

# Friends of the Old Kirk Summer

June 2013

Newsletter No. 9

## George Gillespie Exhibition opens for summer

### Kirkcaldy Old Kirk

is open to visitors

Fridays and Saturdays  
in July and August

11am -3pm

View the magnificent  
stained glass windows

Climb the tower (at your  
own risk) for fine views  
over the river and town

Teas/Coffee available

Special for 2013

Gillespie Exhibition

In 1613 a baby boy was born in the home of Rev. John Gillespie, Minister of the Old Kirk, the “thundering preacher”.

George was to become a significant churchman, preacher and statesman in the Scotland of his time, and in 35 short years he left an indelible mark on the Scottish nation’s culture with his contribution to the establishment of Presbyterianism. He was an author of the “Westminster Confession of Faith”, still the subordinate standard for

all matters of theology, church government and worship in the Church of Scotland today, and in many other Presbyterian churches worldwide.

After his early death in 1648, his gravestone was desecrated on the orders of Archbishop Sharp, such were the religious conflicts of his day, and was only replaced 100 years later by his grandson, minister in Strathmiglo. This is the one still to be seen in the Old Kirk’s south porch.

A group has been researching George Gilles-



Rev. George Gillespie was born, son of the Old Kirk Minister, in 1613, 400 years ago this year.

pie’s life and times for this exhibition which will open for view every Friday and Saturday in July & August between 11am and 3pm. For other events to commemorate Gillespie see overleaf.

## Second Annual General Meeting

All Members and Friends of the Old Kirk are warmly invited to attend our AGM on **Thursday 11th July at 6.30pm in the Old Kirk.** Any member is entitled to appoint a proxy to vote on his/her behalf if they cannot attend, as

long as they send the form of proxy overleaf, duly signed, to the Registered Office (address above) before Tuesday 9th July at 6.30pm. A proxy appointed to attend and vote at any meeting has the same right as the member

who appointed him/her to speak at the meeting and need not be a member of the Charity.

**There will be opportunity from 6pm before the AGM, and afterwards, for a special viewing of the exhibition.**

Kirkcaldy  
Old Kirk  
Trust

**AGM**

Thursday  
11th July

6.30pm

in Kirkcaldy  
Old Kirk

## *A busy year - what has happened in the Old Kirk?*

Our Zumba teacher Lindsay got married. Zumba class every Monday in Old Kirk 7.30pm - 8.30pm



At our AGM we will hear a report of the Trust's activities over the past year. We thought you might like to see some of that activity in pictures.

With this goes our sincere thanks to all those whose hard work and dedicated efforts to making the Old Kirk a clean, comfortable, safe, welcoming place to come is so invaluable.

Thank you too to all those whose donations and financial support have helped to keep Kirkcaldy Old Kirk alive and well into 2013!



### *Edible Old Kirk!*

These are the volunteers who sowed edible seeds in our grounds to create veg anyone can pick - those radishes are now huge!



**The National Theatre of Scotland were a resounding success with their production of "A Christmas Carol" in the Old Kirk December 2012**

We went to the Kirkcaldy Area Neighbourhood Engagement Scheme morning with a display of potholes to win money for upgrading the path! We were successful!

Work to improve it will take place later in the year.



### *Women's International Health Day*

Tasters of Tai Chi, threading and skin care were on offer.





## And what is to come in the Old Kirk?

Here's a few of our upcoming events to whet your appetite!

**Genealogy Workshop** - with Fife Family History Society and Kirkcaldy Civic Society and our archives **13th July 11am - 3pm**

**Strawberry Fayre** - enjoy a strawberry tea with Adam Smith and his friends from the Civic Society **21st July 2- 4pm**

**Genealogy Workshop** - with Fife Family History Society and Kirkcaldy Civic Society and our archives **3rd August 11am-3pm**

