



# THE STINCHAR VALLEY MAGAZINE

SPRING  
2018

FREE

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

SUPPORTED BY CARRICK FUTURES AND HADYARD HILL WITH FUNDING FROM SCOTTISH POWER  
RENEWABLES AND SSE. MARK HILL, ARECLEOCH AND HADYARD HILL WINDFARMS

# LOCAL AND INTERESTING WEB SITES

## THE VILLAGES

|                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Barr Village       | <a href="http://www.barrvillage.co.uk/">http://www.barrvillage.co.uk/</a>                     |
| Barrhill           | <a href="http://www.barrhill.org.uk">www.barrhill.org.uk</a>                                  |
| Ballantrae Village | <a href="http://www.ballantrae.org.uk">www.ballantrae.org.uk</a>                              |
| Pinwherry/Pinmore  | <a href="http://www.2pins.org.uk">http://www.2pins.org.uk</a>                                 |
| Visit Scotland     | <a href="http://www.visitsouthernscotland.co.uk/">http://www.visitsouthernscotland.co.uk/</a> |

## LOCAL INFORMATION AND THINGS TO DO

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

## LOCAL ENVIRONMENT ORGANISATIONS

|                                   |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Ayrshire Rivers Trust             | <a href="http://www.ayrshirerivertrust.org/cisp">www.ayrshirerivertrust.org/cisp</a> |
| The Southern Uplands Partnership  | <a href="http://www.sup.org.uk/">http://www.sup.org.uk/</a>                          |
| Scottish Red Squirrels            | <a href="https://scottishsquirrels.org.uk/">https://scottishsquirrels.org.uk/</a>    |
| Scottish Natural Heritage         | <a href="http://www.snh.org.uk/">http://www.snh.org.uk/</a>                          |
| The Woodland Trust                | <a href="http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk">http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk</a>        |
| Forestry Commission               | <a href="http://www.forestry.gov.uk/">http://www.forestry.gov.uk/</a>                |
| Scottish Environmental Protection | <a href="http://www.sepa.org.uk/">http://www.sepa.org.uk/</a>                        |

## USEFUL HELP WEBSITES

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Ballantrae Medical Practice        | <a href="http://www.ballantraemedicalpractice.co.uk">www.ballantraemedicalpractice.co.uk</a>   |
| Age Concern Girvan                 | <a href="http://www.ageconcerngirvan.org.uk">www.ageconcerngirvan.org.uk</a>   |
| Public services all in one place   | <a href="http://www.direct.gov.uk">www.direct.gov.uk</a>   |
| Stagecoach                         | <a href="http://www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables">www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables</a>   |
| For timetables, fares and bookings | <a href="http://www.citylinkonlinesales.co.uk">www.citylinkonlinesales.co.uk</a>   |
| Scottish Water                     | <a href="http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/">http://www.scottishwater.co.uk/</a>  |
| Community Police Team              | <a href="mailto:GirvanSouthCarrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk">GirvanSouthCarrickCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk</a>   |
| "                                  | <a href="http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/ayrshire/south-ayrshire/">http://www.scotland.police.uk/your-community/ayrshire/south-ayrshire/</a>                                |
| Walking Blog                       | <a href="http://www.scottishhills.com/html/modules.php?name=Forums&amp;file=viewtopic&amp;t=23147">www.scottishhills.com/html/modules.php?name=Forums&amp;file=viewtopic&amp;t=23147</a> |

## USEFUL CONTACTS

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Emergency Services (Police, Fire, Urgent Medical, Coastguard) .....           | 999           |
| Police (non-emergency) .....  | 101           |
| Coastguard, (non-emergency e.g. suspicious articles found on any beach) ..... | 101           |
| Accident & Emergency, Ayr Hospital .....                                      | 01292 610555  |
| Minor Injuries Unit, Girvan Community Hospital .....                          | 01465 712571  |
| NHS 24 .....  | 111           |
| Gas Emergencies .....   | 0800 111 999  |
| Scottish Power, Power Cut/Emergencies .....                                   | 0800 0929290  |
| 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   |

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

We hope you will enjoy the Spring 2018 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 items of general interest.

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.

## 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 Ligliartrie 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 2018 SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO REPS OR THE EDITOR IS

27th April 2018

DISTRIBUTION TO VILLAGES WILL BE W/C 04.06.2018

**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. **Are we doing a good job? Please let us know**

### LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES AND EDITORIAL PANEL

|                       |                                |  |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Pinwherry and Pinmore | John McAlley (editor)          | Stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk<br>Tel. 01465 841198  |
| Pinwherry/Pinmore     | Marie McNulty                  | mariemcnultyg@gmail.com                                      |
| Ballantrae            | Andy McAlpine<br>Peter Newland | andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com<br>peternewlands1@btconnect.com |
| Barr                  | Anna Connon                    | connon.anna@gmail.com  |
| Barrhill              | Linda Wild                     | linda.wild@gmail.com   |
| Lendalfoot            | Jim Fleming                    | margaretfleming775@gmail.com                                 |
| Colmonell             | Margaret Robertson             | Tel. 01465 881352  |
| Admin/Treasurer       | Marie McNulty                  | mariemcnultyg@gmail.com<br>Tel: 01465 841168                 |

# Recommended Tradesman

Have you had a good job done?

Drop us an email at [Stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk)



| TRADE              | NAME            | TELEPHONE    | MOBILE      | RECOMMENDER   | DATE  |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|-------|
| Decorator          | Andy Muir       | 01465 831501 | 07746521168 | Claire Pirrie | 01/18 |
| Plumbing/Heating   | Ian Terry       | 01465 712594 | 07733470874 | Dorothy Duffy | 01/18 |
| Joinery            | Ross Doyle      | 01465 821433 | 07825141910 | Keith Dawdry  | 01/17 |
| Garden Machinery   | Francis Bowman  | 01292 262763 | 07492433338 | Ian Terry     | 01/17 |
| Painter            | Jamie MacDonald | 01465 841251 | 07901841355 | Jill McAlley  | 09/17 |
| 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 |
| Painter            | Jamie MacDonald | 01465 841251 | 07901841355 | Jill McAlley  | 09/17 |

## 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 or via their website:

[www.ayrshireroadsalliance.org](http://www.ayrshireroadsalliance.org) - select roads for "Road Faults" or any other categories and complete and send form or by emailing: [enquiries@ayrshireroadsalliance.org](mailto:enquiries@ayrshireroadsalliance.org)

Maybole Community Council - supported by Pinwherry Pinmore Community Council  
To all residents of Maybole and North/South Carrick

## FED UP OF SUB STANDARD ROADS ?

If you, like us, are fed up with the conditions of the roads in and around Maybole and the outlying villages, we need your help to raise awareness of our/your frustration.

The link below will take you to a page where you register complaints about roads. You can register just one by using the simple map pinning the location or you can use the contact page to give a wider report.

The high road from Ayr to Maybole is a disgrace with pot holes that shake your fillings in your teeth. Culzean road from Greenside to one of Scotland's finest tourist attractions Culzean and beyond is more holes than tar now. Cars are swerving to avoid holes and accidents are inevitable.

Maybole to Crosshill, Girvan to D&G border, Pinwherry to Ballantrae etc etc.

We would ask that everyone help us by swamping the roads department with complaints. We know budgets are getting tighter but the standard of repair we get cannot be good value when less than 6 months they're worse than ever.

Please share and more importantly start raising the bar with the roads department.

<https://www.ayrshireroadsalliance.org>



# SPONSOR THE STINCHAR VALLEY MAGAZINE IN 2018



**and help us to ensure good communication across our villages and showcase village life in this part of Scotland to visitors**

**The Stinchar Valley Magazine** is now in its fifth year. Our budget is smaller than mainstream magazines because our volunteer Editorial Team puts in over 800 hours a year so that villagers across the valley can have a free professionally produced quarterly magazine delivered to their door.

We have received funding support from Hadyard Hill and Carrick Futures Community Benefit Funds for the last 5 years but the Carrick Futures Board of Directors, as a condition of our grant, have asked us to start exploring other sources of income so that the magazine can continue beyond the foreseeable future. That's why we need your help.

Because of the volunteer Editorial Team's efforts, you can be sure that what goes into the pages of the Stinchar Valley Magazine is newsworthy and about our villages. We also include local business adverts and our popular recommended tradesman section not only to show our support for local business, but because many local businesses are generous in how they support their local communities. We want to continue to include local business adverts but rather than charging for them we want to create an opportunity for local businesses to show their support for the magazine and what we are trying to achieve by becoming sponsors.

All donations are welcome and will be listed in our special sponsor page in the magazine. If you wish to remain anonymous we would, of course, respect that.

A contribution of £10 would allow us to produce copies of one issue of the magazine for 9 households; £40 will allow us to produce copies of the magazine for those households every quarter for a full year; £180 will help with postal distribution of the magazine for a whole year to outlying farms and houses in our villages.

**We also propose to offer for sale, a four-page center-fold, this could, with cooperation, be shared but must be four pages. This is a great way to promote Businesses, events or to offer goods for sale.**

**If you are interested in becoming a sponsor, or buying a center-fold, please contact Marie McNulty at [stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk)**

Cheques can be made payable to: Stinchar Valley Magazine or if you would prefer to pay by bank transfer please contact Marie for more details. Cheques should be sent along with your name/business details and address to: Stinchar Valley Magazine, c/o Marie McNulty, Guildhall, Pinwherry, Girvan KA26 0RT

# Girvan and South Carrick Villages Locality Planning

## Ayrshire Health and Social Care Girvan and South Carrick Villages Locality Planning



The Health and Social Care Partnership is pleased to announce it has appointed Chic Martingale as new **Community**

**Engagement Officer** for the Carrick area. Over the next few months, Chic will be pleased to meet with local Community Organisations and Community Councils.

The local Community **First Responders** are now up and running with 10 Scottish Ambulance Service trained First Responders covering Girvan and all the Rural villages of Dailly, Barr, Pinmore, Pinwherry, Colmonell, Barrhill, Lendalfoot and Ballantrae. The First Responders have responded to several callouts by the Ambulance service, but there is still a need for more volunteers. For more information contact Mark Bradley on E Mail markbrad96@gmail.com

**The new Girvan Connect information and advice point** is open every Tuesday afternoon from 2pm to 4pm in the Town House Girvan

A drop-in service where Social Work staff and other organisations assist with a range of issues including social care, debt, money worries, dementia, mental health, carers and other local support groups.

**Participatory Budgeting.** The partnership is holding PB market place event in Colmonell on the 17th March for funding which should meet these priorities:

- Supporting people with Dementia.
- Supporting people who are Isolated
- Supporting people living with poor Mental Health.

Funding bids should directly address one or more of these issues and should also include an element of addressing the needs of rural communities within the South Carrick and/or the Glendoune area of Girvan.

**The Locality Planning Group** meets every second Wednesday in the month at 7pm in Girvan Community Hospital. The meetings are open to any community organisation to come along and raise any issues that their community have on Health or Social Care, Transport and community safety. There are representatives from the Health and Social Care, South Ayrshire Council and other local organisations at these monthly meetings.

**Peter Walker**

Chairperson

*Girvan and South Carrick villages Locality Planning Group*

## AN INDEPENDENT VIEW

Here we are at the Spring of the Year, where did 2017 go? Who said the older you get the faster time goes because either I am one of the older or time is definitely going faster, perhaps a mixture of both. This is the time of the year which can make both the politicians and the public shudder and no I'm not talking about the weather, I'm talking about the SAC Budget. There is a funding gap which year on year seems to get wider and year on year has to be dealt with meaning services come under the microscope and have to be justified. That's why it is so important to always make your views known so that it can be represented when making decisions on the priorities that matter most. Hopefully it won't be long before the Austerity policy being enacted throughout the country is eased enough to allow for an increase in public spending allowing for the provision of public services that we would all welcome.

