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The Cover picture shows the Stinchar Valley with Breaker Hill to the right. Insets show the diverse flora on the hill.

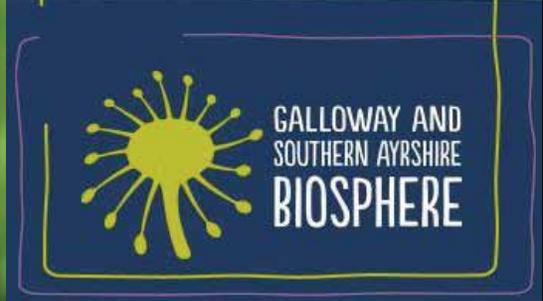


Spring 2015

THE STINCHAR VALLEY MAGAZINE

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

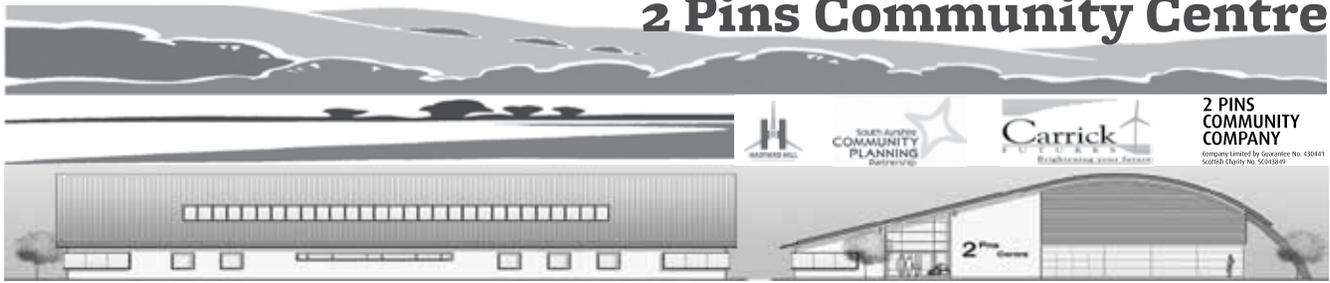
The emotions associated with my place – special qualities, characteristics and identity that makes it different from its surroundings – ‘local distinctiveness’.



BALLANTRAE AND COLMONELL PRIMARY SCHOOLS



2 Pins Community Centre



The Centre will consist of a multi-purpose hall that will accommodate a 5 a-side pitch or 3 badminton courts which can also be used for functions and social and community events. A community café and small shop, 2 meeting rooms which can be opened up into 1 large room and into the large foyer which can be used to display art and local heritage. An arts and craft activity room for both adults and children. Outside is ample car parking and picnic areas. Other amenities being considered are electric car charging point, cash point, and telephone box.

All are invited to come along to monthly meetings the second Thursday in the month at 7.30 in Pinwherry Hall.

2 pins Up-Date

We are currently working on the final parts of our stage 2 Big Lottery Bid to Investing in Communities for 1 million pounds; we received a development grant which has enabled us to engage outside consultants to assist developing our bid. Those who have recently passed by the 2 Pins site will have noticed some drainage work being carried to relieve the flooding of the access road to the station cottages and the 2 pins site entrance. We have also purchased a steel container which we will now be able to store our marquees and equipment in. From the balance of the Lottery Awards for All grant, we have bought a second marquee, so we have 2 12mx6m marquees available for local community use.

Pinwherry Rail Halt

The company has a Grant from South Ayrshire Council Community Development fund to carry out a survey of residents in Pinwherry and Colmonell on who would use the rail Halt in Pinwherry. A letter and questionnaire is to be sent out in the next few weeks to all residents.

FUTURE EVENTS.

Family Mountain Bike Event

We are working with ACE in Girvan and Scottish Cycling on a yearly family mountain bike event on hills above Pinwherry every September.

Car Boot sale.

We plan a car boot sale on the first Sunday every month.

Easter Egg Hunt

For Children and Families on the 2 Pins Site

Craft Fair

Is planned on the 2 Pins Site for 27th June.

Other planned events include Cream Teas on Pinmore Green, Bar-B-Q on the 2 Pins site.

Dates and details are posted on the 2 Pins Web Site and Notice Boards.

Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Association and the 2 Pins Community Company In partnership to raise funds for the new 2 Pins Community Centre

- Car Boot Sale** Sunday 5th April 10am to 3pm on the 2 Pins site Main Street Pinwherry.
 - Children's Easter Egg Treasure Hunt** 1 30pm to 3pm on the 2 Pins site Main Street Pinwherry.
 - Car Boot Sale** Sunday 3rd May 10am to 3pm on the 2 Pins site Main Street Pinwherry
 - Car Boot Sale** Sunday 7th June 10am to 3pm on the 2 Pins site Main Street Pinwherry
 - Cream Teas** Saturday 6th June on Pinmore Green
 - Craft Fair Saturday** 27th June 10am to 3pm on the 2 Pins site Main Street Pinwherry
 - Car Boot Sale** Sunday 5th July 10am to 3pm on the 2 Pins site Main Street Pinwherry
 - Car Boot Sale** Sunday 2nd August 10am to 3pm on the 2 Pins site Main Street Pinwherry
 - Car Boot Sale** Sunday 6th September 10am to 3pm on the 2 Pins site Main Street Pinwherry
 - Family Mountain bike challenge** 13th September 10am to 4pm starting for the 2 Pins Site Main Street Pinwherry
- Other local events are advertised on the Pinwherry and Pinmore community notice boards and on the 2Pins web site WWW.2pins.org.uk**

The 2 Pins Members meet every second Thursday in the month in Pinwherry Hall all are welcome to come along and find out what we are doing and have your say in the future development of the project

Other Local news

Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Development Pinwherry Primary School buildings

The Association are looking into the possibility of converting the now redundant school buildings into a Hostel and Bunk House. A meeting in the near future is planned to discuss the way forward to develop this idea.

BREAKER HILL WIND FARM PROPOSAL

Plans for nine 86 metre high wind turbines situated on Breaker Hill and Craig Hill, near Poundland between Pinwherry and Colmonell have been stopped after the Reporter appointed by the Scottish Government dismissed an appeal by the developer, Wind Prospect Developments Limited.

The Reporter refused the appeal on the grounds that the scheme would have significant adverse visual effects, including cumulative effects of other established wind farms, on key views to and from the Stinchar and Lower Duisk Valley area and Coastal Foothills.

The plans for a wind farm at Breaker Hill started in 2005 and South Ayrshire Council Planning Panel have refused two separate applications for a wind farm at this site. The second decision was reached on 19th June 2014 and Wind Prospect Developments then appealed to the Scottish Government.

Having visited the area and studied all the written submissions the Scottish Government Reporter dismissed the appeal.

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).

E mail.
Douglas.hemmings@south-ayrshire.gov.uk.

Tel. No.
01292 616377

Scott Greig
(Supervisory Engineer – Bridges).

E mail.
Scott.greig@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Tel. No.
01292 616659

Local contact: John McAlley

Email:
j.mcalley@btinternet.com

Tel. No.
01465 841198



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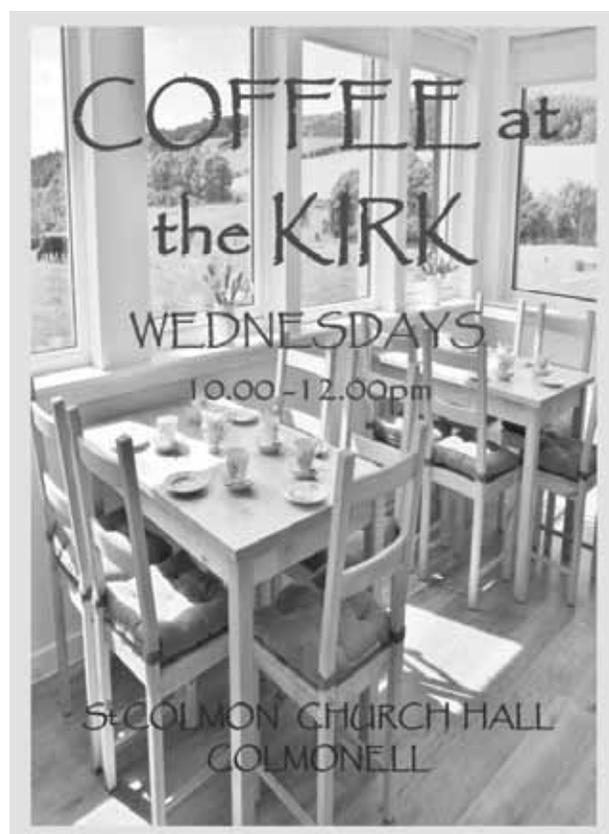
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- www.craigiemainshomeandgardencentre.com
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Ballantrae Visitor Information Point is now in the garden centre

Main Street, Ballantrae
KA26 0NB
Tel: 01465 831052



Pinwherry Autograss Dates 2015



3rd May

24th May

21st June

12th July

9th August

6th September

4th October



Call: 07821241454
07900375150

Keith and Beryl's gallery and studios will be open as part of Ayrshire Open Studios weekend, 24th to 27th April, 2015.

Altar vessels for St James in Chains Church, Ardrossan.



BARRHILL MEMORIAL HALL UPDATE

The end of 2014 saw a very busy time for the Memorial Hall, with a coffee morning held with proceeds to Erskine Hospital and a very successful dance in November. December flew by with the Children's Christmas Party, the Pensioners' Christmas Dinner and the Whist Drive. 2015 is set to become a very important year for the Hall with exciting plans for development and refurbishment to be set in motion in order to allow the Hall to become fit for purpose to serve the residents of Barrhill.

The Hall's historical importance, both as a War Memorial and as an example of Arts and Crafts Design by a prominent architect, highlights the need to preserve what is an iconic building for the village. Additionally, the important social value of the Hall, for today and the future, is to "perform useful purpose" for the community of Barrhill, and this is no different to when it was first built. The demands placed on the Hall have, however, changed over the last ninety years and the layout of the building no longer allows it to fully perform the useful purposes that the community needs. It does not easily accommodate different users at the same time; there is no storage for user groups; the kitchen is too small and, together with toilet facilities, is in need of upgrading to meet modern demands.

The Memorial Hall is placed to become the beating heart of the community, a refurbished building will enable the Hall Management Committee to ensure that the hall becomes a centre to not only bring together the community, but also to increase tourism to Barrhill, which will in turn aid many local businesses and may help to attract new families to the area. An improved hall layout will enable multiple groups to use the hall simultaneously, a feat which is impossible under the current layout. New groups focusing on children, youth, young adults and pensioners will be established within the hall to support education, health and wellbeing. Also a refurbished hall will make the venue more attractive to host events and meetings and could eventually bring an income to the Village to provide more events for the residents of the Village, in addition to the Pensioners' Christmas Dinner and the Children's Halloween and Christmas Parties.

