



**CONGREGATIONS** attending the Roll Away the Stone event held on General Assembly Sunday were encouraged to help build a Cairn by taking along a suitable stone. Many responded positively to the request and Galston was there along with others from places like the most northerly parish in Scotland, Unst, and St. Clement's in Dingwall where Russel Smith, a former student assistant in Galston is minister. The Cairn was an interesting focal point at what was a busy and colourful event.



# KiRKnews

## Green branch of hope

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter in the aftermath of the riots that spread across London and much of the South and Midlands of England in the early part of August. I'm sure that all of us who witnessed those senseless acts of violence and criminality unfolding on our television screens will have reacted with the same sense of disbelief, shock and perhaps even anger. Many of you will have witnessed the film on YouTube of the poor Malaysian student, Ashraf Raziq, who had been mugged at knifepoint and left with a broken jaw. The recording shows the student being helped to his feet . . . only for his apparent 'Good Samaritans' to further rob him of his wallet and mobile phone. In another clip, a man who is riding by on a motor scooter is grabbed by the neck and hauled off the bike, while someone else makes off with it.

How can we begin to make sense of events which are truly sense-less? What has our society come to when it is considered acceptable by some to go on a rampage of arson, vandalism and looting? These events of anarchy, violence and common criminality reveal a lack of respect for 'others' - for their possessions, their livelihoods, and the very communities in which they live and breathe.

Lord Stockton (Harold Macmillan) once suggested that this country began to lose its' moorings when folks stopped going to church. In other words, he was inferring that when folks went to church there was a

reverence for society, a regard for others and a pride in community - something that seems to have all but disappeared. The outlook on the horizon appears to be bleak.

And yet . . .

When Christopher Columbus was sailing to the new world his hired sailors were threatening mutiny. The voyage had been long and hard with many privations, and there had been no sight of land for weeks. Then, one day Columbus saw an encouraging sign. Floating on the ocean swells was a small tree branch. The leaves on the branch were green, indicating that land could not be too far away. The green branch gave the sailors enthusiasm and a renewed hope. Soon after this discovery land was sighted by the sailor in the crow's nest. The new world had been found at last.

When all seems hopeless God has a way of surprising us and being present, even in what seems to be the bleakest and most forsaken of places. It is not God who is absent but rather that our society have ceased to look to him or believe in him. But God loves us more than we can imagine. God's love is for all, and for all time. God's love and God's purposes are timeless and unchanging. The green branch of hope that is God's love in Jesus Christ is always within our reach . . . and the Promised Land just over the horizon.

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



**SOPHIE** Logan, Hannah Dixon, Isabel Nisbet, Karen Foster and Heather Madden are the most recent young folk to have experienced Berlin as guests of our partner church in Ahrensfelde. Along with Rev. Graeme Wilson, Elizabeth Purdie and Elizabeth Shearer, the girls set off on Friday from Glasgow Airport and safely landed in Berlin at 17.00. They were met by three "Ahrensfeldians" ready to escort them to Church House where a light supper was provided and introductions to the host families were made.

A busy day on Saturday with the group and helpers meeting at the railway station, and taken into Berlin, firstly visiting the Brandenburg Gate and the Jewish Holocaust Memorial. Then into the city centre where they visited a new shopping centre known as "Potsdamer Platz Arkaden" and Joerg-Arno treated his guests to some delicious Italian ice-cream. After some shopping and a "Macdonalds Lunch" it was back to Ahrensfelde for the "Railway Festival". "India" was the theme of this year's festival and everyone entered into the spirit of the fun event. To finish this busy day, there was a barbeque, with singing, bonfires and lots of fun.

A special service on Sunday morning,  
*continued on back page*



**A PEW** has been removed from the south cross seats to allow for more space and easier access for wheelchair users. Many thanks to those who gave of their time and talent in the exercise.

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# **How well do you know . . . ? GEORGE MAIR**

### **Where were you born and brought up?**

I was born in 1953 and brought up in Portland Road, where I lived till I was married.

### **Where were you educated?**

I went to Galston Primary, then the High School for two years before I passed the entrance exam for Kilmarnock Academy, where I did 3rd 4th and 5th year.

### **What did you do when you left school?**

I found a job with Kilmarnock Town Council as an Apprentice Sanitary Inspector, with a reference written by the Minister, Rev. R.C. Jamieson!

### **Tell us something of your early family life.**

My dad Jimmy came from a big family in Darvel, and my mum was Peggy Richmond from Galston. I was the youngest of four and Catherine, Billy and Rebecca still live locally. I counted that, at one time, we had 32 cousins!

