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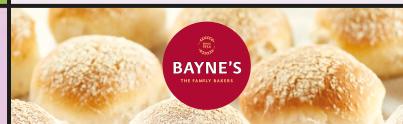
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Some thoughts on Gardens in the Spring

Friends, a new season is ushered in with the snowdrops, daffodils and buds on the trees. The dull greys of winter are swapped for the light greens of spring. I appreciate winter, however, because I think that is when God does a lot of work for us in cutting everything back. But now it's time to get active and back into the garden. The truth is that I never had much passion for it but a recent walk with Tim Power around the allotments in Kinross encouraged me to get active too.

Then this got me to thinking about four gardens in the bible. The garden of Eden is the first mentioned in Genesis 2:8 where all was good. Imagine the smells of the vegetation and flavours of the fruit!

Then there was the garden of Gethsemane in Mark 14:32 where at night lesus experienced loneliness before his trial and crucifixion. Later that same week he was resurrected in the garden tomb of John 19:41 where the women who followed him got the biggest surprise of their lives. The last garden mentioned in the bible is that of a new heaven in Revelation 22:2 where rivers flow around trees and fruit bringing healing to the nations. In these four gardens the bible recounts the experience of beauty, loneliness, hope and healing.

Spare a thought for Ukrainians who are marking their first day of spring on social media by sharing photos of fresh buds and blooms. They wish us to know they have survived a brutal winter of war.

Ukraine's foreign minister said on twitter: "Despite the cold, darkness, and missile strikes, Ukraine persevered and defeated his winter terror."

Ukraine's defense minister Oleksii
Reznikov also tweeted: "They wanted to freeze us and throw us into darkness

but we survived!" The weather remained cold in parts of Ukraine with snow still falling in some areas, melting snow muddying the fields in Donetsk while air raid sirens warning residents in Kyiv to take cover. Yet, many Ukrainians enjoy seeing spring as a sign of survival and life.

In this world we all come across sadness and loneliness in places of beauty and bounty. But with faith they also offer us hope and healing. As a city-dweller for most of my life, I found parks and cemeteries did this for me. City allotments were highly prized and young people are planting trees. But the delight of this part of the world is that none of us are far from the changing colours of hills, fields and gardens. This Easter reminds us that there is more to this world than what we can currently see and touch. For Jesus Christ came back from the grave to assure us that there is new life, even in death, where the colour of eternal life is more vivid than we can possibly imagine.

Rev. Dr. Robert Calvert Locum Minister at Orwell and Portmoak

Two poems on Spring

There is no time like Spring,
When life's alive in everything,
Before new nestlings sing,
Before cleft swallows speed
their journey back
Along the trackless track –
God guides their wing,
He spreads their table that they
nothing lack, –
Before the daisy grows a
common flower
Before the sun has power
To scorch the world up in his

Above, Christina Rosetti uses beautiful and vivid images but the thought of death is not far behind. The same is true with Emily Dickinson's poem with its melancholy sense of spring's transient beauty.



A Light exists in Spring
Not present on the Year
At any other period –
When March is scarcely here.
A Color stands abroad
On Solitary Fields
That Science cannot overtake
But Human Nature feels...

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Ruary Euan MacLeod

17th January 1944 - 6th December 2022

A man who gave of his talents, time and gifts in the service of his Master.

Orwell Parish Church was full to capacity on the afternoon of Monday 9th January 2023 for the Thanksgiving Service for the life and Christian witness of Ruary Euan MacLeod. Memories were shared of Ruary's professional life as a lawyer in the family firm in Edinburgh; of his family life as a husband, father, grandfather, brother and brother-in-law, and last but not least, of his Christian witness, especially within the congregation of Orwell and Portmoak. It was an honour for me to play a small part in Ruary's service, and to be asked to prepare this tribute, a tribute which focuses on Ruary as we knew him, as a fellow member of Orwell and Portmoak congregation, and as a resident in the parish.

From his earliest days as a member of the congregation Ruary was forever active as an innovator, an enthusiast, an inspirer. It was largely due to Ruary's efforts as editor (ably assisted by his fellow Hibs supporter Kim Reid as commercial manager) that the magazine "Stramash", free to every household in the parishes of Orwell and Portmoak, became the informative, attractive magazine it is today.

Being a loving father and grandfather, Ruary always had the interests of young people at heart. This was exemplified by the fact that he was a founder trustee of KYTHE, an organisation which continues to grow from strength to strength, providing guidance and encouragement for increasing numbers of young people in Kinross-shire and further afield. At its inception the trustees of KYTHE benefited greatly from Ruary's knowledge and acumen as a lawyer, all services freely given.

It was largely thanks to Ruary that the twinning arrangement with the congregation of Mombwe in Malawi was kept to the attention of the congregation. Over the years Ruary developed a deep friendship, albeit at a distance of a few thousand miles, with the minister Rev Bonet Kamwela. I know from correspondence with Bonet that Ruary's death was keenly felt.

However, probably the finest "concrete" testimony to Ruary's commitment to service, is the recently renovated interior of Orwell Church building. We will never know how much time he spent overseeing the ongoing work; trying to keep the contractor to specification and schedule; dealing with lighting and audio specialists; liaising with the artistic affairs people of the Church of Scotland, and all of this whilst Covid restrictions were in place. The money the congregation saved by Ruary's diligence and legal knowledge must have been considerable. It is such a shame that Ruary is no longer with us to hear the appreciative comments of locals and visitors alike as they marvel at the transformation of an 18th century building into one fit for the 21st century.