With the Spring of course comes the promise of new life, with Spring Lambs, Daffodils and nesting birds and of course growth in the land and a promise of summer to come. It also brings a sense of expectation and new opportunities. In the coming year this South Ayrshire administration intend to work hard in co-operation with our communities to make the most of all positive chances that come our way and make the most of what we already have and appreciate. One of the ways to make the most of our beautiful part of the world is to shout about it through new signage which will let travellers know not only where they are, but what is available to enjoy and use in our towns and villages. This allows our communities to make the most of what they do to benefit their neck of the



woods through enhanced tourism opportunities. Shout out about what we have and as is said in the Holy Book, 'Don't hide your lamp under a bushel'. Because going back to the start of this column where I have highlighted Budget issues, the clear and concise message going forward is that we have to work together to achieve our maximum potential. The council cannot do everything and communities cannot achieve all they aspire to unless they agree to work together in a manner which will be good for all concerned.

It will require talking, listening and genuine understanding from both sides but it is the only way forward and one which I will work hard to achieve for the good of all.

Councillor **Alec Clark**

## COUNCILLOR PETER HENDERSON



As the rain is falling mixed with the snow it reminds me how wet the past year has been. I sincerely hope as we approach the spring that we are in for better weather for all, not least the farming community who have had a trying time over the winter. With the lengthening nights and new growth, new lambs

it cheers us up that there is always the prospect of better weather arriving.

It has been a very busy time over the winter in the Council and I was pleased to have motions passed and given unanimous support in regards to opposition to changes at the Oncology unit at Ayr hospital; Universal Credit introduction requesting a pause until the system errors and anomalies are corrected; and requesting clarity on the proposals for replacing European funding post Brexit in order that our area is not disadvantaged. The administration has also introduced a restructure of the Council reducing the number of senior positions and focusing on communication and customer priorities.

Thanks to attendance at Community Councils, surgeries and numerous local groups in the Villages and Girvan, it has been possible to assist many, and gain insight into the communities and focus

on priorities going forward. The area has had high representation at Council and ensured that we are given equal parity with the rest of South Ayrshire. It is important that we are part of the discussions when decisions are made and not an afterthought.

The climate of austerity continues and it is vital that communities are involved in supporting their areas. I have been privileged to meet so many dedicated people in all areas of the ward who give their time, effort and knowledge, to the betterment of all. It is only with these individuals and communities working together that we can make progress, protect the vulnerable and enhance our future. A great example of this is the now established First Responders group which will benefit all in the community.

I continue to attend outside bodies on behalf of the Council and am hopeful that this will result in attracting interest and awareness to invest in our area for everyone's benefit.

I look forward to attending upcoming events in the spring and summer and hope to meet many of you at these important gatherings.

Thanks for your time in reading this and do contact me if you require assistance.

Councillor **Peter Henderson**, SNP

## COUNCILLOR IAN FITZSIMMONS

Once again, I have been asked to write a column for the Spring Edition of the Stinchar Valley Magazine. I hope you all had a good Christmas and New Year and by the time you read this the worst of the winter weather should be over and the gardens will be blooming with Daffodils, Tulips and other spring flowers. The organisations will be starting to arrange their summer programmes and hopefully they will get good weather. Most of the events in the villages are run by volunteers, without whom there would be nothing going on during the summer. If you could offer your services to the groups please do so, as every little helps.

Ballantrae School is getting a long needed extension and renovations. Barr Primary is also being extended and renovated which should bring them in to the 21st Century. Invergarven school's new premises are being specially built for youngsters with learning and physical disabilities, and they hopefully

will be in their new premises by the end of the year.

Barrhill Hall should be finished and open shortly. Thanks to the Hall Committee for all their hard work.

This year sees Girvan celebrate the 350th anniversary of the signing of the Girvan Charter. Events to celebrate this will be taking place throughout the year, so keep checking the Press, posters and Facebook for details.

I wish you all the best for 2018.

Councillor **Ian Fitzsimmons**



# COLMONELL

## COLMONELL CHRISTMAS SWITCH-ON 2017

**This year's switch-on had 1 big difference from previous years - the weather! For the first time since the event started, we had a dry, calm evening, and what a difference that made.**

The actual switch-on was a bit earlier than usual, to allow for people attending another event. Johnny McKechan won a Colmonell school competition to design the poster, and he was assisted in pushing the detonator at 6.30pm by Provost Moonie - many thanks to both. This year's lights display was bigger than ever and included a tree in the centre of the village courtesy of Bardrochat Estates. After the lights went on a group went carol singing around the village, this was followed by a concert of seasonal music from the Creetown Silver Band in the Community Centre. The hall was busy with people enjoying the music, and appreciating the mulled wine, tea, coffee mince pies and a large selection of home baking on offer.

Everyone agreed it was an excellent evening, and the Colmonell Development Group would like to thank all who helped to make it a success.



## COLMONELL EARLY YEARS CENTRE

In Colmonell Early Years Centre we have been caring for the birds. We have made bird feeders and are patiently waiting for the birds to come and visit us. We also baked some bread for our snack and shared it with the birds!



We celebrated Robert Burns Day. The children wore something tartan for the day and had a lovely Scottish snack of oatcakes and cheese. We also learned some new Scottish songs... 'Three Crows' and 'The Jeely Piece Song' were our favourites.



# COLMONELL COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION PARTIES

Colmonell Community Association Hallowe'en and Christmas parties were very well attended once again, with children enjoying the mummy game and the old favourite, dooking for apples. Mary McVittie and Marion McQuiston kindly judged the fancy dress competition for the Hallowe'en party, and the winners were as follows:

Pre-school – 1st Fraser, 2nd Iona, 3rd Thomas

P1-3 – 1st Jake, 2nd Cerys, 3rd Grace

P4-7 – 1st Cameron, 2nd Olivia, 3rd Freya

The Christmas party was also full of fun and children had a great time playing the pom pom game and pass the parcel. Santa even had time to pop in for a visit and left a gift for every child. 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 9th June, with activities taking place in the week leading up to the Fun Day, from 4th June. Attractions this year include Roadrunner children's entertainer, Bunny Luv petting zoo, facepainting, pirate ship shooter bouncy castle and 'beat the rodeo bull' competition. Further details will be available nearer the time on the Colmonell Facebook page and in the local press.

## COLMONELL BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Children at the baby and toddler group had a great time at their Hallowe'en and Christmas parties. The fancy dress competition at the Hallowe'en party was judged by Dawn Campbell and Mark Bradley and the winners were Jack, Dylan and Freya. Santa paid a special visit to the group at their party in December and the children all enjoyed playing party games, making crafts and having a snack.

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.

## PLAYPARK FUNDING

Colmonell Community Association were successful in a bid to Carrick Futures and to the South Carrick Decides Decision Day event recently, where they secured funding for a junior multi-unit for the playpark. Colmonell Primary School children then helped to choose the multi-unit that they preferred.

Everyone in the village is really looking forward to having the new equipment installed by South Ayrshire Council and it is hoped that it will be in place for summer.

## PILATES

Organised by Colmonell Development group, 6 week blocks of Pilates in Colmonell take place on Tuesday evenings in Colmonell Community Centre. There are two 45 minute sessions, one for beginners and one for intermediate level, and the cost is £6 per class or £30 for a 6 week block. The beginners class takes place from 7.30 to 8.15pm. Pilates aims to improve core strength for the spine and pelvis through a series of exercises which incorporate breathing, posture and control. A class will work on balance, strength, flexibility and posture and can be adapted to suit each individual's ability. If you are interested in attending contact Eileen McCutcheon on 881 191 or eileenmilroy@hotmail.com



## COLMONELL & LENDALFOOT CC - GAIETY TOUR EVENTS

When our Community Council was asked by the Gaiety Rural Tour Group if we were interested in having theatre nights, we decided the 2 communities could work together and help each other to stage events. This led firstly to "Dracula - the Travesty" in Colmonell Community Centre on the evening of 29 October. We had a really fun evening, with audience participation and a lot of laughs. Many people had their first experience of live theatre, and look forward to more. The ladies of the CC dressed suitably scarily for the occasion, with themed refreshments available in the interval and a raffle at full time. One month later, on 30 November in

Lendalfoot Village Hall, we had a St Andrews night musical evening, with foot-tapping music from Grainne Brady, Tina Rees and Ryan Murphy. Everyone enjoyed the Irish dancing from Tina, and the evening ended with a rousing version of "Auld Lang Syne". There was an excellent turnout for a fun evening, with lots of tartan and Scottish flags to be seen in the hall. "Goodie Bags" were on sale containing some Scottish treats, and again there was a raffle at the end.

Our fund raising on the 2 nights made over £400 for the BRICC New Build Fund, and we look forward to working with Susan Robertson of the Gaiety Tour Group to stage our next events.



# COLMONELL PRIMARY SCHOOL

## MOCK COURT

Primary 4-7 participated in a mock court project. It involved visits from solicitors and court officials and culminated in a mock court trial in Ayr Sheriff Court whereupon the pupils acted out their parts as witnesses, accused, solicitors, court artists etc.

The pupils looked at how to build a case through analysing and researching evidence. This was a wonderful experience for the pupils as they were able to be fully involved within a real working environment of a court.



All pupils enjoyed this, particularly developing their debating skills and creating their own court robes

## WW2 AND VISIT FROM MAKING HISTORY ALIVE

Primary 4-7 are currently studying World War 2 and took the opportunity to learn from the 'History Alive' team. They listened to an amazingly detailed talk which was brought to life with real artefacts from the World War Two period.

The pupils really enjoyed this experience especially when they were given the opportunity to dress up in military clothing from that time. The pupils felt that this experience was very beneficial as it enabled them to deepen their learning of the subject.

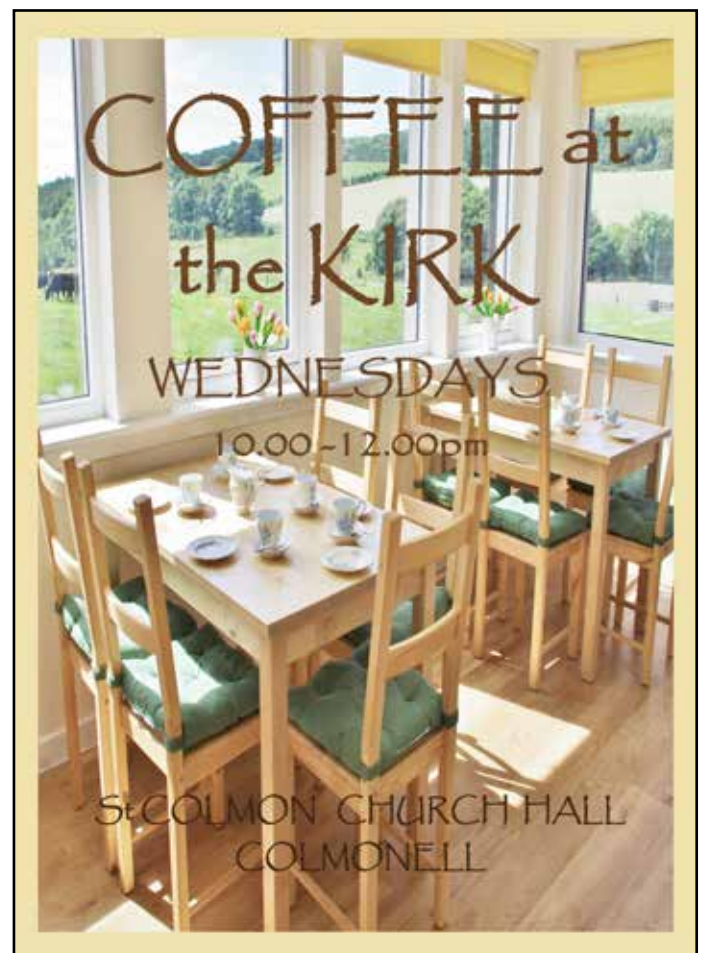


# CHRISTMAS SHOW

In December 2017, the Primary 1-7 pupils of our school performed our Christmas show to our family, friends and visitors.

