



Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust

Friends of the Old Kirk Newsletter

Newsletter No. 55

October 2019

Special points of interest:

- GHOST WALK on HALLOW-E'EN—see back page
- 775th Anniversary Service—see back page
- Whitburn Brass Band Concert—8th Nov. See page 3
- Kaptan Piano Trio in concert - 6th Nov. See page 2

Langtoun Jazz Festival Weekend

Last weekend saw the Old Kirk playing a leading part in the Langtoun Jazz Festival. Our particular event was Richard Michael's "Jazz" Organ Recital, which was part of the Old Kirk's 775th Anniversary Organ Recital series, and we were also pleased to be hosting other events in the Old Kirk, organised by Grace Black and Langtoun Jazz.

In fact the Old Kirk was full of jazz on **Friday 25th** and **Saturday 26th October**. On Friday night popular local band **Inverkeithing Community Big Band**, an 18 piece Big Band consisting of 5 saxophones, 4 trumpets, 4 trombones, bass, drums, guitar and keyboards, started off

the Festival playing from 7pm to 9pm.

Gypsy Jazz Trio Locarno Swing took over from 9.30pm, playing 1930s swing music that brought all the thrill and pizzazz of the interwar years of fashion, high speed racing cars and Hollywood glamour to the Old Kirk!

Representatives from Kirkcaldy Foodbank were in attendance at these events to take a bucket collection for a great cause. Langtoun Jazz also ran a raffle all weekend with prizes donated by local businesses: 50% of proceeds went to The Foodbank, 50% to Langtoun Jazz who are hoping to run a full Jazz Festival next summer if funds

allow.

Later on Saturday **The Big Band Theory Big Band** played from 5.30pm to 7.30pm in the Old Kirk with a relaxed cabaret set-up.

Unfortunately The Biernagels, due to play on Sunday 27th October in the Hunter Hall, Kirk Wynd at 6.30pm had to cancel because of family illness.

If you missed this weekend event, there is still a chance to hear more jazz in the Old Kirk on **FRIDAY 6th DECEMBER** when the "**Wee Scottish Big Band**" will be playing, followed by the new **Grace Black Trio**. A relaxed night out for your diaries!

Richard Michael



Organ Recital Series

On **Saturday 26th October** our 775th Organ Recital series met Langtoun Jazz in a unique **Jazz Organ Recital at 12 noon by Richard Michael**, popular local jazz leader and organist at Abbotshall Church.

The hour-long recital was followed by a

snack buffet lunch, when the audience were able to chat to Richard about his recital and the art of improvisation.

On **Saturday November 23rd** Norrie Milne, our resident organist, who has kept the Old Kirk organ sounding magnificent in practice

over the past few years, will give the next Organ Recital at 12 noon. This will be a selection of classical pieces, film themes and popular tunes - to suit all tastes! Norrie has been playing since he was a boy and takes a regular slot at the Caird Hall organ so come, listen and enjoy!

Tower Restoration Project



Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust has begun the necessary detailed planning and the hunt for further funding to enable this project to reach delivery stage.

This will take time, well into next year, and a lot of paper-work as well as practical tests and further assessments of the building's present condition. All this is to make sure we get the best

quality of work done in the proper places for the long-term future of our tower.

While we have already secured the money to get detailed architects' plans and a costed programme of works for the site, we must also draw up plans for activities that will see the public further involved in ways to care for the tower.

This week trustees were interviewing

architects for their important part of the job. A consultant has been appointed to assist in updating our Business Plan and we have a Project Manager to draw it all together. Then all the reports will go, with a second application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, and to other funders, to seek their financial backing ... and hopefully then their approval later in 2020 to start work!

Kirkcaldy
Music Society
Concert
Wednesday
6th November
7.30pm

Kapten Piano Trio

Last month's concert by 5 young and vibrant South Korean string-players from Germany was given an exceptionally warm reception by the Kirkcaldy Music Society audience—and deservedly so.

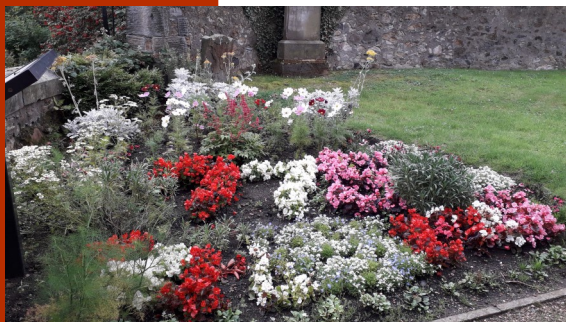
Now we look forward eagerly to the next month's concert by the Kapten Piano Trio

with pianist Kristi Kapten, violinist Rachel Spencer and cellist Duncan Strachan on **Wednesday 6th November at 7.30pm**. The trio formed in 2011 whilst students at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland, where they were chosen as Young Artists in Residence, and have

since gone on to develop a reputation as one of the top piano trios in the country.



It's Your Outstanding Neighbourhood!



775 in Flowers!