Funding applications and events are now being carefully planned for the coming year and 2016 to ensure that this refurbishment becomes a reality. If anybody would like more information, or indeed to make a donation please contact Rebecca Boswell, the community development officer for the Project on 01465 821098 or rebecca.boswell28@gmail.com. Additionally if anybody would like to start a group or a club in the hall, please contact Rebecca also.



The refurbished school at Barrhill was officially opened on Tuesday 8 October by Councillor Margaret Tonner. The children gave a small concert to the invited guests and parents. Rev Stephen Ogston along with the children had made a short video on the history of the school and interviewed past pupils and teachers who re-lived their time at Barrhill with stories and anecdotes about teachers and pupils they remembered.

Barrhill Memorial Hall Community Association held a Memorial Coffee Morning on Saturday 8 November with all proceeds going to Erskine Hospital. The Hall at Barrhill was built as a memorial to the men from this district that lost their lives in the First World War and we had a small display of photographs and information on some of the people who were lost as well as the history of the Hall. The excellent sum of £327.00 was raised.

Barrhill Bowling Club has now closed for the season and our presentation Dinner was held in the Trout Inn. An excellent meal and night was had by all. Club re-opens on first Saturday in May.

Barrhill Wee Whist Club meets every second Tuesday in the Memorial Hall from September - April with a break over Christmas and New Year. Come along for a game of whist and cup of tea. Barrhill Fellowship Group meets in the Memorial Hall on the third Thursday of the month between September and May.

South Carrick Club Diamonds hold a keep fit class on Monday nights in the Memorial Hall between 7-8 pm.

Old and new members and visitors will be made most welcome to any of the above clubs.

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BALLANTRAE AND COLMONELL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

See pictures on the inside page and rear page.

COLMONELL PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

World of Work Week

Colmonell Primary School children recently held a World of Work week, during which a number of guests and parents were invited in to talk to the children about their jobs. We had visits from the Fire Service, Royal Mail, a journalist, a baker, a sign painter, a vet and the Royal Lifeboat Institution, to name but a few. The purpose of the World at Work week was to highlight to children the range of job opportunities which might be available to them when leaving school – even though this is still some way off as yet! The children learned about what each job entailed, what skills are required and what qualifications are needed. They also linked their visits to current work being done in school and learned how, even now, they are developing skills for learning, life and work in their everyday education.

Christmas Show

Our pupils from the nursery class and primary school held a superb Christmas Performance, which was well attended by parents and community members. Their show, “Jesus’ Christmas party”, was a resounding success and all children performed confidently and successfully. Many thanks are owed to the support of school staff for props and costumes, and the Reverend Stephen Ogston for his technical assistance with sound, lighting and stage management techniques.

Tesco Visit

As part of their Farm to Fork project, pupils from Primary 1 to Primary 7 visited Tesco store, in Ayr, to find out more about where our food comes from. Our children had the opportunity to visit the in-store bakery, where they saw how fresh bread and cakes were made. They also had the chance to handle some fresh dough, decorate some cakes and finally, much to their delight, taste some freshly made donuts. Afterwards, the children visited the food storage fridge and freezer which was extremely cold....a very shivery experience, but one which was enjoyed by all.

Closing Service

On the final day of last term, after a busy month of Christmas activities including a trip to the Pantomime, Beauty and the Beast, Christmas parties, carol singing and a nursery trip to see Santa, both Colmonell and Ballantrae primary schools came together for a Christmas Service, held in St Colmon Church. A wonderful percussion performance by primary 5, 6 and 7s, jointly from Colmonell and Ballantrae, was conducted by Mr Gavin Welsh, our very talented music instructor. The children, for the first time together, played a range of traditional tunes on glockenspiels and bells, making everyone present feel in the Christmas Spirit!

BALLANTRAE PRIMARY SCHOOL REPORT

As is always the way of schools nowadays, we continue to be very busy and last term was no exception. The children of Ballantrae Primary School took part in many exciting activities around Christmas time.

Towards the end of November, as part of their St Andrew’s Day celebrations, Primary 5-7 took part in a Day of Dance, held in Troon and organised by The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. This was the culminating event, after a number of weeks practising a variety of Scottish Dances including The Gay Gordons, A Reel for Jeannie, Britannia Two Step, Red Nose Jig, Virginia Reel, Canadian Barn Dance, Copy Cat and The Flying Scotsman. A huge thank you to our expert coach, Mrs Wilma Brown, who came each week to instruct our Primary 5-7 pupils in the skills of Scottish Country Dancing.

Christmas was a very busy time, both in school and out in the community, locally and wider afield. A choir of pupils from Ballantrae and Colmonell Primary schools, Primary 1 to 7, went Carol Singing to Asda Supermarket, as part of their enterprise activities and fundraising for others. The children sang a variety of Christmas Carols and songs both traditional and modern, delighting many Asda customers that morning. Many thanks to all those who donated towards Hansel. Our school helped others to raise almost £500 for this worthy local organisation. The choir went on to perform again in the community at a Christmas Carol service held within Colmonell Parish Church one evening. This lovely Christmas event was organised by Mrs Lynne McIlwraith who also helped the children to prepare for their performance by coming into school and practising their singing.

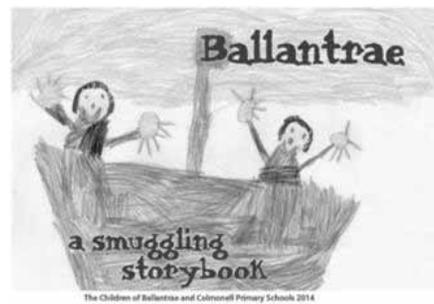
Our annual Christmas performance, this year, took place in the village hall and was exceptionally well attended by families and community members. This year’s performance was called ‘The Ordinary Ox’ and saw Euan Shearer in the lead role as a lowly ox, telling the Christmas Story. The children were very ably coached in performing skills, by our local Minister, the Reverend Stephen Ogston, who also helped out with both sound and lighting, making this a wonderful performance. A range of fabulous costumes and stage setting was created by Ms Bonnie Clark and Mrs Marti Drummond, both of whom must have had a career in costume design in a previous life. Many thanks to everyone for their fantastic support in helping us raise £496 for school funds.

Running up to Christmas, Ballantrae Primary School held an after school animation club which was attended by children from Primary 4 to 7 and supported by parents Ms Claire Erskine, Mrs Stacey Stewart and Ms Lynn Dorrington. Rev Stephen Ogston once again provided his invaluable technical support and helped the children create a Christmas Story animation. This can be seen on You Tube using the following link:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5-oiuPRicpY>

We are now building up quite a few animations, including some anti-bullying and some nursery rhymes. Look out Wallace and Gromit!

Children's Smuggling Storybook

As one of their contributions to last year's Festival, the children of Ballantrae and Colmonell Primary Schools wrote their own smuggling stories, provided the illustrations and printed, collated and bound the book. A masterpiece! Copies, price £2.50 are available for sale in Craigmains Home and Garden Centre with proceeds going to school funds.



Welcome, My name is Tricia Watts and with our wonderful cook and great team of volunteers we run a luncheon club. We serve coffee, tea and cakes. At 12.00 we serve a three course meal for only £4.50. Join our club for parties, coach trips and support if you need any. All ages are so welcome.

Please pop in to 2 Duff St at the corner of Dalrymple St. We would love to meet you.
If you would like to contact me: 01465 712 032 OR www.ageconcerngirvan.org.uk

CARRICK FUTURES OPEN FOR BUSINESS



Carrick Futures, which receives funds from Scottish Power Renewables' Mark Hill and Arecleoch wind farms, is open again for grant-making and keen to support a diverse range of community activity, particularly in the south Carrick area.

With a focus on the communities of Ballantrae, Colmonell & Lendalfoot, Barr, Barrhill, Pinmore & Pinwherry and Girvan & District, funds will support projects that make these communities even better places to live, work and visit. Some funds are also available for projects benefiting the wider Carrick area.

The Fund has been closed for new applications since the autumn so Directors could review its grant-making approach.

The Fund has three different grant levels. Small grants of up to £500 will continue to be administered by each of the primary community councils. Standard grants of £500 - £35,000 and large grants of over £35,000 will be administered through the secretariat, Foundation Scotland. Larger grants will now be subject to a two stage process. Directors will meet four times in 2015 to make decisions on awards.

Roger Pirrie, Carrick Futures Chair said: "It has been important for Directors to take stock of how we have been working up until now. This has involved talking with members of Carrick Futures and consulting with other stakeholders to review our application, assessment and reporting procedures. It is now time to open for business again and ensure that eligible groups are aware of the funding that Carrick Futures can provide. We are looking for strong projects that support regeneration and sustainability, especially when they also involve helping communities own or develop assets. We also recognise that much of the activity Carrick Futures is committed to supporting is done by volunteer-led groups and organisations and we are keen to support these groups to become stronger and even more effective."

Please find enclosed as an insert the Fund Factsheet with more information about who can apply and other criteria. Application forms, guidance and further information about the fund is available on the new Carrick Futures website at www.carrickfutures.org.uk.

STINCHAR VALLEY MAGAZINE - A CASE STUDY BY CARRICK FUTURES 2015

Stinchar Valley Magazine is a free, popular quarterly community magazine serving Ballantrae, Barr, Barrhill, Colmonell, Lendalfoot, Pinwherry and Pinmore in South Ayrshire.

It was born out of the Pinmore and Pinwherry Community Newsletter which kept residents informed about various events and news around the village, such as social occasions, travel notices and useful information about local business and services.

Nearby villages were inspired by the success of the newsletter and decided to work together to share one publication across all communities in the Stinchar Valley area.

It is a much valued community resource for residents of all ages and backgrounds, particularly for older people who don't get out and about as much as they might like to. It is also well received by local families, individuals and young people who want to know about upcoming events, job opportunities, local clubs and activities. Local businesses have the opportunity to showcase their products and services, and schools also use the magazine to share their success stories. The magazine also has the support of locally elected councillors who use it as a means to share regular updates and information with their constituents. Contributions are welcomed from all communities. Some form simple notices, announcements and news items. Others take shape in more feature-style articles – some editions have included fantastic

short stories and poems. This is perhaps one of the best features of the magazine, in that it doesn't follow a conventional style or format but rather is relaxed and adapts to suit the wants and needs of its readers.

The magazine and its production is entirely dependent on a committee of nine local residents and a core team of volunteers who solicit articles and compile content. Although once done in-house, printing is now outsourced due to increased circulation with around 1000 copies of each edition being produced.

Volunteers from each village also undertake to hand deliver copies of the magazine around their communities, which serves to show their commitment to the publication and its readers. Some additional copies are posted and a digital edition emailed to locals where it's simply not possible for them to be hand delivered. A copy is also put on local villages' websites, such as 2 Pins and Stinchar Valley.

