Galston News

Issued by Galston Community Development Trust
A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation
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Issue No 17 **FREE** Please take one

End of an Era! - Ironmonger closes



Retirement of Bobby and Isobel Neil



"On 31st December, the shop closed. It is with great sadness that we couldn't find someone to buy the shop and keep it as an Ironmonger – as I know it will be a great loss to the Valley and outlying districts".

"I would like to thank all customers for all their support over the last 34 years, also thanks for the gifts and cards. It is very much appreciated".

Yours sincerely, Robert Neil and Isobel Neil.

Good Luck and best wishes for a long & happy retirement from Galston Community Development Trust



Principal Cafe.
Page 3



Position Available
Pages 8



Galston Artifacts
Page 12 & 13



Did you know?
Page 17

CONSERVATION AREA REGENERATION SCHEME

East Ayrshire COUNCIL

Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS)
1-7 Brewland Street
THE PRINCIPAL CAFÉ

As 2016 draws to a close another CARS project gets underway in the town centre. For Bill and Iva Mair the opportunity to receive financial support to restore their property couldn't have come at a better time. Grandson Sean just this year decided to take over the operation of the ground floor fish and chip shop on the town's Brewland Street so with support from the CARS it was time for an external makeover and a return to the original family brand The Principal Café.



The premises on Brewland Street, comprising a shop and flats, have been in Iva's family since her grandfather immigrated to Galston from Barga, Italy and opened the original Principal Café in the same location. The property is not listed but it sits prominently within the Conservation Area making up a familiar row in the streetscape of the town centre. It directly adjoins the churchyard to its rear and the Portland Arms to one side.

The Mair's have maintained their property carefully over the years, however, inevitably, poor workmanship and lack of appropriately skilled labour along with inclement weather have taken their toll on the old fabric and the CAR Scheme provided much needed support to repair the property sympathetically using strictly prescribed traditional methods and materials inherent to the CARS ethos.

The Major Grant they will receive will be used for a comprehensive scheme of repair to the exterior of the building incorporating slated roof works, lead works, chimney repairs, associated timber and rot repairs, replacement and repair of the timber sash & case windows and doors and most dramatically a new shop front.

Over the years the shop front has changed significantly and CARS funding has allowed the Mairs to work with their Conservation Accredited Architect Rebecca Cadie of ARPL to design a scheme which is far more akin to its original look. The blue painted shop front with dominating metal roller shutters and modern signage will disappear and instead a new subtle configuration will emerge from under the scaffold. Once again the property will proudly bear the name Principal Café generations after it was conceived.



Working in the town centre in such close proximity to the graveyard brings its own set of challenges but nothing that local builder Murdoch Construction Services, who have successfully tendered for the project, can't cope with, having just completed The Bucks Head CARS project where the property adjoined the Burn Anne and a derelict site.
Work began in mid-November and is scheduled to be completed by the end of February 2017 when the fish and chip shop will once again be The Principal Café.



The answer was the bench at dunblane Gardens.

PHOTO COMPETITION
for Members
WINNER !



Thanks to those who entered the photo competition in Issue 16
The £20 prize was won by **Lillian Aitken.**
Try this month's competition on page 23 – win £20 !

Local Councillor's Report



I don't know about anyone else, but my family are certainly enjoying the new Candy Coated Café in the recently restored Bridge Street shop! The teenager is even taking the wee one out for an evening visit to indulge in a sundae or a slush. This is most certainly a turn up for the books as they usually spend all evening arguing about who is hogging the broadband. In all seriousness, I wish the proprietors huge success in their new venture and am confident further building improvements of this kind resulting in increased economic activity will be forthcoming.

This past month East Ayrshire Council launched a Town Centre Health Check survey for Galston seeking the opinions of those who live and work in the area. Galston Town Centre is currently undergoing many positive changes, with the advent of the Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme Funding and the work being carried out by the Galston Trust to restore many of its historic buildings using sympathetic materials and methods and make them fit for modern use. It is the aim of the Council to work closely with the community to create a vibrant, safe and economically viable centre for businesses to thrive and people to prosper.

Monitoring the effectiveness of this work is an important part of Scottish Planning Policy, which states that town centre health checks should be prepared by Local Authorities with the involvement of community planning partners, businesses and community groups. It is recommended that these are carried out every two years. I understand from feedback that there was a slight disconnect between the authority and the groups involved this time around and I will ensure the next survey has a far wider reach so we can hear the views of everyone.

