



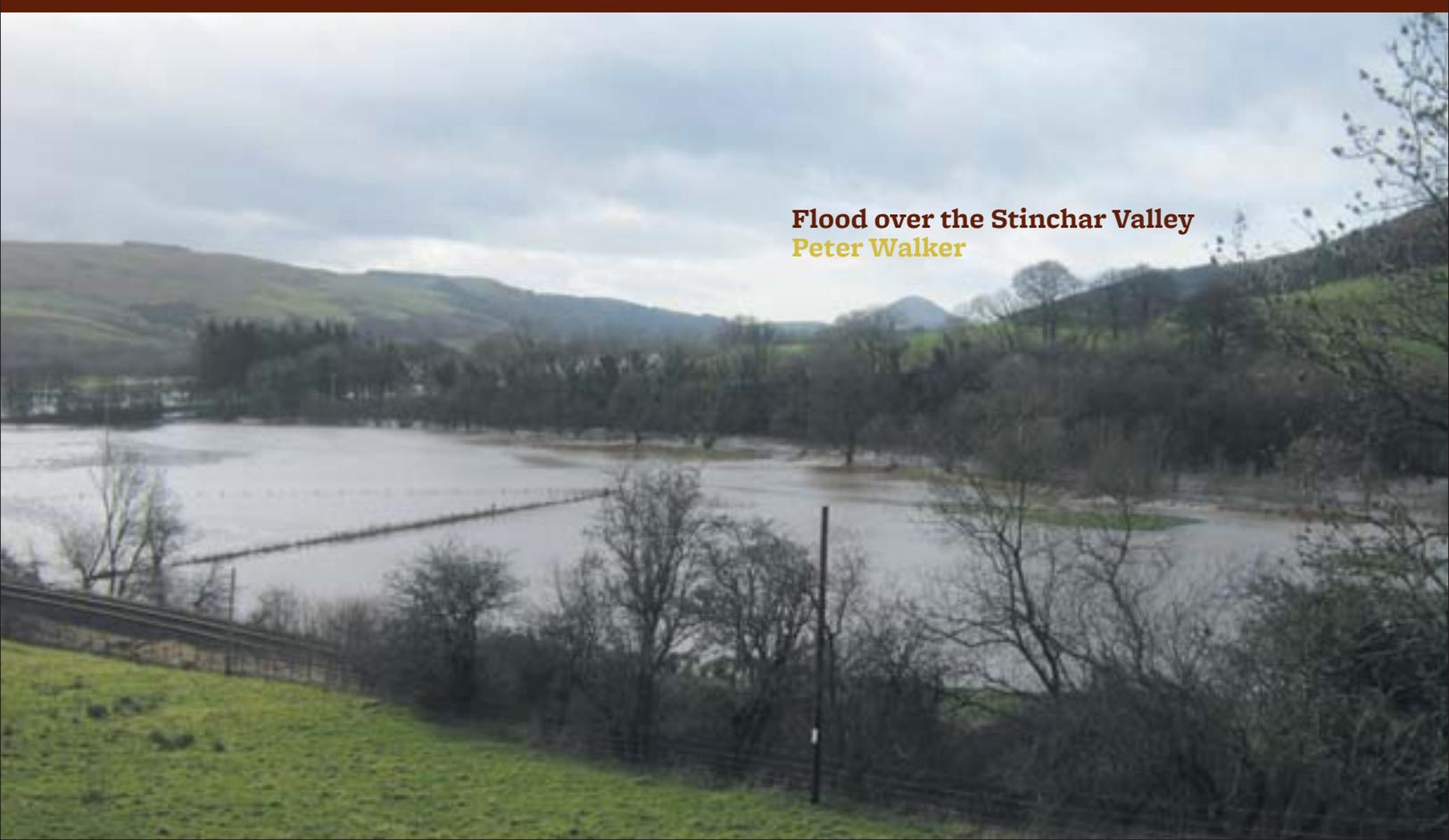
Contents from
the communities of;
Ballantrae, Barr, Barrhill,
Colmonell, Lendalfoot,
Pinwherry & Pinmore

THE STINCHAR VALLEY

FREE

MAGAZINE

Spring
2014



Flood over the Stinchar Valley
Peter Walker



Provost Tree Planting
Copyright: www.wigwamphoto.com [page 26]



Colmonell Angling Club
Annual Dinner & Trophy Presentation



Colmonell Community Children's Party
Boars Head Hotel - 18 January 2014 [page 11]



Colmonell Community Santa Visit
[page 11]



Colmonell Primary School Play
[page 11]



Local & Interesting Web Sites

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

Useful Contacts

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

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

2014

Dates to Remember

Keith and Beryl Dawdry

Peinn Mor Pottery

Makers of contemporary Scottish studio ceramics

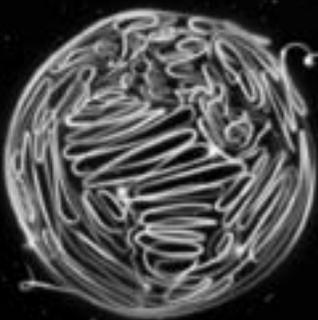


The Old School, Pinmore, by Girvan
 Ayrshire, Scotland, KA26 0TR
www.peinnmor.co.uk | info@peinnmor.co.uk

- SPRING SV MAG DISTRIBUTED W/C 10 MARCH
- 18 MARCH Barr Community Assoc. Annual Meeting
- 23 MARCH Colmonell Bowling Club AGM
- 24 MARCH Pinwherry Yes Campaign 7-9pm
- 27 MARCH Ballantrae Yes Campaign 7-9pm
- 29 MARCH WWF'S Earth Hour
- 26 - 27 APRIL Open Studios Ayrshire weekend
- 27 APRIL Ballantrae Farmers' Market
- 2 MAY LAST DATE FOR ENTRIES IN SV MAG
- 2 - 4 MAY Girvan Folk Festival
- 4 MAY Pinwherry Autograss meeting
- 17 MAY Pinwherry, Pinmore Fun Weekend
- 18 MAY Pinwherry Autograss meeting
- 31 MAY Colmonell WRI outing
- SUMMER SV MAG DISTRIBUTED W/C 9 JUNE
- JUNE to AUGUST Balsam Bashing season
- 7 JUNE Barr Gala Day
- 24 JUNE - 7 JULY WIMBLEDON
- 12 JUNE - 13 JULY WORLD CUP
- 13 JUNE Crowning of Ballantrae Gala King & Queen
- 14 JUNE Colmonell Fun Day
- 15 JUNE Ballantrae Farmers' Market
- 15 JUNE Pinwherry Autograss meeting
- 28 JUNE - 6 JULY Ballantrae Gala Week
- 13 JULY Pinwherry Autograss meeting
- 23 JULY to 3 AUG COMMONWEALTH GAMES
- 26 JULY Ballantrae Kirk Fair
- 26 JULY - AUG 3 Geocaching Mega Event for Ayrshire & Arran
- 1 AUG LAST DATE FOR ENTRIES IN SV MAG
- 2 AUG St Colmon Kirk Fair
- 9 AUG Colmonell & Ballantrae Agricultural Show
- 10 AUG Pinwherry Autograss meeting
- 17 AUG Ballantrae Farmers' Market
- 18 AUG - 23 AUG Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival
- 22 AUG - 24 AUG Ayr Flower Show
- 30 AUG Ballantrae Flower Show
- 7 SEPT Pinwherry Autograss meeting
- AUTUMN SV MAG DISTRIBUTED W/C 8 SEPT
- 18 SEPT Scottish independence referendum
- 5 OCT Ballantrae Farmers' Market
- 31 OCT LAST DATE FOR ENTRIES IN SV MAG

What Will You Do in the Dark?

When the lights switch off at 8.30pm on 29 March, it's our planet's time to shine! Earth Hour is the world's biggest celebration for our amazing planet, hundreds of millions of people coming together in a symbolic and spectacular light outs display.



OUR WORLD IS BRILLIANT
HELP KEEP IT THAT WAY

WWF'S EARTH HOUR
8.30PM 29 MARCH



On 29 March, at 8.30pm, millions of individuals, iconic landmarks, and businesses around the world will switch off their lights for one hour to show they care about our planet.

Earth Hour has become a global phenomenon with hundreds of millions of individuals coming together each year. 2013 saw a record-breaking 154 countries join the world's biggest celebration under the stars.

Earth Hour is the world's biggest celebration for our amazing planet, hundreds of millions of people from across the world coming together in a symbolic and spectacular light outs display. It's a brilliant reminder that together we can make change happen and a chance to think about the small things we can do everyday to help create a brighter future. So whether you reflect under the stars or celebrate by candlelight, it's a moment to say you'll do your bit to protect our planet – not just for one hour, but every day.

Last year in the UK over 10 million people took part, sending out a united and symbolic message. 4,300 schools signed up equating to over 1.5 million young people helping to celebrate our brilliant planet. And 2,200 young people wrote poems, designed posters or wrote to the Prime Minister in support of renewable energy as part of Earth Hour. Everyone can sign up for WWF's Earth Hour 2014. For more information and to sign up please visit www.wwf.org.uk/earthhour

WWF is one of the world's largest independent conservation organisations, with more than five million supporters and a global network active in more than one hundred countries. Through our engagement with the public, businesses and government, we focus on safeguarding the natural world, creating solutions to the most serious environmental issues facing our planet, so people and nature thrive. Find out more about our work, past and present at [wwf.org.uk](http://www.wwf.org.uk).

CROSSREACH

providing a caring future

What We Do

CrossReach was launched in 2005 and continues the Church of Scotland's long tradition of providing care and support. In fact, this work started back in 1869 with the Church of Scotland Board of Social Responsibility, so we have a long history in the field of social care. We ensure each person who comes to us has the opportunity to achieve the best their life has to offer – regardless of age, ethnicity or religious belief. We employ more than 2,000 staff and we support some of the most vulnerable people in Scotland. CrossReach has an annual expenditure of £51 million. Most of our funding comes from local authorities, but we also rely on donations and legacies to help continue our vital work.

CrossReach (the Church of Scotland Social Care Council) has the following remit:

- To offer services in Christ's name to people in need as part of the Church's mission
- To provide specialist resources to further the caring work of the Church
- To identify existing and emerging areas of need, to guide the Church in pioneering new approaches to relevant problems and to make responses on issues arising within the areas of Crossreach's concern through appropriate channels such as the Church & Society Council, the Scottish Executive etc.

Services

Children and Families
Homelessness
Older People

Counselling, Support and Training
Learning Disabilities
Substance Misuse

Criminal Justice
Mental Health

<http://crossreach.org.uk>

118 599

The Directory
Enquiries Phone
Number of Choice!

It saves you money and supports others – a winner all round!

- 75% cheaper than some 118 services
- Each call costs just 40p (BT landline)
- 9p per call comes to Crossreach



Colmonell & Ballantrae Agricultural Society

Colmonell and Ballantrae Agricultural Society held another successful show amid warm sunshine on Saturday 10th August. Sheep entries started arriving at the show field at Boghouse Farm, Colmonell at 7.30 am followed by the ladies with their home baking and handicrafts. This year the ladies section was held in the show storage shed at the bottom of the field, this proved to be a very popular change in layout and one which will be used again. Beef and dairy cows arrived during the morning and then the horses to complete the stock entries.

Carrick District Young Farmers had a stand at the show with pictures of some of their exploits throughout the year. They ran a competition to guess the number of balloons in the "big blue tractor", a bottle stall and sold stock judging cards to the spectators for the afternoon competition.

