first' for the club, the creation of a 'Duncan Dynasty' if you will, as Alan became the first son of a Past President to become President himself.

To date Ye Cronies has only seen two Father-Son Presidencies, the other being John Sommerville (coincidentally Alan Duncan's immediate predecessor) and his son Thomas, who would become Club Chairman in 1951.

Much like his father, Alan Duncan's life and career was shaped around his substantial military service alongside the running of the family tobacco business in Glasgow. His passion and loyalty to Ye Cronies, however, was evident throughout his years, including letters wishing them well while he fought on the Western Front in World War II.

It is Duncan's military service within the Territorial Army that is of most interest when looking back at his life as he served in both World Wars and therefore provides a very unique insight into the highs and lows of the early 20th century.



The Early Years - Sedburgh, North Yorkshire

Having a Yorkshireman as a father, it's perhaps unsurprising to find that a young Alan Duncan was sent to Sedburgh, a public school in North Yorkshire. Founded in the 16th century as a chantry school with religion and morality at the heart of its teachings, and it saw Alan graduate as a prefect of Sedwick House in 1914 on the eve of the First World War.

Club President

1938 - 1940



Active Service During World War I

After graduating from Sedburgh Alan returned to Scotland and the family home in Helensburgh, most likely beginning work at the family-run tobacco store they owned on Buchanan Street - Duncan & Son Ltd.

No doubt heavily influenced by his father, who proudly volunteered his time to the 1st Dumbarton Rifles, the young Duncan signed up to the 5th (City of Glasgow) Battalion of The Highland Light Infantry. As a Territorial Army Battalion, he was based at 24 Hill Street, Garnethill.

The 5th Battalion had just departed for their annual summer camp when the First World War broke out in August 1914 and so they were immediately deployed to Dunfermline as a defensive measure under the HLI's Lowland Division.

It was nearly a full year before Duncan's Territorial Force began mobilising for front-line service, by which point he had become a Captain. On 26th May 1915, the 5th Battalion (now part of the 157th Brigade of the 52nd Division) set sail for Gallipoli, arriving at Cape Helles over a month later at the start of July.

The main objectives of this deployment was relieve pressure faced by Allies on the Eastern Front, by creating a new front for the Ottoman forces to contend with.

Within days of arrival this objective was achieved as the Ottoman's responded in force with Duncan's battalion facing fierce bombardment over the next six months at Gully Ravine, Achi Baba Nullah and Krithia Nullahs.



Gully Ravine, Cape Helles (1914)

By the end of 1915 the actions of the 5th Battalion had largely proved successful, albeit with a heavy casualty rate. With a depleted active force, who themselves were suffering from disease and the effects of the harsh weather, it was agreed the force would be evacuated at the start of 1916 to Mudros, Greece to re-group and recuperate.

Unfortunately this respite was brief. Having left Halles on 11th January, the battalion was deployed just a month later to Egypt in order to defend the Suez Canal.

Club President

1938 - 1940



Captain Duncan's actions in the war thus far were clearly valued as he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant whilst serving in Egypt along the Suez Canal in 1916. Sadly his celebrations were short-lived as he would sustain his first, and as far as we know only, injury in August that year.

Enemy forces were looking to establish a heavy artillery position from which they could bombard shipping on the Suez Canal from Romani, and Duncan's men looking to prevent this from happening.

On the 4th August, redeployment of Allied forces along the canal accidentally exposed infantry defences and camps to shelling and open fire from the enemy. Duncan's men were caught in the middle of this bombardment, with injuries and deaths due to shrapnel wounds being widespread. Through pure luck, Lt. Duncan escaped relatively unscathed, sustaining a minor gunshot wound to his left hand which still resulted in him being removed from the front-line for a short time.

Little else is known of Duncan's activities during the First World War. His injuries were not long-lasting or serious and so we suspect he would have resumed active service before the Battalion was transferred to Marseille, France in April 1918.

Inter-War Years

Returning home following the end of the War, Duncan listed his profession as a cigar importer, and was the Managing Director of Duncan & Son Ltd. In September 1925 Duncan married Rosalind Fitzpatrick at the Catholic Apostolic Church on Catherine Street, Glasgow.

With his father, John Duncan, stepping down as Ye Cronies President in 1928, the younger Duncan was invited to join the Committee in 1929, and remained a member for the next 8 years before stepping up to Vice-President in 1936, and then the Presidency in 1938.



1938/39 Committee

Back Row (L-R):

J. A. Holmes, J. McQueen, J. Crossland Hirst,
Wm. K. Simpson (S)

Front Row (L-R):

T. Brodie, J. A. Burns (V-P), A. M. Duncan (P),
Wm. Storry, J. Chrystal

Club President

1938 - 1940

Outbreak of World War II

Civilian life was clearly balanced with military duty as Duncan was temporarily promoted to Captain of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in 1921, and by 1935 had risen to Lieutenant-Colonel having been awarded the Territorial Decoration (T.D.) for 20 years service.

Due to the lack of minutes regarding the Club's activities in the 1930s it is unclear how much Duncan's Presidency was disrupted by the outbreak of the Second World War, which occurred half way through his 2-year term.



What we do know is that the Club received a letter from Brevet-Col. Alan Duncan at the end of 1944. This letter was read out by President Holmes to the guests and members in attendance at the December 1944 concert as he wished them all the best for 1945.

Duncan's letter noted he was celebrating Christmas in Holland, which suggests he was leading the 9th Battalion of the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders at the time.

The 9th had initially been deployed to France in August 1944, shortly after the D-Day landings, to support those who fought at Juno Beach. Over the remainder of the year, Duncan's men continued through France, then Belgium before settling in Holland for the remainder of the war. In 1945 they continued into Germany as part of the British Army of the Rhine (BAOR), helping guard POWs before they were de-mobilised in early 1946.

A Post-War Life Cut Cruelly Short

The AGM minutes of October 1946 show that Past President Duncan had returned to Ye Cronies as he asked the committee to consider "how few members were contributing to the Musical Programme" and how he hoped this would be corrected going forwards.

Sadly Duncan would only see 2 more years of civilian life without war, suffering a heart attack in 1948 at the age of 51. In that short time he had started showing an interest in Public Office, becoming a Councillor of the Blythswood Ward in Glasgow with a focus on dealing with highway and housing planning. He was also a Member of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

For our first 'second-generation' President, there cannot be a man more suited to summarising the life and trials of Ye Cronies during the first half of the 20th Century, and his service to the country will never be forgotten.

Our Story

Chapter 3



Ye Cronies Graces *(1933)*

The Burns Grace

February 1933

*Reminds me of a jocular night
d'Ye Crozier's
Cronlan Street 22/2/33*

No. 7. 1007 [Price 2d.]

"THE SCOTTISH MINSTREL" A Selection of Favourite Songs, &c., HARMONIZED AND ARRANGED FOR MALE VOICES.

Burns' Grace.

M.M. $\text{♩} = 76.$

(FOR MALE VOICES.)

Music by MONTAGUE SMITH.

1st TENOR. *mf* \wedge \wedge \wedge

Some hae meat, some hae meat, Some hae

2nd TENOR. *mf* \wedge

Some hae meat, hae meat, Some hae

1st BASS. *mf* \wedge \wedge

Some hae meat Some hae

2nd BASS. *mf* \wedge \wedge

Some hae meat, Some hae

ACCOMP. (ad lib.) *mf*

p *mf* \wedge \wedge \wedge

meat, and can - na eat, And some wad eat, some

p *mf* \wedge \wedge \wedge

meat, and can - na eat, Some wad eat, . . .

p *mf* \wedge \wedge \wedge

meat, and can - na eat, Some wad

p *mf* \wedge \wedge \wedge

meat, and can - na eat,

p *mf*

PATERSON, SONS & CO. 152, Buchanan Street, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dumfries, and Ayr.

The Burns Grace

February 1933

5

we can eat, . . . And sae the Lord be thank .
we can eat, And sae the Lord be thank -
we can eat, And sae the Lord be thank .
we can eat, And sae the Lord be thank .

et, And sae the Lord be thank . . . et.
et, And sae the Lord be thank . . . et.
et, And sae the Lord be thank . . . et.
et, And sae the Lord be thank . . . et.

Sces.

Sces.

Grace After Meat

February 1933

6

GRACE AFTER MEAT.

Non Nobis Domine.

CANON.

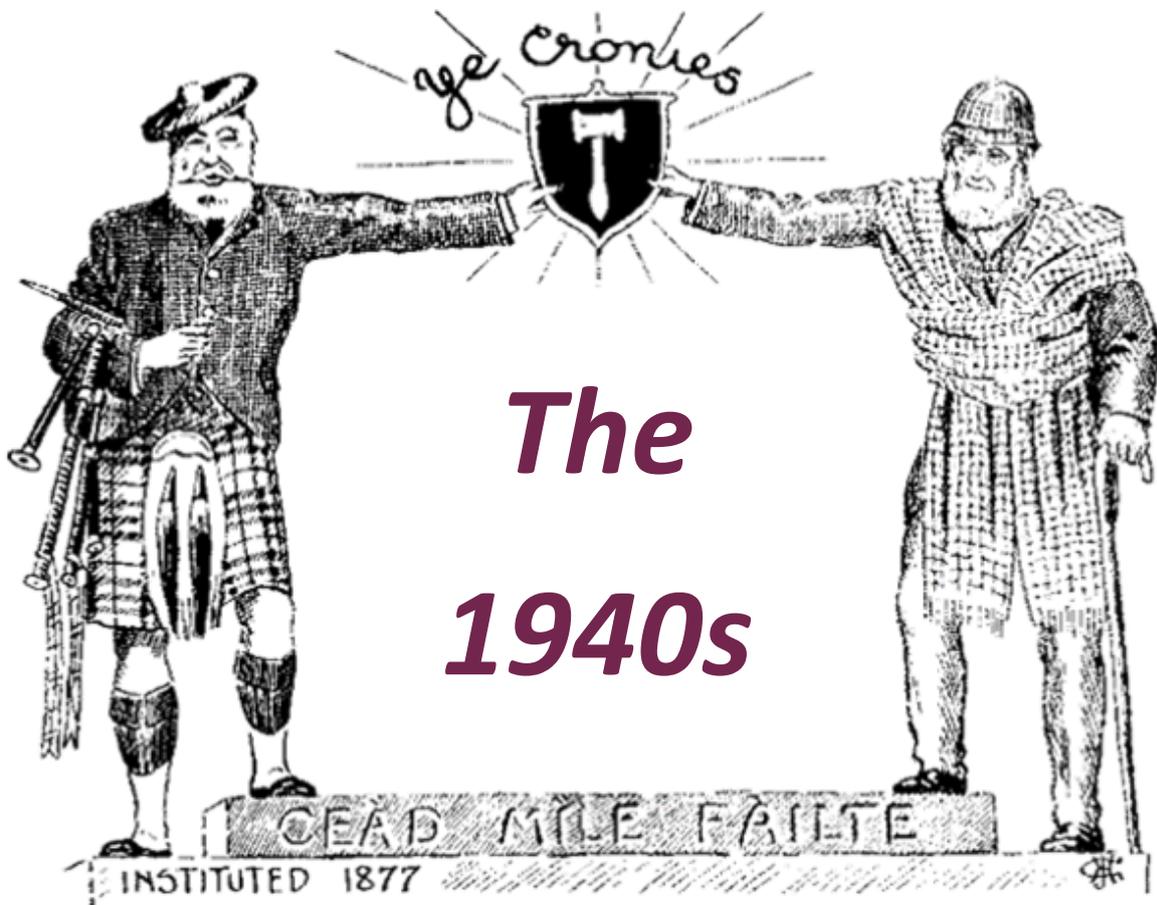
Wm. Brad.

Non no - bis Do - mi - ne, non no - bis sed no - mi - ni
Non no - bis Do - mi - ne, non no - bis sed
Non no - bis Do - mi - ne, non no
tuo . . . da Glo - ri - am sed no - mi - ni
no - mi - ni tuo . . . ds Glo - ri - am sed
. . bis sed no - mi - ni tuo . . . da Glo - ri -
tuo . . . da Glo - ri - am. Non no - bis Do - mi - ne.
no - mi - ni tuo . . . da Glo - ri - am. Non no - bis Do -
*Non no - bis
. . am. sed no - mi - ni tuo . . . da Glo - ri - am. Non.
*Glo - ri - am.

* Last time.

Our Story

Chapter 4



The 1940s

Cronies First Contralto | Supporting Wounded Soldiers | Club Performers
Professional Entertainers | Ladies Afternoons | Royal Hospital for Sick Children
Florence MacBride | The One-Year President | A Changing of the Guard

Ye Cronies Calendar

1940 - 1949

The Members Sign-in Book kept records of all events held up to 1904

Year	Month	Date
1940	January	25
	February	22
	March	21
	October	17
	November	14
	December	12
1941	January	16
	February	13
	March	13
	October	16
	November	22
	December	20
1942	January	24
	February	21
	March	21
	October	08
	November	21
	December	26

Year	Month	Date
1943	January	23
	February	20
	March	20
	October	14
	November	13
	December	18
1944	January	22
	February	19
	March	18
	October	19
	November	18
	December	16
1945	January	20
	February	17
	March	24
	October	25
	November	10
	December	22
1946	January	26
	March	02
	March	30
	October	17
	November	02
	November	28

Year	Month	Date
1947	January	16
	February	06
	March	13
	October	02
	October	16
	November	18
1948	December	15
	January	29
	February	26
	March	11
	March	26
	October	14
1949	November	??
	December	15
	January	27
	February	24
	March	24
	October	20
1949	November	15
	December	15

CANCELLED

Ladies Evening

No Records

AGM only

Cronies in the 1940s

Keeping Calm and Carrying On

Wartime Restrictions

Since the outbreak of World War II, the two biggest questions posed were whether Ye Cronies was able to continue, and if so how?

We don't have a definitive answer to how the Cronies initially reacted to the outbreak of war, but by 1943 club minutes indicate a standard calendar of concerts had been maintained, the only difference being they had switched to lunchtime events, with "Ladies Afternoons" held on a Saturday.

