

Many thanks for the calling notice for the AGM. Please accept my apologies as I'm not able to attend but wish you and the Committee all the best for a successful meeting. I visit your website from time to time and it's heartening to see the excellent progress being made on the site.

For interest, this photo is of me and my younger brother, Brian, at the side of the Springfield Mill pond in about July 1951. Brian was 10 at the time, and at primary school in Lasswade, and I was 18 and soon to be called up for National Service in the September of that year. We are on a landing stage; I think I am sitting on a large wheel that, when turned, let water out of the pond. There is also an overflow pipe just beneath us. We're on the east/southeast(?) side of the pond, nearest to the mill buildings and less than 50 yards from the garden of Mill House where my family lived from about 1940 until my father (John) retired in 1957. From memory, the photo was taken by Sandy Tod son of mill boss A K (Keith) Tod. Earlier we had been paddling around the pond in Sandy's home-made canoe - no problem with health and safety in those days. Sadly my mother decided to get rid of most of our early photos of Polton and this appears to be a sole survivor.



Ian & Brian  
Small,  
Springfield Mill  
pond,  
July 1951.