Our show was 'Hey Ewe' and we worked really hard to learn our songs, dance routines and lines for the show and were glad that the performance went very well.

Thank you to everyone who came along and bought raffle tickets, we raised a fantastic amount of £586 for our school fund!



# BALLANTRAE CHURCH LINKED WITH ST COLMON CHURCH



We are currently seeking a minister to lead us on the next stage of our journey of faith. Our websites and parish profiles will soon be available for prospective candidates. During this time of vacancy our churches are still open and active, and we very much appreciate those who show their support by attending services or events.



Rev. Ian McLachlan is our Interim Moderator and is doing an excellent job organising different ministers to lead our Sunday services, with our Worship Team filling in when necessary. Rev McLachlan will conduct any baptism, wedding or funeral.

If anyone knows of someone who would appreciate a visit, or who would like a prayer to be said, please let Claire Pirrie or Claire Strain know.

During the Christmas season we had some wonderful services and concerts and thanks go to everyone who participated or supported us in any way.

Please look out for the special services and events during Easter, including Egg Hunt and Messy Church.

The Church of Scotland has designated 2018 as the Year of Young People and more information will follow.

Our Church families aim to care for those around us in any way we can; share the Good News of Jesus, who came to save us, and who promises us eternal life with Him; pray for everyone locally and around the world.

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### Café Church

6:30pm for 7pm in St Colmon Kirk Hall, Colmonell on the 2nd and 4th Friday each month. Come along to our cafe and enjoy live worship music, informal discussion and coffee, tea and cake.

### Prayer & Praise

Our world and our Churches need prayer, so please join us for a time of worship music and prayer in St Colmon Kirk Hall on the 4th Saturday of each month at 10am.

### Bible Study

Do you wonder if the Bible is relevant today? Come and find the answers at our informal meetings with coffee / tea every Thursday 7.30pm in St Colmon Kirk Hall.

## SERVICES

### St Colmon Parish Church

10am every Sunday in Colmonell. If the church steps are a challenge the service on the last Sunday each month is held in the Kirk Hall, which has full disabled access. At 3pm on the third Sunday of the month a service is held Barrhill Memorial Hall. Children are welcome at all services and all services are followed by refreshments.

### Ballantrae Parish Church

11:30am every Sunday in Ballantrae with Sunshine Club for all children 0 to 12 years old. At 3pm on the first Sunday monthly an ecumenical and liturgical style service is held in Glenapp Church.

## Contact Details

Rev. Ian McLachlan Telephone: 01465 713370 Email - [IMcLachlan@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:IMcLachlan@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Ballantrae Parish Church Session Clerk:

Mrs Claire Strain Telephone: 01465 831246 Email: [clairestrain@live.co.uk](mailto:clairestrain@live.co.uk)

[www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk) - Scottish Charity No. SC008536

St Colmon Parish Church Session Clerk:

Mrs Claire Pirrie Telephone: 01465 841644 Email: [stcolmon.sessionclerk@gmail.com](mailto:stcolmon.sessionclerk@gmail.com)

[www.stcolmonparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.stcolmonparishchurch.org.uk) - Scottish Charity No. SC014381

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

# PINWHERRY & PINMORE

## PINWHERRY AND PINMORE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Pinwherry and Pinmore Development Association is now a SCIO (Scottish Charity Incorporated Organisation) charity number SC048025.

### **Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Development SCIO**

This will now allow the SCIO to employ a part time development person funded through Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Council's Assel Valley Wind Farm Community Benefit fund.

The development SCIO is currently working in partnership with the 2 Pins Company on developing a new Community facility in Pinwherry to replace the original Community hall which is no longer fit for purpose.

The development of the old Pinwherry Primary School buildings into holiday accommodation will now proceed.

In addition, support other local voluntary community organisations in Pinwherry and Pinmore.

The development SCIO will continue further development of local community enhancements of the lay-bys, notice boards & flower beds.

**The Development SCIO meets every second Thursday in the month in Pinwherry Hall and is open to all residents.**

## PINWHERRY & PINMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL TRANSPORT TO AND FROM MEDICAL SERVICES

It is now over two years since Pinwherry & Pinmore Community Council instigated a scheme to assist residents with the cost of transport to and from medical services. This scheme has been very successful and so far, has paid out over six hundred pounds. The scheme gives a generous mileage allowance or pays full public transport costs. The application form is simple and easy to use, and all details remain fully confidential. The scheme does not arrange transport

The application form is available on the Pinwherry & Pinmore Community Council website, from [ppcctransport@btinternet.com](mailto:ppcctransport@btinternet.com) or from Joy Chamberlain on 01465 841211

## SWIM OR GYM?

If you are twenty years of age or younger and live within the Pinwherry & Pinmore Community Council area, you can still apply for a free three month membership of the Quay Zone Girvan.

This can be either a swimming membership or if over 16 years of age a gym membership.

Application forms are available on the Pinwherry & Pinmore Community Council website, from [mechamberlain@btinternet.com](mailto:mechamberlain@btinternet.com) or by phoning 01465 841211.

**JAMIE MACDONALD**  
**SIGN AND ARTWORK**  
WOODSIDE COTTAGE,  
PINWHERRY,  
BY GIRVAN,  
SOUTH AYRSHIRE,  
KA26 0SL.  
TELEPHONE : 01465 841 251  
MOBILE : 07901 841 355  
WEBSITE : [www.signandartwork.co.uk](http://www.signandartwork.co.uk)  
OR find me on Facebook...

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TEL: 01465 841 233



# FASCINATING FOREST Pinclanty



For those adventurers who made the effort to come out on a winters night they were rewarded by a wonderful evening of sensory delight. These adventurers were either transported from the 2 Pins Centre car park in Pinwherry or the Girvan quay zone to the dark labyrinth at the start of the Fascinating Forest experience. This was the start of a magical mid winter experience we know many won't forget.

As they followed the twists and turns of the labyrinth this led them on their way to lantern lane. Lantern lane was a four hundred metre walk lit with coloured globe lanterns through the magical larch and spruce trees dripping in lichen, it was a journey to be enjoyed.

Across the lit willow bridge they trundled into the zone of the wishing tree with its luminous and fluorescent decorations and a back drop of flashing stars. Here they could smell the wood smoke, hear the voices and see the faint outline of structures that lured them towards a magical woodland encampment.

This is where the experience of the senses took on another dimension. Multi-coloured fires and boiling dragons kettles made their eyes widen in wonder. Enhanced by the smell of wood smoke and an atmospheric visual back drop of coloured wood smoke they explored what was on offer.

For those who had not mastered the zen of golden marshmallow toasting burnt marshmallows were the flavour of the evening. The adventurers were replenished and their taste buds were delighted with soup and cake and the tantalising liquors that lured the unexpected.

The sound of tales from the story tellers Tipi Interspersed with the "Cel Tic Voices" harmonies, filled the air along with laughter and conversation.

These sounds accompanied those in search of being creative in the workshops on offer in the Bodgers Bothy and the Claymans cave.

Candles and lasers mixed with flaming torches and twirling fire staffs filled the darkness of this magical event.

Who could believe such mysterious things could happen on a deep winters night in the deepest darkest part of the shire.

But they do!

The Adventure Centre for Education (ACE) would like to thank all those that came and made this event happen.

To those that thought about it but never came you certainly missed out on something special and those that came will remind you about what you missed if you dare ask!


We thank, The Warrender family for the use of Pinclanty Forest. The ACE Volunteers who travel from far and wide and gave many hours of their time. The Pinwherry/Pinmore Community Council for their financial contribution. The 2 Pins Centre car park and Volunteers, Urban and Rural Electrical for the lighting and other support. David Powell for the BFG willow sculpture. All those other individuals who helped make the event happen, you know who you are and we salute you.

Finally to all those who came and enjoyed, thank you. We hope to see you at another ACE event some time soon.

*Credit to the photographer, Barry Dawson*



**South Ayrshire  
Mobile Library**



## Pinwherry

The mobile library has a comprehensive selection of material including children's books, talking books, fiction, non-fiction and large print. We are open to new library members, and also accept requests and returns from other South Ayrshire Libraries.


**The mobile library will be visiting on the following  
Fridays from 1.00pm to 1.45pm:**

2 February, 2 March, 30 March, 27 April and 25 May 2018

Community Hall      1.00pm

For more information on stops, times and locations visit:  
[www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/libraries/branches](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/libraries/branches)  
Email: [mobile.library@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:mobile.library@south-ayrshire.gov.uk) Telephone: (01292) 286383 ext.210

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**FALCK RENEWABLES**  
GRUPPOFALCK

**ASSEL VALLEY COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND  
PINWHERRY & PINMORE AREA  
OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS**

The project has allocated support to Pinwherry, Pinmore Community Benefit Fund. The fund will provide grants to support activities that enhance the quality of life for local residents. A wide range of activities will be considered for funding, for example maintenance or refurbishment of community facilities.

Community Groups and Charities can apply for **£500—£10,000**.

For large grants over £10,000 There is a two-stage application process, with a initial proposal required.

For more information contact :

**Pinwherry Pinmore Community Council**

## PINMORE CHURCH

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

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

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

Anyone wishing to attend will be made welcome.

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

**Contact – Mrs J. Wyllie. Laggansarroch Farm. Pinmore Girvan. KA26 0TA. Tel: 01465 841279**



**PINWHERRY SWI**  **SWI**  
Scottish Women's Institutes

We meet in Pinwherry hall on the second Monday of each month from September to may at 7.30pm. New members will be most welcome. We are already half way through our syllabus and all enjoyed a wonderful talk on living in and around Lighthouses with Peter Henderson, an excellent Whist drive in February, a quiz night for our February meeting .Looking forward to spring and our guest night with the Liter8ladies and a talk and demonstration with Kirsty Robertson from Newton Stewart museum.

So come along and enjoy a good evening at the rural you will be made most welcome.

**For more information contact me Lana Rafferty ( secretary )  
on 841272.**

**PINWHERRY AUTOGRASS 2018**

*22nd April*  
*20th May*  
*17th June*  
*29th July*  
*12th August*  
*16th September*

**TEL: 07821241454**

# STINCHAR VALLEY GARDENING CLUB



The club continues to increase its membership, which now stands at 31. Since last writing we have enjoyed some entertaining and inspiring evenings, the first being a talk by Louis Wall, the award-winning Station Gardener, who, with his team of volunteers, plants and tends all the station gardens between Stranraer, Ayr and Dumfries – later, two members of the club went to help plant up a display at Girvan Station.



Our outing in December was to Souters in Kirkoswald, who provided a very tasty Christmas Meal. At our January meeting we enjoyed an excellent presentation by Annmaree Mitchell, Head Gardener at Glenapp Castle, who told us about the history and development of the castle and grounds. It was fascinating to see early photographs of the newly planted four-foot high monkey puzzle trees in front of the castle that have now become towering giants. During her research she had discovered plans drawn up by Gertrude Jekyll and Robert Lorimer, who had both contributed to the design of the Italian garden. Recently Annmaree and her team have done a huge amount of work to restore Glenapp's gardens to their former glory.

From September to April we meet on the third Wednesday of the month - at 7.30 pm in Colmonell Kirk Hall, and non-members are always very welcome, for £3.00 per session. In addition to the invited speakers we enjoy a cuppa, a chat, and an exchange of ideas.