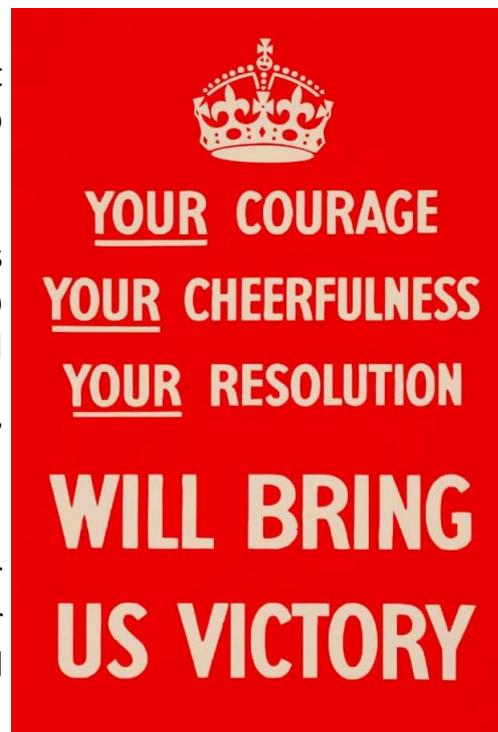
On 28th November 1946, Ye Cronies welcomed their returned to evening entertainment albeit with further adjustments to meet the Government's new Food Restrictions Order.

Attendance

Perhaps surprisingly, attendance at Ye Cronies during the war years, and throughout the decade were pretty strong with an average attendance of 70 members and guests. Ladies Afternoons (which lasted well into the early evening) even hit a peak of 200.



It was noted towards the end of the war that attendance of members was not strictly in keeping with the constitution (i.e. attending at least three events per season), but this was largely overlooked throughout given the circumstances faced by the nation. It would not be until the 1950s that stricter action would be taken against non-attending members.



Cronies in the 1940s

Keeping Calm and Carrying On

Membership Subscriptions & Concert Fees

By 1943 annual subscription fees had risen to £1 and 10 shillings, with tickets to both Ordinary and Ladies Afternoon's set at 21 shillings, or one Guinea.

Events were still being held at the Grosvenor Hotel in the 1940s, but towards the end of the decade the costs charged by them were rising each season and saw the Committee start seeking alternative venues, leading to their switch to the St. Enoch Station Hotel at the start of the 1949/50 season.

In-House Vs External Entertainers

Over recent decades the use of Honorary Memberships had been awarded to secure the services of local professional musicians. This approach had been highly effective in adhering to the founding principles of the club, namely member-only performances permitted.

With the availability of "in-house" musicians becoming severely limited during WWII, both Musical and Concert Directors turned their eyes to performers outside the Club's membership to fill it's concert programmes.



The significant presence of professional entertainment raised eyebrows within the membership, most notably by Past President Col. Alan Duncan. Upon returning from the Western Front, Duncan made it known at the 1945 AGM how worried he was that the Club had become too reliant on professional performances compared to before the War and that this needed urgent attention. Similar sentiments had also been expressed by the Ladies:

"whilst [the ladies] enjoyed the items provided by the Professional talent, it would possibly be just as enjoyable if the ladies listened to a real "Cronies" night with the majority of the items coming from members of the club"

Feedback from the Ladies Evenings [1949]

These observations were acknowledged, and efforts were made to return to the Club's members for performances, debate over the delicate balance between member and professional entertainment would continue well into the 1960s.

Setting the Scene

World events in the 1940s

- 1940 - *Churchill appointed British Prime Minister and Head of the Ministry of Defence.*
- 1941 - *Mount Rushmore memorial is completed in the U.S.A.*
- 1942 - *Michael Curtiz's "Casablanca" is released in cinemas.*
- 1943 - *The Dambusters complete a successful series of raids on German infrastructure.*
- 1944 - *Scottish National Academy of Music recognised by King George VI and assigned the prefix "Royal".*
- 1945 - *Victory in Europe (VE) Day celebrated as Germany and her allies surrender.*
- 1946 - *Initial set of Dead Sea scrolls discovered in Qumran Caves.*
- 1947 - *Edinburgh Festival is founded.*
- 1948 - *Albert II becomes the first monkey in space as his V2 rocket-supported flight reached an altitude of 134km.*
- 1949 - *The London Mozart Players perform their first concert at the Wigmore Hall, London.*

Our Timeline

The 1940s

1940s



13th November 1943

Earliest known appearance of a female Performer at a Cronies concert in the form of Contralto Ms. Kathleen Ferrier.



18th November 1944

The Club starts a new fund to allow injured servicemen from local military hospitals to attend Ye Cronies events.



22nd December 1945

After 46 years, Ye Cronies Concert Director Bill Storry stands down from the role.



October 1949

Committee agree to remove ballroom dancing from Ladies Nights, reverting to a standard meal and concert format.

Committee Members

1940 - 1949

Ye Conies Club Presidents

J. A. Burns



J. A. Burns.

1940 - 1942

James Ledingham



Mr. Ledingham

1942 - 1944

James A. Holmes



Mr. Holmes

1944 - 1946

W. MacDougall

Wilfred H. MacDougall

1946 - 1947

Alfred L. Murdoch

Alfred L. Murdoch

1947 - 1949

Vice-President

1940 James Ledingham
 1942 James A. Holmes
 1944 Wilfred H. MacDougall
 1946 Alfred L. Murdoch
 1947 Stanley D. Newton

Musical Director

1940-43 J. Crossland Hirst
 1943-49 Cyril A. Smith

Secretary / Treasurer

1940-48 W. Kerr Simpson
 1948-49 W. C. Campbell

Concert Director

1940-46 William Storry
 1946-47 Wilfred H. MacDougall
 1947-48 Alfred L. Murdoch
 1948-49 W. Kerr Simpson

Committee & Honorary Members

1940 - 1949

Ye Cronies Committee Members

1939 - 1940	1940 - 1941	1941 - 1942	1942 - 1943	1943 - 1944	1944 - 1945	1945 - 1946	1946 - 1947	1947 - 1948	1948 - 1949
James A. Holmes		W. Kemp		Sir James. M. Ritchie		Thomas McCubbin			
James McQueen		James A. Burns		James Ledingham		James C. Dorsie			
James Chrystal		J. Ferrier Connal			James A. Holmes		W. Kerr Simpson		
Thomson Brodie		Peter Templeton			Howard Garvan		T.W. Wilstencroft		
				Alex Steel	Stanley D. Newton		H.M. Dickson		
				Alfred L. Murdoch			Thomas Sommerville		

Ye Cronies Honorary Members

1943



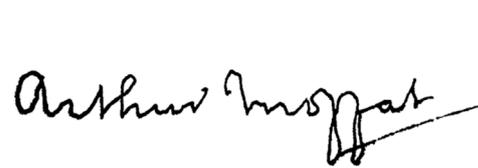
James T. Stoddart

1944



Mr. E. E. Crooks

1944



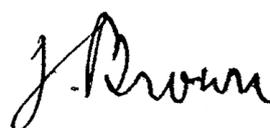
Mr. Arthur Moffat

1946



Mr. James A. Holmes

1948



Mr. J. Brown

Cronies First Contralto

Kathleen Ferrier

Up until the late 1930s, Ye Cronies were not known to play host to female performers, but with the outbreak of WWII, records show a number of Sopranos and Contraltos started to appear on the Club's concert programmes.

The earliest known Contralto to have performed at Ye Cronies was a rising star during the war years with some still claiming she was the greatest lyric contralto England has ever produced - Ms. Kathleen Ferrier.



The manner of her rise to stardom was unique. Born in Blackburn, Lancashire in 1912, she went from being a telephone operator in the mid-1930s to becoming a nationally known singer within ten years, followed by a further five years of international fame and all without any formal training.

Kathleen's musical interest began with the piano, passing the final grade of the Associated Board of the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music at the age of 14 leading one newspaper to report 'an unprecedented success for so youthful a student'.

It was not until 1937 that Ferrier discovered her potential for a singing career, and all due to an innocent bet made between Kathleen and her husband.



Kathleen had entered the prestigious Carlisle Festival in 1937 as a pianist and her husband bet her a shilling that she dare not enter for the singing contest as well. Never one to refuse a dare, Kathleen accepted the challenge, entered the contralto solo class and left the contest carrying trophies for both piano and song, as well as first prize for the best singer at the Festival!

Having made such an immediate impact in Carlisle, Ferrier made her first radio broadcast as a singer in 1939 and was receiving regular singing lessons from J. E. Hutchinson and Roy Henderson.

At the outbreak of WWII, Ferrier was approached by The Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts (CEMA) to take up the highly demanding job of bringing music to the people of Britain. This required extensive travel coast-to-coast and saw Kathleen sing wherever the public could congregate—in factories, concert halls, churches and town halls.

Cronies First Contralto

Kathleen Ferrier

“...whether it was a housewife listening to the ‘wireless’, a worker entertained by her at lunchtime in a factory canteen, a business man at Glyndebourne, or the young Queen Elizabeth at a country house, all of them were moved by her.”



It was during the war years that Ferrier formed close working relationships with major musical figures of the time including Britten, Bruno Walter and Gerald Moore. Her greatest friend, however, was Honorary Ye Cronies Member Sir John Barbirolli. Barbirolli in particular was likely instrumental in Ms. Ferrier visiting Ye Cronies on more than one occasion.

Kathleen limited her operatic performances to just two productions, the first was at the premiere of Benjamin Britten's opera *The Rape of Lucretia* in 1946. Her second was a work she would become particularly associated with - Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, where she held the title role of Orfeo.

At the end of the war, Ferrier started to broaden her travels beyond Britain, taking up engagements in mainland Europe and America.

With international attention gathering quickly, Kathleen's concert and recording work expanded at an equal pace with folksongs, popular ballads and classical works all becoming part of our repertoire.

Sadly Kathleen's stellar career was to be cut tragically short, as at the age of 39 she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Her last performance was at the Royal Opera House in February 1953, eight months before her passing.



'Britons of Distinction'
Royal Mail Stamp (2012)

In her memory, the Kathleen Ferrier Memorial Scholarship Fund was founded by her close friends, including Sir John Barbirolli. With a singing career that lasted just 12 years, her impact on the music scene has meant these scholarships continue to this day, awarding funds to outstandingly talented young singers and giving them sufficient financial backing to complete a year's study as they embark on their careers.

Members Sign-In

13th November 1943

13 NOVEMBER 1943

Walter O'Leary
Gavin O'Brien
Hessell
William Kemp
Peter F. Templeton
Carroll Macfarlane
Thompson
Eyre Smith
Aileen Fether
David Longue
Alice Kemp
Alfred Rudolph
Thompson
The Andersons

John King
W. H. Simpson
W. H. Simpson
Wilson & Owen
J. B. Jacks
W. H. Simpson
W. H. Simpson
James S. Christie
W. H. Simpson
James D. Inglis
Thos. J. Badger
Geo Newton
James M. Ritchie
Adam Templeton
A. A. Carson
W. H. Simpson
W. H. Simpson
James M. Ritchie
James M. Ritchie

Supporting Wounded Soldiers

Invited Guests of Honour

At a committee meeting in advance of the 1944/45 season, Mr. J. Ferrier Connel noted that a number of local societies were providing support to wounded servicemen recuperating at military hospitals across the central belt.

In response to this, Mr. Connel proposed Ye Cronies do their part by creating a fund that would allow injured servicemen to attend Cronies concerts for the remainder of the war. Unsurprisingly, this proposal was agreed to without question.



Mearnskirk Hospital Ward, 1940

Between 1944 and 1946, groups of 10 patients would attend each ordinary concert of Ye Cronies, the first servicemen joining the Cronies audience on 18th November 1944.

It was customary for a 'spokesperson' from each group to thank the Club at the end of each event. The first such spokesman was Private Hart, from Drymen Military Hospital, who commented that the 'Boys in Blue' thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon and joked that they "hoped that the next battle would be fought on Lansdown Road or Murrayfield".

Other soldiers who would go on to thank the Club included Sergeant Milson (December 1944), Lieutenant Birnie (January 1945), Sergeant Mair (March 1945), and Lieutenant Colonel Nicholson (January 1946).

As the 1946/47 season approached, attendees of the Ye Cronies AGM agreed that the initiative had served its purpose and brought it to an end.

The funds used to host the servicemen over the years had been raised by Cronies members, and so it was agreed the remaining balance of £7:15/- would be returned to the Club's general bank account for use in future events.

Supporting Wounded Soldiers

Logistics

The wounded servicemen invited to Ye Cronies events between 1944 and 1946 all came from two military hospitals in the surrounding area:

Drymen Military Hospital



Buchanan Castle began life in the 1800s as a grand country house for royalty, and had become a hotel/golf resort before being re-purposed as military hospital in 1939.

Most infamously known for holding Deputy Fuhrer, Rudolf Hess, after he fled Germany in 1941, the castle was briefly used as a school following the war before being abandoned.

It still stands tall today but has been left to slowly crumble away.

Mearns Kirk Hospital



Built in 1921 to provide orthopaedic and tuberculosis treatment for children, Mearnskirks' young patients were evacuated to The Garrison in Millport in 1939.

During the War the Hospital was both an Emergency Medical Service and Naval Auxiliary Hospital. Expanding it's bed-count from 500 to 1,100, the Hospital ended the War having treated 30,799 wounded servicemen and 1,810 civilian casualties.

The Cronies made sure these invites were all encompassing, with transport to and from each event arranged by one of its members.

As luck would have it, the member who took charge of transport and logistics was Mr A. K. Stevenson, the Secretary of the Royal Scottish Automobile Club.

Mr. Stevenson carried quite the reputation within the automobile and motorsport community - a trophy in his name is still awarded each year at the Autumn Stages Rally.



Portrait of Jim Clark driving past the "Rest and Be Thankful" during a Rally, with A.K. Stevenson dressed in black inspecting in the red car behind him.

With his many contacts, Stevenson made sure all servicemen were looked after as they were transferred from each Hospital to the Grosvenor Hotel in Glasgow.

Club Performers

1943—1949

Records show that the attendances of individual Cronies members was irregular at best during the Second World War, but this did not stop the Club from continuing its long-held tradition of sourcing musical performances from within its numbers.

