

# THE STINCHAR VALLEY MAGAZINE

WINTER  
2015

FREE



Produced by the communities of  
Ballantrae, Barr, Barrhill, Colmonell, Lendalfoot, Pinwherry & Pinmore

THE STINCHAR VALLEY MAGAZINE

## 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>
Colmonell	<a href="http://www.visitsouthernscotland.co.uk/colmonell-c1470.html">http://www.visitsouthernscotland.co.uk/colmonell-c1470.html</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.synthasite.com/">http://girvanattractions.synthasite.com/</a>
Galloway & Ayrshire Biosphere	<a href="http://www.gallowayandsouthernayrshirebiosphere.org.uk/">http://www.gallowayandsouthernayrshirebiosphere.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>
Red Squirrels in South Scotland	<a href="http://www.redsquirrels.org.uk">http://www.redsquirrels.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="http://www.strathclyde.police.uk/yourcommunity/ayrshire/girvan_and_south_carrick/">www.strathclyde.police.uk/yourcommunity/ayrshire/girvan_and_south_carrick/</a>

## USEFUL CONTACTS

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

*A very merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year to all*

# STINCHAR VALLEY MAGAZINE WINTER 2015 EDITION

3

## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Winter 2015 issue of the Stinchar Valley Magazine. This publication is your chance to read and make the community news in the Stinchar Valley and surrounding region.

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

Would you or someone you know like to appear here in the future? We cover Ballantrae, Barr, Barrhill, Colmonell, Glenapp, Lendalfoot, Pinwherry and Pinmore areas. For all this and anything else that crosses your mind about our communities contact the editorial team. Your input is vital. Be heard, make a difference.

**Front Cover: La Malouine at anchor off Ballantrae, August 2015, photographed by Janice Newland**

## HOW TO SEND IN YOUR ARTICLES AND PICTURES

You can email your local representatives or send to the editor John McAlley at [stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk). If you do not have access to a computer or email you can post or drop off material to our Editor John McAlley at: Ligartrie Farm Pinwherry KA26 0SL. We will return any material to you.

Send in text as a WORD or OPEN OFFICE document. Please do not place photographs in a Word document, attach separately. Photographs should be correctly named; full size images straight from the camera and scanned images should be high resolution (Min 300 DPI) wherever possible. Tell us any special instructions about the layout/content of your article. What are the images about that you want included? Include any Website names and web links that are relevant. If you have a logo or badge – please send a high resolution image of this. Try to avoid vivid colour backgrounds.

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION - SPRING 2016 SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO REPS OR THE EDITOR IS 28th JANUARY**

DISTRIBUTION TO VILLAGES W/C 7th MARCH 2016

### LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES AND EDITORIAL PANEL

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**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.*



The Stinchar Valley Magazine is funded by  
Hadyard Hill Community Benefit Fund Ltd.  
And Carrick Futures Community Benefit Fund



# Recommended Tradesman

4

## Have you had a good job done?

Drop us an email at  
Stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk



TRADE	NAME	TELEPHONE	MOBILE	RECOMMENDER	DATE
Plumber	Eric Gibson	01465 714791	07522 672767	Frank Bean	11/12
Carpet Fitter	Mark Foster	01465 713884	07722 892263	Frank Bean	11/12
Computer Problems	Robert Carty	01465 479176	07523 847119	Jim Fleming	11/13
Electrician	John Foster	01655 331257	07526 464524	Jim Fleming	11/13
Gardening Services	Fraser Wallace	01465 831487		Jim Fleming	11/13
Painting and Decorating	Ian Picken		07814 962695	Ruth Murray	5/15
Plumbing/Heating	Eric Hyslop	01671 402646		John McAlley	1/14
Appliance Repairs	Howard Galley	01465 831537		Peter Newland	1/14
Plumbing/Gas Engineer	Ross McCulloch	01292 550954	07766 978568	Claire Pirrie	1/14
Plumbing/Heating	Ian Terry	01465 712594	07733 470874	Dr M L McKenna	
Rev Jim Guthrie	8/14				
Roofers	Danny Cunningham and Sons	01465 891000	07971 076308	Dr M L McKenna	8/14
Plasterer	Scott McMillan	01465 715248		Rev Jim Guthrie	
Window Cleaner	Peter Schofield		07831 499998	Ruth Murray	6/15
Joiner	W Lyle	01465 831039		Rev Jim Guthrie	
Grass Cutting	Stephen Simpson	01465 710421		Ruth Murray	5/15
Tree Services	Ben Lockwood	01671 403111	07985 423790	Ruth Murray	5/15
Painter/decorator	Jon Sale		07526 020306	Carol McKenzie	8/15
Electrician	George McCardle		07904 35925	John Thorburn	8/15

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS IN THE VILLAGES

Community Councils bridge the gap between local authorities and communities, and help to make public bodies aware of the opinions and needs of the communities they represent.

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

	All meetings begin at 7.30pm and are open to the public
Ballantrae	Last Tuesday of the month (except Dec) Public hall
Barrhill	4th Wednesday of the month (except July, Sept & Dec) Memorial Hall
Colmonell & Lendalfoot	4th Tuesday of the month (alternate months from Jan) Village Hall
Pinwherry & Pinmore	3rd Thursday of the month (alternate months from Jan) Community Hall

### LOCAL COUNCIL ISSUES - SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL CONTACT CENTRE

Don't wait for others to report issues, it may not be done! Telephone the Customer Services Team on 0300 123 0900. Send a Text message to 0797 1120 498.

### OUR ROADS

If you are driving and spot a road hazard - for example potholes, flooding, overgrown hedges or overhanging dead trees or anything else on the roads that has the potential to cause harm, loss or injury - do not assume that somebody else may have reported the hazard.

### TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

Contact Ayrshire Roads Alliance immediately by:

- Telephone: 01563 503164
- [www.ayrshireroadsalliance.org](http://www.ayrshireroadsalliance.org) - select Report a Fault "Roads" or any other categories and complete and send the form
- by emailing: [enquiries@ayrshireroadsalliance.org](mailto:enquiries@ayrshireroadsalliance.org)

## PINWHERRY & PINMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL VACANCIES

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

If so, please contact any Community Councillor or come to a Community Council meeting

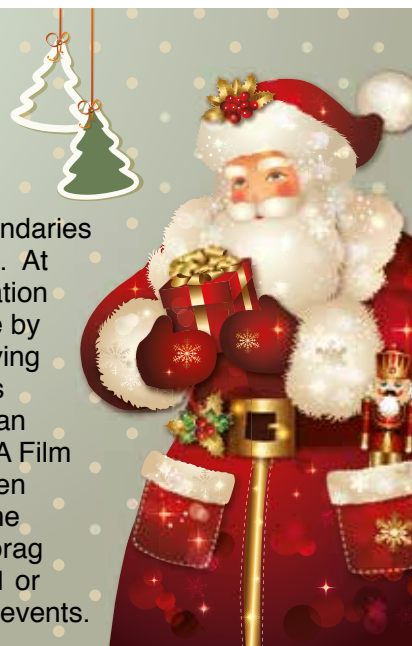
7.30 pm in Pinwherry Hall Bi-Monthly, on the third Thursday of January, March, etc.

## PINWHERRY & PINMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HOSPITAL TRANSPORT

We are piloting a scheme to assist residents within the boundaries of the Pinwherry & Pinmore Community Council area with the cost of transportation for patients to access appointments, treatments or hospital stays. Any resident who thinks they may qualify is asked to e-mail Joy Chamberlain at **ppcctransport@btinternet.com** or if no internet access phone **01465 841211**

## PINWHERRY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

During 2014 Pinwherry Community Association extended their boundaries to coincide with the Pinwherry & Pinmore Community Council area. At that time, we circulated letters to each household to gather information on the occupants of each household. At Christmas our events are by invitation, and we feel that a lot of people are missing out on receiving an invitation because they did not reply or have recently moved into the district. As Christmas is just round the corner, any lady age 60 years or over and any gentleman aged 65 years or over is eligible to be invited to our annual dinner at Malin Court. A Film Night is also being arranged for the Children. All pre-primary/ primary school children receive a present from Santa however all children of school age are invited to come along. Please, if you have not returned the form or are new to the area contact Morag Campbell secretary of Pinwherry Community Association urgently on 01465841641 or [campbell0qe@btinternet.com](mailto:campbell0qe@btinternet.com) so you do not continue to miss out on these popular events.



## PINWHERRY WRI

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



This is our invitation to come along and join us. We meet on the second Monday of each month, September to May, in the village hall at 7.30pm.

In October Pinwherry SWRI welcomed Liz Copeland who gave a talk and presentation on spinning. Members enjoyed hands on experience of combing

wool, the spinning wheel and a drop spindle

November saw us having a talk on the Ayrshire Food Bank and all the good work they do. For our Christmas celebration we will

meet at Malin Court on December 14th which is always a good night with good food and good company. January we welcome Gardening Leave. In February there will be crochet with Mrs Mandy McLaughlin.

Our second whist drive will be held on the 5th February.

Once again we invite you to come along and enjoy the evenings we have at the rural.

**Lana Rafferty Secy 01465 841272.**



## 2 PINS COMMUNITY COMPANY

# 2 PINS VINTAGE TRACTOR & FARM EQUIPMENT, VINTAGE CARS, BIKES & MOTOR BIKES & CAR BOOT SALE

Crowds of visitors to the 2 Pins site in Pinwherry saw a large collection of vintage farm tractors and farming equipment and a collection of 14 vintage cars. Local farmers and tractor owners were on hand to explain how the tractors and equipment were used over the last century on farms around the area. The vintage car owners were also there to describe the history of their cars. There was much interest in the old style bikes and vintage motor bikes.



*This successful event will be repeated so if you missed it watch out for next year's event.*

There was a display of early 19th century kitchen household utensils, coins and photographs and a collection of local farmers' potato sacks. Much fun was had trying out the Gird and Cleek (can you remember what that was?) which many local children used on the way to school. The car boot stall holders also enjoyed the day. The burger van had a never ending queue for burgers, tea and coffee.