Ruary was indeed a man of many talents, which he used in God's service.

I will always remember his enjoyment of singing God's praise as his tenor voice rang out, an encouragement to those of us less talented singers to do so too.

Perhaps not many of us knew this, but Ruary also composed hymns and prayers; one of his hymns was used in his Thanksgiving Service.

In addition to his service in the local church, Ruary served the wider Church, first as Business Convener, then as Moderator of the Presbytery of Perth.

We, in the parishes of Orwell and Portmoak are indebted to Ruary Euan MacLeod in so many ways, as are a number of businesses in the parishes; it was always Ruary's policy



to shop locally, and to use local businesses whenever possible for both church and private work.

Yes, Ruary was quite special. We miss his enthusiasm, his commitment, his fellowship, his friendship, just as he missed deeply the encouragement, commitment and love of his dear wife Pat, who died in April 2018.

The words, "Well done, good and faithful servant," could not be more fitting.

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Fever Hospital - how things change

In 1938 a young boy was unwell in one of the cottages at Tillyrie farm. Concerned mother, Mrs Bethune, reluctantly sent for a doctor and was disappointed to discover that their family doctor (Dr Hope Anderson, father of the late 'Dr Derek') was on holiday and Dr Alistair Mackintosh would call instead.

Preparations were made - a fresh towel and soap for the doctor's hands and a half-crown fee (pre -NHS!) set on a side table.

After examining young James, there was a quiet consultation and the dreaded words 'scarlet fever' and 'the Fever Hospital' were heard.

The following morning, Mr
Colliar arrived in his horse-drawn
ambulance, scooped James out of
his bed, placed him on one of the
bunks of the ambulance and off they
clip-clopped on their way to all kinds
of new experiences. Their route took
them via Meikle Seggie Crossroads
and Ballingall Bridge (aka Bennygaw)
then to the gates of the corrugated
iron hospital.

On arrival, James's life was further complicated as he was taken to the diphtheria ward initially. The incubation period for diphtheria is longer than the treatment period for scarlet fever, but it was decided that he would have to remain there for the longer period of time just in case he had contracted the other illness.

To begin with, bed rest for three weeks was imposed - a dull punishment for an active boy.

The routine was enlivened on a Saturday, which was visiting day. Mr and Mrs Bethune completed their chores as Saturday was a half-day, walked down into Milnathort, bought a few treats in Florida Cafe owned by the Giacopazzi family and then walked out past Hilton Farm and the Ballingal Bridge. On arrival, the treats were handed over to a member of the staff and James was brought to a window where he could hold a conversation with his parents but at a distance!

Like all small boys, food was important to James, but not much to his liking. His main recollection is of everything being cold. Many a plate of cold porridge or cold milk pudding was flushed away and the nurses complimented him on a nice clean plate. As he recovered, he was given the freedom to wander in the nearby area and he encountered some gooseberry bushes, which were a welcome supplement to the plain fare on offer.



James Bethune

Now 91, Jim still can't face porridge nor milk pudding, but he can still remember the names of some of those who endured the experience of the 'Fever Hospital'.

As we recover from the recent pandemic and give thanks for scientific advances in medicine, we are grateful that social distancing is not the only way of dealing with such issues.





A young James

ALL FRIENDS TOGETHER - Our Story

Lindsay Cant from Kinross enjoyed going to two groups, one called Faith and Light and the other called Prospects.

Both groups were for people with learning disabilities to have fellowship and fun, songs, a story from the bible and always finish with food together.

Lindsay had said for a while "Why don't we have our own Prospects group?". Prospects across Scotland groups are all connected to a church and are there for people with learning disabilities, whether or not they have church connections, but the purpose of the group is made quite clear and that is to learn more about Jesus in a fun and yet meaningful way. When her parents were having a weekend away, Lindsay took the opportunity to ask Alan, the minister, if Kinross Church could have its own Prospects group.

Several months later All Friends
Together (AFT) was born. The
leadership group was an answer to
prayer. Although none of us knew
each other well at that point 7 years
ago, we have become good friends
and we have a great time planning and
taking part in the monthly gatherings.

We often focus on a character in the bible for our story, and we try to involve our members. Andrew sometimes plays his baritone horn and Owen his drums. There can be drama or puppets used to make the story more catchy and our members get involved! All gatherings start with the same song 'We are here together' using Makaton signs and finish with food and a sung blessing 'The Lord Bless you...'.

AFT kept going during lockdown on ZOOM and we had people joining from the Borders, Inverurie and Dalgety Bay. We couldn't play games so we had our Zoom joke session. This year we have welcomed new members to our monthly gatherings which is great. One of them lives in Milnathort. If you know anyone who you think would enjoy our monthly gatherings please contact Kinross Church Office for more details.

Each May Prospects groups from all over Scotland get together for a weekend of celebrations at Tulliallan

Police College. Sometimes they come from as far as from Shetland. For her 50th Birthday Lindsay wants to have a concert in aid of Prospects Across Scotland and Kythe, so we hope some of you will come and support that event in September.









A recipe for a happy afternoon

INGREDIENTS

- A warm church hall
- A team of welcoming folk
- · Some tasty food
- · Some very welcome guests the more the merrier

METHOD

Mix all together with a seasoning of chat and laughter, sometimes some music.

These are the basic components of Tea and a Blether held monthly at Orwell church hall.

Please come and be part of these afternoons - everyone will be made welcome.

