

Content from the communities of
Ballantrae, Barrhill, Colmonell,
Lendalfoot, Pinwherry & Pinmore

THE STINCHAR VALLEY MAGAZINE

SPRING 2012



SNOW IN THE STINCHAR VALLEY!



Mail to the Editor

Welcome to the sixth issue of the Stinchar Valley Magazine, a warm Winter/Spring greeting to all from everyone here. 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, Barrhill, Colmonell, Glen App, Lendalfoot or Pinwherry & Pinmore areas? For all this and anything else that crosses your mind about our communities contact the editorial team. Your input is vital. Be heard, make a difference. Items may be edited for spelling, grammar, clarity or length.

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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 Community Council funds and Hadyard Hill and Carrick Futures grants schemes. Images are used with all needed permissions from, open source, Flickr.com under open copyright standard licence. Images also courtesy of Clker.com and Public contributions. All material copied from newspapers, websites and other sources are accredited and referenced wherever possible. All contents and views in this publication are those of the contributors.



Pinwherry & Pinmore Community Council

Full minutes of all meetings are available upon request:

Claire Pirrie, Acting Secretary, Rose Cottage, Poundland, Pinwherry, KA26 0RU

Email: clairepirrie@gmail.com

Pinwherry & Pinmore Community Council require a Minute Secretary

To take minutes at Community Council meetings held on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7.30pm in Pinwherry Hall.

Requirements are:

- An interest in supporting the work of the Community Council?
- Access to a computer, word processing skills and email. An external back up drive will be provided.
- The position will be on a self employed basis, paid above minimum wage and expenses will be reimbursed.
- Approximately 5 hours per month, except July and December.

For further information please contact Claire Pirrie as above.

Vacancy for a Community Councillor

Pinwherry and Pinmore Community Council need your help, so please think about becoming a Community Councillor and help us to represent your community. If you think it is important that we have a voice;

- in local government,
- in what happens with planning applications,
- where funding is spent,
- how we look after our community hall,
- in which developments might improve our community,

then please come and join our team. For further information contact the Chairperson, Jim Syme, or Acting Secretary, Claire Pirrie.

Pinwherry School [Next Instalment]

Following on from the time line in the last magazine here is the latest news:

9th November 2011: Notes from a meeting with representatives of South Ayrshire Council to look at condition reports for Pinwherry School and hall;

SAC will take at least 2 months to develop a draft contract to be used for asset transfer.

- SAC legal services will clarify the titles for the land, school and community hall. Some of the car parking area is included in the title and some is unclear.
- SAC will not provide funding but could provide support and assistance for any project by helping with ways of accessing potential external funding.
- An approximate cost to bring the school building up to useable standard is £30k to £40k.
- Approximate cost for electrical work including replacing storage heaters is £3k to £4k.
- When the school closed the budget was frozen and no regular maintenance will be done.
- Vacant properties have a monthly security check and 5 yearly inspections for safety.
- No assurances can be made for the preservation of any building.

January 2012: An email was received from SAC confirming that “there will be no additional funding from South Ayrshire Council to upgrade the school but it will be kept wind and watertight. There are legal implications which make it difficult to give the Community an answer on the possible use of the school but these are still being explored. In order for the Council to approve any lease or asset transfer the Community would need to produce a business plan detailing what the plans for the school were and how this would be sustainable.”

If you support the idea of Pinwherry & Pinmore community taking over the school building and / or the hall for community use please get in touch with the Editor who will pass on your response to Pinwherry & Pinmore Community Development Association.

Dark Skies Looking Down!

Is this face in the sky why our weather has been so bad?



Technical Support

This ought to make you feel better about your computer skills!

Tech support: What kind of computer do you have?

Customer: A white one...

Tech support: Click on the 'my computer' icon on to the left of the screen.

Customer: Your left or my left?

Customer: Hi, good afternoon, this is Martha, I can't print. Every time I try, it says 'Can't find printer'. I've even lifted the printer and placed it in front of the monitor, but the computer still says he can't find it..

Tech support: What's on your monitor now, ma'am?

Customer: A teddy bear my boyfriend won for me at the fair.

Colmonell Angling Club



Presentation of trophies for end of season 2011

Colmonell Angling Club held its annual dinner and presentation of trophies in the Boars Head Hotel, Colmonell on Saturday 21st January 2012. All those who attended thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Very many thanks to Paul and Helen of the Boars Head for the excellent dinner and hospitality.



Trophy winners as follows:

George Falls	(pictured)	Ross Cup
George Falls		Club Competition Cup
Les Howarth	(pictured)	David Telfer Cup
Rab McIlwraith		Knockdolian Cup
Rab McIlwraith		James Clark Cup
Sandy Wilson	(pictured)	Fly Competition Cup
Craig Walker	(pictured)	William Donner Cup



South Carrick Churches together

South Carrick Churches Together was launched in 2001 to establish a forum for ecumenical meetings involving Girvan and the surrounding villages. SCCT are members of ACT (Action of Churches Together in Scotland) – the national organisation for ecumenical activities. The chairperson of the group is Rev Stephen Ogston and the committee has representatives from Church of Scotland, Methodist, Catholic, Episcopal and Baptist Churches. Collections taken at services and events are used to cover administration costs and donations are regularly made to Christian charities.

Each year a different Church acts as host and for 2012 it will be Girvan North Parish Church.

So far plans for 2012 are:

January 22nd	Week of Prayer for Christian Unity service at 7pm.
April 6th (Good Friday)	Service at Stumpy 12noon and in Church at 7pm.
Sunday afternoon in August	Date to be agreed Girvan harbour service with Salvation Army band.
Oct/Nov date to be finalised	Pot luck supper at 7pm.

The group welcomes any suggestions for ways to foster and develop joint activities and Christian unity. For further information please contact your Church representative or the secretary, Nicola Lawrence, on 01465 714797.

Ballantrae Church linked with St Colmon Church

During the weeks of wet and cold weather that we have experienced over December and January, I have to admit that I have spent some time thinking about the sunnier climes of Malawi. In May I am heading to the North of Malawi for two weeks with a team of six people from different churches in Ayrshire. We will be spending time visiting projects and churches that various churches in Ayrshire have a link with. One of the churches that we will definitely be visiting is Lwambaza which Ballantrae Church has been twinned with since April 2011.

Lwambaza Church is a rural church 35 kilometres south-east of Mzuzu (the third largest city). There is one church building with eight prayer points (open-sided huts for smaller gatherings) spread throughout the area. The minister of Lwambaza is Rev Bostone Mvalo and over the past year he has sent emails describing their situation.

Here is some of what he has written: "The villagers stay in grass-thatched houses (about 90%) - the 10% is in iron-sheet thatched houses. The people totally rely on farming. Only few are doing their small business i.e. selling the farm crops, but on seasonal basis. The main water sources are the running streams - except those that are close to the primary school campus that use borehole water. The distance that the children walk to school differs from one another depending on how close each child is to the school. No any child uses the bicycle. But the average distance is 3 kilometres.

The weather is not constant due to seasonal changes i.e. from December to April the place receives the heavy rains, from late May to July the place experiences the cold weather, from August to September the place experiences mid-warmth and from October to November the place experiences hot weather. The place is greener during rainy season and loses leaves during summer time. Animals are there but not commonly found as they live in the bushes.

The minister covers a distance about 35 kilometres to send or receive emails (minus 7 kilometres which he literally walks) i.e. 28 kilometres are covered by taking public transport."

As you can see, life for those living in this part of Malawi is very different from how we live, and the opportunity to visit Lwambaza and Malawi itself, will definitely help Ballantrae Church to discover how we can best support them in the future. However it is not just about what we can do for them, because even though we are in many ways more developed, we are all equals and still have much to learn from them.

Once I return from my visit to Malawi I will let you know how I got on, but in the meantime, if you want any further information on my visit or Ballantrae Church's link with Lwambaza, please feel free to contact me.

God bless,

Stephen Ogston



Easter Services

Palm Sunday, 1st April 10am – St Colmon Church, Colmonell

11:30am – Ballantrae Church

3pm – Glenapp Church

Monday 2nd April 7pm – Girvan South Church

Tuesday 3rd April 7pm – Girvan South Church

Wednesday 4th April 7pm – Girvan South Church

Thursday 5th April 7:30pm – Ballantrae Church – Communion Service

Good Friday, 6th April 12 noon – Open Air Service at the Stumpy, Girvan

7pm – Girvan North Church

Easter Sunday, 7th April 7am – Dawn 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, and everyone is welcome at all of our services.

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 Sunday school for all children 0 – 12 years old.

Occasional services in Glenapp Church.

