



KIRKCALDY OLD
KIRK TRUST

Friends of Kirkcaldy Old Kirk

NEWSLETTER NO. 37

OCTOBER 2017

NEWS IN BRIEF:

Read these pages for events, talks and concerts throughout November. The Old Kirk seems to get busier all the time!

Our Advent Newsletter will contain details for December but here's dates for your diary!

Rob Fleming	30
Classical Piano Recital	11
Music Society - Jess Gillam	6/12
Tullis Russell Band - Leader John Wallace	8/12
Christmas Fair Auld Kirk Players in Hunter Hall	9/12
Fife Opera Chr. Concert	16/12
KOS Christmas Concert 2 afternoon shows	17/12
Fraser Morrison & co. Chr. Concert - evening	17/12

And our own Old Kirk 9 Lessons & Carols service on Christmas Eve at 2pm!

Spooky Graveyard Goings-On! - Hallowe'en Ghost Walk

Go carefully down Kirk Wynd on Hallowe'en this year for on this one night there will be ghosts about in Kirkcaldy Old Kirkyard and down the town, rising from their graves to tell their stories to those who dare to listen!

Those fearless individuals willing to go on Kirkcaldy Civic Society's Ghost Walk should **meet at the Hunter Hall in Kirk Wynd on Tuesday 31st October between 6pm and 6.15pm.** Intrepid guides from Kirkcaldy Civic Society will lead

Gordon Mathers

The sudden death of one of our trustees, Gordon Mathers, shocked and saddened all his friends in the Old Kirk and the Downie Lounge, where Gordon was a regular Saturday visitor.

A former policeman with wide interests, including

you through the darkened graveyard and down the town, in small groups for safety,



Kirkcaldy Civic Society Hallowe'en Ghost Walk

at 5 minute intervals , to meet some of Kirkcaldy's past characters. We will make our way to sanctuary in the Hunter Hall for spooky refreshments to revive any flagging spirits(!) –

fishing, railways, sport, his genealogy and of course his grandchildren, Gordon will be missed in many different groups in Kirkcaldy, not least Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust.

A loyal companion to Mary Hall in recent years before her death, Gordon

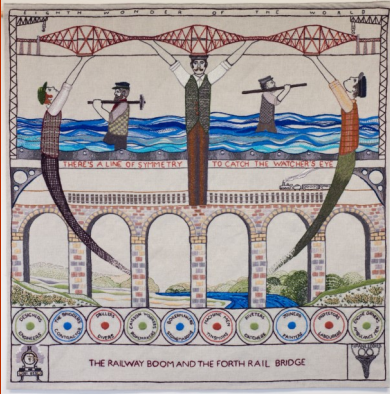
no charge for the walk (or **FREE LASER SHOW** included!) but a small donation is requested for refreshments.

Families are welcome and there will be a prize for the best fancy dress costume worn on the Ghost Walk. Who will appear this year? Come and see!

PS In heavy rain the guides would lead us over to shelter in the Old Kirk itself when I expect ghosts would flit in out of the rain too... See www.kirkcaldycivicsociety.com for more information.

often shared her summer sessions in the Old Kirk, ready to greet visitors to the Open Church - a memory embedded in the painting on the wall, given by Fife Council in recognition of Mary's service to Doors Open Day and accepted on her behalf by Gordon.

Kirkcaldy Civic Society Talks in November



“My Involvement with the Great Tapestry of Scotland” - Lee Bracher describes how she became a stitcher in the creation of the Great Tapestry of

Scotland, where the original idea came from and how it developed.

TUESDAY 7th Nov. at 2pm

“My Finds at the Ring of Brodgar” -

Alasdair Stuart from Burntisland describes his participation in the archaeological dig at the spectacular Ring of Brodgar in Orkney last year - and what significant finds he uncovered. Part of the Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage site, the Ring of Brodgar is

said to be an ancient ceremonial site. Alasdair, a Scottish History graduate will tell us more on **THURSDAY 16th Nov. at 7.30pm.**

Both meetings are open to all, free to members with suggested donation of £2 from non-members for refreshments.



Four in a row : tickets are available at the door on the night of each November concert

Carpe Diem concert

On **Saturday 11th November at 7.30pm** the Old Kirk will resound to the music of Carpe Diem, a group formed to perform the works of Fife teacher and composer Peter D Robinson. Peter studied Music and English at university and teaches

English at a Fife secondary school.

As a singer and actor, he has performed with many companies in Edinburgh and Fife.

This is the first time Carpe Diem has performed in the Old Kirk and we welcome them.

John Montgomery String Band

On **Friday 10th November** we have another new music sound in the Old Kirk at 7.30pm, when the John Montgomery String Band are playing as a fundraiser.

The bandleader's great-niece is raising money to take part in a World Challenge expedition and so a musical family provide the music for all to enjoy!

Featured on television & radio, this performance includes the band's much awaited new album, Falkland Hill : songs influenced by the lives, the loves and this intriguing East Coast.

Tickets available on the door and from Alison 07450 824616. A special night guaranteed! Beautiful heart-felt songs from a very special band!

Fife Strathspey & Reel Society

Fiddlers' Rally

Last November's Fiddlers' Rally was such an enjoyable night of Scottish music - and dance - that Fife Strathspey and Reel Society have chosen to come back this year to the Old Kirk!