The following members are listed as having been regular performers at Cronies nights throughout the 1940s:

Charles D. Rigg

Charles D. Rigg
(Song)

J. A. Burns.

J. A. Burns
(Humour)

Donald A. Dewar

Donald A. Dewar
(Song)

W. H. MacDougall

W. H. MacDougall
(Piano)

Cyril A. Smith

Cyril A. Smith
(Accompanist)

A. Lawson

A. Lawson
(Song)

J. Brown

J. Brown
(Humour)



William Kerr Simpson

William Kerr Simpson
(Song)

J. Hepburn

J. Hepburn
(Song)

Duncan McPherson

Rev. Duncan McPherson
(Song)

Andrew Letters

Andrew Letters
(Song)

H. Findlay

H. Findlay
(Song)

James T. Stoddart

James T. Stoddart
(Song)

T. C. Caldwell

T. C. Caldwell
(Song)

James .C. Dorsie

James .C. Dorsie
(Humour & Song)

Peter T. Templeton

Peter T. Templeton
(Magician)

Calling in the Professionals

1943—1949

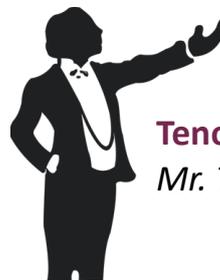
It is clear that Ye Cronies had broken with its tradition of using only performers from within its rank as professional musicians began appearing on concert programmes in the 1940s.

Female singers in particular were evident in nearly all concerts during the Second World War, with musical ensembles making appearances at “Ladies Afternoons”.

Below is a summary of some of the performers between 1943 and 1946.

Soprano

Ms. Barbara Summer
Miss. Swan
Ms. Janette Sclanders
Miss. Joan Alexander
Miss. Ferrier
Ms. Jean Dawson



Tenor

Mr. Tommy Torrance

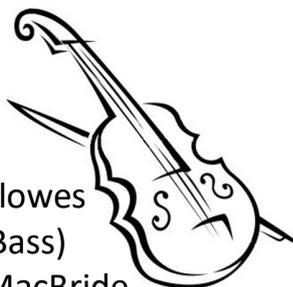
Contralto

Miss Surgeon
Ms. Jean Stoddart
Miss Peggy Maxwell
Miss McMillan
Ms. Jean Black



Violin & Bass

Mr. Horace Fellowes
Mr. McInnes (Bass)
Ms. Florence MacBride



Piano

Mr. Askham
Mr. J. Wright Henderson



Conjuror

Mr. Nelson Lyford

Burns Speaker

Mr. Charles Anderson



Orchestra

Mr. Reginald Whitelaw (Scottish Orchestra)
Mr. D. Kirkpatrick's Palette Club Salon Orchestra
Mr. Bert Brisbane's Orchestra
The Fellowes String Quartet



Ladies Afternoons

Wartime Entertainment

From the 1880s with their 'At Home' events and the 'Ladies Entertainment' events of the 1920s, through to the "Gala Nights" of today, there has always been one consistency throughout the history of Ye Cronies - an annual landmark event in the Cronies calendar.

Despite the restrictions imposed on the Club during World War II, these special occasions still found a way to make themselves distinct from the ordinary meetings held between 1939 and 1946.

'Ladies Afternoons' were the new formats adopted during the war, typically held on a Saturday and starting at 1pm, it lasted well into the early evening hours as evidenced by notes of a "tea break" at 3.45pm!

Whilst ordinary Cronies events attracted an average of 70 members and guests, Ladies Afternoons saw this average shoot up to 180.



Still in Being
ALTHOUGH the Palette Club has temporarily lost its premises, its Salon Orchestra under the direction of Mr D. Kirkpatrick Blair is still in being, and at Ye Cronies' Club "Ladies' Day" at the Grosvenor Restaurant to-morrow afternoon the Orchestra will present a special programme.
The Orchestra is a combination of solo artistes, features three pianos, and has a repertoire ranging from Brahms to Billy Mayerl.
Its musical activities at the Palette Club in Newton Place are only suspended until three months after the expiry of the War Emergency Act, when the Government will return the Club its premises.

News report from February 1944

Records suggest these afternoon were filled with food, music, teas and cakes, with several dances ending the entertainment.

In terms of musical performances, Ladies Afternoons included many bands as much as solo artistes. The Palette Club's Salon Orchestra and Horace Fellowes' String Quartet were amongst those that were invited to provide background music to these events in the early 1940s.

By this stage in the Cronies' history of traditions, the President was known to propose a toast to the ladies in attendance, with one of the guests being invited to propose a toast in reply. Typically the reply would come from the wife of the sitting Vice-President, but other special guests also took up this role, including the Matron of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children.

At the conclusion of The Second World War, the last Ladies Afternoon was held in March 1946, and ended on a high with 200 members and guests attending!

Ladies Afternoon Minutes

19th February 1944

YE CRONIES.

Minutes of Ladies Afternoon held on Saturday, 19th February, 1944 within the Grosvenor Restaurant, Glasgow at 1p.m.

President Ledingham welcomed all present, especially the Ladies. The total number present was 182.

In proposing the Toast of the Ladies, Mr. Ledingham expressed the great honour it was for the Cronies to be graced by their presence and hoped they would enjoy the afternoon. He said that "mere man" was fully alive to the wonderful sacrifices women were making at this time and they were proud of it. He reminded the Ladies that Ye Cronies was a Man's Club and following upon his remarks last year he observed that no application for Membership had been received from any Lady. He therefore assumed that the Ladies agreed to allow the Club to carry on in its old tradition. The Toast was received with great enthusiasm.

In a gracious reply Mrs. Tom. Sommerville thanked the President for his very kind welcome and said how delighted the Ladies always were at being asked to this function. She reminded her fellow guests that it was a privilege to have a "Cronie" husband and that the Club had shown grit in carrying on in spite of the very worrying times. The Ladies then drank the health of Ye Cronies.

Mr. Storry was most fortunate in his choice of entertainment in having Mr. D. Kilpatrick Blair with his Salon Orchestra which delighted everyone with their beautiful rendering of light music.

The afternoon proved to be an outstanding success and all joined in the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

Ladies Afternoon Menu

19th February 1944

GRACE

*Some hae meat and canna eat,
Some wad eat that want it;
But we hae meat and we can eat
And sae the Lord be thankit.—Burns.*

Music composed by the late Montague Smith.

M E N U

Cream of Kidney
Potato & Leek

Cold Turkey & Tongue
Baked Potatoes
Spring Cabbage

Trifle for Ladies
Savoury Croquette for Gentlemen

Coffee

19/2/1944.

Ladies Afternoon Programme

19th February 1944

<u>Programme.</u>		
<u>Ladies Afternoon</u>		
<u>19. 2. 44</u>		
<u>Song</u>	<u>Youth</u>	<u>W. K. Simpson</u>
<u>Song</u>	<u>"Laughing Song"</u> <u>from "Die Fledermaus"</u>	<u>Miss Jean Dawson</u>
<u>Humorous interlude</u>		<u>Mr. Archer Mitchell</u>
<u>D. Kilpatrick Blairs</u> <u>Salon Orchestra</u> <u>from the Palette Club.</u>		<u>D. Kilpatrick Blair</u>
<u>Song.</u>	<u>Mary Hay (old Scotch)</u>	<u>J. T. Stoddart</u>
<u>Humorous interlude</u>		<u>Mr. Dorrie</u>
<u>Duet</u>	<u>"from Penzance"</u>	{ <u>Miss Dawson</u> <u>Mr. T. Torrance</u> }
<u>Orchestra</u>		<u>D. Kilpatrick Blair</u>
<u>Humorous</u>		<u>J. Brown.</u>
<u>Accompanist</u>	_____	<u>Cyril A. Smith</u>

Musical Director Obituary

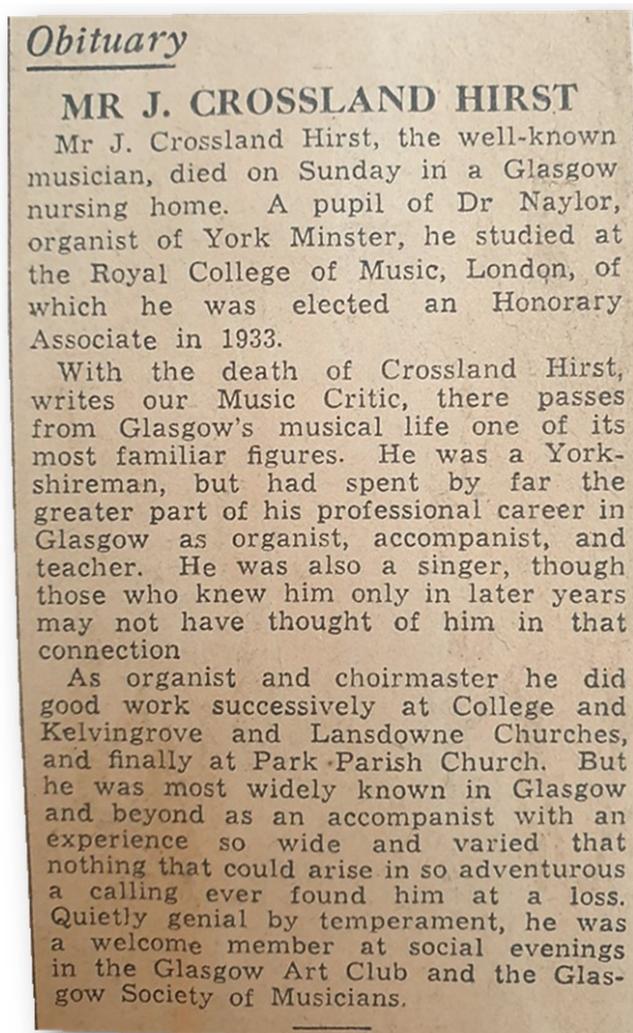
James Crossland Hirst

James Crossland Hirst succeeded Mr. Philip E. Halstead as Ye Cronies' 3rd Musical Director in 1908. Serving in the role for 35 years, Hirst's health deteriorated quite suddenly in 1943, and saw him pass away before the start of the 1943/44 season.

Sadly Ye Cronies did not get the opportunity to recognise and thank Hirst for his long commitment to the Club. Both Hirst and the Club had no intention of him stepping down from his role and so his passing came as quite a shock to all concerned.

Hirst's role in the Club would eventually be taken up by Mr. Cyril A. Smith, but he would become the last Musical Director of Ye Cronies when the position was quietly retired just 10 years later.

The opening page of the Cronies minute book contains the following cutting from the local paper in respect of Mr. Hirst's sudden death.



Royal Hospital for Sick Children

1943-1949

The Royal Hospital for Sick Children remained under civilian management during the Second World War, and so they found many of their doctors called up for military service. Coupled with day-to-day black-outs, coal shortages and water problems those who left to keep the Hospital running were put under enormous strain.



20 years after Ye Cronies first sponsored a cot at the Children's Hospital, the club's fundraising and support was holding strong. In 1943 alone they raised a record total £50 for the children and staff of the ward.

It had become an annual Christmas tradition for the President to make a visit to the ward and its Matron, Miss Clarkson, to hand out gifts to the children and meet the occupant of the 'Cronies Cot'. The President would often report back to members on the success of his visit, with the Secretary recording notes of these visits.

In 1943 we know that 10 year old Ms. Chrissie Smith occupied our cot, followed by the cheeky 8 year old Johnny Hood, from Baillieston, who in thanking President Ledingham said "If you had been a lady I would have kissed you!". The last mention of the Cronies Cot in the 1940s was in 1945 when Ms. Janet Buchanan was being treated over the festive period.

Towards the end of 1947 it had become apparent the newly established National Health Service (NHS) would take over responsibility for the Royal Hospital for Sick. Both Ye Cronies and the Hospital's staff were unsure how donations would be handled as a result, particularly given the government would be funding the Hospital going forwards.



The Cronies initially presumed their annual sponsorship would no longer be required, leading them to donate a modern ward trolley as a "final gesture" along-with some funds for Matron Clarkson and her nurses to enjoy "a night at the theatre".

By 1949 it appears clarity had been found as annual donations were re-instated, with a focus on purchasing toys for the children. The new Cronies President, Stanley Newton, reported back to members at December's concert that the Cronies Cot was also still active and so funds went towards supporting it also.

Guest Instrumentalist

Ms. Florence MacBride

The Musical Times reported on a concert held in Glasgow in late 1926:

“Two Glasgow players of more than local reputation, the sisters Miss Winifred Macbride (pianoforte) and Miss Florence Macbride (violin) gave a joint recital...The younger [sibling] has a solidly-founded violin technique and a natural feeling for her instrument.”

Florence MacBride was one of the few female instrumentalists to attend a Ye Cronies event during the 1940s.

Whilst we know a lot regarding the career and musical upbringing of Florence’s older sister, pianist Winifred MacBride, virtually nothing is known as to Florence’s upbringing with the violin other than she had spent some professional time in London in the early 1920s.

By 1922, Florence had a busy work schedule as a soloist in a variety of concerts throughout Scotland. Record deals soon followed, with the 1920s and 1930s seeing Beltona, Regal Zonophone, and finally Columbia records distributing her music.



Providing a mixture of traditional as well as classical pieces, Florence’s reputation at live concerts soon saw her invited to perform for radio. With performances being reported as “phenomenal for a young violinist” and her “manipulation of the bow being a source of unbounded delight”, its no wonder she caught the interest of the Cronies Musical Director!

Having joined the BBC Scottish Studio Orchestra and the Station Light Orchestra in the 1930s, Florence featured in programmes with Robert Reid (bagpipes) and Willie Ross (fiddle).

Florence’s older sister had, by this stage, emigrated to America, and it appears the younger sibling followed suit for a short tour before returning to Britain to continue her radio career, contributing to incidental music and traditional music programmes alongside singer Kitty MacLeod and accordionist William Hannah amongst many others.



Recordings of Florence MacBride’s traditional pieces can still be found today in both record and electronic format and clearly have the hallmarks of songs that would appeal to a Ye Cronies audience even today.

The One Year Presidency

Mr. Wilfred Hugh MacDougall

On 29th October 1947, Ye Cronies were saddened to receive news that President, Mr. Wilfred Hugh MacDougall, had passed away at home in his sleep. He was 59 years old.

It had been less than two weeks since the Club's members had re-elected Mr. MacDougall to the Chair, his passing coming as a shock to everyone. In response to this tragic news, the Committee immediately agreed that the November concert would be cancelled out of respect for their former President.

