



St Margaret's Chapel Guild

Newsletter

June/July 2018 issue 34

Convenor's Report

Dear Margarets

It is Newsletter time again, and I hope this finds you all well. I hope that those of you who have already enjoyed holidays, or those looking forward to holidays, have a lovely time. I do hope you all enjoyed the sunshine we had recently and only hope that there more is to come. In our last Newsletter I informed you that, sadly, two of the long serving members of the Guild had died. Namely, Margaret Manson who died on 31 December, and Margaret Cargill who died on 8 January. I said in that Newsletter that tributes to both ladies would be put on the 'Members Section' of our website. Unfortunately this has not yet happened as we have had a few problems with our new website, but please be assured this will be corrected as soon as possible. Tributes to both Margarets are attached to this Newsletter, and I apologise for the delay in this happening.

Sadly, the Reverend George Grubb has also died. During the time George and his wife, Elizabeth, were Lord and Lady Provost, of Edinburgh, they took a very active interest in the Guild and we were delighted to welcome them to the Castle for our St Margaret's Day celebrations on more than one occasion.

In 2011, members of the Guild were invited to a Civic Reception, in the City Chambers, that they hosted for the Chernobyl Children who were on their visit to Edinburgh.

That was the 25th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Disaster and after the Reception we went to Princes Street Gardens for a special ceremony to remember this date.

I have written to Elizabeth Grubb to convey the condolences of the Guild.

Guild's Constitution:-

You will remember at last year's AGM we told you that the current Constitution, of the Guild, required to be looked at, as it is no longer relevant to the Charities 2005 Act, for the Guild. Three members of the committee, namely: Kathy Fairweather, Sarah James and myself, have undertaken this task. We have taken Legal Advice and were informed that the current Constitution needs to be re-written to bring it up to date. This is currently being worked on.

Display Stand/Money Box for the Chapel:-

With the increase in visitors to the Chapel, we have become aware that the new Booklet is not well displayed. Copies sit on the window sill, along with the small notice about them, and Stewards are often asked to remove them to allow visitors to take photos of the window. The

committee are considering commissioning a new Display Stand/Money Box, which would take up less space and display the Booklets more effectively.

Flaking Paint in the Chapel:-

After many requests by us, and Allan Somerville, the flaking paint behind the Flower Stand in the Chapel has eventually been re-painted!! I recently met with Peter Smith, the Castle Works Manager, who told me it is his intention to do a more comprehensive repair, in the Chapel, to prevent the dampness coming through the paintwork. Unfortunately, he couldn't tell me when this is likely to happen!

Data Protection:-

No doubt you will have been inundated with requests, from anyone who has your details, about the new Law on data protection, The General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) which came into effect on 25th May, 2018. St Margaret's Chapel Guild has taken Legal Advice about this. We hold data on our members which includes names, postal addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and dates of birth. The advice is that we need to hold this data for the legitimate interests of the Guild, ie for the purposes of the Flower Rota and the Money Collection Rota, and therefore do not need to contact all our members to get their permission to hold the data. All our members who are on email received an email informing them of this on 25th May, 2018, but we are including this information so that all members will receive it. Child members of the Guild are different, because their fundamental rights could over-ride the legitimate interests of the Guild. We are contacting the parents of child members to ask for their consent. If you have any questions about this, please get in touch.

Forthcoming Wedding in St Margaret's Chapel:-

Our member, Ann Margaret Noble, is due to be married in the Chapel, on 11th August. I know you will all want to join with me in sending the very best wishes of the Guild to Ann Margaret for a lovely day and her future happiness.

Baptism in St Margaret's Chapel:-

Kathy Fairweather's Great Nephew was Baptised in the Chapel, by Neil Gardner, on 17th March. This was a very happy family day enjoyed by all. Photographs of the baby and his parents are on Twitter.

Structure of the Committee:-

When we have a new Constitution in place, it is more than likely there will be a new structure to the Committee. If you know of any Guild member who you would like to propose to become a member of the Committee, can I ask that you please give their names to Kathy Fairweather.

Guild Archives:-

The members who have been working to organise the Guild's Archives, namely: Kathy Fairweather, Margaret Mackay, Joanna Milne and Hazel Dunn, are reaching the end of this arduous task, and to them we are very grateful. Our Archives will go into containers and be stored in the 'prison cell' with our Booklets. We will also continue to have our collection of Books on St Margaret in Canongate Manse.

We are very grateful that Margaret Mackay has agreed to be Guild's 'Archivist'. We thank her for this and I am sure she will give us an update on our Archives at our AGM as to how they are stored and accessed..

Provision of a 'Minibus' on St Margaret's Day:-

I think that you will all agree that the provision of a 'Minibus' last year, to provide transport from the Esplanade to The Queen Anne Room, and to return after the AGM, was a great

success. It is our intention to repeat this service on all our St Margaret's Days. Full details will be given about the service when you receive your AGM papers.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on St Margaret's Day.

Yours in Friendship,

Margaret Lindsell

PATRICK GEDDES GARDEN TOUR May 21st 2018

A group of 20 ladies enjoyed another walk on a lovely sunny and warm day with our guide Jean Bareham.

Patrick Geddes, who was born in 1854, was a town planner who had a vision for the regeneration of the slums in the Old Town with fewer tenements and open or turnpike stairs outside the buildings to allow more open spaces for light and gardens.

Central tenements were removed to allow for planting of gardens and narrow closes were widened to create a feeling of space, as seen when we visited Milne's Court and Riddle's Court. Our walk then took us to the Witches Well, the Camera Obscura and Ramsay Garden. Geddes commissioned his friend John Duncan to design the Witches Well near to the site where witches had been burnt at the stake. He also bought and developed the Camera Obscura, then known as the Outlook Tower, and at the same time he was responsible for the design and present form of Ramsay Garden where he lived in the top two floors. After walking down the Castle Wynd steps, crossing Johnston Terrace and continuing down the Patrick Geddes Steps we came to the Johnston Terrace Wildlife Garden.

