

THE STINCHAR VALLEY MAGAZINE

WINTER 2016

FREE



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

SUPPORTED BY CARRICK FUTURES AND HADYARD HILL WITH FUNDING FROM SCOTTISH POWER
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LOCAL AND INTERESTING WEB SITES

THE VILLAGES

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

LOCAL INFORMATION AND THINGS TO DO

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

LOCAL ENVIRONMENT ORGANISATIONS

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

USEFUL HELP WEBSITES

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

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
Stagecoach, Ayr Depot	01292 613500
My Bus Rural, Door to door transport for Carrick. Mon - Sat 7am to 7pm.....	0845 123 5656
SEPA Emergencies	0800 807060
Coast Guard, (101 or 999) and ask for the Coast Guard. (for suspicious articles found on any beach)	

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the Winter 2016 issue of the Stinchar Valley Magazine. This publication is your chance to read and make the community news in the Stinchar Valley and surrounding region. If you have any news you would like to send us or comments upon articles you have read in these pages please get in touch. The same goes for any additions to these pages you would like to see in the future and if you have events, clubs or anything that local people would like to attend or hear of.

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

The Cover photograph was taken locally by Howard Galley of Ballantrae. NIKON D7100 f/6.3 1/800 sec. 600 mm. ISO-640.

HOW TO SEND IN YOUR ARTICLES AND PICTURES

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

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

DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION

SPRING 2017 SUBMISSION OF ARTICLES TO REPS OR THE EDITOR IS

27th JANUARY

DISTRIBUTION TO VILLAGES WILL BE W/C 6th MARCH 2017

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

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES AND EDITORIAL PANEL

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Colmonell	Margaret Robertson	Tel. 01465 881352
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Recommended Tradesman

Have you had a good job done?

Drop us an email at

Stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk



TRADE	NAME	TELEPHONE	MOBILE	RECOMMENDER	DATE
Electrician	Gavin Campbell	01655 882208	07989583238	Jenny Macy	01/16
Plumbing/Heating	Ian Terry	01465 712594	07733470874	John Crossan	05/16
Roofer	Neil Agnew	01776 705664	07763489484	Peter Newland	05/16
Taxi	Joe's	01465 713737		Jim Fleming	05/16
Electrician	Josh Russell		07533 202420	Claire Whitehurst	08/16
Roof & leadwork	Paul Coombes		07732657907	Dr McKenna	10/16
Electrical Repairs	Howard Galley	01465 831537	07894433084	Dr McKenna	10/16

COMMUNITY COUNCIL MEETINGS IN THE VILLAGES

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

<http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/community-councils/>

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

LOCAL COUNCIL ISSUES - SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL CONTACT CENTRE

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

OUR ROADS

If you are driving and spot a road hazard, for example: Potholes, Flooding, Overgrown hedges or Overhanging dead trees or anything else on the roads that has the potential to cause harm, loss or injury.

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

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

AGE CONCERN GIRVAN

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

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

www.ageconcerngirvan.org.uk

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AN INDEPENDENT VIEW

Here we are again after a fine October directing our thoughts towards Christmas and the festive season. There has of course been a fantastic river of light festival held in Girvan during October which was a spectacle to behold and involved hundreds of children, parents and grandparents (Granny, Grandpa, Maw, Paw and the weans). Well done to all. Bonfires and fireworks of course are also a part of the mix at this time of year. Talking of which, there has been fireworks in the communities over utility charges, gala support, the review of Hillcrest Residential Care Home (Girvan) and road closures.

As I write this column, we await the Leadership Panel decision on the utility charges raised against Community Associations which, after the petition was heard by the Public Processes Panel of SAC, has been referred back for further deliberation. I offer my sincere thanks and admiration to all of the communities who took part in this process, especially those who spoke to the petition at the Panel Meeting and to Eileen McCutcheon of Colmonell for her work in pulling the whole thing together. This really was about communities working together. As part of the review of Hillcrest and South Lodge (Ayr) Residential Care Homes commissioned by the new Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board

(a partnership between SAC and Ayrshire and Arran Health Board), a drop-in day was held at Hillcrest to allow interested parties to feed their thoughts and concerns in to the review and to discuss options which, I would suggest in the case of Hillcrest, might be the existing operating model to be discussed. The results of the review should be known by the end of the year and, for the sake of our elderly and vulnerable residents of Girvan and South Carrick, I pray that it will be a positive outcome. Please let your support for Hillcrest be known by either contacting me at alec.clark@south-ayrshire.gov.uk or by making direct contact with your Locality Planning Board through your Community Council. This is a really important issue for all of our families and we must make the case for the retention of this invaluable resource.

During the last few months, the communities around Carrick have been forced to deal with the full weekend closure or potential closure of the A77 forcing large volumes of traffic on to our local road networks which are already under stress. This is carried out in the name of health and safety. Given the potential for a serious accident, my independent colleague Councillor Brian Connolly from Maybole and North Carrick and I met with officials from Transerv, Police Scotland and Ayrshire Roads Alliance to



challenge this method of road closures which did not happen in the past and do not appear to happen anywhere near to our cities. In my view you do not address health and safety issues by moving them somewhere else. My colleague and I will continue to oppose this type of closure. As we head towards the season of peace and joy, I do hope that you enjoy a wonderful Christmas season in the company of family and friends. Keep well.

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

COUNCILLOR ALEC OATTES



I am always happy to contribute to the Stinchar Valley Magazine, but due to the success of the magazine and pressure on space I have been requested to keep to around 500 words, which for a minor politician is not easy!

First of all I would like to recognise and congratulate the Ballantrae Food and Drink Festival for another successful event in June and for winning an Ayrshire Chamber Business Food & Drink Award. I understand Glenapp Castle Hotel also won an award from the same organisation. This summer's brilliant Smugglers' Festival was another huge success.

I have suggested to officers on the Council that the coastal road from Finneraig Bay all the way up to Dunure should be marketed as the "Carrick Coastal Highway" it is a beautiful scenic route with many attractions along the length of the route and needs to be promoted to a wider market.

I would like to report that a successful result was achieved by community activists in having the decision to charge village halls for energy charges remitted back to the Leadership Panel for further consideration. It is hoped this will be brought up at the Panel on the 1 November. Another petition in relation to Gala Day charges will be presented to the Public Processes Panel on 7 December, where it is hoped to have this budget decision looked at again. Both of these charges, for utility bills and gala day charges, were imposed without any prior local consultation, which is contrary to Council policy. If this had been done a lot of anguish in local communities throughout South and North Carrick could have been avoided. Community Empowerment is going to be more and more relevant and important over the next few years as this is part of the Scottish Government's plans to give local communities a greater say on the issues that affect them on a daily basis. Of course this will rely on local communities picking up the challenge and I am well aware of the possibility of volunteer fatigue, but in this age of austerity and public service cut backs it is going to be a case of self-help.

I recently attended the Barr Parish Development Company presentation, which was a result of intense local consultation. This is giving four options to the Community of Barr to choose from, in order to take local development forward. This is a great opportunity to focus on the needs of everyone from the young and not so young. The final result of the Survey will be

announced on 10 November at a meeting of the Community Council.

I have been approached by residents in Lendalfoot to ask for assistance in having the 40mph Speed limit reduced for through traffic on the A77. I have taken this forward through Transport Scotland, Police Scotland and Jeanne Freeman MSP but as yet with no conclusive result, which is disappointing, as speeding traffic through Lendalfoot is a real headache for local residents.

I have also been working with the Stranraer to Ayr Line Support Association (SAYLSA) which has been through a reorganisation after the contract for the previous Development Manager came to an end in October 2015. It is hoped to take SAYLSA forward by implementing a line action plan in agreement with Scotrail, which will allow the Board and members of SAYLSA to focus on marketing and promoting this railway line which is so important to South Ayrshire and the South West of Scotland.

Finally I would like to wish all readers a Joyful and Peaceful Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.

I can be contacted in the normal way by email or telephone contact details below.

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Girvan and South Carrick Ward,
South Ayrshire Council
Tel. Office: 01292 612382
Home: 01292 435005
alec.oattes@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

DO YOU HAVE A PASSION FOR YOUR PLACE?

New Explore the Biosphere route maps

The UNESCO Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere is an accolade for south west Scotland and the Biosphere is as much about a way of living as a place to visit. The Biosphere have recently produced 'Explore the Biosphere'; self-guided route maps as a guide to help you explore the area, not just to discover nature and landscapes, but also to discover communities and initiatives that support the Biosphere ideas of conservation, learning and development.

So far 2 route maps have been produced which can be downloaded from the GSA Biosphere website <http://www.gsabiosphere.org.uk/explore-the-biosphere/explore-biosphere-routes/> these cover Loch Doon and Carrick Forrest Drive and Loch Trool and the Cree Valley. To keep up to date with what's happening in the Biosphere sign up for our e-newsletter at <http://www.gsabiosphere.org.uk/get-involved/>



COLMONELL

Colmonell Baby & Toddler Group

Children at the baby and toddler group had a spooky time at their Halloween party on 28th October where they made some creepy crafts and enjoyed some healthy halloween snacks. Harriet Ellis kindly judged the fancy dress competition and the best dressed babies were Freya as a ghost, Abbie-Rose as a cat and Iona as a witch.

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



PEEP certificate presentation

PEEP (Parents as Early Education Partners) takes place in Colmonell Village Hall every Wednesday morning at 10am, except during school holidays. Parents and grandparents are welcome to attend with babies and pre-school children, and activities include singing, crafts and stories. Some of the mums and grans who took part in the last session received their certificates in the health and physical development strand at SCQF level 3, congratulations to everyone for this achievement. Pictured are Mary Milroy, Karen Wyllie, Lynne Hyslop, Sarah Hawthorn and Karen Telfer. Michelle Mitchell also received a certificate.

Colmonell bids for funding in South Carrick Decides event

Colmonell Development Group submitted 3 funding bids at a recent Participatory Budgeting event held at Girvan Academy. The group were successful in receiving full funding for a fitness project and partial funding for a gardening project and more Christmas lights for the village. The fitness project will allow exercise equipment to be purchased and set up for use in the hall at certain times. It is also hoped that instructor led classes can be organised.



The gardening project aims to use the space beside Colmonell Village Hall and turn it into a community garden, with a greenhouse to allow flowers to be grown from seed and planted in containers around the village. Colmonell Primary School gardening club will also be involved. The gardening project is keen to hear from anyone who would like to take part. Contact Helen Allan on 881 371 for more information.

Christmas lights switch on

Colmonell Christmas lights will be switched on, on Tuesday 6th December. The evening will begin at 6.30pm leaving from the Community Centre, with carol singing around the village. This will be followed by a carol concert from Creetown Silver Band at 7.30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.



Duck race raises funds for charity

Colmonell Community Association organised a duck race in June which raised funds for two important charities. Jill Dunlop and David Shankland, whose son Fraser was cared for during the first few months of his life at the neonatal unit at the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow presented a cheque for over £1300 to staff from the unit. Lindsay and Liz Hyslop from Lendalfoot also presented a cheque for the same amount to the Ayrshire Hospice. Thanks to all businesses who sponsored the Duck Race and to everyone who helped to buy ducks.