Due to great demand from some local crook making enthusiasts, there were classes for crooks this year. Dogs and pets were shown by their proud owners, a difficult competition to judge. Young stock handlers took to the show ring to demonstrate their prowess with their animals. Burgers and hot rolls were available to keep hunger at bay along with tea, coffee or beer from the beer tent.

Sheep were sheared against the clock in the afternoon sunshine where professionals, novices and farmers all competed. This competition is a crowd puller every year and has a fun section as well as a serious side. Colmonell's is a small show ran by an enthusiastic committee. The show is held on the second Saturday in August every year, so put the date in your diary, a warm welcome awaits you.

Ballantrae's VIP Event!

Local tourism businesses in Ballantrae got together recently to hear about plans to continue developing the Ballantrae **Visitor Information Point** established by the Ballantrae Development Group (BDG) in Craigmains Home and Garden Centre in Main Street Ballantrae and other initiatives to support local tourism businesses.

Andy McAlpine, of the BDG (a sub group of the Ballantrae Community Council) explained that the BDG had been very involved in helping to develop the Carrick and Ayrshire and Arran Tourism strategies. The Ballantrae Visitor Information Point had been established by the BDG with financial support from Carrick Futures to show visitors what is available within roughly a 30 mile radius of Ballantrae. The group keeps in touch with event organisers, places of interest and tourism businesses to ensure that their leaflets are stocked at the Information Point. There is also a video loop showing scenes of Ballantrae and the surrounding area and pictures of local events. Andy described some of the planned developments for Ballantrae's website at www.ballantrae.org.uk.

Susan Crosthwaite of Cosses Country House, who is also a BDG member, explained about the work the group is doing to promote "Taste Ayrshire" and of the benefits of membership of the Ayrshire Bed and Breakfast Association. Abigail Coia, Tourist Development Officer with the Ayrshire and Arran Tourism Team demonstrated a tourism industry website recently established to provide advice and resources for local businesses in Ayrshire. Dr Mhairi McKenna, a BDG member and Chair of the Community Council drew attention to the new Carrick Community Heritage Trail and the Robert the Bruce Trail - both of which feature Ballantrae - and thanked the speakers and the guests for attending.

After the event, Abigail commented "We have been working with Ballantrae over a number of months and are delighted with the progress that has been made on this local initiative. Meeting with representatives of the local tourism business community at this event highlights the importance of the rural community and how it plays such a vital role in expanding tourism. I am sure that the local Visitor Information Point will be invaluable in helping promote and celebrate the best of what Ayrshire Tourism has to offer visitors to Ballantrae and the surrounding area. It is only when the local tourism industry work together that we can provide a fantastic experience."

John Orr of Glenapp Castle Hotel, one of the local businesses represented said: "It was great to get together with other Ballantrae tourism businesses. Together we cover all sectors, from cosy holiday houses to 5 star hotels, quality tearooms to local hostleries. It was a great opportunity to pool our resources to build a better local offering. The goal is to attract and keep visitors in the local area for longer. I am sure the Ballantrae Visitor Information Point and the next phase of Ballantrae's website www.ballantrae.org.uk will benefit us all."

At the time of going to print the BDG and Craigmains are planning another event for tourism businesses in the area surrounding Ballantrae.



Planning has started for the 2014 Festival which will take place from Monday 18 to Saturday 23 August. The Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival - which is for the whole family - will build on the success of last year's festival and will not only feature some of last year's favourites but will also include some exciting new activities and events. This year rather than just concentrating all of the activities on "The Smugglers Arms" (The Community Hall), we intend to spread the activities and events across the village. We also want to involve surrounding communities more. Watch local press and noticeboards for details. If you would like to be involved in helping with this year's Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival email Andy McAlpine on andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com or phone him on 01465 831122.

Ayrshire Red Squirrel Group



OUR RED SQUIRRELS: FASCINATING FACTS

- Their scientific name is *Sciurus vulgaris*.
- Red squirrels eat seeds, buds, flowers, shoots, nuts, berries and fruit from many trees and shrubs. They also eat fungi and insects, and occasionally birds' eggs.
- They store nuts in the ground in the autumn.
- They can be right- or left-handed!
- They will occasionally strip bark from trees.
- Squirrels moult their coat twice a year, once after winter and then in the late summer before the weather gets colder.
- They can live to six years of age.
- They moult their ear tufts only annually, in late autumn.
- They have four fingers and five toes.

- They are not always red in colour but can also be brown, almost black or quite grey!
- They weigh 275-300g, the same as four Mars Bars or a packet of biscuits.
- Their body is 18-22cm long and their tail is 14-19cm.
- Squirrels live high in trees in a nest made from twigs, leaves and moss. This is called a drey.
- The drey may be in a hole in the tree or set against the trunk and branches.
- Pregnancy lasts 36-42 days before producing young which are known as kittens.
- Kittens are born with their eyes closed, without teeth and with no hair. After seven weeks they look just like small versions of their parents and are ready to leave the drey.
- There can be 2 litters a year, with 3-4 kittens in each litter.
- Average densities in conifer and broadleaf areas are 0.5-1.5 red squirrels per hectare.
- They do not hibernate over winter, but may be less active when weather conditions are bad.
- They can hang upside down!
- They can swim!
- Red squirrels are extremely susceptible to Squirrelpox virus, which is lethal.

HELP SAVE AYRSHIRE'S RED SQUIRRELS

In the winter edition of the Stinchar Valley Magazine we announced that:

1. A grey squirrel control officer has been appointed thanks to both Carrick Futures and Hadyard Hill Community Benefit funds
 2. Pinwherry & Pinmore communities have adopted the red squirrel as its community branding
 3. Red squirrel 'branding' signs would be placed in 8 locations where populations are known to exist
- *****UPDATE*****UPDATE*****UPDATE*****
1. Grey Squirrel Control Officer, Joram Smit is very active throughout the Stinchar Valley. He has worked very hard to form relationships with as many landowners as possible and talk to residents about how to deal with grey squirrel incursion on their property.
 2. Joram needs help to recruit a network of volunteers to assist him with his task of preserving the red squirrels in the Stinchar Valley. (Volunteers please)
 3. Joram Smit operates a trap loan scheme for grey squirrels. For further information please contact him on 07415 257 385 or joram@ayrshireriverstrust.org
 4. The red squirrel signs (shown above but more orangey in colour) have been placed in locations where red squirrels are known to exist. How many signs have you spotted? Have we missed a place? Please tell Joram.
 5. The plan is to raise awareness of red squirrels and publish facts and news in every edition of the Stinchar Valley Magazine. In this edition we look at our red squirrels 'fascinating facts' - enjoy!

Help Save Ayrshire Red Squirrels



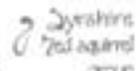
"How you can help..."

Join us!.. We rely heavily on volunteers to:

- Report any squirrel sightings, Red and Grey in your local area and garden
- Help to control the local Grey squirrel to stop the spread of squirrel pox
- Help us with red squirrel surveys
- Making and monitoring squirrel feed boxes
- Full training will be given for our volunteers

For full information get in contact with:

Joram Smit
Carrick Grey Squirrel Control Officer
Mob: 07415257385
joram@ayrshireriverstrust.org



THE STINCHAR VALLEY MAGAZINE

Editorial Panel

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

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

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Mail To The Editor

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

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

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

Please contact your area representatives:

Pinwherry/Pinmore

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SV Magazine Year Planner - 2014

Please note our **final dates for articles to the editor** and the **distribution within communities dates**. We hope this will help you ensure articles are submitted in time and their content is date specific.

2014 DEADLINES	SPRING	SUMMER	AUTUMN	WINTER
Final date for articles to Editor	31.01.14	02.05.14	01.08.14	31.10.14
Draft from Editor to Editorial Team	08.02.14	10.05.14	09.08.14	08.11.14
Management Meetings	11.02.14	13.05.14	12.08.14	11.11.14
Draft from Editorial Team back to Editor	12.02.14	14.05.14	13.08.14	12.11.14
Draft from Editor to Publisher	14.02.14	16.05.14	15.08.14	14.11.14
Final Draft from Publisher to Editor	24.02.14	26.05.14	25.08.14	24.11.14
Final Draft from Editor to Publisher	26.02.14	28.05.14	27.08.14	26.11.14
Collection from Publisher	07.03.14	06.06.14	05.09.14	05.12.14
Distribution within communities	w/c 10.03.14	w/c 09.06.14	w/c 08.09.14	w/c 08.12.14

Community Council News

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

PINWHERRY & PINMORE COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Pinwherry Community Council sits on the third Thursday of the month in the Community Hall. Members of the public are welcome. 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.

Our Roads

IF YOU ARE DRIVING AND SPOT A ROAD HAZARD, FOR EXAMPLE:

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

TAKE THE FOLLOWING ACTION:

Tell South Ayrshire Council Roads Department immediately. Do as follows:

- 1 Visit www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk
- 2 Click A-Z
- 3 Select R for "road faults"
- 4 Fill in the form and send

DO NOT ASSUME THAT SOMEBODY HAS ALREADY REPORTED THE HAZARD

Please remember, SA Council cannot remedy faults they do not know about

Are You Paying Too Much For Your Home Insurance?

Recently, a resident contacted us to say that his home insurance renewal premium had tripled in price. On taking the matter up with his insurance company he was told that the reason for the dramatic increase in premium was because his house is in a Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) designated flood plain. He explained to the insurance company that his house has never flooded and is 25 feet above the river. Result, the insurance company would not budge.

A happy end though. Our resident contacted several companies and was able to obtain cover at a reasonable rate. The moral is that policyholders should always check their renewal premiums to see if they have been "rated-up" because of flood risk. If they have, they should raise the matter with their insurance company and if they do not get satisfaction, shop elsewhere.

SEPA have produced a flood map. If you would like to check to see if you are affected proceed as follows.

- Type floodline.sepa.org.uk/floodupdates into your web browser
- Accept SEPA's terms and conditions
- Type in your post code
- Press "Hide Menu" to see the map

AGE
Concern
Girvan

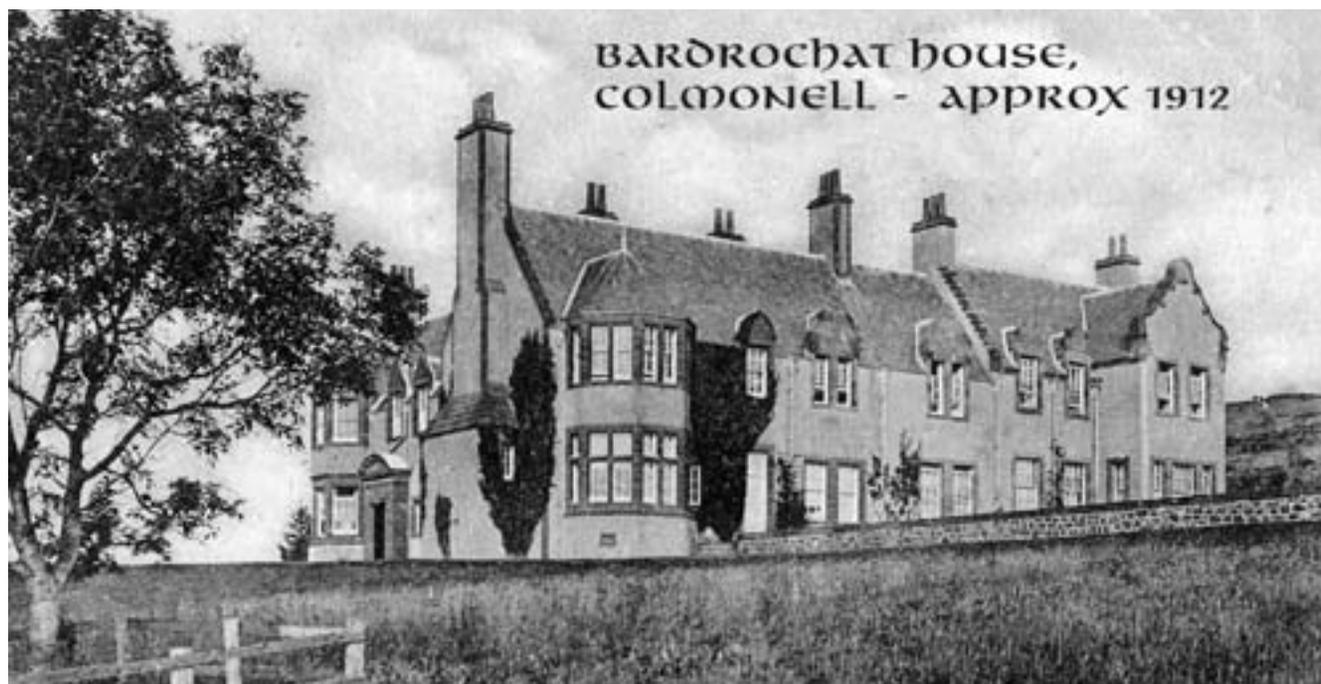
Welcome, My name is Tricia Watts and with the help of our wonderful cook and great team of volunteers we run a luncheon club.

