

THE STINCHAR VALLEY MAGAZINE

FREE

SPRING
2016



PRODUCED BY THE COMMUNITIES OF
BALLANTRAE, BARR, BARRHILL, COLMONELL, LENDALFOOT, PINWHERRY & PINMORE

stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk

LOCAL AND INTERESTING WEB SITES

THE VILLAGES

Barr Village	http://www.barrvillage.co.uk/
Barrhill	www.barrhill.org.uk
Ballantrae Village	www.ballantrae.org.uk
Pinwherry/Pinmore	http://www.2pins.org.uk
Colmonell	http://www.visitsouthernscotland.co.uk/colmonell-c1470.html

LOCAL INFORMATION AND THINGS TO DO

The Stinchar Valley	www.stincharvalley.co.uk
The Carrick website	http://www.carrickayrshire.com
Peinn Mor Pottery	http://www.peinnmor.co.uk/
Girvan Camera Club	http://www.girvancameraclub.org.uk
Girvan Attractions	http://girvanattractions.synthasite.com/
Galloway & Ayrshire Biosphere	http://www.gallowayandsouthernayrshirebiosphere.org.uk/
St Colmon Church	www.stcolmonparishchurch.org.uk
Ballantrae Church	www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk
Dark Sky Park	scotland.forestry.gov.uk/forest-parks/galloway-forest-park/dark-skies

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT ORGANISATIONS

Ayrshire Rivers Trust	www.ayrshirerivertrust.org/cisp
Ayrshire Red Squirrel Group	www.ayrshireredsquirrels.org.uk/
The Southern Uplands Partnership	http://www.sup.org.uk/
Red Squirrels in South Scotland	http://www.redsquirrels.org.uk
Scottish Natural Heritage	http://www.snh.org.uk/
The Woodland Trust	http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
Forestry Commission	http://www.forestry.gov.uk/
Scottish Environmental Protection	http://www.sepa.org.uk/

USEFUL HELP WEBSITES

Ballantrae Medical Practice	www.ballantraemedicalpractice.co.uk
Age Concern Girvan	www.ageconcerngirvan.org.uk
Public services all in one place	www.direct.gov.uk
Stagecoach	www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables
For timetables, fares and bookings	www.citylinkonlinesales.co.uk
Scottish Water	http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/
Community Police Team	www.strathclyde.police.uk/your-community/ayrshire/girvan_and_south_carrick/

USEFUL CONTACTS

Police (non-emergency)	101	
Emergency Services (police – Fire – Urgent Medical)	999	
Accident & Emergency, Ayr Hospital	01292 610555	
Minor Injuries Unit, Girvan Community Hospital	01465 712571	
NHS 24	111	
Gas Emergencies	0800 111 999	
Scottish Power, Power Cut/Emergencies	0330 1010222	0800 092290
Samaritans	0345 909090	
Citizens Advice, Stranraer 10am-4pm Monday to Friday	01776 706355	
Barrhill Community Bus, Self hire or arranged trips	01465 714665	
Stagecoach, Ayr Depot	01292 613500	
My Bus Rural, Door to door transport for Carrick. Mon - Sat 7am to 7pm.....	0845 123 5656	
SEPA Emergencies	0800 807060	
Coast Guard, (101 or 999) and ask for the Coast Guard. (for suspicious articles found on any beach)		



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Spring 2016 issue of the Stinchar Valley Magazine. This publication is your chance to read and make the community news in the Stinchar Valley and surrounding region.

If you have any news you would like to send us or comments upon articles you have read in these pages please get in touch. The same goes for any additions to these pages you would like to see in the future and if you have events, clubs or anything that local people would like to attend or hear of.

Would you or someone you know like to appear here in the future? We cover Ballantrae, Barr, Barrhill, Colmonell, Glenapp, 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.

Front Cover photograph, kindly donated by Jane Fraser, is of Finnegan, a 120 year old Landau Carriage restoration.

HOW TO SEND IN YOUR ARTICLES AND PICTURES

You can email your local representatives or send to the editor John McAlley at Stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk

If you do not have access to a computer or email you can post or drop off material to our Editor John McAlley at: Ligartrie Farm Pinwherry KA26 0SL. We will return any material to you.

Send in text as a WORD or OPEN OFFICE document. Please do not place photographs in a Word document, attach separately. Photographs should be correctly named; full size images straight from the camera and scanned images should be high resolution (Min 300 DPI) wherever possible. 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. Try to avoid vivid colour backgrounds.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION

- SUMMER 2016 SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO REPS OR THE EDITOR IS 29th APRIL

DISTRIBUTION TO VILLAGES WILL BE W/C 6th JUNE 2016

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES AND EDITORIAL PANEL

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Lendalfoot	Jim Fleming	margaretjimfleming@googlemail.com
Colmonell	Margaret Robertson	Tel. 01465 881352

Recommended Tradesman

Have you had a good job done?

Drop us an email at

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TRADE	NAME	TELEPHONE	MOBILE	RECOMMENDER	DATE
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Carpet Fitter	Mark Foster	01465 713884	07722 892263	Frank Bean	11/12
Computer Problems	Robert Carty	01465 479176	07523 847119	Jim Fleming	11/13
Electrician	John Foster	01655 331257	07526 464524	Jim Fleming	11/13
Gardening Services	Fraser Wallace	01465 831487		Jim Fleming	11/13
Painting and Decorating	Ian Picken		07814 962695	Ruth Murray	5/15
Plumbing/Heating	Eric Hyslop	01671 402646		John McAlley	1/14
Appliance Repairs	Howard Galley	01465 831537		Peter Newland	1/14
Plumbing/Gas Engineer	Ross McCulloch	01292 550954	07766 978568	Claire Pirrie	1/14
Plumbing/Heating	Ian Terry	01465 712594	07733 470874	Dr M L McKenna Rev Jim Guthrie	8/14
Roofers	Danny Cunningham and Sons	01465 891000	07971 076308	Dr M L McKenna	8/14
Plasterer	Scott McMillan	01465 715248		Rev Jim Guthrie	
Window Cleaner	Peter Schofield		07831 499998	Ruth Murray	6/15
Joiner	W Lyle	01465 831039		Rev Jim Guthrie	
Grass Cutting	Stephen Simpson	01465 710421		Ruth Murray	5/15
Tree Services	Ben Lockwood	01671 403111	07985 423790	Ruth Murray	5/15
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Electrician	George McCardle		07904 35925	John Thorburn	8/15
Electrician	Gavin Campbell	01655 882208	07989583238	Jenny Macy	01/16

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS IN THE VILLAGES

Community Councils 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. For more information go to <http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/community-councils/>

	All meetings begin at 7.30pm and are open to the public
Ballantrae	Last Tuesday of the month (except Dec) Public hall. Start time is now 7.00pm
Barr	7pm in the Village Hall every second Thurs.in the month except Dec.
Barrhill	4th Wednesday of the month (except July, Sept & Dec) Memorial Hall
Colmonell & Lendalfoot	4th Tuesday of the month (alternate months from Jan) Village Hall
Pinwherry & Pinmore	3rd Thursday of the month (alternate months from Jan) Community Hall

LOCAL COUNCIL ISSUES - SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL CONTACT CENTRE

Don't wait for others to report issues, it may not be done! Telephone the Customer Services Team on 0300 123 0900 or 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 or Overhanging dead trees or anything else on the roads that has the potential to cause harm, loss or injury. Do not assume that somebody else may have reported the hazard.

TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTION: Contact Ayrshire Roads Alliance immediately by:

- Telephone: 01563 503164
- www.ayrshireroadsalliance.org - select roads for "Road Faults" or any other categories and complete and send form or by emailing: enquiries@ayrshireroadsalliance.org

THE RESTORATION OF FINNEGAN



Finnegan, before restoration in Ballantrae

Finnegan, a 120 year old Landau Carriage from County Mayo in Ireland, has been lovingly restored by Noel Porter and Jane Fraser in Ballantrae. Careful attention to detail and authenticity has been a key factor.

Part of the restoration was to keep an Irish/Scottish theme. The interior has been upholstered in tartan while the outside has been painted in an Irish green colour with the addition of Celtic and Victorian hand-painted artwork.

This labour of love has interested a lot of people including the new owners of Glenapp Castle. They are keen to hire the carriage for tours of the castle grounds.



despite Finnegan being 120 years old, current regulations have to be met. Finnegan now sports disc brakes on the rear wheels!



Finnegan, fully restored and looking magnificent

Local girl Stephanie Stapleton and her cob horse called Huckleberry supply the pulling power for Finnegan.

A second carriage is coming from Ireland which is also in need of total restoration. This will be done at Noel Porter's workshop in Ballantrae making two carriages available to hire for weddings, functions, etc.

Noel can be contacted on 01465 891126 or mobile 07950 453924



AN INDEPENDENT VIEW

As I write this column for the Stinchar Valley Magazine, we await the arrival of storm Gertrude. We

have already faced the wrath of storm Frank followed by many of his relations which has left the face of Carrick positively awash with all of the dangers that can bring. Flooding has occurred in parts of Girvan, Ballantrae and other parts of Carrick including of course Dailly where there was some seriously high water levels and of course the incident where bus passengers had to be rescued by helicopter (it can be amazing what a concessionary bus ticket provides). All joking aside, so much water accumulation can make life a misery for drivers, farmers, business owners and most of all the elderly or infirm who cannot leave the house, so here is hoping for a good spring and a warm summer.