### **And your family now?**

Nancy and I have three "kids" all grown up. Joanne is a Depute Head teacher in a primary School, Linsay works in Human Resources and Graham is an Accountant.

### **Tell us about your working life?**

I qualified as an Environmental Health Officer in 1974 and worked all my life for the Council. Apart from a short time in Dundee, where Graham was born, I worked locally. Latterly I was head of the food team, responsible for the inspection of all the food premises in East Ayrshire as well as dealing with complaints and sampling food. I chose early retirement in November, 2009 after 39 years service

### **Do you have any hobbies?**

Watching Killie, Suduko and Crosswords. I am also Secretary of Galston Community Council and Treasurer of Galston Youth Football Club. We also enjoy eating out - who would have guessed?

### **How did you become involved in the Church?**

I started Sunday School aged three when my Dad became Beadle of Galston Old Parish Church and went all through Sunday School, Bible Class, Youth Fellowship as well as the Boys' Brigade. Nancy and I joined the Church in 1972, just before we were married. Later I was a member of the Congregational Board and at one time Convener of the Property Committee

### **Tell us about the work expected of the Beadle.**

I would say it falls into three parts, the first being "Housekeeping" such as tending to the heating, opening and locking the gates and setting out the hall for meetings, etc. The second part is on a Sunday morning where I take part in the worship and generally act as personal attendant on the Minister. The third part is to prepare the church or hall for funerals and assist the minister on these occasions.

### **Your fears for the Church in the future?**

It might be viewed as hypocritical since my



attendance (until becoming Beadle) has not been the best but the falling attendance/membership is a concern. The church seems irrelevant to many people, but this is obviously not just a local problem.

### **Life's happiest moment?**

Hard to choose, there have been so many, I mean. Killie won the Scottish Cup on my 44th Birthday! Our wedding and the births of the family obviously, but the Graduations of all three from University were special.

### **Life's saddest moment?**

I don't know about saddest but it was a big disappointment when I did not get a promotion at work I felt I was due. I'm fortunate that's all I have to complain about.

### **Any pet hates?**

Litter louts and bad language in every day conversation, especially in young people.

### **What are your favourite TV programmes?**

NCIS and the other American crime series.

### **Where do you like to spend your holidays?**

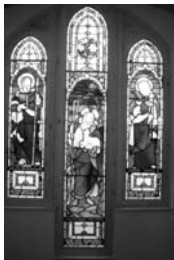
As children it was Rothesay Camps every year and the BB camps after that. As our own children grew up it was Pontins, Caravans and latterly Center Parcs. For our Silver Wedding we went to South Africa to visit Nancy's younger brother and since then there has been no stopping us. Nancy lived in Maine for about three years when she was younger and we went back in 1999 when she met her old school pal. They hit it off again and we have become great friends. We have visited three or four times and they have been here. We are due to go out again in August.

Linsay worked for a time for the Disney Cruise Line and we were fortunate enough to go on three Caribbean cruises and one to the Mediterranean. Imagine, Portland Road to the Bahamas!

We have also been to Florida, Italy, Spain, Portugal and the Canaries and at home we like Aviemore, Aberfeldy and St Andrews.

# Sunday First evening services

The 'Sunday First' evening services which run over the winter months tend to have a more relaxed and informal approach, mixing the traditional with newer forms of worship, and these services will continue 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 'Scottish Heroes of the Faith'. Please feel free to come along on the first Sunday of the month to the Hogg Hall at 6.30pm.



Sunday 2nd October 2011  
Sunday 6th November 2011  
Sunday 4th December 2011  
Sunday 5th February 2012  
Sunday 4th March 2012

Sunday 1st April 2012  
Sunday 6th May 2012  
Sunday 3rd June 2012

Evening Communion 'John Knox'  
Service for Carers  
Carol Service for the Bereaved  
Evening Communion - 'Mary Slessor'  
The Church celebrates its  
Youth Organisations and Leaders  
Lent Lecture - Speaker to be confirmed  
The Church celebrates the Guild  
Evening Communion - 'Eric Liddell'

## Offerings increase by 7.2%

THE Planned Giving Campaign earlier this year set out to achieve an increase in overall givings of at least 5% to a maximum of 10%. I am pleased to report that we achieved 7.2% which was a tremendous figure considering the uncertain condition of the economy. We also achieved a 12% increase of members who now contribute regularly to Galston Parish Church through a bank standing order. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributes in any way to allow us to maintain our excellent building and fulfil our commitments to the wider church. It is never easy to ask people for money so the response was very heart-warming to those people who worked hard to make it happen. Thank you to Rev. Graeme Wilson, Jim and Jackie Marshall for their 100% support, Robert Murray for design and printing of brochure, Jim Mills treasurer for his faith in me, Elizabeth Shearer and Jessie Telfer for their help in producing the paperwork, Ian Thomson for his time, the ladies who provided the suppers after the presentations, the elders who did all the leg work delivering and collecting the forms and lastly my wife, May, for her assistance and patience with me throughout the preparations.