The next ones planned are:

(April 14th)

May 19th lune 16th



all between 1.30pm and 3.30pm

There is no charge for the tea, but there is always an opportunity to donate to a charity or project if you wish. At the moment we are concentrating on the provision of a defibrillator to be available on the wall of the church hall for the use of anyone in the vicinity.

We look forward to meeting you there.

PAT EADIE

Maureen Given Baptised in Orwell Church 1933

Born to Edward and Janet (Nettie Main) Giacopazzi on 8th of December 1932, and christened at Orwell Church on the 22nd of January 1933 by Rev Cecil J Mulhan Weir; 'Maureen Elizabeth Giacopazzi', was to become the eldest child christened at Orwell to still attend church there in 2023.

Maureen grew up and attended Milnathort School. She was bullied for being an 'Itite' when Italy joined Hitler in World War II, and Giacopazzi's ice cream parlour and chip shops had their windows smashed by the very people who when calmed down were at the door next day wanting to buy cigarettes. Thank goodness these days are behind us.

Maureen was always a keen golfer. She was in the Scottish Girls International Team 1949 to 1951 and Captain in 1950 and 1951. Milnathort Champion 1950 to 1956, and 1964, 1965, 1967, 1968. Besides this she had repeat championships at three

other clubs, and served as committee member and in the 1981s was SLGA, Councillor 1980-85, Chairman 1985, Councillor 1988-1994, R&A Referee from 1983, Rules & Regulations 1981-2008 and finally Handicap Advisor in the SLGA 1980-2009. Quite a record.

In 1955 she wanted to join the police force, and was the minimum age of 22 to be accepted. The snag was the Perth police did not accept women. As her mother vetoed a suggestion of the London Metropolitan Police it was suggest she try Dumbarton Police Force. Accepted here she travelled to the required Clydebank Police in Dumbarton.

She had been told to look up a relation of her mother who lived in the area, and dutifully did so. The door was open by the son of the house Jim, and the two hit it off right away. This was at the start of her time in Clydebank, four happy years. While helping to keep the peace, Maureen was also asked to play badminton doubles for the Scottish Police Ladies. She and her partner became Scottish Police Champion Doubles 1957, 1958 & 1959. Also **British Police Ladies Doubles** Champion in 1958 and runner up in 1957 & 1959.

Maureen married Jim Given at Orwell on 31st March 1960, when two ministers conducted the service. Rev Shearer asked Rev Millar to assist as he had known Maureen most of her life. Maureen had to leave the Police Force because the rules in

those days did not allow married women to serve. Jim an electrical fitter moved to Tarbet, Loch Lomond, where Maureen was asked to join the Special Constables, which she did and for 28 years helped train and prepare recruits for the Police. Jim later joined the Specials and did 25 years with them. They were the only husband and wife in the Specials and when they retired were presented with a gift at a special dinner given for them.

The couple celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in 2020, and

Maureen celebrated her 90th birthday in December 2022. We wish them all the best as they go about their busy life, and all good health and happiness for the future.





Keeping KYTHE Mobile this Spring

KYTHE is getting ready to take Mobile KYTHE on the road again to bring Easter activities to the surrounding areas. You can help by purchasing items from KYTHE's Amazon wish list, which includes sports equipment, arts and crafts supplies, cleaning products, and other practical items. By contributing to KYTHE's wish list, you'll be helping to provide young people in your community with opportunities to learn new skills, make new friends and have fun in a safe and supportive environment. Please see the "donate" page on kythe.co.uk/donate.

As you can see from the experience of Jodie and Jenna, Mobile KYTHE is important to young people who live out of Kinross.

In the summer Mobile KYTHE visited Victory Park in Bridge of Earn, as advertised via Brig Community group. Jodie and Jenna turned up and enjoyed themselves at the event. The following week, KYTHE youth worker, Katy-Beth, was running an art workshop in Kinross and had mentioned this to those who attended Mobile KYTHE.

Despite the distance, the girls were eager to participate and made the trip to Kinross.

Katy-Beth's art workshops are always a huge success and Jodie and Jenna had a blast and learned new skills and Katy-Beth was thrilled to see their enthusiasm. Mobile KYTHE now visits the area on a regular basis, providing young people with access to a range of activities.

Upcoming events @ KYTHE:

Saturday Ist April I Iam-3pm Car Boot Sale

Tuesday 4th - Friday 7th April Easter Programme Week I

Tuesday I Ith - Friday I4th April Easter Programme Week 2

Keep up to date with activities by visiting https://kythe.org.uk/calendar/



Reasons not to mess with children

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales.

The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to Heaven I will ask Jonah".

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him".

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her 5 and 6 year olds.

After explaining the commandment to 'honour' thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

From the back, one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

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Update from Lorna Ferguson in Japan

Did you know that Japan is divided into 47 Prefectures?

Each Prefecture has its own distinctive food and one of the joys of travelling in Japan is to sample the dish which that Prefecture is known for. At school, children also learn which produce each Prefecture produces the most of. Chiba, where I live, is known for peanuts, producing 70% of all peanuts in Japan.

My youngest son is at University in Kofu in Yamanashi Prefecture. "Yamanashi" means "mountain pear" but the Prefecture is actually best known for its grapes, producing more than 21% of the national harvest. As you go through the city, it seems that there is a vineyard on almost every corner.

When I went to visit last August, the vines were laden with beautiful bunches of large purple-black grapes. Strangely, each bunch of grapes was sporting a sort of paper hat. Afterwards I looked up to see why this was. Apparently, the rainy season in Japan is at the wrong time for grape are any vines there. They have been growing, so wax paper coverings are put on each bunch in order to protect the grapes. This adds around 10% to the cost and is a painstaking job, but shows how valuable the fruit is to the vine grower.

