Souvenir Programme



MAUCHLINE

Coronation Week

Tune 1 - 7, 1953

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MAUCHLINE

AUCHLINE is one of those fortunate places which, while having many of the residential amenities and economic advantages of an urban area, retain their rural character and attractions. As early as 1510, Mauchline was created a burgh of barony and had market and fair rights. Since then the farmlands of the district, originally marginal land, have been much developed and in Mauchline itself considerable industry, some of it allied to agriculture, has been established; but, even now, Mauchline is more often termed a village rather than a town. The nearest towns are Ayr, the county town, eleven miles to the south-west at the mouth of the Ayr on the Firth of Clyde; Kilmarnock, nine miles north-west; and Cumnock, seven miles south-east. Mauchline itself has a population of approximately 3,400, which is nearly double what it was at the beginning of the century. The increase is largely due to the industrial expansion which has taken place in the last two or three decades and which promises still further increase and expansion in the next few years. There has already been considerable housing development and, at the time of writing, a hundred new houses are in course of erection.

In addition to the resident population, large numbers of visitors come to Mauchline each year, for it is situated in the very heart of the Burns country, the local associations with this most famous of all Scottish poets and the personalities of his poems being so important that Mauchline was chosen as the

site of the National Burns Memorial.

Bus services, operated by the Western S.M.T. Co. Ltd., link Mauchline with Glasgow, Dumfries, Avr. Kilmarnock, Cumnock, Muirkirk and the intermediate villages,

By rail, Mauchline is easily accessible for it lies on the main London-Carlisle-Dumfries-Glasgow line of British Railways. One of the most striking features in the district is the huge railways viaduct at Ballochmyle, just over a mile south of Mauchline station. This viaduct crosses the River Ayr at a height of 180 feet and has a span of 175 feet for its main arch. The glen below it is a favourable haunt of picnickers.

To the east of the viaduct, the Ayr is crossed by Howford Bridge, where there are charming views. From here the road climbs up the slope on which Mauchline has been built about a mile from the river. Further up, about a quarter of a mile beyond the main crossroads, stands the landmark tower of the National Burns Memorial, from the summit of which is a fine view. There are good views, too, from the top of Mauchline Hill, 641 feet above sea-level, while to the north-east are the hills on the county boundary with Lanarkshire rising at Wedder Hill to 1,410 feet above sea-level and at Distinkhorn to 1,258 feet.

INDUSTRIAL PROGRESS

Formerly, the most characteristic industry of Mauchline was the manufacture of fancy wooden boxes, painted with the tartans of Scottish clans, but this ceased well within the present century. Also of importance were the red stand-stone quarries, which supplied material for some noteworthy buildings in the West of Scotland, but they no longer employ much local labour. The making of curling stones is still, however, a unique local industry.

Closely associated with the highly cultivated farmlands around the town, which support large and, in some cases, famous herds of dairy cattle, are such local industries as agricultural implement works, corn-milling, and the manufacture of milk-powder, but the former creamery has been transformed into a large optical factory. The largest industry, much developed in the last quarter of a century, is now coal-mining.

MOSSGIEL AND ROBERT BURNS

Mauchline is chiefly notable for its close associations with Scotland's greatest poet, Robert Burns, who, after having lived on his parents' farm, Lochlea, from 1777, moved in 1784 some two miles nearer to Mauchline to set up farming at Mossgiel with his brother, Gilbert. Mossgiel is about a mile north-west of the village, in an elevated position which makes it easily seen from a good distance around. Here the farmer-poet lived until his marriage in 1788, but his brother stayed on for about ten or twelve years longer.

The period of Burns' residence at Mossgiel was the flowering time of his genuis, when much of his greatest work was done; and in Mauchline and its neighbourhood he found most of the scenes and persons immortalised in his writings. Of his poems, To a Mouse, To a Mountain Daisy, Holy Wilkie's Prayer, The Holy Fair, Address to the Unco Guid, The Jolly Beggars and The Cottar's Saturday Night are among the better-known verses composed while he lived at Mossgiel. It was in these years that Burns, already known as a local bard, laid the foundation of his wide and lasting fame by the publication of the "Kilmarnock" edition of his poems. In Mauchline, too, he met Jean Armour to whom, on 3rd August, 1788, he was married in the house of his friend, Gavin Hamilton, the lawyer.