Following the recent untimely death of Kilmarnock East Councillor Jim Buchanan, I have been appointed to the Council's Cabinet as the Member Responsible for the Economy and Regeneration. Councillor Buchanan was behind many of the much lauded regeneration projects we have seen recently in Kilmarnock and was a big supporter of the CARS schemes. It is my aim to continue his worthy endeavours and work hard to bring investment, regeneration and development to the Valley. I would urge everyone who has a business idea rolling about in their mind to visit our new website for guidance and support: https://www.investeastayrshire.com/

SNP Councillor Elena Whitham
Ward 6 - Irvine Valley

Galston News is published on the 15th Jan, 15th Apr, 15th Jul, 15th Oct

***Deadline** for articles / news items / photos*
*For next edition of Galston News is **20th March**.*

*Send articles to **galstontrust@btinternet.com***

Local Councillor's Report

My wife Nancy and I attended the Christmas night in the Community Centre at the invitation of the Community Centre Association and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves. It was well attended by some of our senior citizens, although it must be said as I am getting older they all appear to be much younger than a regular "old Folk's Do". The meal and entertainment were excellent and I was able to introduce Galston's new minister Kristina Hine to the company.



Last Wednesday I had the privilege of attending St Sophia's Primary School Christmas extravaganza in the church hall, when the talent on show was magnificent. The children put on a show called "What Would Superman Do?" based loosely on their school closing and them moving to a new school to be built shortly adjoining Galston Primary. The music costumes and overall production was a credit to the school and Staff.

I have been re-assured by Ayrshire Roads Alliance that the long awaited work to replace the pedestrian guard rail and repair the pavement at Dunblane Gardens is to be undertaken early in the New Year and look forward to the "Temporary" barrier being dismantled. It has taken far too long for this job to be completed but hopefully it should not be a problem for too much longer.



Along with the Trust Committee I have been campaigning for work to be done to the Local Office and former Burgh Chambers at the Cross. Together with the Co-op building (now owned by the Council) and the gap site this forms an important part of Galston townscape and I hope that an imaginative scheme can be designed to benefit the town. The situation is complicated because the Co-op has a few years left on their lease and so far have given no indication of their future plans. Their was a planning application for a new shop to be built in Henrietta Street for them to lease but this was withdrawn by the developers before it could be determined. The fact that the Post office is also involved is a further complication but hopefully something can be worked out.
Finally in closing can I wish everyone a Happy New Year.

Labour Councillor George Mair
Ward 6 - Irvine Valley

Galston Community Development Trust
Dates of future Board of Trustees meetings

	Monday 16th Jan17 Monday 6th Feb Monday 20th Feb Monday 6th Mar Monday 20th Mar Monday 3rd Apr Monday 15th May Monday 5th Jun Monday 19th Jun	**All held at 7.30 pm** **In Trust Office,** **16 Titchfield Street,** **Members of the public are welcome to attend, although space is limited**

Loudoun Academy Report
U-13 Ayrshire Rugby Champions

The under-13 squad made history for Loudoun Academy rugby by becoming the school's first squad to win an Ayrshire Schools Cup after a nail-biting final against Belmont Academy at Rugby Park on Friday 9th December. The boys finished top of East Ayrshire and won the final 29-22 against a very good Belmont side. It is a historic win for the school and was all the better with the level of support the boys received from staff, fellow pupils and parents at the game. Our ongoing thanks to Mr Mc Call from Science, as link teacher, Mr Ally Mc Call, rugby development officer for East Ayrshire, Glen Tippett from the SRU and all of the coaching staff. Thanks also to Mr Lennox from PE for the superb liaison with all agencies to make our school of rugby a reality.

The squad were treated to a formal reception back in school on Monday 12th December where they presented their silverware to a packed staffroom, followed by a lap of honour of the playground. As a very new SRU school of rugby, we look forward to further success and to expanding our squads, including our mission to have a full female team.



Squad: Aydin Akar, Lauchlan Bennett, Jack Bryson, Charlie Crawford, Adam Dowling, Bailey Greer, Alexander Hendrie, Ben Jebb, Caleb Kerr, Kelvin Kirkland, Andrew Laird, Zane Lotter, Cian MacDonald, Leon McArthur, Luke McCoy, Brian McLean, David Murray, Victor Murray, Jack Provan, Adam Richmond, Ryan Russell, Mark Russell, Ethan Speirs, Myles Todd, Jay Trainers, Finlay Wishart .

Hospitality Suite

Loudoun Academy were delighted to welcome the leader of the council, Cllr Douglas Reid, Chief Executive: Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive: Alex Mc Phee along with elected members, representatives of Ayrshire College and one of our business partners, Mr Colin Blair of Buzzworks Holdings (pictured below) ,for the opening of our Hospitality Suite on 29th November.



