

THE STINCHAR VALLEY MAGAZINE

FREE

SPRING
2017



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

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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
Visit Scotland	http://www.visitsouthernscotland.co.uk/

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.co.uk/
Galloway & Ayrshire Biosphere	http://www.gsabiosphere.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
The Southern Uplands Partnership	http://www.sup.org.uk/
Scottish Red Squirrels	https://scottishsquirrels.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	GirvanSouthCarrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk
"	http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/ayrshire/south-ayrshire/
Walking Blog	http://www.scottishhills.com/html/modules.php?name=Forums&file=viewtopic&t=23147

USEFUL CONTACTS

Police (non-emergency)	101
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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
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

We hope you will enjoy the Spring 2017 issue of the Stinchar Valley Magazine. Once again we've tried to bring you news of what's been happening in the communities in the valley and the surrounding area.

As well as covering events with stories and pictures, we bring you stories from clubs and local people, useful contacts and websites, details of local businesses, something for children and something from the archives.

If you would like to submit something for a future edition, please contact me or a member of the Editorial Team - their names can be found below.

The Cover photograph was taken locally by;
Debbie Ford
Nikon D90; f5.6; 1/2000 sec; ISO-320.
Focal length; 300mm; Metering; Pattern

HOW TO SEND IN YOUR ARTICLES AND PICTURES

Please email articles and pictures to your community representative or to me at the address below. If you do not have access to a computer you can post or drop off material to me at Ligartrie Farm, Pinwherry, KA26 0SL tel: 01465 841198. Please remember to include your name, address and telephone number and let me know if you want anything returned.

When you are sending material by email please send text as an attached Word or Open Office document. Please do not insert photographs into the Word document. Please attach them separately and name them. Images straight from the camera, scanned images and logos should be high resolution (min 300 DPI) wherever possible. If in doubt please speak to your community representative or to me.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION

SUMMER 2017 SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO REPS OR THE EDITOR IS

28th APRIL

DISTRIBUTION TO VILLAGES WILL BE W/C 5th JUNE 2017

EDITORIAL PANEL: The Stinchar Valley Magazine is published by the voluntary editorial group with the valued support of the contributors, with the aim of supporting the community interest and local businesses. Please note The Editorial Team will consider all submissions and make the final selection of material for each issue.

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES AND EDITORIAL PANEL

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Plumbing/Heating	Ian Terry	01465 712594	07733470874	John Crossan	05/16
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Electrician	Josh Russell		07533 202420	Claire Whitehurst	08/16
Roof & leadwork	Paul Coombes		07732657907	Dr McKenna	10/16
Electrical Repairs	Howard Galley	01465 831537	07894433084	Dr McKenna	10/16
Joinery	Ross Doyle	01465 821433	07825141910	Keith Dawdry	01/17
Garden Machinery	Francis Bowman	01292 262763	07492433338	Ian Terry	01/17

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 are open to the public
Ballantrae	Last Tuesday of the month (except Dec) Public hall, start time 7pm
Barr	7pm in the Village Hall every second Thursday in the month except Dec.
Barrhill	Last 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 Community Hall Pinwherry

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:

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

DAILY COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Daily Community Council is looking for a community rep/contact point for news/information for a Daily section in the Stinchar Valley Magazine.

If you are interested, please contact Leila McCartney on 01465 811 803.

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.

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www.ageconcerngirvan.org.uk

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STINCHAR: SOURCE TO SEA

by Brian Morrison

Having been hillwalking for several decades, Ian Anderson and I had also been to the source of three of the four main rivers in South Ayrshire which flow into the Firth of Clyde . . . the Ayr, the Doon and the Girvan. One day while wandering along the river in Colmonell, I thought about where the Stinchar arose, and if we could join the dots . . . so to speak.

A quick shift at the O.S. Map and we were soon arranging my Grand Imperial Strictly (well, Strictly was all over the media at the time) Strath-Stinchar Expedition, or Ian's terrifically text-tastic title, Stinchar:Source2C. Snappy, eh? Ian won the title race.

The task was to follow the course of the River Stinchar, from its source as a puddle on the slopes of Shalloch on Minnoch Hill at a height of 565m, grid ref: NX399929, to the sea at Ballantrae. At roughly 30miles long, it starts heading North and then runs most of the way SW. All downhill, of course.

With no guide book, we were making up our own route, though the course of the river dictated it. Early on we decided to avoid fields with livestock, this also neatly avoided the challenge of getting over barbed wire fences. We walked, or cycled, mostly forest roads, paths and B roads. We took several short day jaunts to do this. Why hurry a good thing?

From Stinchar Bridge car park in the Galloway Forest, we took the Hill Road towards Shalloch Summit.

The path for Shalloch on Minnoch was followed, over Cairnadloch.



Approaching the Source.

Note the source of the River Girvan is in the distance 1km away at Loch Girvan Eye, though there is a stream flowing into Loch Girvan Eye from the S.E.



Leaving the path, we used our eyes, feet, the map and GPS to find the Source. Trust us to go searching for a River source after a particularly rain free Autumn

I proceeded to drop my sunglasses in the infant Stinchar and had visions of them arriving in Ballantrae a few days later.

The ground between here and The Forest is very rough with bog, waist high heather and grasses.



...Ian and I rough going through the forest, past the ruins of Craiglure Lodge, once owned by the Kennedys of Culzean.



Limboing through the forest and out at...

Stinchar Bridge...



From the Bridge, the river can be followed by a faint path on the RHS or a cycle path on the LHS, (we chose the rough path!) to the Aquaduct Road. Great views from here, North, across to where Linfern Loch nestles above the Valley:



The footpath down to the Falls viewing platform was closed.

Heading West now, high above Black Row and Aldinna, towards Pinvalley and Balloch.



We took a detour N.E., by bike, from Pinvalley, passing Aldinna and Black Row, to view the Falls. Lack of rain meant it was hard to see them through the thick undergrowth



So to The Barr, and the Community Store



It's a river now.



Ian gets some fine sustenance via scones served up by The Calendar Girls.

Autumn Colours



Me? I used the bike we had planted at the Store earlier (thanks Girls) to head back to Pinvalley for the car. Who got the short straw? Well, it's a folding electric bike, so not too much effort required. We used this method on most days to save shuttling two cars.



Too many scones?



From the Nick of the Balloch road to The Barr, a choice; via the cycle route through the Balloch and Changue Plantations, or the flatter, shorter, public road from Balloch. Yep, you are correct, we chose the latter.

Balloch. Yep, you are correct, we chose the latter.

Passing South Balloch...



and some fine tups...



The Stinchar, in Barr

Future walks to do from The Barr



The next stage involved walking from Pinclanty back to Barr. Ian said it was for highly complex logistical reasons; seems this means he can once again enjoy the Barr Community Store hospitality, while I cycle back to the car. He tells me a fruit scone with raspberry jam counts as two of your five-a-day (aye, right!)



On the main A714. It was a Sunday morning, so quite quiet.



A misty morning



Ayr to Stranraer Railway Viaduct

A friendly beast keeping his watchful eye on us.



Pinmore Kirk



The Stinchar at Auchensoul Farm



Rocky bottom in river near Pinmore

Partaking of 2 of his five-a-day, Ian at one with The Barr Store



I'm saying nothing ...
The next stretch, back to heading West (ah, that's better. See that walking backwards? It was tricky!)

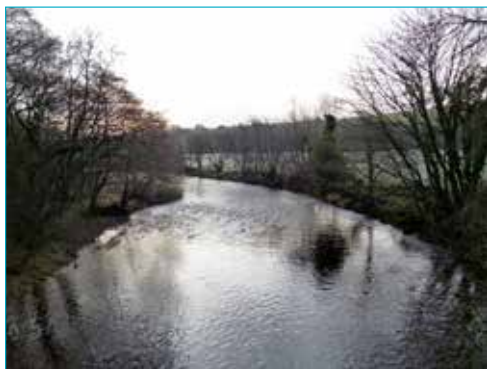


Our "route-in-reverse" theme continued from the Jubilee Bridge in Pinwherry, via Daljarrock, back to Pinclanty.
A milestone (or a fitba' score?)



Pinwherry Castle

We had a choice of routes here, the footpath/track from Pinwherry on the South side of the river via Dangart and Dalreoch or the road on the north side. We, being big softies, chose the road.



From here West, the river broadens.



Colmonell, from the South

Again, a choice of routes heading West to Ballantrae. The road on the South side via Heronsford, or the road on the North side via Knockdolian. We chose the North side, supposedly because it was closer to the River and therefore a "purer" route, but mainly because it was shorter!

and the valley flattens out..



Colmonell Kirk



Hello Deer



Knockdolian

New houses in Colmonell.



Getting there, we took the left fork...



Craigneil Castle



A real salmon river

River Cliff erosion



A stormy day to finish. Out on the Spit, looking back towards Ballantrae



and so to ...



Within spitting distance

The old bridge at Ballantrae.



At last where the Stinchar meets the Sea



Ardstinchar Castle and The War Memorial



Journey's End

The Last Bend



A great walk. It could be done by bike in a day (the first section would be very tough going on a bike though), some people could probably run it in a day. Some might take two or three days over it with overnight stops along the way. Or, it could be done like we did over several day walks. And it's all downhill, apart from the uphill bits.

Ian and I would like to thank the people of The Stinchar Valley, particularly the Barr Community Store, Pinclanty Farm and Craigiemains, and all those who chatted or gave us a wave from cars, tractors and quad bikes.

Ian then ensconced himself in the warmth of Craigiemains, enjoying cake 'n coffee, while I, yes, you guessed it, headed back to Colmonell by bike to pick up the car (there was definitely a pattern developing there!).

Cheerio for now, from Ian Anderson and Brian Morrison.

P.S. Ian wants to know of anyone who has an O.S. 2.5 inch to the mile map of the River Amazon, preferably with tearooms marked?

CARRICK OPPORTUNITIES CENTRE

Adult Learning Volunteers needed for Girvan and South Carrick area

Did you know...?