Minister: Rev Stephen Ogston
The Manse
1 The Vennel
Ballantrae
KA26 0NH

Telephone: 01465 831252, Email: ogston@macfish.com

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

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



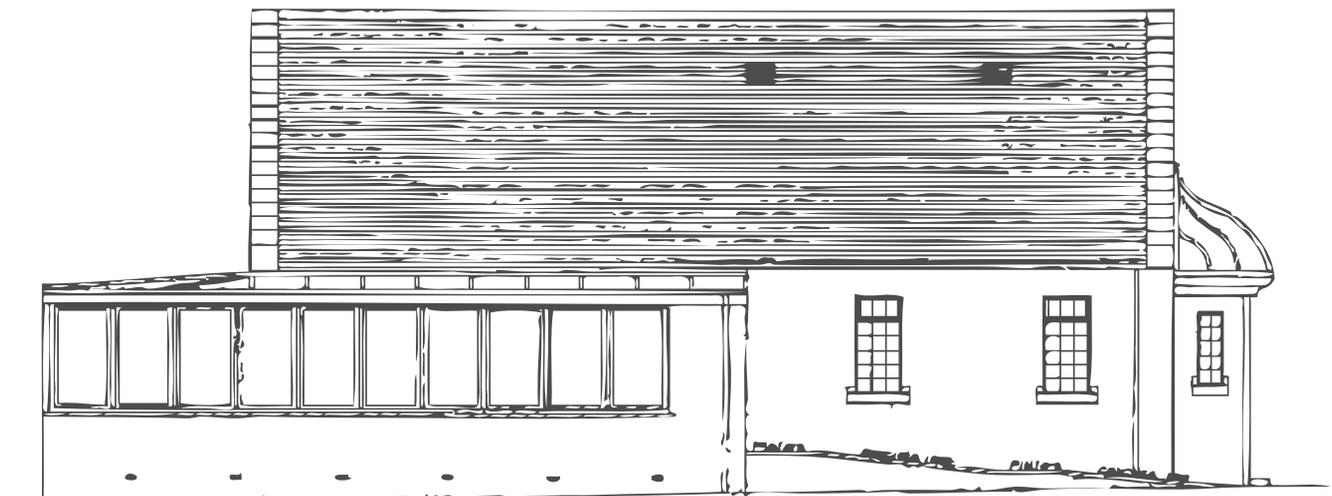
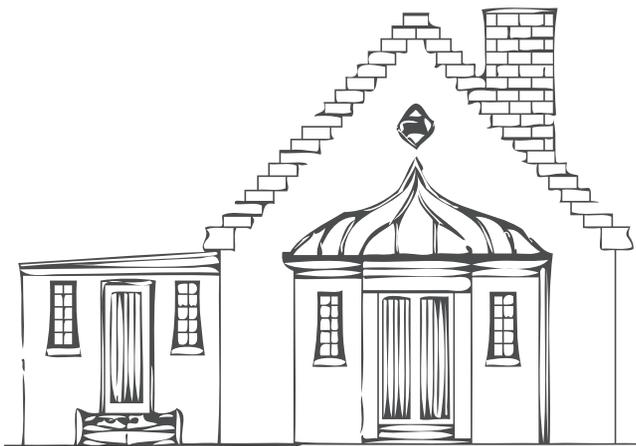
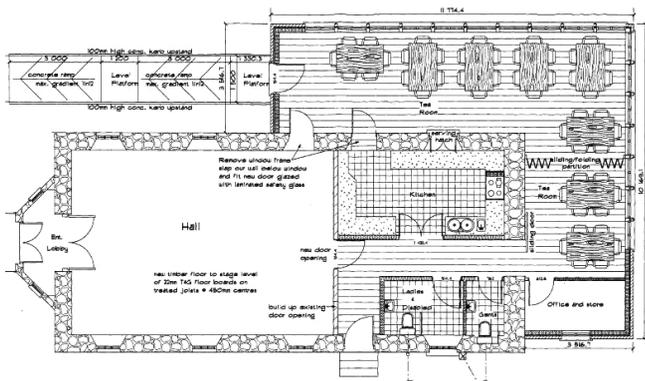
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weak.

Plans for the Kirk Hall

On the first Sunday of each month refreshments are served in the St Colmon Parish Kirk Hall Colmonell after the service, so please call in and also have a look at the plans for extending and refurbishing the hall. We have planning permission and now we need, and welcome, your ideas for what will make the hall a comfortable, versatile and friendly place in which younger and older people will all feel welcome.



Qigong

Feeling stressed and tired? Why not come and enjoy the mental and physical benefits of QIGONG ?

Qigong was developed in China over 5000 years ago. It is a series of slow gentle exercises which help to promote health and vitality. The smooth flowing movements of the exercises, to music, reduce tension and stiffness in the muscles, improve sleep and have a calming, relaxing effect on stressed minds. Following the exercises, there is a short period of complete relaxation. Classes are led by Jacquie Wilson, an experienced instructor, and are suitable for all levels of fitness (including wheelchair users) and all ages from sixteen and over are welcome.

Classes are every Monday, 11am to 12 noon in Ballantrae Community Centre. £2.50 per person per session.

Do 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

T.E.A.C.H

[Time to Educate Africa's Children]

Corrie Fyfe, BEd year 3

Philosophy: Arts and Literature Health and Wellbeing.

Hi my name is Corrie Fyfe I live in Pinmore currently studying in Aberdeen. I am venturing across to Africa in June 2012 as part of the charity T.E.A.C.H (Time to Educate Africa's Children).

I will spend 2 weeks camping at the foot of Kilimanjaro and working with the local tradesmen of Moshi, in order to build a primary school for the local African children. Most of you will know that I am currently in my 3rd year of primary teaching, at Aberdeen University, and so, this project is close to my heart. I believe strongly that an education is an aspect of life that EVERY child should have access to.

In order to get to that stage though, I NEED to raise £2000. This money will go straight to the charity and any extra raised will be put into the maintenance and upkeep of the school. T.E.A.C.H will work closely with the African team to monitor and aid the school for a whopping 10 years after it has been up and running!

I plan on hosting lots of fundraisers, including: A gig night, bakesales, leg waxing, a ceilidh and lots more! Ideas and volunteers welcomed with a huge smile!! I will keep you up to date with any dates and changes made to any events via this and facebook.

I'd just like to say a huge thank you, for your kind donations, they are much appreciated and hopefully together, we can help wave 'bye-bye' to Africa's poverty. A little goes a long way!

Virgin Money Giving is a not for profit organisation and will claim gift aid on a charity's behalf where the donor is eligible for this.

Thanks again,

<http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/>
CorrieFyfe

Alec Clark

The last time I spoke to you through the medium of this magazine it had been raining on and off for quite some time and as I write this column Christmas and New Year has come and gone with the wind and rain never halting but hopefully with better weather to grace us as 2012 marches on. Luckily for me and my wife we have managed to enjoy a holiday with some lovely winter sunshine in January and a chance to re-charge the batteries for what promises to be a difficult and also a potentially exciting year ahead.

There is no doubt that these are perhaps the most difficult financial times endured in the last twenty or thirty years and this has a knock on effect directly to hard pressed families who are seeing escalating costs of energy, fuel, public transport and food stretching already hard pressed family budgets. This is particularly relevant to rural communities who must use either a car or public transport to access services and goods. It is therefore really important that we continue working towards achieving a good and dependable co-ordinated transport system for the whole of South Carrick where folk know that they will get to work or college on time whilst running late enough to allow youngsters to avail themselves of youth facilities and organizations in Girvan.

Exciting though is the fact that the regeneration programme in Girvan is now gathering pace with South Carrick Community Leisure taking the project forward in tandem with South Ayrshire Council. This is a development for the whole of South Carrick which has the potential to give a real boost for both local folk and tourism. It will provide leisure services for residents of South Carrick and a massive boost to the whole of South Carrick through the re-generation that will come from the spending power of tourists who will be attracted to make the area a must visit destination and enjoy all that Girvan and South Carrick has to offer. I have criticised SAC for failing to live up to their original timescales, but it is now well underway and with the good work of South Carrick Community Leisure will guide it on its way. A planning application has also been submitted for the development of pontoons in Girvan Harbour.



This is the culmination of a few years work in association with Sail West Funding backed by South Ayrshire Council and should provide new berths for thirty five yachts and leisure craft. Hopefully some issues between the local Fishing Fleet and SAC can be resolved to the satisfaction of all concerned and another regeneration project will benefit Girvan and South Carrick.

Kidney Dialysis was a subject which was raised at the December meeting of Girvan and District Community Council following a request from a member of the public who has to travel three times a week from Girvan to Crosshouse for treatment which including travel time, preparation and the actual treatment can take up to ten hours per day. For various reasons, single people cannot take home dialysis and therefore we wrote to Ayrshire and Arran Health Board to ask if this service could be provided at the Girvan Community Hospital. We have received a positive response with treatment first being provided at Ayr but the possibility of Girvan will now be looked at. This would be a great service for the whole of South Carrick indeed the whole of Carrick and remember it is not just for patients who presently need treatment but also for those who may need to access such treatment in future.

I would like to congratulate the Carrick Community Councils Forum on their success in attracting over £200,000 of funding which will go towards a tourism strategy and bring to life the Carrick Characters for the 2014 year of homecoming.

Shorts

Christmas at St Colmon

The children and young people from St Colmon Church Sunday Club acted out the Nativity and everybody enjoyed the party to celebrate Jesus' birthday. Our Minister, Stephen, provided balloons, cake, party poppers, streamers etc. If anyone wants to know how to retrieve helium filled balloons from the roof inside the Church it involves breaking all the rules by casting a fishing rod on a Sunday, out of season and in Church!!!

We're now looking forward to a particularly exciting year as we work towards a newly refurbished and extended Kirk hall.

Children and young people over the age of 3 years are welcome at Sunday Club which starts in Colmonell Church at 10am every Sunday and following the children's address we go to the Kirk Hall for crafts, games and stories etc. The first Sunday of each month is an All Age service and we have refreshments in the hall after the service. Please contact Claire on 841644 if you would like to know more about Sunday Club.

Film Nights

Thanks to Rev Stephen Ogston for the film nights which have been held in Ballantrae Church and thoroughly enjoyed by children and adults. Of particular note was the night of "Mr Popper's Penguins" and "White Christmas". Once the children had gone we adults sat back with delicious mulled wine (made by Stephen), homemade shortbread and mince pies and thoroughly enjoyed a good sing-a-long.

If you have a favourite film let Stephen know and look out for the next screening when you can enjoy an inexpensive good night out without having to travel miles.