Volunteers are keen to ensure the magazine is accessible and reaches as wide an audience as possible. Some copies are stocked in local shops, doctors' surgeries, care homes for the elderly, libraries and in Ballantrae Information Centre.

The magazine is an important part of community life in the Stinchar Valley. It fosters a great sense of team work amongst its contributors and volunteers who dedicate so much time and energy to ensure it is a success. It is also a much needed practical resource which keeps all members of the com-

munity up to date and involved in what's happening in their local area, regardless of their location or ability. In addition, it serves a very practical purpose, sharing useful information about what services and activities are available such as mother and toddler groups and various sports clubs and activities. It fosters a real sense of community spirit – sharing images and recording great memories of gala days and community events all year round.

In 2012 and 2013 Stinchar Valley Magazine received a grant from Carrick Futures (£6707 and £8391, respectively) towards the costs of printing and distributing the magazine.

John McAlley, Editor of Stinchar Valley magazine, said, "We at the Stinchar Valley Magazine are here to support our community, we have enjoyed the production and the development of the magazine and up to now have resisted suggestions to charge for our advertising space or for the magazine itself.

We are very aware that our continued existence depends not only on the continued support from the community we serve but very much from Carrick Futures and Hadyard Hill Community Benefit Funds, which have allowed us to grow and to include more colour and space into the magazine, without these funds, we would not be here!"



KNOCKDOLIAN GUN CLUB

The Knockdolian Gun Club held their annual dinner and prize giving at the Boar's Head in Colmonell on November 14th. Members in the photograph are (Left to Right) Boyd McIntosh, Gordon Hyslop, Chris Meredith and Jack Telfer.

First Prizes were awarded to Paul Gibbons (Skeet), Andrew Lambie (Colmonell Gala Shoot), Chris Meredith (Down-the-line) and Boyd McIntosh (Sporting Clays and Club Championship).

Next Year's club events commence in May 2015. Membership enquiries should be directed by email to chrismeredith@yahoo.com.



COLMONELL BOWLING CLUB

It won't be long before you see us back down on the green again. Our AGM will be held on Sunday 29th March at 2pm in the club house. The green will open on Saturday 25th April and new members are more than welcome. Don't worry if you haven't played before, tuition is available and we will soon have you playing as badly as the rest of us.

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.

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PINWHERRY AND PINMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Pinwherry & Pinmore Community Council sits on the third Thursday of the month of alternate months in the Community Hall. 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome.

MARCH 19th. No April meeting. MAY 21st + AGM
Minutes of Community Council meetings can be seen on the website www.2pins.org.uk

BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Ballantrae Community Council meets on the last Tuesday of the month in the Public Hall. Members of the public are welcome.

BARRHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Barrhill Community Council meets every fourth Wednesday in the month apart from July and December when there are no meetings.

COLMONELL & LENDALFOOT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Please come along to our meeting if there is anything you think we could help with.

South Ayrshire Council Contact Centre

Don't wait for others to report issues, it may not be done! E.g. road damage 01292 612302, dead animals on the road, water leaks – pick up the phone. Telephone the Customer Services Team on 0300 123 0900. Send a Text message to 0797 1120 498.

OUR ROADS

If you are driving and spot a road hazard, for example:

- Potholes
- Flooding
- Overgrown hedges
- Overhanging dead trees.
- Anything else on the roads that has the potential to cause harm, loss or injury

TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

Tell Ayrshire Roads Alliance immediately. You can do this as follows:

- Insert “www.ayrshireroadsalliance.org” into your web
- Select Roads for “road faults”, or any of the other categories
- Fill in the form and send
Do not assume that somebody has already reported the hazard

Please remember, Ayrshire Roads Alliance cannot remedy faults they do not know about.

COLMONELL WRI

Colmonell WRI hosted its annual Christmas party on the 10th December for members and senior residents of the village. A lovely meal was served by Sue Davidson and her helpers and after dinner entertainment was provided by Music Box from Kilmarnock. A good time was had by all and a huge raffle ensured that no one went home empty handed. On a very stormy evening, Vice-President Beryl Howarth welcomed members and friends to the first meeting of 2015 on January the 14th. Secretary, Margaret Robertson read the minutes, which were followed by a business discussion. Invitations from Kirkmichael Straiton and Alloway WRI were read out and a thank you letter from Dora Wilson who is recovering from recent surgery.

Beryl introduced the evening's speaker, Kirsty Hyslop from Colmonell, who is studying Bio-medical Science at Glasgow University. Kirsty showed many interesting slides of different samples of healthy and infected blood, and talked on various aspects of her course which include Haematology, Pathology, Microbiology and Bacteriology. Margaret Robertson gave the vote of thanks and wished Kirsty every success in her chosen career.

Kirsty judged the competitions:
Hand sewn buttonhole, 1st Margaret Robertson.
Trinket Box, 1st Irene Wilson, 2nd Margaret Robertson, 3rd Anne Robertson.

After a vote, Dumfries House, Cumnock is the venue for the summer outing on Saturday 30th May.

COLMONELL GRACEFUL YEARS CLUB

If you'd like to come along to the Graceful Years Club, they meet every Wednesday afternoon in the Community Centre, to play cards, dominoes, blether and have a wee cup of tea. For more information phone Margaret Robertson on 01465 881352

COLMONELL BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Colmonell baby and toddler group meets every Friday in the Church hall, from 1.30pm to 3pm and is open to any child up to age 5 years in the Stinchar Valley area. We enjoyed a great Christmas party on 5th December and thanks go to Santa for taking time out of his busy schedule to pay a visit. The health visitor continues to attend on the first Friday of the month for the baby clinic. For more information contact, Eileen McCutcheon on 01465 881191.

COLMONELL COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS PARTY

Santa Claus was able to take time out from his busy schedule to pay a quick visit to Colmonell Community Christmas party on the 17th December. Around 30 children enjoyed party games, made a huge amount of noise, ate a surprising amount of food and then received a parcel from Santa. A good time was had by all I believe, and a massive sigh of relief was heard as far away as Pinwherry when they all headed home.



SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

For a number of years now a group of enthusiastic amateurs has been meeting in Ballantrae Hall. We have no formal teacher, one of our members reads through each dance, and we would walk it through until we are confident before setting it to music. There is no requirement to have previous experience, just some enthusiasm for this particular form of dancing. We are very much a social group. We have tea/coffee and chat plus meals out together on various occasions. We meet every Thursday from 7.30 pm until 9.00pm. We would be delighted for any enthusiastic males or females to join our group. We contribute £1.00 per evening to cover costs. For further information contact Meg on 01465831284

BALLANTRAE FLOWER SHOW 2015

Ballantrae Flower Show will this year take place on SATURDAY 15th AUGUST
From 2pm to 4pm In Ballantrae Village Hall. The schedule will be available in May

THE BALLANTRAE DEVELOPMENT GROUP (BDG)

The BDG is a sub group of the Ballantrae Community Council. Our role is to support local businesses, encourage tourism and run unique events for locals, surrounding communities and visitors

Review of the Ballantrae Development Plan

We continue to work on reviewing the village development plan for 2015-2018 with its 5 priorities:

- **The village environment** (including how the village looks)
(The Public Garden, planting and planters, the beach, litter and dog fouling, in partnership with SAC)
- **A safe community**
(Speed, pot holes, a pedestrian crossing and Neighbourhood Watch)
- **Facilities, activities and events**
(Festivals, signage, walks, and things for youngsters to do)
- **Support for local groups**
(Help with grants and a diary of events)
- **Village infrastructure**
(Housing, the retention of key local businesses and services, and transport)

With 3 main principles underpinning what we do:

- Support for local businesses
- Encouraging tourism
- Effective communication

We would be delighted to hear from residents who would like to get involved in progressing any or all of these 5 priorities. Please contact the Secretary of the group Andy McAlpine on 831122 or email andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com.

Ballantrae Visitor Information Point (VIP)

This joint initiative between the Development Group and Craigmains Home and Garden Centre provides information for locals and visitors on events and activities within roughly 30 miles or a day out from Ballantrae. We manage the VIP in partnership with Craigmains staff and we have just contacted over 80 organisations and event organisers to provide leaflets publicising their activities and events as we prepare for the new season.

The Ballantrae Website

We maintain the village website that contains details of local businesses and events. If you are a local group and would like details of your forthcoming events to appear on the website please email the details to info@ballantrae.org.uk. Similarly if you run a business in Ballantrae and are already featured on the website can we ask you to check your details and confirm they are still correct and let us know. If you don't already appear on the website, send you details to the email address mentioned above. We would like to see all Ballantrae businesses included. Entries are FREE!

Sources of External Funding

We continue to seek out sources of external funding to help us deliver our village priorities as set out in the Development Plan and to support local groups. We have just recently been successful in securing a small grant from Keep Scotland Beautiful from the "plastic bag tax" to support our environmental efforts.

Ballantrae Festival of Food & Drink: Sunday 10 May

Talking of external funding, we have just secured financial support from the Community Food Fund "Think Local" to run an exciting and innovative "Ballantrae Festival of Food & Drink" in the village on Sunday 10 May. See the article elsewhere in this magazine and watch local press for details.

Farmers' Markets

These continue to be successful and we are planning 2 markets in 2015 – the first – "The Smugglers' Market" will be part of this year's Smugglers' Festival and will be on Sunday 16 August. The second market will be on 4 October. Watch local press and the next edition of this magazine for details.

Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival 2015: Sunday 16 to Saturday 22 August

We are currently putting together an exciting programme with some old favourites and some new activities and events. Visit www.ballantrae.org.uk/smugglers for pictures of the last 2 years and information on this year's Festival as the programme begins to take shape. Although smuggled goods were landed in Ballantrae they were transported onwards to surrounding communities. If you live in a community other than Ballantrae, think about ways in which you and your community can be involved in this year's festival. We are also looking for folk with expertise with a sewing machine or a needle and thread to help us make costumes for this year. See the "Smugglers" article elsewhere in this magazine for more information.

South Ayrshire Community Conference

Once again we will represent the village at the conference being held this year in Ayr on Friday 20 March.

BALLANTRAE GALA 2015

Ballantrae Gala has made a couple of tweaks this year. We have some new and exciting events planned.

We have moved the Community Association Fishing Competition forward to Saturday May 23rd 6pm to 9pm, which is a bank holiday weekend. The reason for this is for the sake of the wonderful firework display we have planned. Last year was one week after midsummer and it was nearly 11pm before we could set them off and some younger children missed them. Gordon McKee has kindly agreed to do this again. Robert McIlwraith is once again organising the fishing competition. There will be a BBQ and fun activities planned on the green during the Competition, including a rescue display in the harbour with Aiyala Campbell using Newfoundland dogs. Due to popular demand the BBQ will continue for the fireworks this year - we sold out last year!