When stepping up to Chairman, it was noted how flattered Mr. MacDougall was to take on the role, but his humour shone through as was noted in the minutes of the AGM held on 17th October, 1946:

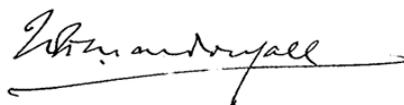
"[He] remarked upon the long line of Presidents with the Christian name James and apologised for breaking this long-held tradition.

He was also sorry to break away in the Surnames of Presidents, he being the first "Mac" to occupy the Chair."

Mr. MacDougall's passion for Ye Cronies was clearly evident over his years. First as one of the few performing members during the Second World War, then as a committee member for 5 years (including 2 years as Vice-President).

The biggest testament to MacDougall's commitment to the ongoing success of Ye Cronies was his decision to become the "caretaker" Concert Director in the same year he became Chairman, following the resignation of William Storry. To both chair the committee meetings and arrange performers and programmes for each concert would not have been a small undertaking at the time.

Whilst the Club would see other Presidents choose to end their terms after a single year, this was the first time Ye Cronies had seen such a short reign, and it will hopefully remain the only one to end under such tragic circumstances.



Wilfred H. MacDougall
(1888—1947)

The One Year Presidency

Club Notice

W. KERR SIMPSON
NON. SECRETARY & TREASURER

TELEPHONE
DOUGLAS 4181 (2 LINES)



Instituted 1877

132 WEST REGENT STREET,
GLASGOW, C.2

6th November, 1947.

Dear Sir,

You will, I have no doubt, learned of the very great loss which has befallen Ye Cronies last week, in the sudden and tragic death of Mr. Wilfred H. Macdougall, who died at his home on 29th October.

A Special Meeting of Committee was held on Monday last and the following was unanimously resolved:-

"--the Meeting intended to be held on 18th November, 1947 be cancelled altogether and the Ladies Evening be postponed until 11th March, 1948, this, to take the place of Meeting arranged for 25th March, 1948.

It therefore follows, that the next Ordinary Meeting of the Club will be Monday, 15th December, at the usual time.

In the light of these circumstances and in accordance with the Club's Constitution I have to give notice that an Extraordinary Meeting is now called for 15th December, 1947 which will take place immediately following Dinner.

Your Committee under Rule 6 of the Constitution, propose that Vice-President Murdoch be elected President, that Mr. Stanley D. Newton be elected Vice-President and past President Holmes be co-opted to fill Mr. Newton's place on Committee for the remaining period of Office.

This proposal will be placed before the Extraordinary Meeting of Members for ratification or otherwise, after which the Ordinary Meeting will proceed.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

W. KERR SIMPSON.

The One Year Presidency

Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Members

MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WITHIN THE
HONORARY SECRETARY'S OFFICE ON MONDAY, 3rd NOVEMBER,
1947 at 12 noon - 132 West Regent Street, Glasgow.

PRESENT. V.P. Murdoch, Messrs. J.C. Dorsie, Stanley D. Newton,
H.M. Dickson, Thomas Sommerville, Howard Garvan,
Thomas McCubbin and the Honorary Secretary. Past
President Holmes also attended.

The Meeting had been specially convened following
the death of Wilfred H. Macdougall - President.

BUSINESS. Mr. Murdoch occupied the Chair and spoke of the sad
loss sustained. In his opinion he thought it not fit
and proper to hold the proposed Ladies Evening as already
arranged and asked the Committee to state their views.
The Committee were unanimous that the December Meeting
be cancelled.

The question of filling the vacancy was then considered
and Mr. Dickson seconded by Mr. McCubbin proposed that
Mr. Murdoch be elected. Mr. Murdoch asked that he be
allowed to nominate his Vice Chairman and proposed the
name of Mr. Newton. These two nominations were
unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Simpson was instructed to arrange matters with the
Grosvenor as follows.

Ladies Evening to be held on 11th March, 1948.
Ordinary Meeting 25th March, 1948 to be cancelled, as also
18th November, 1947. The first Meeting of the Club
would therefore be held on December, 15th, 1947.

Members Sign-In

26th February 1948

THURSDAY. 26th FEB. 1948.

James L. Wallace

YE. PRESIDENT

YE. VICE PRESIDENT
B. S. S. S.

W. H. S. S.

Alfred D. Murdoch

YE. HON. SECY
W. H. S. S.

Mrs. A. J. Rigg J.P.

James L. Shryver J.P.

James H. Brown

G. Carnie Macfarlane

Wm C. Hamilton
David B. Hamilton

Wm. Story

Herbert E. Murray
J. B. Ferguson

James Lawson
A. R. Stevenson
Wm. Kemp

Mr. Dixon
Jay Brown

W. H. S. S.
Hessell

Alinshell

W. H. S. S.
W. H. S. S.

David Longwell

Choirie
Adam D. Templeton

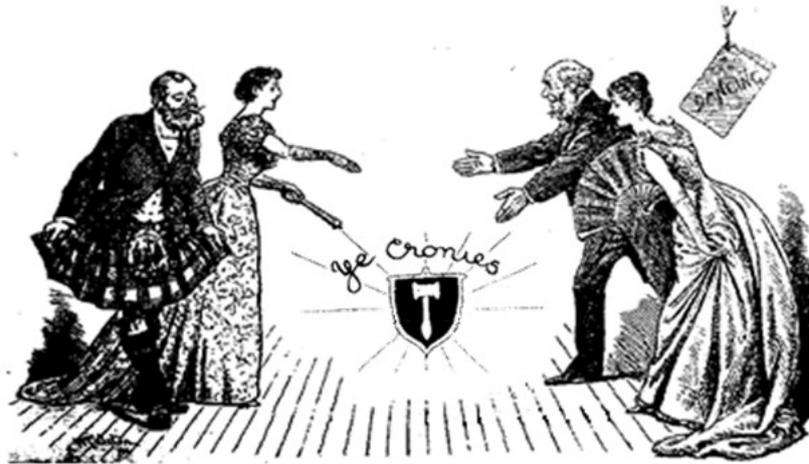
W. H. S. S.
John Good
B. L. Mellow
J. L. Mellow
J. L. Mellow

Ladies Afternoons & Evenings

Post-War Years

In 1947, the annual Ladies Night returned for the first time since the outbreak of WWII.

Unfortunately the return of these popular evenings coincided with the introduction of the Government's "Food Restriction Order", forcing an adjustment to the night's format to a "Dance with Buffet and Music".



Traditionally these events (and the Ladies Afternoon's held during the war years) included dancing, but this would also face its own challenges in 1948 as the Grosvenor Hotel revealed it would cost £25 per head to continue with this format. The Cronies committee members reluctantly agreed to this price but were still surprised by the subsequent and sizeable loss incurred to the Club's accounts.

A review of these unforeseen complications saw the club decide to remove dancing from the Ladies Night format permanently, reverting the event to a more standard dinner and music format.

Discussions were briefly held within the Committee as to whether the dress code should revert to the same as an ordinary event, but this suggestion was quickly dismissed and it was agreed that black tie should remain in place for Ladies Nights despite the lack of dancing.

The immediate benefit of removing dancing from the Ladies Night format was a £10 reduction in the cost per head of running each event, and meant the price of a ticket remained at 1 Guinea (£1/1-).

Over 70 years later this revised format has remained at Ye Cronies and remains the most popular event in its calendar.

Ladies Afternoons & Evenings

Club Notice (September 1947)

W. KERR SIMPSON
HON. SECRETARY & TREASURER

TELEPHONE
DOUGLAS 4181 (2 LINES)



Instituted 1877

132 WEST REGENT STREET
GLASGOW, C.2

23rd September, 1947.

Dear Sir,

Session - 1947-48.

I have to inform you that the Annual General Meeting of Ye Cronies will be held on Thursday, 2nd October, 1947, within the Grosvenor Restaurant, Glasgow at 6 p.m. for 6.30 p.m. prompt. It is important that you advise me whether it is your intention to be present or not.

The Meeting is confined to Members only.

RESIGNATIONS and change of address must be intimated to me immediately.

Your Committee had made full arrangements to hold the time-honoured "Ladies Evening" but unfortunately, owing to the serious position in which the Country is now placed, the arrangements made are cancelled. It is hoped, however, that the Meeting will take place in the form of a Dance with Buffet and Musical Interlude. Details of this Meeting will be advised later.

Members attending the Annual General Meeting might be prepared to contribute a programme of music following the business.

Ladies Afternoons & Evenings

Club Notice (October 1947)

W. KERR SIMPSON
HON. SECRETARY & TREASURER

TELEPHONE
DOUGLAS 4181 (2 LINES)



132 WEST REGENT STREET,
GLASGOW, C.2

9th October, 1947.

Dear Sir,

I have pleasure in advising you that the first Ordinary Meeting of the Club will be held within the usual Suite of Rooms in the Grosvenor Restaurant on THURSDAY, 16th OCTOBER, 1947, at 5.30 for 6 o'clock Dinner.

Dinner checks will be 12/6d per person.

In view of the new Food Restriction Order, it will be necessary for me to accept replies in strict order of my receiving same and I therefore would ask you to return the enclosed reply card at your very earliest convenience.

Subscriptions are now due and should be paid to me at my office or prior to Dinner on the above evening. The amount is 30/--.

I trust you may find it convenient to attend.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

W. KERR SIMPSON,

Hon. Secy. & Treas.

Ladies Afternoons & Evenings

Club Notice (February 1948)

W. KERR SIMPSON
HON. SECRETARY & TREASURER

TELEPHONE
DOUGLAS 4181 (2 LINES)



132 WEST REGENT STREET,
GLASGOW, C.2

25th February, 1948.

Dear Sir,

Ladies Evening - 11th March, 1948

The following arrangements have been made by your Committee and I shall be pleased to hear from you as soon as possible and definitely not later than Saturday, 6th prox. so that I may be in a position to advise you at what table you may sit at during the evening. Please adhere to this request for the comfort of your party.

1. Tickets will be 17/6d per person, including Buffet.
2. President and Mrs Murdoch will receive Members and friends at 7.30 p.m. Dancing will commence at 8 o'clock.
3. At 9.30 there will be a Musical Interlude lasting till 10.15 p.m.
4. Refreshments will be served in the Ballroom and Members may bring their own requirements if they so desire. There is no corkage charge.

Owing to restricted seating accommodation, Members are reminded that they may only invite three guests.

Remittances must accompany your Instruction for tickets, which will be issued to the Members applying and at the same time please indicate clearly with whom you desire to sit during the evening.

Once again I would thank all Members for co-operation and assistance to me during the past Session.

I am,
Yours faithfully,

W. KERR SIMPSON.

P.S. Will Past Presidents kindly remember to wear Badge Replica.

Finding a New Concert Director

1946 - 1949

As the first ever Concert Director appointed to the Club in 1905, William Storry was ultimately responsible for setting the tone of each Cronies evening over the ensuing 41 years.

Announcing his retirement in 1945, the Club knew that filling Mr. Storry's sizeable shoes would prove a tricky proposition, and one that would not be fully satisfied for another twenty years.

Between 1945 and 1950, three individuals valiantly took to the stage to direct proceedings, each sharing two things in common - experience of entertaining members and guests on the Cronies stage, as well as a passion to keep the club's entertainment alive and well:

Wilfred H. MacDougall

As the newly elected President of Ye Cronies, Mr. MacDougall clearly felt it his responsibility to keep the running of concerts alive and well until a longer-term candidate for Concert Director could be secured. Unfortunately Mr. MacDougall died quite suddenly just one year after assuming the role in 1947.

Alfred L. Murdoch

Being Mr. MacDougall's Vice-President, Mr. Murdoch took on the same commitments as his predecessor in 1947, becoming both President and the 'care-taker' Concert Director for the next two years until 1949.

William Kerr Simpson

Club Secretary for the last 13 years, Mr. Simpson decided to step down from the Committee in 1948 and became the Club's latest Concert Director on a more permanent basis, serving in the role for the next five years until 1953.

With no discredit to any of these individuals, a further four men would take on the Concert Director role through the 1950s before a winning duo was secured in the 1960s that would "steady the boat" for the remainder of the 20th century.



Our Story

Chapter 5



*Reflections of a
Concert Director
(1905 - 1945)*

Bill Storry Retirement

December 1945



Wm Storry

At the end of 1945, Ye Cronies' first ever Concert Director William Storry had announced he intended to step down.

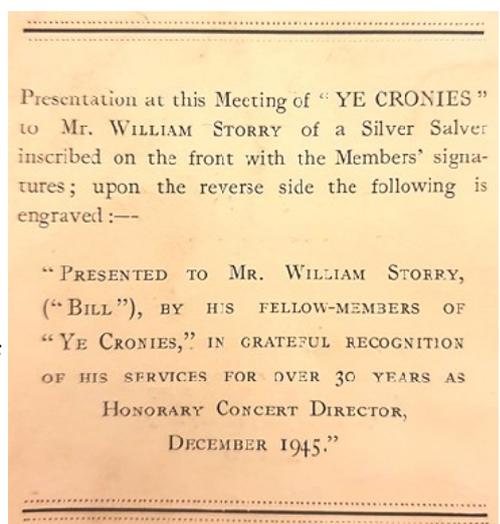
Serving a total of 41 years as our Concert Director, Storry had set a new record for longest-serving member of the Club, eclipsing Past President William D. Main by two years.

In recognition of Storry's tireless contributions to the Club, through two World Wars no less, the incumbent President, Mr. James Holmes, presented a specially commissioned Silver Salver to William Storry at the December 1945 concert .

Similar to the cigar box presented to Past President John Hamilton, the salver was inscribed with signatures of all current members, and a short message commemorating the occasion on the reverse.

Unfortunately no pictures of the salver exist in our records, and the whereabouts of the memento are unknown, but we do have the following summary of the inscription (which was included on the reverse of menu cards) as well as the speeches made by both the Club President and William Storry himself.

Storry's speech in particular is a fascinating reminiscence of the Club's history since the turn of the century. His original hand-written notes and a transcription have been included in the following pages.



Bill Storry Retirement

President's Address

Below are the original notes referenced by President James A. Holmes when making the presentation to Concert Director William Storry in 22nd December 1945.

Some additional hand-written notes suggest he asked Past President, and good friend of "Bill", J.A. Burns to make a few comments before presenting Storry with the Silver Salver and silk bag for his wife.