# PINWERRY CRAFT FAIR

## October 2015

7



# 2 Pins Community Centre



Foundation  
Scotland



Company Limited by Guarantee No. 430441

Scottish Charity No SC043849

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

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

Follow us on Facebook :- 2 Pins Community Company

Find our Web Page :- [www.2pins.org.uk](http://www.2pins.org.uk)

## 2 Pins and Pinwherry Community Association Joint Fund Raising



Children in Need

COUNTRYFILE



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

### BBC Country File Children in Need Sponsored Walk

It was a wet walk up the hill to the standing Glake Stane but many made it. Sandra Colbert, shown at the Stane, raised over £120. At the time of going to press we are still collecting in sponsorship money.

### Pinwherry Rail Halt Survey

To date we have received 60 replies to the survey. There is still time to send in your survey form. We know it is a complicated form but this is what is required in order to comply with the necessary requirements. Please fill in whatever you can and add any comments. We will be compiling the results in the very near future and will print the results in the Carrick Gazette.

### Pinwherry Primary School

Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Development Association have made an application to South Ayrshire Council for the Asset Transfer of the now disused Pinwherry Primary School Buildings. The aim is to convert the buildings into a hostel and bunkhouse for visitors and tourists to the area. Architects have

been appointed to carry out detailed drawings and costings. Subject to the conversion cost being able to be funded, the Association will look for the building to transfer to the community.

### The 2 Pins Craft Fair

There were 15 craft stalls at this year's annual event. All the items on sale were hand crafted. There was jewellery, pottery, wood carving, quilting, home baking, pictures, plants, clocks and much more. The event drew locals and visitors from as far as from Glasgow and England, who all bought early Christmas presents from local crafters. The fair raised £441 towards the joint funding of the 2 Pins and Pinwherry Community Association.





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what we have to offer

Santa will be visiting  
the Garden Centre on  
12, 13, 19 & 20 December

The Garden Centre will close  
at 4pm on Christmas Eve and  
re-open Monday 4 January at 9am

We would like to wish  
all our customers  
a Very Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year

Main Street, Ballantrae  
KA26 0NB  
Tel: 01465 831052

### Do You Need a Website?



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### Clockworks Handcrafted Clocks

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

Ian Challis  
email: [ian.challis@homecall.co.uk](mailto:ian.challis@homecall.co.uk)

## FRIENDS FROM CARRICK YFC LATE '50S – EARLY '60S

Ideally to be sung to the tune of Phil the Fluter's Ball

Have you heard of Carrick District  
The famed young farmers club?  
And what we all got up to  
In the days before the pub  
Our tastes were very simple  
But still we had a ball  
We met up on a Wednesday  
In Pinwherry village hall

There were Drennans from the Home Farm  
Kays from up the Stinchar  
Murdochs from McCrindleston  
And Smiths from Dunnymuck  
Curries from Knockrochar  
And Hutchisons from Alticane  
People came from all around  
And more than I can name

We had meetings in Pinwherry Hall  
Very well attended  
Whist drives, dances  
A welcome was extended  
Poultry trussing, root show  
You had to try them all  
O! Hadn't we the gaiety  
In Pinwherry village hall

There came Carswells from Chirmorrie  
Stevensons and Chalmers  
McWriters, Wyllies,  
The Logans from Dalfask  
Milroys, Douglasses, Jamiesons and Fergusons  
The Stewarts from Balsalloch  
And many more forbye

We held sports days, rallies  
Beetle drives and conferences  
Treasure hunts and stock judging  
And loads of things besides  
There was speechmaking  
And concerts  
And that's not near it all  
O! Hadn't we the gaiety  
In Pinwherry village hall

# BOSWELL'S TAXI



**07909 762013  
01465 821098**

# BARRHILL

The school website is being kept up to date by Iona, one of our P5 children, who works very hard at an afterschool club once a week.

The website is there for everyone to see what is happening at our school from parents, grandparents and other family to the wider community who have an interest in the school.

You'll find amongst other things newsletters, lunch menus, a weekly noticeboard and upcoming events along with photos showing what we've been learning.

Please take a look at [www.barrhill.sayr.sch.uk](http://www.barrhill.sayr.sch.uk)



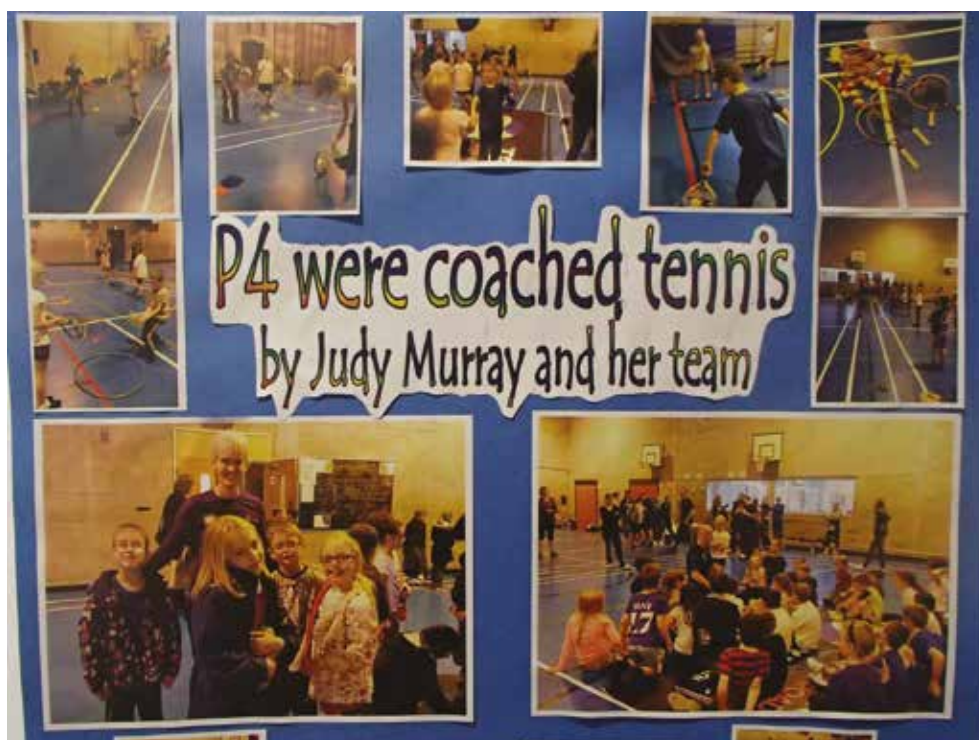
Congratulations to Andrew Clegg who won volunteer of the year last night at South Ayrshire Sports Council Awards.

The school presented Andrew with his Trophy.

The Primary 4 children from South Ayrshire Schools were invited for Tennis Coaching with Judy Murray and her team.



Andrew Clegg receiving his trophy



## CHRISTMAS BANNER

An afterschool club was run by Mrs Martindale to create designs for the annual Banner competition in which a winning design is selected. The winning banner is then displayed on Ayr High Street at Christmas.

The winner of this competition was Daisy Redman.



Fundraising efforts are still running strong for the refurbishment of the Memorial Hall, following an extremely successful Gala Day in conjunction with the opening of the brand new Arnsheen Park, where a whopping £800 was made after costs.

To continue building upon this success, and to establish the hall as the heart of the community, there are a number of clubs currently at the hall available to all in the Stinchar Valley to attend, Keep Fit, Badminton, Playgroup, Whist, Camera Club, Arnsheen Fellowship Group and St Colmon Church to name a few. If you would like to start a club or even hold an event or a meeting do please get in touch, there may be funds to help you do so.

The Memorial Hall will also be the scene for many exciting events to come including; the pensioners' Christmas Dinner, the Children's Christmas Party, the Whist Tournament and if numbers allow a Christmas Craft Fair. Dates for events in 2016 are also currently being set with a Flower Show in the pipeline for late August/early September so get your gardens in bloom and we will look forward to seeing you all over the coming months!

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

## GUIDE DOG TALKS

Hello everybody, just a note from Harley the Ayrshire Guide Dog and Hippy (aka Bill), his owner, from Pinwherry to let you know they are available to provide educational and informative talks about guide dogs and the general challenges faced by blind persons during everyday life.

Harley and Bill are both experienced in delivering these talks across Ayrshire and have already given two very successful talks to Barrhill Primary School and to Ballantrae Beavers. With talks aimed for all ages both Harley and Bill will be more than happy to attend your group, school or club to share their story and the stories of other guide dogs and their owners.

**To arrange a talk please contact Bill on 01465 841318.**

## COLMONELL WRI

Colmonell WRI started on September 9th with a talk and slide show by Victoria Brown from Gardening Leave, an organisation which helps people with stress related injuries.

On October 14th, we had Mary Jeans talking about her trek up Kilimanjaro.

November 11th was our Open Night with guests from Rural members all around to hear Annie Sutherland with her 'Games Old and New'.

December 9th is our Christmas Party with a meal and entertainment by Music Box.

We start our new year with games by Martie and Val.

**Everyone is welcome to come and join us at any of these meetings. For more information phone Margaret on 881352.**

# COLMONELL COMMUNITY HALLOWEEN PARTY

Witches, warlocks, ghosts and ghouls, fairies, princesses, skeletons and more!! All gathered together in Colmonell Community Centre to feast and make merry at the annual Halloween party. A big thank you goes to Anne Malone for bravely agreeing to judge the fancy dress which was no mean feat, as around thirty-something excited children had to be brought under control to allow her to choose the best dressed.

**Winners were as follows:**

**Pre-School: 1st Maisie Wilson,  
2nd Cerys Jones, 3rd Jake McKeachan**

**P1-4: 1st Lyra Williams,  
2nd Charlie McFarlane, 3rd Katie Frew**

**P5-7: 1st Cameron McFarlane,  
2nd Kayleigh Robertson,  
3rd Jacob McFarlane**



**The children had a wonderful time and it is expected that most of the adults will make a full recovery in time for the Christmas party!**

## COLMONELL BOWLING CLUB

Colmonell Bowling green closed on Sunday 27th September, with members and friends enjoying good weather that day.

