

# Oxnam Parish Page



**JULY 2015**

*Oxnam Parish Church of Scotland*  
*Registered Charity Number SCO10593*  
*[www.oxnamkirk.co.uk](http://www.oxnamkirk.co.uk)*

## From the Locum Minister

Dear Friends,

It's now over a year since I first preached at Oxnam, and nearly a year since I became 'attached' as your Locum Minister. Many lovely events have been shared, some very sad events have been shared. The most recent is the sad passing, after months of trial with pain and frustration of Frank Clayton. I think it was the very first service when I preached as a Supply Preacher, that they told me there was this lovely man in the church who was celebrating his 90th birthday. So what else could we do but sing Happy Birthday. It was a lovely way to meet Frank and Margaret, and over coffee after the service, we had a lovely chat. How sad it is now, not so long after his 91st birthday, we should have to say farewell to him. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Margaret and her family. Both Anna and I visited on the day before he died, and I was more than delighted to stand back and allow Anna to take the service. She has walked the journey with you for much longer than me, and I am so pleased that so many of you are still in touch with her. Please never feel bad about asking Anna to do one of your special services. If she possibly can, I am sure she will, although we all know that she has a busy schedule down in Kelso, which she fulfils with great energy and flair.

Back at Oxnam, we are making plans for the way ahead, one of which involves a Worship Group service on **Sunday 19th July**, which in this second anniversary year of the Great War is going to focus on those young men from the valley who went to fight for our freedom, and some of them came back, but some didn't. In a moving service, which will contain lots of stories from local people, and some from people outwith the parish, we will be asking how did it all affect the valley, and how did the young men cope at the front. Do put this service in your diary, as you will learn stories that you should know about people who gave up the home comforts that we now take for granted around Oxnam, to go to a place they didn't know, into a situation they would never have wanted to be in, and into a future that was terribly uncertain.

Further ahead, we are planning a diary of events throughout the year, utilising the church building, which is not only the loveliest building

in the valley, but also the biggest space. Projected events include concerts of various types, with different groups and soloists, drama and choral workshops, a Question Time discussion evening, and we hope to have a day exploring icons - which seem alien to us in the Church of Scotland, but are a central part of other denominations, and also offer discussions on aspects of the faith led by distinguished people working in the Borders. As well as our Harvest Supper in the Village Hall in October, we are suggesting a social evening with Scottish food after the Evening Service on 29th November, the night before St Andrew's Night.

Watch out for all of these, and do support your Church

With blessings and warmest love,

*Marion E Dodd*

### **From the Session Clerk ...**

Once again time to put pen to paper to catch the Summer Parish Page which will be with you just before our next Communion Service on 5<sup>th</sup> July.

Our first evening service to be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in the month was held on St Andrews Day, 30<sup>th</sup> November, and was a great success. The remaining evening services this year will be on 30<sup>th</sup> August and 29<sup>th</sup> November starting at 6.00 p.m. Marion certainly makes these evening services different and far better than watching Songs of Praise on a Sunday evening!

It is a long way away till our Harvest Supper in the Village Hall in October but we do require four volunteers to help organise this popular biennial event. If you would like to help, do contact me (01835 850394 or [colin.hogg25@btconnect.com](mailto:colin.hogg25@btconnect.com)) or any elder. Presbytery has instructed all congregations to sist all major fabric projects at present while a Presbytery review of church property is carried out which sadly means that the Summer House project which

was mentioned in our last Parish Page has had to be put on hold till the embargo is lifted which will not be till 2017.

Our Kirk website has been recently updated and we are grateful to Jan Scott of Dolphinston for arranging for this project to be completed. Any news that you have which you think should go on our website please do get in touch with Jan who wants to ensure that it is kept up to date and fresh.

The Library Café is very much still in operation and it is hoped that it will remain very much part of Oxnam valley life. Please support the Library Café and if you would like to help produce some home baking on the day please contact me or an elder.

On Good Friday evening the Roxburgh Singers performed “Faure Requiem” to nearly a packed audience in the Kirk who had come from far and wide. This was much enjoyed by all those who attended and it is hoped that the Roxburgh Singers will return in the not too distant future. Over £500 was raised for Combat Stress and also a generous donation was made by the Roxburgh Singers to Oxnam Kirk.

Elsewhere in this Parish Page is a short article on how we are remembering those from Oxnam who lost their lives during the First World War. I would like to emphasise two points. The first is if you are in any way related to one of the twenty two please do get in touch with me as we would very much like to know the story behind the name. The second point is that the restoration of the plaque which will ensure that it will last another hundred years will require funding. If you would like to donate towards this work please contact our Treasurer.