Even with the weather blowing a hooley, Thursday 28th January 2015 has been a red letter day. This was the day when all of the strength of feeling, public meetings and the march through Ayr in protest at the closure of the Girvan pool all became relevant and worthwhile. The phoenix that is rising from the ashes for Girvan and South Carrick is due to the hard work and cooperation of the board of South Carrick Community Leisure and South Ayrshire Council with the help of Carrick Futures,

Hadyard Hill, William Grant, the Scottish Government and others in funding. The culmination of all of this has made it possible to reach this point when the groundwork has started and will finish with a brand new leisure centre in March 2017 called "the Quay Zone". However the real victors are the general public, the man and woman in the street with their never-say-never attitude which has won through. Well done to all and a special mention to Andrew Sinclair and Peter Linton.

Other news at this time of year is the sadness at the demise of Ailsa Horizons. The loss of the contracts with Carrick Futures and Hadyard Hill along with a squeeze in Council funding and a delay in the Leader process has brought the company to a close. I know that Horizons have never been short of critics but then again who is? A lot of hard work was carried out free of charge on behalf of many groups and individuals who called in to the Girvan office looking for help and who were never turned away. This was a local company based in a local easily accessible office providing important local employment to their staff members and it is a case of nothing will be missed until it has gone.

On other matters, Falk Renewables are looking at the installation of turbines in the Assel Valley around April time with no defined date yet for Tralorg. Altercannoch and Chirmorrie wind farms have live

planning applications, the latter being direct with the Scottish Government. Ongoing concerns about the possible transportation of turbines directly through Barrhill village will have to be addressed and I, as the elected representative attached to Barrhill, Pinwherry and Pinmore, will be raising these concerns with the relevant people.

The Ayrshire and Arran Tourism Team has now sadly been disbanded with one each of the team tued over to each of the three councils. It seems that both East and North Ayrshire were not willing to carry on with the set up which for the South had been working well and therefore in the end it could not be saved. I am most critical of South Ayrshire Council's handling of this matter where as the lead partner, officers could have shown more leadership and backbone. Also the lack of consultation was disgraceful.

Finally watch this space for budget cuts that could seriously affect services given the new financial settlement that councils have to contend with. I am not being political but awe have supped enough from the cup of austerity and it is time perhaps fair taxes on big multinationals could make life better for all of those who strive to work hard for their communities.

Councillor Alec Clark,
South Ayrshire Council,
Ward 8 Girvan and South Carrick

ADVENTURE CENTRE FOR EDUCATION

Winter has been long, dark, wet and windy but as the days get lighter, now is the time to come out of hibernation and get out and about. Spring time is a great time to explore the hills and woodlands with stunning displays of colour. The water is still a bit chilly but canoeing is the perfect way to explore our inland lochs and spot wildlife.

The days can still be cold so why not warm up on one of our bushcraft days. We offer a family session suitable for all ages through to weekend survival skills courses. We also run adventure birthday parties in our local woodlands. Why not try something different this year and go on a Gruffalo hunt or find stickman and his friend in the forest? For older children we run archery, bushcraft and survival skills parties which can be tailored to your requirements.

New for 2016 is our extended outdoor archery range. Every third Sunday we run two sessions. Our first session is for families and is open to adults and children aged 8+. The session runs from 10am-12pm and is a fun session with games and competitions. The afternoon session is from 1pm-3pm and is open to beginners and improvers. Children under 14 must be accompanied by an adult.

For more information visit our website www.adventurecarrick.com or call us on 07920 406982 to book your adventure today.

South West Scotland and the Galloways
www.adventurecarrick.com
 Book your adventure today, call 07920 406982

Activities include coasteering, gorge walking, SUP, kayaking, abseiling, bushcraft, biking and much more!

Full and half day activities, adventure holidays for families, groups and individuals, adventure birthday parties and family fun activity days. Open all year round, catering for all ages and abilities.

Breathtaking locations

BALLANTRAE

BALLANTRAE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

The first issue of "**Ballantrae News**" was distributed to every house in Ballantrae and Smyrton during the first week in January. The intention is to issue 4 times per year in between Stinchar Valley Magazines. The next edition will be in April / May. Village groups are encouraged to use the publication as one way of publicising their events.

We made strong representations to the 3 Ayrshire Council Chief Executives, Councillors and industry bodies earlier this month about the rumours that the **Ayrshire and Arran Tourism Team** is to be disbanded with each council being responsible for their own tourism strategy. We explained how the Team had helped us in lots of practical ways and to return to 3 separate plans would be a retrograde step. But the decision has now been made and the team will be disbanded at the end of March. Although it is a blow the BDG will work with whatever new structure is put in place for the benefit of Ballantrae

and the surrounding area.

Work continues on following up the "**Keep Ballantrae Safe**" event with the various agencies to create an action plan.

The Ballantrae Food Strategy Group (a sub group of the BDG) has started the detailed planning of the **Ballantrae Festival of Food and Drink** (12 June) and 3 **Farmers' Markets** on 17 April, 21 August and 2 October. See the article elsewhere in this magazine.

At the time of going to print, another meeting will be held shortly between South Ayrshire Council and a sub group of the BDG, to explore how we can improve and extend **play facilities in the village and revitalise parts of the Recreation Ground.**

This year's **Smugglers Festival** will look a bit different, taking place over a number of months rather than being a seven day festival during one week in August. For

some idea of what is planned, see the article elsewhere in this magazine.

The new **Ayrshire LEADER** (European Funding) **programme** was launched on 11 January. Because Ballantrae has never benefitted from this fund in the past, we are continuing to explore with the Fund Co-ordinator ways in which the fund might help us deliver some aspects of the Village Development Plan. As a result of these discussions, we now have a clearer idea of what might be funded and what is unlikely to be. We shall be developing a draft project and consulting on it locally within the coming months.

We were represented at a consultation meeting on Thursday 28 January organised by Voluntary Action South Ayrshire to discuss current and future improvements in **Community Planning arrangements.**

Ballantrae FESTIVAL OF FOOD & DRINK

Following last year's hugely successful festival which attracted almost 4000 visitors, organisers are planning another Ballantrae Festival of Food & Drink again this year. Why not get involved in one of the best events in the South West for showcasing exceptional Scottish local produce? Whether you are a producer, a supplier, a restaurateur or a volunteer, we would love to hear from you.

The festival will include:

- Exceptional Scottish Produce
- Celebration of Healthy Eating & Drinking
- Guided Foraging Walks
- A Wild Foods Exhibition
- Cookery Demonstrations
- Local Food Producers
- Tastings & Stalls
- Fresh Fruit & Veg Juice Making
- Pop up Restaurants and Street Food
- Wine, Whisky and Beer Tasting
- Live Music
- Children / family friendly activities

All in a stunning setting on the shore overlooking Ailsa Craig and Arran. Set in the spectacular location of Ballantrae harbour, the festival is a family friendly event for everyone who is passionate about great food, drink and music.

Keep up to date with our programme and find further information by going to: www.ballantrae.org.uk/foodfestival/

***Come and join us in
Ballantrae on Sunday
12th June 2016!***

The Ballantrae Festival of Food & Drink works in partnership with local businesses, Craigmains Home and Garden Centre, Glenapp Castle, the Biosphere, local Councils, the Whisky Experience, Ayrshire College, the Ayrshire Food Network, Slow Food, Ayrshire Chamber of Commerce and Taste Ayrshire.

**A Celebration of
Great Taste.**

**Sunday 12th June
11am to 5pm**





BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

by Sharon Robertson

The BCA had a very successful 2015, concluding with a well-supported Christmas Craft Fair and a wonderful kids Christmas Party, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thanks to everyone who helped make the BCA events happen.

Events planned for 2016 commence with an Easter Craft Fair in early April - watch the "Information Ballantrae" page on Facebook for the details. The next edition of the Stinchar Valley Magazine will include details of this year's Ballantrae Gala.

BALLANTRAE RESIDENTS COME TO THE RESCUE



The strong winds and heavy rain of storm Frank on Wednesday 30 December brought havoc to Scotland resulting in the River Stinchar bursting its banks. This resulted in the A77 being closed in

both directions at Ballantrae Bridge for most of the day. With a long line of traffic trying to travel south to Stranraer and Cairnryan brought to a standstill by the rising water levels, once again the villagers took the initiative to help those stranded by mobilising volunteers via social media. The incident was reported on the national news bulletin (Reporting Scotland on the BBC) with Jimmy King of Ballantrae Coastguard explaining what had happened and what was being done to solve the problem.



To the coastguard who were out all day working alongside Police Scotland and Transerv, to the volunteers in the Community Hall and BRICC, to those who delivered hot food and drinks to those at the bridge, and to the villagers who donated soup, sandwiches, biscuits and sweets, indeed to anyone who helped in any way - THANKS!

BALLANTRAE PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term Primary 3 and 4 from Ballantrae Primary School would like to share some of our work with you, which we are very proud of.



Art – Printing

We have been learning how to print for our art lessons this term. We have used different techniques to print different types of pictures. Last term we were learning about the Rainforest and we used this topic to give us some inspiration to make leaf print designs. Once we had practiced printing these, we put them together to make a cushion for our classroom. It is really green and has different rainforest leaf prints on it. We learned that you need to press firmly and evenly onto the template to make it print well.

We also made some relief printing blocks inspired from buildings around us. We used our blocks to print a street scene. Our street has many different kinds of houses on it. We think it is very creative. We also enjoyed making the background for our street.



