

1408 letter from Glasgow opens up Cluny 2010 Scotland

On 30th March the ancient path of a key document in Paisley Abbey's history will be re-traced when Historic Glasgow presents Revd Alan Birss of Paisley Abbey with a digital copy of a letter from the Bishop of Glasgow, who was in dispute with Paisley over church revenues and inspection rights. The Abbot appealed directly to the Pope, reminding him of the Cluniac privilege. Though delegated by Rome to make visitation (inspection) of exempt institutions in his diocese, Bishop Matthew of Glasgow was also a party in the dispute with Paisley Abbey. The dispute was therefore heard by the archdeacon of Glasgow, acting under delegated Papal authority from his bishop. After twenty years, in a letter dated 10 May 1408, issued from his palace at Lochwood, Bishop Matthew of Glasgow lifted all penalties, including that of excommunication. The Bishop died the following day.

Please forward this Newsletter to anyone you think might be interested. They can have their e-mail addresses added to our list by contacting us at:
baltersan.castle@btinternet.com

The Cluny 2010 Scotland Joint Organising Committee gratefully acknowledges the support of its main sponsors:

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Medieval Fair is expanding

Life in bygone Paisley inspires a fun-filled programme of activities for families and children in and around the abbey



Alchemist **Jack Greene** is bringing his incredible medieval apothecary's shop to Paisley Abbey for the Fair. Children will be able to mix medicines and learn about how a monastic infirmary dealt with a wide variety of ailments. See Jack in this fascinating short film:

<http://www.bmj.com/video/fatalalchemy.dtl>

The serene interior and graceful exterior of Paisley Abbey will be transformed on Saturday, 15th May with the bustle, sights, sounds and smells of a medieval community enjoying freshly-roasted food, telling tales, making arrows, weaving tapestries, carding wool, mixing medicines, showing ancient games for children and dancing to strolling minstrels with an array of authentic loud and soft instruments.

The Fair is aimed at a wide audience but will prove particularly attractive to young people. All events and activities are free of charge.

Calligraphy demonstrator

David Lang studied calligraphy and graphic design at Edinburgh College of Art. After several years working as a graphic artist, he taught in the Art Department in Musselburgh Grammar School. When he took early retirement from school teaching, he continued as a staff member for several years at Edinburgh College of Art, but now retired fully from teaching, he continues to undertake freelance commissions including illustrating a poem by Edwin Morgan in the Scottish Parliament.



David Lang will be at Paisley Abbey on 15th May.

Was Crossraguel Abbey dedicated to St Rieul of Senlis?

With over 40 different spellings and only one other known example of the name, it is no surprise that the place-name origin of Crossraguel has baffled historians for centuries. Carrick's proximity to Ireland suggests that St Riaghail, an Irish follower of St Columba was being commemorated. The Ayrshire links of Bishop Kennedy of St Andrews, whose cathedral has St Rule's Tower, proposes an alternative. But Kennedy flourished in the 15th century, about 200 years after the founding of Crossraguel by Duncan, Earl of Carrick.

So how can a 3rd century Franco-Greek saint be linked with the earldom of Carrick? The answer could be David I, King of Scots (reigned 1124-1153). He had his main power base at Carlisle. He was married to Matilda (or Maud) widow of Simon de Senlis and introduced many Anglo-Norman families to Scotland as well as the Anglo-Breton FitzAlans who founded Paisley Abbey. By this marriage David had a step-son Waltheof, who was abbot of Melrose and later raised to sainthood. That the abbey of Melrose owned extensive lands in Ayrshire may be no coincidence.

But it is the sun that has cast light on this aspect of the Dark Ages in Carrick. For the abbey church is aligned directly to the position of sunrise on 30th March—Feast Day of St Rieul of Senlis. Coincidence?