*David Gray.*

## Please park with care

A RECENT busy funeral in the Church highlighted a parking problem in the nearby car park. There is a space for entering and leaving the car park but this space is more often than not taken. Normally it doesn't matter too much but when the car park is full to overflowing, as was the case at the funeral, then leaving the car park becomes an issue. A spokesperson for local Community Council asked for this to be highlighted and had this message for car users - please leave the exit space clear!



## WHEN GOD CREATED TEACHERS

*When God created teachers  
He gave us special friends  
To help us understand His world  
and truly comprehend  
The beauty and the wonder  
of everything we see  
And become a better person  
with each discovery.*

*When God created teachers  
He gave us special guides  
to show us ways in which to grow  
So we can all decide.*

*How to live and how to do  
What's right instead of wrong  
To lead us so that we can lead  
and learn how to be strong.*

*Why God created teachers  
In His wisdom and His grace  
Was to help us learn to make our  
world  
A better, wiser place.*

## HARVEST

**THANK YOU:** Dear all, - By this time you will know that I have given up the post of Harvest convener and I wanted to sign out by thanking everyone who has been there to help me over the past ten years. For my part, it has been always nerve-racking, sometimes sad, pretty often fun and always a relief to get to Sunday dinner time knowing that once again you turned up to help, brought in the goodies and arrived to deliver - because until it actually happened I was never sure that it would - Oh me of little faith!

Although Harvest is only one Sunday in the calendar it is quite a responsibility with a lot of work involved to build up to the Service itself and the subsequent delivery of all the gifts and I would ask all of you please to be supportive of our new convener, Mrs Rosemary Menzies. I am sure Rosemary will bring a new fresh approach and I wish her all the very best.

Thanks again for your support over the years. Thanks, too, to the Kirk Session for the lovely letter I received, which was very much appreciated.

*Margaret Gorman*

**SUPER SUNDAY** - an ice-cream extravaganza - in aid of the Church of Scotland HIV Project, raised more than £160. A further £225 was raised at the Seekers' annual walk round Burnhouse in aid of the MacMillan Nurse Appeal. And a Fayre organised by the Boys' Brigade brought £1270 to the Company.

**A REQUEST** for funding was made to the Presbytery's Mission Primer Fund in respect of obtaining a portable digital projector for use at "Tea at the Hogg" and "The Friendship Club" as well as funding for the production of a parish leaflet. The application was successful with £500 granted for the digital projector and £300 for the parish information leaflet. The award comes in the form of a reduction of our annual Ministry and Mission givings.

**CHURCH VISITORS:** Are you housebound and can no longer attend Church? Would you like a Church Visitor to visit every four-six weeks? If so please contact the Minister or Elizabeth Shearer.

**EACHA:** Margaret Mair and Greta Hatton are grateful for the continued support from the congregation in their donations for the East Ayrshire Churches Homeless Action Group boxes. Enough items for a total of 300 packs have so far been donated and the collection box will continue to be available at the front door of the Church - contact Margaret or Greta for further information.

**HAND-MADE CARDS** by Anna Yeudall are on sale after the Sunday Services and all the proceeds go to charity.

**AS NEW BOOKS** are always on sale in the Hogg Hall. Put your 50p in the box provided and take the book you want. All proceeds go to the Malawi Fund.

**SUNDAY CLUB** and friends will visit the Kings Theatre in Glasgow to see the pantomime, "Sleeping Beauty".

## MALAWI

THREE team football kits, donated by Ayrshire sides, were sent to Chiteko School on Chizumulu Island, close to Lilkomla Island in Malawi. Headmaster Isaiha Mlongola was originally head at Nkhwazi School on Likoma Island, a school Galston has been helping for many years, and he informed us that Chizulumu is even more needy than Likoma. We also sent them five large packs of coloured pencils, donated by 3rd Galston Boys' Brigade. £684 was raised at the Mad Hatters Tea Party and part of this sum will be used to finance the travel costs of sending a large donation of bed linen and towels to Likoma Hospital and the Mothers' Union in Likoma. The remainder will be donated to Nkhwazi School and Chima School. The Hen Project, which we financed last year, is now up and running and if successful will give some assistance to people in need. Now, we will try and help Francis, the very reliable administration assistant in Likoma Hospital, whose laptop is beyond repair. Thanks to all who continue to contribute to help the Galston-Malawi Partnership.