I also learned that vines tend to grow best in rocky soil. Jamie Goode, a wine writer, lecturer, and wine judge, says that "making the vines struggle generally results in better quality grapes". If you want good grapes, then one thing you can do is to plant the vine in rocky soil where it has to work harder to find nutrients and water. Then it will worry about its survival and so put its energy into reproducing – growing grapes, rather than growing large and leafy. If you want a maximum yield of grapes, then you also need to prune the vine. If too many bunches of grapes are left on the vine, it won't be able to sustain or ripen all the fruit. I went back to Yamanashi Prefecture in the winter. This time you would hardly know that there

completely pruned back to some thin spindly branches.

It struck me that the grapevine can be a metaphor for life. Although we might long for an easy life, the reality for most of us is that there are times when we feel as if we are planted in rocky soil, or are being pruned. Yet often these are actually times when we can re-evaluate our priorities and can prove to be an opportunity for us to grow and produce better fruit.

In the Bible, lesus tells us that He is the vine and we are the branches. If we want to be fruitful, then we have to remain in the vine. Just as the fruit of the vine is valuable to the vine grower, so are we and the fruit that we bear valuable to God. lesus loves us and so gives us the strength that we need to cope with the rocks in our soil, or the pruning shears. As he said in John 15:9, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love."

Lorna Ferguson



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John Getley A true gentleman

John Cameron Getley was born in London on 3rd August 1934, second son of Alfred, a Naval commander recently retired and returned from Kenya and Uganda, and Bertha his wife, who was a fiercely patriotic Scot from the Dewar's Whisky heritage.

Brought up at Thomson's Farm in Buckinghamshire, there with his siblings, three boys and a sister Jane, they grew up. The barns were filled with tools which started a lifetime's interest in engineering. To help with the growing family a young Dundonian, Miss Nicol was employed as a nanny and became a permanent fixture for the rest of her life, a great source of common sense to all. In the 1950s a 1913 Swift car was bought for the boys to repair and hill race, which started a lifetime's love of old cars.

John's aunt Una was a great climber and mountaineer and kept a place in Courmayeur as a base to enjoy Mont Blanc. John and his siblings spent many happy holidays sharing this love of the mountains.

John was sent to school at Repton, and went on to do his National Service where he soon decided to make a career in the Army. So after being commissioned at Sandhurst he moved to Chatham to learn how to build bridges, roads and airfields, then how to blow them all up! It was at that time he upgraded his London taxi for a life of building roads and bridges for eight months, staying in tented accommodation, and then training for four months back in camp. Holidays were filled with climbing, including Mount Kinabalu in nearby Borneo; semi-formal shoots, and trekking in Nepal to understand his soldiers roots.

His next post was to Berlin, where he would have responsibility for blowing the bridges should the Russians attack.

Home for his brother's wedding he took a shine to the bride's younger sister. Nanny Nicky played the part of "cupid" and Tricia married John on 11th October 1962. They celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in 2022.

After Berlin they were posted back to Malaysia. On arrival the Brigadier summoned John and let it be known he had a 1932 Rolls Royce which John could acquire. So they arrived in state to their new home upcountry in Kluang! President Sukarno of Indonesia was stirring trouble in North Borneo and the British Government intervened, so John was out in the jungle once more, building airfields and accommodation. This included airdropping a bulldozer which had to be broken down to its component parts to be floated back out on Iban longboats.

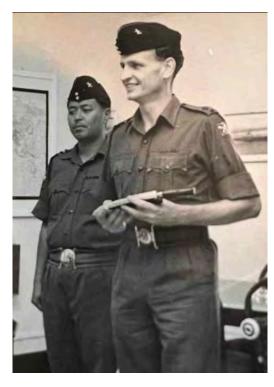
Tricia, heavily pregnant with James, wasn't for being left behind, and so accepted accommodation from Shell Petrol who were most grateful for the army's assistance.

The next posting was to Hong Kong, and the family now enlarged by James (1964) and Andrew (1966); moved with the Rolls Royce as the Sultan had forbidden cars older than five years in his country.

London was next with John working in a pinstriped suit in Whitehall. This allowed meetings with family again, and the addition of Edward (1968) to their own family.

Back out to Malaysia and Singapore next where John was tasked with disbanding 70 Squadron as the end of colonial rule became reality. They kept geese guards, as a gander would face down an erect, spitting cobra and it would slither away, much to the relief of all.

The next posting was in Edinburgh Castle. Tricia and John moved in with



the Argylls. There John started the army patch Boys Brigade group.

Two years later John returned to Hong Kong, and when his dream posting to Nepal became available, he applied and was soon based in Dharan responsible for recruiting in the East; assisting leave parties; retraining returning troops at the end of their service and paying pensions, all of which involved walking the hills meeting his extended team of retired Gurkha soldiers, with his wife at his side. This posting, which provided so much happiness to both John and Tricia lasted three and a half years.

John returned from the Far East for the final time in 1979 and was posted to Preston and Edinburgh and subsequently to Sapper T A squadron in Dundee. He retired from the Army in 1987, at home as a Retired Officer in Edinburgh Castle. He was responsible for negotiating the land use between owners and various international units wishing to train on it. His complete retirement came in 1997.

He bought Lochornie in Blairadam Forest in 1981, which allowed him and Tricia to finally settle in one place. Tricia bought a cow, a Labrador, pigs, hens and ducks, and John rolled up his sleeves to reset a garden run wild, finding some interesting plants. Over the next 34 years they provided legendry hospitality to all who visited.