One in every 28* of the adult Scottish population has difficulty with reading, writing and numbers. Many people find it difficult to read and count sufficiently to enable them to go for their shopping, read the instructions on their medication, help their children with their homework, read letters or fill in forms. These are only a few examples. Would you like to help an adult overcome these problems?

Adult Learning is a part of South Ayrshire Council which offers free support to any adult who wishes to improve their reading, writing, spelling, numbers or computing skills. We train volunteers to help adults who want such support.

If you are interested in finding out about becoming a Volunteer Tutor please contact the Carrick Opportunities Centre Reception on 01465 716600 leaving your name and number and your local Literacy Development Worker will be delighted to have a chat with you. Please, help us to make a difference.

**Scottish Survey of Adult Literacies 2009 report of findings.*



CALLING ALL BREAD MAKERS

I have just purchased 25kg of Organic bread flour (wholemeal and white) from Shipton Mill at a cost of just 86p per kg.

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PINMORE

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.

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

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 phone 01465 841211

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Pinwherry Craft Fair



PINWHERRY

THE STINCHAR VALLEY GARDENING CLUB

By Harriet Ellis, Secretary



Now the weather's hopefully warming up a bit, it's time to start sorting and sowing seeds again, especially annuals – whether self-collected, bought at the local garden centre or from the catalogues. If you have space in a greenhouse, it's worth keeping 6 and 8 pot plastic trays when you buy bedding plants each spring – wash them out now, fill with compost (with added grit) and sow a few seeds in



each pot – it saves a lot of pricking out later on. Cover with a sheet of glass or polythene till they germinate, to prevent the compost drying out, and keep out of the way of mice and slugs! Most annuals can of course be sown directly into the ground in late spring, but I seem to lose them completely amongst the prolific crop of weeds that come up at the same time, so prefer to grow a batch in the greenhouse and plant out like bedding among the perennials. Cosmos, cerinthe, lavatera, godetia, cleome, calendula, sunflowers, annual dahlias and dianthus, are all good candidates. Another idea is to use cardboard egg trays to start seeds of smaller annuals, which can later be cut and planted.

The club continues to meet on the third Wednesday of the month - at 7.30 pm in Colmonell Kirk Hall – and all are welcome. The annual subscription remains at £12.00 and the charge for non-members at the meetings is £3.00. In



addition to the invited speakers we enjoy a cuppa, a chat, and an exchange of ideas, tips and experiences. We look forward to greeting both old and new faces.

Pinwherry Autograss Dates 2017

30th April
21st May
18th June
9th July
13th August
3rd September
1st October



For more info contact: 07821241464

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Our last two meetings of the season will be:

MARCH 15th - Brian Young of Holmes Farm Garden, near Irvine. Topic: "Creating Holmes Farm Garden". Brian will also bring a plant sale.

APRIL 19th - AGM and Plant Swap, cheese and wine.

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

For further information please see posters or contact Harriet Ellis 881 221 or Roger Pirrie 841 644.

PINWHERRY SWI



We meet in Pinwherry hall on the second Monday of each month from September to May and already have welcomed along some new members. 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 interesting stories to tell. Here we are, half way through the syllabus and looking forward to spring. We had a wonderful time at our needle felting with Liz Copeland and Beth Blain. Each of us made a little felt item to take home and enjoyed learning a new craft. Thank you ladies. We are now looking forward to a cooking demonstration with Juan Renau, a bingo night with Irene McCrae and our outing to Glentroll craft shop and gallery. Please come along and join us. We look forward to seeing you



Lana Rafferty (secretary) tel. 01465 841272.



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NEW BOARD DIRECTOR WANTED! 2 PINS COMMUNITY COMPANY - TREASURER POSITION

The 2 Pins Community Company is looking for a new board director to take on the responsibility of treasurer. The position is a voluntary role and will need approximately 1-2 hours commitment a week plus attendance at monthly board and member meetings. The role will involve accurately recording 2 Pins Company financial activities and keeping the board and its members informed on the company's financial position. Duties will include maintaining a local bank account in the charity's name.

There is no requirement to have any previous financial or accounting experience, although you will find the role easier if you have experience in bookkeeping, cashbook and spreadsheets.

The 2 Pins Company will be moving into on-line accounting using 'xero' cloud based software programme so training will be available to the person taking on the treasurer role.

This is a great opportunity to contribute to the work of the 2 Pins Community Company if you have experience of, or are interested in, accounts and book keeping. The treasurer's role is essential for making sure our organisation runs successfully and helps us achieve our vision for a new community centre in Pinwherry.

For more information on the role and the application process please email Peter Walker – Chair peterawalker@btinternet.com

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN PINWHERRY AND PINMORE?

Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Development Association has received funding from Pinwherry Community Council to enable the PPCDA to move from a Constituted organisation to a SCIO. (The SCIO is a corporate body which is a legal entity with charity status) The reason for this is that South Ayrshire Council will not transfer the old disused Pinwherry Primary School buildings to the Association in its current status.

Pinwherry Primary School building The PPCDA has engaged Architects Austin Smith Lord who have drawn up possible conversion plans and costings to convert the buildings into holiday accommodation. These have been presented to SAC who agree with the proposal. The PPCDA are now looking for ex-pupils of the Pinwherry Primary School to join the Association as members to help develop this innovative project

Community Development Plan

The PPCDA have received funding from Community Council to update and revise the Pinwherry and Pinmore community development plan and have engaged a consultant to assist with this.

Pinwherry Bridge WCCTV. Funded by Community Council. The two new WCCTV cameras have arrived and are currently awaiting for SAC lighting section to install them.

Steps at Pinmore Bus Stop a local blacksmith has made a new set and will be installing them in the next few weeks. Assell Valley Wind Farm construction firm have agreed to pay for these.

Planters: discussions are taking place with SAC regarding plants for these for the coming year.

Pinmore Playground. A preliminary design has been made and they will be arranging for 3 companies to tender for this and present to the community. The Association are bidding to the Health and Social Care Participatory Budgeting event to engage ACE in Girvan to run more youth programmes in Pinwherry this year.

2 Pins Community Centre



The 2 Pins is a Community Company with charity status with a board of 7 Directors and 54 local community members. Its aims are to replace the existing SAC Pinwherry Hall with a new fit for purpose facility.

The completed application has been made to the Big Lottery for 1.4 million pounds and currently they are discussing the application with the lottery assessors, and hope to have an answer in March

A funding application has been made to replace the existing drainage across the site to reduce flooding on the public footpath from Pinwherry to the bus stop at B734 and to provide additional car parking space.

The board are currently looking for a Finance Director as their current Finance Director has moved away.

Company Limited by Guarantee No. 430441

Scottish Charity No SC043849

**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

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

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by Andy McAlpine, Secretary

The Ballantrae Development Group (BDG) is a sub group of the Ballantrae Community Council (BCC) that has initiated such events as the Smugglers' Festival, Farmers' Markets and the Festival of Food and Drink. It has come to light that, due to the informal nature of the sub group, BCC and BDG members would be personally liable for any financial loss from activities. This is clearly not acceptable. It is therefore essential that this situation is corrected before the 2017 festival season starts. Grant funders have advised the BDG needs to become a separately constituted incorporated organisation e.g. a Development Trust. Becoming a Trust would also help us access grant funding for such large projects as the Ballantrae Play Park Development. We have started discussions with the Development Trust Association Scotland (DTAS) and during December - using the DTAS website - we researched what the 250 or so Trusts in Scotland do, how they are organised and funded and, as we go to press, in partnership with DTAS we will be presenting a series of recommendations to the Community Council at the end of January for the setting up of a Trust in Ballantrae. If the proposals are accepted by the BCC this will be followed by an information evening. Please watch Information Ballantrae (the Village Facebook page), local press and noticeboards for more information.

Plans are well advanced for this year's Festival of Food and Drink on Sunday 11 June when our sub group will aim to improve the customer experience, and for this year's Smugglers' Festival in August where the programme will include some firm favourites from previous years and some new angles on "Ballantrae's Smuggling Story". Our Play Park Development Group is working hard to raise funds and move its plans forward in partnership with South Ayrshire Council for a renovated play park and recreation ground in the village.

In addition, we continue to work in partnership with local businesses on issues of importance to them, to seek opportunities for external funding for village initiatives, publish Ballantrae News, to serve on the Editorial Board of the Stinchar Valley Magazine, and maintain the Visitors' Information Point at Craigiemains Home and Garden Centre including re-stocking the leaflets and brochures on what to do and see in the surrounding area.

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Ballantrae
FESTIVAL OF FOOD & DRINK

