

# F.O.L.K. NEWSLETTER

---

Following the sad death of Michael, 14<sup>th</sup> Earl of Loudoun last year, we have pleasure in welcoming Simon Abney-Hastings, 15<sup>th</sup> Earl of Loudoun as our Patron and hope we have many years of association with him in his new role.

Many local people will have some memory of the late Earl before he set off for his new life in Australia but as not many people will be familiar with his family so we asked Simon, the present Earl if he could write a little about himself to introduce himself to everyone and we were delighted when he sent the following:-



*My name is Simon Abney-Hastings and I am the eldest Son of Michael Abney-Hastings, 14th Earl of Loudoun. My Father sadly passed away after a long illness in June 2012, aged sixty-nine years of age. Dad was the Son of Barbara Abney-Hastings, 13th Countess of Loudoun, who resided in Ashby-De-La-Zouch, Leicester. Gran was also a proud supporter of Friends of Loudoun Kirk. I now hold the courtesy title, Earl of Loudoun to which I am the fifteenth. A title I am very proud to hold and be associated with. It is a title rich in both family and Scottish history.*

*As some of you may be aware, I reside in Australia. My Father moved to Australia as a seventeen year old English lad in search of adventure and lifestyle, eventually marrying and raising five children. I live in Wangaratta, a regional city of North East Victoria. Close to the snowfields, it has a population of approx. 17,000 people. Wangaratta is a wonderful part of the country, centrally located to my Family and major points of interest. I am happily anchored for now. I am currently renovating a house I purchased a few years ago, and keep the idea of bringing a piece of history back from the brink of derelict. A value I can fully appreciate from the exceptional efforts of FOLK.*

*I am owned by a couple of felines and two dogs who tend to rule the roost and let me cater to*

*their needs without any complaints. I work full-time in a local textiles mill where we produce and specialize in uniforms for the Australian defence force, military, and Police.*

*I enjoy weekends involved with local community events when I can, and also with family and friends. There always seems to be something planned and look forward to.*

*My Siblings and myself are currently planning our trip to the UK in the spring of next year, 2014. A month would be ideal, I am also looking forward to making our way back up to Scotland and visiting family and friends.*

*On a personal note, I would like to take this opportunity to extend my appreciation and many thanks to everyone involved with Friends of Loudoun Kirk. Such a beneficial and worthwhile charity that continues to preserve the rich history.*

*I hope to catch up with many, next year. My Regards,*

## Wangaratta



---

## Thieves strike again



Once again, Loudoun Kirk has fallen victim to thieves when the downpipes were stolen sometime earlier in the year.

The first theft a couple of years ago was the complete removal of lead and a year afterwards a further attempt was made to remove it again after it had been replaced. The attempt thankfully was thwarted by the method of installation by the roofer, Henry Harvey. Whilst still keeping to Historic Scotland's strict guidelines for repairs, the lead was renewed in such a way that it could not be removed easily. Although there was some damage to the lead, none of it was lost and it was repaired at a fraction of the original cost.

Henry has a great deal of experience working on church roofs and with History Scotland, however a recent serious illness has meant he has been unable to repair the downpipes for the time being. He will however, hopefully make a full recovery soon.

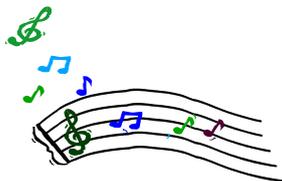
## EVENTS

Loudoun Kirk is still open by arrangement, to any visitors, regardless of numbers who would be interested in seeing inside the kirk. We are also happy to assist on local and family history where we can although the number of enquiries has dropped recently.

In spite of being happy to take part in Doors Open Day in September, this year we are having a sabbatical. We have been happy with the number of visitors in the past; however in 2012 there were only a few visitors to the kirk. Although Doors Open Day is not intended as a means of fund raising but as an opportunity to visit buildings free of charge, which may not normally be open to the public, other local buildings are open and providing entertainment for the visitors and many of our intended visitors get caught up in their festivities. It may be in the future, we will need to consider changing the day from Sunday to Saturday and thus avoid clashing with other organisations.



