



Galston News

Issued by **Galston Community Development Trust**

A Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Scottish Charity No. SC043291 Oct 2015

Issue No 12 **FREE** Please take one

£35,000 buys Portland Arms - at last!



After months of legal issues, the Trust, on 24th July, was finally successful in buying the Portland Arms for £35,000 (the exact valuation figure).

Over the winter months, we carried out repairs to the roof to make it wind and watertight. Since the purchase a firm has removed a small amount of asbestos from the kitchen area to make it safe. The metal grills have been removed and will be refurbished and stored. Recently, a local joiner & painter have boarded up the windows and painted the windows & doors to tidy up the look of the building. We know that it will be about a year before anything happens on site.

We have appointed accredited architects (ZM Architects Glasgow) to carry out a feasibility study and produce plans, which will allow us to apply for CARS funding (approx. £250,000 for the exterior) and pursue other sources of funding for the interior. The architects will consider all the ideas that you have already submitted over the years and will look at the sustainability of proposals. If you have any further suggestions please make them now on our facebook or by visiting our Development Officer at 16 Titchfield St.

By January 2016 we should have decided on the use that the Portland will be refurbished for and grant applications will be able to start.



CARS deadlines
approaching.
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UPDATE ON PROGRESS SEPTEMBER 2015

PRIORITY PROJECTS

To date there are two schemes progressing including the Portland Arms, which has been purchased by the Galston Community Development Trust.

MAJOR GRANT SCHEME

To date there are 15 project enquiries; 12 of which have appointed Conservation Accredited Architects; for which 10 Condition Reports have been produced; Planning Permission has been obtained for 2 of these schemes and tenders have been returned for 2 of these schemes. A grant application has been received for 1 scheme, which is currently being processed.

SMALL GRANT SCHEME

Tenders have been returned for 2 schemes and an Offer of Grant has been issued for a further scheme.

PUBLIC REALM

A scheme of repairs to Church Lane Bridge have been developed and the tenders have been returned for this scheme.

We are hopeful that at least one Major Grant Scheme will be on site during the autumn of 2015 with more to come after the turn of the year.

As we are now half way through the scheme with no grants having been accepted to date, Historic Scotland have advised us to start applying deadlines for applications and site start dates for the Priority Projects and Major Grant Schemes in order that we can determine which owners are serious about carrying out repairs to their properties. If no application (or whatever other information we request by a specific date) is submitted then we will advise owners that any indicative funding allocated to their project will be re-allocated. If we do not implement deadlines imminently then we risk keeping money aside for projects that will never proceed to the detriment of others.

Should all the projects for which we have currently received enquiries about proceed, the CARS fund will be significantly over-subscribed, hence we are dealing with applications on a first-come-first-served basis along with prioritising projects in-line with the Galston CARS application to Historic Scotland and each project merits in terms of the goals of the scheme ie: prioritising vacant/under-used buildings which align with the regeneration ethos of the CARS. Depending on real uptake the level of grant available may reduce from the maximum 90% currently available or grant funding may require to be capped for each project.

WHAT TO DO NEXT

If you are participating in the scheme or intend to participate in the scheme please note the information above and the overall timescales of the CARS (projects to be completed by December 2017). The development and application process is lengthy and complex especially if there are a number of owners involved...

Contact your Conservation Accredited Architect and remind them of the timescales and if you haven't appointed one already the deadline is 31st December 2015.

Should you wish to discuss any of the matters raised above please contact Lynne Easton the Galston CARS Officer on **01292 317265** or lynne.easton@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

Galston Community Development Trust



Special Members Meeting & 4th Annual General Meeting

Monday 16th November, 7.30pm

Hogg Hall, Galston Parish Church

Please come along to this important meeting and hear from the Trustees and give them your support.

Special Members Meeting (starting at 7.30pm) to amend the constitution to allow Trustees to serve for 3 years, change the quorum to 6, allow trustees a proxy vote, allow votes by email,

Followed by the **4th Annual General Meeting** to:-

Report on the Trust activities over the last year
Report of the annual accounts of the Trust
Election of 6 Charity Trustees to the Board of Trustees
(use the form below if you want to stand as a Trustee)
Followed by refreshments

This year we are looking for 6 people to stand for election as Trustees. 5 Retiring Trustees are eligible for re-election. As we approach an interesting year with a number of projects coming online we need more people willing to devote their time, effort and skills to further the aims of the Trust.

PLEASE NOTE that only Ordinary Members can vote or stand for election, you may of course become an ordinary member if you are at least 16 years old and live in the Community Council election area. Trustees meet on the 1st and third Monday of most months of the year (except July)

Galston Community Development Trust

Election of Charity Trustees

Ordinary Members of the Trust **may self nominate** to stand as a Charity Trustee

by filling in this form **and handing it in on the night before 7.40pm**

I, the undersigned, hereby nominate myself _____ (full name)

residing at

_____ (address)

as a candidate for the above election. I am an ordinary member of the Trust and am not disqualified from being a charity trustee under the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005.