Successfully enrolling on a blacksmithing course John filled the barns with his forge, saws, hammers and drills and was soon turning out beautiful pieces including ornate gates, fire dogs, pokers and lamp stands. On one occasion he managed to set himself on fire, the hand he beat out the flames healed in time, but his cashmere jumper was never the same again.

John was a member of the Veteran Car Club, and enjoyed rallies all round Scotland in the Swift. He was also an elder of Cleish Church, a position which allowed him to combine his strong Christian faith with his desire to serve. For many years he chaired the Kinross Churches Together group, which has set the tone for the present day when Cleish and Portmoak Churches are to shut, and the Kinross-shire churches now working together in a friendly grouping.

In 2003 John was President of the Kinross-shire Agricultural Society.

John and Tricia moved a final time to Milnathort, where their warm personalities were welcome. They were regular members at Orwell Church, and John helped in the Church Office in South Street on Mondays. John had two major tragedies in his life, the death of his younger brother Rob in 1983, and Tricia and he lost their eldest son James in 2006. Both these heart-breaking events hit them hard but caused neither their faith to waver nor their smile to slip.

John sadly died in October 2022 and a service of thanksgiving for his life was packed at Orwell Church, where his sons eulogy, grandchildrens reads, and the singing were resounding. The joy he gave his children, grandchildren and Tricia with his warmth, humour and spirit of adventure rang true. He was that rare thing . . . a true gentleman.



Oasis Ladies Group

Since the last issue of Stramash we have had plenty of fun at our meetings in the New Room, Portmoak Church.

We have made some gorgeous little folded boxes complete with curling ribbon, great for gift giving.





We had a brilliant games morning, playing such things as "the Sock Game" and "Pass the Bomb" (!) to much hilarity, and we had a music morning singing our hearts out to some favourite songs from the musicals and a few favourite hymns.

These are the meetings we are looking forward to over the coming months, all 1015am - 12noon:

28th April Craft morning - felting

26th May Painting on glass

20th June Speaker: Cath Stewart

After this, we will take a summer break. Meetings will resume on the last Friday in August.

Our meetings begin with coffee and a lot of chat, then we share a word for today and a short prayer before beginning our activity.

Everyone is welcome at our meetings, those of faith or no faith, young or older. Please join us if you are free on the last Friday morning of the month (dates above.) We would love to see you!

(Follow the path from the front door of the church, to the left round the building and you will come to the New Room.)



Recent Highlights from Portmoak Primary School

Recognition and Awards for our Committee Work

In January, we were delighted to be informed that the school had achieved its 5th **Eco-Schools Scotland Green** Flag Award. Our three areas of focus were Litter, Food and the Environment and Health and Wellbeing. The Eco Committee and Rights Respecting Committee worked hard to plan and prepare activities for the whole school to participate in, and also involved our local community. The assessors were particularly pleased with the links our school has with Kinnesswood in Bloom and were impressed with our Portmoak Grows Together project. The project allowed all children in the school to learn how plants grow and develop, how to look after them, and develop an understanding that growing your own food contributes to sustainable lifestyles. Our new Eco Committees for this session have already been working on an Environmental Review in order to choose our Eco topics for flag number 6!

We have also achieved our Gold Rights Respecting Schools Award this session. We did this in three ways – by learning about rights, through rights and for rights. Some things we have learned about are:

- The UNCRC stands for the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- There are 54 articles in the UNCRC. Some examples are:
 - Article 6 the right to survival and development
 - Article 12 the right to have our views listened to
 - Article 13 the right to say what we think

- Article 16 – the right to privacy

Sometimes we learn about certain Articles and sometimes we learn about other things about our rights.

Lots of things that we learn about in class are linked to our rights.

Children are rights holders and adults are duty bearers – they make sure that children get all their rights.

We are all entitled to our dignity. We should all feel valued and respected, and we should value and respect everybody else in school.

The Rights Respecting School Committee helped us to work towards our Gold Award from UNICEF. We wrote information for parents, we presented an assembly to the rest of the school, we reviewed class charters to make sure they are linked to rights, we created a whole school display and we linked learning to rights. We thought of three ideas that we could campaign about that are linked to Children's Rights and the most popular vote was Climate Change. Climate Change affects our rights as extreme weather can stop children from getting clean drinking water or access to food, and may threaten children's health if diseases are being spread. This links to Article 24 which is the right to good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment. All parents were invited to our Environment Day in the school grounds when we shared lots of information.

Rotary Quiz and Euroquiz

The Portmoak Rotary Quiz Team attended the Rotary Club of Kinross and District Youth Competition on Wednesday 8th March in the Kinross High School Hall. The

competition was made up of ten rounds on various topics, each with six questions. It was a nailbiting result with Portmoak Primary School winning by one point in the end. We are so proud of our team who showed great knowledge and enthusiasm. This was the first year of the Rotary Quiz being open to parents to come as spectators, due to restrictions for the past few years, and it was lovely for all the local school teams and families to come together for a very enjoyable evening.

Our Euroquiz P6 team has also been competing recently, online this time and with schools from across Perth and Kinross. Our team did very well in the competition, but missed out on placement this year with the top spot going to RDM Primary School – well done to all involved.

