



KIRKANDREWS KIRK – FRIENDS’ NEWS

Winter 2024/25

Scottish Charity number SC 027744 Kirkcaldrews Kirk Trust

Find out more about us at: www.kirkcaldrews.org.uk

The days may have been short but December and January were busy at the Kirk.

The Best of Borgue fair gave an opportunity to buy local crafts and produce in advance of the festive season. Then Betsey Jameson, Kirk Trustee and professional florist, ran a number of workshops demonstrating how to create stylish Christmas wreaths (*pictured*).

The festive highlight was the annual Carols by Candlelight service on the Sunday before Christmas, led by Rev Val Ott. As ever, the Kirk’s fire was roaring, the candles sparkled and traditional carols were sung with gusto before everyone enjoyed some mulled wine, mince pies and chocolate for the children.

Then on Christmas Eve the Kirk was the special venue for an intimate wedding.

In January, Dumfries Ramblers ended a walk at the Kirk where they enjoyed the open fire and home made biscuits. They had been past several of James Brown’s buildings and the Kirk was a fitting end to their day. Their visit was written up in the *Galloway News* (below).



The Galloway News
Thursday, January 25, 2025

Ramblers receive warm welcome from cold

Starting at Eastwells in the Lake District, 11 Ramblers headed up Snye Head and Amon Slack to Windy Gap on Thursday, January 14.

It was decided as time was against them, they would head for Green Gable instead of Great Gable as planned, and returned to Southwisle via Snye Mill, Gyle. They had an exhilarating walk with fantastic views. Thanks go to Phil for leading.

Saturday's walk was along the Ardsdale Way to Moffat and was enjoyed by a small group of Ramblers. Thanks to Eric for leading.

Sunday's walk attracted 17 walkers. The route went along the coast from Carrick past Knockree and The Coo

... It occupies a rocky promontory on the coast and was excavated and partially restored by James Brown in 1905.

James Brown was a successful businessman with Ardsdale connections and bought Knockree estate in 1894 as a retirement project. He rebuilt the main house and developed the grounds to include six water baths and a bathhouse. A little further along the coast in the shelter of Barrocco Island he built a bathing house with separate changing rooms, a fireplace and dining area.

He also kept prize felines and in 1911 built a model dairy for 12 of them. It was the first in the UK to be lit by electricity. The 23m high water tower and dairy

years of deterioration this building has been restored to its former glory by a holiday company. The Ramblers walked on to Kirkcaldrews Church which had also been built by James Brown. There they received the warmest of welcomes from the guardians of the church who lit a fire and soon provided homemade biscuits. After the walk, the Ramblers gathered at Sun and Rain's house for a welcome coppa and something sweet. Thanks go to Isabel for leading this very enjoyable walk, for the local history notes along the way, and for organising access to the church.

Next walk: Saturday, January 25. Half day walk - Ardsdale. Description as SC walk of 5.5 miles and minimal ascent. A

the Ardsdale way that reaches the Solway. The leader will be Grace. Meet at Broom's Road car park, Dumfries at 8am for car sharing.

Sunday, January 26. Adventure walk - Sea to Sol. Description as a walk of 8 miles and 2,200 feet of ascent. Some snow walking up the side of Wharley Gigg but otherwise not too taxing. Mainly grass underfoot. Poles would be useful. The leader will be Phil. Note: This walk is different from the one on the programme. Meet at Broom's Road car park, Dumfries at 8am for car sharing. Check the Ramblers website for more information, particularly if you wish to join the walk at the start at www.dumfriesramblers.org.uk or Dumfries

All of these events have raised much needed funds for the maintenance of the Kirk and we are very grateful to everyone who has been involved for their support.

Events are already in the diary for this year and if you would be interested in using the Kirk for a celebration, gathering or commemoration, please contact Anna Hale (Secretary) via Kirkcaldrews Kirk.

Some cheeky mice damaged the Kirk’s offering collection bag. Local resident Rachel Lucas has kindly made a wonderful replacement with wool tartan outer and a



colourful turquoise lining. The bag is going to be stored in a (hopefully) mouseproof box. Many thanks to Rachel.

PS: Top tip about peppermint oil has since kept the culprits at bay in the Kirk.

