

The Witch and Wizard

There is no doubt that there lived in Tarland a lady and a gentleman with special powers. Some of the older people who live in Tarland today still remember them. The lady was called Mrs Martin and the gentleman was called Mr Frain. They did live in a double house, the kind that had two houses under one roof with two front doors, just where the modern bungalow is shown on the map of the Tarland Way. There was a water pump at the front and a shed at the side where the firewood was kept. They were neighbours and good friends. The story says that Mr Frain was a wizard and that he taught Mrs Martin to raise the green fog. It was said that he was able to change himself into a hare.



There is a link that you can find on the Tarland website www.tarland.org.uk to an interview given by a lady called Lizzie Higgins who, when she was twelve years old, went to visit Mrs Martin. It is quite difficult to listen to but it is very interesting. To find it Google 'Tarland witch and wizard'.

Lizzie Higgins was the child of travelling people who regularly came to Tarland. She would have known the countryside

very well. Her family really did have a Clydesdale horse called Tibbs that pulled the caravan they lived in. They would have tried to find work on the local farms and they would have sold things that they made and probably they would have mended pots and pans for people. They would also have eaten rabbits and birds and sometimes a deer if they could catch them; farmers and land owners were not always pleased with them.

There used to be a croft in Tarland behind the Tomnaverie Stone Circle, called 'Scrapehard' although only a few stones are left now. Near here is where the tinkers and travellers used to camp. This may well be where Lizzie and her family camped too.

When we were writing the Young Person's Guide to the Tarland Way we thought that a twelve year old Lizzie would make a very good guide !!