

FRIENDS OF KIRKCALDY OLD KIRK

KIRKCALDY OLD KIRK TRUST

Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society Spring Concert



My garden is covered in snowdrops and the first pussy willows are opening up on the tree - unmistakable signs that Spring is on its way.

In Kirkcaldy Old

Kirk too we have signs of returning Spring, with crocus, miniature daffodils - and our first Spring concert:

SOLUTIONS IN SPRING

**Sunday 15 March
2015, 3.00pm at
the Old Kirk,
Kirkcaldy**

This is the last of 3 concerts in the 2014 - 15 season for Kirkcaldy Orchestral Society and it continues the theme for the season of

...from Conflict ... through Dialogue ... to Resolution.

Tickets : £8 Adults, £4 Children, are available from kos.secretary@gmail.com or at the door of the Old Kirk on the day.

for Mother's Day!

Special points of interest:

With **MARTHA ANN BROOKES**, Trombone Soloist, the programme includes:

- Festive Overture - Prelude and Fugue
- The Spitfire - Sir Patrick Spens - Overture
- Prince Igor - Wellington's Victory - Miss Saigon



Greener Kirkcaldy : People, Community and Our Planet Annual Gathering and AGM

Greener Kirkcaldy has been a partner organization with Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust since our beginnings so we were very happy to welcome them back again to the building for this year's AGM and Annual Gathering.

We share a concern for Kirkcaldy's people and community, and for a healthy environment for us all.

On Saturday 21st Feb.

we gathered to hear about Greener Kirkcaldy's successes and their exciting new projects for 2015.

Speakers on the day, included journalist and broadcaster Lesley Riddoch, seen here enjoying her last visit to the Old Kirk; and Professor Stuart Haszeldine from the School of Geo-Sciences, Univer-

sity of Edinburgh, who talked about fracking and unconventional gas extraction.



**Sat 21st February
10am to 2.15pm**

Lesley Riddoch spoke eloquently and passionately about local control of energy-generation, urging Scottish communities to manage their own environment.

A delicious locally sourced lunch was served by our caterers Bruce and Sarah Stuart of Food for Thought.

The Old Kirk - Past...



“We are particularly looking for someone with web skills to put us on social media, a sound technician and an archivist”

Another year in the life of Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust has passed, with a busy schedule of events keeping the old building in use and in good heart.

We are still developing our skills and confidence in using the new facilities at our disposal : stage lighting, a multitude of audio-visual combinations , cameras, and broadband. There is exciting potential here for more ways to tell the story of Kirkcaldy’s heritage on this historic site, and we are exploring some of

these and the new challenges they bring. Watch this space....!

Increasingly the Old Kirk is in demand as a special venue for concerts and social events. Perhaps you were one of the audience at a Christmas concert last year, or shared in our Old Kirk Christmas service, a wedding, christening or memorial service. Our new facilities are equally valuable in worship as in concert mode.

Whatever your involvement, we are grateful to you, our Friends, for your ongoing support. Some of

you give regularly, month by month, to maintain the Old Kirk. Some made substantial donations last year to match our grant funding and enable the improvements. Some give huge amounts of time and effort to help in the fabric maintenance, concert stewarding, researching, caretaking and administration.

If you would like to know more about regular financial giving, or volunteering for those with much-needed skills to share, please don’t hesitate - get in touch!

...Present...

This week Kirkcaldy Galleries Local History Officer , Jill Lewis, spoke to Kirkcaldy Civic Society about the Fife’s War project, recording stories and anecdotes about life here during the Great War. She asked for any one with family memories that could be part of that recording to get in touch with her at Kirkcaldy Galleries.

David Potter in his book “Kirkcaldy in the First World War” details some of his research about the Old Kirk’s Manse family at this time.

Adeline, one of Rev. John Campbell’s seven daughters - all graduates of St. Andrews University - was a doctor, who offered her services to the British Army in 1914. She was turned down because she was a woman, as was Dr. Elsie Inglis of Edinburgh.

The offer of medical help was gratefully accepted by

Serbia, where Dr. Elsie Inglis set up one of her Scottish Women’s Hospitals. Adeline served there in terrible conditions and received the Order of Saba from the Serbians.

We know a little about some of the stories behind the names on the First World War Memorial in the Old Kirk tower but we would like to research some more for our exhibition this summer during our Open Days.