Diana Stewart



Chiteko School football team wearing an outfit donated by Hurlford United FC

**A sharp tongue can cut your own throat  
It's easy to be an angel when no one ruffles your feathers**



## Out and about with the loose women

**YOU MAY HAVE HEARD** - or you may not - but the Church now boasts a new organisation - and they are known as *The Loose Women!* They have been seen at a number of colourful occasions and *KiRKnews* has managed to capture a few of them on camera. They were out in force at the Mad Hatter's Tea Party - in aid of Malawi; helped raise funds for the Ayrshire Hospice at the Land o'Burns Midnight Walk and made attractive Spanish senioritas at their very own Spanish Night.

No doubt, we'll be hearing more about *The Loose Women* and, with a bit of luck, see a few more photographs in the days and months to come. *KiRKnews* is still trying to locate photographs



when *The Loose Women* visited Glasgow on Hogmanay - and does anyone have stories of their exploits when they visited Arran at the end of August?



**THE WEATHER** was atrocious but it didn't stop *The Seekers Group* and a few others from braving the elements and rising to the challenge of walking round the Island of Cumbrae on their annual walk for charity. Soken but satisfied!

# Lighting the way to a future of plenty



*SELINA and Asha are two extraordinary young women who are supported by Christian Aid partner Shushilan to find new and exciting ways to grow food in a land affected by salination.*

In 2009, Cyclone Aila swept across Satkira District on the southwest coast of Bangladesh, where Selina and Asha both live. Asha's house was damaged and Selina's land was covered by salty sea water.

Combined with the longer-term effects of climate change, Cyclone Aila was too much for those whose homes were destroyed and whose lands were submerged in the storm. Many families were forced to leave their villages, becoming "floating people" without roots and, in many cases, without a means of earning a living.

Selina has decided that she will work in every way she can to ensure that her family will not be forced to leave their home and their land. "I will always stay here and adapt to changes. This is my own land, this is my locality, I don't want to move from my home."

So with Shushilan's help, Selina is now growing saline-resistant rice seeds in her small plot of land. "I used to grow traditional rice, but the seeds don't grow here anymore because the water is salty. I am now cultivating saline-resistant seeds which are adapted to grow in this environment." Crops which grow in salty earth and water are a source of hope to people whose land is now permanently affected by sea water.



Selina is not just concerned with her own family's future - she is working to ensure that her whole community will be able to withstand the impact of another cyclone. She is part of her village committee, which works in practical ways to ensure that future disasters will not destroy the lives and livelihoods of the people around her.

"We have begun to develop early warning systems if there are future disasters. We have also rebuilt embankments which were destroyed so that communities are not cut off. We have made sure that channels of communication are better."

Selina faced many obstacles when she took on a leadership role in her community, but she has now convinced everyone of the importance of her work - and of her worth as a leader.

LIKE Selina, Asha discovered that she could no longer grow traditional crops on her land after Cyclone Aila hit her village. Rather than leaving her home to try to earn a living elsewhere, Asha received training from Shushilan in rearing crabs for sale at the local market.

"When I sell the crabs, I use the money for school fees and books. I also use it to buy household goods and to buy more crabs."

Asha's name means "hope" - and with Shushilan's help, she now has renewed hope for her family's future.

"Before and just after Aila, life was really difficult. We used to struggle. Now we are involved in this project we can earn more. I can buy schoolbooks for my children, proper food and clothes for the family."

**BECAUSE of the help that Christian Aid and Shushilan have given these two extraordinary young women, Selina and Asha are now able to reap a harvest from a salty land.**



## One less tree to admire

**ONE of the Kirkyard trees didn't survive the gale-force winds of Monday, 23rd May, 2011. The blossom on the trees is remarked upon every Spring but there will be a tree less to admire from now on. The photographs are of before and after the calamity.**



**POVERTY**

- £5** could buy environmentally-friendly fertiliser for a farmer to grow saline-resistant seeds.
- £10** could buy saline-resistant seeds and fertiliser for a family to grow rice which can be sold for £140, an incredible profit!
- £16** could buy enough bamboo and plastic netting to build a protected pond to rear crabs.
- £21** could buy baby crabs for a family to fatten so that they can sell them when they are grown - for approximately £70.



