

Friends of Kirkcaldy Old Kirk

Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust

.25TH JANUARY: ...T'WAS THEN A BLAST O' JANUAR' WIND BLEW HANSEL IN ON ROBIN...

The weather seems to have been as cold and windy in January 1759 as today's forecasts but it brought with it the music and poetry of our national bard; for many of you will recognize the Robin of this line of poetry is Robert Burns, writing of his own birth.

25th January this year will see a warm celebration of his birthday in song, poetry and prose in the Auld

Kirk - and even a wee bit haggis, neeps and tatties! All for £5.

However this is not a formal Burns Supper but a more informal evening with friends, as David Potter, Maureen Sangster, Hazel Weierter, Isabel Coventry, David MacDonald and members young and old of the Auld Kirk Players entertain you.

Cheer up your January with good company, good food, and a night 'wi' sangs and clatter' in the fine surroundings of the Auld Kirk.

For tickets phone 01592 265499 or text 07902 649414.

Christmas Service that spanned the world!

On Christmas Eve the Old Kirk had a lovely Nine Lessons & Carols service. Thanks to all the musicians and readers who took part - including Ella Ritchie reading from Melbourne in Australia by modern technology! Ella was a founder member of the Trust and a lifelong member of the Old Kirk. Happy New Year, Ella and



Robert Burns


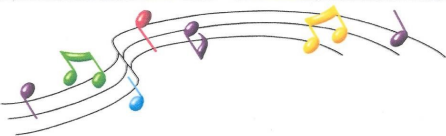

Soiree

25 January 2018 7.30pm

The Auld Kirk, Kirk Wynd, Kirkcaldy

An evening featuring music, poetry and readings by, and about Robert Burns.

Tickets £5 available by calling 01592 265499



RAILWAYS AROUND EAST WEMYSS

The next in Kirkcaldy Civic Society's series of winter talks is by one of the Society's own members, retired teacher Sandy Thomson. This will be his third talk on the history of local railways, this time travelling east to Wemyss - and

maybe even a bit beyond!

Climb aboard on

**Thursday 18th
January at 7.30pm!**

All welcome



KIRKCALDY MUSIC SOCIETY : CASTALIAN STRING QUARTET

The Music Society starts off the year's concerts at Kirkcaldy Old Kirk, with the music of strings as the Castalian String Quartet play Haydn, Dutilleux and Beethoven at **7.30pm on Wednesday 17th January.**

In the Castalian String Quartet Sini Simonen and Daniel Roberts play Violins, Charlotte Bonneton – Viola and Christopher Graves – Cello. Formed in 2011, the Castalian Quartet studied with Oliver Wille of the Kuss Quartet

at the Hannover University of Music, Dance and Theatre, graduating with a Masters. Since then the Quartet has performed widely throughout Europe and is rapidly emerging as an exciting voice on the international chamber music scene. Over the last three years they have won top prizes at major international competitions. This is a great chance to hear these young players in Kirkcaldy as they tour round the UK.



Tickets are available at the door, costing £12 (adult), £5 (ES40 holder/disabled/child/student).

For further Music Society concerts in the Old Kirk in February and March, please see the back page

ELDER FAMILY

From time to time the Trust receives enquiries from those tracing their family history, and recently we were happily able to help the Parish Secretary at St. Austin's Priory in Ivybridge, Hazel Smith.

Hazel's ancestors are the Elder family, a significant family in the history of Kirkcaldy in the 19th century, after they came here from Edinburgh.

George Elder was a merchant and ship owner, living with his wife Joanna Haddo Lang in Elder's

Brae, part of the High Street near Port Brae, in the mid-19th century. His business prospered and their 4 sons William, Alexander Lang, George and Thomas, all developed it further by establishing the end of the business in Melbourne and then Adelaide, Australia. In 1861 George Elder built a new mansion house called Adelaide House, in Kirkcaldy, which was finally demolished around 1936 to make way for the present Town House.

One of the 3 Elder daughters, Joanna, married Robert Barr Smith, a fellow-Scot, in Australia and the couple joined business interests there with Thomas

Elder, expanding with success to today the Elder Smith Company. Thomas stayed in Australia, and was knighted. He acquired great wealth and was a benefactor to many local causes. His statue stands outside Adelaide University, which he endowed.

Another sister, Elizabeth, married the Old Kirk Minister, John Alexander. In 1843 he left the Kirk at the Disruption and set up the Free Kirk in Tolbooth Street. Elizabeth died at 33 years old in 1858 and is buried in Kirkcaldy Old Kirkyard beside her parents, and her grandfather, William Elder, originally a glovemaking from South Leith.

WELCOME TO THE KNIT(TING) CLUB



From Monday 15th January we welcome a new group to the Old Kirk - the Knit Club, which will be meeting in the Session-house on a Monday evening.

This group previously met in the Victoria Hospital Staff Club, which is closed for renovation. We hope they enjoy their new venue and quickly feel at home here.

Where is this 'Blue Light' in Kirkcaldy, and what does it represent? Clue: it was visited on the Civic Society New Year Walk!



