



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

WINTER
2013

THE STINCHAR VALLEY MAGAZINE



Dusk over the Stinchar Valley

Pinwherry Hall craft fair



What a great day! We raised £470 and many thanks to Jill McAlley and Margaret Bean for organising the event and the SWRI ladies for all tea/coffee and Tray bakes not forgetting all the Pinwherry Community Association members and 2 Pins Members for all the hard work put to make the day a success. Comments from stall holders were that many of them sold more on our craft Day than they did bigger events elsewhere and would like to come back to Pinwherry next time.

Stall holders were:
 Ian Challis (Clocks),
 Keith & Beryl Dawdry (Pottery)
 Gardening Leave (Veterans Support)
 Barbara Ogston (Jewellery)
 Diana Fyfe (Fabric Bags)
 Lia Court (Preserves & Baking),
 Stinchar Valley Quilters,
 Wendy Dagwell (Egg Craft)
 Jean Hopkins (China Cake Stands)
 Bunty Moore (Scarves)
 Dave Currie (Photographic Prints)
 Beth Currie (Crocheted Jewellery)
 Vicky McGuire (Candles)

Unfortunately Robert Hunt (Woodwork) was taken ill and could not be with us. We hope for a speedy recovery Robert. **Well done all.**



Help Save Ayrshire's Red Squirrels

Ayrshire Red Squirrel Group

New Carrick Grey Squirrel Control Officer appointment

Ayrshire Red Squirrel Group is delighted to announce that funding provided by Carrick Futures and Hadyard Hill Community Benefit Companies has enabled a new position of Carrick Grey Squirrel Control Officer to be created. The post-holder is Joram Smit, pictured.



Originally from Holland, Joram studied forestry and conservation for 3 years before moving to Scotland. He has succeeded in learning the practical parts of wildlife management and has climbed the ladder from under-gamekeeper to head gamekeeper. He has 13 years experience in wild life management on both low and high ground, throughout Scotland.

Joram is married and lives in Kirkoswald. In his spare time he enjoys salmon fishing and tying salmon flies. Joram is employed by Ayrshire Rivers Trust and is responsible for developing and implementing strategies to tackle the invasive grey squirrel population to benefit the native red squirrel strongholds of South Carrick. This will be achieved through the collaborative effort of residents, volunteers and landowners.

Help Save Ayrshire's Red Squirrels

"How you can you help?" Join us! We rely heavily on volunteers to:

Report sightings of all red and grey squirrels - this is vitally important. Reporting your sightings of both red and grey squirrels enables Ayrshire Red Squirrel Group (ARSG) to monitor the locations of our local red squirrel populations and to pinpoint where reds are at risk. Whether you see squirrels in your garden, or when you are out and about within our area, we are very interested to hear about your sightings. Sightings are recorded on the ARSG squirrel distribution map. To record your sighting:

- Visit www.ayrshirered squirrels.org.uk and press "What can you do?"
- Scroll down page to "sightings" and complete the "record sheet"
- Press "send" at foot of the sheet

Volunteering

If you are interested in any of the following activities please contact Joram on 01292-521223, 07415-257385, or Email: joram@ayrshireriverstrust.org.

- Surveying and monitoring red and grey squirrels
- Making and monitoring squirrel feed boxes
- Trapping grey squirrels
- Culling grey squirrels
- Taking blood samples from grey squirrels for squirrel pox virus testing

Full training will be given for our volunteers

- Raising awareness at local shows events and meetings
- Putting up posters/distributing sightings postcards
- Distribute collecting tins to local businesses

Squirrel Signs?

Did you know that Pinwherry and Pinmore have adopted the native red squirrel as its community branding? Watch out for strategically placed red squirrel signs in our area. The Stinchar Valley Magazine will report "squirrel developments" in future quarterly editions.

Above:
Joram Smit

Right
& Below:
Squirrels



Mail To The Editor

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

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

Are you from Ballantrae, Barr, Barrhill, Colmonell, Glen App, Lendalfoot or Pinwherry & Pinmore areas?

For all this and anything else that crosses your mind about our communities contact the editorial team. Your input is vital. Be heard, make a difference. Items may be edited for spelling, grammar, clarity or length.

Please contact your area representatives:

Pinwherry/Pinmore

John McAlley - Editor

Stinchar Valley Magazine, Ligartrie Farm, Pinwherry KA26 0SL.
Tel: 01465 841198 Email: Stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk

Ballantrae

Andy McAlpine:
andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com

Peter Newland:
peternewlands1@btconnect.com

Barr

Alastair Smith:
Email: alastair_smith45@icloud.com

Barrhill

Vacant - volunteers needed

Colmonell/Lendalfoot

Evelyn McCubbin/
Margaret Robertson
colmonell293@hotmail.com

Jim Fleming
margaretjimfleming@googlemail.com

Editorial Panel

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

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

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Community Council News

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

AGE Concern Girvan

Welcome! My name is Tricia Watts and I am chairman of Age Concern Girvan. I lead a team of friendly volunteers to supply affordable meals. A three course meal is only £4.50 and all our meals are made here on the premises. If you are visiting Girvan why not come along and try them for yourself, or indeed, why not become a member? Only £5 per annum.

ALL ages welcomed
2, Duff Street, Girvan, (at the corner with Dalrymple St) Ayrshire KA26 9AP Tel: 07584 932022

We are open on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 9:30 till 1pm
for morning coffees and home-made lunches and would love to see you.

Contact Tricia: 01465 712 032
mail@ageconcerngirvan.org.uk
www.ageconcerngirvan.org.uk

Arnshean Fellowship Group

Nov 14th - Dr Tom Smith
December Christmas Lunch
Jan 17th - Whist drive
Feb 20th - Frieda & Alvin
March 20th - To be confirmed
April 17th - Dancers & Pipers
May 21st - Jim Colvin & Friends, a coffee evening

We would love new members.
We meet in Barrhill
Community Hall at 7.30pm.
Contact Margaret Allan on
821 345.

Colmonell Bowling Club

On the 30th September the bowling season ended as it begun, with a beautiful sunny day and a good turnout of members and friends for the final game of the year. We all had a very enjoyable season, lots of sunshine and very few midges. Social Evening and presentation of trophies was in the Boars Head Hotel, Saturday 16th November.

Prize winners are as follows:

Queen's Hotel Mixed Pairs

Winners: Mike Challis and Carol Wilson
Runners up: Fiona Challis and Sandy Wilson

Robert Halliday Cup Ladies Singles

Winner: Fiona Challis
Runner up: Evelyn McCubbin

Boars Head Trophy Club Champion

Winner: George Parker
Runner up: Gordon Todd

Gents Champion

Winner: Sandy Wilson
Runner up: Richard Todd

Junior Champion

Winner: Craig Walker
Runner up: Duncan Cloy

Wapinschaw

Winners: SAT: Sandy Wilson, WED: Sandy Wilson/Gordon Todd

Juniors

Winners: SAT: Hazel Cloy, WED: Alexander Wilson/Duncan Cloy

Bougang Trophy

Winners: Richard Todd, Evelyn McCubbin, Stephen Challis

Fun Day Trophy

Winners: Sandy Wilson, Margaret Robertson

Wison Cup

Winners: Fiona Challis, Richard Todd, Carol Wilson

Firebell Trophy

Winners: Duncan Cloy, Craig Walker, Helen Cloy

Boars Head Shield

Winners: Gordon Todd, Duncan Cloy, Evelyn McCubbin

JPE Wightman Cup

Winners: Douglas McTaggart, Alexander Wilson

Mike Challis Cup

Winners: George Parker, Helen Cloy.

For more information contact Margaret 881352 or Evelyn 881293.



Colmonell Baby & Toddler Group

Colmonell Baby & Toddler group continues to meet every Thursday from 1.30pm to 3pm. On the first Thursday of the month the group meet in the nursery at Colmonell Primary School where the health visitor does a baby clinic and the group meet all other Thursdays in the newly refurbished Church hall in Colmonell. All pre-school children and babies from Colmonell and surrounding villages are welcome to attend.

The children enjoyed their first trip to Ayr Farm park this summer which was paid for by holding a fundraising stall at Colmonell Fun Day in June. Babies and toddlers also had a Halloween party and there are plans to hold a Christmas party in December. For more information on the group contact Eileen McCutcheon on 881 191.

Pinwherry And Pinmore Community Council

Minutes of Community Council meetings can be seen on the website www.2pins.org.uk

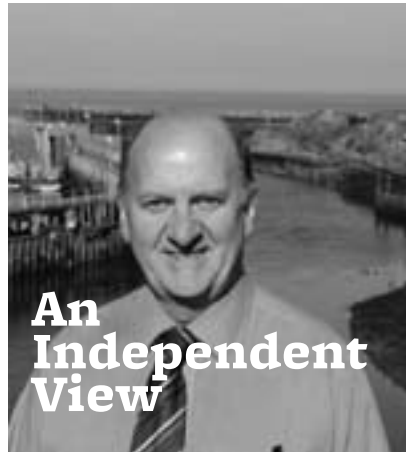
Ballantrae Community Council

Ballantrae Community Council sits on the last Tuesday of the month in the Public Hall. Members of the public are welcome.

South Ayrshire Council Contact Centre

Don't wait for others to report issues, it may not be done! E.g. road damage 01292 612302, dead animals on the road, water leaks - pick up the phone.

Telephone the Customer Services Team on 0300 123 0900. Send a Text message to 0797 1120 498.



From barbecues to bonfires, from warm sunny summer days to cold wet winter nights. How the year marches on and now thoughts turn to Christmas. However, a lot of progress has been made within our Communities this year which shows the dedication and hard work of Community Councils and Community Groups where it is my privilege to offer support and advice when asked. Planning progress is now going forward with both the 2 Pins Centre and the Girvan and South Carrick Leisure Centre while the Bruce Trail is gathering momentum on the tourism front. A way forward is now being talked about in the not too distant future on the Carrick Way and no doubt, other initiatives will come from our local communities which will add to the melting pot out of which will come the gala days , fetes , concerts etc

which we all enjoy so much. If we add a certain referendum and the commonwealth games, then 2014 promises to be an exciting year. Energy will be another priority in the year and years ahead with some commentators already predicting power cuts in some parts of the country. Hard questions have to be answered regarding the generation of energy and the price charged to the consumer and of course there is energy efficiency. Do we want renewable energy through wind and possibly wave or would fracking for shale gas be welcomed. Possibly you are a nuclear supporter or is carbon capture the answer to allow for coal fired power stations. Whatever method of power generation we support, they are all subsidised in one way or another and at the end of the day when you flick the switch on the wall it is hoped that the light will go on.