## MARGARET GALBRAITH

*THE SESSION CLERK made the following tribute to Margaret Galbraith at the morning service on Sunday, 12th June:*

It was with a great sadness that we learned of the death, recently, of Margaret Galbraith a few days before her 88th birthday. Margaret was ordained to the Eldership on the 18th of May, 1986 and was active in the Kirk Session for 13 years faithfully gave of her time and talents.



Margaret was the only child of William and Mary Mair and grew up at Meikle Carleith Farm. She was educated at schools in Auchencloigh and Galston and left at the age of 14 to work on the farm. She was to meet Tom Galbraith just after the War and they were married in Sorn Church in 1952. The couple moved to Steelpark Farm, Ochiltree to begin married life and they had two daughters, Mary-Jane and Mari. The family moved back to Meikle Carleith in 1964 for five years before retiring to Maxwood Road. In 1986 the couple moved again, this time to Irvine Road, Kilmarnock and were thrilled to see their three grandchildren come along. Sadly, Tom died on Christmas Day, 1990, a great shock to Margaret and the family.

Margaret was a busy lady in retirement and was involved in the Rural and Guild as well as her duties as an Elder in the Kirk. Her family was a great source of strength to her and she devoted herself to them, eventually moving in with Mary-Jane and Alan in 1994.

Family holidays to Jersey, France, Germany, Belgium - and especially Eurodisney - were very much enjoyed, much different to the holidays to her cousin's house in Berwick-upon Tweed in her young days. Her time and talents were many - she made soups of all kinds and would turn her hand to anything. Pancakes and shortbread were a speciality and she also spent many happy hours producing tapestries and working in the garden. Margaret's surprise 80th birthday party was a very special day and a great time was had by all her friends and family of all ages.

Her health slipped rapidly over the last two years and Margaret died on 1st of June. The Church was well filled for her funeral service on Wednesday of last week before her burial in Mauchline Cemetery.

Margaret Galbraith will be sadly missed by all of us but especially by her close family - Mary-Jane and Alan, Marie and Craig and her beloved grandchildren, Douglas, Victoria and Kristen - and our thoughts and prayers are with them at this time.

As quoted at Wednesday's funeral service: "You can shed tears that she is gone, or you can smile because she has lived."

## PROVOSTS OF GALSTON

THE ELECTIONS in May and the fuss and hustling that went on at the time made me think back some 50 or so years .... I must be getting to that age! How many of you remember the days when Galston was a burgh? It had its own Town Council with the Provost at the head? These men, as they were invariably men at that time, met in the Town Chambers once a month to debate the problems of the day. They were elected to serve the people of Galston and had Galston at the heart of every agenda. They were of differing political views and differing characters and came from differing walks of life, but they all had one thing in common, to work together to see that Galston got what it required and in the best possible manner.

But that all stopped at the end of April 1975 when reorganisation was thrust upon us and we became part of Strathclyde and specifically, Kilmarnock & Loudoun. The Council Offices became the "rent shop" and the registrars and the Social Work Department. All decisions were made in Kilmarnock and you will get those who say that the decisions did not always favour the small burghs. This conglomerate, in time, became East Ayrshire and again some pundits believed it had to be another step on the downward slippery slope. In the scheme of "the general things" the particulars often get swamped

I thought it might be of interest to find out something about the chief man of these Town Councils of yesteryear, the Provosts of Galston. I could remember some but not the ones who first held the office. Once again the copies of the Galston Supplement and Valley Advertiser in the Burns Centre were of great assistance but they only start in 1898 so I had to access the Burgh Records, also held at The Burns Centre. The Burgh Council first came into being in May 1864 but until 1892 town affairs were administered by the whole council with the chief magistrate taking the chair. There was no head man as such. Then the New Burgh Police [Scotland] Act was passed at the end of 1892 and someone was to be elected as the leader of the Council. There would be a ballot of the Town Council members and the man chosen would be the first Provost. That man was Thomas White.

He had been born in Galston in 1840. His parents were Alex. White and Agnes Smith and they had a grocer's shop at the corner of Cross Street and Titchfield Street, where the Charity Shop is today. He was apprenticed as a joiner when he left school, but later, Thomas carried on the grocer's business when his father retired. He married Marion Wallace and they had two sons and two daughters. One of the sons, also Alex, became a G.P. while Matthew assisted in the grocer's shop. Thomas White was also the registrar for Galston for 24 years and a J.P. During his time in office he was the Convenor of the Water Committee and, as such, was involved in the inauguration of the Gravitation Water Scheme. He was Chairman of the Liberal Association and of the Funeral Society and of Galston Gas Company. He also

became involved in the setting up of Soup Kitchens and worked with Rev. James Hogg and Miss Tait of Milrig, when the miners were on strike in the latter part of the 1800s and into the 1900s. He was Provost for 13 years until November 1904 when the vote did not go in his favour. His wife died in 1905 and he carried on the shop for a little time before moving to Prestwick before dying in January 1926 at his son's home in Ayr.