Badminton Club

Colmonell Badminton Club takes places every Thursday evening from 7.30pm in Colmonell Community Centre. New members are welcome to attend and fees are £5 for the season.



Ballantrae & Colmonell Primary School News



What a busy term we've had in both Ballantrae and Colmonell Primary Schools since coming back from our summer holidays.

In Ballantrae and Colmonell Primary Schools we are working towards gaining some national awards. One of these is our Rights Respecting Schools Award.

A Rights Respecting School is one which puts children's rights at the heart of its ethos and culture. Children's Rights are stated in articles within the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. By ensuring children's rights are central to what we do in our school we aim to improve the wellbeing for all children and develop every child's talents and abilities to their full potential.



Currently, Colmonell Primary has achieved its Record of Commitment and Ballantrae Primary has achieved Level 1 of Rights Respecting Schools Award. Both schools are working towards Level 2. Achieving Level 2 means that we have a knowledge and understanding of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; we have a rights-respecting ethos throughout our school and we are empowering our children and young people to be active participants in our community.

Our posters illustrate some of the Articles of the UNCRC and how they affect us.





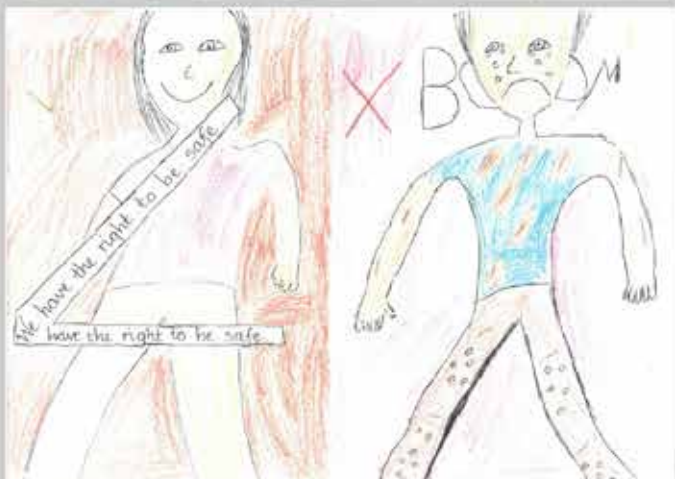
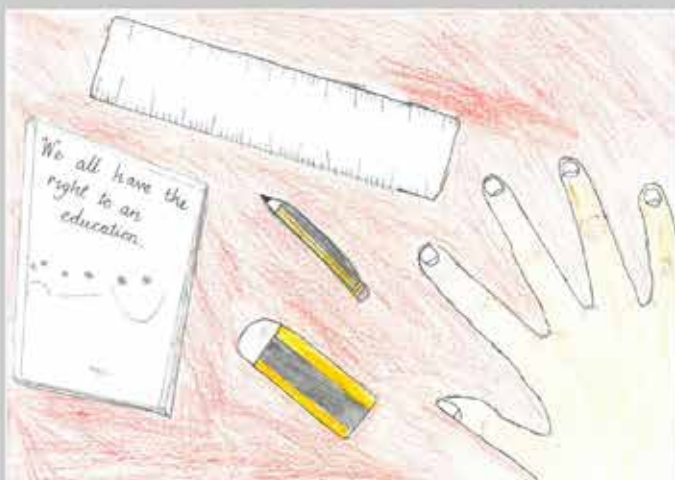
CHILDREN'S RIGHTS - COLMONELL PUPILS' POSTERS



All children have rights no matter religion, ethnicity or language. Article 2



CHILDREN'S RIGHTS - BALLANTRAE PUPILS' POSTERS



Another award we have achieved recently is our SportScotland Award. Ballantrae are in the process of applying and Colmonell have achieved their Silver Award. The SportScotland Award recognises our achievements in sports both in and out of school. In school we take part in a minimum of two hours of PE each week and over and above this we try to walk a mile on our PE days. Last session we were learning the rules and skills of tennis and gymnastics. This term we are learning how to play handball and we are practising the skills needed to play this game. We have an after school handball club running on a Wednesday in Ballantrae for Primary 4-7 children. Our successful gymnastic club continues to run after school on a Friday. In Colmonell we have a football club on a Wednesday afterschool and a fun fitness session and badminton on a Monday after school.



We had a very entertaining and successful Harvest assembly in both Colmonell and Ballantrae Primary Schools.

Colmonell performed 'Harvest Hope' to an audience of community and family; Ballantrae performed 'The Little Red Hen' in Ballantrae Church to a packed church of family and friends. Both services were followed by sharing a Harvest Lunch of soup, crusty bread, oatcakes and cheese. Funds raised went to the UNICEF appeal for Refugee Children as part of our Rights Respecting Schools work.



Colmonell and Ballantrae Primary 5,6,7 have been involved in a River Stinchar study with the Ayrshire Rivers Trust. Our children investigated, by electro-fishing, the different species of fish found in the River Stinchar at two points and also collected and identified a range of freshwater invertebrates found in the River Stinchar. Colmonell were excited to find an eel and some juvenile salmon. Ballantrae found a range of invertebrates including stonefly larva, which indicates the overall health of the River Stinchar. A number of young salmon and trout were found by Ballantrae pupils. Further investigations will take place by P5,6 & 7 in the spring.

Ayrshire Rivers Trust pictures taken from Ayrshire Rivers Trust website.

Colmonell Primary School MacMillan Coffee Morning

Colmonell Primary School raised £490 during their busy coffee morning to raise funds for MacMillan Nurses. The children organised a range of stalls, including a bottle stall, lucky dip, raffle and guess the Bear's Birthday. Parents donated a range of delicious baking which was enjoyed by parents and friends in our community.

Ballantrae Nursery Macmillan Coffee Morning

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.**
CANCER SUPPORT

Ballantrae Nursery Class held their own coffee morning to raise funds for Macmillan nurses. This was extremely well attended and parents, family and friends of our nursery class relished the delightful array of home baking prepared by our nursery class or donated by family.



Our Friend, Our Janitor

Children, staff and parents of Ballantrae Primary School were saddened recently, by the sudden loss of Mr Michael Laverty, our previous Janitor.

Michael had been our janitor in Ballantrae Primary School since 1995, and although had recently moved jobs, he still came to visit us from time to time. It was always good to catch up with him. There aren't enough words to describe him – he was solid and

down to earth, kind, hardworking, caring and loved and respected by so many.


Mr L, or Jannie, as he was fondly known, was extremely proud of his school (and it was his school) He looked after the building conscientiously..... but more so he looked after its people so well. He cared deeply for the children in the school, and treated them fairly and justly at all times, but he didn't molly coddle them either. Memories are of Michael looking out for them and welcoming them in the morning on arrival, watching over them at playtimes and lunchtimes and seeing them safely home at the end of the day. Many of our children remember the special names he had for them. He cared for his colleagues too, and always looked out for them, changing car tyres when they had punctures and replacing water with anti-freeze in the winter, sorting out faulty bulbs and making sure staff got home safely too.

On the 29th September, Michael's birthday, the school held a memorial service to share our memories of Michael and in his memory we planted a rowan tree in our playground. Many of Michael's friends, family and school folk from the past came along to join the school. A Memory book was created for Michael's family and the amazing sum of £600 was raised to provide a Friendship Bench for the school playground.



The garden area at Colmonell war memorial has a brand new fence, replacing the old chain link one - just in time for the service in November.

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PINMORE

PINMORE CHURCH



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

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

Anyone wishing to attend will be made welcome.

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

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

CREAM TEA ON THE GREEN

On the August bank holiday the Pinwherry SWI held a cream tea on Pinmore Green. It was an enjoyable afternoon with locals and visitors sampling the delicious baking of the SWI along with a local produce sales table.

The afternoon raised £267 with funds going towards the Pinwherry Community Association and its annual Christmas meal for local retired residents and the 2 Pins Company





PEINN MOR POTTERY

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CRAFT POTTERS
PEINN MOR POTTERY
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e: info@peinnmor.co.uk
web: www.peinnmor.co.uk

peinn
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pottery



PINWHERRY

THE STINCHAR VALLEY GARDEN CLUB



The club continues to meet on the third Wednesday of the month, but, due to a number of reasons, we have had to change venue, so for this season we are meeting in the Kirk Hall in Colmonell.

At the opening meeting in September the club enjoyed a popular return visit by Louise Bustard of Glasgow Botanic Garden. It was fascinating to hear about the early days of the Botanics, founded in 1817 and developed by some of the greatest names and plant hunters of the nineteenth century - such as William Hooker and David Douglas. Louise went on to talk about the arboretum on the banks of the Kelvin, and the old disused railway line that still runs below the garden, where you can still look down on openings in the tunnel in places. Accompanied by some great photographs, she brought us up to date with the development of the new herb beds and the Scottish garden, as well as, of course, the spectacular restored glass house of the Kibble Palace, with its mighty tree ferns. The evening was rounded off with a plant swap.



Our October speaker was Ben Askey who gave us a very interesting talk on the Galloway Forest Park. Having spent a magical childhood there, being brought up in the Caldon woods campsite, he is now the Recreation Officer for the park, and thoroughly knowledgeable about every aspect of its 300 square miles, and able to answer all our many questions on the plant life of the forest. A recent major work has been the complete felling of all larches due to the larch disease, opening up many new vistas of the Galloway hills.

Winter programme:

Meetings are held at 7.30 pm in Colmonell Kirk Hall – all welcome. The charge for visitors is £3.00 which includes tea/coffee, and we look forward to greeting both old and new faces.

DECEMBER	Christmas Meal
JANUARY 18th	"Ponds and Water Gardening" Speaker: Gaby Reynolds
FEBRUARY 15th	"Gardener's Question Time" with Colin Belton of Logan Garden, Gaby Reynolds of Dunskey Garden and Enid Innes of Crinan, near Creetown. This is always a very popular open evening – we are happy to accept questions prior to the meeting.
MARCH 15th	Brian Young of Holmes Farm Garden, near Irvine
APRIL 19th	AGM and Plant Swap, cheese and wine.

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

PINWHERRY SWI

It seems no time since we were planning the winter syllabus and here we are 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 in the village hall at 7.30pm on the second Monday of the month September to May. November sees us having a flower arranging demonstration with Margaret Finlay. December is our Christmas celebration at Souters Inn.



In January we will welcome Liz Copland and Beth Blain demonstrating needle felting. Our whist drive which was held in the village hall on September 9th was very well attended and we all had a wonderful night and a lovely supper. Winners were Ladies 1st Betty Robertson 2nd Ann Robertson 3rd Jennifer Campbell. Gentlemen 1st Jan Campbell 2nd Hugh Gregg 3rd Len Clark. Booby prizes Irene McCrae and Clive. Our second whist drive will be held on February 3rd 2017. Once again we would like you to come along and enjoy the evenings at the rural.

Lana Rafferty (secretary) 01465 841272.

PINWHERRY & PINMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL HOSPITAL TRANSPORT

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

Any resident who thinks they may qualify is asked to e-mail Joy Chamberlain at ppcctransport@btinternet.com or phone 01465 841211

PINWHERRY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Pinwherry Community Association are currently arranging their Christmas Events. We are aware that there are people in the Pinwherry and Pinmore area who could be eligible, but because we don't have your details you are not included in these events.