**Col. Colin Hogg**  
**Session Clerk**

### **Thanks**

Howdenburn Primary School Parent Council would like to thank those who purchased plants at the May Library Café. A total of £60 was raised that day making their total from selling plants £375.

## **Presbytery**

Presbytery have appointed a Vocations Champion in the Borders to 'raise the profile' of the church and encourage more people to think of a career in the church. This could be full or part time ministry, a reader, Sunday School teacher, elder or in any other way according to their gifts and talents. A team will be set up in Jedburgh Presbytery, Duns, Peebles and Melrose. They are starting in Jedburgh Presbytery and a team will have a small stand at Kelso Show on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July. It will be located with the Kelso Churches Together stand at the Show. We would love you to visit to discuss our leaflets, our aims, give us advice, tell us what we are doing right or wrong! Anything!

**Moira Land**

## **Sunday School**

Sunday School continues as before, sometimes with lots of children, sometimes with very few. However, we're always at the Kirk on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month and wish that more young parents could find the time to bring their children to join us.

Marion masterminded a wonderful Nativity Scene at the Christmas Eve Carol Service when children and several adult members of the congregation hastily donned suitable cloaks and head-gear and took part most effectively. Everyone enjoyed it immensely.

Weather permitting, we spend Sunday School time outdoors, be it for an Easter egg hunt, a treasure hunt or for tending our little gardens. Earlier in the year we sowed seeds for lettuce and broad beans which are now planted out and growing slowly. Adam is helping to organise the large plot and we hope for a good variety of vegetables later in the season.

**Val Hunter**

## From the Interim Moderator

Some people always work better under pressure! Give them a deadline, and they'll start at the last possible moment to meet it—even if the deadline was intimated weeks before. Whereas, others begin as soon as the deadline is set and have time to refine, redraft and finalise their document. There's no prizes for guessing which group I belong to—the deadline for “the Parish Page” was put back 6 days, so here I am, with one hour to go, trying to assemble my thoughts—yet 6 days ago, I thought I knew exactly what I was going to say on what was at that time, the last day for handing it in.

But we are all different and at the Kirk Session meeting the other week we read the passage from 1 Corinthians 12 where Paul speaks about everyone having different gifts, but these gifts all come from the one Spirit. How good it is to be reminded of that! Every one of us has something to offer back in our service to God, but sometimes we're so busy looking at and admiring others' gifts that we ignore our own. Yet we all have something to contribute. That's true in our lives in the family, in the workplace, in the church, in the community—indeed wherever we find ourselves. God wants us to use the gifts He's given us. We may not be able to do what someone else can do—but that's good, because we have something different to offer. If that wasn't so, we'd all be clones of each other—and that wouldn't do at all!

In Oxnam Kirk, like so many other churches both big and small, we're blessed with people who have so many different things to offer in many different ways, as we work and worship together. We should give thanks for the time and the talents that people give to the Kirk, but, here's a thought—are **we** offering our gifts to be used? Even the gift of joining others in worship to meet together, to encourage each other and to support our locum minister is a gift that needs to be exercised for the benefit of the whole church community. I would encourage us all to take a bit of time, a bit of space, a bit of prayer to think about what we can do for God in His church here in Oxnam Kirk and in the Parish it serves. You might be surprised what you come up with!

May God bless us all, as we try to follow Him, and may He guide each of us as we seek to follow our Lord Jesus Christ. Paul says “There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served!”

**Winnie Robson**

## **World Mission News**

### **A Step towards improving Christian-Muslim relations in Africa**

The Woman’s Guild of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa (PCEA) convened a National Leadership Conference of the Guild in Mombasa in February, which brought together 170 participants from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Christian-Muslim relations was identified as an important focus for the women leaders. PROCMURA (Programme for Christian-Muslim Relations in Africa) spoke about issues in Christian-Muslim relations that require the active involvement of girls, women and mothers, as the women leaders sought to understand the growing violent extremism, intolerance and radicalization.

The women pledged to ensure that similar educative programmes on Christian-Muslim relations are carried out in their presbyteries, districts and congregations to promote positive tolerance.

**The Scottish Churches Anti-Human Trafficking Group** has launched a new project called RE:Value in partnership with Edinburgh Presbytery and Stop the Traffik.