Signature _____ Date _____

Local Councillor's Report

Housing

The new houses at Manse Place/Blair Court are almost complete with the developer now working on fences and groundworks. I understand that some houses have been allocated to existing tenants with a proposed moving in date of early November.

St. Sophia's/ Galston primary Schools

The decision has now been taken to go ahead with the proposed co-location of the schools at Western Road. Personally I think the timescale of June next year is a bit ambitious, but we will see.

I am pleased to say that the original drawings for the physical aspect of how the scheme was to be managed was withdrawn in the face of opposition and the new plans are a great improvement. Basically there is to be a new build of four classrooms, a multi-use hall, toilets, offices and stores to the left of Galston Primary with a link corridor joining the two buildings. Galston Primary will donate a much smaller proportion of their school than previously proposed.

The intention is also to build a full size all weather football pitch which can be used as a community resource outside school hours.

Planning

The application, referring to the proposed development at Loudoun Castle, has been withdrawn by the applicants.

The applicants are to submit new plans for consideration.

War Memorial

I have received a lot of positive comments about the new seat and plantings at the War Memorial which would appear to have been very well received by various members of the community



Labour Councillor George Mair
Ward 6 - Irvine Valley

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

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

Galston Youth Football Club are the largest provider of grassroots football in the Irvine Valley. Catering for age groups from 2009 (6 yrs old) to 2000 (15yrs old) and include a new girls section 2008 to 2004 year of birth. The club is progressing year on year in terms of development as an SFA Quality Mark club.



FOCUS ON 2008's.....

The 2008 team started on a Saturday Morning at Loudoun Academy in 2012 to get the boys used to a football. From there we have gone from strength to strength and would be regarded as one of the best footballing and toughest teams in Ayrshire at our age group, and have also show cased our talents from Annan to Edinburgh. The boys have been progressing very well with invites from Kilmarnock FC, Celtic FC and Rangers FC who have taken a handful of the boys to their Academies. There are 6 coaches within the team headed by Alistair Calder who started the team with Steven McLachlan and then parents joining to fill the coaching spaces Tom Boyd, Scott Kennedy, John Cameron and Graeme Simpson all of who have all completed their SFA Coaching badges. The team train 2 nights per week Monday and Wednesday, the boys work hard for the coaches as do the parents and the efforts are well received. All the hard work will pay off for these boys who I am sure we will see at the top level one day.

PLAYER PROFILE

Player name Liam Calder - 2008's

MY FAVOURITES

Football team : Killie

Pro player : Messi

Band / Musician : Noel Gallagher

Food : McDonalds

Funniest team mate : Nathan Boyd

Holiday destination : Benidorm



Galston 2008 after a very successful Glenafton Festival with their trophies

Galston Community Development Trust

Dates of future Board of Trustees meetings



Monday 5th Oct
Monday 19th Oct
Monday 2nd Nov
Mon 7th Dec

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

SQA Exam Results

We are delighted to report that the school secured another set of outstanding exam results (our best ever!) leading us to secure the top spot in EAC in several of the SQA benchmarks. Students performed brilliantly across S4-6 and many students swept the boards with 5 Highers or 7 National 5 qualifications. There were also outstanding performances from pupils in college link and consortia courses with superb achievements in Skills For Work courses, Vocational Highers and also Advanced Highers. Our warmest congratulations to all of our senior pupils for such an outstanding performance and to parents and carers for excellent support throughout.

EAC Cross Country

Congratulations to Molly and Samantha Murray who both achieved Silver at the EAC Cross Country on 22nd September – an outstanding performance from all competitors.

Scottish Futures Trust Grant

We are delighted to report that we have been successful in a bid for £100,000 from the Scottish Futures Trust, this money will be used to develop a Hospitality Training and Enterprise Centre here in school.

Dylan Speir – off to Houston

We are delighted to report that Dylan Speir has been selected to attend the Space School at NASA Houston in October, we will have a full feature in our Christmas newsletter and in Galston News.

Ocean Youth Trust Voyage

Five lucky pupils recently attended an Ocean Youth Trust Voyage and also achieved their “Start Yachting” awards (photo of full group attached) , pupils were :-

Cameron Hewitt
Chloe Campbell
Laura Collins
Liam Clark
Leeona McEwan

Congratulations to all concerned.

Visit To China

Laura Fulton in S4 represented Loudoun Academy on a visit to Tianjin and Beijing over the Summer, culminating in an audience with the First Minister! She undertook 15 days of intensive cultural and language training and also successfully achieved Youth Chinese Test Level 1. Well done Laura !!



Duke Of Edinburgh Expeditions

We held our Silver and Bronze qualifiers on weekend of 5th September, brilliantly supported by our “army” of parent, friend and canine volunteers – we look forward to seeing the continued success this year, particularly with our first group of Golds !!

Twitter Feed

Our twitter feed has changed to @LoudounAcademy1 , please follow us for daily news.....

From your local MP

Farming Crisis

Local farmers are suffering from the current pressures on the farming industry particularly the dairy industry and the low milk price they receive. I have met with farmers and representatives of the NFUS. I also tried to ask questions recently to the Department of Energy and Climate Change Secretary at oral questions. However, I was not selected by the Speaker – the luck of the Westminster system!

