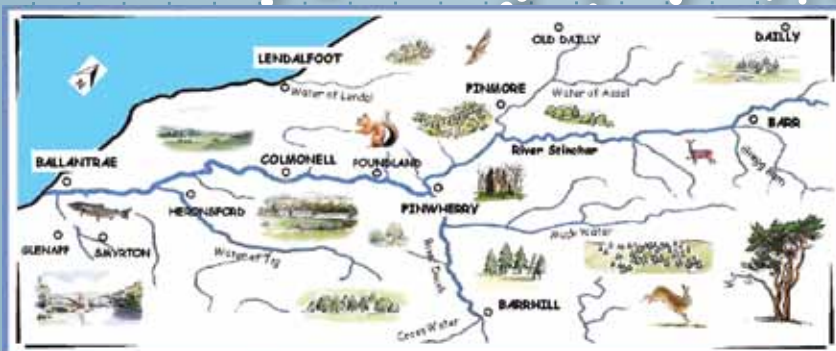


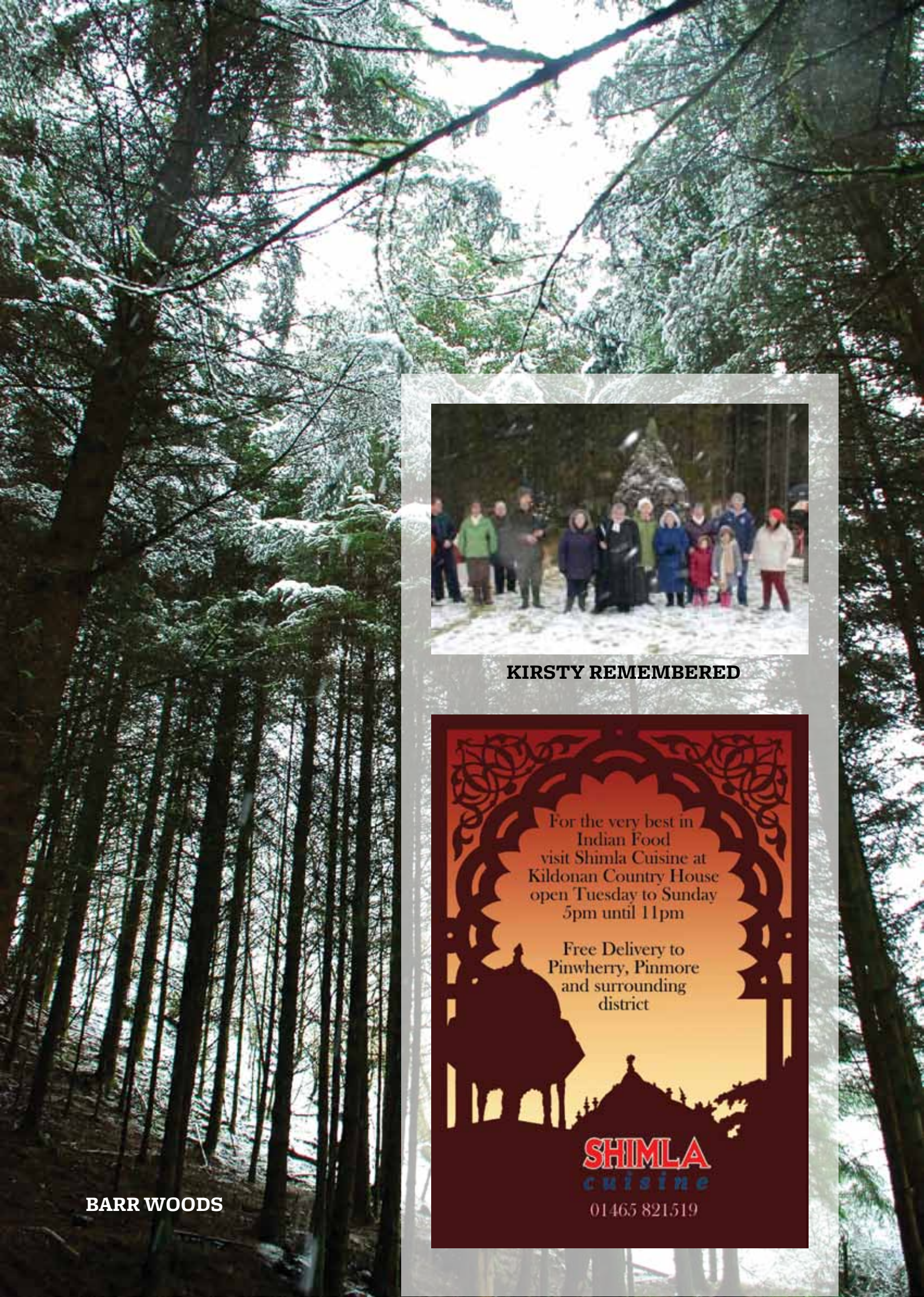
THE STINCHAR VALLEY MAGAZINE



★ Content from the communities of
Ballantrae, Barr, Barrhill, Colmonell,
Lendalfoot, Pinwherry & Pinmore

★ SPRING
★ 2013





KIRSTY REMEMBERED

For the very best in
Indian Food
visit Shimla Cuisine at
Kildonan Country House
open Tuesday to Sunday
5pm until 11pm

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Pinwherry, Pinmore
and surrounding
district

SHIMLA
cuisine
01465 821519

BARR WOODS



HOME FIRE SAFETY VISITS

Strathclyde Fire & Rescue have recently launched their new campaign which involves creating a safer community by raising awareness of fire and other safety related matters, carrying out **HOME FIRE SAFETY VISITS**, particularly to the most vulnerable members of our community. Our personnel can if you wish call at your home at a time suitable to you in order to provide any or all of the following services:

- **Carry out a Fire Safety Check of your home**
- **Provide and install FREE smoke alarms (if required)**
- **Provide FREE fire safety advice and information**

FOR YOUR FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT

FREEPHONE 0800 0731 999 OR CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FIRE STATION

HOW SAFE IS YOUR HOUSE?

Protect your home, your family and yourself. This can be accomplished by taking 2 simple steps.

FIT A SMOKE ALARM

It gives you early warning of a fire, buying you valuable time for everyone to get out.

- If you can, it's best to fit a hardwire or ten year smoke alarm
- Have at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home
- Make sure that the smoke alarm is fitted at the highest point in the room
- Test your smoke alarm once a week by pressing the test button

HAVE A FIRE ACTION PLAN

Plan your escape NOW!!!

Fires can take hold very quickly so it's essential for you to plan what actions everyone should take to escape if a fire starts. Make sure everyone in your house understands the **ACTION PLAN** and knows what to do in the event of a fire.

YOUR ACTION PLAN

1. **PLAN** your escape route
2. **PRACTICE** your escape route
3. **DON'T STOP** for valuables
4. **SHOUT** to alert everyone in your house
5. **KEEP LOW** - the air is cleaner and cooler nearer the floor
6. **DON'T INVESTIGATE** - keep all doors closed
7. **IF THERE IS NO WAY OUT** get everyone into a **SAFE ROOM**
8. **WHEN YOU'RE OUT - STAY OUT - AND DIAL 999**



www.dontgivefireahome.com



Mail to the Editor

Welcome to the Spring issue of the Stinchar Valley Magazine. This publication is your chance to read and make the community news in the Stinchar Valley and surrounding region. If you have any news you would like to send us or comments upon articles you have read in these pages please get in touch. The same goes for any additions to these pages you would like to see in the future and if you have events, clubs or anything that local people would like to attend or hear of. Would you or someone you know like to appear here in the future?

Are you from Ballantrae, Barr, Barrhill, Colmonell, Glen App, Lendalfoot or Pinwherry & Pinmore areas?
For all this and anything else that crosses your mind about our communities contact the editorial team. Your input is vital. Be heard, make a difference. Items may be edited for spelling, grammar, clarity or length.

Please contact your area representatives:

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Editorial Panel

The Stinchar Valley Magazine is published by the voluntary editorial group with the valued support of the contributors, with the aim of supporting the community interest and local businesses. The magazine is funded by Hadyard Hill and Carrick Futures grants schemes. Images are used with all needed permissions from, open source, Flickr.com under open copyright standard licence. Images also courtesy of Clker.com and Public contributions. All material copied from newspapers, websites and other sources are accredited and referenced wherever possible. All contents and views in this publication are those of the contributors.

Community Council News

Community Councils are the most local tier of statutory representation in Scotland. They are non-party political. They bridge the gap between local authorities and communities, and help to make public bodies aware of the opinions and needs of the communities they represent. Their primary purpose is to ascertain and express the views of the community to the local authority and other public bodies. Many Community Councils also involve themselves in a wide range of other activities including fundraising, organising community events, undertaking environmental and educational projects and much more. There are currently around 1200 Community Councils in Scotland, all of which are composed of elected volunteers from the community. For more information go to the Scottish Government website www.scotland.gov.uk or the South Ayrshire Council website www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk.

South Ayrshire Council Contact Centre

Don't wait for others to report issues, it may not be done! E.g. road damage 01292 612 302, dead animals on the road, water leaks - pick up the phone. Call the Customer Services Team on 0300 123 0900 or send a text message to 0797 1120 498.

Pinwherry & Pinmore Community Council

Full minutes of all meetings are available on your website: www.2pins.org.uk

Colmonell Primary School

Micro Tyco

Micro Tyco is a unique business challenge that all children in South Ayrshire took part in school in November. The clock started ticking on the 1st November the teams had one month to turn £1 into as much money as possible using only inner resources; skills and creativity. The Children are in groups of four and five they have chosen a fun catchy name, we have The Medal Winners, The Super Girls, The Fruity Footies and the Barking Bunch. These are our Micro Tyco groups and the challenge is to come up with a plan and activity to make a profit from £1 – may the best team win!

The money created from Micro Tyco will then be invested by 'Wildhearts' in micro loans to help the world poorest people work their own way out of poverty with dignity and self-respect. Micro Tyco gift to your child will be the knowledge that once they release their talents the whole world benefits.

Christmas Play

Wednesday evening the pupils of Colmonell Primary School performed The Magical Christmas Jigsaw. The scene is set in a bustling Christmas market full of the joyful sounds of carol singers and cheeky market sellers, four excited children come across a very special stall holder. She gives them a tatty old Christmas jigsaw in return for the promise that they will find the time to complete it on Christmas Eve. As the children piece the jigsaw together with the help of a special visitor, the Christmas story comes to life with all the traditional nativity characters.

The night was a roaring success with not an empty seat in the house. The evening was completed with a raffle and homemade cakes with tea and coffee as refreshments. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this, such a successful evening.

Colmonell Bowling Club

It'll soon be bowling season again! This year our AGM is on Sunday 24th March at 2pm in the bowling green clubhouse, and we hope to see a good turnout of old/young and possibly some new members. The green opens for play on the last Saturday in April which is the 27th.

In 2011 we were very lucky to receive over £12,000 between Carrick Futures and the Lendal Trust so that we could install artificial bankings. The work was carried out by A McWhirter and Sons, Dailly and they did a magnificent job. They also did some much needed work on the club house part funded by Carrick Futures and supported by donation of materials from Barr Ltd. The playing surface of the green was at that point in poor condition having suffered two winters of severe frost. However thanks to a lot of hard work by the green keepers and member helpers at the end of the 2011 season, by the start of the 2012 season we had a green to be proud of. A £500 grant for each of these projects was provided by Carrick Futures Local Community Fund, which helped immensely towards the material costs.