The finance for the suite was secured by a bid from the school and EAC to The Scottish Futures Trust: Inspiring Learning Spaces Fund and we were awarded £100,000. The suite is now used to train groups of pupils on barista and service skills to ensure that our young people are ready to meet the challenges of a potential career in the hospitality industry, which remains the biggest employer in East Ayrshire. The development responds directly to Scottish government priorities in "Developing The Young Workforce" in the most practical and innovative way, and this resource is the first of its' kind in East Ayrshire. We look forward to holding many parent and pupil events and the facility will shortly open as a training café for pupils. We thank all of our partners in turning this from bid to reality in just over one year.

10 mile walk for charity



HUGE well done to Mr Mc Quade, Josh Beckett, Brandon Scott, Jay Campbell and Jamie Muir who recently undertook a 10 mile charity walk for Ayrshire Cancer Support who provide a vital lifeline for individuals suffering cancer all over Ayrshire. The team raised a whopping £359 which will continue to help thise most in need in our local area get the treatment they so badly need.

CONGRATULATIONS !!!

Massive congratulations to our S6 pupils and Mr Jim Baird from Alzheimer's Scotland on receiving certificates following a series of training events to raise awareness of Alzheimers . Pupils organised a dementia-friendly coffee morning for a group of residents and will be seeking to repeat this in the New Year in our Hospitality Suite. Let's create a more dementia –friendly world for all.



On Sunday 11th December , the school held its' first Christmas Fayre in many years and thanks must go to Mrs Shona Mc Laughlin, Teacher of Modern Studies, for her overall organisation of the event. The Loudoun Valley community came out in force to support the local businesses, school and parents who ran stalls at the event. Musical accompaniment was provided by the Loudoun Jazz Band as well as a variety of performances from senior pupils.



The Parent Council ran a fantastic tearoom , complemented by the sale of beautiful preserves and jams made the wonderful Mrs Caroline Mackay, whose efforts for the Parent Council are just outstanding. We are indebted to the EAC Vibrant Communities team who supplied us with a "photo booth" and two lovely staff that our Parent Council ran as a fundraiser using a variety of Xmas props. Our Home Economics staff ran a much-loved and welcomed "Roll 'N' Sausage" service and also a chocolate fountain.

Our huge thanks to all staff, pupils and parents who supported us and a list of contributing businesses and stallholders can be found on the next page. We are hugely grateful to you all ! **#TEAMLOUDOUN**

Development Officer Report

With a very busy 2016 now over we are now looking forward to what 2017 holds for the Trust. February is going to be a big month for the Trust as we find out if we have secured the remaining funding for the Portland. We also have walking football kicking off again in January and throughout the year we will be launching more exciting projects within Galston as the Trust continues to grow from strength to strength.

FREE Walking Football -.We have been successful in gaining a grant of £867 from Age Scotland to continue offering our walking football programme until June 2017. Although it has been a slow start for this programme we have been building over the past few months and we are excited for the future of walking football in Galston. For more information check our Facebook Page or get in touch.
Starts back on:-
Wednesday Jan 11th Morning 11am -12pm or
Wednesday Jan 11th Evening 7.45pm – 8:45pm



Community Jobs Scotland (CJS) – We have been awarded an opportunity for a new CJS job in 2017 for an administration assistant at the Trust. CJS jobs are open to young unemployed people with a specific focus on care leavers/care experienced, carers, military early service leavers, disabled, and young people with convictions who are new to the world of work or may need a bit of extra support because they face additional barriers. Eligibility is determined by an individual's Jobcentre Plus, Skills Development Scotland or Work Choice adviser. Job seekers **must** have a referral from an adviser before they can apply for a CJS job.

Community Cinema – The trust would like to continue the community cinema in 2017 and make it a more regular event. We would really like your feedback on this so that we can provide the service you want. In 2016 we had over 150 people attend the cinema and we want it to continue to grow. We will do some surveys early in 2017 so that we can tailor the cinema for you.

Portland Funding – We have had some fantastic news recently regarding the Portland, with £590,000 already promised. We have applied for the remainder of the funding to ensure we can deliver this project. In mid February 2017 we will find out if we have been successful in gaining funding from the Big Lottery and Galston CARS. This would allow us to start working on the Portland in late March 2017.

Office Opening Hours **Monday – Thursday 10am – 1pm.**
Please feel free to pop in for a coffee and chat about the Trust, bring along any ideas you have.

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Happy New Year from all at Zumba with Zara. The ladies had a wonderful Christmas party night this year at the Highgrove House Hotel.

Zara is now on maternity leave from Classes until Easter 2017 however, professional dancer and Zumba Instructor Joanne Allison will be facilitating the valley Zumba classes until Zara's return. The New Year is the perfect time to try Zumba for the first time; new routines, new faces and it'll brighten up your January for sure.



Classes commence Monday 9th January in Galston Community Centre 6-7 on Monday evenings and in Darvel Sports Centre on Wednesday evenings 8-9. Everyone welcome!!

