




Free!

THE STINCHAR VALLEY

MAGAZINE



Contents from
the communities of;
Ballantrae, Barr, Barrhill,
Colmonell, Lendalfoot,
Pinwherry & Pinmore



stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk

FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE FREE



2 Pins Community Centre



2 PINS COMMUNITY COMPANY

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Scottish Charity No. SC043849

The 2 Pins Community Fun Weekend was greatly enjoyed, many people relearned old skills (Cycling and Archery), and found new ones! Some went away with Painted faces, others with raffle prizes. The Hog Roast kept the energy levels up ready for dancing to the Daddy Naggings, who kept playing when the generator failed for a short while, many thanks from us all to this great group from Glasgow.

The family nature walk on Sunday proved very popular along with the Bouncy Castle and slippery pole!. The Craft Fair in November was again well attended by Crafters and public, some returned to the Bonfire on the 2 Pins field in the evening, again well attended. Our thanks to all who supported us (See pictures of these events on the front and inner pages).

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

Ian Challis Hand Crafted Clocks

Colmonell
Tel: 01465 881180

Clockworks Handcrafted Clocks

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

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

Pinwherry Bridge CCTV

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

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

Douglas Hemmings
(Team Leader - Bridges & Lighting).

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

Tel. No.
01292 616377

Scott Greig
(Supervisory Engineer - Bridges).

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

Tel. No.
01292 616659

Local contact: John McAlley

Email:
j.mcalley@btinternet.com

Tel. No.
01465 841198



Craigmains Home & Garden Centre

Craigmains is an independent family run garden centre with lots to offer everyone

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Opening Times: Monday to Friday 9-5 Saturday and Sunday 10-5

- www.craigmainshomeandgardencentre.com
- Follow us on facebook and twitter

Ballantrae Visitor Information Point is now in the garden centre

Main Street, Ballantrae
KA26 0NB
Tel: 01465 831052



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WEDNESDAYS

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Abolition of the Vehicle Tax Disc

You no longer have to display the paper tax disc on a vehicle windscreen. You still need to pay vehicle tax and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) will hold a record on computer.

What does this mean for me?

To drive or keep a vehicle on the road you still need to pay vehicle tax and you will still get a renewal reminder when your vehicle tax is due to expire. This applies to all types of vehicles including those that are exempt from payment of vehicle tax.

If you have any remaining months left on your current paper tax disc, you can either remove the tax disc from your vehicle or display the disc until it expires.

Changes when buying a vehicle

When you buy a vehicle, the vehicle tax is no longer transferred with the vehicle:

- you will need to get your new vehicle taxed before you can use it
- DVLA in Swansea can't check vehicle insurance details for new keepers in Northern Ireland online or by phone so you will need to get your new vehicle taxed at a post office which deals with vehicle tax

What happens if I sell a vehicle?

If you sell a vehicle and you have notified DVLA, you will automatically get a refund for any full calendar months left on the vehicle tax.

POLICE LAUNCH EMERGENCY CONTACT DISC AS ALTERNATIVE TO TAX DISC

Warwickshire Police and West Mercia Police are pleased to announce the launch of our tax disc replacement, the Emergency Contact Disc. The Emergency Contact Disc contains next of kin contact details and medical alert information for the driver. In the event of a medical emergency or road traffic collision that renders the occupants unable to communicate, a first responder will be able to obtain vital information that is not otherwise accessible at the scene.

The disc can be cut out and placed into the now otherwise redundant tax disc holder, the information sections fold inwards so it would not be viewed by passers-by. PC Dave Wise, the West Mercia officer behind the idea said, "The information within the disc could be vital to save lives or quickly locate a casualty's next of kin, something that can be time consuming at the scene of a serious incident"

"All information is optional and the blank discs can be used to add customised information, or attach a passport photo to help link the information to the right person. If there is more than one regular driver or even regular passengers, consider printing multiple discs and add a photo or description of each person. The Emergency Contact Disc can be used alongside existing medical alert products like bracelets and necklaces."

PC Wise added "If people have concerns about security of information, they can omit certain details. We would advise that if the next of kin address is the same as the driver's address, it may be sensible to leave this portion blank"

"The information within the disc would give little or no information away that could aid potential criminals and any slight risk is far outweighed by the benefits".

The Emergency Contact Disc can be downloaded here:

http://www.westmercia.police.uk/assets/_files/documents/oct_14/wmp_1414057345_Branded_Emergency_Contact_Disc.pdf



AGE
Concern
Girvan

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

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

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

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

Pinwherry & Pinmore

Pinwherry & Pinmore Community Council sits on the third Thursday of the month in the Community Hall. 7.30pm. Members of the public are welcome. Please note: Following the June meeting PPCC will sit Bi-monthly.

No December meeting. JANUARY 15th . No February meeting
MARCH 19th. No April meeting. MAY 21st + AGM
Minutes of Community Council meetings can be seen on the website
www.2pins.org.uk

Ballantrae

Ballantrae Community Council sits on the last Tuesday of the month in the Public Hall. Members of the public are welcome.
Ballantrae Community Council would like to wish all a very happy Christmas and a successful and healthy New Year

Barrhill

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

Colmonell & Lendalfoot

Please come along to our meeting if there is anything you think we could help with. Earlier this year Colmonell Community Council decided to mark the 100th anniversary of the onset of WW1 by giving the flower beds at the War Memorial a much needed makeover in time for the Remembrance Day service.

With the help of council members and volunteers the beds have been cleared, fresh compost put down and the planting has been done. Chainsaw carvings by Ross McCreadie give permanent interest to the area, which has been opened up, and by spring the daffodil walk will be blooming. Pupils from Colmonell Primary school and helpers came down one afternoon and added some finishing touches – they have been invited back in spring to sow poppy seeds.

The names on the memorial have been researched by Irene Conaghan, a member of the Community Council and there is a small exhibition containing photographs and artefacts in the village Community Centre. The Community Council would like to use this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the project, whether with labour, materials, plants or expertise.

THANK YOU!

South Ayrshire Council Contact Centre

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

OUR ROADS

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

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

TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

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

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

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

Colmonell Bowling Club

The final game of the season was held on Sunday 28th September on a beautiful sunny day. 16 members and friends played a 'Round Robin' game, breaking in the middle for a delicious afternoon tea. Winners at the end of the afternoon were Bobby McBride (skip) and Hugh Gregg (lead).

This year's winners are gents, Gordon Todd and runner up Duncan Cloy, ladies, Evelyn McCubbin and runner up Margaret Robertson, Club champion George Parker and runner up Mark Challis. 'The Queen's Hotel Pairs' trophy was won by Len Clark and Duncan Cloy and runners up were Gordon Todd and Fiona Challis.

We are all looking forward to next April when the green will be open for play again. It would be lovely to see some new faces there.

Colmonell Circle

A Whist Drive will be held on 9th January at 7.30pm in Colmonell Community Centre with a raffle and refreshments. All are welcome.

Colmonell WRI

Colmonell Senior's Party - Colmonell WRI is holding their annual Christmas party on Wednesday 10th December for members and senior citizens from in and around Colmonell. The catering will be done by Sue Marshall and entertainment by 'Music Box'.

Colmonell Graceful Years Club

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

Colmonell Baby & Toddler Group

Colmonell baby and toddler group meets every Friday from 1.30pm to 3pm in Colmonell Church hall and a baby clinic with the health visitor is held on the first Friday of the month. All children up to 5 years from the Stinchar valley are welcome. Pictures shown are from our Halloween party where children enjoyed dooking for apples and searching for the sweeties in the flour! We have also organised PEEP sessions recently where we sing songs, read stories and do crafts, and the Creation Station where children got to make craft items including cloud mobiles. For more information contact Eileen McCutcheon on 881 191. (See pictures on inside front)

Colmonell Community



It was noisy and chaotic, but definitely fun and lovely to see such a good turnout for the village Halloween party. Heather O'Hare kindly agreed to take on the difficult task of judging the fancy dress. (See pics at rear)

Under 5's

- | | |
|-----|----------------------------|
| 1st | Jake McKeachan (The Joker) |
| 2nd | Hannah Leslie (Witch) |
| 3rd | Abbi Clark (Fairy) |

P1-4

- | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|
| 1st | Cameron McFarlane (Clown) |
| 2nd | Travis McDonald (The Grim Reaper) |
| 3rd | Charlie McFarlane (Wizard) |

P5-7

- | | |
|-----|--------------------------------|
| 1st | Kayleigh Robertson (Pirate) |
| 2nd | James Hyslop (Vending Machine) |
| 3rd | Alexander Paterson (Dracula). |

The party was from 4pm to 5.30pm, and then the ghosts, ghouls and witches were set loose to do the traditional 'guising'.