If you would like to help us in this , look out for dates in May and June when we hope to set up a research group.



Adeline Campbell’s Unit in Serbia in 1914-5

...and Future!

Read on in the Newsletter to see some of our planned activities in the near future, and look out for details of others soon.



FRAE Fife Climate Challenge Fund Conference	Friday 27th March
Pink! The Musical - for children 3-8 years	Thursday 7th May 2pm
Music in May concert	22nd May
Gilbert & Sullivan choir concert	Friday 5th June 7.30pm

Hunter Hall : Auld Kirk Players

In November 2013 the Old Kirk Trust took over management of the Hunter Trust properties across Kirk Wynd, including the Hunter Hall and Downie Lounge. This month we thought we would feature some of the activities available to the public there. Perhaps you will see something you want to join in with!

The oldest drama group in Kirkcaldy, the Auld Kirk Players are based in the Hunter Hall. They have just finished two one-act plays written by members of the cast and are preparing to choose their 3-act play for performance in November.

Do you have a secret hankering to tread the boards and play another role? Then this is the moment to approach the



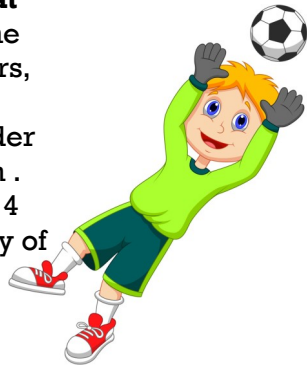
Auld Kirk Players! Their **AGM will be held on Sunday 29th March at 7.30pm in the**

Hunter Hall, when you will be welcome to pop in and see them.



Minikickers Football

Saturday mornings at 9.30am is kick-off time for Jason's Minikickers, aged 3-8 years. A popular class, the older ones finish at 11.30am. Contact Jason at 07414 915029 for availability of places.



Downie Lounge

The Lounge is open for teas, coffees and home-baking on Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturday mornings between 10am and 12 noon.

Drop in for a cuppa and a chat.



Ballet Classes- Caroline Kelly Dance Academy

Caroline teaches ballet in the Hunter Hall from 4.15pm on Fridays during term-time, starting with the youngest children of 2-3 years and progressing through to 9pm with the oldest pupils.

Interested for your child or grandchild?

Contact Caroline on 07821 444692



Society of Friends

The Society of Friends, or Quakers as they are also called, meet in the Hunter Hall every second, fourth (and fifth) Sunday of the month at 10.30am for an hour of worship. All are welcome to come along, and stay for refreshments afterwards

Gilbert & Sullivan Society

New voices welcome to sing with the G&S on Tuesday evenings from 7.30pm in the Hunter Hall, in rehearsal for the choir's concert on Friday 5th June in the Old Kirk.. See www.kirkgandss.co.uk



Three Thousand Trees: The Death of Mr. William MacRae

“It is a death that has inspired speculation and rumour of dark involvement by the shadowy agents of the state for nearly three decades.”
The Herald

A one-man play by writer and actor Andy Paterson, following a very successful season at the Edinburgh Fringe in 2014. It is a mystery based around the death in 1985 of Glasgow lawyer and SNP activist Willie MacRae. Although officialdom has classified the death as suicide, there remain many unexplained matters that lead some people to believe there is a need for a full inquiry.

The play will be introduced by Roger Mullin,

who knew Willie MacRae and was close to two of the events referenced during this performance. At the end of the evening, Andy Paterson and Roger Mullin will discuss the play and events surrounding the death with the audience, making this a unique theatrical event.

Although dealing with a serious and mysterious case, there are moments of humour and music that light up this performance.

Doors open at 7pm on Friday 27th March and the performance starts at 7.25pm in the magnificent surroundings of the Old Kirk.

Admission costs £10, or £7 for unwaged, senior citizens and children under 16. Tickets can be booked at Eventbrite : www.eventbrite.com/e/three-thousand-trees-the-death-of-mr-william-macrae-tickets-15797059430

East Fife Male Voice Choir : Annual Concert 2015

FRIDAY
24th April,
SATURDAY
25th April
at 7.30pm in
the Old Kirk
Tickets £12
www.efmvc.org.uk

The men of the East Fife Male Voice Choir enjoyed themselves so much last year in the Old Kirk that we welcome them back this year for their 57th Annual Concert!