SAVE THE DATE

**BALLANTRAE'S AWARD WINNING FESTIVAL OF FOOD AND DRINK
WILL BE TAKING PLACE ON**

SUNDAY 11TH JUNE 2017

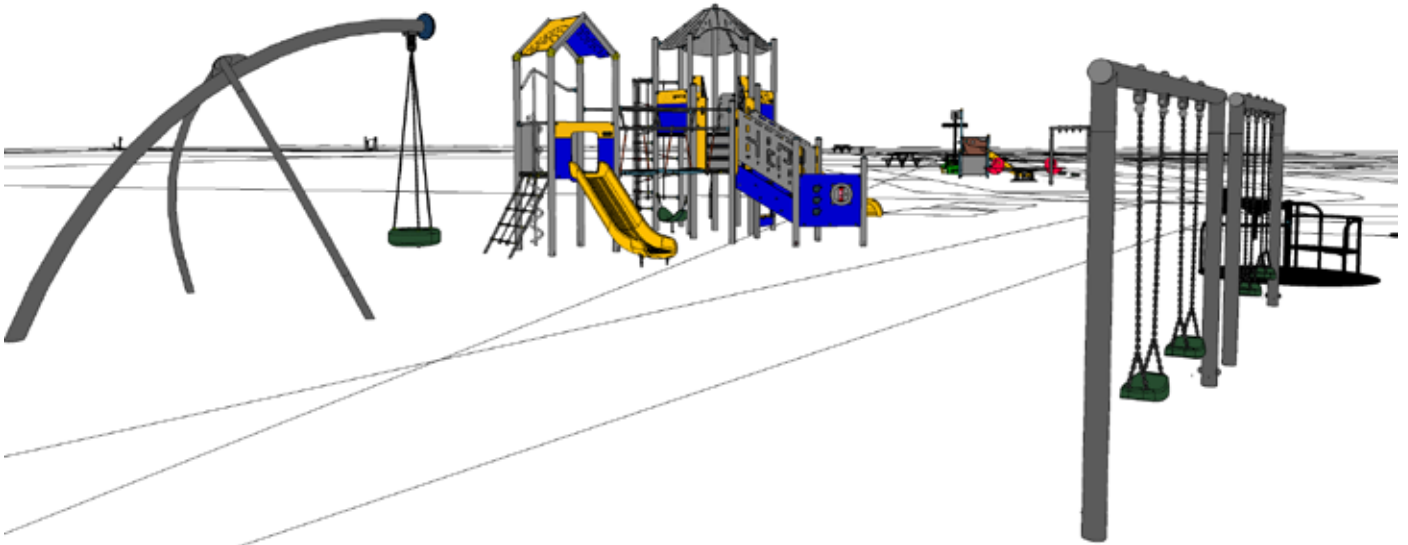
11.00AM TO 5.00PM

**PLANNING IS UNDERWAY FOR THIS YEAR'S FESTIVAL WITH A
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AND STREET FOOD STALLS AS WELL AS EXCITING COOKERY
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**SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US FOR ANOTHER CELEBRATION
OF OUR AMAZING FOOD AND DRINK HERITAGE!**



BALLANTRAE PLAYPARK PROJECT



by the Ballantrae Play Park Development Group

We are continuing to meet regularly to move this exciting and large scale development project forward.

As a group, we raised money to purchase new goalposts for the Ballantrae Recreation ground. The funds were raised in numerous ways, one of which was a sponsored five mile walk around the Laggan circle in June of last year. The weather was awful and we were soaked to the skin, however this did not defeat us. We had a great afternoon with a good attendance - in particular children, ages ranging from two-year olds and teenagers to pensioners who all successfully completed the walk.

Unfortunately, the process of actually getting new goal posts erected was much longer and more complicated than any of us anticipated. However, we did not give up!! Despite several extremely generous offers of help to fabricate and install the new goalposts we had to enter lengthy discussions with South Ayrshire Council to produce and install them to ensure public liability issues would be met by them in the future.

However, we are delighted to finally see the goal posts installed in the park. The children were really excited as they watched from the primary school playground on the day the new goalposts were being erected. The children went straight out after school to try them out and they have continued to use them regularly since. This is why we work together to improve the facilities in our community and our children were very much involved in the process of raising the money and choosing the size of goals. I'm sure in the years to come they will continue to be well used.

New goalposts are just the first stage in a complete re-vamp of the play park and the recreation ground. A consultation took place to show the proposed development plans to our community and gather feedback. As a result of this process the preferred plans have now been passed to South Ayrshire Council for costing and writing the tender specification. As we go to print we are currently awaiting feedback on this.

We have already raised over £3800 through our own fund-raising efforts and the Ballantrae Development Group have contributed another £1500. We have a long road ahead and while we will be able to apply for some grant funding for this large project, we will all require to continue to work together to fundraise locally to ensure the money is available for what will be a costly project. If you have any suggestions for fundraising, are able to attend our meetings, or indeed can help in any way please get in touch.

Thank you to those of you who supported us in any way so far, you all know who you are!

Continue to watch the Information Ballantrae Facebook page, Ballantrae News, the Stinchar Valley Magazine and local noticeboards as we continue to move the play park development forward.

For more information contact info@auchenflower-cottages.co.uk



ALVN
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









Would you like to do something practical to improve your environment and really make a difference? Why not join ALVN?

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.

**BALLANTRAE & DISTRICT
HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY**

will be holding their

ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW

on

SATURDAY 19th AUGUST

watch

 **InformationBallantrae**

for latest information
or posters around
the village

by Wendy McKechn

At the beginning of December, kitted out in their new uniforms courtesy of the Ballantrae Community Council and Carrick Futures Community Benefit Small Grants Scheme, the Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Leaders said "Thank You" to Scout Leader and Group Scout Leader John Allsop for his 40 years of service to Scouting (23 years of which were in Ballantrae). John was retiring from active Scouting and was presented with a Barometer, a photobook and a DVD of his pictorial Scouting memories. Congratulations too to all of the youngsters who received badges and certificates on



the night. The "moving up" ceremonies were quite memorable including Harry "swimming up river" from Beavers to Cubs and changing his uniform on the way! The youngsters then went outside to sing carols (in the rain!) for the village Christmas tree lights "Switch On" performed by John.

Looking back, last year was a great year for indoor, outdoor

activities and badge work for all 3 sections but we aim to make 2017 even better.

The Beavers are looking forward to their indoor sleepover and movie night. They will also be joining other Beavers from around Kyle and Carrick District for the annual Beaver JOTT (Jamboree on The Trail) in May, and in July they will be having their outdoor summer camp. The Cubs are working towards their cookery badge which will finish with them cooking a 2 course meal for the Beaver section. The Cubs will be having a camp in April. The Scouts are busy fundraising for their summer camp and they are holding various fundraising events between now and May including an Easter sponsored walk, a "Ballantrae Scouts Have Talent" evening and a balloon race challenge. The older Cubs and Scouts will be attending a week long "Grampian Nights" Scout camp near Aberdeen in August. The week will be packed full of exciting activities. This is the furthest we have travelled for some time.

We currently have spaces in the Beaver and Cub sections and we are also keen to get more people involved as adult volunteers. Come along and see us on a Tuesday evening if you want to fill any of the spaces!

The Ballantrae Annual Scout Auction will be held on Saturday 20 May and the AGM and Annual Review on Tuesday 6 June. Watch Information Ballantrae (Facebook page), local press and noticeboards for more information nearer the time. But put both dates in your diary now and come along and support us!






Ballantrae Scout Group
(2nd Ayrshire)

Scout Auction

Saturday 20 May
Community Hall, Main Street, Ballantrae
Auctioneer Dr Tom Smith
1pm Doors open for viewing
2pm Auction begins
Entry £1
Children accompanied by an adult FREE
Watch local press for information on unusual lots!

Refreshments Available

All items sold as seen

To donate items please call
Andy McAlpine on 07920 517700

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ENERGY
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MOVE IT!
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Fun Fit classes
MONDAY 6pm
in Ballantrae
Community Hall.

open to everyone
over the age of 18

£3 per session

Please bring water
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Come & enjoy the fun!

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STINCHAR VALLEY PHOTO GROUP

by Andy McAlpine

The Group had its "Christmas lunch" at Wildings in Maidens on Saturday 14 January. At our Group Night at the end of January Karen Stewart gave us some hints and tips on downloading images from the camera onto the computer and being disciplined. "If it wasn't in focus when you took it, it will never be in focus" so "get rid of the rubbish" she was heard to say! When we discussed how many of us had a filing "system" for our pictures more often than not "flexible", actually meant "chaotic" or "disorganised". At the end of the session more than a few of us hung our heads in shame and promised to do better!

Our aim is simple - to help more people take better pictures no matter what kind of camera you have be it mobile phone, tablet, compact camera or digital SLR. We don't have competitions - our relaxed and informal monthly gatherings provide an ideal opportunity for you to drop in and see us if you have an interest in taking pictures, and to have a natter over a cup of tea or coffee and look at the pictures folk have taken since we met last.

During the darker nights we will continue to focus on practical issues for photographers who use all sorts of cameras as well as inviting people along to challenge and encourage us. We'll try to cater for all levels of experience. As the weather improves we have plans for outings where if you are interested we can fill a car and head off.

Group Nights are on the last Thursday of every month (except December) at 7.30pm in BRICC House, Main Street, Ballantrae. Why not drop in to see us?



BALLANTRAE CRAFTY BEES



Much merriment was enjoyed at our Christmas night out at Wildings in Maidens in December and we all enjoyed our short Christmas break.

Since returning after the New Year we've worked on a variety of stone crafts and made fairy lanterns and we look forward to no-sew bandana cushions, bunting, a one yard fabric challenge and jewellery making before Easter. We're fortunate to have sufficient members so that each person in the group has the opportunity to lead a session each year if they wish to do so. The only other commitment is to provide milk and biscuits/cake for the refreshments once a year also.

We've welcomed three new members since August and we'd love to meet more people so please come along and join us or contact me for further information. We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7.30pm in the BRICC House in Ballantrae. Membership is only £3.00 per session which includes the resources for the crafts as well as refreshments and cake.

Cordelia Galley (Chair)
balkissocklodge@icloud.com
01465 831 537



BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

by Sharon Robertson

As most Ballantrae folk are aware, Fiona Roper, Linden Hunt and I are all standing down from the Community Association at the AGM. This means a new Chair, Secretary and Treasurer will be needed, as well as a Vice Chair and Bookings Secretary for Community Hall bookings. We know people think we will carry on but we will not. We have done our decade and it is time to hand it over!

Unless people step forward there will be no Ballantrae Gala and South Ayrshire will dictate what happens with the Ballantrae Community Hall. The Association is not just responsible for the Gala but also for all hall bookings, the leasing out of the inflatable marquee, any breakages of equipment and organising bookings to keep within the caretaker's contracted hours. The Association also organises other events like darts, craft fairs, etc. depending on the fundraising needed.

Linden and I are willing to keep on the fight with the Council about charges for the Gala and the hall utility charges and will submit a report to the new chair of the Association each month. But new members are needed for the Association and will be most welcome. I hope to see as many people as possible at the AGM on Monday 20 March at 7pm in the Community Hall.

BRICC RESIDENTIAL FACILITY UPDATE

Thanks to Carrick Futures, BRICC are making progress towards the £2M target needed to build a residential facility in Ballantrae. A large grant of £75,000 has been awarded from the Community Benefit Funds from Scottish Power Renewables' Mark Hill and Arecleoch wind farms providing the rest of the project costs are raised. The fund administrator, Foundation Scotland, have also been successful in finding another £30,000 grant from an anonymous donor who wishes to combat rural isolation. A positive decision on £1M of lottery funding is hoped for in February.