All in all the future looks very promising for Colmonell Bowling Club, but we would really love to welcome more members, and visitors to share our green. Tuition is available if you haven't played before and we play on Monday, Wednesday and Saturdays (weather permitting) from the last Saturday in April to the last Sunday in September. You don't need to have your own bowls, we have plenty spare that we are willing to lend out, so all you need is a pair of flat soled shoes. **For more information call Evelyn McCubbin on 881293 or Margaret Robertson on 881352.**



Colmonell Community Association

This year's Fun Day will be held on Saturday 8th June starting at 1pm. Attractions include the Crowning of the Fun Day Princess, Skyhigh Falconry, dancers from Pinwherry School of Dancing, Stinchar Valley Pipers, Climbing Wall, Bouncy Castle, Burgers, Teas, Tombola and various Stalls. If you would like to have a Stall at the Fun Day it costs £10 and can be booked by phoning Robert Wilson on 881268. Events during the Fun Week are Clay Pigeon Shoot, Whist Drive, Quiz and a 6 a side Football Tournament.

The Community Association AGM is on Tuesday 19th March at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. All are welcome and there are vacancies on the committee if you are interested in being involved in your local community.



St John's Episcopal Church, Girvan



Serving the Anglican and Episcopalian community (and anyone else interested) in the Girvan area, including Pinwherry, Pinmore, Ballantrae, Barrhill, Colmonell, Lendalfoot and Barr.

We meet in the Methodist Church, Dalrymple Street, Girvan on Sundays and Tuesdays and visitors are warmly welcomed to all these services.

Sunday - 9.30 am: Holy Communion

On the first Sunday of each month, we have a joint service at 10.30 am with the Methodist congregation.

Easter Day

This year we will also have a joint service with the Methodists on Easter Day; it will be an Episcopal service of Holy Communion led by Rev. Sandy Montgomerie from Ardrossan.

Tuesday Fellowship Group

11.00: Informal Worship
11.30: Coffee
11.45: Bible Study
12.30: Lunch

These services will recommence on Tuesday, 19th February with a six-week study for Lent.

Other News

Since the last issue of the magazine, we have been sorry to learn that our Rector, the Rev Dr Ian Meredith, will be leaving us at the beginning of March for a new post in the south of England. However, our congregation is very committed to keeping things going during the upcoming vacancy and we look forward to welcoming new visitors to our services.

**To find out more about St John's,
Contact the Pastoral Assistant,
Mrs Anne Morris, (01292 267859**



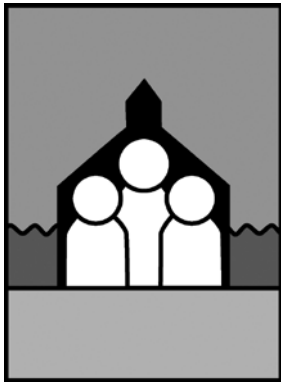
New challenges in a New Year, some exciting and some necessary but all to be tackled with confidence. One of the biggest challenges to be faced is the state of our roads which to say the least, leave a lot to be desired and have a negative effect not only on the cars of local residents but also on Tourism, as tourists using cars and caravans etc. will think twice about coming back to enjoy our Holiday Parks and other attractions if road standards don't improve.

It would be good if the repairs that are carried out would last any length of time and not just for one or two days. The quality of repairs is something that I shall pursue along with the case for more funding for roads. This will need help from central government. A very positive move has in my opinion been the forward thinking coming from Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Council who have put forward a proposal to join forces with both Barrhill and Girvan and District CC's to tackle road issues on the A714 in unison as a single body which will carry more weight and produce more positive results. On the part of SAC it should prove much more efficient and easier to focus when dealing with one single body instead of three and needless to say the joint body will have the full support of myself and other elected members.

We will of course have to deal with wind turbines and their effects both positive and negative (love them or hate them) and this will depend on how they are viewed by individual communities.

We also have the opportunity to invigorate our tourism industry which will be a benefit to all of us whether it is by promoting our B&Bs, Hotels and Holiday Parks and the wonderful natural assets that we are lucky to have in abundance or by unleashing the potential in the proposed new Girvan and South Carrick Leisure Centre and the proposed 2 Pins Centre and other developments in our town and villages. These will be challenges that will need the support, finance and focus that only partnership working can achieve but what a potential for success that we have in our midst.

Councillor Alec Clark (Independent)
South Ayrshire Council,
Ward 8, Girvan and South Carrick.



Ballantrae Church Linked With St Colmon Church

In January one of the channels on the television showed various programmes from the last 30 years. Most of the programmes that were on, seemed to be from my childhood, such as Super Gran, Dangermouse, Rainbow, Button Moon and the Fun House. It was interesting to watch them and remember what life was like when I was first watching them. Maybe one of the reasons for showing them was that I think we all reach a stage in life where we look back with nostalgia at what life used to be. We can also begin to gather items which remind us of the days when life seemed simpler.

Each Easter we remember Jesus' death and resurrection, and the good news that we have been forgiven by God and have life with him forever. Jesus faced a horrific death because he wanted us to experience the best thing that we could – to become children of his dear Father. He wanted us to know God, not as a distant figure who has little to do with us, but rather as someone who loves us dearly and who cares for each one of us.

Jesus' connection with God was always strong, and one of the events that we are told about from his childhood was when he visited the temple aged 12. There he enjoyed speaking to the priests and teachers so much that he remained there instead of returning home with his parents. When they eventually realised that they had left him in Jerusalem, they returned and found him in the temple. When they asked him where he had been, he replied, "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" Jesus knew then, as he had always known, that God was his Father, and he taught his disciples to also see God as their Father, who cared so deeply for them.

And this is the good news that we believe, God is our Father, and he loves the world so much that he gave his only son, Jesus, so that everyone who believes in him, would gain life with him forever. This is good news for you, whatever age you are, and it is something that is always worth celebrating.

May God bless you,

Stephen

Easter Services

Palm Sunday, 24th March

10am St Colmon Church, Colmonell
11:30am Ballantrae Church
3pm Glenapp Church – The Easter Story
retold in readings and hymns.

Monday 25th March

7pm Girvan North Church

Tuesday 26th March

7pm Girvan North Church

Wednesday 27th March

7pm Girvan North Church

Maundy Thursday, 28th March

7:30pm St Colmon Church - Communion Service

Good Friday, 29th March

12 noon Open Air Service at the Stumpy,
Girvan
7pm Girvan Methodist Church,
with Combined Churches Choir

Easter Sunday, 31st March

7am Early Service at Ballantrae Harbour,
followed by Breakfast at the
Manse
10am St Colmon Church, Colmonell
11:30am Ballantrae Church

Church Information

We are friendly churches where we gather to celebrate God's love for us and where everyone is welcome.

St Colmon Parish Church

10am every Sunday in Colmonell, with Sunday Club for all children and young people from 3 years old.
3pm on the third Sunday of the month in Barrhill Memorial Hall

Ballantrae Parish Church

11:30am every Sunday in Ballantrae with our Sunshine Club for all children 0 to 12 years old.

Minister: Rev Stephen Ogston,
The Manse, 1 The Vennel, Ballantrae, KA26 0NH
Telephone: 01465 831252, Email: ogston@macfish.com

For more information see our websites:
www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk or
www.stcolmonparishchurch.org.uk
or our Facebook pages:
'Ballantrae Church' and 'StColmon Church'.

Age Concern Girvan

Welcome ! My name is Tricia Watts and I am chairman of Age Concern Girvan. I lead a team of friendly volunteers to supply affordable meals.

A three course meal is only £3.50 and all our meals made here on the premises. If you are visiting Girvan why not come along and try them for yourself, or indeed, why not become a member?

We are open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 till 1pm for morning coffees and home-made lunches. We'd love to see you.

2, Duff Street, Girvan, KA26 9AP (corner with Dalrymple St)
Tel: 07584 932022 | Only £5 per annum | ALL ages welcomed

Contact number Tricia 01465 712032
Mail @ageconcerngirvan.org.uk
Web site: www.ageconcerngirvan.org.uk

Recommended Tradesmen

Would you recommend good work?

Plumber

Eric Gibson
Tel: 01465 714791
Mob: 07522672767
by Frank Bean
26/11/12

Carpet Fitter

Mark Foster
Tel: 01465 713884
Mob: 07722892263
by Frank Bean
26/11/12

BRICC

Ballantrae Rural Initiative
Care in the Community Ltd

All in the area covered by the surgeries of the Ballantrae Medical Practice and who are pensioner or housebound are welcome at the BRICC Club or Drop In Club social afternoons, to enjoy entertainment and tea, friendship and care. Held in the BRICC House, both Clubs are free to those who partake. Transport is provided if required. They are open 52 weeks of the year.

BRICC CLUB - Tuesdays 2pm to 4pm
DROP IN CLUB - Fridays 2pm to 4pm

BRICC is a non-profit making company limited by guarantee.
Company number SC 181899.

Scottish Charity Registration Number SC 027489A
Registered Office: BRICC House, 12 Main Street, Ballantrae, Girvan, Ayrshire. KA26 0NB.

Please get in touch with us on 01465 831380 if you would like to come and join us.



Open Studios
Ayrshire



New Art Trail Ayrshire

22nd, 23rd & 24th March 2013

Come and enjoy the stunning Ayrshire coastline and countryside from Troon to Ballantrae.

Meet a diverse and talented group of artists, crafters and photographers in their own work spaces and studios.

Be inspired by a wide range of styles and methods.

Purchase original work directly from the artist.

osa12@hotmail.co.uk

Facebook: Open Studios Ayrshire

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Email: info@kingsarmsballantrae.com

www.kingsarmsballantrae.com



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- Bird Care
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■ www.craigmainshomeandgardencentre.com ■ Follow us on facebook and twitter
Main Street, Ballantrae KA26 0NB Tel: 01465 831052

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Ballantrae Crafty Bees

Ballantrae Crafty Bees is a group for all those who enjoy crafting of any kind. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month in BRICC House at 7.30pm. Over the past few weeks we've been learning how to crochet and have been making fabric key-rings while enjoying a chat and some cake. We hope to line up some expert crafters to come along to share their skills with us, so if you have a particular skill and are able to spare an evening, please get in touch. All are very welcome to join us whether you have crafting experience or not – we all learn together. Please contact Barbara Ogston (01465 831252) for more details or just come along!

South Carrick Club Diamonds Schedule for 2013

Girvan – South Parish Church Hall

Monday 11.30 am – 12.30

Barrhill Memorial Hall

Monday 7.00pm – 8.00pm

Dailly Community Centre

Tuesday 10.00am – 11.00am

Girvan - South Parish Church Hall

Tuesday 11.30am – 12.30

Girvan – Boyle Court Sheltered Housing (Chair-based)

Tuesday 12.45pm – 1.15pm

Girvan – Kirk Care Residential Home (Chair-based)

Tuesday 1.30pm – 2.00pm

Girvan – South Parish Church Hall (Chair-based)

Tuesday 2.30pm – 3.30pm

Colmonell Community Centre

Monday 2.30pm – 3.30pm

Come and join one of our classes for:

FUN, FITNESS AND FRIENDSHIP FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

Girvan : Ruth Wallace 01465-710796

Colmonell : Margaret Robertson 01465- 881352

Barrhill: Celia Strain 01465 821333

Poem

Elma Kirkwood of Ballantrae found this poem recently when she was clearing out old recipes. She wrote it 30 years ago... could have been written yesterday!

In Noah's day God gave him a warning,
Of how the earth would flood and
there'd be great storming,
The lightning and thunder would make
the world dark,
And he instructed old Noah to build
him an ark.

Well Noah he built it tho' he was derided,
And sailed oe'r the flood 'til the
water subsided,
And altho' it's been stopped now
for thousands of years,
All the rain we've been having has
filled me with fears.

So I sat making plans for a similar craft,
Thinking - if anyone sees me they
will think I am daft,
When a noise made me turn saying
"What on earth?",
And two elephants stepped forward
and booked the first berth!

Pinwherry Bridge CCTV

Residents in Pinwherry can help reduce costs for South Ayrshire Council and council tax payers by reporting any damage to Pinwherry Bridge. If damage is reported as soon as it happens, South Ayrshire Council can retrieve the CCTV footage and claim from the insurance of the driver who has done the damage.