Over 30 million people worldwide live in slavery today. It is not something that only happens in distant lands – it happens here and now in Scotland. People are forced to live in appalling conditions. They are deceived into working long hours in the fishing industry, or in the fields, in hotels and restaurants, in brothels and in private homes.

In Luke, chapter 4, we are told that Jesus said that he was here, among us, 'to set the oppressed free.' The Scottish Churches' Anti-Human Trafficking Group, made up of representatives from all the major denominations in Scotland, has been campaigning for years against

the awful crime that is human trafficking.

This year SCAHT Group is launching its RE:Value project to help raise awareness of human trafficking. At the Edinburgh Festival in August, the Group will be running a series of events in partnership with Stop the Traffik and Just Festival. These will include street theatre, film showings, discussions and hosting the UN GIFT boxes (see [www.stopthetraffik.org/campaign/giftbox](http://www.stopthetraffik.org/campaign/giftbox) for more info), which have previously visited Glasgow for the Commonwealth Games,

You might also be interested to know about a new way to support the **Church of Scotland HIV Programme**.

You can help raise funds for the HIV Programme while doing your shopping online. All you need to do is register on the Easyfundraising website and select the 'Church of Scotland HIV Programme' as your charitable cause. Once you've done this retailers will donate a percentage of every purchase you make to the HIV Programme. Email [hiv@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:hiv@churchofscotland.org.uk) for more information.

**Morag McKeand**

### **Oxnam's Structured "Good Neighbour" Scheme**

Resilient Communities are an Initiative Supported by Local, Scottish and UK Governments which aims to ensure that communities are able to take steps to help themselves in circumstances where official bodies, such as the Council and the Emergency Services, are not able to help immediately. This could be due to some form of emergency, power cuts, flood, adverse weather conditions or a missing person in the community etc etc. It does not in any way mean that they will do any less as they have a legal obligation to fulfil their statutory duties. Resilient Communities are being set up across the whole of the Borders Region, many of which are already in existence, with the support of the Council and the local Communities.

Oxnam now has it's own Resilient Community Team headed by Bob McKeand and Steve Delebecque as Co-ordinator and Deputy Co-ordinator respectively. We recently carried out a successful initial



exercise attended by Scottish Borders Council Emergency Planning Team, Police Scotland plus volunteers from other areas. In the exercise our volunteers were asked to help Scottish Power identify power line failures in our area (in a scenario where widespread power failures had been experienced across the region), so that Scottish Power could more quickly get repairs carried out and the power back on. The objective was to test our call out procedures and to see that we could organise ourselves and work together. Volunteers were given training on map reading and also training from Scottish Power on the network infrastructure ahead of the exercise. Apart from the fact that the exercise was deemed a success our volunteers enjoyed the training and the exercise. We would, however, always welcome more volunteers for the team who are willing to help out in whatever way they can on occasion. If you want any more information please contact Bob on 01835 840284 or email: [mckeand13@btinternet.com](mailto:mckeand13@btinternet.com)

**Bob McKeand**

### **Oxnam Walking Group**

Over the past few months we have had some great walks in our lovely Borders area. The Black Hill at Earlston must stand out as a good one and a great turnout also. Our not so good one was a walk from Hownam to Heatherhope farm which had to be cut short due to rain which then turned to snow.

Normally we have been blessed with good weather and good turnouts and we sometimes have a couple from Edinburgh who come and join us on our walks.

Our next walk is on 12<sup>th</sup> July when we will be going to Timpendean Tower so why not come along and join us and bring a friend. We will be meeting at the bus station car park at 9.45 a.m. for a 10.00 a.m. start.

Looking further ahead to 9<sup>th</sup> August we are going to do the Hownam to Heatherhope farm again with hopefully no snow this time. We will be meeting at Hownam at 9.45 a.m.

**Ken Taylor**

## World War I Remembered



They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and in the morning  
We will remember them.

Between 1914 and 1918 Oxnam valley lost twenty two sons which are remembered on the memorial plaque near the entrance door to our Kirk. Inside Oxnam Kirk there are now twenty two wooden crosses which will all have names of those killed from Oxnam by 2018. The last to be killed was Andrew Tait of Crailinghall who was killed in action in November 1917 in Egypt.

The first cross to be inscribed is in memory of James Dumma who was killed in action on 26<sup>th</sup> April 1915 serving with the Royal Scots. Before enlisting he was on the farm of Oxnam Row where his father, Mr John Dumma, was the steward. James was one of the earliest of the farm workers in the district to volunteer for the service of his country. He enlisted on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1914 and he left Weymouth for France on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1915 and was sent straight to the front. Next month at our morning service on 19<sup>th</sup> July we will remember four more sons of Oxnam who lost their lives at Gallipoli.