The new head of shared services for roads between East and South Ayrshire Stewart Turner takes up post in April 2014. Stewart currently works for Transport Scotland having previously held post with Argyll and Bute Council. Stewart brings a wealth of experience to the position and it was clear to me that he well understood the challenges ahead. A new joint committee of three elected members from each

council will support him and it is to be hoped that our roads in East and South Ayrshire will benefit from this new alliance.

I found it a great privilege to be invited as guest of honour to speak to the dining in night of 1371 squadron and 137 squadron Girvan, Ayr & Prestwick Air Cadets recently at Malin Court Maidens. It is so good to see how the potential of these young adults is nurtured and brought to the fore by officers and staff to allow all of life's problems to be tackled head on in confidence by all of the cadets. The way they turned out and represented their respective squadrons was a tribute to the hard work and good training that they have gone through. I am sure that in our communities the admiration and support of all of us will underpin our uniformed organisations at all times be they youngsters in the girls or boys brigade, scouts, cubs, brownies, army, air, sea cadets or indeed the service personnel that defend our freedoms.

As the year draws to a close may you have a very merry Christmas, a happy New Year and may you and yours be blessed for the years ahead.

Alec Clark
Councillor Alec Clark (Independent)
South Ayrshire Council,
Ward 8: Girvan and South Carrick.



Ballantrae Church linked with St Colmon Church

When I visited Malawi in May/June 2012, the most moving and humbling experience was visiting some of the houses to inspect their mosquito nets. It is impossible to put into words how different the homes were there in comparison to our own homes. And yet in homes, where the poverty is beyond anything in this country, lived people who seemed content and who were consistently generous to us. It was good that the homes we visited had mosquito nets, however only about 55% of homes in Malawi have mosquito nets. Mosquito nets protect those sleeping underneath, often an entire family, from mosquitoes which mainly bite at night.

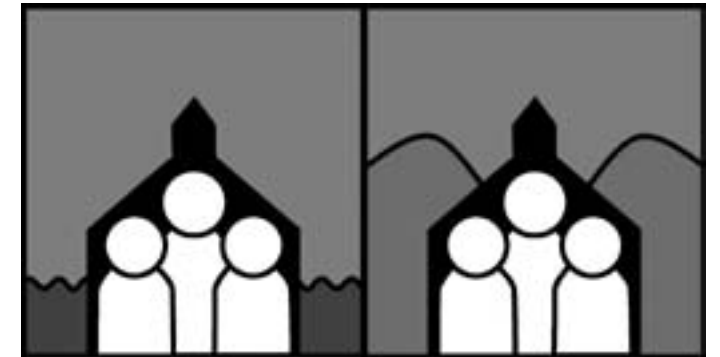
While the bite of any mosquito is annoying and itchy, many of the mosquitoes also carry the malaria virus which can be fatal if not properly treated. The initial symptoms of malaria are flu-like and include a fever, headache, sweats, chills and vomiting, which can lead to life-threatening complications. In fact Malaria is the number one cause of death in Malawi, with children under 5 and pregnant women most at risk. Therefore the value of a mosquito net cannot be over valued, because just a simple net can save many lives.

In order to help provide these much needed nets for people in Malawi, we are selling gift cards for £7, which pays for one net. You can buy these gift cards for family and friends for Christmas or any other occasion, or alternatively you can buy a card in order to support this project. Cards can be bought from myself (contact details below) or at any Church of Scotland.

For each gift card a family in Malawi will receive a life saving net and be able to sleep safely for the first time. There are not many gifts that will be given this Christmas that are life changing, but this is definitely one of them.

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

Stephen



Christmas Services

Sunday 8 December

3pm Glenapp Church -
Candlelit Lessons and Carols Service

Sunday 15 December

3pm Barrhill Memorial Hall
Christmas Service

Thursday 19 December

7:30pm St Colmon Carols, Colmonell

Friday 20 December

7pm Lessons & Carols in Lendalfoot Hall

Sunday 22 December

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

Tuesday 24 December

11:30pm Ballantrae - Watchnight Service
11:30pm St Colmon, Colmonell -
Watchnight Service

Wednesday 25 December

10:30am Ballantrae Family Service

Friday 27 December

7pm Christmas Film Night
in Ballantrae Church

Church Info

St Colmon Parish Church

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

Ballantrae Parish Church

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

Minister: Rev Stephen Ogston, The Manse, 1 The Vennel, Ballantrae, KA26 0NH
Telephone: 01465 831252, Email: ogston@macfish.com

Websites: www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk or www.stcolmonparishchurch.org.uk. We are also on Facebook as 'Ballantrae Church' and 'StColmon Church'.

St John's Episcopal Church Girvan

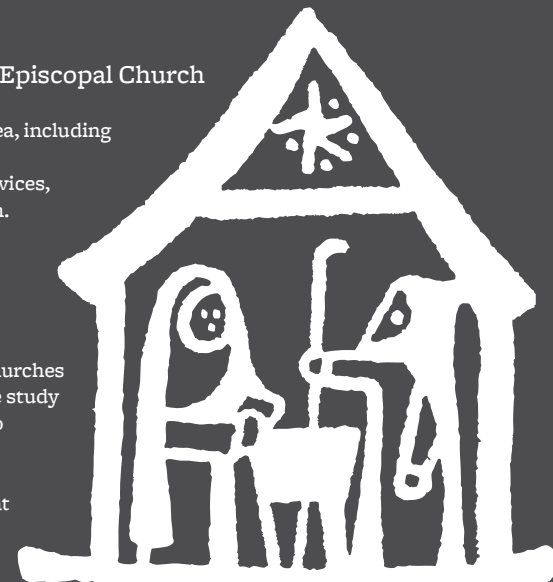
Part of the Scottish Episcopal Church

St John's serves the Anglican and Episcopalian community in the Girvan area, including Pinwherry, Pinmore, Ballantrae, Barrhill, Colmonell, Lendalfoot and Barr. Visitors from all church backgrounds or none at all are welcomed at our services, which are presently held in the Methodist Church, Dalrymple Street, Girvan.

On Sunday mornings we meet at 9.30 am; Holy Communion is usually celebrated. On the first Sunday of each month, we join with the Methodist congregation and the service is at 10.30 am.

Our Tuesday morning fellowship group is attended by people from many churches in the area. We start at 11.am with a simple act of worship, followed by bible study after a coffee break. Lunch is served around 12.30 and anyone is welcome to join us for all or part of the morning.

Carols by Candlelight at 8.00 pm on Christmas Eve has become a tradition at St John's. All are warmly invited to join us for this simple, meaningful service of readings and carols in the candlelit church, as we ponder anew the timeless message of "Emmanuel, God with us."





Ballantrae Crafty Bees

Ballantrae Crafty Bees have had a busy start to our new session. Already this year we have made candles, tried some felt making, made some beautiful fabric corsages, done some Christmas Pinflair, made origami boxes and some Christmas flower table decorations. We're always on the lookout for new ideas and members so why not join us? We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month at 7.30pm in BRICC House, Ballantrae. Cost is £2 per week plus material costs depending on what we are making. All adults, male and female, are welcome to join us. For more details please get in touch with Barbara Ogston on 01465 831252. Hope to see you soon!

Colmonell Primary School

Children from our new, smart Primary 1 Class



Harvest Celebration

Our recent Harvest Celebration took place on October 4th and we had a great turn out of friends and family to support us. The children presented a wonderful performance of the Enormous Turnip. A number of parents and friends stayed on to support our Harvest Lunch and enjoyed a bowl of Cream of leek and potato soup or Lentil soup. This year our Harvest Donations went to Ballantrae Church's appeal for Malawi Malaria to buy mosquito nets. We raised the fantastic sum of £75.00.



ACE

Our children have recently taken part in a number of ACE days. Primary 3/4 undertook the challenge of hill climbing up part of the Merrick on a beautiful autumn day and Primary 5/6/7 enjoyed a day of canoeing along Loch Trool. Their next challenge is abseiling at Mauchline Gorge.

Halloween Party

Our annual Halloween party was held on Thursday 31st October in the school. Primary 1-7 and nursery children dressed up in a range of scary and fabulous costumes. They enjoyed an exciting array of party games and food organised by themselves and staff in the school.

Australia Theme

This term Colmonell children have been learning all about Australia. This was brought to life for them by engaging with their teacher, Mrs Shankland, via email, during her recent trip to Australia for her son's wedding. All children now have a pen friend from a school in Australia and are writing regularly to them.

Anti Bullying Animation

Primary 5/6/7 recently took part in the Respect Me anti bullying competition by creating an animation called "Don't be a Bully". This can be seen on You Tube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H239MJTI9JE>.

Many thanks to the Rev. Stephen Ogston for supporting us with this activity.

HALLOWEEN FUN AT COLMONELL



Skeletons, ghosts, vampires, witches, mummies and pretty little fairies, were amongst the partygoers who gathered at Colmonell Community Centre on Friday 1st November. Thanks go to Eddie & Anita Hoey, who kindly took on the difficult task of judging the best dressed. Winners were: Pre-school 1st Jake McKeachan, 2nd Alistair Shankland, 3rd Lucy McCutcheon. P1-4 1st Johnnie McKeachan, 2nd Travis McDonald, 3rd Summer Kennedy. P5-7 1st Jason Paterson, 2nd Josh Mitchell, 3rd Evie McDonald. If enjoyment is measured by the amount of noise they made, I'd say that they must have had a ball! Fun, games and plenty of food ensured that the little darlings all went home happy, and I'm sure the adults enjoyed it too.

Cosses Country House Wins Prestigious Award

On Thursday 10th October 2013 Cosses Country House in Ballantrae won the Ayrshire Chamber Local Food Hero Business Award.

Cosses Country House is a Visit Scotland 5 Gold Star/ Green Gold/ Wolsey Lodge offering outstanding home hospitality at affordable prices. All the food served at Cosses is home grown or sourced from quality local suppliers. They go out of their way to promote other local organisations and products to their guests to give them an unforgettable visitor experience and they have guests from all over the world.

Susan Crosthwaite of Cosses told Stinchar Valley Magazine "We grow most herbs and vegetables from seed; orchard and berry fruit and flowers. We source other food from the Ayrshire Food Network (Dalduff Farm has been our butcher for 25 years), Braehead Foods and Pieroni. We encourage our guests to dine and buy produce from other Ayrshire Food Network and Taste Ayrshire members. We only serve Scottish Cheese - much of it from Dunlop Dairies and Barweys - and home-made oatcakes. I make all my own bread and preserves."

