



Staff and Company Section members of 3rd Galston Boys' Brigade took part in the town clean up. The achievements of our Boys' Brigade Company continue to impress, no doubt thanks to a dedicated Captain David Richmond and hard working staff. Read more of what is being achieved by the boys on the back page - well done and congratulations to all!

KiRKnews

Praise him with fanfares

Dear Friends,

Every once in a while a word emerges out of nowhere and suddenly becomes common currency. A perfect example of this would be the word 'Tsunami', which leapt into our everyday vocabulary following the events of Boxing Day 2004 when the countries surrounding the Indian Ocean were devastated by huge surges of water following an underwater earthquake.

A new word swept into our minds through our televisions and newspapers this past summer. As the World Cup began in June in South Africa it wasn't the greatest footballing nations in the world that captured our attention, but rather the incessant drone of the 'Vuvuzela'! Every minute of every match seemed to be filled with the sound of a multitude of angry bees, so much so that it was hard at times to remain focused on the action on the pitch.

The 'vuvuzela' is an instrument of South African origin and is a type of horn that was originally used to summon distant villagers to attend community gatherings with its'

distinctive tone of B flat. As annoying as it was at times, the 'vuvuzela' was the authentic sound of the World Cup as it was representative of South African culture and therefore fitting for a celebration of the first ever hosting of the World Cup in the African continent. I'm sure that a large majority of those who travelled to the World Cup would have taken a 'vuvuzela' back home with them as a memento of their trip . . . and my only hope is that they don't become a feature at Scottish football. Watching football on a Saturday afternoon is enough of a 'sair fecht' as it is without also having to endure the drone of the 'vuvuzela'!

Psalms 150 is an extended hymn of praise to God and the writer encourages us to, "Praise him with fanfares on the trumpet, praise him upon lute and harp; . . . let everything that has breath praise the Lord!" (Ps. 150, v. 3 & 6). Perhaps the writer didn't quite have the 'vuvuzela' in mind, but the point is that our very lives should be a hymn of praise to God.

If there is one weakness we have as a church, as well as in our own lives, it is this; we are not good at 'blowing our own trumpet'.

There is something in the Scottish, and dare I say it Presbyterian, psyche that has a deep suspicion of anyone, let alone ourselves, being too vocal or too full of themselves - a "blaw" as my Grandfather used to say. This suspicion is no bad thing, and indeed it can be healthy at times, but at other times I would suggest that it sometimes holds us back from being God's people and proclaiming the good news of the Gospel that Jesus Christ is Lord. There are so many wonderful things that happen in Jesus' name through our church in this community, not to mention our wider work overseas. This is something worth a "fanfare on the trumpet" and something we should never be shy or bashful about. To quote the words of that great Scottish paraphrase,

*I'm not ashamed to own my Lord,
or to defend his cause;
maintain the glory of his cross,
and honour all his laws.*

Shalom,

Rev. Graeme R. Wilson, MCIBS, BD, Th.M

THE Sunday First evening services, which were launched two years ago, tend to have a more relaxed and integrated approach, mixing the traditional with newer forms of worship, and will continue to be led by the Minister and members of the Worship Committee. The dates and subjects for these services are as undernoted, and

the theme for the three evening Communion services will be the *Heroes of the Faith in the 20th Century*. Please feel free to come along on the first Sunday of the month to the Hogg Hall at 6.30pm. Sunday, 3rd October: Evening Communion - *Dietrich Bonhoeffer*; Sunday, 7th November: Service of Commemoration; Sunday,

5th December: Christmas Reflections; Sunday, 6th February: Evening Communion - *Martin Luther King*; Sunday, 6th March: Service for Carers; Sunday, 3rd April: Lent Lecture - *Speaker to be confirmed*; Sunday, 1st May: Music and Religion; Sunday, 5th June: Evening Communion - *Desmond Tutu*

New mission partner

PRESBYTERY has agreed to form a World Mission Partnership with Joel Githinji, currently serving in Nepal.

JOEL and his wife Agnes were born and grew up in Kenya. Joel says "I was born in Eldoret and his wife Agnes in Nanyuki in Rift Valley province and they have two children, Grace and Francis. I remember when I was a teenager my father used to encourage me to read the Bible and explain to the congregation and that developed my spiritual life".

Having been brought up in a village, he could see how people lived in hopelessness and in poverty - a thing that kept him remembering how far God took him through an experience that reshaped his faith and attitude. "Luckily, my father and mother encouraged me to work hard in my education which I did well both in primary and secondary level. I joined Egerton University and graduated in 1992 in Sociology and later enrolled for a Master Degree in Nairobi University".

He later joined WorldVision as a programme manager working in relief, development and HIV work for 11 years in Kenya, two years with VSO Nepal as Organisation Development Advisor and currently working as a field officer as a Mission Partner based in United Mission to Nepal. He is working as Integral Mission Advisor for HIV and his work entails developing capacity



Joel and his family with Revs. Colin Brockie and Grace Lind when they visited Stewarton St. Columba's.

