

THE GRAPEVINE

CRAMOND KIRK MAGAZINE

SEPTEMBER 2022

Issue 124



www.cramondkirk.org.uk

A VERY SPECIAL AWARD



2022 is a significant year for the charity St John Scotland as it celebrates its 75th Anniversary. Founded in Glasgow in 1947 as part of The Order of St John which stems back to its origins with Knights in Jerusalem in the 11th century.

Today St John Scotland is part of a global charity with branches throughout the United Kingdom, in many other Commonwealth countries, in the United States of America and still operating an Eye Hospital in Jerusalem.

In Scotland the main priorities are helping communities in need by providing Patient Transport services, installing Public Access Defibrillators (one of which is outside the church hall), offering free training in CPR and helping other projects.

As well as being a charity St John Scotland is also a Royal Order of Chivalry with Her Majesty The Queen as its Sovereign Head. In recognition of work carried out by volunteers honours are awarded similar to the Order of the British Empire.

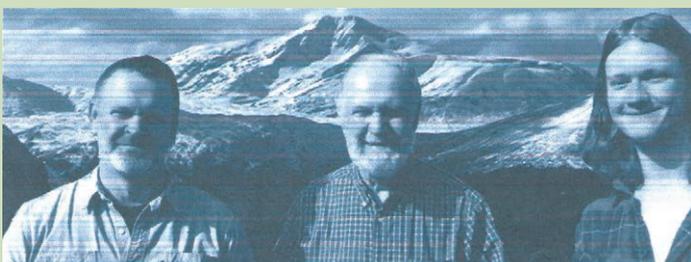
In our congregation member Margaret Balfour, a Dame in The Order of St John was recently recognised for her work by receiving an Ultra Long Service Medal for over 50 years with the charity. This was the first of its kind to be handed out in Scotland.

She received this at a service at St Giles Cathedral from The Duchess of Argyll, the Prior of St John Scotland and in the presence of the Duke of Gloucester who is the Grand Prior.



Margaret is pictured wearing her Dame Mantle along with her medals.

More information can be found on the charity on their website www.stjohnscotland.org.uk and www.sjs75years.org.uk



THE MOUNTAINMEN – Folk Concert

At 7.30 pm on Thursday, 27 October 2022 “The Mountainmen” – Mike, David & Hamish – will be performing in Cramond Kirk Hall, singing folk songs along with some of their own songs.

The Mountainmen cover three generations – Cramond Kirk

member, Mike McNiven, Mike’s son David McNiven and Mike’s grandson Hamish Cook – so a truly family affair! The original Mountainmen came to an end 10 years ago when Wallace Lockhart, Mike’s “partner in crime” sadly died after a short illness. Mike and Wallace performed together over a period of 25 years, mainly in nursing homes, hospitals and to various groups and organisations.

Do come along and enjoy an evening of well-known folk songs along with new songs you won’t have heard. Song sheets will be handed out so everyone can join in with a number of the choruses.

Tickets cost £5 and are available from the Kirk Office in advance or at the door on the night (card payment, cash or cheque). All proceeds will go to the charity, Cardiomyopathy UK (www.cardiomyopathy.org).

Read more: www.cramondkirk.org.uk . Deadline for next issue 2 October 2022 T: 0131 336 2036



End of an Era!

"Buy a tomato plant and feed a family." Many of you will recognise this sound bite from Michael Dick's Tomato Plants sale held each May on behalf of Christian Aid at the Fair here in Cramond Kirk Hall but did you know that Michael has been leading this venture since 1984? It has made such a huge contribution to Christian Aid raising over £5,000.

Every year Michael and his merry band of growers have taken great care to regularly water and feed the flowering plants with such varieties as the award-winning "Ailsa Craig" and "Gardeners Delight" as well as "Cherry" and "Orklado".

Each plant was provided with growing-on instructions which ensured those who bought them would have plenty of delicious tomatoes which tasted so much better than anything which could be bought in the shops!



Michael and some of his fellow growers

Michael also looked after the administration side of this venture as well as arranging delivery of the plants. And of course he was the happy, smiling 'Front of House' welcoming purchasers and browsers alike to the Fair.

Unfortunately, this has been Michael's last tomato sale and whilst I know there are so many people who are sad he is unable to continue planting and growing the tomato plants for the benefit of Christian Aid, I am also sure

Michael will continue to support this worthwhile charity, which is so close to his heart, in some way just as he has done for the last 38 years!

As convener of the Christian Aid Fair I want to say a very big "Thank You" to Michael and to all those who have worked with you along the way - you have indeed helped to feed so very many families over the years.