BRICC Club

by Jean Dunlop and Mary McWhirter

The BRICC Club aims to improve the quality of life of older people living in the area served by Ballantrae Medical Practice - including the villages of Colmonell, Pinwherry and Barrhill, Lendalloch, Smyrton, Heronsford and Ballantrae and rural areas in between. We also welcome younger disabled people who can benefit from what we have to offer. We meet on Tuesday afternoons, 52 weeks of the year when possible, in BRICC House, Ballantrae.

The club provides opportunities for companionship in a warm and safe environment, as well as a range of popular activities, including quizzes, games, talks, sing songs and music, as well as the chance to have a chat with friends over tea or coffee with home baked scones, pancakes and cakes. We all enjoy meeting with a wider range of people than we would otherwise come across, as well as the opportunity to catch up with friends. We have a great time together, so we can't understand why clubs like ours aren't to be found everywhere, as we discovered when Myra Heap, one of our longest standing members, wrote to us at Christmas. Last year Myra moved to live with her daughter in England, shortly after her 90th birthday. In her Christmas cards she wrote 'I miss the Tuesday Club very much. There is nothing remotely like it in my part of Shropshire. I think about it every Tuesday.'

The BRICC Club is run by a committee of volunteers, who are all members. In the past it has benefitted from a yearly grant from South Ayrshire, but in the face of Local Authority cuts, such grants are no longer available. So at the moment we are entirely self-supporting and dependent on the fund-raising activities, including raffles at Christmas and in the summer, coffee mornings and a stall at the Village Gala, by which we have always raised most of the money we need. That is why, on Saturday 18th February, three of us are participating in 'Carrick Decides', a South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership event, where we will make a bid for enough money to allow us to continue arranging transport to and from the club, for members who would otherwise be unable to attend. If our bid is successful the funding we receive will allow us to continue contributing to the costs incurred by our stalwart team of volunteer drivers, on whose generosity this service depends. We have our fingers crossed that we will be successful.

If you, or anyone you know, who lives within the Ballantrae Medical Practice area, would like to begin attending the BRICC Club, or would like to come along to see what we get up to, please come along any Tuesday at 2.00pm, or get in touch with either Jean Dunlop, Ballantrae (01465 831 351) or Mary McWhirter, Smyrton (01465 831 464)

B.R.I.C.C. Volunteer Driver Scheme



One of the services offered by Ballantrae Rural Initiative Care in the Community Ltd (B.R.I.C.C.) is a volunteer driver scheme which is subsidised through income from the Thrift Shop. This scheme is designed to support local people to and from medical appointments where they do not have their own readily available transport. This scheme ensures that missed appointments are kept to a minimum, benefiting both the patient and the health professional.

To arrange a volunteer driver please contact the B.R.I.C.C. office (831380) giving as much notice as possible and we will try to meet your request. The information we require is: where your appointment is, the date and time of your appointment and the expected length of the appointment.

More volunteer drivers needed

Unfortunately, we have very limited availability of volunteer drivers and despite our best efforts we cannot always meet all requests. If anyone would be interested in becoming a volunteer driver and helping your local community we would be very keen to hear from you.



By Cordelia Galley

It was with the greatest of pleasure that I accepted the Chair of the Ayrshire Bed & Breakfast Association (AB&BA) at the AGM which this

year was held at the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum in Alloway. AB&BA thrives in part due to its excellent working relationship with a variety of national and local organisations such as Visit Scotland, The Ayrshire Food Network and Ayrshire Golf Scotland and together we promote Ayrshire and Arran as a destination of choice to prospective visitors worldwide.

In addition to networking and mutual support, members' meetings are arranged at venues such as the Arran Distillery, Dumfries House or Glenapp Castle which provide our B&B members the opportunity to experience the attraction for themselves. Guests benefit from their first-hand knowledge and some attractions also provide discount vouchers or deals exclusive to AB&BA guests.

AB&BA also publishes a Restaurant Brochure of recommended places to eat that are provided to guests. Look out for them located in Craigmains in Ballantrae and at various places throughout the region.



- Are you a B&B owner and would like to find out more about the many benefits of joining AB&BA?
- Are you the owner/manager of a visitor attraction willing to host one of our meetings?
- Would you like to stock our Accommodation or Restaurant Brochures?

If so, please do contact me.

Cordelia Galley

Balkissock Lodge, Ballantrae

Chair: Ayrshire Bed & Breakfast Association

abba@ayrshire-chamber.org ayrshirebandb.com

BALLANTRAE CHURCH LINKED WITH ST COLMON CHURCH

By Rev Stephen Ogston

I am sure I am not alone in getting a large number of nuisance calls every day. It has got so bad recently that we had to buy a new phone system which has the Call Guardian system on it. This means that it asks every person who phones, and is not known to the system, to state their name and then tells us who is calling so we can decide whether to answer the phone. It means that all those recorded messages don't get through and our lives are far more peaceful than they were when some company was calling every hour to tell us about the same offer!

Telephones are a brilliant piece of technology which we are all very used to. They allow us to speak and listen to people on the other side of the street or the world, and catch up on all the news that is important to us. Since the telephone was invented in 1876 by Alexander Graham Bell it has truly helped the lines of communication to be kept open within families, communities, nations and the world. In fact, the increased popularity of the word 'hello' as a form of greeting, comes from its use by Thomas Edison in his experiments to do with the telephone.

Sometimes people think that to pray to God you have to use very religious sounding words, like "Almighty God, we beseech thy name ...", but that is simply not the case. Jesus completely shocked the religious teachers of his day, by telling people to call God their Father. In fact, the word he used was 'abba', which means 'daddy' in our language. Therefore, God wants us to address him informally, and so our prayers should begin with words much closer to "Hello God" or "Hello Daddy".

After all our prayers are not magic incantations but conversations with someone who loves and cares for us completely. God is much less interested in what words we use to say a prayer, as in what we say and how honest we are about how we feel. He is concerned about all we are concerned about and cares for those who are dear to our hearts. Therefore, regardless of who you are and what your past understanding of God has been, you can always pray, because he is always listening.

I pray you may know that God cares for you and is completely interested in everything you are concerned about.

God bless, Stephen

EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday, 9th April

10am St Colmon Church, Colmonell
11:30am Ballantrae Church

Maudy Thursday, 13th April

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

Good Friday, 14th April

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 North Church

Easter Sunday, 16th April

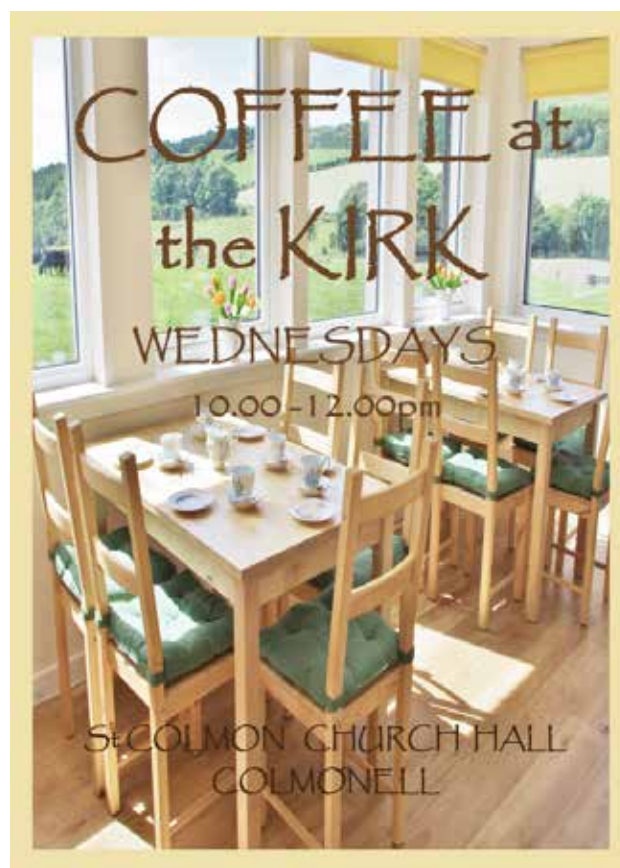
7am Early Service at Ballantrae Harbour, followed by Breakfast at the Manse
10am St Colmon Church, Colmonell
11:30am Balla-ae Church
3pm Barrhill Easter Service in Barrhill Memorial Hall



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?

Main Street, Ballantrae, KA26 0JB
Tel: 01465 831202
Email: info@kingsarmsballantrae.com
Web: www.kingsarmsballantrae.com



COFFEE at
the KIRK
WEDNESDAYS
10.00 - 12.00pm
ST COLMON CHURCH HALL
COLMONELL

BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH MALAWI CREAM TEAS

In Ballantrae Community Hall on Saturday 17th June
2pm to 4pm Adults £3 Children Free

TASTE
& SEE
CAFE CHURCH

6:30pm for 7pm in St Colmon Kirk Hall, Colmonell every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month throughout 2017.

Come along to our cafe with live music and discussion. Enjoy coffee, tea, cake and a wide variety of hot chocolate (dark or white flavoured with orange, mint, strawberry, raspberry, lemon, coconut etc.).


REGULAR SERVICES IN GLENAPP CHURCH

Built in the mid nineteenth Century, Glenapp Church sits in a beautiful spot above the A77 between Cairnryan and Ballantrae. Simple in outward appearance, with a small belfry at the apex of the gable, its interior, which is reminiscent of the arts and crafts movement, gives it a feeling of calm even when the weather outside is stormy. The church has been renovated twice - in 1909/10 and again in 1930, in memory of Elsie Mackay, daughter of the Earl of Inchcape, who died while attempting to fly across the Atlantic. Among the stained glass windows by Douglas Strachan and Kelley & Co, is 'The Stilling of the Tempest' which, above the door, serves as a memorial to the 1st Earl. Glenapp Church is about ten minutes' drive South on the A77 from Ballantrae and appears on Google maps.