Dundonald school children to compete for the Cluny Cup at annual bowling competition

In an imaginative initiative, Loraine Murray of the Friends of Dundonald Castle has brought together the local primary school and the local bowling club to introduce children to bowling. Crossraguel Abbey had a bowling green in the early 16th century and the abbey is closely linked with Dundonald not just through the Stewart kings, but in architectural detail too.

Dundonald Bowling Club is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 2010 so it is the perfect combination of events and very much in the spirit of the modern Cluny network. The cup will be played for annually and consideration will be given to inviting teams from Paisley and Maybole to future matches. <http://www.dundonaldcastle.org.uk>

Coach Tours in two directions

It is planned to have coach tours to and from Paisley Abbey on both Saturday 15th and Sunday 16th May, subject to demand. The bus leaving Paisley will call at Kelburn and Dundonald Castles and then on to Crossraguel Abbey. Going in the opposite direction, the bus will leave Maybole and go via Ayr to Dundonald and Kelburn then on to Paisley. The route will take in the fabulous Firth of Clyde scenery and there will be historic re-enactors at Dundonald and Kelburn (15th only). (Full details in next newsletter)

Vikings to set up camp at Kelburn

The highly-cultured Norsemen (no, they didn't spend all their time raiding and destroying places—just look at their art) got around, even as far as the Mediterranean Sea. Normandy was named after them so it gives us a strange twist of historical fate with the Vikings being defeated at the Battle of Largs by the Scots in 1263 including descendants of Anglo-Norman and Anglo-Breton families who had settled in Scotland such as the founder in 1163 of Paisley Abbey, Walter FitzAlan.

Glasgow Vikings will be showing some of the peaceful and scary sides to Viking life on Saturday 15th May at Kelburn Castle and Country Centre, near Largs in North Ayrshire. The castle has a more modern art form adorning its walls—Brazilian graffiti, which will be removed in the not too distant future so take the chance to see it before it's too late.

<http://www.kelburnestate.com/>

<http://www.glasgowvikings.co.uk/>





Sponsored by the Scottish Arts Council and Glasgow City Council



Scottish Arts Council

Includes a world premiere!

Gaita to entertain at Paisley's Medieval Fair

Saturday 15th May in and around Paisley Abbey

Three musicians from the ensemble *Gaita* will perform in Paisley for the first time. Formed in 2001 to specialise in music from the 13th and 14th centuries - particularly courtly music from Scotland, France, Spain and Italy. They use a wide variety of period instruments including shawms, medieval bagpipes, early lutes, medieval fiddles and harps.

They aim to present their music in a medieval context, performing in period dress and historic settings such as castles, medieval churches and fairs in Scotland, the Royal Armouries Jousting competitions, and their own semi-theatrical concerts. They were recently featured in BBC Scotland's 'A History of Scotland' series.

Free afternoon concert in Glasgow Cathedral

Friday, 14th May at 4:15 pm

Programme will last about 50 minutes

Canty and William Taylor

(medieval harps)

Directed by Rebecca Tavener

The monastery of Cluny was a fount of musical innovation in the middle ages and one of the earliest abbots, Odo, was a musical theorist who influenced the development of western music. We pay tribute to him in a tapestry of medieval music from France and Scotland including magical plainchant celebrating St Mungo/Kentigern, 13th century masterpieces from the St Andrew's Music Book, hymns and songs by Pierre Abelard and some of the original songs from the Carmina Burana manuscript plus the **world premiere** of a new setting of one of the Carmina Burana poems by one of Scotland's emerging composing talents, Alasdair Spratt.



Gaita performing at Traquair House

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<http://www.cluny.eu/>

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<http://www.cluny2010.info/>

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Cluny "pilgrimage" September, 2010

A "pilgrimage" will take place to visit Cluny for the climax of the 2010 celebrations there. The coach trip will take in visits to beautiful Cluniac sites in England including Much Wenlock in Shropshire which supplied Paisley's first monks in the 12th century.