Colmonell Circle

Everyone is welcome to any meetings of Colmonell Circle which meets in Colmonell Kirk Hall at 7.30pm for talks on a wide variety of subjects and to enjoy good company and refreshments. Our next meeting is on Monday 26th March and Pearl McGibbon will be talking about the natural products she makes for her business The Hidden Garden.

Arnshean Friendship Group

Meetings are held at 7.30pm in Barrhill Memorial Hall and are open to everyone. Come and enjoy entertainment, company and refreshments. On April 19th the topic is Robin House and on 16th May Norma and Friends will entertain at the coffee evening.

Church of Scotland Guild

Ballantrae Parish Church Branch has an open evening in Ballantrae Community Centre on Monday 16th April and all are welcome to hear Mrs M Mortimer and enjoy the refreshments. On 21st April a coffee morning will be held in Ballantrae Community Centre.

Pinwherry & Pinmore Community Council

All meetings for 2012 will be held at 7.30pm in Pinwherry Community Hall on the third Thursday of each month except July and December. The Annual General Meeting, when the election of officers will take place, will be at the meeting on April 19th.

The council currently has vacancies for 2 community councillors, a secretary and the paid position of minute secretary. To find out more, why not come to a meeting and see if you could help get the voice of your community heard.

Shampoo - that's the problem!

I don't know why I didn't realise this sooner. It's the shampoo we use in the shower. When I wash my hair, the shampoo runs down my whole body, and printed very clearly on the shampoo label is this warning, "FOR EXTRA VOLUME AND BODY."

No wonder I have been gaining weight. I am getting rid of the shampoo and am going to use dishwashing liquid instead. Its label reads, "DISSOLVES FAT THAT IS OTHERWISE DIFFICULT TO REMOVE." Problem solved.

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Mystery ship Anchored off Ballantrae

The large vessel that was anchored off Currarie Port during January and February and working 24/7 was doing nothing sinister. It seems that it was repairing an undersea power cable that links Scotland to Northern Ireland.

The website seafish.org which informs fishing vessels about underwater hazards had this to say on the 19th of January 2012:

“Repair is underway on faults on both the northern and southern power transmission cables associated with the Moyle Interconnect. The power cables lie in the North Channel between Islandmagee, Northern Ireland and Currarie Port, south of Ballantrae, Ayrshire, Scotland. . . .

Fishing vessels are advised that sections of the Moyle Interconnector power cables may be unburied at times during this work. Skippers are requested to keep beyond a distance of at least 1 nautical mile from the advised cable sections. Vessels are also requested to keep beyond 1 nautical mile from the cable repair vessel North Sea Giant as operations limit the manoeuvrability of the repair vessel and include the use of ROVs.”

To see the full report:

http://www.seafish.org/media/555838/issue_02_2011_subsea_cable.pdf



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<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/en/Pages/default.aspx>

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Here at The Kings Arms Hotel we can cater for nearly any type of function you need, from small weddings and anniversaries to birthday parties. Catering and special requirements can be supplied if given enough advance booking and we will be only too happy to help you with any event planning you may require through our experienced staff.

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The Olympic Flame Relay to visit Ballantrae



The Olympic Torch

Design: an inspirational 8,000

The Torch is made up of an inner and an outer aluminium alloy skin, held in place by a cast top piece and base, perforated by 8,000 circles. Representing the inspirational stories of the 8,000 Torchbearers who will carry the Olympic Flame, the circles which run the length of the body of the Torch also offer a unique level of transparency. You can see right to the heart of the Torch and view the burner system which will keep the Olympic Flame alive on its journey around the UK.

The circles also help ensure heat is quickly dissipated, without being conducted down the handle, and providing extra grip. The Torch stands 800mm high. The Torch is being tested in BMW's climatic testing facility in Munich to make sure it can withstand all weather conditions. BMW is a Supporting Partner of the London 2012 Olympic Torch Relay.

Shape: the power of '3'

The triangular-shaped Torch was inspired by a series of 'threes' that are found in the history of the Olympic Games and the vision for the Olympic Movement:

- The three Olympic values of respect, excellence and friendship;
- The three words that make the Olympic motto - faster, higher, stronger;
- The fact that the UK has hosted the Olympic Games in 1908, 1948 and will host them for the third time in 2012; and
- The vision for the London 2012 Olympic Games to combine three bodies of work - sport, education and culture.

Weight: as light as possible

More than half of the London 2012 Torchbearers are expected to be young people aged as young as 12, so the designers aimed to make the Torch as light as possible. It is made from a special aluminium alloy developed for the aerospace and automotive industry. The alloy is lightweight but strong, with excellent heat resistance. The 8,000 circles also reduce the weight of the final design, whilst ensuring strength isn't compromised. The Torch weighs 800 grams.

Colour: gold

The gold colour embraces the qualities of the Olympic Flame - the brightness and the warmth of the light that it shines.

In the late evening of the 7th of June this year, the Olympic flame and its considerable entourage will catch the ferry to Cairnryan, having toured Ireland for the previous four days.

It will be safely stored in Stranraer overnight before the half-mile long convoy leaves on its journey north up the A77. Just short of Ballantrae, a bit before 8.00am, the convoy will stop. The Olympic torch, carried by the chosen runner for this leg of the journey and flanked by specially selected (and very fit) police out-runners, will proceed on foot through the village. Security is being taken very seriously and many details will not be released until two weeks beforehand. Somewhere north of the village, the torch, runner, police and camera crews will pile back into the vehicles and head towards their next stop in Girvan at "30 to 40 mph".

The torch will travel on foot at eight locations in South Ayrshire - Ballantrae, Girvan, Turnberry, Maidens, Kirkoswald, Maybole, Alloway and Ayr. It will be a fairly hectic day as the flame has to be in Glasgow by the evening. The BBC has the contract for televising the torch relay and, since Ballantrae is the first official stop in Scotland, it will probably feature prominently in the early television news bulletins.

In total, the flame will travel approximately 8000 miles around Britain. Eight thousand runners have been selected and will each have their own torch - the flame is passed from runner to runner and, in theory, the flame is continuously lit. Lord Coe proudly said in one interview that the torch design has been tested to withstand wind gusts up to 35 mph - did no one tell them about the wind in Ballantrae?

Continuing the sporting theme, there will be sports events organised on the 8th of June for children in South Ayrshire, possibly with a "mini-Olympics".

The torch was designed in Britain and the 8000 torches are being made in Coventry. Each torch is 800mm long, made of aluminium alloy for lightness, and powered by butane and propane.

If you would like more information on the Olympic Torch Relay as it is released, the following websites may help:

For local information:

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

To see the route around Britain:

<http://www.london2012.com/olympic-torch-relay-map>

To see the torch:

<http://www.london2012.com/games/olympic-torch-relay/olympic-torch/>

To see Lord Coe's interview:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-15616414>



Stinchar Valley Gardening Club

In December Gardening Club members enjoyed their Christmas outing to House o' Hill in Bargrennan - thoroughly enjoyed by all. At the Club meeting on Wednesday 18 January 2012, we were treated to a fascinating presentation on garden and landscape photography by Andrea Jones. An expert in her field, Andrea took us on a tour of some of her most interesting commissions across the USA and Europe.

Andrea has visited some of the most famous gardens in the USA and regularly publishes her work in books, magazines and periodicals. She has also undertaken private commissions for individual clients. Andrea described her appreciation and use of light, shade and the weather to catch the best images. We heard how Andrea's cameras capture colour, perspective, textures and the reflective power of water in garden settings. Its well worth checking out Andrea Jones books on Amazon under Books > Andrea Jones - gardens.

If you fancy an interesting afternoon attending a lecture on 'Succession Planting, Andrea has arranged for gardening expert Fergus Garrett from Great Dixter to visit Barr Village Hall on Sunday 1 April 2012 at 2.30pm. Details about this event can be found in this issue of the Stinchar Valley Magazine. Come along and support Andrea's chosen charities: Great Dixter Charitable Fund (50 %) and CHAS (50%).

Our meeting on 7.30pm Wednesday 15 February 2012, at our usual venue of Pinwherry Community Hall was with Jane Willis as our speaker. Jane runs Mansfield Garden Centre in The Avenue in Girvan. She gave us tips and ideas on 'Eat your garden' - success in growing vegetables and fruits in the garden and in containers. Come and join us at any of our meetings!

For more information contact one of the committee:

Nancy Syme - Secretary

Tel: 01465 841677

Mail to: stinchar_valley_gardening_club@hotmail.co.uk

Pat Spence - Chairperson

Tel: 01465 821377

Mail to: patspence@piperpublications.co.uk

John McAlley - Vice Chairperson

Tel: 01465 841198

Mail to: j.mcalley@btinternet.com

Jill McAlley - Treasurer

Tel: 01465 841198

Mail to: j.mcalley@btinternet.com

Roger Pirrie - Member

Tel: 01465 841644

Mail to: rdpirrie@gmail.com



Sarah Raven's Tips for Making Your Garden Pollinator-Friendly

In a new BBC series, *Bees, Butterflies and Blooms*, starting Wednesday 8th Feb. Sarah Raven addresses the crisis in our pollinator populations. At the end of winter – at the planning moment in the garden – is the time to set in train ways for making your garden more pollinator-friendly. Here she presents 8 simple ways you can make your garden more friendly for bees, butterflies and other insects.

