



# Friends of the Old Kirk

Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust

Newsletter 48

March 2019

## 775 years of Kirkcaldy Old Kirk at the heart of the town...

This is a special year and a special time in the life of our town and our Old Kirk family - and it has nothing to do with Brexit!

On 21st March 1244 the Roman Catholic Bishop de Bernham of St. Andrews Diocese made his way to Kirkcaldy to consecrate the church here to St. Patrick and St. Brisse (St. Bryce) in a ceremony described in his service-book and recorded in the church annals.

This is the earliest written record of what is now Kirkcaldy Old Kirk, although we know that a Celtic church existed here for some 500 years before that. Columban monks had brought the Gospel across Scotland to this site

on the little hill above the harbour.

Today in the Old Kirk, still vibrant with Christian worship and community service as it has been over all these centuries, we celebrate its guardianship of Kirkcaldy's heritage and we rejoice that it still serves the community of Kirkcaldy in the heart of the now hard-pressed town centre.

To commemorate this 775th anniversary, we have compiled a year of celebratory events, and we hope that you will join in



sharing with us in some of these special events.

See overleaf for more details of the 775 Programme.

## ...and counting!

Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust is looking to the future to secure the iconic tower that has watched over the High Street and the harbour since the 15th century.

We have been successful in obtaining a first round pass in Heritage Lottery funding : this means we have some funding and 18 months to prepare a detailed plan to restore the old building .

This will take professional skills, volunteer effort and a lot of resources, with the ultimate aim of achieving a second round pass from the National Lottery Heritage Fund in 2020 - and £400,000 to see our plan implemented

## Launch of 775 Programme

One of the treasures of the Old Kirk is its fine pipe organ, built by August Gern in 1885 and considered by organists to be one of the best instruments in the district. Recently we have had the privilege of some of the most accomplished

organists in Scotland playing it with pleasure.

We have also introduced a post of Organ Scholar in a shared venture with our friends of St. Peter's Episcopal Church round the corner, to train the next generation of organists.

Encouraged by this interest, we have arranged a monthly programme of special organ recitals throughout this Anniversary year. It is fitting that Robin Bell, a friend of the Old Kirk and inspiring organist, will launch this series on Easter weekend, beginning our

775 programme with his recital of Easter music on **Saturday 20th April** .

All the organ recitals will take place on Saturdays **at 12 noon** and will be followed by a light buffet lunch at 1pm. A minimum donation of £5 is requested.

## Langtoun Jazz

Throughout 2019 you will find jazz on the menu in Kirkcaldy as Langtoun Jazz holds a series of jazz concerts to raise funds for a mini-jazz festival in the autumn.

Look out for the jazz organist Richard Michael playing in the Old Kirk in our 775 Organ Recital Series during Langtoun Jazz Festival weekend in October!

Long before that, however, is the next **jazz concert in the Old Kirk, on Saturday 6th April at 2pm – 4.15pm**

when the **Andy Lawrenson Trio and the Busking Sharks** will be playing.



**Andy Lawrenson** learned to play the violin through busking on the streets of Europe, Scandinavia, England, Scotland and Ireland, before returning to University of Northumbria to complete a music degree in the mid 1980's. A prominent figure on the North East Folk and Jazz scene, Andy now manages and gigs extensively with The Andy

Lawrenson Trio, runs music workshops and teaches violin and guitar in North Yorkshire.

Paul Grainger is the double bass player, also much in demand, and Simon O'Byrne a professional guitarist for over two decades.

Also from the North-East come Busking Sharks Community Band - Charlie Williams, Beth Hipwell and Tom Potter.

Tickets available at the door.

## East Fife Male Voice Choir

We welcome back the East Fife Male Voice Choir for their **Annual Concert in the Old Kirk on Friday 12th and Saturday 13th April 2019.**

Under the ever-watchful eye of Marilyn Boulton, their musical director, the guys will perform an entertaining selection of songs for you to enjoy, accompanied by the masterly skill of Robin Bell on piano and organ.

