

and helpful - Reid Ross
 Many of those included are present or recent residents, and it may be that in future years, new names will appear to join them. It is hoped that, at the moment, nobody has felt the need to ask, "an' what's that?" This booklet has been produced to render the question superfluous, and we hope that you find it interesting.



'DERVAL FOWK' PLANTER PROJECT GUIDE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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There were many people involved in the long process from the time of the grant application to the filling of the planters. Worthy of special mention are; Les Pittams, Neil McKenna (EAC Community Investment Officer), Reid Ross and Ishbel Morton for help with the grant application and compilation of this brochure. Aaron Catterick of David Ogilvie Engineering. From East Ayrshire Council, Lynn Smith, Keith Stewart Sam McVie and Nick Kelly were all very helpful along the way.

The people named on the planters were all voted for by the people of Darvel, and we hope that this brochure will help put faces to some of the names, and show why they were so highly thought of.

We hope that the planters may help to brighten up our town for many years to come.

Hugh Morton, Project Co-ordinator



Jimmy Donald

James Hailstones Donald, widely known as Jimmy, was born in Galston in 1929, one of his parents' eight children. His father was the signalman at Galston station and they lived in the Railway House in Duke Street.

As a teenager, he sold rolls from a barrow around the doors before school in the morning – an early indication of a fearsome work ethic, and a keen entrepreneurial spirit.

National Military Service found him in the R.E.M.E., where unusually he reached the rank of sergeant, surely reflecting a talent for his later trade. The first step was to qualify as an electrician and he served his time with Hannah in Newmilns.

The business of J.H. Donald was started in 1952 with a loan of £200. It began life in a hut behind Tommy Black, the ironmonger, in Galston. By the late sixties he was employing about 20 people, finding work in the local lace factories. Retailing was the next move and gradually shops were opened in Darvel, Galston, Hurlford, Kilmarnock, Girvan, Ayr & Irvine - at its peak around 70 were employed. TV relay systems were new, and Jimmy put this early cable TV into Galston, Girvan, Dreghorn, Kirkconnell & Ullapool.

Retailing activity was refined by the creation of a Scottish buying group with four other retailers, the group gradually enlarged by amalgamation- Euronic was formed.

Jimmy's company was endlessly generous in his sponsorship of local events, and in the provision of prizes to Ayrshire charities over more than 60 years.



Frank Donnelly

Frank has spent almost his entire life in Darvel. He was a pupil of Darvel School, emerging as Dux in 1952, and receiving the first Fleming Medal from Sir Alexander in person.

His teaching career was spent almost wholly at Kilmarnock Academy, a rare example of a former pupil who finished his time as Rector.

After 20 years in that demanding role, he turned his energy and attention to the service of his native town, which by 1997 was suffering from the final collapse of its weaving industry.

Volunteer work as a Community Councillor as its Vice Chair continues in 2017 after some 17 years of service. Other avenues to local renewal are also supported; as a Director of Loudoun Valley Trust and Darvel Improvement Group, Frank seeks out ways to enhance local life. He was editor of, and contributor to the Irvine Valley Advertiser for 12 years, and captain of Loudoun Gowf Club in 2004.

Particular emphasis among his interests is given to local heritage, (he is chair of DIG's Heritage Committee) and he celebrates it in a small museum of local life and history which is his work alone.

Recognition of all this effort came in the shape of his appointment as Depute Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire, alongside even more community work in that role.



Max Flemmich MBE

Max was born in Bolton in 1941. He joined GPO telephones in 1957 as a telephone engineer. He married Gill in 1964 and lived in Dumfries for 10 years after a permanent transfer to Scotland with BT. Max and Gill moved to Darvel in 1974 and shortly after, Max joined Darvel and District Community Council, beginning a long and enthusiastic involvement with the people and organisations of Darvel.

His work in the Community Council can be summarised as - 25 years' service with Crime Prevention Panel, Irvine Valley Minibus scheme, and some years on Kilmarnock & Loudoun Safety Committee. The range of his contribution to local life through membership and chairmanship of the Community Council is enormous- undertaking a Youth Club scheme, involvement in the starting of a skateboard track at the sports centre, helping put together "Superteam" events for senior citizens, organisation of Darvel Gala Day, and local organiser of the annual Poppy Day Appeal and Remembrance Sunday events.