As a group we are calling for the review of the CAP payments to be brought forward – the UK was awarded an additional £135m specifically because Scottish farmers get the 3rd lowest payments in the entire UK. However, this convergence money was put into a UK wide pot and not allocated specifically to the Scottish farming industry. This needs to be rectified as soon as possible. It is a fact that the farming industry supports other small businesses including the Galston area, and if farmers have cashflow issues or have to cease trading then clearly there will be a knock on affect.

We are also proposing that much clearer labelling is implemented that confirms source to end product and that the UK Government department has more powers to enforce this – for example, cheese can be made in Scotland using imported milk and still be branded as a Scottish brand. This makes it hard for consumers, but if you can buy local products over clear imports then this still helps the farming industry.



OpenCast Coal

Many people will be aware of the problem with lack of restoration work and funds for some of the open cast coal mines within East Ayrshire. The UK Government had pledged to work with the Scottish Government to look at schemes which would allow this to happen – the industry has proposed offsetting some tax levies on future coal extraction to allow the restoration work to be completed. This will bring environmental benefits but also protect jobs and allow further job creation – whilst this problem may seem to be outside the Galston area, there are Galston residents employed in this industry. Therefore, it is a big disappointment then that the Treasury has just issued a letter saying that the matter is purely devolved and a matter for the Scottish Government.

With the Scottish Government only receiving a block grant from Westminster and the tax take all going to Westminster then this is a small minded approach. I have submitted a number of written questions to the Treasury department to hopefully affect a change of heart or at least discuss possible options. With jobs, health and safety and environmental considerations at stake, then it is important that the UK Government thinks longer term – especially as analysis indicates the Treasury will still receive more money than what the tax offset will be due to the job creation.

VAT on Tourism

I attended a UK and Scottish hospitality seminar – the UK are ranked 141 out of 144 countries on price competitiveness! This affects the tourism industry and all but one other EU country have reduced VAT rates for the tourism industry. If developments in the Galston area are to take off and prosper then it is important that there is a VAT reduction applied to this sector. Analysis for the UK Government shows that the reduction will lead to a much higher overall income to the Treasury so it should be simple common sense to apply this measure! I have signed an Early Day Motion supporting this proposal.

VAT on Listed Buildings

VAT is applied to listed buildings but not new housing. This just makes it harder and of course there is less incentive to renovate/convert listed buildings if you can build new. This is another issue I plan to work on. We know how difficult it is to preserve listed buildings, and the work the Trust is undertaking for the Portland Arms, so a more equitable VAT system makes sense.

Alan Brown MP

Galston Town Trail

A Galston Town Trail Learning Resource for Schools is presently being developed. The Town Trail Teaching Resource is funded by Galston Conservation Area Regeneration Scheme (CARS) as part of their Education Outreach Programme. Teachers from Galston Primary, St Sophia's Primary and Loudoun Academy have formed a writing group, which is supported by Galston Community Development Trust, Galston Community Council and local historians.

The Galston Town Trail Learning Resource will enable the town's school children to become young explorers uncovering the rich history and heritage that can be found in their local environment leading to greater pride in their town. The resource will be packed full of active learning activities across all

curricular areas. This enables teachers to deliver Curriculum for Excellence learning experiences in a more creative way; such as Literacy and English through writing an eyewitness account of the experience of a Belgian Refugee arriving in Galston during World War 1 or the merits of symmetry in Mathematics by producing an accurate drawing of the Muckle Brig.



This type of active learning experience encompasses the whole ethos of Curriculum for Excellence including Health and Wellbeing, which is accessed through simply breathing in fresh air walking around the Trail. It is hoped that the

town's young people will appreciate and understand that Galston was not always how it looks today and many fascinating things have happened since the town began around the site of the Parish Church in the 13th Century.

The resource will also contain interactive maps, a quiz and the opportunity for pupils to discover the ancient game of Galston Handba' which was played at Barr Castle and bring playing it back into the community.

A similar resource was rolled out in Kilmarnock two years ago and has significantly increased pupil visits to the town centre and actively encouraged partnerships with local business, supporting the very noticeable regeneration of Kilmarnock Town Centre. There is no reason why this cannot be replicated in Galston!



Additionally a 'Tourist Brochure' featuring the key sites on the Town Trail will be produced. It is hoped that these will be stocked in local shops and businesses, helping develop tourism and visits to historic Galston. It is also planned that the Town Trail and Tourist Brochure will become accessible via a mobile phone / tablet wireless APP.

*Graham Boyd
Schools & Community – Heritage Projects Coordinator
East Ayrshire Council*

Galston Community Development Trust

Development Officer



July, August and September have been busy months for the Trust with a lot of work going on. We have been out and about visiting and meeting with a variety of Trusts from all over the west of Scotland looking at what services they offer their own community's and what we can look to bring to Galston.

Muga Opening - On the 10th August we had the official opening of our MUGA at Barrmill Stadium, on the day we had over 40 children attend and take part in all the activities on offer including the football tournament, youth express bus and the mobile skate park.