For many years, the church, also known as 'The Glen Church', 'Glenapp Church of the Mark' and 'Butter's Chapel', had been used only occasionally - for weddings, funerals and baptisms, as well as a carol service at Christmas. Nowadays however, there is a regular monthly service, organised and led by members of Ballantrae Church, at 3pm on the last Sunday of each month. Though Glenapp Church belongs to the Church of Scotland (in the parish of Ballantrae Church) this service is ecumenical and liturgical in style, which is one reason that the congregation often includes friends from other churches, especially the Episcopal Church of St John the Evangelist, Stranraer, who regularly contribute by reading and leading prayers.

Please accept our invitation to attend the Glenapp Service and to join us afterwards for refreshments and a chat, sometime soon.

Gavin Fairbairn, Ballantrae



PEEP is the Parents' Early Education Partnership group, which meets in Ballantrae & Colmonell, for babies and toddlers from birth to pre-school, and is FREE.

The Peep groups are for parents and children to come along together and take part in fun activities including songs/rhymes, storytelling, craft activities and inputs about child development.

The Colmonell group runs in the Colmonell Community Centre on Wednesday mornings from 10 - 11am.

The Ballantrae group runs in Ballantrae Community Centre on Wednesday afternoons from 1 - 2pm.

For more information contact
 Alison Wales,
 Community Learning and Development,
 1 High Street, Maybole
 Tel 01655 882105
 Email: alisonwales@south-ayrshire.gov.uk



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

We meet at 10am every Sunday in Colmonell. For those who find the church steps a challenge the All Age service on the last Sunday of each month is usually held in the Kirk Hall, which has easy access. And at 3pm on the third Sunday of the month we meet for worship in Barrhill Memorial Hall.

Ballantrae Parish Church

We meet at 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 visits, 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'.

Happy Haircuts



Happy Dogs

Lexie Trafford
Happy Haircuts

**Barr
Girvan** **friends.com@hotmail.co.uk**
01465 861639 **07964208159**
Dog Grooming For All Dogs At Your Place Or Mine

Urban & Rural electrical



Josh Russell

07533 202420

Queensland, Barrhill KA26 0PZ

Clockworks

Handcrafted Clocks

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

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

COUNCILLOR ALEC OATTES



Dear Reader

It is with some regret that I prepare this newsletter as it is my final one, prior to standing down as a local Councillor after 10 years. It has been a privilege and a real pleasure to represent Girvan and South Carrick over this period, having attended many interesting and enjoyable events. I must say though, it has not been without its challenges, due to continuing Local Government cut backs and budget savings and it does not look as though things are going to improve over the next few years, no matter who is in power in Westminster, Holyrood or in Councils up and down the UK as the nation is mired in debt, most of which is owed to Finance Corporations, Pension

Funds, the International Monetary Fund and a wide variety of Banks. It's a strange old world where the very institutions who placed us all in this financial mess are now the very ones so much debt is owed to.

I am pleased to report that South Ayrshire Community Transport have been successful in raising funds from SPT and the European Ayrshire Leader programme, to purchase a mini bus which will serve the village of Barr, providing a three day a week return service between Barr and Girvan, I am hopeful this minibus will be compliant for disability use, and will be able to provide other services to meet the demands of the Communities throughout South Carrick.

Over the past few months much work has gone into tackling South Ayrshire Council on the issues of utility bill charges in village halls and on Gala Day charges which were introduced as savings by the Council. As this article goes to press in late January the outcome of negotiations between local communities and the Council are ongoing, but it is hoped that a resolution will be found which will address both of these issues.

I welcome the news that the Barrhill Hall Association, have taken over formal ownership of the Memorial Hall, which will allow them to take forward plans to

modernise the Barrhill Memorial Hall for the benefit of local residents.

I am looking forward to The Quay Zone Leisure Centre located at Girvan Harbour being up and running in time for the Easter weekend, which will be a major boost for Girvan and South Carrick. I would like to pay tribute and give thanks to the Voluntary Board of South Carrick Community Leisure who have put in countless hours at meetings and visited other locations throughout Scotland in order to deliver this amazing new facility. It should be recognised that, while the major funder is South Ayrshire Council, significant funds have been sourced from the various Community Windfarm Benefit funds which is very welcome.

In closing I would like to thank all members of the community who serve in any way in so many groups and associations to make life in South Carrick that bit more enjoyable.

As usual I can be contacted in the normal way if required.

Councillor Alec Oattes,
Girvan and South Carrick Ward,
South Ayrshire Council.
Tel. Office 01292 612382
Home 01292 435005.

The Stinchar Valley Magazine Editorial Board would like to thank Alec for the articles he has contributed over the years and for his service and support to local communities.

AN INDEPENDENT VIEW

I write this column having just enjoyed an eleven day break in my wife's homeland of Gibraltar, standing proud as it guards the entrance to the Mediterranean. Gibraltarian folk are proudly British and as with many folk in this country no matter how they voted, are keen that the Brexit negotiations go well and allow for a good working relationship with our European neighbours. Interesting times lie ahead for all of us with many twists and turns in the road given the Brexit Vote and the American election victory for President Donald Trump. Closer to home of course we have an election of our own for a new South Ayrshire Council on the 4th of May which will determine the course and direction of local politics for another few years, so hold on to your hat !!

I had the good fortune to be part of a site visit to the now nearly finished Girvan and South Carrick Leisure Centre (The Quay Zone). What an asset this will be for the whole area providing superb leisure facilities including swimming, fitness, softplay, studio and performance space. Having a sneak peak convinces me more than ever that this will be a very popular stop for residents and visitors to South Carrick when it opens its doors for the Easter Season.

There have also been moves to take forward the issues of Hillcrest Residential and Care which is a cause close to my heart as I know it is dear to many others. What I can say at this moment is that all the players are beginning to sing from the same hymn sheet with everyone working towards achieving the best possible outcome for both the residents and staff of Hillcrest. For me that is the bottom line,

an outcome that will provide a model which can be enjoyed by generations of Carrick residents and give comfort to the families whose relations will call it home, knowing that it is the best that it can be. That is an outcome worth striving to achieve. One thunder cloud on the horizon is the forthcoming Council Budget which could see more cuts to council services which of course can affect all of us in one way or another. The latest news leaking out from on high is that the settlement from Central Government will be worse than expected leading to a larger deficit to contend with than at first expected. Although there is a looming election it could still be difficult.

A couple of new names in Carrick life are now established on the Carrick Scene. Inspector Alister Kelly is now the new Head Cop in our area and has wasted no time in introducing himself to our communities. Alister has local connections and I am sure we all look forward to working with him and his fellow officers to make sure that all law abiding citizens enjoy a peaceful living. Mrs. Paula Murphy has now taken up her position as shared Head of both Barr and Barrhill Primary Schools. Paula has good experience of primary teaching in Ayr and recently had a spell in temporary charge at Invergarven School and lives with her husband and family in Girvan. Knowing Paula, I would suggest that Barr and Barrhill have gained a very good, active and valuable addition to the life of both communities that will stand them in good stead for years



to come.

Lastly as I write this column just after the anniversary of the birth of our National Bard, perhaps a wee glass of the amber nectar and a toast to "Auld Scotia"?

Councillor Alec Clark
Independent Girvan and South Carrick
Mobile 07794 038 476



Barr Community Stores News

Here at Barr Community Stores we are looking forward to Spring with great enthusiasm.

Our Barr Calendar Girls (and Boys!) was a sell-out success and we are now planning next year's calendar. The theme this time will be pets/wildlife in and around Barr. So if you're out and about in the area – and there are some lovely walks on the trails here – bring your camera/phone to snap any wildlife or scenic poses featuring your pet. Then, of course, you could call in to us for a tea/or coffee! Please submit your photos either via our Facebook page – Barr Village Shop – or by post to us at 2 Glenginnet Rd., Barr, KA26 9TU. Include your name and address and we will return them to you. It would be great to have photos reflecting the changing seasons, so we will be choosing photos every 3 months, so please keep them coming in. Thank you.

We are continuing to make improvements to our facilities.

We have been fortunate enough to receive funding from South Ayrshire Housing to complete the tea-room. This will include a ¾ height part-glazed partition to separate the tea-room from the shop area; new lighting and some large pictures of the surrounding area.

Thanks to a grant from Barr Community Council we now also have a new 21st-century till system!

Many thanks to South Ayrshire Housing and Barr Community Council for their funding – we are most grateful for their support.

By the time you read this, it should all be done, so please do come in and have a look whilst enjoying a slice of our home baking as recommended by members of the Ayr Roads Cycle Club, who visited us during their midweek cycle of 2016.

We have had stunning displays of local art and craft over the past few months. Dee, a local pyrographer, is displaying some lovely pieces at the moment. Here are just a few:



Pyrographic Art by Dee Johnson-Dallimore
info@burnt-offerings.co.uk

We will be displaying work from other local artists through the year. If you would like us to display your work, please contact us (01465 861221).

Forthcoming dates for your diary

18th March Dance in village hall to Destination Anywhere. Tickets £6 on door or £5 before, 8pm – 12.30pm

Easter Sunday, Barr Teas open in the Village Hall as usual

Barr Wee Gallery opens for the Summer on 16th April, every weekend 10 -5pm until September. Will open out of hours phone to book, Merlin Corbett 01465 861239.

Barr Village Gala, Scottish Theme with Maybole Pipe Band and dancing. 3rd June, stalls, bouncy Castle, games and lots more. Watch Barr Facebook and website for more information. Any questions call Maggie Bunnett 01465 861062

Watch Barr Village Facebook page or Barr Village Website for any additional dates.

28th October Halloween Dance to Destination Anywhere

Other fun events in planning.