During the course of the next two years it has been agreed by the Kirk Session to renovate the World War I memorial plaque. If you would like to donate towards this restoration work please send your donation to the Kirk Treasurer, Fiona Geddes, at Charles & RB Anderson, Royal Bank Buildings, Jedburgh TD8 6DF.

If you have any information on those named on our memorial plaque please contact the Session Clerk on 01835 850394 or [colin.hogg25@btconnect.com](mailto:colin.hogg25@btconnect.com)

When we go home tell them of us and say  
For their tomorrow we gave our today

**C.G.O. Hogg**  
**Session Clerk**

### **Library Cafe**

The Library Café continues to go from strength to strength.. We are always looking for volunteers to take a turn at providing the home baking and making the coffee. If you are interested please contact Francis Armstrong on 01835 840669.

Future dates for the Library Café are:-  
29<sup>th</sup> July, 19<sup>th</sup> August, 9<sup>th</sup> September, 30<sup>th</sup> September, 21<sup>st</sup> October, 11<sup>th</sup> November and a Christmas Special on 2<sup>nd</sup> December.



### **ZUMBA**

FitBorders hold a Zumba class in the Village Hall every Thursday from 8 - 9 p.m. All levels of fitness catered for. £4 per session.

### **Oxnam Film Nights**

Our monthly film showings on the big screen at Oxnam Village Hall continue to show a wide range of films to our dedicated film fans. If you haven't already been, why not come along and enjoy some great films at the cheapest cinema in Oxnam! Normal film nights are on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month at 7.30pm. Our most recent showings have had a plethora of Oscar nominations and covered a wide range of cinematic offerings. These include:-

“Gravity”, “Captain Philips”, “Midnight in Paris”, “The Illusionist”, “Il Postino” and “Sunshine on Leith”. So we’ve been in space, aboard a ship captured by Somali pirates, been to Paris, Leith and a beautiful Italian Island plus seen some great magic.

By the time you read this we will be heading into our summer break so the next showing will be on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in August which is the 21<sup>st</sup>! We will kick off with a great British comedy “**What We Did On Our Holiday**” starring David Tennant, Rosamund Pike and Billy Connelly. This will be followed in September by “**Lincoln**” starring Daniel Day-Lewis.

If you want to be on the email list for future film notifications please email

[robertmckeand@gmail.com](mailto:robertmckeand@gmail.com)



## 2015 Jethart Callant’s Visit To Oxnam

During the Morebattle Rideout on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June, the Callant passed through Oxnam Village. The cavalcade halted for a short time in the Smithy Field where refreshments were provided by Carrie Scott. Callum Yourston presented Callant Raeburn with an engraved hipflask provided by Oxnam Community Council on behalf of all the village residents. Thereafter the cavalcade headed back into Jedburgh. Safe oot, safe in Callant Raeburn.

**Tammy Yourston**



## **OWLS**

The Group continues to meet on the 1st Tuesday of each month (March-December) at 7.30 pm. We have just had a very successful charity concert where over £700.00 was raised for Borders Search & Rescue. On July 7th Jean Simpson - a very entertaining speaker - will be talking about Queen Victoria in Widowhood. A warm welcome is extended to all.

**Anne Davies**

### **Parking at the Kirk**

**It would be much appreciated if those attending the Kirk driving 4 x 4 vehicles would park in the field if possible.**

### **Oxnam Village Hall** **Scottish Charity Number SC015175**

The Village Hall AGM took place on 16<sup>th</sup> June and Committee members are now: Bob McKeand (Chair), Matthew Ladds (Vice Chair), Wendy Meldrum (Secretary), Heather Batsch (Treasurer), Karen Wardrop, Isabel Richardson and Steve Delebecque. Thanks go to retiring Chair, Gillian McFadyen for all her hard work over several years. The Hall was very well used over the year with 3646 people visits recorded. We were supported by the Roxburgh Federation of Village and Community Halls to upgrade the hall electrics and they also gave the annual grant towards the insurance costs. Thanks to this and fundraising carried out in 2014, the hall made a small surplus over the year. The Committee is organising for work on the hall floor to be carried out over the summer and we are also hoping to get the meeting room redecorated. There will be an EGM on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August to consider a resolution that will allow us to become an incorporated charity – more information to follow!