It was in No. 2 Castle Street that Burns and his bride took rooms in 1788, before removing to the farm at Nithsdale, Ellisland (near Dumfries). The house in Castle Street is now known as Burns' House and is marked by a tablet. Inside is an interesting museum, open on week-days from ten o'clock until seven, admission 3d. Of Jean Armour's girlhood home in Cowgate only the site remains, but the Jean

Armour Homes in Castle Street have been founded in her memory.

At the top of the village stands the National Burns Memorial, a prominent red tower erected by public subscription, together with the adjacent almshouses, in 1898. Inside is another Burns Museum (open week-days).

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The above Committee wish to express their thanks to the Public of Mauchline and also to all Local Organisations for their help, Financial and otherwise, which they have so generously given.

Official Program

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exposing to celebrate the Coronation of He

MONDAY, 1st JUNE

Grand 'Go As You Please' Competition

IN THE OLD CHURCH HALL. Doors open at 7 p.m. Comm. 7.30 p.m. CLASSES FOR VOCALISTS, INSTRUMENTALISTS AND CHILDREN. 3 Prizes in each Class. 1st Prize value 30/-; 2nd Prize value 20/-; 3rd Prize value 10/-. Admission—Adults 1/-, Children 6d. Confined to Local Competitors.

TUESDAY, 2nd JUNE-Coronation Day

10 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. (approx.). FOR THE OLD FOLKS.

The Coronation Ceremonial Televised IN THE OLD CHURCH HALL AND TOWN HALL. Teas will be served free of charge. (Conveyances will collect Old Folks at their homes from 9 a.m.)

3.30 p.m. (approx.)-Children's Sports at Beechgrove Park

Children to assemble in Sports Field. (Each Child will receive Eatables, Ice Cream and Lemonade free of charge.)

10 p.m. (Organised by Local Boy Scout Group.)-

Bonfire and Rocket Display at Hilltop

WEDNESDAY, 3rd JUNE 6.30 p.m.—AT BEECHGROVE PARK.

'5-A-Side' Football

(Semi-Finals and Final on Saturday, 6th June.) First Prize value £5. Second Prize value £2 10/- (per team).

7.30 p.m.-IN BEECHGROVE PARK.

Firefighting Display by Members of Local Fire Service 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.—IN TOWN HALL.

Old Time Dance

Admission 1/6d. (Ices and Soft Drinks supplied free during Dance).

THURSDAY, 4th JUNE

5 p.m .- FOR THE OLD FOLKS. IN THE OLD CHURCH HALL.

Treat and Concert Party (Conveyances will collect Old Folks at their homes from 4 p.m.)

God Save The

ion and Gala Day Committee 🕿

gramme of Events

on of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth

THURSDAY, 4th JUNE, (continued). 6.30 p.m. AT BEECHGROVE PARK. 5-A-Side 'Football (continued)

FRIDAY, 5th JUNE

10/-.

ream

Prize

Model Aeronautic Display

7.30 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. (approx.). IN BEECHGROVE PARK by Members of Ballochmyle Model Club.

Modern Dance

10 p.m. to 2 a.m. In TOWN HALL. Admission 1/6d. (Ices and Soft Drinks supplied free of charge during Dance).

SATURDAY, 6th JUNE

Fancy Dress Parade, Gala and Sports Day

1.30 p.m. (approx.). IN BEECHGROVE PARK (Parade Assemble, School Playground at 1 p.m.)

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Selections will be played during afternoon by Kilmarnock S.M.T. Pipe Band and Dunaskin Coal Board Brass Band.

Dancing Displays by Troupe of Local Dancers.

Children will receive Eatables, Ice Cream and Lemonade free of charge.

SUNDAY, 7th JUNE

12 noon. IN MAUCHLINE OLD CHURCH.

Church Parade and Parish Service

Service to be conducted by the Rev. J. C. GLENNIE, M.A., and the Rev. ALLAN STEWART. PARADE OF LOCAL ORGANISATIONS. Meet at School Playground at 11.30 a.m. Parade will be headed by DUNASKIN COAL BOARD BRASS BAND.

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