Contact details for the Council's Bridges Section are as follows:-

Douglas Hemmings: Team Leader, Bridges & Lighting
Email: Douglas.hemmings@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Tel. No: 01292 616377

Scott Greig - Supervisory Engineer, Bridges
Email: Scott.greig@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Tel. No: 01292 616659

Local contact: John McAlley
Email: j.mcalley@btinternet.com
Tel. No: 01465 841198



Press Release Glenapp Castle Appoints New Head Chef for New Year

Glenapp Castle, the five star Relais & Châteaux hotel in Ayrshire, Scotland, has just appointed a new Head Chef, Matt Worswick.



Matt joins Glenapp Castle from a two Michelin-starred, 4 AA Rosette background having previously worked as Sous Chef at Le Champignon Sauvage in Cheltenham with chef-patron David Everitt-Matthias. He has also previously worked with Michelin-starred chefs Kenny Atkinson at St Martin's on the Isles of Scilly and Simon Hulstone at the Elephant in Torquay, as well as at Lords of the Manor in Gloucestershire. Matt said "I'm really excited to join Glenapp Castle and am looking forward to all the amazing Scottish produce. The hotel has its own garden and I can't wait to work with the wild foods and seafood there. My food is very natural, seasonal and focused on flavours". Matt will continue to serve a daily changing three course gourmet lunch menu and a six course gourmet dinner menu.

Glenapp Castle, which is located near Ballantrae on the edge of the Galloway Forest Park, has 17 bedrooms and is run by husband and wife team Graham and Fay Cowan. Fay commented: "Matt's pedigree is perfect for us and we're really looking forward to working with him. We're certain that his talent and creativity can only add to the already fantastic standard of cuisine at Glenapp Castle."

The castle is open to non-resident diners for lunch, afternoon tea or dinner. A prior reservation is required. Glenapp Castle re-opens for the 2013 season on Wednesday 27th March.

Glenapp Castle, Ballantrae, Ayrshire, KA26 0NZ
Tel: +44(0)1465 831 212 Fax: +44(0)1465 831 000
Email: info@glenappcastle.com
www.glenappcastle.com

Barr Village

BARR DIARY DATES

COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM

The A.G.M. of the Barr Community Association will be held on Monday 18th March at 7 p.m. in the Village Hall to which everyone is welcome

GALA DAY

Gala Day this year will be held on Saturday 15th June and the chosen theme is "The Movies". More details will be announced later.

BOWLING CLUB

The Bowling Club's AGM will be held on Friday 5th April at 7pm in the Clubhouse. The green will open for bowlers on Saturday 4th May.

TEA ROOM

The AGM of the Village Tea Room will be held on Monday 11th March at 6.30pm in the Village Hall when everyone is welcome. If you want to help keep the Tea Room running, please come along and offer your services for the coming year's rota or get in touch with Isobel Ringrose on 861651. All being well, the Tea Room will open for business on Easter Sunday,

POPPY APPEAL

This year's Poppy Appeal in the village raised a creditable £142.99 for the Scottish appeal. Once again, well done to Jim Gracie for his efforts.

GENEROUS DONOR HELPS NURSERY GET OUT AND ABOUT

A KIND village resident donated £500 to Barr school at the beginning of the session. The school used the money to buy outdoor clothing and other items for the nursery and P1 pupils who now enjoy going outdoors every Tuesday no matter what the weather is like!

DOOKERS SHIVER AS TEMPERATURES PLUMMET

The Ne'er Day Dookers got a little more than they bargained for as they took the plunge into 2013 with their customary dip in the Pot. By all accounts it was the coldest the water had been in the last few years and not everyone made it to the other side. But well done to them all and for the money they raised for their favorite charity as a result.



Barr Bars

Barr Community Stores are now pleased to announce that they can offer a bar service for all types of functions: weddings, anniversaries, dances, birthday celebrations, Christmas parties and more!

For your bar, call Barr Bars on 01465 861221 and ask for Mike or Judy.

(Ewe'll be pleased you did!)

KING'S ARMS HOTEL BARR

- Live music on the first Saturday of every month.
- Monthly Pub Quiz
- Girvan Folk Festival
3rd/4th/5th May - live music and sessions over the weekend
- Hog Roasts
- Outside Bars
- Weddings, Christenings, Funeral Parties & Buffets
- Can cater for 64 people.

Telephone your requirements to 861230



Once again the carol singers were out in Barr on Christmas Eve. They went from house to house spreading good cheer and receiving some as well in the form of mulled wine and mince pies. And when the last carol had been sung, they had collected £120 for a cancer charity from generous residents



Kirsty, Remembered

Falling snow adds poignant touch

The memorial service in the hills above Barr for Kirsty McTaggart, the young shepherd lost in a blizzard 100 years ago, took on an added poignancy when snow began to fall as a large number of villagers and relatives made their way to the Cairn which marks the spot where he fell.

At the service, Rev Ian K McLachlan, told the gathering that they were celebrating the life of a young man who knew where his duty lay. He had risked everything in awful wintery conditions to tend his sheep and had put his duties to them above everything else. It was on January 11th, 1913 that the 19 year old shepherd left his home at Changue Stables in atrocious weather conditions to look after his sheep. Hours later his twin brother David, along with two friends, found him on the spot now marked by the memorial cairn. He died 15 minutes after being found.

Blizzard conditions in the Howe of Laggan made it impossible for the men to bring his body home until the following day. But he had not been left alone on the hill - his faithful collie Wag stayed by his master's side overnight in a makeshift shelter.

At his funeral, the Rev John Angus charged the men of the village with building the cairn in Kirsty's honour and it was at "Kirsty's Cairn" where the memorial service, organised by Wilma Gracie, took place last month.

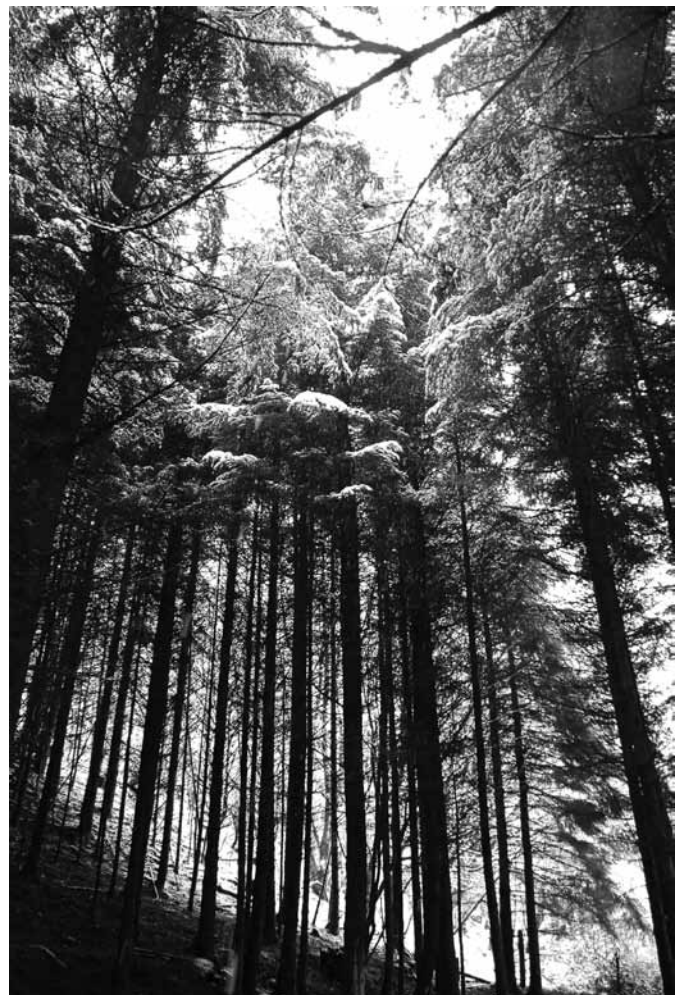
With the snow still falling, piper Hamish Denham played a lament "The Flooers o' the Forest" before one of Kirsty's nieces, Mrs Betty Robertson from Colmonell laid a wreath at the base of the cairn. Betty's father David was Kirsty's twin brother who had searched for and found him on that fateful day 100 years ago.

Later a shorter service was held in the Kirkyard at Barr where another niece, Mrs Betty Muirhead, also placed a wreath.

Afterwards, soup and sandwiches in the village hall were much appreciated by villagers and visitors alike and Wilma thanked everyone who had contributed to the occasion.

Waking to a Winter Wonderland in Barr

Kirk Angus pokes its spire above the tree line as Barr gets its first heavy snow fall of the year while up Changue Road, the snow was just penetrating the canopy of the trees along the banks of the Gregg.



Dinmurchie Plans Under Review

PLANS for the development of Dinmurchie Farm are under review after a local group objected to some of the proposals being put forward. Now the feasibility study and business plan, currently being prepared for the scheme, will take into consideration new ideas proposed by some of the group's members.

The move came after a meeting, held earlier this month, between the Hadyard Hill Community Benefit Fund, Ailsa Horizons and the group from Barr led by Andrea Jones of Alton Albany Farm, to discuss proposals for Dinmurchie which had been outlined and discussed at an open meeting in December. Following that meeting, the Barr group submitted a formal objection to the proposals alleging that they would be detrimental to existing accommodation businesses in the area. In their letter, they criticised what they saw as an emphasis on providing new accommodation at Dinmurchie and said, "If Dinmurchie Farm is to be purchased on our behalf then the main purpose should surely be to create a project to encourage new stimulation and visitors to the area the benefits of which will in turn bring revenue, create jobs, better facilities and an improved lifestyle for the residents of the village".

However, hard on the heels of that letter have come two separate proposals from individual group members as to how the development might progress and the ideas which they contain have been welcomed by Hadyard Hill and will now be fed into the business plan currently under preparation.

Catriona Haston, HHCBF's Village Development Worker said, "We have been heartened by the ideas which have been put forward, not just by members of this group but also by individual submissions from other areas as to the future of Dinmurchie and we will be taking their views on board. There has been a high level of engagement from all areas of the communities involved and this can only be good for the final outcome." A joint valuation of the property is now to take place.

Hadyard Hill had expressed "delight" with the turnout at Barr Village Hall last year after it invited villagers from Barr, Dailly, Pinwherry and Pinmore to look at some early suggestions for the site and to put forward their ideas as to how it might be developed. Around 85 people, including Sandra Osborne MP, Adam Ingram MSP as well as local councillors turned up to the Village Hall in Barr, to pore over some of the early ideas. Since then, there have been meetings at the offices of Ailsa Horizons with the consultants, board members and a considerable number of people from the Barr, Dailly and Pinwherry/Pinmore communities who have expressed an interest in being more closely involved with the project. These, say Hadyard Hill, have been both highly stimulating and very valuable with a variety of opinions expressed and an increasing number of ideas coming forward.

Catriona Haston, said that the board was delighted that so many of the Barr community in particular had become so engaged with this project, located in the heart of their village. The consultants were also "thrilled" with everyone's ideas and commitment to the project. Catriona said; "This project could do so much to strengthen the local economy, improve local technology such as mobile phone coverage, employment and skills training in everything from construction to eco-friendly energy generation, significantly improve the land, assure the future of some fine Grade 2 listed buildings, provide opportunities for local growers and youth activities and, by becoming part of the burgeoning activity tourism market, put Barr very firmly on the map".

Barr's Mini Tycoons Take Care of Business

THEY breed success early in Barr. The evidence? - Primary 1 and Nursery Class pupils at the primary school have won an award for budding businessmen and women.

They may not yet know quite what an entrepreneur is or even how to spell it, but there's no doubting their business acumen after they were presented with a Micro Tyco Award in a competition.

They had entered the Micro Tyco challenge in November which involved teams of budding, ethically-minded entrepreneurs getting together, applying to WildHearts for 'seed capital' (a loan of £1) which was used to kick-start their enterprise.