Fair Trade

We have been learning about Fair Trade in our school and have been collecting food items from home. Fair Trade makes sure that farmers from third world countries get a fair price for things they grow. We gave our mums and dads a questionnaire to fill in to find out whether people knew about Fair Trade or if they cared about it. We think Fair Trade is important. Have a look in your cupboards. If you have a chance can you help us complete our questionnaire and send it to us at P3/4, Ballantrae Primary School.



In March we will be holding a Fair Trade Fortnight in our school. This is all part of our Learning for Sustainability work – we want to try to make the world a better place for everyone.



Topical Science

We have been really interested in the news about Tim Peake, the first British astronaut to go in to space.

We found out that he trained by going under the sea for eight days to get used to swimming through space because there is no gravity in there – did you know that gravity is measured in Newtons? Tim Peake has been fixing some things on the International Space Station. We have been watching him on his blog. We really liked it when he took a space selfie! Because we are so interested in space at the moment we are going to The Dark Sky Observatory on the 5th February.

We are hoping to see different planets like Mars, Jupiter and maybe even Planet Nine. A different way to learn the sequence of the planets is to say "My very evil mummy just sat upon Nathan's potty!" Later on this term we are going to be learning about other types of space – green space, outer space, digital space, built space and personal space during our science, technology, engineering and maths week (STEM).

Bubbles by P3 and P4

Primary 3 and 4 at Ballantrae Primary have been writing poems about bubbles. We would like to share some with you.

Bubbles

As round as a marble, as clear as the sea. Touches the grass...POPI Hovering, floating, bursting! Fun to play with.

By Mae P4

Bubbles

Bubbles blowing on a sunny day. Shimmering like rainbows in the light. Bubbles like transparent bouncy balls. Fun to play with. Flying high until...POPI

William P4

Bubbles

Rainbow bubbles floating in my garden. Colourful suns; wiggling and drifting slowly to the ground.

Exploding with a flash!

Gone!

Kaci P3

Bubbles

Gleaming, glossy, sleek on a summers' day. Gliding through the sky. Shiny as a diamond sparkling in the sun. Smoothly drifting down...kapow! Popping on my head.

Wallace P3

THE BALLANTRAE GYMNASTS

by Claire Erskine

Stacey Stewart and I started a Gymnastics Club in Ballantrae nearly two years ago on a Tuesday and Thursday from 3pm until 4.30pm. It started out as an after school club, part of the "Active Schools" project. Our involvement is unpaid - we do this as volunteers.



I was a gymnast for 11 years and, although I am not a qualified coach, the school, the parents and the children are happy with what we allow the children to do safely - under supervision. South Ayrshire Council Active Schools have agreed to support my attendance at a course in the near future to gain a qualification.

Interest in what we do has grown. We now have nearly 40 gymnasts - impressive numbers for a small village school. To see the children's faces as they go through their paces while, at the same time contributing to their health and fitness, is very rewarding.

Word has got around about how good the children have become, and we have been invited to enter a South Ayrshire Inter-Schools competition at the Citadel in Ayr on the 25 February. The winning team will go on to compete in a national competition. We see this as an excellent opportunity for our gymnasts to demonstrate what they have learned, to continue to build their confidence, to broaden their experience of gymnastics and of course to promote Ballantrae!

Thanks to the generosity of the Carrick Futures Community Benefit Small Grants Scheme and the Ballantrae Community Council, the children will enter the competition resplendent in their new "team colours" (leotards for the girls and T-shirts for the boys) designed by Scot Signs of Stranraer. At the time of writing we are practising hard so keep your fingers crossed



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Glenapp Castle

Glenapp Castle re-opens on Friday 18th March 2016
and is open to non-resident guests for lunch,
afternoon tea and dinner.

A prior reservation is required.

Please call us on 01465 831212

All guests are invited to enjoy a walk in the gardens,
please see our new garden map on the back page.



Carrick Futures
Brightening Your Future



SCOUTABOUT

Ballantrae Scout Group has just received a grant from the Scottish Government's "Cashback for Communities" fund which uses recovered proceeds of crime for work with young people. The money will be used to organise a programme of adventurous activities for Scouts during the period March - August 2016 that will involve paddle boarding, coasteering, gorge walking, woodland camp craft, and a two day overnight canoe camp. The activities will be organised in partnership with trained instructors from Adventure Carrick based in Girvan.

To help fund the programme of adventurous activities and to fund the many other activities that make up a programme for the Beavers, Cubs, and Scouts all year round, The Group Executive (comprising Parents and Friends) will be organising a number of fund-raising activities during the coming months which we hope you will feel able to support. Following last year's successful Auction we'll be running another Auction with the help of Lynne and Brian McIlwraith with Dr Tom Smith acting as auctioneer. Watch local press, The Ballantrae News, noticeboards and social media for details.



Birthdays
Events
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Karen Stewart Images

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Wedding packages available. Please ask!



CRAFTY BEES

Ballantrae Crafty Bees continue to meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month in BRICC House at 7.30pm.



We are very grateful to the Ballantrae Community Council who recently awarded us a grant to purchase new equipment for our ever increasing group so we now have lots of new resources for our members to use. In the coming months we will be making jewellery, learning to do needle felting, making decorative wreaths, decorating canvas bags with fabric, and making Spirelli cards. No crafting experience is necessary - all are welcome age 16 to 100.



More details available from Barbara Ogston, Tel 01465 831252 or come along to any meeting.

A NEW TWIST TO THE TALE

This year's Ballantrae Smugglers Festival will take place over a number of months (rather than a 7 day festival during one week in August). The draft programme, which is currently being finalised, is likely to include: an event in Ballantrae (on the evening of Friday 5 August) with the tall ship La Malouine, skiffs, Smugglers,



Excisemen and the Militia, and horses all re-enacting the Ballantrae Smuggling story; the publication of a book of smuggling stories for children written by local children, with poems and illustrations; the launch of the "Smuggling Road Trip around Scotland" phase 1, Stranraer to Girvan; Walking the Smuggling Trails; a Smugglers Supper; the "Ballantrae Smugglers' Chase" - a skiff race; and the popular "Strongman Challenge".

Once again the children of Ballantrae and Colmonell will be an integral part of the Festival. Watch local press for details. Also more details in the next edition of the Stinchar Valley Magazine.

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.

GRAND HOUSES OF THE STINCHAR VALLEY



Pinmore House 1885



Alton Albany House, Barr



Balnowlart House, built 1905.



Kirkhill Castle, Colmonell, built in the late 16th century



Kildonan House, built between 1915-1923



Bardrochat House, Colmonell



Corwar House, Barrhill

many more old photographs can be seen at:

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

and

<http://www.ballantrae.org.uk/history/photographs/index.php>

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.

STINCHAR VALLEY PHOTO GROUP



We had a great day out to Ailsa Craig in the autumn, photographing the wildlife, landing on the Craig and exploring the island. Group evenings have included the photographs taken at the "painting with light" evening, how to put together a simple DVD using stills and video and then the technique was used to put the learning into practice creating DVDs of the Ailsa Craig visit for our January meeting. One of our new members showed us his new TV camera and explained what it can do. Unfortunately our outing to Castle Kennedy in December had to be cancelled because of bad weather. At our February meeting we are planning to practise using studio lighting. We have been considering a draft constitution which we plan to adopt at our Annual Review / AGM at the end of April.

The Group meets on the last Thursday of every month (except December) from 7.30pm until 9.30pm in BRICC House, Main Street, Ballantrae. Our aim is simple - "to help more local people take better pictures" and our members take pictures using a variety of cameras - mobile phones, compact cameras and digital SLRs. We try to create an environment where our members can experiment, seek advice, support and encouragement. Our meetings are very informal and there's always plenty of chat over our mid-evening cup of tea or coffee. New members are always welcome.



BALLANTRAE CHURCH LINKED WITH ST COLMON CHURCH



My name is Hamish, I'm a West Highland Terrier and my Daddy, who is the minister of Ballantrae and St Colmon Churches, asked if I would be prepared to write an article for the Stinchar Valley Magazine. I have been writing my article "Paws for Thought" for the Church Newsletter since 2013, and so my Daddy thought I was ready to write for this magazine. I have to say, I was taught by the best, my much older brother who wrote the articles from 2010 until he sadly passed away in March 2013. While I did think he was a bit old and grumpy when I first came to stay at the manse, I do value all that he taught me.

Life in the manse, normally involves getting rudely awoken from my sleep by my human brother and sister, and then being let outside so that I can inform the neighbourhood that I am awake and they should be too. After that I go in and get my breakfast and then wander around and see where I can either sleep or if I can have fun with my human siblings. Once they go off to school, I settle down to a day of playing the game called "Stay Close to Mummy" which often means sleeping under her desk while she is busy working. Although I may appear to be asleep, I am always alert and listening for any noise that may let me know that someone is at the front door. If I hear something, then quick as a flash I run to the front door or look out one of the front windows, and bark and bark until the person goes away.

I believe from what I have heard that some dogs don't enjoy barking, however I love it! The joy of making your voice heard and people noticing who you are, is such a wonderful feeling. Sometimes I can feel a bit nervous, but when I bark all those feelings disappear and I know that I am fulfilling my purpose in life. I like to think that we all have something that we enjoy and are good at, which helps us to cope with the more difficult times in our lives. Barking is my activity and whether inside or outside, I feel content when I bark. I definitely think it was God who gave me such a wonderful gift, and I am glad I can use it to help other people, for when I bark my Mummy and Daddy know that someone is at the door.