Primarily, Max's interest, a consuming one, has been the creation of Darvel Telephone Museum with a range of artefacts likely to impress the most knowledgeable visitor. "100 Years of the Telephone" has been featured in the national press and television, so impressive is the collection.

Max was awarded the M.B.E. for services to the community, receiving his honour from the Queen at Buckingham Palace.



Archie Frame

Archie was born in Darvel on 3rd April 1923. He went to school there, and his abiding memory is of his developing passion for football, a daily occurrence in the playground and streets. Another memory is of skating from the frozen pond above the school all the way to his home in West Main Street on the frozen snow on the vehicle free roads. Strathallan School, where he completed his education, added rugby to his sporting interests. Tennis, however, allowed him success, becoming Strathallan's tennis champion and earning a Scottish Cup badge with Darvel Gowanbank tennis team in the 1950s.

On leaving school he joined the family business of A. Frame Ltd, jacquard card cutters for the lace trade, before joining the RAF in 1942. He trained in aero engine maintenance, serving two years in the UK then a further two and a half years in Egypt. While there he played football for the station team, rubbing shoulders with Harry Johnston, Blackpool and England, and Andy McLaren, Preston North End and later Scotland. He played his best football on the dry sand-cleared pitches of Egypt rather than the heavy grass grounds in winter Scotland. At the end of the war, he was put in charge of German POWs, skilled craftsmen who made dinghies for the sailing club on the Great Bitter Lake. He was demobbed in February 1947, and re-joined the family business. He married Jean Greene from Newmilns in 1957. They had two sons and one daughter. As the lace trade declined, he diversified, firstly into string vests and then into football stockings, forming the company Sharpayr Ltd. With Frank Sharp. Later he joined his nephews David and Sandy Service (grandsons of old Doctor David Service) in Peveril Manufacturing, making rugby shirts. He retired at 75.

In his retirement years, Archie remained both active and a man of many interests. He enjoyed meeting people, particularly those who shared his sporting life. A highlight was his encounter with Jose Luis Perez Paya of Atletico and Real Madrid and a Spanish international. Jose was also a member of Real Madrid's European Cup winning team in 1956 & 1957. During an expedition in 1970 to climb Kilimanjaro, he learned of the Starehe Boys School which he continues to support. Archie has always enjoyed an active life, in the 1950s as a player with Darvel Juniors, tennis, badminton, golf, skiing (starting at aged 54) and hillwalking. He celebrated his 75th birthday by climbing a Munro. On a more serious note, Archie has pursued an interest in natural healing and fighting against the introduction of water fluoridation and throughout his life has been a great admirer of the works of Robert Burns.



Jim McLachlan

For his long-standing and dedicated service to Darvel Juniors Football Club.

Jim is a native of Darvel, born in 1940 while his parents resided at the Lanfine Estate Cottages. He attended Mair's School in Ranoldcupp Road, before moving on to the Big School in Jamieson Road.

When he left school, he worked in the local Co-op and thereafter had various jobs in carpet and textile manufacturing in Kilmarnock and Darvel.

He started following the fortunes of Darvel Juniors when he was 13 years of age, and this became a life-long passion.

In 1967, he joined the Committee of the club, and during the next 50 years he held every post except that of vice-president. He even pulled on a strip for them during times when the playing staff was depleted, and on occasion using his own money he helped in the purchase of equipment and paying the wages.

The highlight of his association with the club was in 1976, when Darvel reached the final of the Scottish Junior Cup. Unfortunately, the team lost to Bo'ness on the day.

There were better times however, when the Juniors won their division of the Ayrshire League.

In 2017, the Scottish Junior Football Association presented Jim with a Long Service Certificate in recognition of his 50 years with the club. Jim is a well-known and much respected throughout the whole of the Scottish Junior Football scene. Without dedicated and enthusiastic people such as Jim, Darvel Juniors and Junior Football in general would cease to exist.



