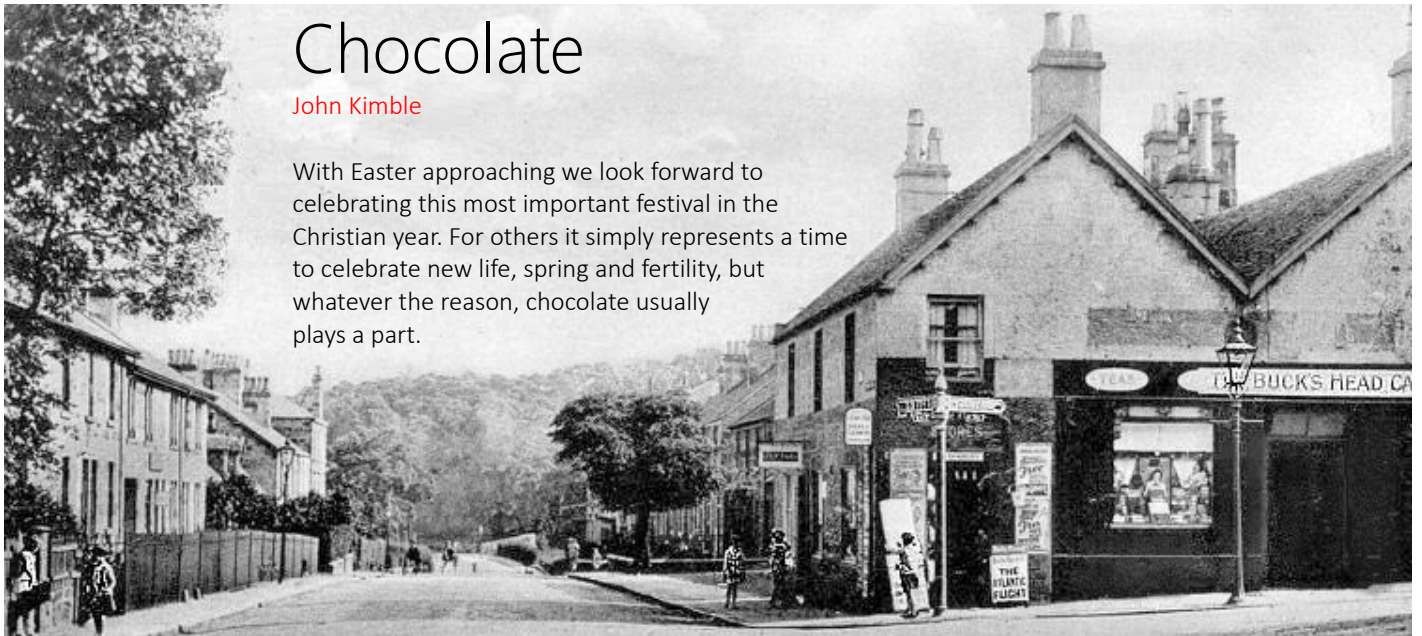


# Chocolate

John Kimble

With Easter approaching we look forward to celebrating this most important festival in the Christian year. For others it simply represents a time to celebrate new life, spring and fertility, but whatever the reason, chocolate usually plays a part.



Not only is the Christian festival of Easter celebrated this way: Valentine's Day, Halloween, Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas and even Mexico's Day of the Dead, to name but a few, are also all celebrated with chocolate.

You see chocolate continues to be one of the most popular ways to celebrate important occasions and express feelings of love and caring.

When I saw this old photo of The Buck's Head Café at Sheddens, with its sign post pointing toward Busby and Eaglesham, I immediately got out my magnifying glass to see if I could make out what chocolate they were selling, but alas, I couldn't make any out. My first memories of The Buck's Head was later; the roundabout had been built and the café had moved around the corner to where the Chinese takeaway now sits, but I do remember the magnificent boxes of chocolates that they always had on display above the back counter.

The newspaper stand in the photo says "THE ATLANTIC FLIGHT" so I think the photograph may have been taken around mid-June 1919, when British aviators John Alcock and Arthur Brown made the first non-stop transatlantic flight.