Fellow Cronies: I count it a great privilege and it also gives me much personal pleasure to be called on this afternoon. *Only once before in our club's history* You all know that the Club, after many years' service as Hony. Musical Director, have decided at last to recognise Mr. Storey's services in a tangible form. When the matter was first put before me as your President I replied that so far as I was concerned I considered it a remarkably good idea, and indeed that such recognition was long overdue. Your Committee unanimously agreed that such recognition should take place, and the ready response of the members has been very, very gratifying indeed to the Committee appointed to look after these matters.

With the active and intimate co-operation of an old Crony, Willie Steel, we have been able to present Mr. Storey with this handsome silver tray, inscribed on the back with the inscription which you see at the ~~back~~ *back* of your menu cards and, on the face, surrounding our crest, a copy of the subscribers' signatures.

Willie Steel also asked to be allowed to include, as his contribution, this very handsome silk bag for Mrs. Storey.* I think it right that you should know that although Willie ~~Storey~~ *Storey* has resigned from the Club for health reasons, he is a very faithful adherent of "Ye Cronies" and the ideals that they stand for.

Now, to come to my immediate duty this afternoon: Bill Storey joined "Ye Cronies" in 1905 - 40 years ago - and a few short months after that was appointed to his present position as Hony. Concert Director. He has therefore produced for our enjoyment well over 200 musical entertainments, which shows clearly in the first plac

2.
how fortunate the Club have been in having Bill Storey to look after this department; and also what a vast circle of musical friends Bill Storey has been able to call on to maintain the high standard of our entertainments.

I feel that Bill Storey has merited a well-earned rest, though I also fail to see how we can do without him, but I hope he has somebody in mind to act as his assistant & successor.

~~Now, Mr. Storey -~~

ask Burns to say a few words

read Verse

*Hope you enjoy your good body
will long be able to enjoy
their use - That Bill will
always have something to
put on the tray to thank.
Mrs Storey will have*

Bill Storry Retirement

Thank You Speech [Original]

Mr. President & Brother Cronies

I can assure you I feel very embarrassed by your enthusiastic appreciation of my efforts towards the musical & entertaining part of ye Cronies, & specially am I embarrassed by the kind & all too flattering remarks of our President and I find it very difficult to find words to ^{to convey to you sir} ~~express~~ my heart felt thanks

Jay Browns Story of the man who entered a Railway Carriage & settling down in his corner to read his paper was surprised to notice that the man opposite was reading his ~~he leaned~~ paper upside down, he leant forward & said excuse me Sir but are you aware you are reading your paper upside down "A Ken said the man, & mind ye its no easy" I feel something like that man & dont find it easy to reply

As you can realize I have seen a great many changes in my 38 years as director of ye Cronies programmes and I can recalle with pleasant memories all our Presidents since ~~then~~ the days of John Hamilton He was president for 19 years - a great record & when he retired in 1910 this beautiful Casket which lies on the Presidents Table - and which Mr. Hamilton bequeathed to the Club - was presented to him, & it will be interesting for you to know that there are still 3 of us whose names appear on it viz: J. Foster King, J. D. Inglis & myself & we have every reason to feel proud that we can recall this great occasion.

Altho John Hamilton was as deaf as a door post but he always looked the part & was real live wire

Bill Storry Retirement

Thank You Speech [Original]

They come
After John Hamilton we had Mr. Broadfoot
and then came W. D. Main who had been
Secretary for 33 years & the Club owe a great debt
to him as there can be no doubt that he kept
the Club's feet alive had it not been for
him the Club would have been non-existence
was President afterwards for 6 years.

Then came my old friend Jack Duncan who
occupied the Chair for 9 years. A grand personality
he was & a tremendous lot of work he did for the
Club

After that in 1928 the Presidency was limited to
2 years then we had Thomson Brodie

A. P. Newell
Jas S. Chrysler
John Somerville
Allen Duncan

F. A. Burns
Jas. Ledingham

Four excellent friends Jas. Holmes.

All gentlemen of the highest calibre
However at this juncture I don't wish to enlarge
on the history of Ye Cronies I only mention these names
as I have had so many happy recollections of them
At a later date perhaps with the assistance of my
friend James Burns we may be able to ~~prepare~~
give you a resume-in pamphlet form of what we
know of Ye Cronies

I have one ~~other~~ thing on my mind which I would
like to mention in passing - Why not have a Summer
Meeting ~~which may~~ same as we used to have. ~~with no meeting~~
between March & October I think we lose touch with
each other in six or seven months - Listen to this
account of one Ladies Day which they had
(Read Act of Ladies Day)

Bill Storry Retirement

Thank You Speech [Original]

Perhaps Mr President you and your Committee will consider a Summer outing when things become more normal. I think we might do away with with Colored wide awakes and foghorns - Altho some one suggested to me the other day, that we had plenty of old foghorns among ourselves. I dont know what he meant but I dont believe it - I consider that our Club talent ^{is plentiful} today is a long way better than it used to be - of course we must admit that we are all getting a bit under the weather now - time marches on - but we are still good & you will be able to judge for yourselves today as we are giving you an entirely Cronie programme.

Well gentlemen I can assure that it is with a full heart that I look at this beautiful Salver & most of all at the names that are engraved on it & I really dont know what to say. Anything I have done ^{for the Club} has been a real labor of love and with such conjinial companions a perfect pleasure and you can be certain that I will cherish this lovely token of your appreciation as long as I live.

It was also very nice of you to think of my wife - who I may say has always taken a lively interest in our Club & she will be charmed with ^{the} beautiful bag & in her name I tender you my sincerest thanks.

For your kind & flattering remarks Mr President regarding myself & for the enthusiastic you gentlemen have ^{referred} to me I really cannot find words to thank you. I hope I may be shared to carry on the good work for a little longer, ^{yet} with of course your permission.

Bill Storry Retirement

Thank You Speech [Transcribed]

Mr. President & Brother Cronies,

I can assure you I feel very embarrassed by your enthusiastic appreciation of my efforts towards the musical and entertaining part of Ye Cronies, and especially embarrassed by the kind and all too flattering remarks of our President and it is very difficult to find words to confer to you sir my heartfelt thanks.

Jay Browns Story of the man who entered a Railway carriage and settling down in his corner to read his paper was surprised to notice that the man opposite was reading his paper upside down, he leant forward and said excuse me sir but are you aware you are reading your paper upside down?

"A ken" said the man, "& mind ye its no easy".

I feel something like that man and don't find it easy to reply.

As you can imagine I have seen a great many changes in my 38 years as Director of Ye Cronies programmes and I can recall with pleasant memories all our Presidents since the days of John Hamilton.

He was President for 19 years - a great record and when he retired in 1910 this beautiful casket which lies on the President's table - and which Mr. Hamilton bequeathed to the Club was presented to him.

It will be interesting for you to know that there are still 3 of us whose names appear on it viz: J.Foster King, J. D. Inglis, and myself and we have every reason to feel proud that we can recall this great occasion.

Although John Hamilton was as deaf as a door knob, he always looked the part and was a real live wire!

Bill Storry Retirement

Thank You Speech [Transcribed]

After John Hamilton we had Mr. Broadfoot and then came W. D. Main who had been secretary for 33 years and the Club owe a great debt to him as there can be no doubt that he kept the club alive and had it not been for him the club would have been non-est and he was President afterwards for 6 years.

Then came my old friend Jack Duncan who occupied the Chair for 9 years. A grand personality he was and a tremendous lot of work he did for the Club.

After that in 1928 the Presidency was limited to 2 years and then we had:

Thomson Brodie

A.P. Newall

James S. Chrystal

John Sommerville

Allan Duncan

J.A. Burns

James Ledingham

...and our excellent friend James Holmes

All gentlemen of the highest calibre.

However at this juncture I don't wish to enlarge on the history of Ye Cronies. I only mention these names as I have had so many happy recollections of them.

At a later date perhaps with the assistance of my friend James Burns we may be able to give you a resume in pamphlet form of what we know of Ye Cronies.

I have one thing on my mind which I would like to mention in passing - why not have a summer meeting same as we used to have. We don't have any meeting between March and October and I think we lose touch with each other in six or seven months - Listen to this account of one Ladies Day which they had....[read Ladies Day reflections]

Bill Storry Retirement

Thank You Speech [Transcribed]

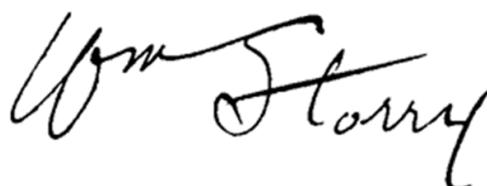
Perhaps Mr. President you and your Committee will consider a summer outing when things become more normal. I think we might do away with colored [sic] wide awakes and foghorns - although some one suggested to me the other day that we had plenty of old foghorns among ourselves. I don't know what he meant but I don't believe it - I consider that our Club talent today is a long way better than it used to be - of course we must admit that we are all getting a bit under the weather now - time marches on - but we are still good and now will be able to judge for yourselves today as we are giving you an entirely Cronie programme.

Well gentlemen I can assure that it is with a full heart that I look at this beautiful salver and most of all at the names that are engraved on it and I really don't know what to say. Anything I have done for the Club has been a real labor of love and with such congenial companions a perfect pleasure and you can be certain that I will cherish this lovely token of your appreciation as long as I live.

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For your kind and flattering remarks Mr. President regarding myself, and for the enthusiasm you gentlemen shall have received them. I really cannot find the words to thank you.

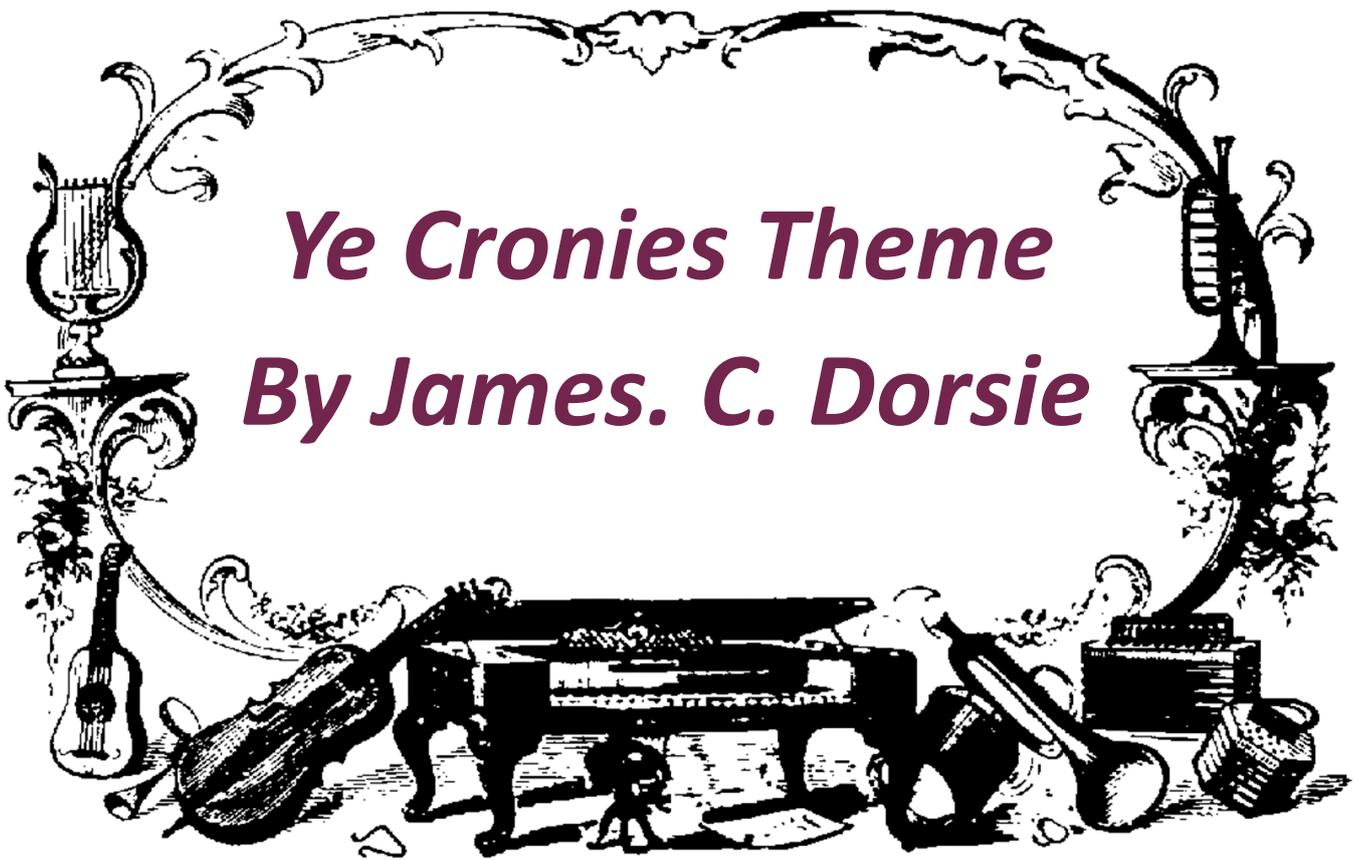
I hope I may be spared to carry on the good work for a little longer yet with of course your permission.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Storry". The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Our Story

Chapter 7

Ye Cronies Theme
By James. C. Dorsie



Ye Cronies Theme

By James C. Dorsie

It may come as a surprise to most members that Ye Cronies have their own 'official' theme tune!