Sporting Achievements

After a successful day at the Kinross-shire Cross Country event in early March, we sent 15 runners up to the Perth and Kinross event in Scone. Everyone did very well, with particular mention due to three runners who achieved top ten placements in their respective races:

- Alfie Whyte, 2nd boy in P6 race
- Caitlin Cox, 10th P7 girl
- Roman Sinclair, 10th P7 boy

Our netballers attended a cluster event recently, with two teams competing very well against teams from other area schools. Once again, our children were an absolute credit to the school when out and about.

We hope you enjoyed reading our news from the school.

LOUISE GORDON HEADTEACHER



Top: Portmoack Primary Netball Team; Below left to right: Alfie Whyte, Caitlin Cox, Roman Sinclair



Below: The Portmoak Rotary Quiz Team with the Rotary Club of Kinross and District Youth Competition Award



Portmoak Church - What is its future?

As many of you will already know, the Church of Scotland proposes to close many churches in all parts of Scotland due to reducing numbers attending church, and a shortage of ministers as well. As part of that process, Portmoak Church will close in the not-too-distant future and, if possible, the building and associated car park will be sold.

The church has a long history within the parish right back to 1243, when a newly renovated chapel was dedicated on the shores of Loch Leven. For 400 years that building served as the parish church, but by 1636 the building was in an almost ruinous state of repair. It was not until 1661 that a replacement building opened for worship on the site of the present church.

In 1830 it was found that the roof timbers of that building were in such a state of decay as to be very unsafe, and the church we know today was built on the same site and opened for worship in 1832.

It would seem unlikely that the church building could be converted for use as a house, as other church buildings have been, largely due to the surrounding graveyard. However, we feel that it would be more likely to have business potential. Because of the long history of the church in the parish, we want to hear from any in the community who have ideas on how the building could be used for any kind of business, or for some kind of community venture, and how that could be funded.

If you have any ideas, please contact the church office at: orwellandportmoakchurch@gmail.com



Eye catching display

Have you ever wondered who is the creator of the interesting window displays for the Orwell Church Office in Milnathort? Well all credit goes to Jean Paterson! Her eye catching creations not only inform you of what's available in the office but also what's happening each week in our local churches and our community.

Jean is happy to receive material that organisations provide for advertising events like The Great Daffodil Appeal, MacMillan Coffee Mornings and Fairtrade Fortnight.

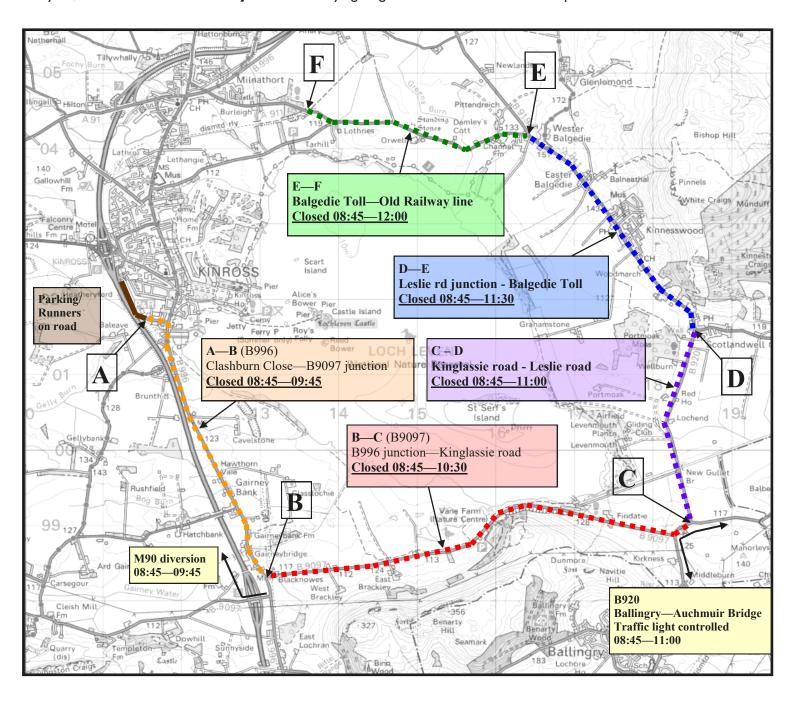
So do drop in with your poster or paraphernalia that Jean will no doubt do wonders with! You're sure to receive a warm welcome and will likely leave with some Fairtrade chocolate, the perfect greeting card or an inspirational book to read.

Thank you Jean for sharing this God given talent so well and so freely!



Road closures Sunday 14th May 2023

The Loch Leven Half Marathon, organised by the Kinross Road Runners, takes place on Sunday 14th May 2023. This year, the roads used will be **fully** closed for varying lengths of time. Please see this map for details.





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Orwell Bowling ClubFrom our President Tom Reid

Orwell Bowling Club was founded by its members in 1890 and took its name from the Parish of Orwell. In its early years it played on a 3 rink bowling green situated between Back Loan and Victoria Avenue, Milnathort. In 1931 it moved to its current location situated behind Wester Loan, accessed from Bowling Green Avenue. The bowling green and clubhouse was funded by holding whist drives and fetes in the local area and is owned by the members. The Club receives no regular funding grants and relies on its income from membership subscriptions, private hires to local clubs and members of the public for parties, along with income from our licensed bar.

Over the past 3 to 4 years, we have employed a professional greenkeeper and invested in improving the quality of the green for playing bowls. This initiative has resulted in the best ever playing surface, which we would love to share with you, as we are

always looking for new members to keep the club going as a local sports amenity. Drop in at the weekend after 7.30pm to see the clubhouse and facilities, then make an appointment to play a game with a club member. Or contact us using the details below.