L J Forrest (Convener of the Christian Aid Fair)

Christian Aid Week 15th - 21st May 2022

This year we were all very pleased to return to a more normal Christian Aid Week in which people were able to meet up in person. It was decided to give C A collectors the choice of whether to collect door to door or simply to deliver envelopes. Some of our previous collectors were still wary of collecting door to door because of social distancing due to Covid 19.

It was very reassuring that we had such a great response and that we were able to cover all of the districts.

The Fair was able to go ahead in the hall on 15th May and made £526.10 on the day. In addition to this Michael Dick and his tomato growing team raised £470 and the Scouts' plant sale donated £50.

We also held a raffle and a Quiz evening. It was great to be back in the hall in person with 6 teams taking part in the event.

Songs of Praise evening was held in the Millenium room on 22nd May with Ian Gilmour leading us in a count down of the BBC's 10 favourite hymns, and Lesley Pendreigh playing piano.

Many of the congregation sponsored Gillian Hewitt in her 10K run and she raised £675 plus gift aid. Altogether the total raised was £7657.84 and in addition the gift aid contribution should bring it to well over £8000.

Gillian Hewitt - C A Coordinator

Parish Register

BAPTISMS

22 May Arthur Ronald Quinn Davidson

29 May Jack & Emily Ness

WEDDINGS

18 June Douglas Finch to Kathleen Allen

16 July Marco Bevilacqua to Zoe Statham

30 July Richard Gray to Lynsey Dalgleish

DEATHS

7 May Linda Stupart

25 May Anthony Helby

21 June Anne Boyne

8 July Ian Watson

20 July Denise Chambers

25 July George Anderson

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FROM THE MANSE



On the Beach

They are always thin places, beaches – no straight lines only curves. Even the horizon gently curves leading towards a new adventure. In Cramond Kirk we are going to walk along the beach to unite with the Old Kirk Muirhouse Church and possibly Drylaw Church too. It will be a new connection- for some exciting, for others concerning, but for Cramond Kirk and the Church of Scotland today necessary due to the dwindling pool of ministers.

Beaches are border areas from land to sea, safety to danger. The biblical Jewish community was certainly terrified of the sea. Scots, on the whole, have been much more positive seeing the sea as a source of food, work and recently wind power. We have lots of beaches. Several key stories of Jesus occur on beaches, doesn't he call his followers from their fishing nets to follow him. Doesn't he teach and feed from beaches?

I wonder as we begin to move along our famous beach how will we travel – hopefully or reluctantly? Bearing gifts or hoping to receive?

The beach is always a transition zone, no two waves are the same and every 12 hours it has literally changed forever. The old replaced by a fragile and transient new. I love beaches. I wonder what kind of journey we are going to have to Muirhouse and what sort of footprints we will leave in the sand.

Could we play, and then build with our new friends?

Could we attempt in the words of Mother Teresa 'something beautiful for God'?

*Ian Y Gilmour, Interim moderator, Cramond Kirk
Locum minister*

John Keats wrote

"A thing of beauty is a joy forever;
Its loveliness increase; it will never
Pass into nothingness; but will still keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep."

An Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you,
May the wind be always at your back,
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
The rains fall soft upon your fields, and
until we meet again,
may God hold you in the palm of his hand.

WORD PUZZLE FOR GRAPEVINE

All the answers have the initials C K
Example: Star Trek character (7,4) CAPTAIN KIRK

1. Weather presenter (5,8)
2. Irish district (6,5)
3. Local church (7,4)
4. Rocket launching site 1963-73 (4,7)
5. Leafy vegetable (5,4)
6. Fashion designer (6,5)
7. aka Superman (5,4)
8. American singer songwriter (6,4)
9. Home furnishings designer (4,7)
10. Cuts dairy product (6,5)



Photo courtesy of Marjory Caine



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DOORS OPEN DAYS 2022

Edinburgh and East Lothian
Saturday 24th and Sunday
25th September 2022



Cramond Kirk is very pleased to be participating in DoD this year and will be open Saturday 24th September 10 am to 4 pm and Sunday 25th September 2pm to 5 pm. Come and visit us to see the Jock Howieson mural, find out about

Queen Victoria's chair and discover the link between Cramond Kirk and the Skating Minister. Our friendly volunteer guides will be on hand to answer questions and hand out Kirkyard trail leaflets and children's quizzes.

The charity **Under One Roof** has taken organisation of Doors Open Days for 2022. This is Scotland's only charity that directly provides access to free and impartial information on repairs and maintenance to flat owners in Scotland. On their website and across their social media, they provide information on a range of topics, such as

working with your co-owners and sustainability. Their goal is to keep Scottish buildings standing strong and sustainable.