"We work in partnership with Glenapp Castle, the Whisky Experience in Kirkoswald, Pebbles Bistro, Woodland Bay Hotel, Dowhill and use local wine suppliers - Corney and Barrow and Alexander Wine. We offer guests local beer from Ayr Brewery and promote whisky from the Whisky Experience ("Banknote" is our standard blend - 60% of which is made at Grants in Girvan)."



"Local Food and drink is the hallmark of our business."

Congratulations to Susan and the team at Cosses on the award and for all the work they do to help put Ballantrae, South Carrick and quality Ayrshire food on the map.

picture of the Ayrshire Chamber Awards
Left to right: TV personality Catriona Shearer, Robin Crosthwaite, Susan Crosthwaite and Colin Blair - Buzzworks - Chair of Taste Ayrshire



Christmas at Glenapp Castle, Ballantrae

Enjoy Pre-Christmas Lunch & Dinner this December

THREE COURSE GOURMET CHRISTMAS LUNCH

£39.50 PER PERSON
to include a glass of Champagne with Canapés on arrival and Petits Fours with Coffee

Please telephone 01465 831212 or e-mail info@glenappcastle.com to check availability and to make your booking.

SIX COURSE GOURMET CHRISTMAS DINNER

£65.00 PER PERSON
to include a glass of Champagne with Canapés on arrival and Petits Fours with Coffee

Glenapp Castle, Ballantrae, Ayrshire
KA26 0NZ SCOTLAND - Tel: 01465 831212
Email: info@glenappcastle.com
Website: www.glenappcastle.com

PLEASE ASK FOR OUR SPECIAL CHRISTMAS DINNER, BED & BREAKFAST RATES

The Community Rail Partnership For Carrick & Wigtownshire

Good news for South Carrick Communities: after a hiatus of some 18 months SAYLSA has finally secured funding for its successful community rail project and will allow it to employ a part time Development Manager, reproduce its popular mini timetables and produce a range of promotional material aimed at passengers, cyclists and walkers. Since its inception in 2007 SAYLSA has contributed to a growth in passengers 52% greater than the franchise achieved in 2002/3 to 2007/8 and an economic impact



of around £200,000 per annum. It is aiming to diversify into new markets and is already in discussion about its charter train proposal to bring visitors to the area and showcase the best Carrick and Wigtownshire has to offer. There are no train timetable alterations proposed when the winter timetable comes into effect on the 8th December. Its Community Transport facility has had a successful summer and is available for hire to community groups. For further details please contact saylsa@tiscali.co.uk or telephone 01465 714665

Pinwherry Women's Rural Institute

Pinwherry WRI has many people to thank for the wonderful response they received from various sources for their afternoon tea held on Saturday 24th August at Pinmore. Those who organised, erected and dismantled the marquee. Supplied, delivered and returned tables, chairs, dishes etc. and everyone who helped with the teas, sales table and other stalls, also those who gave donations for the teas, sales table and raffle. Carlie Dunbar and Cara Logan were the winners of the number of sweets in the jars.

Very many thanks to everyone who came along and supported our project, we hope they enjoyed their day with us. We raised more than £400.

This Sign Has Been Stolen, Twice!



Residents may have noticed that at the Pinmore end of the road to Lendalfoot a sign like the one above was installed by South Ayrshire Council during the summer. The first sign was continually tampered with and subsequently removed by persons unknown. Now a second sign has been removed sometime between 17 and 18th October 2013. Police want to find out who carried out these thefts. If you have any information relating to this crime please contact Girvan Police Station on 01465 713587 and quote reference UD03451013. Thank you

Pinwherry Bridge CCTV



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

Contacts for the Council's Bridges Section:

Douglas Hemmings
(Team Leader - Bridges & Lighting).
E mail: Douglas.hemmings@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Tel. No. 01292 616377
Scott Greig
(Supervisory Engineer - Bridges).
E mail: Scott.greig@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Tel. No. 01292 616659

Local Contact:

John McAlley
Email: j.mcalley@btinternet.com
Tel. No. 01465 841198

Pinwherry Community Association in conjunction with the 2 Pins Community Co.

Raising funds to support the development of the new 2 Pins Centre for the villages of Pinwherry and Pinmore. For further details see Web site www.2pins.org.uk

January 2014 - Ayrshire Junior Fiddle Orchestra

(Date to be Confirmed)

February - Film Night

(with a children's film early evening)

The 2 Pins Community Company meetings are held every 2nd Thursday in the month. All are welcome to come and find out about the new 2 Pins Centre.

63 quiz sheets were returned from a wide area - Allerby, Ballantrae, Barrhill, Carnwath, Castle Douglas, Colmonell, Girvan, Glentroll, Hollybush, Kilmarnock, Lendalfoot, Maidens, Maybole, Pinmore, Pinwherry, Prestwick, Stranraer and Whithorn.

Several people had 20 correct answers, the winning entry drawn from hat was - John Wyllie, Burnfoot Cottage, Pinwherry. Pinwherry Community Association in association with the 2Pins Company would like to thank everyone for their support and generosity. Correct answers on request or from the 2pins web site, www.2pins.org.uk

Lost, Found, For Sale & Wanted

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

4 or 6 panel doors circa 1910: Taken out of the Kirk Hall in Colmonell. If you wish to view them contact Claire on 841644.

1970 MG Midget 1500: Heritage vehicle (Tax exempt) Contact Editor (01465 841198)

Balkissock Lodge for sale: Howard and Cordelia Galley have informed us that their splendid Georgian house is for sale. It has five bedrooms and outbuildings, is set in about an acre of garden and woodland and is located in rolling hills three miles from Ballantrae. Full details and photographs can be seen at: <http://scottishcountryhouse.wordpress.com/scottish-country-house-for-sale/> OR <http://www.rightmove.co.uk/property-for-sale/property-33650686.html?jsessionid=6593E8ACB33A404CB74FC0718CD136AD>



Alec Oattes
SNP Councillor



I wanted to start this column by discussing the "Elephant in the Room" - that is the future of power generation in the UK. I am well aware this is a controversial subject but feel it must be aired after the recent decision by the Scottish Government Reporter to overturn South Ayrshire Council's Planners' decision to refuse the Assel Valley development.

This decision has caused great dismay to many local residents in the Pinnore and Pinwherry area. I was equally disappointed by this decision because, like most residents, I agree South Carrick already has its share of wind farm development. Before the last Council election, I promised to speak out against any further wind farm expansion in South Carrick and to that end I have done so to the best of my limited powers. I have also expressed my views to Fergus Ewing the Minister for Energy and Tourism and await his reply.

Over the last three years or so, I have worked with the Carrick Community Council Forum to develop a tourism strategy for Carrick and this is only now coming to fruition in the shape of the Carrick Heritage Trail and other developments.

I have no wish for this good work to be undermined by further wind farm expansion. You may have noticed the local Conservative MEP has gone to print on several occasions berating the Scottish Government and its policy on carbon free energy generation but nowhere does he address the fact that the subsidies paid to developers and landowners comes from the Westminster Conservative Government. It's easy for him to publicly complain about wind farms but no doubt he would be the first to man the barricades if a nuclear power station was proposed in the Ballantrae area or, heaven forbid, test bores for shale gas using the "Fracking Process".

All Governments have to make difficult decisions with regard to climate change and future energy supplies because we need that energy for industrial needs, the wider economy and to power the many electrical appliances we all use in our home and work places.

The other side of the coin of course are the Community Benefit Funds. Over the 25 year life span of the wind farms, local communities are given the opportunity to have real financial powers to enhance these local communities as well as employment opportunities which come from the maintenance of the wind turbines and there are other side benefits to local service providers.

As a Councillor, I have to follow clear guidelines and cannot comment on specific planning applications until they come before the Regulatory Panel, however, I very much support the development of carbon free renewable generation using off shore development of wind turbines, along with wave and tidal power technology. There is a vast potential industry with which this country can be in the forefront by providing huge employment possibilities and projects.

Finally, at this time of year, I wish everyone an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year in 2014.

SNP Councillor Alec Oattes
Office Telephone Number 01292 612382
Home Telephone Number 01292 435005
alec.oattes@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

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to take on the task of keeping the cottage(s) in a good standard of cleanliness as & when the need arises. Number 8 has been modernised & redecorated & is easy to maintain (although the garden is a matter for concern) & we hope very soon that number 10 will be up to the same standard. As you will appreciate, the need is for someone who is looking for an "as & when" little pocket money earner & not a regular position. As the fees for my Father's care are astronomical, we have no choice but to let out his properties to supplement his bank account to cover the costs & anyone who is willing to take on the responsibility for the cleaning will be welcomed with relief & delight. My brother, Martin Thompson of The Auld Creamery House Main Street, Pinwherry, would be the person to contact. His phone number is 01465841699 or mobile 07789343335.

Infrequent Cleaner Required for Holiday Let

A cleaner/organiser required, for the cottage at 8 Barrhill Rd Pinwherry which is at present a holiday let. Hopefully next year number 10 will also be ready to let. The cottages belong to my father Eric Thompson who has unfortunately become in need of residential care & has chosen to live in what was the BLESMA home in Crieff after spending many happy holiday breaks there. My brother lives at the Auld Creamery House in Pinwherry but has commitments of his own & would love someone

Ballantrae Primary School

This year's Primary 1s have all settled in and are looking great in their smart new uniforms!



Our recent Harvest Celebration took place on October 11th and we had a great turn out of friends and family to support us. Primary 1-4 presented a wonderful performance of the Little Red Hen and Primary 5-7 were able to tell us many interesting facts about Malaria. This year our Harvest Donations went to Ballantrae Church's appeal for Malaria in Malawi to buy mosquito nets. We raised the fantastic sum of £73.22. Parents and friends stayed after our service to enjoy a bowl of harvest soup and crusty bread.



Ballantrae Primary is working towards its Cycle Friendly School award and as such we are promoting cycling throughout the school. Nursery children have the opportunity to cycle each day and are encouraged to wear helmets and safety vests whenever they are out on their bikes. Our Primary 3-6 children have been attending an after school club to promote cycling and cycling safety. This has been well attended and will run again in the spring term and lead Primary 5 and 6 children towards their Bikeability 1 award.



Once again we took part in Lantern Making generously helped out by volunteers from CRAG and parents from our school. This year our children made teacups from willow for the theme of Carnivals and Carousels, these were part of the Festival of Light celebration held on November 2nd in Girvan.

Our annual Halloween party was held on Thursday 31st October in the village hall. Primary 1-7 children dressed up in a range of weird and wonderful costumes. Many thanks to the ladies of Ballantrae WRI for providing the magnificent party food and prizes for our party.

Our Primary 5-7 children took part in an anti-bullying competition for Respect Me. The children created an animation for the competition. This can be viewed using the following link:



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oJvE7W7ryAU>

Well Done!