Church to meet congregations. of partners to mainstream HIV and promote integral mission in Nepal. "That has been my interest to work with the marginalized and the poor, letting the word of God be known, encouraging good relationships and hope." Although HIV in Nepal is still a controversial epidemic people started to experience it

impact and therefore its control and mitigation remain a priority. Youths, children and adults continue to be affected, any talk and accurate information on prevention, care and support would bring hope to those affected and infected.

Although Nepali language seems to mix up from other ethnic dialect, at least he can speak the basics.

While he was working with VSO, he lived in Nepal for a period of two years without his wife Agnes and his two children. He faced some challenge even while he was in Kenya. He thanks God for Church of Scotland for the support, as he couldn't imagine that one day he would stay together with his family.

His children, Francis (10) and Grace (14), joined Kathmandu international Study Centre in Nepal. During free time they learn to play Keyboard and Violin. Joel's prayer has been that they may grow fearing and doing the will of God.

On 8 November 2009, He visited church of Scotland congregation in Fife, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Gordon, Melrose and Peebles and was encouraged to see how churches supports and give hope to the marginalized and the poor in developing countries. He is grateful to Church of Scotland for the opportunity to give him the opportunity to serve God and transfer his skills and knowledge to bring transformation to the lives of people affected and infected by HIV.

IN 1950, a "proper" honeymoon was impossible because a local minister wouldn't marry us till Lent and Holy Week were over. (We were brought up Episcopalian) and I had to be back for the start of term at Trinity College, Glasgow. So we had to wait till the summer for a jaunt. We went on a Bambi Association walk in Denmark. It was graded as "easy". I tremble to think what a "moderate" one was like, still more a "hard". However, we did see a lot of the country, loved it and vowed to return when we could. It took us only 30 years!

We managed several times then, taking the car by ferry Newcastle to Esbjerg but were forced into a rethink when the shipping line closed that route. Norway beckoned, Newcastle to Bergen and so for several years thereafter that country was the destination.

One of the aspects of interest, to put it at the least, was to attend a local church. It's about a few of these trips, as well as two tales from Germany and the Faeroes that I'm venturing to write.

There was always the language difficulty but factoring in a good obstacle this was. The Scandinavian lands are overwhelmingly Protestant (a plus for me) and Lutheran in denomination, a fact which was a relief. It was, however, similar as it is to the Episcopalian. And, of course, music transcends boundaries. We have sung hymns by John Wesley and James Montgomery. It was a relief to see quite familiar even if our pronunciation of these words was terrible.

By REV. JOHN TAYLOR

In the Danish services (we were staying near the big Fjord near Roskilde from which centuries ago the Vikings sailed and so we had a "Danish" service) we could see the very first words are a set form of greeting and welcome read by the equivalent of the Session Clerk. (Once someone brought me a form of service from the USA which, along with the preacher's name and the offering collectors, there was a group of "greeters" listed. A few of our churches really have unliturgical men and women confounding the Scottish meaning of the word).

Now to Norway. Leaving the church in Ulvik the priest welcomed us - I thought a little of the "Winter" came only early one year and the vessel they had arrived in to take on timber was caught in the ice and they had to spend the whole winter in the hospitable homes of the people. When Spring weather allowed them to sail they sent me for a memorial window. Littlehamner, once the site of a winter Olympic Games, there is an extensive folk museum, the Sandford collection, started by a doctor of that

name who feared the loss of traditional artefacts. One feature left out: As in this country of the way our order of functions were more oriented out by the parish churches and there, in the open-air museum "the jugs" just like those outside Fenwick Church are "Danish" items. The church in Renne, the main town 'we landed on the day of a Confirmation Service. Whether they later attended or not, at that time, about 10 years ago they looked like the total young population of around 17-18 years of age were there to be received into membership. Everyone's name was called in order and I was surprised to see friends stood up in their place, here there and everywhere in the building.

Two concluding mentions - to be shown in an old house in the Faeroes the room kept always for the visiting minister. Large areas, many islands, the minister able to come for Ordinances or Sacraments only in the winter and only early one year and the vessel they had arrived in to take on timber was caught in the ice and they had to spend the whole winter in the hospitable homes of the people. When Spring weather allowed them to sail they sent me for a memorial window. Littlehamner, once the site of a winter Olympic Games, there is an extensive folk museum, the Sandford collection, started by a doctor of that

How the Higher Grade came into being

CHURCHES and schools are essential to communities. They bring disparate groups together, they form a nucleus around which community life can be built. It is interesting to read the preamble in the 1908/9 newspapers, the reports of meetings and committees and letters to the editor etc., about the building of a new school. There were those who were delighted with the scheme and did all they could to push it through. There were those who questioned that such a building was required as how many "learners" would make use of the higher learning that offered, and there were those who were dead set against it; "What

was good enough for us is good enough for the present generation!" It was ever thus. However what really sealed the decision to go ahead and build was the fact that Loudoun School Board had refused to accept the idea of a new higher school and so Galston would once again lead the way in the Valley in the field of education.

