



K&ABC Newsletter

A Resource for the Community

Volume 1, Issue 5

Summer 2008

Bill Flett Photographer and Friend

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Coronation: Bill immortalises Shona Gardner in the regalia of Cellardyke Sea Queen.

Salvation: opposite, another launch for RNLI Anstruther life-boat The Doctors.

This edition features just some of the photographs taken by Bill and now in the burgh collection. They are a reminder of the many successful exhibitions in which he generously shared his large and historic collection.

Contact the Newsletter:
Glenn Jones, Editor
01333 310881/311251

The passing of K&ABC life member Bill Flett marks the end of an era in photojournalism in the East Neuk. Christine Keay has contributed a most fitting tribute to the creator of our now and future heritage.

With the passing of Bill Flett, the burgh has lost one of its few remaining characters. A native of Cellardyke, Bill and his camera recorded the many and various aspects of life in the East Neuk for DC Thomson & Co for over 30 years. Prior to that, his career was concerned with the moving image: my own earliest recollections of Bill are in the projection room of the regal cinema, and he remained interested in cinema history throughout his life.

Bill was a fixture in so many places: the lifeboat shed, where he gave sterling service as press officer for so many years; Stagecoach buses (maybe there could be a Bill Flett memorial seat on the St Andrews route) and latterly the fisheries museum café, where he found friends, conversation, tea



and cakes. Whenever Bill was in the company, there was bound to be laughter: he had a ready wit, a great sense of humour and a fund of hilarious stories about local characters.

Bill's friendly manner put subjects from all walks of life at ease; the result was always a good photograph. He was equally talented as a landscape photographer – my homesickness during 30 years in the south of England was often alleviated by the arrival of wonderful pictures of the sea in all its moods captured by Bill: storms, lashing waves, moonlight on calm waters, ethereal vistas of the May Island rising out of the haar.



Recreation : Bill's photo of model yachts at Cellardyke Pond captures the skills of the makers, the enthusiasm of the children and the popularity of the event. Does anyone recognise the participants? Or know the year?

A devoted son, loyal friend and talented photographer, Bill overcame adversity in the shape of ill-health with good-humoured determination, and it is a great consolation that he was able to be out and about to the end. In his thousands of photographs, he has left a wonderful legacy and an unparalleled social record: a tribute to a full and productive life. How we shall miss him.



A young Bill with Regal Cinema manager, Jack Harrower, father of Christine Keay.

Our heritage preserved: the legacy of Bill Flett

Education: honorary life member Dibby Greig donates the Waid School flag to Rector Tom Watson. Holding the flag are Head Boy Graham Hughes, Head Girl Fay Tarvet, and their deputies, whose names the editor has, to his shame, forgotten. Can anyone jog his memory? Above right, **Celebration,**

with the Cel-



lardyke Sea Queen Ceremony, now sadly just history. The Attendant behind the Sea Queen is Morag Mackenzie, but can anyone name some of the others?

And finally, **Devastation:** the demise of Chalmer's Church.



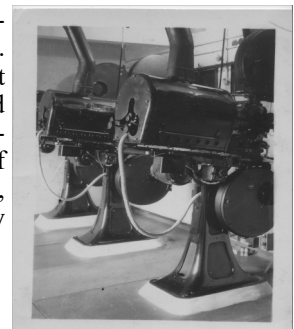
This Edition's Mystery Objects



This object was associated with Bill Flett for many years. What is it, and what is its other historical significance? It is now part of the Burgh collection.

These objects ap-

pear to have some military significance. However, they are part of Bill's early life, and helped to bring happiness to thousands of people. What are they, and where were they situated?



What's in a Photo? Preserving your own Photographs

Pam Cranston offers some final advice on preserving your precious photographs

Keep your photos in cool, dry, dark conditions, such as a cupboard or chest. Avoid attics, damp cellars, radiators and near-by chemicals and solvents. Choose archivally-sound enclosures and plastics, such as polyester, and paper envelopes of high quality, which should be unbuffered, seamless and without flaps.

Albums can be ideal showcases for best prints and will protect from light and other environmental damage if in good condition and quality.

Handle with great care, with clean hands, Acids, moulds, food & drug residues are lurking, and lethal. A photograph is a many-layered chemical sandwich and will degrade with time. Only careful handling and storage will slow the process.