THE GRAPEVINE

SEPTEMBER 2021

Stop Press: Do not miss Imagine Cramond



There are several reasons to visit Cramond Kirk hall in the coming weeks. The new take-away café is much commended and everyone needs to taste Heather's 'killer' scones. Equally importantly the weeks are running out to view the Imagine Cramond Exhibition with contributions from photographers, prophets and poets, males and females, children and adults too. We have two contributions below to whet your appetite, a local prize-winning poet David Bleiman wrote a new poem 'The heron's dream' and the Imagine Cramond judges deemed it worthy of a prizes. The poem, indeed all entries can be seen in the exhibition. Here it is alongside one of James MacPherson's stunning photographs from the River Almond.

At the bus stop, perched on the edge of the pavement,

peering up the road like a heron, patiently waiting in case of a forty-one, there is time to dream and imagine... Imagine buses leaping up Whitehouse Road, the Almond full of salmon at the Grotto, children's laughter bubbling on the Walkway as we whizz by in wheelchairs skipping Salvesen Steps,

imagine having a steam like a Roman in the baths by the sports grounds on Cramond Road North,

imagine the new flightpath,

a sky sounding only of crows and of curlews, smelling only of breeze and wild garlic, grandchildren growing sturdy like plantings of oak and of sycamore, stands of Scots pine, imagine a shop we can walk to again,

for bread, milk and eggs and a place to post parcels,

to dawdle and ask after neighbours, an absence of litter, it's hard to imagine the lack of it,

no crushed cans nor bottles, no cartons, no masks,

imagine visitors strolling down Glebe Road, arm in arm, on the road,

no queues of cars churning engines, no diesel, only a shuttle buzzing back and forth to the Forth,

imagine me too, as another bird, another species,

imagine me, maybe, as mother Goosander, in the sparkling late Spring, down there by the steps

under the new footbridge to Dalmeny and all my wee chicks hopping on and off for the ride...

Imagine all this in the heron's dream, still waiting, patiently waiting on Whitehouse Road for the chance of a 41, waiting for a Council to thank for all this...

Imagine!

See some of the entries in our centre spread inside this issue.



www.cramondkirk.org.uk

KIRK OPEN

Every Sunday

Issue 120

Morning Prayers - 8.45 am Morning Worship - 10 am 2m social distancing remains and booking through the Kirk Office is advisable.

VIRTUAL CHURCH

www.facebook.com/cramondkirk2

Daily Devotions Mon - Sat - online at www.facebook.com/cramondkirk2

And much more to see and hear. You can also view the 1966 film about Old Cramond made by Eric Cairncross and the Rev Campbell Maclean. Please book ahead, some days are full already, every Friday at 11.30am or 12.30pm until the 17th September and you will receive free tea or coffee. Please book by contacting Louise Madeley at the kirk office Tel 0131 336 2036.

lan Y Gilmour, Locum minister





There is little to beat a chat over a cuppa and it is with pleasure we announce our weekly, drop-in café has re-opened on Tuesdays from 10am to 12pm, in Cramond Kirk Halls.

May be you are attending the halls for activities during the morning and have time to stop for a while, or you might like to bring someone for a change of scene, a friendly face, a listening ear.

The cafe provides complementary, Fair Trade refreshments and our volunteers look forward to

welcoming you.



Parish Register

BAPTISMS

Callum Eric Gerald son of Gareth & Katherine Tenner

DEATHS

30 May 1 July	Phyllis McNiven Muriel Lee
1 July	Angela Glancy
8 July	Audrey Duff
15 July	Margaret Semple
16 July	Alice Burnett
18 July	Marie Leitch
2 August	George Cruickshank

FUN. FELLOWSHIP AND FUNDS FOR FINLAY'S FRIENDS

Our annual Jumble Sale always contributes to the life and vigour of the Kirk - and the whole Cramond area - through the fun, fellowship and community spirit that it fosters.

Last year's Sale had to be cancelled. We'd planned to share the proceeds with a small charity called Finlay's Friends which provides "comfort kits" and other support to the families of seriously ill children admitted to hospital in an emergency. The photo shows some of the "comfort kit" contents.

The work of Finlay's Friends is now more essential than ever, supporting children's hospitals across the Central Belt. So we've come up with a fundraising idea and would be most grateful if you would take part.

Over the past 18 months. understandably, many of us have lost touch with our local friends and neighbours. We've got out of the habit of connecting with others. Now that we can, we think we should change this!

It's time to get together again, to renew old friendships ... and make new ones.

We are inviting Kirk members, and any other Grapevine reader who wishes to do so, to host a small coffee morning / tea party / wine soirée, for five or six acquaintances. They could be people who used to sit near you in Church, or folk you worked alongside at the Jumble Sale, your neighbours, or friends you haven't seen in a while.