The Gala week will kick off with the Floats and fancy dress on **Saturday 27th June at 2pm** in the recreational field. The Gala Queen will also be crowned during the afternoon. Sunday 28th June will be the Church Service at 7pm.

On Monday 29th June 7pm we are having Family Fortunes in the Hall. We will be looking for 8 teams of 5. This is new and in place of the car treasure hunt which we have decided to rest for a few years as we have exhausted the area. Family Fortunes promises to be a great night and teas and home baking will be served. Thanks to Marti and Emma Drummond who came up with this idea.

The football competition, sponsored by McCulloch Rail, will commence on Tuesday 30th June through to the final on Friday 3rd July.

Saturday 4th July is Gala Day. We are very excited this year, as well as the huge slide, bouncy castles, waterballs, stalls, teas, beer tent, tug-o-war, raffle, face painting etc., we have food coming from C H Catering Portpatrick. They have an extensive range of food, burgers and the usual to homemade gourmet food. Why not order your evening meal too? From fish and chips to specials such as lasagne etc. and a children's menu. We can personally recommend them. More excitement is promised in the form of a professional troupe of Belly Dancers called Twisted Tails who are coming from Edinburgh to put on a display. Promises to be a lively and colourful event. Then there is a Gala Girl secret surprise..... you will have to be there! Not to be missed.

In the evening of 4th July the Gala Dance will be in the hall this year. We will therefore have to sell tickets as numbers in the hall are limited to 120. Destination Anywhere are playing again. They were absolutely brilliant last year and we look forward to welcoming them back this year. Children welcome. Under 18's must be accompanied by an adult. The week ends on Sunday 5th July, with the Louise Knox Memorial Bowler/non Bowler competition 1pm at the Bowling Green, sponsored by G McIlwraith Fishmonger. Another popular and family event. Keep an eye out in local press and Ballantrae Village Gala Facebook page for any new surprises. 2014 was our biggest and most successful Gala so let's make 2015 even bigger. We look forward to welcoming you all over the week.

CRAFT FAIR IN BALLANTRAE

Ballantrae Community Association will be holding a craft fair on Saturday the 28th of March 2015 from 11am-4pm in the Community Centre.

The cost of a table will be £10 and anyone wishing to book a table can call Fiona on 01465 831475.

We will also be serving teas with home baking and having a raffle.

THE BALLANTRAE COFFEE MORNING

BRICC are holding a COFFEE MORNING Saturday 4th APRIL 10.00am to 11.30am in BRICC House, Main St., Ballantrae
Baking, produce, raffle, plants & teas
Adults £2 ; Children £1 All welcome



A Celebration of Great Taste

Sunday 10 May 12 noon to 6pm

The first Ballantrae Festival of Food & Drink will showcase exceptional Scottish local produce and celebrate healthy eating and drinking. From foraging to demonstrations and tastings to pop up restaurants – this will be about quality and provenance.

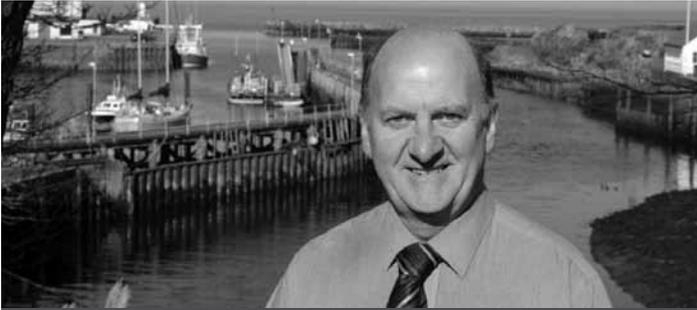
The festival will include:

- Exceptional Scottish Produce
- Celebration of Healthy Eating & Drinking
- Guided Foraging Walks
- Wild Foods Exhibition
- Cookery Demonstrations
- Local Food Producers
- Tastings & Stalls
- Fresh Fruit & Veg Juice Making
- Pop up Restaurants
- Wine Tasting
- Whisky Tasting
- Live Music
- Children / family friendly activities
- All in a stunning setting on the shore overlooking Ailsa Craig and Arran.



Working in partnership with the Biosphere and with support from the Community Food Fund (www.communityfoodfund.co.uk) which is financed by the Scottish Government to promote local food and drink, in line with Scotland's National Food and Drink Policy, the Festival will be a family friendly event for everyone who is passionate about great food, drink and music and enjoying the special ambience of a great day out by the sea with friends and family.

Keep up to date with our programme and information on the producers and suppliers who will be attending by going to www.ballantrae.org.uk/festivaloffood&drink
Come and see us in Ballantrae on Sunday 10 May!



An Independent View

The year is now well under way and January Blues have been banished for another year. Having said that, some things always cause the Blues and none more so than Potholes!! I always assumed in my Community Council days that a local councillor's caseload would be dealing with various issues and concerns. However given the condition of the roads network, a great deal of that casework relates to road issues with potholes coming top of the pile. The one thing that I can assure readers of The Stinchar Valley Magazine is that as one of the South Ayrshire Councillors on The Ayrshire Roads Alliance shared services committee, I will endeavour to see that improvements in the roads repair process equates to a better journey for road users in South Ayrshire in the short to medium term. Changes are scheduled to be made to the process of repairs in the new financial year to make them more effective and to get away from just rolling a bit of tar in to potholes. One good thing to report is the fact that South Ayrshire Council has allocated an extra ten million pounds over the next five years to try and tackle some of the problems and make the network safer.

You may be aware that your three elected councillors share the responsibility of attending the different Community Councils in South Carrick and this year I will be in attendance at Ballantrae Community Council plus Colmonell and Lendalfoot Community Councils having been at Dailly and Barr last time round. I enjoy this part of my council work and it gives the chance to hear how things are from the community troops on the ground as well as the chance to help out with any issues that may arise. Each community has different concerns and aspirations but they also have many things in common. The reason that I say this is because it is clear to me that the links between all of the communities in Girvan and South Carrick are strong and interlinked. What is good for one community can benefit another, whether that is through tourism, infrastructure or social enterprise.

That's why I make it my job to make sure that I push the interests of Girvan and South Carrick in County Buildings at every possible opportunity.

Work started on the new Community Facilities building at Girvan Harbour on the 2nd of February, the construction being carried out by local firm 3b Construction. This marks the start of an exciting year for Girvan and South Carrick. This building will provide new shower and laundry facilities for harbour users as well as new 24 hour public toilets and a new Harbour Master's office. It marks the start of phase two of the Girvan Harbour Improvements and is also part of the Girvan economic re-generation project. The funding is now in place for the Girvan and South Carrick Leisure Centre which will be a major facility for the residents of Girvan and the villages as well as a major driver for tourism. The final tweaks to the design are taking place, a contractor has been named, planning will be applied for shortly and the build is due to start around October with a timescale of anything between 13 to 16 months.

Of course there are some events which will have a major impact on all of this year. The British General Election take place in May and this April will see the start of the Integration of Health and Social Care which should see services in this type of area based on local needs. It will however be a major change and will need some time to bed in. Well life is never boring!!! Here's looking forward to a Summer as good as last year.

Councillor Alec Clark (Independent)

South Ayrshire Council, Ward 8: Girvan and South Carrick.

Office Tel: 07794038476

Email: Alec.Clark@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

THE NEW FARMER PROGRAMME

In the Winter edition of the magazine we told you about the New Farmer Programme being established to assist small food growing businesses who are looking for skilled staff; to help people to set up their own food business and sell direct to local customers; to help farmers keen to diversify and grow some food for the local market alongside their core business; and community gardens starting to produce food for the local community looking for skilled growers.

From March to December 2014 Nourish ran its first New Farmer Programme, a vocational training programme both for new entrants to the sector and for those wanting to develop their food growing, local marketing and small business skills. Currently, there is no training in Scotland for people who want to acquire the skills needed to run their own local food businesses or even to apply for a food growing job. Nourish's New Farmer Programme is designed to fill this gap.

Twenty people successfully completed the training, of whom nearly half are working in, or are now in the process of setting up their own local food business. Others are putting their skills to good use in the community growing sector, to encourage these projects to grow produce as well as community.

As well as providing skills, the participants all reported the course has been invaluable for putting them in touch with a hugely inspiring and supportive network, both of existing organic growers and local food businesses, and also like minded individuals at a similar stage looking for potential enterprise partners.

Now the organisers – Nourish Scotland - are building on what they have learnt and preparing to run the course again in 2016. Meanwhile, they are holding a number of training days, offering skills that will add to those people may already have, or as a taster to prepare for next year's programme. The first of these is on March 6th/7th 2015. For more information contact nfp@nourishscotland.org.uk.



Sunday 16 to Saturday 22 August

The organising group for this year's festival is currently putting together an exciting programme for this year's Festival with some old favourites and some exciting new activities and events so put the dates in your diary now. There will be something for the whole family.

There's a short video of last year's festival on YouTube (key in Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival 2014) and we've put some pictures of the last 2 years on our website www.ballantrae.org.uk/smugglers. You'll also find more information there as our plans for this year's Festival progress.

As well as continuing to develop existing relationships with festival partners from outwith the village who have helped us in the past, we have already started to identify new partners for this year, all of whom will bring a new dimension to our activities.

Although smuggled goods were landed in Ballantrae they were transported onwards to surrounding communities and we are currently considering ways in which we can encourage more individuals and communities around Ballantrae to be involved this year.

The children of Ballantrae and Colmonell Primary Schools and their teachers made an outstanding contribution last year and the schools have already indicated their enthusiasm for being involved again this year with some exciting new activities.

As a result of the financial support we received from South Ayrshire Council and others last year we were able to purchase clothes for conversion to period costume. We are therefore looking for folk with expertise with a sewing machine or a needle and thread to help us make costumes over the coming months in preparation for the festival in August. Our re-enactors have the knowledge and expertise in terms of what the costumes should look like – we just need people with the sewing skills to turn that vision into reality! Wherever you live, if you think you can help please phone Andy McAlpine on 01465 831122 or email him at andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com for more information.

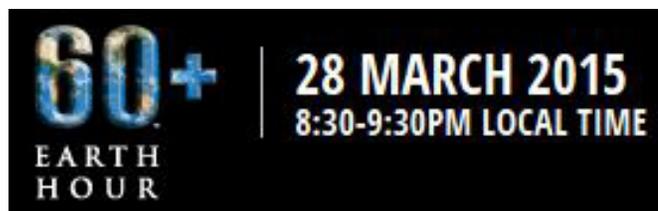
We'll bring you more about Ballantrae's Smuggling Festival in the next edition of the Stinchar Valley Magazine.