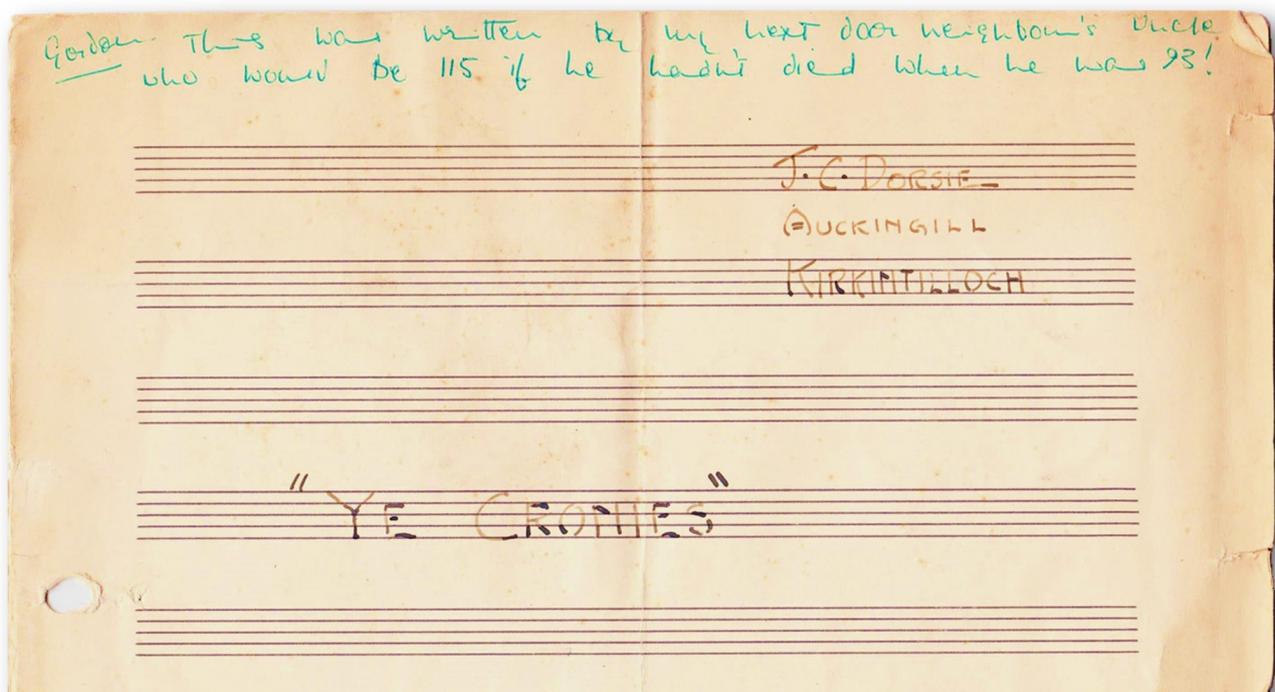
Buried within the Cronies archive is an original manuscript of the "Ye Cronies" anthem, as written by long-time member James C. Dorsie of Auchingill, Kirkintilloch.

Little is known of Dorsie, other than he was a performer at Cronies nights in the late 1930s and early 1940s, served on the Committee between 1947 and 1950 and became an Honorary Member of the Club in 1951.

The first (and sadly last) mention of the anthem being sung was in the meeting minutes of 13th November 1943 where it took the place of "Auld Lang Syne" in ending the night's entertainment.

Dorsie was quite a character, performing various Scots songs, poems and "humorous interludes" at Cronies concerts, he was even brave enough to propose a loosening of the dress code at ordinary events which was quickly dismissed by his peers.

The original manuscript has been scanned over the next few pages and appears to have been passed on by a neighbour of Dorsie's nephew to Past President Gordon Henderson in 1990. The Nephew's notes to Gordon are written in green below:



Ye Cronies Theme

Page 2 of 3

sang and stor-y quick-ly pass The fleet-ing 'boos a ma'. ye

Refrain

Cron--ies, ye Cron--ies, I wad-na miss ye Cron--ies. The wind a ter-ri-ble

blast may blaw, The rain may pell; and the snaw may fa', But I din-na gie a tink-er

curse In a-ma' For a--nith-er nicht at ye Cron--ies ye Cron--ies

Handwritten musical notation includes treble and bass clefs, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and various rhythmic values. The score is divided into sections with lyrics written below the notes. The word 'Refrain' is written above the second system. The piece concludes with a double bar line and a final chord.

Ye Cronies Theme

Page 3 of 3

verses

ad lib

In

ll - ka month the win - ter thro' There comes the glori - ous night. When

I wi kin - dled souls re - new a friendship mer - ry and bright. And

when we're dined and drunk a glass, a glass, or may - be two. Wi'

Ye Cronies Theme

Lyrics

1/ In ilka month the winter thro', There comes a glorious night
When I wi' kindred souls renew A friendship merry and bright
And when we've dined and drunk a glass, A glass - or maybe twa
Wi' sang and story quickly pass, The fleetin' oors awa'

Chorus

Ye Cronies, Ye Cronies
I wudna' miss Ye Cronies
The wind a terrible blast may blaw
The rain may rain and the snaw may snaw
I dinna gie a tinker's curse I'm awa'
For another night wi' Ye Cronies

2/ The days are dull and dark and drear
The nights are blacker yet
But for the time we're gathered here
Let's a' oor cares forget
And when the sangs and tales are done
And doused is ilka licht
Our Committee has frystled the moon
To guide us hame the night.

In ilka month the winter thro'
There comes a glorious day
When I wi' kindred souls renew
A friendship blithe and gay
And when we've fed and drunk a glass
A glass - or maybe twa
Wi' song and story quickly pass
The fleeting hours awa'

The days are dull and dark and drear
The nights are blacker yet
But when we cronies gather here
Oor cares we a' forget soon
And when we join in "Auld Lang Syne"
Wi' a' our nicht and main
We're looking forward to the time
When we'll a' meet again.

Chorus

"Ye Cronies" - "Ye Cronies"
I would na' miss "Ye Cronies"
The wind a terrible blast may blaw
The rain may rain and the snaw may snaw
I dinna' gie a tinker's cuss, I'm awa'
For an afternoon at "Ye Cronies"

Our Story

Chapter 6



Meeting Minutes & Programmes 1943—1946



Meeting Minutes & Programmes

1943 - 1946

Having lost all records of meeting minutes since 1904, it was a huge relief to find that the next volume of records in the Cronies archive more than made up for this shortfall.



W. Kerr Simpson

Covering the Club's meetings from 1943 onwards, Club Secretary William Kerr Simpson not only recorded the committee's discussions, he also minuted the concerts themselves, noting how they were conducted and attaching both menus and concert programmes associated to them.

The practice of recording each concert ended in 1947 as Simpson began transitioning to his successor, W. C. Campbell, but the rich understanding his records brought as to the machinations of the club during the Second World War bring invaluable insight.

It would be a disservice to Simpson's efforts not to present his concert 'reports' in full over the following pages.

These records give as clear a view as we've ever had as to life at a Cronies concert in the first half of the 20th century.

Enjoy!

Concert Minutes

13th November 1943

Minutes of Ordinary Monthly Meeting held within the Grosvenor Restaurant, on 13th November, 1943 at 1p.m.

President Ledingham in the Chair extended a welcome to all present - 66 in all. He remarked upon the change of meeting place, which he thought would prove most successful to all future Meetings.

The President then made fitting reference to the very sad loss of our Honorary Musical Director, Mr. J. Crossland Hirst. Proceeding, the President spoke of the very fortunate position the Club was in, that it had been able to secure the service of a new Member, Mr. Cyril A. Smith. The Meeting acclaimed Mr. Smith with no uncertainty.

As usual, Mr. Wm. Storry provided an excellent "First Night". The Club was indebted to the Following prominent Artists.

Past President Burns in a Humorous interlude.
Miss Ferrier, Soprano.
Mr. Reginal Whitelaw, leader of the Scottish Orchestra, and
Messrs. W.H. McDougall and Cyril A. Smith in Piano Duets.

Before closing the Meeting President Lesingham gave special thanks to Mr. Cyril A. Smith.

The Cronie Hymn concluded the Meeting.

Concert Programme

13th November 1943

Programme.

13. 11. 43

<u>Song</u>	"The Floral Dance"	Mr. H. Findlay
<u>Song</u>	"The Gentle Lark"	Miss Ferris
<u>Violin Solo</u>	"Tageunerweisen" (Paganini)	Mr. Whitehouse <small>Leader Scottish Orchestra</small>
<u>Humorous interlude</u>	—————	ex. voco: J. A. Burns
<u>Song</u>	"Where are you wach"	Mr. Henderson & Son, Tenor
<u>Pianoforte Duet</u>	"Jamfa" (selection)	Miss M. Dougal & Smith
<u>Song</u>	"The Jolly old Cavalier"	Wm. Storry
<u>Song</u>	"Morning" (Speaks)	J. T. Stoddart
<u>Humorous</u>	—————	E. Brown.
<u>Song</u>	"Four Jolly Sailormen"	Mr. A. Lotters
<u>Song</u>	"Wally song" from Tom Jones	Miss Ferris
<u>Violin Solo</u>	"Hejre Kati" (Herby)	Mr. Whitehouse
<u>Accompanist</u>	—————	Mr. Cyril Smith

Concert Minutes

18th December 1943

Minutes of Ordinary Monthly Meeting held within the Grosvenor Restaurant, Glasgow on Saturday, 18th December, 1943 at 1p.m.

A welcome to all present was extended by President Ledingham. The total Members and Guests numbered 75.

During the Meeting, the President explained how he, accompanied by his Vice President and Mr. Simpson, had made their accustomed visit to the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, where they were received by the Matron and introduced to little Chrissie Smith, aged 10 years, who was at that time occupying our cot. The President made a moving appeal for funds which resulted in a record total of £50.

Concert Director Storry submitted a programme of high standard. The Artists taking part included D. Kilpatrick Blair, Mr. J. McInnes, Miss Janette Sclanders and Mr. Peter Templeton entertained with his clever card manipulation.

Concert Programme

18th December 1943

Programme.		
18. 12. 43.		
<u>Xmas Carols</u>		{ Solo W. Stony
<u>Song</u>	<u>'Youth'</u>	" J. Stoddart
<u>Song</u>	<u>'Oh that it were So'</u>	<u>W. K. Simpson</u>
<u>Song</u>	<u>'Nirvana'</u>	<u>Tanette Selanders</u>
<u>Humorous interlude</u>		<u>Andrew Lawson</u>
<u>Song</u>	<u>'Blow Blow thou winter wind'</u>	ex Pres: <u>J. A. Burns</u>
<u>Conjuring entertainment</u>		<u>Jas: Mc Innes</u>
<u>Piano Solo</u>	<u>Ballad (Chopin)</u>	<u>Peter Templeton</u>
<u>Humorous</u>		<u>Cyril Smith</u>
<u>Song</u>	<u>'Kerry Dance'</u>	<u>J. Brown.</u>
<u>At the piano</u>	(See y Balleticist)	<u>Miss Selanders</u>
<u>Song</u>	<u>'Bonnie Mary Stay'</u>	<u>J. Kilpatrick Blair</u>
<u>Accompanist.</u>		<u>J. Stoddart</u>
		<u>Cyril Smith</u>

Menus

1943

13th November 1943



INSTITUTED 1877

DEAD MILK FAIR

GRACE

*Some hae meat and canna eat,
Some wad eat that wadnt it;
But we hae meat and we can eat
And see the Lord be thankit.—Burns.*

Music composed by the late Montague Smith.

MENU

Cream of Celery
Scotch Potato

Dressed Fork Chops, Jardiniere
Baked Potatoes
Brussels Sprouts

Toasted Cheese

Coffee

13th November 1943 **GROSVENOR**

18th December 1943



INSTITUTED 1877

DEAD MILK FAIR

GRACE

*Some hae meat and canna eat,
Some wad eat that wadnt it;
But we hae meat and we can eat
And see the Lord be thankit.—Burns.*

Music composed by the late Montague Smith.

MENU

Cream Marie Stuart
Scotch Lentil

Cold Ham & Turkey
Boiled Potatoes
Peas & Carrots

Toasted Cheese

Coffee

18/12/43.

Concert Minutes

22nd January 1944

Minutes of Ordinary Monthly Meeting held on Saturday, 22nd
January, 1944, within the Grosvenor Restaurant, Glasgow at 1p.m.

The January Meeting was attended by 76 Members and Guests, which the President remarked was most gratifying.

The usual High Standard of entertainment was arranged by Mr. Storry and those present enjoyed listening to their own Member Mr. Horace Fellowes. Miss Jean Stoddart made a welcome reappearance and that evergreen artist Mr. Charles Anderson revived the spirit of Burns.

Ye Cronie Anthem concluded the Meeting.

Concert Programme

22nd January 1944

Programme.

22. 1. 44

<u>Violin Solo</u>	{ A. Caprice Viennoise (Krisler) B. Loves Joy "	<u>Horace Fellows</u>
<u>Song.</u>	"The Lass o' Ballochmyle	<u>J. Stoddart</u>
<u>Song</u>	"The Lute Player	<u>W. Simpson</u> <u>Jean Stoddart</u>
<u>Humorous interlude</u>		<u>C. Dorrie</u>
<u>Song</u>	<u>Shee faro</u>	<u>Miss Surgoner</u>
<u>Reading</u>	<u>Tam o' Shanter</u>	<u>Chas Anderson</u>
<u>Pianoforte Duet</u>	"Fingals Cave" (overture)	<u>Miss McDougal & Smith</u>
<u>Song</u>	"Tomorrow"	<u>A. Letters</u>
<u>Song</u>	"Captain Mac"	<u>Mr. Lawson</u>
<u>Reading</u>		<u>Jean Stoddart</u>
<u>Song</u>	"Homeing"	<u>Miss Surgoner</u>
<u>Humorous</u>		<u>J. Brown</u>
<u>Duet</u>	"O. Wert thou in the cauld Blast"	<u>Stoddart & Letters</u>

accompanist

Cyril Smith

Menus

1944

INSTITUTED *de CROONHEER* 1877



GRACE

*Some hae meat and canna eat,
Some wad eat that want it;
But we hae meat and we can eat
And see the Lord be thankit.—Burns.*

Music composed by the late Montague Smith.

M E N U

Cream of Celery
Broth

—

Mixed Grill
Baked Potatoes
Mashed Turnip

—

Compote of Fruit

—

Coffee

22/1/44

INSTITUTED *de CROONHEER* 1877



GRACE

*Some hae meat and canna eat,
Some wad eat that want it;
But we hae meat and we can eat
And see the Lord be thankit.—Burns.*

Music composed by the late Montague Smith.

M E N U

Cream of Celery
Scotch Broth

—

Dressed Beef Steak
Baked Potatoes
Brussels Sprouts

—

Date Roll

—

Coffee

18/11/44

Concert Minutes

18th March 1944

YE CRONIES.

Minutes of Ordinary Monthly Meeting held on Saturday, 18th March, 1944 within the Grosvenor Restaurant, Glasgow at 1p.m.

The final Meeting of the Session was attended by 77 Members and Guests.