Ventures as diverse as ethical pet foods to car washes and festive decorations were set up, all aimed at earning as much cash as possible – with profits reinvested back into the little companies, to earn even more money, with every penny going to benefit others.

With their £1, the Early Level Class at Barr bought cookie mix and made cookies that were served at their Coffee Morning. The next activity was collecting and tidying leaves in the school garden. They then made reindeer food and gift tags to sell at a Xmas Fayre held in the Village Hall. Finally, they held a "Pyjama Day" at school, collecting silver coin donations for those wearing their PJ's to school.

At an awards evening held in Ayr, they discovered they had won "The Nippers" award and the nursery and P1 pupils were presented with it by Provost Moonie and Ian Steele of Deloittes.

Head teacher Mr Baird said, "They have done really well in winning this award and the whole school as well as the community in Barr is very proud of their achievement".

Girvan and South Carrick Ward, South Ayrshire Council.
Tel. Office 01292 612382. Home 05600 711074.





The Carrick Invasive Species Project Needs You!

The Ayrshire Rivers Trust project to tackle the problem of invasive non-native species in the Stinchar catchment is moving into 2013 with a great bunch of volunteers but space for many more! 2012 saw the launch of the Carrick Invasive Species Project which aims to work with volunteers from the local community to tackle priority invasive species which are causing problems for our delicate freshwater ecosystem. The main culprits are two of the most invasive plants in the UK: Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam. These plants have taken over large areas of the countryside and cause significant problems along the river. To bring them under control and restore the riverbanks to their natural state volunteers are being sought to come along to volunteer work days and help rid the banks of these menaces. Free training courses and equipment are provided and volunteers can gain themselves a really useful qualification or two: a City and Guilds certified ticket to use knapsack sprayers on the river bank and a LANTRA certificate to use a brushcutter/trimmer. If completing a training course doesn't suit there are plenty other ways you can help, all volunteers will become well equipped to tackle these invasive plants through a variety of methods.

In 2012 throughout the Stinchar catchment up to 30,000 square metres of Japanese knotweed was treated, more still remains and all areas will need revisiting again this year. Himalayan Balsam was also tackled in strategic locations to prevent further spread from the upper catchment but much more work on this is required to regain a good balance of native vegetation on certain sections of the river. 2013 will also see the launch of an American Mink monitoring project to survey for their presence and abundance throughout the catchment and to bring them under control if detected. This non-native predator is really bad news for ground nesting birds, fish and especially water voles. The upper Stinchar catchment has some of the best populations of water voles in Ayrshire so their protection is of great importance. Monitoring rafts will be made available to volunteers who wish to monitor a section of their local waterway and this will allow us to cover as much of the river as possible.

Anyone who is interested in wildlife and their local environment is urged to have a go and volunteer to help tackle these invasive species. Throughout the summer there will be a regular timetable of 'balsam bashing' which anyone can come along to for as little or as long as they can. The training courses mentioned above will also run at different stages during the year so keep an eye out for notices of dates for these courses. Mink rafts and training will be available in spring. Volunteering is a great chance to get to know your local river and a whole host of wildlife can be spotted whilst out and about on the banks.

The next PA6AW spraying course will be held over the 16th/17th and 18th of April, please contact the project officer for more information and to book a place on this free training course.

If you would like to find out more about volunteering and the project contact Meryl Norris (Project Officer) on 07956426218 or meryl@ayrshireriverstrust.org. Project website: www.ayrshireriverstrust.org/cisp.

Alec Oattes

As usual it is a pleasure to contribute to The Stinchar Valley Magazine; it is an excellent means of communication for the various events and initiatives which are taking place in the Communities along the Stinchar Valley.



I was pleased recently to attend the 100th. Commemoration to the memory of Kirsty McTaggart, the young shepherd who tragically died in a snowstorm tending his sheep in the hills above Barr on the 11th. of January 1913. This was a moving ceremony led by the Rev. Ian McLachlan and organised by Wilma Gracie and the local people of Barr Village. Although it was a bad day weather wise, many local people made their way up to the memorial cairn where the local piper Hamish Denholm played a fitting lament before the moving service given by the Rev McLachlan. Fittingly the snow came down during the service which added to the raw beauty of the hills, there was also a service afterwards in Barr Cemetery at Kirsty's last resting place with soup and sandwiches in the village hall. A sad but a lovely and fitting commemoration to the young shepherd.

I am also pleased to note there are plans to take over Dinmurchie Farm on the Outskirts of Barr as an outdoor and arts centre, I understand these plans are at an early stage with local consultation going on at present. If a proper business plan and case follows then this could be a terrific asset for the area which would continue long after wind farm funds are exhausted.

I also look forward to plans progressing for the Two Pins centre in Pinwherry and also for a new Community Hall in Barrhill. With all of these ideas it takes people with courage, commitment and vision to take the bull by the horns and press ahead with these ideas. It is always easy to complain from the side-lines, but in these hard times it is important to maximise the potential long term benefit of the existing funds to leave a longer lasting legacy for the area.

I note that after the attendance of the Council road manager Kevin Braidwood at recent Community Council meetings in Pinwherry/Pinmore and Barrhill there have been significant improvements with road repairs with other longer term work in the pipeline. I would urge local residents to report any road problems on 01292 612302 or any other Council problems on the 24/7 helpline on 0300 123 0900. I know there are even more hard times ahead economically but communities are stronger if they work in harmony.

Alec
Councillor Alec Oattes,



Lost & Found / Wanted & For Sale

Why not use this magazine to let your neighbours know what you need help with or what you would like to buy or sell? You could save yourself some money, time and a longer journey.

Portable PA system

Phonic Road Gear 160 Mobile integrated Mobile Sound System - 160 watts output (80 watts per channel) PLUS Audio - Technica ATW-T51 UniPak Transmitter (with lapel mike) & Audio-Technica ATW-R14 UHF Receiver. All for £250. Ideal for pub, club, school or church. Contact 07920517700.



Balkissock Lodge For Sale

Howard and Cordelia Galley have informed us that their splendid Georgian house is for sale. It has five bedrooms and outbuildings, is set in about an acre of garden and woodland and is located in rolling hills three miles from Ballantrae. Full details and photographs can be seen at: <http://scottishcountryhouse.wordpress.com/scottish-country-house-for-sale/> OR <http://www.rightmove.co.uk/property-for-sale/property-33650686.html?sessionId=6593E8ACB33A404CB74FC0718CD136AD>

Howard is still available for your electrical repairs and television installations and setup and we wish Howard and Cordelia all the very best for the future.



Kildonan House

Kildonan House is situated amidst glorious countryside just half a mile from Barrhill off the A714 to Pinwherry: Kildonan House, Barrhill, South Ayrshire, Scotland, UK, KA26 0PS. Tel: 01465 821458 www.kildonancountryhouse.co.uk Tearoom: 01465-821458 Restaurant and takeaway: 01465-821519



For the very best in
Indian Food
visit Shimla Cuisine at
Kildonan Country House
open Tuesday to Sunday
5pm until 11pm

Free Delivery to
Pinwherry, Pinmore
and surrounding
district

SHIMLA
cuisine

01465 821519

Calling All Photographers

The South of Scotland Photographic Competition, Exhibition and Sale: Kildonan Country House near Barrhill has been confirmed as the venue for the 1st South of Scotland Photographic Competition, Exhibition and Sale.

The competition is open to all photographers both professional and amateur alike and seeks to showcase the very best in Scottish photography. The competition will be held and judged on Saturday 27th April and the exhibition and sale will be open to the public from Sunday 28th April until Saturday 4th May.

Prizes include a £250 First prize sponsored by South Side Images, a half day in a Glasgow studio sponsored by Steel Studios and a Weekend for Two at Kildonan Country House sponsored by K & R Services plus other prizes to be announced closer to the competition date.

Entry forms can be obtained by visiting <http://www.southsideimages.co.uk/competition/entryform.htm> and full details of the event can be obtained by visiting the "South of Scotland Photographic Competition" page on Facebook or by emailing alan@southsideimages.co.uk



Real Ale Festival

**COMING TO KILDONAN
HOUSE, NEAR BARRHILL,
AT EASTER**

**CHECK LOCAL PRESS FOR
FURTHER DETAIL**

FROM THE ARCHIVES

SNIPPETS OF LOCAL HISTORY GATHERED FROM NEWSPAPERS, THE BRITISH LIBRARY ARCHIVES AND MANY LOCAL SOURCES BY KEITH & CHRISTINE BROWN OF BALLANTRAE.

Ballantrae Steam Engine Company

“The engine shed is the building with the chimney on the left of this photograph taken in the early 1900’s. The man with the stick is Mr. William Murray and one of the other two is Mr. William Gibson.”

Some years ago Ballantrae joiner Jimmy King was at the council dump at Big Park to get rid of some rubbish when he noticed on the top of a skip a hard backed notebook which when investigated turned out to be an accounts/minute book of the short lived Ballantrae Steam Engine

Co. This company set up a line of ropes and pulleys about 500 yards long attached to a steam engine and this was used to haul the loaded fishing boats up the shore to the south of the harbour.



“The engine shed is the building with the chimney on the left of this photograph taken in the early 1900’s. The man with the stick is Mr. William Murray and one of the other two is Mr. William Gibson.”

The following is a short resume of the contents:-

- 1877** An engine was bought and for £4 .17/2 was brought by rail to Pinwherry then by horse & cart to Ballantrae at a cost of £3.12/-. Wire rope cost £6.19/- from Newall in Glasgow. Boats were charged 15/- for a season and 37 were hauled in the first year. Compensation of 10/- was paid to an owner whose boat was damaged by a rope and a man’s wage was given as £2.5/- . The engine was cleaned and painted by 2 men who were paid 15/- each
- 1878** January – March was when the engine was most used. Expenses this year include the purchase of a new engine from Goldie & Sons in Glasgow at a cost of £90, transport £5.10s 10d, 1/6d carriage for a valve and 6/6d for rope
- 1879** James Wason takes over the minutes and they become more detailed. The names of all 84 fishermen are now listed. The charge for a season per boat was now £1.10s and expenses include £1 to a policeman and 10/- to the coastguard. 6lb of cotton waste was bought for 2/- and coffee, candles & a signal lamp also bought but no prices are noted.
- 1880** This year 91 boats each paying £1.10s were recorded. The engine shed was painted at a cost of £3.4/- with the tar costing 1/10d. The worker’s wage was 15/- per month with the Bank being repaid £10 off a loan (not mentioned before) Leaving £100 still owing
- 1881** This year sees the first mention of a minute (of sorts) of a meeting held in the Parochial Board Office where for the first time it is shown that the sole partners in the business were Messrs Wason & Phillips who at this meeting invited Messrs Conlay, Dick & Walker (fishermen) to discuss improving the apparatus. At the end of the meeting the three men were asked to join the Company. There was an outcry as the fee per boat was increased to £2 per season but still 66 boats paid up. It appears that a new more powerful engine and boiler was bought for £112 partly offset by the sale of the old engine for £70. This year another £40 was repaid to the Bank. Also paid out 3/3d to mend barrow, lamp oil £3.15s 3d, repair of old engine 7/- and refreshments 2/-.
- 1882** Only 50 boats hauled with some not charged as they were only used occasionally. The total money collected came to £94. 5s and although it is stated that oil, coal and nails were purchased no amounts are mentioned.
- 1883** From this year on for a few years the notes are very short and not too detailed. Only 36 boats registered and of these Thos. McCreadie was refunded £1. 5s- of his £2 fee due to damage by the wire rope. Coal cost £7. 5s plus 12/3d carriage from Pinwherry. The worker’s pay was £2.15s to £3. 11s per month

