

Friends of Loudoun Kirk

With so much inactivity this year, there has been little news to write about. Work continues at Loudoun Kirk with maintenance tasks. Regrettably vandals graffiti-ed the new stonework at the kirk although thankfully that seems to be all the damage done meantime. The roof has a slate missing and will need to be replaced but for the time being inside the kirk is remaining dry.

We have been considering how best to use the Kirk and we feel that it would be an excellent venue for a small wedding/Christening. The modern trend is to go for the "unusual" and we felt we could offer the kirk for hire for this purpose. The kirk is still consecrated and although a registrar would not be able to perform the service because of this, any minister or priest could. Any enquiries, please contact 01560 321813.

This has been a very sad year for us with the loss of our associate patrons,
Lady Edith McLaren and Major Eric Young

Also regrettably,

Drena Ferguson, a much valued retired committee member. Drena held the post of treasurer together with her sister
Mat Kerr for several years before retiring.

Bobby Young, contributed greatly to the project through support and also financially through the sale of his videos of
local events.

Jim Mair, chairman before retiring. Jim was one of the instigators of the establishment of The Friends of Loudoun
Kirk.

All were founder members and each in their own way were staunch in their support and thankfully all of them saw the
end result of the years of effort they put into it. They will be sadly missed.

On a brighter note, Britt, our membership secretary, married Ewan Sutcliffe last year and they are now awaiting the birth of their first child. Our congratulations and best wishes to them both.

Susan and Aaron who still continue working for the organisation although they have moved away from the area, still work hard looking after the website and answering email enquiries—or re-directing them.

Susan has recently started working at Keele University as librarian, looking after the library website. She and Aaron have just moved house and are now living in Alston, Nr Nantwich. Susan normally makes a start to preparing the newsletter, however they have a good excuse for not working on it this time.

Associate Patrons

We are delighted to welcome Des Browne and John Sharp who have accepted invitations to become Associate Patrons. John, from Newmilns is a life member and has been supportive in the past particularly in setting up F.O.L.K. and advising on fundraising. Des, besides his busy parliamentary life, has a close association with the Loudounkirk area, having lived at one time in Ladyton. He also has been very supportive in helping us achieve our aims whenever he could.

The A.G.M. was held at Peelhill Farm on Tuesday 8th May with no change in the office bearers. It has been suggested that we make a slight change in the constitution, this will be discussed at the next meeting on June 4th to be proposed at an E.G.M. In September

New Trustee

As the fundraising organisation for The Loudoun Kirk Preservation Trust, we can also report a change of Trustee. The late Jim Mair, ex chairman of FOLK was also a Trustee for LKPT and we are pleased to announce that Gillian Hutcheson has now been elected to become a Trustee in his place. Gillian seldom misses any of the events or meetings, and works very hard in the background for us. As an accountant she has been responsible for keeping both FOLK and LKPT books in order and through her knowledge and experience of the system, she has helped us regain a substantial amount of money from the inland revenue. The Trust are happy to welcome such a hard worker on board.

Members Evening, Tues 27th April

Elijah Beattie volunteered to give a talk and we had no hesitation in accepting. We held a members night in the Barr Castle, thanks to Lodge St Peter in allowing it's use. Their hospitality is excellent, we were greeted warmly and made very welcome with particular thanks Tom Stewart and Allan Strachan for all their help on the night. Elijah spoke on the changes in the local area and followed up by a question time/discussion. The museum at the Barr Castle was opened for anyone wishing to visit it, thanks to Tom Murray, and the evening was rounded off with cheese and wine. We also took the opportunity of recognising Alistair Hendry's contribution on the history of Loudoun Kirk, by informally presenting him with a pair of Loudoun Kirk whiskey glasses.

Non-FOLK events

An Easter service was held at Loudoun Kirk and good weather and good turn out made it a very successful morning.

The walking festival includes the Kirk on the Lady Flora Walk, on May 12th, and John Alexander was there to give a brief history of the kirk and answer any questions the walkers had.

Dates for the diary

Doors Open Day is on September 2nd 2007 when the kirk will be open 10am—4pm. There is normally a very good turn-out to this event and an opportunity to meet up with auld acquaintances usually presents itself. All are welcome.

The Ceilidh this year is on Sat. 24th Nov. 2007. The ceilidh last year was very successful and it was nice to see the young folk hoochin' and choochin'. Willie Young and "the boys" will be back this year and it can only be hoped that this year will at least match last year

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN £ £ £ £

YES, WE WANT YOUR MONEY.

CAN WE JUST REMIND MEMBERS WHO PAY AN ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION, CAN YOU PLEASE COMPLETE THE ATTACHED FORM AND SEND IT IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE—DON'T FORGET TO FILL IN THE GIFT AID SECTION, IT COSTS YOU, THE MEMBER NOTHING, BUT MEANS WE CAN CLAIM MONEY BACK FROM THE INLAND REVENUE

William & Robert Yule of the Bengal Army

Whilst looking into the family history of some of the people buried at Loudoun Kirk, I came across a memorial to William Yule, Son of Major William Yule HEICS, Inveresk who died at Loudoun 19th June 1820 aged 6 years. Also, In memory of William Yule, nephew of the above, son of Major R.A. Yule, 9th Lancers who died Meerut, East Indies 18 Spe. 1818 aged 3yrs9mths.

N.b. a number of R.A. Yule's family births are registered in Kilmarnock

The following are from the Yule family newsletter

The Yule family originally served as tenant farmers for generations on the Dirleton Estate, East Lothian. George Yule married Elizabeth Rose, daughter of Rev. James Rose, minister at Udney Parish, Aberdeen, one of their sons, James, married Alison Dungeon and is listed as a landed proprietor of Grisslees Estate, Partick., and another, William married Elizabeth Paterson, daughter of Paterson of Braehead, Ayr.