## **Our last two meetings of the season will be:**

**MARCH 21st** "Modern Rock Gardening – a European Approach"  
By Carole and Ian Bainbridge of the SW Scotland  
Rock Garden Club.

**APRIL 18th** AGM and Plant Swap, cheese and wine.

## **An itinerary of garden visits is being arranged for the spring and summer.**

The first two outings will be:

**APRIL** Millhall Garden near Kirkcudbright. A return visit, by popular request, to see this special coastal garden in springtime.

**MAY** Balker Farmhouse, near Castle Kennedy. An outstanding 4 acre flower garden, tended by Annmaree Mitchell of Glenapp.

## **For further information please see posters, or contact:**

Harriet Ellis Tel 01465 881221  
email [harriet@riverstinchar.co.uk](mailto:harriet@riverstinchar.co.uk)

Margaret Bean Tel 01465 841635  
email [margaret.bean@icloud.com](mailto:margaret.bean@icloud.com)

Roger Pirrie Tel 01465 841644  
email [rdpirrie@gmail.com](mailto:rdpirrie@gmail.com)



# BALLANTRAE

## BALLANTRAE PRIMARY AND EARLY YEARS CENTRE INTERGENERATION COMMUNITY ACTION GROUPS

Over the last few months pupils have been opening their school up to senior citizens within their community in Ballantrae. The children have planned afternoons for local residents, inviting them to come and join in with games and chat. The children even provide tea and cakes for their guests.

Following on from the success of these groups our early years children took an opportunity to visit senior citizens within their community. The children attended a weekly social event organised by the community as a way of bringing local residents together. The children attended the group with a basket full of puzzles, games and pens and paper for drawing. The children finished with a rendition of their favourite nursery rhymes. Everyone had a wonderful time. The children are already planning their next visit.



## BALLANTRAE PRIMARY SCHOOL

### HANDBALL COMPETITION

Friday 19th January saw P6 pupils from Ballantrae Primary School travel to Dailly Primary to participate in a Girvan Cluster Handball Competition. The children put their skills into practise and were able to show great sportsmanship during fast paced games.



*"The competition was fun and I met a lot of new people. It was good being able to use my skills in games with other people," said Kelsey Edwards. Mae said, "The competition was exciting and entertaining. I enjoyed the competition very much." Congratulations to Sacred Heart Primary School, the overall champions.*

## WORLD WAR 2 TALK

On Monday the 15th of January we had two visitors from History Alive in Schools to Primary 5/6/7 to talk to us about World War 2. They taught us all about how the war started and everything that happened during the war. It was really interesting. They showed us the weapons and resources such as gas masks that were used to defend Britain during the war.

They played us an audio recording of Neville Chamberlain announcing Britain was at war with Germany, it must have been so upsetting to hear that, the people of Britain must have been so scared. They told us all about how Hitler believed he could purify Germany by getting rid of all the Jewish people. He did this by sending people to concentration camps, some people were killed and some were forced to work in horrible conditions. They were starved and treated like slaves.

We learned all about propaganda and how Hitler convinced people that his ideas and plans would help Germany. He was a really good pupil speaker and used things like posters to convince people to follow him. It was fascinating to find out that the war only ended when Hitler was under attack and he decided to kill himself by taking poison. We really enjoyed learning from our visitors and especially enjoyed the opportunity to try on the World War Two outfits and explore the weapons, ammunition, food and resources used during the war.

***Thank you so much History Alive in Schools for visiting us we loved it.***



## BRICC'S REPUTATION SPREADS

BRICC (or the Ballantrae Rural Initiative Care in the Community to give it its full name) is well known to the folk in the Stinchar Valley. One of the members of the Editorial Board spotted an article about BRICC in the publication "Our Wigtownshire" at the end of 2017. We thought it deserved to be seen by more folk in this area and so, with the permission of the editor of "Our Wigtownshire" we reprint it here.

On the outskirts of Wigtownshire, a community-run care agency aims to build a small residential facility so elderly locals in need can stay in their area. Ballantrae Rural Initiative Care in the Community (BRICC) was created 22 years ago when a public meeting expressed grave concern about the need for frail and elderly residents to move to locations away from their community, if they were in need of care. One of the founders, Rosemary Stevenson has dedicated the last 41 years of her life to help improve the village, the last 21 of which have been with BRICC. Rosemary saw the need for such a facility in Ballantrae when it came to her attention that 16 people from the village lived miles away in residential care.

The 80-year-old was on WRI duty delivering Christmas biscuits to former residents who had been shipped to different parts of the region. She saw first hand the problems that the ex-villagers faced. "When I told them I was from Ballantrae, the tears just run down their faces and they told me they wished they were back in the village," Rosemary said. "I thought why shouldn't they be back and felt dreadful for the people who were obviously isolated from the place they called home. Once you are in care away from your own area, you can lose hope and think that's the end."

A meeting was called soon after Rosemary's return and a committee was formed to see if they could assist the residents who lived miles away to return home.

The BRICC Committee of Management carried out a needs analysis covering every home in the Ballantrae Primary catchment area and covering 420 residents. The support from locals was overwhelming with 84 per cent





agreeing with the idea of care to be provided in the home. A locally-based augmented home care programme was devised. The BRICC team tried several options to get the organisation and residential facility off the ground.

Rosemary said: "We went to the Council to ask them to build a small facility in Ballantrae area so that our elderly people could stay in their own environment but were turned down. We asked private firms if they would come and build a

residential facility here. They came and said 'Yes, we hear what you're saying', but they needed 60 beds before it would make them money. We are a hinterland down here so it wouldn't work, it would only be half full.

"In Girvan, you can get 24-hour care in your own area with friends and family, everything is hunky-dory. If you are down here you might have to go to Maybole, or even Prestwick. It can have a negative impact on the person and their families."

After several knock-backs, the group decided to have a go themselves. A mission statement produced in 1995 is still the same now. They provide caring staff, domestic help and voluntary services to support the frail or elderly, or others needing care, so that they may remain in their own homes for as long as possible. Support is also on hand for carers of dependant relatives of any age group and for those in emergency situations.

To develop, in the longer term, a residential facility to cater for all the anticipated care needs of local residents the ultimate aim. It's not just Ballantrae that the group cater for, with the surrounding medical practice catchment area running to Cairnryan and Barrhill, as well as Colmonell, Pinwherry and Pinmore.

Rosemary added: "Rural villages are involved in what we are trying to do. It's not just Ballantrae, all rural villages are in the same boat. We did another questionnaire in 2006, the result was that BRICC should get on with it. Ninety-one per cent of people who responded said that we should get a move on and get this care facility up and running, that gave us the community backing. The community were behind us and thought it was a good idea."

The BRICC team endured a difficult journey to find a place to build the facility and settled at Main Street of the village.

BRICC provide 700 hours of care per week to clients in their own homes, largely through a contract with South Ayrshire Council. This provides paid employment for 38 people, 11 of which are full time. They serve 100 clients during the year showing that there is a need for the care BRICC provide.

**Girvan Traditional Folk Festival**  
presents  
**Outreach Concerts**  
of traditional music and song  
in  
**Barr, Ballantrae & Kirkoswald**

Doors open at 7 for 7.45pm  
Adults £5.00, Students/OAP'S £4.00

|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <p>Sat 24th Feb<br/>Richmond Hall<br/><b>KIRKOSWALD</b><br/>Tattlehowker's Ceilidh Band<br/>Davy Hunter<br/>with Lorna McCollm<br/>&amp; Amy Sneddon<br/>Pet Lippin<br/>Licensed Bar</p> | <p>Sat 10th March<br/>the Village Hall<br/><b>BARR</b><br/>The Barrstools<br/>The Late Bloomers<br/>&amp; Dave Rankin<br/>BYOB</p> | <p>Sat 24th March<br/>the Village Hall<br/><b>BALLANTRAE</b><br/>Nathan and Rhona Jones<br/>Brian McArthur &amp;<br/>Alex McKenzie<br/>David Hunter with<br/>Lorna McCollm &amp;<br/>Amy ASneddon<br/>Licensed Bar</p> |
|--|--|--|

Contact: www.girvantraditionalfolkfestival.org.uk or 01843 840000

Another popular service is run by volunteers, who hold a social afternoon every Tuesday, known as the BRICC Club. The club has a register of 40 members with a weekly attendance of over 26 members, who very much enjoy this day-care aspect of initiative's work. The club is open to senior residents and the housebound to enjoy a social outing, some entertainment and a cup of tea – free of charge.

The club is staffed by volunteer members and BRICC transport to and from is also free of charge and made possible by the use of volunteer drivers. Notable guests have included The Krankies, who entertained members recently thanks to Shirley McCulloch winning a competition.

Rosemary believes the club, that runs every week of the year, is vitally important.

She said: "It is a hub of our community, getting people out of their homes and interacting with others is great. It is very well used and there's always something going on. Our volunteer drivers go to places throughout the Stinchar valley and Girvan to collect. It's a fantastic service that is needed in this area, as so many are isolated."

The BRICC House is also open on a Thursday as a lunch club, with two volunteer cooks, providing a homely meal and conversation again with volunteer drivers if required. Transport to hospital and other appointments is organised by BRICC and also uses this pool of drivers. This is well used by residents who would find these visits difficult to achieve otherwise.

To keep the whole organisation running, the main fundraising source is the Thrift Shop, which operates from a purpose-built building in the grounds of the BRICC House. The shop sells recycled, donated goods and is staffed by volunteers. The shop is hugely popular and enjoyed by young and old, and also a large number of visiting tourists. The motto for the shop is 'Don't bin it, BRICC it.' It raised an amazing £82,650 last year, their highest ever total, with an overall 19-year total of £704,988.

Rosemary said: *"The Thrift Shop is tremendous, so much money is brought in from it to help running costs and get us closer to our target. We have a shop team of 50 volunteers. They enjoy it, even that in itself is a good thing. It shows the tremendous support we have from the community."*

In 2016, BRICC purchased Orchardlea, a house with a large garden adjacent to the BRICC House, with the help of a £250,000 grant from the Scottish Land Fund.

The group now have planning permission to develop the site into a 16-bed residential facility and four sheltered flats. This will cost £2,000,000 and the group have raised £600,000 towards this total. The group also applied for funding from the Big Lottery Fund.

*"We explained to them that the project would cost £2 million and we would raise a million ourselves,"* Rosemary said. *"It took them a year and three months to say that we didn't have enough match funding. When the Lottery Fund turned us down we decided, that's okay, we'll go alone and get our million raised."*

*"This is a community project, we work together to get this over the line. When we get another £400,000, we'll head back to the Lottery Fund. Once we get the go-ahead and get this care facility, it'll be a very good day for the people of Ballantrae and the surrounding areas."*

It hasn't been plain sailing for everybody at BRICC but the endless work from Rosemary and many others hasn't gone unnoticed. The former Physical Education teacher received an MBE for her tireless work in the Ballantrae community. Rosemary remains upbeat despite the Lottery funding set-back and hopes people will help the wonderful organisation achieve its primary goal.

She said: *"Everything began to fit into place too easily and then we got the Lottery letter. I didn't believe it but we aren't going to be downhearted, we continue to work hard to get the funds needed. We've got to get this finished. We do need a helping hand, so, if anyone has any fundraising ideas, call."*

**Article by Euan Maxwell, photographs by Peter Robinson first printed in "Our Wigtownshire" Autumn 2017**



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# EXCITING TIMES AT THE BALLANTRAE SCOUT GROUP



**Ballantrae Scout Group  
(2nd Ayrshire)**

Christmas is always a busy time of year but this was particularly so for Ballantrae Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The whole group trip to the Ryan Centre to see the pantomime Aladdin was a great evening enjoyed by all the kids and leaders (oh yes it was!)