Ballantrae & Colmonell Primary Schools

Colmonell Report (See pictures on rear pages)

The children of Colmonell Primary School have been very busy over the last term and have taken part in a number of school activities which involved our local community.

On the 26th September Colmonell Pupil Council organised and ran a very successful Bring and Buy sale and Coffee Morning in order to raise funds for the MacMillan Charity. A total of £391 was raised for this very worthwhile charity. Well done, Pupil Council.

Our annual Harvest Thanksgiving was held on Friday 10th October. The Nursery and Primary 1-7 put on a wonderful performance of 'The Gingerbread Man' followed by P5/6/7s singing of two songs recently taught to them by singing coach Tracey Nelson. A Harvest Lunch was then available for parents and school friends. From the donations for the Harvest Lunch we raised £87 which will go towards the UNICEF Syrian Children's Appeal.

This year, our committees in school are the Pupil Council, Eco Group and Health Group. We also have our two Primary 6, Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs): Abbi Phillips and Jacob McFarlane. Our Eco Group have been very busy. At present they are busy planning for an Energy Week and Switch Off Fortnight, which runs during November, to raise awareness of energy conservation and sustainability.

The Health Committee are currently planning to run a healthy tuck shop, one day a week. Children will be able to buy from a range of healthy snacks, organised and prepared by the Health Committee.

The Health Group has also encouraged everyone to take part in an in-school competition for the Food Standards Agency. A number of attractive and colourful posters have been sent off recently to be judged as part of this year's competition. Good luck everyone.

JRSOs have undertaken a travel survey recently to find out how we all travel to school. This will form part of a larger survey from schools across Scotland. At the end of October our two JRSOs travelled to Ayr to meet other JRSOs from across South Ayrshire, for a day's training. We look forward to the two JRSOs providing us with some interesting Road Safety information.

Ballantrae Report (See pictures on rear pages)

Ballantrae Pupils have yet again had a term full of activity.

Primary 5/6 and 7 pupils recently joined up with Colmonell and Invergarven children to take part in an African Drumming and Dancing Project called United by Sound. During the full day of workshop activities the children were given the opportunity to play a range of rhythm patterns on a variety of drums and take part in creative dance and expressive movement. They put these together for a wonderful performance at the end of the day which was presented to their parents. This activity is part of the children's overall Cultural Rucksack Experience, which includes visits to museums, opportunities to work with a range of artists in music and dance activities, meet children's authors, and take part in a range of art competitions.

Within Ballantrae Primary School, we have a number of pupil committees, which meet on a fortnightly basis to organise a variety of activities promoting Ethos and Life of the School and Learning for Sustainability. This year our committees consist of an Eco Group, Health Group, Pupil Council, Tuck Shop Committee and two Primary 6 JRSO's, Jenna MacKinnon and Sophie Jenkins. Our Pupil Council were given the task of organising a MacMillan coffee Morning on the morning of September 26th. This was very well attended by parents and friends of the school and raised a wonderful sum of £125. Many thanks for your support.

The Eco Group recently organised a whole school trip to Whitelees Windfarm to look at renewable energy. During this trip the children were given an opportunity to build their own windmills and experiment with a variety of blade shapes to find out which produced most energy. The children had a very enjoyable learning experience, albeit wet, misty and very windy.

Our Junior Road Safety Officers took responsibility for organising a 'Design a Bicycle and Cycle Helmet' competition. The winning bicycle design was won by Chloe MacIntyre, P5 and the winning helmet design was won by Rosie Cosslett P4. Well done girls!

The Tuck Shop committee have the responsibility of organising a daily tuck shop in school. This is very well supported by Ballantrae pupils and they enjoy eating a range of healthy snacks such as cheese, yoghurts, toast and fruit. The Tuck Shop Committee take responsibility for ordering a range of snacks from Asda, which is delivered to us monthly. They have to manage their accounts, promote their products and undertake some market research to find out what is liked or not!

Last week we held our annual Halloween Party in the village hall. There were many weird and wonderful costumes worn by the children. Many thanks to the ladies of the WRI who provided the prizes, apples and food and drink for the party and who helped to serve it to our children on the day. This was greatly appreciated by all...young and young at heart alike!

Scottish Country Dancing

For a number of years now a group of enthusiastic amateurs has been meeting in Ballantrae Hall. We have no formal teacher, one of our members reads through each dance, and we would walk it through until we are confident before setting it to music.

There is no requirement to have previous experience, just some enthusiasm for this particular form of dancing. We are very much a social group. We have tea/coffee and chat plus meals out together on various occasions. We meet every Thursday from 7.30 pm until 9.00pm. We would be delighted for any enthusiastic males or females to join our group. We contribute £1.00 per evening to cover costs. For further information contact Meg on 01465831284

The Ballantrae Development Group

Review of the Ballantrae Development Plan

The Community Council approved at the August meeting the 5 priorities proposed by the BDG for the coming 3 years based on feedback received from the village consultations. The 5 priorities are:

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

With 3 main principles underpinning what we do:

- Support for local businesses
- Encouraging tourism
- Effective communication

At the time of writing the BDG is speaking to the 20 plus volunteers who, during the consultation, indicated that they would be interested in helping to address these priorities with a view to developing detailed action plans.

Ballantrae Visitor Information Point

This joint initiative between the Development Group and Craigmains Home and Garden Centre provides information for locals and visitors on events and activities within roughly 30 miles or an hour from Ballantrae. Two members of the BDG took part in Ayrshire & Arran Tourism Team "Learning Journeys" to Carradale, Carsphairn and the Isle of Whithorn to see what we can learn from those communities about how they attract tourists to their area. Both visits proved very insightful and the experiences will be shared with the other members of the BDG at the next meeting.

Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival

This was held during the period 18-23 August and was, once again, a great success with more visitors and locals involved (the latter in costume). See elsewhere in this magazine for details. We are grateful to everyone – Partners, Sponsors and Volunteers – for making the Festival a success. Visit www.ballantrae.org.uk/smugglers for pictures of the various events and the dates of the festival in 2015.

Ballantrae and Good Food

2015 is the "Year of Food and Drink" and the BDG is already considering how we might celebrate this locally next year.

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The contraband was landed on Monday 18th August on the beach at Ballantrae and hidden away in various hidey holes locally ready for onward transportation inland. On the Tuesday the Exciseman sent out a full team of ten to search the coastline and although they had some limited success, most of the contraband remained undetected. Following complaints from the local minister and doctor about the quality of the wines delivered last time assurances from The Chief Smuggler, while the Exciseman's attention was on the coast, a gathering of locals was held in "The Smugglers' Arms" to sample the fine wines delivered as part of this shipment to ensure they were up to standard. The villagers confirmed, with the help of an expert taster from Majestic Wines in Ayr, that indeed they were of the highest quality!

While the search continued, the children of the village followed the "Smugglers' Trail" to see all of the Smuggler Scarecrows displayed to confuse the Excisemen, before putting the finishing touches to their Children's Smuggling Storybook and watching a secret film screening of "Treasure Island". On the Thursday Frances Wilkins, author and social historian, told the true stories of the Ballantrae families who were involved in smuggling, were customers of smugglers, or were involved in pursuing them.

The goods were successfully moved out of the village on Friday morning and the locals - adults and children - celebrated with an evening of "Music, Poetry and Smuggling Stories" on the Friday evening and a Village Fayre, "Smuggler Sam's Kidz Zone" and "Strongman Activities" on the Saturday in preparation for the next consignment. Satisfied that all the necessary preparations had been made, and with a ship hovering on the horizon, the Chief Smuggler, assisted by the Minister, lit the Beacon to signify the villagers were ready for the next shipment and bringing this year's Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival to a close.



Ballantrae Smugglers, 'The Landing of Contraband'



The Excisemen find hidden contraband



Honest men of Ballantrae!! or?



The 'Strong Man Activities'



Andy McAlpine, Chairman of the Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival Organising group said:

"The Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival was established to support local businesses, encourage tourism, and provide a unique event for locals, surrounding communities and visitors. It is run entirely by a small group of volunteers from the village - we have no paid staff. This year's festival was much more challenging than last year's as it lasted longer - 6 days instead of 4 - and involved more activities and events in more locations. The Festival certainly exceeded our expectations as an organising group with more locals involved and in costume too. Initial feedback has been very positive with more visitors involved this year and businesses and the local economy benefitting from the Festival."