I hope you have enjoyed reading my thoughts and Daddy has told me that if people say that they enjoyed my article, then he may let me write another time.

So until next time, **Hamish**



Sunday at Glenapp

An opportunity to share in worship that draws on the ecumenical patterns that have arisen from different liturgical traditions across the UK and the world.

At 3pm on Sunday 27th March, 24th April and 29th May in Glenapp Church.

Church Information

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

St Colmon Parish Church

10am every Sunday in Colmonell. For those who find the church steps a challenge the All Age service on the first Sunday of each month is usually held in the Kirk Hall, which has easy access. 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. We also have our contemporary Sunday at Seven service which is usually on the first Sunday of the month at 7pm.

If you want to contact Stephen, our minister, to check service times, or to arrange weddings, baptisms, funerals or anything else, his details are:

Rev Stephen Ogston

The Manse, 1 The Vennel, Ballantrae, KA26 0NH
01465 831252
ogston@macfish.com

www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk

www.stcolmonparishchurch.org.uk

We are also on Facebook as 'Ballantrae Church' and 'StColmon Church'.

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Easter Services

Palm Sunday, 20th March

10am – St Colmon Church, Colmonell

11:30am – Ballantrae Church

Maundy Thursday, 24th March

7pm – St Colmon Kirk Hall – Agape Supper with Communion Service

Good Friday, 25th March

12 noon – Open Air Service at the Stumpy, Girvan
6:30pm for 7pm – Taste & See Cafe Church in St Colmon Kirk Hall

7pm – South Carrick Churches Together Service in Girvan South Church

Easter Sunday, 27th March

7am – Early Service at Ballantrae Harbour, followed by Breakfast at the Manse

10am – St Colmon Church, Colmonell

11:30am – Ballantrae Church

3pm – Sunday at Glenapp in Glenapp Church



Ayrshire Litter Volunteer Network

"Do a Little" ...
... "Change a Lot"

Volunteers Wanted
Join us at: www.alvn.org.uk
Call/text: 07730 392 770
Email: litterless@alvn.org.uk

ALVN is a charity registered with the Scottish Charity Regulator (SCRO) No. SC045888. It is a company limited by guarantee. Registered office: 1 The Vennel, Ballantrae, KA26 0NH. VAT No. 248 456 123. Bank: The Royal Bank of Scotland, 1 The Vennel, Ballantrae, KA26 0NH. Account No. 123456789. Sort Code: 200000. ALVN is a company limited by guarantee. Registered office: 1 The Vennel, Ballantrae, KA26 0NH. VAT No. 248 456 123. Bank: The Royal Bank of Scotland, 1 The Vennel, Ballantrae, KA26 0NH. Account No. 123456789. Sort Code: 200000.



ALVN volunteers
Mrs. Lynn Nield and
Mrs. Linden Hunt
in action in Ballantrae.

What is the Ayrshire Litter Volunteer Network?
The ALVN is an association of like-minded individuals who aim to promote care for our environment and pride in the communities in which we live. The objective is to change attitudes to litter by having a regular visible presence and setting an example for others to follow.

What does "Adopt a Street" entail?
Volunteers commit to clearing a post-coded street of litter. It costs nothing more than a little of your time and can have a huge impact.

Where can I get more information?
Either visit the ALVN website www.alvn.org.uk or telephone Mrs. Linden Hunt 01465 831207 or Mrs. Lynn Nield 01465 831769.

**TASTE
& SEE**
CAFE CHURCH

6:30pm for 7pm in St Colmon Kirk Hall, Colmonell

Every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month throughout 2016.

Come along to our cafe with live music and discussion. Enjoy coffee, tea, cake and a wide variety of hot chocolate (dark or white chocolate with flavours such as orange, mint, raspberry, lemon, coconut, mixed spice, turkish delight, etc.).

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/tasteandseecafe/>

Kings Arms Hotel Ballantrae

A warm welcome awaits you in our well stocked lounge and public bars with good food in our restaurant. A take away menu is also available.

We run a Weekly Quiz every Sunday at 8pm for teams of up to 4 people. £1 entry per person. The winners receive a free drink and there's a small individual prize. Why not come and join in?

Address:

Kings Arms Hotel, Main Street, Ballantrae

Tel: 01465 831202

Email: info@kingsarmsballantrae.com

Web: www.kingsarmsballantrae.com



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stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk

Barr Teas

Barr Teas will be serving delicious afternoon teas with home-baking and Jams on Easter Sunday 27th March. Samples of local glass work from 'Aye Glass' will also be on sale in the hall.

Proceeds from 2015 were donated to local charities - £900 to Ayrshire Hospice in memory of Ann Dunlop, £250 each to Barr Primary School, Barr Parish Church and CAN (Girvan Volunteer Driver for Cancer Care). Thank You to all who supported Barr Teas throughout the year. Please check Barr Village Website or Facebook Page for further details.



Barr Village Carol Singers 2015

Barr Carol Singers

Thanks to Barr Carol singers who raised £155 whilst performing around the village on Christmas Eve for Ayrshire Cancer Support.



Open Studios Ayrshire opens its doors Friday 22nd April – Monday 25th April.

Come along and support Carrick Artists and experience their working studios first-hand. There will be a free community bus touring the studios – Merlin Currie of Wee Barr Gallery, Pinmore Pottery, Alan Lees in Kirkmichael and The Little Art School in Girvan. The bus will connect to Girvan Station to allow access from other villages.

Why not make a day of it and drop into the Kirkmichael Arms for lunch or come for afternoon tea in Barr. The Artists will all make you most welcome. Please contact Merlin Currie 01465 861239 for further information and look out for posters and notices in the local paper for details.



BARR PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

January was registration month for our 2nd year Nursery pupils, August will come around soon and these 4 boys will be heading to Primary 1. Here they are on their nursery climbing frame, happy chaps they are.

On the 25th January we held our Burns' Supper and Poetry Competition. Gordon Clark and Robert Sykes from Barr Burns Club kindly came along to judge the poetry competition for us.

This year we had a special award – The Bill Dunlop Memorial Trophy for the overall winner. The award went to P7 pupil Nathan Harvey. Congratulations Nathan.

Each Year had a 1ST place winner, receiving a certificate and £10 Waterstones voucher, and a runner up winner receiving a certificate.

Primary 1 Winner:

Hermione Blair – Runner-Up: Mason Wright

Primary 2 Winner:

Rosie Denham – Runner-Up: Molly McFegan

Primary 3 Winner:

Emily Wilson – Runner -Up: Kieran Blanchard

Primary 4 Winner:

Bonnie Darbyshire – Runner-Up: Thomas Denham

Primary 5 Winner:

Bailey Wilson – Runner-Up: Darcey Trotter

Primary 6/7 Winner:

Nathan Harvey – Runner-Up: Eleanor Gunson

Well done to all the winners. Keep up the good work.



We would like to welcome Mrs Moira McAllister, our new Clerical Assistant.

Mrs McAllister joined us part-time at the end of last year as we said Goodbye to Mrs Aileen Ross who moved to another career in Ayr. In January Moira joined us full-time and is settling in just nicely.



Outstanding People Award

Barr Primary are very proud of our Janitor, Mr John Sloan (Dixie), who was awarded the Silver award for South Ayrshire Council 'Outstanding People Award'.

Mr Sloan and Mr Baird attended the award ceremony at Ayr Racecourse in November.

Barr Primary School and their joining school Barrhill Primary had plans to head to Culzean Country Park to Dolphin House at the end of January but storm Gertrude closed the park and the children were unable to attend, however the rangers from Dolphin House kindly came out to the school and kept the children busy with their numerous activities, one particular activity enjoyed by all was an outdoor Burns Supper and Poetry recital.

Outdoors, burns supper consisted of Haggis and toasted marshmallows, washed down with hot chocolate!



BARR VILLAGE GALA 11th June 2016

The village of Barr hosts their annual Gala with a 'Carnival' theme on the 11th June. The day commences with the customary Auchensoul Fell Race challenge. There are winners' cash prizes and trophies for both adult and junior races. Races are hotly contested with fast times recorded and even a few 'interesting' costumes sported by some contestants! Registration takes place - Village Hall at 9.30am and races commence at 10am.

The Gala Parade follows with the crowning of the King & Queen with lots of fun activities, stalls and games throughout the afternoon. Details will be published on the Barr Village Website and Barr Village Facebook page.

Stalls are available to book at £10 per stand, along the bank of the picturesque Gregg burn and around the village. Anyone interested in getting ahead of the rush, please contact Elaine Denham on 01465 861189, elainejmcclelland@hotmail.com.

Stinchar Valley Quilters Quilt Show & Grand Charity Raffle

30/31st July in Barr Village Hall



See Barr Village Website & Facebook for more details. Stinchar Valley Quilters meet in Barr Village Hall every Monday & Wednesday from 6.30pm

All welcome.

Barr Bowling Club opens for season on the first weekend in May

Please check Barr Village Website or FB for updates. The Bowling Club meets on Thursdays at 6.30pm and Sundays at 1.45pm during the season. Everyone welcome!

Barr Community Store

Snowdrops are up and daffodils won't be too far behind – Spring really isn't too far away!

When that milder weather arrives, why not come over to Barr to walk along one of the beautiful Forest Trails?

Enjoy the lovely surroundings and look out for the wild life – birds of prey, deer, red squirrels, and – if you're lucky - the shy and elusive pine-martens, which were confirmed last season as being present and breeding in this area.