If you returned a form two years ago we still have that information on file, if however, you overlooked returning the form or have recently moved to the area please get in touch with Morag on 01465841641.

At this stage, we are particularly concerned about primary school children, ladies aged 60yrs and over and gentlemen aged 65years and over.



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

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

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

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

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

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

2 Pins Community Centre

2 Pins Centre await decision on Investing in Communities lottery application

It has taken many months; some would say years to get to this point but the 2 Pins Community Company have recently submitted a £1.4 million funding application to Big Lottery Investing in Communities programme. After successfully achieving stage 1 the company have been asked to submit to stage 2. To reach this point a lot of hard work has gone in by local residents who have shown support for the centre through organising fund raising events and attending them, coming along to meetings and helping with information needed for the submission of the application.

The 2 Pins Centre was always an ambitious vision and it is positive to know many community members and organisations support what is trying to be achieved, and seeing the many letters of support ranging from South Ayrshire Council Departments, Voluntary Action South Ayrshire, Local GP practice, Health and Social Care Partnership, Girvan Community Sports Hub and the rest, along with local community groups and organisations is encouraging. The success of what has been achieved so far must be acknowledged - that being the purchase of a piece of land, in a prime position along the A714 which is now in the ownership of the community. The land has allowed many enjoyable community events to take place over the last 18 months and is the only piece of community owned land within Pinwherry.

So we await with bated breath to see the outcome of our application. The journey the villages and the community have gone through has been a long one to get to this point but the learning has been invaluable. A new centre was created once before and maybe we could create one again

Historical Note. In 1924 Mr Dunlop of Fardenreoch organised the men and boys of the countryside in a voluntary capacity. The site of the present hall was obtained and everyone set to work to level the ground, cart gravel and building materials and lay foundations. The joiner work was done by two local joiners, David and Gib Campbell, and Whist Drives and other functions were held in the school to pay for materials and any paid labour required. And so our present Community Hall came into being.

We are hoping to add again to the history books and legacy of our villages and show the same determination as our predecessors.

2 Pins Community Centre



Company Limited by Guarantee No. 430441

Scottish Charity No SC043849

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

Follow us on Facebook:- 2 Pins Community Company Find our Web Page:- www.2pins.org.uk
<https://www.facebook.com/pages/2-Pins-Community-Company/779985358786545>

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BALLANTRAE

BALLANTRAE CHURCH LINKED WITH ST COLMON CHURCH

Christmas is a time to enjoy with family and friends. It is a time when we decorate the house, inside and out, though I guess some of you will start earlier than others! It is a time when we give and receive gifts, and remember the different connections that we have with one another.

In the Nativity story that children perform each year, the scenes are always the same and the mood is always joyous. And yet one Christmas decoration that I have displays a scene from later in the story, which will not be performed in many, if any, nativity plays. It takes place after the wise men had returned to their homelands, without telling the cruel King Herod about Jesus. It is after the curtain has fallen on most nativity plays, that we find Herod unleashing a wave of violence in the direction of Jesus and his parents, so much so that they are forced to flee their country. And so in this well-known story, which sits at the heart of the Christian faith, we find the tale of a refugee child and his parents, fleeing death in their homeland, and hoping for safety in Egypt.

Is this tale so foreign to our ears? Yes, we rarely see it on Christmas cards, but we have seen it so often on our televisions or on the internet or in the papers. We have seen the images of children and adults, walking from one country to another in order to feel safe. And we have heard the voices of children and adults, recounting the events that led to their departure from their homeland.



The Northern Lights taken at Ballantrae harbour last February, by Howard Galley.

We can all feel powerless and unable to solve the problems of the world, but we can all do certain things. We can ensure that we continue to care for those with nothing, for we can all fall into the pit of apathy. We can speak on their behalf to our friends or family or write a letter or email to your MSP or MP. We can continue to read stories and news articles, so that our hearts remain broken, and we keep striving to see the world become a better place.

Yes, Christmas should be a time to remember those dear to us, and celebrate the good news of God's love for the whole world. However, the joy must remain part of the whole understanding of Christmas, as we also remember the pain and suffering that many experience. And so, it should be our prayer, that the good news of Christmas continues to inspire the world to reach out with love to all those who have so little.

*I hope and pray that you have a great Christmas.
God bless, Stephen*

Taste & See Cafe Church

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

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

Christmas Services

Sunday 18th December: 10am – St Colmon Church, Colmonell - Nativity Celebration

11:30am – Ballantrae Church - Nativity Celebration

7pm - Barrhill Carol Evening in the Memorial Hall

Thursday 22nd December: 7pm – St Colmon Carol Concert, Colmonell

Friday 23rd December: 6:30pm for 7pm – Christmas Cafe Church, Kirk Hall, Colmonell

Saturday 24th December: 11:30pm – Ballantrae Church - Watchnight Service

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

Sunday 25th December: 10:30am – Christmas Family Service in Ballantrae Church (for Ballantrae and St Colmon)

Sunday 1st January: 10:30am – New Year's Day Service in St Colmon Church (for Ballantrae and St Colmon)

Church Information

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

St Colmon Parish Church

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

Ballantrae Parish Church

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

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

Rev Stephen Ogston The Manse, 1 The Vennel, Ballantrae, KA26 0NH

01465 831252 ogston@macfish.com

www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk

www.stcolmonparishchurch.org.uk

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

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THIS FESTIVE SEASON, COME TO GLENAPP CASTLE.

Our award winning kitchen and spectacular setting will make it an event
to remember and savour. Come and join our festive celebrations with a
complimentary glass of sparkling wine. We also have a pianist playing on:

Sunday 4th and 11th December 2.00 to 4.00pm

Wednesday 21st and 28th December 2.30 to 4.30pm

- Festive Gourmet Lunch with canapés, coffee and petits fours - £39.50
- Festive Afternoon Tea served in the Drawing Room - £22.50
- Festive Gourmet Dinner with canapés, coffee and petits fours - £65.00

Remember to book - our festive dining is available
until Thursday 22nd December

Call us today on 01465 831212 or email info@glenappcastle.com

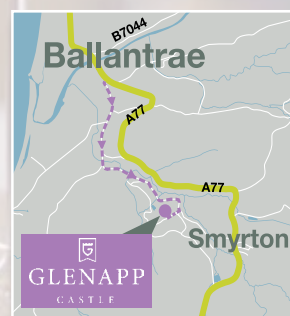
FREE PRIZE DRAW

All guests dining with us in December will be invited to enter the
'Glenapp Castle Christmas Prize Draw' with a first prize of an overnight
stay for two in a luxury sea view room with a six course gourmet dinner
and full Scottish breakfast.

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Christmas.

Please go to our website

www.glenappcastle.com



Photography by: ©Andrea Jones / GardenExposures.com & Paul Walker Images

BALLANTRAE PLAYPARK PROJECT

Over the past few summer months we have been frantically fundraising to raise money towards the Playpark Development. Due to the high costs involved in such a project a few of us decided to start the ball rolling.

On a very wet Sunday afternoon we had a sponsored walk to raise money for goal posts where we walked 5 miles from Auchenflower down to Laggan and back up through the wood to the caravan park and back to the farm for cuppas and scones. We didn't let the weather dampen our spirits of those who participated on the day - from our lively toddlers to our sprightly pensioners - their determination continued to shine through!

During our gala in July we organised a couple of hampers to be raffled off on the day and also sold tickets for guessing the teddy's birthday. Again the support from our wider community was fantastic. We received lots of fabulous items for the hampers allowing us to make up not one but two hampers! The total raised from these events was £1243.40.

During the annual Horticultural Show on Sat 13th August, Linden Hunt arranged for half the proceeds, which was a healthy £87.50 from the cream teas to be donated to the Playpark Project. Baking donations were generously given once again by our community.

On Friday 9th September we organised a Family Race Night in our hall inviting our community to come together to support the cause. Local businesses donated generously to sponsor races. Family and friends bought/named the horses and again lots of fantastic raffles were donated. A licensed bar with our very own cheery bar staff, sandwiches and snacks were provided. An overwhelming profit of £2377.66 was raised as a result of team work, dedication and the support of our wider community supporting in various ways. There was a great atmosphere and once again Ballantrae did itself proud.

Sincere thanks to each and every one of you and the local businesses who have supported this project over the past few months. Please help us by continuing to pull together and raise lots more cash to give Ballantrae and our friends in the wider communities a fantastic park which will also help attract more visitors to our lovely village.

Ballantrae FESTIVAL OF FOOD & DRINK

Ballantrae Festival of Food & Drink 2017

Save the date:
Sunday 11th June 2017

A big 'Thank you' for helping to make this event such a success

The Ballantrae Festival of Food and Drink this year saw over 3000 visitors come to Ballantrae to enjoy the wonderful food and drink from the region. Visitors enjoyed a memorable day and the event showcased Ballantrae perfectly as a quality food and drink destination.

In October, the festival was awarded the Ayrshire Chamber Business award for 'Food and Drink' 2016 - a fantastic achievement. The festival organising team would like to say a big 'Thank you' to all the volunteers and helpers on the day and for all the support we received from local businesses and the local community, helping to make this event such a success.

Planning is already underway for next year's festival and anyone wishing to be involved or to volunteer their time on the day should contact Siobhan at Glenapp Castle. Please email Siobhan @glenappcastle.com



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BALLANTRAE SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING GROUP

NEW MEMBERS WANTED

We are a small group of over-16s who meet in Ballantrae Village Hall on Thursday evenings from 7.30pm - 9pm.

It is a light-hearted session of dancing with the emphasis on enjoyment - no previous experience is necessary. All dances are walked through before dancing to learn the steps. We won't win any medals for style, but we have a lot of fun and it's good exercise in great company!

If you want to know more please contact
Lynn Nield on 01465 831769
or just pop along one Thursday and give it a try.
You will be very welcome.

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

Volunteers Wanted

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

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.

Thinking about a New Year's Resolution?
How about adopting a street? Gentle exercise in the fresh air, and improving your environment at the same time!

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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR to you all!
Let's keep the Stinchar Valley even tidier in 2017

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

BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Ballantrae Community Association, along with Garry Thomson and Promoter Wullie Burns from Wulbar Promotions held a very successful Darts Competition on Saturday, 22nd October in aid of The Beatson in memory of Pauline Agnew and Help the Heroes in memory of Michael Laverty. This event was very well supported from not just the residents of Ballantrae but with entrants from Girvan, Stranraer, Newton Stewart, Springholm and Irvine. Forty darts players entered the Men's Open and 10 ladies entered the Ladies Competition. The prize money for Men's Open was £150 which was won by Steve "Longshanks" Robertson from Girvan, the runner up was Steven "Puggy" McCluskey from Ayr. The winner of the ladies darts competition was Jordan McNally from Springholm, near Dumfries and runner up was Leanne McGuffin from Girvan. Rachael Agnew presented the Men's Trophy on behalf of her Mum Pauline and Anna and Lily Kosak presented the Ladies Trophy on behalf of their Dad/Grandpa Michael.

As well as darts there was an activity table and smaller darts for the children and free drinks were provided to the children.