Thank you to all that took part on the day and it's great to see the continued use of the MUGA by the local children. We hope to secure funding in the near future to run structured activities in the MUGA which will provide the children with something to do and also provide an employment opportunity for a coach while offering some volunteering / development positions for local school children.

Kilmarnock Signed Shirt –

The winner of our signed shirt was Jan Paterson who kindly put the shirt up for auction for a local charity.



We need your help! – Your Community Needs You

Portland Arms – As you will have seen the Trust have recently purchased the former Portland Arms. A feasibility study will start within the town late September regarding the future use of the building, this is where we need the support of the community to develop the Portland into exactly what the town wants. Please contact us if you have a suggestion or would like to help in any way in the regeneration of a beautiful building within the town.

Office Opening Hours **Monday – Thursday 10am – 1pm.**

Please feel free to pop in for a coffee and a chat about the Trust and bring along any ideas that you may have.

Facebook Galston Trust

Office 01563 257 050

Twitter @galston_trust

Mobile 07444 380 784

Website www.galstontrust.co.uk

Email stewart@galstontrust.co.uk



Zumba with Zara has been running for 5 years now in Galston

Classes are for everyone, come and try it out at the Community Centre from 6-7 pm or 7-8 pm every Monday.

For more info check out Zumba with Zara on Facebook.

Trust Bottle Stall

Following on last year's success, the Trust will be once again having a bottle stall at the Community Council's Christmas Market on Sunday 22nd November.



We hope that trust members and members of the public will contribute bottles as they did last year.

(bottles can be handed into Wilma Scade's shop or the Trust Office).
Last year the bottle stall raised £500.

The parliament continues to be very busy with a number of new Bills in the pipeline.

Among those recently passed was the British Sign Language (Scotland) Bill, which we hope will raise awareness of BSL and encourage public bodies to better meet the needs of BSL users. We are also making good progress on the Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill, and the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Scotland) Bill. We are also considering the new Fatal Accident Inquiry Bill and I was pleased to be able to speak in it this week.

There have also been a number of important debates in Parliament, including one recently on the Global Refugee Crisis, looking at the role Scotland can play in aiding this humanitarian effort.



And we heard from the Ambassador to Luxembourg who came to our European Committee to give us a perspective on his country's presidency of the council.

I am looking forward to attending the Mount Carmel Primary School's Golden Jubilee celebration where I was myself a pupil and have fond memories of that.

Locally I continue to do regular surgeries throughout the constituency and I am in Galston, Newmilns and Darvel every month to see if I can be of help to anyone.

*My email address for contacts is willie.coffey.msp@scottish.parliament.uk
My office contact number is :-*

[01563 537300](tel:01563537300).

Galston Bowling Club

The gents were successful in the recent Ayrshire Cup winning this jointly with Auchinleck BC and also winning the Currie Cup and Jamieson Trophy. The ladies also had great success this year. The rink of Rita Gilmour, Janet Steel, Ann Banks and skip Roberta Simpson reached the semi-finals of the Scottish at Northfield.



The rink of Mary Grier, Dorothy Foster, Janet McVean and Margaret Henderson won the West of Scotland Rinks for the third year running and in the Ayrshire finals Rita Gilmour won the Secretaries Singles and Aileen McCallion, Rita Gilmour and Skip Dorothy Marshall won the Ayrshire Triples.

The junior section (10-16) also expanded this year and an additional two members joined the coaching staff. Coaching of pupils has been going on at the schools during last winter and weekly coaching and games during the summer season.

Lockers, bowls and accessories were purchased with the assistance of Big Lottery funding of £1,903 last year.

Near the end of the season a tournament was held for the juniors with parents, and family in attendance.



The tournament winner was Jackson Tindle and the runner up was Aaron Brown. Congratulation to all who participated!



£70,000 Muga Opening



Winner of Kilmarnock Shirt



Tenants move into Nursery Gardens



Portland Arms bought for £35,000



Portland Arms painted



Asbestos removal Portland



Private Development Barrmill Rd

Lots of things have happened in

Since the last issue 3 months ago, a lot of things have happened in Galston involving:-

**Galston Community Development Trust
East Ayrshire Council
Private Developers
The Boys' Brigade**

You can also become involved and be part of the regeneration of your town.

Will YOU do your part?

Galston Lottery
now brings £85 income
each week for the Trust
that's over £4000 a year

Have you joined?
Sign up at the Trust Office



Private demolition Wallace St

It's YOUR town



BB buy Mission Hall



Tubs of flowers, Mission Hall



Galston News goes online

Galston during the last 3 months

You could **join** the Development Trust

You could **attend** the Trust AGM – find out what's going on!

You could **stand** as a Trustee – 2 meetings a month

You could **join** the Galston Lottery only £4 @ month

You could **hand in** bottles for the Trust's Bottle Stall

You could **have** your say about the uses of the Portland

You could **help** keep the town clean and tidy:-

Take your litter home with you

Use one of nearly 40 litter bins in the town

Clean up after your dog and put the bag in the bin!