The green has now been given its treatment for the winter and we hope to have it in good order for next year's play. Our annual dinner and presentation of prizes was held in the Boars Head on Saturday 14th November. Overall club champion this year is Len Clark, and runner up Douglas McTaggart. Len also won the gents singles, and runner up was George Parker. Ladies singles winner was Evelyn McCubbin and runner up Margaret Roberts.

Queen's Pairs cup winners were George Parker and Margaret Robertson and runners up were Douglas McTaggart and Marion McQuiston.

## COLMONELL BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Colmonell baby and toddler group held a Halloween party on 30th October. Claire Pirrie had the difficult task of judging the outfits and prizes were won by two bats, a pilot and Doc McStuffins! The group is open to all babies, toddlers and pre-schoolers from the Stinchar Valley area up to the age of 5 years and meets every Friday afternoon in Colmonell Kirk Hall

from 1.30pm to 3pm.  
For more information contact Eileen McCutcheon on 881191.



## COLMONELL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

A Development Group has now been established in Colmonell to identify improvements for the village and take forward projects.

The group are in the process of becoming constituted and are organising a joint event with Colmonell Community Association to buy new Christmas lights and have a 'switch on' event on 7th December.

All are welcome to join in singing carols and enjoy mince pies, and we look forward to hearing some Christmas carols from Creetown Silver Band.

## STINCHAR VALLEY PHOTO GROUP

We meet on the last Thursday of every month (except December) from 7.30pm until about 9.30pm in BRICC House, Main Street Ballantrae. Our aim is "To help more local people take better pictures". Members take their pictures using a variety of cameras - mobile phones, compact cameras as well as digital SLRs.

The format of our get-togethers is very informal and supportive (with no competitions) and the evening is usually broken into 20-25 minute sections each on a different topic reflecting the interests of members. And there's always plenty to talk about over a mid-evening cup of tea or coffee.

**If you would like to join us, please just come along or contact Karen (831 717) Stephen (831 252) or Andy (831 122).**

# BALLANTRAE AND COLMONELL PRIMARY SCHOOLS

**A very warm welcome to our Ballantrae and Colmonell Primary Schools' news. Although our term from August till October was a short one, we have managed to take part in a wide range of activities, both as individual schools and together, that we would like to share with you.**

Our after school clubs have been very active and well attended by almost all children in our schools.

At Colmonell, Mrs Shankland had a walking club on a Monday afternoon and our children were regularly seen out and about exploring their village, learning about the world around them and keeping fit. Mrs McKechnan, our parent volunteer, also organised a multi-sport activity. Our older children enjoyed a range of sporting activities including dodgeball and football. This term Mrs McKechnan will take our younger children for tennis. As part of our PE programme, pupils in Colmonell Primary are having specialist coaching in rugby and gymnastics.

In Ballantrae our children have had a wealth of activity after school. Mrs McLennan and Miss McColm held an art and craft club on a Monday afternoon for Primary 1-4 pupils. Our children enjoyed creating a number of pieces of spectacular art work. On a Thursday afternoon, two different activities took place. Our active schools volunteers, Mrs Stewart and Ms Erskine continue with their wonderful gymnastics work with children from Primary 4-7; and for those children whose creative skills lie in a different direction, Mrs Sloan and Mrs Gregg held a drama club for children from Primary 1-4. A tennis club also took place on a Wednesday

afternoon and our children made good use of the local tennis courts in our unseasonably warm and sunny weather.

This term, children from Primary 4-7 in both Ballantrae and Colmonell primary schools are involved in a Girvan Schools Cluster badminton league. Teams of four children will play others from local schools between now and May. Good luck everyone!

We are always looking for volunteers to help us out with activities in school, particularly with gardening, sewing, crafts and other practical activities. If you feel that you have something to offer please feel free to get in touch at any time.

As two rural communities, Harvest was celebrated by both schools during our annual Harvest Thanksgiving Assemblies.

Ballantrae Primary School, Primary 1-4s put on a wonderful performance of 'The Gingerbread Man'; the main character very ably played by Arran in Primary 4. Reflecting our play, Primary 3 and 4 participated in an enterprise project which involved baking some delicious Gingerbread People which were sold out on the first day and a number of subsequent orders taken. Our mini entrepreneurs discussed aspects of profit and loss, advertising, sales and problem solving during this activity and also enjoyed sampling the end product!

Colmonell's delightful enactment of 'The Little Red Hen' was performed by pupils from Primary 1-7; the main character was expertly enacted by Jacob from Primary

7 and included a pair of marigold rubber gloves for hen's feet. The nursery class also performed 'The Dingle Dangle Scarecrow' which was enjoyed by all.

Our overall theme for this year's Harvest Assembly was about caring for our world and each other. Primary 5-7 presented some information about the Global Goals for Sustainable Development which has recently been agreed as global targets to work towards by all, for achievement by 2030. Further information can be found at #GLOBALGOALS. After our assemblies we held a harvest lunch for each of our communities and raised the fabulous combined amount of £285 to go towards UNICEF Refugee Appeal. Many thanks for everyone's support.

In September our Primary 5-7 children from Colmonell and Ballantrae Primary had the opportunity to take part in a drama workshop activity at Rozelle entitled 'Next of Kin'. The children took part in a variety of creative activities to highlight the role of people left at home during World War 1. The learning from this activity will continue throughout this session in school, and be reflected in both our Remembrance Services in November and our Holocaust Memorial Day in January. It will culminate in a further experiential activity at Culzean whereby children will recreate a day from 1916 when children from Kirkoswald Primary School visited injured troops who had been sent to Culzean to recuperate.

Last term saw our Pupil Council committees from both Ballantrae Primary School and Colmonell Primary School organise a MacMillan Coffee Morning in each school. Each event was very well supported by our communities, both in terms of donations of home baking and in attendance of these events. We raised the fabulous combined sum of £665 which will go to this very worthwhile cause. Our Pupil Councils organised this activity as an opportunity for wider achievement. In organising this activity they further develop their skills in enterprise, communication, organisation and leadership and it has enabled them to become Responsible Citizens, Effective Contributors and Confident Individuals.

More recently, we were delighted to have the opportunity to host the Travelling Art Gallery in Ballantrae Primary School Playground. This year's exhibition is called 'Eyes on the Prize' and the bus hosts a selection of past Scottish Turner Prize winners and nominees. Children from both Colmonell and Ballantrae thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to see and explore the work of some high profile artists and were full of enthusiasm and excitement after visiting the bus. It is always wonderful to have the opportunity of a cultural activity visit us and it expands the children's appreciation of the arts.





# ACTIVE SCHOOLS SOUTH AYRSHIRE



15

I am Claire Rogerson and I am the Active Schools Coordinator for Girvan Academy, and the cluster primary schools. I work within the Active Schools team in South Ayrshire to provide more and higher quality opportunities for children to participate in school sport and to increase capacity through recruitment of volunteers who deliver activity sessions.

## BADMINTON SPORTS HALL FESTIVAL

On the 14th September Primary 6 and 7 pupils from across the cluster participated in a Badminton Sports hall festival run by Badminton Scotland and Girvan Academy's Sports Academy pupils. The pupils rotated round 10 different badminton skills based sessions. After the success of this event a Badminton League has now been set up for all the schools to compete in. If you are interested in getting involved in the league please contact your school direct.

## COMMUNITY BADMINTON CLUB

In August a badminton club was established in Barr by Active Schools. The club is on a Tuesday night from 6-9pm. With the junior session taking place from 6-7pm. This session is delivered by two senior pupils from Girvan Academy. The second session runs from 7-9pm and is for anyone over the age of 14. The club cost £2 and is open to any age and ability.

Barrhill's community badminton club has started back up and is also on a Tuesday night from 6-8pm. The session is open to all ages and abilities. Andy Clegg who organises and promotes the club won South Ayrshire Sports Council Volunteer of the year at their awards in October.

## TENNIS ON THE ROAD

South Ayrshire Active Schools have been working with the Tennis on the Road team to bring Judy Murray to South Ayrshire schools and clubs. Judy and her coaching team aim to give parents, coaches, teachers and volunteers the tools needed to get kids active and to help further kick-start and develop tennis in Scotland.

At the heart of the programme are the games Judy Murray enjoyed with Jamie and Andy when they were little. The roadshow showcased simple games and activities using everyday household objects that cost nothing to set up and that help develop the vital ABCs of sport – agility, balance and co-ordination.

## AYR WRITERS' CLUB

Ayr Writers' Club's first competition of the season, was sponsored by Guy Pringle, Editor of popular *newbooks* magazine (for readers and readers' groups). The idea for a competition to review a book published in 2015 came from Sheila Grant, a long-standing member of AWC and also a regular book reviewer for 'newbooks'.

Editor, and adjudicator Guy Pringle said, 'Congratulations to all who made the shortlist. These 10 reviews examine a fascinating cross-section of books that have been read, inwardly digested and thoughtfully analysed. This is not an easy skill.'

Overall winner is James Rose with *Poems by Iain Banks and Ken MacLeod*, who receives a year's subscription to *newbooks* and a cross section of nb recommended reads. Runners up are Linda Brown for *After the Crash* by Michael Bussi and Alison Craig for *The Hundred Year*

## GIRLS FOOTBALL

This term Active Schools have given Girls in South Ayrshire the chance to take part in coaching sessions over 5 weeks. Due to the success of this programme it has now been extended and will be continuing at Girvan Primary on a Thursday from 4.30-5.30pm for P3/4/5/6 pupils. If you are interested in going along please contact Claire.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED

A main priority of Active Schools is to recruit and retain volunteers as this helps to increase the number of activity sessions which can be offered to pupils. Creating a network of volunteer coaches is vital within the rural community as funding is not always available to pay for coaches or cover travel cost. Active Schools provides all volunteers with the opportunity to develop their coaching skills through free coach education courses and support from the Active Schools Network.