FreeDailyCrosswords.com

Sunday, January 8, 2017
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ACROSS

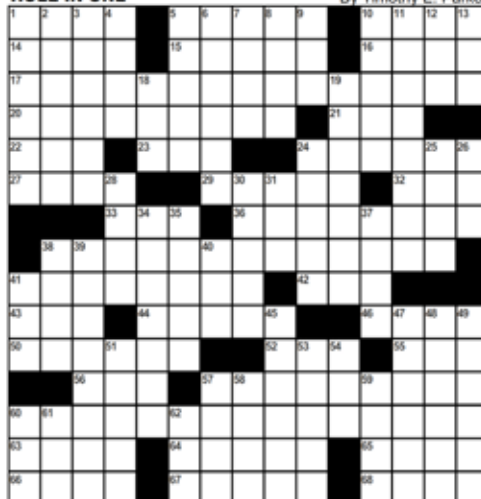
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HOLE IN ONE

By Timothy E. Parker



'AYE GLASS'

Barr's 'Aye Glass' had a very busy Winter with Xmas Fayres across Ayrshire including a regular stall showing off his beautiful hand crafted glassware on the first Sunday of the month at Culzean's Country Market and a Christmas stand at Dumfries House.



Glass artist Angus Corbett also won the Ayrshire region's Prince's Trust 'Enterprise Award' in their 'Celebrate Success' event, and came runner up in Scotland, travelling to Glasgow to be presented with his award by Judy Murray.

'Aye Glass' also attended artists' networking events in Glentworth, organised by the Galloway and South Ayrshire Biosphere where he gave a short presentation on his creative business, and in Girvan, organised by South Ayrshire Arts Partnership in January, where he was able to meet and connect with other Carrick artists and craftspeople.

'Aye Glass' is on display in the 'Barr Wee Gallery' every weekend, 10 – 5, from Easter Sunday when Barr Teas provide afternoon teas in the Village Hall. 'Many Thanks' Gallery and gift shop in Mauchline also stock 'Aye Glass' products and offer delicious cakes and coffee and a warm welcome in East Ayrshire. The Wee Gallery is open in Barr until September weekend showcasing local artists' work, but the 'Aye Glass' studio in the rear is a working studio & can be visited at any other time by appointment.

Find us on Facebook

**Girvan Youth Trust
and Affiliated Groups**
Youth Services in Girvan
and Surrounding Villages

**Z1 Youth Bar
Weekly Program**

S1 Club Monday 7–8:30pm

Girls Group S2-18yrs Tuesday 7-9pm

Darts Academy S1-18yrs Wednesday 7-9pm

Z1 Dance at Girvan Primary
Wednesday 5-6pm (S2+) 6pm-7pm (S1)

Oasis - Big Music Project S2-18yrs
Thursday 6-9pm

That Friday Thing (TFT) at Girvan Academy
Friday evening Sports Youth Group
6:30-8pm (P6-S1) 7:30-9:30pm (S2)
8-9:30pm (S3-18yrs)

S2/S3 Club Saturday 7-9pm

Hand in Hand S1-24yrs Sunday 6:30-8:30pm

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

The Remembrance Day Service in Barr was accompanied by glorious weather, making the time to reflect and give our thanks for the sacrifices made almost surreal. Chairman of the Barr Community Association addressed the gathering before handing over to Jan Denham for a reading. We then had readings from Sophie Grater, William Forey and Brian Scobie before the names of The Barr Fallen were read by Jimmy Gracie.



The gathered crowd was awakened from our two minute silence by Hamish Denham with Flowers of the Forest on the pipes.



With a change to the usual after service activities, we then moved into the Community Hall, where Sharon Trotter had organised a display of various Military Memorabilia which came from all around the village. The displays certainly stirred memories and made for some excellent conversation by all who attended. Barr Primary School added to the event with a colourful display of Poppy artwork.



It wouldn't be The Barr without soups, teas and coffees and this year we had a splash of colour with some poppy themed cakes. I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make it truly a Remembrance Day to Remember, in more ways than one.

David Trotter *Chairman Barr Community Association.*

GIRVAN CLUSTER P6 HANDBALL COMPETITION

Barr and Barrhill took part in the inaugural Girvan Cluster P6 handball competition on Tuesday 17th of January as part of the Active Schools Programme. Teams from Girvan PS, Sacred Heart, Dailly PS competed too. Congratulations to Sacred Heart who won. Well done to Barr who came third and Barrhill who were second.



Photo caption: The Barr/Barrhill Team awards, in action showing a wicked defence and a fierce attack

Barr Village New Year's Day

After a very late night celebrating Hogmanay in the Village Hall, we continued the long standing tradition of hardy numpties curing Hogmanay hangovers with a jump in the 'Pot' on New Year's Day - great day for it!



Wild About the Forest

is a new business based in Barr which offers wildlife and dark skies adventures in the Galloway Forest and Stinchar Valley. The business is run by local resident Matt Cross and comes from a lifelong love of wild things and places. Matt has travelled widely

and has been lucky enough to see creatures as varied as the rare Nilgiri langur in South India and the dwarf reindeer of Svalbard in the High Arctic.

Matt says "Initially we will be starting small, offering guided walks for those inspired by nature." But he has plans for the business to grow; "starting this Spring we aim to offer a far wider range of experiences including 'Wild Camping', 'Catch It, cook it, eat it' experiences and full day wildlife watching experiences. The wildlife, dark skies and wild flowers in the Galloway Forest and around Barr village can be amazing and I want to help people enjoy them."

Matt explained how the idea will work "We will take people to see or do what they want to see or do

Barr Village Hogmanay Party

Barr Community Association hosted a fabulous Hogmanay celebration in the Village Hall. Music was supplied by John McGinnis and friends, with Fiofin Corbett and John Scobie doing turns. Jan Denham led a number of traditional Country Dance sets with lots of support from enthusiastic if rusty members of the village. Some had not attempted any form of Country Dancing since the compulsory practicing before their school dance 40 years plus!

In addition we were very pleased to host the debut of the BarrStars with their resounding rendition of three AC/DC songs....quite the other end of the musical scale! This was met with enthusiastic support though was perhaps a bit loud for some!

Hamish Denham piped in the New Year and John led the full rendition of Auld Lang Syne ... a warm welcome to 2017!

Barr Village Christmas Fayre 21st Nov

Barr Community Association hosted the annual Christmas fayre welcoming both old and new stalls. There were 19 craft stalls with a lovely selection of baking, crafts and gifts. The hall was decorated to give a Christmas atmosphere and with a continuous flow of visitors all stalls reported a successful day.

The BCA and Stinchar Valley Quilters supplied refreshments free of charge for all the stall holders whilst Barr Teas did a steady trade in the small hall supplying festive treats and soup to the hungry shoppers.

This was one of the most successful fayres we have hosted and a lot of the stalls have already booked for Barr Gala on the 3rd June. Book the date in your diary.



when they want to see it or do it. We don't have pre-set times and programmes for our adventures, we work it out to suit our clients. Your experience will be exclusive to your group and we will customise times, places and activities to suit you."

So far Wild About the Forest has been working exclusively with guests staying at Alton Albany Farm Bed & Breakfast, offering guided walks and providing local knowledge and expertise to visiting wildlife enthusiasts and photographers. Alton Albany Farm will also be offering 'nature inspired' retreats for guests travelling from further afield. Following on from the launch of her new book 'The Garden Photography Workshop' (to be published by Timber Press March 2017) Andrea Jones will be hosting a number of Garden Photography retreats throughout the year. These and other short breaks will be promoted on the website. Find us on facebook @wildabouttheforest and follow us on twitter @wildforest_matt get in touch

wildabouttheforest@gmail.com

<http://www.AltonAlbanyFarm.com>

BARRHILL

Barrhill Flower Show

2nd September 2017



It's time to start planning your entries for this year's flower show.

With flowers, vegetables, baking, arts and crafts and a children's section there's something for everyone!

After the huge success of The First Barrhill Flower Show last year we need you to help us make this year's show even bigger and better. We would love to see everyone enter at least one class to fill the hall with a riot of colour and your wonderful creations.

New for this year you can download a copy of the schedule from www.barrhill.org.uk then select the **Other** menu. You'll also be able to bring your entries the evening before the show. You've got to be in it to win it!



FreeDailyCrosswords.com

Sunday, January 8, 2017
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HOLE IN ONE

By Timothy E. Parker



Barrhill Memorial Hall Community Association



Craft Fair & Car Boot

Barrhill Memorial Hall

Saturday 1st April 11am-3pm

Easter Bunnet & Decorated Egg Competitions Egg Rolling & Easter Games

Come along and have some Easter Fun!

Table in the Hall or Car Boot pitch - £10 each
email barrhill.hall@gmail.com or 07767 689716 to book

BARRHILL COMMUNITY FARM

by Pearl McGibbon

We still have some allotments to rent and are looking for volunteers to come and help.

Come Spring time we will have eggs for sale along with homemade jams and chutneys. We are also going to be starting a herb garden and will have herbs for sale. We are looking for any garden tools that you don't need any

more or any cuttings of plants when you come to thinning out your plants for the Spring.

This is a new and exciting project and we ask for your support and help getting it going. So look forward to Spring and let's start growing!

Please contact me if you would like more information on 01465 821029 or 07765464275 or email pearlmcgibbon@yahoo.co.uk

BARRHILL ANGLING CLUB

Subscriptions	Day Tickets
New member £55	All day ticket holders must be accompanied by a member
Existing members £50	Day tickets are available from 1st May
Juniors (under 18) £10	£12 for all adults or £30 per week
Senior citizens (over 65) (new) £35	£6 for Juniors or £15 per week
Senior citizens (existing) £30	

Barrhill Angling Club was founded circa 1977. In the early 80's the club was given the right to fish first Loch Nevan then the Black Loch on Black Clauchrie Estate by the landowner, Mr John Edwards. The lochs are stocked yearly with Rainbow Trout of around 1kg and the season runs from 1st April to 30th September.

There is a bag limit of ONE fish per day. Thereafter "catch and release" is allowed with barbless hooks.

Anyone wishing to join the club should enquire at The Trout Inn, Barrhill. Applications for membership are considered at the AGM in March.