1. Stop using any insecticides and herbicides. Creating havens for our pollinators is important for our long-term food security, says Sarah Raven
2. Stop mowing your lawn every week. Move to a fortnightly or three-weekly regime, so the daisies and clover have time to flower and provide copious quantities of nectar.
3. Grow plenty of single flowers where you can clearly see the central boss in the middle of the flower. Single dahlias, asters and most daisies are all good, and so are sages, lavenders and buddleias.
4. Grow plants that flower sequentially too – like a fox-glove, with individual flowers opening up the flower spike for many weeks at a stretch. Bees can then work a stem without having to travel.
5. Introduce an annual “meadow” area, (it can be small – in a pot) with lots of long-flowering plants such as cosmos, toadflax and marigolds. These will be a food heaven for pollinators right through the summer and autumn.
6. Concentrate on making your garden as flowery as possible in July and August. Recent research has found that this is when the honeybee has to fly much greater distances to get its fill of nectar to take back to the hive. Hunger and exhaustion make them more prone to diseases. If we all add to the nectar and pollen supply in those months, we have the most direct effect on our pollinators' welfare.

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/gardening/gardeningpicturegalleries/9055274/Sarah-Ravens-tips-for-making-your-garden-pollinator-friendly.html?image=5>

An Afternoon with Fergus Garrett



Renowned plants man Fergus Garrett will be giving a seasonal gardening lecture on Sunday 1 April: Barr Village Hall.

Head Gardener of Great Dixter, one of the UK's most famous gardens, Fergus will be talking on Succession Planting, the multi-layered planting practised throughout Great Dixter's mixed borders using bulbs, annuals, perennials and biennials to give a long flowering season.

Fergus joined Great Dixter as Head Gardener in 1992 and worked closely with owner Christopher Lloyd as gardener and friend during an important time in the garden's development. Now he combines his full-time, hands-on gardening role at Dixter with lecturing, writing articles, and serving on Royal Horticultural Society committees and, as Chief Executive of the Great Dixter Charitable Trust, moving the east Sussex garden forward in ever more exciting directions.

Refreshments and delicious homemade cakes will be available from the Barr Village Tearoom after the event. Raffle with generous prizes in support of the Great Dixter Charitable Fund (50%) and CHAS (50%).

“The Great Dixter Charitable Trust is committed to maintaining the house, gardens and buildings as a centre for innovative horticulture and plantsmanship. Your support is needed to ensure the continuance of Christopher Lloyd's iconic garden and historic house.”

“Children's Hospice Association Scotland (CHAS) are absolutely delighted to be receiving the support of Alton Albany Farm through their Spring Lecture in Barr Village Hall on April 1st. The lecture from Fergus Garrett promises to be an interesting event and we would encourage everyone in the local area to come along and hear the lecture and take the opportunity to show your support to two great charities at the same time.”

- Tickets: £15 per person
- Homemade Tea per person £2.50 - £17.50 inclusive
- 20% discount (on lecture ticket only) to groups of more than 5 people and residents of the Stinchar Valley and Girvan area - With homemade tea - £14.50 inclusive.

Please book in advance for tea as well as lecture - we want to be sure there are plenty of cakes for everyone! Please send cheque with SAE made out to 'Alasdair Currie' and send to Alton Albany Farm, Albany Road, Barr, Girvan, Ayrshire KA26 0TL. Sorry, payment by PayPal is not available for this event. Venue: Barr Village Hall, Barr, near Girvan, Ayrshire, Scotland KA26 0TL.



Councillor John McDowall

I was pleased to attend the official opening of Girvan Community Hospital on Friday 20th January. This is a modern state of the art hospital and minor injuries unit equipped with the latest hi-tech equipment patients need and set in a modern eco friendly environment which reflects well on the design team and all who were involved from the initial concept through to completion. I remember well chairing the public meeting in Girvan Academy which first looked at potential sites which eventually chose the Bridgemill site as the preferred option and now some nine years later a first class medical facility which will serve Girvan and the surrounding area for many years to come. I know many people have fond memories of the old Davidson Hospital, but times change and modern medical treatments evolve and it's good to know that the excellent service provided at the Davidson is continuing and being taken forward at the new facility.

On another matter work will soon start on the Sailwest project at Girvan harbour. This is a European and South Ayrshire Council funded project which will see investment of £500,000 in Girvan Harbour with the creation of some thirty five new pontoons installed to attract visiting yachts and onshore improvements to the harbour side which will in turn increase visitor spend in the town and help support the local economy and there is the possibility of securing funding through the Fisheries Community Initiative of a further £120,000 which would be matched by another £120,000 from the Council which would help provide additional facilities such as toilets and shower rooms . Having met with the local fishermen who currently use the harbour, I know they have concerns around any impact this might have on the viability of their businesses and the Council must take account of these when considering the design and construction of any new facility, but investment of this magnitude is essential in securing the future of the harbour well into the 21st century and as pointed out by some of the harbour users themselves, not only is it a working harbour, it is intrinsic to the attractiveness of Girvan as a place to live and visit and is enjoyed by locals and visitors alike .

The Council have also secured some £54,000 through the Community Payback criminal justice project which will see improvements made to the running track at Hamilton Park, upgrading to the surface at the tennis court and the creation of another volley ball area at the beachfront. All of the work will be carried out by low level offenders under supervision and is an excellent example of restorative justice where offenders are required to contribute directly towards improving the community they have offended against whilst gaining new skills and work experience in the process.

The design team for the new multi faceted facility to replace the now closed Girvan swimming pool will be appointed shortly and this will be preceded by a Scottish Government funded design event which will look at the area around the proposed facility and how best this can be improved and key to this will be the input from local residents on how they think this should be done. Construction of the new facility should begin towards the end of this year, subject to planning consent. The new facility is the key driver in the regeneration of Girvan and South Carrick, initial capital funding of £4 million from South Ayrshire Council is in place and I will expect this facility to begin and complete construction within the timescale agreed by the Council and their commitment to the people of Girvan and South Carrick to be honoured.

Finally, we are now just a few months away from the next elections to South Ayrshire Council and this will be your opportunity to pass judgement on South Ayrshire Council and local elected Councillors.

There are three Councillors to be elected for the Girvan and South Carrick Ward. This will be done, as previously, using the Single Transferable Vote system (STV) which means that you vote NOT by placing a cross on the ballot paper for your preferred candidate, but by placing a number (or numbers) for your preferred candidate (s) i.e. 1,2,3 and so on . It is important that voting preferences are indicated by NUMBER(S) and NOT crosses or x's or your vote will not be counted as there is no way of determining preference if X's are used . Thursday 3rd of May is Election Day so, whichever political party you support, please take the time to vote for your Councillor. After all, if you don't take part in the election process, you can hardly complain about the outcome if you don't like it.

Councillor John McDowall
Leader of the Labour Group
South Ayrshire Council

Director Ayrshire Housing Ltd.
Chair South Ayrshire Care and Repair Ltd
Member COSLA
Unite Trade Union

SAYLSA NEWS

Train Timetable Changes

The Winter/2012 rail timetable has now been in operation for six weeks. There was a fundamental change to services, which have not all been universally popular, particularly south of Girvan. As an aide memoir north-bound services are as follows:

From Barrhill to Ayr

Monday to Saturdays: 0745, 1046, 1317, 1517, 1943, 2148
Sundays Only: 1114, 1514, 2019

From Barrhill to Paisley and Glasgow direct

Monday to Saturdays: 1317, 1943, 2148
Sundays Only: 1114, 1514, 2019

From Barrhill to Kilmarnock

Monday to Saturdays: 1046, 1517
Sundays Only: 2019

From Girvan to Ayr

Monday to Saturdays: 0602, 0707, 0803, 0937, 1104, 1231, 1335, 1432, 1503, 1535, 1732, 1909, 2001, 2206, 2227
Sundays Only: 1132, 1532, 2037

From Girvan to Paisley and Glasgow direct

Monday to Saturdays: 1335, 1432 (arrives after 1503 service), 1503, 2001, 2206
Sundays Only: 1132, 1532, 2037

From Girvan to Kilmarnock

Monday to Saturdays: 0707, 0937, 1104, 1231, 1432, 1535, 1732, 1909
Sundays Only: 2037

These times are unlikely to change until December as there is an agreement that no changes will take place in May this year because of the London Olympics.

Concessionary Fares

Under plans approved by Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's Concessionary Travel Scheme Joint Committee on Friday 27th January, from April 2012 time constraints are to be imposed on SPT concessionary fare passengers who use any train between 1630 and 1800 in the SPT area. On the Stranraer line this would mean that weekday passengers travelling from Glasgow to Maybole or Girvan on these tickets would need to leave Glasgow no later than 1330 or travel back on the 1830 train to avoid paying full fares. Similarly from Ayr the 1630 and 1731 trains would not be available for use by concessionary fare ticket holders.

An even more draconian measure will apply to concessionary fare holders in Barrhill. Indeed it would make travel to/from Glasgow virtually impossible for weekday concessionary passengers as they would not be able to get home unless they opted to return on the 1830 train from Glasgow which only has a 4 minute connection at Ayr otherwise arrival back in Barrhill would not be until the following day!

SAYLSA are taking the matter up with SPT and there is every indication that they understand the issues surrounding the needs of concessionary passengers in Carrick and are amenable to considering an exemption. Once we have a response we will be able to let passengers know.

Barrhill Community Rail Bus

This is available to hire from bona fide community groups. We are particularly interested to hear from groups in Barr and Colmonell. If you want to have drivers trained please contact us on 01465 714665.