**Heather Batsch**

## **Oxnam Toddlers**

Oxnam Toddlers meets in the village hall every Thursday during school term time from 10.00 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.. Cost £1.50 per family.

## **Oxnam Quilters**

The biennial Quilt Show took place on 3 days over the May bank holiday weekend and was hugely successful with over 400 people visiting the Show. The Quilters had worked hard to produce a fantastic and high quality array of quilts, wall hangings, bags and waistcoats, which were displayed in themed 'rooms'. The raffle quilt (made collectively by the group's members), was won by Sharon Mackenzie from Lanton, who was delighted with her prize. Funds raised went to the Margaret Kerr Unit and MacMillan Cancer Support, who were each sent £750. A great result and a wonderful weekend enjoyed by all.

**Heather Batsch**

## **Oxnam Valley Voices**

Oxnam Valley Voices have had a busy time over the last few months preparing themselves for concerts and other events. The great bonus of doing that is that we have great fun singing. It really has the feel good factor and at the end of our evening practices we go home feeling on top of the world!! Already this year we have sung at the OWLS concert in aid of Border Search and Rescue and at a concert in Kelso North in aid of MS Borders. In the autumn we have a concert at Roxburgh on 4<sup>th</sup> September, one in aid of RNLI in December and one in Oxnam Kirk on 13<sup>th</sup> December. This is as well as singing around Jedburgh Christmas tree in December and adding the Christmas feel good feeling to Johnston's of Elgin and Teviot Smokery on their special Christmas shopping nights. We have also sung at weddings and funerals. We have a complete range of songs in our repertoire:

songs from the Musicals through the years, church music, classical and contemporary songs.

We are always looking for new members. There is no audition, you just need to enjoy singing and be able to have fun doing so. We are particularly needing more men to balance our altos and sopranos. Anyone is welcome so just come along on a Wednesday at 7pm. For further details contact our Choir Master, Jamie McKenzie on 07557 101425

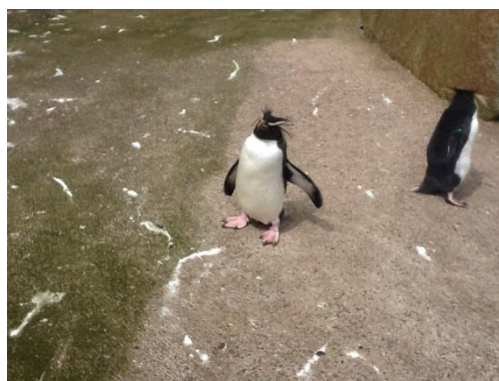
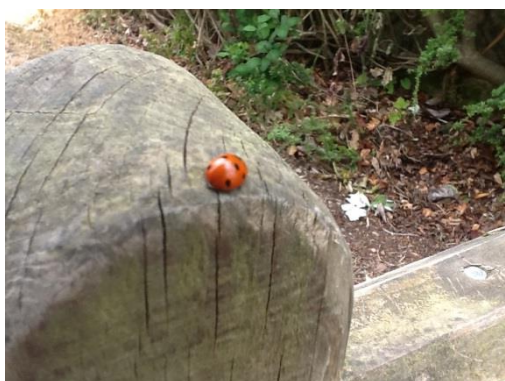


A beautiful night to sing outside a beautiful building

## Kids Page

Who can name all the animals in these pictures?

Bring your answers, along with your own drawing/painting of one of the animals to the Kirk on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> July where there will be lots of prizes awarded.





## **KIRK TRUSTEES & OFFICE BEARERS**

### **Interim Moderator**

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Mrs Ann Fraser  
Mrs Geraldine Strickland  
Mr Andrew Dodds  
Mr Robert Anderson  
Mrs Francis Armstrong  
Mrs Morag McKeand

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### **Flower Convenor**

Mrs Beryl Barbour

## **KIRK SERVICES**

5 <sup>th</sup> July 2015	Sacrament of Communion
19 <sup>th</sup> July 2015	Worship Group Service <i>A focus on the Great War and the men of Oxnam who went to fight for our freedom</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2015	Sunday Service – Hospitality Afterwards
16 <sup>th</sup> August 2015	Sunday Service
30 <sup>th</sup> August 2015	Evening Service at 6.00 p.m.
6 <sup>th</sup> September 2015	Sunday Service – Hospitality Afterwards
20 <sup>th</sup> September 2015	Sunday Service – Sunday School
4 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	Sunday Service – Hospitality Afterwards
18 <sup>th</sup> October 2015	Harvest Thanksgiving – Sunday School