For the past few years Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust has taken part in the "It's Your Neighbourhood" scheme run by Keep Scotland Beautiful for small local groups.

This year our Assessor visited in July and awarded an "Outstanding" level of certificate for gardening, environment & community involvement. We go to collect it at the Awards ceremony on Wed. 30th October!

Remembrance

At the 775th Anniversary Service as we looked back over many years, we remembered in prayer those who had worshipped in the Old Kirk before us, those dearly loved by us and no longer with us, and those remembered in the silence of our hearts.

Now, last week, the Old Kirk community has laid to rest two faithful Old Kirk members, elders giving service for many years.



We note with sadness the passing of John Brown, dear husband of Elsie Brown, and father of Lesley and Derek, and of Sandra Rimmer, whose husband Graham has served the Old Kirk Trust as Accountant since its inception.

John was a longtime

member of the Fabric Committee and the "Do-it-yourself Group" in the Old Kirk, whose work maintained the buildings in such good condition over years.

Sandra was a much-loved member of The Wynd, a quiet, hard-working and efficient administrator, friend to many voluntary groups, including Capshard Rainbows, and a warm family person.

While we are sad at

their passing, we know for them there is no more pain or tears, and for their families a multitude of warm intimate memories remain. Our thoughts and prayers are with them now.

God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: Rev. 21:4

Remembrance Weekend Concert: Whitburn Brass Band

Whitburn Brass Band is a top-class brass band with a history of many prestigious awards in their field of excellence. They have been Scottish Champions on 20 occasions and winners of the Scottish Open

Championships for the past 5 years—will this be the 6th?

Now they are coming to Kirkcaldy Old Kirk giving the opportunity to hear a fine band concert at Remembrance week-

end on **Friday 8th November at 7.30pm.**

Tickets can be booked in advance from the Old Kirk at 01592 265499 or obtained at the door on the night.

Cherished in Memory

On Sunday 27th October we had a very special service of remembrance in the Old Kirk at 3pm when the tiniest people with the biggest hold on our hearts were remembered.

NHS Chaplain Sue Begg led the Baby Memorial service this year and all

families and friends who wish to join the service were invited and welcomed.

Tea, coffee and juice were served afterwards by NHS staff for all who wished to stay for a wee while - whether to talk or in quiet thought.

Anyone wishing to spend a few moments in quiet in the church at any time is welcome to contact us or drop in.



NHS BABY MEMORIAL SERVICE
SUNDAY 27th OCTOBER 3pm



Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust

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maintaining Kirkcaldy's heritage for
the community

Our 775th Anniversary service was a happy and busy occasion with 116 worshippers filling the church to celebrate the life of the Auld Kirk in the past, the present and the future.

We were delighted to see some of the older members of the Old Kirk present and the 775th Anniversary cake was cut by former elder Jacynthe Cuthbert.

It was good too to see so many of the churches in Kirkcaldy represented in this celebration of Christian faith and service, with the Old Kirk the site of the Gospel coming to Kirkcaldy by the 7th Century. Members of the Iona Community, from the island of St. Columba, whose monks first brought the Good News, shared our service too, and the restored Burne-Jones stained glass window was re-dedicated by Rev. John Ferguson, last Minister of Kirkcaldy Parish Church, who referred warmly to his time spent here—and humorously to the incident when the clapper fell off the bell!

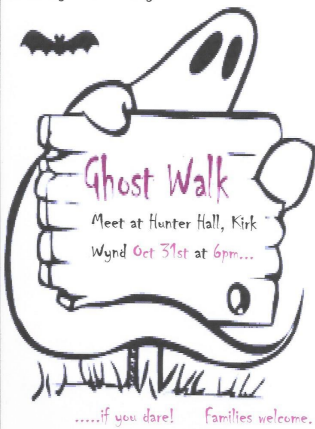


Mark Bambrough, the conservator of the window, improved our understanding of the art of Burne-Jones and William Morris as he explained its uniqueness.

No service would be complete without our own drama group, the Auld Kirk Players, performing and this they did with effect about the tragic Fall of the Gallery in 1828!

We have a recording of the service so if you missed it or would like to have a copy, please contact us.

Kirkcaldy Civic Society



Kirkcaldy Civic Society Hallowe'en Ghost Walk 2019

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

SPOOKY GRAVE- YARD GOINGS- ON!

willing to go on Kirkcaldy Civic Society's Ghost Walk should **meet at the Hunter Hall in Kirk Wynd on Thursday 31st October between 6pm and 6.15pm.** Intrepid guides from Kirkcaldy Civic Society will lead you through the darkened graveyard and down the town, in small groups at 5 minute intervals for safety, to meet some of Kirkcaldy's past characters. We will make our way to sanctuary for spooky refreshments to revive any flagging spirits (!) – no charge for the walk but a donation is requested for the ghoulish

refreshments.

Families are welcome and there will be a small 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...

[http://
www.kirkcaldycivicsociety
.com](http://www.kirkcaldycivicsociety.com)

For more information contact Rosemary Potter, Secretary, 01592 265499

Hallowe'en Ghost Walk beckons!