Photographs of this year's festival can be found on our website www.ballantrae.org.uk/smugglers.

A number of competitions were run as part of the festival. The results were as follows:

Winners of the Primary School Poster Competitions were Abbie Robertson (Colmonell) and Sophie Jenkins (Ballantrae).

The result of the "Strongman Activities" - involving hand and eye co-ordination as well as strength - throwing horseshoes to hit a metal pole, barrel rolling, cask carrying and pushing a barrow full of contraband was:

- 1st - Two Men & a Dog (Bob & Paul)**
winning time 56 secs (Ballantrae)
- 2nd - The Girvan Knights (Shaun & Joe)**
1m 1sec (Girvan)
- 3rd - the Jolly Jones's (Sophie & Debbie)**
1m 2secs (Manchester)
- 4th - the Smudger Smugglers**
(Alasdair & Craig) 1m 16secs (Glasgow)
- 5th - the Strong Smugglers (Lucy & Rachel)**
1m 22secs (Ballantrae)
- 6th - the Gentlemen Smugglers**
(Andy & Stephen) 1m 35 secs (The Chief Smuggler and the Minister from the Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival)

7th - the Gala Girls (Fiona & Sharon)
1m 40secs (Ballantrae)

Clearly the Chief Smuggler is thinking of retiring and needs to find a successor!

This year's **Smuggler Scarecrow prizes** were sponsored by Ballantrae businesses. The judges - Lesley Bloomer (South Ayrshire Council), Councillor Alec Clark, Abigail Coia (Ayrshire and Arran Tourism Team) and Lynn Anderson (Voluntary Action South Ayrshire) - identified "Prize Smugglers" at 10 locations around the village:

12 Ailsa Drive; 42, 45 and 46 Foreland; 3 Church Street; 29 Downan Avenue, in the field opposite no 75 Main Street in the field with the Shetland ponies; at Quirky McKie's in Main Street; at the Manse in the Vennel; and at the school.

The winners of the Creative Writing Competition, sponsored by the Carrick Gazette with additional prizes from Waterstones (Ayr) and the Ayr Writers' Club were:

Highly Commended in the adult category Pat Young with "Black and Red" and Karen Barbour with "The Chase", Winner of the Adult Category James Rose with "The Smuggler of Intangibles" and Winner of the 12-18 year old category Abby Gray with "Invisible"

The Ballantrae Development Group (a sub group of the Community Council) which organises the Festival is grateful to our Festival Partners and Sponsors and everyone who helped to make this year's event a success including South Ayrshire Council who awarded us a Festival Development Grant; Visit Scotland and Event Scotland for branding our Festival a "Homecoming 2014 Event"; SCOTMID and ASDA Girvan and local Ballantrae businesses for their financial support; and residents of the village and surrounding communities who volunteered - too many to name.



An Independent View

This is the winter of respect. It is one hundred years since the start of world war one in 1914. On the eleventh day of the eleventh month ordinary folk throughout the country have paid their respects to those who gave their all in defence of their country and all that they held dear, family, friends and a way of life that was under threat. Over the last hundred years the country has gone through two world wars and a number of regional conflicts including the Korean war, the Suez crisis and the Falkland's war as well as the troubles in northern Ireland and interventions in various parts of the world. In all of these situations, our armed forces have reacted to the call of duty with discipline, teamwork and dedication beyond the call of duty and with the knowledge that the support of the folks back home is a strong foundation.

A few weeks ago I had the privilege of attending the official opening of the newly refurbished and extended Barrhill school. It was a joy not just to see the fantastic new interior and layout of the school and the new hall but also to witness the first class performances of the children, the history of the school put together on dvd by the reverend Stephen Ogston and the joy of staff and pupils both past and present to see the continuation of the school and share in happy memories.

The Girvan and south Carrick leisure centre moves a step closer which will be a great new facility for all of the folk in south Carrick with leisure services being provided in Girvan and within easy reach of all of the villages. The funding total is now within reach and the project will be brought to full detailed planning stage and on to construction by south west hub which is a company set up in partnership with councils, government and other bodies to circumvent the hurdles of procurement and tendering and allow for a build to take place within a much quicker timescale. This project is on line to deliver a fine new community facility by summer 2016.

The hard work by Barr village community has now paid off and the result is a fine new play park which will be a great addition to the facilities of this beautiful village. It is also good news for users of the A714 Girvan to Barrhill road to see that some improvements have been carried out on this route. The job of councillors such as myself is to see the improvements built upon with other upgrades to make this route safer and more enjoyable for the road users who need to use this road on a daily basis.

The year is drawing to a close and the man with the white beard is busy wrapping up presents along with Mrs Claus and the elves. I'm sure that you are on the list. There will be a lot of challenges and opportunities in the year to come and I will certainly face them with the confidence that comes from being part of our hard working communities. As we go in to the festive season, keep an eye out for those who live alone and could do with a wee hand or just a wee chat. A merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and productive new year to you all.

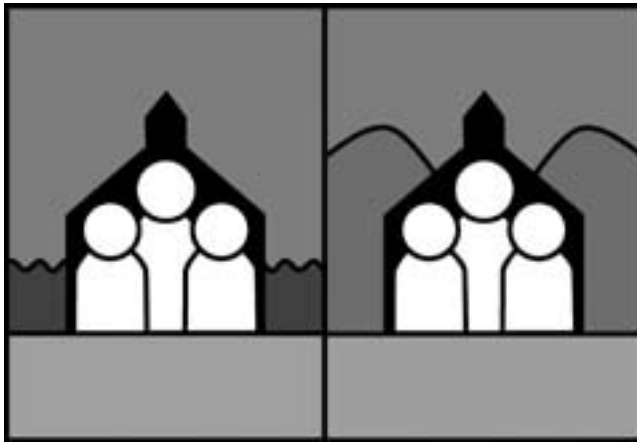
Alec Clark
Councillor Alec Clark (Independent)

South Ayrshire Council, Ward 8: Girvan and South Carrick.
Office Tel: 07794 038 476
Email: Alec.Clark@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Ballantrae's New Cooker

Ballantrae Community Association are delighted to announce that the new cooker is now in place at the community centre. The cooker, costing nearly £3000, was bought from funding from various sources. South Ayrshire Council covered half the cost (as the Community Centre is used as an emergency centre in adverse weather). A £500 grant from Ballantrae Community Council and various fundraising efforts by the Association, friends and the wonderful Gala Girls. The cooker should make a huge difference to the Annual Dance and Senior Citizens Party in particular. Ballantrae Community Association would like to thank AS Electrical Girvan for their prompt service in installing the cooker, Steven Curtis for his help in removing the old cooker, Ballantrae Community Council and every single person involved in the various fundraising events.





Ballantrae Church linked with St Colmon Church

Christmas is a time to enjoy with family and friends. As well as celebrating the birth of Jesus and remembering the good news that his birth means for us all, it is a time to be with those close to us.

This year at the Manse, we will be welcoming my wife's family to our house for the Christmas dinner. While I guess Christmas dinner for many is just a few courses, the family tradition that we follow is seven courses. First there is the starter, then the soup, then fish, then sorbet, then the turkey and all the trimmings, then desserts, then finally we have cheese, biscuits, coffee and cake. Apart from all the food that needs to be prepared, there are also the rooms to decorate in order that the house appears as welcoming as it can be.

In the Christmas story there is the theme of welcome, though initially it is not a positive one. I imagine that Bethlehem wouldn't have scored too highly on TripAdvisor, as many places turned Mary and Joseph away, and eventually all they could find was a draughty stable at the back of one of the inns. That said, this young couple were themselves very welcoming, especially to the shepherds who turned up later that night and invaded their small space, not to mention the people who probably called in later on once the shepherds had spread the news about this special baby.

And so let us forget about those who are not welcoming to us and do our best to be welcoming this Christmas, not just to our home but also in our attitude to other people. Forgive those who have hurt us this year, and extend the hand of friendship to all those we know. Then Christmas will truly be the season of love, as it is supposed to be. As the well known Christmas carol "Love came down at Christmas" says, "Love shall be our token, love be yours and love be mine."

I hope you have a good Christmas, and always know God's blessing.

