

# Friends of the Old Kirk Newsletter



Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust

Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Newsletter 64

September/October 2020



## Swing in the Old Kirk!

Despite the creeping chill into our nights and the dashed hopes of Fife jazz fans who had eagerly anticipated a Rose Room concert on Saturday 26th September, we want to give you a warm and musical welcome to the Old Kirk this weekend!

But how, with Government restrictions still postponing live music concerts? Read on!



Clark Stewart is a singer and entertainer with extensive experience performing in theatres, television, radio, and Cabaret.

His acclaimed tribute One Night In Las Vegas features songs from the Rat Pack and other Vegas legends Bobby Darin, Barry Manilow, Neil Diamond, Matt Monro, Elvis, Tony Christie and Michael Buble. Remember these timeless classics?: Lady Is A Tramp, Come Fly With Me, Mr Bojangles, New York, That's Life, Fly Me To The Moon, My Way, and Under My Skin?

**Now you have a chance to hear them again, recorded a few days ago by Clark in the Old Kirk and available to audiences in their own homes.**

Clark Stewart's performance in the Old Kirk is available on Langtoun Jazz' Youtube channel on a private link accessible to patrons who donate on the website

<https://langtounjazz.wixsite.com/mysite/fundraising> or email [info@langtounjazz.co.uk](mailto:info@langtounjazz.co.uk) to make a Bank payment. A minimum donation of £5 is requested for your virtual "ticket" - a link you will receive to your email address after you donate. Clicking on that link will take you to the concert.

Langtoun Jazz Secretary Grace Black has worked hard to keep music flowing for local audiences and hopes that funds raised this way will pave the way for the Langtoun Jazz Festival postponed till next year, as well as helping the Old Kirk stay afloat and musicians, like Clark, who have been unable to work since March.

Clark has spent over 28 years performing around the world onboard luxury Cruise Ships and was the youngest ever Cruise Director on board the world-famous "Queen Elizabeth 2".

While at home in Scotland, he has performed in many prestigious venues including Kings Theatre (Edinburgh), Usher Hall, our own Adam Smith Theatre, and Carnegie Hall, and appeared many times on STV and BBC television as well as playing leading roles in many musicals and pantomimes.

"Doing on-line events is a small way of trying to help

musicians such as Clark in these difficult times, but it is no substitute for performing to a paying audience." says Grace. "With the next review of restrictions due in early October, Langtoun Jazz has provisionally rescheduled the Rose Room concert for Saturday 24 October in Kirkcaldy Old Kirk but given latest tougher restrictions there are indications that the date is likely to be delayed further."

Let's hope it won't be too long before we can hear live music again –the Old Kirk is ready! Meantime, take the opportunity to enjoy this show!

### LOOK INSIDE!

INSIDE STORY 2

INSIDE STORY 2

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## Doors Open Day

In this most unusual year, Doors Open Day saw very few actual doors open to the public but Kirkcaldy Old Kirk was one of these few.

Visitors from abroad were not expected, because of Covid travel restrictions, but a young Spanish couple, presently staying in Edinburgh, did visit, and were impressed by the view of the town they saw from the top

of the tower. They hope to make their home in Kirkcaldy soon!

Other visitors were local, some who were returning to a familiar and loved place, one a family of 3 generations who had never been in the church before and whose most senior member was fetched by the others especially to see the Kirk and climb the tower!

The Old Kirk volunteer guides had an interesting weekend and led two heritage walks. Visitors, though fewer than usual, were appreciative of our opening.

Online the Old Kirk website now has a link to a virtual tour of the church for those unable to make a visit in person. Take a look! This is one of many places you can now visit at Digital Doors Open!



Quakers "seek a gathered stillness in our meetings for worship so that all may feel the power of God's love drawing us together and leading us. "

## Quakers

The Religious Society of Friends, or Quakers as they are more commonly known, are now meeting in the Old Kirk on the 2nd and 4th and 5th Sundays in the month at 10.30am.

The church is spacious enough to allow a socially distanced circle for the Meeting for Worship to which all

are welcome.

Much of the meeting is spent in quiet contemplation and listening for the Spirit's guidance.

Face coverings must be worn and anybody speaking is asked to sit at the laptop to do so in order that those present by Zoom can hear and participate

online as well.

All entering the church are asked to sanitise their hands with the hand sanitiser available.