Check out Zumba with Zara on Facebook for more information or email zumbawithzara@yahoo.com. Come and join us!

Galston Club hosts Kickboxing Competition at Loudoun Academy

On Sunday 30th October the Galston Gladiators Kickboxing Club hosted a children's open kickboxing tournament. The event was held in the Loudoun Academy Leisure Centre and was supported by a grant kindly provided by the East Ayrshire Sports Council. The tournament is aimed towards providing students, new to the competitive circuit, an event specifically aimed towards encouraging and developing their confidence and abilities.

The competition attracted over 80 children from as far afield as Edinburgh, Dumfries, Clydebank, Hamilton, Glasgow and of course Galston. All the competitors performed amazingly well with smiles all round when the kids got to stand on the podium and receive their well earned rewards.

The Galston based club had 12 children taking part, with impressive effort being applied on the mats. The honours were received by Jonathan Torrie 1st semi, 1st light, Maryjane Torrie 1st semi, 1st light, Rory Dalziel 1st semi, 1st light, Rocco Bertoncini 1st semi, 1st light, Paul McEwan 1st semi, 1st light, Ben Stitt 2nd semi, 1st light, Reilly Craigen 3rd semi, 1st light, Robbie Thomson 3rd semi, 1st light, Myka Foster 2nd semi, 2nd light, Caleb Foster 2nd semi, 3rd light, Jack Oswald 3rd semi, 3rd light, Josh Newall 3rd semi, 3rd light.

The club would like to thank all the local support supplied by friends and family of the fighters on the day. Their time and help is greatly appreciated.



Gladiators Trophy Photo (L-R) Back – Mary Jane Torrie, Ben Stitt, Robbie Thomson, Jonathan Torrie, Paul McEwan, Jack Oswald
(L-R) Front – Rory Dalziel, Josh Newall, Rocco Bertoncini, Myka Foster, Caleb Foster, Reilly Craigen

The Galston Gladiator Kickboxing Club took part in their last competition of 2016 on Sunday 6th November. The event was the WKU Scottish Championships held in the Lagoon Leisure Centre, Paisley.



PHOTO (L-R) – Jonathan Torrie, Ben Stitt, Caleb Foster, Myka Foster, Alana Carbis, Maryjane Torrie, Lara Aulton

The club squad have been working hard all year long getting prepared for this event, putting in extra training sessions on Saturday mornings and Monday nights. All this dedication and effort paid off with the squad of 7 fighters returning to the club with 14 podium places.

The honours were earned by Caleb Foster 3rd -22kg semi contact, Myka Foster and Alana Carbis joint 3rd -22kg light contact, Ben Stitt 3rd -45kg light contact & 3rd -45kg semi contact, Lara Aulton 3rd +65kg semi contact, 2nd +65kg light contact & ladies team 2nd, Jonathan Torrie 3rd -35kg light contact, 1st -35kg semi contact & 1st childrens team finally Maryjane Torrie, who won the triple bringing back the 2016 Scottish WKU Kickboxing titles in -25kg semi contact, -25kg light contact & childrens teams.

The club fighters have worked tremendously hard towards all this years competitions and deserve these well earned titles, with many of them facing up against current world champions on their way to the podiums.

The Gladiators are looking forward to the 2017 tournament circuits where we are hoping to improve on the impressive results achieved over the 2016 events.

The club trains every Tuesday in the Mission Hall, Galston with children's classes 5.30pm-6.30pm and adult classes 6.30pm-8pm.
Anyone interested in trying the club call Craig on 07870240807 or come down for details.

The club would like to thank all the friends and family that have helped, supported, coached and refereed the squad. Without your help we would not be developing in this successful way.

Galston Artifacts

As the reality of the Portland Regeneration comes closer, the Trust hopes to incorporate some of the heritage and artifacts of Galston in the wall displays of the public rooms. Do you have any artifacts which you would be willing to donate, loan to the Trust or allow us to photograph? Please contact us on 07771 606 393.

So far a number of items have been donated by



Plate with early Town Council Arms
(see enlargement below)
Donated by the late Anne Black



Saucer with early Town Council Arms
(see enlargement below)
Donated by the late Anne Black





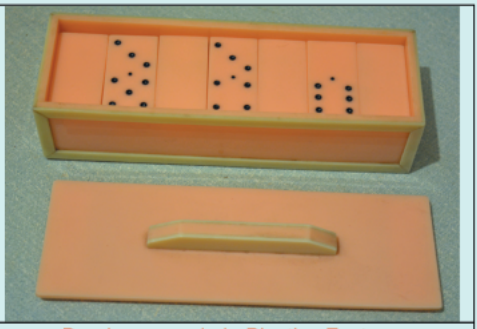


Bar Mirror to be salvaged from Portland Arms

Galston Artifacts



Centenary Butter Dish
Donated by the late Ann Ramage



Dominoes made in Plastics Factory,
Fraser & Brothwick, Barmill
Donated by Irene Hopkins