Stephen

Church Information

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

St Colmon Parish Church

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

Ballantrae Parish Church

11:30am every Sunday in Ballantrae with Sunshine Club for all children 0 to 12 years old. We also have a midweek service once a month on a Wednesday at 11am and our contemporary Sunday at Seven service which is usually on the first Sunday of the month at 7pm.

If you want to contact Stephen, our minister, to check service times or any other reason, his details are:

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

Websites: www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk
www.stcolmonparishchurch.org.uk

We are also on Facebook as 'Ballantrae Church' and 'St Colmon Church'

Christmas Services

Sunday 14 December:
3pm - Glenapp Church
- Lessons and Carols
Service

Thursday 18 December:
7pm - St Colmon Carol
Concert, Colmonell

Sunday 21 December:
10am - St Colmon,
Colmonell - Nativity
Celebration
11:30am - Ballantrae -
Nativity Celebration
7:30pm - Christmas
Carols in Ballantrae

Tuesday 23 December:
7pm - Barrhill
Christmas Carols in the
Memorial Hall

**Wednesday 24
December: 11:30pm -**
Ballantrae - Watchnight
Service
11:30pm - St Colmon,
Colmonell - Watchnight
Service

Thursday 25 December:
10:30am - Ballantrae
- Christmas Family
Service



Glenapp Castle, Ballantrae

**The five star Relais & Châteaux hotel in
Ayrshire, Scotland. Head Chef - Tyron Ellul.**

Glenapp Castle, Ballantrae,
Ayrshire, KA26 ONZ

Tel +44(0)1465 831 212
Email info@glenappcastle.com
Web Site www.glenappcastle.com

Christmas 2014

Glenapp Castle is now taking bookings for special Pre-Christmas Lunches, Dinners and Suppers and our Festive Afternoon Tea.

Luxury Christmas Prize Draw

All guests dining at Glenapp Castle for lunch, afternoon tea or dinner during December will be entered into our Christmas Prize Draw.

1st Prize: A Luxury overnight stay for two at Glenapp Castle including a six course gourmet dinner and full Scottish breakfast. Runner Up prize: Champagne Afternoon tea for two at Glenapp Castle.

Pre-Christmas Lunch £39.50 pp
Pre-Christmas 3 Course Lunch with a Christmas Cracker

Festive Afternoon Tea £24.50 pp
Our festive afternoon tea will include a dram of mulled wine on arrival, tea or coffee, selection of sandwiches, shortbread, mince pies and a mini Christmas Cracker

Pre-Christmas Dinner £65.00 pp
Pre-Christmas 6 Course Dinner with a Complimentary Glass of Champagne

Pre-Christmas Supper
Thursday 11th & 18th December £49.50 pp
A glass of mulled wine on arrival, a festive two course gourmet supper followed by coffee and mince pies.

Glenapp Castle Luxury Gift Vouchers

Struggling for the perfect Thank you, Birthday or Anniversary gift? Why not give the gift of Glenapp... a luxury gift experience.

Kings Arms Hotel

BALLANTRAE

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

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

ADDRESS Kings Arms Hotel, Main St, Ballantrae
TEL 01465 831 202
EMAIL info@kingsarmsballantrae.com
WEB www.kingsarmsballantrae.com

Pinwherry Women's Rural Institute

It seems no time since we were planning the winter's syllabus and now here we are nearly half way through it and looking forward to Christmas and all its celebrations!

We have been so pleased to be able to welcome some new members this session and are hopeful that there may be others out there still waiting to be invited - this is your invitation: do come and join us! We meet on the second Monday of each month, September to May, in the village hall at 7.30pm.

November is the month for our Guest Night and we are looking forward to an interesting talk by Sheelagh Affia: "Costume Through the Ages". We expect to welcome guests from all the surrounding Rurals.

For our Christmas celebration we will be meeting at Malin Court on Dec. 8th for a meal together. Always a happy occasion and an excellent dinner.

In January we have Mrs Aggie Crow to tell us of her work as Procurator Fiscal and in February Mr Edwin Lawrence whose title is "All the Fun of the Fair".

Our second whist drive is also in February on the 6th. Once again, we invite you to come along and give us the opportunity to get to know you and welcome you into the Rural.

Pat Guthrie Secy. 01465 841236.

Duncan Ferguson



Duncan Ferguson of Farden Farm died suddenly on the 23rd October aged 74 years and is greatly missed by our Church and community.

As a baby Duncan underwent an operation because he couldn't keep his food down and his mother was worried he'd turn out to be a wee, ill-thriven soul. If you knew Duncan you know the operation was a great success. His nephew David said when he started his working life Duncan told him it was important to have a good breakfast and recommended at least 8 weetabix and a pint of milk!

From an early age Duncan was creative and very skilled with his hands. He loved woodwork and would rather be making model aeroplanes than playing football - much to his brother Billy's annoyance. After leaving school Duncan went to the West of Scotland Agricultural College in Glasgow. Then he took on a lambing at Chirmorrie and after that became the shepherd at Arecleoch and Ardnimoil. Aged 21 he married Elizabeth and they set up house at Arecleoch. In 1969, with their children Duncan and Caroline, the couple bought Farden at Pinwherry.

As a large and powerful man Duncan was just the man to have around on those really big sheep handling days such as when Laggish used to get hundreds of ewe lambs ready for the sales. However there were also drawbacks to having Duncan around, as the late Robert Horne discovered when one year he was explaining to his team that the ewe lambs were the biggest and heaviest he had ever had. Just at that moment Duncan strolled out of the catching pen with a ewe lamb under each arm.

Clipping sheep was another skill where Duncan excelled and the confident way he plunged the shears in was remarkable - even scary. Duncan loved all his livestock.....even his cows.....some days! But his sheep were his pride and joy. He was breeding top quality Scotch Mule lambs in the days before the breed even had a name. In preparing lambs for the Castle Douglas market Duncan had the artistic flare to know what was pleasing to the eye and he was a pioneer in those days in the way that he presented his mule ewe lambs for sale.

Even a dead sheep could be viewed as a good thing by Duncan - especially if it had really big horns. Duncan's collection of shepherd's crooks is legendary. His creative mind, artistic talent and manual dexterity came together beautifully in the art of stick-making and anyone who has seen his work knows why he was recognised as a master at this craft. Duncan often gave his sticks as gifts or freely offered for sale at charity events. Such was his character.

Duncan had a strong sense of tradition and community, supporting sheep dog events and agricultural shows such as Colmonell and Ballantrae. He had a very strong faith and was firmly committed to St Colmon Church, serving as an elder for 45 years and treasurer for the last 20 years.

Greatly loved by his family, Duncan was known for his sense of fun, caring and generosity. He was one of the most respected men that many of us have ever known and what also set him apart was the amount of respect he had for other people.

All of us who were privileged to know Duncan knew a gentle man and a true gentleman who is sorely missed by us all.



Alec Oattes

Dear Reader,

As I prepare this article for the Stinchar Valley Magazine winter edition, the clocks have just been put back to GMT which of course means we are now into winter after what has been a pretty good summer and autumn.

In August I was delighted to play a small part in the Ballantrae Smugglers Festival, in which I was garbed as a local helping to unload contraband at Ballantrae Harbour for distribution around Ballantrae. Unfortunately I missed out on the brandy and claret as I was driving later that night! However the whole Festival went well and I would like to pay tribute to all who helped to organise this week long activity filled, jamboree of fun and frolics for local people and visitors.

Later in October I was privileged to attend the formal opening of the modernised Barrhill Primary School. This was a terrific night with a few speeches, songs and dance to celebrate this refurbishment. It also included a historical look back, courtesy of the Reverend Stephen Ogston, over the past 100 years or more since the original school was opened with more than 50 pupils on the school role. This investment in Barrhill Primary is very worthwhile as the education of our children is fundamental in taking forward, not only the needs of the pupils themselves, but the future advancement of our society. Someone once said education is expensive but ignorance is much more expensive. I wish the pupils and staff at Barrhill Primary every success in the future.



Where's the Meenister's hat going?

As I prepare this article, it is in the lead up period to many Remembrance Day Services, which will be held locally and nationally to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives in the many conflicts over the past 100 years in the pursuit of freedom and democracy over dictatorships and fascism. At this time of course we especially remember those who fell in the Great War of 1914-18. It is a privilege and an honour for myself and fellow councillors to take part in these Remembrance Day Services in recognition of those who gave their future that we might have our today.