A huge well done to Jessica Orr, Primary 4, who recently undertook The Race for Life in Edinburgh and raised the fantastic sum of £580 for Cancer Research. Well done Jessica! What an achievement!

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Community Transport In Carrick Newsletter

A newsletter on a bi-monthly basis in order to try and raise the profile of the community transport sector and keep the Carrick communities up to date with planned changes and improvements in the sector. Hopefully, some of the information will be of use to your communities. Find it here---<http://www.2pins.org.uk/2013/07/community-transport-in-carrick-newsletter/>

Catriona M Haston Community Transport Coordinator, Ailsa Horizons, 22 Dalrymple Street, Girvan, KA26 9AE
Tel: 01465 710628. M: 07786272938



Qigong

What is Qigong?

Qigong is a series of slow but gentle exercises, under the guidance of a qualified instructor, to help promote health and vitality, and to relieve stress. It is suitable for all levels of fitness, including wheelchair users, and for all ages from sixteen and over.

Classes are held in Ballantrae Community Centre on Monday mornings from 11.00am until 12 noon. The Winter session has now ended and classes start again on Monday 13 January 2014 through to 10 February. The cost for this session will be £5 per class or £15 for the five classes if paid in advance.

There will then be a break until re-starting on 10 March. Make a note in your diary now to come and join us - you are guaranteed a friendly welcome.

If you would like any more information, please contact Janice Ross (Secretary) on 01465 831347.

Driving On Rural Roads

There is a great deal of satisfaction to be gained from driving skillfully on our rural roads. There are also benefits too. For example, there is usually less traffic, fewer 30 mph speed limits and the great scenery of this part of South Carrick on offer.

Driving on our country roads – for example, the A714, B734, C13 and the wee roads around Ballantrae, Pinwherry, Barrhill, Barr, Lendalfoot and Colmonell can seem safer because of the lack of traffic but statistics show that drivers and passengers are more likely to die or be injured on a rural road than a busy street or motorway. Rural roads account for around three quarters of all fatal road collisions.

BE VERY CAREFUL. TRAVELLING THE SAME ROADS EVERYDAY CAN LEAD TO COMPLACENCY. WATCH OUT, YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT IS ROUND THE NEXT BEND.

Don't become another statistic – follow these rural driving tips.

- Don't assume it is safe to break the speed limit on rural roads just because there is less traffic or less chance of being stopped by the police. Also, please note that the Police regularly patrol these roads, often in unmarked vehicles
- 60mph is not a target speed. Be aware that there are dangerous hazards such as blind corners, high hedges/trees, wet or icy conditions, narrow carriageways, no pavements, pot holes, animals on the road and even debris, such as fallen branches, farm waste or mud
- Pick up clues from skid marks, too. They offer a pretty clear indication that someone else has previously come to grief, so use the information and don't let the same thing happen to you
- Expect to see dogs, horses, sheep, cows and other farmyard animals. They might be on the road because they are being herded somewhere or they might have escaped making their behaviour unpredictable
- Expect wild animals. A deer, for example is a heavy animal and could cause significant damage to your vehicle. If you see warning signs for animals, take them seriously. They are there for a reason
- Be aware of pedestrians, cyclists, horse riders and quad bikes. Rural roads can be narrow and often have no pavements so anyone walking/cycling/riding along the road will be in the actual carriageway
- Think motor bike, bicycle and quad bike
- Reduce speed and drive according to the road conditions especially in bad weather
- Tractors can stop or turn without warning so stay alert. Try not to get impatient with slow-moving traffic. Restlessness can lead to accidents
- Drive slowly around bends. Drop your speed and your gears to ensure your tyres maintain grip and keep the car stable
- Be aware that overtaking will always involve driving on the 'wrong' side of the road - you may not see vehicles coming in the other direction
- Slow down when entering villages
- Look out for large vehicles such as lorries or buses. If safe to do so pull in to the verge or stop your vehicle to allow these to pass safely
- Never drive on any roads if you have been drinking alcohol or taken drugs
- Take special care when driving at night on rural roads as other drivers' headlights could temporarily blind you.
- Do not use hand-held mobile phones when driving. This will cause distraction and it is difficult to control a vehicle with one hand
- Plan sufficient time for your journey
- Make sure your vehicle is properly maintained. Tyres that are not inflated to recommended pressure can be very dangerous, especially on bad road surfaces

Colmonell WRI

On September 11th the first meeting was a most enjoyable demonstration – 'Fascinator' by Linda Adam. October 9th was a hand's on talk by Peter Conlin from Pebbles Spa, with chair based exercise and advice on keeping active. On November 13th Ruth Wallace gave a talk on the El Shaddai Child Rescue Centre in Goa. Hats and mitts are being made by members to send out to the Centre. December 11th is the Senior Citizens Xmas Party, with after dinner entertainment by 'Music Box'.

Meetings are held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through to May and new members are always welcome.

For more information contact Margaret Robertson on 01465 881352

Carrick Community Heritage Trail

Colmonell and Lendalfoot Community Council and Colmonell Community Association have chosen St Colmon Church and churchyard as the village's focus for the recently launched Carrick Community Heritage Trail. A panel is to be placed in the churchyard, with information on the stained glass windows, the organ, and early gravestones.

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.

1673 Alexander Peden, formerly a teacher at Tarbolton and latterly Minister at New Luce, declared an outlaw for being a Covenanter and is caught by Government Militia near Ballantrae. Taken to the Bass Rock and imprisoned until 1678 when he was to be deported. He persuaded the ship's Captain to let him go free and he remained an outlaw until he died in 1686.

1783 A smuggling vessel just arrived from Gottenburgh (Gothenburg Sweden?) sent a small boat with 6 hands towards the shore to appraise the country of their arrival but did not appreciate the violence of the water and two of them were drowned while the other four got ashore. Next day, the vessel landed her cargo consisting of tea and brandy which was immediately carried off by the smugglers notwithstanding that several officers of the Revenue were present but were afraid to intervene as they did not have any military support. Two troops of Scots Greys were ordered to Ayrshire to prevent smuggling in this part of Ayrshire.

1797 Tax had to be paid by those who owned clocks and watches. The following Ballantrae residents were wealthy enough to have to pay this. Hugh F Kennedy of Bennane (1 clock 1 watch), David F Kennedy of Finnarts (1 watch), Mr Donaldson, Minister (1 watch), Mr Allan (1 clock), John McKissock, Innkeeper (1 clock).

1805 The ship Peggy from Greenock on route to Liverpool loaded with salt, tar, stoneware, cheese, etc. was wrecked 3 miles north of Ballantrae. The crew of four men was saved but the cargo was almost totally lost. Lieut. Hugh Ross of the Ballantrae volunteers along with a detachment of his men prevented any of the wreck being taken away. Despite the exertions of the officers stopping the inhabitants stripping the ship, several instances were detected and locals detained. The sitting Magistrate imposed the full penalty of £5 upon two of the transgressors.

1806 A diligence (carriage) commences running on 11th March from Blair's Arms Portpatrick (7.00am) to Ayr on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays stopping at Ballantrae and arriving at the Kings Arms Ayr at 7.00pm - a journey of 12 hours.

1816 Two brothers named Coulter from Ballantrae were sent to jail for heavy penalties for smuggling gin. They had been able to elude the officers for some years past so this time the Sheriff dispatched the officers by sea aboard a revenue cutter. The officers arrived in the dead of night, landed and caught the smugglers in bed and carried them off to the cutter.

1818 John Keats and his friend & Biographer Charles A Brown visited Ballantrae while on his tour of North England and Scotland and wrote a sonnet about Ailsa Craig.

1835 Steamer Northern Yacht starts regular sailings calling at Ballantrae every Tue, Thur and Sat.

1839 James Paterson Wason was born in 1839 and died, aged 61, in Ballantrae, where he had been an Inspector of the Poor, a postmaster, and a baker. In 1881 James employed one man, two boys (apprentice bakers) and one woman. He and his wife, Jane, had nine children.

1891 According to the 1891 Census, and to his death certificate ten years later, James was, in addition, the local Registrar, Clerk to the Board School, and Clerk to the Parish Council. He had a grisly end - with gangrene in the toes of his left foot, but he had a very full life! So highly respected was he by the local community, that they erected gates in his honour at Ballantrae Cemetery. Built across the top of the gates, in wrought iron, are the words Wason Memorial Gates.

1849 An advert was placed for a resident medical practitioner for Ballantrae. The annual pay for 3 years was to be £36 per annum supplemented by employment with the Poor Law Board of at least £14 per annum. Applications were to go to the Rev Mr Milroy Minister of Ballantrae.

1853 The smack Rose, lying in Ballantrae harbour with a cargo of potatoes, was in danger due to inclement weather so the master and another man went on board to see that all was well and both fell into the water. The master managed to save himself by catching a rope and pulling himself on board but the other man John Kennedy (a Ballantrae resident) was drowned.

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

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



Scotland's National Tree: Catacol Whitebeam?

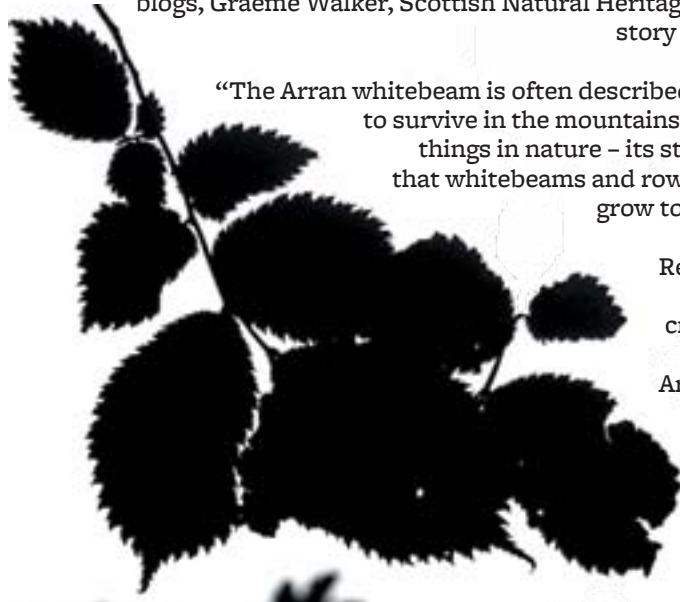


WOODLAND TRUST

Posted on November 8, 2013 by Kaye Brennan

The Scottish Government is considering whether Scotland should have its own national tree, and if so, what species it should be. The iconic Scots pine is an obvious choice for this accolade but there are other candidates.

