

Review of the year 2017

CRICHTON
COLLEGIATE
CHURCH

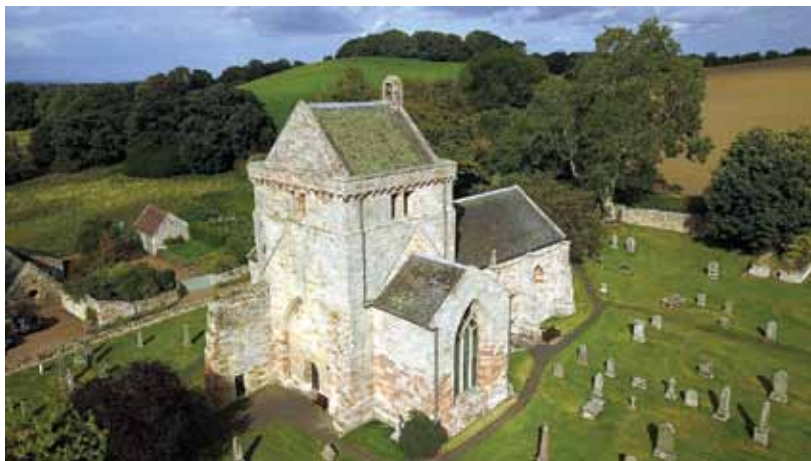
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The Marian Consort

The highlight of the concert season was without doubt the visit to Crichton of the Marian Consort in July. This young, dynamic and hugely talented ensemble are internationally renowned for their performances of early sacred music. Their founder and director, Rory McCleery, is a former chorister at St. Mary's Music School.



The concert-goers gathered for a garden reception at the Old Manse before making their way to the church for this eagerly awaited evening concert. The audience were given a quite outstanding performance. Numbering six for the occasion, the Consort repertoire encompassed the music of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries with works by English and Portuguese composers including Thomas Tallis, Robert White, Robert Parsons, Duarte Lobo, Aires Fernandez, Manuel Cardoso. The wonderful acoustic of Crichton was a perfect setting for this deeply moving and beautifully executed performance. Particular thanks to our treasurer Peter Smail for his assistance in organising this event.



Church Bell Restoration – Fundraising Target reached...

By the end of December the Trust had received grant awards from a number of charitable trusts and grant funding bodies. These, together with generous individual donations from as far afield as the United States, meant the Trustees were in a position to commence the restoration of the church bell. We gratefully acknowledge the support of the Garfield Weston Foundation, The Dalrymple Donaldson Fund, The Leche Trust and WREN - The Scottish Landfill Communities Fund. Arrangements are now being made for the bell to be removed from the bell cote and it will then be transported to the John Taylor & Co. Ltd. foundry in Loughborough for specialist repair.

The Friends

We thank Paddy Scott and the Friends' Committee for organising the summer Sunday Opening rota and a number of successful fundraising events. These included a wonderful tea hosted by Max and Lady Sarah Ward in the beautiful surroundings of their garden at Stobshiel House, near Humbie.

The Pathhead Choir with Sophie Bancroft and Gina Rae regularly use the church for their practice sessions and in June presented their popular Summer Concert.

In September, Sir Robert and Lady Clerk hosted a visit to old Penicuik House where we were able to learn the fascinating story of the history and restoration of the building.

During the year there were a number of funerals at the church. Services were held for Catriona Noble, George Blackadder, Ian and Jill Purves-Hume, Ann Harper and Harry Wilson whose short life of only five days touched so many. We were also saddened to learn of the deaths of several long standing Friends whose support over the years was much appreciated. Among them were Major Colin Dalrymple, Isabella Moir, Anthony Whale and David Cooper.



Ian Purves-Hume

We were saddened to lose one of our valued Trustees, Ian Purves-Hume, in August. Ian's professional career was the Army and in particular the 1st Battalion, The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders which he was immensely proud to command and where he rose to the rank of Brigadier. It was a fitting testament to his abilities and the high regard in which he was held, to have the church

filled with family, friends and former comrades to celebrate his life. Only six months earlier they had gathered to say farewell to his devoted wife, Jill who for many years had been responsible for some wonderful flower arrangements in the church.

Chart success...

Delphian Records, a leading independent recording company, once again used the church. Founder and producer, Paul Baxter produced CD's featuring the Marian Consort, who spent four days in recording sessions and earlier in the year, the young talented Scottish classical guitarist Sean Shibe, made his first visit to Crichton. The result was *Dreams and Fancies*, which reached number 3 in the UK Classical CD charts, all the more impressive as it was recorded on a bitterly cold February day. Sean returned again in December.

Channel 4's *Britain's Ancient Tracks* with Tony Robinson and The Forestry Commission of Scotland also used the church for recordings. Both featured John Kenny and his carnyx for their respective documentaries.

Ballantine and Gardiner ...

The Scottish Stained Glass Trust, in conjunction with Scotland's Churches Trust, have completed a detailed photographic record of the windows at Crichton. They date from the 1898 restoration and later, the work of different generations of the Edinburgh firm, Ballantine and Gardiner. Ian Lees, a volunteer photo-archivist, was much impressed by the high level of craftsmanship involved in their making and noted that they were some of the finest examples of their work he had seen. The images can be seen on the website.



www.crichtonchurch.com

Information regarding upcoming events is available on the website and sent out via email. Please keep us up to date with your contact details. The Trustees are working to ensure that we are fully compliant with the new General Data Protection Regulations which are due to be implemented in 2018.

Ringling Out For Peace 2018 ...

Once returned to the church, the bell will form the focus of an event taking place on the evening of 11th November 2018 marking the centenary of the end of the First World War. The *Battle's Over - a Nation's Tribute*, will include the ringing of church bells throughout the land.

Services

There were six services during the year starting with Easter Sunday Communion, followed by Ascension Day Eucharist, Tyne Valley Parish United Service, Harvest Celebration, Armistice Day Remembrance Service and finishing with Carols at Crichton which this year formed part of Midlothian's Winter Festival. The service of Readings and Carols was particularly well attended this year and took place on a beautiful winter's day. There were three weddings and one christening.

Events

The Edinburgh Chamber Orchestra, Roxburgh Quartet and a solo cello concert with Kevin Hanley all contributed to providing a varied concert season. The Trust was also able to take part in Midlothian Heritage Week, with Paul and Isolde James-Griffiths presenting *Music Through the Ages*, a concert of voice and harp with dramatized storytelling from the sixth to the nineteenth centuries.



A visit was arranged for the Borders Guild of Organists and throughout the year a number of organ students came to enjoy the experience of playing the Joseph Brook organ. Tyne Valley parish repeated their Pilgrimage Walk and a group of ramblers taking part in Midlothian's Walking Festival took time to visit the church.

My personal thanks to everyone for their support and encouragement.

Henry Duncan, Chairman • March 2018