We serve coffee, tea and cakes. At 12.00 we serve a three course meal for only £4.50. Join our club and join us for parties, and coach trips and support if you need any. All ages are so welcome.

Please pop in 2, Duff St at the corner of Dalrymple St. We would love to meet you. If you would like to contact me. 01465 712032 web site www.ageconcerngirvan.org.uk

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.



Colmonell Community Centre

Our busy Community Centre has a varied programme of activities throughout the week.

Everyone is welcome to come along and join in any of these activities

MONDAY

2.30-3.30pm Club Diamond's. A fun keep fit class with instructor Lynn Brooks.

6.00-8pm Stinchar Valley Pipers. Chanter lessons for all ages with tutor Billy McCubbin

TUESDAY

9.30am - 11.30am Mobile Post Office services, Mrs Murphy from Dalrymple who also brings newspapers, bread, rolls, milk and a selection of grocery items.

WEDNESDAY

2pm-5pm Graceful Years Club meets to play cards, dominoes, board games and of course to have afternoon tea.

6.30pm-8pm Colmonell and Pinwherry Brownies for girls aged between 7 and 10.

From September to April Colmonell WRI meets on the 2nd Wednesday each month at 7.30pm.

THURSDAY

6pm-8pm Stinchar Valley Pipers

7.30pm-10pm Badminton Club

FRIDAY

At least once a month a whist drive is held, the dates vary as they are co-ordinated between the other villages in the area. If you'd like to know where and when the next whist drive will take place phone Margaret on 881352.

Colmonell WRI

Senior residents from Colmonell joined WRI members for their annual Christmas party in the Community Centre. A delicious meal was served by the King's Arms Hotel, Ballantrae, followed by Christmas cake and mince pies baked by WRI member Janet McGrade. President Nancy Agnew then introduced the entertainment for the evening 'Music Box' a trio from Kilmarnock, who set feet tapping and hands clapping with their wide variety of music and song. At the end of a lovely evening the raffle was drawn and Nancy wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

This year's annual outing for WRI members and friends is on Saturday the 31st May, and the destination is Stirling. If you'd like to join the ladies on their day out ask any of the Committee members or phone WRI secretary Margaret Robertson on 01465 881352.

Colmonell Primary School

What a wonderful time was had by all pupils of Colmonell Primary School. Our Christmas performance of 'Are We Nearly There Yet?' was a hit with parents, family and friends.

We also said goodbye to Ms Julie Ann Millar, P5/6/7 class teacher at the end of the show and wished her well in her new position as Principal Teacher at Doonfoot Primary. Colmonell Children also visited Ayr Gaiety Theatre for the Pantomime, Aladdin and had a fabulous time in traditional pantomime style.

Lendalfoot

Congratulations to Matthew McGinlay a 24-year old from Lendalfoot, Girvan who is starting a new career as a Royal Navy Officer. Matthew was among the latest Cadets who marked their formal commissioning as an Officer on parade at Britannia Royal Naval College in Devon.

Matthew has earned his place on the parade ground after completing an intensive 30 week training course, which was split into three distinct 10 week phases. The first two weeks were predominately at the world renowned College with the final phase spent on one of the Royal Navy's newest Type 45 destroyers HMS Defender, operating in the waters.

Jim Fleming of Lendalfoot took home 1st 2nd 3rd prizes for the Novice Competition at the Camera Club open to anyone who has not previously won a Girvan Camera Club competition. Andy McAlpine vice president of the GCC said Jim is to be congratulated on sweeping the board at the Novice Competition.

Thanks to the Lendalfoot Ladies for their lovely evening on the 18th January everyone enjoyed a lovely festive dinner and entertainment.

Colmonell Children's Christmas Party

A good time was had by all at Colmonell Community Christmas party. Fun, games, food and of course a special guest appearance from Santa Claus, who as well as bringing a present for each child, also took time out from his busy schedule to tell them a story. As you can see by the picture on the inside front cover the children were enthralled by Santa's tales.

Colmonell Baby & Toddler Group

For more information on the group contact Eileen McCutcheon on 881 191.

Colmonell Bowling Club

Our AGM will be held on Sunday 23rd March at 2pm in the Club House, to prepare for the coming season. The green will open on Saturday 26th April at 1.30pm and everyone is welcome to come along. We always have bowls that can be borrowed, so all you need is a pair of flat soled shoes or trainers.

For more information contact Margaret 881352 or Evelyn 881293.

St John The Evangelist, Girvan

Part of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Rector:
Rev Andrew Baldock;
01292 262546;
ayrrector@gmail.com



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.

Our new rector joined us in December, after a vacancy of 9 months. As Andrew leads the South Ayrshire Team of Holy Trinity, Ayr and St Oswald in Maybole in addition to Girvan, he (plus wife Gilly and son Finlay) will live in Ayr but will be in Girvan at some point every week. His contact details are as above.

SUNDAYS

Our worship service (Holy Communion) is at 9.30 am (yes, early-ish, but a very good time as the days get longer!) On the first Sunday of each month, we join with the Methodist congregation and the service is at 10.30 am (Episcopalian and Methodist style services on alternate months).

TUESDAYS

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.

For Lent, the Rector is planning a thought-provoking series based on Rick Warren's "A Purpose-Driven Life". We look forward to some lively discussions; do join us.

The Ballantrae Development Group

Who are we?

The Ballantrae Development Group (BDG) was established in January 2011 as a Sub Committee of the Ballantrae Community Council (BCC). It meets monthly, is chaired by Rev Stephen Ogston a member of the BCC and comprises 3 other BCC members and 3 other villagers. Group members are all volunteers. In addition, the BDG established a "Reference Group" of people whom the group consults from time to time as it works through different issues.

What have we achieved so far?

In June 2011 the group produced a detailed Development Plan for Ballantrae with 4 main themes: Economic Sustainability, Our Environment, Social Sustainability and Good Communications. Since then, the BDG has completed the following tasks:

Projects

- Created Ballantrae's own website www.ballantrae.org.uk
- Worked in partnership with Craigmains Home and Garden Centre to establish a new "Ballantrae Visitors' Information Point" and ran an awareness event for local tourism businesses
- Designed and secured funding from Carrick Futures for a new noticeboard outside the Community Centre to replace the 2 noticeboards damaged in the January storms 2012
- Worked in partnership with the Girvan Community Garden, the Biosphere, Carrick Futures Community Benefit Fund and local businesses to revitalise the Ballantrae Public Garden Events
- Brought Farmers' Markets to Ballantrae (1 in 2012, 2 in 2013 and 4 in 2014)
- Established the "Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival"
- Organised a "Keeping Ballantrae Safe" event with the Carrick Community policing team, the Fire and Rescue Service, South Ayrshire Community Safety, and the Carrick Crime Prevention Panel
- Played a major role in organising the Diamond Jubilee celebrations (Bar-B-Q and wooden beacon) and the Olympic Torch Relay when it passed through the village (including the "Big Carrick Breakfast")

Representing Ballantrae

- Helped to shape tourism initiatives such as Ayrshire & Arran Tourism Strategy (www.ayrshire-arran.org) and the Carrick Community Councils' Forum Tourism Strategy, Carrick branding, and the "Carrick Characters and Heritage Hubs" project (www.carrickayrshire.com), supported local tourism businesses with help and information, and raised the profile of Taste Ayrshire (www.tasteayrshire.com)
- Participated in various consultations on the South Ayrshire Council's Single Outcome Agreement, Carrick Rural Skills Study, Rural Transport, and the National Policing Strategy for Scotland
- Continued to serve on the Editorial Board of, and helped develop the quarterly "Stinchar Valley Magazine", increased distribution and contributions of magazine articles and adverts from the village, and hand delivering around 400 magazines in the village and the immediate surrounding area every quarter

Other

- Helped village groups submit successful grant funding applications

The Future

At the time of going to press the BDG is producing a fuller report on its first three years and arranging a meeting in February with BCC and Reference Group members to refresh the Development Plan for the future.

Volunteers

The Ballantrae Development Group only consists of seven volunteer members. Some events - such as the Smugglers' Festival - need a lot more people to make them happen. We thank all of the villagers who have assisted with events in the past. If you would like to help with our projects and events in the future, you would be very welcome - please contact Andy McAlpine the Secretary of the Ballantrae Development Group: andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com; 42 Foreland, Ballantrae KA26 0NQ
Tel: 01465 831122



Ballantrae Patchwork Group

Our group is flourishing with some new members and lots of new work being done, we have just had a successful class showing how to make a sewing bag, a bit of laughter and some frustration, it was more difficult than we thought it was going to be.

We are always pleased to see more new members. We meet on Wednesdays at 1 30 pm in Ballantrae Community Centre. If you would like to come and just see what we are doing and don't want to come on your own please contact. Penny Savage 01465841686. or Margaret Bean. 01465841635

Ballantrae Primary School CHRISTMAS

What an incredibly busy time we had at Ballantrae Primary school over the Christmas period! Our children took part in a number of wonderful Christmas activities - the visit to the pantomime to see Aladdin; a nursery visit to the Farm Park to meet Santa; our Christmas Parties with a visit from Santa too; and of course our magnificent School Show, 'The Magical Christmas Jigsaw', which many parents and friends of the school attended.

We raised the fantastic sum of around £450 from ticket sales, raffles and donations. A huge thank you to everyone who supported our school. Funds from our evening's performance will go towards providing many extra-curricular activities for our children, including party food, presents and some school trips.

On the evening of Thursday 19th December, some children from Ballantrae Primary school attended a beautiful Carol Service in Colmonell Parish Church, and joined in with many other groups from both Ballantrae and Colmonell. Many thanks to Lynne McIlwraith for her tireless support, in helping the school to take part.

Ballantrae farmers' market

Craigiemains Garden Centre and the Ballantrae Development Group (a sub-committee of the Community Council) are once again joining forces to run a series of Farmers' Markets during 2014 in the grounds of **Craigiemains Garden Centre, Main Street, Ballantrae.**

Markets will be held on 27 April, 15 June, 17 August and 5 October from 11am to 3pm.

Stalls will include a wide range of locally sourced quality artisan foods; rare breed meats, pies, fish, bakery, crafts and much much more, (including local heroes Dalduff and Nethergate Larder) with new produce and products being introduced throughout the year.