Girvan Academy pupil Emma Milroy won the Active Schools Volunteer of the Month Award as she was an outstanding volunteer over the summer holidays. Emma delivered over 50 hours of coaching helping at the Z1 summer programme and delivering badminton at Barr.

If you would like to get involved please contact me on **Claire. rogerson@south-ayrshire.gov.uk** or **07976 069482**.

For more information on Active Schools check out our website

[www.activeschoolssa.co.uk](http://www.activeschoolssa.co.uk)

[www.facebook.com/activeschoolsSA](https://www.facebook.com/activeschoolsSA)

[www.twitter.com/activeschoolsSA](https://www.twitter.com/activeschoolsSA)



Photograph - from left to right - Alison Craig, James Rose and Linda Brown.

*Flood* by Matthew Salesses. Both receive 1 year nb subscriptions.

Of the winning entry, Guy said, 'Perhaps James had an advantage choosing to include a particularly witty selection of quotes. However, my philosophy on a good review is that it should add the book to your I must read list or the converse, this is not for me. I am not by choice a reader of poetry and James' review put this book on my must read list which is quite an achievement.'

James' review will be published in *newbooks* 87 due out late December, 2015.

**Ayr Writers' Club meet every Wednesday at 7.30pm at the Mercure Hotel, Ayr.**

# ADVENTURE CARRICK

Adventure Carrick is based in South West Scotland on the Firth of Clyde. Operating since 2005, we offer a wide range of outdoor activities on land, river or sea. We're passionate about what we do and when you come and join us you'll understand why... it is fantastic!!!

We offer exciting family adventures for all age groups and abilities. From leisurely outdoor activities to adrenaline sports, it's up to you how extreme you want to go! If you're an experienced adrenaline junkie we can take you to the 'hidden places off the beaten track'.

What do the winter months mean to you? Cold days, dark nights, curtains closed, crank up the heating and settle down to watch TV....

Here at Adventure Carrick winter is the season to get the camp fires burning and learn the skills to light and tend a fire. There are so many ways to do this and our bushcraft specialists would love to show you how. We run family bushcraft sessions which can be tailored to your specific needs.

New to Adventure Carrick are outdoor birthday parties, we have a range of themes from Gruffalo hunting to archery and bushcraft.

The winter is a great time to get out into the hills and explore whether it's by foot or bike. We provide guided walks with a focus on plants and nature and we can help you improve your navigation and map reading skills.

Mountain biking can be one of the most exciting sports out there! If you're a seasoned adrenaline junkie then you'll know the thrill you get from riding a trail, dodging between trees, skidding through the mud and jumping obstacles. We offer training for beginners all the way through to experienced riders who would like to improve their riding skills.



**Get in touch and book your winter adventure now.**

Give us a call on 07920 406982 or visit our website [www.adventurecarrick.com](http://www.adventurecarrick.com).

## AN INDEPENDENT VIEW

Time sure flies by when you're having fun! Summer came and went, autumn passed us by and here we are with the dark winter nights and nearly time for the season of joy once again.

For me personally it has been a privilege to serve our communities for another year, trying to smooth out any bumps in the road and support those who give of their time and skills to work hard for the benefit of their town and villages.

Talking of bumps in the road, it would not be business as usual without a good deal of my casework being taken up with roads and transport issues. There has been a fair bit of work carried out this year on the A77 between Girvan and Stranraer which in turn brings its own challenges to the A714 Girvan to Newton Stewart road with diverted traffic. It is good to note that the condition of the A714 has greatly improved with resurfacing and other works having been carried out over the course of the year. The Assel Valley wind farm access also brought about some complications with travel from the villages to Girvan and beyond, however at least this was only a short term temporary problem.

Development groups and associations do a power of work to make village life better for all residents and to make visitors enjoy the experience. In Ballantrae this has been an exceptionally busy year with the Ballantrae Festival of Food and Drink in late spring being a roaring success (even given the windy weather), the ever popular Gala, the Smugglers Festival, the Keep Ballantrae Safe event and, of course, the Farmers' Markets. In Pinwherry and Pinmore, the 2 pins Centre project continues to make progress and now moves are afoot to take ownership of Pinwherry primary school for use as a hostel and bunk house which would be welcome news for the many walkers and hikers in this area. It is also great to see a new development group being formed in the village of Colmonell which will take projects forward for the benefit of village residents. Acknowledgement also has to go to the villages of Barr and Dailly who have similar bodies carrying out great work on their own patch.

In Girvan, the new Girvan and South Carrick leisure centre is on course to start construction in January and by the time that you

read this article, the board of South Carrick community leisure will have a name for the new centre which will have been independently chosen from hundreds of entries from schools and the general public. This centre will be a great attraction and make a huge difference to our neck of the woods.

Police Scotland have now completed their move to an office at the back of Girvan Community Hospital. It is a sad retrograde move in my opinion which sees another of our front line agencies move from a high viz and easily accessible site, which is why they were based there, to an out of town out of the way site with no easy public access. I know that it is all down to finance but oh for the days when there was a duty of service to the public and the public had the confidence to ask a policeman on the beat because they would know the answer. The police will always have my support to carry out the work needed to safeguard the public. What I cannot support is the loss of visible town centre and easily accessible premises which long ago happened to the villages and now is happening in our towns.

Just in time for the local elections of 2017 will be the outcome of the review by the boundaries commission which could see the enlargement of ward eight Girvan and South Carrick. This is already a large ward where the three councillors do their best to represent an electorate which is fairly well spread out and accounts for seven community councils and ten schools. It looks like the review is based solely on population and that means you could have a ward in Ayr which is maybe two or three miles square with four councillors whilst South Carrick could possibly take in Turnberry, Maidens and Kirkoswald with three councillors. Changing times and challenges to be overcome!!

At this time of year we need to look forward to spending time with families and friends, looking back over the old year and ahead to the new with renewed vigour and enthusiasm. Have a wonderful Christmas and a peaceful, healthy and prosperous new year.

**Alec Clark**





## CRAFTY BEES

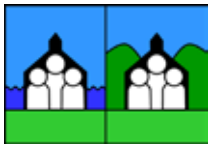
Ballantrae Crafty Bees has had a busy start to the new session. Already we have decorated mugs, made Kanzashi Flower brooches, decorated cakes, designed our own wooden heart notice boards and of course a couple of Christmas crafts too.

We have lots planned for the New Year, including jewellery making and bag designing. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 7.30pm in BRICC House. All adults are welcome, and the weekly cost is £3 which covers the hire of BRICC and all craft materials.

**For more information, please contact  
Barbara Ogston on 01465 831252**



## BALLANTRAE CHURCH LINKED WITH ST COLMON CHURCH



As we approach Christmas, I am sure many of us will have times with friends and family in the weeks leading up to it as well as Christmas Day itself. Spending time with people you know is important as that is how friendships are maintained and strengthened

In September, Ballantrae and St Colmon Churches welcomed Rev Alick Mhone and Rev Bordingtone Singini from Malawi, who were

visiting different Ayrshire churches as part of a team of four from our partner church in Malawi. During my two visits to Malawi, I met Alick and so it was a great opportunity to spend time with him and get to know him much better. In the link with our partner church, Lwambaza, Alick has been very useful in emailing information and photos of the church there.

When Alick and Bordingtone visited us, we were keen to show them the beauty of our parishes and so we gave them a tour which included the Martyrs Tomb in Barrhill, the Church and graveyard at Colmonell, the view from the mast above Ballantrae, Glenapp Church and finally afternoon tea at Glenapp Castle, courtesy of the owners there. We also had an evening social gathering on the Saturday night, which was meant to be us entertaining our guests, but also included singing and dancing from our two visitors in true Malawi style.

On Sunday Alick preached in both St Colmon and Ballantrae Churches and then in the evening we had a Malawi Celebration service, with friends from Girvan North (where Bordingtone had preached that morning) and Milestone



Christian Fellowship in Girvan. It was a great time together right at the end of a busy weekend and some of us even managed to dance with our Malawian friends!

Since they have left, we have continued to work hard to support them and their work, and had a great Harvest Two Spoon Supper on 9th October, which if you didn't get to this year, make sure you get there next year. As well as raising funds for the work of our partner church, it was a great time to gather at an important point in the year as we give thanks to God for the harvest.

And in the run up to Christmas, many churches in Ayrshire are selling Alternative Gift Cards in order to raise funds to buy Solar Lights for people in Malawi. Few homes or public buildings have electricity in Malawi, and without electricity families have to use homemade kerosene lamps. These are a poor source of light, emit toxic black smoke and are extremely hazardous, which often means that children can't study in the evening. A solar light saves the family money, improves health, makes their homes safer and allows children to complete their homework. These gift cards cost £10 and are available to purchase at the churches or by contacting myself (details below).

Wherever you are and whoever you are with, I hope and pray that you have a great Christmas and enjoy or remember time with your friends and family.

God bless,  
**Stephen**





**6:30pm for 7pm in St Colmon Kirk Hall, Colmonell**  
**4th and 18th December and then every**  
**2nd and 4th Friday of the month throughout 2016.**

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

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

### Church Information

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

### St Colmon Parish Church

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

### Ballantrae Parish Church

11:30am every Sunday in Ballantrae with Sunshine Club for all children 0 to 12 years old.

We also have our contemporary Sunday at Seven service which is usually on the first Sunday of the month at 7pm.

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

### Rev Stephen Ogston

The Manse, 1 The Vennel, Ballantrae, KA26 0NH

Tel: 01465 831252 Email: [ogston@macfish.com](mailto:ogston@macfish.com)

[www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk)

[www.stcolmonparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.stcolmonparishchurch.org.uk)

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

## Christmas Services

### Thursday 17th December:

7pm – St Colmon Carol Concert, Colmonell

### Friday 18th December:

6:30pm for 7pm – Christmas Cafe Church, Kirk Hall, Colmonell

### Sunday 20th December:

10am – St Colmon Church, Colmonell - Nativity Celebration

11:30am – Ballantrae Church - Nativity Celebration

### Monday 21st December:

7pm – Barrhill Christmas Carols in the Memorial Hall

### Thursday 24th December:

11:30pm – Ballantrae Church - Watchnight Service

11:30pm – St Colmon Church, Colmonell - Watchnight Service

### Friday 25th December:

10:30am – Ballantrae Church - Christmas Family Service



## BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH MALAWI LINK

**By Margaret Bean on behalf of the Malawi Committee**

As reported in the last magazine, the Presbytery of Ayr was responsible for hosting a group of representatives from Bandawe Presbytery in September. We in Ballantrae were fortunate to host two members of the team for part of their visit who stayed with our minister, Rev Ogston, his wife Barbara and two children at Ballantrae Manse.