The group also took on performing our own Christmas show with Beavers taking on "a night before Christmas". The Cubs delighted the audience with a rendition of "12 days of Christmas" while the Scouts did a special nativity play featuring 3 stranded celebrities left behind after a series of "I'm a celebrity get me out of here". Audience members were then invited to stay for tea/coffee and mince pies followed by a raffle. The night was a huge success and raised £198 for the Group which will go towards future activities.

This term we are back with a bang! The Beavers are working hard towards their Cooking Badge amongst others, and with all the snowy weather of late we even managed to squeeze in melting snowman biscuits. The Cubs are very badge focused this term too and have covered the Road Safety badge and will be moving on to Sports Enthusiast and Air Activities badges. They have also just completed an anti bullying code.



Beavers and Cubs have a very exciting camp coming up which will see them travelling to Glasgow where we will be meeting 400 other Beavers and Cubs from across the District and have exclusive use of the Science Centre after hours; a planetarium show and we'll even get to sleep there overnight (although not sure how much sleeping will be done!) A big thank you to our Beaver Leader Kate for organising this for the whole District.

Our oldest section - the Scouts - are getting active this term while trying to earn their Skills Challenge Award which will also see them trying out practical skills that will

hopefully come in useful at home, This will finish with them cooking a 3 course Burns Supper on the 6th of February for leaders and invited guests where they will be performing various "Scottish" entertainment too.

Finally if you have a young person at home that you think would like to come and join us or you are an adult who would like to have fun while offering new opportunities to our young folk, please get in touch with me on 07831 370514 or [wendymckechan@btinternet.com](mailto:wendymckechan@btinternet.com).



## STINCHAR VALLEY PHOTO GROUP

We are planning a practical session on Photoshop in the near future and in March we will welcome Jan Jerome of the Edinburgh Photographic Society to talk about techniques for printing pictures and to show us some of her own. The aim of the group is "to encourage more people to take better pictures". We meet on the last Thursday of every month (except December) at 7.30pm in BRICC House.

*Photograph by Pauline Keane – Water of Luce*



# “PLACE IN THE BIOSPHERE” NATIONAL LOTTERY INVESTMENT FOR STINCHAR VALLEY

The Southern Uplands Partnership has received a confirmed grant of £150k from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the “PLACE (People Land Art Culture Environment) in the Biosphere” project. This is one of the first awards to be made in Scotland through The National Lottery’s ground breaking Great Place scheme. The funding will help develop projects and collaborations centred on the place’s unique culture and heritage to address issues such as poverty, employment, health and education.



*Photo by - Ian Biggar*

PLACE in the Biosphere will be run across three contrasting landscapes within the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere: the Stinchar Valley; the Borgue Peninsula; and the Wigtownshire Moors. They cover two local authority areas and were selected due to their distinctive landscape character and the desire of local communities to engage more with their local natural and cultural heritage.

Through working with artists, writers, geologists, historians, wildlife guides etc. the Biosphere team hope the project will uncover some of the hidden gems of the Biosphere and their intrinsic links with the landscape that make these areas so special.

The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere covers 5268 sq.km of SW Scotland. It was designated in July 2012 when it was recognised internationally as a world class environment for people and nature. The designation is recognition of the fantastic array of landscapes, wildlife, cultural heritage and learning opportunities that SW Scotland offers for communities, businesses and visitors to experience and celebrate in a sustainable way.

Biosphere Coordinator Ed Forrest said “PLACE in the Biosphere offers us a fantastic opportunity to work closely with a group of communities located in the Biosphere to identify the stories, the places, the people, and the experiences that make these individual communities so special. Through PLACE we hope communities will feel more empowered to both protect their unique heritage and to create new initiatives that celebrate it.”

Commenting on the announcement, Lucy Casot, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Scotland, said: “The incredible natural landscape of the Biosphere gives the place a unique identity and makes it special for the people who live there. It’s the roots if you like. This scheme will show how building on those roots can have a hugely positive impact on the local economy in terms of health, employment and education, as well as instilling community cohesion and pride. Thanks to players of The National Lottery, we are enabling a step-change in thinking, encouraging local leaders to come together and recognise that heritage is a driving force for change for Galloway and South Ayrshire.”



southern uplands partnership  
*living land, living community*

**For further information contact Ed Forrest, Biosphere Coordinator,  
Tel 0771 7767936, email [ed@gsabiosphere.org.uk](mailto:ed@gsabiosphere.org.uk)**



## BALLANTRAE BOWLING CLUB

Ballantrae Bowling Club will be opening the green in April (date to be announced but please watch out for posters). If you are thinking of joining please come along or if you would like to have a try then contact Anne on 07917843135.



# BALLANTRAE THEATRE

Following a successful pilot performance in 2017 of "Barnaby Rudge", the Gaiety Rural Touring Network is bringing more productions to Ballantrae in the spring.

## **"The Wonderful World of Lapin" (for children aged 3-8yrs)**

*Tuesday 10 April - Ballantrae Community Centre at 2pm*

Tania has just arrived from Paris for a very special occasion - The World's Tastiest Carrot Competition! In her leather trunk she carries her very own garden, through which a whole world is revealed...a world of Tania's animal friends, each of them desperate for a taste of the prize carrot.

Narrated in English with the puppets speaking simple French sentences, the show is fun and a heart-warming bilingual piece of theatre, accessible to all non-French speakers. The company's productions foster curiosity, expand the imagination, and tap into a child's innate ability to learn and engage with the spoken word to jumpstart their foreign language acquisition skills!

Tickets £3



## **"The Price of a Fish Supper"**

*Friday 11 May - Ballantrae Community Centre at 7.30pm*

*(Audience age 16+)*

Set somewhere on the Ayrshire coast, the play explores the demise of the fishing industry as seen through the reminiscences of the central character Rab and his riveting story of love, rivalry and disaster. His personal decline has paralleled the wider economy of the place where he lives and the coast from which he once worked. 'The price of a fish supper', is not just a case of hard economics. It's also a story about the human suffering at the heart of this most hazardous of traditional

occupations. This one-man play is tragic and funny, holding out, by the end, the faintest glimmer of hope for the future. Contains strong language and scenes of an adult nature.

## **TICKETS £10; CONCESSIONS £9 (Over 60, Disability, Unemployed, Students)**

Tickets for both performances are available from Craigmains Home and Garden Centre in Ballantrae, from the Gaiety Box Office <http://www.ayrgaiety.co.uk> or 01292 288235.


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# THE YEAR OF YOUNG PEOPLE 2018



In 2018 Scotland puts its young people (with a focus on 8-26 year olds) in the spotlight, celebrating their talents, contributions and creating new opportunities for them to shine locally, nationally and globally. This year-long programme of events, activities and ideas will give young people in Scotland the opportunity to show the world what they are made of.

The Year of Young People 2018 aims to celebrate their achievements, value their contribution to communities, and create new opportunities. In particular it aims to:

- Provide a platform for young people to have their views heard and acted upon
- Showcase the amazing talents of young people through events and media
- Develop better understanding, co-operation and respect between generations
- Recognise the impact of teachers, youth workers and other supporting adults on young people's lives
- Provide opportunities for young people to express themselves through culture, sport and other activities

The main themes are Participation - Education - Health and Wellbeing- Equality and Discrimination - Enterprise and Regeneration - Culture.

The Year of Young People 2018 is led by the Scottish Government, working in collaboration with VisitScotland, EventScotland, Young Scot, Children in Scotland, Scottish Youth Parliament, Creative Scotland and YouthLink Scotland.

Ballantrae has ambitious plans to celebrate the Year of Young People 2018 working in partnership with existing groups such as Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Youth Club, Gymnasts, the primary school and the church. Initial suggestions include involving young people in:

- planning a programme of adventurous indoor and outdoor activities during the Easter and Summer holidays
- linking technology to the history of the village
- helping to organise cultural activities and festivals involving - music, theatre, cinema and film making
- the upgrading of the play park and recreation ground
- making the Stinchar Valley Magazine and the Ballantrae News more young person / social media friendly
- suggesting what the priorities for the new Ballantrae Trust should be (see page 26) and encourage them to become members
- a Columba 1400 Leadership Academy.

But the young people themselves will have the opportunity to decide whether, and if so how, they want to be involved in those activities. They will also be able to contribute their own ideas.

What are you doing in your community to mark "The Year of Young People 2018"? We would be interested to hear from you in the next edition.

For more information, ideas and to see what other communities across Scotland are doing, go to <http://yoyp2018.scot> or #YOYP2018



SUPPORTING  
year of young people  
bliadhna na h-òigridh  
2018

## REGISTERED CHILDMINDER BALLANTRAE VILLAGE

Laura's Little Builders

|  |   |
|--|---|
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|--|---|



# THE BALLANTRAE TRUST

*by Andy McAlpine*

The Ballantrae Trust came into being on 16 November 2017. Already, over forty residents have joined the Trust as Ordinary Members. If you haven't joined yet, please read on. . . .

## **Why should I join the Trust?**

Additional windfarm money is coming to Ballantrae this year and every year for some time to come (The Ballantrae Community Fund). The Trust will bid for some of that money and so members will have some influence on where and how the money is spent. If you care about the village and the community, then you really should become an Ordinary Member of the Trust and have your say.

## **Can anyone become an Ordinary Member?**

To become an Ordinary Member with voting rights, you must be over 16 years of age and live in the Ballantrae Community Council area. Under 16's can join as Junior Members, and others (for example, people living outside the area or people with a holiday home here) who want to support what's happening in Ballantrae can join as Associate Members – but only Ordinary Members may vote.

## **How do I join?**

Contact me at [andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com](mailto:andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com) or pick up a membership form at Craigmains Visitor Information Point.

## **What happens next?**

To help establish and run the Trust, we have received funding for a part time Development Officer from Carrick Futures Community Benefit Fund. We have appointed Andrew Ward and Chris Hanna of the Creetown Initiative to provide Development Officer support to the Trust on a job-share basis for the next 6-9 months. Their main role initially will be to help us establish the Trust, recruit more members, arrange the Trust's first AGM, help us appoint the Board of Directors and identify the Trust's priorities. They will also support the Play Park and Recreation Ground Development project, and help to develop and evaluate Ballantrae's existing festivals.

At the first Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March the Ordinary Members will select a number of Directors of the Trust, all of whom must be Ordinary Members themselves. This is necessary as the Ballantrae Trust is a "Company Limited by Guarantee" and the law requires this. The Board of Directors will then elect their own Chair, Treasurer and any other office-bearers from the Board members.

## **Where can I get more information?**

If you want more information contact me at [andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com](mailto:andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com).

# BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Congratulations to Gemma Laverty, Anna Kosak and their helpers for the Fireworks Display and the Autumn Craft Fair. The Fireworks raised £70 and the Craft Fair £585.80. Sharon Robertson and Fiona Roper donated the profit from the bar at a recent event (£277) and Glenapp Castle donated £50 for the loan of trestle tables for an event. Thanks to Stacey Stewart, Kim Edwards, Suzi Curtis, Linda Lyle and Natalie & Garry Thompson for the great Children's Christmas Party on 22 December. Thanks too to everyone who helped ensure we had a Christmas tree and decorations in the hall.

The "Ballantrae Gala Week" Facebook page has now been renamed "Ballantrae Gala & Events". We'll use that page to publicise events being run by village groups and for the "behind the scenes" activity such as recruiting volunteers. We've started the detailed planning for the Spring Craft Fair (28 April) and there will be a Gala Day this year (7 July) which will also include a car boot sale, and a dance in the evening. If you would like to book a table at the Craft Fair (£10), a pitch at the Car Boot Sale (£5) or a Gala Stall (£10), please contact Laura Cunningham on 07702 375120 or email [lcunningham@sky.com](mailto:lcunningham@sky.com).