Anne McCulloch of Craigiemains Garden Centre said:

"We are delighted to be hosting these events in Ballantrae in partnership with the Ballantrae Development Group. We are looking forward to welcoming locals and visitors not only to the Markets but also to our coffee shop, gift shop, garden centre, miniature railway, the Visitor Information Point and children's play area after they've made their purchases.

Colin McNally of the Ballantrae Development Group who has been taking the lead in organising the Markets on behalf of the Ballantrae Development Group said:

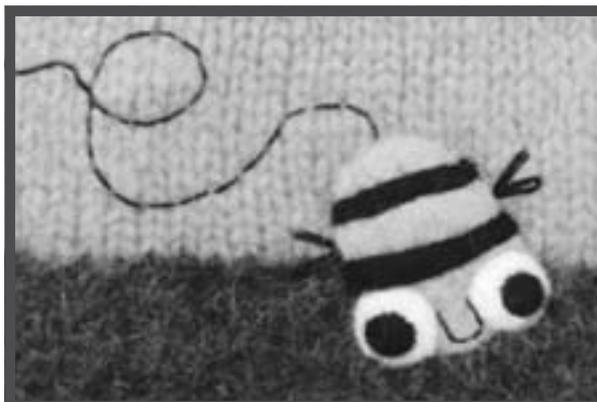


"We held one market in 2012 and two in 2013. We've had a great reaction from customers and stallholders alike, with Craigiemains being an ideal venue for the market. We are grateful to the many people who have given so generously of their time and expertise to help us make it happen including South Ayrshire Council and Carrick Futures Community Benefit Fund - the latter supported Ballantrae's Tourism Strategy of which Farmers' Markets is one strand"

We look forward to seeing both locals & tourists alike in 2014.

The event is supported by LEADER, The European Fund for Rural Development, The Scottish Government, UNESCO, the Ayrshire Food Network and Taste Ayrshire.

If you are a local registered and fully insured food producer, and would like to be involved in one of the future Ballantrae Farmers' Markets, contact Colin McNally on 07778 872 028.



Ballantrae Crafty Bees

Ballantrae Crafty Bees meets on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of most months in BRICC House at 7.30pm.

We have recently been awarded a grant from Ballantrae Community Council so have lots of plans for new equipment and resources to get our group busy learning new skills.

This session our activities include Fimo, cake decorating, beading, origami and glass painting to name a few.

All adults of any age are welcome to join us, please contact Barbara Ogston (01465 831252) if you'd like more information. Hope to see you there!

Ballantrae Flower Show

- Ballantrae Flower Show will this year take place on 30th AUGUST in Ballantrae Village Hall, from 2pm to 4pm
- Please return trophies to 1 Ailsa Drive by 15th August at the latest, already engraved if required. Thank you.

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An Independent View

It never rains but it pours would be a very apt saying for the first weeks of 2014. After talking about energy generation in the last edition of the Stinchar Valley Magazine, maybe more Hydro might be the answer. However if you will excuse the pun, that's water under the Bridge.

I am pleased to see that there seems to be forward progress in the development of a new Primary School in the village of Dailly. Following a short delay, a design team should be appointed this February who will engage with staff, parents and the children themselves to ensure that the input and aspirations of the community are contained within the plans for the school. I would hope that this progress will mean that the history of education in Dailly will be safe for the years to come with new generations of youngsters being taught in the heart of their own home village.

I am also happy to see that the process of purchasing the Ground for the new 2 Pins Centre is going forward and that the planning permission has been approved. Well done to all of those folk who have worked tirelessly to achieve this. There will be a lot more bridges to cross before the centre can become a reality, however given the determination of those involved, the vision is that bit closer and clearer.

It is also good to see that the planning application for the Girvan and South Carrick Leisure Centre is now imminent after the twelve week consultation period which is now finished. The impetus and drive are now starting to build behind this project which has the potential to provide first class leisure facilities and a real boost to tourism and regeneration throughout the whole district. It seems a long time since the absolute folly of the wholly undeserved decision to close the facility of the Girvan Pool took place by the last Conservative / SNP administration in County Buildings but with a lot of hard work to come there is a potential light at the end of the tunnel. It amused and angered me to read in a recent edition of the Ayrshire Post about some of the same Councillors who took the decision to close Girvan, complaining that the Troon Pool was to be closed for a week or so to repair system for heating the water. Why not close it permanently on Health and Safety Grounds !!!! I remember a similar story with a very different ending.

I note from the report given by Police Scotland Divisional Commander Chief Superintendent Gillian Macdonald's February update, that the new hours of opening for police counters will be implemented from 14th march. This of course will mean that the front counter at Girvan Police Office will close. I also note that there will be a reduction in the number of control room and contact centres across Scotland including the one at Dumfries. We are told that this will not affect Ayrshire as the centres at Govan and Motherwell will continue to provide services for the west of Scotland including Ayrshire. These closures will lead to more efficient force we are told. Do you remember when we were told that shorter hours for Doctors would lead to a better service and that the new out of hours service would be more efficient. The jury is out.

I am sure that the communities of South Carrick will face new challenges and opportunities this year and as always we will face the challenges with confidence and embrace the opportunities to do the best we can. I never cease to be amazed at the number of hard working folk who give of their time and talents for free to make an unselfish effort towards making their communities and the wider Carrick area the best that it can be. These are the true Community Heroes.

Hopefully this year will see a repeat of the wonderful summer of 2013 when the balmy weather was enjoyed by all and we welcomed lots of visitors to the splendid landscapes of Carrick. When the only ice was in a glass of cool drink, when it was turn the heating off not up, when it was sunshades and not umbrellas, when the only sound of water was the kids paddling pools filling up in back gardens. Ah well, dreams are good for you.

Alec Clark
Councillor Alec Clark (Independent)
South Ayrshire Council, Ward 8: Girvan and South Carrick.
Office Tel: 07794038476 | Email: Alec.Clark@south-ayrshire.gov.uk



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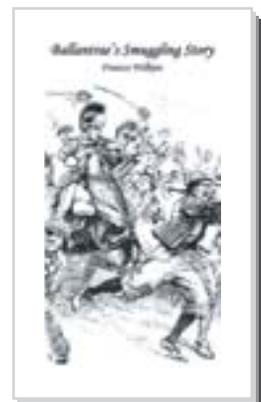
King's Arms Hotel, Ballantrae

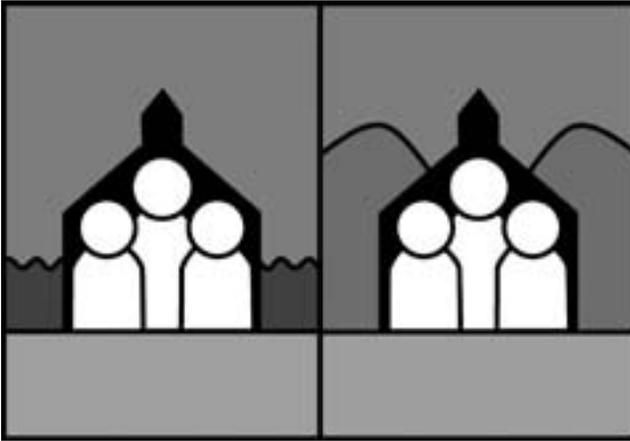
As always, a warm welcome awaits you in the well stocked lounge and public bars and good food in our restaurant. Your hosts, Suzanne and Brian Stirling, look forward to welcoming you.

Kings Arms Hotel, Main Street, Ballantrae Tel. 01465 831202 -www.kingsarmsballantrae.com-Email: info@kingsarmsballantrae.com

Ballantrae's Smuggling Story

by **Frances Wilkins**
£7.50 from Craigmains Home and Garden Centre, Main Street, Ballantrae.





Ballantrae Church linked with St Colmon Church

For two weeks in the summer of 1998, I joined a group of people walking around the perimeter or Northern Ireland praying for reconciliation between the communities there. It was a very memorable couple of weeks, especially since we walked through Omagh only a few weeks before the explosion tore apart many of the buildings and the lives there.

Today (30th January 2014) I met in Ballantrae a man who, for the last year and a half, has been walking around the coastline of mainland Britain. On 8th August 2012, Christian Nock set out from Blackpool and headed south and has ever since been dependent on the hospitality of people he has met on the way or his supporters who have been following his progress. It was inspirational to meet a man who's walking to raise money for Help for Heroes and sleeping rough to highlight the plight of homeless ex-servicemen and women.

I imagine that about 2000 years ago, many people in Israel were inspired when they met a man who was wandering throughout the countryside teaching and healing the people. We know that in each place that Jesus went he caused a stir and people flocked to see and hear this famous man, and show him their hospitality.

For three years Jesus walked around Israel teaching and healing individuals, training his disciples and inspiring everyone who followed him. And then after being sentenced to death, despite being innocent, Jesus walked the long and hard road to the cross. The steps he took were the hardest anyone has ever taken, but so important, because through the events of that first Easter, we really see God's great love for us.

I hope that throughout your life you meet people who are inspirational, who reveal the best of being human, and I hope that one of those people is Jesus, whom I have always found inspiring throughout my life. It is such a privilege to know Jesus and to strive to walk in his footsteps.

May God bless you, Stephen.

EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday, 13th April

10am - St Colmon Church, Colmonell

11:30am - Ballantrae Church

Maundy Thursday, 17th April

7:30pm - Ballantrae Church - Communion Service

Good Friday, 18th April

12 noon - Open Air Service at the Stumpy, Girvan

7pm - Service in the Sacred Hearts Catholic Church

Easter Sunday, 20th April

7am - Early Service at Ballantrae Harbour, followed by Breakfast at the Manse

10am - St Colmon Church, Colmonell

11:30am - Ballantrae Church

CHURCH INFORMATION

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

St Colmon Parish Church

10am every Sunday in Colmonell, with Sunday Club for all children and young people from 3 years old.

3pm on the third Sunday of the month in Barrhill Memorial Hall

Ballantrae Parish Church

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

We also have a midweek service once a month on a Wednesday at 11am and our Evening Celebration which is usually on the first Sunday of the month at 7:30pm.

If you want to contact Stephen, our minister, please use the details below:

Rev Stephen Ogston, The Manse, 1 The Vennel,

Ballantrae, KA26 0NH

01465831252

ogston@macfish.com

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

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

Ballantrae

Gala Week 2014



Full details of these and additional events will appear in the Summer edition of this magazine, on our facebook page "Ballantrae Village Gala Week", and on the Ballantrae website www.ballantrae.org.uk

As many of you are aware the money raised from the Gala goes towards the upkeep of the Community Centre. This year, money raised from the Gala, along with a £1000 grant from South Ayrshire Council, paid for new stage curtains to replace the very old curtains which did not meet current fire regulations. We are very pleased with the new curtains and the whole hall looks better. Feel free to pop in and see them when you are passing.

Thank you to everyone who has helped and supported the Gala Week in the past. Every year we think it is the biggest yet, and every year more people turn out to help or just enjoy the many events. Our aim is to make the Gala enjoyable and affordable for the whole family and we will continue to do this as much as we can. Last year the weather was very good to us so fingers crossed this year will be the same. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to call Sharon on 07798710481, To book a stall please call Claire on 07742246827. We hope to see you all at some or all of the events over the week.

Dates For Your Diary

Friday 13 JUNE - 7PM

CROWNING OF BALLANTRAE GALA QUEEN AND KING
Ballantrae Community Centre. There will be entertainment, refreshments with home baking and a raffle.