The guest list is up to you, as are the refreshments you offer. The venue might be in your home, but it could be outside in the park, a garden, or even in a local cafe.

THE LITTLE GATEHOUSE GALLERY Est 2014 7 Years Ago

The Gallery first opened its doors on 9 August 2014. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued support throughout what has been a very memorable and sometimes difficult 7 years (especially the last two!) As a more personal thank you we are giving you 10% off anything you purchase in the Gallery when you bring your Grapevine magazine with you. We wish you all well and look forward to seeing you in our 8th year and beyond.

> make a small contribution, preferably using the dedicated "Finlay's Friends Giving" button on the Cramond Kirk website so that Gift Aid can be claimed. Or you can accept donations and hand them in to the Kirk Office.

> There is no formal agenda for the conversation at your tea/coffee party, other than getting to know one another a little better.

> Your tea/coffee party can take place any time in September, with all donations to be made by mid-October.

> What better way to enjoy some Fun and Fellowship ... as well as Fundraising for Finlay's Friends?

All that's requested is that your guests

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FROM THE MANSE



Friends,

A question, how alert is Cramond?

I have been working in Cramond for just under one year. What has impressed me in that time is that all the key organisations are active in their support of the wider community. You have two super headteachers and staff teams at Cramond Primary and Cargilfield schools. You have various groups which look after the River Almond walkway, the community history, the walled gardens and kirk graveyard, it shows healthy levels of interest and genuine concern.

I have been most heavily involved with the church community and again I have observed an excellent proactive desire to serve both the members and the wider community.

Every community will be asked to raise its game post-pandemic, and I can answer my initial question from my personal observation. Cramond is very alert, engaged and caring. To be even stronger we will need more people in the community to support the key groups including the schools and church. Through doing so we build new relationships and strengthen our community and help ourselves in body mind and spirit.

Cramond is alive alert and caring, it may need your help to maintain this healthy pattern.

Warmly,

lan Gilmour, Locum Minister

A Prayer under pressure -Abraham Lincoln

With malice towards none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in: to bind up the nation's wounds; to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and orphan – to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.

Contactless Giving options to Cramond Kirk

Anyone wishing to make a financial contribution to support the Kirk's activities and its wider mission can now make contactless payments in the Kirk, or on our Donate button on the Kirk website.

The option to Gift Aid such donations is also available giving the Kirk more funds. Settlement of a donation is made via Credit/Debit Card or Google pay.

We now have a Payter contactless donation terminal installed in the Kirk located close to the exit door for church goers. The installation of this machine results from a trial being run in nine Edinburgh churches by Edinburgh Presbytery. The machine is easy and speedy to use, with preset donation amounts of £5, £10 and £20 available. Use the small button to select the level of donation you wish to make, followed by swiping your payment card over the small, brightly lit screen. There is also a slot located on the unit to accept both cash offerings and Free Will Offering envelopes. Plans are also in hand to provide an electronic payment facility for use by visitors to the Kirk Hall. Edinburgh Presbytery and myself, are keen to obtain feedback on user experience of the machine.

This is over and above the traditional bank standing order and cheque systems that have been in operation for many years, for everyone who, irrespective of location, wishes to make a financial contribution to the Kirk's work. In the meantime, your ongoing support is much appreciated. Crichton Mouat

Gift Aid Treasurer, Cramond Kirk e-mail : crichtonmouat@btinternet.com



Imagine Cramond









be

drink

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C

Restaurant Facilities

The Cramond Inn could be improved to reflect the wishes of residents in the area. This used to be a first-class establishment.

Cramond Kirk

One of the main projects will be the Church when the new Minister is selected and to encourage people back to worship when life returns to normal. Encouragement should continue to be given for participation in the many great activities associated with the Kirk such as groups for bables, toddlers, Mums, dance and exercise classes, Cubs, Brownies, Guides, Scouts, Beavers and Rainbows not forgetting the Wednesday Club and the Community Choir.

The Church is one of the prominent features of Cram community, which should be supported enthusiastically.

General

nner

To bring the community together thought might be given to holding a Summer Gala in which all ages could participate, similar to the one held at Davidson's Mains.

ly statue depicting King James V being attacked on which is currently in a private courtyard on ad. It would be nice if this were moved into the where it could be easily seen by locals and visitors. It has been previous discussions regarding this.

we are extremely fortunate to reside in such a lovely area inning scenery. Action on the above thoughts could only inhance this.