The building was begun in the early months of 1909. The architectural plans and site management were in the hands of Messrs J. & J. Armour, Irvine, specifically with Robert Armour as manager. The contractors were Thomas Thacker, masons Hugh McKel, joiners T. Black & Sons, plumbers William Young slater; Daniel Paton, painter and James Richmond, furniture all from Galston. The other works were M. Todd & Co., heating and Pollock Bros, plasterers from Newmilns; The Bennett Furnishing Co, Glasgow for their furnitures; Shanks & Co, Barrhead, sanitary fittings; C. Young, Glasgow, carving and G.A. Allan, Kirkcubrecht for laying out the grounds. Those older Galstonians among us will recognise many of these names, even if only through the names of their descendants who still live amongst us. Unfortunately the article

does not record how much the Board cost but it does comment that the Board were pleased to announce that they had received a grant of over £1000.

The School Board of the day consisted of James Guthrie, chairman, John Hendrie, Robert Peden, David McQueen, Thomas Howe, James Adlum, Robert Blair, Bernard Donniche, Adnan Young and James Howatson. These were the men, bankers, lawyers, factory owners, farmers, miners and teachers who had taken the decision to erect a new school, who had supervised the build and had been far-sighted enough to undertake this venture which was not without its difficulties both in the instigation of and in the physical build. Eight of them were elders in the Church of Scotland. In the chairman's remarks on opening day, Mr Guthrie said there were three reasons for the new school. One was the growth of Galston and its population, a second was the compulsory raising of the school leaving age and thirdly, to a lesser extent, the Education Department's decision to grade all State aided schools into three classes, Primary, Intermediate and Secondary. Galston School Board had taken the decision that they did not want

to return to an elementary school grading nor to remain solely a Primary School but to progress to become an Intermediate one. As Mr Guthrie said, we now have a building of which all Galstonians, at home and abroad can be proud and which will benefit all who avail themselves of the education it would provide.

The opening ceremony was performed by J. Harling Turner, the speaker for the Duke of Portland. In his speech he gave a short summary of education in Galston since the passing of the Education Act of 1872. "At that point there was [Gordon School] with Mr Bell, three pupil teachers and a sewing mistress, Barr School with Mr McDonald, three pupil teachers and a sewing mistress, both run under the auspices of the Parochial School Board, with the Church in a supplementary capacity. There was also Blair School run by Mr Paterson and one assistant and an adventure school in the Victoria Hall kept by Mr Smith. [What was an Adventure School? The mind boggles and what a mishmash of education facilities, and yet there were other schools. Boarding had note, many of whom went to make

their way into their and their mark on the world.] Since that time addition after addition had been added to Gledyedes School and it was the duty of the Board to keep abreast of the requirements of the Education Act and we had gone from 450 pupils to 1,150 and from 11 teachers to 9 male and 15 female teachers. The schools were bursting at the seams. The school accommodation was standardized and so Galston School Board took the decision to avail itself of the grant offered and build a new school. This one before you today enhances the community, built as it is of good Ballonchmyrie sandstone, and is the finest building in Galston of the new century."

The proceedings had been opened by prayer conducted by the Rev. J. G. Sutherland, Trinity Church and the association between church and school remains as strong today as it did then. All ministers that have welcomed into the school and the church has been used for prize-giving, Christmas and Easter services, nativity plays and small concerts. Many a child has first heard the Bible stories at the school assemblies and in more modern times learnt about the lives of their great teachers. Awarding prizes for Bible Reading, first instigated

By IRENE HOPKINS

by Dr Findlay, was carried on into the new school and for many years to follow. It is good to know that a prayer and a lesson was the first recorded lesson in the new building.

So that is how the Higher Grade came into being. If you were born and bred in Galston then you were educated there under Mr Adam Young, or Mr T. G. Phillips, or Mr William Wallace, or Mr Frank Jones at which point it reverted to purely a Primary School when Loudoun Education opened 1970. The last three "headies" were Mr William Anderson, Mrs Mary Faulds and Mrs Kate Gledyedes. I am sure you will know what memories you have of it. Were your school days happy, memorable, enjoyable or do you prefer to draw a veil over the whole necessary episode! How many of the staff can you remember, some with affection, some with indifference and possibly not a few with active dislike!

Can you identify these staff members? Peepie; Bunny; Wee Bud; Lugs; Screechie; Chocolate Lugs; Tarzan; Ting-a-Ling; Fairy Feet; Poofie. I am sure you might well remember other names that I don't recall. Can you remember the names of the staff who were there at the time? I don't want to know!