Bowling is a sport open to the whole family and all abilities, which can be picked up very quickly, combining a sporting challenge, exercise, fresh air, all within a sociable setting. I started to play bowls when I was 62 along with my wife and we have never looked back, I now wish we had taken it up much earlier. It is a great way to enjoy a sport together and broaden your friendship circle, it can be as competitive or relaxing as you wish to make it.

For those seeking a sporting challenge there is opportunity to play in both County and Scottish competitions at all age levels, as well as playing in friendly matches against other bowling clubs. On Tuesday night members play in a club league competition, and throughout the season there are club competitions to be played as an individual or within a team of pairs, triples and rink (4).

On a more relaxing and sociable outlook on Monday and Thursday afternoons the Senior members enjoy a game of bowls, plus a chat and refreshments on the Thursday. The Clubhouse bar is open every weekend and the Clubhouse is open during the winter season for social events such as darts, pool, whist and bingo, with the occasional quiz night, race night, dance and celebration events.

Currently we have approximately 40 full members, 10 social members, and I junior member. The green will be opening on Saturday 15th April and new members are welcome to come along.

Contact Orwell Bowling Club President: Tom Reid tomcreid@sky.com Secretary: Sandra Fullerton sandra.fullerton5@gmail.com

Children's Craft Corner

Feeling bored? Is it raining again? You could try this quick make - Bears Holding Hands

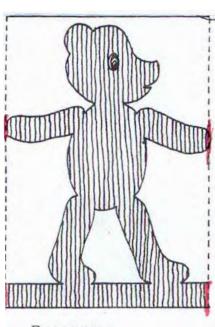
- I. Cut out the bear pattern [Right Bear pattern- (or trace and cut out.) size on page 5.4 x 7.7cm]
- 2. Fold a sheet of A4 paper in half lengthwise and cut along the fold to make 2 strips.
- 3. Fold one strip like an accordion to fit the width of the bear pattern.

(You may need to trim the end of the Paper strip.)

- 4. Draw round the bear pattern onto the top of the folded paper.
- 5. Cut out the bear from the folded paper BUT do not cut the "holding hands" or the base (marked red.)
- 6. Unfold carefully. Colour in your bears, draw in eyes and stand on a table. (as below)

BY ANNA GARNER





Bear pattern



Top: Bear pattern -5.4cm x 7.7cm

Left: folded strip

The Road to Meikle Seggie

The natural and historic landscapes of Kinross-shire have for centuries attracted writers and artists, mostly drawn to famous locations like Loch Leven Castle. The painting that has prompted this article is a watercolour acquired by the author in March 1978 when it was on display in the Henderson Gallery in the heart of Edinburgh's New Town. After nearly half a century adorning the wall of a cottage in the village of Kinnesswood, David Munro explores why this painting never loses its ability to fascinate, despite the apparent simplicity of the subject?

Entitled 'The Road to Meikle Seggie near the site of Moneyready Well,' this painting captures a local Orwell Parish scene beyond Tillywhally to the north west of Milnathort. Dominating nearly all of this picture's foreground, this 'Road to Meikle Seggie' gradually narrows, veering to the right before disappearing from sight amidst the folding foothills of the Ochils. Search as you may, there is no sign in the picture of either Meikle Seggie or the Moneyready Well. The only human habitation is the farm of Netherhall half-hidden behind one of two leafless trees that stand sentinel at the bend in the road.

This painting is the work of the noted Edinburgh-based Scottish-Italian artist and writer Richard Demarco who is now in his nineties. Back in the 1970s he embarked on a series of journeys that started in Edinburgh and radiated out across Europe, his purpose being 'to recover a sense of our living culture

in the environments around us' and to promote the notion of 'The Artist as Explorer' through his ambitious 'Edinburgh Arts' journeys. On these excursions, Demarco delighted both in presenting small, apparently insignificant details, such as gates, drystone dykes and distant hillside plantations, that seldom dominate the landscape but, coupled with place names, stimulate the imagination.

The title of the painting contains two place names neither of which are revealed in the image presented by the artist. The delightfully-named hill farm of Meikle Seggie is the destination yet to be reached at the end of a long journey and the walker, drawn into the picture by Demarco, eagerly anticipates what is to be found just round the corner.

But where is the Monyready Well? This place with an equally intriguing name is nowhere to be seen. Search as you may, there is no sign of a well and no sign of a building. While the name does appear on John Bell's 1796 plan of the County of Kinross and as a small building on the 1856 Ordnance Survey six inches to the mile survey, it is left to the walker to imagine 'the site of Moneyready Well', which may have been a small farmhouse or labourers bothy beside a small spring where, in times past, drovers might have counted their money before reaching the cattle market traditionally held in Milnathort's Wester Loan. The well. if ever there was one, has been drained out of existence leaving us with a 'lost' place name no longer to be found on modern maps or on the ground by way of ruins.



The derivation of both names informing Demarco's painting have been described by placename experts as 'problematic' and discussed at length. But, at the end of the day, their origin does not really matter in relation to this painting. The artist was inspired by 'a mysterious signpost', which led to the name Meikle Seggie existing for him virtually in name only and taking on the vision of a Holy Grail. The rest is left to the imagination which is surely what art is all about.

In an article published in September 2005 in the Sunday Herald, Catriona Black described Richard Demarco's relationship with Meikle Seggie as 'a lifelong journey of the imagination, to a place beyond his grasp'. In the artist's own words, 'to travel the road to Meikle Seggie is to undertake any journey which offers unexpected opportunities for intellectual growth and self-discovery.' By stimulating the imagination in this way, the painting becomes more than just a landscape, and, in the process, retains a constant and ever-changing fascination.