Small characters



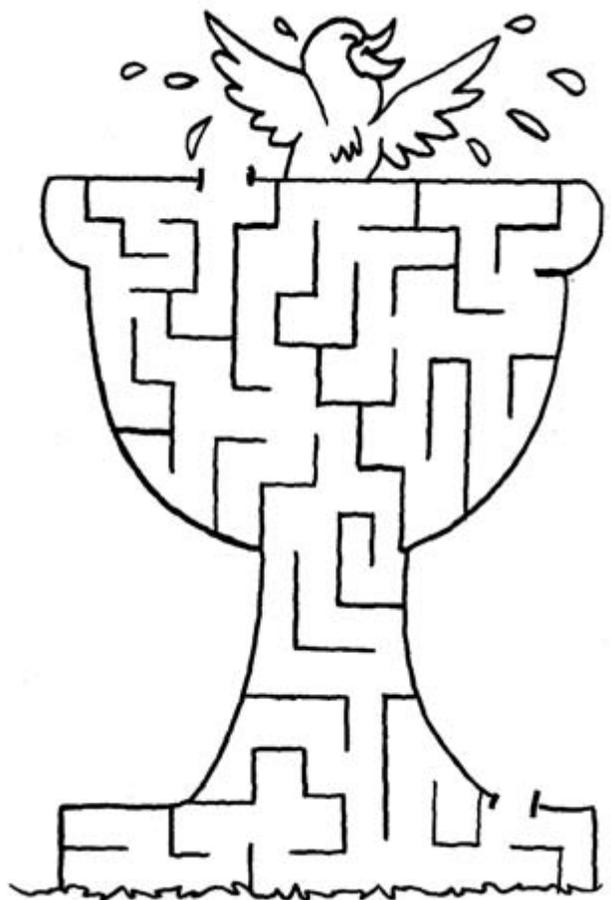
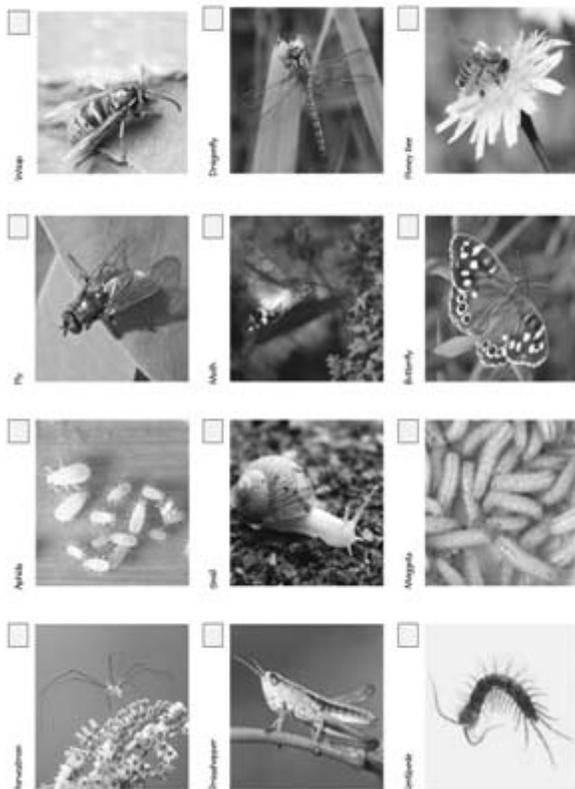
Wordsearch

T	C	I	A	D	Y	O	N	E	L
W	I	N	G	S	H	P	U	P	A
I	P	S	A	P	L	G	R	U	D
N	U	E	V	O	A	B	E	M	Y
G	L	C	A	T	F	P	O	A	B
C	E	T	R	S	L	T	H	E	I
A	N	T	E	N	N	A	E	I	R
S	U	G	L	E	O	T	R	A	D
E	G	P	O	C	L	I	R	V	L
S	I	X	L	E	G	S	O	N	A

Can you find all these words hidden in the grid? They are horizontal, vertical, diagonal & sometimes backwards

- ANTENNAE
- EGGS
- LARVA
- SPOTS
- APHID
- INSECT
- LADYBIRD
- WINGS
- PUPA
- BEETLE
- WING CASES
- SIX LEGS

Minibeasts



Pinwherry S.W.R.I. Update

Pinwherry Rural started the year with a Burns Supper on Monday 9th January and members were asked to contribute to the entertainment afterwards.

It was a really successful night and no alcohol was consumed, honest. February, Friday 3rd, we will have had our Rainbow Whist and, our regular meeting on Monday 13th when we had a demonstration on Plain Baking by Mrs Ann Walker.

March 12th we have Mrs Liz Gregg giving us a Flower arranging class, hands on. We like these nights, so if anyone is interested, or just game for a laugh, then please come along to any of our meetings.

April is our A.G.M. and just like trying to hold water in your hand, so it is with members when we are trying to change the committee members. Again, you can pay us a visit and watch us shuffle around in complete safety until you are asked to pay your membership at the start of the new season in August.

May, this is our night for fun and frolics. We will be going on a Treasure Hunt, for only an hour or so, unless someone gets lost and misses out on a lovely meal at the Westcliffe Hotel, and the prizes.

If anyone is interested in coming along, please call me, Irene McCrae on 841162 for further details.

Hope to see you soon.

Ayrshire Rivers Trust

Donald Hendrie Building | Auchincruive | Ayr | KA6 5HW
Tel: 01292 525142 | Scottish Registered Charity No. 030426

We have secured funding for an Invasive Weeds Project commencing in April 2012. If you would like to know how this project will clear invasive weeds from our precious river banks and how you can help, please contact Ayrshire Rivers Trust, your Community Council or watch local notice boards.

A.C.E

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

Scottish Women's Rural Institute



Ayrshire Rivers Trust



Sandra Osborne MP

As the local MP I would wish all my constituents a Happy New Year. I would hope that 2012 might be a less worrying year than the last few years have been. As the local MP I see many people coming to my surgery worried about issues such as jobs and pensions and myself and my staff will always do what we can to help.

Apart from the caseload I deal with through my surgeries I am making every effort to work on issues such as unemployment as well as a range of other matters. I am also very keen to work with community groups to respond to some of the very difficult issues being faced by people in local areas across my constituency.

As I said earlier I really hope that 2012 is better for most people than 2011. I would also like to stress that my office is open 5 days a week from 9-5 and any constituent requiring help and support should contact me:

Sandra Osborne MP
Parliamentary Office of Sandra Osborne MP
139 Main Street
Ayr KA8 8BX
Tel: 01292 262906
Email: osbornes@parliament.uk



Barr Primary School

On Wednesday 21 December 2011 Barr Primary held their Christmas Show. The play was "Cinders", which I'm sure everyone enjoyed... oh yes they did!! The show day was combined with a "wee celebration" for Nancy Doyle's retirement, after 33 years at Barr School and 26 years as Head Teacher. Nancy received gifts from the staff, pupils, parents and Barr community. The afternoon was rounded off with a piece of cake (of the school) and a cup of tea.

We wish Nancy best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

Burns Competition & Lunch

The whole school participated in the annual Burns Competition on Wednesday 25 January.

The Judges were Mr. G Campbell and Miss E. Burton.

After the competition the staff, pupils and guests enjoyed a mini Burns Supper with

Mrs M Sinclair addressing the haggis.

Once again Barr Burns Club very kindly donated money to fund the competition prizes.

Charity Quiz 2011

On behalf of Soroptimist International, Girvan I would like to invite your organisation to participate in our Charity Quiz on **Thursday 15th March 2012** 6.45pm for 7.00pm start at the **Westcliffe Hotel**, Louisa Drive, Girvan.

An entry fee of £10.00 per team (maximum of 4 people) includes tea/coffee and charitable donation. (Payable on the night)

RSVP to Jane Willis
Mansfield, 22 The Avenue, Girvan
Tel 01465 714268 or e-mail mansefieldgarden@btconnect.com



It's in the Wind

For all you need to know about wind power and all the wind farms and turbines proposed for south west Scotland please keep an eye on 'its-in-the-wind.blogspot.com'. Are you aware of how many individual turbines are proposed in between all the major wind farms? Have a look at the map which is frequently updated.

The Ballantrae Patchwork Group

The Ballantrae Patchwork Group meet on Wednesday afternoon in the Ballantrae Community Centre from 1.30 - 4.00pm. We would welcome any new members, you do not need to have done Patchwork before - we have some good teachers!!

We have a machine and all the basic equipment for you to use. Our group is now over twenty five years old and we presently have members from Ayr, Maybole, Barr, Girvan, Ballantrae and of course Pinwherry and Pinmore.

Do come along and meet us or just pop in some Wednesday and have a look at what we do.

If you want a contact first do speak to: Penny Savage, Asselview, Pinmore.
Tel: 01465 841686 or Mob: 07748973940

B.R.I.C.C: Ballantrae Rural Initiative Care in the Community Ltd

All in the area covered by the surgeries of the Ballantrae Medical Practice and who are pensioner or housebound are welcome at the BRICC Club or Drop In Club social afternoons, to enjoy entertainment and tea, friendship and care. Held in the BRICC House, both Clubs are free to those who partake. Transport is provided if required. They are open 52 weeks of the year. Please get in touch with us on **01465 831380** if you would like to come and join us.

BRICC Club **Tuesdays 2pm to 4pm**
Drop In Club **Fridays 2pm to 4pm**

BRICC is a non-profit making company limited by guarantee. Company No. SC181899. Scottish Charity Registration No. SC027489A. Registered Office: BRICC House, 12 Main Street, Ballantrae, Girvan, Ayrshire, KA26 0NB.

The Bullet



The Friends of Gardening Leave Newsletter

Contents

Message from Chief Executive
 Gardening Leave Auchincruive
 Gardening Leave Erskine
 Gardening Leave Chelsea
 The Stovehouse Project
 The Friends of Gardening Leave website
 Veterans Attendance
 Financial Info
 Ways to support us
 Who we are

Message from the Chief Executive

We have had an eventful summer at Gardening Leave since the last Bullet with several notable 'firsts' – HRH The Duke of Gloucester honoured Gardening Leave Erskine with a visit in June, our first royal visit.