We've invited advocates for six different species to give the case for their tree. In the fourth of a series of guest blogs, Graeme Walker, Scottish Natural Heritage's Area officer for Strathclyde and Ayrshire, explains the story of one of the world's rarest trees, the Catacol whitebeam.



"The Arran whitebeam is often described as Scotland's unique tree – it has evolved and continues to survive in the mountains of Arran and nowhere else in the world. But as with most things in nature – its story is much more complicated than that! It is well known that whitebeams and rowan are prone to hybridise. Wherever two or more species grow together, there is a possibility that hybrids may be present.

Recent genetic analysis has revealed the events which gave rise to the Arran whitebeams. The story started with the crossing of the rowan and the un-common but widespread rock whitebeam. This pairing gave rise to the original Arran whitebeam. Subsequently the Arran whitebeam then crossed with the rowan which gave rise to the cut-leaved whitebeam. The next level of complexity was introduced when the cut-leaved whitebeam crossed with rowan producing the Catacol whitebeams. With only two individual Catacol whitebeam trees known in the wild this is one of the rarest species in the world.

So on Arran, we have not one, but three endemic Scottish trees, which are all part of a fascinating and uniquely Scottish tale of evolution and survival." <http://wtcampaigns.wordpress.com/category/woodwatch-3/>
Public Affairs at the Woodland Trust: enquiries@woodlandtrust.org.uk



KILDONAN HOUSE

Kildonan House is situated amidst glorious countryside just half a mile from Barrhill off the A714 to Pinwherry:

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 Website: www.kildonancountryhouse.co.uk

Woodland Bay HOTEL

Woodland Bay Hotel, Woodland Farm, Ayrshire, KA26 0HP

For details, menus and booking:
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 01465 710 700

Christmas Day Menu

Homemade Lentil Broth
 Prawn Cocktail in a Citrus Marie Rose Sauce
 Chicken Liver Pate, Seasonal Chutney and Scottish Oatcakes
 Warm Goats Cheese and Red Onion Tartlet with a Pine Nut and Pear Salad

Champagne Sorbet

Traditional Christmas Turkey with all the Trimmings
 Roast Sirloin of Beef with Yorkshire Puddings, Roast Potatoes and Seasonal Vegetables
 Pan Fried Salmon with Lemon and Dill Cream Sauce and Herbed Crushed Potatoes
 Roasted Peppers and Courgette Parcel served with a Herbed Couscous
 Butternut Squash Risotto with a Rocket Salad

White Chocolate and Raspberry Cheesecake
 Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce
 Profiteroles with Glayva Chocolate Sauce
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 0792 581 335

New Websites

CARRICK

The new Carrick website is now live and fully accessible. This is the first time all of Carrick's tourism product information has been collated and presented in one place, easy to view for anyone in the world. We would encourage you to explore the website, use the tab to like it on Facebook and sign up to the free newsletter. These actions will generate traffic on the website, helping it rise up the ranks on Google and other search engines and make it more visible online to possible visitors.

<http://www.carrickayrshire.com>

PINWHERRY/PINMORE

This community website will keep you up to date with all the news about the 2 Pins Centre developments, local information from all community groups, what's on, tourist information, photograph gallery etc. To do this we need your help to give us the information. We are also looking for more photos and history of Pinmore and Pinwherry so please get in touch.

<http://www.2pins.org.uk>

VISUALLY IMPAIRED GROUP

The Girvan and District Visually Impaired Group have restarted for the 2013-14 session.

They meet on Thursdays in the Carrick Buildings from 1.30 - 3pm and enjoy a mixed syllabus of activities and invited speakers.

They are actively seeking new members so if you are or you know anyone who has a visual loss please encourage them to come along on a Thursday.

For more information or if assistance with transport is required please contact the chairperson Joan Davidson on 01465 713659.

The group are supported by sighted volunteers but this year need to recruit a volunteer who would be willing to act as treasurer. This does not entail a lot of work but is necessary for auditing purposes. If you think you could help with this please contact Joan.

Girvan Food Bank

www.southayrshire.foodbank.org.uk



Girvan Food Bank has now been operating from South Parish Church Halls for over a year. During this time we have seen the need for its services increase dramatically. We are there three times a week Mon & Fri 10-12 & Sun 1-3. Vouchers are available at Stepping Stones, Children 1st, Z1 Youth, South Ayrshire Council, NHS.

The support from the churches and the people of the local community, who give time and food to the food bank, is greatly appreciated by the volunteers and the people who receive much needed help at a time of crisis.

Donations of tinned or packet food can be left at Ballantrae Church, St Colmon Church (Colmonell), South Parish or North Parish Churches in Girvan.

If you find yourself in need of this service, due to a sudden crisis in your life, you will be warmly accepted, and will not in any way be judged. We are here to offer a helping hand up in a time of need and to share the love of Jesus Christ.

SUGGESTED DONATIONS:

Milk (UHT or powdered)
Fruit juice (carton)
Soup (Tinned or packet)
Fruit & Veg (Tinned)
Sponge pudding (Tinned)
Sugar & Cereals
Tea bags or instant coffee
Rice pudding (Tinned)
Meat or Fish (Tinned)
Pasta sauces
Rice / Pasta (Dried or microwaveable)
Potatoes (Instant mash or tinned)
Tomatoes or Beans (Tinned)
Biscuits or snack bars
Tinned meals e.g. casserole, chilli, curry

Pinwherry & Pinmore Race Night

Over 60 local residents enjoyed a family fun race night in Pinwherry Hall the event raised funds for the new 2 Pins Centre, during the evening the Christmas raffle was drawn, the results can be found on the 2 pins web site; www.2pins.co.uk



Pine cone baubles

Pine cones make brilliant baubles to hang up around your house or on your Christmas tree!



IDEAS

Collect different sizes, shapes and colours

Paint them bright colours

Roll them in glitter

Spray them with fake snow, or decorate with cotton wool for a frosty feel

Turn one into a mini Christmas tree!
Decorate it with tiny baubles made from plasticine and add a star on top :D)

Leave them as they are!

When you've decorated your pine cones, just wind ribbon or string around them to hang them up!



Remember - only collect pine cones you find on the forest floor. Trees hold onto what they still need :D)

Twig star



Collect 5 twigs, of similar length and thickness.

Lay them out to form a star shape like the one below

Use glue to stick the twigs together at the points they cross over each other

Now it's up to you - leave it as it is; use grass or leaves to fill up the gaps, spray with glitter or paint!

Put it on top of your Christmas tree or nestle it in the branches - what do you do with yours?



Start your own adventure at naturedetectives.org.uk

Woodland Trust, Forests and schools by the Woodland Trust, a charity registered in England & Wales (204400) and Scotland (SC038861) at Hurdston Park, Glasgow G12 7LJ. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and uses the name 'Woodland Trust' for non-commercial purposes. We retain the right to alter websites without notice. Please feel free to contact us on 01246 310000.



Winter 2013



Our winter programme is now well under way with the 2013 season ending with a Christmas meal at a local restaurant

A warm welcome for the new year is extended to all gardeners, whether you have acres, a town garden or an allotment, or you simply have an interest in gardening matters.

Our programme for 2014 begins on 15 January when our guest speaker will be Thea Pettigrew from South Ayrshire Council. Thea will be talking about the Council's procurement and planting process and public space management responsibilities. This will be an interesting slant on gardening from a totally different perspective and scale.

On 19 February, our guest speaker will be Peter Robinson (BA Hons) who is the Cree Valley Community Trust Ecologist/Project Manager. Peter will be talking about "Woodland Plant Ecology". This will be a very informative evening on a very topical subject.

Our March meeting will be on another subject entirely with Frances Wilkins, a social historian/writer, speaking on 19 March about "lost gardens in Dumfries and Galloway". So if you want to learn about our equivalent to the "lost gardens of Heligan", then come along.

The winter programme will culminate with our AGM on 16 April. This will be followed by visits throughout the summer to a variety of places with a gardening theme.

Do come along and join us. The annual membership fee is £12.00 and the visitors' charge for individual meetings is £3.00 which includes tea/coffee. We also have "plant swops" at most of our meetings. So bring along your surplus plants/seeds and swop them for something else.

Our meetings are held at Pinwherry Community Hall from 7.30pm We look forward to seeing you there.

Moira McAlpine
Secretary (Tel:01465831122)

A warm welcome is given to new members and visitors and if you would like more details about our club please contact one of our committee members. They are:

- Chair:** Pat Spence (tel: 01465821377)
patspence@piperpublications.co.uk
- Vice-Chair:** John McAlley (tel:01465841198)
j.mcalley@btinternet.com
- Secretary:** Moira McAlpine (tel: 01465831122)
moira.mcalpine@btopenworld.com
- Treasurer:** Jill McAlley (01465841198)
j.mcalley@btinternet.com
- Member:** Margaret Bean (01465841635)
margaret.bean1@btinternet.com
- Member:** Roger Pirrie (01465841644)
rdpirrie@gmail.com



Adventure Centre for Education is an Ayrshire based charity formed in 2005 as a small local project. We provide outdoor activity days and training courses to suit individuals and groups of all levels of ability and aspiration, so if you have a passion for outdoor adventures we will be privileged to guide you on your journey.

www.adventurecentreforeducation.com

INFORMATION

If anyone has any knowledge / information of a Thomas Duncan born in Drumranny Farm - Girvan in 1865 could they please contact Jim Fleming on 01465891267 or E-mail : margaretfleming775@gmail.com

The Stinchar Valley Magazine

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www.printing.com





Adam Ingram MSP

Most of you will be gearing up for the festive period - a time for coming together to celebrate with family and friends. Over the past few years the recession has been looming large and we've all had to take on board the mantra - don't over indulge, resist the temptation to overspend and try to steer clear of the burden of debt.

Although the Scottish economy is in recovery we are now facing the fallout from the UK Governments Welfare Reforms - the impact those reforms are having on people's lives is devastating.

One of the more controversial policies from the Westminster Government is the punitive Bedroom Tax - an ill thought out tax on the most vulnerable in our society which could see tenants either forced out of their homes or driven into debt due to the shortfall in their housing benefit.

I also find the sharp rise in the number of people seeking help from foodbanks both here in South Ayrshire and across the country abhorrent in the 21st century. Luckily through the kindness and generosity of local people donating food and other essentials the Trussel Trust can operate a food bank which is literally a lifeline to those who are most in need.