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Imagine Cramond

more bins her a use there are not energing and all the rubbish is spitcing out and dameging willd Like. male outsoof activitys be rearie at outside, revoule bags so rearie to our throw them and a we neve more every coars because the up to Bothara the environment. But







News from the Cramond & Barnton Community Council



The Community Council has elected John Loudon as its new Chairperson, following the death of Andrew Mather at the beginning of this year. Andrew worked extremely hard on behalf of our community and is sorely missed. We wish John all the best in taking over leadership of the Community Council.

Property developer AMA secured planning permission to build the Brighouse estate and Caer amon houses and apartments, 17 years ago. A condition of that permission was to develop some of the land into sports facilities for local residents and Cramond Primary. In the past, facilities at the former Dunfermline College of Physical Education on that site were available to the local community to enjoy. That hasn't happened as yet and AMA applied to extend the deadline to achieve this by a further 5 years, but there were objections to that request from the local community which were upheld by the Council and the application continued for further discussions .

The first formal meeting between AMA, representatives of the local community and a City Council planner took place on 15 July. The community representatives (Kit Campbell from CBCC and Michael Ramsay from the Cramond Association and Brighouse Residents' Association) highlighted their intention of reporting back to the local community after each meeting. As of 25 July, we are awaiting a response to our draft summary from AMA and the City Council and when it is finalised will be posting it on the CBCC and Cramond Association websites, together with relevant background documents. The painting of double yellow lines down Cramond Glebe Road under the emergency Covid-19 powers has mitigated the impact of traffic displaced by the closure of Silverknowes Road North and has improved the traffic flow on the road to the benefit of the emergency services, residents and visitors.

A planning application has been lodged to make an active travel corridor (cycling and walking) along part of Cammo Walk. The Community Council supports the creation of an active travel corridor but if this involves closure to vehicles, it should be part of a wider traffic management scheme, providing safe vehicular access into/out of Cammo and Strathalmond. The CC is objecting to the current application as it fails to satisfy the above principle, covers only part of the proposed green corridor and would substantially impact the landscape character of Cammo Walk. The CC has suggested other alternative proposals which would satisfy all parties.

A few projects are mentioned here out of the many we cover and the Community Council would be very grateful for some more volunteers to help with various aspects of the work. Anyone with experience or expertise in planning would be especially welcome as that involves quite a lot of local activity at present.

Further information on the Community Council and its activities is available on our Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/CramondandBarntonCC/ and

Website : https://www.cramond-barnton.org/ Jean Morley

Use the letters of RIVER ALMOND to find the answers.

- 1. A fruit with a stone (5)
- 2. First name of Cramond Kirk's Locum Minister (3)
- 3. Big cat (4)
- 4. First name of Cramond Kirk's Interim Moderator (5)
- 5. A bird (4)
- 6. Another bird (5)

- 7. First name of Cramond Kirk's Pastoral Assistant (5)
- 8. A Book of the Old Testament (6)
- 9. Era of the fort at Cramond (5)
- 10. Metal used at Dowie's Mill (4)
- 11 Deep narrow gorge with steep sides (6)
- 12. Wed (7)

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Gary Cameron New Chair of Fresh Start

Gary Cameron has been appointed as the new Chair of charity Fresh Start. Gary has been a volunteer at Fresh Start for the last 15 years having started with their Befriending Service which gave advice to those taking up new tenancies on how to manage household budgets and other household matters.

He told us "I had just been appointed director of a marketing company and was looking for ways to put something back into our local community in my spare time. I now really see the difference volunteers can bring to help people."

"This charity helps those who have been homeless, or are at risk of homelessness, to get established or keep in their tenancy. We help them turn that house into a home."

"Our "hit squad" teams of volunteers work with the tenant to help them paint and decorate and get the property ship-shape and our starter packs provide vital household items. Many of us in this Parish will remember the help we got from family and friends when we got our own first homes – donations of bedding, pots and pans and a kettle. Most of the people who are supported by Fresh Start don't have the same network to give them that kind of help to get started and therefore the support we give is vital for furnishings and kitchen essentials. We also have our Growing Spaces who help them with growing vegetables and renovating gardens. Our training programme supports people to develop new skills and gain confidence through real life work experience, experiential learning and acquiring qualifications to that they can move to education, volunteering or employment."

"We have a great board of directors with tremendous expertise to move this charity forwards," he continued. "Our staff team has enormous dedication and vision. Thanks to that we will be shortly opening our Community Hub which will include;

- A Community Kitchen delivering cooking classes, cook clubs and social suppers. It will also be available to other community groups to maximise its use and will have a drop in social space where people can meet informally and access information on support available. The open access approach will allow people to get advice and information in a more compassionate manner which is less painful and prolonged.
- The Shop will provide an outlet for donated goods which cannot be used in our starter packs but can be sold at low cost to local residents. The Community Pantry provides members with food with dignity, where members pay £3.50 for approx. £20-£25 worth of food. Currently we have 200 members using the pantry on a regular basis and local people volunteer in the space.