Our other usual services have not yet re-started. Singing is not allowed and this is a big miss for many worship groups!

## Auld Kirk Players; The Witching Hour

The Auld Kirk Players have been working away at their play which this autumn is not a play at all—but a film!

The late summer weather has allowed the Players to film some scenes outside

while Graeme Ferguson and Fraser Anderson, joint producers, have rewritten scenes and acting schedules to keep social distancing in place.

Now however the Players are taking a

wee break while the next set of adaptations is taking place. Altogether a different world from that of the characters portrayed—including Liliias, who was accused and imprisoned as a witch, before she escaped execution—by dying in prison beforehand!



## Volunteer Coordinator

Enthusiastic about heritage? Excited about playing a part in the regeneration of Kirkcaldy Town Centre? Good with people and able to help them develop their skills and interests? At home with our community aspirations? Experienced in recruiting volunteers?

Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust is looking to expand its volunteer base to take this community organisation into the future, building on Kirkcaldy Old Kirk's centuries-old heritage of Christian worship and community service and its 9 years of

community management as a community venue, church and heritage centre.

The role of this new part-time worker is to develop volunteer roles in Kirkcaldy Old Kirk and to recruit, support and deliver training to volunteers to enable them to develop new and existing skills and participate in the work of the organisation.

The post is funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Architectural Heritage Fund as part of the Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Tower Restoration for the Community, which also has

contributions from Kirkcaldy Common Good Fund and sponsors from the local community.

A job description is on the website and further details are available from Rosemary Potter, Chairperson of Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust. Applicants should send an email or letter with their CV by the end of 16th October 2020.

The above is our advert for the new part-time post of Volunteer Coordinator. We look forward to finding the right person for the post.



## KOKT and the AGM

Because of lockdown and subsequent restrictions, we have not been able to hold an AGM earlier in the year as we intended to. The hope has always been that things would improve to allow us to do this.

However now we have also been looking at an online AGM or a blended one, with those who prefer not

to be present in person, able to attend virtually, by Zoom.

Graham Rimmer, our Accountant, has been preparing the Annual Accounts for us as he has done for the nine years since KOKT was formed, only this time during lockdown! We are extremely grateful to him for this unsung service to the organisation since its

infant beginnings, for most of that time supported by his wife Sandra, now sadly passed on.

Graham has decided that now it is time to take more of a step back and so we will be looking at the end of this year for someone else to take over this task—with all the complexities of the Tower Restoration Project to deal with!

Look out for notification of the AGM in the next few weeks!

## ACA

Adult Children of Alcoholics (ACA)/ Dysfunctional Families is a Twelve Step, Twelve Tradition programme of men and women who grew up in dysfunctional homes, often where a parent was an alcoholic.

They meet to share the experience of "growing up in an environment

where abuse, neglect and trauma infected us. This affects us today and influences how we deal with all aspects of our lives."

ACA are now meeting on our premises for the time being. They follow the Twelve Steps derived from the AA programme of recovery. Any inquiries

will be passed on to Sandra in the group.







maintaining Kirkcaldy's heritage for the community



Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust

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Have you noticed? Our trees in the graveyard have a lot of dead wood on them this year. Fife Council, who maintain the graveyard, have called in their tree expert to have a look and see what needs to be done to help them.

These trees with their twisted stems and weeping habit are weeping ash trees, much planted in ornamental situations by the Victorians.

The picture below shows one of the trees in winter, with its leaves having fallen.

## Tower Restoration Project



Now that plans have been made and details worked out, tenders submitted and a contractor chosen, the emphasis on the tower restoration programme has become securing the funds to make it happen!

On 1st September we submitted a second round application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, who, if we were to be successful, would, together with Historic Environment Scotland, and Fife Environment Trust, fund more than half of the necessary money.

Next month the decision-making Panel would have visited us in person but for the threat from Covid-19. However we will instead deliver a presentation and have an online meeting to showcase our plans. Keep your fingers crossed!

Other applications are underway, but next month we will be relaunching our online Crowdfunding scheme, seeking to raise funds to add to those already given.

More will be said then about our target and where we have reached, but I do wish to thank those who have contributed to Sponsor-a-Step, some many months ago and some just last week.

Your generosity has spurred us on and now we are within sight of realizing this essential target of restoration, so that the tower can remain open and accessible to the community.

Thank you!

Donations can always be made by Paypal on our website donation button.