However, with the New Year comes renewed hope that we can make our own lives and the lives of others better. My own hope is that we can all grow in confidence, and fulfil aspirations for ourselves, our families and our country. We are ever closer to realising our full potential with the Referendum set for next September. This will be your opportunity to create and shape a new Scotland.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all your readers a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Adam Ingram MSP
Carrick, Cumnock & Doon Valley
Scottish Parliament|Rm M5.17|Edinburgh|EH99 1SP
t: 0131 348 5720
e:adam.ingram.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Sandra Osborne MP

Nominating Malala

I have put forward Malala Yousafzai for next year's Robert Burns Humanitarian Award. Pakistani schoolgirl Malala was shot last year by the Taliban for campaigning against, and defying a ban on female education - and now the group is threatening to kill her.

Malala has received accolades for her courage in support of girls education - she has addressed the UN, was invited to Buckingham Palace by the Queen and visited Edinburgh and Fife recently as the guest of the Rt Hon Gordon Brown, receiving an Honorary Degree from Edinburgh University and taking part in the topping out ceremony for a new school.

The Robert Burns Humanitarian Award is a globally respected honour bestowed annually on a group or individual who has shown selflessness and dedication in a bid to save, enrich or improve the lives of others. Robert Burns is remembered world-wide not only for his poetry but also for his passionate promotion of human rights and social reform. Named in his honour, this much sought after humanitarian award applauds the efforts of people who bring hope and inspiration, often in desperate situations, and help change lives for the better.

Malala's story stands out as a symbol of bravery and conviction. But Malala's activism predates that fateful day last October, It goes back to the blog she wrote for the BBC in 2009 on life under the Taliban. Her fight for education in a regressive environment has come to represent the struggle for universal education for girls in the developing world. Undeterred, she has become a voice for literacy and change. Awarding her the Robert Burns Humanitarian Award would not only recognise her courage and idealism, but also send a strong message in support of human rights and gender equality.

Four Ways to Contact your MP

As your local MP I am available to assist constituents with any issues. These are 4 ways to contact me
Write to 139 Main Street Ayr KA8 8BX
Phone me on 01292 262906
Email osbornes@parliament.uk
See me at one of my regular surgeries.

Local & Interesting Web Sites

Age Concern Girvan
St Colmon Church
Ballantrae Church
Ballantrae Village
The Ancient Tree Hunt
Pinwherry/Pinmore
The Stinchar Valley
The Carrick website
Kildonan Country House
Galloway & Ayrshire Biosphere
Red Nose Day
The Southern Uplands Partnership
Scottish National Heritage
The Woodland Trust
Sign the Petition Now
Forestry Commission
Scottish Environmental Protection
Girvan Camera Club
Girvan Attractions
Red Squirrels in South Scotland
Ayrshire Rivers Trust
Ayrshire Red Squirrel Group
ASDA Online shopping
The Commonwealth Orchard
The Flavours of Galloway
BBC Web Wise
Going Wild
The Big Wildlife Garden
The Peinn Mor Pottery
M.J.A Photography
Public services all in one place
For timetables, fares and bookings
Library Catalogue
Library Services
South Ayrshire Libraries Blog
Scottish Water
Community Police Team
BarrVillage
Stagecoach

www.ageconcerngirvan.org.uk
www.stcolmonparishchurch.org.uk
www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk
www.ballantrae.org.uk
www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/project/hunt
www.2pins.org.uk
www.stincharvalley.co.uk
www.carrickayrshire.com
www.kildonancountryhouse.co.uk
www.sup.org.uk/biosphere/index.htm
www.rednoseday.com
www.sup.org.uk
www.snh.org.uk
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
www.38degrees.org.uk/save-our-forests
www.forestry.gov.uk
www.sepa.org.uk
www.girvancameraclub.org.uk
girvanattractions.synthasite.com
www.redsquirrels.org.uk
www.ayrshireriverstrust.org/cisp
www.ayrshireredsquirrels.org.uk
groceries.asda.com/asda-estore/index.jsp
www.commonwealthorchard.com
www.flavoursofgalloway.co.uk
www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/courses
www.goingwild.net
www.bwg.naturalengland.org.uk
www.peinnmor.co.uk
www.mjaphotography.co.uk
www.direct.gov.uk
www.citylinkonlinesales.co.uk
library.south-ayrshire.gov.uk
www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/library
sayrshirelib.wordpress.com
www.scottishwater.co.uk
www.strathclyde.police.co.uk/your-community/ayrshire/girvan_and_south_carrick
www.barrvillage.co.uk
www.stagecoachbus.com/timetables

Useful Contacts

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

For suspicious articles found on any beach contact the police on 999 and ask for the Coast Guard because it might have come from Beaufort's Dyke; which is the sea trench between Northern Ireland and Scotland within the North Channel. The dyke is 50 km long, 3.5 km wide and 200-300 metres deep. Because of its depth and its proximity to the Cairnryan military port, it became the United Kingdom's largest offshore dump site for conventional and chemical munitions after the Second World War; in July 1945, 14,500 tons of 5-inch artillery rockets filled with phosgene were dumped in Beaufort's Dyke. Munitions have subsequently been washed up on beaches in the area. In particular, in 1995, incendiary devices were discovered on the Scottish and Northern Irish coasts.

BARR NEWS

BARR Barr Teas Back In Action



After a late start and two trial events it was decided to start a new committee under the name Barr Teas to take forward the work of the famous Barr afternoon teas. Our first event was a very successful "Maw Broon's" afternoon tea in July followed by the arrival of a party from B.R.I.C.C. in Ballantrae. An amazing show of floral art was on display at the Floral Art Competition and Afternoon Tea and, on a truly miserable September day our second "Maw Broon's Tea" was supported by enough brave souls to be another success. At this event we were ably supported by the community shop who brought along lots of Broons and Our Wullie books, aprons, mugs etc. to sell. A fortnight later it was on with the aprons again for the Ladies Lunch. "Shimmer of Girvan" gave us a great fashion show and the food seemed to go down well too - the ladies ate the lot!

After our 1st 2 events we were able to present Barr Community Association with £325 and a further £1600 will shortly be divided between Barr Parish Church, Barr School, The Ayrshire Hospice and Community Action Network, Girvan.

The new committee would like to extend its thanks to everyone who has supported this new venture and, in particular, our main sponsor for this year Craig Wilson Ltd. However we have had superb support from the residents of Barr in many ways. Sponsorship, attendance at events, support from our young waitresses, assistance from the community shop and, of course, our hall keepers Dixie and Wilma - all joined together to make this truly a community effort. We are grateful and much encouraged.

BARR Ladies Who Lunch



The "ladies who lunch" gathered in force in Barr in September when 100 of them got together to enjoy lunch and a fashion show in Barr Village Hall. It was a double role for some of the ladies who run the "Barr Teas" charity. For once lunch had been served, they switched to take on the roles of modelling the array of fashions provided by "Shimmer" of Girvan. Organiser, Isabel Kay said, "We had tremendous support from ladies from all over the area and it helped to boost our charity fund. Thanks to all those who helped to make it happen."

BARR Halloween Party

Halloween in Barr was celebrated with a party in the King's Arms Hotel. There was a good turnout and most people got into the "spirit" of the occasion by dressing up.

BARR Shop News

We hope you have been enjoying the shop's ad-hoc bread and cake tasting, from celery and cheese bread, chocolate beetroot cake and mini carrot cakes. This was all in preparation for our visit to Ballantrae Farmers Market on Sunday 6th October, where we offered a variety of bread and cakes for sale to the general public. We also had a display of local crafts and artwork which delighted passers by. If you have any crafts that you would like to promote in the shop or at future events call 01465 861221, and we'll be pleased to discuss it.

It has be great to see young mums and their children using the Café as a meeting point for a cup of tea and a chat. This is one of the ways in which we have envisaged the space being used, as a meeting point for the Community. Everyone is welcome to stop by for a tea or coffee and a chat.

We also welcome cyclists and walkers into the Café and have a range of cold drinks and snacks to refresh their energy levels. We will be offering delicious soup and home made bread for those chilly Winter days. We have started stocking Chicken Curries and Lasagne, ready-made for you to heat at home or we can pop them in the microwave for you here in the shop. We all know what a hassle it is fighting our way round the supermarket during the festive season, and to make your life easier we are offering an ordering system wherein you can get all your goodies in one place and within a few minutes of your home and even deliver them for you if required.

Should you have any special dietary requirements we can access products from Green City on request. They have a website that you can browse, and we will endeavour to help you with your requirements. A Christmas and New Year order form will be available in the shop very soon.

FOR ASSISTANCE CONTACT JUDY OR MIKE ON 01465 861221

BARRN Dance Success



The Wright family and friends brought off yet another great Barn Dance at Traboyack which was attended by another record crowd and raised even more money for their favourite charity S.A.N.D.S. The Stillbirth and Neonatal charity in Ayrshire will benefit by over £7,200 when all the money is in. Still to be added are the proceeds from the auction of helicopter rides around the area. The new venue for "lift off" this year is Kildonan House in Barrhill but, as the Barrometer went to print, bad weather had delayed the event. Once again, thanks are due to chopper owner, Northern Ireland contractor, Tom Shields whose pilot son-in-law, Colin has brought the aircraft over from County Antrim for the last four years in support of the charity. S.A.N.D.S. organiser in Ayrshire, Alison McNeill said the charity was extremely grateful for the efforts of all those who helped to make the barn dance its biggest local fundraiser.

BARR Macmillan Coffee Morning

Isobel Wood (pictured) joined a band of helpers who helped raise £800.20 for Macmillan Cancer Care at the annual Coffee Morning held in the Village Hall. It was organised once again by Vera Dunlop who was delighted with the support she received for the event which took place in September.

DECEMBER 2013

Monday 6th	Nursery School Show School Hall 10.45am
Thursday 12th	Primary School Show Village Hall 6.30pm
Thursday 12th	Christmas Lights Switch-On Village Hall
Saturday 14th	VIP Christmas Dinner. (By Invitation only) Pub Quiz
Wednesday 18th	King's Arms 7.30 for 8.00pm Darts and Dominos Comp.
Thursday 26th	Kings Arms 2.00pm New Year's Eve
Tuesday 31st	Live Music in King's Arms

JANUARY 2014

Wednesday 1st	New Year's Day "Dook in the Pot" 12.00
Wednesday 1st	The Barrstools playing at the King's Arms

BARR Covenanter's Stone To Be Returned To Barr



The historic 17th Century Covenanter's stone which was taken from Barr Kirkyard has been found and is to be returned.

The stone was discovered to be missing after Community Councillor, Merlin Corbett went to look at the work being undertaken to remove a dead tree and the discovery started a hunt involving South Ayrshire Council (SAC) and the Police which ended in a stonemason's yard in Patna. And, just over a week ago, South Ayrshire Council acted swiftly to recover it. No notification had been given to the village or to South Ayrshire Council that it was to be taken and, as concerns mounted, it was revealed that the stone, commemorating the death by shooting in 1685 of Covenanter Edward McKeen, had been removed, without any proper authorisation, by the Scottish Covenanters' Memorial Association. Their intention was to make a replica of it.