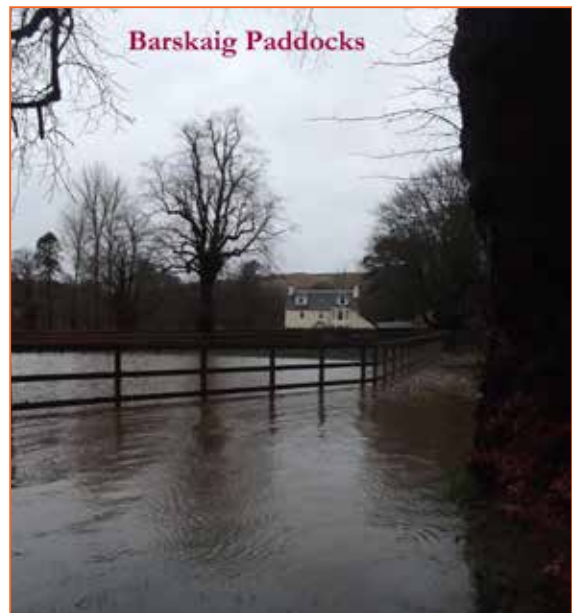
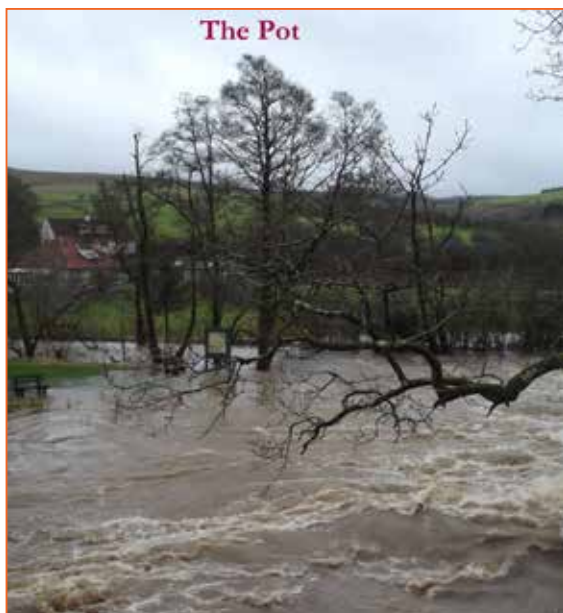
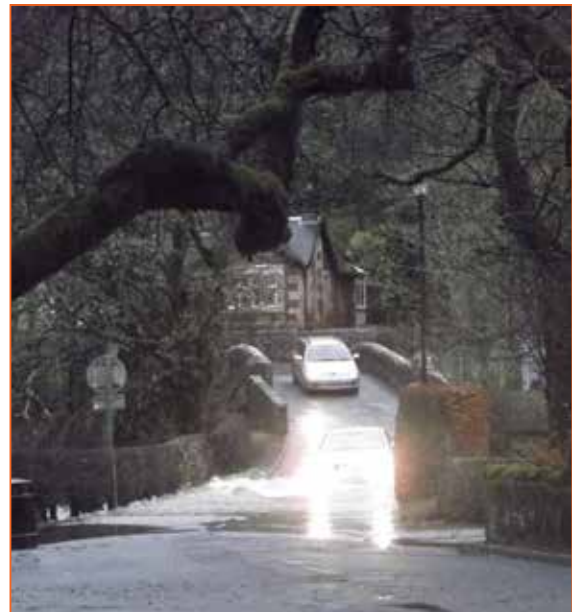
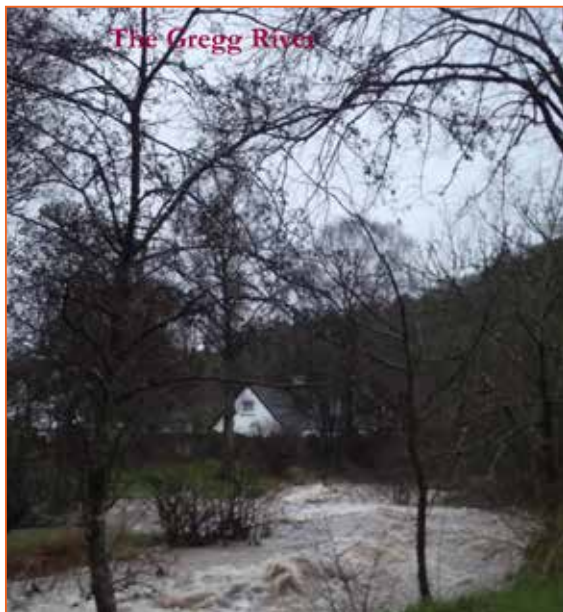
After your walk, why not drop in to Barr Community Store and Cafe for a refreshing beverage, with perhaps a cake or a hot or cold filled roll? We're open from 9 am until 2 pm Monday through to Friday, and open until 4 pm at the week-end.



On Saturday evenings (6 pm – 7 pm) we offer freshly made pizzas and haddock 'n chips – please call to order before 4pm. (01465 861221)

We hope to see you soon!

THE WATERS OF BARR!



BARRHILL

BARRHILL SCHOOL Christmas Play

After weeks of preparation, practice, prop making and gathering costumes the big night finally arrived.

"Mr Humbug Sees the Light" played to a packed house of parents, grandparents, previous pupils, future pupils and members of the community. The children had clearly worked hard at learning their lines and the songs ready for the big night and the performance went very smoothly.



The evening raised £579.70 for school funds which was fantastic!

This was truly another successful Christmas play at Barrhill Primary School, which ensures the audience will be coming back next year for more!

Filling the Park Planters

With the help of parents and members of the community we filled the planters in the park, first with gravel and then with soil.

We also had time to plant some bulbs before the rain started.



A big thank you to everyone for all their hard work.

We're looking forward to a lovely display of flowers in the spring.

Scottish Badminton Championship trip to Glasgow

Primary 4-7 went to Glasgow to see the Scottish Badminton Championships. We travelled to Glasgow in the Barrhill Community minibus.

In the morning we watched Scotland and France play but unfortunately Scotland lost the match.

After lunch we took part in some fun badminton related games. We learnt trick shots such as under leg shot and behind the back shot. We all had great fun.

BARRHILL DELIVERY

Would you like to volunteer a couple of hours of your time every 3 months delivering the Stinchar Valley Magazine around Barrhill?

If you can help please give

Beckie a call on:

01465 821098 or email rebecca.whitehurst1@gmail.com



BARRHILL MEMORIAL HALL

Over the Christmas period, Barrhill Memorial Hall was very busy indeed. The hall set the scene to host the Children's Christmas party, the old folks' Christmas Dinner and the Whist Tournament. All who attended were in high spirits and through continued funding efforts and support from groups and fundraising events, will all be able to enjoy the same next year.

Other exciting additions to the hall this year were the brand new outdoor Christmas Lights and very festive Christmas Tree that cheerily lit up the cold December nights on the hill. A very large thank you goes to all those who braved the cold and contributed



time and effort to 'light up the night' at the hall.

As always mentioned, there are a number of clubs currently at the hall available to all in the Stinchar Valley to attend, Keep Fit, Badminton, Playgroup, Whist, Camera Club, Fellowship Group and the

Arnshean Church to name a few. If you would like to start a club or even hold an event or a meeting do please get in touch, there may be funds to help you do so. It is important that you do get in touch as there are a growing number of suggestions such as Ceilidh Dance Lessons, Book Club, Martial Arts Club, Zumba, Weightwatchers, Short Tennis, Indoor Bowls and even afternoon Tea Dances. Please do let us know what you would like to attend or even if you would like to put on a group or club. Additionally if there is anyone in the Stinchar Valley area that is willing and able to teach computer skills to the old folks please get in touch also.



There will be an Easter Craft Fair this year, do look out for the posters. If anyone would like to book a table, please contact Rebecca Boswell on the below details. A reminder that we will also be holding a Flower Show, so keep those green fingers in order as more details unfold.

As always if you require any information, would like to discuss an event or group, or simply want to volunteer your help at an event please contact Rebecca Boswell on 01465 821098 or Rebecca.whitehurst1@gmail.com.

Hope to see you all over the coming months, Rebecca x

SPRING CONCERT

AYR TOWN HALL
SUNDAY MARCH 20th
at 7.30pm

Conductor John L Wilson

Leader Louise Barratt

Soloist Michael Foyle - Violin

Overture Girl Crazy

Korngold Violin Concerto

Rachmaninoff Symphonic Dances

Tickets £12 & £8 available from Draw Write
72 - 4 Sandgate Ayr Tel: 01292 281690 & from
members Tel: Pat Spence 01465 821377

AYR CAMERATA SUMMER CONCERT

AYR BAPTIST CHURCH
SATURDAY JUNE 4th 2016 at 7.30pm

Conductor Paul Wood

Leader Robert de Mey

Pat Spence - flute

Meredith McCrindle - harp

SCHUBERT: Overture in the Italian Style

MOZART: Concerto for flute & harp

ELGAR: Chanson de Matin & Salut d'Amour

DEBUSSY: Petite Suite

DA FALLA: Suite I - II Sombrero de 3 Picos

Tickets £10 (concessions £8) available from members
Tel: Pat Spence 01465 821377 or at the door



Colmonell Community Association Christmas Party

Colmonell Community Association held their annual Christmas Party on Friday 18th December which was well attended by children from the village and the school.