Brenda had the first Networking Day for potential referral agencies to visit Gardening Leave Erskine and find out more about our referral and assessment process and how it benefits the veterans who are being referred by an ever-increasing number of sources which include GP's, counsellors, service charities and healthcare professionals.

Tara had the first Taster Day at Gardening Leave Chelsea at the Royal Hospital for veterans to come and see what Gardening Leave is all about and meet Charlotte our new Trainee Horticultural Therapist and Ian, our Veterans' Travel Buddy and not to be outdone, Pamela and her team at

Auchincruive won another Gold Medal at Ayr Flower Show, our 3rd in 4 years!

Media and social networking coverage thanks to Emma Mason PR and Keith our Communications Officer continue to spread the word about Gardening Leave to new audiences and thanks to Bottletop and Nick Rowe, our new DVD can be found on our homepage.

Stevie and his team are making terrific progress in the Stovehouse – as he pointed out recently, they have stopped taking things apart and are now putting things together again – all very exciting!

I hope you enjoy reading this Bullet and as always, Thank-you for your continued interest and support.

Anna Baker Cresswell

“ GARDENING LEAVE IS ALL ABOUT CREATING LIFE, INSTEAD OF DWELLING ON DOOM & GLOOM”
 Veteran

Inside: The Friends of Gardening Leave website



HRH Duke of Gloucester visits GL Erskine.



Veteran working on raised beds at Auchincruive.



Like us Follow us



Adam Ingram MSP

Policing Issues

Firstly may I take this opportunity to thank our local Inspector Andy Clapperton for his dedication to policing in the area and wish him well in his new position. I also want to welcome Inspector William Ramsay who I know is no stranger to the area.

A number of concerns have been brought to my attention over the past couple of months regarding policing matters and the lack of specialist support staff being deployed to the local area to deal with organised crime. One particular concern relates to the recent spate of housebreakings and high value theft of quad bikes and other machinery from local farms.

Acting on these concerns I met with the Chief Constable of Strathclyde Police Stephen House and Chief Superintendent John Thomson where I was given reassurances that rural Ayrshire areas would not be discriminated against in terms of operational priorities. However both he and the Chief Constable acknowledged that they did not have control over services provided by Scottish Police Services Authority which includes Forensics Officers.

Subsequently I have met with the Scottish Police Services Authority Director of Forensic Services and Criminal Justice Tom Nelson. I outlined the concerns of what would seem to be a lack of sufficient specialist forensic and other support for the local police efforts in cracking down on what would appear to be the work of criminal gangs.

However, Mr Nelson has now instigated an investigation into the non-appearance of specialist officers and a pilot exercise has been set up to record the number of call outs, particularly in the South Carrick area to compare and contrast the results with other geographic areas and crimes recorded.

This issue also underlines for me the importance of introducing a far more transparent system of accountability for local policing. That is precisely what Justice Secretary Kenny MacAskill is planning to do with his proposals for a national police force and the establishment of police boards/ committees in each local authority area to hold senior police officers to account for the delivery of local policing.

Regards,

Adam



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The call will not be charged or demand, and so it will not appear on any telephone bill.

Copeline - Everyone needs someone sometime.

Copeline - our aims:

- To provide an out-of-hours telephone service to anyone concerned about their mental health, or the mental health of someone close to them.
- To provide information about the services available - both statutory and voluntary services.
- To give guidance on who to contact for welfare rights, access to services and complaint procedures.
- To provide immediate emotional support for people in distress.
- To be able and to give information on decisions about health care.

NHS
Mental Health
Ayrshire & Arran

Do you need to talk? We are here to listen

If you, or someone you know has a problem, we are here to help.

0800 056 81 81
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Copeline - Everyone needs someone sometime.

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If you're looking for a peaceful and relaxing base for your holiday in South West Scotland, Balkissock Lodge will provide you with a comfortable break with a touch of luxury.





Ian Fitzsimmons

I am pleased to be contributing to the Stinchar Valley Magazine again.

The David Bell Memorial cycle race is coming to South Carrick this year; hopefully it will bring visitors to the area. A chance to show what South Carrick is like. The Olympic Torch will be coming through South Carrick in June. It will be paraded through Ballantrae and Girvan, a chance for the public to see it. A Charrette organised by the Scottish Government is being organised to be in Girvan in the first week in March to get the views of the people in South Carrick about what should be in the outdoor education space at the new multipurpose facility at Girvan. South-Ayrshire Council applied to get the Charrette and they were one of the three organisations who got the award. Watch the press or posters for details and go along and make your views known. The new pontoons at Girvan Harbour should be starting to be put in place about May if after consultation and the Planning process. If successful it should bring more visitors to the area.

All the best to the residents of South Carrick for 2012.

Email: ian.fitzsimmons@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

What is a Charrette?

A Charrette is an interactive design workshop, in which the public, local professionals and stakeholders work directly with a specialised design team to generate a specific community master plan. Whilst each SSCI Charrette was structured to best suit its respective site, the events all followed a common format, with each Charrette including a tour of the site and the surrounding areas; numerous meetings with the public and specialised groups including planning, environment and transport professionals; and major public presentations intended for large audiences. The design team worked throughout this process, revising the master plans to incorporate ideas and concepts generated during meetings and public design sessions.

This iterative process allowed a very high degree of active public engagement to take place. It also developed and tested a wide range of ideas in order to identify approaches that were well-informed and specific to the particular situation. At the conclusion of the Charrette, a final presentation was made to the community at which all of the ideas and conclusions of the process were highlighted and the plans and illustrations developed at the Charrette were presented.

A detailed report on the SSCI Charrette Series can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Built-Environment/AandP/Projects/SSCI/SSCICharretteSeries/Charrette/Q/EditMode/on/ForceUpdate/on>

The NCI Charrette System™ is more than the Charrette.

It is a design-based, accelerated, collaborative project management system that spans the entire pre-construction period. It is a proven, flexible, three-step framework that can be customized for your project. The NCI Charrette System™ is used by public and private planners, designers, architects, developers and community activist to use for:

- Sustainable community and building design
- Master planning
- Code/policy writing
- Regional and comprehensive planning
- Transportation/infrastructure planning
- Development projects

A NCI Charrette is more than a one-day event.

It is a multiple-day, collaborative design workshop – the transformational event of the NCI Charrette System™. It harnesses the talents and energies of all interested parties to create and support a feasible plan that represents transformative community change. A NCI Charrette is:

- At least five consecutive days, allowing three design feedback loops
- Focused on producing a feasible plan with minimal rework
- An open process that includes all interested parties

Three Phases of the NCI Charrette System™

The NCI Charrette System™ is a three-phase, holistic, collaborative planning process during which a multiple-day Charrette is held as the central transformative event. The process commences with the Charrette Preparation Phase, followed by the NCI Charrette acting as a fulcrum at the middle phase, and closes with the Plan Implementation Phase.



<http://www.charretteinstitute.org/charrette.html>

Unwanted Visitors at Culzean



The squirrel pox virus has been found in greys at Culzean. This is a most alarming turn of events and, if we are serious about protecting our precious reds, underlines the importance of **extreme vigilance**. It is vital that the greys are culled if we are to stand any chance of continued preservation of this wondrous species – how lucky we are to live within their patch. We have to do our best for the reds, please please help. **David Hall of Kildonan** is happy to come and test any dead or trapped greys for signs of the dreaded pox and also to remove any bodies. He can be contacted on **01465 821374**. There are several traps in the area – if you would like to borrow one, please contact Victoria Boyle on 01465 841270.



Update of the red squirrels Jan 2012

The reds continue to flourish, visit on a daily basis and are an utter joy to watch. We are amongst a very small number of people privileged enough to living within an area inhabited by red squirrels and it is vital that we do our very very best to protect and nurture them. If anyone would like to know where to get hazel nuts in bulk, please get in touch.



Burns Brightly 2012

The programme of projects is being funded by Creative Scotland and South Ayrshire Council, and will culminate in a high profile and fun event as part of the Burns Festival in June this year. We very much hope to engage the various communities in the rural and town areas in four public participation projects. These include:

Satellite Songs a 'flash mob' sing event: For the Burns Brightly programme, we propose to commission a singing motivator/song writer to work with groups across the authority. This in preparation for a lead-up singing event, as well as for one during the main festival launch celebration evening.

Project Post-script a mail-art and writing project: The mail-art project will take the written word in the form of letters as a departure point for a series of workshop sessions to be run by an artist and a writer. With workshop sessions being situated across 5 venues, the participants will take a look at the history of correspondence art as a vehicle for expression and creativity. With the guidance and encouragement of the artist and writer each group will develop their own mail-art project.

Ayr Bourne a sound recording, radio pod casting project: A sound artist will be commissioned to work with groups across the authority to create sound interventions. These interventions could indeed take any form but will be experienced by the public as 'self contained' works sited in a variety of accessible places to be researched and identified by the commissioned artists.

One Road Leads to Another, an art and walking project: 50 backpacks will be created and distributed to 50 people in Ballantrae, each containing a range of drawing and recording materials/devices, papers etc. The packs will vary in content in order to encourage each participating walker to respond in a different way to the journey they take. This group will organise a walk to the next village or town where they have identified someone to take their backpack from them. From here, each connecting town will organise the next walk to the next town or village where each participant has identified a new walker. The walks will be led by the project artist who will also coordinate them - ensuring that the on-going process does not 'trail off' at a particular place, and to assist in making connections to new walkers at the next town/village. 'One Road' will culminate in a large scale exhibition of the drawings and recordings made by all the participants in Ayr, but possibly also touring from Ballantrae to Barassie utilising a variety of spaces along the way.