Saturday 28 JUNE - 6PM

**JOHN BOYD MEMORIAL
FISHING COMPETITION**

Ballantrae foreshore. This is a very popular and well attended event with fun for all the family – not just the people fishing. Contact Robert McIlwraith for more details on 01465 831431.

Sunday 29 JUNE - 7PM

CHURCH SERVICE

Ballantrae Church. This year the service will be at the start of the Gala. Thanks to Rev. Stephen Ogston for once again organising this.

Monday 30 JUNE - 6.45 - 7.15PM - Staggered Starts

CAR TREASURE HUNT

Kings Arms Ballantrae. Another popular event for all age groups.

Tues 1 - Fri 4 JULY - (Final on Friday after the Parade)

FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

Recreational field. Sponsored by McCulloch Rail. This is proving to be more popular every year and it is great to see teams coming from further afield to compete in this very competitive event. Contact Gordon McIlwraith on 01465 831506

Friday 4 JULY - 6pm

PARADE OF FLOATS & FANCY DRESS

Recreational field. This has made a revival in the last two years and has been very well supported by local groups and residents. There is a trophy for the winners and free juice and crisps provided for the children.

Saturday 5 JULY - 1PM Start

GALA DAY

Recreational field. There will be stalls, beer tent, tea tent, burgers, face painting, sand art, characters for the children, bouncy castle, clown with balloons, pet show, trophy tug o' war, sports, a display by the Coast Guard, raffle and many more attractions. We are working hard to keep the Gala Day fresh and we are open to any ideas. Last year's sheep shearing was very popular and we are also trying to secure water balls. A fun and family friendly day is promised for all ages.

Saturday 5 JULY - 7PM - midnight

FAMILY BARN DANCE

Kings Arms farm. Music this year is by Destination Anywhere, who are a great band and play a wide variety of songs. Everyone is reminded that this is a family event in a working farm and therefore children should be supervised at all times. Anyone under 18 must be accompanied by an adult and young people may be asked for ID. This is a lively event for the whole family to enjoy a night out at the end of the Gala.

Sunday 6 JULY - 1PM

**LOUISE KNOX MEMORIAL
BOWLER/NON-BOWLER COMP.**

Ballantrae Bowling Green. Sponsored by Gordon McIlwraith, the fishmonger. Another fun family event with refreshments and raffle.

Open Studios Ayrshire



Open Studios Ayrshire are set for their second exciting Open Studios weekend in April 26/27 2014. Open Studios Ayrshire (OSA) is a non-profit, artist led organisation, which gives artists support in showing their work within the local community, and in turn provides the public with the benefit of meeting the artists and makers in person, and often in the setting of their studio or workshop.

The 2013 first Open Studios Ayrshire event attracted 2800 people, who braved the weather to visit artists in their studios and bought over 500 pieces of locally produced artworks. The initial success was due in no small part to the generous support of South Ayrshire Council in promoting the event and providing venues. Open Studios Ayrshire is building on that success for 2014.

There are over 50 artists, who have a quality product and work experience to share taking part in this year's event. Recent backing from the lottery fund is helping to promote the event and raise the profile. If you want to find out more, a visit to OSA's exciting new website offers profiles of existing members and regularly updated information about exhibitions, workshops & events. With a flow of new members joining, it will keep you in-touch with what's happening at OSA. www.openstudiosayrshire.com

Dumfries House has offered artist's studio space and the UWS are exhibiting as a group showcasing students work, and offering workshop spaces.

The Maclaurin Gallery is actively supporting OSA with exhibition and workshop space for the two weeks prior to and including the Open Studios weekend, with a residency for 4 artists.

In addition the Gaiety Theatre has agreed to host the Open Studios Ayrshire launch on the 20th of March 2014, which will showcase the event to invited guests, and give the full flavour of the array of creative talent OSA has on offer.

Chairwoman Irene Walker encourages you to keep the weekend free to ensure you don't miss out on any of the exciting open studios and to check the web site for details of the various, free workshops.



Artist Linda Kerr with raffle prize winner Pam Harvey, right.

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Pinwherry Bridge CCTV

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

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

Douglas Hemmings
**Team Leader:
Bridges & Lighting**
E.mail. [Douglas.hemmings@
south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Douglas.hemmings@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)
Tel.No. 01292 616377

Scott Greig
**Supervisory Engineer:
Bridges**
E.mail. [Scott.greig@
south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Scott.greig@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)
Tel.No. 01292 616359

Local contact:

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

Pin In A Map!

Why Ayrshire ?

Sixpence Land

See page 31 for pictures.

Coming from the tenements of South Glasgow. The eldest of eight children. There wasn't much in the way of spare money. Come the Summer holidays. And our ma had managed to save for our trips to the 'seaside'.

We loved Ayr, Saltcoates, Troon.... but Girvan was our favourite. With its mile and a half of golden sands stretching from the harbour. Our dad Hugh came fishing here on the pleasure trips.

The memories of our ma making potty heid and spam pieces. Irn Bru, crisps, boiled eggs and any other treats we had. Buckets and spades at the ready. We came armed with as much as we could carry.

As the eldest I was in charge of checking that the wains had bottles, juice, nappies, sunhats, calamine lotion and of course the dummy. PHEW ! Well it really was a BIG DEAL coming to Girvan.

Our ma always made sure that we took plenty of rock back for the wains who didn't get to go on their 'holiday' that year. We looked after each other. We Scottish are so generous. Big softies really. Scotland may not be big but her heart is mighty.

My husband Anwar was introduced to Girvan twenty years ago. I still have nightmares of our first trip to Ailsa Craig or 'Paddy's Milestone' as it is nicknamed. I thought I had breathed my last on that trip. It was blowing a gale but no-one seemed to notice except me.



Well I had only just learned to fish so I was still a novice. To top it all. Every time anyone caught a fish, along came the seals. They had a feast that day.

Our family have settled in Ayrshire with the next generation born here. And just as expected they are helping with our beautiful Sixpence Land.

We have been welcomed by our community here in Pinwherry and Barrhill. From Anne and Robert Robertson, Steve at Barrhill Caravan park, Chicken Jimmy, John and Jill to young Darren who volunteers for Girvan RNLI.

We loved our day at farmer Jimmy Stewart's farm in Pinwherry at lambing time. We all had a great time. And dare we forget the story of the 'Bad Tempered Bull'.

For us Girvan has played a significant role in our lives. And now in the lives of our children and their children. We thank God for his many blessings.

Pin In A Map ? Absolutely Not.

Elizabeth

Pinwherry Women's Rural Institute

Hard to believe that spring is on the way, but the signs of snowdrops coming to life in the garden reassure us that this is indeed the case! Let's hope the rain goes off soon and the sun reappears.

Since a very enjoyable Christmas dinner at Malin Court, our programme has been subject to a few changes; in January, Mrs Mary Hogg presented a spectacular programme of a trip down the Girvan valley, reminding us that we live in a very beautiful part of the country. On February 10th we welcome the Parish Minister, Rev Stephen Ogston, to tell us about his time in Malawi. We understand that he has several thousand photos but are assured that we will see only a selection of them! Our local congregations have a close link with the Church in Malawi and it will be interesting for us to learn a bit more about that country.

In March, we look forward to having Mrs Moira McAlpine who lives in Ballantrae to tell us of her work as a prison governor. She has a fascinating story to tell - something of an 'eye-opener' for those of us unfamiliar with the inside of a prison.

Remember we meet on the 2nd Monday of each month at 7.30pm, in Pinwherry Village Hall, and that we are always open for new members. You will get a warm welcome.

If you would like more details then please contact:
Mrs Jean Wyllie President 841279 or Mrs Pat Guthrie Secy. 841236

CARRICK
AYRSHIRE

The Carrick Community Heritage Trail

Experience more of Scotland



Discover the surprisingly rich history of Carrick Ayrshire through the people who know it best - its community.



www.carrickayrshire.com

From Dunure in the north to Ballantrae in the south and Barrhill and Kirkmichael in the east, the new "Carrick Community Heritage Trail" is a collection of fascinating points of historical, cultural, industrial and natural interest telling the rich history of Carrick. Local people from across Carrick were asked to identify facts, and stories about their towns and villages to create the trail. Themes range from famous artistic connections, industrial movements, red squirrels, fishing and historical figures - all helping to bring Carrick's history to life. As well as a leaflet describing those stories and explaining the historical connections between the various Carrick communities, the website www.carrickayrshire.com has a section devoted to the trail. Copies of the leaflet are available from the Visitor Information Point at Craigmans Home and Garden Centre, Main Street, Ballantrae. Geocaching specialists from the Mega Event 2014 have partnered with the project to geocache the trail helping to promote Carrick to a new global market.



Alec Oattes

Dear Reader,

I trust everyone has managed to survive the winter weather, it has certainly been very wet and windy but not quite so cold as recent winters. As I write this we are not out of the woods yet, in late January I saw the first snowdrops coming into flower. Always a welcome sign of new life and hope in the cycle of the seasons.

Broadband Cover in the Rural Areas

I wanted to update readers on the future provision of Superfast Broadband in rural areas as I get asked about this fairly often. At the moment the Scottish Government and the Council have agreed to fund investment to upgrade the rural areas of South Ayrshire. I understand the survey work for this is taking place just now and it is hoped to have 96.5% of the rural areas connected by 2017, with priority given to business and small enterprises. I acknowledge this is a fairly long time scale but it is a major investment and will give access to the benefits of hugely improved access which are now essential to many businesses and individuals.

Further details can be found at www.digitalscotland.org

Being Aware of Lung Cancer

Football legend, Sir Alex Ferguson, says lung cancer isn't what it used to be and is absolutely worthwhile doing something about. He is fronting a national campaign that aims to build belief that lung cancer can be treated if detected earlier. As part of the Scottish Government's Detect Cancer Early Programme, the campaign aims to improve cancer survival rates for the three main cancers that affect Scots: lung, breast and bowel cancer. Lung cancer is the most common cancer in Scotland, with around 5,000 people diagnosed with the disease each year. Around 4,000 people die from the disease annually, chiefly because the disease is not detected early enough. However, the incidence of lung cancer has reduced over the past ten years and now over 1,300 people are surviving lung cancer every year in Scotland compared to 25 years ago. People are surviving because treatments are better and more people are getting checked earlier. The sooner lung cancer is found, the easier it is to treat and the more likely you are to survive. For more information on lung cancer visit www.getcheckedearly.org or call NHS on 0800 22 44 88.

Don't Get Scared, Get Checked.

South Ayrshire Council Budget

At the full Council Meeting on the 19 December, the Council Budget was set for 2014/15. The Council budget sets out the way we spend tax payers money; in simple terms what comes in, what goes out and what we spend it on depending on political views and policies. However when politics is involved it is never quite that simple.

As you would expect, the largest spend is staff costs and staff are our most valuable resource. So it seems strange that the ruling Tory/Labour administration are paying off low paid workers while sitting on 250 job vacancies. It seems perverse to me to be using vital reserves to pay for staff redundancies when we still have so many vacancies.

The Council has just under £1 million set aside in the revenue budget for Equal Pay Claims. However, almost all claims are now resolved and we no longer need this allocation. Why can't this £1 million be used for vital services like cleansing, education and elderly care now? Is it being held in reserve to spend closer to election day?

Road Repairs and Maintenance

I note recent correspondence in a local newspaper about the quality of repairs on the A714 between Pinwherry, Barrhill and further south to the Council boundary with Dumfries & Galloway. I have made my own investigation and agree with the local correspondent that the quality of the work being carried out by contractors is just not good enough. I am taking this further with Council officials to ensure that road repairs are done in a professional way and made to last.