This was originally identified by Geddes as a green space for Old Town residents and was at that time turned into a community garden where many outdoor events were held. The garden is now looked after by the Scottish Wildlife Trust and we were able to walk round on the paths and admire the large range of plants and trees which encourage birds, bees, butterflies and other wildlife. The garden is normally locked but there are occasional open days which can be found on the SWT website.

A further walk down to the Grassmarket took us to the Grassmarket Community Garden, a well tended garden on several different levels, we could see that the local residents were very involved in the garden and took an active part in both planting and maintenance.

Many of us were not very knowledgeable about Patrick Geddes and we found it most interesting to learn of his considerable contribution as a town planner to improve the living conditions for the residents of the Old Town.



Fiona Kidd

St Margaret's Pilgrim Walk in Dunfermline 3rd June, 2018

“Open hands that bring hope” words from Pope Francis

The Fourth Annual Pilgrimage in honour of St Margaret took place in Dunfermline on Sunday 3rd June. Members of the Guild met with the banner at the gates of Pittencrieff Park. We joined scouts, brownies, church groups from all over central Scotland and the towns people who gathered on a beautiful day to walk through the streets of Dunfermline on a Pilgrim Walk in Honour of St Margaret of Scotland led by Archbishop Leo Cushley of St Andrews and Edinburgh.

We reached the Memorial Church of St Margaret and the pilgrims entered the church for a service in honour of St Margaret', followed by a Mass. Fr Basil Clark preached on St Margaret and commended her as a role model for modern day life in Scotland. She became Queen of Scotland when she married King Malcolm and gave up her wish to join the Benedictine Order. She devoted her life to her young family, which included her being a step-mother to the children of Malcolm's first wife. She worked daily with refugees (being a refugee herself she was aware of the difficulties). She worked with the poor, the sick and orphans. This Pilgrimage is an annual event and usually takes place on the first Sunday in June. It would be good to have more members of the Guild taking part in the historical event.

Margaret Lynch

Margaret Manson - A Tribute

It was with sadness that we learnt of the death at New Year of Margaret Manson.

Margaret joined the Guild in 1973 and over the years of her membership she made a significant contribution to the life of the Guild. For several years she and her husband, Dr Tom Manson, collected and banked the donations from the Chapel. She had a spell serving on the Executive Committee, including a couple of years as Vice Convenor, and she, along with her daughter Allyson Margaret and two granddaughters, Lindsay Margaret and Fiona Margaret, as well as Dr Manson, were very involved in the 1993 events celebrating nine hundred years since Queen Margaret's death. Margaret and Tom were very hospitable and several of the Guild's informal celebration lunches took place in their house. A photograph of the Chapel, taken by Dr Manson, featured on the Guild's greeting card for many years.

Sadly, twelve years ago Margaret had a severe stroke which ended many of her activities, including her involvement in the Guild, but we were very pleased to see her in 2013 when she managed to join us at the Castle on St Margaret's Day with Allyson and Fiona.

Joanna M Milne

The late Margaret Cargill

I am saddened to tell you of the death of our long standing member, Margaret Cargill on 8 January, 2018

During her long membership of the Guild Margaret was involved in so many activities it is difficult for me to know where to start!

Margaret served on the Executive committee, and made a great contribution during that time. She was heavily involved with the organisation of our 60th Anniversary Celebrations, with the assistance of Margaret Hodges, Rev Amanda MacAuley and myself, Margaret was responsible for choosing the Hymns we sang. For many years she was a Monthly Flower Supervisor and she took her turn as a Money Collector. Margaret was one of the group of members who attended the Garden Party, at Buckingham Palace, which The Queen gave to celebrate Princess Anne's 60th Birthday. This was a occasion she enjoyed immensely. She regularly attended our Coffee Mornings in the Dome.

Margaret will be long remembered by those who knew her for the part she paid in Guild Life. Margaret's Funeral was held on 25th January in Craigmillar Park Church and several members of the Guild attended.

Margaret Lindsell.

Forthcoming Events:

Hidden Gardens of the Royal Mile Tour

There has been a request from some of our new members for another tour of the Hidden Gardens. This is an easy walking tour to discover a little known side of Edinburgh Old Town, behind the historic buildings there are gardens all with a story to tell. Grand gardens of the past, and productive Community gardens created by today's residents. The tour will begin at John Knox House in the Royal Mile at 10.30am on Monday 1st October and will last for 1½ hrs, finishing at Holyrood.

Cost £6 pp with a minimum charge of £60. Pay on the day.

Please let me know if you are interested.

Email: fionakidd@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 0131 445 1867

Greyfriars Graveyard Walk

Wednesday 19th September 2018

Margaret Marr has kindly offered to take us on a walk through the graveyard, we will meet at the entrance at 10.30am.

Please let me know if you would like to come along

Email: fionakidd@hotmail.co.uk

Tel: 0131 445 1867

Fiona Kidd

And finally

The Dome Coffee Mornings

Remember the coffee mornings in The Dome, George Street, Edinburgh are at 10.30 on 16th of each month. Come along and catch up with friends for a coffee and chat. When the 16th of the month lands on a Sunday we meet on Mondays. The next Newsletter will be in January 2019. If you have any articles or stories of interest to the Guild, please send them to me at smejames@me.com Brooches and earrings are available from Margaret Ann Crawford, our Treasurer. You can contact her by email: mac@LyleCrawford.co.uk.

Sarah M.C James, Newsletter Secretary