On a brighter note, we were happy to welcome the walkers from the Walking Festival both on the Saturday and Sunday in May this year. For the brief time our visitors are with us, we get a surprising number of questions and enquiries.



Our Ceilidh is in the Community Hall in Galston again this year on

Saturday November 30<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.

The Ceilidh is very much a family event which everyone is welcome to come along to.

## Mary Boyd (Mrs Thomson)

With the 18th century dominated in Ayrshire by Roberts Burns and his contemporaries, the new age 19th century was a boom time for local poets, artists and recording countryside walks. Education had improved, and together with the better wages and conditions in the mills, more education became available to children for whom it had previously been out of reach for some of the poorer people. Mary Boyd, a local weaver, born in Newmilns (b:1861) is just one example of a local poet etc,

Mary's work is typical of the times and she wrote poetry/songs about people and places she knew and the loss of many of her friends can be traced in her poems in a chapter entitled "Memorium."

She was the illegitimate daughter of Jane Boyd, a farm worker. Her father was *reputed* to have been William Erskine, a farmer. Mary married John Thomson Campbell, illegitimate son of Cecilia Campbell. His *reputed* father was Stewart Waugh, a coal miner. Her mother later married John Jamieson in Mauchline and they had 4 children.

It would appear that every newsworthy subject was covered in Mary's poems and songs from boats lost at sea, Trafalgar's centenary, battles fought to local landmarks, friends, and local characters.

### Summer

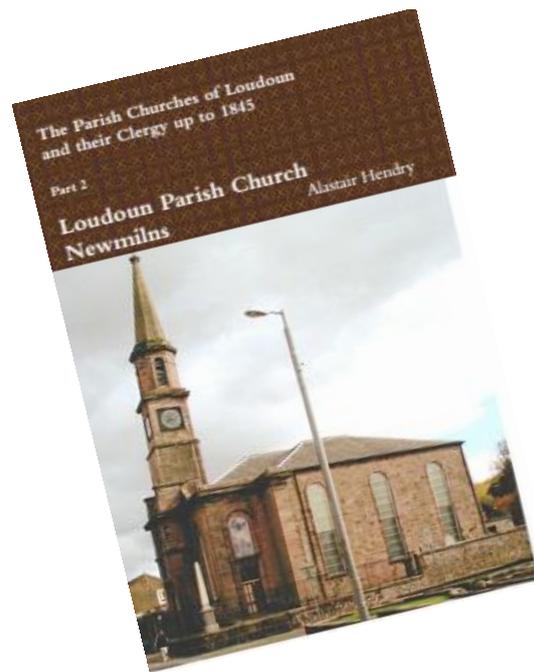
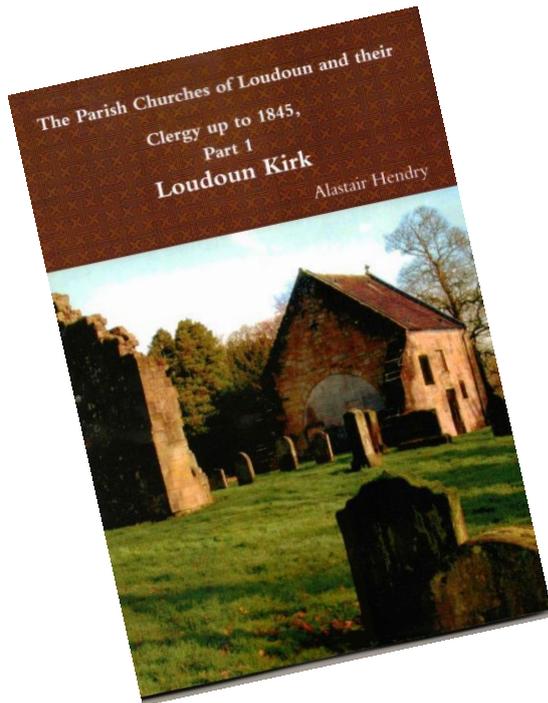
*The braes are a' sae bonnie  
Roon Loudon Castle noo,  
For the summer's come in beauty,  
Wi' flowers of every hue.....*