The Carrick Community Heritage Trail

Finally I am delighted to see the Carrick Community Heritage Trail complete and leaflets will be distributed soon in time for Spring. This project has been undertaken by the Carrick Community Council Forum, in association with many funders and partners. It is a welcome boost to encourage visitors to the Carrick area and it was pleasing to see the trail highlighted in a BBC news item recently.

This year also happens to be the 40th Anniversary of the Girvan Folk Festival and takes place over the holiday weekend on the 2nd, 3rd and 4th of May. Please look for further details in the local press. It promises to be a brilliant Festival.

SNP Councillor Alec Oattes

alec.oattes@south-ayrshire.gov.uk | Office Telephone Number 01292 612382 | Home Telephone Number 01292 435005

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.

1690 Duncan McIlvrick of Ballantrae was fined £50 Scots for 'woundeing, steaking, blooding and battering John Drynene of Glendrisock'

1696 Windmill above village of Ballantrae.

1736 On 6th March Ann Earl, spouse of James Wham (Coupar), was accused of stealing four legs of mutton from Thomas Cumine carrier of Ballantrae

1814 The lands and estate of Ballantrae offered for sale. This estate stretches along the sea coast for about 7 miles and comprises 20,000 Scots acres. It contains a fine river and valuable salmon fishing and the property abounds in game

1818 A man by the name of Hugh Ross, indicted to stand trial for robbing a carrier's cart, attempted to commit suicide by cutting his throat but did not succeed. He later stood trial in Edinburgh for theft and was found not guilty.

1826 A trooper of the 9th Light Dragoons was killed in Ballantrae by a kick from a vicious charger

1837 From Pigot's Directory

Ballantrae is mostly supported by its fishing for salmon and cod but also is reported to have 50 looms making coarse linen and plaids. However there were also the following employed:

One Minister	Two Surgeons
One Schoolmaster	Three Tailors
One Magistrate & Postmaster	Four Masons

Five Innkeeper/Vintners
Four Shopkeepers
Two Dressmakers
One Joiner/Cartwright

Two Coopers
One Boat Builder
Five Shoemakers
Four Blacksmiths

1837 From Pigot's Directory

Barr at this time had:

One Schoolmaster (who was also the Librarian)	One Surgeon
One Grazier (rearer of cattle or sheep for market)	Two Blacksmiths
One Minister	Two Vintners
One Postmaster	Two Boot Makers
One Grocer and Spirit Dealer	One Innkeeper
One Shopkeeper & Teacher	Two Tailors
One Shopkeeper & Cartwright	
Three Joiner and Cartwrights	

1837 From Pigot's Directory

Colmonell had

One Schoolmaster (for both the Parochial & boys' boarding schools)	Five Vintners
One Minister	One Surgeon
One (Cameronian) Minister	Five Masons
One Postmaster	One Baker
Three Dressmakers	Three Tailors
Two Blacksmiths	Four Shoemakers
Four Shopkeepers	One Cartwright
One Joiner & Cabinet Maker	
One Cart & Millwright	

The other Stinchar villages do not have separate entries in this Directory.

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.

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 viewed, simply Google "Balkissock Lodge for sale".



Qigong

What is Qigong?

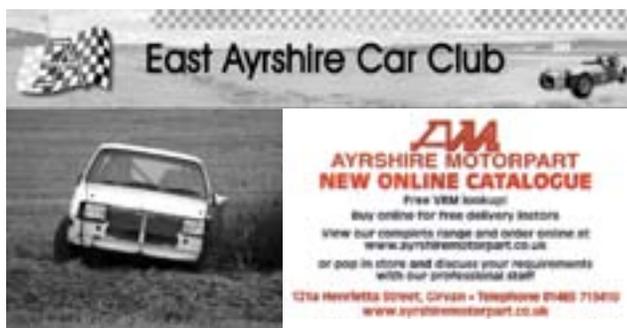
Qigong is a series of slow but gentle exercises, under the guidance of a qualified instructor, to help promote health and vitality, and to relieve stress. It is suitable for all levels of fitness, including wheelchair users, and for all ages from sixteen and over.

Classes are held in Ballantrae Community Centre on Monday mornings from 11.00am until 12 noon. The Spring session starts on March 10th and continues until April 7th. 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.

Pinwherry Autograss Dates



All on Sunday and 11.00am start

Hallowchapel Farm, Pinwherry, KA26 0RW

4th MAY, 18th MAY, 15th JUNE

13th JULY, 10th AUGUST, 7th SEPTEMBER

For more information, contact:

Leonard 07821 241 454
Jimmy 07900 375 150

taste Ayrshire



Just Why Does Our Food Taste So Good?

Must Be Something In The Ayrshire

From world-class cheeses to Michelin-starred restaurants, award-winning farmers markets to effortlessly cool cafés, from our potatoes to our lamb and beef, from our crabs, prawns and lobsters to our renowned smoked fish. Ayrshire is a must-visit destination for intrepid foodies on the search for something uniquely tasty.

So what makes this wonderful region so blessed when it comes to delicious, fresh and abundant ingredients? It could be the climate or the hard work and ingenuity of our producers. We like to think that there's something in the Ayrshire...

Taste Ayrshire is comprised of a consortium of the top hospitality businesses in Ayrshire, focused on promoting Food Tourism in the region. A mix of manufacturers, producers and hospitality providers ensures a wealth of experience and knowledge is available to drive this exciting initiative forward.

4 videos have been produced showcasing some of the best produce in Ayrshire:

SOMETHING IN THE AYRSHIRE

<http://youtu.be/MTvry6u8n10>

AYRSHIRE ICE CREAM

<http://youtu.be/HAoNbN7un7k>

AYRSHIRE ARTISAN CHEESE

<http://youtu.be/mcBEFQZolFE>

AYRSHIRE FARMERS MARKET

<http://youtu.be/LhgaQmCEvmQ>

Ballantrae is embracing this opportunity as a food destination with the Farmers' Market at Craigmains, Glenapp Castle with its Michelin Star and Cosses Country House winning the local food hero award. On January 29th members of ABBA (Ayrshire Bed and Breakfast Association) took a course on 'Breakfast Skills' using local produce at Braehead Cook School <http://www.cookschool.org/> as part of a Taste Ayrshire initiative. There is a huge opportunity here for other businesses throughout the Stinchar Valley to get Taste Ayrshire recognition. See www.tasteayrshire.com



Ayrshire Man Named Scotland's Apprentice Of The Year

16th December 2013

Scott Cunningham, aged 25 from Girvan in South Ayrshire, has been named Scotland's 2013 Adult Apprentice of the Year 2013 at the annual SBATC Apprenticeship awards. The title was presented to Scott at a ceremony held on Tuesday 10th December at the Scottish Parliament.

Scott, who is studying for an Advanced Craft certificate in Roof Slating & Tiling at South Lanarkshire College, works for family business Cunningham Roofing Contractors. Scott continues to work across a broad range of projects, including work with Heritage Scotland to sympathetically repair historic buildings.

Now in their 14th year, the SBATC Apprenticeship Awards are organised by the Scottish Building Apprenticeship and Training Council (SBATC) to recognise the considerable talents, skills and abilities of construction apprentices working across Scotland. The Awards assess candidates according to their practical and academic ability alongside other important skills such as organisation, communication and the ability to perform in a team.

Speaking at the awards ceremony, Scott said, "I am really delighted to have won this award. It's great to have been nominated and to have my work recognised in this way. I really enjoy working for the family business and I have found my apprenticeship both challenging and exciting, but most of all rewarding. I'm looking forward to continuing my training and improving and expanding my skills and experience."

Commenting on the 2013 Awards, Vaughan Hart, Scottish Building Federation Managing Director and Employers' Secretary for the Scottish Building Apprenticeship and Training Council (SBATC), said, "My congratulations go out to the winners and all shortlisted candidates. The quality of nominees at this year's awards was outstanding and competition in each category was fierce.

"Scott has faced a 120 miles round trip from his home to college each day, which is testament to how determined he is to succeed. He is a great ambassador for adult apprentices and has a promising future in the construction industry ahead."

"The exceptional calibre of all the candidates just goes to prove that Scotland's high quality apprentice programmes and further education are delivering fantastic craftspeople. It is important that we recognise their talents as demonstrating our industry's continuing commitment to championing excellence in apprenticeship training."

from Scottish Building Federation News, Crichton House, Crichton's Close,
Edinburgh EH8 8DT <http://www.scottish-building.co.uk/newsitem.php?id=211>

Leaf faces and muddy smiles

Use mud and natural materials to make faces in the woods.

Create a face peeping up from the woodland floor, or use mud to make a face peering down from a tree trunk.

What can you find to represent eyes, hair, teeth, beards and glasses?

Try creating your own face in leafy, woody form or a whole family of weird and wonderful faces.

When you've finished, leave your creations for other people to find. Then on your next visit, look to see if any new ones have appeared!



Flower skewers and garlands

As you walk around in spring, pick up fallen flowers from the forest floor and thread them onto sticks to make colourful flower skewers. Look out for large rhododendron flowers like these below, to make striking, attention-grabbing skewers.



Tree blossom, primroses, anemones and violets are smaller and more delicate, so thread these onto thinner twigs instead. Leave them in the woods to mark a special place.



To make a necklace, thread flowers onto string or cotton. In autumn, look out for winged seeds from field maple, sycamore and ash trees to make autumn garlands.

Cone creatures

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

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

Use grass or leaves as a tail.

What other animals can you make?

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



Tree collages

Make a tree picture on the woodland floor.

Collect twigs, fallen leaves, tree flowers and seeds to make your tree.

Decide if you're going to make a HUGE tree or a tiny one.

What season will you show?

- frosty spring blossoms
- lush summer leaves
- brilliant autumn colour
- bare winter twigs?





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**Les Anderson
(Chair at SASF)
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Happy New Year

The first 2 of 5 Information Road Shows in 2013 were held in Girvan at the North Parish Church Montgomerie Street on Thursday April 4th and in the Carrick Centre Maybole in May 2013.

The Road Shows were designed to provide older people with information that could be useful for them in respect of the various services that are provided by the different agencies - e.g. - housing; benefits; access to information for those with various disabilities; universal benefits; and more.

The programs included: - Tea & Coffee, reminiscent music and singing; alternative therapies; unusual entertainment; food and drink; and much more. Entrance was free and a total of 25 different organisations were represented. Over 140 people visited the shows, many staying over two hours enjoying the information, food and entertainment.

Young people from the Girvan Youth Forum "And Beyond" carried out surveys in Girvan and in Maybole during the event.

We will be back this year with another road show and feedback on your surveys. Please look out for further information locally.

We hope to see you all again.

Les Anderson

Carrick Invasive Species Project

UPDATE AND NEW TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

See page 31 for pictures

The Carrick Invasive Species Project (CISP) is continuing to provide great training opportunities for local people throughout the Carrick region, to date 31 people have taken up the free training to obtain their PA6AW spraying certificates which allows them to carry out herbicide spraying needed to tackle Japanese knotweed and 8 people have attended the Brushcutter/Strimmer training giving them the skills to tackle large swaths of Himalayan balsam. A sterling effort has been put in to date by these local volunteers who have dedicated up to 187 hours to Himalayan balsam clearance, 312 hours on Japanese knotweed spraying and up to 200 hours monitoring mink rafts across the Girvan and Stinchar river catchments.