We are in discussion with those groups most affected when the school takes over sole use of the Community Hall August - December when Ballantrae Primary School is being upgraded to ensure, wherever possible, those groups have access to alternative accommodation so they can continue to meet during that period.

# UPGRADE OF BALLANTRAE'S PLAY PARK & RECREATION GROUND

The Play Park Development Group is working with SAC officials and councillors to ensure that the School upgrade and Play Park Development projects are run side-by-side during 2018. This should provide some opportunities for economies of scale and possibly even save some money. While the community will be responsible for raising the money for the Play Park upgrade, we want to make some of the Play Park equipment available to the school during school hours. The school have identified a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) and "The Circuit" round the recreation ground, and "sensory panels" as their highest priority.

Working with SAC officials, we have now started to prioritise the work that needs done and are exploring breaking the play park upgrade into the following phases:

- Identifying and replacing some of the existing equipment
- Replacing the existing picnic area including benches
- Installing a MUGA between the back of the school and the football pitch
- Installing "a Circuit" round the outside of the recreation ground
- Identifying and installing some new equipment to the north of the existing play area
- Installing sensory panels, an outdoor classroom, performance and storytelling spaces (the two sets of planners will liaise over whether some of this might already be included in the school upgrade)
- Installing exercise equipment round "The Circuit"



We are currently considering an estimate for installing a MUGA and await an estimate for creating "The Circuit". We are revisiting costs for replacement and new equipment, and will work with the Play Park Planner to prepare the visuals for a final consultation on the replacement equipment, the new equipment and the other phases.

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## BARR VILLAGE REMEMBRANCE REPORT 2018

Barr Village paid their respects and remembered all those lost, who had suffered, been affected or touched by War. The exhibition which Sharon Trotter instigated in 2016 was vastly extended and with additional help was on show in Barr Wee Gallery for the week preceding Remembrance day.

The exhibits, with additional items, were then relocated into the Village Hall with a drop in session to meet Lorna Conaghan, who has put together a book on all the fallen of WW1, which is available to view in Barr Village Shop, on the Saturday and then open to all on the Sunday after the Remembrance Wreath Laying service.



Remembrance Sunday was sunny and dry, with over 40 adults and young people gathering to pay their respects, readings were supplied by a selection of villagers and with Hamish piping it was a lovely way to remember. Once the Wreaths were laid and all the youngsters had placed crosses at the memorial the villagers were treated to tea and warming soup, kindly provided by the Church. The exhibition was open for all to view. Thanks to all who helped, contributed and supported this event. All monies raised was added to the Poppy Sales and donated to the RBL.

With this year being 100 years since the end of World War 1 it is hoped that a larger exhibition can be arranged, bringing together all the surrounding villages and their memories. Any information will be posted on the village website but it is hoped that it could run somewhere in Girvan.

## FESTIVAL OF LIGHT

### Girvan

A lantern parade roamed around the streets of Girvan, a marching band playing along the way. Pupils from Girvan Academy's towns and villages got creative, taking part in making their own lanterns with the theme "Houses and Heads" with much appreciated help from the art department. This was a fantastic way to allow people to get involved in the event. Bright lanterns lit up the Girvan streets with many coming out to join the parade – some even watching from their windows!

When the parade reached the shore front, a bonfire was lit followed by fireworks which left the audience in awe. When the show was over, hot stovies were available to buy from Only Foods and Sauces who stayed open late to welcome the festival goers.

Overall, the festival was another big hit with everyone having a great time.



# BARR PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Barr Primary Autumn Fair

The primary school held their very first Autumn fair in October and raised an impressive £882 for the School fund. Pupils carved pumpkins and made lots of crafts to sell at the fair.

## Bush Crafts with Dave Trotter

As part of the Electives day Dave Trotter kindly offered to volunteer for the

woodcraft activity. This project involved a walk to the woodland area where pupils completed a series of fun, bushcraft related tasks.



## Early Years 1st Ace Day Adventure – Pinclanty Woods

The Early Years pupils set off on their very first Ace Day which took them to Pinclanty Woods. Ivy Cross, Ewan Berry, Kodi-May Blanchard and Danny Wilson along with the Primary 1's were able to indulge in their sense of adventure and enjoyed being up close and part of nature. New basic survival skills were taught whilst a warm cuppa warmed them up.



## Thumble Tumble

The pupils were very excited to have a visit from Angela Proctor the author of the Thumble Tumble books. Angela read a chapter from one of her books and the pupils then took part in a few experiments, including tasting jelly beans to find out how a giant without a tongue can still taste!!



We then concluded with an Imagination Challenge which involved the children creating their very own potion to banish a giant

## Carol Service and Nativity

This year's carol service and nativity saw pupils from each age group play the glockenspiel. The Nativity was narrated by Aaron Smith whilst Darcey Trotter, Bailey Wilson, Rhys Blanchard and Marley McRae portrayed the main characters.

## Snow Came

Myles Ross, Darcey Trotter, Harris Berry, Hermione Blair, Harriet Berry and Thomas Denham enjoy playtime in the snow.

## Christmas Lunch

Wilma served up a lovely Christmas lunch on the 14th December. Pupils enjoyed lentil soup, turkey with all the trimmings and a Christmas tree ice cream.



## Ugly Sisters

This year's Christmas show was a huge success. Pupils practiced their lines, songs and dances for several weeks to ensure a great show was enjoyed by all. The village hall was packed with proud parents who watched Cinderella Rockerfella come to life. All pupils played a part and each and every one of them was fantastic.

Photo shows the ugly sisters who were played by Jamie McKenzie and Stewart McClinton. Nothing ugly about these dames!



## BARR BOWLING CLUB

Snowdrops are now appearing and daffodils have their leaves above ground. This can only mean one thing Bowling will restart soon....as the new season approaches Barr Bowling Club is looking forward to the imminent arrival of its new racing lawnmower and plans are in place to continue with the green improvements that were started last season.

Work Parties will be gathering over the next couple of months to get the green and surrounding area ready for the start of the 2018 season.

Season opening day is Saturday 28th April, weather permitting. Keep an eye on our facebook and web pages ([www.barrbowlingclubbtck.co.uk](http://www.barrbowlingclubbtck.co.uk))

The Open Pairs competition will be held on Saturday 21st July and the Triples on Saturday 8th Sept.

Barr Bowling is the host for this year's British Legion Cup which will be on 10th June.

**We look forward to welcoming old and new members.**  
**Any questions please contact Secretary Isobel Ringrose on 01465 861651**



# BARR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

It is amazing to think that as we write this article we are nearing the end of January already. With the various things the weather has thrown at us it has been a quiet month, but this was in some respects a relief as November till Christmas was a busy few weeks for Barr, the Association and supporters.

Quickly following on the footsteps of the very successful Dracula production which we reported on in the last issue, the BCA held the Village Halloween Party dancing the night away, in suitable costumes, to Destination Anywhere. With prizes up for grabs the ever-popular Halloween Costume Competition was well supported.



Photo shows, Tracey Wright winner



A short week led to the Annual Village Fireworks, unfortunately due to the excessive amount of rain we were unable to access the field to build the bonfire so this may have affected the entries into the annual Guy Competition as only 2 presented themselves for judging. The fireworks, with help of some funding from the Community Council, were as usual well up to standard and despite the weather a good number braved the conditions to watch them take to the sky. Many thanks to Ken, Willie and Fergus for setting up and lighting them to their best effect.

The BCA helped and supported the Village Remembrance Exhibition and Wreath Laying, and would like to commend Sharon Trotter on her efforts.

No sooner was the Remembrance Exhibition cleared away than the dreaded word – Christmas – highlighted. The annual Village Christmas Fayre took place on the 19th Nov with a number of new stalls. Barr Teas provided refreshments for the customers and the Stinchar Valley Quilters provided soup for the stall holders. The hall was decorated and with the Quilters providing extra atmosphere the event was a great success, with most of the stall holders asking to have a stall at both the Gala and the next Fayre.



With no respite the Association in collaboration with the BarrStools put on a St Andrew's Night celebration in true Barr style. With guest artists Nathan and Rhona, the night was a big success. Over 100 villagers, friends and family descended on Barr to enjoy the music, craic and food provided. A big thanks to all who helped and especially Elaine Denham who pulled it all together. Look out for the posters for the Folk Festival as they are coming to Barr for an Outreach concert on the 10th March and the Barrstools will again be playing.

The hall was then finally decorated for Christmas, outside lights and tree erected all ready for the light switch on by the Gala Queen on the 3rd Dec. The association hosted a kids party with Silly Gilly prior to the switch on and there was a quiz for the adults.

Our biggest event of 2017 was running the annual VIP Christmas Dinner which we have not done for a couple of years. The team pulled out all the stops and put on a full roast dinner for the over 60s in the village. Over 50 villagers attended, the new round tables being put to good use, and they were treated to a served hot dinner with pre dinner carols from Barr Primary and a table magician to round up the evening. We had a special presentation to Jean McGarva, a very young 90 on the day of the dinner.



The whole event was extremely well received and all the helpers had a really good time, even with the amount of work that was entailed before and during the event. It was nice that a number of the younger members of the community helped, and comments were made on the good atmosphere they helped create. We look forward to putting on the next one. A huge thank you to all who helped and attended.

Our final event of the year was Hogmanay which was a BYOB party, free to all with music provided by John McGinnis and Jerry with support from Kirk Dandy at the interval. Unfortunately, due to illness Hamish was unable to pipe in the New Year but we managed two of our biggest circles to give a resounding rendition of Auld Lang Syne. 2018 was welcomed in true Barr Style with various parties around the village continuing till the wee small hours.

### Now to 2018, dates for your diary.

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>10th March</b>             | Folk Festival Outreach concert in Barr Village Hall, with among other the Barrstools  |
| <b>29th March</b>             | Little Lights, Puppet Theatre for 5+ provided by Ayrshire Rural Touring Theatre   |
| <b>31st March</b>             | Barr Wee Gallery opens for the season, every weekend, 11 – 4pm till September.  |
| <b>1st April</b>              | Barr Village Car Boot and Easter Teas, 12.30 till 3.30pm, book your tables with Maggie Bunnett (01465) 861062, thebunnetts@btinternet.com                   |
| <b>28th April</b>             | Barr Bowling Club Opening Day. Contact: Isobel Ringrose 01465 861651  |
| <b>20th May</b>               | Trails Day, guided trails walks, explore the Trails, additional activities are planned for the day, keep an eye on the village facebook and website.        |
| <b>2nd June</b>               | Barr Village Gala, with the Maybole Pipe Band, stalls and fun. Book your stalls with Maggie Bunnett as above....  |
| <b>11th &amp; 12th August</b> | Stinchar Valley Quilters 2nd Quilt Show, exhibits, trade stands and big raffle. Book the date. Any questions please contact Susan Trotter on (01465) 861655 |

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application process, with an initial proposal required.

Closing dates for applications in 2018 are:  
**5<sup>th</sup> February, 7<sup>th</sup> May, 1<sup>st</sup> August, and 5<sup>th</sup> November**



## STINCHAR VALLEY QUILTERS

Planning is now under way for our 2nd Quilt Show in the Barr Hall. The handmade quilt for the raffle is being started and everyone has started their projects for the show. There will be a cushion raffle on both days and trade stands have been contacted.

Although August seems a long way away when quilting it is amazing how quickly time goes. The show will run on the 11th and 12th August, teas will be available both days. Watch our Facebook page for more details.

## UPPER STINCHAR SWI

Upper Stinchar SWI rolled out the red carpet to John Mckerchar the director of Turnberry Rug Works when he gave a talk on the bespoke rugs his company produced.

His enthusiasm and passion entertained an interested audience who enthused over the luxuriant rug samples he handed around. Photo shows Mrs Gracie and Mrs Lambie.