- 1884** Sheets are missing from this date and all that can be seen is that a sheet iron chimney was bought for 11/6d
A large income was recorded from Leckie & McCaul (£40) and Leckie (£51.7s 6d) but for what purpose is lost.
- 1885** Again sheets must be missing as only expenditure can be seen. Joinery work 6/-, Cleaning of engine £1. 18s
Building of chimney £2.12s 6d, Carriage for castings 2/6d and parts for engine £1. 2s 6d
- 1886** It appears that a committee of fishermen was formed to collect some of the fees as the amount paid in by
a group of four was £56. 6s 9d . Others seemed to pay varying amounts in.
- 1887** It would appear that the Company was branching out as it is recorded that the fishermen could now buy oil
and coal from them. Coal was charged at 11/- per ton but there is no record of the oil price. A wooden shed
was built for £3.0/4d and coal was bought in for £5. 7s 6d for 9 tons plus 9/- for storage of same.
- 1888** A record of boats hauled returns and shows a dramatic drop in numbers averaging only 16 boats per week.
Steel bought for £2. 7s, Coal £10.8s 3d and engine repairs £17.19s 3d.
- 1889** Work carried out on pulleys 11s 3d and wire rope £8.7s 5d
- 1890** This year saw the dissolving of the present company and the forming of a new one. No boats listed and only
work costing 10/10d carried out. Income listed as £39.2s 8d
- 1891** Former partner Andrew Dick agrees severance payout of £5. Apart from cleaning bill of 12/- no other outgoings
mentioned.
- 1892** Only 15 boats continued to use the service regularly. Outgoings include 17/- for carting, 6/- to coastguard
£14.14s.8d and 2/6d for riddling dross
- 1893** Missing
- 1894** Due to bad weather only 10/- was charged per boat and 14 boats were hauled. Outgoings included £1.11s 10d
to Steam Power Co. Manchester and £3.1s 6d to Dickson, Corbett, Newell & Co Gateshead
- 1895** 11 boats hauled. Outgoings reported £11.16s 4d for shed repairs, 12/- for painting shed
- 1896** 6-11 boats regularly hauled. Wire rope £9.2/10, carting dross 2/-, Cleaning engine 10/-
- 1897** 7-9 boats hauled with no outgoings listed
- 1898** 7 boats dropping to 4 with 7/6d paid out for pipe joint and £1.14s 8d for tar
- 1899** 7 boats dropping to 5 with 12/6d paid out for repairs
- 1900** 8 Boats dropping to 5 with £3.17s 3d for engineering work & 2/- for splicing wire
- 1901** On January 14th the Company was wound up and the engine, plant & coal gifted to the fishermen. The residue of money
left in the bank was paid to the remaining 3 partners each getting £10.12s with John Phillips getting an extra 2 pence

There is more information regarding boat owners and when they were operating during this period. Contact kaycee.history@gmail.com if you want any more information.

Acknowledgement to Jimmy King, Ballantrae for saving the notebook .

FEEDBACK ON THESE ARTICLES WOULD BE APPRECIATED EITHER VIA THE MAGAZINE EDITOR
OR BY EMAIL TO KEITH AND CHRISTINE AT [KAYCEE.HISTORY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:kaycee.history@gmail.com)

THERE IS VERY LITTLE IN THE ARCHIVES ABOUT BARR.
ANY HISTORICAL INFORMATION WOULD BE WELCOMED.

Dot to dot



discover and investigate

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Dot to dot



discover and investigate

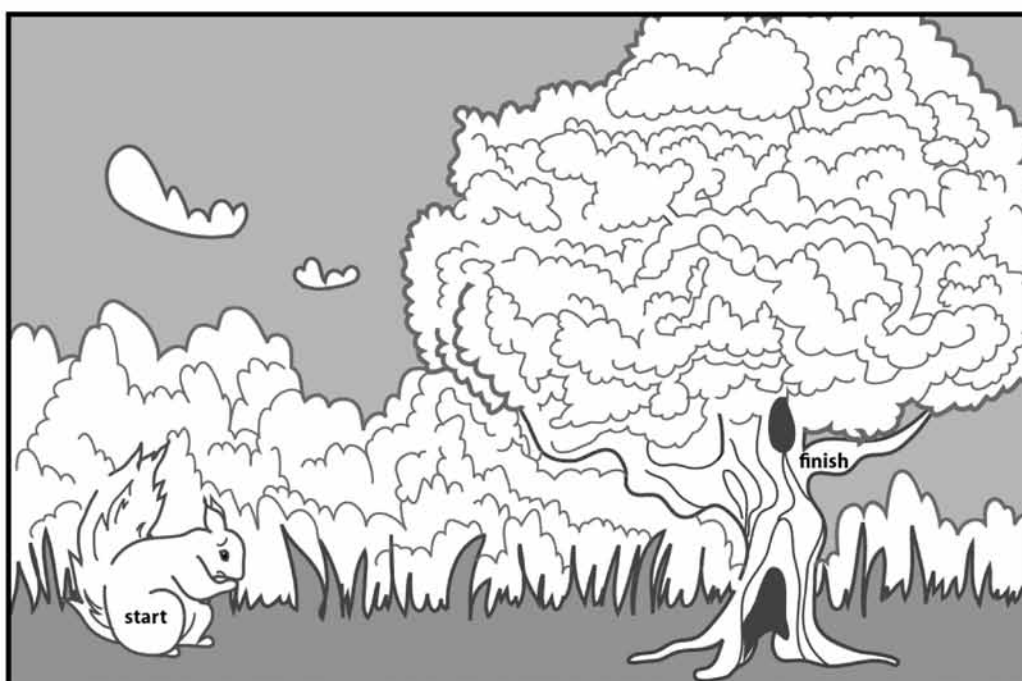
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PUZZLES

Maze

Squirrel is lost - can you help him find his way back to his home in the ancient oak tree?



Start your own adventure at naturedetectives.org.uk

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UNIVERSAL CREDIT



What are the basic provisions of universal credit set out in the WELFARE REFORM ACT 2012?

A number of familiar benefits will be abolished to be replaced by a single payment.

The benefits to be abolished are:

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| (a) income support; | (e) working tax credit; |
| (b) income based Jobseeker's Allowance; | (f) child tax credit; |
| (c) income related employment & support allowance; | (g) council tax benefit, |
| (d) housing benefit; | |

Not to mention....crisis loans for other needs and community care grants are also being abolished, with responsibility for these benefits passed to local authorities or devolved governments.

Who can claim universal credit?

To claim universal credit you will need to: Be 18 years or over; be under state pension credit age be in Great Britain; not be in education; have accepted a claimant commitment.

What elements will make up your benefit under universal credit?

(a) Standard allowance per month £246.81 for single under 25 years ; £311.55 for single over 25 years; joint claimants both aged under 25 years £387.42; joint claimants where either is aged 25 years or over £489.06.

(b) Then there is a child element £272.08 for the first, £226.67 for each subsequent child; additional money for disabled child; a capability for work element; carer element; child care costs element;

(c) housing element paid directly to the tenant.

Payment of universal credit?

Normally universal credit will be paid in arrears, as a lump sum each month to cover daily and housing costs. In exceptional circumstances other arrangements may be made.

There is a Benefits cap. The total amount you can be paid from the benefits you claim including universal credit will be limited to £500 a week if you are a lone parent or part of a couple or £350 per week if you are single.

There will be a number of other changes taking place such as Personal Independence Payment (PIP); reassessment of incapacity benefits which would take too long to explain in a short article.

There are a number of very good websites that I have used:

Turn2us; DWP; Disability Rights UK; Child poverty action group; Save the Children; South Ayrshire Council and many other sites. Both DWP and Turn2us have benefits calculators to help people find out how much they could claim.

Universal credit is to be paid into an account.

Now would be a good time to examine the advantages of a local credit union.

This is an EASY, LOCAL, FAIR & SAFE alternative to a bank... available to all who live and work in Ayrshire.

1st Alliance Credit Union

A financial co-operative, owned and run by the Members, run day to day by dedicated staff and volunteers.

For further information: 01294 557123
1st Alliance website: <http://www.allianceayrshire.co.uk>



The River Stinchar District Salmon Fishery Board

The River

The river is 54 kilometers long, and rises in Shallochhill, in the Carrick Forrest, then runs through the beautiful Stinchar valley and the villages of Barr, Pinwherry, Colmonell and into the sea at Ballantrae. It has two main tributaries, the Duisk and the Assel. The Duisk rises in a more southerly catchment and is sometimes in spate when the Stinchar proper, upstream of Pinwherry, is flowing at normal level.

Fishing Guide

For the fly fisher the River Stinchar is best fished on the rise, i.e. just as the river starts to rise and before it gets too coloured after a spate. It's then advisable to wait till the river starts to clear and fall, though dedicated anglers can fish on a big coloured water.

Most, though not all of the lower beats are restricted to fly only. Bait fishing or spinning is allowed on some of the middle beats and most of the upper beats depending on the river conditions and time of year. Please enquire when booking. In the spring of the year the fly should be fished through the water and stripped by hand in low water conditions. In the autumn it should be fished slower and deeper.

The Stinchar is not a large river and a double-handed rod of say 12/14 feet would be more than adequate in most high/good water conditions, while a single-handed rod of 9/10 feet would suffice when the water is lower. In the spring a floating line or floating line with sink tip is preferred by most anglers with a sunk line being fished mostly in October in a high water. Every angler has his own preference for flies and every angler fishes with what he feels confident/lucky with.

On the Stinchar the colour orange or red are no doubt most productive, with the Stinchar Stroat's Tail and the Red Tube being preferred by the local angling fraternity. Sizes are dependent on the height of the water, with sizes 8 and 10 most popular, though sizes 6 and 12 will produce fish in the right conditions.

Prawn and shrimp fishing has been banned on the river since 1997. Anglers should fish, when possible, with barbless hooks and spinning lures should contain not more than one treble. The river is easy to wade and a good wading stick and chest waders, will suffice. A knotless landing net will be required to land your fish, though numerous pools have shingle banks which would enable them to be beached.

When to Fish

The best months to fish the Stinchar are September and October. However, a wet Spring and/or Summer can produce good sport in the early months, particularly June, when a few good double figure fish are to be found in the river.

Salmon & sea trout season: 25th February to 31st October

Brown trout season: 15th March to 6th October

Fishing Conditions and Fish

The upper beats fish well during spate conditions, though the fish tend to come later in the season and sport is limited due to the lack of sustained water. In 2004 we saw a return to the "Good old days" when after a wet spring and summer, large numbers of fish returned to the river giving good sport throughout the season. Even during the month of October a large number of grilse, fresh run, and sea-liced were to be found in the river.

The average size of the Stinchar salmon is not large, being between 8-12 lbs, though good double figure fish are taken regularly and fish of 20 lbs plus are not unknown. The dedicated angler should be prepared to be on the river at all hours when the conditions are right, early or late, and miss no chances.

The sea trout and herling stocks have been decimated in recent years and have been almost non-existent. However they are slowly returning, and the policy of returning all of these fish to the river can only help.