Himalayan balsam and Japanese knotweed are two of our best known invaders, they grow fast, spread rapidly and once established in river catchments are a real challenge to eradicate. The removal of these problem plants will allow our riverbanks to become restored with native vegetation and stabilised, improving the condition of this sensitive habitat in the long run. Monitoring for American mink allows us to implement a rapid trapping response and protect the rare water vole and other important bird and fish species which are at risk from this unwanted predator. Mink have no natural predators here in the UK so once they become established in an area they can easily multiply having a detrimental impact on the native wildlife.

"Prevention is better than cure" has never been more relevant than when talking about invasive non-native species, the CISP has been

and will continue to educate and promote good biosecurity amongst river users to help prevent the spread and introduction of other unwanted invaders. The next free course for volunteers to obtain their City and Guilds PA6AW spraying certificates will run over the 22nd and 23rd February in Girvan. There will also be a LANTRA Brushcutter/Trimmer course running over the 8th and 9th March in Girvan. For more information on these free training courses and if you would like more information on monitoring a mink raft please get in touch with Meryl at meryl@ayrshireriverstrust.org, 07956426218, www.ayrshireriverstrust.org/cisp.

The Carrick Invasive Species Project is supported by LEADER, Carrick Futures & Hadyard Hill Community Benefit Funds., Girvan District Salmon Fishery Board, Stinchar District Salmon Fishery Board & The Lendal Environmental Trust.

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Kindler Net Bags - £4
Hard Wood Logs - £50 a load**

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Garden Clearance
Controlled Limb Removal
Controlled Felling**

07446563973
lforestry@hotmail.co.uk



We are now mid-way through the season. We have enjoyed a variety of speakers so far and look forward to some speakers who are new to the club, introducing some new topics.

Our first meeting took place on Wednesday 15th. Our speaker was Thea Petticrew from South Ayrshire Council. Thea's remit is to manage the planting of tubs etc for which the council is responsible. After the talk Thea's remit is Service Coordinator, Grounds Maintenance and Neighbourhood Services Coordinator, Grounds Maintenance and Neighbourhood Services proved to be far more wide ranging, in fact a massive task involving woodland, parks, street planting, gardens and maintenance, which involves the care and control of the large amount of machinery needed!

Our guest speaker in February was Peter Robinson project manager of The Cree Valley Community Woodlands Trust, an area very close to our village. His subject is "Woodland Plant Ecology"

Invited to speak at our March meeting is author and writer Frances Wilkins. Her topic will be The Lost Gardens of South West Scotland. A subject possibly some of us are not even aware of. Some members/friends may have been introduced to Frances when she attended the smugglers event in Ballantrae.

April is our final meeting of the session with the AGM & plant swap. We normally plan a series of summer outings, suggestions put forward by members. Last year we enjoyed a meal at a local venue in May.

The Stinchar Valley Mag

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Lost Gardens In Dumfries & Galloway

The next meeting of the Stinchar Valley Gardening Club is on Wednesday, 19 March 2014 at 7.30pm in the Pinwherry Community Hall. The guest speaker for the evening is Frances Wilkins and the title of her talk is "Lost Gardens in Dumfries and Galloway".

Frances was educated in Scotland and London. For the last 25 years she has been a 'wandering scholar' dedicating her life to the social history of South-West Scotland, the Isle of Man and Cumbria. This has resulted in over thirty books, local history courses and lectures and several exhibitions covering a wide range of topics. "Two Hundred Years of Kirkconnell Garden" was published in 2008 and her "Gardens Great and Small": The 'Lost' Gardens of Dumfries and Galloway exhibition was part of the Homecoming programme in 2009. She has continued to research the lost gardens of the South-West. These include gardens that have disappeared completely, some that have been overlain by more recent and 'better' planting schemes and others that have lost their former glory due to neglect and disinterest. These gardens can be reconstructed from contemporary plans and other archive material, from descriptions written by visitors, from nineteenth century sepia photographs and twentieth century aerial photographs. Frances now lives in a lost garden (in Worcestershire).

Frances's talk will be a fascinating insight into these "lost" gardens and who knows, we may even discover we have our own equivalent of the now famous "Heligan" in Cornwall. Please come along and find out more!

Our annual membership is £12.00 and the visitor's fee for the evening is £3.00 which includes tea/coffee.

Moira McAlpine Pinwherry Gardening Club
tel: 01465831122)

Our meetings are held in Pinwherry hall on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.

A warm welcome is extended to new members and friends. The charge for visitors is £3.00 which includes tea / coffee.

We look forward to greeting old and new faces at our meetings.

Secretary: Margaret Bean (01465841635)
margaret.bean1@btinternet.com

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

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Member: Moira McAlpine (tel: 01465831122)
moira.mcalpine@btopenworld.com

2 Pins Community Centre

The story began in 2006 when Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Council obtained funding from Hadyard Hill Community Benefit Fund to employ Poole Dick Associates to carry out an audit of the community. Top of the community's wish list was a new community centre to replace the existing Pinwherry Village Hall, which can no longer meet the needs of the community.

In 2007 the Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Development Association (PPCDA) was formed by local residents, members of Pinwherry & Pinmore Community Council, Pinwherry Community Association and other local voluntary groups in the area to take forward projects suggested by residents. Over the next few years further research was carried out with public consultation meetings and meetings with interested parties e.g. funders, South Ayrshire Council, architects and planners. Different sites were considered and as Pinwherry Primary School was closing discussions were held to consider its future use and it was agreed that it wouldn't accommodate the desired community facility.

In 2012 members of the PPCDA registered the 2 Pins Community Company as a company limited by guarantee with charitable status to take forward the vision of the new centre. The 2 Pins Company currently has 8 directors and 53 members, all of whom are local residents.

With funding from Carrick Futures and Hadyard Hill Community Benefit Funds and the Lendal Environmental Trust, the 2 Pins Company purchased land in the centre of Pinwherry on which to build the new community facility. Planning permission has been granted for the new centre and applications are now being made for the development and construction. Pinwherry Community Association and 2 Pins Company members have joined forces to fundraise for the project and several very successful events have been held; incl. a Cream Tea on Pinmore Green, Christmas Craft Fair, a Race Night, Prize Raffle and Ayrshire Fiddle Concert with many other events planned for 2014.

2 Pins Company members and other local residents have worked with Austin Smith-Lord Architects and other professional advisers to produce plans for the 2 Pins Centre. The 2 Pins Company has tried to take a holistic view of the community's needs, the challenges they face and the opportunities available to address them with the proposed 2 Pins Centre now and for future generations. The centre will have disabled access to all areas and will include;

- an entrance foyer displaying local history, heritage and arts and crafts
- a main hall to accommodate five-a-side football, 3 badminton courts, entertainment events and the ability to split into two smaller areas
- changing facilities, disabled toilet and baby changing facilities, storage and first aid rooms
- two committee meeting rooms, a large arts and crafts room and office space for use by local community organisations
- community cafe, kitchen and small shop
- ample car parking, children's play area and electric car charging point

The project has the full support of our three elected South Ayrshire Councillors and South Ayrshire Council Economic Development department. This project will bring economic benefits through employment opportunities and a space to welcome visitors and promote local businesses. It will give residents opportunities towards a better quality of life and wellbeing, providing a space to meet, share information and support, and build a stronger community.

The provosts of South Ayrshire Councillor Helen Moonie has officially opened the site by planting a ceremonial tree on Saturday 22nd February (photos can be found on the 2 Pins web site WWW.2pins.org)

To continue the celebrations the community are planning an all weekend of events on the site in May with local dart and dominos competition, a children afternoon with bouncy castles, climbing wall, duck race, welly boot competition, children's entertainers and lots more, on Saturday night a dance with a pig roast and Sunday a craft and food fair.

South Ayrshire Provost Helen Moonie said: "I was delighted to plant a tree to celebrate 2 Pins Community Company project. This tree will be at the heart of the community where it can grow and blossom, just like the proposed new community centre, both local landmarks and symbolic of this flourishing community and inspiring community spirit."



FREE CHIPS FOR ALL AS CHARITY HOLDS 'FURNOMENAL' PINWHERRY MICROCHIPPING EVENT

Dogs Trust, the UK's largest dog welfare charity with two rehoming centres in Scotland, visited the Pinwherry Community Hall in South Ayrshire on Saturday (8th February) to provide free micro chipping for dogs in the local area.

The event was a great success, with a fantastic turnout from local residents to avail of the charity's free micro chipping service. Dogs Trust representatives were also on hand to answer any questions on health issues or more general queries from dog owners. A grand total of 50 Pinwherry dogs were chipped on the day.

Micro chipping is a simple and effective tool which helps to rapidly reunite lost or straying pets with their owners. This in turn reduces the number of healthy dogs unnecessarily put to sleep and saves money for Local Authorities by cutting kennelling costs. Compulsory micro chipping was successfully introduced in Northern Ireland in 2012 and Wales and England are set to follow suit in 2015 and 2016 respectively. Dogs Trust has been campaigning for the introduction of this important measure across the UK for many years, and greatly welcomed the recent launch of a Scottish Government consultation on the issue.

It is important to remember, however, that a microchip on its own is meaningless. Owners must remember to keep their details updated on their relevant database - something that was stressed by Dogs Trust representatives at Saturday's event.

Dogs Trust is the UK's largest dog welfare charity. We have eighteen rehoming centres across the UK (one in Ireland), and invest substantial resources in information services and education on responsible dog ownership. We are working towards the day when all dogs can live a happy life, free from the threat of unnecessary destruction.

For more information, please contact:
Margaret Donnellan Public Affairs Officer
020 7812 5266
margaret.donnellan@dogstrust.org.uk

Visit our website at
<http://www.dogstrust.org.uk>
or call us on: 020-7837 0006



Barr Community Store

Barr Community Stores has said that without extra support from both the community and other external sources it will not be able to stand on its own two feet. Despite its having made a profit in its first year of trading, the AGM in January was told that its Financial Committee is now in the process of revising the shop's business plan.

In the first year since it began trading in July 2012, the shop turned in a surplus of £9389 after generating nearly £110,000 of sales. Added to this income was £37,500 of grant funding, most of it from the Hadyard Hill Community Benefit Fund but including a sum from Carrick Futures. Without this, there would have been what the Treasurer, Annet Forsyth, called "a significant shortfall" in its first year of operation.

In her report to the AGM, which attracted a pleasing turn out of villagers, Annet said that the first year's results were not a reliable representation of the business because of the initial start-up costs and stock purchase. However, she said, "We have to acknowledge that, without extra support from the community and external sources such as tourism and other business ventures, the shop will not be able to stand on its own two feet".

Inviting 'suggestions, ideas and requests' to help the venture succeed, she said, "As we all well know, it is vital for the village to have a shop. In our rural community, the shop provides more than just an irreplaceable service, it is an important hub for people to meet and access information.

"Despite the sterling efforts of volunteers and staff, the community must continue to support the shop with their custom on a more regular basis as this is the only way in which it can become sustainable."

In his report Chairman, Bill Cook urged villagers to sign up to become members of the shop. He said; "You won't get a share of any profits - these will be used for the benefit of the entire community - but you will be demonstrating your support. This could be vital if we need to get further funding as a large membership shows that the community are really behind their shop. Bill revealed that the enterprise is looking for a new Chairman "as a matter of urgency" as he and Madge are moving away from the area leaving the shop with only 6 directors.

Barr long-time resident, Jimmy Farquhar, who attended the public meeting also urged the community to get behind the shop. In a letter to the "Barrometer", Barr's village newspaper, he also warned that, should it close, it could have serious implications for house prices in the village and cited the case of Dunure where it is thought that house values fell by up to 10% when the shop there closed. Jimmy says; "While the Hadyard Hill subsidy is welcome and comforting, it is slightly worrying that one should be necessary and our aim must be to help build up the business so that it can be self-supporting."