This article and in relation to the above paragraph, here in Scotland we have just gone through a historic debate and Referendum which has decided the future constitutional future of Scotland and the United Kingdom for the foreseeable future. While the result did not go the way I would have favoured, the fact remains that this debate reignited the whole democratic process throughout Scottish Society, with an 86% turnout on the 18th of September. This can only be a good thing in that democracy is one of our fundamental freedoms and lets us decide what kind of society we want to live in. This should never be taken for granted or allowed to wither through apathy or cynicism.

In conclusion, can I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the editorial board for their many hours work in preparing the Stinchar Valley Magazine and to wish everyone a peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

SNP Councillor Alec Oattes

Girvan and South Carrick Ward, South Ayrshire Council.

Office Telephone Number 01292 612382

Home Telephone Number 01292 435005

alec.oattes@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Pinwherry Community Association

Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner

Pinwherry Community Association would like to remind all residents in Pinwherry and Pinmore who have not returned their form to please do so, as they are very helpful to us.

For all the senior people in that area, it will be too late to be invited to the Christmas Dinner this year, but please do not miss the opportunity to be on the list next year. If you have lost the form please contact Morag Campbell on 01465841641 with your details. Also if you have any children up to the age of 16 years please contact Morag or any committee member with names and ages before 10th December 2014. Thank you to all the people who did return forms.



Our Forests Have Been Saved...

...again! And together we played a huge part in that.

The government was trying to sneak through plans which would have paved the way for our forests to be sold off. But at the very last minute, they backed down. They u-turned and made changes which mean our forests will be protected - in law. [1]

This is huge. For months, forest campaigners have been fighting for this. [2] In the last 24 hours, over 150,000 of us signed a petition backing them. And it was carried into the House of Lords debate by Baroness Royall who's been battling the plans. [3]

As the debate started thousands of us took to Twitter. Together, we made sure they knew we were watching. [4] The government was well aware that they were fighting a losing battle.

Baroness Royall wanted to thank 38 Degrees members:

"This is a big victory for everyone that has campaigned to protect our forests. The 38 Degrees petition was a vital part of that. I'm grateful to all who showed their support."

A few years ago, when it looked like the government was going to sell our forests, 38 Degrees members fought long and hard to save them. [5] And we won. This latest campaign proves how much power we have when we scramble together quickly to stand up for something we care about.

NOTES:

[1] BBC News: Westminster Live (19:01):

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/uk-politics-29913782>

[2] Save our Woods: Latest updates:

<http://saveourwoods.co.uk/articles/infrastructure-bill/crystal-clear-commitment-from-govt-made-in-new-ministerial-statement-so-lets-see-it-crystal-clear-in-the-infrastructure-bill/>

[3] 38 Degrees blog: 24 hours to save the forests?

<http://blog.38degrees.org.uk/2014/11/04/24-hours-to-save-the-forests/>

[4] 38 Degrees blog: Tweet to save our forests:

<http://blog.38degrees.org.uk/2014/11/05/tweet-to-save-our-forests/>

[5] 38 Degrees blog: Great news: Government agree to protect our forests:

<http://blog.38degrees.org.uk/2013/02/01/great-news-government-agree-to-protect-our-forests/>

Cone creatures

In Finland and Sweden, children make traditional toy "cone cows" out of cones and sticks.

To make one, collect some open cones from the forest floor and poke stick legs into them.

Use grass or leaves as a tail.

What other animals can you make?

- Birds with leaf beaks and feather wings
- Cone rabbits with grass fur and field maple seed ears
- Squirrels with fluffy, mossy tails
- Deer with twig antlers
- Spiky hedgehogs!







Qigong is a series of slow, gentle exercises, under the guidance of a qualified instructor, promoting health and vitality and relieving stress. It is suitable for all levels of fitness, including wheelchair users, and for all ages from 16 and over.

Classes are held in Ballantrae Community Centre on Monday mornings from 10.45 till 11.45am. The winter session has now ended but the new term begins on 12 January 2015 at a cost of £3 per class if the session is paid in advance, or £5 per class for occasional attendance.

FREE TRIAL - Not sure if Qigong is for you?

Come along on 12 January and try Qigong. If it is not for you it will cost you nothing - if you like it we would be delighted to have you join our group - you are guaranteed a friendly welcome. If you would like more information please phone Janice Ross (Secretary) on 01465 831347.

Lost & Found / Wanted & For Sale

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

4 or 6 panel doors circa 1910.

Taken out of the Kirk Hall in Colmonell. If you wish to view them contact Claire on 841644.

1970 MG Midget 1500.

Heritage vehicle (Tax exempt) £1550.00.

Contact Editor (01465 841198)



Balkissock Lodge for sale.

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

Plan & Be Safe on your Christmas Night Out

- Plan how you're getting home and make sure someone knows where you are going
- Make sure you have enough cash to get home
- Check your mobile is charged
- Don't leave your drink unattended
- Don't drink and drive, and remember many people are still over the limit the following morning
- Stick with your friends
- Don't drink too much, alcohol makes you more vulnerable
- Don't accept a drink from someone you don't know

**WISHING YOU A
SAFE AND HAPPY
CHRISTMAS**



... The Stinchar Bridge at Colmonell ...

An extract from The Bound Hand Written Volume of the Parish of Colmonell by David Drynnan in 1873 (Volume 2 pages 65- 70).

Accordingly we find from a minute of the Commissioners of Supply that a bridge over the Stinchar at Colmonell was ordered to be built in 1722. Sometime appears to have elapsed after this before the work was gone on with, for we learn from the "New Statistical Account" that "the oldest stone bridge" and, at that time, the only one between this district and Galloway was built in 1731. It fell at first, and the contractors were assisted in the second erection by collections made in all the parish churches throughout Ayrshire and Galloway, the freestone of which the arches - two in number- were composed was barbarously extracted from the old feudal tower of Craigneil as well as from Carleton Castle on the Lendal shore. It was demolished on 10th April 1868 to make way for a new one. Although it was a rather narrow and high backed affair and on that account did not meet the increased requirements and improved tastes of this age, yet to many its old world look and extremely picturesque appearance, rendered it of great interest and its demolition a matter of sincere regret . The difficulty experienced in its removal by the contractor proved how well built it had been and how strong it was still. After the parapets had been taken down it took nearly a week to demolish the main arch. At either end of it large gaps were made with gunpowder and then wedges were driven in and crowbars used to prise or swing it round but without effect. The airy fabric held well together until nought remained cementing it with the southern buttress or pier but a foot or so of masonry and then the wedges were again driven home, this time with fatal result.

The end of the arch suddenly rose high in the air, heeled over and fell with a loud crash into the stream below, casting up dense clouds of spray- a great part of it still lies in the bed of the river under the present bridge in large square blocks. This is owing to the difficulty found in breaking up the masses even though the river was very low at the time- the taking down of the piers and buttresses followed and the destruction of the old bridge was complete. As its fall was scarcely expected at the time, from the repeated failure which had already occurred, very few of the villagers were present to witness its final overthrow - only one or two copper coins of no great antiquity were found by the workmen - the erection of the new bridge was proceeded with as rapidly as possible . The foundation stone was laid with great ceremony by Mrs. J.B.F. Gray of Kirkhill on 22nd. June 1868. After



gracefully spreading a body of mortar and cement she caused the stone to be lowered into its destined position and laid to the entire satisfaction of Mr Cammeron, the Inspector of the Work. The large crowd of onlookers who had hastily gathered to witness the ceremony then gave three ringing cheers for Mrs.Gray again for Mr Gray and yet again for Mr. Murray, Contractor. Refreshments were then supplied to the workman and others present by Mr. Gray which concluded the ceremony. Considerable difficulties had to be overcome by the contractor, the most serious being the excavation for the foundation of the centre pier, through a bank of gravel interspersed with large boulder stones - the work was however rapidly pushed on and was finished in 1868.

The arches are of red freestone, the pier and buttresses of the same material faced with grey granite while the parapets are of the blue whinstone obtained from the old bridge with a coping partly of freestone and partly of whinstone. It is a neat and substantial structure and cost £1560. (The Ayrshire Road trust gave grants totalling £1560 to Girvan Trust)

Girvan Trust (Extract):

£1200 to rebuild the bridge over the Stinchar at Colmonell and £360 being three fifths of £600 required to extend the said bridge to the dimensions specified and recommended by the County engineer Mr Andrew Lauchlin of Glasgow who states "that the bridge has become so decayed as to be unfit for public use" - from the amount of this grant Mr Boyle dissented.