Members of our Malawi committee were responsible for conducting a tour of the local area including a visit to the Covenanters' Graves, tea at Glenapp Castle, lunch at Colmonell Kirk and a walk around Ballantrae. We also held an informal service in Ballantrae Church on the Saturday evening, including entertainment provided by local members and our two guests who were piped into church by three of our local pupils. The committee provided a scrumptious supper which was enjoyed by everyone.

# Two Spoons Harvest Supper

This event was held for the third year running in our local community hall. A delicious hot meal with a choice of soups, sweets, tea/coffee, biscuits and cheese and fruit was prepared and served by our committee and friends.

We had a really enjoyable evening with folks staying to chat with friends and enjoy the delicious spread.

As a result £375.00 was raised which will be sent to Malawi to help with completion of the manse at Lwambaza.

We have during these past months been collecting donations of clothing, footwear, childrens' games and garden tools to be shipped to the presbytery in Malawi. These were the main articles which Jackie Maxwell and Rev Ogston informed us were most needed, following their

visit to Malawi. So far we have collected in the region of twenty boxes.

At the end of November a few of our members will transport the boxes to Strachur to deliver them to The Ravens' Trust, the organisation responsible for shipment to Bandawe.

Participating churches within the presbytery are selling "light up Malawi" cards. These cost £10.00 each which can enable the purchase of a solar light. These provide a valuable source of light for students etc. to study in the evening in a country where darkness falls early in the evening. Perhaps these could perhaps make an unusual gift but, for Malawi folks, a valuable source of light.

On behalf of the Malawi Committee, huge thanks to everyone who has supported us in the past and we would welcome your continuing support

## BALLANTRAE DEVELOPMENT GROUP (BDG)

The Development Group recently organised the "Smugglers Festival and the "Keep Ballantrae Safe" event and developed a "Ballantrae Food Strategy". Reports can be found elsewhere in the magazine.

**Painting of the public garden gate:** The gate at the Community Hall will also be looked at and included in the invitation to tender if it needs painted.

**New owners at Glenapp Castle Hotel:** We have had initial conversations with Paul Szkiler the new owner who seems very keen to engage with the local community.

**Funding for Tourism:** We have heard a rumour that funding for tourism in Ayrshire is being reduced. Our view is this would be a disaster and we are investigating.

**Ballantrae Inflatable Marquee:** We are working closely with the Community Association to decide how the new marquee will be stored, transported and hired out.

**Village Play Facilities:** There have been two meetings of interested villagers to take forward suggestions for improving the children's play facilities and the recreational area in Ballantrae. We have begun to consult with relevant community groups as well as seek advice from South Ayrshire Council.

**Ballantrae Newsletter:** The first edition will be produced in late December and will issue from time to time between issues of the Stinchar Valley Magazine.

**Walks:** With the support of Ramblers Scotland we have produced 3 "Medal Routes" starting and ending in Ballantrae. These are a legacy from the Commonwealth Games. In addition we launched 4 Smugglers Trails as part of this year's Smugglers' Festival. We need to do a little tweaking of the text before the paperwork for the Smugglers' Trails is finalised. The BDG have agreed to support a new resident who would like to start a Ballantrae Walking Group.

### The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Charter

*The BDG has signed the Charter. Signing confirms we pledge to support the following principles:*

- Help to conserve the natural resources of the Biosphere
- Support the economy to benefit people and nature
- Promote cultural heritage and local products
- Contribute to the health and wellbeing of the community
- Develop knowledge, understanding and promote research
- Raise awareness of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

### Andy McAlpine

Secretary, Ballantrae Development Group  
(a sub Group of the Ballantrae Community Council)



### AYRSHIRE RED SQUIRREL WEBSITE PROBLEMS

The editor of this magazine received a query from a member of the public regarding how to report the sighting of a grey squirrel now that this project has ended. The reporting system on Ayrshire Red Squirrel Group's website is no longer functioning although the site is still there. To report sightings or for further information we suggest contacting Ayrshire Rivers Trust whose contact details are:

Tel. 01292 737300

Email [info@ayrshireriverstrust.org](mailto:info@ayrshireriverstrust.org)

website [www.ayrshireriverstrust.org](http://www.ayrshireriverstrust.org)

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121a Henrietta Street, Girvan • Telephone 01465 713410  
[www.ayrshiremotorpart.co.uk](http://www.ayrshiremotorpart.co.uk)

**BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
 would like to wish all a very happy Christmas  
 and a successful and healthy New Year



We look forward to welcoming members of the public to our  
 meetings, which take place on the last Tuesday of the month  
 at 19:00 in the Public Hall

# “MEDIC ON THE MOVE”

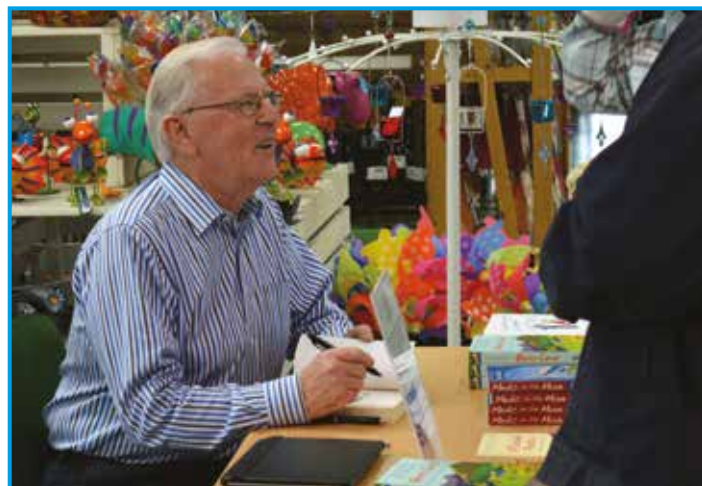
A new book by Dr Tom Smith

Local medic, Dr Tom Smith, well known former Ballantrae GP, writer and broadcaster, chose to go back to where it all started for the launch of his final book in his Seaside Practice Trilogy “Medic on the Move”.

The new book tells the continuing story of a rural GP in the fictional village of Collintrae as he moves from country doctor to international businessman, running pharmaceutical research for a multinational company. Tom’s first book, “A Seaside Practice” was a top ten bestseller. This was followed by “Going Loco”, which included tales of exploits as a locum doctor in the Hebridean Islands. Both books have been reprinted several times and both books have been turned into audio books.

His new book “Medic on the Move” was launched officially at a special book signing at Craigiemains Home and Garden Centre in Ballantrae on Saturday 19 September

Tom explains “A Seaside Practice and Going Loco have proven very popular with people locally. I’ve built up quite a following and it’s really thanks to their encouragement and repeated requests for more stories that I’ve written this third book in the series. Of course, although the books are fictional, without my former patients and friends in the area, I wouldn’t have the inspiration to write them in the first place. Right from the start, Craigiemains have been incredibly supportive of me as a local author, helping me to promote the books to locals and tourists alike, so it was only fitting that I



had my first book signing of the new book in the village where it all began. I had a great day on the 19th September – meeting old friends and making new ones.”

When Tom isn’t writing novels, he still works as a medical journalist, with regular slots on the Kaye Adams show on BBC Radio Scotland. A keen participant in the Ballantrae Smugglers Festival – playing the role of the evil doctor and as commentator or master of ceremonies for various events - he enjoys travelling, spending time with his family, and challenging his friends to games of golf.

Signed copies of Medic on the Move, printed by Solway Offset Publishing in Dumfries, are available from Craigiemains Home and Garden Centre in Ballantrae and The Sweetie Shop in Girvan. Copies of Tom’s earlier books are also available from Craigiemains.

Ballantrae Development Group have formed a sub group to develop a food strategy incorporating Farmers' Markets, Food Festivals and food related tourism. This sub group met for the first time on Wednesday 28th October to discuss and analyse previous Farmers' Markets and the first Festival of Food and Drink (held in May 2015), and plan the way forward.

The Ballantrae Development Group (a sub group of the Ballantrae Community Council) exists to support local businesses, encourage tourism, and provide unique events for locals, surrounding communities and visitors. The Food strategy will contribute to all three.

The Festival of Food and Drink held on 10th May 2015 has been recognised as one of Ayrshire's top food tourism events. It brought over 3800 visitors (and all the subsequent economic benefits) from across Scotland, England and much further afield. A snapshot from analysis of the free prize draw showed visitor attendance as: South Ayrshire (62%), rest of Ayrshire and Arran (12%), Dumfries and Galloway (17%), rest of Scotland (7%), England (1.5%) and international (0.5%). Analysis of the Farmers' Market visitors show a similar trend. A copy of the full evaluation report of the 2015 Festival is available from Susan (see below).

A second Ballantrae Festival of Food and Drink will take place on Sunday 12th June 2016 building on the success of the first. All the partners and stand holders are enthusiastic and committed to this next event. There

are opportunities for exhibiting and for sponsorship. For further details please contact Susan Crosthwaite (contact details below).

Twelve stallholders attended the Autumn Farmers' Market and we had another amazing food hamper filled with goodies donated by the stand holders and organisers for the raffle prize. This raised £125 for the Ballantrae Development Food Strategy Group and was won by Jillian Nelson from Dailly.

The Food Strategy Group will look at ways of continuing to improve Farmers' Markets with the use of the Ballantrae marquee and new initiatives. The Spring Farmers' Market will be held on Sunday 17th April.

