

Loudoun Kirk Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

March 1999

NEW BEGINNINGS

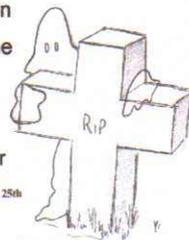
Welcome to the Loudoun Kirk new look newsletter. March 1999 is hopefully a new beginning for the project.

In July last year, Loudoun Kirk was put into the hands of the newly formed Loudoun Kirk Preservation Trust. The result of which has seen an application for Heritage Lottery Funds (HLF) submitted, thus enabling our application for partnership funding from Historic Scotland also to be presented for consideration. The HLF application has taken approximately 6 months in preparation and has involved much outside help, in particular the various departments of East Ayrshire Council, who have supplied valuable support material. The application form and its support material weighed in at over 5kg and cost in the region of £50 to produce and post. Funding is by no means guaranteed, but should we succeed, all the work will have been worthwhile.

Taking part in the "Big Event" run in aid of Galston Church funds in July, selling strawberries and cream, unfortunately proved to be an expensive event for us.

Our fundraising however has been given the boost of a grant of £4,300 to buy equipment for publicity and exhibition purposes.

The first event to benefit was the "Ghost Walk" held in September when we brought to life, with the aid of the Glasgow Duelling Society, the more sinister tales of the area. Hailed a huge success, it brought more members and supporters, this was noticeable at our last Ceilidh when the hall was packed to capacity.



"Doors Open Day" in September, hosted a surprising number of visitors, many from other parts of Scotland.

The Kirk roof is deteriorating rapidly, although the recent storms thankfully, did little or no additional damage.

AWARDS FOR ALL

The equipment bought with the "Awards for All" grant includes a Laptop Computer, printer, scanner and publishing programmes. We are delighted to now be provided with the means to keep members in touch with our activities among its many other uses.



Another major purchase was an 8 panel NoBo board for exhibition purposes. Everything has been chosen for their transportability with the hope to produce "Roadshows" in the future.

Much of the finance for the Ghost Walk was also covered by the grant, as is the Astronomy night. With this kind of help, we can now produce imaginative, informative and interesting evenings, whilst the Ceilidhs still remain self-funding.

Any ideas for future events will be welcome. Committee meetings are held first Monday of the month in Newmilns Church Hall at 7pm.

Forthcoming events

APRIL 24th - Ceilidh, Galston Community Centre

7.30pm

SEPT 5th - Doors Open Day

DEC 4th - Ceilidh, Galston Community Centre

7.30pm

F.O.L.K. A.G.M. May 19th 1999, Newmilns Church Hall at 7pm

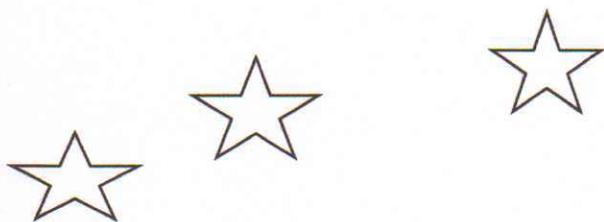
Any changes to constitution, notice to be sent to address below by April 6th.

Copies of Constitution available on request S.A.E. would be appreciated.

Astronomy Night

Star gazing may not be everyone's cup of tea, but in spite of the weather the Astronomy Night was well attended. As well as being planned for all the family all eventualities were also taken into consideration.

The main speaker, Robert Law from Paisley gave an excellent presentation as did David Cameron our second speaker for the evening.



Appreciating that these talks may not quite be suitable for younger members of the family, a children's corner was prepared providing them with their own slide show of the galaxy as well as themed colouring-in sheets, word search and board game.

Tickets £5

phone 01560 321813 to book.

Loudoun Castle



Ceilidh

Don't forget the Ceilidh - April 24th, with The Caledonian Thom Ceilidh Band (Ian son), in Galston Community Centre at 7.30pm.

Tickets £5

Phone 01560 320813 to book

The Friends of Loudoun Kirk is a recognised Scottish Charity whose main aim is to raise funds for the repair of Loudoun Kirk, NR Galston.

F.O.L.K. has been active for about 4 years and has raised sufficient funds to carry out repair work caused by vandal damage such as the renewal of the Oak Door, as well as minor damage to the lock (on several occasions). Thorny shrubs have been planted - stolen and re-planted.

Application for Heritage Lottery funds and a grant from Historic Scotland would see the project through to completion, and at a standard which will allow future maintenance to be kept to a minimum. Not only will we be required to keep up the standard of workmanship for future repairs but also to provide the public with access and information.

Our regular bi-annual Ceilidhs are self funding and well supported and this provides us with a small but steady income which will in the future be used for the maintenance of Loudoun Kirk. Although fund-raising is foremost on our minds, we still try to plan interesting events and we are constantly looking for new ideas.

As a regular participant in Doors Open Days, our local historians, Jim Mair and John Alexander have been on hand to talk to our visitors and answer any questions they may have.

◆ *Are you interested in local history and are willing to help?*

Our Ghost Walk took us through tales of local ghosts and the more sinister stories of the area - including the re-enactment of the execution of James White, Covenantor. The hot dogs and coffee rounded off the night.

◆ *Can you help with catering at any of the events?*

An offer of running an Astronomy night could not be refused, and we have now been able to bring an introductory evening, which would be of interest to anyone interested in Astronomy - or the merely curious, to the Valley.

◆ *Have you any good ideas for fund-raising events etc?*

We still plan to hold an "Antiques Road Show" but have not yet been given a date for it.

Please support us now by sending in your membership applicaiton/renewal.

Also any ideas or help would be much appreciated.

Membership Application:

I wish to apply/renew membership of The Friends of Loudoun Kirk (FOLK)

Name:.....

Address.....

.....

Tel No:.....