As I said chocolate has played a part in many celebrations and, as chocolate plays such an important part of my life, (in case you don't know, I have a chocolate shop!) over the years I have collected a few pieces of chocolate memorabilia.

For example here is a photo of my original Rowntree's commemorative chocolate tin for the coronation of King Edward and Queen Alexandra. Although the coronation took place on 9th August 1902, the tin is dated June 26th which was the original date before the King became ill. Perhaps even more interestingly it still has the original chocolate bar inside, it's nearly 116 years old!



Another box in my collection is a decorative brass tin sent by Princess Mary to members of the British, Colonial and Indian Armed Forces for Christmas 1914. Over 426,000 of these tins were distributed to those serving on Christmas Day 1914. The tins were filled with various items including tobacco, chocolate, spices, pencils, a Christmas card and a picture of the princess.

The idea was the initiative of Princess Mary, the 17-year-old daughter of King George V and Queen Mary. Princess Mary organised a public appeal which raised the funds to ensure that 'every Sailor afloat and every Soldier at the front' received a Christmas present. Due to the strong public support for the gift, which saw £162,591 12s 5d raised, the eligibility for the gift was widened to include every person 'wearing the King's uniform on Christmas Day 1914', about 2,620,019 servicemen and women.



Unfortunately my tin is now empty but I hope that the original owner enjoyed its contents.



Finally, as it's nearly Easter I thought you might like to see this little French chicken mould for chocolate. It was made by Létang Fils, probably in the 1930's.

Today Létang is considered to be one of the greatest makers of chocolate moulds, and their products are highly prized collectibles.

# The Choir

Angela Marshall

Since the last report Christmas has been and gone! As usual this was a busy time for choristers, but this time several of us were afflicted with the head cold which affected the throat and voice, taking a long time to clear. When we gave our Christmas Concert only 8 members were able to make the right noises for the performance!

Nevertheless we got there, supported by the 'Busby Lights' from the primary school, and all the audience as well. We are very thankful for the support, and hope that next time we may do a better job.

Meantime, we are supporting morning worship week by week, and already preparing for Easter and the extra services during Holy Week.

Our biennial Summer Concert is due this May (there is no Drama Group presentation), and we hope that as many people as possible will support us. There is usually a mix of music, including secular pieces for all to enjoy.

Allan and Rosanne as usual are working hard to keep us up to standard! We thank them for their support and guidance. We are also thankful to those in the congregation who kindly comment on our efforts, as it helps us to try to maintain our musical contributions at the best possible level. Thank you for your support.

## Busby Guides

Pamela Mill

We meet every Tuesday between 7pm and 9pm in Busby Church Hall during term time. At present we have almost 30 girls who are members and about 7 Leaders and Young Leaders.

We have a varied programme with crafts and cookery being popular. The Guides work in patrols of between 5 and 7 girls and often are involved in deciding what activities they would like to do. Every week we play games and the Guides always like making up dances or acting in sketches.

In the better weather the girls enjoy activities outside in the grounds of the Church including barbeques and team games.

The Guides always enjoy weekends away at youth hostels, outdoor activity centres and camps and we have had 2 sleepovers as well in the last year.

Please come along and join us. Any girl who is between 10 and 14 years old would be made very welcome. It is a great opportunity to make new friends. We can guarantee that you will spend a lot of your evening laughing, eating, running around and generally having fun.

If you would like more information contact Pamela Mill 644 4452 or at [pamelaemill@hotmail.com](mailto:pamelaemill@hotmail.com)



## Situations Vacant

The Church Grounds Team would like to invite any keen gardeners to join them.

We are lucky to have an excellent garden area which is enjoyed by many e.g. Sunday School, Brownies and Guides. It is also used for the Church Garden Party and pupils from Busby Primary School have planted bulbs there as part of an environmental project.

Please contact Leslie Mill (644 4452) for further information.

## Transport

My thanks go to all the drivers who volunteer to take fellow members to church on Sunday mornings throughout the year.