Dr Billy Ramsay

Born in Kilmarnock in 1952, the son of a Mauchline dairy farmer. Dr Ramsay retains an interest in farming and country life to the present day. Having been educated at Mauchline Junior Secondary and Cumnock Academy, he entered Edinburgh University Medical School, graduating B.Sc. in Pharmacology in 1974, MBChB. in 1977 and becoming a fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (Edinburgh) in 1982. There followed a period where "house" jobs in surgery took him from Edinburgh to London, Nottingham, Falkirk and Crosshouse.

His greater interest, however, lay in general practice and after further training in that field in Strathpeffer, he joined Dr. Cameron and partners in the Darvel & Newmilns practice in 1986.

A well-liked and greatly respected doctor he proved to be, his care and counsel sought eagerly by patients over the next 26 years until his retirement in 2012. Beyond his immediate duties, Dr Ramsay served as a member of the Medical Advisory Committee to the Ayrshire Hospice prior to its foundation and for seven years after. He is a medical officer at Dungavel Detention Centre, and currently serves as a member BMA Civil & Public Service Committee- with a particular interest in the production of guidelines for the management of victims of torture. He saw service as a police surgeon for six years.

Busy he doubtless remains, but he also finds time to serve on the Congregational Board of Darvel Parish Church, as a committee member of Darvel Horticultural Society, and for some years as a member of Darvel Improvement Group.

He finds himself, at the end of it all, torn from his home, family, farm and peace to assist with locum duties in his old job!





Reid Ross

Reid Ross moved to Darvel as a teenager in 1956, when his father was appointed manager of the Bank of Scotland in West Main Street.

After graduating from Glasgow University, he taught at Darvel Junior Secondary school, firstly as Head of English, then becoming a highly respected headmaster from 1972-1980. After leaving Darvel, he was headmaster first at Beith and then Onthank until his retirement in 1997.

He was an officer in the local BB company and was involved in the youth work of the Darvel Central church. For a time, he was a Special Constable in the Valley area. These activities led to his election as a councillor and magistrate in the former Darvel Town Council.

Since retirement, has been a member and secretary of Darvel Community Council from 1999 until 2013. During that time, he was involved in the establishment of the Darvel Improvement Group (DIG), serving as its first Chairman until 2007. Most recently he has become a Trustee of the Darvel Community Trust, helping to redevelop the local Sport Centre. He is also involved with the local school through the Parent Council.

For over 60 years, Reid has demonstrated a dedicated involvement in many aspects of life in his adopted town.



Archibald Morton

Archibald Morton was born in Darvel on 3rd March 1899. His parents were Ninian and Janet Morton and they lived at 83 East Main Street. He had three sisters and one brother.

He enlisted in the Cameron Highlanders at Kilmarnock on 24th April 1915. He gave his age as 19, when in fact he was barely 16. He was posted to the Cameron's depot at Inverness, where he underwent medical tests and was issued with his equipment. Further training took place in Cromarty with the 3rd Battalion which was a replacement unit, used to provide manpower for the fighting battalions.

Archibald was sent to the 1st Battalion, where he arrived on July 14th 1915. This Battalion had suffered very heavy casualties in May of that year in the battle of Auber's Ridge. In September 1915, the battalion took part in the opening attack of the Battle of Loos. Once again they suffered very heavy casualties, with over 60% of the men being killed, injured or missing.

On 13th October 1915, the battalion took part in the attack on Hohenzollern Redoubt, which was a heavily defended part of the German front line. The attack was a very costly failure, with the battalion once again suffering crippling losses. It was during this attack that Archibald Morton was killed.

HE WAS SIXTEEN YEARS AND SEVEN MONTHS OLD. There is no known grave for him, which means one of the following could apply;

His body was not recovered from the battlefield, He was buried behind the lines by his comrades in an unmarked grave, He has one of the many tens of thousands of headstones in cemeteries bearing the simple inscription :- "A BRITISH SOLDIER KNOWN UNTO GOD"

Archibald Morton is the youngest person whose name appears on the Darvel war memorial. He is one of approximately 250,000 British and Commonwealth military personnel under the age of 18 to die in world War One His name appears on the Loos Memorial Panel 119-124. The memorial forms the sides and rear of the Dud Corner Cemetery which can be found near Loos-en-Gohelle in the Pas de Calais department of France.