Postcard – Brown's Institute
Donated by Rita Weir



Postcard – Orchard Street
Donated by Rita Weir



Postcard – Galston Station
Donated by Rita Weir



Postcard – Higher Grade School
Donated by Rita Weir

The Boys' Brigade, 3rd Galston Company

Come along to our
Coffee Morning

Hogg Hall 10 till 12
on Sat 14th Jan

Tickets cost £2

Tombola, Raffle, DVDs, Bottles, books, etc.

The Company held a celebration lunch after the Enrolment service to mark the award of the Company's 14th and 15th Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Badges to Lt James Clements and Lt Scott Cumming and a President's Badge to L/Cpl Rory Walker. Donations from the Lunch and the collection of 5ps during Nov & Dec, by BB and Congregation were split equally between the Hospital in Malawi and the National BB HQ in Larbert with each charity receiving £250 .



Space available – Join Now!

Boys can join the Company as follows:-
Mon 7 – 9pm boys in Primary 4, 5 & 6 cost £2
Wed 6.30 – 7.30pm boys in Primary 2 & 3 cost £1.50
Thu 7.30 – 9.30pm boys in Prim 7 up to 18 cost £2.50

Duke of Edinburgh Award is available to boys aged 14+ - If you enjoy a sport, have a hobby, enjoy hill walking and camping and are willing to provide a service to people in the community, then you should try the Duke of Edinburgh. Phone 07771 606 393 for details.





Junior Section boys had a great sleepover at the Science Centre, Glasgow in November, along with 400 boys from other Companies across Scotland.

Forthcoming events

Table Sale	**Over 18's Quiz**	**Craft Fair**
Sun 29 Jan 1 – 3pm	**Sat 4th Feb** 7.30 – 9.45pm	**Sat 11th Mar** 10am – 2pm
BB Mission Hall	BB Mission Hall	BB Mission Hall
Admission FREE	£5 person or Team of 4 £16	Admission FREE 15 craft stalls
Hire a table £5 – 07771 606 393	Buffet provided BYOB	Bottles / Raffle / Teas

Galston Primary School Report

Harvest Service

Galston Primary School made the journey to the Galston Parish Church to give thanks for Harvest. All pupils worked hard in their bases to learn a song about Harvest and filled the church with their beautiful singing voices during the service. Galston Primary School is sad to see Mr Symington leaving the church and we wish him every happiness for the future. We look forward to meeting and working with his replacement in the future. We would also like to give thanks to all parents/carers for their kind offerings at Harvest which we gave to the food shelter in Darvel.



Gospel Hall Visits

Pupils in primary 5 to 7 enjoyed a morning or afternoon at the Gospel Hall to explore activities linked to the Bible Exhibition at the beginning of October. The pupils learned a lot from this experience and they enjoyed taking part in all the fun activities. We would like to extend our thanks to Raymond Banks and the members of the Gospel Hall Community for the opportunity to be involved in this activity.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Primary 6 pupils organised a coffee morning for Macmillan taking part in the World's Biggest Coffee morning on Friday 30th September. The pupils were involved in making cakes and putting on some light entertainment for our local community. We had an excellent morning and raised an incredible £456.86 for Macmillan Cancer Support. Many thanks to all who donated and attended the coffee morning.

Galston Primary have been excited about the school aiming for GOLD for dyslexia friendly schools. Every class has created a new learning wall for their class which includes a range of resources and learning aids to support learning across the school. Our classes have been busy exploring new strategies and developing our base libraries to ensure everyone can access the curriculum with ease. Pupils across the school have worked together to form a dyslexia friendly group and have developed their knowledge further in this area by looking at resources, and strategies to help learning as well as exploring famous celebrities with dyslexia. During term 3 and 4 we are all going to work together to ensure our school achieves gold before the summer holidays. Wish us luck!

Primary 7 pupils were recently invited to the local church hall to entertain members of the Tea at the Hogg. We were welcomed warmly by members of the community and in return we provided some light entertainment. The primary 7 pupils discussed their learning about St. Andrew by telling stories, reading poems, displaying Scottish dancing as well as singing songs. We had a fabulous time at Tea at the Hogg and would like to thank everyone for having us and providing us with yummy biscuits and juice.

Pupils throughout the school have been working hard to create and deliver a Christmas Show for parents, carers and friends across the community. This year we involved all our pupils with primary 1 to 3 singing a range of Christmas songs and telling the story of Jesus, primary 4 and 5 carried out a production of Hosanna Rocks and Primary 6 and 7 sang a range of songs in a Christmas Medley. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed this experience and staff worked hard to put on a fantastic production.