Web: <http://www.stincharfishing.co.uk> | Email: info@stincharfishing.co.uk

Colmonell Angling Club

Presentation of trophies for end of season 2012 Colmonell Angling Club held its annual dinner and presentation of trophies in the Boars Head Hotel, Colmonell on Saturday 19th January 2012. All those who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Very many thanks to Paul and Helen of the Boars Head for their hospitality. **Trophy winners as follows:**

George Falls (pictured) - Ross Cup

Les Howarth - (pictured) Club Competition Cup

Sandy Wilson - (pictured) David Telfer Cup

Derek McIntyre (pictured) Knockdolian Cup

Rab McIlwraith - James Clark Cup

Stephen Challis - (pictured) Fly Competition Cup

Alexander Wilson - (pictured) - William Donner Cup



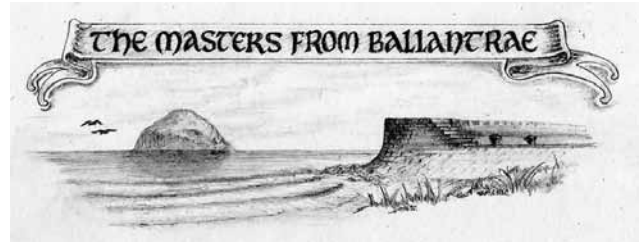
New Websites

CARRICK

The new Carrick website is now live and fully accessible. This is the first time all of Carrick's tourism product information has been collated and presented in one place, easy to view for anyone in the world. We would encourage you to explore the website, use the tab to like it on Facebook and sign up to the free newsletter. These actions will generate traffic on the website, helping it rise up the ranks on Google and other search engines and make it more visible online to possible visitors.
<http://www.carrickayrshire.com>

PINWHERRY/PINMORE

This community website will keep you up to date with all the news about the 2 Pins Centre developments, local information from all community groups, what's on, tourist information, photograph gallery etc. To do this we need your help to give us the information. We are also looking for more photos and history of Pinmore and Pinwherry so please get in touch. <http://www.2pins.org.uk>



PORTER & MACDONALD

Noel Porter and Jamie MacDonald, the "Masters from Ballantrae" who create unique hand-painted furniture in their Ballantrae workshop, now have a website to bring their products to a wider audience. To see examples of their work, go to www.hand-painted-furniture.com or, better still, visit the showroom at 76 Main Street, Ballantrae, KA26 0NB. Telephone Noel on 01465 891126 or Jamie on 01465 841251 for opening times, or e-mail: info@hand-painted-furniture.com



Wood of the Month

Crinan Wood, Lochgilphead, Argyll

Crinan Wood rises 100 metres above the picturesque village of Crinan, and the famous Crinan canal. From this vantage point, visitors can lose themselves in the spectacular views west to the Isle of Jura and north to Mull. Looking across Crinan Loch, they can marvel at the historic 12th Century Duntrune Castle and survey the 1200 boggy acres of National Nature Reserve.



Crinan Wood is an exceptional place; with its moist, warm climate it is often described as a remnant of Scotland's own rainforest and it is home to a vast variety of ferns and lichens. 24 species of birds can be found in the wood, including buzzard, tree creeper, redstart and wood warbler. Such impressive natural diversity is typical of the ancient Atlantic oakwoods of the west coast of Scotland.

There are two pre-historic forts or "duns" within the wood, and extensive remains of more recent dwellings. Surviving field patterns and veteran coppiced trees indicate the mix of agriculture and woodland management which supported the people who lived here. Celtic settlers from Ireland would have passed here more than 1500 years ago as they sailed up the silty river. Tradition tells of a Norwegian prince, defeated in battle nearby, whose line of retreat is where the Crinan canal now sits. There was a time when oakwoods stretched between countries. From Spain and France, to England, Wales and Scotland a scattering of native oakwood still survives. Crinan Wood is one of them.

Pinwherry & Pinmore: Old News

My Village: by Sally Gillespie, 3rd June 1988, (Continued).

This is part of an article and photographs that appeared in the Carrick Gazette, Friday, 3rd June, 1988.

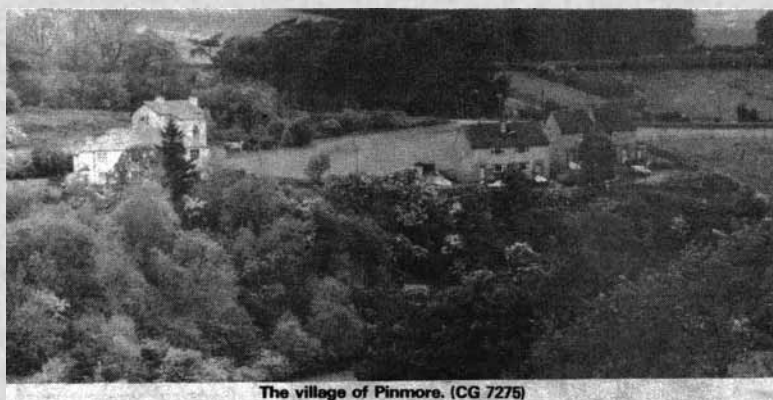
Moving up country, Daljarock and Pinmore Houses were part of estates owned by the Hamiltons. There used to be a castle at Pinmore dating from the 16th and 17th century. It was gutted by fire in 1876. It was restored, but again more recently destroyed by fire. In May 1982 it was demolished completely and a new house stands on or near the site now.

Both Daljarock and Pinmore Houses suffered from fire. Daljarock is being rebuilt, but Pinmore House was burnt out about 15 years ago said Mr Harry Brown, the ex-blacksmith. Hugh Hamilton, at one time a Captain in the King's Dragoon Guards, and Deputy Lieutenant to the County of Ayr was the Laird of Pinmore and Daljarock Estates. His daughter Louisa Hamilton inherited the estates and in 1928 sold them both. Major William Coltman bought Daljarock and was married to a half-sister of Louisa Hamilton. His son, Colonel Thomas Coltman now lives in the cottage next to Pinmore Church, which was built by Hugh Hamilton.

Pinmore church is an Episcopalian Church and an estate church which sits almost opposite Holmhead and next to the A714. Mr Jimmy Wyllie of Holmhead has cut the grass around the church for quite a few years now. He remembers the church being used once a month. He also said: "I have seen it full to the door with chairs down the aisle," but he says, "People don't come to the kirk now."

Moving further up country and nipping over the Stinchar now, we come to Maclachrieston and Mr Sam Tait (81), the oldest man in Pinmore.

Pinmore thrived when the station was



The village of Pinmore. (CG 7275)

alive. "It was a very busy place at one time," it's derelict now" said Mr Tait. "Fourteen milk carts attended the station every morning - and the August lambs! I've seen 18 wagons of lambs loaded in August."

Working at Pinmore Station were the station master, a clerk, a telegraph boy, a porter and two pointsmen. The railway "ganger" (foreman) stayed in the cottage at the school. His name was Thompson. He was called "Big Neeps."

Three railway men worked at the Pinmore Viaduct, and there were three railwaymen's houses under the Viaduct. These houses were demolished around 1940. Without the railway the lime-works owned by Robert Mitchell and sons at Tormitchell would have been in a sore state. There was a narrow gauge line - a wee railway along the side of the road up to Pinmore Station. 'Bogies' full of lime and weighing two to two-and-a-half tons were pulled up this line to the station. The lime was tipped into wagons, the bogies were filled up with coal and taken back down to Tormitchell. Mr Brown told me: "At one time there wasn't much else but lime! There was 24 tons of lime a day coming down that road."

"There was a massive shed down there," said Mr Brown (we were up on the hill at Maclachrieston looking down at what was once Pinmore station). He remembers the wagons driving into that shed in springtime with the manure. Farm foodstuff came into Pinmore Station, and like Pinwherry humans were catered for too. "All pupils attending Girvan School travelled by train to Girvan. They left at eight in the morning and they came back at seven at night," said Mr Brown. Pinmore's black-and-white station house is still there and now forms dwelling houses.

Dwelling houses in Pinmore that have not come through to the 1980s,



Sam Tait of Maclachrieston Farm, Pinmore. (CG 7274)



Ex-postman Bobby Campbell of Pinwherry. (CG 7277)

nor for that matter the 1970s, were the Weir houses built during the war “to ease the housing situation,” said Mr Brown. They were a very spread out set of about six steel houses in blocks of two. They were rough cast with flat roofs. “There was no chance of getting into them if you were not an agricultural worker” said Mr Brown. “They didn’t last long” said Mr Tait. They were demolished about 20 years ago.

The council houses you see now in Pinmore were built in the late 50s. Pinmore used to have a hall. Harry Brown’s uncle built it in 1928 and it was next to the school. “It was a wooden hall and it was a lovely place” said Mr Tait staunchly. “We enjoyed ourselves with many a dance – and we got cups of tea” said Mr Brown. “There was a bowling club and we had a great rural” said Mrs Tait. W. and J. Barr and sons (Scotland) Ltd. Now own and operate the Tormitchell Quarries.

The WRI started when the hall was built. The Rev. McIntosh used to take church services in the hall on Sundays in the 1930s. And there were whist drives there too.

“During the war there were a lot of dances to gather money,” said Mr Brown. “For half a crown you could dance from eight until two and get sandwiches, cakes and tea at 12! For half a crown now you wouldn’t get in the door.”

Like Pinwherry, Pinmore was a village of people who worked on the land and on the railway. Farms used to employ plough-man, byremen and maids. And “I’ve seen the smiddy going on to eight at night fixing ploughs” said Mr Brown. He and his father had a smiddy which was where you turn off the A714 to come to Pinmore and Tormitchell.

Things manual were taken care of in Pinmore and Pinwherry. Apart from the Browns’ smiddy where was Hamilton Burton’s smiddy at Drumgier up until the war and there were two joiners: one was Campbells and the other at Poundland was Ross. But Brown’s smiddy had a special extra feature. Harry Brown’s mother kept the local sweetie shop – well sort of. “She took you into a wee back room. She had all the sweeties in boxes” remembered Mr Campbell (he lived in Pinmore for three years), Mrs Brown sold cigarettes too.

“There was a path up from the school to the smiddy” said Mr Campbell. Assel School is the same school Mr Campbell attended, except that a dinner hall was added to it. “In my day you carried a damp piece in your pocket,” said Mr Campbell grinning. At one time there were 100 pupils at Assel School, now there are about seven and Assel School is to close in June. “I’d never have thought I’d see it close in my lifetime” said Mr Tait. And gone are the days of dances in the school when “we bunged the desks out of the window” remembered Mr Brown.

The people have gone too, “The people have left, that’s what’s done Pinmore” says Mr Brown. “The population is now very small” said Mr Tait. Pinmore and Pinwherry face the same problems. People left because there was no longer any work, and people will not come in because there is no work – and, unlike some other villages new houses are not being built. But “I have no intention of shifting,” said Mr Brown. Then he remembered; “I used to run away every time I got the chance up to this farm!” “I wouldn’t shift either,” said Mrs Tait. “I just like the country.” Her husband says: “I couldn’t have settled any other way.”

Back down the road I was asked: “Where would you get a better place? Where would you get a more beautiful place than the Stinchur Valley?” “I think Mr Campbell is going to stay around Pinwherry for the meantime.



Pinwherry Community Association

Pinwherry Community Association would like to thank everyone who contributed to making the Silent Auction held on Friday 16th November 2012 such a success. Approx. £1000 was raised for funds. Over 90 items were received to auction and the evening was well attended by around 80 people. Following the auction, live music rounded off the evening which was enjoyed by all.

The photograph shows some committee members helping to set out the goods earlier in the day

Woodland Bay Hotel

for details, menus and booking go to www.woodlandfarm.co.uk or e-mail stay@woodlandfarm.co.uk or telephone the booking hotline 01465 710700



Attendance at our meetings has been consistently high since re convening in September. For our December meeting 24 members and friends enjoyed a Christmas dinner at Shimla Cuisine. As well as a wide choice of Indian food there was an option to have a traditional dinner with turkey etc. The highlight of the evening had to be a visit from "Santa" who brought everyone a parcel and Christmas card! The evening was enjoyed by everyone.

Our January speaker was Heather Budge Reid, chief executive at Auchincruive Agricultural College. Heather's subject was "Gardening Leave". She delivered a very informative and interesting talk accompanied with slides, and explained horticultural therapy is a professionally developed client-centred treatment that utilises horticultural therapy to meet specific therapeutic goals. It provides horticultural/gardening therapy for troubled serving and ex serving personnel. If anyone would like to learn more about this initiative or how they could assist please telephone the number at the bottom.

Our February meeting is an all-time favourite Andy McGarva, who will be talking about favourite vegetables. However Andy has a wide knowledge on all aspects of gardening, so if you have a problem/question, Andy is the man to ask!

In March we are looking forward to a presentation by one of our own members, Moira McAlpine. Moira currently lives in Ballantrae but previously owned a house in Lendalfoot, where she designed and created her own garden, no mean feat! Moira will have slides to illustrate her talk. Guests are most welcome to attend any of our meetings whether it be with a question or to hear a particular speaker.