Special thanks should go to Stephen MacPherson who painted the buffet room free of charge and also donated the paint. The Community Association who ran the bar named it The Creel Bar and decorated the room to look more cosy. The Creel Bar was very successful and was full long after the darts competition had finished. A lovely relaxed atmosphere with lots of laughs. The profit from the Bar was also donated to The Beatson and Help the Heroes. Food was also on offer from Hendries burgers and sausage rolls to hot dogs and toasties. There was music provided by Garry Thomson's disco afterwards too.

Ballantrae Community Association would like to thank everyone who came and supported, helped and donated to the Tombola and also donated to the 2 charities in the donation box. Also thanks to Craigmains Garden Centre,

STINCHAR VALLEY PHOTO GROUP

The Stinchar Valley Photography Group meets at 7.30 at BRICC House, Main Street, Ballantrae on the last Thursday of each month. The membership is made up of a selection of local people ('maturer' age bracket but all young at heart) who have differing levels of photography skills, using mobile phones to digital SLRs. The Group's ethos could be summed up as 'enjoyment and fun before serious photography'. We do not run competitions but we do like to take photos that we are proud of so we don't do stress and anxiety; we help and encourage each other to improve.

In this last year we have visited: formal gardens for macro and landscape shots; St Colmon Church for zoomed shots of stained glass windows; Bellymack Farm for Red Kites; the shoreline for 'light painting' and playing with ND filters that delay exposure; the Ayr air show for Red Arrows, and Ailsa Craig for gannets and island shots ... to name a few excursions.

Come along one evening and check us out if you are at all artistic. The Group is run by the members, not any elite hierarchy. Remember, I said it was FUN.



Photo Sunset by David Littlechild
NIKON D3X. f/5. 1/25 sec. ISO-250. 200 mm



The two Ladies prizewinners Jordan McNally and Leanne McGuffin.

The Kings Arms Ballantrae, Flix Nightclub and The Boars Head, Colmonell who sponsored the Boards. Special thanks also to the families of Pauline and Michael.

A hugely enjoyable and successful event which raised £1200. This money has been split equally between The Beatson and Help the Heroes in memory of Pauline and Michael.

The Kids Free Christmas Party will be held in the Community Centre on the **17th of December**. Further details of the party will be communicated through the schools by Stacey Stewart and Claire Erski.



Steve Robertson and Steven McCluskey, with Rachel Agnew, Anna and Lily Kosak



Sharon and Fiona get the bar ready for business!

We still have a few spaces left for
Christmas Dinner 25th DEC 1pm for 1.30pm
£37.50 Adults £11.50 Children
 Call to book on 01465831202

Christmas Disco 25th DEC Starts at 8.30pm

Hogmanay Disco 31st DEC Starts at 8.30pm

Closed on the 1st of JANUARY
 We look forward to welcoming
 you back on the 2nd Jan from 12pm.

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Email info@kingsarmsballantrae.com
Web: www.kingsarmsballantrae.com

BALLANTRAE SWI

Dates for your diary with Ballantrae SWI in 2017:

- 9 January** Mrs Mary Hogg - slide show
- South Ayrshire Coast
- 6 February** Julia Millar - A Massage Workout
- 6 March** 86th Birthday Party
- 3 April** Andy McGarva - Garden Talk
- 1 May** AGM: Please note this meeting is held in BRICC House

Annual Subscription £15; Visitors for one evening £2

Meetings are held in Ballantrae Community Centre on Monday evenings at 7.15pm. Everyone welcome to come and enjoy our meetings and, of course, a cup of tea. Look out on notice boards for further details of each meeting.

NEWS FROM BRICC:

Care in the Community - The next step

BRICC's ambition to extend its work of care in the community by establishing a residential care setting, has made great progress over the past year. Like our care in the community service, this new development is principally aimed at meeting the needs of frail older members of the communities served by the Ballantrae medical practice, most of whom will live in Ballantrae, Colmonell, Pinwherry, Pinmore, Barrhill, Lendalfoot, and their surrounding areas.

In March this year, with the help of the Scottish Land Fund, we bought Orchardlea, the house next door to our existing building in Ballantrae. Our initial intention was simply to renovate, adapt and extend Orchardlea, using part of its substantial garden. However, after lots of thought and consultation with architects, we decided to demolish it, thus giving us the opportunity to create a custom built building that will be a major landmark in the village. Starting from scratch, rather than adapting an existing building, will allow us more easily to create a building that is energy efficient and makes the best use of the available space; that enhances the village and speaks of the care that will be provided for residents.

We already have full planning permission for the new building, which has been carefully designed to fit into the appearance and feel of the village, blending in with the surrounding houses and mirroring, to some extent, the style of the present BRICC house. The major part of the new development will house a residential care home behind which there will be a safe and carefully

designed garden. The en suite bedrooms will all be more spacious than required by current care home standards. Great care is being taken during the design process to ensure that the new building will take account of the needs of residents living with dementia and specialised care will be provided to address their needs.

Adjoining the care setting there will be several well-proportioned and equipped sheltered houses. Though not part of the residential setting, these self-contained new homes will allow frail older members of our communities to remain as independent as possible, knowing that if the need arises support is at hand, and their proximity to BRICC house means that they will have easy access to other activities, such as the BRICC Club.

Our next step is to raise the funds that we need to have available before building can begin, and at the moment we are busy submitting applications to various grant awarding bodies. In doing so, it is always helpful to have supportive messages from members of the various communities that our new residential provision will serve, and so we warmly invite you to provide such support by writing to our chairperson Amelia Stevenson, c/o BRICC, 12 Main St, Ballantrae, Girvan KA26 0NB, or via email, to me at g.fairbairn@leedsmet.ac.uk.

Gavin Fairbairn



BALLANTRAE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

by Andy McAlpine.

We were delighted that Ballantrae's Festival of Food and Drink reached the final three in not one but two of this year's Ayrshire Chamber Business Awards categories - Tourism, and Food & Drink, subsequently emerging - against hard-fought competition - as the winner of the Food and Drink category. Our congratulations and thanks go to our sub group who masterminded the event and who put in so much effort, not only in making sure the Festival was a success but also in preparing their presentation to the judging panel. Our congratulations go too to Glenapp Castle who won the "Excellence in Customer Service" Award. A great result for Ballantrae!

We were pleased with the reaction to our Smugglers' Festival which, once again, attracted visitors and positive

media attention. You can read about the landing of the contraband, the Strongman Challenge, the Smugglers' Supper and the Smugglers' Chase elsewhere in this issue. Now that the detailed evaluation of this year's festival has been completed we'll be using that as the basis for planning next year's events.

Our Play Park Development Group continues to develop its plans and raise funds.

We continue to work in partnership with local businesses on issues of importance to them, to seek opportunities for external funding for village initiatives, and to explore ways of raising the profile of Ballantrae within Ayrshire and beyond.

BALLANTRAE OPEN FLOWER SHOW

13th September 2016 by Linda Wild

The sun shone on Ballantrae for this year's Open Flower Show. A steady stream of exhibitors arrived at the Community Centre to display their entries on Friday evening and Saturday morning hoping that they would be successful.

There were some difficult decisions to be made by the judges but finally all entries were judged and the prize winners and trophy winners selected.

The show was opened at 2pm by Paul and Poppy Szkiler, the new proprietors of Glenapp Castle who were keen to support the event.

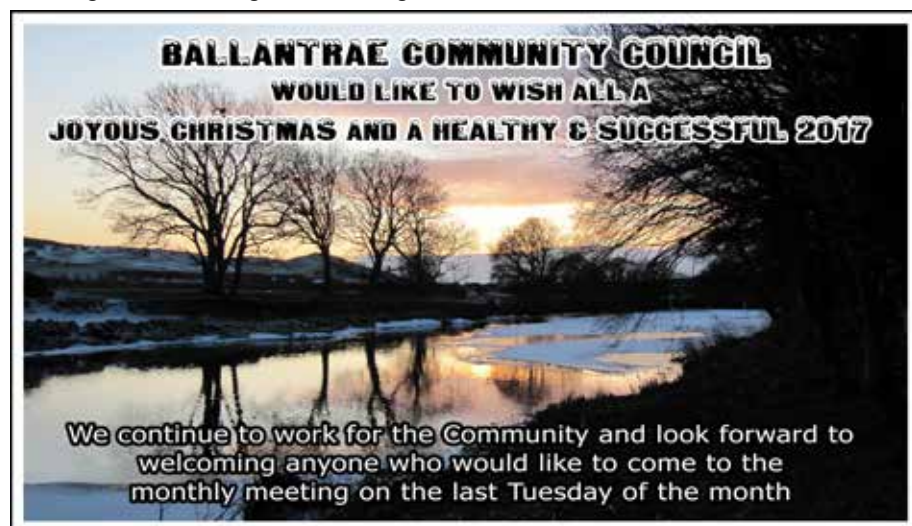
An excellent selection of vegetables were on display despite some difficult growing conditions this year, along with some beautiful flowers. There were also some wonderful pot plants on display across the front of the stage. Baking entries were down on last year, so we would love to see some new entrants getting busy with their mixing bowls for next year's show. You never know, you might surprise yourself with how well you do!

Delicious cream teas, provided by the lovely ladies who bake, were enjoyed by everyone who attended the show. The cream teas raised £175 which has been shared equally between the Flower Show and the Play Park Project.

The trophy winners were announced by Linden Hunt, ably assisted by Jessie Brown and the Gala Party with Gala Queen Jenna MacKinnon handing out the trophies. Then to round off the day the lucky raffle prize winners were drawn.

Well done to everyone who entered and congratulations to the winners.

We look forward to seeing you all again on 3rd August 2017 for next year's show, go on have a go at entering!



BALLANTRAE SMUGGLERS' FESTIVAL

This year's festival ran from June to August. The Autumn edition of this magazine reported on the Smugglers' Road Trip Stranraer to Girvan in June, the Smugglers Exhibition in the McKechnie Institute in Girvan in June and July, the launch of the Ballantrae Primary School book "Our Smuggling Stories" (copies available price £7.50 from the school), and the "Ballantrae Smuggling Trails" booklet now available free from Craigmains Home and Garden Centre where the walks start and end.



highlight of this year's festival with an audience of around 300 and a lot of media attention. ITV filmed the tall ship La Malouine and her role in the festival and the 30 minute programme on smuggling in south west Scotland



and how the story is kept alive by Ballantrae was broadcast on ITV Border Life on Monday 29 August. This was our most ambitious re-enactment yet with La Malouine anchoring in Ballantrae bay, small boats going out to her to unload sacks and casks of contraband, children and adults

We ran 4 further festival events in Ballantrae during the period 5 - 14th August.

Over 50 people attended the Smugglers' Supper and the owners and staff of the Kings Arms really got into the spirit of the festival and made everyone feel welcome with a traditional 4 course smugglers' supper. The musical entertainment provided by Davie Hunter and "The Spuds" (Frankie and Gordon) was excellent.

Bad weather and the opening of the Olympics had an adverse effect on this year's Strongman Challenge but undaunted we went ahead. The MacKinnons won the children's event and the Irvings won the adult competition.

The Smugglers' Chase involving 4 crews was organised by Troon Coastal Rowing Club. Firth of Clyde CRC won all of the races and the Trophy. The other two teams involved were Carrick and Girvan CRCs.