Just Dance, starts in Mission Hall



Valley Hollistics opens Polwarth St



Insulation/Roughcasting New Rd



Houses nearly finished Chapel lane



Private development Glebe Rd



Private Development Hendrie Cr

Be part of it!

The Boys' Brigade, 3rd Galston Company

Junior Section at the 10 pin bowling against boys from the rest of East Ayrshire Battalion.



Sunday 13th December Christmas Card Delivery

The Company will deliver your Christmas Cards
to addresses within the town of Galston on
Sunday 13th Dec for

30p a Card

Save money a second class stamp is 54p

Cards can be handed to any member
Handed in to Mission Hall any Mon Wed Thu Fri
Handed into Wilma Scades Shop,
Titchfield Street

**NOTE latest time to accept cards is
Sat 12th Dec at 1.00pm**

At the September weekend, George McBride, being the only Silver D of E candidate in our Company, joined 5 other young men from 1st Stewarton. They started their 32 Mile hike in Aberfoyle, walking to Calendar on the first day, day 2 was along Loch Lubnaig to Strathrye, finishing on day three at the top of Glen Ogle, near Killin.



Sunday 1st November will be the enrolment parade for the Company, to the Parish Church. The Company are holding a celebration lunch after the service to mark the award of the Company's 12th and 13th Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award Badges to Lt Paul Cunningham and S/Sgt Alasdair Hewitson.

Members of the public and the congregation are invited to the lunch of sandwiches and cake, which will start after the service at approx. 12.10pm. The lunch is free, however those attending are being invited to make a donation to the Company's Malawi appeal to help provide equipment at the hospital on Likoma Island. At present members of the Company and Congregation are collecting 5ps in smartie tubes for the Malawi appeal.

CRAFT FAIR

10th of October 2015, in the Mission Hall,
Galston. 10am - 2pm



Various stalls on the day and entry is FREE! Proceeds go to the 3rd Galston Boys Brigade.

Come along and get some fabulous, local, hand crafted gifts.



- Jewellery
- Cards • Soaps
- Dolls • Sand Art
- Scarves
- Bottle Stall
- Kids Lucky Dip
- Home Baking
- Raffle

and so much more!
Tea/Coffee cake £1



After months of legal work, the Mission Hall was eventually bought on 28th September by The Boys' Brigade, 3rd Galston Company from the Galston Parish Church.



The BB are extremely grateful, to former Councillor Alan Brown, and East Ayrshire Council workers for their assistance in applying for the grant of £25,000 from the Renewal Energy Fund. Without it we would not have been able to purchase the hall and secure the future of the Company.

The Company are also extremely grateful to the many parents, members of the congregation and members of the public who gave so generously to our public appeal. From the £5 donations to the one for £1000 – every donation helped to improve the hall – raising over £7500.



During the 6 months that we have been waiting on the legal issues to be resolved, the Company has been busy improving the inside of the hall – with about £6000 having been spent on repainting the main hall and side rooms, new linoleum and carpet tiles, replacing the kitchen ceiling and installing a new fitted kitchen.



All of these works have been to improve the standard of the hall, so that other users would be interested in hiring the hall. This has paid off with Just Dance starting up in October (see details on this page). Along with the Kickboxing club this will help the Company raise the approx. £5000 annual running costs. (We need to take in £100 each and every week).

Most evenings are now taken up, but the hall is still available for hire during the day and has a large range of facilities available:-

Free WiFi :
Computer Suite :
Badminton court
size main hall with a stage and public address system:
meeting room (15/20 people) with multi media presentation equipment : new fitted kitchen with cooker, microwave and tea/coffee facilities.



The next phase for the trustees of the hall is to improve the look of the outside. We have already over the summer installed 4 tubs of flowers and have another 5 to fill. We will lay more chips and will look at roughcasting walls.



Just Dance is starting up in the Mission Hall on Saturdays between 1pm and 4pm for ages 5 to 16 year olds.

First lesson is free, thereafter £4.

Just Dance brings hip-hop / street dance to Galston.

All abilities welcome. A chance to showcase your talent. Learn all the new dance moves from the latest music videos.

Call Laura on 07946 217 318 or email on justdancegalston@yahoo.com or on facebook.



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Barry McGougan



TaxAssist Accountants
The Accountancy and Tax Service for Small Business

27 Wallace Street, Galston, Ayrshire KA4 8HP
Tel 01563 821 606 Mobile 07801 706 169
Email: barrymcgougan@taxassist.co.uk
Website: www.taxassist.co.uk/barrymcgougan

Welcome to the
POWERHOUSE
GYM

open for 25 Years, since April 1990

Adam and Christine Mills
01563 822068
69 Titchfield Street

Galston Dental Practice

New NHS Patients Welcome

01563820235

4-6 Church Lane



Did

Did You Know that the Portland Hotel was once a first class hotel and restaurant?

