

Friends of Kirkcaldy Old Kirk

June 2014

Newsletter No. 15

Adam Smith Strawberry Fayre

- **SUNDAY 6th JULY**
- **2.00pm - 4.00pm**
- **Cost: Adults £3
Children £1.50**

Meet some of
Kirkcaldy's Famous Folk
Adam Smith Walkabout
Explore the Old Kirk



Delicious
strawberries
& ice cream
will be served

Kirkcaldy Civic
Society

Summer Open Days

Kirkcaldy's history will be on show again this summer, when the Old Kirk is open to the public.

Fraturdays and Saturdays in July and August 11am-3pm.

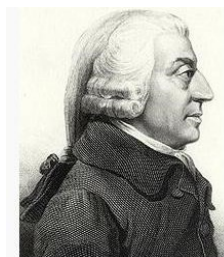
In past years visitors have especially appreciated the beauty, colour and light flooding from the stained glass windows into the sanctuary, and the view from the top of the 15th century tower - if you have heart and lungs to climb up the spiral staircase to the parapet!

There are stories galore to tell : of the Fall of the Gallery in June 1828, with tragic consequences; of

the witch kept in the tower before her execution in 1633; of the heroism of the young men who tried to save others from drowning but lost their own lives in so doing; of the sailors, preachers, merchants, and industrialists who made Kirkcaldy what she is.

Last year we had a special exhibition commemorating Rev. George Gillespie, author of the Westminster Confession of Faith. This year we have a new exhibition put together by the Adam Smith Global Foun-

ation about "Adam Smith : His Life and Times", back in the place where we know he started out - at his christening in the Old Kirk!



Adam Smith, baptized in the Old Kirk in 1723

We also hope to have some information on display about some of the men whose names are on the War Memorial in the tower from the 1st World War.

Teas & coffees will be available and there will be special online activities for the children as well as an outside trail to find clues in the graveyard.

Sunday 14th September
2014

DOORS OPEN DAY

Kirk open to visitors : guided tours of tower and of graveyard. Teas & coffees available. Exhibitions open.

**1
pm
- 4
pm**

CHANSONS CONCERT

Popular mixed-voice choir from Perth perform an evening of light music for Christian Aid. Tickets from Old Kirk £12

**7
pm**

Annual General Meeting : 24th June 2014

The third AGM of Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust will be held in Kirkcaldy Old Kirk on Tuesday 24th June at 7pm, as notified in the last Newsletter. Members and Friends

of the Trust are asked to attend to hear a report of the past year's activities of the Trust as a charitable organization, to approve the annual accounts and

to appoint the Trustees for the coming year.

There will also be an opportunity to view the new exhibitions and recently added facilities.

Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust

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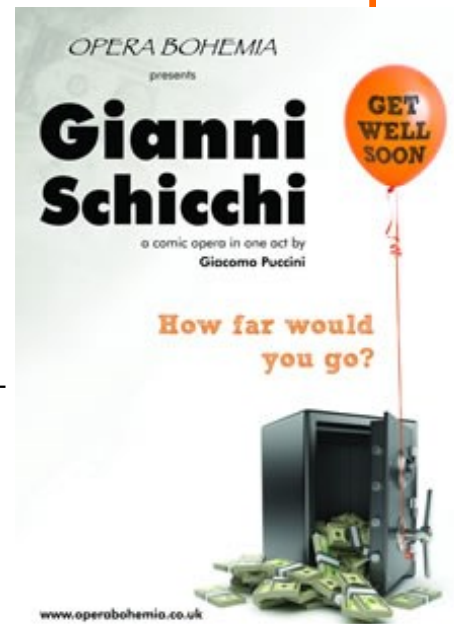
www.kirkcaldyoldkirktrust.org.uk

**maintaining
Kirkcaldy's heritage
for the community**

Youthful Energy and Passion: Opera Bohemia

Back in the Old Kirk this summer is the acclaimed young opera company of Opera Bohemia, this year with Puccini's comic opera "Gianni Schicchi" Guaranteed an evening of laughter and beautiful music (including one of opera's favourite arias 'O mio babbino caro'), come along on Thursday 21st August and see how far the Donati family will go to secure their fortune! The performance starts at 8pm and lasts one hour. Tickets are £13 (£11 concessions) from 01592 596904 or the Old Kirk.

With local roots this group is comprised of passionate individuals, driven by their love for their art and their enthusiasm to bring opera to a wider audience in a dynamic way. The rehearsal period is extremely intense with the cast gathered together in Glasgow for just 7 days before opening in August!



Thank you to those who have generously sponsored our chairs in the Kirk. It is still possible to do this - just ask us for a form or download one from the website. Some new plaques have been added recently, including one to record the donation of the Mary Leishman Foundation towards the induction loop and new sound system. We are very grateful to all our donors, both individuals and organisations, whose generosity and investment in this community venture has made it a reality, and we look forward to seeing you in the Kirk some time over the summer.

Do you know the Bissett family?

This week we received a letter asking for help in tracing the family of Peter Bissett, a 22-year old RAF pilot killed in action over the oilfields of Romania in 1944. War Cemetery in Romania, but he is remembered on the Kirkcaldy War Memorial, and our Old Kirk one. A cherry tree was planted to his memory in the church yard.

The only surviving member of Peter's air crew is 94 this year and has some documentation about the events leading to the air crash, which Peter's family might like to view and keep.

Why the Old Kirk?

Peter Bissett lies buried at a Commonwealth

Peter was born in Kirkcaldy in 1921, the eldest son of Thomas and Elspeth Bissett and brother to Elsie, Sheila and Ian. In 1928 Peter and his family moved to North-allerton where his father set up and organised the Miles Sykes lino factory.

In 1939 this factory closed and the family returned to Kirkcaldy.



**Peter Bissett,
1921—1944**

Does anyone remember the family? Do you know if Elsie, Sheila or Ian married? Had family? Live locally?

Please let us know if you have any information that could help. Contact details above.

A small donation of £10 will meet the cost of producing the Newsletter in print for you over the year.