

Verbatim extracts from “The Carnegie Dunfermline Trust 1903-1953”

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Photographs by Norval Ltd., Dunfermline.

That of Bee Alley Garden by James Shearer Esq., R.S.A.

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Any detailed review of what the Trustees have done in the past fifty years in an attempt to carry out the instructions of then Founder would result in a most unwieldy volume unlikely to appeal to the average reader. The Trustees have therefore thought that a brief summary of the various schemes they have initiated would be of more value and more easily used as a reference in refreshing the memory of the older generation of beneficiaries. This summary has been framed under several headings and in

chronological sequence.

Many changes have taken place in Dunfermline since 1903. Both the Corporation and the Education Authority have far wider obligatory and permissive powers and have entered into fields which the Trustees have now abandoned. Changes in housing, working conditions, sources of amusement, public taste and many other aspects have created new demands and have also led to the discarding of much that was formerly popular. The Trustees have always kept in mind the words of their Founder, "As conditions of life change rapidly you will not be restricted as to your plans or the scope of your activities". The wisdom shown in framing the explanatory letter before quoted becomes more and...

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...more evident with the passage of time. While it was impossible for any human being to foresee, in 1903, the probability of two great world wars and their concomitant train of sweeping changes, the letter might well have been written to-day.

The Trustees have also abandoned some fields because it was obvious that the citizens had lost interest and were no longer prepared to support the projects. That there are no longer in Dunfermline many concerts of "exquisite music" or lectures by eminent specialists is entirely due to public apathy towards such forms of culture, and not to any unwillingness on the part of the Trustees to meet any reasonable cost in providing them,

The Trustees, in issuing annual reports, have adequately explained their reasons for changes in policy, but they have made no attempt to assess the cumulative effect of their operations on the lives and outlook of the beneficiaries. Any such assessment would largely be a matter of individual opinion. It must, however, be generally agreed that the experiment initiated fifty years ago has been far reaching in its general effect for good on thousands of young lives and that many have reason to feel that life has been happier and better simply by virtue of having been born and brought up in Dunfermline.

The generous scale of Mr. Carnegie's benefaction has led to the provision of educational, social, cultural and recreational facilities beyond the reach of citizens of very much larger towns and cities, and there is ample scope for the wise use of hours of leisure. The preference of many for more ephemeral pleasure is not the fault of the Founder or of the Trustees, whose aim was to provide, for voluntary acceptance, beneficial influences which might lead to a better way of life. It is the privilege of the citizens to accept and co-operate, or to ignore and refuse. The dangers to be guarded against are, therefore, the sapping of initiative and personal enterprise; the inculcation of an attitude of indifference to what might be achieved by enthusiastic co-operation on the part of the beneficiaries; and the provision of projects which

the masses are not yet willing or able to absorb.

The intelligent critic will best be able to resolve his own difficulties and answer his own questions by asking himself " What would Dunfermline have been without such a lavish benefaction? "

WILLIAM DICK, Chairman.

J. W. ORMISTON, Secretary.

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BATHS AND GYMNASIUM.

The Central Baths and Gymnasium were gifted, just before the Trust was inaugurated, to the Town Council by Mr. Carnegie, and were built on a site in Pilmuir Street provided by the Town Council.

- 1904: Trustees entered into an agreement with the Town Council and undertook the entire maintenance and management of the buildings.
- 1904 — 1926: The Old Baths given by Mr. Carnegie in 1877 to Dunfermline remained open free of charge to the users.
- 1905: The New Baths were formally opened on 31st March.
- 1928: The Old Baths, which had been periodically used for Art Exhibitions, were reconstructed to form a hall for plays, concerts, whist drives and dances, and were re-named "Pilmuir Hall".
- 1938: Aeratone therapeutic baths were installed in the Central Baths.
- 1939: Pilmuir Hall taken over by the Town Council.
- 1946: Baths and Gymnasium reverted to the Town Council, who became entirely responsible for their upkeep and management.

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OUTDOOR GAMES.

- 1909—1949 Venturefair Park, extending to approximately 8 acres, was used for football, hockey and cricket This field has now been taken over by Fife Education Committee.
- 1926: Lease of a field, extending to 16 acres at Pitreavie was got and the field laid out

for football, hockey and cricket.

- 1930: This field, along with an adjoining field extending to approximately 14 acres was purchased and steps taken to erect a permanent Pavilion.
- 1934: Pitreavie Playing Fields Pavilion, consisting of 21 dressing rooms, a large dining hall and 3 ranges of spray baths, was formally opened by Mrs. Carnegie.
- 1947: A further field, extending to approximately 14 acres, was purchased and levelled. An Olympic standard running track was completed in 1953.

GOLF COURSES.

- 1947: Pitreavie Golf Course was purchased and transferred to Pitreavie (Dunfermline) Golf Club on feu contract.
- 1950: Canmore Golf Course was purchased and likewise handed over on feu contract to Canmore Golf Club.
- 1952: Pitferrane Estate was purchased and 120 acres, along with the Mansion House, have been leased to Dunfermline Golf Club.

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Including Pittencrieff Park, the Trustees have acquired and control as permanent open spaces approximately 500 acres of land.

INSTITUTES AND BOWLING GREENS.

BOWLING GREENS:

- 1906: The Trustees became responsible for maintenance of the Bowling Green at Townhill.
- 1907: Baldridgeburn Bowling Green was constructed.
- 1909: A Bowling Green was laid down at Kingseat.
- 1911: Nethertown Bowling Green was opened.
- 1920: A Bowling Green was constructed at Rosyth.
- 1924: Ground was acquired at Headwell for two

Bowling Greens.

1946: All the Bowling Greens were taken over by the respective Clubs and the Trustees ceased to administer them.

INSTITUTES:

- 1906: Townhill Institute was erected.
- 1907: A row of cottages at Kingseat was adapted for use as an Institute.
- 1909: Baldridgeburn Institute was built.
- 1912: Women's Institute was opened by Mrs. Carnegie on 24th September.
- 1914: Nethertown Institute, which was partly completed, was occupied for war purposes.
- 1917: A temporary Institute building was erected at Rosyth.
- 1918: Nethertown Institute was completed and opened.
- 1926: The temporary Institute at Rosyth was replaced by a permanent structure.

Page 30: INSTITUTES (Cont'd):

- 1946: The Institutes, with the exception of King seat, were conveyed to the Town Council who became responsible for their main tenance and management. The adminis tration of Kingseat Institute was taken over by Kingseat Village Committee until 1952, when the building was taken over by Dunfermline Town Council.
- Women's Institute was converted into a Youth Centre, which was formally opened on 5th February 1947.
- 1951: No. 12 Abbey Park Place, formerly used as a hostel for women students of the Col lege of Hygiene and Physical Education was converted into a Women's Centre, which was officially opened on 25th July.