We very much want to involve all ages of people from the very young to the elderly, those with a keen interest in singing, art and culture as well as those who have not had a previous interest in these areas but would benefit from the fun and social aspect of the projects.

Finally all the projects will be free to take part in, materials provided and transport provided where needed.

Please contact me at – Gillian.steel@south-ayrshire.gov.uk - I look forward to hearing from you.

Gillian Steel

Senior Cultural Coordinator

(job share: Mon/Tue/alt Weds), South Ayrshire Council: Tel: 01292 313036



Alec Oattes's Stinchar Valley Newsletter

As always I am pleased to contribute to the successful Stinchar Valley magazine which appears to be going from strength to strength.

I am now back on the rota this year to attend the Community Councils in Barrhill and Pinwherry and was pleased to be at the January Pinwherry Community Council meeting. Council Planner, Adrian Browne, attended to give a talk on the Planning process. He is involved with Wind Farm and Wind Turbine planning applications and gave a full explanation of the procedures and regulations which have to be gone through and gave answers to the many questions raised at the well attended meeting. I thought the event gave local residents a much better idea of the overall process involved in Planning Applications and was very helpful to all the participants.

I am pleased to report on the Carrick Community Council Forum Tourism Project which recently successfully applied for funding of £195,000 from a variety of sources. This funding was successfully achieved with the help of Ailsa Horizons Community Enterprise Company based in Girvan. The tenders from nine different companies have recently been gone through by an independent panel consisting of three members of the CCCF, including myself, and at the time of going to press we are down to a shortlist of three applicants who will be interviewed at a future date. The project will have a wide remit to take forward all of the tourism plans and ideas of the CCCF. I am pleased to note that a group has been formed in Ballantrae to take forward their own plans in a local tourism initiative and welcome this. I am sure we can all work together in harmony to improve the visitor experience in the wider Carrick area which has much to offer in the leisure, activity and heritage fields.

At the full Council meeting on the 15 December, the Council Budget for 2012/13 was passed in principle. The main proposals included a freeze on Council Tax levels for 2012/13 for the fifth year in succession, a payroll management savings target of £2,000,000 with no compulsory redundancies. Rural communities will be pleased to note an extra £1,000,000 was committed for road improvements on top of the £1.5 million allocated in the current financial year. It should be noted also that the Council now has £8,000,000 in unallocated reserves as recommended by the Scottish Government watchdog, Audit Scotland. This contrasts with the Council having no reserves (the lowest of any of the Scottish Councils) at the last election in May 2007. These reserves will be required to help the Council through the difficult financial times ahead.

I was privileged to attend the official opening of the West of Scotland University in Ayr on Friday 27 January. This is a fantastic new £81 million facility for South Ayrshire and Ayrshire which incorporates the Scottish Agricultural College and the UWS. The Building was opened by the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Mike Russell, and is one the most environmentally and sustainable buildings in the UK. It is set in a stunning location beside the River Ayr and will offer a wide range of courses, from computing, the creative and cultural industries education, health also nursing and midwifery courses. South Ayrshire Council was commended for their full co-operation with this project along with Historic Scotland, Scottish National Heritage and the Scottish Wildlife Trust.

I also look forward to the Olympic Torch being carried through South Carrick on Friday 8 June which will be a terrific opportunity to highlight South Carrick to a huge audience and of course the other good news is the David Bell Memorial cycle race taking part throughout Carrick on 10 June this year. This is a high profile cycling event promoted by Ayr Roads/Harry Fairbairn BMW and has already secured "National A" status guaranteeing the best possible line up of British professional and elite cyclists. The Carrick area will receive a boost to its economy as many of the people coming to see the race will take the opportunity to explore Carrick and South Ayrshire. This event will help to make up for the loss of the Easter Cycle Race in Girvan.

I would like to finish by saying I am going live soon with the so called new "Social Media" and intend to begin "Tweeting" on "twitter@carrickvoice" I trust this will be an effective way of speeding up two way communication with the residents of Carrick in a positive way.

I can also be contacted in the usual way:-

Office: County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr KA7 1DR

Tel: 01292 612382 Fax: 01292 612383

E mail: alec.oattes@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Councillor Alec Oattes

Electoral Ward 8: Girvan & South Carrick

Barr Village Stores

As I think many of you may be aware, Barr village shop in its present form will be closing in June this year. As it is obviously hugely important that Barr retains its shop and post office, Barr Community Council asked me to do some research into whether there would be any interest in running the shop as a Community Shop and Post Office. As Hadyard Hill Community Benefit Fund is likely to be approached for funding should the idea go ahead, I suppose I was the obvious candidate; however, I have also been (and still am!) actively involved in setting up and running a very successful Community Shop in nearby Kirkmichael and know all about the highs and lows of the process.

I devised a questionnaire which was sent to all the households in the village, the results of which were very heartening. More than 50% took the trouble to reply (a practically unheard of percentage for a postal survey!) and the proportion of those wanting to go ahead and retain the village shop/post office was a staggering 90.2% for the post office and 98.4% for the shop. A number of suggestions were received as to how the current services provided could be improved, some of which are worthy of further exploration. The current premises seem to be the preferred location at the moment, although there is considerable interest in relocating the shop/post office in the village hall. A final decision is only likely to be reached when the financial and longer term implications of both options are fully explored at a public meeting. Most reassuring of all was the number who offered direct practical and financial assistance for the setting up and running of the shop/post office as a community-run venture. With those levels of support, the idea not only seems to be a runner, but a guaranteed success. It is worth pointing out that when a village shop is taken over and run by the community, the experience of the overwhelming majority is that business has increased substantially. Firstly, a community-run shop is better able and more inclined to respond to customer wishes and can provide a wider, more locally-sourced and eclectic range of products than other, larger shops. Secondly, the community itself is more inclined to support the venture, knowing that any profits from the business will be returned into the community for the benefit of the community. Thirdly, there is a strong sense of achievement, pride and ownership in the creation and success of community shops. This has certainly been the case in the two most local community shops in Straiton and Kirkmichael. Moreover, the shops have become busy little social hubs as well as places to top up the larder.

The results of the survey will be presented at a public meeting in the village hall on Monday 30th January at 7pm. Also attending will be colleagues from Ailsa Horizons and a team from Kirkmichael Community Shop who will be happy to answer any questions on setting up and running a community shop. It's not always been easy, but it most certainly has been worth it and a whole lot of fun into the bargain!

Catriona Haston

Village Development Worker, Hadyardhill Community Development Fund Ltd

How To Send Us Your Articles And Pictures

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

- Send in text as a WORD or OPEN OFFICE Document.
- Photographs and scanned images should be high resolution 300dpi wherever possible and sent as separate attachments from your text please.
- Tell us any special instructions about the layout/content of your article. What are the images about that you want included? Include any Website names and web links that are relevant.
- If you have a logo or badge – please send a high resolution image of this.
- If you do not have access to a computer or Email you can post or drop off material to our Editor John McAlley at: Ligliartrie Farm Pinwherry KA26 0SL.

We will return any photographs to you. People in the communities of the Stinchar Valley and beyond are interested in you, your club, your business and your local area: The Stinchar Valley Magazine needs you!

* Please note – The Editorial Team will consider all submissions and make the final selection of material for each issue.

* Small grammatical errors will be corrected in the text of articles. Larger issues will be discussed with the author prior to publication if possible.

Local & Interesting Web Sites

St Colmon Church	www.stcolmonparishchurch.org.uk
Ballantrae Church	www.ballantraeparishchurch.org.uk
Ballantrae Village	www.ballantrae.org.uk
The Ancient Tree Hunt	www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/project/hunt
Pinwherry/Pinmore	http://www.pinwherryinmorevillages.net/
Galloway & Ayrshire Biosphere	http://www.sup.org.uk/biosphere/index.htm
Red Nose Day	http://www.rednoseday.com/
The Southern Uplands Partnership	http://www.sup.org.uk/
Scottish National Heritage	http://www.snh.org.uk/
The Woodland Trust	http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk
Sign the Petition Now	http://www.38degrees.org.uk/save-our-forests
Forestry Commission	http://www.forestry.gov.uk/
Scottish Environmental Protection	http://www.sepa.org.uk/
Girvan Attractions	http://girvanattractions.synthasite.com/
Red Squirrels in South Scotland	http://www.redsquirrels.org.uk
Ayrshire Red Squirrel Group	www.ayrshirered squirrels.org.uk/
ASDA Online shopping	http://groceries.asda.com/asda-estore/index.jsp
The Commonwealth Orchard	http://www.commonwealthorchard.com/
The Flavours of Galloway	www.flavoursofgalloway.co.uk
BBC Web Wise	http://www.bbc.co.uk/webwise/courses
Carrick Buildings Learning Centre,	cbcl@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Going Wild	http://www.goingwild.net
The Big Wildlife Garden	http://www.bwg.naturalengland.org.uk/
The Peinn Mor Pottery	http://www.peinnmor.co.uk/
M.J.A Photography	http://www.mjaphotography.co.uk/
Public services all in one place	www.direct.gov.uk
For timetables, fares and bookings	www.citylinkonlinesales.co.uk
Library Catalogue	https://library.south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Library Services	http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/library
South Ayrshire Libraries Blog	http://sayrshirelib.wordpress.com/

Please contact: John McAlley [Editor]

Liglartrie Farm Pinwherry KA26 0SL | Tel: 01465841198 | Email: stinchar-valley-magazine@hotmail.co.uk

Useful Contacts

Accident & Emergency	Ayr Hospital	01292 610555
Minor Injuries Unit	Girvan Community Hospital	01465 712571
NHS 24		08454 242424
Samaritans		0345 909090
Girvan Community	Policing Team	01465 710995
Citizens Advice	Stranraer 10am - 4pm Mon - Fri	01776 706355
SEPA Emergencies		0800 807060
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 or the Bomb Disposal squad (999) because it might have come from Beaufort's Dyke; Beaufort's Dyke is the sea trench between Northern Ireland and Scotland within the North Channel. The dyke is 50 km long, 3.5 km wide and 200–300 metres deep. Because of its depth and its proximity to the Cairnryan military port, it became the United Kingdom's largest offshore dump site for conventional and chemical munitions after the Second World War; in July 1945, 14,500 tons of 5-inch artillery rockets filled with phosgene were dumped in Beaufort's Dyke. Munitions have subsequently been washed up on beaches in the area. In particular, in 1995, incendiary devices were discovered on the Scottish and Northern Irish coasts. This coincided with the laying of the Scottish Northern Ireland Pipeline (SNIP), a 24-inch gas interconnector being constructed by British Gas.