The building at the corner of Brewland Street and Cross Street is a fine example of a Georgian Town House. It was built in 1803 of large grey ashlar; i.e. "masonry of large blocks in regular courses worked to even faces and carefully squared edges." The various windows on closer examination are also peculiar in that they are known as "lying panes", wider than they are tall. It was an important enough building to be included in *An Architectural Guide of Ayrshire and Arran*, published in 1992. It was also a popular venue in the town for weddings, other receptions, meetings and bed and breakfast accommodation.

Among the first owners was Samuel Wilson, listed in the Kilmarnock Post Office Directories for 1846/7. He died in 1855. It was empty in the 1861 census but is also probable that a family named Pollock ran it for a few years, but without recourse to the title deeds this cannot be proved. What is known however is the name of the proprietor of The Black Bull Hotel in 1871. This was Gabriel Steel. He was the son of James Steel, a railway contractor who lived in Courthorn, and Mary Howat. He married Jane McHoull in 1847 and they had eight children, most of whom were born in the Black Bull Hotel, which he had previously run. Gabriel and his brother James, had been the first volunteer firemen in Galston and the horse and cart, hose and pump were kept in a shed against the wall of the church at the Cross.

You Know? 8

Gabriel didn't have long in the Portland Hotel as he died in 1869 but his widow Jane remained as proprietor with her family. Her daughter Agnes became the assistant hotel manager and when her mother died in 1890, took over the tenancy of the hotel. Agnes died in December 1910. In 1911 the proprietor was James Steel but by 1911 he had found a tenant in one Arthur Marlowe. He remained there until the late 1920s when his widow Georgina, took over the role. She was still there in 1935 but soon after that the tenancy passed to Mr & Mrs John Cameron.

They ran the hotel with strict hands. The public house part of the building, that part nearest the main gates of the kirk, was a place where men, no women were allowed, came to chat, play cards and dominoes and behave themselves, or they were out and not allowed to return. If any man wanted to bring a female companion then they had to enter by the front door and a small room to the left was allocated for mixed company.



Upstairs was a small hall, several bedrooms and also the dining room, which served good wholesome meals to the guests and the general public alike. It was a fashionable place to have the wedding buffet and then repair to the hall for the dance, now known as a function suite. Galston Dramatic Society occasionally used this hall for rehearsals and after the last performance of a play, the cast would have tea to celebrate in the dining room.

The downstairs ladies' lounge bar also had another purpose. Many of the homes in Galston were built on land owned by the Duke of Portland and householders had to pay their feu duty to the agent of the Duke, Fred Turner and his successor. This sum was paid on a certain day, laid down by the Duke, and made at the Portland Arms Hotel. Fred sat at a table in the ladies' lounge, took the payment and marked it off in a large ledger. This practice continued into the 1960s. Maybe some of you will recall the actual year when householders were invited to pay ten years feu duty as a one-off payment and then the feu belonged to them. As the feu duty did not amount to a great deal of money, probably less than £1, this was no great hardship for most people and so the feuing day came to an end.

When the Camerons left there was a series of tenants, some better than others, but it had lost its importance as the need for a hotel in Galston dwindled and habits changed. It was easier for people to travel and go further afield for dining out. It became a listed building in July 1980 and in December 1987 it appeared in the Glasgow Herald for tenancy, as a going concern. It stated that it had been under management and had a turnover of around £1500 per year. It also said that there was room for scope to upgrade the facilities.

Galston Trust acquired the building in 2015 from a Mr Khalid Mian. It had been empty for years and was deteriorating rapidly. The weather, lack of maintenance and vandals saw to that. So now we have a chance to restore a grand old Galston building to something like its former glory and enhance that corner once again.

Wilma Scade Newsagent
Your Friendly Newsagent

Wilma Scade
Proprietor
10 Titchfield Street
Galston
KA4 8AP
01563 821389



Rachels Beautique
7 Station Road
01563 820772
RachelsBeautique@live.com




All in One Shop
Life Style Express
45 Henrietta Street, Galston KA4 8HN
Now serving hot & cold
Takeaway snacks.
Hot Rolls from £1
Food served Sat / Sun as well
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Open weekdays till 8.00pm
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Recently opened at the traffic lights in Galston is Valley Holistics, offering various therapies at reasonable prices. Stacey is from Galston, so is pleased to have taken over the shop unit after it being closed for around 17 years. Holistic Therapies offered are massage, reflexology, aromatherapy, on-site massage, Shiatsu, Neuro-Muscular Technique and healthy eating consultations. Stacey plans to expand greatly on her range of therapies to include hot stone massage, Indian head massage, bamboo massage, pregnancy massage, baby reflexology, and more! Stacey accommodates walk-ins where possible and offers evening appointments as she realises the importance of taking time out for yourself but knows that unfortunately this is usually fitted around other commitments!

Stacey is passionate about health and wellbeing, particularly maternal and child health. Her background in health and social care has ensured she has a sound knowledge of anatomy and physiology. Stacey feels strongly about the benefits of therapies on body and mind, and relief from so many ailments, including stress/anxiety/depression, insomnia, digestive issues and muscular aches and pains. Valley Holistics is therapy specific and does not cross into beauty therapies, however Stacey is planning on producing a range of natural, handmade bath and beauty products in the near future. She also plans to offer a mobile service to the elderly and housebound, once she finally passes her driving test!