As well as immortalising many of her own and her friend's sad losses, in her work she also records changes in Newmilns in her poem:-

#### CHANGES THAT ARE SURE TO COME.

Newmilns is wham it was langsyne,  
wi' bonnie glens aroon,  
But it has fairly thriven, lad,  
frae a clachan tae a toon ;  
The auld thack biggins ance ye kent,  
that looked sae cosy clean,  
Are demolished noo for grander anes,  
wi' skules and halls were bien.  
There's nae Hogs Walls noo, laddie,  
the place is sairly changed;  
If the dear auld folk could see it noo  
they'd think their heids deranged;  
The tappie tolie 's clean awa',  
and Queen Anne's close as weel,  
Ye may' gang east or wast  
but ne'er hear the birr o' a spinning wheel.  
There's nae strand wi' a joiners shop,  
and the auld brig's gane langsyne,  
And Nannie Connor's ootside stair  
whaur leev'd Jean Kyle, ye min' ;  
There we ran through Kiddelum's close

doon the dyke burn at evening fa',  
Against the gable o' auld Hughie's hoose  
hae a clinking game at the ba'.  
The cheery soon o' the shuttle's gane,  
and the wee corks that gaed us wark,  
And a' the hamely, social frien's  
that could stan' a joke or a lark ;  
.Oor bonnie vale is still the same,  
but the folk are gentry turned.  
It's no oor Jock, or Tam, or Mall-  
the ,dear auld names are spurned.  
Auld Dia'y and Grannie, bless yer hert,  
they wid never ken ava' .  
The bairnies that were ca'ed for them  
wi' fankles roon them a'.  
A's changed and gane,  
but fancy still can paint each nook and place,  
And often hold sweet fellowship  
with each familiar face.



The history of the parish church of Loudoun (and clergy) has been thoroughly researched by Alastair Hendry and is now published in two parts.

Part 1 deals with the history of Loudoun Kirk £6 + £2.60 P&P

Part 2 deals with the history of Loudoun Church in Newmilns £6 + £2.60 P&P

Discount for paid up members £6 + £2.60 p&p each

Either pay by Paypal to [FOLK122@hotmail.com](mailto:FOLK122@hotmail.com) with address to send the book(s) and show PART1 (for Loudoun Kirk) or PART2 (Newmilns Church) in the message box.

*Or*

Pay by cheque/PO to FOLK and send to:-

Agnes Wilson  
14 West Donington Street  
Darvel  
Ayrshire KA17 0AP

*Or*

Order for collection at the above address by phoning 01560 321813

---

Web: [www.loudounkirk.org](http://www.loudounkirk.org) Wiki: <http://loudounkirk.wetpaint.com/> email: [amwilson122@hotmail.com](mailto:amwilson122@hotmail.com)

Scottish Charity No. SC 023836

**A WEE REMINDER.....**

Annual Membership fees are due. Donations through membership fees are still a source of income to ensure the continuance of maintaining Loudoun Kirk, sadly still much needed funding thanks to thieves and vandals. Your membership is appreciated and the fees can be paid by Paypal to [FOLK122@hotmail.com](mailto:FOLK122@hotmail.com), you can just add the word MEMBERSHIP in the message box and GIFTAID if you are a tax payer, this allows us to claim money back from HM Customs & Excise through Income Tax . If you would prefer to send a cheque/PO, you can either print the form below or copy your details onto paper and enclose it with your fee to the address shown on the form.

---

**Membership Application Form**

Name.....

Address.....

.....

.....

Tel. No.....

Email:.....

Life Member (£25)..... Annual Member (£5)..... Donation:.....

*GIFTAID*: - give more at no cost to you.

The Gift Aid scheme means that we can reclaim tax on any donation you make to us. This will increase each donation by over 28% providing you have paid sufficient UK Income Tax/Capital Gains Tax to cover this amount.

To enable the Friends of Loudoun Kirk to reclaim the tax on, please tick the box