The Years Between

Site of the disaster in 2007. View looking east

View looking west

Unveiling of commemorative plaque in Kirkintilloch, 1997

Achtaíodh reachtaíocht úr maidir le lóistín na n-oibrithe talamhaíochta in Albain i Mí Iúil 1938 mar thoradh ar an tine sa bhoth go páirteach. Bhíothas ag dréim le bardais logánta glachadh le fodhlíthe daingne maidir le lóistín na n-oibrithe séasúrtha. Rinne Bardas Kirkintilloch an méid seo sa bhliain 1939.

Ní dhearnadh dearmad ar an tragóid seo riamh in Albain ná in Éirinn. Tarraingíodh aird ar an scéal arís sa bhliain 1982 nuair a mhaígh seanbhean gurbh é a fear céile coimhthithe a thosaigh an tine d'aon turas. D'oscail péas Shrath Chluaidh fiosrúchán úr ach cuireadh deireadh gasta leis nuair a tháinig sé chun solais nach raibh go leor fianaise taobh thiar de na liamhaintí.

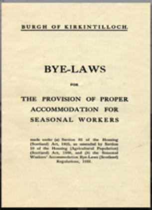
Tugadh ómós do na hÉireannaigh óga a chaill a mbeatha cúpla uair ó shin. Léadh aifreann cuimhniúcháin ar a son ar oileán Acla sa bhliain 1987 agus iad caillte le leath chéad bliain. Nochtadh plaic chuimhniúcháin 10 mbliana ina dhiaidh sin agus aimníodh sráid i gKirkintilloch 'Plás Acla' ar an lá céanna. Tá cuimhniú na heachtra seo sa traidisiún logánta ar Oileán Acla agus i gKirkintilloch mar aon agus beidh go ceann i bhfad is cosúil.

Naming of Achill Place, Kirkintilloch, 1997, with representatives of Achill and Kirkintilloch communities

Partly as a result of the Bothy Fire, new legislation governing the accommodation of agricultural workers in Scotland was enacted in July 1938. Local authorities were expected to adopt fairly stringent bye-laws relating to the housing of seasonal workers. Kirkintilloch Burgh did so in 1939.

The disaster has never been forgotten, either in Ireland or in Scotland. Public attention was drawn to the circumstances of the event in 1982, when an old woman claimed that her estranged husband had started the fire deliberately. Strathclyde Police opened an investigation, but quickly dropped the case when they found that there was little evidence to support the allegation.

In quieter vein, tribute has been paid to the victims on more than one occasion. A memorial mass was said in Achill in 1987, the 50th anniversary year. Ten years later, a memorial plaque was unveiled in Kirkintilloch and a street named 'Achill Place' on the same day. Remembering the event is something that is now part of local culture, both in Achill and in Kirkintilloch, and is likely to continue as such for some time to come.



BURGH OF KIRKINTILLOCH.

BYE-LAWS

FOR

THE PROVISION OF PROPER ACCOMMODATION FOR SEASONAL WORKERS

The victims' gravestone in Kildownet Cemetery, Achill

Extract of new bye-laws relevant to the accommodation of seasonal workers, 1939

Mar thoradh gu ìre air Teine na Bothaig, chaidh reachdas a' riaghladh àite-fuirich luchd-obrach àiteachais ann an Alba a chur an gnìomh anns an Iuchar 1938. Bhathar a' dùileachadh dha ùghdarrasan ionadail gabhail ri fo-laghan gu math teann a thaobh taigheadais dha luchd-obrach seusanail. Rinn Borgh Kirkintilloch sin ann an 1939.

Cha deach a' mhòr-thubaist a dhìochuimhneachadh a-riamh, ann an Èirinn no ann an Alba. Chaidh aire an t-sluaigh a tharraing a-rithist gu suidheachadh an tachartais ann an 1982, nuair a chùm seann bhoireannach a-mach gun do thòisich an duine aice, bhon robh i sgarte, an teine a dh'aon ghnothaich. Rinn Poilis Shrath Chluaidh rannsachadh, ach leig iad às a' chùis glè luath nuair a lorg iad nach robh fianais sam bith ann gus taic a chur ris a' chasaid.

Ann am modh eile, thathar air ùmhlachd a dhèanamh dha na mairbh barrachd na aon uair. Chaidh aifreann cuimhneachaidh a ràdh ann an Acaill ann an 1987, an leth-cheudamh ceann-bliadhna. Deich bliadhna às dèidh sin chaidh truinnsear cuimhneachaidh a thaisbeanadh ann an Kirkintilloch agus chaidh sràid ainmeachadh 'Ionad Acaill' air an aon latha. Tha a bhith a' cuimhneachadh an tachartais a-nis mar phàirt den chultar ionadail, an dà chuid ann an Acaill agus ann an Kirkintilloch, agus a rèir coltais sin mar a tha e gu bhith san àm ri teachd.