We look forward to your continued support.

**Susan Crosthwaite**

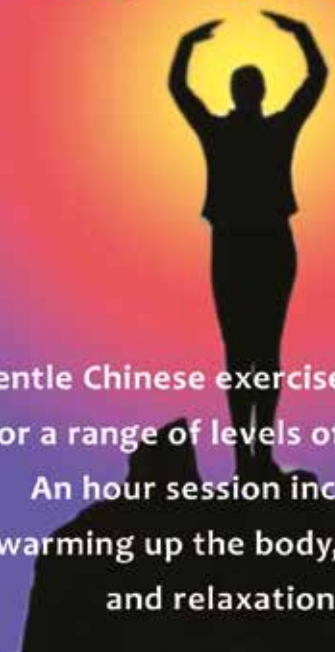
01465 831363 or

enquiries@cossescountryhouse.com



## Beginners

## Taiji / Qigong



Gentle Chinese exercise suitable for a range of levels of fitness.

An hour session includes warming up the body, tuition and relaxation.

Mondays, 10.45 - 11.45 in Ballantrae Village Hall

2016 classes commence on January 11th

£5 per session or pay monthly in advance £4ps

An open Tai chi Saturday afternoon workshop will be held in February - date to be confirmed and will be advertised on posters nearer the time.

For more information ring Jacqui on 01776 820214

# GLENAPP CASTLE

As reported in other press articles, Paul and Poppy Szkiler became the new owners of Glenapp Castle on August 10th this year.

Paul and Poppy continue to be amazed at the level of accolades which Glenapp Castle receives for both its hotel services and food. Indeed, recently Glenapp Castle received the Good Hotel Guide 2016 Editor's Choice Award for 'Best Country House Hotel' in the UK and Ireland. The new owners have been surprised that such an amazing hotel has been so relatively hidden on the beautiful Ayrshire coast.

In terms of future plans, there will be significant investment focused on increasing the number of hotel rooms, all subject to planning.

There is already substantial investment going into the hotel gardens and grounds.

Whilst guests from all over the world enjoy the history and service which the castle offers, Paul and Poppy are also keen to see growing community engagement with this beautiful Scottish Estate.



Note from the editor:  
Visit the Glenapp Castle website at <http://www.glenappcastle.com/> and click to watch the "Dawn to Dusk" video – it is beautifully filmed!



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Website: [www.glenappcastle.com](http://www.glenappcastle.com)



# from the archives . . .

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



Coal boat Annabella in Ballantrae Harbour, 1898



Kennedy's Pass, 1890



Laggan House, 1918



Main Street, Ballantrae, circa 1900-1909



Ballantrae Foreland, 1913



Kinclaer Viaduct, Pinmore, 1960



Barr, 1920

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](mailto:kaycee.history@gmail.com)

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



This event took place on 23 September and was run jointly by the Ballantrae Development Group (BDG) - a sub group of the Ballantrae Community Council - and Ballantrae

Youth Club. The purpose of the evening was "To ensure Ballantrae remains a safe place to live, work and visit".

The first part of the evening gave villagers the opportunity to have one-to-one discussions with the agencies represented - Police Scotland, South Ayrshire Council Community Safety Team, Ayrshire Roads Alliance, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, HM Coastguard Ballantrae, South Ayrshire Crime Prevention Panel and South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership. A panel Question and Answer session concluded the evening.

Andy McAlpine, Secretary of the BDG said "Over 60 villagers dropped in during the course of the evening to talk to the various agencies, to raise issues and to take part in the question and answer session. A variety of important issues were discussed including the A77 (speed and safety, incidents and road repairs); the state of Ballantrae's side roads and pavements, speeding on Shore Road, Foreland and the Vennel; keeping our homes and property safe (including fire safety); dog fouling – particularly on Foreland; the role of HM Coastguard Ballantrae; and whether the Ballantrae Neighbourhood Watch Scheme should be resurrected. The next step is for us to discuss the issues raised with each of the agencies involved and to develop a joint action plan."

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## BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

We held a licensed Darts Competition in September in aid of the Fireworks and Children's Christmas Party. We raised nearly £500. This was a very busy event with many local people attending to watch the darts and enjoy our "temporary pub" for the day.

The Ballantrae inflatable marquee is available for hire. It consists of two halves, each 6m x 7.3m, which can be used separately or joined together and with the ends open, closed, or with a doorway.

Contact Mrs. Linden Hunt on 01465831207 for more information.





# TALL SHIP DELIVERS CONTRABAND TO BALLANTRAE



The children of Ballantrae and Colmonell Primary Schools and locals had been making "Smuggler Scarecrows", over 100 short stories about smuggling had been written, the McKechnie Institute in Girvan had mounted an exhibition of Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival and a delivery of contraband had been made to the residents of Lendalfoot. Costumes had been taken out of storage and ironed.

*There was an air of anticipation...*

The Ballantrae Smugglers were delighted to receive a message that La Malouine a twin-masted French Brigantine tall ship, had slipped unseen into the Port of Stranraer for supplies, on her way to replenish Ballantrae's stocks of tea, tobacco, salt and fine wines from France - all part of this year's Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival.

The Festival got off to a great start in fabulous weather on Sunday 16 August with the Farmers' Market branded "The Smugglers' Market" – attended by over 800 people, including visitors from England, Spain, and Canada, as well as locals from South Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway, who were able to sample and purchase great Ayrshire food and drink. Susan Crosthwaite who co-ordinates the Farmers' Markets on behalf of the Development Group said "This was the busiest Farmers' Market yet with producers and customers coming back to Ballantrae following the success of the Festival of Food & Drink in May."

Monday's "Smuggler Sam's Children's Day" was regarded as a great success by the children and their parents who attended. Storytelling, "Scaling the cliff",





pistols and cutlasses, the Excisemen demanded that the contraband be handed over. But when they turned their attention to La Malouine and started rowing towards the ship to arrest the captain, a loud bang from the ship indicated that they were being fired upon by the ship's cannon! They made a hasty retreat and rowed frantically for shore!

and lots of other games and activities relating to smuggling and pirates were the order of the day. Even the donkeys at Craigmains had a part in the story!

The "Searching for the Contraband" by a team of ten Excisemen in a joint event organised with Girvan based outdoor specialists Adventure Carrick had some success finding contraband hidden away along the coast awaiting onward transportation to an outlying community.

The arrival of La Malouine in Ballantrae Bay on Tuesday evening proved to be a highlight of the Festival. The villagers spotted her leaving the mouth of Loch Ryan, and with a fair wind and no interference from patrolling Revenue Cutters, she anchored in Ballantrae Bay in the early evening.

Her arrival had been eagerly awaited because stocks of strong drink in Ballantrae were getting dangerously low. The shipment had been arranged some months previously by the minister – who is a well-known local smuggler - when he was travelling in France.

As soon as La Malouine had lowered her anchor, two smuggling boats rowed swiftly from the beach to collect the contraband and on reaching the ship, the casks of brandy and fine wines were swung out on a boom and lowered onto the waiting boats. But just as the second boat had its contraband on board, the Excisemen's boat appeared. Brandishing

As the smuggling boats arrived back on dry land, they were able to demonstrate to the villagers that they had managed to conceal sacks of salt, tea and tobacco to loud cheers from the locals. But unfortunately the casks of brandy and fine wine were nowhere to be seen! They had been confiscated by the Excisemen. When the Excisemen brought their boat onshore they were booed by the villagers and pelted with rotten fruit by the village children. The skiff crews from Troon, Carrick and Girvan played the roles of smugglers and Excisemen and really entered into the spirit of the event as well as giving locals and visitors an opportunity to try their hand at skiff rowing earlier in the day.

Unfortunately Wednesday evening's skiff racing for the fabulous Ballantrae Smugglers' Chase Trophy – crafted and donated by John McIlwraith of Ballantrae - which would have involved the Coastal Rowing Clubs from Troon, Carrick and Girvan competing for the trophy, had to be cancelled because of bad weather.





Strongman Competition was underway, La Malouine slipped silently into Ballantrae Bay. Just as the sun was setting, the villagers, led by a colourful and talented group of smuggling drummers from Stranraer's "Drum for Fun" Group made their way to the beach. When the beacon to signify the end of the Festival was well alight and the sun had set, the tall ship fired her cannon and slipped out of the bay with a shaft of moonlight illuminating where she had been anchored bringing another Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival to a close.

On Thursday four new Smugglers' Trails, starting and finishing in Ballantrae, were launched with the help of thirty two walkers from Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway. Each trail has its own true smuggling story. Ballantrae and Colmonell Primary Schools devoted the day to smuggling activities that involved practising smuggling songs to be performed on the Friday evening, writing smuggling poems and going round the village to see how many "Smuggler Scarecrows" they could see and making a 3D wallboard depicting La Malouine in full sail. An "adults only" Smugglers' Supper in the evening involved tasting the contraband, a two course supper with local Ayrshire ingredients, entertainment by local musicians, the reading of the adult winner of the short story competition, and the re-telling of "Ballantrae's Smuggling Story" by social historian and author Frances Wilkins.

"Music, Poetry and Smuggling Stories", a family event on Friday evening, with the children from Ballantrae Primary School singing smuggling songs, the reading of the winning entry in the children's short story competition, characters in costume re-enacting part of Ballantrae's smuggling history and local musicians, played to an almost full house.

The next day – the final day of the festival – involved a Craft Fayre where local people showed off their skills with wood, rope, jewellery and needlework. A "Strongman Competition" in the early evening attracted 13 teams of adults and children. In the adult competition the women did as well as the men and the children were just brilliant!