He was followed in 1904 by Provost William Allan who only remained in that office until November 1906 when he resigned before the Council elections. He came and went with no fuss. I have not been able to find much about him at all. However here are some facts. He was born in Penninghame in Wigtownshire in 1861 to William Allan, a commercial traveller and Mary Hammond. In 1894 his address was given as Glebe Dykes when he married Mary Clark in Ayr. He is registered as a woollen manufacturer. Then a son is born in Bentinck Street and the 1901 census shows them there with William as a blanket manufacturer, employer. So did he work at the Blanket Factory or was there some other manufacturing business in Galston at that time. He was elected to the Council in November 1902 and served on several committees; roads and paving, finance and as a delegate to the Dean of Guild Court. He became Provost in November 1904. Then after 1906 he disappears. There is no trace of his death or of his wife or son. So did they do what a lot of folks did at that time and emigrate. Certainly there was a William Allan of the right age going to Montreal in 1914, with a son, also William.

John Alexander Yeudall was elected as Provost in November 1906. He had been born in Galston on the 26th October 1862 to Abram Yeudall and Grace Kay and married Mary Pollock in 1886. The couple had three sons and two daughters. He was therefore 42 when he accepted that office. He had followed his father into the family business of joinery which was situated in Barr Street. This business is still in existence under a different name. He had been a member of the Town Commission in 1896 and continued into the Town Council serving in all for 25 years. He continued as Provost all through the war years, fighting alongside Rev. James Allan Hogg to bring the Belgian Refugees to Galston for which work he received the Medaille du Roi from King Albert of Belgium. He was also an elder of the Parish Church for most of this time and took up the office of Session Clerk in 1927. During his time in office he helped push through a modern sewerage system and a gravitational water system. He had been at the forefront of the War Loans Effort and, being a strong believer in Temperance, had been General Secretary of the Grand Order of Rechabites. He served the town as a Baillie and the County as Justice of the Peace. In his private life he proved to have green fingers and regularly showed at the various Flower Shows around Galston. He also enjoyed a game of bowls and was president of the local Lawn Bowling Club at the High

Green. His son, Matthew, was posted missing in 1918 but it was not until February 1920 that his death was confirmed. Then in early February of 1921 Provost Yeudall resigned from his post and also from the Council. He died in August of 1940. His daughter, Mrs Betty Kerr still lives in Galston and still a staunch church member.

In the election that followed Thomas Kyle, who had been elected to the Council in 1919, became provost in March 1921. He had been born in Brewland Street, Galston on the 21st April 1881 to Andrew Kyle, coal miner and Margaret Orr and married Elsie Buck. So he was approaching his 40th birthday when he took office. Thomas Kyle was Provost from 1921 until he died in the Homeopathic Hospital in Glasgow in 1937. At the age of 13 he had been apprenticed to his brother, Andrew Kyle, and in time became the travelling manager for the family firm. They were borers and mine owners buying out other mine owners as the mining industry declined around Galston, till in time they owned, Waterside Pit, Streethead Pit, Gauchalland Pit and Burnbank and Grougar Pit. He was also a director of two lace factories, Scade and Hamilton in Darvel and Yeudall in Galston. His interests included the Burgh Band, the Glenfield Ramblers, bowling and handball.

Robert Strachan became the next Provost. He lived in Chapel Lane and I can vividly remember the Provost's Lamp which stood proudly outside his door. He was the son of William Strachan and Jeanie Borland and married Mary Bryson. They had three daughters and two sons. He had been born in 1881 in Goatfoot Rows and died in Galston in July 1952. He was a coal miner, as was his father before him and worked as an underground fireman at Mauchline Colliery. He had been elected to the Town Council in 1927, serving on all the committees of the Council either as a member or indeed as a Convenor. Outside of Council work he was secretary of the Miners' Union and of the Galston Ambulance Fund and took a keen interest in the work of the Labour and Cooperative Movements. Another of his tasks was to serve on the Board of Referees for the Unemployment Exchange and the Unemployment Assistance Board. Closer to home he served on the Board of the Co-operative Society and so had Galston at the centre of his life.