Jim Anderson MBE

Jim Anderson was born in June 1923 in Ranoldcupp Road. He was educated at Mair's school, then at Darvel Higher Grade School. He began his working life in Stirling Auld's factory in Green Street, Darvel. He then served for 5 years in the Royal Engineers 52nd Lowland Division. They trained in the Grampian & Cairngorm Mountains for a proposed landing in Norway, but a change of tactics saw them landing on Juno Beach in Normandy. He completed the advance to Berlin and saw the German surrender, thinking himself lucky to be a survivor. After the war, he spent 32 years as an engineer in Massey Ferguson's factory in Kilmarnock.

Best known in Darvel as a councillor from 1960, and Provost from 1969 in the former Town Council, and for his continuing long service as a councillor in Kilmarnock & Loudoun District Council- a total of 32 years as a public representative. This, along with his work of 16 years on the visiting committee of H.M.P. Barlinnie, as chairman for 6 years, and his wider involvement in prison work throughout Britain, was recognised when he was awarded the M.B.E. by the Queen, "for public service".

In his leisure time, Jim was an accomplished football player, appearing for Darvel Juniors and Irvine Meadow. He is still on the Committee at Darvel.

After retirement, he could enjoy a good deal of time in his garden, accompanied by his "Good Lady Ina".

Jim records his pleasure and sense of privilege in serving the good people of Darvel.



Jean Drummond

Jean is a highly popular choice for inclusion despite her own enormous shock on hearing the news.

A farmer's wife, she settled in Bankhead Farm, Darvel on her marriage in 1980. She has two daughters, Lyn & Elaine, and two grandsons, Matthew & Murray, and it was when they started nursery that Jean began her long involvement in helping in the local community. She began by helping in the nursery and school classrooms, then in the library and at Darvel Primary Christmas Fayre. Her interest in children found further expression through Darvel Friends of Guiding, and her willingness to take on work saw her first as secretary, then chairperson. The main task was fundraising, into which she threw herself enthusiastically, organising many events.

Her enjoyment of baking and handicrafts led to her becoming a member of the committee for Loudoun and Galston Cattle Show Industrial Section.

Alone, initially, she began her 21 yearlong (so far) series of Macmillan Coffee Mornings, and with the support of family, friends and the local community records that so far £25,000 has been donated to Macmillan Cancer Support.

Jean has been a long- time supporter of Darvel Flower Show, winning many prizes for her baking, handicrafts, fruit and vegetables, and floral art displays. She has served on the committee for many years, now as Secretary.

An indefatigable and indispensable member of our community.



Rev Ian M.W. Collins

Ian Collins was the Church of Scotland's longest serving minister to remain in one parish, dedicated to the community and congregation of Darvel for more than 55 years.

The high regard in which he was held was recognised in 1988, when he was given the rarely awarded honour of Freeman of Kilmarnock and Loudoun.

He was born in Kinlochleven and educated there, at Fort William Academy, Glasgow University and Trinity College, before being ordained and inducted into Darvel Central Church in September 1937. For more than half a century he made hospital visits and called on the bedridden and elderly, offering help and advice, and showing sympathy and comfort at times of bereavement.

He loved weddings, knowing generations of local families so well. He was an accomplished dancer, pianist and fiddler, who set many a foot tapping at Burns Suppers and Masonic events.

During the Second World War, he served in the Darvel Home Guard, and he spent six months as a full-time army chaplain in Germany, where he recalled the moving spirit of reconciliation after the war.

He was a founder member of Darvel Community Council, on which he served for several years. He kept up his studies of French, German, Russian, Greek, Hebrew and Latin, and tutored students in French and German.

A kenspeckle figure as he rode his bike around the parish, he was well into his sixties before he sat his driving test and bought his first car.

On his retiral in November 1992, Darvel Central Church united with Irvinebank and Easton Memorial Church to form Darvel Parish Church, making him the last minister of the Central church, and only the second minister in its 104 year history.



Samuel Richmond Cox

Born in Darvel on the 23rd of April 1924 to John and Margaret Cox, he was given the middle name of Richmond after her maiden name. Sammy Cox was an outstanding schoolboy footballer who was good enough to be selected by Ayrshire junior side Glenafton at the tender age of 13.

He was signed by Darvel Juniors in 1940, and then played for senior sides Queen's Park, Third Lanark and Dundee while serving with the Gordon Highlanders.