Additional information - The bridge was designed by Hugh and Bryce McCall, Daltippan Girvan Surveyors to the Girvan Trustees and the Main Contractor was Mr Andrew Murray. The freestone came from Thornhill and the granite from Dalbeattie.

DO YOU HAVE ANY PHOTOGRAPHS OR INFORMATION ?

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

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

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



Scotland's Sustainable Local Food Network



Working together to build a sustainable food nation

We are Scotland's voice for sustainable food. Join us to support our vital work to influence policy and legislation, to make our cities sustainable food cities, to provide training and education and to build partnerships by connecting everyone involved.

Member benefits include:

- Joining our growing network of people who care about sustainable food
- Our magazine with three editions per year and our monthly E-news
- Discounted rates for our annual conference and all our events

As a sustainable food nation we will:

- Create a stronger local food economy with more jobs and better livelihoods
- Farm, fish and grow in ways which enhance our environment, protect wildlife and promote animal welfare
- Reduce the 30% of greenhouse gases that come from the food system by cutting food waste and changing our diets
- Make sure that every person can afford to enjoy good food every day
- Live healthier and longer lives because we grow more, we cook more from fresh, and we share more

For more information go to www.nourishscotland.org

The New Farmer Programme

Vocational training and work placements

Local food is a growing market in Scotland. Small food growing businesses are always looking for skilled staff. Many people are keen to set up their own food business and sell direct to local customers. Some farmers are keen to diversify, and grow some food for the local market alongside their core business. There are also many community gardens starting to produce food for the local community, and they are looking for skilled growers.

But it's not easy to get the training and experience you need before you are ready to start your own business or even to apply for a food growing job. This is a programme to help fill that gap. It's for people new to farming and employees wanting to develop their food growing, local marketing and small business skills. Work experience placements are available in local food businesses throughout Scotland.

The New Farmer Programme offers:

- A season's work experience on a host farm, croft or smallholding in Scotland – or within your own business and land holding, or that of your employer
- Training specifically designed for people working in this sector, delivered by growers and farmers running successful local food businesses
- A mix of theory and practice
- A mix of monthly training events around Scotland; weekly coursework on-line; and practical work on the land
- Mentoring and support from an experienced grower
- The skills, experience and action plan for you to run your own local food enterprise, after the course

What will you learn?

The programme is focused on vegetable and fruit growing, for sale direct to your customers. Some of the teaching is very practical. Like using machinery such as a rotavator, or sowing a tray of seeds. Some covers basic theory, like understanding soil types and what seeds need to germinate. There is also a strong emphasis both on running your business and marketing your produce. You need all three skill sets to run a successful local food business.

INTERESTED? THE NEXT PROGRAMME WILL START IN MARCH 2015

DON'T DELAY – for more details go to <http://www.nourishscotland.org/> or sign up for updates on the New Farmer page of the Nourish website.



Colmonell Heritage Point

The name of Colmonell village is derived from the Church, which in the 12th century was called Kirk-Colmonell in memory of the patron saint Colmon of Ella. St Colmon of Ella is reputed to be a nephew of St Columba and brought Christianity to the area around the year 600AD. At least three Churches have existed on the site of St Colmon Church since around 1179 and there are records of Ministers recorded as far back as the 1400s. In 1772 a Church was built then, being too small, it was recast in 1849 to seat 400 worshippers. In 1899 the Church chancel was renovated with linen fold panelling and fine carvings by Robert Lorimer.

In 1908 Norman and Beard of Norwich were commissioned by the McEwen family to build the pipe organ in St Colmon Parish Church which is still played every Sunday and for various open days and concerts at other times. The only significant changes to the organ are the installation of an electric blower and the provision of a balanced swell pedal; the removal of the combination pedals being a likely consequence of this alteration.

The organ casework by Robert Lorimer is also of considerable historic value from. 18 members of the Glasgow Society of Organists visited the Church in 2013 and enjoyed lunch in the Kirk Hall before 6 of them took turns to play the organ. Following their visit representatives of the Scottish Historic Organs Trust recommended that the British Institute of Organ Studies look at the organ and it was awarded the highest grade possible. Representatives of the Institute then visited the organ to document and photograph it with a view to depositing the information for posterity with the British Organ Archive at Birmingham University.

Star Organs of Britain

The British Institute have now published a calendar of "Star Organs of Britain" and February is illustrated by St Colmon's organ, one of only three Scottish organs in the calendar. <http://www.starorgansofbritain.co.uk> **To arrange a visit to the Church please contact Claire Pirrie on 841644 or come along to a service at 10am any Sunday.**

ACROSS

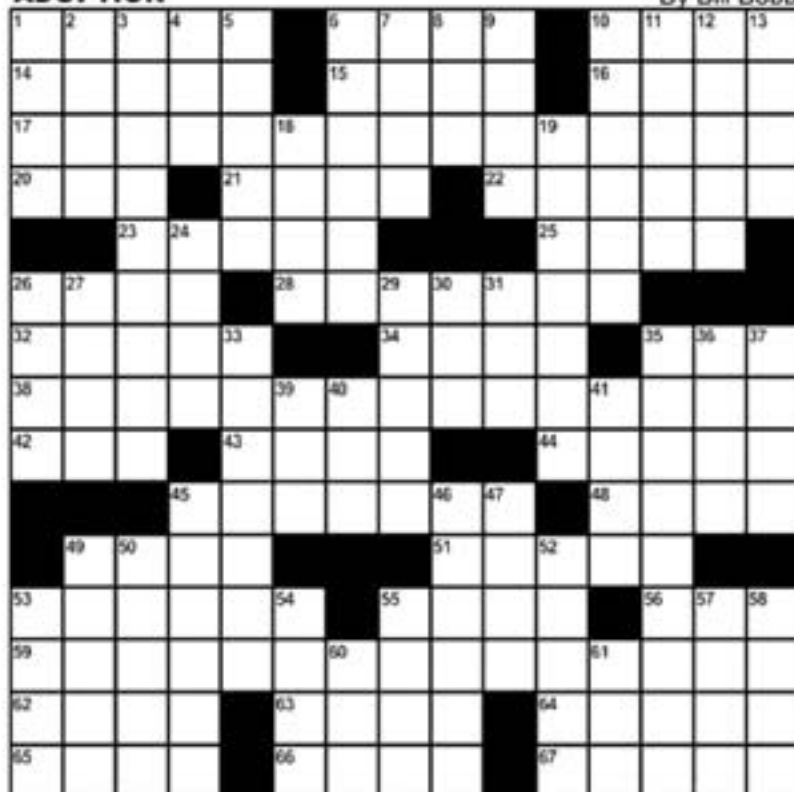
- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1) Cords used as neckwear | 42) St. Louis-to-Cincinnati dir. |
| 6) Door neighbor | 43) Word with "fry" or "freeze" |
| 10) Praise effusively | 44) Old Venetian officials |
| 14) Gradually deteriorate | 45) Jeer |
| 15) Artificially colored spread | 48) Sommelier's suggestion |
| 16) Aware of, as a scheme | 49) And others (Abbr.) |
| 17) Agree to someone's terms | 51) Number of sides in an octagon |
| 20) Olympic jersey monogram | 53) Like congested traffic |
| 21) Electron losers or gainers | 55) Complex red organic pigment |
| 22) Nonagenarian's minimum age | 56) Tenth letter of the Hebrew alphabet |
| 23) Be an excellent student | 59) Add to the staff |
| 25) Write up, as a speeder | 62) Imitative sort |
| 26) Minor criticisms | 63) State of deep unconsciousness |
| 28) Slippery and sinuous | 64) Bookcase unit |
| 32) Type of setter | 65) Franklin and Vereen |
| 34) Monty Hall's offering | 66) Annual athletic award |
| 35) Deplaning gift in Maui | 67) Prose piece |
| 38) Start to personally shine | |

DOWN

- 1) Boyfriend
- 2) Sauron's minions
- 3) Part of a pilot's announcement
- 4) Horatian oration
- 5) Retro photo
- 6) Woodward of film
- 7) Mont Blanc and neighbors
- 8) Sea, to Debussy
- 9) Unexpected blessing
- 10) Kid in a Spielberg movie
- 11) Like wet concrete
- 12) Envelope's two letters
- 13) From God
- 18) Floored it
- 19) Like pigs' feet
- 24) To be, to Cato
- 26) Pleasant city on the Riviera?
- 27) Golf club choice
- 29) Parkinson's drug
- 30) DiCaprio, for short
- 31) Janis of folk
- 33) 2004 Viggo Mortensen film
- 35) Company emblems
- 36) Pretty pitcher
- 37) Pt. of M.I.T.
- 39) Goal attachment
- 40) Private eye, slangily
- 41) Junior-to-be
- 45) Antics
- 46) Room to maneuver
- 47) Drooping
- 49) Military storehouse
- 50) Sign or emblem
- 52) Where to get down?
- 53) Kind of thrust
- 54) ___ and for all
- 55) Burlap fiber
- 57) Indian writing paper
- 58) Put up resistance to
- 60) Hated responses
- 61) Fun house cries

ADOPTION

By Bill Bobb



Wanted

- A mature sitter for a 13yr old boy. Must have own transport. Possibly alternate Thursdays and the occasional Saturday. Please contact Maxine on 841312
- A small chest or table top freezer for St Colmon Kirk Hall. Please contact Claire on 841644.