# PRIZES GALORE FROM THE "WEE BARR STORE"!

Just before Christmas we were lucky enough to have two great prizes which were raffled to boost shop funds. A wonderful Christmas cake, beautifully iced, was donated, to be raffled, by Julia McCloskey. It was won by Fiona Wilson, our newest home owner – a great welcome to the village!

A luxury hamper, donated by Libby Graham with kind contributions from other residents, was also raffled. This was won by our shop manager, who, in the spirit of the season, shared the contents with our Boxing Day customers.

## All creatures great and small.....

We have also been running our very own Pick-a-Pet competition where residents have submitted a photo of their pet. Entrants ranged from the great – Shanni, a Great Dane, through Mabel, a Chihuahua puppy, to Cheese a little mouse! The lucky owner of the winning pet (chosen at random, we couldn't judge on looks as they're all beautiful in their own way) wins a portrait of their pet painted by local artist, Alan Irvine.

*The lucky winner was Spring The spaniel!*

Don't forget to check our web site and Facebook pages for dates of the next reminiscence lunches and suppers as well as many more upcoming events.

**Barr Village Shop @barrcommunitystores <https://barr-shop.uk>**



## BCC BARR CYCLING CLUB

After a long cold winter of wet and muddy trails, we are looking forward to longer, warmer days and a chance to get back on our bikes enjoying our local forest trails.

Here are just a few of our upcoming events and dates for this year.

We have planned some regular club rides and I would like to take this opportunity to welcome anyone who would like to come along and join us. You can bring your own bike along or use one of the club bikes, we have eleven bikes of various sizes and cycling helmets to fit most people.

### The club ride dates are as follows,

March 10th & 31st  
April 14th & 28th  
May 12th & 26th

All rides are on Saturday mornings and will leave from Barr village hall. We will meet at 9.15am and leave at 9.30am. Can all riders please bring appropriate clothing, food and water for the ride.

More dates will follow in the next edition and on the Barr Village website.

Along with this we are planning a summer program for some of our younger riders which will hopefully run through the summer holidays, these dates will be announced nearer the time.

And Finally we will be holding a club social evening on the last Friday of the month, on a trial basis, in the small village hall from around 7.30pm onwards, everyone is welcome to come and join in. It will be bring your own drink and snacks, we will supply the tunes. Come along and join in, we will look forward to your input and suggestions.

**Please find all the above info on the Barr Village Website or contact [chrisgunson@btinternet.com](mailto:chrisgunson@btinternet.com) or call Chris Gunson on 01465 861135.**

# A POTTED HISTORY

**Helleborus niger** ©Andrea Jones/ Alton Albany Farm

Outside our front door at Alton Albany Farm B&B we have planted two containers of the evergreen *Helleborus niger* commonly known as the Christmas Rose or Black Hellebore.

Their names could be considered misleading. Their flowers are not black as their name might suggest – that comes from the colour of their roots. They are pure white with yellow stamens. They are a pretty open bowl shape, which might resemble a wild rose and suggests that's why they are nick named as such, but they are not related and are in fact part of the Buttercup family (Ranunculaceae).

What about the Christmas part of their name? Well they have flowered for us since the beginning of December through Christmas and will we hope continue for many weeks into the Spring providing our guests with a cheerful welcome as they arrive, so perhaps that is why they are called Christmas Roses.

However, there is also a more romantic legend that suggests that a plant sprouted in the snow from a young girl who had no gift to give the baby Jesus in Bethlehem.

As for the *Helleborus* part of the name, it is believed to have come from the Greek 'ellos/hellos', 'fawn' and 'bora', 'food' therefore meaning food for a fawn.

In the Middle Ages, the flowers were strewn on the floors of people's homes to drive out evil, animals were blessed with them and they were used to ward off witches. Allegedly witches used the herb in their spells and sorcerers powdered the plant before tossing it into the air around them to make themselves invisible - all very Harry Potter like.

Black hellebores grow in the wild in mountainous areas of Switzerland, Germany and Italy but it was in the Phokian city of Antikyra in Ancient Greece that they became renowned and grew in great numbers.

They were used in the fifth century by Hippocrates, the Father of Medicine, as a purgative (or laxative) and according to Greek mythology introduced by Melampus who used it to cure the madness of the daughters of Proteus, the King of Argos.

Pretty as they are they are known to be quite poisonous and cause vomiting. According to one source, until the 18th century, they were responsible for the deaths of many children at the hands of their own parents. As some varieties of hellebores were used to treat worms in children, the idea being to expel the worms by vomiting. They are now known to be harmful.

If that hasn't put you off and you are interested in growing this delightful plant they conveniently thrive in semi shade and as long as they are well drained don't seem to mind the cold and wet weather that we get here in the Stinchar Valley. Best to remove any unhealthy looking leaves from time to time and also any excess when they are flowering to allow the flowers to be seen as they can hide themselves away.

***They can, we're told, be propagated by seed – we're going to try that this year – wish us luck!***



## AN AYRSHIRE LAD

Ayrshire "lad" Bryce Cunningham needs our support in his quest to promote natural whole Ayrshire foods. With the help of his "girls" he produces non homogenised milk (milk how it used to taste!) on his farm near Mauchline. Ayrshire cows have been native to S.W. Scotland for hundreds of years and the "girls" at his West Mossgiel Farm eat from historical pastures once farmed by Robert Burns. To hear his story of producing organic Ayrshire milk and his vision for himself and other local producers, please come along to Barr Village Hall on Thursday 15th March at 7pm.

One of the core values of the Scottish Women's Institute is to make a difference to those around you and Bryce Cunningham is certainly doing that.

**ALL WELCOME, non members £4 including refreshments.**



**In need of fuel?**

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**THE FILLING STATION**

Looking for something different or extra to your Sunday morning experience in church? Why not try The Filling Station.

Meeting every 3rd Friday of the month at Woodland Bay Hotel and Restaurant. 7:00 pm refreshments followed by Meeting at 7:30 pm with a time of sung contemporary Worship, a different speaker each month and available Prayer ministry. Come along and join us.

[Thefillingstation.org](http://Thefillingstation.org)

# BARR TRAILS

We hope that you managed to catch the new BBC Scotland programme, The Forest. This is based on the Galloway Forest and the first episode covered the work the Forestry have done at Fairy Knowe Steps in discussion with Barr Community Council and Barr Parish Development Company.

These steps are part of one of the most popular and scenic routes within the Barr Trails but over the years had become slippery and worn. Cool and his gang of workers managed, after negotiation with our own Merlin Currie, to rebuild them using local granite. Merlin, the gang and some lovely Victoria Sponge featured in the program. The whole series has been produced and directed by Jack Warrender whose parents live at Minuntion Estate.

In parallel with the work being carried out by the Forestry there is a reprint of the Barr Trails route map and information leaflet. Copies of this are available in the Village Hall and Village Shop. Come and enjoy the trails anytime or support our Trails Day on the 20th May .... Keep an eye on [www.BarrVillage.co.uk](http://www.BarrVillage.co.uk) or follow us on Facebook for more information. Additional events are planned around the trails during the course of 2018.



## South Ayrshire Community Transport – CB8 Barr Bus Service

Our main news this issue is that we have a new timetable starting on the 12th of Feb\*. Following on from local conversations and recommendations a new 5th round trip will be operated in order to give a wider range of times to be in Girvan and Barr. Gone is the need to rush around and be back on the bus within an hour or be hanging around for 4 hours. The options now include 1, 2, 3 & 4 hour+ stays. The new timetable starts a little earlier too in order to meet the 9am train to Ayr. It meets other trains to and from Ayr throughout the day, with a slightly earlier finish time. New timetables will be available nearer the time, but some copies are available from Barr Community Store and our website

<http://sacommunitytransport.org/girvan-barr-bus-service-cb8/>

To date (19th Jan) we have carried over 1100 passengers and have travelled over 10,000 miles since the service started on 1st May 2017.

Since the roadworks were started on the B734 "Screws" road on 30th October, we have on occasion had to run an altered service that delivered a midday run back to Barr from Girvan instead of the mid-morning. The roadworks are currently suspended and due to restart in February.

\*This unknown date may affect the implementation of the new timetable, we will keep you updated via our website and Facebook feed, or for the latest information email [info@sacommunitytransport.org](mailto:info@sacommunitytransport.org) or call 01292 270864

Remember it's not just the Barr Bus service we run. We have eight minibuses for hire by community groups throughout the South Ayrshire region at very reasonable prices, with or without a driver. Our website has all the details.



CB8 – BARR SERVICE – NEW TIMETABLE (FROM 12/02/2018)

| Monday, Wednesday & Friday                   |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Barr, Glenginnet Rd                          | 0824 | 1024 | 1329 | 1604 | 1731 |      |      |      |      |
| Barr, Stinchar Rd                            | 0825 | 1025 | 1330 | 1605 | 1732 |      |      |      |      |
| Knockgerran                                  | 0833 | 1033 | 1338 | 1613 | 1740 |      |      |      |      |
| Perkill                                      | 0837 | 1037 | 1342 | 1617 | 1744 |      |      |      |      |
| Garrylopp                                    | 0838 | 1038 | 1343 | 1618 | 1745 |      |      |      |      |
| Old Daily                                    | 0842 | 1042 | 1347 | 1622 | 1749 |      |      |      |      |
| Girvan Community Hospital                    | 0848 | 1048 | 1353 | 1628 | 1755 |      |      |      |      |
| Ser 58/607 departs for Girvanston & Ayr      | 0916 | 1095 | 1123 | 1151 | 1423 | 1451 | 1723 | 1751 | 1823 |
| Ser 58/358 departs for Cairnryan & Stranraer |      | 1022 |      | 1222 | 1422 |      |      |      | 1822 |
| Girvan Station, Vicarston St                 | 0850 | 1050 | 1355 | 1630 | 1757 |      |      |      |      |
| Train departs for Ayr                        | 0900 | 1100 | 1357 | 1658 | 1751 |      |      |      |      |
| Girvan Harbour                               | 0853 | 1053 | 1358 | 1633 | 1800 |      |      |      |      |
| Girvan Harbour                               | 0752 | 0952 | 1257 | 1457 | 1657 |      |      |      |      |
| Train arrives from Ayr                       | 0755 | 0949 | 1253 | 1453 | 1652 |      |      |      |      |
| Train departs for Ayr                        |      | 0952 | 1159 | 1500 |      |      |      |      |      |
| Girvan Station, Vicarston St                 | 0755 | 0955 | 1300 | 1500 | 1700 |      |      |      |      |
| Ser 58 arrives from Girvanston & Ayr         | 0812 | 1022 | 1322 | 1522 | 1722 |      |      |      |      |
| Service 60/360 Arrives from                  |      |      | 1051 | 1451 | 1651 |      |      |      |      |
| Girvan Community Hospital                    | 0756 | 0956 | 1301 | 1501 | 1701 |      |      |      |      |
| Old Daily                                    | 0802 | 1002 | 1307 | 1507 | 1707 |      |      |      |      |
| Garrylopp                                    | 0806 | 1006 | 1311 | 1511 | 1711 |      |      |      |      |
| Perkill                                      | 0807 | 1007 | 1312 | 1512 | 1712 |      |      |      |      |
| Knockgerran                                  | 0811 | 1011 | 1316 | 1516 | 1716 |      |      |      |      |
| Barr, Stinchar Rd                            | 0819 | 1019 | 1324 | 1524 | 1724 |      |      |      |      |
| Barr, Glenginnet Rd                          | 0820 | 1020 | 1325 | 1525 | 1725 |      |      |      |      |

The service will not run on Dec 25th or 1<sup>st</sup> Jan.