Rewards for busy BB boys



ABOVE LEFT: Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh provides a splendid backdrop for 3rd Galston's Graeme Ronald to receive his Gold Duke of Edinburgh certificate in the presence of HRH Duke of Edinburgh.

ABOVE CENTRE: James Hewitson proudly holds the Margaret Mann Memorial Cup which is competed for at the Thursday night clubroom between April and June, with boys taking part in competitions like badminton, pool, darts, dominoes, crossbows and target gold.

ABOVE RIGHT: James Hewitson, Stuart Foster, Lewis James, Fraser Hoy, Martyn Taylor and Scott Cairns have started working towards their Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award by completing a 34-mile hike over three days. Starting at Bridge of Orchy they crossed Rannoch Moor before camping at Glencoe. On the second day they climbed the Devil's Staircase over the hills to their second campsite at Kinlochleven. The final day saw them walking the last miles, finishing at the visitor centre in Glen Nevis.

MIDDLE LEFT: Three members of the Company Section, Andrew McBride, Martyn Taylor and Alasdair Madden, have just completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award hike. The started at Inversnaid and walked up the east side of Loch Lomond before camping overnight at Invernarnan. Next day they climbed up to Crianlarich, a total of 15 miles.



LEFT BOTTOM: Christopher Borrowman, Scott McRobert and Kevin Cumming completed the first part of their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award by taking part in a four-day expedition in the wilds of the Cairngorms. They then spent a week at the National Training Centre at Carronvale completing their youth leader training and part of the King George VI training course. They will now complete a year of service to the Company as Officer Cadets, with Scott helping in the Anchor Boys, Christopher helping in the Junior Section and Kevin helping in the Company Section.

◆ **A CHOIRED TASTE**, trophy winners in the 2010 Ayrshire Music Festival, will present an Evening of Song in Galston Parish Church on Saturday, 13th November, at 7.30 p.m. Tickets (£5) are available from Helen Haigh (01563 821250) or online at www.wegotickets.com (search for "A Choired Taste"). Musical Director for the evening will be Liam Baillie. The choir, this year, are supporting Mary's Meals, The Sky Project, Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy and Break the Silence.

◆ **THANKS** to all who donate hygiene items to East Ayrshire Churches homelessness in action project.

◆ **ANDREW** Cowan has retired as Christian Aid Convener. Contact the Minister if this is a position you think you could fill.

◆ **THANKS** to Jim and Jacqueline Marshall for taking over as Gift Aid Convenues.

Parish register

BAPTISMS: *Allow little children to come to me.* 13.06.10: LUCY GEORGIA STEELE, 22d Maxwood Road, Galston. 27.06.10: MARLEY MARY-ANN McAUSLAND, 34 Parkside, Bourtreehill, Irvine.

MARRIAGES: *That they may be one.* 01.05.10: LISA McGOUGAN and GRANT FOSTER, 9 Cairn Place, Galston. 08.08.10: AMY HUME and DREW LAVERICK, 26 Victoria Terrace, Kilmarnock.

FUNERALS: *I am the Resurrection and the Life.* 20.05.10: MARTIN FORBES, 74 Brewland Street, Galston. 26.05.10: IRENE PATERSON, 80 Titchfield Street, Galston. 08.06.05 DAVID GREENSHIELDS, 38 Barward Road, Galston. 09.06.10: THOMAS BURGESS, 25 Maxwood Road, Galston. 10.06.10: ROBERT NISBET, Springhill Care Home, Kilmarnock. 10.06.10: JEAN YOUNG, Lambhill Court, Lambhill Street, Glasgow. 11.06.10: JEANETE MACINNES, Tawthorn Smithy, Moscow, Kilmarnock. 14.06.10: JANET McEWAN, Gracelands Nursing Home, Kilmarnock. 15.06.10: MAY PATERSON, 129 Main Street, Newmilns. 22.07.10: ELIZABETH WHITE, 3 Maxwood Court, Galston. 03.08.10: HELEN BLAIR, 15 Ross Court, Galston. 06.08.10: AGNES CRAIG, Grange Nursing Home, Kilmarnock. 11.08.10: ELIZABETH TROTTER, 62 Gateside Road, Galston. 13.08.10: MARY McAUSLAN, Burnhouse, Galston. 13.08.10: ANDREW PATON, 52 Belvedere View, Galston.

Closing thoughts

The foliage has been losing its freshness through the month of August, and here and there a yellow leaf shows itself like the first gray hair amidst the locks of a beauty who has seen one season too many.

Oliver Wendell Holmes.

"Come," said the Wind to the Leaves one day.
"Come over the meadow and we will play.
Put on your dresses of red and gold.
For summer is gone and the days grow cold."

Anonymous.