



Friends of Gordon Chapel
NEWSLETTER

www.gordonchapel.org.uk

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Musick Fyne Concert

At 10.00 sharp on 1st October, Fiona and I met at Gordon Chapel to set up for the Musick Fyne concert to be held later on in the evening. Brian and Brenda came along and Janet popped in to help. Fiona as usual, was concerned about the audience - would we have one? Was there enough food? Were there enough people to help? Fiona is always on hand to lead the proceedings but on this occasion she had a professional engagement and was unable to be there in the evening. We had all been given our duties and everything went according to plan. Every initial job Fiona had sorted - communication with James Ross, advertisements and posters (as usual printed by Brenda and Brian) in place and a list of buffet food made up by members of our congregation. Fiona's personal touch was there as a beautifully presented and individually packaged basket of home- made oatcakes for each member of Musick Fyne which was accompanied by some lovely jars of preserves which Amy had crafted, all adorned with a thank you note for each member of this wonderful ensemble.

Of course, they were there in memory of Robin Stewart and we were so pleased to see not only Amy and family but also Juliet and Benedict in the audience. And what an audience! The Chapel was full and we were treated to some beautiful music starting with Laudate pueri as the choir processed through the chapel and began their concert. It was a delightful mix of Scottish music starting from the 11th Century to pieces which were composed in the last twelve months. I was enthralled with the very pure vocal sound which was occasionally accompanied by the organ, clarinet, cello and the gentle sounds of two very different harps; one gut strung and the other, Pictish.

The choir had arrived at 6.30pm for a sound check and a much needed cuppa before starting the concert at 8.00pm. Peter was on hand to welcome the group and to give thanks at the end, and Brian, James and Sandra were there at the door to welcome members of the audience. We had a lovely table of food and drink which was very much appreciated by the performers and audience at the end of the concert. Gordon Chapel was at its very best - to create a peaceful and harmonious

environment in which to enjoy a superb concert. We raised £688.50 which will be equally divided between Gordon Chapel and The Oaks Hospice.

Thanks must go to James Ross and Musick Fyne but also to everyone who helped to make this evening a success. I wish Fiona had been there to see such a strong and enthusiastic audience but no doubt Peter's photographs will provide some evidence of a well supported and enjoyable evening.

Marion Bateman

50 YEARS AT FOCHABERS

My first visit to the Brae Water, River Spey was in May 1967, with my parents, made memorable by my first two Spey salmon, and one of our Party, only about 5' 6" tall, who hooked a salmon and took to the river landing it about a mile down stream on the other bank in Col. Murray's garden. All our family visits, now in the fourth generation, have been centred on fishing with the added pleasure of the warm welcome at our Sunday attendance at Gordon Chapel with those magnificent windows. Visits to Spey Bay, the coastal villages, Cawdor, Ballindalloch, Elgin – and occasional distilleries among many others have always been enjoyed.

The fishing has revolved around the fellowship and expertise of the Ghillies – too many to name personally but such great personalities 'you'll nae catch a fish today' – one cycling home to Spey Bay and being overtaken by one of our guests on a training run for a marathon – my Aunt Mrs B who retired to the bushes, emerging to be challenged 'Mrs B are ye alright – I taught I saw a flash o' white' – one year when I had broken my ribs falling from a horse, being taken out in a boat, hooking a fish, the Ghillie saying 'it is ok it is quite shallow here I'll jump in and net it' – going up to his neck and lifting the salmon into the boat, then how was I with broken ribs going to help him with waders full of water, back into the boat – we made it eventually! The privilege

on a sad day of attending the funeral of an old Ghillie friend – in our fishing clothes – we had no other. The younger generation being taught how to cast, how not to wade, how to tie on a fly, the thrills of their first fish. Swopping yarns with the Ghillies, who with great discretion never named another fisher who had done something extraordinary – all the Ghillies have enriched our lives, and we will never forget their kindness and help when my mother died.

To start with, fellow fishers in rivalry were the Graham/Clutterbuck party and John Svensson and his family. I have just heard incidentally that John celebrated his 96th birthday early in October and has settled well into Shockerwick House, an old people's home not far from where he used to live. Mrs Clutterbuck, also now well into her 90ies, caught at least one fish this year.

One of my Father's regular guests was a fellow banker, D.V. – an austere man but with a twinkle in his eye, who stood like a heron fishing. It was too formal for we youngsters to call him Mr V. David too informal – but as he enjoyed a glass of Claret one evening we settled on 'Chateau Bottled',- mature and of high quality – how he enjoyed it.