Major William Yule was a major in the Bengal army. He served as a cadet 1780, promoted to administration, 1781, lieutenant 1872, captain, 1802, major 1806 and retired 1808. He was offered the post of Lt Governor of St. Helena. William was versed in oriental literature and had collected valuable manuscripts whilst in service with the East India Company. These manuscripts were presented to the British Museum by his sons, on his death.

From the Military & Naval Military Times:

Lt-Col R.A. Yule of the 9th Lancers was killed on the 10th June before Dehli, while in the command of his gallant regiment, in an encounter with the mutineers. By his death the Queen's army has lost a gallant and valuable officer, Col. Yule was in the prime of life and had seen considerable service in India with the 16th Lancers, into which regiment exchanged. He entered the former regiment as a cornet in July 1835, and served in that corp. during the campaign in Afghanistan.....

Another report:-

“Death of Lieut Col Yule, 9th Lancers—Poor Yule's body was not found till next morning. He had both thighs broken by musket balls, a ball through the head just over the eye, his throat cut, and his hands much gashed, besides other cuts on the head; so it is supposed that when knocked of his horse he had put up his hands to save himself. Four of his men were lying dead beside him. Poor fellow, I was in hopes he would have been very shortly a C.B.; he well deserved some mark of distinction, for no officer ever took more trouble or was at more expense to join his regiment than Yule, when-ever there was a likelihood of anything to do, even at this time he was on leave in Cashmere but travelled dak all the way to be in time to take his command of the 9th till Colonel Grant came up. His poor wife and young family are at home” *MS1162/1/2/3 Aberdeen Univ.*

Henry, was another son of William Yule and Elizabeth Paterson and as with most of the family has a military history in the Bengal army, after a distinguished track record, he retired to Palermo and in 1870 his most famous work *Marco Polo* was published. He earned the gold medal of the Geographical Society of Italy and the founder's medal from the Royal Geographical Society. He returned to England and served on the Indian council. In 1889 he was created K.C.S.I.

His brother George was given the C.B.E. in 1981, F.R.S. in 1921. Lecturer in statistics at the St John's College, Cambridge, He wrote *An Introduction to the Theory of Statistics*, in 1911 and published numerous other papers on statistics.

All the information came from the Yule family newsletter and their sources include, Dictionary of National Biography, Edinburgh Academy Register of Graduates, Who' Who, archives Aberdeen Uni

Local Mines

Not all the memorials are for such distinguished people. Many of the miners buried in the kirkyard had a very hard life. The chocolate box houses, look pretty and quaint now with electricity, running water etc but when the miners moved into them they were small and cramped and in some cases 1 outside toilet to several families and many of them didn't even have doors on them.

The following are sections of a housing report published 1918

Loudon Rows, Galston

(William Baird & Company.)

There are three rows running parallel to each other. They are built of brick, and the walls have a thick coating of cement and are whitewashed. The roofs are round shaped and covered with tarcloth instead of slates, and they are therefore better known as the "Tarry Rows." There are eighteen houses in each row. The houses are two-apartment ones. In the row nearest the Burgh of Galston the kitchens have two set-in beds, and the rent in this row is 7s. 3d. per month, including rates. In the other two rows the kitchen has only one set-in bed, and the rent is 6s. per month. There are three erections with ash-pit and closet built together, and placed only five yards from the doors of the houses in front of the buildings, for each row. The houses have no back doors. Wooden coal-houses have been provided, but there are no wash-houses, and on the date of our visit (24th November 1913) we saw several women washing in the open air. The floors of the houses are brick tiles, and many of them have sunk considerably since they were laid. The surface of the floors is therefore so very uneven that some of the tenants complained to us that during wet weather the water sometimes lay 2 inches deep on the sunken tiles near the door. The houses are said to be very cold in the winter time, for the walls seem to be only 9 inches thick. The houses are said by the tenants to be so very damp that the water runs down the walls in wet weather. The windows are permanently fastened. The houses are situated so very near the river Irvine that when the river overflows its banks they are inundated with water. We are informed that during the last nine years on three occasions the houses were so flooded that the water rose so high as to put out the kitchen fires. The pathways in front of the houses are unpaved, but owing to a good coating of ashes there was very little mud. A scavenger is employed by the Company to keep the place clean, and his efforts appear to have been very successful, for there was an absence here of that filth which characterised most of the rows we have previously described. have a door on them.

Grougar Row, near Galston

This row contains eighteen houses, and is situated on the back road from Galston to Kilmarnock, about 1 1/2 miles from Galston. Each house contains a kitchen, measuring approximately 14 feet by 13 feet, and two small rooms not much larger than cupboards. They measure approximately 8 feet by 6 feet. The houses are built of brick and face the main road. The row is formed of three blocks of houses, with six houses in each block. The windows are permanently fastened. The rent is 2s. 3d. per week. The floors are made of cement, and the walls are so damp that in one house we saw the wood of the set-in bed in the room had completely rotted and the mattress on the bed was completely destroyed. The pathways are unpaved and muddy. There are neither washing-houses nor coal-houses, and the people keep their coals below their kitchen beds. The closets and ash-pits are placed at the back of the houses. There are doors on the closets, but in one case the door had been broken off and the floor of the closet was littered with filth. There is one closet for every three tenants. The row is supplied with gravitation water. The houses have been leased by Messrs Kyle, coalmasters, Burnbank Colliery, Galston, and are mostly inhabited by their workers and families.

Information of mining can be found on <http://www.mining-villages.co.uk/index.html>

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