Sammy continued to work part time in the mills in Darvel whilst impressing on the pitch on a Saturday. Sammy signed for Rangers in 1946 the same day as another Rangers & Scotland legend, goalkeeper Bobby Brown. They were very close friends and both continued to play on a part time basis. His career is well documented and his skills and ability were admired across the globe. Sir Stanley Mathews quoted 'Sammy Cox was the most difficult opponent I ever faced' such was the respect the man gained in his Scotland & Rangers years. He was inducted into the Rangers Hall of Fame in 2003. Sammy was part of the invincible 'Iron Curtain' alongside George Young and Willie Woodburn. He was part of the first ever team to win all 3 domestic trophies in the season 1948 / 49 creating Scottish football history.

In February 1955 he played the last of his 310 games for Rangers. Sammy then played a couple of seasons for East Fife, but like so many Scots of the time, he needed to travel west to find work - footballers in those days were paid little more than the average skilled worker, so Sammy and his family emigrated to Canada where, having retired from full-time football, he went to work for Fischer Bearings Manufacturing in Stratford, Ontario, where he and his family made their home. He would work for the company for 35 years until his retirement.

For some ten years he played football for a number of Canadian clubs, coming up against Sir Bobby Robson in a game against West Bromwich Albion - losing 6-1 to their guests.

Sammy Cox died aged 91 on the 2nd of August 2015 in Stratford Ontario where he had lived for over 50 years. He loved coming back to Darvel to see family and friends but was a welcome guest in the Scotch Corner bar in London Ontario where he was adored by the London RSC.



Drew Gilliland

Drew was born on 7th May 1933. He attended Darvel Primary & Junior Secondary and the furthered his education at Glasgow School of Art. He became a much sought after textile designer and worked in many of the factories in Darvel & Newmilns. After a successful career, he used his talents during his "retirement" to great effect, working on a self-employed basis from home with his wife Mary. He loved his work and saw it as a hobby and never a chore.

Drew and Mary had two children, Steven & Alison, and he was very much a family man, doting on his children and many grandchildren. He had a passion for walking, climbing and history, and thoroughly enjoyed music, playing guitar and piano.

A stalwart of the community, Drew was a Community Councillor for many years and played an important role in civic society as a Justice of the Peace. Drew was also a director of the Irvine Valley Regeneration Partnership, and worked tirelessly to promote the social, historical & environmental benefits of the area. He served as a member of Darvel Primary School Board and enthusiastically welcomed newcomers to Darvel, encouraging and supporting many of them to make positive contributions to the community.

Drew sadly passed away too soon on 20th July 2004 but will always be remembered for his positive attributes and kindly demeanour.

A real gentleman and one of Darvel's truly born and bred fowk!



George "Postie" Young

George's closeness to Darvel cannot be denied. Born in Helena Cottage, East Donington Street in 1915, he attended the local school from the age of five until he left to take up employment with the local Post Office. His first job was a telegraph boy- a feature of postal delivery long since outmoded by faster means of communication. Deliveries of these urgent messages would be by bicycle- speed being essential- and George would doubtless have shared many happy and sad occasions as he came to know the recipients. He continued, as a postman, to perform these delivery duties until 1980 and his retirement. He knew everybody! He could successfully direct Christmas cards addressed only to Mr & Mrs Morton, Darvel after a quick glance at the names of the senders! He was quick witted, humorous, and a leader of colleagues and student helpers.

"Postie" Young took a break to join the wartime R.A.F. in London, and thereafter, met and married his wife May with whom he had two children, Karlyn and George. His great recreational interest was football- as a member of Darvel Juniors, and Ayrshire and Scottish Junior F.A. for many years. This led to a meeting at Gowanbank Hotel and a long-lasting friendship with Sir Alex Ferguson- George gets a mention in Ferguson's autobiography.

In his later years, George returned to the streets of Darvel- not now in postman's uniform, but as leader of the Gala Day parade, resplendent in Tile hat and tails, proudly ringing the Town Bell.

His enthusiasm for local tales, and his conviviality will be long recalled with pleasure by all who knew him.

The Square

Cross Street

Jamieson Road

Green Street

Kirkland Road

Robertson Gardens

John Morton Crescent

EAST MAIN STREET