We started taking rooms in the Gordon Arms in the days of the Perns with superb meals – one night about 11p.m. I burst into my

Parent's room 'look, look' I said – it was and still is my biggest ever Spey fish, 21½ lbs by myself! I am not sure woken at that hour!

which I had beached they appreciated being Then the children

appeared, the Hotel

began to prove expensive so we rented a small cottage which we later bought, then the next one and finally the third in a row, so that we can now have extraordinary family parties with enough beds all round – and we are still able to let it out occasionally.[ADVERT – IF ANYONE WANTS A TEMPORARY HOME, PLEASE LET ME KNOW]. It enables us to have so many friends to stay, Bishop, Judge, General, Businessmen, Bankers, Farmers, Industrialists, and all their lovely wives and children, many of whom have joined in the worship at

Gordon Chapel on a Sunday morning.. Of course, it is a long drive from Norfolk, approximately 10 hours, but we used to think nothing of it, but now discretion has crept in and we do the journey with an overnight break usually in Yorkshire.

The expansion of Fochabers Village based mainly on Baxters – how friendly Gordon and Ena were, and the Christies businesses have been remarkable. We were once fishing in New Zealand and Gordon Baxter was going to be there at a Test Match in Christchurch at the same time. ‘When you see me appear in my box at the Match’ he said, ‘come and have a drink’. We duly did. He loved his cricket. In the Village the shops have changed, Lipps and the Butcher with the Best Haggis in Scotland have gone, but we still get our daily papers from Christies the chemists, and now you have the Prize ice cream shop, a great attraction for the children . The bypass, argued about for so long, has made a huge difference – but what will happen when the bridge across the Spey has to be replaced? Keith to Craigellachie to Rothes to Elgin ? or vice versa?. It doesn’t bear thinking about. The changes at Gordon Castle from General Sir George and Lady Nan with her fingers stained with the raspberries she had been picking, to Sir Bernard and Mary Rose and now Angus and Zara ambitiously endeavouring to put the Castle, the garden, and tearoom firmly on the map – and succeeding.

I have deliberately left Gordon Chapel to the end, a haven of peace and great friendliness always. A wonderfully dedicated congregation – albeit like me getting older every year – some excellent preachers, some not quite so good, but always refreshing. The enormous upheaval of the bypass, with the windows being restored, the introduction of the glorious Baxter window and now possibly a lift, so everyone can join in together – a good idea. Long may your Community continue and I hope I can still be part of it for a few more years to come. *D Q Gurney*

Gordon Chapel Lift

For some time now Gordon Chapel have been trying to get a lift installed but due to the considerable expense it was put on hold.

Earlier this year we saw an advert for a Stiltz Lift used mainly in Residential Homes. We have looked into this type of Lift and after looking at 2or3 designs the Bishop has decided on the Stiltz Lift but we still have a long way to go, the cost of the Lift is £12.500, but we also need work to be done on the infrastructure which is estimated to cost around £4000.

So Fund raising is going on, for this and also for our New Priest Michael who will be joining us in February. We have to pay a share of his Stipend, and also money to keep the church alive, so fund raising will be part of our priority - bearing in mind our first priority is the worship in the Church

Jean Grimshaw

Dear Friends, we are nearly at the end of 2016 and it's been another successful year for the Friends of Gordon Chapel. This year, the Friends of Gordon Chapel have put together a variety of musical performances, including a super concert by Musik Fyne in October which was well attended. Enclosed is a form for the renewal of subscriptions and we would like to ask you to consider renewing. With your subscription, you will receive a quarterly newsletter and you will be entered into the quarterly prize draws in March, June, September and December. The newsletter has had some interesting articles and we hope you continue to enjoy reading it, and of course we welcome any articles from you that can be included in future editions.

With the start of Advent, people around the world are preparing to celebrate the birth of Christ in different ways therefore the Friends of Gordon Chapel would like to take this opportunity to wish you peace, health and happiness for 2017.

Moira Middleton

Covenant Prayer

Traditionally used at the start of every calendar year or a special service in the Methodist Church. One of the few services where they follow set readings, prayers and responses includes Holy Communion.

I am no longer my own but yours. Your will, not mine be done in all things, wherever you may place me, in all that I do, and in all that I may endure; when there is work for me, and when there is none, when I am troubled and when I am at peace, Your will be done.

When I am valued and when I am disregarded, when I find fulfilment and when it is lacking; when I have all things and when I have nothing I willingly offer all I have and aim to serve you, as and where you choose.

Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, you are mine and I am yours, may it be so for ever, Let this covenant now made on earth be fulfilled in heaven.

Margaret Forsyth

Christingle

Tesco, Elgin store
donated oranges
Christingle service
December. Jeff
and kindly
from the store.



very kindly
and sweets for our
on the 11th
Lowndes arranged
collected them

Gordon Chapel

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We would appreciate items from Friends for inclusion in the next newsletter. Please send to: Brenda Shepherd 2 Elsher Close, Lhanbryde, Elgin. IV30 8FA or email: brenda02@tiscali.co.uk.