There is always a space for anyone who would like to assist in this service. You can join the regular rota of a calendar month at a time or the reserve driver list for occasional support. I would be delighted to hear from you. My telephone numbers are listed below:

Alice Keith  
0141 644 1364  
07974800091



# Busby Drama Group

"First Nighter"

My sources inform me that the Group is having a well-earned rest following its successful production of the pantomime "Mother Goose". The revues are out and show just how much the audiences enjoyed the traditional entertainment.

There is no "Supper and Song" this spring as the Group makes way for Busby Church Choir's Spring Concert on Friday, 18th May, a date to which I am certainly looking forward.

However, I hear that plans are underway to stage the next pantomime and, whisper it, it may well feature Dracula and a profusion of Bats. Sounds fantastic! More later!

# Christian Aid

Angela Marshall



As part of the Clarkston and District Christian Aid Group, Busby Church is involved in the organisation of the Annual Art Exhibition and Sale to be held in the Carmichael Hall on 10 March 2018. Indeed the idea *began* in Busby 38 years ago as a result of a conversation between Myrtle McGregor and Rev Lawrence Whitley. Myrtle still heads the steering committee to this day!

300 or so paintings are exhibited for sale, and a percentage of the 'takings' is donated to Christian Aid every year generating thousands of pounds for the charity. Anyone is welcome. A copy of the advertising poster is shown here.

Following that, Christian Aid week this year is 19-26 May, when we need support from congregation members for fundraising activities in the Church.

Notice will be given about the proposed activities in the near future. Thank you for your continuing support.

# Village Litter Pick

Irene Morrison

Our 10th annual litter pick around Busby village as part of the Keep Scotland Beautiful Spring Clean 2018 has been arranged for Saturday 21st April between 10am and 12noon and will be followed by a soup & sandwich lunch in the church hall.

When we first became involved in this campaign in 2009 it was with the intention of raising the profile of the church by serving the local community, and also in the hope of reducing the amount of litter on our streets. Sadly the number of bags of litter collected each year increases rather than decreases. I am grateful to the willing volunteers who turn out year after year in sunshine and in rain to help with the project.

It is heartening however to hear that some of our near neighbours (in Busby, Clarkston, Stamperland & Williamwood) are planning to organise their own litter picks. There is certainly enough litter to go round! Is it too much to hope that in time we might change people's attitude to dropping litter and actually do ourselves out of a job?

If anyone would like to take part in this year's litter pick please let me know so that I can obtain the necessary equipment from East Renfrewshire Council.

38th Annual

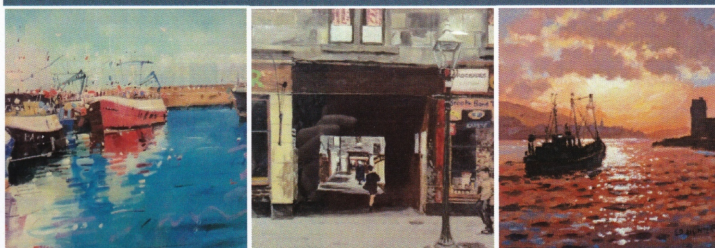
Clarkston & District **CHRISTIAN AID COMMITTEE**

# ART EXHIBITION AND SALE

We return to the

## CARMICHAEL HALL EASTWOOD PARK

Saturday 10th March 10am-4pm



Ian Elliot      Edward McGhie      Ed Hunter

**One of the largest Charity Art Sales in the West of Scotland ALL ORIGINAL works of art by well known Professional & Amateur Artists**

Entry **£3.00** / child **£1** Includes Coffee/Tea / Home Baking

**SALES ARE CASH OR CHEQUE ONLY**

The Hall is off Rouken Glen Road near Eastwood Toll, at the rear of the Swimming pool & Theatre.  
Buses no 374/375 pass.  
<http://www.spt.co.uk/bus/timetables>  
10 minutes walk from Giffnock station.

CONTACT  
myrtle.mcgregor@ntlworld.com  
for more information

Charity number SC039150