**All services are at 10.30 a.m. unless otherwise stated**

## **DIARY DATES**

16 <sup>th</sup> or 23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2015	Harvest Supper (Volunteers please to organise)
1 <sup>st</sup> November 2015	Remembrance Service
14 <sup>th</sup> November 2015	Sacrament of Communion
29 <sup>th</sup> November 2015	Evening Service at 6.00 p.m.
17 <sup>th</sup> January 2016	Pantomime – The Ugly Duckling by Northumberland Theatre Group

## **Baptisms**

- 21<sup>st</sup> December 2014      Alaina Evelyn Whittaker, Daughter of Robert and Michelle, Jedburgh
- 18<sup>th</sup> January 2015      Emilia Grace Cairns, Daughter of Jamie and Natalie, South Riccalton, Oxnam, Jedburgh

## **Weddings**

- 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2015      Fraser George Douglas (formerly Upper Hindhope) and Helen Jean Davidson

## **Deaths**

- 5<sup>th</sup> February 2015      Dorothy Haig, Howden Farm Cottages, Jedburgh
- 6<sup>th</sup> April 2015      Diana Cairns, Netherwells, Oxnam, Jedburgh
- 8<sup>th</sup> June 2015      Frank Clayton, Shibden, Renniaston, Jedburgh

## **Obituaries**

### **DOT HAIG**

Dorothy Haig was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 1963. The family home was West Nisbet Hillhead.

Dorothy was a little sister for James and mother Robina and father James were over the moon. James Kirk senior was a herd and moved regularly. The next move took them to Town O' Rule and it was from there that Dot started school at Hobkirk Primary. The next move was to Scraesburgh and from there Dot went to Parkside school. When the new Howdenburn primary school opened, Dot moved there and then she went to Jedburgh Grammar. Neighbours at Scraesburgh, the Threadgalls, had ponies and they taught Dot how to ride. When in her teens Dot hired a horse and rode at the Festival.

When Dot left school she started to work at the Royal Bank of Scotland in Jedburgh. Dot liked being in the Bank and made many good friends. She still stayed with her parents and the family home was now Crailinghall.

One of Dot's friends had gone to work in America so Dot decided she would go out for a visit. Off she went, on her own, to Washington. She loved her visit. There were concerts, excursions, adventures of all kinds. When she came home, her dad picked her up from the airport. It was a miserable day and Dot looked at her dad, looked at the sky and said 'Dad, honest, there's a blue sky up there!' Dot played basketball for a local club who practiced in the school games hall three nights a week. There was a men's team too and it was at the basketball that Dot Kirk met a certain Neil Haig and they started going out together. They went together for an age and their friends used to tease them that they were going for the record. Finally they got engaged and had possibly the shortest engagement possible! Dot and Neil were married in Oxnam Kirk on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1994.

Dot and Neil set up home at Howden farm cottages. Neil was a painter and Dot continued to work in the bank. They still played basketball three times a week but there were also trips to the cinema and visits to Jeanette and Tommy Dodds. Dot and Neil could pop in to Tommy and Jeanette's at 10 in the morning and still be there at midnight!! There were holidays in the Lakes, up North, Corfu ... life was good. Dot and the girls from work, Jill, Ruth and Isobel, would go off for weekends together and have a riot. Dot had a great sense of fun and would always get involved in the fancy dress at the festival.

On 15<sup>th</sup> July 1998 Fiona Haig was born. Dot and Neil were delighted. Dot loved being a mother.

Dot became ill with cancer a year after Fiona was born. She was so brave, so stoic. She would have her treatment one day and be back at work the next. Now there was no basketball, Dot turned to her creative side. When Fiona was wee, Dot's hands were never idle. Dot sewed, quilted and cross-stitched. She was very gifted with her hands. She started quilting with a group in Kelso then moved to the Oxnam group.

All the lovely things Jim and Robina had done when she was a child, Dot now loved to do with Fiona and her cousins. There were trips up the Bowmont and the Kale. There were baggies and jeely jars, there was paddling and picnics and every Easter it was up the Eildons to role the eggs. Dot also started walking with Lorraine and they loved to walk with the children. Dot then decided to start running. She wanted to give something back. She started training with Lorraine and loved it. She did the Great North Run and the Moon Walk in Edinburgh one freezing night. She did the Race for Life three times with Fiona and once with Jeanette and Lorraine. Dot carried on working but more importantly, she was a mum. She cared for Fiona with her heart and soul and she fought to stay with her. She was a loving, caring God-mother to Craig and Holly. She was a wonderful Aunt to Katriona, Kieran, Craig, Euan and Holly and also to Scott and Callum. Dot was an important part of the Oxnam community. She was always serving teas or helping at things in the village. She had a strong faith and would slip

quietly into church, often with Jeanette. Dot liked to cook and bake, she made Christmas dinner last Christmas. In all the years Dot was ill she had only two sick notes!