Valley Holistics can be found on Facebook and Twitter, or contacted on 07548488282. Alternatively, email valleyholistics@yahoo.co.uk or pop into the shop at 4 Polwarth Street regarding bookings or queries.

Kick Boxing Report

The Galston Gladiators Kickboxing Club fought on local turf on Sunday 30th August when they took part in the Kilmarnock open held at St Josephs Academy. The tournament attracted some of Scotland best kickboxer and martial artist. With clubs coming up from England and down from Elgin to compete. The Gladiators had 9 students representing the club and from this returned back with an impressive 20 medals. The medals, after impressive displays for skill and fitness were won by, Craig Foster, 3rd teams, Erin McSkimming, 3rd teams, Jonathan Torrie, 3rd teams & 2nd semi contact, Karen Torrie, 2nd teams, 2nd light contact & 2nd semi contact, Mary Jane Torrie, 3rd teams, 2nd semi contact (-25kg), 1st light contact & 1st semi contact, Ben Stitt, 2nd teams, 3rd semi contact & 2nd light contact, Jack Oswald, 2nd teams, Lara Aulton, 2nd teams, 1st semi contact, 1st light contact, Alan McLelland 3rd team & 2nd light contact.

The children from the club are now in training to get prepared for a children's only tournament being hosted by the club and held in the Loudoun Leisure Centre, Loudoun Academy. This is competition dedicated toward encouraging young and inexperienced children to take part in competition in a safe and supervised environment. The club would like to thank East Ayrshire Sports Council for the grant they supplied to help subsidise the running cost of this children tournament.

The Galston club trains every Tuesday night in the Mission Hall, with children's classes from 5.30pm-6.30pm, and adults classes from 6.30pm-8pm. Anyone interested in trying the club can contact Craig on 07870240807 or drop in for further details.

PHOTO L-R (BACK), Lara Aulton, Karen Torrie, Craig Foster
(FRONT), Ben Stitt, Erin McSkimming, Jack Oswald, Jonathan Torrie, Mary Jane Torrie
Missing, Alan McLelland



St Sophia's Primary School Report

We are all refreshed from our summer holidays and are excited for what the new session will bring. We are delighted to welcome our new Primary 1's as well as some new children that have joined us over the holidays. We were sad to say Goodbye to one of our classroom assistants, Mrs Bryson. We send our best wishes and wish her every success in her new adventures.

We are also delighted to welcome some new faces to our teaching and support staff. Mrs Tait in P1/2, Mrs Macdonald in P3/4, Mrs Hall and Mrs Telfer who will be teaching our P7's and Mrs Scoular who has taken over from Mrs Bryson.

We've had a busy start to the term already.....

We celebrated our opening mass with Fr. Ben Lodge and we will continue to have a monthly mass in school on the first Wednesday of each month. All parents, friends and Parishioners are warmly invited to join us at 10am.

We've had some special visitors attending our weekly assembly. Agent H from the Ayrshire Hospice visited to talk to the children about the Hospice to raise awareness of Choices, Change and Loss. We also had a visit from Martha Brindley from Blue Cross for Pets to speak to the children about Dog Safety, she gave an interesting talk to the children about dog behaviour and how children should act around dogs. She also brought her beautiful whippet Samson along to meet the children.

Primary 6 and 7 competed in heats for the annual Primary Sportshall Athletics. Our thanks to Lynsey Hogg from Active Schools who helped us train for the event.



Our artwork submission for the Darvel Horticultural Show was again of an extremely high standard with origami flowers, Farm Fruits inspired by the artist Rab Foote, Claude Monet inspired "The Water Lily Pond" and a Kandinsky inspired floral bouquet.

A new group of children have started on our "Seasons for Growth" programme. The programme runs for 8 sessions exploring important concepts such as change, loss, feelings, coping, memories, decision making and support networks.

We were delighted that one of our P7 pupils, Katie Farley, was chosen to be part of the procession taking forward the gifts at a mass to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of SCIAF (Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund). The Mass was held in Ayr Cathedral and was attended by representatives of local schools and churches.

Loudoun Valley Trust 53 Main Street, Newmilns, Ayrshire KA16 9DA

The new 2016 Irvine Valley Calendar is now at the printers. Special arrangements have been made for ADVANCE COPIES to be made available in the shops by the start of October, so that customers can take advantage of the cheaper rates for overseas posting to USA, Canada NZ Australia, etc.

The 2016 Irvine Valley Calendar is once again a quality product with interesting colour prints of Irvine Valley subjects by local photographers and also includes monthly appointment pages and a three year planning calendar.

Supplied in a robust envelope, the calendar is excellent value for money at £5 and will be available from shops throughout the Valley and beyond

Galston Community Council are holding their Christmas Market on 22nd November 2015 from 1pm until 4 pm in the Church Lane car park. Come along and see all the stalls and meet Father Christmas.

We will also be erecting as many Christmas lights as we can afford, it costs the Galston Community Council £100 per lamp post to erect and run each light. This charge is from East Ayrshire. So, if there is anyone out there who may be able to sponsor a Christmas light please contact Margot Dykes, 01563 820854 it would be very much appreciated.



GALSTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Association hold their xmas fayre on Friday 13th November from 6.30pm to 9pm. Costs £5 to hire a table.

Senior Citizens Xmas Dinners will be held in the Community Centre over 2 weeks with the first being on Friday 11th December and the second the following Friday the 18th. To book a place call the Centre on 01563 821329



Galston Youth Forum

During August we took the kids to M&D's, Blair Drummond Safari Park and Castle Semple for Raft Building, Mountain Biking and Orienteering. Later in September we are taking some horse riding and in December we are taking them to Glasgow.

Anyone wanting to join the Forum can do so from 7 years old is welcome. We are open on a Tuesday and Thursday from 6.30pm-8.30pm, unfortunately we will be closed during the school October week as we will be short staffed.

GALSTON PARISH CHURCH

AUTUMN is a lovely season. We enjoy its colours – we hope for a bit of late sun and warmth, especially this year when things have been altogether cool and damp – and at the end of it all, we can put the lawnmower away for the winter! But it is also a season in which we celebrate many of the great occasions and festivals in the Church of Scotland. At the end of September (27th) in Galston Parish Church we enjoy our Harvest Festival – a time to thank God for the bounty of earth and sea. Then, there is an invitation to all to come to the Communion service at the start of October (4th) – a time for a parish and congregation to come together for the great celebration that takes us back to the Upper Room itself. Following that we welcome to Galston the folk from Ahrensfelde – our German fellow Christians and friends. Please come and share worship with them on 25th October and join in as many of the activities during their stay. We have our Dedication Service for the 3rd Galston Company of the Boys' Brigade on 1st November. Here is an organisation, which has set so many young men in Galston into adult life on the right footing and still does so. And therefore it is a joy to me as a minister to dedicate boys and officers alike to the tasks of 2015/2016.



On that same Sunday we celebrate All Saints Sunday – a day when the church on earth, or us, is at one in worship with the church in heaven. And following that Sunday, the solemn Remembrance Day service (8th), all the more significant this year as we recall the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain when a handful of young men in their early twenties single handedly stemmed the invasion threat. And then before you know it, it will be the season of Advent and so on!

It is a pattern of worship, which gives us the energy and commitment to be God's people in the community today. And it reflects the many-sided commitment, which God has for us.

I invite all of you to try to be part of this worshipping church and community. We do many things. We are active in many organisations. We reach out to our community in many ways. But it begins with worship and the growing numbers at our services reflect, I hope, the growing commitment of Galston Parish to base its life and its witness first and foremost in praise and in prayer.

Alastair H Symington, Locum Minister, Galston Parish Church.

TEA AT THE HOGG has just celebrated its 10th anniversary with a super birthday party, where the entertainment was provided by the church's Concert Party. Everyone agreed that it was a great afternoon and look forward to the next event. *Tea at the Hogg* meet in the Hogg Hall at 2.00 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month. There is entertainment and a cup of tea or coffee and some delicious home baking. It's an opportunity to meet up with old friends and make some new ones. There is even a door-to-door car service, which picks you up and returns home afterwards. There are also wheelchairs for those who might find the slight gradient to the hall a bit of a problem. We've thought of everything!! If you want to know more, please call Helen Gibson on 01563 820330. So, why sit in on your own when you could be out sharing friendship and fellowship with others? We look forward to welcoming you! (Our resident pianist at Tea at the Hogg, Marie Sloan, raised £347 by holding a 'pianothon' and we are extremely grateful.)



CHOIR practices resumed in September and take place every Thursday evening in the Hogg Hall at 7.30pm until 8.45 approximately. In order to sustain the strong choral tradition, the various vacancies within all ranks of the choir require filling. Therefore, any person considering joining the choir please feel free to go along on a Thursday evening or talk to Organist and Director of Music, Graeme Finnie any Sunday morning, before or after the service.

AFTER the success of the Growing Together campaign which asked the congregation to review their offerings and the display of the congregation's work at The Gathering, it has been revealed that 80 per cent of the congregation now give financially to the work of the Church and that, as a result of members reviewing their givings, there has been an 11.5% increase in our offerings.

MORNING WORSHIP in Galston Parish Church is held every Sunday at 11am conducted by Rev. Alastair Symington who is serving as Locum Minister during the vacancy.

CHURCH CONTACTS: Interim Moderator – Rev. John Urquhart (01563 538289). Locum Minister – Rev. Alastair Symington (01292 312556). Session Clerk – Robert Murray (01563 822005).



The answer was the new memorial bench at the War Memorial, Duke Street.

PHOTO COMPETITION
for Members
WINNER !



Thanks to those who entered the photo competition in Issue 11

The £20 prize was won by **Margaret Dalziel.**

Try this month's competition on page 24 – win £20 !

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

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

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

Winner is first correct entry drawn from entries received by 15th Nov 2015)

(see page 23 for the result of the competition in issue11)

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

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

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
or Wilma Scade's Newsagent, Titchfield Street.**

Galston News printed by