The Lighting of the Beacon on Saturday evening to signify the end of the festival proved to be another highlight of the festival. While the

Andy McAlpine, of the Ballantrae Development Group (a sub group of the Ballantrae Community Council) which organises the Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival said *"While we had been planning the involvement of the tall ship for weeks we took the decision not to publicise her involvement because weather and tides would dictate whether she would actually arrive. We didn't want to disappoint people. We only knew after the festival had started on the Sunday, that she was on her way and then we used all of the power of social media, with the support of the local press in Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway, to publicise her involvement. It was a great privilege to have La Malouine, her Master Roy Kerr and his crew play a part in this year's festival. She is a beautiful ship and I'm sure we'll be seeing more of her in the future in the waters from Dumfries up Scotland's west coast."*

*"We had a great week with over 2000 people taking part in the various events in the lead up to the week and during the week itself. We are grateful to all of our festival partners, volunteers and our sponsors who all helped to make it possible"*

The Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival is organised by a sub group of the Ballantrae Development Group and was sponsored this year by South Ayrshire Council, Carrick Futures Community Benefit Fund, SCOTMID, and local Ballantrae businesses.

Pictures by Tog Porter, Karen Stewart, Harriet Ellis, Stephen Ogston, Andy McAlpine and Adventure Carrick

**To see pictures of this year's festival go to [www.ballantrae.org.uk/smugglers](http://www.ballantrae.org.uk/smugglers)**

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

## What is the Ayrshire Litter Volunteer Network?

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

## What does "Adopt a Street" entail?

Volunteers commit to clearing a post-coded street of litter. It costs nothing more than a little of your time and can have a huge impact.

## Where can I get more information?

Either visit the ALVN website [www.alvn.org.uk](http://www.alvn.org.uk) or telephone  
Mrs. Linden Hunt 01465 831207 or Mrs. Lynn Nield 01465 831769.

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# Kings Arms Hotel Ballantrae

## Darts

We took part in the Stranraer darts league last season, and with great play and determination the team came out on top of the league. This year we have had lots of support and this has enabled us to enter two teams, so I would like to wish both Kings Arms teams the best of luck for this season.

## Darts Memorial Competition

Garry Thomson was approached by Mr John Rae, both of Ballantrae, and asked if he could arrange a darts competition in the Kings Arms Hotel. John wanted to hold it as a memorial to his late wife Joyce. John donated £100 prize money for the winner. The competition took place on Friday 25th September and we had a good turnout with 22 entrants. There was a ladies' and a men's category. The winner of the ladies' category was Chelsea Stirling and runner up was Lynne Clark, both of Ballantrae. In the men's category James Auld from Maybole won the top prize and Steven McCluskey from Girvan was second. Mr Rae wanted any additional money not paid out in prize money to be put towards a charity, we also had a wee fundraising game of closest to the bottle, and we managed to raise £95 for cancer research (John's choice of charity) in memory of the lovely Joyce Rae. I would just like to thank everyone that attended and took part, I would also like to say a big thank you to Garry Thomson who helped organise and run this successful event.

Throughout December and January there will be events on such as:

### Poker Competition

Date to be arranged  
(look out on Facebook for more details)

### Darts & Dominos Competition

Date to be arranged (watch Facebook for details)

### Christmas Raffle

Thurs 24th December @ 9.30pm

### Christmas Disco

Fri 25th December @ 8.30pm

### Hogmanay Disco

Thurs 31st December @ 8.30pm

### Psychic Night

Thurs 21st January time to be confirmed

**Vicky Stirling**

*Kings Arms Bar Manager*

## Kings Arms Christmas Dinner

If you would like a relaxed Christmas atmosphere with only one sitting, with no rushing, no cooking, and certainly no dishes, then join us at the Kings Arms Ballantrae for a beautiful five course meal.

Call us on 01465 831202 to book your table today. Menus available on request.

**Adults £37.50pp**

**Childrens menu on request at £11.50pp**

**£10pp deposit required**

## BARR VILLAGE MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



Barr got together to share a cuppa in aid of this year's 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' for MacMillan Cancer. Vera Dunlop and her loyal band of helpers managed to raise £795.25 for the cause.

After twelve years of organising the MacMillan events, Vera is now standing down saying "Macmillan Cancer is such a good cause. A huge thank you to everyone who attended this year and in the past, and a special thank you to all who have baked, donated or helped in any way." Barr community will continue to support MacMillan and wishes to thank Vera for all those years of hard work raising funds - hugely appreciated!



# BARR COMMUNITY FUN DAY

30

A community event was held on 3rd Oct. hosted by Kelly Morris Consulting. The event provided an opportunity for residents to meet the consultant, ask questions about the latest feasibility study developments, chat to others and have a say about Barr's options for the future.

Almost 100 people passed through during the afternoon. What a fantastic relaxed day, beautiful weather, excellent homemade soups, quality burgers, Billy's 'barrilliant' pizzas and a great display of talent from Barr on the show tables, plus Primary pupils' gymnastic skills and interview prowess on stage before 'Celtic Twist' performed ambient harp and guitar music during lunch. John Morris was on hand to answer lots of questions about the ongoing consultation all afternoon, to discuss 'Dinmurchie' plus all the various potential options available and listen to residents' hopes and fears too.

An autumnal themed scavenger hunt and art area where 'wish leaves' were added to a 'wishing tree' and a wee bike health check outside, kept the kids busy, allowing the adults to mingle and chat. The findings and data from the last couple of months will be collated to build a proposed short, medium and long term strategy towards Barr Community's aims of future sustainability & employability!



## BARR WEE GALLERY

The Barr Wee Gallery, displaying local artists' work, remained open every weekend for the first time this Summer. There was huge support locally and many visitors from farther afield and abroad found the wee gallery 'charming' and a 'hidden treasure'.

The gallery features handcrafted fused glass by 'Aye Glass', supported by the Prince's Trust, also beautiful sea worn glass and silver jewellery by 'Celtic Shore', artwork, cards & prints by Merlin Currie and showcases Peinn Mor pottery and handmade Harris tweed bags made in Barr.

The gallery will open again for next summer on 22nd April for 'Open Studios Ayrshire' however the studio is in use all year and visits can be made by arrangement. Contact 01465 861 239



## HALLOWE'EN AT THE BARR

Traditional guising took place around the village with the added bonus of a 'drop-in' at the Hall for the wee 'spooks'. Ghoulish games entertained and freaky fun was had, by all the kids...



until the bigger ghaisties and phantom species took over the big Hall for mayhem and merriment to the tune of the 'Wah Wah's' for the rest of the witching hours! Great night full of high spirits!





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# BARR 'LANES' SHEEPDOG TRIALS

Held recently at 'Lanes' farm Barr by kind permission of the Dunlop family, the Barr trial was started over 80 years ago as a confined trial for shepherds and farmers from within the Barr parish, it was then held at the Lanes farm and after a few years its popularity grew and it was decided to open it up to adjoining parishes. The trial settled for many years at the Kay family's 'Knockeen' farm, Barr and many a spree has been held in the famous old "tip hoose" at Knockeen. The trial was latterly opened up to the shires of Dumfries, Wigtown and Ayr due to dwindling number of competitors due to afforestation in the local parishes. Sadly in the past few years there hasn't been a shepherd left competing from the Barr valley, the trial moved back to the Lanes a few years ago whereupon, it was decided this year, to again make it an open trial because of dwindling numbers of competitors in our local regions with the average age of handlers now being in the 65+ age bracket.

Such is the reputation of the Barr hill trial that, given the chance to compete, handlers came from as far afield as Fort William in the North, to Lancaster in the South. The committee would like to express their thanks to both Hadyard Hill Community Benefit fund and also Barr Community Council as, without their support, it would be almost impossible to hold this event.

The trial this year was ably judged by Neil McVicar from Dunoon, a past UK champion, with 45 dogs competing on the day, in what was the worst weather seen for most of this Autumn. Very wet in the morning, turning cold in the afternoon and finishing with a hail shower!

Fighting it out for top spot, were local handlers Neil Gillon,



Dailly and 'Shweep' and J R Welsh, Dalrymple and 'Sam', both on 96. Close behind, on 93, was far travelled Peter Martin and 'Jill' from Cashlie in Perthshire. Another local handler, Fraser Shennan and 'Mia' from Barr had the best run of the day losing only 9 points on this 700 yard course but unfortunately the clock beat Fraser on the shedding, putting him into 4th place. Fortwilliam handler Mike McNally came 5th with 'Jock' on 87 and the last handler getting into the prizes was Tony Welsh and 'Don' from Patna. With daylight rapidly failing, Neil and 'Jock' had to run off for top spot, both had excellent runs again, however, Neil slipped one sheep inside the first drive gates, losing him the battle for top spot

## PRIZE LIST

- 1 J R Welsh Sam 96 (run off)
- 2 N Gillon Shweep 96
- 3 P Martin Jill 93
- 4 F Shennan Mia
- 5 M McNally Jock 87
- 6 T Welsh Don 86



## THE COMMUNITY RAIL PARTNERSHIP FOR CARRICK AND WIGTOWNSHIRE

The rail service from Carrick is undergoing one of its largest transformations ever in mid-December when the timetable changes on Sunday December 13th.

On Sundays there will no longer be any rail services direct from Carrick to stations beyond Ayr. Thus the Glasgow service will cease. However frequency will be increased to five trains a day from the current three services.

Mondays to Saturdays a similar pattern is presented. There will be no more direct services to Glasgow via Paisley but there will be some through services to/from Glasgow via Kilmarnock and an increase in frequency, however the changes are complex and services slower.

### Train services to/from Girvan

There will be a broadly hourly service from Girvan to/from Ayr and a two hourly service to Kilmarnock. Trains will no longer call at Prestwick Town or the Airport except the 2157 from Girvan. Generally trains will leave from between 50 minutes past the hour to on the hour depending upon whether they originate from Stranraer (earlier time) or Girvan.

Coming south trains will leave Ayr around 25 to 30 minutes past the hour Mondays to Saturdays. Nearly half of all services will now use platform 2 at Girvan, which does not have step free access. Those with mobility impairment may need to consider their options. All trains to Stranraer will use platform 2 except two on Sundays the 1253 and 1953 services.

### Train services to/from Barrhill

There will be a two hourly service to Kilmarnock. Trains will no longer call at Prestwick Town or the Airport except the 2137 from Barrhill. Generally trains will leave around 35 minutes past the hour.