Mike Heffron, Chief Executive of Under One Roof Scotland, said: "We are delighted that we can keep the doors open in Edinburgh and East Lothian this year. Edinburgh Doors Open Days is much-loved by the public in the East of Scotland, and this year we will continue to help the public have a special inside look at over seventy buildings, spaces, and other hidden treasures." Make sure to follow Under One Roof Scotland on social media for booking information, and sneak peeks of this year's programme.



CRAMOND KIRK CHOIR

Cramond Kirk Choir is welcoming new recruits.

Music is a vital part of our worship and after the last two years we're so grateful to be singing together again.

If you'd be interested in joining us, why not come along to one of our rehearsals?

It doesn't matter if you can't read music - we have professional musicians to keep us right. Whether you're bass, soprano or something in-between, sang in your school choir or just in your shower - all are welcome.

To get involved, please email Lesley (ljcumming2@gmail.com) or pop your contact details into the Kirk office and we'll be in touch!



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WE NEED EVERYONE TO HELP WITH THIS

As owner of Dowie's Mill Weir, City of Edinburgh Council has been working to improve the passage of fish at the weirs on the River Almond. The weir at Fair-a-far was repaired and a new fish pass installed. This has been in place for some time although more work is required to get this functioning properly.

Other weirs further upstream have been improved or removed.

Only Dowie's Mill Weir remains.

Some groups have argued strongly for complete removal of the weir and these arguments continue to be advanced.

Friends of the River Almond Walkway (FRAW), in concert with the other local organisations, have expressed a number of concerns about complete removal –

- The impact on, and possible damage to, the structure of the historic Cramond Brig is unknown
- There is likely to be erosion along the banks of the river impacting the houses in Dowie's Mill Lane and on the other bank of the river
- There are gas and sewage services running alongside the river and across the river which could be impacted
- The cultural heritage and beauty of the area would be destroyed
- The view to and from Cramond Brig would be destroyed with the removal of all or part of the 'mill pond'

The Council has listened to these concerns, taken

them on board and commissioned the consultants, AECOM, to produce a report setting out the impact of installing a rock ramp, starting at the existing weir and running downstream from there. The rock ramp would include a low flow channel to give the fish passage when water levels are low. This solution would improve fish passage while addressing all the concerns raised in the bullet points above.

The Council has made the recommendations and visualisations from the AECOM's report available on its website and this can be accessed here -

<https://www.edinburghoutdoors.org.uk/news/article/4/dowies-mill-consultation>

The Council has also set up an email address for questions, for messages of support or for objections.

FRAW believes that the proposed rock ramp is the best compromise solution that improves fish passage and addresses the concerns of the local community.

However, other groups continue to advocate complete removal.

We need as many people as possible to submit messages of support of the council's proposals to the email address they have set up - dowiesfishpass@edinburgh.gov.uk

Please look at the proposals and visualisations and email in your support.

Please also send a copy of your email to friendsoftheriveralmondwalkway@gmail.com

Thank you

The Cramond Association

Promoting the amenity of the community of Cramond, Barnton and Cammo and safeguarding its heritage



Our Future Activities 2022 -2023 Season

By now you should have seen our plans for this season, starting this September. It is different as the result of our experience in Lock-down and the discussions we had in. What we agreed was that the traditional series of talks was not the best way to support the community and that we should do different things focussing on what is wanted, needed and possible. We will be having talks in our History Section so that these will not be abandoned. Instead, we will have meetings to review activities and

plan new projects.

These are likely to include:

- Cramond Inn (working and supporting the Community Council) – getting it open in a form that serves the community.
- Woodlands and Walled Garden etc – look at ways to better involve the community.
- Representing the community in dealings with the Airport etc
- Community activities in partnership with other local groups.



The foreshore event in June was successful so we hope to repeat it next year and look at other activities around Christmas.

Cramond Walkers Autumn 2022

After a year of short-term planning from one walk to the next, Cramond Walkers now have a full programme of walks through to December. On a mix of days, each month there are three walks, of which one is by car share from Barnton Avenue West and the others doable by bus (or meet at the start). Most walks are 8 - 12 km (5 - 8 miles) starting mid-morning. We recommend carrying a drink and packed lunch. For more details, email cramond.walkers@yahoo.co.uk or see Cramond Kirk website. Reports with photos are on Cramond Walkers Facebook page. Organisers are Fiona Black 339 6644 and Simon Gillam 339 2614.