Tickets for either evening can be obtained from the Choir : contact Secretary, Alex (Sandy) Scott 01383 736866 - email: [secretary@efmvc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@efmvc.org.uk)

Tickets for unsold seats will be available at the door but don't risk missing out—book in advance!



*"A rhythmic and vibrant performance throughout ... a fun performance"*  
Fife Festival of Music

## Cromlit's Lilt at Kirkcaldy Music Society

**Wednesday 17th April** is the evening of the last concert in the Music Society's 2018-19 season, and it features a local group, Cromlit's Lilt, after a short AGM at 7.30pm.

Cromlit's Lilt are a small group of enthusiastic string players who are all friends and meet for the pleasure of rehearsing and performing Broque music.

Tickets cost £14 (ES40 holder/ disabled/child/student £5) and can be obtained at the door.



## Coming in May - Doorways in Drumordy

Lorna Moon was a Scots woman who left behind the sleepy Aberdeenshire village of her birth to become the highest-paid female screenwriter in 1920s Hollywood.

She got her big break after writing to the legendary director Cecil B DeMille with a withering critique of his latest release.

However her book of short stories based on her home village of Strichen did not go down well with her fellow-villagers, who recognised themselves only too well in the gossipy characters she portrayed.

This witty, funny play is now touring again after a sell-out in 2010, and it is coming to Kirkcaldy Old Kirk on Friday 17th

*"The play that was banned from the local library because villagers recognized themselves in the characters!"*

May at 7.30pm. Tickets costing £12 (£10 concessions) can be booked online at [www.wegotickets.com](http://www.wegotickets.com) or at 01592 265499.

## 775 Organ Recital Series

### Easter to Summer

*Robin Bell* Saturday 20th April 12pm

*Nancy Crook* Saturday 18th May 12pm

*John Kitchen* Saturday 22nd June 12pm

*Christian* Saturday July

*Marion Lees Macpherson* Saturday 17th August 12pm

### Summer to Christmas

*John Willmet* Saturday 21st September 12pm

*Richard Michael* Saturday 26th October 12pm

*Norman Milne* Saturday November 12pm

*Richard Bower* tbc

## Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust

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*maintaining Kirkcaldy's heritage for  
the community*

*Look out for our new 775  
celebration logo on all this year's  
events!*

*More details in our Easter News-  
letter.*

*Easter Reflections, short  
meditations with organ music,  
will take place in the Old Kirk  
during Holy Week at midday as  
usual.*

### *Celebrating 775 years...*

- ◆ *Series of monthly Organ Recitals beginning 20th April 2019*
- ◆ *Reminiscence afternoons—help us name these old photos or identify the event!*
- ◆ *Summer Exhibition of “775 Years Since” - open exhibition in July and August on the history of the Kirk and the town, and that special consecration day.*
- ◆ *Autumn Programme of talks on life in Kirkcaldy around 1244*
- ◆ *Workshops & Talks on Stained Glass Techniques, and Styles of the Artists represented in the Old Kirk*
- ◆ *Auld Kirk Players present a Dramatic Mini-Pageant of the Kirk's history.*
- ◆ *Celebratory service of Thanksgiving for 775 Years and Re-Dedication of the restored Burne-Jones window in September 2019*
- ◆ *Hallowe'en Ghost Walk 2019 with Civic Society*
- ◆ *Nine Lessons & Carols service at Christmas 2019 featuring our resident musical groups*
- ◆ *Spring Concert 2020 featuring Bruce Fraser's “From Sea to Sky” written for the Old Kirk.*

## Fiddlers' Rally: Fife Strathspey & Reel Society

This Annual Concert will certainly put a Spring in your step and set your feet tapping as Fife Strathspey and Reel Society bring together a Fiddlers' Rally for your entertainment!

It promises to rival their last year's concert here, full of fine music and much enjoyment.

I've already met someone coming specially from Aberdeenshire to take part and they're

looking forward to a good evening!

Also taking part



are dancers from the Sarah Scobie school of dance, demonstrating their skills, Piper Neil Wilkinson and singing group

Cantamus.

Come and join us for a fun night of lively traditional Scottish music !  
Tickets cost £10 at the door.

**SATURDAY  
30th MARCH  
7.30pm**