He was followed by John Murray. He had been born in Galston 1894 the second son of James Murray and Margaret Tomlinson, of Brewland Street. He was a very quiet and private man, a staunch Roman Catholic and a great worker for Galston and its people. He never married and was latterly looked after by his sister, Annie, when he suffered ill health. He, too, was a miner and such was the respect in which he was held that he became checkweighman and justiceman at Mauchline Colliery. This position was tantamount to making sure the miners got a fair deal from the Coal Owners. He was elected Provost in April 1952 when Provost Strachan resigned due to ill health. He was an active member of the Labour Party and Chairman of Galston Old Peoples' Welfare Committee. He was also interested and active in the running of Galston Burgh

Band and a member of the Board of the Co-operative Society. He resigned in April 1962 for health reasons and died in Welbeck Road in January 1970 aged 75.

The man to follow on next was John Richmond. He had been born in 1904 in Sutherland Terrace to Thomas Richmond, coal miner and Kate McCartney and married Annie Elliott. He was elected to the Council in 1946 and became Treasurer the following year. He succeeded John Murray as Provost in May 1962. His political background had been with the now defunct Independent Labour Party. He, too, was a miner, first in Galston and then in Mauchline Colliery where he became an underground fireman. He retired in 1960 for reasons of ill health. In his working capacity he was active in the Miners' Union holding the post of secretary for Galston and then for the joint Mauchline, Catrine, Hurlford and Galston branch. In addition to his council work he was on the Education Committee of the County Council, a member of the Co-operative Board and on the committee of the SSHA, [Scottish Special Housing Association] and the Area Joint Fire Board, among other things. He also took an interest in the local Football Club and in the Old Peoples' Welfare Committee. In 1968 Provost Richmond went to Philadelphia to attend a Conference as a delegate of the Scottish National Housing and Town Planning Association. He died, in office, in August of 1968. His daughter, also Annie, married Bill Samson and we are pleased to see Bill in our choir most Sundays while son, Tom, can be seen in the Congregation. Richmond Bridge commemorates the name of this Provost.

And finally Andrew Lundie was appointed in August 1968. He had been born on 14th August 1911 in Galston. He was educated there and after school leaving became a coal miner. His parents were Alexander Lundie and Jane Waugh. He married Agnes Nimmo in Newmilns in 1935 and the couple set up home in Galston. Two daughters were born to them, Janette and Elizabeth, both now in the U.S.A. In 1955 he was elected to Galston Town Council and served for twenty years holding the posts of councillor, treasurer and latterly Provost. He sat on the Board of the Scottish Town and Country Housing Commission and was also a member of the Galston Old Folks Welfare Committee. He served, also, as a Justice of the Peace. During his term as treasurer and into the office of Provost he fought for, and secured, funds for renewal projects around Galston. The most notable of these was Ross Court, the sheltered housing complex in Titchfield Street. Andrew Lundie was the last in the line of Provosts who had served their community well. When Galston Town Council was swallowed up in 1975 by the larger Kilmarnock and Loudoun Council, Andrew served a further 5 years there in Kilmarnock. In 1981 Andrew and his wife moved to the U.S.A. to be nearer to their daughters, and in December of 1993 he died there in Caldwell, Idaho, aged 82.

These then were the men who headed the Council that looked after Galston and its interests from 1892 until 1975.

*Irene Hopkins.*

## **PARISH REGISTER**

### **BAPTISMS:**

*Allow little children to come to me.*

- 26.06.11 - CHRISTIE GRACE PATON,  
14 Stirling Crescent, Galston.  
24.07.11 - ISLA McROBERTS,  
3 Barwood Gate, Galston.  
31.07.11 - HOPE MARGARET RIELLY,  
1a Castlevue Avenue, Galston.  
28.08.11 - AVA MARILYN DOROTHY  
FOSTER, 9 Cairn Place, Galston.

### **MARRIAGES:**

*That they may be one.*

- 14.08.11 - LYNN McNAUGHTON,  
and JORDAN CALLAGHAN,  
6 Clark Court, Darvel.

### **FUNERALS:**

*I am the Resurrection and the Life.*

- 11.05.11 - HUGH CRAIG,  
4 Belvedere View, Galston.  
08.06.11 - JANE MARGARET GALBRAITH,  
22 Glasgow Road, Kilmarnock.  
22.06.11 - JOSEPH McHALLAM,  
Dundonald House Nursing Home.  
19.07.11 - ELLEN DOOLE,  
8 Garden Street, Galston.  
22.07.11 - ROBERT WALKER,  
24 Maxwood Road, Galston.  
26.07.11 - ROBERT COLLINGTON,  
29 Blair Crescent, Galston.  
27.07.11 - JAMES MILLIGAN,  
28 Manse Place, Galston.  
12.08.11 - WILLIAM MAIR,  
2 Boyd Street, Galston.  
12.08.11 - AGNES CATHERINE WATRET,  
6 Sorn Place, Galston.  
26.08.11 - MARY HAMILTON,  
20 Irvine Road, Kilmarnock.