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Galston Lottery

Congratulations!

October winners won £82 each
Margaret Penmann Isobel Holland
Alison Wales May Anderson

November winners won £86 each
Margaret Murdoch Frances McLaughlin
Yvonne Cameron A Zavaroni

December winners won £84 each
Alex Calder Stuart Mathieson
Margaret Gunn Jan Strachan

Please note amount won goes up/down depending on how many join or leave the lottery.

Are you a member of the lottery?

If not, it only costs £1 a week, paid monthly either by standing order or by handing in an envelope to Wilma Scade's Newsagent.

Join today –
Ask for a form in Wilma's or the Trust Office.

Did You Know? 13

Did you know that at one time one of the favourite pastimes of Galstonians was greyhound racing? The track first opened its doors in 1933 and finally closed in 1967 with a gap during the Second World War. The circuit was 350 yards in circumference and the distances run were 280 & 450 yards with an inside hare.

Where the Muga pitch is at Barrmill was where the stadium lay. It was surrounded by wire and a tall corrugated iron fence which no-one could see over. The entrance gate was at the west end, nearest to where the Community hut now stands and the ring took up most of the flat area along the banks of the River Irvine. It was owned and run by the McGhee family. James and Helen lived in Station Road, in the tall building on the left going towards the bowling green, that used to have an outside stair. Old timers will remember, or have heard their parents talk of "Bookie McGhee".



The racing events took place on both a Thursday and a Saturday and there were usually six races with six dogs in each one. But the main night of racing was Saturday when men, as it was nearly all men, congregated from miles around to race their "dugs". Several trains arrived at the station packed with eager canines and their handlers. They were then walked along Duke Street, down Blair Street and Barrmill Road to the arena. The dogs wore muzzles but that did not prevent them from making yelping noises and growling as they almost pulled their owners off their feet, so keen were they to get to the stadium and their performance. The children who lived in the surrounding streets knew full well to keep out of the way at that time of a late afternoon. It was almost too much of a temptation to disobey and go to watch, but parents were vigilant.

The track was floodlit and the glow in the sky could be seen for miles around. And the same could be said of the noise. It sounded loud and clear, some said as far away as Newmilns, at least Gilfoot! There were dogs barking, some were whining and yelping, bookmakers were shouting the odds, spectators were roaring on their chosen favourite, or groaning when it was beaten and the ticket had to be torn up. There was also the sound of the doors of the starting cages being clicked closed and then released and the whirr of the machinery as it took the "hare" round the circular track. Finally at the end of the meet there was the tramp of feet making their way, jubilant or downcast to the various pubs to thrash out the ups and downs and the whys and wherefores of the night, before making their way back to the railway station or home to various parts of Galston. If the pay packet wasn't lost on the dogs then it was finished off in the pub!

For children of the Maxwood Road area and its surroundings it was a macabre lullaby of a Saturday.

The dog track closed during the Second World War and the area was requisitioned by the army as a holding area for overseas soldiers before they moved to mainland Europe. Most of the time it was a Canadian regiment who were billeted there and the sentries guarding the camp were always a fascination for the wee boys of the area, and also the teenage girls!!

The McGhee's lost a son in the war in July 1944. He had been educated at St Sophia's, St Mungo's in Glasgow and had spent a short time at Glasgow University training to be a teacher. However he left to work with his dad as a commission agent at the Galston Greyhound Racing Track. He was killed when serving with those supporting the troops after the D-Day landings around Caen.

After the war, and once the army had handed back the land to the family, the track reopened but somehow there was never the same fervour as before. There were fewer people keeping racing dogs. There were opportunities for other sports and the mining industry, which had possibly been the mainstay of the dog owners, was dead in the surrounding area. There were still some hardy souls who kept racing and you could see them exercising their dogs in and around the town. But they needed to travel to Auchinleck or even Powderhall in Glasgow for meets. Finally in 1967 the track closed and no more "store pies" were needed to nobble the favourite!.... as the old salacious rumour had it.

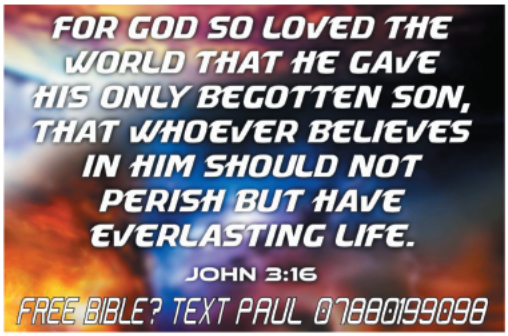
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Trust Board of Trustees.

Following elections at the AGM, the Board of Trustees is now as follows.