Party games were followed by a delicious party tea and a visit from Santa himself.



A great time was had by all!



Colmonell Baby & Toddler Group Christmas Party

Santa took time out of his busy schedule to visit Colmonell Baby and Toddler Group Christmas Party on Friday 11th December. The children enjoyed making some Christmas decorations and reindeer hats before having their snack and finishing with a game of pass the parcel.

The Baby and Toddler group is open to all children under the age of 5 years from the Stinchar Valley area and takes place in Colmonell Church Hall every Friday, from 1.30pm to 3pm. For more information contact Eileen McCutcheon on 881 191, new members will be made very welcome!



Colmonell Christmas Lights Switch On & Carol Concert

Colmonell Development Group and Colmonell Community Association jointly organised a Christmas lights switch on for the village on Monday 7th December, followed by a carol concert performed by Creetown Silver Band. The event was funded through Carrick Futures and was a great success with an excellent turn out of people. Some hardy



souls even braved the awful weather to go carol singing around the village prior to the lights switch on! The lights were switched on by Colmonell

Primary School's Aliyah Aubad and Abbi Phillips, with a switch on countdown by Councillor Alec Clark.



Refreshments were served and everyone got into the festive spirit with the carol concert performed by Creetown Silver Band. Grateful thanks go to all who were involved in organising the event or who contributed in some way. The hope is that more Christmas lights can be purchased to light up more areas around the village over the coming years. It was also fitting that Colmonell Community were successful in winning a fibre optic Christmas tree for the village hall in a competition run by Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband.



COLMONELL WRI

Colmonell WRI started 2016 with a member's night with Bingo and a Quiz

February 10th a talk by Elma Mitchell on the work of Marie Curie.

March 9th is our 89th Birthday Party and entertainment is by Marti and Val.

March 13th is a cookery demonstration by Susan Crosthwaite

May 11th is our AGM and presentation of trophies for Points competitions, and will be held at Craigmains Garden Centre.

May 28th is the annual outing and this year's destination is the Falkirk Wheel and a visit to the Kelpies.

For more information, or to book a seat on the bus, telephone Ann Robertson on 01465 821366 or Margaret Robertson on 881352.



Colmonell Bowling Club

Our AGM will be held on Sunday 3rd April at 2pm in the Club House.

Colmonell Fun Day

This year's Fun Day will be held on Saturday 11th June at 1pm, more details in the next magazine.

Colmonell Curling Club

Some of Colmonell Curling Club sporting their new club team wear, which has been purchased with grant funding



WANTED!

Colmonell and Lendalfoot Community Council are in great need of Community Councillors. It is not a huge commitment: we meet once every two months, for about 1.5 hours. We deal with local concerns and try to implement changes for the better in our communities. We also administer the small grant fund from Carrick Futures, for projects up to £500.

If you are interested please call Judy Brzezinka for an application form, on 01465 881236.

SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE COLMONELL

Colmonell are desperately needing new recruits to join our crew.

We are currently struggling to crew our appliance during the working week as we require a minimum of 4 members to be able to respond to an emergency.

We are operating with only 7 members at the moment when we should have 10.

Most of our crew's primary employment takes them out of the catchment area. This in effect only allows us to operate fully out with the working week.

I think it would be very sad if we were to lose such a vital resource within our community due to the lack of personnel.

Potential recruits need to be reasonably fit, be able to respond to call outs within 5 mins, attend a weekly 3 hour drill night (Wednesdays between 7-10pm) and also must be prepared to attend the Fire Service College in Cambuslang, Glasgow for 4 weeks training.

There are a few different levels of cover candidates could provide, i.e. 100% would be someone who could commit to 120hrs of availability or next down would be 90hrs, 60 or even 40hrs to cover the day time to allow the appliance to mobilise.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service will be recruiting shortly. You can apply through My Job Scotland but before you do why don't you come down to the station at Colmonell on a Wednesday evening and have a chat with the crew who will be happy to show you around and to answer any questions you may have about your suitability.

We can be contacted at the Fire Station each Wednesday evening between 7pm – 10pm on 881266

RDS RECRUITMENT	ADVERT DATES	T&TM INDUCTION DATES
CAMPAIGN 1	1 – 21 FEB 2016	6 JUNE 2016
CAMPAIGN 2	2 – 22 MAY 2016	5 SEPTEMBER 2016
CAMPAIGN 3	1 – 21 AUGUST 2016	5 DECEMBER 2016

Clockworks Handcrafted Clocks

- * Using locally sourced Ayrshire Slate
- * Recycled Clock Cases
- * Jewellery findings
- * Other reclaimed materials

Ian Challis
email: ian.challis@homecall.co.uk

COLMONELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

This term, Primary 6 and 7 from Colmonell Primary School would like to share some of our work with you, which we are proud of.

Community Work

We have been helping the community recently and, in September, held a Macmillan coffee morning.

Helping the community is fun because we are helping our community become better, more colourful and beautiful.
- Primary 7 pupil

The Macmillan coffee morning was held on 24th September 2015 and we raised £405 to help Macmillan cancer support. Macmillan cancer support is close to most people's hearts and we received lots of donations, on the day and after it. Macmillan nurses rely on donation of people and coffee mornings to provide support to people with cancer, so it is vital that we keep holding coffee mornings and donate to this important cause.



We ran stalls to raise money as part of our Macmillan Coffee Morning.



We helped decorate the community tree at Christmas.

We assisted with the planting of daffodil bulbs at the war memorial. This is to hopefully create a stunning display come the spring. We helped decorate the Christmas tree in the Community Centre. We also performed our Christmas Play songs to the local community. We love sharing our learning with the community.

The Rainforest

Last term, we were learning about the Rainforest. We found out about the kinds of animals that are there and the different layers they are located in. We worked in groups to create a 3D display showing all four layers. Across the school, we created a collage display to show what the Rainforest would be like. Everyone enjoyed making the display and learning about the Rainforest.

We had a visit from Zoolab and they brought a range of rainforest creatures with them. He stayed for the afternoon and visited the classes and the nursery. We loved the treefrog that he stuck to the wall.



We had a visit from Zoolab so that we could have the experience of handling some real rainforest creatures.

We liked creating our diorama out of various art materials as part of our Rainforest topic.
- Primary 6 pupil

Science Matters

Our whole school went to the Science Centre in Glasgow. We explored the science mall and investigated different types of science like making a robot move on a bicycle, making a light bulb work and investigating magnets. P5/7 also went into the planetarium area and we saw all the colours of the planets.

P5/7 went into a show called Future Fuels. We watched Jennifer make Liquid Nitrogen bubbles then we watched her light the bubbles on fire. She also showed us the effects liquid nitrogen can have on a balloon. She showed us how to use liquid nitrogen to make items hover above ground using magnets.

In the Hunger Games, they have a hover train which is faster than our trains we have right now.

I loved witnessing all the explosions at the Science Centre.
- Primary 6 pupil



We got to experience what it would be like to be energy minister for the day.



We had to use kinetic energy to power the video game.

PINWHERRY & PINMORE

PINWHERRY & PINMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL VACANCIES

Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Council have vacancies for new councillors

Can you spare approximately two hours every other month to become involved in making decisions about local community matters?

If so, please contact this magazine or any Community Councillor or come to a Community Council meeting 7.30pm in Pinwherry Hall Bi-Monthly, on the third Thursday of March, May etc.

WANTED!

Colmonell and Lendalfoot Community Council are in great need of Community Councillors. It is not a huge commitment: we meet once every two months, for about 1.5 hours.

We deal with local concerns and try to implement changes for the better in our communities. We also administer the small grant fund from Carrick Futures, for projects up to £500.

If you are interested please call Judy Brzezinka for an application form, on 01465 881236.

PINWHERRY & PINMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HOSPITAL TRANSPORT

We are piloting a scheme to assist residents within the boundaries of the Pinwherry & Pinmore Community Council area with the cost of transportation for patients to access appointments, treatments or hospital stays.

Any resident who thinks they may qualify is asked to e-mail Joy Chamberlain at ppcctransport@btinternet.com or if no internet access phone 01465 841211

2 Pins Community Centre



Company Limited by Guarantee No. 430441

Scottish Charity No SC043849

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; two meeting rooms which can be opened up into one large room and into the large foyer which can be used to display art and local heritage; and an arts and craft activity room for both adults and children. Outside there will be 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.

Follow us on Facebook:- 2 Pins Community Company

Find our Web Page:- www.2pins.org.uk



Find us on
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<https://www.facebook.com/pages/2-Pins-Community-Company/779985358786545>



Carrick
Futures
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2 Pins Community Member's meeting and Joint 2 Pins and Pinwherry Community Association Fund Raising Committee

Meeting Dates 2016 Every Second Thursday in the Month in Pinwherry Community Hall 7.30pm

10th March	11th August
14th April	8th September
12th May	13th October
9th June	10th November
14th July	8th December



Pinwherry Autograss Dates 2016

24 April	24 July
22 May	28 August
19 June	25 Sept.

for more information
go to our website:
<http://www.eastayrshirecc.co.uk>
or call: 07821241454
07900375150







Possible 2 Pins Events for 2016

Saturday 27th February	Pm Pinwherry School Reunion and History Research
Sunday 27th March	Children's Easter Egg Hunt
Sunday 3rd April	Car Boot
Sunday 1st May	Car Boot
Sunday 29th May	Car Boot
Saturday 18th June	Craft Fair. Vintage Farm Equipment. Family BBQ Night
Sunday 3rd July	Car Boot
Saturday 16th July	Real Ale Event Open Mic
Saturday 27th August	Cream Teas Pinmore and Family BBQ. Say 5-7pm
Sunday 7th August	Car Boot
Friday 19th August	Marquee on Hire (Colmonell)
Sunday 4th September	Car Boot Auto Jumble
Sunday 6th November	Bonfire Night
Saturday 12th November	Craft Fair
Saturday 26th November	(Possible event in hall)
Saturday 17th December	Christmas Carols

PINWHERRY CRAFT FAIR VINTAGE CARS/TRACTORS EVENING BBQ !! SATURDAY 18TH JUNE



PINWHERRY SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Pinwherry Community Development Association has agreed to take over the Pinwherry Primary School buildings and convert them into a Hostel.