We meet the 3rd Wednesday of the month in Pinwherry hall at 7.30pm. We are always delighted to welcome new members or visitors who care to come along for the evening. We close in April with our AGM and plant swap. If anyone would like further information please contact Margaret Bean 01465841635

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821373 patspence@piperpublications.co.uk

John McAlley (Vice Chair)

841198 j.mcalley@btinternet.com

Jill McAlley (Treasurer)

Roger Pirrie

841 644 rogerpirrie@gmail.com

Moira McAlpine

831122 moira.mcalpine@btopenworld.com

Margaret Bean (Secretary)

841635 margaret.bean1@btinternet.com



**137 Main St, Ayr, KA8 8BX
SC042899 | 01292 286815**

South Ayrshire Seniors Forum is a registered charity and are about to run a series of information Road Shows throughout South Ayrshire, for the over 50s. The first one is planned to take place in the town of Girvan at the North Parish Church Montgomerie Street KA26 9HE on Thursday April 4th 2013. Future road shows are being looked at for Maybole, Prestwick, Troon and Ayr.

Entrance to all our road shows will be free and we hope that the day will also be very enjoyable as we plan to have music; readings; alternative therapies; tombola as well as tea, coffee and food and whatever else we can think of along the way.

There will be a survey running during the week of each road show and on the day, carried out by young people, and for those who agree to participate; their names will be put in the hat for prizes to be won on the day. Further details can be had by contacting the above phone number or by email: - Secretary@sasf.co.uk

E mail: Chair@sasf.co.uk

Letter: SASF 137 Main Street Ayr KA8 8BX

Phone: 0792581335 - Les Anderson (Chair at SASF)

A Ballantrae Craftsman

Mr Andrew Mawer, of 56 Foreland, Ballantrae, made the handsome gate near the Scotmid shop.

Andrew is an experienced and well-established welder and is well known locally for his welding, fabricating on-site, and heavy plant repairs for farming and marine businesses.

The Ballantrae gate is an example of Andrew's fabrication work for domestic customers. Every element of the design is hand-cut and skilfully assembled. If you fancy a unique gate for your property, or any other wrought-iron work, you can contact Andrew on his mobile number - 077605 26158



Pinwherry S.W.R.I. Update

We would love to welcome all the women of the district to join with us in the Pinwherry village hall on the second Monday of each month from September to May. If you have been wondering if you should give it a go, then come and find out. You will get a warm welcome from a friendly group of women, perhaps learn some new practical skills, and hear from speakers with interesting stories to tell.

Here we are more than half way through the syllabus and looking forward to spring's arrival and the end of winter's rain, frost, snow and floods!

To look back a bit, we have had some interesting meetings and it's been good to welcome some new members. We enjoyed a very successful Guest Night with Dr Tom Smith as our speaker - an entertaining and thought provoking talk which sent us home to ponder on our own health and fitness! We were so sorry that Mrs Moira McAlpine, our speaker in January, was unable to come because of illness, but our Secretary managed to transport us to India for a while to see something of the work of the Ramabai Mukti Mission and what is being done for the disadvantaged women and girls of India. Moira will be on next session's programme.

We now look forward to having a practical craft session with Harriet Ellis and tips on growing vegetables from Jane Willis.

If this all whets your appetite, then please come and join us; still plenty of room for more members. We look forward to seeing you.

If anyone is interested in coming along, please call me, Pat Guthrie on 841236 for further details.

Hope to see you, soon

Ballantrae W.R.V.S.

Appeal for members

If you have been a W.R.V.S. member formerly or would like to become a new member, the Ballantrae Branch of W.R.V.S. would be very glad of your help.

The main events in which we are involved are the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party and the annual Earl Haig Poppy Collection.

Please contact

Betty Nelson (831285), Pat Allsop (831391)
or Jean Dunlop (831351) for further information.

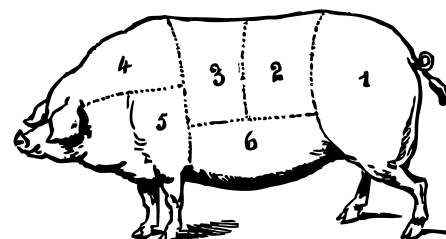
ACE

Adventure Centre for Education
is an Ayrshire based charity formed
in 2005 as a small local project.

We provide outdoor activity days
and training courses to suit individuals
and groups of all levels of ability and aspiration,
so if you have a passion for outdoor adventures we will be privileged to
guide you on your journey. Visit: www.adventurecentreforeducation.com



Ballantrae Farmers' Market



Following the pilot Farmers' Market in October the Ballantrae Development Group (BDG) has been looking closely at the feedback received from customers, stallholders and organisers before deciding whether to run markets in the future. Overall the feedback was extremely positive. The quality of the produce on offer, the venue, accessibility, space for the stalls, parking, the good mix of produce, customer turnout, marketing of the event and the weather all received favourable comments.

The Garden Centre and the Coffee Shop benefitted from increased sales and most producers commented favourably on the volume of sales (some were sold out within an hour and a half). The way the organising partners worked together, the support from the Biosphere and South Ayrshire Council, and the economic boost to the area also received a positive mention. Some very helpful suggestions were made about how we might improve future markets.

Everyone who responded suggested Ballantrae should do this again and the BDG is now working with our partners to see whether we might run 2 markets during 2013. Watch local press and other publicity for details.

Ballantrae Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner & Entertainment

by Jean Dunlop

On Wednesday 12 December 2012 the senior Citizens of Ballantrae and district enjoyed a Christmas Dinner and Entertainment in the Community Centre. The Chairman welcomed the large company. The winner of the lucky seat was Jessie Brown who received a prize donated by Mary Lyle.

WRVS members who organised this event, and helpers, served a delicious turkey dinner and mouth watering sweets followed by tea, coffee, mince pies and shortbread. Music for dancing was provided by Robbie and Colin McNally, Alan Patterson and John Burnett and Alan played some lively music on the accordion. Entertainment was provided by Hugh and Friends Concert Party from Maybole and Santa visited and presented each of them with a gift. A large raffle was drawn and all guests received a gift before going home.

The winners of the pass the parcel game were Sadie McCulloch and Janice Ross and an elimination dance was won by Tom and Jean Davidson. MC for the evening was ably carried out by Tom Lothian and votes of thanks were proposed by Agnes Hamilton. The singing of Auld Lang Syne brought a very happy evening to a close.

The Ballantrae Patchwork Group

The Ballantrae Patchwork Group meets on Wednesday afternoon in the Ballantrae Community Centre from 1.30 – 4.00pm. We would welcome any new members, you do not need to have done Patchwork before – we have some good teachers!! We have a machine and all the basic equipment for you to use.

Our group is now over twenty five years old and we presently have members from Ayr, Maybole, Barr, Girvan, Ballantrae and of course Pinwherry and Pinmore.

Do come along and meet us or just pop in some Wednesday and have a look at what we do.

If you want a contact first do speak to:

Penny Savage, Asselview, Pinmore

Tel. 01465 841686 or Mob. 07748 973940

The Stinchar Valley Magazine

Funded by: -Hadyard Hill Community Benefit Fund Ltd / Carrick Futures Community Benefit Fund.

Adam Ingram MSP



Local Tourism

The Scottish Parliament played host to the Scottish Tourism Alliance, The Caravan Club and Visit Scotland in January. I attended their briefing session in support of Scottish Tourism Week which will be taking place in early March. This is a pertinent subject matter locally particularly through the efforts of Carrick Community Councils' Forum (CCCF).

CCCF were instrumental in the creation of a community-based tourism initiative Carrick Tourism Development Group - launched last summer to attract more visitors and tourists to the Carrick area it is going from strength to strength.

The Association of South Ayrshire Community Councils are also making progress with their vision for the Robert the Bruce Trail and celebrations for Homecoming 2014. A consultant has been appointed to take this forward and will be tapping into the knowledge held by the local communities and their vision for the Trail.

I had the opportunity to raise the matter with the Cabinet Secretary for Culture Fiona Hyslop MSP during question time in the Scottish Parliament last month. The Cabinet Secretary praised the joint working of the local Community Councils in highlighting the extensive connections Robert the Bruce former Earl of Carrick has with the local area and utilising this connection to increase tourism.

The Cabinet Secretary also made reference to the opening of the Partner Programme in mid-January which is aimed at events that do not qualify for direct funding from Homecoming Scotland 2014 but are a good fit with the aims and objectives of the year. They will benefit from joint marketing, branding and event support in general. More information on accessing this support can be found at <http://www.eventscotland.org/scotland-the-perfect-stage/homecoming-scotland-2014/>

The Association of South Ayrshire Community Councils will be holding a series of public workshops on the Robert the Bruce Trail. These will be held at the Robert Burns Museum Alloway on Tuesday the 19th of February 2013 between 2pm and 6pm and at the McKechnie Institute Girvan on Wednesday the 20th of February 2013 between 1pm – 7pm. If you would like to participate please contact Julia@ailsahorizons.co.uk or phone 01465 710628.

The CCCF is engaged in a number of activities relating to Robert the Bruce and the 2014 Homecoming celebrations. I will be attending Culzean Castle this month where playwright and world-renowned actor John Cairney will be performing "Conceived in Carrick" which tells the story of Robert The Bruce and William McGonagall - both conceived in Carrick! I am certain that the success of this event will ensure many more will take place particularly if they successfully promote the local area.

Adam Ingram MSP: Carrick, Cumnock & Doon Valley
Scottish Parliament|Rm M5.17|Edinburgh|EH99 1SP
t: 0131 348 5720 e:adam.ingram.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

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- Endurance
- Tai Chi
- How to get down on to the floor and back up



How do I become involved in the classes?

You can be referred to Invigor8 through a voucher scheme by a health or social care professional e.g. doctor, practice nurse, physiotherapist, home care provider.

Call the contact telephone number on the voucher and you will be invited to come along for an assessment prior to joining a class.

There will be classes throughout South Ayrshire in Ayr, Girvan, Maybole, Prestwick, Troon.

For more information contact:

South Ayrshire Council:

Tel: 01292 294716 or 01292 294704

email: Janey.Anderson@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

How To Send In Your Magazine Articles And Pictures

Email the Editor John McAlley at: Stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk or to your local representative.

- Send in text as a WORD or OPEN OFFICE Document.
- Photographs should be full size images straight from the camera and scanned images should be **high resolution** 300dpi wherever possible and sent as **separate attachments** from your text please.
- Tell us any special instructions about the layout/content of your article. What are the images about that you want included? Include any Website names and web links that are relevant.
- If you have a **logo or badge** - please send a **high resolution** image of this.
- If you do not have access to a computer or Email you can post or drop off material to our Editor John McAlley at: Ligartrie Farm Pinwherry KA26 0SL.
- We will return any material to you.
- People in the communities of the Stinchar Valley and beyond are interested in you, your club, your business and your local area: The Stinchar Valley Magazine needs you!!

* Please note - The Editorial Team will consider all submissions and make the final selection of material for each issue.

* Small grammatical errors in articles will be corrected. Larger issues will be discussed with the author prior to publication if possible.

Colmonell WRI

Our meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month from September to May. If you wish to join us you would be most welcome. For information, contact: - Margaret Robertson, Tel: 881352.

President Nancy Agnew welcomed Colmonell senior citizens to the Community Centre to join the WRI members for their annual Xmas party. A lovely meal was served by Sue-lutions and her helpers followed by tea/coffee, mince pies and Xmas cake baked and decorated by Janet McGrade. A huge raffle was drawn as well as a 'lucky seat prize' and hardly anyone went home empty handed. Entertainment for the evening was by Music Box, a trio from Kilmarnock who played a wide variety of music and song, which concluded a very enjoyable evening.