BALLANTRAE DIARY OF EVENTS

Feedback from the consultation on the review of the village Development Plan suggested we should introduce a "Diary of Ballantrae Events" to be placed on the Community Hall noticeboard and on the website. We have now done this. If you want your Ballantrae event added to the diary please email info@ballantrae.org.uk or phone Andy McAlpine 01465 831122.

BALLANTRAE MALAWI LINK GROUP

We are having a Cream Tea on Saturday 16th May 2015 in Ballantrae Community Centre running from 2pm to 4pm. Please come along and support this worthwhile cause (the cream scones are amazing)!



The countdown has begun...

With only a few weeks to go until this year's event, we're excited to share the news that some of the UK's biggest landmarks, including Big Ben and Houses of Parliament, Buckingham Palace and Edinburgh Castle have already confirmed they'll be switching off!

Be the first to watch our UK teaser film!

See it here first: the official Earth Hour 2015 UK film has just been released..

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-B-JEIfYj4o&feature=youtu.be&ccCt=z2N-mn7ySVS9AqOjwkqa_WUBw9PeUqplcnYubxquBMn70aNMNxp_zkrvZlcNWqqq

From the spectacular moment iconic landmarks switch off, cycle-powered projections and panda flashmobs to the real and lasting impacts Earth Hour is having around the world - it's jam-packed to give you a taste of what to look forward to this March!

FILM NIGHT IN ST COLMON KIRK HALL IN COLMONELL

Friday 20th March

6pm – (PG)

Gum stuck in his hair signals the start of a disastrous day for 11-year-old Alexander (Ed Oxenbould). One calamity follows another, but when Alexander tells his family about his misadventures, he finds little sympathy. Alexander begins to wonder if bad things happen only to him, but he soon learns that he's not alone when his mother (Jennifer Garner), father (Steve Carell), brother (Dylan Minnette) and sister (Kerris Dorsey) all find themselves living through their own calamitous days.

8pm - (PG)

Hassan Kadam (Manish Dayal) is an extraordinarily talented culinary ingenue. When he and his family are displaced from their native India and settle in a quaint French village, they decide to open an Indian eatery. However, Madame Mallory (Helen Mirren), the proprietress of an acclaimed restaurant just 100 feet away, strongly objects. War erupts between the two establishments, until Mallory recognizes Kadam's impressive epicurean gifts and takes him under her wing.

Entry by donation and children must be accompanied by an adult. Sweets and drinks for sale.



Wordsearch

H	O	R	S	E	C	H	E	S	T	N	U	T	O	H	T	S	A
A	L	V	U	L	O	I	L	O	A	R	N	O	E	P	I	L	C
F	E	B	R	P	N	A	M	S	B	E	S	L	I	B	K	A	O
G	I	M	K	A	K	I	D	N	E	L	D	E	R	T	D	E	R
Y	V	E	T	G	E	C	Y	H	R	S	B	U	L	O	M	F	N
A	Y	O	L	S	R	T	E	V	R	B	S	P	A	F	W	H	P
S	P	A	H	D	U	S	X	N	I	L	I	E	J	L	B	A	L
H	E	L	P	A	M	O	N	C	E	S	L	C	H	Y	M	I	N
S	T	R	I	E	L	D	R	L	S	I	V	S	W	T	C	H	O
B	L	A	C	K	T	H	O	R	N	R	E	K	L	A	R	K	B
R	D	O	S	E	O	K	H	T	A	T	R	Y	T	D	L	E	L
A	W	B	E	L	Y	A	T	C	H	G	B	K	M	H	E	I	D
M	P	J	L	M	O	S	W	A	H	R	I	S	A	C	Z	D	O
B	K	Y	I	K	S	I	A	R	S	N	R	L	H	P	A	M	C
L	A	G	S	H	P	E	H	V	S	I	C	A	V	N	H	D	A
E	R	T	I	D	H	O	I	C	W	P	H	E	N	O	U	P	S
O	N	P	F	O	R	C	R	J	A	C	B	T	L	P	R	T	E
E	S	O	R	G	T	A	S	Y	C	A	M	O	R	E	M	I	S

Can you find the words in the grid? They're horizontal, vertical, diagonal, backwards and some bend in the middle!

- | | | | | |
|------|-------|---------|----------|----------------|
| ASH | ROWAN | SLOES | SYCAMORE | HORSE CHESTNUT |
| KEYS | BEECH | BERRIES | DOG ROSE | FIELD MAPLE |
| HIPS | HAWKS | HAZEL | HAWTHORN | SILVER BIRCH |
| OAK | ELDER | HOLLY | BRAMBLE | BLACKTHORN |
| IVY | NUTS | CATKINS | CONKER | |



discover and investigate

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"We always welcome contributions from readers. This poem, written by W Sandford over 80 years ago was brought to our attention recently"

SWEET BALLANTRAE

Dear land of my childhood and youth's happy days,
How often I've wandered among they green braes,
How often in childish delight I have played
Amid they green bowers and ilka green glade.

Thy heather hills and crystal streams,
I often see in fancy's dreams,
Enrobed in nature's grand array,
Serenely fair, sits sweet Ballantrae.

I see the Foreland trim and neat,
Where once a noble fishing fleet
Adorned thy beach in splendour gay.
Twas the pride of that village, sweet Ballantrae.

I know each hill and rugged rock,
From Bennane head to fair Carlock,
Each fragrant glen and whin clad brae,
Thou hast charms for me, sweet Ballantrae.

I see the Shellknowe bright and clear,
That stands beside the auld schule green,
Her white washed wall and roof of strae,
Bright land of my childhood, sweet Ballantrae.

I know the Mains, that hallowed grove,
Where lovers in the gloaming rove;
Here "Neath the milk white thron and slae"
Enjoy the raptured hour near sweet Ballantrae.

I've often strayed by Stinchar's side,
and watched the moss brown waters glide,
and loved in childish innocence to play,
On Stinchar banks, sweet Ballantrae.

Of Hills and glens thou hast many a droll one,
Chief of they hills is fair Knockdolian,
And from her top you may survey,
The beautiful landscape of sweet Ballantrae.

Across the Brig there stands Garleffan,
A tidy, modest, rural clachan,
Her pastures green and Druid stones grey,
Brightland of my childhood, sweet Ballantrae.

O would the Muse me now inspire,
And set this tongue o' mine on fire
I would in letters bold portray
Thy lovely charms, sweet Ballantrae.

Far awa' frae din and bustle,
There stands Ardstinchar's ancient castle;
The scene of many a fight and fray,
Historic landmark of sweet Ballantrae.

But in my rhyme there would be a gap,
If I didna mention auld Glenapp,
This is a glen I dae admire,
There is no its match in a' the shire.

Exquisite scenery here is found,
and rustic beauty all around,
A poet here might sing his sweetest lay
In this charming glen near sweet Ballantrae.

How many times I've wandered O'er,
The Downan Hill and rockbound shore,
Where breakers break in clouds of spray,
Bright land of my childhood, sweet Ballantrae.
My dear Auld Native Hame sae fair
My fancy often wanders there
To thos bright scenes where I, a boy
Drank deeply of the sweetest joy.

Oh happy childhood's days serene
No cares or sorrows intervene
But as the river smoothly flows
How free frae worldly cares and woes.

I mind fu' weel of childhood's days
Among the bonnie woods and braes
Their recollection seems tae bring
A joy that sweetens sorrow's sting.

When the auld mill Glen is clad in green
There nature's hand is plainly seen,
Oh thou that lovest nature, man,
Come, view this picture she has drawn.

How charming is the early Spring
To hear the birds sae sweetly sing
Here all in harmony combined
By providence how well designed.

On Auchair road stands the auld ash tree
Where we carved our names wi' boyish glee
That, in years to come, it might remind us
Of the happy days we've left behind us.

But ah how fast time wheels of time have run
A life half spent, yet scarce begun,
To me it seems but yesterday
Since I first knew sweet Ballantrae.

How often in my waking dreams
I hear the music of thy streams
I hear the Stinchar's gurgling noise
It makes my heart again rejoice.

Along the Mains whaur the ivy twines aroon the trees
Whaur wafts the sweet ethereal breeze
How oft in childhood's days I've strayed
Along that cool sequestered glade.

Fair sylvan scenes, sublimely grand
Congenial to the mind of man
In scenes like these we all may find
The noblest lessons of mankind.

I'll ne'er forget my childhood's years
Sae free frae manhood's doubts and fears
For childhood's years have seemed tae me
Life's bright and glorious ecstasy

How fresh within my memory still
The Ha' Braes and the auld windmill
And other places in their turn
The Ship Inn, Parkend, and Redburn.

The Brand Hole and Bennane Cave
Kind shelter tae the smugglers gave
And Boldly here, without dismay
Concealed their spoil near Ballantrae.

My dear auld hame, thy rugged hills
Thy fragrant glens and gurgling rills
Thy rural scenes my breast inflame
Sae fair art thou my dear auld hame.

The village school stands by the shore,
The scene of many a prank and splore,
But tell me now, oh where are they
My schoolmates of sweet Ballantrae.

Some of them are far abroad,
While others rest beneath the sod,
But yet we'll meet in endless day,
With friends long left, sweet Ballantrae.

I know the modest churchyard there,
Where oft with reverential air,
I've walked among my kindred clay
And friends long left sweet Ballantrae.

Dear land of my childhood, as far as the rose,
From youth's gay morn till the life-gate shall close,
At home or abroad, wherever I stray,
Sacred memories I'll cherish of sweet Ballantrae.

And if this wee bit simple rhyme,
Should wander tae a foreign clime,
It may delight some auld and grey
That longs tae see sweet Ballantrae.

Adieu, amiable land of youth,
May thou be blest with sweet content and truth,
May heaven guide them day by day,
They native folks, sweet Ballantrae

W Sandford 4 May 1927

Reproduced with the kind permission of his son, Robert Sandford

BALLANTRAE CHURCH LINKED WITH ST COLMON CHURCH

Recently I read about the life of a former resident of the Manse in Ballantrae. While I doubt many of you would be able to tell me much about the person's life, you will have definitely heard about his very famous uncle. Between 1826 and 1930, Rev Thomas Burns was the minister of Ballantrae Parish Church and no prizes for guessing that his uncle was Robert Burns.

Thomas was the son of Gilbert, Robert's brother, and after studying in Edinburgh to become a minister, he was ordained as the minister of the parish of Ballantrae on 13th April 1826. In 1830, Thomas got married, and moved to Monkton Church, and was responsible for the building of St Cuthbert's Church. Then in 1843, Thomas came out of the Church of Scotland and was part of the group of ministers which formed the Free Church. He initially became the first minister of Prestwick Free Church, however Thomas didn't stay long and soon headed to New Zealand to become the minister of a Free Church settlement at Otago.