Joined by 6 new singers, they will be singing pieces new and old in their usual inimitable style, accompanied by the accomplished Robin Bell.

However, this concert will



also be the last Annual Concert with Jim Broadley, the choir's long-serving Musical Director, as he is retiring at the end of May 2015.

Jim will leave the choir in good heart and in safe hands, with the appoint-

ment of a new Musical Director in Marilyn Boulton, former Director of Music at St. Leonard's School in St. Andrews.

Before that, however, Jim is bound to get a great send-off from his choir, so come along for a night of great music!

Save the Wemyss Ancient Caves Society Annual Lecture

The organization which watches over the ancient caves at Wemyss has been doing a lot of work to preserve the interior of the caves and their prehistoric drawings. The caves are under threat from rising

seas and coastal erosion as well as potential vandalism.

Come along to S.W.A.C.S. Annual Lecture to find out the latest developments in combatting these threats.



Tuesday
21st
April at
7.30pm

Barbara Dickson Supports Fife Society for the Blind's 150th Anniversary

This year marks 150 years since the founding of Fife Society for the Blind, and helping to celebrate it is local celebrity singer Barbara Dickson, who is Patron of the organization.

Your chance to spend an evening in the company of Barbara as she talks with John Abernethy about her life in show business and sings a handful of her most popular hits, is on

Thursday 30th April, at 7pm in the Old Kirk.

Tickets for "In Conversation with Barbara Dickson" cost £15 and are available from Fife Society for the Blind. (01592 644979). Book early for a seat!

All proceeds will go to the Society to help it maintain its work to make life with a sight loss easier.

In Conversation with
Barbara Dickson
with a little music

Thursday 30th April 2015

Bar facilities from 6.30pm

7pm

The Old Kirk
Kirkcaldy KY1 1EH

Cost: £15.00
For tickets call
01592 644979

or email info@fbsinsight.co.uk

Public parking in car park at front of Church Lane

All proceeds go to Fife Society for the Blind

Scottish Registered Charity No. SC001354
A limited company registered in Scotland (No. 164278)



Photograph: Brian Ait

Patrick Don Swan's Legacy

One of those who was instrumental in forming the independent Society in 1865 was Patrick Don Swan, Provost of Kirkcaldy Burgh. He became the first President of "The Fife and Kinross Society for teaching the Blind to read in their own homes",

as the organization was then called.

In 1890 Provost Swan died and was buried beside his father in the most elaborate grave in the Old Kirk graveyard, with his profile head carved on the front. You can view it there today.



Originally, the Society operated from 27 Kirk Wynd, now under the management of the Old Kirk Trust as home

of the Downie Lounge and part of the Hunter Trust properties.

From this base the Society provided materials to home workers to make products, sold from the Society's premises.

It is intriguing to think that the Old Kirk and the Society are linked in this way.

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LATEST NEWS ON THE WEB!
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UST.ORG.UK

Holy Week and Easter

We invite you to join us in
Reflections at lunchtime during
Holy Week*, and to
boycott celebrate Easter in
our Easter service in
the Old Kirk.

*Monday 30th March, Tues 31st March

*Thursday 2nd April, Friday 3rd April

On Wednesday 1st April at 2pm you are
invited to join us at St. Peter's Church for a
modern Stations of the Cross, led by Lay
Reader Ian Scott.

Further details later.

Kirkcaldy Civic Society

**"Civil Defence is Common Sense":
Britain's Civil Defence Corps 1947-68**

by Mike Birkett



***"Work is to start soon on the transform-
ing of Dunnikier House, Kirkcaldy, into
one of the country's finest, and most
up-to-date Civil Defence centres."*** Do

you know when this was written? Find
out in this final evening talk of the Civic
Society's winter programme. It takes place on
Thursday 19th March at 7.30pm in the Old
Kirk and is open to all.



Dunnikier
House

Reminiscence Day

Sunday 29th March

2-4pm Old Kirk

Remember, remember ... Kirkcaldy
Civic Society is always looking for
your reminiscences, old photos,
postcards and books to record the
rich history of life in Kirkcaldy. We
have a large archive of interesting
material and some of it will be on
display this day for you to look at.

Search through the valuation rolls,
find childhood friends in old
photos, reminisce about the films
running on the screens ... and bring
your own memorabilia for us to
scan and record for others to view.

This is a free event.

Refreshments will be available for a
small donation.