**Opera Bohemia : Eugene Onegin** . Tickets from 01592 596904 **22 August 7:30pm**

**Doors Open Day** **15th September 1- 4pm**

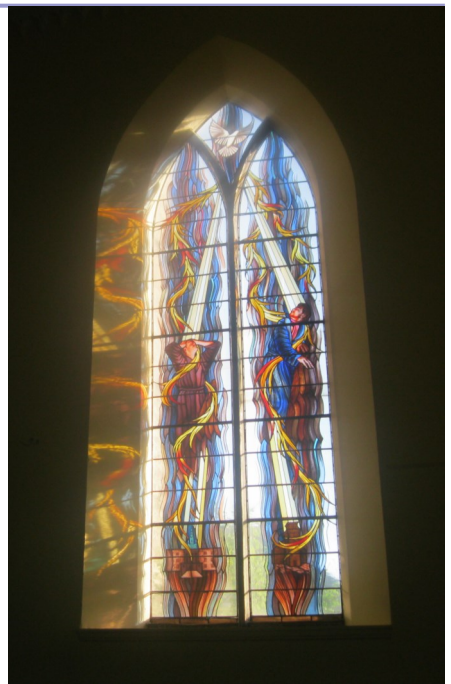
**Don't miss this! Our own Fund-raising concert with Ensemble and others** **20 September 7:30pm**

The Old Kirk Trust plans a series of talks in the autumn about George Gillespie and his times, starting with Dr Kirsteen Mackenzie on "The Significance of George Gillespie". **19th September 7:30pm**

Witch Trials in the 17th Century—joint meeting with Kirkcaldy Civic Society **10th October 7:30pm**

## St. George's Day Parade: A full house!

The Service was a great success, conducted by Rev. Bryan Tomlinson and saw 20 Beavers and 16 Cubs presented with their Chief Scout Award. Nicola Gaffney of 11th Fife was presented with her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award and her Queen's Scout Award.



During some recent sunshine-lit events the fire of Pentecost has flamed out on to the surrounds of John Clark's 1986 window and flooded on to the carpet. Wonderful!

"An Evening with Jack Vettriano and Ian Rankin" was hosted by Lesley Riddoch to a capacity audience. Photos by Walter Neilson



## May Morning 2013

On 1st May the old tradition of singing from the top of the tower to greet the Spring with Easter hymns was followed by a hearty breakfast for the intrepid songsters.



## Friends of the Old Kirk

*Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust* is a company limited by guarantee, no. 38720, registered charity SC042128

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### Appointment of proxy

Name of Member: .....

I hereby appoint .....  
(Name of Proxy)

to be my proxy at the meeting of Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust on Thursday 11th July at 6.30pm in my absence.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Please return this form, or a copy, to 12 Hendry Road, Kirkcaldy, KY2 5JJ or [okheritage@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:okheritage@blueyonder.co.uk) by 6.30pm on Tuesday 9th July ONLY if you will be absent from the meeting and wish to appoint a proxy.

### KIRKCALDY OLD KIRK TRUST AGM

The business of the meeting on 11th July is to:

- approve the Minute of the previous AGM
- receive the accounts of the Charity for the previous financial year
- receive the Trustees' report on the Charity's activities since the previous AGM
- accept the retirement of those Trustees who are retiring by rotation
- elect persons to be Trustees to fill the vacancies arising (existing Trustees may be reappointed)
- discuss any issues of policy or deal with any other business put before them



A drama by Adam Smith College telling George Gillespie's life—what was this Kirkcaldy man like? With music of the time.

A commemorative service of worship

*in the Autumn*

## Mugs & Keyrings for sale

Collage mugs with pictures of the Old Kirk are now available at £5 each. There are different selections of pictures including a special commemorative George Gillespie one. A double-sided key ring, of either the Old Kirk or Rev. George Gillespie's portrait, costs £1.50. Obtainable from the Old Kirk when open, or contact the office as above, stating your choice of item.



## *Volunteers wanted!*

Now Kirkcaldy Old Kirk is being used more and more for concerts and events, which is as we would wish it to be. It is lovely to see the building full of life and young voices when the Scouts visit, or reverberating with fine music and an appreciative concert audience.

However, this success means an increased workload of cleaning, maintenance, bookkeeping and keeping publicity up-to-date, not to men-

tion fund-raising and the outside environment of borders and paths, and this is putting pressure on the existing volunteers. In short, we need some help!

If you have office skills, an interest in gardening or experience in a trade and an hour or two to spare a week, please get in touch. We also can find plenty scope for those who are interested in historical research or fund-raising. Just ask!