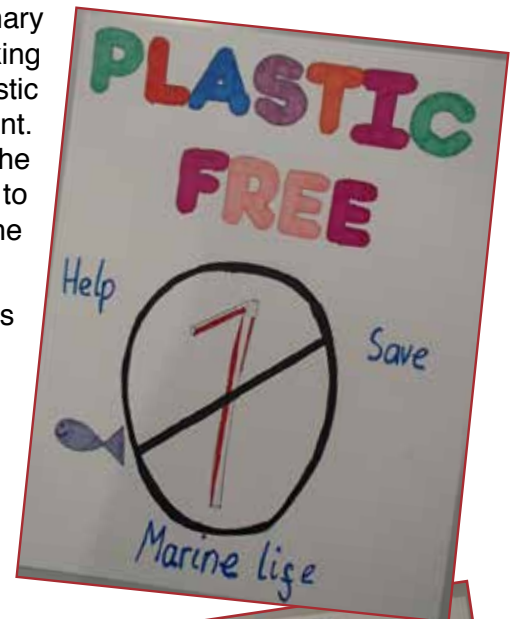
# BARRHILL

## BARRHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL



The pupils here at Barrhill Primary have been interested and taking a lead in the fight against plastic in our oceans and environment. They want to do their part in the reduction of plastic and hope to work with the community in the near future.

This is the article which has inspired them to take action!!!



Dear All,

I am James Russell (Primary 6) and I am writing on behalf of Barrhill Primary School. Recently, we read a newspaper article about reducing sea pollution and banning single use plastic items such as plastic straws, plastic cups, lids and carrier bags.

This is a huge issue on the news at the moment, and we thought that we should ask if you could help us to make Barrhill and surrounding villages plastics free by reducing the amount of plastic that you use. For example use paper straws instead of plastic ones and recycle your carrier bags. The children of Barrhill Primary School feel strongly about this issue because we have been learning about sea pollution and the impact it has on our environment.

Yours faithfully,  
James Russell



Barrhill Early Years Centre pupils have been enjoying making bird feeders and filling them full of bird seeds to help the birds through the winter.

The children have also been learning the art of sewing.  
The pupils worked really hard and enjoyed making the items.



Primary 5 pupils have now started their swimming lessons at the Quay Zone. The pupils are thoroughly enjoying the 10 week block of lessons.

## FIREWORKS DISPLAY

On a cold but clear November evening people gathered in Arnshean Park for the second annual fireworks event hosted by the BCIC.

The evening began with everyone voting for their favourite amongst the seven guys made by Barrhill residents. Finlay Hegarty won first place for his 'chainsaw guy' followed in second place by Erin Hughes and in third place was Iona Thompson. Well done and thank you to everyone who entered.

The crowd were warmed by delicious free hot soup and nibbles served up by Pauline and Pearl from the BCIC.



A dazzling display by PyroEFX followed delighting members of the crowd both young and old.

Thank you to everyone involved in staging another successful and very enjoyable night.

# BARRHILL - ARNSHEEN GARDENING SOCIETY

**(B.A.G.S) Bags of Fresh Air!!! Bags of Exercise!!! Bags of Fun!!!**

*By Pearl McGibbon*



We (myself and several volunteers) are hoping to start (in the spring) to turn the flower beds in the community car park into a sensory garden. We hope to create a relaxing space for the village and the surrounding area, as well as a welcoming start for any visitors using the car park.

As it is a level surface it will be an ideal stop for those who are disabled or not able to get about with ease. Anyone will be able to enjoy the scents and colours from the comfort of their car.

We are hoping to plant about 50 rose bushes, lavenders and other plants which will appeal to the senses of smell, touch and sound. In the autumn we also hope to plant tulips, daffodils, hyacinths etc. This will be an ongoing project, being added to as we progress. We would hope that the people of the village and school will come along and get involved.

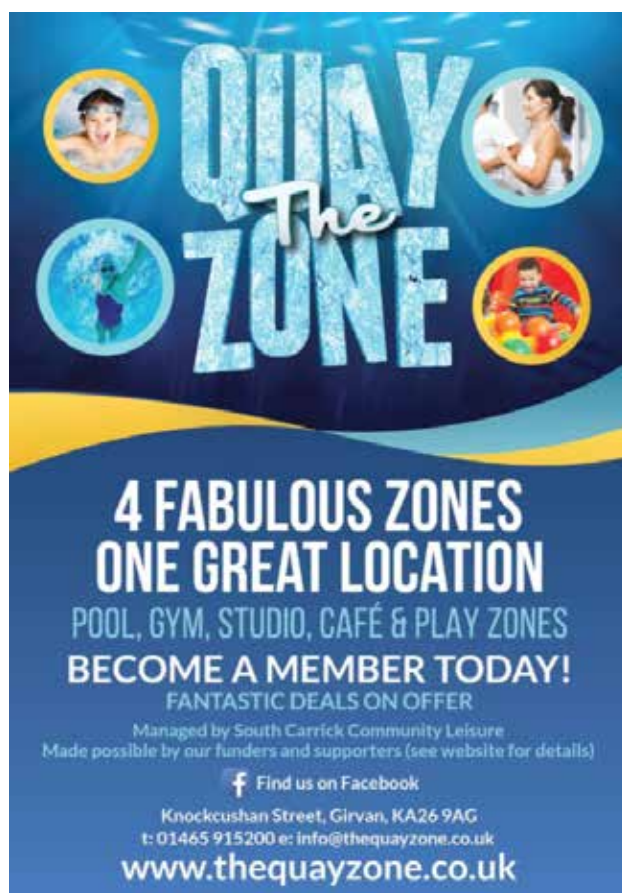
Anyone wishing to help with the work or who has any gardening ideas or spare plants please get in touch with me Pearl McGibbon by phone 01465 821 029 or email [pearlmcgibbon@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pearlmcgibbon@yahoo.co.uk)

*Our thanks to Barrhill Community Council for helping to fund this project.*

## GIRVAN ACADEMY

### PRIMARY 7 QUIZ

Girvan Academy pupils held a brilliant quiz for primary sevens who will be attending this or surrounding academies next year. P 7's from many schools attended. Pupils from Barr, Barrhill, Dailly, Maidens, Ballantrae and Girvan Primary came along. They all seemed to enjoy the quiz, some examples of the rounds included celebrities, Geography, History, General knowledge and many more. Some of the teams knew more answers to the quiz than our own S6 Girvan Academy pupils! Showing there is likely to be a bright bunch attending the academy next year. There were some interesting and entertaining answers heard being whispered around the room as well, one group identified a blurred image of Donald Trump as Piers Morgan, and a picture of famous singer Ariana Grande being identified as "Aridandia Grande". A quiz was also held for last year's P7's, and through this we hope it will become an annual Girvan Academy tradition! Dailly Primary were this year's champs, a big congratulations to their team for winning the trophy for their school, kindly donated by the chairman of the local Rotary Club, John Crawford.




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## OPEN NIGHT 2017

Girvan Academy held an open night in October which allowed access to the school for the public. This in particular was a great opportunity for primary school pupils in Girvan and the surrounding towns and villages to see a preview of the school they will one day be attending. It allowed them to get an insight of the school and gave them the opportunity to talk to the teachers.

Activities hosted by different departments with the help of their pupils across the school on the night gave everyone a laugh. Peer Ed students hosted a stall on alcohol awareness, letting people try on “beer goggles” to demonstrate the effects alcohol can have on someone’s perception, which involved a lot of stumbling about and tripping over chairs, even the teachers got involved!

The science department showed off their impressive experiments and the Humanities department encouraged everyone to take part in their educational game of snakes and ladders. These games along with many others ensured that those who attended the open night felt enlightened about the school’s positive and motivated attitude. We hope everyone is looking forward to attend the next open night and hopefully Girvan Academy in the future!



## GIRVAN ACADEMY HALLOWEEN DANCE 2017

As always the school’s annual Halloween Dance was a success. Pupils from all years across the school attended and had a great time.

The costumes ranged from brilliant, to creative to weird. Group costume themes went off with a bang this year as the S.W.A.T team and Sherriff’s arrived. Others included a Mariachi band, Dora the Explorer and swiper the fox, as well as Alice in Wonderland.

The teachers also enjoyed dressing up, H.E teacher Mrs Baird came along as a toothbrush. DJ’s “The Hutton Brothers” brought great music to the night. When the “Cha Cha slide” came on everyone certainly tried to follow along, though there was some confusion between left and right.

After all this the drink stand ensured that everyone could stay hydrated after the thirst-generating dancing. A costume parade also took place during the night, there was no winning costume this year, probably because they were all too good to pick from!



## Frog pond

Follow these simple steps to create a mini frog pond.

# Frog pond

## You will need:

- A shovel
- A large container
- Old bricks or bits of wood
- Some small pond plants

### 1 Choose your container.

This could be a washing up bowl, bucket or even an old sink. Keep in mind that this is something which will have to be strong enough to withstand bad weather.

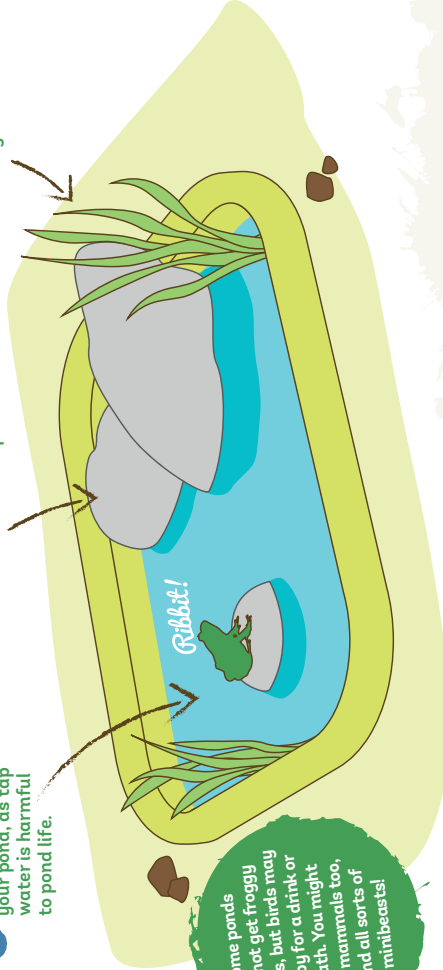
### 2 Dig a hole

and sink your container into the ground.

### 4 Make sure that wildlife can get in and out – use bricks or wood to create stepping stones in and out of the pond.

### 3 Use rainwater to fill your pond, as tap water is harmful to pond life.

### 5 Add some finishing touches to your pond by adding some pond plants – you can find these in most garden centres.



Some ponds may not get froggy visitors, but birds may stop by for a drink or a bath. You might get mammals too, and all sorts of minibeasts!

If you're going to make a frog pond then make sure you have a grown-up on hand to help out.

Feel free to copy and share this for personal and educational use – and don't forget there are loads more brilliant activities to download on our website!

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WOODLAND TRUST



## Cookie cutter bird feeders

Make these simple lard and seed bird feeders.

# Cookie cutter bird feeders

## You will need:

- One part lard at room temperature
- Two parts wild bird seed

## Get busy in the kitchen!

### 1

Cut the soft lard into pieces and put it in a **bowl** with the bird seed.

### 2

Get your hands dirty! Mix everything together.

### 3

Place some **cookie cutters** on a **baking tray** lined with **greaseproof paper**.

### 4

Firmly press the mixture into the cookie cutters and poke a hole in each one.

### 5

Put them in the fridge to set.

### 6

Pop them out of the cookie cutters, thread **ribbon** through them and hang them up outdoors.

Try adding mild, grated cheese to your mix too!



Hang your feeders near a window and watch the birds tuck in!

Feel free to copy and share this for personal and educational use – and don't forget there are loads more brilliant activities to download on our website!

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