Southbound trains will leave Ayr around 25 to 30 minutes past the even hour Mondays to Saturdays.

### Connectivity to/from Glasgow

This will become much more complicated. Many trains will now use the opposite side of Ayr station to where trains to Glasgow either leave from or terminate at. In addition the timing of some trains will make it quicker to travel via Kilmarnock to Glasgow rather than change at Ayr. Southbound only 3 out of the 17 trains that offer connections with the Ayr electrics leave Ayr on the same side of the station as the Glasgow train arrives at, necessitating a walk over the footbridge.

### Through trains

There will be no more direct trains to Kilwinning or Paisley and only one direct service to Prestwick Airport or Prestwick Town. There will be two through trains to Glasgow and four through trains from Glasgow routed via Kilmarnock.

Passengers travelling from Girvan

Travelling northbound passengers will find it easier to change at Troon when travelling on the 0754, 0952, 1500, 1751 and 2104 services from Girvan, whilst for a quicker and easier journey to Glasgow if travelling on the 1159 or 1658 from Girvan change at Kilmarnock, you will get to Glasgow quicker.

### Passengers from Barrhill

Travelling northbound passengers will find it easier to change at Troon when travelling on the 0736, 0932 and 1733 services from Barrhill, whilst if travelling on the 1140 train for a quicker and easier journey to Glasgow, change at Kilmarnock.

Dear Reader,

As I prepare this column for the Winter Edition of the Stinchar Valley Magazine, I still have fresh in my memory the Festival of Light Carnival held in Girvan on the 24th of October, the theme was "Fish and Ships" and what an amazing display it was, it brightened up a cold Autumn night. I understand this was a Carrick wide arts project, with boys and girls from schools throughout Carrick taking part. Like many Community events and projects throughout the year it was led by volunteers who put in many hours of unpaid work to benefit the Communities they serve and my heartfelt thanks and gratitude goes out to every single volunteer in Girvan and South Carrick, for the many projects which have taken place in South Carrick over the past year and for those that are ongoing over the next year or so.



In my work throughout South Carrick I am often asked about the lack of Super-Fast Broadband in the area. BT are currently developing new solutions to deliver fibre broadband to rural areas where properties are spread over a broad geography and it is planned that the roll-out plan for this area will benefit from this and more properties within the area will have access to the proposed upgraded service.

The When and Where section of the Digital Scotland website provides the most up-to-date information on which exchange area a property is located in, delivery timescales for that exchange area and whether fibre is available on a particular telephone link: <http://www.digitalscotland.org/whereandwhen>

If anyone is keen to know how work is progressing, then they can sign up to Digital Scotland's 'Keep Me in The Loop' newsletter to receive direct notification about when fibre broadband is available in their area link: <http://www.digitalscotland.org/newsletter-signup/> I trust this is helpful.

By the time you read this column Remembrance Day will be over, but as I write this we are approaching that time of year when our thoughts are with those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, which allows us all to live in a free democratic society. It is fitting that we remember them from the various conflicts over the past 100 years, including the more recent actions, in Northern Ireland, Iraq and Afghanistan. I was in Flanders last year and visited many of the First World War battle sites and memorials. Essex Farm was a forward medical base and the site where the Canadian medical Officer Captain John McCrae composed the poem "In Flanders Fields" in honour of a fellow Officer who was killed while tending the wounded a small excerpt reads,

*We are the dead, short days ago,  
we lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow.  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie  
In Flanders fields.*

We must never take for granted the basic freedoms we enjoy, in spite of some of the hardships we all face from time to time, especially in these austere times of public service cutbacks. I would like to wish all readers a Peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

I can be contacted in the normal way if anyone requires assistance with a Council matter.

Yours sincerely,

**Councillor Alec Oattes,**

Girvan and South Carrick Ward, South Ayrshire Council.

Tel. Office 01292 612382 Home 01292 435005 Mob. 07970 187793

# STINCHAR VALLEY GARDENING CLUB

Please feel free to  
contact any of our  
committee for further  
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## Speakers for the 2015 - 2016 programme:

**December** Christmas Meal

**January** Dobbies Garden Centre  
"Ponds and water features"

**February** "Gardener's Question Time" Panel -  
Colin Belton (Logan Botanic Garden),  
Gaby Belton (Dunskey Garden), and  
Tessa Knott (Glenwhan Garden).  
*This always proves popular – we are  
happy to accept questions prior to the  
meeting!*

**March** To be arranged

**April** AGM and Plant Swap

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

Non-members are always very welcome.



## AGE Concern Girvan

Welcome, my name is Tricia Watts and with the help of our wonderful cook and great team of volunteers we run a luncheon club.

We serve coffee, tea and cakes. At 12.00 we serve a three course meal for only £4.50. Join our club and join us for parties and coach trips and support if you need any. All ages are so welcome. Please pop into 2 Duff Street at the corner of Dalrymple Street. We would love to meet you. Please contact me on 01465 712032

**Website** [www.ageconcerngirvan.org.uk](http://www.ageconcerngirvan.org.uk)

## A letter to the Editor

John, Hi,

Thank you for printing one of my poems in your esteemed magazine. Girvan area produced a number of poets over the years that your readers may be unaware of. I'm thinking of Gilbert Pitt, Rev. Derek Lawson, Andrew Glass, Hew Ainslie, and Hamilton Paul. These last two were born a hundred years apart yet in the same cottage on the Bargany estate, a remarkable co-incidence.

Then there is Penkill Castle and the Boyds who had connections with the Rossettis and William Bell Scott, poet and artist. Carrick has produced many more poets than we think, I would particularly refer readers to the following books, "The Poets of Ayrshire" compiled and edited by John Macintosh, published 1910, not readily available, but still in existence. More specifically perhaps is "An Anthology of Carrick", compiled by Malcolm J Finlayson BA, one time Headmaster of Girvan High School, it was published in 1925 by The Standard Press of Kilmarnock. I found both books in Wigtown Book Town. They may be in the reference section of the local library.

Well done Ballantrae area, the "Food Festival" and the "Smugglers Week" show that you can punch way above your weight, more power to you.

I enjoy the magazine and hope as a Girvanite to be able to contribute an article or poem from time to time.

Many thanks

Yours sincerely

**Sandy McKnight**, High Ardwell, Stranraer

Sandy is a Girvan man now living in Stranraer. His first book is available from Craigmains Home and Garden Centre in Ballantrae and 'The Sweetie Shop' in Girvan. A second book is in the pipeline with others planned.

Sandy is willing to give readings from the book to local groups or at events, which would be willing to pay his fuel costs and provide a cup of tea!



# 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.

## BOAT FOR SALE

### SEAHOG HUNTER 15ft.

Two engines 15HP and 50HP  
Brand new trailer and winch

### OTHER ITEMS FOR SALE

Oak sideboard, 6' x 2' x 38"  
Drop leaftable  
Two double beds & headboards  
Wine cabinet  
Two armchairs  
Settee  
Drawers, white  
Two wardrobes, white  
Roll-up bed chair  
Two woodgrain wardrobes  
Drawers, woodgrain

## FOR SALE OR LEASE SHELLKNOWE GARAGE BALLANTRAE



This busy and long established garage, fully-equipped MOT station, and petrol station is available for sale or lease.

Having an enviable trading position on the A77 trunk road, this is a profitable business with huge scope for increasing its turnover.

Google "Shellknowe Garage for sale" for more information, or contact Robert or Christine on 01465 831365 or pop in for an informal chat

Cooker  
Ironing board  
Microwave  
Wooden laundry basket  
4-door bookcase, glass at top  
Pine dresser, 6' long  
Pitched-roof shed, 10' x 6'  
Bed settee  
Two portable TVs  
20' x 10' marquee

**Contact RICHARD on 01465 831509**



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## Fungi hunt

Can you find these fabulous fungi?



Yellow brain



Candlesnuff  
fungus



Chicken of the woods



Common  
puffball



Fly agaric



Stinkhorn



Shaggy inkcap



King Alfred's cakes



Jelly ear

### Remember

Some fungi can be  
very poisonous, so  
never touch them.

Did you know, fungi aren't plants or animals – they have their very own kingdom!

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!

[woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives](http://woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives) | 0330 333 5301 | [naturedetectives@woodlandtrust.org.uk](mailto:naturedetectives@woodlandtrust.org.uk)

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**Home sweet home!**

Create a super minibeast palace

Creepy crawly

palaces



**Piles of logs:**

Great for millipedes, woodlice, stag beetle larvae and other grubs that love munching on dead wood.



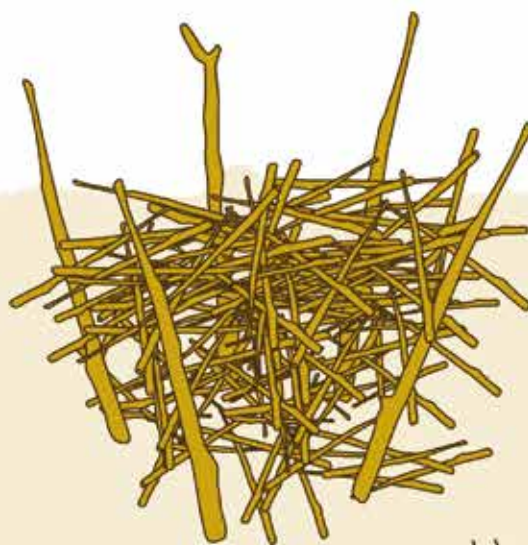
**Dead leaves and grass:**

Stuff these into the holes between the stacked logs – they make the perfect place for minibeasts to lay their eggs.

Minibeasts need somewhere safe to live, hibernate and lay their eggs. Find a sheltered area that won't be disturbed by people, and get building.

**Twig towers:**

Push five long sticks into the ground in a circle. Collect smaller twigs, lie them on their sides and use them to fill the tower. Ladybirds and lacewings will hibernate in the gaps over winter.



Cosy!



Come back soon to see if any of your creepy crawly friends have moved 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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