

Friends of Loudoun Kirk



Before



After

Over the past year we saw the deterioration of the burn wall outside Loudoun Kirk escalate, particularly when part of the wall fell into the water. The ground was becoming badly eroded due to the excessive rainfall and in addition, a tree had blown down and had fallen across the burn, - this has now been removed. Thanks to SCORE Environmental, we received a grant of £4,000 to help with repairs and rebuilding the retaining wall. The coping stones have culverts to carry excess rainwater into the burn. The area outside the kirk gates is now much safer for visitors and for car parking.



Members please note:-

A.G.M.

Is being held at Peelhill Farm, Drumclog on Tuesday, May 6th 2008

At 7pm

All are welcome

Enquires to: Agnes Wilson, 14 Armour Terr, West Donington Street, Darvel, Ayrshire KA17 0AP
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John Sharp—Associate Patron

John may not be known to some of our members and we asked him to write a little about himself by way of introduction. He has a long and impressive track record in respect of interests in various aspects of the local community and the following is a synopsis of his achievements.

He came to the Irvine Valley from the South Side on Glasgow in 1973, a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors. With a sound background in property, he first got involved in the "Save Lady Flora's Campaign", where he eventually became Chairman of The Friends of Lady Flora's. For a brief spell he was also Chairman of the Community Council in Newmilns. He was asked to join the Ayrshire Architectural Heritage Trust where he remains a Trustee.

After frustration at the lack of progress with the Newmilns and Greenholm Initiative, he set up the Newmilns Trust long before the THI (Townscape Heritage Initiative) came on the scene, with a view to getting together all of the interested parties who at that time were expressing an interest in Newmilns under one unified Trust. Regrettably the different agendas of the various Building Preservation Trusts dictated that they would each go their separate ways and whilst this has nevertheless resulted in buildings being saved, a cohesive and collective approach to the Town was not obtained. John is passionate about our local heritage and history.

When the Irvine Valley Regeneration Partnership, on which he serves as a Director, came along the Newmilns Trust agreed to alter its articles of association to include all of the Irvine Valley geographically, and they have been successful in assisting parties with funding for feasibility studies and Trustees from the Trust have served on these separate bodies.

Over the years they have produced a number of feasibility studies all in an attempt to encourage regeneration, employment and enhancement to the environment of the Irvine Valley.

They are probably recognised most for their now annual calendar. This started off as a Millennium Project primarily for fund raising in 2000 when they produced a fine art calendar utilising commissioned paintings from local artists, these formed an exhibition at the Dick Institute, and the calendar was a reasonable success, raising some cash for the Trust. Subsequent calendars which are produced on a much smaller economic scale maintain the public awareness of the Trust, as well as, hopefully, providing some funding.

As a result of one of the feasibility studies into an Arts and Craft Centre for the Valley, he was subsequently invited to become a Director in WASPS (Workshop Artists Studio Provision in Scotland), this is a very successful charity which provides much needed artists studios throughout the whole of Scotland, and is currently involved in a very large scale development project at the Briggait, Glasgow.

John's busy life prevented him from being involved with The Friends of Loudoun Kirk initially, but we have leaned on him from time to time in the past for advice. We are delighted that he accepted the invitation to become Associate Patron and feel that he is a much valued addition to our organisation.

His retirement this month should see him devote more time to his hobbies which include his house, a very large garden and golf which he says he plays little and badly. We wish him and his wife, a long and happy retirement.

SPOTLIGHT ON ARTISTS



The above painting was discovered for sale on eBay, the online auction. We were too late in bidding for it, however its owner gave us a photograph of the painting. It had belonged to her grandmother and was painted by **M Todd**. It is understood that there were many local artists but it would be interesting to find out who M Todd was. Can anyone help with this information?



The above picture of Loudoun Kirk was sketched by Leah Chynoweth-Tidy, whose ancestors lived the Loudoun Rows (Taurry Raws). Leah is one of our members and enjoys a busy life in Australia.

Rev Hamilton Moore M.A. 1856—1927

The Rev Moore, minister of Newmilns Church, was born in Antrim, Ireland and married Anne Kinear Forbes Stephen. Their daughter Eleanor Allan Moore was one of the “Glasgow Girls”.

As a result of a surge of artistic activity from the Glasgow School of Art at the turn of the century, the distinctive “Art Nouveau” known as the Glasgow Style emerged. The Glaswegian women associated were the key innovators of this movement. The Glaswegian women associated with the school were key innovators of this movement, and eventually achieved lasting recognition together with their male counterparts, “The Glasgow Boys”

Rev Moore’s grand-daughter, Ailsa Tanner (also an artist) complained to the Friends of Loudoun Kirk about the state of the place and of her grandfather’s grave. Apparently the top, a Celtic cross had been removed and planted elsewhere in the kirkyard to look like a separate gravestone. Until then, this cross had been a mystery as it bore only a few words, slightly below grass level saying “sacred to the memory of”. It sits at a very slight angle and is a popular subject for art and photography. Regrettably Ailsa died in 2001 and it was her wish that her ashes be scattered on her grandfather’s grave. Scattering ashes in burial grounds or cemeteries is illegal for health and safety reasons so Ailsa’s daughter arranged for the ashes to be buried in her grandfather’s lair beside her artist aunt.



Genealogy
Genealogy

Our latest member in the Wiki site is researching the descendants of the Pettigrew family from Dalmellington, he found that one descendant married a Pyper and whose daughter then married John Nisbet at Loudon Kirk. He wonders if anyone else is interested in the same family names.

<http://loudounkirk.wetpaint.com>

Dates to Remember

May 6th—A.G.M.—Peelhill Farm

May 9th—Belgian S.A.S. Veteran Paratroopers to visit the Kirk

The Belgian SAS paras together with local dignitaries will be visiting Loudoun Castle, Loudoun Kirk & Sorn churchyard

May 10th—Walking Festival—Walkers on the Bluebell Walk to visit the Kirk.

Irvine Valley Regeneration partnership's 6th Annual walking festival 9-11th May

June 7th—South Ayrshire History Fair, Walker Halls, Troon.

The Friends of Loudoun Kirk have a stand at this annual event, so if you have an interest in history or family history, it is well worth a visit.

Sept. 7th—Doors Open Day.

The Kirk will be open as usual from 10am—4pm. Everyone welcome.

Nov 29th—Ceilidh—see below.

CEILIDH

Don't forget to come to the FOLK annual Ceilidh which is on 29th Nov 2008 in Galston Community Centre, Orchard Street, Galston at 7.30pm until 11.30pm.

The tickets are £7.50 per adult inclusive of supper. Children of all ages are welcome and discounts will apply.

££££££££££££



That time of year again!

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