Dot was an inspiration to us. You will all have examples of this, but for me it was last Tuesday. When I saw her, she looked radiant, calm and beautiful. When I stupidly asked 'how are you?' she said 'bloomin marvellous!' and she was. She had all her family around her, supporting her and when I looked like I might start crying she looked at me and said 'don't you dare ...'

A remarkable woman.

**Anna Rodwell**

## **DIANA MARY CAIRNS**

Diana Mary was born on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1957 to Angus and Connie Logan who at the time were farming at Kent Mere Hall near Kendal. Diana's sister, Judy, was born 6 years later and they got along very well together and did things together just as sisters do.

Diana's school life began near Kendal then she went on to be a boarder at Casterton. Ponies and pony club with Oxenholme and later the Buccleuch were a regular date for Diana and she became an accomplished horse woman. Pony Club summer camp was always an opportunity for high jinx. She would be seen riding hell for leather round the courses and taking part in hunter trials with success. She followed the hunt with her father and Uncle, Rollie Harker.

Diana left school at 16 and had a part-time job in Ron and Margaret Turner's antique shop. Next stop was Eggleston Hall, a finishing school near Barnard Castle, where Diana learnt, amongst other things, cordon bleu cookery and floristry. She used both of these skills to great aplomb throughout her life.

Next stop was Edinburgh and Diana went to work for Mrs Hotson in the Edinburgh flower shop. It was about this time Diana got involved with Oxnam Young Farmers and her romance with Douglas began. Just before her marriage to Douglas, Diana was diagnosed with diabetes – a huge blow to her but in true Diana fashion she was not going to let it make a difference to her life. However, it certainly did give her challenges and for her family and friends too.

Douglas and Diana married in 1979 and moved to Swinside Townfoot where they began to farm together. She was hard working and extremely capable. With Douglas and Swinside came his mother Jean-Ann and her two sisters, Nance and Ella. Most women get one mother-in-law but Diana got three!

Along came their dearly loved boys Jamie first then Andrew. Diana was always proud of her boys. Their antics a great source of pleasure to her and Douglas. She was a very committed and supportive mother. Family holidays were always

looked forward to as well as the annual Round Table conferences with family fun and dressing up.

Following Judy's sudden death, which was a huge blow to Diana and the family, Diana took over the running of South Riccalton from her father. The family moved and Douglas began to 'commute' as he put it, to his farm at Swinside.

Diana had a great many interests, talents and friendships. She greatly valued her friendships and was a loyal, caring, sometimes erratic, friend. She would drop in to discuss her latest triumphs, trials and tribulations. At times she sought advice, hearing of course, only what she wanted to hear - as was Diana's way! Her closest friends provided her with a great support when times were difficult.

Equally, we shared many times filled with happiness and laughter. Her many interests outside farming included Ladies Circle of which she was the first chairwoman and she was also a keen bridge player (or 'whist' as Douglas called it!)

Foot and mouth reared its head and after it passed Douglas gave up Swinside Hall and he and Diana worked together at Riccalton. The boys were growing up and Jamie, having finished his studies and travels, came home to work. Douglas and Jamie worked well together and Diana learned to stand back a bit. Diana decided to embark on a new venture and using her previous experience and research, Stems of Jedburgh was born. However, not content with a new business, she volunteered to be chairman of the newly constituted Traders Association. So typically of Diana always being involved and committed. Promoting Jedburgh became her mission.

Diana took delight in her boys, Jamie and Andrew and was thrilled to welcome first Natalie and then Emily to the family. The icing on the cake was the birth of granddaughter Imogen followed by Emilia. With the expansion of the family Diana and Douglas moved to Netherwells.

With the onset of Douglas's illness, Diana's time in the shop came to an end as she focussed on Douglas. She searched tirelessly for ways to make him better. Sadly he passed away nearly three years ago. Jamie, Andrew, Natalie and Emily were a huge support to Diana at this time and baby Imogen a comfort. Douglas and Diana's friends continued to rally round - to be there for Diana. Over time she began to return to interests old and new as well as caring for her mother, Connie.