David Richmond *Chair*	Alistair Cunningham
Grace Lawrie Vice Chair	Linda Fairlie
Olive Melvin *Secretary*	Jeannette McClelland
Lex McTaggart Treasurer	John Smith
James Baird	Robert Gemmell
Fiona MacKinnon	Kieron Whitelaw

We are looking for another 4 Trustees.
If you are interested in joining the board please get in touch galstontrust@btinternet.com or 07771 606 393

Trust Stall

At the Christmas Market organised by the Community Council, the Trust held a Tinned & Boxed stall. Thank you to everyone who donated items, helped at the stall or bought tickets. The stall raised the fantastic sum of £317 for Trust funds.



Galston Cabin

The members of the Cabin in Milton Road are always looking for new members – come along in the afternoons and join in a game of dominoes or snooker. They also have collecting tins in various shops throughout the town where members of the public can make a donation to the upkeep of the Cabin.







STREET LIGHT

For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me to drink,
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.
Matthew 25v35

FOOD BANK

HELP IS OUT THERE

Are you or someone you know struggling to feed their family?
The Street Light food bank can help.
For more information Call or text "Food Bank" to
07880 199098
Every applicant must get in contact before arrival



Thursday 8-9pm
See us @ the car park off Brewland street

In the Bible Jesus always showed love, so by example we are "Doing What Jesus Did"

Bibles and other leaflets will be available FREE



Kindly supported by, BROWNINGS TESCO FareShare

"Street Light reserves the right to refuse service"

Galston Community Council

Galston Community Council held a very successful Christmas market on Sunday 20th November in Church Lane Car park.
It was extremely busy and weather was fair.



Margot Dykes, Chairperson of GCC would like to thank everyone who helped, especially helpers from outside the Community council it was greatly appreciated.

Also thanks to all help from Raewinds, and of course Santa and his elves and to Henk Bembom and Dawn for their continued support.



Galston Parish Church - THANK YOU, ALASTAIR

Remembrance Sunday was Rev. Alastair Symington's last service as Locum Minister of Galston Parish Church, a position he held for nearly four years. A large crowd at the War Memorial and at morning worship in church witnessed Alastair's last duties and the popular pastor, in more informal circumstances, was given a grand send-off in the Hogg Hall later when more than 100 folk said farewell.



It was a right Royal occasion! Alastair is a Chaplin-in-Ordinary to the HM the Queen in Scotland and also present for the "Thank you, Alastair" event was William Stafford, Deputy Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran and the Very Rev. John Cairns, KVCO and Dean Emeritus of the Chapel Royal. The Presbytery of Irvine and Kilmarnock was represented by the Clerk, I. Steuart Dey and also present was Rev. John Urquhart, Interim Moderator since the Charge became vacant, and Rev. Kristina Hine, the new Minister of Galston Parish Church who was Inducted on the Thursday following Remembrance Sunday.

Guests in the afternoon were treated to a splendid Buffet Lunch served by Jill McCall and her colleagues, presentations were made to Alastair and his wife, Eileen, by Jack Johnstone and Jessie Telfer and Alastair Blair read out a letter from Buckingham Palace.

Robert Murray, Session Clerk, paid tribute to Alastair's four years at Galston, saying:

"Alastair Symington was the best thing that could have happened to Galston at the time of the vacancy. He arrived at a time when the previous Minister had left after only a short Ministry and he had brought to Galston over these past four years the two things most important to the congregation and parish - he was a Preacher second to none and he visited the sick, the housebound, those in hospital - in fact, anyone thought to be in need of a Minister. He visited the church organisations, presented long service awards, ordained and admitted new Elders to the Kirk Session, carried out around 30 baptisms, officiated at a dozen marriages and performed nearly 150 funerals with all the visiting and pastoral care that brings."

Robert also mentioned that Alastair had brought someone else to Galston - his wife, Eileen, who had supported him and the Galston congregation faithfully and who had been at Alastair's side as and when required at all sorts of functions.

A special day, a happy (and sad) occasion, but an appropriate farewell to a popular pastor - the congregation had been very fortunate (and extremely grateful) to have benefited from the services of such a Minister.



Rev. Alastair Symington pictured with the ladies of Galston Parish Church who provided the "Thank You, Alastair" Buffet Lunch on Remembrance Sunday.

INDUCTION OF REV. KRISTINA HINE

PRESBYTERY Moderator, Rev. Colin Strong, conducted worship at the Induction Service for Rev. Kristina Hine on Thursday 17 November, with Rev. Gavin Niven and Mr I. Steuart Dey also officiating. A large congregation of nearly 300 was made up of Presbytery Ministers and Elders, visitors from Castlehill Parish Church and Alloway Church, friends of Rev. Kristina Hine and members of our own congregation.