Other Fishing destinations

Carrick Angling Club www.carrickanglingclub.co.uk

River Stinchar District Salmon Fishery www.stincharfishing.co.uk

Fly Fishing Scotland Pinbraid Fishery www.flyfishingscotland.com



BARRHILL BOWLING CLUB

On the 2nd of December Barrhill bowling club held its annual presentation dinner at the Kings Arms Ballantrae.

Members and guests enjoyed a delicious meal which was followed by the presentation of the club trophies to the 2016 winners. Retired member Irene McCrae was presented with flowers in recognition of her sterling work in continuing to run the club's whist drives throughout the season.

A good social evening ended as people departed with hopes of meeting on the green again in 2017



BARRHILL MEMORIAL HALL

The Barrhill Memorial Hall Community Association would like to take this opportunity to confirm that South Ayrshire Council has now terminated the lease on Barrhill Memorial Hall. This means the hall is not only owned by the village but it is now down to the people of Barrhill to make sure it is well used, kept in good order and run for the benefit of the community.

The hall is still available for hire by community groups as normal and we would very much welcome anyone new who would like to use our facilities. Unfortunately, we no longer have a caretaker as this was funded by

SAC. Until we secure funding for the employment of a new caretaker, the members of the Memorial Hall Community Association have taken on the responsibility of opening and locking the hall and keeping it clean and tidy on a voluntary basis. We would therefore be very grateful if everyone using the hall could ensure that the hall facilities are left in the same condition that they were found in!

Any enquiries about bookings or use of the hall please contact Sarah Malone barrhill.hall@gmail.com or 07767 689716



SENIOR CITIZENS' CHRISTMAS DINNER

The sparkling Christmas tree and colourful lights outside Barrhill Memorial Hall welcomed all who attended the annual Senior Citizens' Christmas Dinner in Barrhill Memorial Hall on 14th December 2016.

The inside of the hall was looking festive too, all thanks to the Memorial Hall Community Association. Everyone enjoyed a traditional Christmas dinner washed down with wine generously donated by Queensland Holiday Park. They also proved you're never too old to pull a cracker!



BARRHILL FIREWORKS

On 6th November Barrhill's Fireworks Night went off with a BANG! There was delicious hot soup to warm everyone up on the cold clear still night which was perfect for the fireworks. The children played happily in the park whilst the fireworks were setup. There were some excellent entries in the Build a Guy Fawkes competition.

Everyone who attended the fireworks display got a chance to vote for their favorite guy. The guy built by the children at Barrhill Primary was the winner! The fireworks were amazing and there was a great community atmosphere.

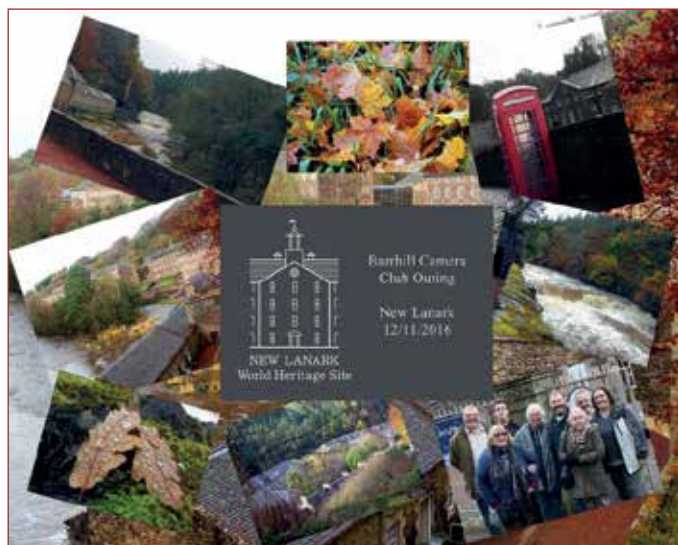
We'll be doing it all again next year on Saturday 4th November 2017. We look forward to seeing you there!



BARRHILL CAMERA CLUB

Trip to New Lanark by Alan Pratt. Members of The Barrhill Camera Club recently visited The New Lanark World Heritage Site, courtesy of the BCIC's minibus hire program. The visit provided a wealth of photographic opportunities, some of the results of which can be seen here.

The club has its own Facebook page (Barrhill Camera Club) and new members are more than welcome. Meetings are held on an ad hoc basis and members are currently working on submissions for this year's exhibition and sale.



Barrhill Hall Sweep

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15

£1 per month per number

£100 paid out every month

£50 goes to village hall every month

16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26

New members welcome

27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37

To join contact Euan or Helen

01465 821266

07900 004516

38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48

BARRHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

A very busy December!

The children of Barrhill Primary School enjoyed a December packed full with festive fun. First on the menu was a delicious Christmas Lunch.

The children had great fun when they went to watch the annual pantomime at Ayr Gaiety Theatre. This year it was Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. The children would like to say a big thank you to Barrhill Community Council who kindly funded the trip.

Festive fun was had by all at the Christmas Party which involved fun and games and party food followed by a very special visitor. Santa came to see the children and delivered a brightly wrapped present to each child. The wrapping paper was quickly torn off to reveal a wonderful present, the beaming faces of the children said it all!

The biggest event of the month by far was the Christmas Show 'Jack and the Flight of the Beanstalk 2016' on 19th December. A massive £715.50 was raised on the night for the school.

There was a full page of photos from the show in the Ayrshire Post and they also received the following excellent write-up.



Creative pupils and staff at Barrhill Primary school came up with a delightful twist to their Christmas show this year. Why stick to the same old Jack and the Beanstalk story when you can write your own show and bring a touch of 21 century magic to this classic tale! Friends and family packed into the school to see the new show and they were not disappointed.

Not only did the children do all the acting they had even written their own lines, a remarkable achievement. Working with their mentor Rev Stephen Ogston, the fledgling playwrights from the P5-7 class replaced magic beans with microchips

which transport Jack into space where he meets a host of colourful characters including Daft Vader!

Like all good tales, this one had an important message and Jack learns that although searching the galaxy for presents is fun, the real meaning of Christmas is spending time with loved ones.

The children are already talking about next year's show and there are sure to be plenty of surprises!



Dyslexia Friendly Schools

Mrs Logan and the Dyslexia Friendly Group held an information open afternoon with resources, quizzes and a presentation. The afternoon was greatly supported by parents and community members.



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BARRHILL NIMBLE THIMBLE

Caravan seating cushions re-covered
Curtains made to measure or altered to fit
Loose covers for cushions
Headboards re-covered
Please ask if you have other requirements
Local seamstress - no job too small!

Linda Wild email: barrhill.thimble@gmail.com

Handball Tournament

Barrhill Primary hosted their first handball tournament in partnership with Active Schools. We had six teams from five schools Barr, Girvan, Sacred Heart, Dailly and Barrhill.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Winners were First - Sacred Heart Primary, Second - Barrhill Primary and Third - Barr



A new head teacher for Barrhill Primary

Mrs Murphy is delighted to be the new head teacher of Barr and Barrhill Primary Schools. Mrs Murphy's previous post was Acting Head Teacher at Invergarven School in Girvan and previous to that was Depute Head Teacher in Dalmilling Primary school in Ayr. We wish Mr Baird every success in his new post at Doonfoot Primary School. Mrs Murphy looks forward to working closely with the communities of Barr and Barrhill in the future.



BARRHILL MEMORIAL HALL WHIST EVENING

An enjoyable night was had by all four tables playing at the Barrhill Memorial Hall Community Association Whist Evening on 11th November 2016

The winners were Ladies 1st Betty Robertson 2nd Cathie Gordon 3rd Ann Robertson Gents 1st Jan Campbell 2nd Grace Dunlop 3rd Wilma Gracie all playing as Gents.



SOUTH CARRICK CLUB DIAMONDS

Resolve to Get Fit

Feeling fed up with the overeating and sitting around that often characterises the Festive Season? Well now is the time to make a change and improve your health too. Many people decide to do just that and they make a resolution to keep fit in the months to come. Sadly, all too often it is forgotten within a few weeks. However this year could be different. You could come along to a South Carrick Club Diamonds fitness class. They are low cost classes for a variety of levels of fitness from seated exercises to those which are a bit more strenuous. All movements are done to music and this helps to keep classes cheery and light-hearted. No need to 'feel the burn' to keep fit; gentle exercise on a regular basis is just as beneficial, keeping you agile and strong. In addition it gives you the opportunity to catch up with others and perhaps even find out about other events that you may enjoy.

THE INSTRUCTORS



Tara Jackson



Lyn Brooks



Heather McLeod

The classes are all taught by qualified fitness instructors but are run by volunteers. Due to this and some generous funding it is possible to keep the costs affordable for all; only £3 to join and a further £3 for each class you attend. No specialised clothing is necessary; some non-slip shoes and comfortable clothing is all that is needed.

If you are interested just pop along to one of the classes at the venues and times shown below and someone there will keep you right.

Classes as follows

Colmonell

Monday 2.30 – 3.30 p.m. Colmonell Community Hall

Barrhill

Monday 7.00 – 8.00 p.m. Barrhill Memorial Hall

Dailly Tuesday 10.00 – 11.00 a.m. Dailly Church Hall

Girvan

Tuesday 11.30a.m – 12.30p.m.

Girvan South Parish Church Hall

Tuesday 1.30 – 2.00 p.m. Girvan Kirk Care (chair based)

Tuesday 2.30 – 3.30 p.m.

South Parish Small Church Hall (chair based)

Wednesday 11.30a.m.– 12.30 p.m.

Girvan South Parish Church Hall


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- * All types of website
- * Affordable prices

Quote "Stinchar Valley" for 10% discount

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e-mail: tog@wigweb.biz

Wigwam Web Services, Barrhill



Enjoy a Magical Mother's Day at Glenapp Castle

Book for lunch or full afternoon tea on Mother's Day Sunday 26th March and enjoy a complimentary glass of sparkling wine on arrival.
All guests dining with us on Sunday 26th March will be entered into our special Mother's Day Prize Draw with a chance to win a six course gourmet dinner for two.