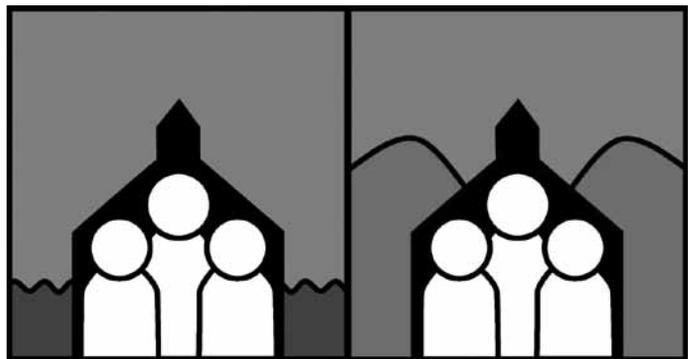
In fact the more you read about this extraordinary man, the more twists you find that his life took. No one can map out everything that we will do in our lives and we often take a route that can surprise even ourselves. I am sure you have heard people say, "if only you knew me ten years ago, you would never believe that I would be doing this now."

As I look back on my life I know that the different experiences that I have faced have been there for a reason. The writer of Proverbs 16:9 says "We make our own plans, but the Lord decides where we will go." And so we trust God that both the good and the difficult paths that we all walk in life, are there for a reason, though it may take years to find out what that is.

Just think about Thomas Burns. I wonder if he ever thought as he grew up on a farm, that the skills he learnt would one day be extremely useful when he was setting up a new life in New Zealand. Therefore each step and experience prepares us for what we will do in the future.

May God bless you,

Stephen



Easter Services

Palm Sunday, 29th March

10am – St Colmon Church, Colmonell
11:30am – Ballantrae Church
4pm – 5:30pm – Messy Church in the Kirk Hall, Colmonell: a family friendly time with crafts, singing, stories and a hot meal.

Maundy Thursday, 2nd April

7:30pm – St Colmon Church – Communion Service

Good Friday, 3rd April

12 noon – Open Air Service at the Stumpy, Girvan

7pm – Service in Girvan South Church

Easter Sunday, 5th April

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

Church Info

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 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

Websites: www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk or www.stcolmonparishchurch.org.uk. We are also on Facebook as 'Ballantrae Church' and 'StColmon Church'.

GLENAPP CASTLE, BALLANTRAE

Glenapp Castle, in Ballantrae re-opens for the 2015 season on Friday 27th March 2015.

The castle is open to non- resident guests and our award winning dining room is the perfect venue for any special family get together or celebration over lunch, afternoon tea or dinner.

A three course gourmet lunch at £39.50 per person

Full afternoon tea at £19.50 per person

A six course gourmet dinner at £65.00 per person

Please call us to make a reservation. A prior reservation for lunch, afternoon tea and dinner is required for all restaurant bookings.



New Wedding Packages 2015:

We have introduced two new wedding packages for 2015:

- A Wedding and Lunch Package for up to 10 guests
- An Exclusive Use Day Package for up to 40 guests

For more information please call us on 01465 831212 or email us at info@glenappcastle.com

Glenapp Castle, Ballantrae, KA26 0NZ

Telephone No: 01465 831212

Email: info@glenappcastle.com

Website: www.glenappcastle.com



GIFT VOUCHERS



BALLANTRAE KNOWS HOW TO PARTY!



The Ballantrae Community Association pulled out all the stops to ensure that Christmas this year was extra special for local children. A small band of village volunteers organised not one but two parties for the children – the first for toddlers, followed by a second for the over 5s. As well as music, dancing, competitions, balloon sculpture, face painting, wrist tattooing and games there was lots of party food with some interesting additions of slush puppies and candy floss! The entertainment was organised by “Talk of the Town” from Stranraer who had previously helped with the 2014 Ballantrae Gala day. There’s no doubt the highlight of the parties was the appearance of visitors - Santa Claus, Olaf the Snowman, Elsa the Princess, Minnie Mouse and Woody (from Toy Story). Each child had some time with Santa Claus and received a present. Overall 90 children participated in the parties.



BALLANTRAE

As always, a warm welcome awaits you in the well stocked lounge and public bars and good food in our restaurant. Sit in or carry out pizza now available.

Your hosts, Suzanne and Brian Stirling, look forward to welcoming you.

Kings Arms Hotel, Main Street, Ballantrae

Tel. 01465 831202 - www.kingsarmsballantrae.com

Email: info@kingsarmsballantrae.com



Sharon Robertson, Chair of Ballantrae Community Association said “Claire Erskine and Stacey Stewart and their small team of volunteers did a fantastic job to plan the programme, decorate the hall and make sure that no detail was overlooked. Everything went without a hitch and the feedback from the children and their parents has been great. Well done!”

PINWHERRY WOMEN'S RURAL INSTITUTE

Pinwherry WRI Spring 2015

The members all enjoyed a lovely Christmas dinner at Malin Court at the beginning of December and this was a fitting conclusion to the year's programme. We had been with Mrs Mary Jeans on an illustrated trip to Kilimanjaro, and were all amazed by her bravery and energy as she climbed that mountain. This was followed by our Guest Night when we were pleased to welcome members from other branches. Our speaker that night was Mrs Sheila Affia, from Stranraer, who entertained us with a fascinating look back to fashion through the ages. We remembered wearing some of them ourselves!

Now we are in a New Year and looking forward to the next items on the programme. We were grateful to Wilma Gracie for stepping into the breach at short notice when our speaker for January unfortunately took ill with pneumonia. We are hoping Mrs Crow will be able to come another day and wish her a full recovery.

Our numbers are increasing and we are so glad to have so many new members, but there is always room for more so please feel you can come along and try us! We meet in the Pinwherry village hall at 7.30pm on the second Monday of the month – Sept.-May.

Pat Guthrie, Secy. 01465 841236.



**Alec
Oattes**
SNP Councillor

SNP
www.snp.org

Dear Reader,
Hello to all readers of the Stinchar Valley Magazine,

As I write this contribution to the magazine, the snow drops and crocuses are pushing through and the daylight hours are stretching, something I always appreciate after the depths of winter. It has been a mixed winter weather wise, with rain, snow and ice which of course, has contributed to the problems with potholes, drainage and poor road repairs. Myself, and I am sure my fellow Councillors in Girvan and South Carrick, are well aware of the need for investment on the A714 and other roads in the area. I am pleased to report that £10 million is to be allocated over the next five years for road improvements throughout the Ayrshire Roads Alliance area. I also understand that three stretches of the A714 have major improvements planned in the new financial year. Recently a detailed survey was undertaken by an external company which has itemised many improvements for the A714. I understand and share the frustration among drivers when they see poor repairs to pot holes which do not last more than a few weeks. I have reported many areas of concern from Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Council, Barrhill Community Council and other concerned residents to the Head of the Roads Section and I and many others trust the promised improvements take place in the near future.

Holocaust Memorial Day

On the 27th of January I was privileged to attend the National Holocaust Memorial Day event in Ayr Town Hall. This was sponsored by the Provost of South Ayrshire Council, Helen Moonie and attended by the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. It was a very moving occasion and was a living testament of the horrors of genocide as told by Lily Ebert who as a child survived a concentration camp in Czechoslovakia

and by Hasan Hasanovic who survived the genocide in Srebrenica in 1995 but whom sadly lost his father and two brothers amongst the 15,000 who perished. The evening provided a stark reminder of the demons of Intolerance and how we must "Keep the memory alive" of those who suffered in the 2nd World War, in Bosnia, Cambodia and more recently Darfur, Sudan.

Scotland's Great Tapestry coming to Ayr

The Great Tapestry of Scotland is one of the most ambitious community arts projects in the world, which has brought hundreds of volunteer embroiderers together from across Scotland to create a record-breaking 143 metre long embroidered tapestry. This tapestry illustrates the history of Scotland in 160 intricate panels. It is also the world's longest embroidered tapestry and is 70m longer than the famous Bayeux Tapestry in Normandy. The good news is that it's coming to Ayr from Good Friday (3rd April for two months) and not only will people get the chance to see it up close, a series of workshops, community engagement activities and history sessions will be organised to fit in with the exhibition.

I will be joining members of the Pinwherry, Pinmore and Barrhill Community Councils during 2015 and continue to cover all of the Girvan and South Carrick Ward. If I can help with any Council issues, please do not hesitate to contact me by email or by phone - details below.

SNP Councillor Alec Oattes

Office Telephone Number 01292 612382
Home Telephone Number 01292 435005
alec.oattes@south-ayrshire.gov.uk



Qigong

What is Qigong?

Qigong is a series of slow but gentle exercises, under the guidance of a qualified instructor, to help promote health and vitality, and to relieve stress. It is suitable for all levels of fitness, including wheelchair users, and for all ages from sixteen and over.

Classes are held in Ballantrae Community Centre on Monday mornings from 10.45 till 11.45am. The Spring session is in full swing, but you can join us at any time at a cost of £3 per class if the session is paid in advance, or £5 per class for occasional attendance.

FREE TRIAL - come along any Monday and try Qigong. If it is not for you it will cost you nothing - if you like it we would be delighted to have you join our group - you are guaranteed a friendly welcome. If you would like more information please phone Janice Ross (Secretary) on **01465 831347**

THE BOARDING ON FLIGHT ✈️ 2015

The Boarding on Flight ✈️ 2015 has been announced..... Your luggage 🧳 should only contain the best souvenirs from 2014.....

The bad and sad 😞 moments should be left in the garbage.....

The duration of the flight will be 12 months.

So, tighten your seatbelt. 🪑

The next stop-overs will be: Health, Love, ❤️ Joy, Harmony, well-being and Peace.

The captain offers you the following menu which will be served during the flight.....

A Cocktail 🍸 of Friendship

A Supreme of Health

A Gratin of Prosperity

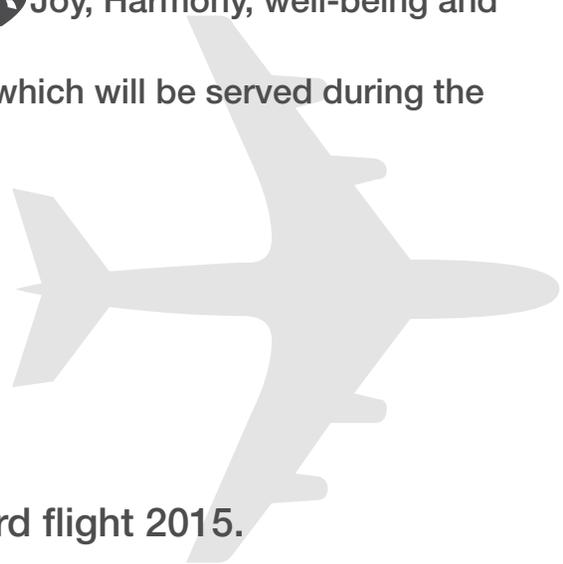
A Bowl 🍲 of Excellent News 📰

A salad of Success

A Cake 🍰 of Happiness

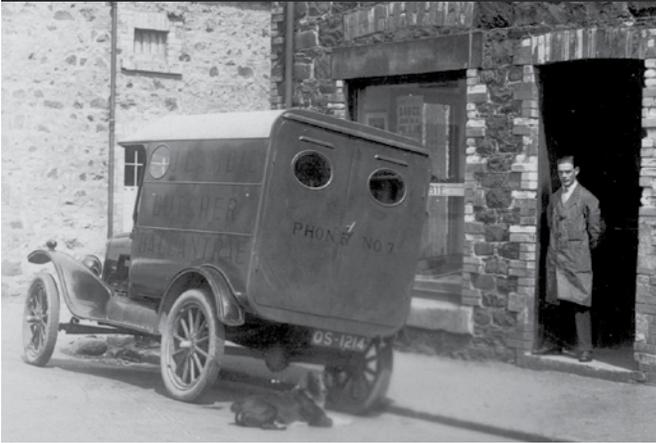
All accompanied by bursts of laughter.....