Christmas Cheer

see page 31 for pictures

This Christmas Barr Parish Church asked the community of Barr to make donations to the Salvation Army Christmas Present Appeal. This appeal is run every year by the Salvation Army to assist families in South Ayrshire struggling and in need. Appeal organiser in the village, Sharon Trotter, reported on its success.



Although we only had just over a week to organise the collection (probably down to my lack of organisational skills!) we received quite a few donations which included toys, games, books, DVDs, clothing, food and money. In particular I would like to pass on a very big thank you to Barr Primary School, Barr Community Shop, the 'Quilters' for their support and all the individuals who donated. We raised £120 from community members, ASDA in Girvan kindly donated £10, and the very generous elderly gentleman in the queue at ASDA also offered another £10 when he learned of the cause, which meant we raised totaling £140 to buy children's gifts. Needless to say the Salvation Army in Ayr was extremely grateful for all the presents received. Indeed the charitable Christmas spirit of Barr is alive and kicking. Maybe this year I'll get my diary in order and be better organised. Meantime, very many thanks to all and the very best for 2014 from Barr Parish Church.

Barr Gala Day

This year's Gala Day will be held on Saturday, June 7th with the theme for the big event being "The Commonwealth Games."

As ever, there will be a huge amount of work to do between now and then to ensure that the Gala is as big a success as ever and one which will be enjoyed by the whole village as well as attracting lots of visitors from far and wide.

Now the Community Association is asking for volunteers to come forward to offer help to the Committee in any way they feel able. A Gala Group is being formed which will deal with the organisation of the event and with helping to bring off another successful day.

Association Chair, David Trotter said; "People would be surprised just how much work needs to be done to ensure that things go smoothly and it can't all be left to the Committee to tackle. As well as that, there is a lot of knowledge and expertise around the village which we don't always tap into - people who are waiting to be asked - so our aim is to welcome them on board. "After all, we want this to be a product of the whole village and a day of which we can all be proud."

Dave asked that anyone willing to help in any way should get in touch with him or any member of the BCA Committee to discuss how they can contribute. Further Gala Day details will be notified in due course. Meanwhile the Annual Meeting of the Barr Community Association will be held on Tuesday 18th March at 7 pm in the Village Hall. Everyone is invited both young and old, so why not come along and get involved - bring your ideas and suggestions. Even if you don't want to serve on the Association, your views and ideas will be carefully listened to.

Extra Present For Jordan & Kassie

Santa brought an extra-special Christmas present to the Farmery family in Barr when new baby Ryan made a Christmas Day appearance. The day had started normally with brothers five year old Kyle and three years old Aiden excitedly opening their Christmas presents. But around mid-day it became clear that Santa hadn't finished. After a quick dash to Crosshouse Hospital with dad, Jordan, Mum, Kassie produced a new addition in the shape of baby Ryan who weighed in at 9lbs 3oz. And it was "Cheers" all round at the King's Arms in Barr where the family are proprietors.



Barr Bowling Club

Barr Bowling Club's green-keeper, Alan Ringrose is keeping a close watch on the weather as the club heads towards another season on the rinks. For Mother Nature that will determine the date of the opening day when the first jack will be thrown and the keen competition for the club's cups and trophies will get underway. Provisionally, the date has been set as Saturday May 4th but it will all depend on how the weather treats the greens before then. The date of the Annual Meeting has yet to be decided but, once again, new members of any ability, are invited to take part in the club's activities.

Funding Sought For New Play Area

The long-awaited development of the play area at the back of the Clachan in Barr will soon be a step closer to becoming a reality with a funding application currently being prepared by the three groups working together to see the project to fruition. Barr Community Council along with the Barr Parish Development Co. and South Ayrshire Council are close to submitting the paperwork asking for financial support for the project. Project leader Alex Tait used the feedback from all the children in the Village to compile a wish list 'spec' for quotes from three companies.

Taking the children's wishes as the priority, a design has been selected by the BPDC. Now, with the help of David Loudon of South Ayrshire Council, the BPDC are now taking the project forwards, and in the process, an important step towards reality. The next stage of the project will also be based on feedback from young residents and will be looking at the cycle trail, skateboard & multi use games area and inviting design options and quotes in order to make further funding applications before February.

Barr Tearoom is looking forward to another year of events. Following a late start last year it is hoped to be open on Easter Sunday, weather permitting, followed with several events through the summer months. Also planned is a fund raiser to raise money to support the work of Barr Parish Development Company Watch for posters and further details!!! The donations made to several local charities were very well received last year and it's hoped the Tearoom can show it's support for some worthy causes again this year. Giving support to the Barr Tearoom in any way by baking, coming to help at events, enjoying an afternoon tea, making a donation, donating a raffle prize or just buying a raffle ticket all adds up to making this a very worthwhile venture.

Barr Community Association's Christmas Fayre, held in November, was voted a success by stall holders and customers alike. There was a full turnout of traders to man the tables set out in the big hall while teas and home baking provided by Barr Teas kept the shoppers well-nourished as enjoyed some early Christmas shopping.

The Community Association's idea of a new way of spreading Christmas cheer to the village's senior residents seems to have been well received. According to the large number of letters of thanks received by Secretary Isobel Ringrose, the Association's Christmas gift of £5.00 vouchers to be used in either the shop or the pub went down well with the recipients with many of them being traded in already. This has also delighted the pub and the shop whose coffers also benefitted from this new way of saying; "Happy Christmas."

Barr Honours its Fallen

There was a good turnout of locals on Remembrance Sunday at the War memorial in Barr. A number of Wreaths were laid on behalf of Barr Community Council by Chairman, David Trotter and South Ayrshire Council, by Cllr. Alec Oattes. Dr James Farquhar conducted the short service.



RIGHT: Barr Community Shop did a roaring trade in home baked Christmas goods.

LEFT: The SV Quilters had lots of Christmas crafts for sale.

BELOW: This youngster was captivated by these Snowmen, crafted in the village.



Recommended Tradesmen

Would you recommend good work?

Plumber

by Frank Bean
26/11/12

Carpet Fitter

By Frank Bean
26/11/12

IT Problems

By Jim Fleming
08/11/13

Electrician

By Jim Fleming
08/11/13

Gardening

By Jim Fleming
08/11/13

Decorating

By Ruth Murray

Plumbing/Heating

By John McAlley
08/01/14

Appliance Repairs

By Peter Newland
24/01/14

Plumb/Gas Engineer

By Claire Pirrie
26/01/14

Electrician

By Claire Pirrie
26/01/14

Eric Gibson

01465 714 791
07522 672 767

Mark Foster

01465 71884
07722 892 263

Robert Carty

01465 479 176
07523 847 119

John Foster

01655 331 257
07526 464 524

Fraser Wallace

01465 831 487
wallace632@

btinternet.com

Ian Picken

07814 962 695

Eric Hyslop

01671 402 646
heat@ehyslop-ltd.com

Howard Galley

01465 831 537

Ross McCulloch

01292 550 954
07766 978 568

Gavin Campbell

01655 882 208
07989 583 238

Carrick Characters

Ballantrae Public Garden - The Finishing Touches!

In mid-2012, a part of the Carrick Tourism Development Project known as “Carrick Characters” commenced. It covered seventeen communities throughout Carrick and the objective was that each community would decide what were their significant icons – be they cultural, historical or natural – and these would be represented by an installation in each community, thus creating a trail of interesting locations around Carrick.

The Ballantrae Development Group took on the task of selecting the Ballantrae icons and chose salmon, herring and the “BA” registration letters as our defining elements. As the first village seen by visitors travelling north into Carrick, we also added “Ballantrae – the Gateway to Carrick” as an appropriate statement. These elements were incorporated into the design of a gate for the recently refurbished Ballantrae Public Garden. The gate was fabricated and installed by Morrells Forge of Kirkoswald (tel. 01655 332405) and its superb quality can be seen in the photograph.



Whilst the BDG were designing the gate, the project managers – Bett Associates – were designing the graphics for an information panel to be installed within the Public Garden. This explains to visitors a bit about Ballantrae’s history and the significance of the icons depicted on the gate. The gate and panel have now been installed in the Public Garden and form a nice “finishing touch”.



The project was part-financed by the Scottish Government and the European Community Ayrshire LEADER 2007-2013 Programme. The Ballantrae Development Group thanks those who funded the project, and thanks to Bett Associates for their hard work co-ordinating and managing the project.

Scout About With Ballantrae Scouts

See Page 31 for Pictures!

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts enjoyed the Hallowe'en Party with plenty of games and everyone in fancy dress – except some of the leaders!

The Christmas Party was also good fun with a present to go home with.

We had a good turn out on Remembrance day and all looked smart in their uniforms and neckerchiefs. The Flag Bearers, Alastair, Sean and Jessica were excellent, as were Ethan and Jacob who read the lessons.

The Cubs are busy making bird boxes for the DIY badge, and the Beavers are working on their First Aid and Healthy Eating badges. Scouts have finished their fitness challenge.

The Group has recently been given funding for new tentage from the Scottish Scout Development Fund and SCOTMID – including funding for a large tent for wet weather activities and when the Beavers and Cubs come to camp. We are grateful too to Craigmains Home and Garden Centre for supplying bulbs to allow us to plant up the planters outside Ballantrae Community Hall.

Watch out for details of our ‘Kite Fest’ in April and a car boot sale at Craigmains & our AGM (June).

WORD SEARCH

CAN YOU FIND ALL 8 WORDS?

BARK
LEAF
TRUNK

BRANCH
ROOTS
WOODS

FOREST
TREE

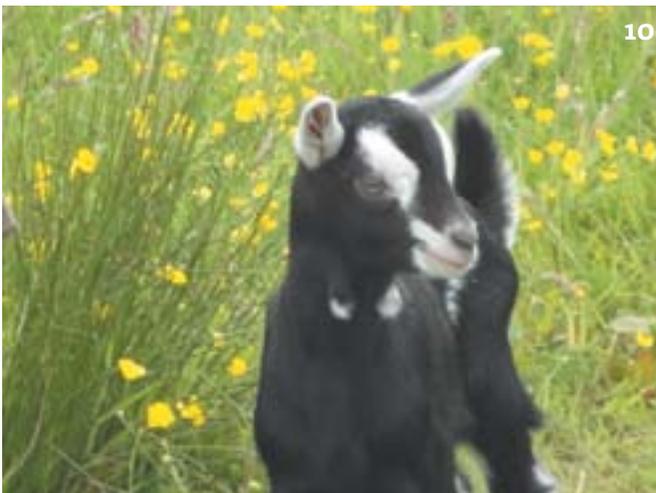
R	E	T	F	A	L	M	L	E	A	F
O	N	W	O	O	D	S	H	T	B	S
O	P	A	R	P	E	O	B	L	R	I
T	R	E	E	L	B	R	A	N	C	H
S	B	F	S	A	H	I	R	S	U	T
E	I	H	T	R	U	N	K	M	L	A



discover and investigate

THE SCOTTISH SCOUT DEVELOPMENT FUND
SCOTMID





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6 & 7: Ballantrae School Play [page 12]
8 & 9: Ballantrae Carrick Characters [page 30]
10: Sixpence land project. Elizabeth [page 18]

1 & 2: Scout About
[page 30]

3-6: The Carrick
Invasive Species
Project [page 24]

7: The Ballantrae
Gala week Trio!
[page 16]

8: Ballantrae
Information Point
in Craigmains
Garden Center

1



2



3



4



5



6



BALLANTRAE GALA WEEK 2014



7

with committee members like this
how could it NOT be fun !



8