The Landing of the Contraband was undoubtedly the



in 18th century costume bringing the contraband up from the beach and loading it onto horses and carts for transportation through the village to Craigmains where the procession was ambushed by the Excisemen and Customs Officers. But the women of Ballantrae took the law into their own hands and overpowered the authorities and rescued the contraband!

All in all a very colourful and successful festival with some familiar events and some new ones, building on the successes of the past 3 years. You can see the video and pictures of this year's festival on www.ballantrae.org.uk/smugglers. At this time of the year we always think "How can we top that next year?" But planning has already started so look out for the advance publicity and come and join in!

BALLANTRAE PARISH CHURCH MALAWI LINK

On Friday 21st November the above committee organised a very successful 2Spoons Supper to raise funds for our ongoing projects in Malawi. As a result, a tremendous sum of £555.00 was raised including donations. Friends enjoyed a hearty supper of a choice of soups, home baked bread, choice of sweets, including ice cream or custard, coffee / tea crackers and cheese and fruit. An evening of supper and chat with friends

Our congregation and friends provide ongoing support by donating clothing, footwear and baby blankets. These are shipped out to our partners and much appreciated

We are addressing a recent request for toothpaste and soap.

A group of people from Ayr Presbytery are due to visit Lwambaza next year including a member of Ballantrae Church. We hope to establish a new project funded by a recent donation.

Our minister is in regular contact with the minister in Malawi and we have recently received photographs of Lwambaza guild enjoying lamps from the alternative gift scheme whereby anyone who wishes to support the cause can purchase a gift card for family/ friends, proceeds to purchase lamps to enable, especially young folk, to be able to study in the evening.

Margaret on behalf of our Malawi committee, Meg, Penny, Gwen, Jackie and Beth

For further information please contact any member or Meg 831284, Margaret 842635

BALLANTRAE CRAFTY BEES:

On behalf of the members of Ballantrae Crafty Bees we would like to say 'thank you' to Barbara Ogston and Beth Whittington who have served the group admirably in their former roles of Chair and Vice Chair respectively and I would like to say 'thank you' to Anne Marie McGeechan for agreeing to become our new Vice Chair and to Margo Lambie who remains in office as our excellent Treasurer.



The Ballantrae Crafty Bees are enjoying another fun filled autumn after the summer recess and have also welcomed two new members to the group. We've recently made corn hearts, seed bead brooches, Spirelli cards and fabric aprons and look forward to tackling a range of crafts including jewellery, fairy tea lights, bunting and felt needle cases after completing our Christmas projects.



Are you feeling crafty?! We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of the month at 7.30 in the BRICC House in Ballantrae. If you're interested in joining the group, why not come along or contact me for further details. Membership costs only £3 per session which also includes tea/coffee and, quite often, gorgeous home baked cake!

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



MY UNITED SPACE SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

In July, Alan Carle of Ballantrae, a pupil at Girvan Academy was given a once-in-a lifetime opportunity to attend the NASA Space School in Houston Texas. Alan funded his trip by organising bake sales, quizzes, raffles and car boot sales. He also received support from Ballantrae Community Council through the Carrick Futures Community Benefit Small Grants Scheme. This is his story...

My two weeks in Houston was a mix of studies, lectures, sight-seeing and making new friends - where a day that you visited an underwater replica of the International Space Station, learned "I'm hungry" in five different languages and debated on whether you should use chemical or nuclear propulsion to power the rocket on your mock mission to Mars was just a normal day.

NASA has a connection with Girvan Academy where one student from the Higher Physics class gets the chance to go to the United Space School each year for a fortnight. This connection was made because former Girvan High School pupil, Harry McDonald, (born 1937) became an engineer and went to work for NASA, doing quite well for himself while he was there. Thanks, Harry!

The entire point of the school was to plan a mock mission to Mars and then present it to several judges for them to tell us all the ways it will go wrong. The 48 students from all over the world were split into five teams and each was given a specific role in the mission. Gold team designed mission control and were in charge of the budget. Red team were to get everything we needed on Mars from Earth surface to Mars orbit. Maroon team got equipment from Mars orbit to Mars surface (that is more difficult than



it sounds, research the video "7 Minutes of Terror" to find out). Green team designed the habitat our astronauts were to use on Mars and Blue team created a rover for the astronauts to cover longer distances than they could on foot. I ended up in the Red team, and chose to research and eventually present how we were going to get our cargo ship to Mars orbit using chemical propulsion.

While in Houston, I visited the Johnson Space Center where they hold a replica space shuttle you can go inside and find out about its history, saw the insides of a real shuttle (so many copper cables) and its cockpit, looked at a massive robotic arm used on the ISS and saw a mock Mars lander meant to carry humans. We also went to the Neutral Buoyancy Lab, where they had submerged a replica of the exterior body of the ISS. They can make astronauts hover underwater by pressurizing their suits (filling it up with air) which gives them the feeling of weightlessness. This is useful preparation to any astronaut. We also listened to several lectures including

one on space law (basically sea law), one describing the use of radios on the ISS and another detailing how the equipment for Felix Baumgartner's jump from our stratosphere was developed.

While staying in Houston, I lived with a host family and 3 other students - a Chilean, a Manxman and a Kentuckian. They looked after us throughout the fortnight and we all got on very well.

All-in-all, I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and would like to give my thanks to anyone and everyone who helped me get there!

Alan Carle



BALLANTRAE BOWLING CLUB

Ballantrae Bowling Club closed for the 2016 season on Saturday 1 October. A game of bowls in the sunshine was enjoyed by 25 players, winners of the sweep were Keith and Christine Brown. The presentation of the prizes for the season then took place followed by a buffet supper which was enjoyed by all.

The next meeting to discuss the 2017 season will be held in the clubhouse on Sunday 29 January 2017 at 2pm. All welcome.



Ballantrae Bowling Club were delighted to show their new lawnmower to members recently, the purchase of which was supported by Carrick Futures with funding from Scottish Power Renewables' Mark Hill and Arecleoch wind farms.

BALLANTRAE PATCHWORK & QUILTING GROUP

We meet every Wednesday in Ballantrae village hall, 1.30pm until 4.00pm.

Earlier this year we were fortunate in securing a grant for the club, authorised by Ballantrae Community Council.

This money was used to purchase a Sissix machine which allows us to cut fabric precisely and several pieces at a time.

We also purchased fabric and

fleece backing to sew Linus Quilts. These quilts (pictured) have already been sent to needy children or those who need comforting.

We are a very informal group and always ready to welcome new members. The only requirement is a love of sewing! There is always someone on hand to help and advise.

Members only pay £1.00 per week which includes a cuppa, biscuit and of course chat!

If you would like to speak to someone prior to visiting call Margaret, 01465841635 or Penny, 01465841686



ANDY MUIR

select
DECORATORS

best wishes for
a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
to everyone!

and a special thank you
to all my customers

01465 831 501 07746 521168

All types of decorating undertaken
internal & external

f Andy Muir painting and decorating

Craigiemains

Home & Garden Centre

For all your Christmas gifts, decorations and REAL Xmas trees please call in and see what we have to offer

Santa will be visiting the Garden Centre on 17th Dec. from 12pm to 4pm - plus disco dome, face painting and lots more!

The Garden Centre will close at 4pm on Christmas Eve and re-open Monday 3 January at 9am

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

VISIT OUR NEW FARM SHOP!

Main Street, Ballantrae
KA26 0NB
Tel: 01465 831052

UPPER STINCHAR SWI

Needle Felting Fun

Upper Stinchar SWI "Rural" members enjoyed a Needle Felting demonstration at their recent meeting at Barr Village Hall.

Vice President Jo Travers introduced demonstrators Liz Copeland and Beth Blain who led the October workshop.

Members gathered round the table and were introduced (or reminded of) the creative craft of needle felting. With a colourful array of wools and templates; books and samples; and specialist tools, including safety equipment in the form of leather finger stools, Beth and Liz demonstrated the basic technique for needle felting, then for everyone who wanted to, there was a chance to try it out. Michelle and Wendy brought along their cute needle felt hare and sheep to inspire the others. From Santa's boot to fruit and flower shapes, many members got started on the absorbing craft of needle felting.

The main competition results for one jar of jam were:

1. Liz Copeland
2. Netta Wilson
3. Vera Dunlop

and in the fun competition for a favourite candle

1. Wilma Gracie
2. Liz Copeland
3. Yvonne Jack.

Wilma Gracie was congratulated for her well-earned first prize in Beadwork at the recent Ayrshire Federation SWI Show. Her tiny, intricate beadwork beehive is a delight to see!

Anne Dalton and Maggie Bunnnett prepared and served a delicious supper for everyone.

Upper Stinchar members will celebrate the 87th year of their Institute on Saturday 12th November 2016 at Wildings Restaurant, meeting at 12noon, Barr Village Hall for car-share transport to Maidens.

For further information about Upper Stinchar Scottish Women's Institute, contact rcsanderson4@gmail.com or telephone 01465 714783



BCC Barr Cycling Club

Earlier this year I got the opportunity to get involved with the Barr cycling project with a view to getting some of the local kids, and visitors alike out and about on the trails and making the most of what we have to offer in and around Barr. Along with this came funding and the opportunity to develop skills that can be applied to the cycle club and eventually take some of the younger members out and about to the Seven Stanes trails and beyond, I have written a brief report below to let you all see how things are going.

We have been given funding for a variety of courses and the fund is now in the hands of the BPDC.

Earlier in the year I approached three of the local lads that I thought might like to get involved along with myself and follow on into some of the training courses available.

Back in February I booked all four of us onto a 16 hour first aid course in Girvan. It was an intensive weekend which took place inside and out and proved to be successful for all of us.

The next venture was six mountain bike cycling training days arranged through ACE which took place throughout the July and August summer holidays. This proved to be a big hit with all who managed to get along. Two of the Seven Stanes trails were top of the list along with our local trails and even a visit to the Commonwealth Games track near Glasgow.

In between all this I have provisionally booked a course for two of our under 18 cyclists at Glenmore lodge in Aviemore for a five day residential mountain bike course. The bike courses are called Wild Wheels and Shifting Gear. It was a great opportunity for them to become skilled riders and bring their knowledge back to the cycle club.

This will be followed later this year by dedicated trails leader courses for the four of us resulting in a recognized trails leader certificate. Hopefully we will then be able to run a few trips of our own.

We look forward to next year and see if we can put all this training to good use.

Everyone is welcome to come and join in from age 8 to adult. Anybody who would like to get involved can contact the Barr village facebook page or Myself At chrisgunson@btinternet.com

It has been a busy year so far and the popularity of the cycle club has gone from strength to strength with the local kids and visitors alike. long may it continue.

By Chris Gunson.

Happy Haircuts



Happy Dogs

Lexie Trafford
Happy Haircuts

Barr
Girvan
01465 861639
Dog Grooming For All Dogs At Your Place Or Mine

friends.com@hotmail.co.uk
07964208159

CONGRATULATIONS ANNIE

Mrs Annie Gibson Celebrated her 100th birthday in September. Annie who now stays in the Trust Care home in Girvan, lived in Barr for many years. Her optimism and passion for life made her a much loved and greatly missed part of the village community.