Lexie Trafford
Happy Haircuts

Burr
Girvan
Dog Grooming For All Dogs At Your Place Or Mine

01465861639
friends.com@hotmail.co.uk
07964208159



The Club resumed in September and we welcomed several new members. Our next meeting is on 19th November when our speakers will be Victoria And Pamela from Gardening Leave. There is a PowerPoint presentation on soil types and how to supply the best soil for our plants

December - Christmas Dinner at Malin Court

January - Andrea Jones will give a talk on garden design

February - Gardeners' Question Time. Our guests will include Colin Belton (Logan Gardens) and Tessa Knott (Glenwhan)

March - Louise Bustard Education Officer at Glasgow Botanic Garden

April - AGM and plant swap

Our meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in Pinwherry Hall • The fee is £12.00 joining fee or £3.00 per visit • As well as our speakers we always enjoy tea/coffee and a chat • Non members always welcome.

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

SECRETARY - MARGARET BEAN

Tel 01465841635
margaret.bean1@btinternet.com

CHAIR - ROGER PIRRIE

Tel. 01465841644
rdpirrie@gmail.com

VICE CHAIR - JOHN McALLEY

Tel. 01465841198
j.mcalley@btinternet.com

TREASURER - JILL McALLEY
as above

MEMBER - PAT SPENCE

Tel. 01465821377
patspence@piperpublications.co.uk

MEMBER - NAN WILKINSON

Tel. 01465 831704
nan@dunwhinny.plus.net



Recommended Tradesmen

Would you recommend good work?

Appliance Repairs

By Peter Newland
24/01/14

Building Work

By Claire Pirrie
12/05/14

Carpet Fitter

By Frank Bean
26/11/12

Computer Problems

By Jim Fleming
08/11/13

Electrician

By Jim Fleming
08/11/13

Electrician

By Claire Pirrie
26/01/14

Howard Galley

01465 831 537

PB Property Repairs

01465 841 695
07530 539896

Mark Foster

01465 71884
07722 892 263

Robert Carty

01465 479 176
07523 847 119

John Foster

01655 331 257
07526 464 524

Gavin Campbell

01655 882 208
07989 583 238

Gardening Services

By Jim Fleming
08/11/13

Painting & Decorating

By Ruth Murray
Plumber

by Frank Bean
26/11/12

Gas Engineer Ross McCulloch

By Claire Pirrie
26/01/14

Heating

By John McAlley
08/01/14

Plumbing/Heating

By Dr M L McKenna
08/14

Roofing

By Dr M L McKenna
08/14

Fraser Wallace

01465 831 487
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BARR NEWS



NEW PLAY PARK A BIG HIT WITH YOUNGSTERS

Excited local youngsters in Barr just couldn't wait for the 'official' opening of their super new play park. From the moment the fence came down they flooded onto the play area and gave a big "thumbs up" to the new facility. As expected the 35 metre zip wire proved the most popular amongst the older kids but the swings and roundabouts are still the favourites with the smaller children.

The provision of the £120,000 park at the Clachan, with its 18 different elements, is a triumph for Barr Community Council and its recently formed offshoot, the Barr Parish Development Company (BPDC) the aim of which is to progress village regeneration. The provision of a replacement for the original park has been on the agenda for over 10 years when wind farm funding was made available but difficulties over land ownership and drainage issues stalled various attempts to move the project forward.

When the BPDC held an open day to get feedback on various projects, residents made it clear that the play park development was well overdue and should be a priority. Harnessing suggestions by Barr children, Alex Tait was appointed Project Leader to drive the scheme forward and he has rightly been praised for his "tenacious pursuit" of the goal to bring it back to life.

The money for the park has come from Carrick Futures which has provided over £84,000 and from Hadyard Hill Community Benefit Fund who have provided just under £41,000 for the scheme. In addition, the Forestry Commission carried out vital and costly drainage work free of charge. South Ayrshire Council will maintain the park after its installation.

At the official opening by Provost Helen Moonie on Friday 7th November, BPDC thanked all those who had helped in the project including; contractors Wicksteed; SAC's David Lowden; Colin Hossack & Lyndy Renwick of Forestry Commission Scotland; all the village volunteers and, most importantly, funders Hadyard Hill Community Benefit Fund and Carrick Futures.

Open Day

The Barr Parish Development Company is holding another Open Day in the Village Hall on November 15th following the success of last year's event. The recently successful ballot for the 'community right to buy' Dinmurchie, now allows us to share ideas and suggestions and discuss those already gathered for the use and sustainability of a 'Centre for Excellence'. Among current suggestions are; a market garden, rural skills, apprenticeships, outdoor education facilities and accommodation among others.

The Open Day will look at all the possibilities and gather feedback from residents. The proposed Multi Usage Games Area and Forestry Cycle Trail will be also be open for discussion and advice will be available on household energy saving. A proposed Heritage project is also up for discussion, building on the excellent contributions from volunteers towards the Barr Community Human Sun Dial Mosaic. To this end, any stories, memories and old photos will be welcome and the school will be contributing to self-guided leaflets for the Trails with drawings, tales and poems, linking to the mosaic in the heart of the village.

The Barr Parish Development Co. is committed to empowering the community to influence and manage their own future and to this end it's important that we all take the opportunity to communicate our wishes and hopes for the future of Barr.

Handcrafted in Barr

Barr is to have a brand new business with the setting up of a glass-making gallery by Angus Corbett. With the support of the Prince's Trust, Angus will set up his embryonic business, to be called "Eye Glass" in his own space at the Barr Wee Gallery in The Avenue where he will produce handcrafted, beautifully decorative art glass bowls and plates.

Angus, who trained in Glass Design & Production at the City of Glasgow College, is excited about his new venture. He said, "I like working with patterns and combining contrasting colours to reflect the client's response or personality. In that way I can produce distinctive and unique pieces which are tailored to their individual tastes.

"I take pleasure in the simplicity of technique in glass fusing. The sophistication and resulting colour changes that take place in the kiln can be unpredictable but always exciting."

The colours in Angus's glass do not fade over the years. They may be displayed in areas where there is bright sunlight, with no danger of colours being affected.

It's another exciting step on Angus's career as an artist. Already acclaimed by renowned Scottish artist Peter Howson, the style of Angus's abstract pen drawings were described by Howson as "vibrant, rhythmic and pulsating with energy".

Fine art prints of his detailed drawings are currently on display and selling well in the Leicester Gallery '50E' which is looking forward to extending their representation with his Art glass as it becomes available.

Parish Church Harvest Festival

Barr Parish Church would like to pass on their sincere thanks to all who supported and/or donated to the Harvest Festival on Sunday, 19 October. There was a wide array of tins, baked cakes and fresh produce displayed in the church - thanks to the Community Store and to Skye Trotter and her friends' sterling efforts in collecting donations in 'the wheelbarrow' around the village. Unfortunately, Mrs June Graney, who previously organised many of these events, was not able to join us. However, she does get the 'gold star' for the most food given - or was it timing as she was emptying her fridge on her last day in the village! June you will be greatly missed. Rev. Ian McLachlan delivered a fitting Harvest Festival family service which was followed by hearty soup, tea, coffee and biscuits, kindly put on by generous volunteers and church members. All the donations were divided between the local food bank and elderly community members in need of support.