Wishing you an enjoyable trip on board flight 2015.



from the archives . . .

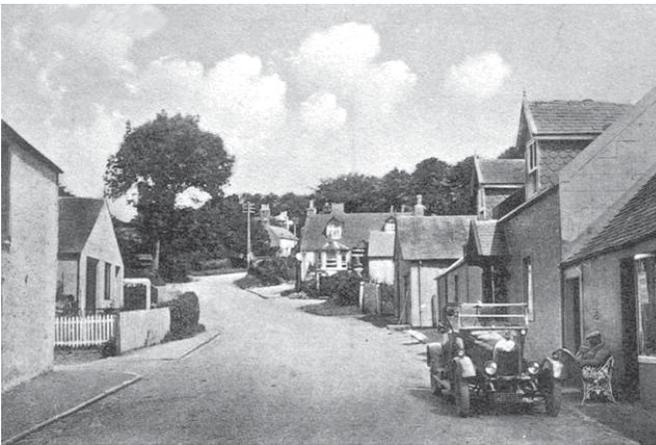
snippets of local history gathered from newspapers, the British Library Archives and many local sources by Keith and Christine Brown of Ballantrae.



Lambie the Butcher, Ballantrae. Telephone number "7" !



Shop in Main Street, Colmonell



Hill Street, Barr



This shed outside the church in Main St. Ballantrae sold ice cream in Summer and in Winter became a hen house!



Main Street, Ballantrae



Baker and Tea Room in Main Street, Ballantrae

“DO YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOGRAPHS OR INFORMATION ?

Do you have any old photographs or information about the local area that you wouldn't mind us copying for future reference? We would look after them and return them to you unharmed. We are particularly short of photographs of Barr and Barrhill. Please contact Keith and Christine Brown at kaycee.history@gmail.com “

Feedback on these articles would be appreciated either via the magazine editor or by e-mail to Keith and Christine at kaycee.history@gmail.com

There is very little in the archives about Barr. Any historical information would be welcomed.

ACROSS

- 1) Gal's guy, slangily
- 6) Enjoyed a fine meal
- 11) Worker who serves a queen
- 14) Letter through a filter
- 15) Turn on the dramatics
- 16) "___ be an honor"
- 17) Some nice soaks
- 19) Blossom
- 20) Did one-third of a triathlon
- 21) Dr. Sabin studied it
- 23) It goes around the world
- 27) ___ dog (zesty frankfurter)
- 29) Cedar tree
- 30) Sinks
- 33) Hot, glowing coal
- 34) Birthplace of Charles de Gaulle
- 35) Pod occupant
- 36) Turns on the waterworks
- 37) Jazz variation
- 38) Fake bedding item?
- 39) Full of trickery
- 40) Half a sawbuck
- 41) Engraved fabric
- 42) Held, as a dissolved substance
- 44) Ringlet producer
- 45) Corpulent
- 46) Sheens
- 47) Get-up-and-go
- 49) "Arf!" or "Woof!"
- 50) Pub pitcherful
- 51) Tall plant with tiny white or pink flowers
- 58) Lancelot's title
- 59) Foaming at the mouth
- 60) Licoricelike flavor
- 61) Call to the Coast Guard
- 62) Preoperative delivery of old
- 63) Part-time employees, for short

DOWN

- 1) Black History mo.
- 2) Bird in a herd
- 3) Certain retriever, briefly
- 4) "Ad" add-on
- 5) Dream team pick
- 6) Exclude from practice
- 7) Muslim chief
- 8) "___ too shabby"
- 9) Suffix on ordinal numbers
- 10) Be unable to stand
- 11) Lover of books
- 12) Vanity case for milady
- 13) Edible root of the taro
- 18) Still life subject, perhaps
- 22) Prehistoric
- 23) Texas oil city
- 24) Shape anew
- 25) Early Frank Sinatra fans
- 26) Bad day for Caesar
- 27) Use a crayon
- 28) Endangered one's cry
- 30) Was compatible
- 31) Eyeglass ___ (optometry patient)
- 32) Identifiers
- 34) Flood embankment
- 37) Babies' protectors
- 38) Work with mail
- 40) Comped thing
- 41) Marsh denizen
- 43) Belt's relative
- 44) Street part
- 46) High-tech surgery tool
- 47) Kind of production
- 48) Miscellany
- 49) Computer file measure
- 52) It may be modern
- 53) Cry of contempt
- 54) Ship's dir., sometimes
- 55) Deadeye's forte
- 56) 1/6 of an ounce (Abbr.)
- 57) "___ just one of the guys"

LOADING BBS

By Gary Cooper

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16			
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61				62						63			

LENDALFOOT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

On Friday 12th December Lendalfoot Community Association held a Festive Dinner in the hall for the pensioners of the village. A lovely meal was cooked by Sue Marshall and served up by her helpers everyone thoroughly enjoyed the meal.

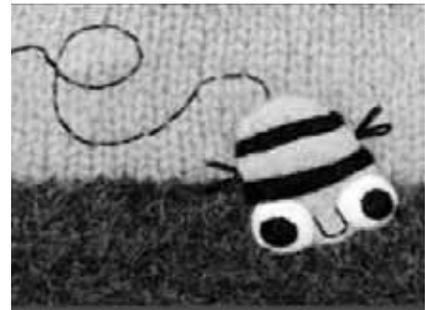
Games were played and the committee sang Christmas Carols accompanied by Lynne McIlwraith.

A big thank you to all those who made this a lovely night and also to the Colmonell and Lendalfoot Community Council for grant towards this.

On Saturday 13th December the children of the village enjoyed a Christmas party in the hall.

Games were played and a lovely tea served.

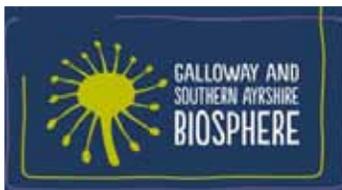
Santa took time to come along and give all the children a present.



Ballantrae Crafty Bees

Ballantrae Crafty Bees continues to meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 7.30pm in BRICC House. Over the past few months we have been making cartouche boxes and we even made an arm-knitted scarf within an hour! Coming up soon we are learning quilling, cross stitch, decopatch and also bringing along our own projects to work on. Each night costs £2, plus the occasional cost of any materials required. We're always happy for new members to join us, just come along. Or if you have a skill you'd like to share with us, please get in touch with Barbara Ogston, 01465 831252.

GALLOWAY AND SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE BIOSPHERE



Take a closer look at the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

Carrick is part of Scotland's first Biosphere Reserve, simply known as a Biosphere, awarded in recognition of its special environments which are valued by local people. It has an amazing combination of

countryside, wildlife and culture so it is easy to see why people care about their surroundings and want you to take a closer look.

The rugged coastline is studded with impressive castles and hidden caves with many secrets to reveal from gory tales to fascinating geology. The Ayrshire Coastal Path was developed and is now managed by volunteers to make this stunning area much more accessible. Wherever you go along the Carrick coast you don't have to walk far before you find a stunning view but if you take a look down may be surprised by the beauty of the plants at your feet.

Where the land meets the sea is always a demanding place for plants to survive because they have to cope with a combination of wind, salt water and a lack of soil. A summer carpet of yellow, pink and blue flowers adorns different types of seashore from sand dunes to rocky cliffs. These plants have adapted to flourish by the sea and some are so scarce that they are protected so remember a wild flower always looks better in the ground than in your hand.

Flowering plants attract many sorts of insects; the most attractive being butterflies and day flying moths. The rare Northern Brown Argus is a butterfly that lays its egg on the upper surface of the leaves of the yellow flowering rock-rose. Like its name suggests, it is a chocolate brown colour on top but has a pretty spotted underside and is often seen basking in the sun, hiding away in long grasses when it becomes breezy.

Of course wetlands are more than just havens for wildlife. They also provide valuable resources for education, recreation, energy production and agriculture in the newly designated Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere.

Find out more on www.gsabiosphere.org.uk



SCOUTABOUT

It costs money to run a Scout Group. Each young person in the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorer Scouts makes a contribution through their weekly / term subscriptions. We are grateful to the Community Council and the Scout Development Fund for the financial support they have given us in the past. We are very lucky in Ballantrae to have such great outdoor facilities on our doorstep. But if we really are to give the young people the best programme – outdoors and indoors – that we can manage, maintain and replace our camping and activity equipment, the Group has to continue raising funds each year.

During the last 2 years we have run car boot sales and car washes. Sadly last year's car boot sale was a bit of a wash-out (literally) because of bad weather and therefore we didn't quite manage to meet our financial target. This year however, with the help of a few friends, the Group is planning something more ambitious - an auction in Ballantrae on Saturday 9th May in the Community Hall. The hall will be open for viewing the items being auctioned at 1.30pm with the auction starting at 2pm. For more details keep your eyes on the Ballantrae website www.ballantrae.org.uk, local noticeboards and the Carrick Gazette for details and then come along to support us and bag a bargain. We would also like you to start collecting things you might donate (the results of your Spring Clean perhaps?). Details of how to donate will be in the publicity for the event.

We look forward to seeing you there!

Andy McAlpine
Group Chairman
Ballantrae Scout Group
Andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com



STINCHAR VALLEY GARDENING CLUB

March. Louise Bustard Education Officer at Glasgow Botanic Garden

April. AGM and plant swap

Our meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in Pinwherry Hall.

The fee is £12.00 joining fee or £3.00 per visit.

As well as our speakers we always enjoy tea/coffee and a chat.

Non members are always welcome.

For further information please contact any committee member.

Please feel free to contact any of our committee for further information.