The Community Wish & Vision

When Pinwherry Primary School closed the local community requested Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Council to see what could be done with the redundant buildings. The Community Council obtained funding to engage external consultants McKenzie Wilson to look at the possibility of turning the buildings into a Hostel and bunkhouse.

Extract from Consultants report:

“The consultant looked at communities, facilities and services within a 10 – 12 mile radius of Pinwherry Village, as this is likely to be the immediate catchment area for any visitors wishing to avail themselves of this type of accommodation proposed for the former primary school.

The local area around Pinwherry and Pinmore has a good cross section of interesting sectoral products and activities, which could be developed to attract new business into this very rural part of South Carrick. A fairly wide range of opportunities could be considered for development without them having any significant negative impact on the local environment. This list is not exhaustive but is likely to include the following activities, hobbies and interests as follows: -

- Cycling
- Walking
- Salmon & Trout Fishing
- River Canoeing
- Bird Watching (Inland & coastal)
- Heritage – Castles, Standing Stones, Churches and Covenanthers
- Ancestry – Local names (Kennedy, Bruce, Cassillis)
- Affiliate group tours (Motor cycle clubs, Ramblers, Archaeology groups)

Neighbouring communities along the River Stinchar including Barr, Colmonell and Ballantrae have additional services and activities, which strengthen the product base around Pinwherry and Pinmore and provide a good range of opportunities for existing visitors and developing markets. It would make sense

RURAL COMMUNITY NEIGHBOURS

Recently my car broke down on the A714 on the bends just past Pinmacher Farm. 12 Local people and 6 commercial vehicles stopped and asked if I needed assistance and was I ok.

I wonder, if this had happened in Girvan, Maybole or Ayr would people have stopped and offered assistance?

This is real community spirit found in rural communities where people have time and care for local residents.

Many thanks to all those who stopped, it makes living in a rural area worthwhile.

Peter Walker, Pinwherry

for greater co-operation in the delivery of support services amongst these local communities. South of Pinwherry the villages of Barrhill, Bargrennan and Glentroll would also benefit from the additional accommodation provided in a new hostel/bunkhouse.

There is currently no accommodation of this type available in South Carrick”

On the basis of this report and a Community Council cannot own property, the Community Council has passed this project on to Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Development Association. (PPCDA).

The PPCDA have been working with Architects Austin Smith Lord on plans to convert the buildings into three separate fully self-contained units. All accommodation will have its own kitchen, lounge, shower, and bedroom, and individually heated. There will be a single bedroom unit, a two bedded unit and a four bed unit.

The PPCDA are now in discussions with South Ayrshire Council on how the community can take over and convert the old school buildings



STINCHAR VALLEY GARDENING CLUB

We meet on the third
Wednesday of the month at
7.30pm in Pinwherry Hall from
September till April.



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

Secretary:

Harriet Ellis

Tel. 01465 881221 harriet@riverstinchar.co.uk

Chair:

Roger Pirrie

Tel. 01465 841644 rdpirrie@gmail.com

Vice Chair:

Nan Wilkinson

Tel. 01465831704 nan@dunwhinny.plus.com

Treasurer:

Susan Fairbairn

Tel. 07707 286172 gavin@inter-disciplinary.net

Committee Members

Pat Spence

Tel. 01465 821377 pat.spence@piperpublications.co.uk

Gavin Fairbairn

Tel. 07707 286172 gavin@inter-disciplinary.net

Margaret Bean

Tel. 01465 841635 margaret.bean@icloud.com

The next two meetings in this season's programme:

March 16th "Claymoddie Garden - Travels of a Plantsman" by
Mary Nicholson

April 20th AGM and Plant Swap

In addition to the invited speakers we enjoy a cuppa, chat and
exchange of ideas and experiences.

Non-members are always very welcome.

Garden visits will be arranged for the summer months – watch
out for posters.



PINWHERRY SWRI



We meet in the Pinwherry village hall on
the second Monday of each month from
September to May. If you have been
wondering if you should give it a go then
come along and find out. You will get a
warm welcome from a friendly group of
women, perhaps learn some practical skills
and hear from speakers with some interesting stories to
tell. Here we are almost half way through the syllabus and
looking forward to spring's arrival and the end of winter's
snow, frost rain and floods! We are now looking forward
to having a practical crochet session with Mrs Mandy
McLaughlin and a sweetie making demonstration with
Mrs Annette Torbett. April sees our guest night with the
musical entertainment "The Revellers" where we look
forward to welcoming all. In May we have a treasure hunt.
Please come along and join us, still plenty of room for
more members. We look forward to seeing you.

**For further information contact
Lana Rafferty 841272**

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stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk



PINMORE CHURCH

This small church, almost central to the other village churches in this area was built for Hew Hamilton of Pinmore House in 1878 by Allan Stevenson for tenants, estate workers and the local community to worship there.

They came on foot, bicycles and pony and trap. The local ministers of that time took turns to take services regularly.

Today it is managed by Pinmore Church Trust and services are held in the church on the last Sunday of each month at 2pm. by Rev. John Gillies.

Anyone wishing to attend will be made welcome.

Any Christian denomination can hold services by agreement with the Trustees.

Contact: Mrs J. Wyllie

Laggansarroch Farm, Pinmore, Girvan, KA26 0TA

Tel: 01465 841279

WILD WATERS



HADYARD HILL RE-OPENS FOR GRANT-MAKING

Hadyard Hill Community Benefit Fund has opened its doors to new applications, after a short period of closure to review its approach to grantmaking following the appointment of a new secretariat, Foundation Scotland.

The charitable fund primarily supports projects located within or directly benefiting one or more of the three community council areas of Barr, Pinwherry & Pinmore and Dailly.

Individual awards will be capped at £2,500, in order to ensure as many groups as possible can benefit from the fund. Examples of other

recent beneficiaries include the Stinchar Valley Magazine and Girvan fireworks.

The first deadline for applications is 14th March 2016, for a decision in May. Details of further rounds, how to apply and application forms can be found at www.hadyardhill.org.uk or by contacting Foundation Scotland on 01557 814927

For further information please contact:

Jan Torrance or Jacqui Morris t: 0141 341 4960
or email: jacqui@foundationscotland.org.uk

PEINN MOR POTTERY

Keith and Beryl Dawdry, Peinn Mor Pottery.



Open Studios
Ayrshire

We are delighted to have been given the opportunity to design and make commemorative mugs to be sold by the 2 Pins Community Company as part of their fundraising activities for the new 2 Pins Centre in Pinwherry. The first batch are in the kiln cooling as this article is being written and will soon be glazed and fired again.

It is already a busy time at the Pottery. 2016 sees the 4th Open Studios Ayrshire weekend taking place from Friday 22nd to Monday 25th April 2016 inclusive. As the name implies, this is an Ayrshire wide (North, East and South) visual arts event where (as far as is possible) artists and makers open up their homes and studios to the public. Here is a unique opportunity to talk to individual artists about what they do, see them at work, view their works of art and possibly purchase something very special created in Ayrshire.

A Preview Exhibition was held at the Rozelle House Galleries in Alloway from 9th January to 7th February 2016, and the Launch event is to be held at the Dick Institute in Kilmarnock on Tuesday 24th March 2016 from 6pm to 7.30pm.



The Studios and Gallery at Pinmore will be open 11am to 5pm on each of the four days, 22nd-25th April. There will be new work on show and for sale. At certain times during the weekend, visitors will be able to watch work being made in the studios and see first-hand what happens in the Stinchar Valley's own "Pottery Throw Down".

On into the summer, Peinn Mor Pottery will be at the 2 Pins Craft Fair in Pinwherry on 18th June, 2016.

Beryl and Keith are two of the selected artists at the RSPB "Art on the Wing" exhibition from 31st July to 11th September 2016 at the Rozelle House Galleries in Alloway. More details in the summer edition of the Stinchar Valley Magazine.

COMPETITION TIME

What does the Stinchar Valley Magazine mean to you? Does it make you smile, laugh, cry? Do you look forward to it? Does it keep you in the know about what's happening? Do you read it?!

We have recently obtained some more funding to keep the magazine dropping through your letterbox so we are keen to know what it means to you. To make it interesting we want you to tell us in 30 words or less.

All responses will be put into a prize draw and the winner will receive a **limited edition of the new 2Pins mug designed and made by Peinn Mor Pottery**. Shown in the making!



When the Stinchar Valley Magazine drops through my letterbox.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Responses can be emailed to the editor or sent to the editor's address.

stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk John McAlley at: Ligliartrie Farm Pinwherry KA26 0SL



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June-September



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June-August



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May-July



Foxgloves
June-September



Flower hunt!