## **COMMUNION SERVICES**

*Sunday, 2nd October*

*11 a.m. in Church*

*6.30 p.m. in Hogg Hall*

ALL WELCOME!



continued from front page with the whole group participating, along with the young communicants from Ahrensfelde. A brass band helped us along with the singing and afterwards lunch was served in Church House.

Sunday afternoon saw the visitors at the top of the T.V. tower for magnificent views of the whole of Berlin, followed by "Check-point Charlie" and a relaxing

boat trip on the River Spree enjoying the hot sunny weather. Sunday concluded with a lovely supper with Elizabeth Shearer's host family.

On Monday a visit was made to one of the schools nearby - Tagore Gymnasium - followed by a trip to see a very old working windmill. By this time it was 30 degrees, so another stop for ice-cream and a last chance to shop at "Eastgate", another modern shopping

precinct near Ahrensfelde. More food back at the Church House, before a fond farewell in the church grounds where Pastor Martina passed round the friendship "Quaich". It was indeed a memorable trip for all concerned, but especially for the five young girls who were visiting for the first time.

Finally, a special thank-you to everyone who helped in any way to make this such a happy successful visit.

## Two in a row for James

DURING the summer Justin Cumming completed 15 miles of the West Highland Way for his Duke of



Edinburgh Bronze hike, from Crianlarich to Bridge of Orchy. He was accompanied by Alasdair Madden and Andrew McBride who were training for their Silver hike.

Alasdair Madden and Andrew McBride joined up with Colin Baird and Isaac Nelson of 2nd Sanquhar for their Silver hike from Bridge of Orchy to Fort William. Boys arriving at Glen Nevis visitor centre, looking happy after having walked 30 miles of the West Highland way for their DofE Silver Hike.



Kevin Cumming, Scott McRobert and Christopher Borrowman completed week two of their KGVI Officer Training Course, and will become Lieutenants as soon as they turn 18. KGVI also counts as the Residential element of their Gold DofE, which they hope to have completed by October this year.

Scott Cairns, Martyn Taylor, Stephen Dalziel and Lewis James completed their first week in

July of their KGVI Officer Training Course. They will now work for a year as officer cadets in the Junior and Company Sections of our Company, before going back next year to complete their training.

Are you interested in receiving a cd of the church service delivered to your home each week. As part of their service to the Community for their Queen's badge and Duke of Edinburgh award boys deliver free of charge each week a cd copy of the church service to the elderly or housebound members of the congregation. Please contact the captain on 07771 606 393 to arrange delivery.

For the second year in a row, James Hewitson won the "Margaret Mann Memorial Cup". The cup is contested for each year at the clubroom between April and June, with boys gaining points for taking part in a different competition each week, including Draughts, Dominoes, Badminton, Table football, Table Tennis, Beat the goallie, Curling, Darts, Crossbows, Pool, Target golf and Ice hockey.



David Richmond.

## CLOSING THOUGHT

### What senior citizens are worth

DID you know that we old folks are worth a fortune? We have silver in our hair, gold in our teeth, stones in our kidneys, lead in our feet and gas in our stomachs!

I have become older since I saw you last and a few changes have come into my life. Frankly, I have become a frivolous old woman! I am seeing several gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake up, Will Power helps me out of bed, then I go to see Jimmy Riddle and then it is time for breakfast with Mr Kellog, followed closely by the refreshing company of Mr Tetley or my other friend who I only know by his initial - PG.

Then comes someone I don't like at all - Arthur Itis - he knows he is not welcome, but he insists on being here and what is more, he stays for the rest of the day. Even then he does not like to stay in one place so he takes me from joint to joint.

After such a hectic day I am glad to get to bed (and with Johnny Walker too). What a hectic life. Oh, yes, I am now flirting with Al Zeimer.

The minister called the other day and said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. So I told him I did all the time. For no matter where I am - the bedroom, the kitchen, the sitting room or the garden, I ask myself, "Now, what am I here after?"

Well, I'll close now and I hope that Will Power is your constant companion too, but to make sure that his friend Emma Royd does not creep up on you from behind - and watch out for the crafty one - Gerry Atric. **H.H.**

**The key to happiness is not getting what you want,  
but wanting what you get.  
The world is full of willing people - half are willing to act  
- the rest willing to let them**