Annie celebrated her birthday with friends and relatives and received messages of congratulations from the Queen and the Secretary of State.



UP AND COMING EVENTS FOR BARR VILLAGE COMMUNITY SHOP

The shop are delighted to announce the impending publication of Barr Calendar, featuring representatives from many of the community groups in the village emulating the Calendar Girls idea, very brave! It is hoped that this will help to raise funds for the store but perhaps more importantly raise the store's profile in the area.

The Ayr Roads Cycle Club visited with some of their members and were so impressed that the shop will be featured in an article that will be published very soon.

Meanwhile preparations for Christmas are well underway with a social evening planned for December to launch the calendar and get everyone into the festive spirit.

The shop continues to attract new customers particularly in the cycling world and thanks to the volunteers, directors and staff is still surviving and thriving in a challenging environment.

The shop recently increased its tea-room area and updated the display shelving. It is currently running an exhibition of art by the Camserney artists, which is proving popular. They are planning to feature work from other local artists and craftspeople in the coming months.

The shop will also be supporting the Barr Gala which will be held on Saturday the 3rd of June 2017 and the Hogmanay dance, that is being held in Barr Village Hall this year with live music and raffles (BYO drinks and food).

SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR BARR BOWLERS

Members of the Barr Bowling Club celebrated a very successful year at their end of season dinner and prizegiving in the Village Hall.

Playing on a much improved green, a splendid 28 members took part in a variety of club competitions and the open competitions attracted a good number of bowlers from outside the area. A Quiz Night was also held during the year.

Members and their guests attended an excellent prizegiving dinner which was provided by the club's lady stalwarts and which was greatly appreciated by all those who attended.

Secretary Isobel Ringrose was presented with a bouquet of flowers from the members for her tireless work in organising the various events and thanks were also expressed to her willing helpers who ensured the highest standards of hospitality throughout the year for members and visitors alike.

Greenkeeper, Alan Ringrose, was also highly commended by club President, George Campbell who praised his work, aided by John Bunnett, in providing an excellent green throughout the season.

Main prizewinners were; Club Singles, Johnny McKechnie, Open Pairs, Tom Copeland and Willie Grant, Open Triples, Alan Ford, Heather Bourne and Alan Hamilton, Club Points Champion, John Logan.

1. Some of the members who attended the close of season dinner and prizegiving.

2. Watched by Maggie Bunnett, Isobel Ringrose accepts a "Thank You" bouquet from President George Campbell on behalf of the club's members

3. Johnny McKechnie (right) was the Club's Singles Champion



JACKDAWZ - CARDS

Selection of photos from Jackdawz - Cards, Prints & Framed Prints.. Sunset from the Old Dailly Brae. The Pond, Bargany.. Glentroll - the Loch from The Merrick...



BUMPER CROP FOR BARR'S SUNFLOWER & PUMPKIN COMPETITION

Barr Village's annual Sunflower and Pumpkin Competition attracted a bumper crop this year with nearly 30 entries from keen gardeners both young and old.

The man with the scales and the measuring tape, John Craig announced that Barr's Tallest Sunflower had been grown by Ruth Shreeves and that it stood at a magnificent 10'2" while the flower with the widest head at 11" was entered by Jo Muir. Ann Dalton weighed in with the heaviest pumpkin which was a 29lbs whopper.

Organisers Alison Milroy and Jenny Craig thanked sponsors Dobbies in Ayr for their kind donation of the seeds and announced that the proceeds of this popular event would this year go to Lupus UK to help mark

Lupus Awareness Month which is running throughout October.

Alastair Smith accepted a cheque for £90 on behalf of LUPUS UK and thanked fellow villagers for their generosity and thoughtfulness in helping to combat and raise awareness of this debilitating disease.

1. From left: Ruth Shreeves, Ann Dalton and Jo Muir with their prize-winning entries.
2. The competition attracted entries large and small
3. Alastair Smith accepts a cheque on behalf of LUPUS UK's Awareness Week from Alison Milroy with co-organiser Jenny Craig looking on.



THE CAMSERNEY ARTISTS

The Camserney Artists are pleased to present a selection of their work, at **BARR COMMUNITY STORES TEA-ROOM GLENGINET ROAD BARR**

We are a small group of artists from around West Rhins and South Ayrshire who meet once a week in a studio at the home of Jan Holak, herself an artist and art teacher who paints in all mediums. Some of the artists have been painting for many years and a few for only a short time.

We paint in various mediums from oils to acrylic, watercolour to pastels.

We have a lot of fun at our sessions, we always encourage one another whilst painting, we enjoy a chat and at the end of the afternoon a welcome cuppa.

We hope you enjoy seeing our work as much as we enjoyed making it.

The shop and tearoom welcome ideas from local artists for displays of work. Please contact Barr Community Stores 01465 861221 for more details



BARR COMMUNITY OPEN DAY

On 16th October, the Barr Parish Development Company (BPDC) hosted an open day to present the findings of a feasibility study prepared by Kelly Morris (Consultant) into the future development and sustainability of Barr Village. The event was well attended with over a third of the community present; residents were given the opportunity to ask questions during and following the presentation. Following rigorous data collection, sifting & sorting, the consultant refined the study into four options for the community to consider and vote on to gauge the community's desire for future development ideas. The community were all provided with ballot papers and given 2 weeks to cast their votes. At the time of writing the vote was still open with the counting and announcement of results to take place at the Barr Community Council meeting on 11th November, to be overseen by Councilor Alec Oattes.

The Directors of BPDC would like to thank all members of the community for attending the open day. BPDC would also like to thank Kelly Morris and her team for the effort and diligence shown in the conduct of the study, South Ayrshire Council for providing the funding through the Ambition Fund to allow the study to take place and of course the team of volunteers who made the day run smoothly by providing food, refreshments and children's entertainment.

The community eagerly awaits the result of the vote with further updates on progress to be found on the Barr Village Website.



THE STINCHAR VALLEY QUILTERS

The Stinchar Valley Quilters capped a great fund raising season by handing over cheques to their three chosen charities.

The quilting ladies raffled off a fine hand sewn quilt along with other superb prizes and along with the proceeds from their first ever Quilt Show raised a magnificent £2,250. The money was shared equally between Macmillan Nurses, Ayrshire Hospice and the Scottish Air Ambulance.

Watched by the ladies of the club, the Quilter's Susan Trotter handed over cheques for £750 to each of the charities' representatives (from left to right) Carol Anne McMahon of the Scottish Air Ambulance, Laura Stockwell of Macmillan Cancer Support and Gerry Seenan of Ayrshire Hospice, at a social event in Barr Village Hall.



BARRHILL

BARRHILL BOWLING CLUB

Barrhill Bowling Club held its annual Open Pairs competition sponsored by Solway Precast and Robertson Plant Hire on 6th August with teams from Colmonell, Ballantrae, Barr, Crosshill, Kirkmichael and Barrhill Bowling Clubs.

After some very close games the eventual winners of the shield this year were, Anne McCulloch of Ballantrae Bowling Club and David McMaster who beat Heather Bourne and Alan Ford both of Barrhill Bowling Club in the final.

During the summer, the club competitions were played, and again we sent teams to play in the Carrick Bowling Association competitions and the British Legion. Our annual friendly with Newton Stewart this year was played at Newton Stewart Bowling Club. Newton Stewart were victorious this year but next year we aim to bring the shield back to Barrhill.

The club would like to thank all who have supported Barrhill Bowling Club and look forward to seeing you all on the green in 2017.



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



I am looking for likeminded people within the Stinchar area to start a community orchard, allotments and farm. Pigs, a few rare breed sheep, goats, chickens, ducks and some bees, all working together for a community farm.

If you are interested call Pearl McGibbon on 01465 821029 or pearlmcgibbon@yahoo.co.uk thanks



The First Barrhill Flower Show

By Linda Wild

The first Barrhill Flower Show on 3rd September 2016 was a huge success. We were delighted by the number and quality of exhibits which exceeded all expectations. The hall was buzzing with people both local and from further afield all afternoon.

We had a mammoth 441 exhibits entered in the show with the most popular class being Miscellaneous Craft which had a whopping 27 entries. Extra tables had to be found to accommodate all the wonderfully diverse entries!

The judges then had a very difficult job selecting the prize winners from so many excellent entries. A big thank you goes to the judges for their hard work.

A queue of people eager to view the entries and find out if they had won a prize had formed outside the hall by 2pm when the doors opened.

The show got off to a great start when it was officially opened by writer and former Barrhill GP Dr Tom Smith who kindly made a donation from the sale of copies of his books on the day to the hall committee.

There were many comments from visitors to the show expressing surprise at the volume and high standard of the entries.

A huge THANK YOU goes to everyone who helped to make the show such a great success. Thank you to Margaret Hall, Queensland Holiday Park, The Trout Inn and Scottish Renewables who generously donated the trophies. Thank you to everyone who kindly donated raffle prizes, Ian Ray who generously donated £100 prize money, Carrick Futures and the people who helped to run the show. Thank you to everyone who grew, baked, arranged, crafted, created and brought their exhibits to the show for all to see. Last but by no means least, thank you to everyone who came along on the day to support this new event and admire the exhibits. Congratulations to all the prize winners for their wonderful entries.

The biggest congratulations of all go to Sarah Malone who had the idea for the flower show and worked so hard throughout the year to make sure it was such a great success (with a little help from her friends).

We look forward to seeing you all again next year!

Here are a few of the new classes we are adding for next year to keep you busy on the long winter nights, Crochet, Tapestry, Sloe Gin, Pompom article and finally in the children's senior section Grass Seed Caterpillar (Google it!).

The Trophy Winners

The Queensland Holiday Park Trophy for Most Points in Whole Show – Annie Clarke with 51 points

The Trout Inn Trophy for Runner up Points in Whole Show – Linda Wild with 37 points

The David Hall Quaich for Best Exhibit in Whole Show – Linda Wild for her Cross Stitch Article

Best exhibit in Vegetable Section – Hugh Murray for his Carrots

Best exhibit in Flower Section – Hugh Murray for his House Plant in a Pot

Best exhibit in Decorative Section – Irene Allinson for her Collection of Herbs

Best exhibit in Baking Section – Jenny Murray for her Plain Gingerbread Loaf

Best exhibit in Preserves and Confectionary Section – Helen Allan for her Tablet

Best exhibit in Biggest, Heaviest & fun Section – Stephen Ogston for his Novelty Cake

Best exhibit in Handicrafts Section – Linda Wild for her Cross Stitch Article

Best exhibit in Children's Junior Section – Finlay Hegarty for his Pasta Necklace

Best exhibit in Children's Senior Section – Ethan Wild for his Miniature Garden



BARRHILL CRAFTSPEOPLE

Barrhill is home to several craftspeople of different kinds. Here is an insight into four of them



Glenalty Country House is our smallholding, just outside Barrhill on the Knowe Road. Since moving to Scotland in 2008, we settled in the village and started our wee adventure.

We grow and prepare food without any chemicals or preservatives, using traditional and environmentally friendly methods.