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May-September



Teasel
July-August



Wild strawberry
April-July



Poppy
June-August



Bugle
April-July

Which was your favourite?

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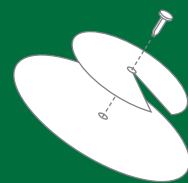


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NEW TRAINER JOINS THE SOUTH CARRICK CLUB DIAMONDS TEAM

South Carrick Club Diamonds have recently employed a new trainer to their team. Heather McLeod joins the existing team of Tara Jackson and Lyn Brooks to keep the folks of South Carrick fit.

Tara joined the team around 7 years ago and has worked with classes in Dailly and Girvan where she is a popular instructor. She is very well qualified and takes many different types of exercise classes throughout South Ayrshire. Due to the variety of her training she is able to provide varied and fun sessions for all Club Diamond classes adjusting them to suit the needs of the members.

Most of you will already know Lyn who lives in Barrhill and who joined the team around 4 years ago. She takes classes in Colmonell, Barrhill and Girvan. Her classes in Colmonell and Barrhill are regular classes whilst her class in Girvan is of a more gentle nature. Lyn is suitably qualified to provide varied programmes geared to the needs of the members.

Heather joins the two of them providing a class in Girvan on Wednesday mornings and is just getting into the swing of things at Club Diamonds. She travels from Prestwick where she too takes classes in different kinds of exercise.

South Carrick Club Diamonds instructors are all fully qualified but it is a non profit making organisation run by volunteers and part funded by Carrick Futures and Local Community Council grants. These factors allow the cost of the classes to be kept low making it affordable for all.

The club caters for a variety of levels of fitness and ensures that keeping fit is fun. The many members who come along regularly have a chance to keep fit, improving balance, strength and agility whilst having a good chat and a laugh with their friends and the instructors. Fitness can be fun!

If you feel that you or someone you know would benefit from any of the classes listed below then just pop along to the hall at the times indicated and you can have a trial class before you need to join. There are no special clothes needed but a pair of shoes with a non-slip sole is preferable. Come on get out of the house, forget the winter weather and get fit and looking good before summer. You know you should!

Classes are available as follows:

Monday	Colmonell Community Hall	2.30pm - 3.30 pm
Monday	Barrhill Memorial Hall	7.00pm - 8.00pm
Tuesday	Dailly Church Hall	10.00pm - 11.00am
Tuesday	Girvan South Parish Church Hall	11.30am - 12.30pm
Tuesday	Girvan Trust Housing (Kirkcare) - chair based	1.30pm - 2.00pm
Tuesday	Girvan South Parish Church Hall - Gentle Class	2.30pm - 3.30pm
Wednesday	Girvan South Parish Church Hall	11.30am - 12.30pm

Instructors.

Pictures show, Tara Jackson of Prestwick –
Lyn Brooks of Barrhill and Heather McLeod of Prestwick



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Dear Reader,

As I prepare this article, on the anniversary of Robert Burns Birthday, for the Spring Edition of the Stinchar Valley Magazine, my thoughts are turning to the forthcoming Council Budget for 2016/17. As we all know in this age of continuing austerity, there are difficult choices no matter which political grouping or Government is in power either in the Council Chamber, at Holyrood or in Westminster. At the end of the day the Council has to deliver a balanced budget with a reduced capital grant from the Scottish Government, who in turn has a reduced block grant in real terms from Westminster over the past 4 years of 10%. As I prepare this column the final details have still to be announced, but there will be many tough decisions ahead, as the Council works to maintain services which affect everyone from the Cradle to the Grave.



Moving on in a happier note I was privileged to attend, in January this year, the South Ayrshire Council's Humanitarian Award evening. The three nominations were totally inspirational, ranging from the Founder of Mary's Meals, Magnus McFarlane-Barrow, which was set up 20 years ago and which now feeds a million school children every day in 12 different countries and three different continents.

The second nominee was Zannah Bukar Mustapha a Nigerian Lawyer who works to make life better for children affected by the conflict between Boko Haram and the Government forces in Nigeria. Zannah's School provides food, education, uniforms and health care for many children, mostly orphans with the aim of achieving a lasting peace and greater understanding, between the different cultures of the region in the future.

The third nominee and award winner was surgeon David Nott, David is known as the Indiana Jones of Surgery, who has spent more than two decades working in dangerous war zones throughout the world. In association with Medecins San Frontieres, his efforts provide emergency medical cover and training facilities for young doctors to carry on this humanitarian work and helping to creating a lasting legacy.

By the time this article is in print, construction work will be well under way for the New Swimming Pool and Harbour Facility in Girvan, which is terrific news for Girvan and South Carrick, sincere thanks have to go to the members of South Carrick Community Leisure, who have worked tirelessly over 4 years with Council Officers to bring the £6 million project to this stage. The new facility will be operated by S.C.C.L under a service level agreement and will consist of a 25 metre pool, soft play area, a fitness gym, and a flexible multipurpose studio /community space. When complete in March 2017 the centre will be a welcome leisure complex for local people and visitors to the area.

I can be contacted in the usual way, by phone or email, if anyone requires assistance with a Council matter.

SNP Councillor Alec Oattes

Office Telephone Number 01292 612382

Home Telephone Number 01292 435005

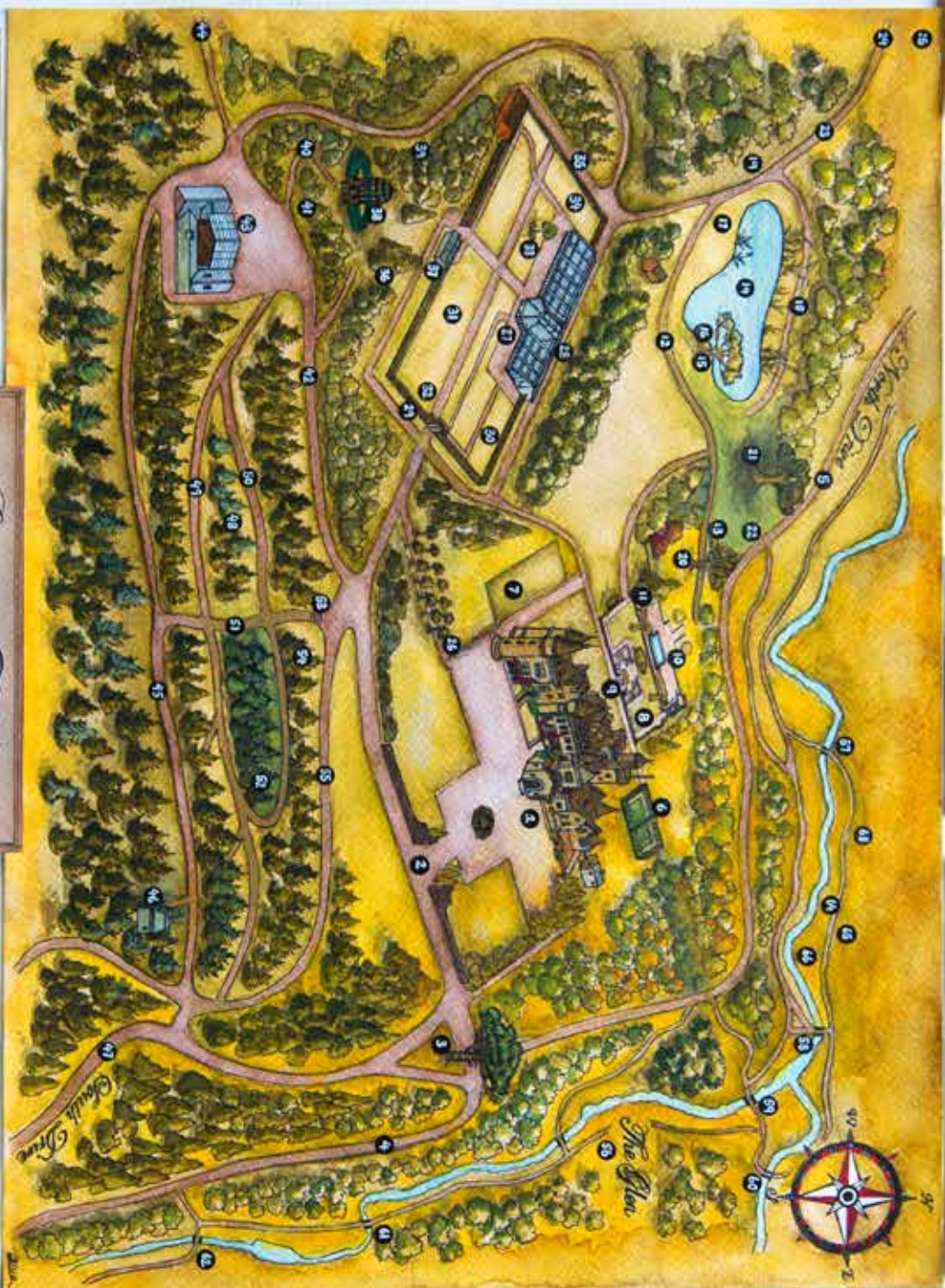
alec.oattes@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Age Concern Girvan

Welcome, my name is Tricia Watts and with the help of 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 and join us for parties and coach trips and support if you need any. All ages are so welcome. Please pop into 2, Duff Street at the corner of Dalrymple Street. We would love to meet you.

Please contact me on tel. 01465 712032 Website www.ageconcerngirvan.org.uk



*Glenapp Castle
and Surrounding Lands*
Beautiful places of interest to visit and explore