Chair: Roger Pirrie. Tel 01465841644
rdpirrie@gmail.com

Vice-Chair: John McAlley (tel:01465841198)
j.mcalley@btinternet.com

Secretary: Moira McAlpine (tel: 01465831122)
moira.mcalpine@btopenworld.com

Treasurer: Jill McAlley (01465841198)
j.mcalley@btinternet.com

Member: Margaret Bean (01465841635)
margaret.bean1@btinternet.com

Member: Pat Spence Tel 01465821377
patspence@piperpublications.co.uk



TYPES OF CROSSWORDS and the 'Solution'

When people hear the term *crossword*, what generally comes to mind is a square-shaped ground divided into smaller squares, arranged vertically and horizontally, that stand for letters, with the first of each word being numbered. The clues to each word are given with the puzzle. There are a number of variations on this theme featured on Puzzle Choice, listed above, and include:

- **alpha-cross:** The first letter of each word is written next to the clue that pertains to it, in alphabetical order, and one is already placed on the grid.
- **arrows:** Each square with a clue is colored, and an accompanying arrow indicates whether the answer goes across or down.
- **code words:** A random number from 1 to 26 is used to represent each letter of the alphabet, and each letter is used at least once. A certain number of letters may already be in place.
- **criss-cross:** Each answer intersects with one and only one other answer, and one, if any, box per word is highlighted; together the highlighted letters form another word.
- **cross-wise:** No numbers are given, so the player must use his or her powers of deduction to solve the clues, which describe words with a given number of letters in either orientation, e. g. "One of the two horizontal seven-letter words is part of a bird's wing and the other is stomach."
- **diagramless:** The diagram is not given. Instead, the row and column at which the first clue begins are indicated.
- **search words:** This is really different from a crossword puzzle because the words are already there, but they are surrounded by other letters that are not a part of them and the player has to locate them.
- **grid jigs:** These start with a blank grid and a set of sub-grids, each with some letters and blank spaces on it. The object of this type of game is to put the pieces back together by filling in all the letters and blank spaces in their correct spaces in the grid.



The puzzle does not always take the form of a square grid. It may take on any number of other shapes, including an octagon with the sides resembling staircases, a diamond shape or a triangle.

In some crossword puzzles, all the words belong to a particular category. For example, there are crosswords devoted to capital cities, poetry, fruits and vegetables, geographical names, astronomical names, historical personages and animals.

There is even a set of puzzles called true or false. In these, two clues are given for each word, one of them true and the other one false, and the player has to choose the true one and put it in its proper place. As an example, one such clue is "unmarried man/unmarried woman" for 3 across. The fact that there are eight letters in that position indicates that the correct choice is the first, which is "bachelor."

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

Tuesday, February 10, 2015
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Edited by Timothy Parker

ACROSS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1) Gaf's guy, slangily | 38) Fake bedding item? |
| 6) Enjoyed a fine meal | 39) Full of trickery |
| 11) Worker who serves a queen | 40) Half a sawbuck |
| 14) Letter through a filter | 41) Engraved fabric |
| 15) Turn on the dramatics | 42) Held, as a dissolved substance |
| 16) "___ be an honor" | 44) Ringlet producer |
| 17) Some nice soaks | 45) Corpulent |
| 19) Blossom | 46) Sheens |
| 20) Did one-third of a triathlon | 47) Get-up-and-go |
| 21) Dr. Sabin studied it | 49) "Arf!" or "Woof!" |
| 23) It goes around the world | 50) Pub pitcherful |
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| 29) Cedar tree | 58) Lancelot's title |
| 30) Sinks | 59) Foaming at the mouth |
| 33) Hot, glowing coal | 60) Licoricelike flavor |
| 34) Birthplace of Charles de Gaulle | 61) Call to the Coast Guard |
| 35) Pod occupant | 62) Preoperative delivery of old short |
| 36) Turns on the waterworks | |
| 37) Jazz variation | |

DOWN

- 1) Black History mo.
- 2) Bird in a herd
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- 5) Dream team pick
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- 30) Was compatible
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- 34) Flood embankment
- 37) Babies' protectors
- 38) Work with mail
- 40) Comped thing
- 41) Marsh denizen
- 43) Belt's relative
- 44) Street part
- 46) High-tech surgery tool
- 47) Kind of production
- 48) Miscellany
- 49) Computer file measure
- 52) It may be modern
- 53) Cry of contempt
- 54) Ship's dir., sometimes
- 55) Dandeye's forte
- 56) 1/6 of an ounce (Abbr.)
- 57) "___ just one of the guys"

LOADING BBS

By Gary Cooper

1	F	2	E	3	L	4	L	5	A	6	D	7	I	8	N	9	E	10	D	11	B	12	E	13	E
14	E	15	M	16	A	17	I	18	L	19	E	20	M	21	O	22	T	23	E	24	I	25	T	26	D
27	B	28	U	29	B	30	B	31	L	32	E	33	B	34	A	35	T	36	H	37	S	38	B	39	U
40	S	41	W	42	A	43	M	44	P	45	O	46	L	47	I	48	O	49		50					
51	O	52	R	53	B	54	I	55	T	56	E	57	R	58	C	59	H	60	I	61	L	62	I		
63	D	64	E	65	O	66	D	67	A	68	R	69	G	70	O	71	E	72	S	73	D	74	O	75	N
76	E	77	M	78	B	79	E	80	R	81	L	82	I	83	L	84	L	85	E	86	P	87	E	88	A
89	S	90	O	91	B	92	S	93	B	94	E	95	B	96	O	97	P	98	S	99	H	100	A	101	M
102	S	103	L	104	Y	105	F	106	I	107	V	108	E	109	R	110	M	111	O	112	I	113	R	114	E
115	A	116	D	117	S	118	O	119	R	120	B	121	E	122	D	123	C	124	U	125	R	126	L	127	E
128	O	129	B	130	E	131	S	132	E	133	L	134	U	135	S	136	T	137	E	138	R	139	S		
140	M	141	O	142	X	143	I	144	E	145	B	146	A	147	R	148	K	149		150					
151	A	152	L	153	E	154	B	155	A	156	B	157	Y	158	S	159	B	160	R	161	E	162	A	163	T
164	S	165	I	166	R	167	I	168	R	169	A	170	T	171	E	172	A	173	N	174	I	175	S	176	E
177	S	178	O	179	S	180	E	181	T	182	H	183	E	184	R	185	T	186	E	187	M	188	P	189	S

How To Send In Your Magazine Articles And Pictures

By Email to your local representative. Or to the Editor John McAlley at: stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk.

Send in text as a WORD or OPEN OFFICE document. Please do not place photographs in a Word document.

Photographs should be correctly named; full size images straight from the camera and scanned images should be high resolution 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: Ligliartrie 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:

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

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

Please contact your area representatives:

Pinwherry/Pinmore

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Editorial

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.

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Mail To The Editor

Welcome to the Spring 2015 issue of the Stinchar Valley Magazine stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk

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.

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
Barrhill	www.barrhill.org.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
Carrick Futures	www.carrickfutures.org.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 Natural Heritage	http://www.snh.org.uk/
The Woodland Trust	http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
Sign the Petition Now	http://www.38degrees.org.uk
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/
Community Police Team	http://www.strathclyde.police.uk/your-community/ayrshire/girvan_and_south_carrick/
Barr Village	http://www.barrvillage.co.uk/
Stagecoach	http://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables

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		111
Samaritans		0345 909090
Citizens Advice	Stranraer 10am-4pm Monday to Friday	01776 706355
SEPA Emergencies		0800 807060
Gas Emergencies		0800 111 999
Scottish Power	Power Cut/Emergencies Mob: 0330 1010 222	0800 092 9290
Police (non-emergency)		101
Emergency Services		999

For suspicious articles found on any beach contact (101 or 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

RECOMMENDED TRADESMEN

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
Computer Problems	Robert Carty	Tel: 01465 479176	Mob: 07523847119	By Jim Fleming	08/11/13
Electrician	John Foster	Tel: 01655 331257	Mob: 07526464524	By Jim Fleming	08/11/13
Gardening Services	Fraser Wallace	Tel: 01465 831487	Email, wallace632@btinternet.com	By Jim Fleming	08/11/13
Painting and Decorating	Ian Picken	Tel: 07814 962695		By Ruth Murray	
Plumbing/Heating	Eric Hyslop	Tel: 01671 402646	E mail: heat@ehyslop-ltd.com	By John McAlley	08/01/14
Appliance Repairs	Howard Galley	Tel: 01465 831537		By Peter Newland	24/01/14
Plumbing/Gas Engineer,	Ross McCulloch	Tel: 01292 550954	Mob: 07766978568	By Claire Pirrie	26/01/14
Plumbing/Heating	Ian Terry	Tel: 01465 712594	Mob: 07733470874	By Dr M L McKenna	08/14
				by Rev Jim Guthrie	
Roofers	Danny Cunningham and Sons	Tel: 01465 891000	Mob: 07971076308	By Dr M L McKenna	08/14
Plasterer	Scott Mcmillan	Tel: 01465 715248		by Rev Jim Guthrie	
Joiner	W Lyle	Tel: 01465 831039		by Rev Jim Guthrie	

STINCHAR VALLEY MAGAZINE YEAR PLANNER 2015

	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	WINTER
Final date for articles to editor	30.01.15	01.05.15	31.07.15	30.10.15
Draft from editor to editorial team	07.02.15	09.05.15	08.08.15	07.11.15
Management meetings	10.02.15	12.05.15	11.08.15	10.11.15
Draft from editorial team back to editor	11.02.15	13.05.15	12.08.15	11.11.15
Draft from editor to publisher	13.02.15	15.05.15	14.08.15	13.11.15
Final draft from publisher to editor	23.02.15	25.05.15	24.08.15	23.11.15
Final draft from editor to publisher	25.02.15	27.05.15	26.08.15	25.11.15
Collection from publisher	06.03.15	05.06.15	04.09.15	04.12.15
Distribution within communities	w/c 09.03.15	w/c 08.06.15	w/c 07.09.15	w/c 07.12.15

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.

A small chest or table top freezer for St Colmon Kirk Hall. Please contact Claire on 841644.



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PINWHERRY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Dinner at Malin Court - a lovely evening was enjoyed by all who attended the Senior Citizens dinner at Malin Court. Some new members had joined us this year from our extended boundaries of Pinmore and surrounding district, however we feel that more could have been included if they had returned the forms. Please do not be left out next year and ensure you complete and return your form or contact Morag on 01465841641 with details. If you are a lady over 60 or a gentleman over 65 you are eligible but we need to know.



The Pinwherry and Pinmore Senior Citizen's Christmas Party was again very well organised by our Community Association, many thanks to them for yet another good event (J McAlley, Editor)

CHILDRENS FILM NIGHT

Childrens Film Night, again another successful Film Night with Santa starting the proceedings, followed by food and then everyone settled down to watch the Disney film Frozen. We are grateful to Rev Stephen Ogston for coming along and showing the film.

COLMONELL CIRCLE

Colmonell Circle Scottish Night in the Community Centre, November 2014



BALLANTRAE AND COLMONELL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