This year's WRI outing is to Carlisle on Saturday 25th May, if you would like to book a seat contact any of the committee members.

Local & Interesting Web Sites

Age Concern Girvan	www.ageconcerngirvan.org.uk
St Colmon Church	www.stcolmonparishchurch.org.uk
Ballantrae Church	www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk
Ballantrae Medical Practice	www.ballantraemedicalpractice.co.uk
Ballantrae Village	www.ballantrae.org.uk
The Ancient Tree Hunt	www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/project/hunt
Pinwherry/Pinmore	http://www.2pins.org.uk
The Stinchar Valley	www.stincharvalley.co.uk
The Carrick website	http://www.carrickayrshire.com
Kildonan Country House	www.kildonancountryhouse.co.uk
Galloway & Ayrshire Biosphere	http://www.gallowayandsouthernayrshirebiosphere.org.uk/
Red Nose Day	http://www.rednoseday.com/
The Southern Uplands Partnership	http://www.sup.org.uk/
Scottish National Heritage	http://www.snh.org.uk/
The Woodland Trust	http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
Sign the Petition Now	http://www.38degrees.org.uk/save-our-forests
Forestry Commission	http://www.forestry.gov.uk/
Scottish Environmental Protection	http://www.sepa.org.uk/
Girvan Camera Club	http://www.girvancameraclub.org.uk
Girvan Attractions	http://girvanattractions.synthasite.com/
Red Squirrels in South Scotland	http://www.redsquirrels.org.uk
Ayrshire Rivers Trust	www.ayrshireriverstrust.org/cisp
Ayrshire Red Squirrel Group	www.ayrshirered squirrels.org.uk/
ASDA Online shopping	http://groceries.asda.com/asda-estore/index.jsp
The Commonwealth Orchard	http://www.commonwealthorchard.com/
The Flavours of Home	http://www.flavoursofhome.co.uk/
BBC Web Wise	http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/courses
Going Wild	http://www.goingwild.net
The Big Wildlife Garden	http://www.bwg.naturalengland.org.uk/
The Peinn Mor Pottery	http://www.peinnmor.co.uk/
M.J.A Photography	http://www.mjaphotography.co.uk/
Public services all in one place	www.direct.gov.uk
For timetables, fares and bookings	www.citylinkonlinesales.co.uk
Library Catalogue	https://library.south-ayrshire.gov.uk
South Ayrshire Libraries Blog	http://sayrshirelib.wordpress.com/
Scottish Water	http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/
Barr Village	http://www.barrvillage.co.uk/
Stagecoach	http://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables
Community Police Team	http://www.strathclyde.police.uk/your-community/ayrshire/girvan_and_south_carrick/

Useful Contacts

Barrhill Community Bus	Self hire or arranged trips	01465 714665
Stagecoach	Ayr Depot	01292 613500
MyBus Rural	Door to door transport for Carrick. Mon - Sat 7am to 7pm	0845 123 5656
Accident & Emergency	Ayr Hospital	01292 610555
Minor Injuries Unit	Girvan Community Hospital	01465 712571
NHS 24		08454 242424
Samaritans		0345 9 09090
Girvan Community Policing Team		01465 710995
Citizens Advice	Stranraer 10am-4pm Monday to Friday	01776 706355
SEPA Emergencies		0800 807060
Gas Emergencies		0800 111 999
Scottish Power	Power Cut/Emergencies	0845 2727 999
Emergency Services		999

For suspicious articles found on any beach contact (999) and ask for the Coast Guard, because it might have come from Beaufort's Dyke; which is the sea trench between Northern Ireland and Scotland within the North Channel. The dyke is 50 km long, 3.5 km wide and 200-300 metres deep.



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Colmonell Baby Group

This group is for parents and babies from Colmonell and surrounding villages. We meet every Thursday from 1.30pm – 3pm for play and chat. During term time we meet in the nursery at Colmonell Primary School and during school holidays we meet in Colmonell Village Hall. The group has been set up with funding from Colmonell Community Association and Carrick Futures.

Contact Eileen McCutcheon on 881 191.

Girvan Camera Club

Girvan Camera Club draws its members from across South Carrick. They come from Maybole, Crosshill, Maidens, Girvan, Lendalfoot, Ballantrae and Pinwherry. The aim of the club is “to stimulate and further the aims of photography in South Carrick”.

We meet on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm from mid-September to the end of March in the small hall directly behind the South Parish Church, in Henrietta Street in Girvan. Our programme of events during this period includes talks, competitions and practical evenings. Whatever your level of expertise and interest – whether you are a novice or more experienced - we invite you to join us. You’ll be made very welcome. Girvan Camera Club.

Contact Stewart McLaren, Club Secretary at
 mm1ece-gcc@yahoo.co.uk | www.girvancameraclub.org.uk

Scout About with Ballantrae Scouts



Christmas has come and gone including our Christmas party with a visit from Santa and a good break for the Leaders and Helpers. All sections are up and running. The scouts made good use of the snow having a night sledging; also the Cubs and Scouts have had a games night including Badminton, table tennis, table football and darts. We all had a good night; it was hard work getting the table tennis table into the hall and on to the stage but well worth the effort.

On the 23rd or 25th of March we are organising a kite Fest at the harbour where we hope to have all the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts and anyone else who wants to take part flying a kite that they have made themselves. We will hopefully have 30 + Kites flying.

“Have you ever been a Scout or a Guide? If so, Ballantrae Scouts would like to hear from you. Our new Group Executive Committee comprising parents and members of the local community is establishing a support group called “Friends of Ballantrae Scouts”. It will cost you nothing to join but occasionally we may ask you to help us with fundraising or share your skills with us for the Beaver, Cub or Scout programme. For example we already have someone who takes pictures of events, someone who bakes, someone who was a Secretary who takes notes of meetings, and someone who makes kites! Come and join us and help us give today’s youngsters a taste of the fun and adventure you had when you were young! If you are interested please contact:

Andy McAlpine, Group Chairman

01465 831122: email andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com or

John Allsop, Group Scout Leader

01465 831391: email allsop_je@talktalk.net

People wanting to join need not have been in Scouts before. For more info ring John Allsop on: 01465 831391

The Laird Of Changue & His Fight With The Devil

If you walk up the road, high above the Gregg Valley towards what is now called High Changue, at the highest part of the road, before reaching the house, you will see above you on the left a grassy knoll a few hundred yards from the road. At the top of this knoll is a site where in days gone by, the Laird of Changue is reputed to have fought the Prince of Darkness himself and wounded him so severely that he ran from the scene leaving the victorious Changue, panting heavily, but without a scratch. On the spot where Changue stood when accomplishing this feat, his footmarks are still clearly visible. It is rumoured that the grass never grows over them.



My first recollection of the footmarks was in 1936 when I came to live in Changue. I do not know why the footmarks are now referred to as the "Devil's footmarks". In former days and certainly up to the early 1960s, they were always referred to as Changue's footmarks. I was involved in a study by two reporters from the "Scottish Field" magazine in 1947 to investigate the footmarks. I also know that a doctor from Lancashire, who came to Girvan on holiday for several years in the early 1960s, also investigated the story of Changue. In each of these investigations, it was always clear that these were Changue's Footmarks. Somebody within the past 40 years must have decided that the Devil's footmarks was a more striking name. The story of Changue as related by historians makes it clear that the Devil never stood on these footmarks. Quite the contrary.

I have no hesitation in saying that there is no record of when the battle between Old Nick and Changue took place. I was friendly in 1947 with the then Editor of the "Scottish Field" and so it fell to me to look after the two reporters who came to Barr to investigate. They had carried out some library research into the story but I don't believe turned up anything new. As well as taking them up to the footmarks, I also took them to interview three of Barr's oldest inhabitants and I remember these meetings well. Firstly, we visited Mrs "Granny" McTaggart who lived at the top of the village. She had spent most of her early life in Darley. (Her daughter Mrs Swan still lived in Darley at the time). Mrs McTaggart told us that she could remember her father (who was probably born in the 1840s), telling a visitor that he had tried to discover the origin of the footmarks but had failed to find anything. This means that they are well over 150 years old and probably much older. Secondly, we visited Captain Sammy Fry in Primrose Cottage. He told us that the story of the grass never growing on the footmarks was untrue. He told us that Harry Hannah of Dinmurchie, who was our third interviewee, went up every year to cut the grass. This fact was violently denied by Mr Hannah with such vehemence as to make the reporters suspect that it was true!

There were a number of references to Changue and his escapades published during the 19th century but all admitted that no date could be attached to the story. Although the names of successive Lairds of Changue back into the 17th century are on record, farmers in these days and until very recently, were always referred to (and indeed referred to themselves) by the name of their property. It is impossible to know therefore which proprietor was the Changue of our story. In his book, "Historical Tales and Legends of Ayrshire" printed in 1889, a local historian, William Robertson, goes into great detail of Changue's quarrel with the Devil.

It is related that Changue, which was the present High Changue (or another property nearby) was quite a character. Robertson describes him as "a noted smuggler and as bold and desperate as he was notorious". He distilled and sold illicit whisky and earned and spent large sums of money on unlawful activities and riotous living.

Eventually, things caught up with him and he signed a pact with the Devil under which he (Changue) committed his whole life to the Devil in return for riches and all manner of good fortune. Eventually however at the peak of Changue's power and influence, the Devil returned to claim his side of the deal. Changue refused to honour the contract and they arranged to meet at the top of the hill in the field which is called Craigenrairy.

One report states that Changue drew a circle round where he was standing with his sword and placed a Bible within the circle. This resulted in his complete protection while staying within the circle. When any part of the Devil came over the circle it went limp. Changue, who was in any case a very large and powerful man, could swipe at the Devil with his sword but while standing within the circle, the Devil was powerless. Robertson relates a graphic story of how Changue firstly attacking the Devil's cloven hoof, "enlarged the natural slit by several inches". Next the Devil tried to use his tail which had a deadly sting at the end. Changue used his sword again "so deftly he smote it that down to the ground fell the sting, fatal no longer". Thirdly, the Devil now in great pain, attacked with his horns but "Changue's sword moving like lightning, fell on the horns and both these formidable weapons fell to earth".

Following a further attack by the Devil using fire from his mouth and trying to crush Changue with his mighty wings, Changue finally "collecting all his energies and cheered by the prospect of the coming victory, hit him on the mouth with the sharp steel so deadly a blow that he was sent spinning, howling with rage and pain".

The story of Changue's escapades is related in two poems each entitled "The Laird of Changue". When and by whom these were written is not recorded but they were printed in his book "An Anthology of Carrick" by Malcolm Finlayson, who was Headmaster of Girvan High School in 1925. These poems give somewhat differing accounts of Changue's fight but agree that the fight did take place. It is certain that Robertson writing 35 years earlier knew of these poems as he refers to "The Poet Laureate of the hills of southern Carrick". He does not however give the author a name. There is something about the second, shorter poem which does suggest to me the work of Robert Burns. Perhaps Burns experts would laugh at this suggestion. It is clear that in writing his account of the battle as quoted above, Robertson drew heavily on the first and longer of the poems.

It is certain that in writing their works, both Robertson and Finlayson must have had access to earlier publications but sadly, they committed the ultimate sin of historians by failing to provide the reader with any bibliography identifying their sources of information. There is information out there somewhere. More research is called for.

James G Farquhar.



TOP
Colmonell Primary School - Christmas Play

ABOVE LEFT
Colmonell Primary School - Mycro Tyco

LEFT
Barr Carol Singers

ABOVE
Ballantrae Crafty Bees

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Makers of contemporary Scottish studio ceramics



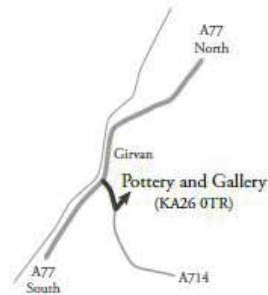
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and Alexander Wilson.



Barr's Mini Tycoons

