

F.O.L.K. NEWSLETTER

April 2003

Rededication Ceremony

Sunday 13th April bore witness to a rededication of Loudoun Kirk. The recent restoration works involved the removal and replacement of the Kirk roof, resulting that the Kirk should be rededicated. It also marks the end of the main works on the Kirk.



The service was led by Rev T J Loudon Blair from the Galston Parish Church, in association with Rev Dr Charles M Cameron, Rev John MacLeod & Rev James D McCulloch from the Irvine Valley churches. With the support of the Galston Parish Church Choir and the Newmilns and Galston Band.

Principally the service focussed on the restoration of our heritage and the examples of restorative works in the Bible leading to spiritual restoration. The service was attended by many of our FOLK members, members of the Campbell family, locals and representatives of those organisations involved in supporting the preservation of the Kirk

FOLK AGM

Tuesday 6th May 7pm
Newmilns Church Hall

A Video

of the service is now available
Price £5
£7 inclusive of post & packing



The History of Loudoun Kirk

Until recently, it was thought that the Kirk was founded in 1451 by the Lady Alicia Campbell of Loudoun. This was a mistaken translation from Latin in the Mounuments of Irvine and has been recorded as such in all the local history books. Recently through the work of Alistair Hendry this “theory” has been shown as inaccurate. The following is a summary of the history of the Kirk uncovered by his research.

Loudoun Kirk, dedicated to St Michael, was established at the end of the twelfth century. The lands on which it was built, and which became Loudoun parish, had been given by Richard de Morville, King William the Lion’s High Steward, to James, son of Lambinus, before 1189. James, the member of a Flemish family who had settled earlier in Lanarkshire, built the first motte and bailey castle overlooking the Hag Burn as the centre of his authority. At or soon after its foundation, the revenues of Loudoun Kirk, were allocated to support the monks of the newly-founded Kilwinning Abbey, and in return they were obliged to provide a priest (curate) to attend to the spiritual needs of the parishioners. In January 1491, James IV created for George Campbell of Loudoun the free burgh or barony of Newmilns. The castle was built there—and gradually, as more and more people moved to the new burgh, it became the main centre of population in the parish. During the bitter Campbell/Kennedy feuds of 1527/8, Loudoun Kirk was badly damaged, but rebuilt. Soon afterwards, however, in 1530, in recognition of the shift in population, a chapel was built at Newmilns. Loudoun Kirk remained the parish church until at least the 17th century, when the chapel in Newmilns was upgraded to parochial status. Thereafter Loudoun Kirk and its kirkyard continued in use for occasional church services, but more particularly as the last resting-place of generations of the parishioners of Loudoun.

The building was repaired in 1898 by the Third Marquis of Bute. Now in the care of the Friends of Loudoun Kirk, and thanks to funding from Historic Scotland and The Heritage Lottery Fund, they look forward to providing extensive refurbishment.

🕒 Further information on the history of Loudoun Kirk at a Members Night talk by Alistair Hendry at the Barr Castle in Galston. See “Events” page for details.

Further Works At The Kirk

The Kirk itself is not the only thing undergoing repair work at present. The small bridge at the entrance of the Kirk has been in a sorry state for some while. A recent grant from SCORE has made it possible for us to undertake necessary repair work to the bridge and gate posts. Further funding will have to be sourced to repair the burn wall by the side of the gates to make safe the car parking area.



Vandalism is a serious problem at the kirkyard and work on the bridge suffered an attack after the first two stones were laid. By the following day, they had been knocked over and were lying in the burn. Thankfully on this occasion, the damage was minimal and the stonemason carried on to complete the bridge in time for the rededication service on Sunday.

Folk Pudding

Ingredients:

3 tablespoon plain flour
3 tablespoons sugar
6 tablespoons fresh bread crumbs
3 tablespoons currants
3 tablespoons raisins
A little orange or lemon peel
3 tablespoons shredded suet
Pinch of salt
1 level teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon mixed spice
1 egg
Milk

Instructions:

Combine all dry ingredients, fruit spice and peel. Beat the egg and mix enough milk to make a stiff dough when added to the dry mixture. Turn into a greased mould and steam for three hours. Serve and eat. Enjoy.

Courtesy of Madeleine Purdie

Barbara Huddleston-Abney-Hastings
13th Countess of Loudoun
3 July 1919 - 1 November 2002

With her family by her side Barbara Huddleston Abney-Hastings died peacefully on Friday 1 November 2002, at Mulbarton in Norfolk, aged 83. Having moved to Ashby de la Zouche from Hastings in 1977 Lady Barbara was extremely well known and loved in Ashby and the surrounding area where she had been very actively involved in the local community. The funeral took place at Ashby de la Zouche on 8 November 2002.

It was in Hastings that she had sat in the House of Lords as a crossbencher and where she had married her teacher husband Peter Abney-Hastings who predeceased her earlier in 2002. Peter had continued his teaching career in Ashby. As he taught foreign students in the town Barbara would prepare lunches for them.

Barbara and Peter enjoyed many visits to Europe, and in particular to France and to Italy. Barbara was very involved in the French Circle, who conversed in French, and with Ashby's twin town in France, Pithiviers. Her many other interests included the local museum and her family history. She was governor of Repton. Together with her husband Barbara was involved with the Cheshire Homes at Netherseal and Staunton Harold.

The couple were very family orientated, with six children, eighteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Barbara is survived by two sons and three daughters. Notwithstanding her many years in England, Barbara never forgot her roots in Ayrshire. Indeed it was only a few weeks before her death that, on behalf of the family, she contributed significantly to Friends of Loudoun Kirk allowing the next phase of renovation work, involving the bridge, gates and piers at the entrance to the kirk yard to proceed.

Lady Barbara succeeded to the Loudoun title on the death of her mother Edith in 1960, her elder brother having been killed in action during the War. She became the 13th Countess of Loudoun and her eldest son Michael then took on the junior title as Lord Mauchline. Michael Hastings is now the 14th Earl of Loudoun and, although he lives in Australia, remains in close contact with the family.

Michael Hastings is the first Earl since Charles Edward Hastings, 11th Earl, 1855 - 1920, who died without issue and from whom the titles passed to his niece Edith.

Michael's eldest son Simon takes the junior title as Lord Mauchline.

Forthcoming Events

FOLK AGM

Tuesday 6th May 7pm
Newmilns Church Hall

Please Don't Forget To Renew
Your Annual Subscription

FOLK Members Night

Tuesday 20th May 7pm
Barr Castle, Galston

Guest Speaker Alastair Hendry
History of Loudoun Kirk

Mount Stuart Coach Trip

Saturday 7th June

Day Trip to Mount Stuart
House and gardens on the
Isle of Rothesay.

Price Approx £20
Booking Essential
Price includes Morning Coffee,
High Tea, Coach & Ferry Fare and
Entrance to Mount Stuart.

Festival of Walks

10th & 11th May
Loudoun Kirk

As part of the local festival
of walks we will be opening
the Kirk for guided tours.

For further information on any of these events
Please contact
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