TRAILBLAZING WOMEN: THE CAMPBELLS OF KIRKCALDY



Dr Mabel Campbell, MA1906, MBChB 1909, Photograph from University Hall archive

Strong family ties with the University of St. Andrews are nowhere better exemplified than by the Campbells of Kirkcaldy, 8 sisters and 1 brother with at least one sibling attending St Andrews between 1898-1934, except for 1922/3. Third sister LIZZIE (MABEL) RENWICK CAMPBELL (1885-1939) graduated MA in 1906 and MBChB in 1909. She worked as an aesthetist and gynaecologist in Newcastle and Lecturer in the Medical family of Armstrong College there.

Next sister ADELINE HERBERT CAMPBELL (1887-1965) gained her MA in 1909 and MBChB in 1912. She served with the Scottish Women's Hospital in Serbia under Dr Elsie Inglis and in France with the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps at the American Hospital, Le Havre, then practiced in Edinburgh 1919-54.



Dr Adeline Campbell, MA1909, MBChB 1912, Photograph from University hall archive,

The youngest sister ISHBEL GRACE MACNAUGHTON CAMPBELL (1905-1997), BSc 1926, became a research chemist, won a Carnegie Fellowship, studied at Cornell and returned to Scotland to teach at St Andrews, and colleges in Swanley, Bedford and Southampton, being Reader in Chemistry at the latter university by her retirement in 1971.

These were the remarkable children of Dr. John Campbell, Minister of Kirkcaldy Old Kirk from 1881 to 1927 and were brought up in the Manse next door to the Kirk on the corner of Townsend Place.

Taken from the website of Trailblazing Women: St. Andrews University

DR. CAMPBELL AND THE BIRTH OF ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

Recently a talk on the Old Kirk: Past, Present & Future to the ladies of Bennoch Church Guild reminded me that the original St. John's Church on that site was a daughter church of the Old Kirk.

When the railway came in 1846, the town started to grow beyond it and Dr. Campbell decided a new Church Extension was needed. He started it meeting in the canteen of Caledonian Linen Mills and a Committee was formed to provide a permanent

building. An iron church was inspected but rejected as not in good enough condition to be reassembled in Kirkcaldy. Finally in 1908 on Mr. Oswald's land in Meldrum Road, funded by subscribers, St. John's Church was opened.



KIRKCALDY ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY STRIKES UP AGAIN!



After a very successful Christmas concert when they played to two full houses in one afternoon, and the Old Kirk resounded joyfully to Christmas carols from the audience, 60 Langtoun Singers and a full orchestra, Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society are back !

This time they are rehearsing for the Spring Concert , which will be in the afternoon of **Sunday 18th March in the Old Kirk.**

Put it in your diaries now - the orchestra just seems to get bigger and better!

Some audience feedback: "Boy oh boy the concert today was a treat - a real touch of genius!!"



Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust

maintaining Kirkcaldy's heritage for the community

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Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust

*gives notice to all its members and to any interested parties that
the **Annual General Meeting**
will be held on **Wednesday 24th January 2018**
at 12 noon in the Downie Lounge, Kirk Wynd, Kirkcaldy*

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

Those members unable to attend are asked to appoint a proxy (if they so wish). This can be one of the Trustees or another member. You can do this by writing to the postal address or email address above, simply stating, 'I wish to appoint (name of proxy) as my proxy at the AGM of Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust on 24th January 2018' and signing it.

Refreshments will be provided.

DIARY DATES FOR SPRING 2018

JANUARY

WEDNESDAY 17TH 7.30PM
KIRKCALDY MUSIC SOCIETY
CASTALIAN STRING QUARTET

THURSDAY 18TH 7.30PM
KIRKCALDY CIVIC SOCIETY
RAILWAYS ABOUT EAST WEMYSS

WEDNESDAY 24TH 12
KIRKCALDY OLD KIRK TRUST
NOON
AGM

THURSDAY 25TH 7.30PM
BURNS SOIREE

FEBRUARY

TUESDAY 6TH 2PM
KIRKCALDY CIVIC SOCIETY
VOLUNTEERING AT EDINBURGH ROYAL
INFIRMARY : CHARLES MORGAN

THURSDAY 15TH 7.30PM
KIRKCALDY CIVIC SOCIETY
KIRKCALDY POTTERIES: DANIEL
FARRELL

FEBRUARY

WEDNESDAY 21ST 7.30PM
KIRKCALDY MUSIC SOCIETY
KRISTINA & IAN WATT

MARCH

TUESDAY 6TH 2PM
KIRKCALDY CIVIC SOCIETY
HISTORY OF RANDOLPH WEMYSS
HOSPITAL: GARY NURSE

THURSDAY 15TH 7PM
KIRKCALDY CIVIC SOCIETY
THE HAPPY LANDS: FILM & TALK

SUNDAY 18TH 2PM
KIRKCALDY ORCHESTRAL SOCIETY
SPRING CONCERT

WEDNESDAY 21ST 7.30PM
KIRKCALDY MUSIC SOCIETY
ISIMSIZ PIANO TRIO