Our three course Mothering Sunday lunch is £39.50 per person
Our full afternoon tea served in the Drawing Room is £22.50 per person

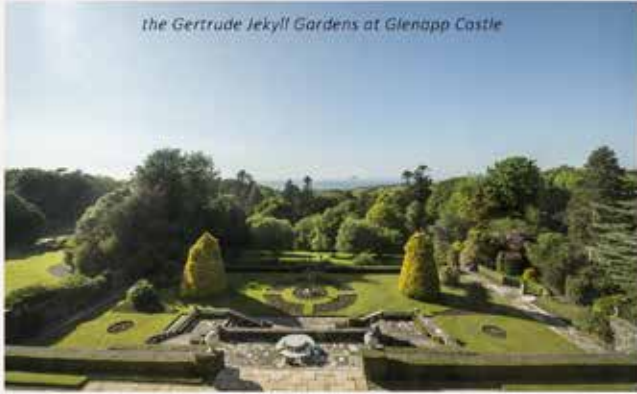
All lunch and afternoon tea guests are invited to enjoy a walk in the gardens during their visit.

Luxury Gift Vouchers

Why not treat a loved one to a luxury Glenapp Castle experience with one of our dining or overnight stay gift vouchers.
A perfect Mother's day gift or special Easter treat.

As Glenapp Castle is in a gated estate an advance reservation for a garden visit, for lunch or afternoon tea is required. For more information or to make a reservation please call us on 01465 831212.

A warm welcome awaits you!



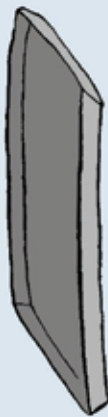
the Gertrude Jekyll Gardens at Glenapp Castle

Glenapp Castle Hotel, Ballantrae, Ayrshire, Scotland KA26 0NZ
Telephone +44 (0)1465 831212, info@glenappcastle.com

How to make an animal footprint trap

You will need:

- old baking tray



- long ruler



- fine grain sand



- water



- low-sided dish



- meaty cat or dog food

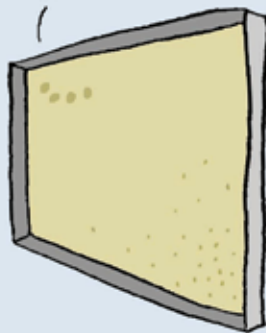


- footprint ID guide



1

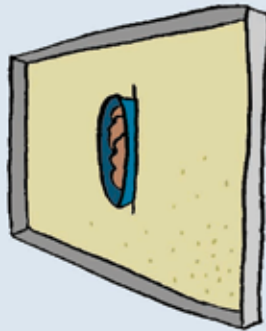
Fill an old baking tray with damp sand and smooth out the surface with a ruler.



Check to make sure your fingers leave a mark.

2

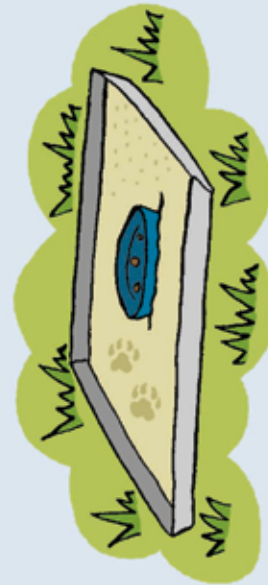
Place hedgehog food or meaty cat or dog food in a low-sided dish in the middle of the tray.



(you could also try mealworms or chopped, unsalted peanuts)

3

Leave the trap overnight in a garden and check in the morning for footprints left by curious visitors.



hedgehog



fox



cat



bird




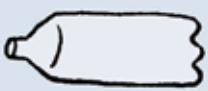








squirrel

Make your own wormery



wildlife
watch

You will need:

- 2-3 earthworms 
- 1 litre clear plastic drinks bottle 
- Garden soil 
- Compost 
- Light-coloured sand 
- Scissors 
- Cling film and an elastic band 
- Water 
- Leaves 
- Paper or card and tape 



1 With the help of an adult, cut the top off the drinks bottle and remove any labels



2 Build up layers of different kinds of soil and sand in the bottle



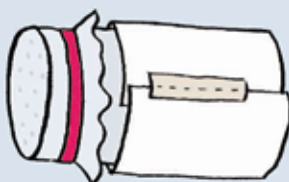
3 Sprinkle fallen leaves over the top and water until damp



4 Add your worms!



5 Secure cling film over the top to stop your worms escaping. Pierce with tiny holes.



6 Wrap the bottle in paper to keep it dark for your worms. You can remove this when you want to have a look at how they've mixed the layers.



7 Keep in a cool place and top up with water when needed. Release your worms back into the wild after you've finished your experiment.



COLMONELL

Colmonell Community Association Parties

Colmonell Community Association held the annual Hallowe'en and Christmas parties recently, with ghoulish screams and choruses of 'Jingle Bells' ringing across the village on the respective party evenings. The Hallowe'en party was very well attended, and winners of the fancy dress competition, which was ably judged by Teresa MacIntyre, were as follows:

Pre-school – 1st Jake, 2nd Maisie, 3rd Alexis

P1-3 – 1st William, 2nd Wyatt, 3rd Lucy

P4-7 – 1st Charlie, 2nd Kirstie, 3rd Johnny

The Christmas party was also very popular and the children managed to raise the roof with their welcome to Santa, who came prepared with a gift for all the children. Thanks to all helpers who made both of these parties a great success.



Colmonell Fun Day

The Fun Day will be held this year on Saturday 10th June, with activities taking place in the week leading up to the Fun Day, from 5th June. Further details will be available nearer the time on the Colmonell Facebook page and in the local press.

PEEP

Parents Early Education Partnership (PEEP) sessions restart in Colmonell village

peep

supporting parents and children to learn together

hall from Wednesday 25th January, 10am – 11am. All pre-school babies, children, parents and grandparents are welcome to attend the sessions which take place every Wednesday morning during term time, where there are songs, stories and crafts to be enjoyed. **For more information contact Alison Wales on 01655 882105.**

Colmonell Fitness Classes

Come and join our fitness class which takes place on a Monday night from 7.30pm to 8.30pm in Colmonell Village Hall. Cost is £3 per session and the class is led by Rachel Melville. A Pilates taster session led by Alison Howie was very well received and, as a result, several sessions will be delivered on a Thursday evening during February and March in Colmonell Village Hall. Cost is £4 per session. To register your interest contact Eileen McCutcheon on 881 191 or eileenmilroy@hotmail.com

Colmonell Development Group received funding to purchase fitness equipment for the village hall, and the building will be open at set times to allow people to make use of the equipment and exercise at their own pace. Exercise cards will be available to show a range

Colmonell Baby & Toddler Group

Children at the baby and toddler group had a great time at their Christmas party in December, where everyone was delighted to have a special visit from Santa Claus. The children made some lovely Christmas crafts throughout December, and at their party enjoyed some festive snacks then played some party games.

The group meet every Friday in St Colmon Kirk Hall from 1.30pm to 3pm. All babies and children under 5 years from the Stinchar Valley area welcome. **For more information contact Eileen McCutcheon on 881 191.**



of different exercises you can try using the equipment. A poster will be displayed in the hall window for details of opening times for the exercise equipment.

A badminton club for younger members has been set up on a Monday evening from 6-7pm in the village hall and parents are encouraged to attend with their child. Cost is £1 per session. The existing badminton club for more experienced players continues to meet in the hall on a Thursday evening from 8.30pm and the cost is £5 per player for the season. Racquets and shuttles are available for use at both sessions.

For more information contact David or Eileen McCutcheon on 881 191.

COLMONELL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

It is now slightly over a year since the CDG was set up, and perhaps time for an overview of where we are and what we have done. The 8 volunteers have worked hard. We now have a constitution and a bank account and in the Summer we compiled, printed and distributed a community survey, which we are evaluating at present - this will give us an action plan which will determine how we proceed in future.

In August we took part in a Participatory Budgeting event in Girvan, where we were awarded a total of £1010, split between 3 projects.

One of these was our Christmas event, where for the 2nd year we were entertained by the Creetown Silver Band. The evening included carol singing and Christmas fare (and thank goodness better weather than 2015) - and of course Santa! Many thanks to Mrs Mary Smith for agreeing to open the event.

The remaining money was split between 2 sub-groups, a fitness group organising weekly classes and a gardening group which has the aim of brightening up the village, while encouraging integration of all ages - new members of both are welcome. If



interested in helping with the gardening group, please contact Helen Allen, Boars Head Hotel - 881371.

Finally, at present we are organising a weekend event for Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th September, to mark the 40 years since the Colmonell Exhibition. If anyone has memories, photos, etc. of the Colmonell Pageant, Exhibition or Carrick Cavalcade, held from 1975-77, or a programme from the pageant or the cavalcade, please get in touch with me at heather521ohare@btinternet.com, or with any CDG member.

COLMONELL WRI

The first meeting of 2017 was held on January 11th with a very interesting demonstration of handicrafts by Linda Wild and, on February 8th, Emma Louise Livingstone from the 'Dog's Trust' with mascot Hilary. The meeting on March 8th will be a celebration of our 90th birthday. Elma Mitchell from Marie Curie will be giving us a talk on April 12th. The final meeting of the season is on May 10th and will be held at Craigmains Garden Centre. This is our AGM as well as the trophy presentations for points for the season. The outing this year is on Saturday 27th May to the Cream of Galloway for morning coffee then on to Castle Douglas.

For more details contact Margaret Robertson on 01465 881352.

COLMONELL BOWLING CLUB

Our AGM will be held on Sunday 2nd April at 2pm, and all being well the green will open on Saturday 29th April. We would love to welcome new members to our green, no experience necessary.

If you'd like to know more, phone Evelyn McCubbin on 01465 881293 or email colmonell293@hotmail.com



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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.

CHURCHES OF THE STINCHAR VALLEY



Arnsheen Church, Barrhill c.1910



Barrhill United Free Church and Public Hall c.1905



Colmonell Free Kirk 1900



Ballantrae Parish Church c.1910



Colmonell Parish Church



Ballantrae Free Kirk c.1910

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.