We had hoped so much that Diana had recovered from her illness of last August and was appearing so positive in her life. But, Diana's active involvement in life masked the concerns, of which only her family and closest friends were aware. The Diana we remember was a larger than life character! She did everything at full tilt and possessed a huge sense of duty and loyalty towards her family, friends and local community. She was extremely hard working but not good at delegating.

Diana was a country girl born and bred. She was totally absorbed in farming and had an extensive knowledge of it. She was happy in the yard around the horses, sheep, cattle and dogs. She didn't mind getting stuck into any task no matter how messy! As a team, Douglas and Diana were brilliant hosts. There was always lovely food, many stories and much laughter.

Diana ...

*You touched so many lives;  
You always had another project on the horizon,  
Another problem to solve,  
Another mountain to climb.  
But when you left us in the end,  
It was too soon for us my friend.  
Daughter, mother, granny too,  
So much more for you to do.  
You must have felt that it was time,  
As no more mountains could you climb.*

**An Extract taken from the tribute  
by Diana's close friends at her funeral**

### **FRANK CLAYTON**

Frank tried to join up when he was 16! He was rumbled and turned away. As soon as he was 17, he was back. Frank was a Grenadier Guard and trained at Chelsea Barracks. Frank saw and did many things during the war that he kept to himself. One thing he did say was, he went into the army a boy and came out a man.

He was blown up at Marreth, which he said was the nearest thing to a living hell; he fought at Monte Casino; he was part of the North African Landings; he was a Desert Rat; he shared a birthday cake with a German soldier to celebrate the German boy's 21st, when he got separated from his company; he was wounded in Italy and walked 1,000 miles [with lifts along the way] to re-join his Regiment after convalescing in Rome.

After the war, Frank had a Brough Superior Motorbike which he loved. He biked from Leicester to Gibraltar with a friend in the days when you could only take £25 out of the country. Frank had a jest for life and appreciated every minute of it. He and his friend travelled light and slept on beaches!

Later he had a motorbike and side car and sitting in the side car would be his faithful Alsatian Dog! Frank loved dogs. He also loved horses and he had a stunningly beautiful Arab horse called Fareed.

Frank met and married Joan and they were very happy together. When Joan died of cancer, Frank was devastated. It was whilst tending to his horse, just after Joan had died, that Frank met a certain Margaret. Margaret had lost her husband and recognised Frank's pain. She offered some words of advice: "it is bleak, but it does get easier." Six months later they met again and a friendship struck up.

Frank and Margaret were married in Kelso on the 18th March, twenty three years ago. Frank had ridden through the Border hills on riding holidays in the past and had fallen in love with the area. He had even ridden past the Renniston Road End! Frank and Margaret came up to the area on holiday, and before the holiday was out, they found themselves to be the proud owners of Shibden, Renniaston. There was a field for Fareed, and a stable going free, so they moved up complete with Tess the dog and Toastie the cat. Together Frank and Margaret set about creating their own 'little piece of heaven', in the Oxnam Valley.

In time, Frank and Margaret were embraced by the community and they in turn rolled up their sleeves and got involved. Frank joined the church, helped at RDA, joined the stick dressers and spent a lot of time in the garden [under strict supervision you understand]. The garden was open to the public on three separate occasions over the years. Frank loved his fruit trees and his vegetables - not forgetting the prize winning Bonsai. He also loved growing roses and would often bring one in at the end of the day for Margaret. Frank loved this place and it was his supreme wish to end his days here. He had so many good friends here and was truly happy.

Frank and Margaret travelled all over Europe together, they visited New Zealand several times to visit Frank's motor biking friend. They travelled to America - Frank always had an open and enquiring mind and willing to listen and to learn. He travelled to Holland, France and Belgium to visit the Battlefields. He went back to Salerno to visit the war graves there - he knew so many of those remembered there and was deeply moved by the experience.

Ill health came only latterly. Frank was fit and healthy right up to his 90th Birthday. The past year saw Frank in and out of hospital, but he never gave up. Right up until the end he would say, "when I am better..."

Only a few days before he died he was looking out over Scott's view, admiring the 100 shades of green followed by afternoon tea at the garden centre.

When Frank married Margaret he was blessed by her family and Frank was very fond of Barbara and Graham and Philip and Sandra and all their children.

Frank was a true gentleman and here today we say farewell to a strong, gentle, loving man. The world is a poorer place without him.

**Anna Rodwell**