- A Community Growing Space will provide volunteering opportunities to grow food which can be distributed in the shop and kitchen.
- Meeting spaces where other community groups can provide workshops and 1-1 support and information sessions.

Fresh Start has seen the numbers of people losing a tenancy reduce through the support and advice they can offer a new tenant. "It's a shocking statistic, but according to our data, there are 2,000 children in Edinburgh in temporary accommodation with their families, and this figure does not even account for those who are 16/17 who are residing in temporary accommodation on their own the knock on effect of that can be devastating. Homelessness doesn't necessarily mean someone is sleeping on the street, a whole family could be sharing with another family or in a hostel. Home is the most important thing."

"I once asked a group of youngsters where I was the visiting speaker, the meaning of the word 'house', then the meaning of the word 'home' – to them a home is 'where mum and dad are', and importantly 'somewhere safe'. Our charity's motto is turning a house into a home."

Gary's vision for the future – to grow awareness of the charity and develop Fresh Start's services so it can continue to help people when that help is most needed. The ongoing support of the local community, through donations of goods, time and money is vital. More information can be found on Fresh Starts website, www.freshstartweb.org.uk

Gary hails from Aberdeen but came to Edinburgh to study communications at Napier University. He lives in Cramond with his wife Petra and daughter Eva, son Will and their Border Terrier Doddie.





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MIDSUMMER UPDATE ON CAMMO BY NICK BENGE



The park looks particularly wonderful at the moment. The work on the fields has resulted in there being literally thousands of yellow rattle plants mingling in with masses of buttercup and white clover. North Field in particular has great swathes of yellow. In amongst this there are lots of orchids coming into flower and there is still all the knapweed, thistles and hogweed to flower too, plus the comfrey we planted has flourished and is providing lots of nectar. It is absolute paradise for bumblebees and there are loads zooming about already. It also transpires that they like nesting in bales of hay! The wildflower areas are just starting to bloom with lots of bird's- foot trefoil and later, all the tansy will give the Cammo honey we hope to collect, its distinctive character.

Last night I was watching two fledged tawny owl chicks, you can locate them by all the noise they make calling for their parents to feed them. A pair nest in Cammo pretty much every year and fledge two or three chicks. There was also a barn owl sitting waiting for the light to go to start feeding. The combination of the overgrown verges, the thinner grass in the fields and all the hedgerows should give lots of cover and food for voles, so lots of food for the owls. There is almost always a fox sloping about by the big wildflower area partly, no doubt, because of all the rabbits that live there. In the evenings



large numbers of bats fly along the hedgerows and over the canal, feeding on all the insects and the canal itself continues to produce lots of frogs and toads every year. This spring we got a particularly large number of blackcaps singing and the usual families of whitethroats too.

Apart from the big mature trees that Cammo has, the keys to all this diversity are the variety of plants in the fields and wildflower areas, and all the hedgerows that we have planted. If we can continue to manage the fields for flower, and plant the new hedgerows that we have been discussing, then Cammo should continue to be both a wildlife haven full of life, and a beautiful place for people to walk in.

Anyone interested in Friends of Cammo (Registered Scottish Charity SC033394) can find more on our website and Facebook page Facebook: www.facebook.com/friendsofcammo Website: www.friendsofcammo.org

Sunday Club is Back



And we'd love you to join us. But there are some rules :

- 1. You must be aged between 2 and 17. No oldies allowed!
- You must like at least one of the following Stories

Games

Glue, pens, glitter, scissors and sometimes dough, flour, Krispies, chocolate, sand, soil & seeds

3. You must be prepared to have a good time ...

Sunday Club runs every Sunday morning during term time. Children join the congregation at the start of the 10 am service and then, following Children's Church, head over to the Kirk Hall where they spend a fun-packed 45 minutes exploring different stories and messages from the Bible. And here we are toasting our "fish" for breakfast!

Sunday Club is divided into 3 separate groups – 2 to pre-school, P1 to P3 and P4 and upwards. Each class has two leaders and is backed up by a great team of helpers.

So why not come and see what all the fun is about! *Louise*



Film cameras were rolling in the Kirk graveyard making the new CRIME series starring Ken Stott (of Rebus fame) and Dougray Scott (Mission Impossible 2) from the best selling novel of Irvine Welsh. It will be screened on Britbox later in the year.



RIVER ALMOND QUIZ ANSWERS

1. OLIVE 2. IAN 3. LION 4. MOIRA 5. DOVE 6. RAVEN 7. DIANE 8. DANIEL 9. ROMAN 10. IRON 11. RAVINE 12. MARRIED



Editor: Carol Anderson • Contact us: cramond.kirk@blueyonder.co.uk