After a terse exchange of emails, an angry but unanimous Community Council, fired off a strongly worded letter demanding its return. This was backed up within days by swift action by SAC who recovered the stone. It is now in Masonhill Cemetery awaiting a decision on how it will be returned to Barr. Merlin said, "We were relieved when we discovered the whereabouts of the stone and are thankful for the support of and action by SAC in its recovery. However, it's unforgivable that it should have been taken from the Kirkyard without the knowledge or agreement of the village. and we continue to make that point most forcefully to those concerned."

BARR Barr Bowlers Successful Year

Barr's Bowlers have had one of their most successful years with increased membership, great weather & hard-fought competitions made 2013 a year to remember. The season drew to a close on Saturday 28th September with yet another glorious sunny day for the Singles competition. This years competition saw Dorothy Stewart winning the trophy in the final against Tom Copeland. Following the competition the members and their partners celebrated with a wonderful meal and presentation of prizes at the King's Arms, Barr. The whole day was a great success thanks to Alan and Isobel Ringrose who kept the events running smoothly.

During the season the club also held a stupendous Pairs competition which was played on yet another glorious, hot day, but thanks to Doreen Sherry, Elizabeth McKechnie and their team the bowlers were kept well sustained with fantastic food & cold beverages - thank you ladies. The competition was won by Steve Smith and Dorothy Stewart.

The Open Triples competition, although a bit wet, was very exciting and the final came right down to the wire with "peels" followed by a sudden death play off end. The team of John McKechnie, Dougie Gordon and John Fleming from Barr Bowling club did the club proud by winning the very exciting final end - well done chaps.

The final day brought to a close what was a very successful season for the Bowling Club. The club's membership increased by an incredible 50 percent from 20 to 30 members and the lovely Summer weather facilitated great bowling and fun on Thursday evenings & Sunday afternoons. Throughout the season the successful running of the Club was down to the tireless efforts of a fantastic team; President, John McKechnie was greatly supported by Alan & Isobel Ringrose together with a team of volunteers who provided refreshments, sold raffle tickets and did so much more during the competitions. All things considered, 2013 was a fantastic season - thanks to all of those who made it such a success.



BARR King's Arms Cooking With Gas!

Even the Carrick Gazette's Vicky Bone was pressed into action when the King's Arms introduced its new Menus to an enthusiastic public. Arriving with family and friends to prepare an advertising feature for the following week's edition, Vicky ventured behind the bar to have her picture

taken with new proprietor, Jordan Farmery. And then it was a case of “all hands to the pumps” as a packed establishment clamoured for some pre-dinner drinks. “Barmaid for the evening” Vicky rose to the occasion to help keep the thirsty patrons well nourished before they settled down to sample the best that the kitchen had to offer. Over 80 guests sat down to a selection of starters, main courses and sweets which will feature in the King’s Arms’ menus for the next few months. When she had managed to escape from her bar-tending duties, Vicky and her friends professed themselves “delighted” with the content and quality of the food which Kassie and her helpers had presented to the assembled diners. Eighty people had booked to sample the showcase menu and they were rewarded with quality fare. In her piece in the Gazette the following week, Vicky said. “If you weren’t here, you missed a treat”. In saying, “Hats off to Kassie in the kitchen” she described the salmon as “beautifully cooked” while her dining companions described the Sticky Toffee Pudding as “the best they had ever tasted”. Vicky said, “I had a superb night in Barr and I know that I will be back there soon. All-in-all, the pub is definitely worth the trip and the food and the atmosphere are both warm and welcoming.” Jordan and Kassie have been delighted with the progress they have made in the short time in which they have been operating. Jordan said, “The most encouraging thing is the number of people who are making return bookings and that augurs well for the future, so be sure to book ahead to avoid disappointment.”

BARR Formation Of Barr Development Company

The newly-formed Barr Parish Development Company has swung into action with ambitious plans for the village’s future. The Company (BPDC) has been formed by the Community Council as a means of accessing funding for village projects and everyone over the age of 16 who lives in the village and surrounding area is entitled to become a member. Already more than 180 people have signed up to become members after an open day in the village hall in September when some of the schemes which the company hopes to bring forward were outlined. Currently the Company, which will be registered as a charity, is being run by the members of the Community Council who will appoint further Directors from among the community at a later date. The BPDC aims to:

- Aid the provision of recreational facilities which will be available to all with the object of improving the quality of village life
- Assist in the development and regeneration of the village
- Promote the education of the community about its environment, culture, history and heritage
- Take forward environmental improvement and protection issues including sustainable development and conservation.

Following up the successful Open Day at the Village Hall which was attended by a large number of residents, and using the feedback, BPDC is now working hard setting in motion a series of projects which will form an effective long term business plan for the Community. Look out for a new dedicated page which will shortly appear on the Village web site www.barrvillage.co.uk. Among the plans:

The Playpark project led by Alex Tait will receive all tenders for the equipment chosen by the children by the end of October. The drainage is being addressed with the Forestry Commission’s help and funding applications will be submitted before the end of the year. Tenders will then be sought for the Multi Purpose Games Area and skatepark which will take the next stage forwards.

An Energy Clinic will be run by Alex Forsyth and Hamish Denham during the second week in November. You are encouraged to bring your energy bills and let them help you to reduce them. Notification and further details will be posted on the Web site, on Facebook and in the shop and hall notice boards.

Trail improvements and developments including simple viewpoints and benches are being sought and meetings are taking place with various bodies to work towards that aim. Negotiations and consultations led by Rachael Greuter and Merlin Currie will begin in November in order to research and prepare for funding applications in the New Year towards a blue route mountain biking trail.

The Carrick Heritage Trail with Merlin Currie & Anett Forsyth is well on the way and the sun dial will have the first stage complete by the end of November. The artwork will link to the trails and lead to further creative connections on the walking routes later in 2014.

Dark Skies and Biodiversity is to be celebrated and Alasdair Currie will be working towards better marketing of such an excellent asset and inviting us to learn more as a community. Look out for a dark skies roadshow on the web site “www.barrvillage.co.uk”

There’s lots of work to be done and lots of energy already going in to the community Development Coy. Volunteers are much appreciated and everyone counts. Thank you to all for your time and ideas.

If you still haven’t signed up yet, there are a few slips left in the Community store!



Pilgrim Trails Developer To Put Scotland’s Case In Innsbruck

Penelope Denu, Director of the Council of Europe’s Institute of Cultural Routes, has invited James Brown, innovator of the Ayrshire Pilgrims’ Trail, to promote the case for pilgrimage to Whithorn (The St Ninian Ways), as a proposed European Cultural Route, to a high-level European audience at the Council’s annual Cultural Routes Forum at Innsbruck, Austria, in November.

There are about 30 officially-recognised European cultural routes but none focused on the UK, and yet several have direct relevance to Scotland. For Carrick, the foremost is the Network of Cluniac Sites of which Crossraguel Abbey is one. Apart from making the Forum aware of The St Ninian Ways and its related theme of Scottish migration in Europe, James will be seeking potential collaborative partners - there are eleven countries to choose from - for future trans-national funding bids. James said, “The scope for developing high-quality cultural tourism in Ayrshire is enormous. As just one example of how a Carrick community could participate is the re-establishing of Ballantrae’s St Ninian’s Fair as an annual event.”

The right to hold this Fair was granted by James V whose father James IV made many pilgrimages to Whithorn. Often these were through Carrick and, in July, 1507 the king visited Bargany on the 13th, en route to Whithorn, and Ardstinchar on his return seven days later. Prior to the bridge being built at Ardstinchar, pilgrims would have been required to cross the Stinchar by ford, presumably at Heronsford, as nearby are the ruins of Kirkcudbright-Innertig, the church of St Cuthbert at the mouth of the [Water of] Tig, which was described in 1617 as altogether ruinous and decayed since the Reformation of 1560. Other sites in the vicinity which suggest the one-time presence of chapels are Kilphin, Kilwhannel and Kilmoray.



An interesting papal document from 28th August, 1467 shows the value placed on devotion to Ninian and on the faithful donating money to the protection of the buildings at Kilantringan (church of St Ninian). It states that :

“To all Christ’s faithful who shall see these presents. Relaxation of five years and five quarantines of enjoined penance to all who, being penitent and having confessed, visit on the feasts of St. Ninian [16th September] and the Nativity of St. John Baptist, from the first to the second vespers, the chapel of St. Ninian in the parish of Calmanal near the castle of Ardstruchar (Ardstinchar) in the diocese of Glasgow, and give alms for the conservation of its buildings and the better supply of its books, chalices and other ecclesiastical ornaments, etc.’

Sadly, those remains now lie beneath a small reservoir. James and Susi Cormack Brown are available to give talks on the spiritual and tourism values of The St Ninian Ways to groups with a serious interest in pilgrimage. They can be contacted via their website -www.cormackbrown.com

From James Brown - Winter 2013

Microsoft Security Newsletter

Microsoft

Welcome to August’s Security Newsletter: Windows XP

This month we focus on client security and the security implications of running software that is no longer supported by the manufacturer. If you have been following Microsoft security news recently, you are likely aware that support for Windows XP ends on April 8, 2014. Please note that after this date, customers running Windows XP will no longer receive new security updates, non-security hotfixes, free or paid assisted support options, or online technical updates. This means that any new vulnerabilities discovered in Windows XP after its “end of life” will not be addressed by new security updates from Microsoft.

From a security perspective, if you are running Windows XP, I cannot stress enough the importance of migrating to a newer platform that is supported and can provide increased protections. The very first month that Windows XP goes out of support, attackers will have the advantage. The first month that security updates for supported versions of Windows are released, attackers will reverse engineer those updates, find the vulnerabilities, and test Windows XP to see if it shares those vulnerabilities. If it does, attackers will attempt to develop exploit code that can take advantage of those vulnerabilities on Windows XP. Since security updates will no longer be available for Windows XP to address such vulnerabilities, Windows XP will essentially have a “zero day” vulnerability forever. I discuss this in greater detail in a recent blog post.

This should be concerning for anyone using Windows XP today. If your organization has not started the migration to a modern operating system, it is crucial that you begin planning and application compatibility testing as soon as possible. Based on historical customer deployment data, the average enterprise deployment can take 18 to 32 months from business case through full deployment. If you are looking for resources on how to get started, I encourage you to read the Windows Blog post on “365 Days Remaining Until XP End Of Support. The Countdown Begins” for more detailed questions and answers.