President Ledingham intimated that he was very pleased to inform the Meeting that the Club had been most fortunate in securing the services of Mr. Cyril A. Smith as Honorary Musical Director and the Members were grateful for what he had done during the Session.

A programme of high standard was submitted by Mr. Storry which included Mr. Wm. McCulloch, who has not been heard at our Meetings for a long time. Miss Florence McBride made her re-appearance, and our own Member Mr. A.L. Murdoch accompanied his guest in songs.

Past President Burns asked permission from the Chair to say a few words. This being granted, he spoke of the great work Mr. Ledingham had done during his 2 years in Office. Of course, he remarked a Banker was always an asset. A Toast was called which was received with no uncertainty.

The President in replying said that everyone knew how timid he had been in accepting the high honour paid. His only qualification was his long service - 30 years. The "Job" was not difficult, he said, owing to the great support of his Vice President and Committee. He was glad to leave the Chair with a balanced Budget and appealed to all to uphold the standard of the Club.

The enthusiastic and spirited singing of the Cronie Anthem concluded once again, a most successful Session.

Concert Programme

18th March 1944

Programme 18. 3. 44

<u>Song</u>	<u>Prologue (from Pagliacci)</u>	<u>W^m Storry</u>
<u>Violin Solo</u>		<u>Florence Mac Bride</u>
<u>Humorous</u>		<u>W^m M^c Culloch</u>
<u>Song</u>	<u>"The son of the desert am I"</u>	<u>Mr. Dewar</u> <small>new man for</small>
<u>A few Card Tricks</u>		<u>Peter Templeton</u>
<u>Pianoforte duett</u>	<u>Bohemian Girl</u>	<u>Miss M^c Dougell & Smith</u>
<u>Song</u>	<u>The Snowy Breasted Parrot</u>	<u>Genl. Duncan M^c Pherson</u>
<u>Humorous</u>		<u>J. Brown</u>
<u>Violin Solo</u>		<u>Florence Mac Bride</u>
<u>Humorous</u>		<u>W^m M^c Culloch</u>
<u>Song</u>		<u>J. T. Stoddart</u>
<u>Accompanist</u>		<u>Cyril. A. Smith.</u>

Concert Minutes

19th November 1944

YE CRONIES.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on Saturday 18th November, at 1 o'clock, within the Grosvenor Restaurant.

This was the first Meeting of the Club for Session 1944-45, and was attended by 83 Members and guests, along with 10 Wounded Service Men from Drymen Hospital.

President Holmes, occupying the Chair for the first time extended a hearty welcome to all, and particularly to the "Boys in Blue" whom the Club were proud to have as their guests. Mr. Holmes then called for a Toast which was given in a most enthusiastic manner.

Mr. Storry, as usual, submitted a programme of outstanding merit. Mr. Reginald Whitelaw, leader of the Scottish Orchestra, was appreciated and Miss Swan, Soprano, was in good voice. V. Pres. Macdougall and Mr. Cyril A. Smith delighted the company with piano duets. Mr. A. L. Murdoch, as composer and arranger of delightful old Scots Songs, accompanied his guest the Rev. Duncan McPherson, who sang with great quality and taste.

Before the Meeting closed, Mr. Macdougall called upon Private Hart one of our guests from Drymen. Private Hart, expressed sincere thanks on behalf of "The Boys in Blue", for the wonderful afternoon they had enjoyed at Ye Cronies, and hoped that the next battle to be fought would be on Landsdown Rd. or Murrayfield.

Auld Lang Syne terminated a successful Meeting.

As a Holmes

Concert Programme

19th November 1944

Programme.

<u>Song</u>	" <u>The Lute Plays</u> "	<u>W. K. Simpson</u>
<u>Song</u>	<u>Serenato</u>	<u>T. Torrance.</u>
<u>Violin Solo</u>		<u>Rej: Whitehouse</u>
<u>Song</u>	<u>One fine day</u>	<u>Miss Swan.</u>
<u>Humorous interlude</u>		<u>Jas: Dorsie</u>
<u>Song</u>	<u>In Love</u>	<u>Andrew Lawson</u>
<u>Piano Forte Duet</u>		<u>McDougal + Smith</u>
<u>Song</u>	{ <u>Scotts Song composed by our</u> <u>member - A. L. Murdoch</u> }	<u>Rev: Duncan McPherson</u>
<u>At the piano</u>		<u>D. Kilpatrick Blair</u>
<u>Song.</u>	<u>"Finnickula"</u>	<u>Miss Swan.</u>
<u>Violin Solo</u>		<u>Rej: Whitehouse</u>
<u>Humorous</u>		<u>J. Brown.</u>
<u>Song</u>	<u>"A. Paresui"</u>	<u>J. Stoddart.</u>
<u>Accompanist</u>		<u>Cyril Smith</u>

Concert Minutes

16th December 1944

YE CRONIES.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of Ye Cronies held on Saturday
16th December, 1944 at 12.30p.m. within the Grosvenor Restaurant.

President Holmes occupied the Chair when the attendance was 107 including 10 Wounded Service Men.

During the afternoon Mr. Holmes explained that he had visited the Royal Hospital for Sick Children along with V.P. Macdougall and Mr. Simpson. They had spent a most enjoyable time and were most impressed with what they had seen. The President went on to say how he had talked with a little boy of 8 called Johnny Hood, of Baillieston and had asked him if he had anything to say. The reply was, "If you had been a lady, I would have kissed you". It was later announced that the result of the President's appeal had brought in a total of £53.

Mr. Holmes informed the Meeting that the Hon. Secy. had received a letter from Past President Duncan, presently in Holland, wishing Ye Cronies all the best for 1945.

Representing the "boys in blue", Sgt. Milson thanked all Members of Ye Cronies for the wonderful hospitality they had been given that afternoon, and said they would take back many happy memories.

With the exception of some very clever conjuring by Mr. Lyford, the entire programme was sustained by Members. (This proved very successful.)

Auld Lang Syne terminated the afternoon.

M. Holmes

Concert Programme

20th January 1945

<u>Programme</u>		
<u>20. 1. 45</u>		
<u>Song</u>	" <u>The Bonnie Lass o' Ballochmyle</u> "	<u>Jas Stodart</u>
<u>Song</u>	" <u>The mighty Deep</u> "	<u>Andrew Lettars</u>
<u>Piano Solo</u>	A <u>Berceuse</u> B <u>Polonaise in A flat</u> } <u>Chopin</u>	<u>J. Wight Henderson</u>
<u>Song</u>	" <u>My Lovely Celia</u> "	<u>Rev. Duncan McPherson</u>
<u>Humorous Interlude</u>	_____	<u>C. Archer Mitchell</u>
<u>Reading</u>	" <u>Tam o' Shanter</u> " (Burns)	<u>Chas. Anderson.</u>
<u>Song</u>	<u>Eye fond Kiss</u> (Burns)	<u>Andrew Lawson.</u>
<u>Duet</u>	" <u>Drake is going to sea</u> "	<u>Storry & Brown</u>
<u>a few stories</u>	_____	<u>J. Brown.</u>
<u>Humorous</u>	_____	<u>C. Archer Mitchell</u>
<u>Entertainment</u>	_____	<u>Jas Stoddart.</u>
<u>Accompanist</u>	_____	<u>Cyril Smith</u>

Concert Minutes

20th January 1945

YE CRONIES.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on Saturday, 20th January, 1945,
within the Grosvenor Restaurant, at 12.30p.m.

The third Meeting of the Club was held on Saturday, 20th January, 1945 and was attended by 81 Members and friends. Also present were 10 wounded men from Mearns Kirk Hospital to whom President Holmes extended the usual Cronie welcome.

The programme submitted by Mr. Storry was well up to the usual high standard of entertainment, ~~the~~ Club being most fortunate in having with them Mr. J. Wright Henderson who delighted everyone with his brilliant piano solos. Mr. C. Archer Mitchell was as usual in good form. Once again the Club heard Mr. Chas. Anderson, the reader, in his rendering of Tam O'Shanter.

Before the Meeting closed, Lieut. Birnie expressed sincere thanks on behalf of the 'boys' for a wonderful afternoon.

The singing of Auld Lang Syne terminated the Meeting.

Mr. A. Holmes

Concert Minutes

24th March 1945

YE CRONIES.

Minutes of Monthly Meeting held on Saturday, 24th March, 1945
within the Gresvenor Restaurant, at 12.30p.m.

This was the final Meeting of the Session and was attended by 102 Members and Guests along with 10 Wounded Servicemen from Drymen Hospital, who were warily made welcome by the President.

During the afternoon President Holmes thanked the Gresvenor Management for their attention and the help given by Mr. Simpson and Mr. Sterry. He also put on record thanks to Mr. A.K. Stevenson (Member) for organising the transport of the men who had attended the Meetings.

Mr. Sterry once again submitted a programme of high merit. Miss Florence McBride, Violinist, delighted the Members with her playing as did Mr. Alan Montgomerie, tenor, with his singing. Mr. Elliot Dobbies songs were much appreciated. Mr. Scott Russell of London gave some delightful readings. V.P. Macdougall and Mr. Cyril Russell were in "strong" tempo at the piano.

Sgt. Mair, made suitable thanks to the Members for the hospitality extended to them.

Mr. Stanley D. Newton proposed a toast to the Chair, remarking that the Club had been steered through the past year by a good "skipper" and complimented the President on the success of his first year of Office. Mr. Holmes said how much he had enjoyed being "skipper" during last year.

The singing of Auld Lang Syne brought another memorable year to a close.

W. A. Holmes

Menus

1945



GRACE

*Some hae meat and canna eat,
Some wad eat that wad it;
But we hae meat and we can eat
And sae the Lord be thankit.—Burns.*

Music composed by the late Montague Smith.

M E N U

Cream of Beans
Sheepshead Broth

Chicken Leg in Casserole & Sausage
Baked Potatoes
Cabbage

Rhubarb & Custard

Coffee

24/3/45.



GRACE

*Some hae meat and canna eat,
Some wad eat that wad it;
But we hae meat and we can eat
And sae the Lord be thankit.—Burns.*

Music composed by the late Montague Smith.

M E N U

Scotch Potato

Cold Tongue & Galantine
Baked Potatoes
Peas & Carrots

Christmas Pudding

Coffee

P.T.O.

-12/45

Concert Minutes

10th November 1945

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on 10th November, 1945 at 10'clock within the Grosvenor Restaurant, Glasgow.

President Holmes occupied the Chair in his second year of Office. There were 60 Members and Guests present.

Before Luncheon, The President congratulated the "Choir" in their beautiful rendering of "The Grace".

Mr. Storry again submitted a programme of high standard.

Outstanding among many Artists were Mr. Reginald Whitehouse who delighted everyone in his Violin Solos. Mr. McInnes, Bass, made another welcome appearance as also did Miss Surgeon, Contralto.

During the Afternoon President Holmes referred to the presence of Ex.-President Col. Alan Duncan, whom he remarked, had been spared to come back amongst "Ye Cronies". Col. Duncan in brief remarks said how thrilled he was to be again seated beside so many old friends, and how proud he was to find that "Ye Cronies" had been able and determined to carry on during the years of war. Before closing the Meeting, President Holmes remembered those present that the December Meeting would be an outstanding one in the history of the Club, when Mr. Storry would receive a presentation to mark the appreciation of Members, for his great service to Ye Cronies. He predicted that there would be a "bumper" attendance.

The singing of Auld Lang Syne brought the first Meeting to a close in the usual Cronie manner.

W. A. Holmes

Concert Minutes

22nd December 1945

Minuted of Ordinary Meeting held within the Grosvenor Restaurant, Glasgow on Saturday 22nd December, 1945 at 10 o'clock.

This was the second Ordinary Meeting of the Club for the Session and was attended by 120 Members and guests.

As customary at this Meeting the President made moving appeal on behalf of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, and described how he and V.P. Macdougall had paid a visit to the Hospital and after being received by the Matron was introduced to little Janet Buchanan at that time occupying "Ye Cronies" Cot. Later Pres. Holmes intimated how proud he felt to be informed that his appeal had brought forth the magnificent sum of £ 101:17:6d. He thanked all most sincerely.

The programme on this occasion was fully sustained by Members only and it was obvious that there was no lack of talent among Members.

This Meeting marked a very important milestone in the history of Ye Cronies in so far that the Members had thought fit to recognise the long and unfailing services given to the Club by Mr. Wm. Storry. The following is a verbatim report of President Holmes remarks upon the Presentation to Mr. Storry.

Fellow Cronies: I count it a great privilege and it also gives me much personal pleasure to be called on this afternoon, only once before in our Club's history. You all know that the Club, after many years' service as Hon. Musical Director, have decided at last to recognise Mr. Storry's services in a tangible form. When the matter was first put before me as your President I replied that so far as I was concerned I considered it a remarkably good idea, and indeed that such recognition was long overdue. Your Committee unanimously agreed that such recognition should take place, and the ready response of the Members has been very, very gratifying indeed to the Committee appointed to look after these matters.

With the active and intimate co-operation of an old Cronie, Willie Steel, we have been able to present Mr. Storry with this handsome silver tray, inscribed on the back with the inscription which you see at the back of your menu cards and, on the face, surrounding our crest, a copy of the subscribers' signature.

Willie steel also asked to be allowed to include, as his contribution, this very handsome silk bag for Mrs. Storry. I think it right that you should know that although Willie Steel has resigned from the Club for health reasons, he is a very faithful adherent of "Ye Cronies" and the ideals that they stand for.

Now, to come to my immediate duty this afternoon: Bill Storry joined "Ye Cronies" in 1905 - 40 years ago - and a few short months after that was appointed to his present position as Hon. Concert Director. He has therefore produced for our enjoyment well over 200 musical entertainments, which shows clearly in the first place how fortunate the Club have been in having Bill Storry to look after this department, and also what a vast circle of musical friends Bill Storry has been able to call on to maintain the high standard of our entertainments.

I feel that Bill Storry has merited a well-earned rest, though I also fail to see how we can do without him, but I hope he has somebody in mind to act as his assistant and successor.