The service included Narrative, Preamble and Questions to the Minister, Readings and the Signing of the Formula before the Induction and Questions to the Congregation, followed by members of the congregation bringing forward the Shared Signs of Ministry: a Bible, Pitcher and Communion Vessels, then the Charges given by Rev. Gavin Niven.

Bible Readings were from 2nd Corinthians, 5:11-21 and St. Matthew 9:35-38, were read by Mr I Steuart Dey and the five hymns proved to be popular with the congregation, the singing one of the highlights of the service.

After the formal part of the evening, the Presbytery and the Congregation retired to the Hogg Hall for tea, sandwiches and shortbread and we should be grateful to all those involved in providing this. Rev. John Urquhart took the chair at the Welcome Social which followed and spoke warmly of his four years in Galston, supported by many people along with his wife, Barbara and family.



Vanda McTaggart welcomed Rev. Kristina Hine with some amusing 'warnings' and Rosemary Menzies presented the new Minister with Stoles in liturgical colours and a Bible. Rev. Hine suitably replied and 'took the chair' before Robert Murray thanked Rev. John Urquhart for "staying the course", listing some of the things that had happened during his time as Interim Moderator. John's congregation at St. Maur's Glencairn in Kilmaurs was also thanked for sharing their minister with us. Rosemary again made the presentations to John and Barbara.

Four guests addressed the gathering: Rev. Neil McNaught, Minister of Alloway Parish Church; Rev. Samuel Roberts, a Chaplain of a Veterans Hospital in California; Rev. Liz Crumlish, former Minister of Castlehill Parish Church and now the Church of Scotland's Path of Renewal and Pioneer Co-Ordinator; and Jörg-Arno Zilch from Galston's partner church in Ahrensfelde.

Musical entertainment was provided by members of the Church Choir accompanied by Marie Sloan on the piano, choosing some songs of Scotland in their programme of "Singing for Kristina". David Gray proposed a vote of thanks and the evening ended with the company singing 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Rev. Liz Crumlish preached in Galston on the following Sunday's Introductory Service.

Galston Brownies enjoyed a visit from Santa at their Christmas party. They are looking forward to a Tesco 'farm to fork' visit , and an international theme next term.





Galston Gala Day

Saturday 10th June 2017

Portland Park

1pm till 4pm

Keep the date free!



Organisations, groups, crafters
Express your interest in taking a stall NOW
Or let us know if you can provide entertainment.
contact Galstontrust@btinternet.com or 07771 606 393
Anyone willing to help make this year's Gala Day bigger and better than last year's success, please come along to a meeting in the Trust Office on Tuesday 31st January 7.30 – 8.30 pm
Individuals, Organisations, Groups – please send represenatatives.

PHOTO COMPETITION for Members Win £20

Can you identify where in Galston the picture opposite was taken?

You need to be a member to enter – but don't worry if you are not already a member - you can join at the same time as you enter the competition by filling in the form below.

NAME
ADDRESS
ANSWER



Slaters have made an attractive design on the roof of a recently regenerated building.

Which shop is below this roof?

Anyone over the age of 12 can be a member and enter.

Entries to Trust Office, 16 Titchfield St or Wilma Scade's Newsagent

Winner is first correct entry drawn from entries received by 15th Feb 2017)

(see page 3 for the result of the competition in issue 16)

I wish to become a member of Galston Community Development Trust

Name			
Address			
Tel		*DoB (if under 16)*	
Email			

Please tick one type of membership

	Junior Membership	*aged 12 to 15 and lives within Galston Community Council Boundary*
	Ordinary Membership	*aged 16+ and lives within Galston Community Council Boundary*
	Associate Membership	*people who support aims of Trust but live outwith above Boundary.*
	Corporate Membership	*business or organization with a demonstrable interest in Galston and which supports the aims of the Trust*

Signed …… *Date* ……..

"Any personal data you supply will be processed in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998 The information will be used only for the administration of membership of the Trust. The Trust will not pass these details to any other person or organisation except where required by law."

Please hand into to Trust Office, 16 Titchfield Street, Galston
or Wilma Scade's Newsagent, Titchfield Street.

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Trust Your home & more.

Independent Living in Darvel.



- Social housing, designed for the over 60s, offering a secure environment and active social scene.
- Staff support making retirement hassle free.
- No worrying about repairs, window cleaning or garden maintenance.
- Emergency out of hours support for peace of mind.

We're currently offering 6 months free heating for all tenants who are new to Trust and move in before 29/2/17.

Contact us on **0800 917 1964** or **info@trustha.org.uk** for more information.

www.trustha.org.uk 0800 917 1964 trust housing trust_housing

Please note :- Photo Competition for members is now on page 23