So just what can you see when you visit the park?

You could be one of only a few people in the United Kingdom to see the Milky Way our very own Galaxy, which shows up in our sky as wispy cloud running across the sky. You see it as cloud due to the sheer number of stars in it! Look even closer and you might even see *Andromeda our nearest galaxy*.

The easiest objects to see are our own stars and with the help of these star charts you should be able to spot a few!

A distant galaxy 2.5 million light years away

You will need...

- ★ Warm clothing
- ★ Binoculars
- ★ Torch (preferably with a red filter)
- ★ Hat & gloves
- ★ Stout shoes/ boots

What to look out for...

Looking up at the stars in the night sky, you can see that some of them make up patterns and shapes, called constellations. Every culture around the world has joined the dots in the night sky and created legends behind these.

The star maps here show some of the more obvious constellations visible from Galloway Forest Dark Sky Park throughout the year.

How many stars can you name? Can you find Orion the Hunter? Cygnus the Swan? The Plough? Some constellations are only visible at certain times of the year.

Can you find north?

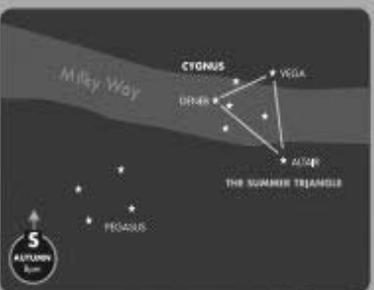
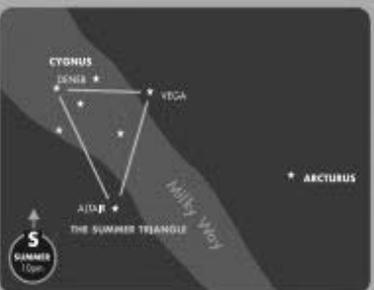
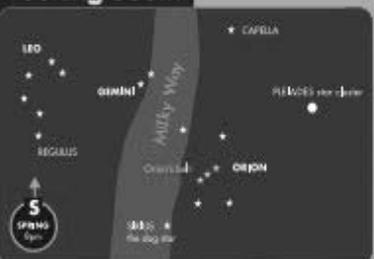
Use the two stars at the end of the Plough, known as the pointer stars, to trace a line to the faint North Star, the Pole Star or Polaris. If you stand facing this star you will be pointing North.

Open star cluster known as the sword nebula

Looking North



Looking South





Scout and About

With Ballantrae Scouts

Good news for the Scout Group, we have three new leaders, Nicola Gardiner and Claire Erskine are the new Beaver Leaders, Robert Whittington helping Claire Strain with the Cubs and Simon will help Paul with Scouts. John Allsop will carry out the Group Scout Leaders duties as well as helping where needed.

Before Christmas the Scouts had a weekend camp which will give the older Scouts the Bronze Zodiac award. To obtain this badge they have to camp at least one night in every month of the year. As well as camping we went to Glen Trool and cycled round the 7stanes mountain bike course

- Since starting this session Scouts are working on their Scout challenge and hopefully we will report success in the next issue.
- Beavers have completed their Pets at Home badge as well as playing plenty of fun games along with the Cubs who have completed their Mapping and Compass badge.
- We have had a few visitors lately, The proper Santa came to our Christmas party, a Ranger from the Galloway Dark Forest came to talk about the sky at night which was enjoyed by all especially by one of the beavers, ATKS Karate club gave a training and demonstration night which was great fun as everyone had a go.
- We have a section from 14 to 18 years male and female where Scouts can carry out a wide range of outdoor activities such as camping, hill walking, rock climbing, abseiling, coastering, kayaking etc. as well as visits to factories, bowling, shows or whatever the group want to arrange.

People wanting to join do not need to have been in Scouts before. If you require info. ring John on 01465831391.



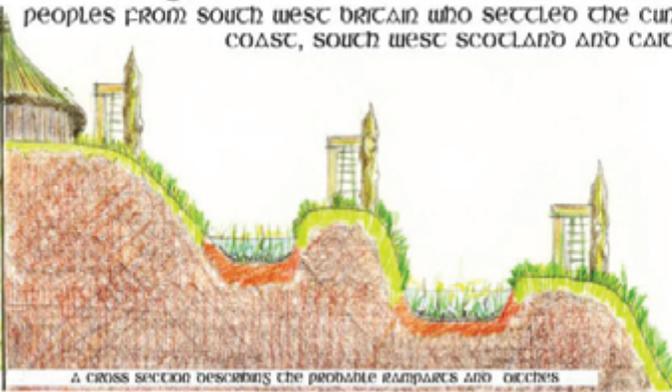
VIRGIN INN PICNIC AREA

DEMOLISHED IN 1940, THE VIRGIN INN STOOD CLOSE TO THIS SPOT AND WAS A WELL KNOWN LOCAL LANDMARK. IT WAS NEVER AN INN, IT'S NAME CORRUPTED FROM ANCIENT BRITHONIC GAELIC, 'DHEIR SHANN ION', MEANS 'THE HILL PINNACLE OF THE CIRCULAR PORTRESS', (DINVIN MOTTE, THE 'COCCAGE LOAF' SHAPED HILL IN FRONT OF YOU).

DINVIN MOTTE IS AT LEAST 2,500 YEARS OLD AND IS LIKELY TO HAVE BEEN BUILT BY THE CORNOVI, ANCIENT CELTIC PEOPLES FROM SOUTH WEST BRITAIN WHO SETTLED THE CUMBRIAN COAST, SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND AND CAICNESS.



AN IMPRESSION OF THE PROBABLE THREE ROWS OF PALISADES



A CROSS SECTION DESCRIBING THE PROBABLE RAMPARTS AND DITCHES

IT IS THE MOST PERFECT EXAMPLE OF A PREHISTORIC HILL-FORT IN THE SOUTH OF SCOTLAND, BEING A SMALL VERSION OF AN EARLY CELTIC WALLED TOWN, THE DOMINATING RIDGE FALLING AWAY ON ALL SIDES HAS BEEN SCULPTED INTO TWO RAMPARTS WITH 4 METRE DEEP DITCHES IN BETWEEN.



VIEW LOOKING EAST SHOWING THE INNER DITCH TODAY

THE ENTRANCE, FACING EAST,



LEFT: A BIRD'S EYE IMPRESSION OF THE MOTTE AND PROBABLE BAILEY. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THERE WOULD HAVE BEEN A SHALLOW LOCHAN, (A SORT OF FLOODED WATER OF ASSEIL), ABOUT 2,500 YEARS AGO. THE MODERN ROADS ARE SHOWN AS BROKEN LINES.

HAS A BREAKWATER AGAINST THE INCOMING TIDE OF AN ATTACK. IT STOOD GUARD OVER THE ASSEIL VALLEY, TO THE EAST, WHICH, AT THE TIME, WOULD HAVE BEEN A WIDE RIVER WITH LOCHANS AT DALBOWIE AND DALPASK. WITH THE LAND, AT THE TIME, BEING MUCH LOWER THAN IT IS TODAY, THE RIVERS OF SOUTH WEST SCOTLAND WERE THE MAIN HIGHWAYS FOR ANCIENT NOMADIC TRIBES AND THE EARLY CELTS WERE CONTINUALLY ON THE MOVE.

DINVIN (FIRST SPELT IN 1828) IS A CORRUPTION OF DUN DHEINN, (ANCIENT BRITHONIC) MEANING HILL (OR MOUNTAIN) PORTRESS. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE PORTRESS WATCHED OVER A HUGE " BAILEY " ON THE PLATEAU WHERE YOU ARE STANDING, AS FAR WEST AS THE RUINS OF FARDENDREW, JUST VISIBLE AMONGST THE TREES AND A HALF MILE FROM THE MOTTE.



AN IMPRESSION OF DUN DHEINN SEEN FROM AN ANCIENT LOCHAN NEAR DALBOWIE, (DAL DUAIDE - THE VALE OF THE BACCLE).

THE VERY EARLY CELTS WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TRAVELLED BY CORACLE FROM DALLACREE UP THE SCINCHAR AND THE ASSEIL TO DUN DHEINN. THE LAND WAS HEAVILY WOODDED WITH OAK, ASH AND ELM, VALUABLE BUILDING MATERIALS.

THE RAILWAY IS IMMEDIATELY UNDER YOUR FEET, RUNNING THROUGH AN IMPRESSIVE 496 METRE LONG TUNNEL, BUILT AROUND 1877, TO CONNECT GIRVAN AND SCRANRAER.

YOU ARE STANDING IN A REMARKABLE PLACE !