Best regards, Tim Rains - Director (Microsoft Trustworthy Computing)

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Fear Of Bugging Prompts Ipad Ban in Uk Cabinet Meetings

Taken from: Sophos Naked Security's newsletter by Lisa Vaas on November 5, 2013 |

FILED UNDER: Data loss, Featured, Law & order, Malware, Privacy, Security threats

iPads were plucked from users' hands at a UK Cabinet meeting last week, because of fears that they might be bugged by foreign intelligence agencies. The Daily Mail on Sunday reported that the Ministers were using the devices for a presentation by Cabinet Office Minister Francis Maude and Mike Bracken, who's in charge of the Government Digital Service. The talk was on the topic of saving the economy close to £2 billion (\$3.19 billion) a year within the next four years. Typically, the Cabinet isn't particularly generous about applause for presentations, the Daily Mail said, but this time, when the talk wrapped up, Ministers clapped. That's when the government's security team pounced, the Mail reports, whisking all iPads out of the room to avoid careless talk reaching the wrong ears.

It doesn't stop there, The Telegraph subsequently reported. Given the security force's fear that foreign intelligence agencies have developed the ability to turn mobile devices into eavesdropping bugs without their owners' knowledge, all tablet computers - which, one assumes, covers all manufacturers' gadgets, and not just Apple's - are now banned from Cabinet meetings. The Telegraph's Matthew Holehouse writes that Ministers in sensitive government departments have also been given soundproof, lead-lined boxes that they're required to store their mobile phones in while having sensitive conversations.

The concern, he writes, is that China, Russia, Iran and Pakistan have developed the ability to turn mobiles into microphones and turn them into transmitters even when they are turned off. The news comes fast on the heels of reports last week from Italian newspapers (including La Stampa) that delegates to the G20 summit near St. Petersburg, Russia, received USB sticks and mobile phone chargers boobytrapped with Trojan horse malware. The devices reportedly were able to secretly tap emails, text messages and telephone calls. According to Corriere della Sera, when he got back to Brussels, the G2 European Council President, Herman Van Rompuy, sent the devices over to his security managers.

They in turn asked for help from the German secret service. Their analysis resulted in a memo going out to member states indicating that the USB stick and power cables were "suitable for the illegal collection of data from computers and cell phones" and that member states should "take every possible precaution in case these items have been used and if not to entrust the security structures for further inspection." Russia has denied the allegations. What are the lessons here for businesses? Typically, most don't struggle with the fear of a nation turning their employees' devices into surveillance bugs. But with or without the threat of foreign intelligence spying on your organisation, iPads, or any other tablet for that matter, are in many ways just smartphones in a bigger form. That means they carry the same risks to a company's network security. Such devices also usher in the bring-your-own-device migraine.

Practical tips in these surveillance-happy times

The traditional, centralised approach of configuration management, software, patching and security is often impossible, if not irrelevant, on such platforms, as Sophos's Ross McKerchar has described in his article about handling smartphones in the workplace. That article has tons of good advice on handling device security, including segregating a user's personal iPad or other device so that they don't have direct, unrestricted connectivity to crucial servers unless absolutely necessary; having clear policies on passwords and jailbreaking; evaluating the risk profiles of platforms (Android vs. Apple); educating users; and more.

But wait, there's more!

Ross followed up with this article, which delves into what an attacker might do with the juicy tidbits on a stolen or lost device. This includes the social engineering stunts that can be pulled, given that the device would likely contain the owner's address, date of birth and information that could then help to answer account security questions.

Still worried about your mobile phone being a bug? Advice for the truly surveillance nervous: Before you read either article, lock your cellphone in your car trunk. Don't read the articles out loud, and try to avoid moving your lips while you read. <http://nakedsecurity.sophos.com>



Dogs Trust FREE Microchipping Event

Pinwherry Community Centre
8th Feb. Saturday 10am - 3pm.

IS YOUR DOG CHIPPED? Dogs Trust - A Dog Is For Life

From: "Sophie Gauss" <Sophie.Gauss@dogstrust.org.uk>
Campaigns and Community Assistant
I'm writing in regards to a free dog microchipping campaign I am trying to organise across Scotland.
I work for Dogs Trust, you may have heard of us. We're a large dog welfare charity with 18 rehoming centres across the UK, two of which are in Scotland (Glasgow and West Calder). There has recently been a change in law and by 2016 all dogs in England and Wales will have to be microchipped. We are expecting Scotland to follow suit and as a result are running a large campaign to support councils and communities in preparation for this. There are a number of benefits to microchipping dogs, most obviously that should they go missing they can be reunited with their owners quickly. It also promotes responsible ownership by way of making owners accountable for their animals.

Our campaign involves a team of two roaming vet nurses who will attend events/locations across Scotland and microchip dogs for free. We also pay for the advertising so there are no costs to anyone else. We simply ask for a piece of space. Can I ask if it would be possible to hire a suitable space in the Pinwherry Community Centre to run a microchipping event? We would normally do this outside in a 3m x 3m gazebo but as this would have to occur in January onwards (we are booked up until then) it would be more ideal for our nurses to be inside. It would be great if we could come to your area as part of the campaign.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts on this and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or alternative suggestions.

Best wishes,
Sophie

P.S. Please make use of this generous offer!

Recommended Tradesmen

Would you recommend good work?

Plumber by Frank Bean 26/11/12	Eric Gibson Tel: 01465 714791 Mob: 07522672767
Carpet Fitter By Frank Bean 26/11/12	Mark Foster Tel: 01465 713884 Mob: 07722892263
IT Problems By Jim Fleming 08/11/13	Robert Carty Tel: 01465 479176 Mob: 07523847119
Electrician By Jim Fleming 08/11/13	John Foster Tel: 01655331257 Mob: 07526464524
Gardening By Jim Fleming 08/11/13	Fraser Wallace Tel: 01465831487 Email: wallace632@btinternet.com

2 Pins: A Poetical Tribute

2 Pins community is the place to be
And the surrounding views you simply must see

I heard of a craft fair and found the old hall

It was a cold chilly day, at the start of fall

Warm and inviting it looked to me

Buzzing and friendly it welcomed me!

Tea and cake and crafts galore

I wish I had more money, more, more, more!!

But the best thing about this place you will see

Is the people and how lovely they are to me!

I don't live nearby but visit a lot

And when I walked in -oh the hugs I got!

So thank you 2 Pins for community spirit

A big pat on the back you deserve the merit!

An anonymous friend

xxx

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Smugglers Festival

Ballantrae

Ballantrae's First Smugglers' Festival

There was conspiracy afoot in Ballantrae in August as dubious characters were spotted in doorways, behind wheelie bins and lurking in gardens... the smugglers were about!

Over the weekend Saturday and Sunday 17/18 August "Smuggler scarecrows" started to appear and by Monday afternoon, over 40 could be seen around the village.

On the Wednesday the Judge and the Exciseman gathered together local and visiting children, swore them in as members of "The Excise" and sought their help to scour the village following a "Smugglers' Trail".

On the Wednesday evening Frances Wilkins, a social historian and author told "Ballantrae's Smuggling Story" to an audience of adults and children in "The Smugglers' Arms" - the Community Hall had been transformed for the festival. Frances described the contents of her new book telling the story of the village's smuggling history. Her talk was well received. Copies of her book sold well on the night and copies are still available from Craigmains Home and Garden Centre price £7.50.

On the Thursday evening the "Secret Smugglers Film Night" featured "Whisky Galore" the true story of a Scottish coastal village smuggling whisky. Elsewhere in The Smugglers Arms" Raphael Marinoni from the Whisky Experience hosted a whisky tasting evening.

But while everyone was relaxing on the Thursday, the Exciseman and Judge had been busy tracking down the rogues trading contraband in the community. Those who had been apprehended were brought to trial during a very

participative "Court of Justice" on the Friday evening - which was a sell-out. The defendants were called to account, and, while defending themselves, they implicated the minister and a local doctor in their activities. Stephen Ogston and Dr Tom Smith played their parts well! The hand-picked jury of locals and visitors were regarded by the judge as far too lenient and the jury was eventually dismissed by the judge - who at times it has to be said, seemed to be distracted by the widow Bell who (it is alleged) ran a house of ill repute in the village. The Judge had his own idea of who was guilty and what the punishment should be! Guilty verdicts were delivered. Most of the smugglers and collaborators were sentenced to the wet sponges in the stocks but one unfortunate smuggler was sentenced to be hanged because he had killed an Exciseman. Eventually he was taken out of the courtroom and shot to save the tax payers of Ballantrae from having to pay for his keep while we waited for the hangman to arrive!

On the Saturday the smugglers and collaborators who had been captured were punished during a Village Fayre with stalls and games organised by the locals. The Fayre was raided by the Judge and the Exciseman who accused some of the villagers of trying to sell contraband. Chaos ensued! The Festival came to a conclusion that evening during a well attended Folk Night organised by Girvan Folk Club.

The "Smugglers Festival" was organised by Ballantrae Development Group and sponsored by Ballantrae Community Council and Carrick Futures. The aim was to encourage tourism, support local businesses and offer a unique event for the village and surrounding communities and fundraising opportunities for local community groups.

Andy McAlpine convenor of the Smugglers' Festival Organising Group said:

"The Festival far exceeded our expectations. We were delighted with the number of Smugglers Scarecrows created and by the way the local community and visitors really supported the week's events. Denis Reid (The Judge) and Davie Hunter (The Exciseman) put in a huge amount of work - not only during the event, but also in the lead up to it - developing story lines and crucially, engaging with the primary school children. They really helped to make the festival come alive."

"I want to make special mention of the primary school children and Yvonne Templeton the Head Teacher at Ballantrae and Colmonell. The looks on the faces of the children made it all worthwhile! "

"But lots of others played their part. The Ballantrae Development Group would like to thank everyone who helped to make Ballantrae's first Smugglers' Festival a success no matter what your contribution was. The dates of next year's festival are Monday 18 to Saturday 23 August. Put the dates in your new diary now! We plan to build on the success of this year - some things we'll repeat but we'll also do some new things. And yes - we will have a few surprises in store! We look forward to seeing you then....."

Smugglers' Festival



CLOCKWORKS

By Ian Challis

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For further information: -
Telephone: 01465 881180
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Schools

Colmonell Primary

Clockwise: New Uniforms, ACE 1, ACE 2, Australia Theme by John Kerr, Anti Bullying (youtube), Halloween Party.



Ballantrae Primary

Clockwise: New Uniforms, Harvest Celebration, Cycling, Lantern Making, Anti-Bullying Halloween Party. **Bottom:** Jessica Orr (Race for Life)



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