We look forward to your enthusiastic support for them just as before - but with a new programme of foot-tapping tunes under the baton and experienced eye of Bill Robertson. Tickets are available at the door on the night.

**SUNDAY
4th NOVEMBER
7.30pm**



Doglife: a “real” play

Dog Life is an award-winning play with a difference, based as it is on the life and writings of former gangland enforcer Thomas McCrudden.

The play focuses on Thomas’s attempts to find love and to be loved through various different relationships. The cast have helped create the play by taking examples of their

own experiences and placing them on stage, which gives the drama a unique and powerful quality that sets it apart.

These two performances in the Old Kirk are the starting point of a new community project based at Linton Lane Centre - the team that made Doglife working with the local Kirkcaldy community.

FRIDAY 17th & SATURDAY 18th NOVEMBER
7.30pm seated from 7.15pm
Tickets £5
from 01592 643816 or mandyhender-son75@hotmail.com
or at door.
Light refreshments served.

“I found the performance of DOGLIFE very moving and emotional: it knocked me for six. I’m very excited about the new project...”

Cllr. Judy Hamilton

“Our Story Goes On...”



The cast come from all over the UK and the Channel Islands to perform

through popular songs from West End musicals. It is intended to entertain, delight and inspire people from all faith backgrounds.

Entry is free but tickets can be obtained from www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/our-story-goes-on-kirkcaldy-tickets-37941016602

This Interfaith show will be presented in the Old Kirk on **Sunday, 19th November 2017** from **18:00 to 19:30.**

together. The show is a popular and stirring celebration of family life, of love, of loss, and of laughter, told

Jazz in the Old Kirk

Kirkcaldy Music Society’s next concert on **Wednesday 8th November at 7.30pm** will feature an award-winning Italian jazz pianist called Rossano Sportiello.

Rossano declares on his website : “My goal is to play

jazz and make it understandable to everyone. Most of all, I want to see people smiling and having fun.”

That looks like an invitation to a pleasant evening’s entertainment on **Wednesday 8th November!**

Tickets priced £12, or concessions (ES40 holder/disabled/child/student) at £5 can be purchased at the door on the night. Discounted season tickets are available too.



ROSSANO SPORTIELLO
Jazz Pianist



Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust

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maintaining Kirkcaldy's heritage for the community

www.kirkcaldyoldkirktrust.co.uk



TIPTOE THROUGH THE TOMBSTONES

Presented in the Hunter Hall

by the AULD KIRK PLAYERS

Thursday 2nd November at 7.30pm

Friday 3rd November at 7.30pm

Saturday 4th November at 2.30pm

This play by Norman Robbins is our own drama group's offering to lift your spirits this November, as you follow the hilarious exploits of the Tomb family in a comedy horror produced by Graeme Ferguson. With many other familiar members of the cast, there is mayhem, murder and mystery in plenty - but nothing to keep you awake at night!

Tickets cost £7.00 and are available from David Potter (Tel. No. 01592 265499) or at the Marie Curie shop in the High Street. A donation will be made to Marie Curie from the proceeds. Tea/coffee available at the interval.

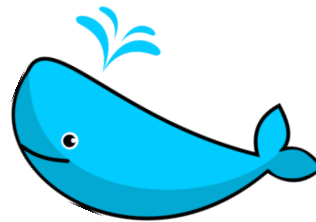
Kirkcaldy & The Whale

For some 50 years in the late 18th and early 19th century Kirkcaldy had a whaling fleet and rendering plant, and men endured the Arctic cold to catch this biggest of fish.

In 1862 Kirkcaldy lost her three whaling ships and over the years attitudes changed while Polar explorers

detailed their discoveries. Now the massive Scots whaling station in the Antarctic lies deserted and St. Andrews University Sea Mammal Research Unit takes students to Polar regions to study whales as intelligent mammals.

There is a fascinating story



Scottish Book Week 2017

**SATURDAY 25th NOVEMBER
10am - 4pm
KIRKCALDY OLD KIRK**

A Day Conference exploring whaling in Kirkcaldy and how and why attitudes changed towards conservation.

Speakers include:

Dr. Eric Graham on the Bounty Hunters and the Inuit;

Dr. Rob David, re Kirkcaldy's "Abram", lost in 1862 in the Arctic;

Matt Ylitalo B. Sc., B.A., M.Litt.: "Steamship, stowaways and Smithsonian Polar bear";

Sonja Heinrich, St. Andrews Univ.: "From Whaling to Whale Science - why whales matter & how we study them"

Jo Woolf, RSGS: "Shackleton's Trek for Life to the Grave of Whales"

Also : Kirkcaldy's Beached Whales

here to tell about our own history as part of a global development, and Kirkcaldy Civic Society, in partnership with Kirkcaldy Galleries and Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust, have put together a day conference to tell that story.

With a line-up of speakers all skilled and knowledgeable in their own field, and stalls, slides and books to view, we look forward to an interesting day in the Old Kirk on Saturday 25th November and invite you to join us.

Registration is available at 01592 265499 or online at www.eventbrite.co.uk/d/united-kingdom--kirkcaldy/events/ and costs £10 for the whole day, including light lunch, refreshments and Conference Pack.