Concert Programme

22nd December 1945

<u>PROGRAMME.</u>	
	<i>Cyril Hunt</i> ✓
Song	..... <u>J. Stoddart.</u> ✓
✓ Song	..... <u>Miss McMillan.</u> ✓
Humorous	..... <u>J. Brown.</u>
xx Piano	..... <u>J. Wight Henderson.</u> ✓
at the Piano	..... <u>Miss Peggy Maxwell.</u>
Song	..... <i>John</i> <u>McPherson.</u> →
Humorous	..... <u>J. Dorsie.</u>
Song	..... <u>A. Lawson.</u>
Duet	..... ✓ <u>Miss McMillan & Torrance.</u>
Piano	..... <u>J. Wight Henderson.</u>
at the Piano	..... <u>Miss Peggy Maxwell.</u>
<i>Accompanist</i> -	<u><i>Mr. Cyril Hunt</i></u>
TEA INTERVAL	3.45p.m.

Concert Programme

26th January 1946

Minutes of Ordinary Meeting held on January, 26th, 1946
within the Grosvenor Restaurant, Glasgow at 1 o'clock.

President Holmes occupied the Chair and the Meeting was attended by 90 Members and friends. The Club also extended hospitality to Ten wounded men from the Mearnskirck Hospital. It was regretted that V.P. Macdougall was absent through illness.

In keeping with the time of year, the programme was properly seasoned with a good sprinkling of Scottish flavour and again the Club welcomed Mr. Charles Anderson in his wonderful rendering of Tam O' Shanter (in its entirety). Mr. D.K. Blair delighted the company with his musical trio in vocal and musical selection. Other Members of the Club sustained a programme of high merit.

Before concluding, Lt. Commander Nicholson, on behalf of the wounded men said how much they have enjoyed themselves this afternoon and expressed sincere appreciation. He further remarked that it was the first occasion upon which he has tasted Haggis and how pleased he was to state that he was still alive.

The singing of Auld Lang Syne concluded a most enjoyable afternoon.

Menu

1946

INSTITUTED *1877* 1877



GRACE

*Some hae meat and canna eat,
Some wad eat that wadn't it;
But we hae meat and we can eat
And see the Lord be thankit.—Burns.*

Music composed by the late Montague Smith.

M E N U

Haggis
Mashed Potatoes
Mashed Turnip

Grilled Chicken Leg & Sausage
Roast Potatoes
Cabbage

Coupe Florida

Coffee

22/1/46

INSTITUTED *1877* 1877



GRACE

*Some hae meat and canna eat,
Some wad eat that wadn't it;
But we hae meat and we can eat
And see the Lord be thankit.—Burns.*

Music composed by the late Montague Smith.

M E N U

Cream of Leeks
Brown Turkey

Grilled Halibut
Mashed Potatoes
Cauliflower au Gratin

Scotch Trifle

Coffee

20/3/46

Concert Programme

2nd March 1946

Minutes of Ladies Afternoon Meeting held on 2nd March, 1946
with-in the Grosvenor Restaurant, Glasgow at 1 o'clock.

President Holmes accompanied by Mrs. Holmes and friends occupied the top table, the Meeting being attended by 200 Members and Guests.

This Meeting was held within the Grosvenor Banqueting Hall and with the presence of our Lady friends, was gay in colour and cheerfulness.

President Holmes extended a most sincere and hearty welcome to "The Ladies" and remarked how much Ye Cronies appreciated their presence. He spoke of the great and growing need for young women to come forward and take up the Nursing profession. This had struck him very forcibly when visiting the Sick Childrens Hospital last December.

Mrs. Alan Duncan, wife of past President Duncan, made a neat and witty reply on behalf of the Ladies and said how warmly they all felt towards Ye Cronies.

A Programme of high merit was submitted by Mr. Storry, who unfortunately was presently in a Nursing Home. Outstanding was the well known Glasgow Pianist J. Wight Henderson who displayed remarkable talent and artistry.

During the Afternoon, President Holmes intimated that they had all missed the presence of Bill Storry but he was glad to say Mr. Storry was making good progress and suggested that a gift of flowers from the table be sent to his sick room.

Another memorable Ladies Afternoon was concluded in the singing of Auld Lang Syne.

Concert Programme

30th March 1946

Minutes of final Ordinary Meeting held on Saturday 30th March, 1946 with the Grosvenor Restaurant, Glasgow at 10'clock.

President Holmes presided over the Meeting attended by 78 Members and Guests along with 10 wounded men from Mearns Kirk Hospital.

In the absence of Mr. Storry, whom the President was pleased to state was now at his home and much better, Mr. A.L. Murdoch acted as Concert Director. Among the Artists at this Meeting, Miss Florence McBride made another welcome appearance and was in brilliant form.

Before the Meeting closed, Mr. Murdoch asked to be allowed to pay a debt on behalf of Ye Cronies in remarking how Mr. Holmes had carried out his duties in these past two years. He had filled his position with dignity and grace and on behalf of his fellow Members congratulated the President most sincerely.

In reply, Mr. Holmes said he had great heartburning at laying down the Mallet, but the work had been easy through the great help and friendship of his Vice President and other Officers of his Ship. He paid tribute and thanks to the Grosvenor Management for all that had been done to make the Meetings successful and hoped that the Meetings might be held in our old quarters next Session.

Club Notice

5th October 1946

W. KERR SIMPSON
HON. SECRETARY & TREASURER

TELEPHONE
DOUGLAS 4181 (2 LINES)



Instituted 1877

132 WEST REGENT STREET
GLASGOW. C.2

5th October, 1946.

Dear Sir,

Session 1946-1947.

I have pleasure in informing you that the Annual General Meeting of Ye Cronies will be held on Thursday, 17th inst. within the Grosvenor Restaurant, at 6 p.m. for 6.30 p.m. prompt. Please advise me per return whether you intend being present or not.

This Meeting is confined to Members only.

Resignations and change of address must be intimated to me immediately.

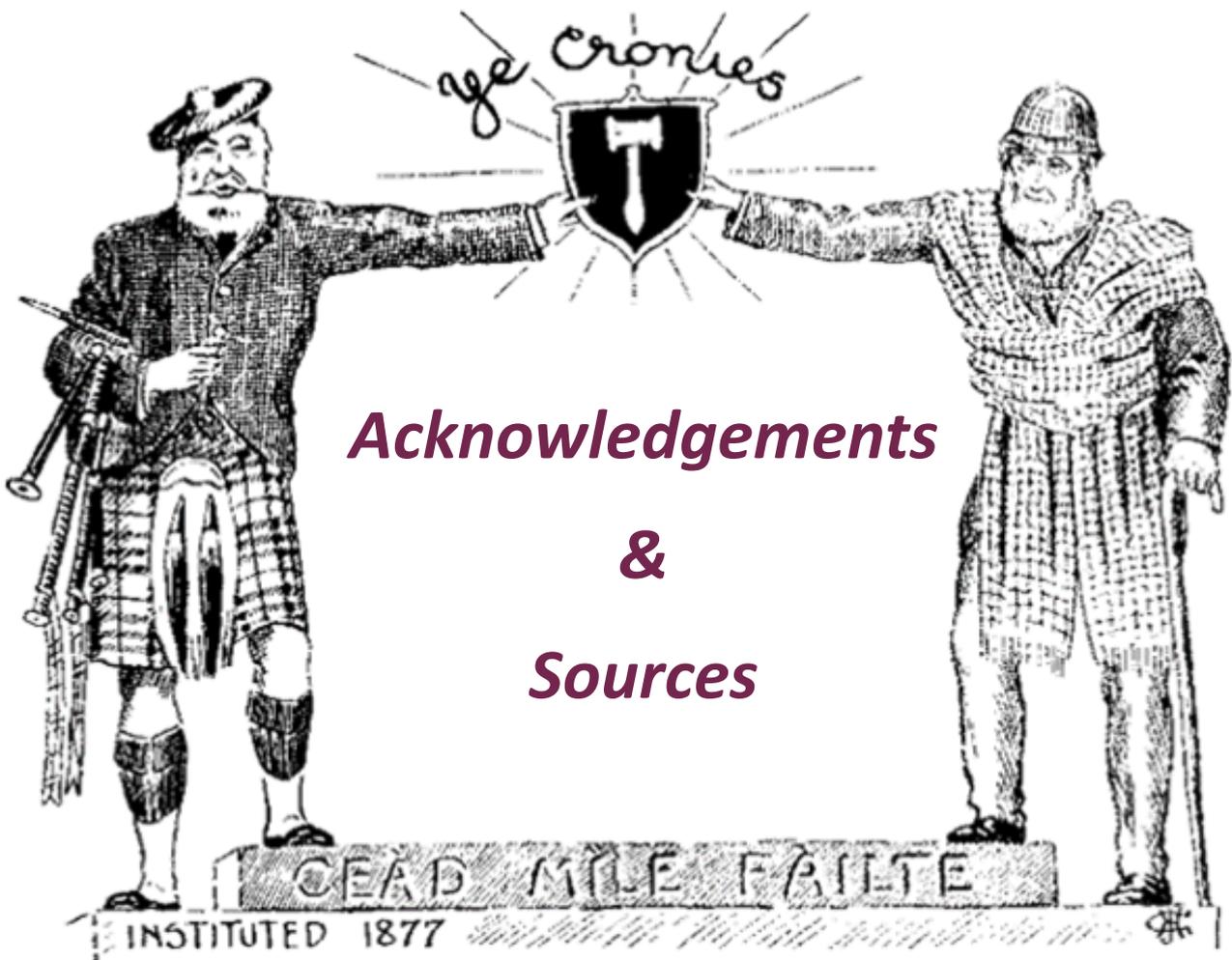
Your Committee regret that it has been impossible to arrange Meetings at St. Enoch Hotel this year owing to these rooms not being yet available, and therefore the Club will meet in the usual Grosvenor Suite on the upper floor.

I have also to inform you that the price of Dinner Checks this Session will be 10/6d per person.

The undernoted dates have been arranged with the Grosvenor Management and I shall be obliged by your making a note of same. You will observe that the Ladies Meeting is being held again on a Saturday afternoon. It was decided in Committee that owing to the Grosvenor Management being unable to provide for a proper Dinner and Dance the above arrangements should stand.

Our Story

Chapter 8



Acknowledgements

&

Sources

Acknowledgements

Volume Three

Special Thanks to the following contributors

Alan Baxter

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David Black

*

Alistair Cameron

*

Sharon Kirk

*

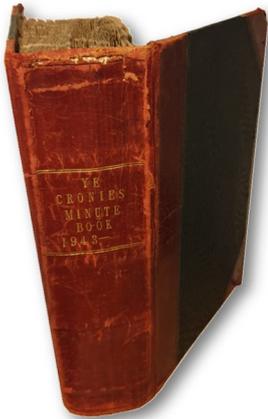
Ancestry.co.uk

Without their support and access to additional materials this publication would be far less informed than it is.

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Volume Three

Thanks to Club Secretaries Arthur Moffat, E. E. Crooks, and William Kerr Simpson, the following original records were used to provide the bulk of material presented in this volume:

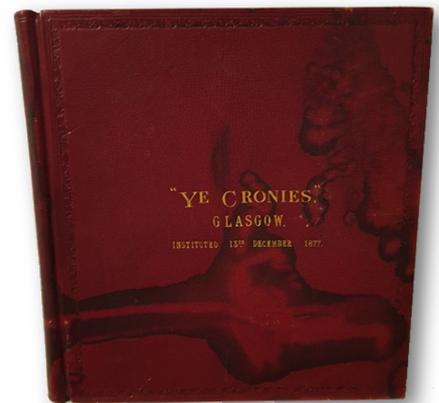


Ye Cronies Minute Book

Minutes of Committee and Concert meetings between 14th October 1943 and 28th October 1976.

Ye Cronies Members Sign-In Register

A page representing each concert held, with signatures of all members in attendance. Dating from 29th January 1933 onwards.



Ye Cronies Album Vol. 3

A photo album of members from 1930 onwards.

Ye Cronies Guest Books

Register of all guests of members who attended a Ye Cronies event between 1906 and 1979.



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Additional information has been gathered from external sources to provide both context and insight into the individuals concerned.

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Kathleen Ferrier

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Further Information

Volume Three

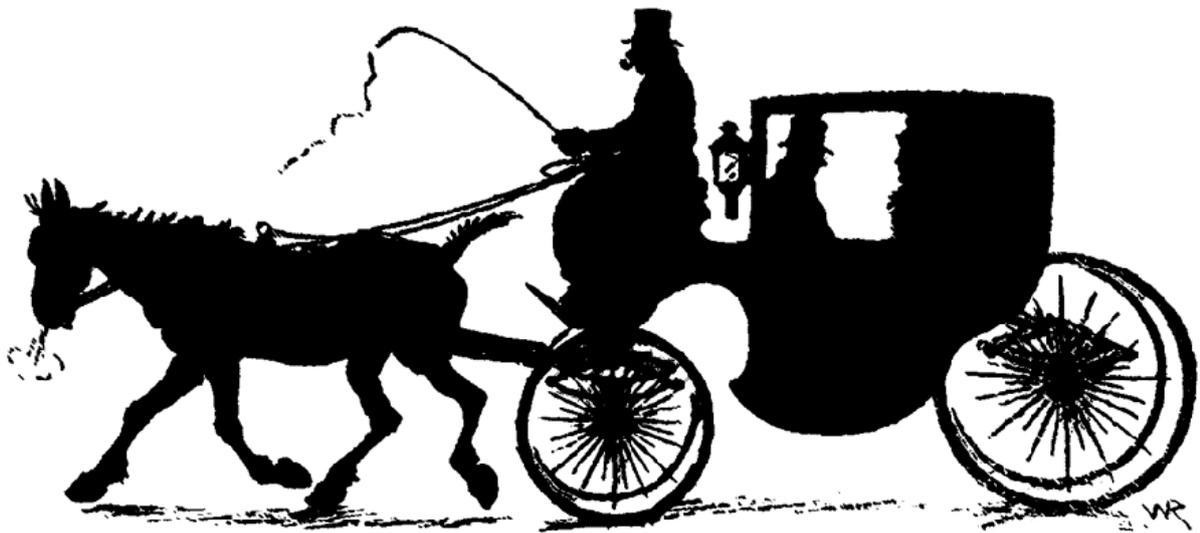


**Our knowledge of Ye Cronies history
is continually evolving.**

**Should you have any additional information
you think would enhance this volume
(or future time periods)
we would welcome your contribution.**

**For further details, please contact
The Club Secretary by the following email:**

yecronies@outlook.com



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