The main events will take place in Cluny on Friday 10th and Saturday 11th September as part of a great European gathering. Details of the tour, which is likely to leave Paisley on Tuesday 7th and return on Monday 13th, are being finalised. It is expected to be a sell-out so if you are interested, please register that by sending your contact details to Marion Sommerville or Rev Alan D. Birss at Paisley Abbey Office, Abbey Close, PAISLEY, PA1 1JG.

info@paisleyabbey.org.uk



Choral & Organ Concert Saturday, 15th May, 2010 7:30 pm

The glorious interior of Paisley Abbey will be the backdrop for a concert with a strong French theme both in the music and the famous two manual and pedal organ built by the Parisian Aristide Cavallé-Coll in 1872.

Performances will include *Requiem* by Duruflé and French music from the 13th and 14th centuries.

Tickets are £15 (gallery) and £10 with a £5 concession for students at the door on the night on presentation of a valid student identity.

Remember the dates!

14th - 16th May, 2010

More information on:

www.cluny2010scotland.info

A mermaid
and her
admirer: but
where are
they?



Paisley Museum exhibition

from Friday, 14th May, 2010

*"Charters and Chamber Pots:
Aspects of Mediaeval Paisley"*

This exhibition aims to explore the wide-ranging influence of Paisley Abbey. It will feature mediaeval items from the collections including sculpted stones, carved woodwork, manuscripts and some of the material excavated from the Great Drain of the abbey illustrating the daily life of the monks.

Highlights will include the Papal bull of 1265, the Arbuthnott Missal, a French manuscript with exquisite illustrative pages and the Elderslie Cross which was last displayed in the Museum more than 25 years ago. Also featuring will be a triptych depicting the career of Sir William Wallace, the Balgonie Altarpiece and other artworks that feature views of the Abbey.

Digital documentation displays

Historic Scotland's Technical Conservation Group has confirmed that they will mount a display on the digital documentation of Rosslyn Chapel and other important Scottish sites at the conference.

Tony Grace of UWS Ayr campus will show film of the Great Drain of Paisley Abbey. For more on the digital documentation of the Abbey of Cluny, click on this link:

<http://www.cluny2010.info/search/label/Gunzo>

Conference tickets: £25 & £12*

(includes refreshments and light lunch)

Contact: James Brown

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Tel: 01292 610 790

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Cheques payable to: *Cluny 2010 Scotland*

*£12 for pre-booked full-time students—matriculation card must be shown when registering on the day.

Conference Saturday 15th May, 2010 Paisley Town Hall

Organised by Maybole Historical Society

Charity No. SC034056

Sponsored by Historic Scotland and
The Barcapel Foundation



Scotland's Cluniac Heritage:

a conference to mark the 1,100th anniversary of the founding of the monastic Order of Cluny in Burgundy. Leading historians and archaeologists will present papers on various aspects of monastic life around the abbeys of Paisley and Crossraguel and consider French influences in Scotland from the 12th to 16th centuries.

09:15 Registration opens, refreshments, view displays

10:00 *Chair: Dr Barbara Crawford*, President, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

10:15 **Dr Anthony Freeman** (Lewes Priory Trust)

The Federation of Cluniac Sites, Cluny Abbey and the Order in Britain

10:40 **Dr Matthew Hammond** (Edinburgh University)

The first 100 years of Paisley Abbey's patrons

11:25 Break for refreshment, view displays

11:50 **Adrian Cox** (Historic Scotland)

Archaeological finds at Crossraguel Abbey

12:15 **Prof. Stephen Driscoll** and **Bob Will** (Glasgow University)

Recent archaeological excavations at Paisley Abbey

13:00 Lunch, view displays

14:00 **Prof. Richard Fawcett** (St Andrews University)

Architecture of Paisley and Crossraguel Abbeys

14:45 **Peter Yeoman** (Historic Scotland)

Pilgrimage, especially Paisley to Whithorn

15:30 **Prof. Charles McKean** (Dundee University)

Scotland as a French Colony in the 16th century

16:15 Discussion

16:45 Close of Conference



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