Our products include:

- Free range award winning eggs - hen & duck (also goose, turkey and guinea fowl eggs available, in season). All our birds are completely free to roam around the grounds and are only locked in for the night to prevent them being prey to local wildlife.
- Home reared free range pork and lamb from our rare breed pigs and sheep.
- A wide selection of original and special jams and preserves, made mainly from home grown crops.
- We stock seasonal, home grown and chemical free vegetables, herbs, plants & fruit.
- Our home bakery offers a selection of different kinds of baked items - breads & rolls, bagels, croissants, scones, pizza, pies, Scottish cloutie dumpling, and a selection of biscuits, cakes, loaves and other tasty snacks.

No stock kept – only baked to order, at this stage. Any additional request will be considered.

We don't have a shop yet, so our products are only available at selected craft and farmers markets. Customers are also most welcome to give us a call and order our goodies on 01465 821354. Delivery is optional.



David Bowling I was born in Blackburn, Lancashire in 1941 and spent most of my life in the Manchester area.

I am self-taught and began painting at an early age going on to develop my natural talent.

I prefer to paint landscapes and Old Masters but I have built up a varied portfolio over the years.

I exhibited in several galleries in North West England and North Wales. My work has also been accepted on a number of occasions by the Manchester Academy of Fine Arts annual exhibition.



I have now lived in Barrhill for 14 years where I have continued with my exhibition and commission work. If you are interested in commissioning a painting please call 01465 821205



Shabby Shed Furniture was a business I started because I had painted everything I could in my own house and friends started asking me to do pieces for them too, and so Shabby Shed Furniture was born!

My name is Sarah Redman, and I live with my family on a working beef and sheep farm at Creeside, Barrhill.

Upcycling is becoming increasingly popular with people concerned about climate change and it's an even greener way of recycling – you find a new purpose for your unwanted items before you chuck them away.

I take great pride in transforming pre-loved and tired furniture into desirable & gorgeous pieces to enhance your home. I also run painting workshops, take commissions, offer a sourcing service and have just become an official Frenchic paint stockist.

I choose to become a stockist for Frenchic paint www.frenchicpaint.com because it is an environmentally friendly chalk and mineral paint it is safe to paint nursery furniture and to use around pets too. It is ZERO VOC and SOLVENT FREE with no odour. There are 45 lush colours to choose from.

I love attending events and fairs, meeting people and chatting and you will often find me out and about at the weekends with my little helper, Daisy my daughter, who is also a budding furniture upcycler!

To keep up to date with Shabby Shed Furniture please like my Facebook page: **Shabby Shed Furniture** or follow me on Twitter: @shabbyshedx





The Hidden Garden was started about twenty years ago. The name came from the fact that our garden at the time was hidden from view among the South Ayrshire hills and we would say we should be called the hidden garden. We are now based in Barrhill and supply a range of handmade toiletries, artisan jams, chutneys, jellies and preserves all made from local ingredients. We also supply a range of cooking and marinating oils infused with either garlic, chilli, basil, lemon or Mediterranean herbs.

Our range of fudges and tablets is sold by the Biscuit Box in Girvan. Our herbal products include hand creams, moisturisers, shampoos and handmade soap. We also have various sizes of Harris Tweed cushions which are made with genuine Harris Tweed supplied to us by hand weavers on the islands of Harris and Lewis. You can find us at various markets around Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway including Wigtown, Ballantrae, Alloway and Culzean or please contact us on the following 01465 821029, 07765464275, pearlmcgibbon@yahoo.co.uk or **The Hidden Garden** on Facebook. All our products can be supplied in various sizes to suit B&Bs and small hotels.

YOUNG PEOPLE OF BARRHILL

You probably don't see or hear much of Barrhill's young people once they start attending Girvan Academy. So here's a taster of what some of them have been achieving recently.

Two of this year's school leavers have made a great start in life and have a bright future ahead of them.

Nicole Allan is working as a Chef at the luxury Gleneagles Hotel.

Courtney Flower is currently working at House o' Hill as a Commis Chef. She then plans to travel before studying a Combined Maths and Physics Degree at Strathclyde University starting in September 2017.

Barrhill was well represented at this year's Girvan Academy Prize Giving on 1st September 2016.

Prize for General Excellence in S1 - Ethan Wild

Prize for General Excellence in S2 - Harry Flower

Certificate for General Excellence in S3 - Charlie Russell

Certificate for Achievement in Dance S1- Zoe Allan

Town Twinning Association Prize for French S1- Ethan Wild

Town Twinning Association Prize for French S2 - Harry Flower

Badminton Junior Boys - Charlie Russell

It would be great to hear about what Barrhill's young people do in their spare time ready for the spring edition of The Stinchar Valley Magazine. Please email linda.wild@gmail.com and let me know what activities sporting, musical or anything else our busy, hardworking and talented young people are involved in.

ACUPUNCTURE TREATMENT JULIE PERRY BSc (hons) M.BAcC FEA.

JULIE PERRY IS A FULLY ACCREDITED MEMBER OF THE BRITISH ACUPUNCTURE COUNCIL AND HAS GAINED A FIRST CLASS HONOURS DEGREE IN TRADITIONAL CHINESE MEDICINE (ACUPUNCTURE) FROM SALFORD UNIVERSITY. SHE HAS STUDIED AT THE NO.1 TEACHING HOSPITAL, TIANJIN, CHINA, GAINING A CERTIFICATE IN TCM. JULIE IS ALSO QUALIFIED IN FACIAL COSMETIC ACUPUNCTURE.

ACUPUNCTURE IS USED TO TREAT A WIDE RANGE OF PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL PROBLEMS LISTED BELOW AND MANY MORE.

ARTHRITIS, STIFF NECK, SCIATICA, BACK PAIN, TENNIS/GOLFERS ELBOW
CIRCULATORY PROBLEMS, PALPITATIONS, ANGINA, BLOOD PRESSURE
URTICARIA, ECZEMA, PSORIASIS, SKIN COMPLAINTS
PRE-MENSTRUAL TENSION, IMPOTENCE, IVF, MORNING SICKNESS
URINARY AND REPRODUCTIVE PROBLEMS, HOT FLUSHES, LOW SPERM
NEURALGIA, BELL'S Palsy, STROKE RECOVERY
CONSTANT HEADACHES, DIZZINESS, TINNITUS, SINUS PROBLEMS
TIREDNESS, INSOMNIA, DEPRESSION, PANIC ATTACKS
UNDER THE WEATHER, INDIGESTION, IBS, COLITIS, NAUSEA
RHEUMATISM, SPORT INJURIES, FACIAL COSMETIC ENHANCEMENT
ENERGY LEVELS LOW, ME, GENERAL GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING,

TO ARRANGE AN APPOINTMENT CONTACT JULIE PERRY
01465 821236/07896 502955

1 THE WILLOW, SCARDEGALL BARRHILL, SOUTH AYRSHIRE, KA20 0PE

BARRHILL NIMBLE THIMBLE

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

email: barrhill.thimble@gmail.com

Barrhill Village General Store

Opening Hours
Monday to Friday 6:00am to 6:00pm
Saturday 8:00am to 12:00 noon
Sunday 9:00am to 12:00 noon

We sell a range of food, soft drinks, sweets, alcohol, cigarettes and a selection of newspapers and magazines

We also offer a tasty range of take-away hot and cold sandwiches, pies, pasties and all day breakfasts with tea or coffee

**Mobile top-up, Energy top-up
Digital Vouchers, Bill Payments
TV Licensing**

Barrhill Badminton Club



Tuesday evenings
6pm - 8pm
Barrhill Memorial Hall
Equipment supplied
Come along and enjoy the fun
All abilities from complete beginner
Welcome!!

CLUB DIAMONDS
**BARRHILL
KEEP FIT**



games laughter healthy "Come out and join in!"
FUN exercise happy
social WELLBEING enjoy **ENERGY** dance

DATE: MONDAYS
TIME: 7.00PM TO 8.00PM
VENUE: BARRHILL MEMORIAL HALL
ADMISSION: £3.00 PER PERSON (CLASS FEE)
ALL ABILITIES WELCOME

Barrhill Wee Whist Club



Runs every two weeks starting
Tuesday 20th September 2016
until May 2017
7:30pm start
Everyone Welcome
Tuition available if required

BARRHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

Ayrshire River Trust

The Ayrshire River Trust came to our school. They showed us how to do "river dipping", which involved a net, a tray and a decent pair of wellies!

The first thing we did was watching the Trust people while they fished in the river and caught some trout and salmon. We all had fun guessing what they were while the fish splashed and flapped and soaked us all!

Then, the leaders released the fish back into the river. We then went into the water (all wellingtons donned) and looked for some things a little further down the food chain. We had a scale printed on a piece of paper, which indicated the rough health of your river by the creatures that could be found in it.

Shortly after, we returned to the school to try and identify what we had caught. We were more than a little surprised by what was in the gathering trays!

The leaders then let the little creatures loose, and we went back home again, wet and tired but having had a great day!



ARNSHEEN PARK COMMUNITY GARDEN

We made the most of the lovely weather when it was weeding and harvesting day in the community garden. Everyone worked hard pulling up weeds around the planters to tidy things up.

There were potatoes to dig up and onions to pull out and herbs to gather. Nasturtium seeds were collected ready to plant in the spring to create a colourful bee friendly display next year. Some leeks were planted and some cress seeds. We'll be keeping an eye on them to watch them grow.

Everyone was very pleased with the harvest and the next day we prepared and cooked the onions and potatoes with some of the fresh herbs we gathered from the garden today.

We have started a Gardening Club which will run on the last Friday of the month except for December and January 1:30pm – 3pm. We meet at the gazebo in Arnsheen Park. We would welcome any help from family, friends and members of the community.



FARMING AND FOOD DAY AT GIRVAN PRIMARY

We were invited to a Food & Farming Day at Girvan Primary. There was so much to look at and to do!

There were lots of stands for us to go and look at and try things out.

Everyone enjoyed watching the sheep dogs rounding up the sheep and watching the gun dogs training.



TRANSPORT TOPIC

The children have been busy learning all about transport this term. We have been working hard in school to design cars and bring them to life which was great fun!!! We even had a race with them!!



ARNSHEEN PARK

As the Summer draws to a close Barrhill Community Council and the Barrhill Community Interest Company would like to thank everyone from near and far who visited the village and enjoyed the excellent facilities provided at our Community Sponsored Arnsheen Park. A warm welcome will always be extended to visitors but unfortunately reports of anti-social behaviour have been reported to Barrhill Community Council.

These include allowing dogs within the park. This is forbidden and was the subject of a village wide decision to ban all dogs, whether on a lead or not. There have also been reports of people parking their cars in Forest Road/The Avenue which leads to the park, with consequent damage to the nearside verge and subsequent littering. It must be remembered by all Arnsheen users that Forest Road/The Avenue is a Private Road and access could easily be denied to us all should the owner decide to gate the road. A car park is provided in the village which can be found adjacent to the Barrhill Primary School. It is free, well lit and within a 3 minute walk of the Arnsheen Park. There really is no excuse not to use it. There is level access from the Car Park to Arnsheen and so disabled users should not be inconvenienced.

Recently, when a member of the Barrhill public remonstrated with a visitor from a village close to Barrhill about inconsiderate parking, littering etc, he was subjected to a foul mouthed tirade. Although this person has been identified it has been decided to take no third party action on this occasion, although we reserve the right to report any witnessed or recorded repeat of such illegal behaviour to Police Scotland.