1. Thursday, 15 September: Portobello to Prestonpans 10.5 km or Seton Sands (extra 4 km). Meet 10.30 at Portobello kilns (26 bus) and walk along the coast to Prestonpans, with option of continuing to 26 bus terminus at Seton Sands. Much of the walk is on the John Muir Way.
2. Saturday, 24 September: Cherrybank Inn to Mailer Hill 8 km. A figure-of-eight walk at the southwest edge of Perth. Meet Barnton Avenue West at 9.50 or Cherrybank Inn (SW of Perth) at 10.40.
3. Friday, 7 October: St Ninians to Townhill 9 km. We follow (in reverse) some of the Fife Pilgrim Way, and also part of Cameron Black's The St Andrews Way, starting with mining history at St Ninians. Bus X56



- from Barnton at 10.20 or entry to Blairadam Forest off B914 (M90 J4) at 11.15.
4. Wednesday, 19 October: North Lanarkshire Reservoirs around 12 km. A countryside walk that passes three reservoirs. Meet Barnton Avenue West at 9.30.
5. Saturday, 29 October: Neidpath Castle circuit from Peebles 6.5 km. A walk along the Tweed west of Peebles as far as Manor Bridge, returning via a viewpoint. Bus X62 at 9.20 from Edinburgh bus station, or meet Kingsmeadows car park at 10.50.
6. Thursday, 10 November: Seafield / Kinghorn Loch Circuit 10 km. An inland walk from Kirkcaldy esplanade to Kinghorn Loch, returning via Kinghorn and Fife Coastal Path. Bus X58 at 9.50 from Barnton, or south end of Kirkcaldy esplanade at 10.40.

The remaining four walks of the year will appear in the November issue of the Grapevine magazine and are also available under "What's On" on the Cramond Kirk website (www.cramondkirk.org.uk)



www.freshstartweb.org.uk



Fresh Start is the local charity which supports individuals in their first tenancies providing essential items for their new homes.

As we enter the summer months we have been enjoying seeing our growing spaces flourish. This year, in addition to the Hub Garden and our Growing Spaces in Craigmillar, we have taken on and developed two brand new garden ventures in north Edinburgh.

The first of these consists of a series of raised beds below the Inchgarvie and Inchcolm Court high rise flats opposite our Hub in Pilton. The area was neglected and full of weeds and rubbish when we took it on in early 2022 but with the help of some local resident volunteers, we have begun to transform it with bulbs, herbs, vegetables and wildflowers. We are hoping to put in some seating for local people to relax in a pleasant place.

The second growing space is an allotment at Lauriston Farm where we now have fruit bushes, strawberries, lettuces, onions, potatoes, beans etc. growing for the Pantry and the cookery classes.

The new ventures complement our core operations and none of them would be able to flourish without your on-going support, especially so in these difficult times. We are truly grateful for all your donations which help give our clients a "Fresh Start". Please keep donating.

Fay Wilson



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EDINBURGH FORGET ME NOT GARDEN

Following Dot Kemp's interesting article in the autumn 2021 edition of The Grapevine. I thought it would be a good idea to give readers an update on what has been happening since then.

The Edinburgh Forget Me Not Garden charity was formed in 2015 and has signed a lease with Edinburgh City Council for the lodge house and gardens at the entrance to the Lauriston Castle estate. Plans were developed to refurbish the garden so that it could be used as a reminiscence and activity space for people with memory loss, along with their carers and families. A great deal of effort was put into raising funds, and the charity is very indebted to all those from the community who helped in this regard.

Unfortunately, things had to be put on hold due to the pandemic, but by the autumn of 2021 we were ready to start phase one of the project, which was to renovate the garden.

The pictures below show the progress which has been made over the intervening period.

We are all delighted with the progress and are looking forward to the garden being officially opened by the Lord Provost of Edinburgh in September.



BEFORE



AFTER

We are now turning our attention to phase two of the project which is to refurbish the lodge house so that visitors to the garden will have purpose built facilities available to them. Our fund raising exercise has already started and we now have an online "Just Giving Facility" within our website

If you wish to discover more about the project and how you can support it, here is the link to the website : <https://edinburghforgetmenotgarden.org>

Tom Wylie, Treasurer

A SEASON OF CELEBRATION

Over the coming months, three special services are being held in Cramond Kirk and we hope you can join us.

Celebrating Birth

Sunday, 11 September at 10 am

A service to celebrate birth, baptism and children – and a special invitation to anyone who was baptised or had their children baptised in Cramond Kirk

Celebrating Life

Sunday, 30 October at 10 am

A service to celebrate the lives of all those whom we have loved and lost – and an invitation to everyone to join us

Celebrating Love

Sunday, 17 March 2023 at 10 am

A service to celebrate love and marriage – and a special invitation to all those married in Cramond Kirk

A warm welcome awaits you at the above services and every Sunday.

We hope to see you soon.



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WORD PUZZLE ANSWERS

- 1 CAROL KIRKWOOD 2 COUNTY KERRY 3 CRAMOND KIRK 4 CAPE KENNEDY 5. CURLY KALE
6. CALVIN KLEIN 7. CLARK KENT 8. CAROLE KING 9. CATH KIDSON 10. CHEESE KNIFE

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