DAVID MUNRO

Top: A signpost at Meikle Seggie, a name that inspired the artist to undertake his famous lifelong journeys, exhibitions and writings of the imagination along the Road to Meikle Seggie; Bottom Left: A detail from an 1856 Ordnance Survey map showing the Moneyready Well; Bottom Right: The Road to Meikle Seggie near the site of Moneyready Well, a watercolour painting by Richard Demarco, CBE, acquired in 1978 by Dr David M Munro







Kinross-shire Volunteer Group and Rural Outreach Scheme (KVG/ROS)

KVG/ROS has for many years been providing a volunteer driver service for people living within Kinross-shire and Glenfarg area. This enables clients to attend appointments at hospital, health centres, dentist etc., not only in Tayside but outwith the region to Edinburgh or Stirling for example, we go to wherever the appointment is.

Demand for the service has been growing and it's clear we need more volunteers, so could you spare a few hours and become a volunteer driver for KVG/ROS. There are no specific time demands and you decide when you are available. So if you are interested contact **David Aird** on **01577 830370** or email at **d.aird@outlook.com**

More reasons not to mess with children

A kindergarten teacher was observing her classroom of children while they were drawing. She would occasionally walk around to see each child's work.

As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God".
The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like".

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute".

Kinross and District Probus Club

What on earth is a Probus Club? I hear you ask.

It is a club for retired professional and business people. It is a world-wide organisation where men can come together to share fellowship and enjoy various activities. Unlike some other organisations, there is no commitment to fund-raising. Probus is for those of us who have "done our bit" and yet who wish to keep contact with other men of a similar age. If nothing else, it gives us a good reason to get out of the house for an hour or so, especially in the dour Winter days.

Kinross and District Club is fairly liberal in its interpretation of "professional" and "business". We are a relaxed club, with an emphasis on fellowship.

We meet on the afternoons of the first and third Wednesdays of the Spring, Autumn and Winter months. We gather from 2.30pm onwards for teas/coffees, followed by a speaker, or for some other activity (eg a quiz) from 3.00pm to 4.00pm. We have been fortunate to have had interesting speakers on such diverse subjects as Scottish Theatre, Naval Chaplaincy, RMS Waverley, Lindores Abbey Distillery (complete with "sample drams") and much more. Once a month we enjoy a "mixed lunch" with spouses and partners, in the Grouse and Claret restaurant on the outskirts of Kinross.

When there is sufficient interest from members, outings are arranged, and over the years we have enjoyed visits to The Burrell Collection, Glasgow Transport Museum, The Museum of Flight and a canal boat trip from Ratho.

There are also sports sections within the club viz. Bowling, Golf etc.

Over the years we have met in various venues, Bridgend Hotel (destroyed by fire...no connection with us), the Windlestrae Hotel (now a housing complex), the Green Hotel (it became too expensive) and now we have settled comfortably into Orwell Bowling Club clubhouse, Milnathort.

If you think you might be interested, especially if you have just come to live in the area, here are some contact details:

Allan Dearing: 07543549967 Tom Reid: 01577530196 Duncan Stenhouse: 01577866992

(Perhaps I should point out that the Kinross and District Club is "men only". However, one or two Ladies Clubs do exist in Fife should any ladies be interested. Even better, start a Kinross and District Ladies Club)

DUNCAN STENHOUSE
Past President



April

- 14th **Tea and a Blether**Orwell Church Hall 1.30-3.30pm
- 16th **Service** Portmoak 10am

Service Orwell - 11.30am

23rd **Service**Portmoak - 10am

Service Orwell - 11.30am

- Oasis Ladies Group
 Portmoak Church new room 10.15am-12noon
- 29th Messy Church Orwell Church - 4-6pm
- 30th Service
 Portmoak 10am
 Service

Orwell - 11.30am

May

- 6th King's Coronation
- 7th All-age Joint Service
 Orwell Church 10.30am
- 13th Ceilidh Main fundraiser for running of the hall (Tickets from Kinnesswood Village Shop)

Portmoak Village Hall- 7.30-11pm

14th **Service** Portmoak - 10am

> Service Orwell - 11.30am

- 19th Tea and a Blether
 Orwell Church Hall 1.30-3.30pm
- 21st **Service** Portmoak - 10am

Service Orwell - 11.30am

26th Oasis Ladies Group
Portmoak Church new room - 10.15am-12noon

27th **Messy Church**Orwell Church - 4-6pm

Prayer Corner

Creator God, forgive our moments of ingratitude, the spiritual blindness that prevents us from appreciating the wonder that is this world, the endless cycle of nature, of life and death and rebirth.

Forgive us for taking without giving, reaping without sowing.

Open our eyes to see, our lips to praise, our hands to share, and may our feet tread lightly on the road that, together, we travel.

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28th Service

Portmoak - 10am

Service

Orwell - 11.30am

June

3rd Milnathort Primary School Summer Fair

Portmoak Festival begins

For programme see Portmoak Festival Facebook page or Kinross newsletter

- 4th All-age Joint Service Orwell Church - 10.30am
- 11th Service Communion
 Portmoak 10am

Service - Communion
Orwell - 11.30am

- 16th **Tea and a Blether**Orwell Church Hall 1.30-3.30pm
- 18th **Service**Portmoak 10am

Service Orwell - 11.30am

Portmoak Festival Ends

24th **Messy Church** Orwell Church - 4-6pm

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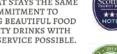
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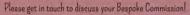
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