Dogs Still a Problem

The issue of dogs causing a nuisance due to their behaviour and/or noise has been raised at a number of recent Community Council meetings. All dog owners are reminded of their responsibility to keep control of your dogs at all times, clean up after them and make all attempts possible to prevent them from causing a disturbance, especially during the night.

Quilters Charity Hand Over

Barr-based Stinchar Valley Quilters saw a most successful end to their recent charity raffle when they handed over £2,300 to good causes at a ceremony in the Village Hall recently. Tickets for the chance to win a specially crafted quilt made by the ladies of the quilting club went like hot cakes and, as a result, the three charities chosen to be the lucky recipients of the money raised each received a cheque for £770. The money was split equally between the Breast Cancer charity, Girvan's Community Action Network and the Scottish Air Ambulance. Their representatives were all delighted to be handed their cheques at a ceremony in the Village Hall and thanked the Quilters for their efforts on behalf of their respective good causes. Organiser, Susan Trotter thanked everyone who had generously donated other prizes for the raffle and all those who had bought tickets. Most of all, she thanked the ladies of the Quilters club who put in a huge amount of work to make the quilt which was much admired as it went on display throughout the area. "Tea Boys", Wullie, Jim and Doug also got a special mention for helping to keep the wheels of industry turning in the village hall.

Macmillan Cancer Support Benefits from Coffee Morning

The Macmillan Coffee morning held recently in Barr village raised a super £796.30 for the Macmillan Cancer Support charity.

Vera Dunlop and a band of willing helpers baked cakes, sold raffle tickets, donated prizes, created craft items, arranged flowers and grew plants for the event. Teas, coffees and biscuits were served to dozens of people at this popular annual charity event.

Barr Village Hall was buzzing with generous folk from all generations, from Barr and beyond. Everyone seemed to enjoy the chance for a blether while raising money for a good cause.

Raffle winners were delighted to receive food hampers, floral arrangements and baskets of fruit. Pupils and staff from the local Barr Primary School came along to support the event. Nine lucky pupils won prizes in the Junior Raffle and all of the children were treated to free drinks and biscuits.

New Community Councillor

John Donaldson has stepped forward to fill the vacant position as a Barr Community Councillor following the departure of Jim Leil. However, another vacancy has now arisen with the resignation of Alasdair Currie. BCC Chair, Hamish Denham said; "Alasdair has worked hard during his tenure on the Council as the planning contact and also as a Director of Carrick Futures. His skills and knowledge will be greatly missed'. Another member of the community has applied for co-option.

Another Bumper Barn Dance

The Wright family and friends have staged yet another successful Barn Dance at Traboyack with another big turnout helping to boost the coffers of the SANDS charity by over £7,000. This brings their grand fund-raising total over the past six years to an astonishing £35,000. Well done everyone who took part in another great fund raising event in Barr.

Barr Diary Dates

November

Saturday 15th (afternoon)
Development Company Open
Day - Village Hall

Sunday 16th 11.00am-3.00pm
Christmas Fayre in Village Hall

Wednesday 19th at 8.00pm
Pub Quiz - King's Arms (Barr)

Friday 21st
School Coffee Morning in aid of Cancer Charities

Saturday 29th at 9.00pm
Music in King's Arms (Barr)- Wah Wahs

January

New Year's Day at 8.00pm - Music in King's Arms
(Barr)-Rockapotamus

December

Wednesday 10th - Christmas Lunch at school.

Thursday 11th (morning) - School Rag Bag Collection

Tuesday 16th - Nursery Class Nativity - within nursery time

Wednesday 17th at 8pm - Pub Quiz - King's Arms (Barr)

Thursday 18th at 6.30pm - Primary School Christmas Show
in Village Hall and switching on of Xmas Tree lights

Christmas Day - King's Arms (Barr) open from 5.00pm. Bar
only - No food.

Boxing Day at 2.00pm - Pool, Darts & Dominoes Comp.
King's Arms - Prizes

Hogmanay at 9.00pm - Music in Kings Arms (Barr)- CODA

Let's Try And Keep The Lights On

Given the fact that we have been informed that power supplies will be reduced over the next few months shouldn't we all consider how we might help to keep the lights on?

Many householders leave their curtains open after dark which means they must be turning up their heating to compensate for the large amounts of power lost through the windows. Apart from the wasted power and entertaining passersby with a view of them watching TV etc. don't these people realise that they are advertising the contents of their home to any passing thief.

Another thought is that if everyone used movement sensor lights instead of constant outdoor lights we would have a far better view of the fantastic night skies lit up by stars. Movement sensors are also a good security measure since intruders don't know where they are suddenly going to be caught in a beam of light. Perhaps others have ideas we could publish of how to save energy.

THE STINCHAR VALLEY MAGAZINE

Editorial Panel

The Stinchar Valley Magazine is published by the voluntary editorial group with the valued support of the contributors, with the aim of supporting the community interest and local businesses.

The magazine is funded by Hadyard Hill and Carrick Futures grants schemes.

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Mail To The Editor

Welcome to the Autumn 2014 issue of the Stinchar Valley Magazine. This publication is your chance to read and make the community news in the Stinchar Valley and surrounding region.

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

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

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How To Send In Your Articles & Pictures

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

TEXT

Send in text as a WORD or OPEN OFFICE document only.

PHOTOGRAPHS & LOGOS

Please do not place photographs in a Word document. Photographs should be full size images straight from the camera and scanned images should be high resolution wherever possible and sent as separate attachments from your text please.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

Tell us any special instructions about the layout/content of your article. What are the images about that you want included? Include any Website names and web links that are relevant.

NON-EMAIL SUPPLY OF CONTENT

If you do not have access to a computer or Email you can post or drop off material to our Editor John McAlley at: Ligliarrie Farm Pinwherry KA26 0SL. We will return any material to you. People in the communities of the Stinchar Valley and beyond are interested in you, your club, your business and your local area:

PLEASE NOTE

- The Editorial Team will consider all submissions and make the final selection of material for each issue.
- Small grammatical errors will be corrected in the text of articles. Larger issues will be discussed with the author prior to publication if possible.

Local & Interesting Web Sites

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

Useful Contacts

Barrhill Community Bus	Self hire or arranged trips	01465 714 665
Stagecoach	Ayr Depot	01292 613 500
MyBus Rural (Mon-Sat 7am-7pm)	Door to door transport for Carrick	0845 123 5656
Accident & Emergency	Ayr Hospital	01292 610 555
Minor Injuries Unit	Girvan Community Hospital	01465 712 571
NHS 24		08454 242 424
Samaritans		0345 909 090
Girvan Community Policing Team		01465 710 995
Citizens Advice	Stranraer 10am - 4pm Mon - Fri	01776 706 355
SEPA Emergencies		0800 807 060
Gas Emergencies		0800 111 999
Scottish Power	Power Cut/Emergencies	0845 2727 999
Emergency Services		999

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

Stinchar Valley Gardening Club at Glasgow Botanic



Squirrel by Ross McCreadie at Colmonell War Memorial



Crow by Ross McCreadie at Colmonell War Memorial

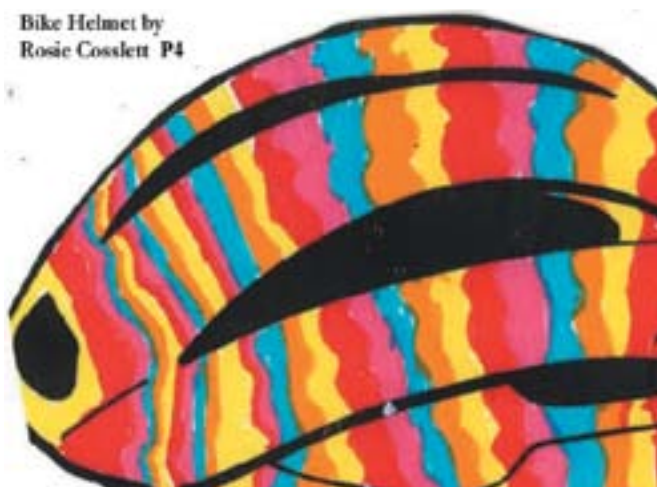


Planting at Colmonell War Memorial



Pupil Council

Bike Helmet by
Rosie Cosslett P4



African Drumming



African Drumming



Bicycle by Chloe MacLennan P5

1st
Chloe M
P5



Renewable Energy Study



Raffle Stall



Coffee morning for the MacMillan Charity