We enjoy welcoming visitors to Barrhill but would ask that normal standards of societal behaviour be observed.

BARRHILL COMMUNITY COUNCIL BARRHILL COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY



The ghoulish fancy dress competition



Barrhill Halloween Party

by Ethan Wild

On the 28th of October, the little terrors – sorry, children of Barrhill Primary joined together for a spooktacular night out, hosted by the Barrhill Memorial Hall Community Association.

As a beastly beginning, a most ghoulish fancy dress costume competition was judged. There was a terrifying trio of wicked winners: Erin, Daisy and Alisha.

Next, the little devils played some ghostly games.

The first game was Musical Statues. Next was Witches' Hats – everyone had to dance around the room until the music stopped – and then they had to try and stand on one of the newspaper hats. Every time, there was one less hat and to their horror, one eerie individual was out.

Playing witches hats



There was a chilling pumpkin carving contest, devilish dancing, and of course, some freakishly fabulous party games! After all that, the little partygoers tucked into a haunting selection of food that almost bit back!

Finally the evening ended with even more grisly games.

Everyone had a fiendishly good time.

The fancy dress winners



Pumpkin carving competition



Playing pass the parcel



Make a Christmas wreath for birds

You will need:

- Pines cones
- Long twigs
- Garden wire
- Soft lard
- Mixing bowl
- Holly and other leaves
- Bird seed, breadcrumbs and grated cheese
- Dried fruits or unsalted nuts

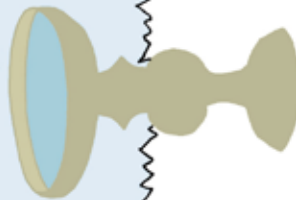
1 Twist together bundles of long twigs and fasten with wire into a ring.

2 Squish lard into a soft paste in a bowl. Mix in bird seed, breadcrumbs or grated cheese.



3 Smear over pine cones and decorate with dried fruits and nuts.

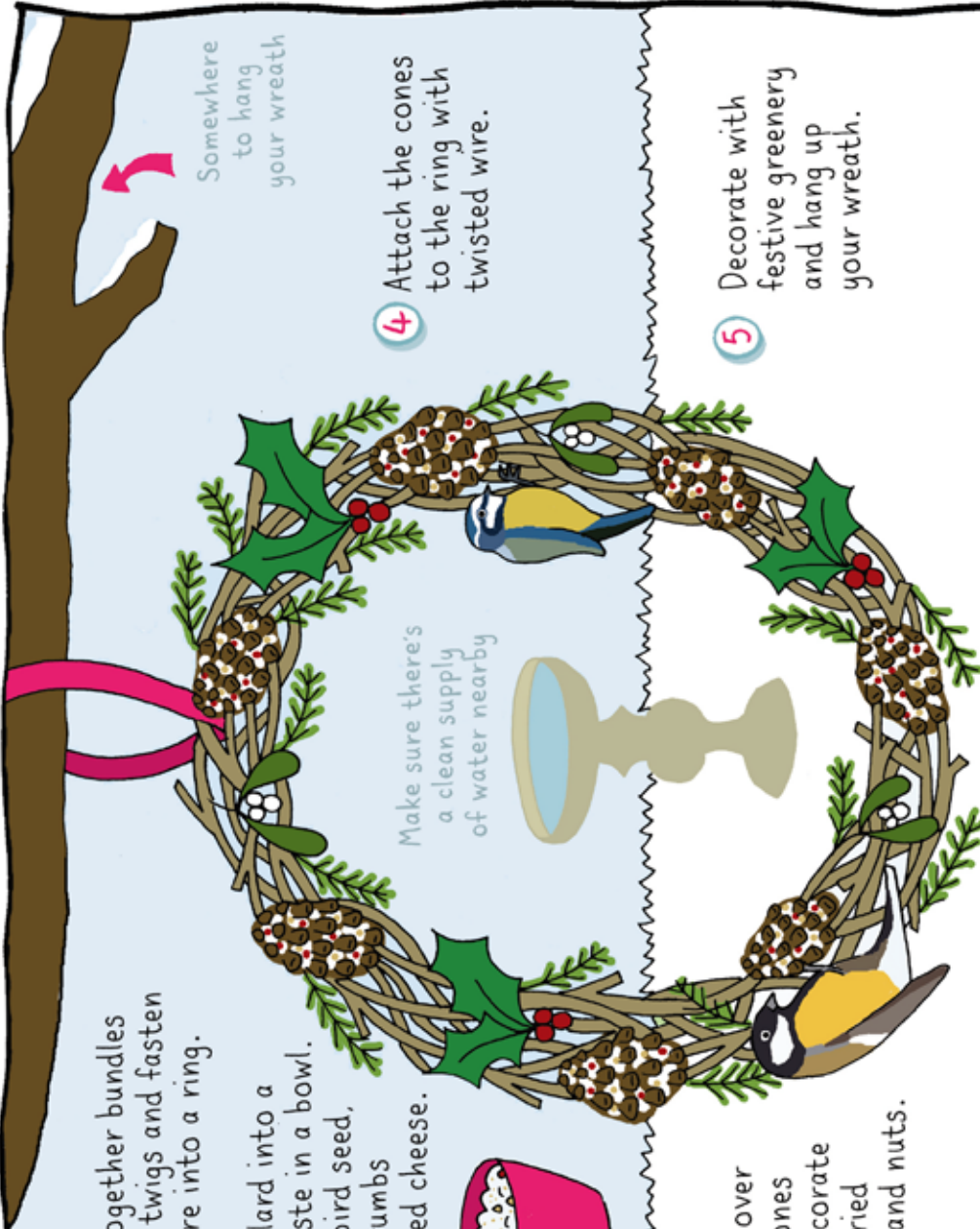
Make sure there's a clean supply of water nearby



4 Attach the cones to the ring with twisted wire.

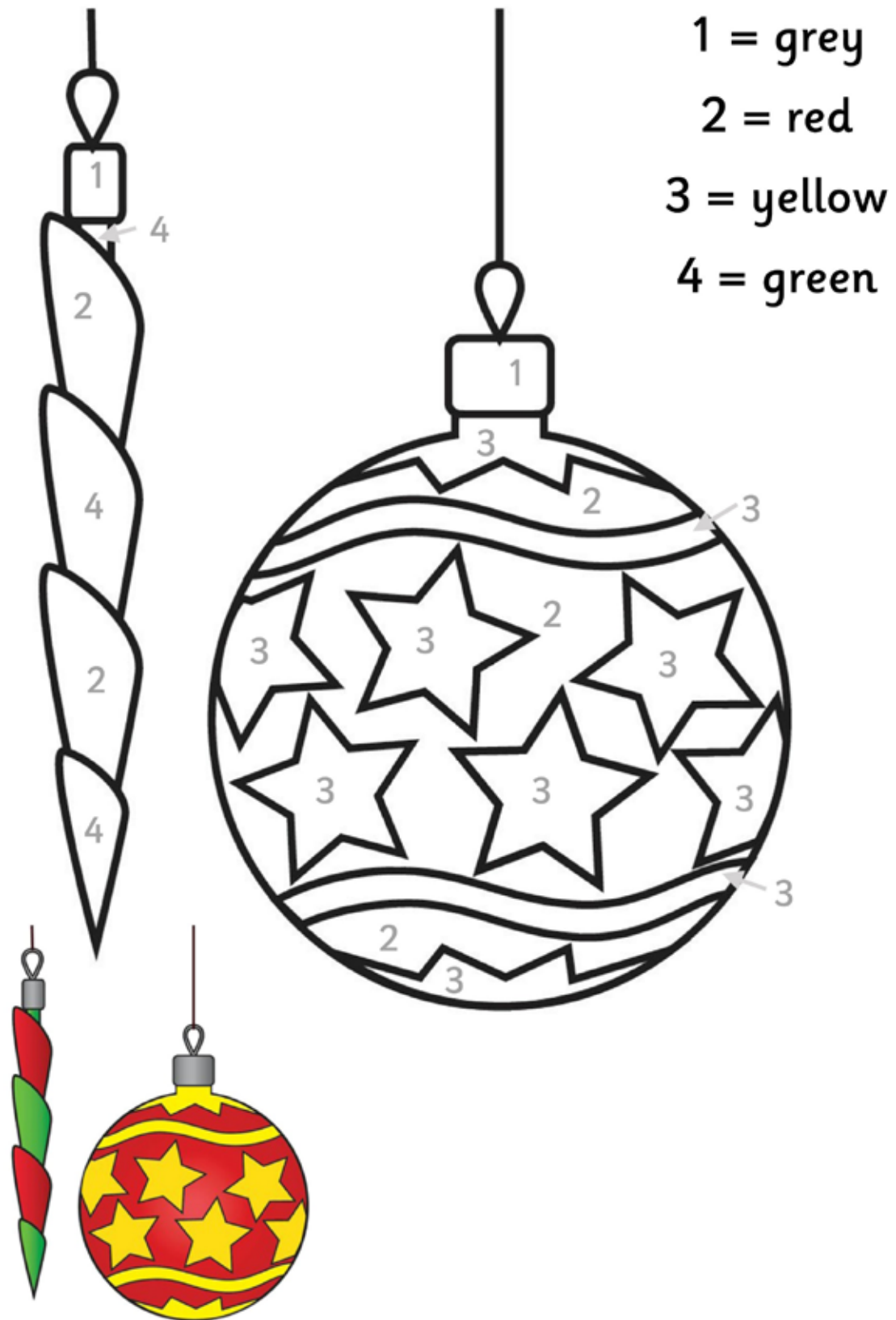
5 Decorate with festive greenery and hang up your wreath.

Somewhere to hang your wreath



Christmas Decorations

Colour by Number



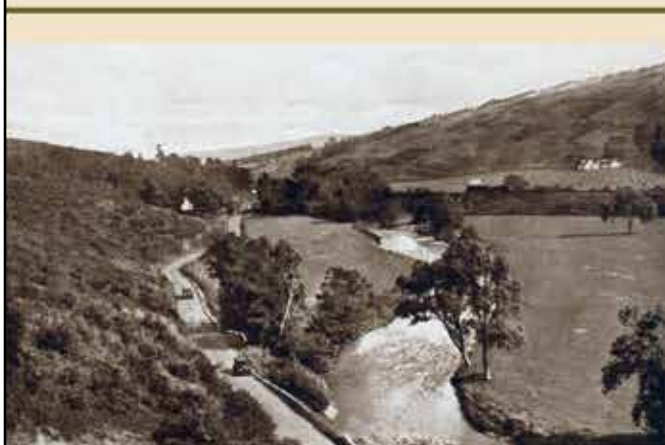
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from the archives . . .

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



The photograph above shows Ballantrae Main Street in 1920, with McKissock's grocer's shop on the right, and the photo below, pre-1920, when it was Thomas McGill's butcher's shop



A view across the Stinchar Valley, with a steam train in the distance, and possibly Little Pinmore Farm on the hillside?



Main Street Colmonell in 1911, showing the Temperance Hotel and the Boar's Head



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

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