

Election time for Maybole Ward

FOUR candidates have been nominated for a by-election taking place on February 2, 2006 to fill a vacant seat on South Ayrshire Council in Electoral Ward No 27 – North Carrick and Maybole East.

The poll will be open from 8.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m. that day.

The vacancy has occurred following the resignation of Councillor Andy Hill, who was elected to the Maybole ward in 1995, and who, since May, 1999, when the number of wards was increased, and the Maybole ward split, had represented the then newly created North Carrick and Maybole East ward.

The ward covers all of Maybole east of the Glasgow/Stranraer railway line and the villages of Kirkmichael and Straiton. Four polling places will be used – Cairn Primary School and St Cuthbert's Church Hall in Maybole, McCosh Hall, Kirkmichael and the McCandlish

Hall, Straiton.

The count will take place in Maybole Town Hall.

At the May, 2003, South Ayrshire Council Election, Andy Hill, Scottish Labour Party candidate was returned with a majority of 262.

The candidates nominated for the by-election are:

**Brian Connolly, Independent.
Ann Galbraith, Scottish Conservative and Unionist.
Sandra Goldie, The Scottish Labour Party Candidate.
William McCubbin, Scottish National Party (SNP).**



INDEPENDENT candidate Brian Connolly.

LOCAL Councils were established to allow local communities to have a voice, their local representative, on the administration of their region. I believe passionately, that our representative should have an intimate knowledge and relationship with our Ward and only two candidates in this election satisfy that requirement. No Ward should have a representative from afar, imposed on them for the convenience of a political party.

We have witnessed the administration of South Ayrshire Council (SAC) as each party automatically opposed the other, regardless of the merits of their argument. The Conservative Party then changed the Standing Orders, we will follow the rules until they don't suit us and then we will change them. Sounds like refereeing a football match! The Labour Party, in retaliation, walks out of a meeting en-masse. Party politics is the only business where doing nothing but making the other party look bad is an acceptable outcome.

The future of Maybole Golf Course is the

latest issue, with responsibility being feverishly avoided. There is a real possibility of our Golf Course being closed and sold to provide a short term fix to the current financial crisis. Elect a Labour or Conservative Councillor and they will be obliged to follow the Party policy. A representative free of Party obligations is the only one able to defend our Ward.

We have the opportunity to elect a representative whose priority is what is best for our Ward and South Ayrshire. We will search for common ground and negotiate and compromise to reach the best deal for our region. We must continually strive to raise the standard of the package SAC provides, value for every penny they spend on our behalf.

As a community councillor and member of the by-pass committee I have given my time to the Ward and have an intimate knowledge of our issues. I am fully committed to these issues and believe that I have the knowledge and personal qualities to ask for your approval to be your local Councillor.

THIS by-election comes at a time when South Ayrshire is calling out for change.

And locally there are so many issues that need to be tackled. Maybole desperately needs a by-pass – everybody agrees with that yet no-one at Scottish Executive level seems to be prepared to do anything about it. So we must do more ourselves and I am joining with the Maybole By-pass committee in their launch of a programme of action this weekend.

A report, requested by Labour, has recommended the closure of Maybole golf course. This is not going to happen but as your councillor I would doubly help ensure that this is the case.

Then there's the plan to close the Accident and Emergency unit at Ayr Hospital. We must not sit by and let it happen; pressure must still

be applied by the council to stop the transfer. I could go on – I haven't even touched on the huge council deficit and the high council tax which must be addressed urgently.

As Editor of the Ayr Advertiser and Carrick Herald, I wrote a weekly column - One Woman's View – hitting out at what I thought was wrong in South Ayrshire and the subject of my criticism was, as often as not, the council.

I feel I've shouted long enough from the sidelines - now I feel it's time to put my money where my mouth is and that is why I have decided to stand for the council.

I live in Crosshill, I shop in Maybole and use the local facilities and want to represent the best interests of the community where it's possible to get things done - in the council chamber.



ANN Galbraith, Scottish Conservative and Unionist candidate.

AS A health visitor who worked in Maybole and Carrick for many years I know first hand what matters to hardworking local residents and their families.

The blight of anti-social behaviour is being raised with me time and again on the doorsteps. South Ayrshire Council and the Police must take tough action, using whatever steps are necessary, to clampdown on anti-social behaviour, vandalism and drug-dealing.

Maybole desperately needs a bypass and once elected, I will work with Labour colleagues Cathy Jamieson MSP, Sandra Osborne MP and Councillor Alan Murray to press the case in the strongest possible terms.

I am delighted at the new all-weather sports pitches at Carrick Academy. This excellent facility will be a real asset to local communities. I want to see South Ayrshire Council listening to the views of local young people and providing more facilities and activities for them.

Voters face a simple choice in this by-election. A vote for any other party but Labour will give complete control of the Council to the Tories. We know you can't trust the Tories to run our vital public services.

Only a vote for Labour on February 2 can stop Tory cuts.

I will be active on your behalf. A Labour Councillor who is on YOUR side, working tirelessly for what matters most to you.



SANDRA Goldie, The Scottish Labour Party Candidate.

AS A Carrick man born and bred and having raised a family and operated a business in Maybole for many years I believe I know the people and understand the issues facing our communities.

That said, I was determined that my campaign should not presume anything and that's why it was launched with a comprehensive survey of the views and opinions of all local voters.

The hundreds of responses we got established a number of key priorities.

Firstly it is vital that the A&E unit at Ayr Hospital is retained.

Secondly road safety is a major worry not just in Maybole High Street but a crackdown is needed on speeding on roads in and out of the town and villages.

Other significant concerns include the shabby appearance of Maybole. The buildings in the High Street particularly the empty shops need a makeover, littering and dog fouling are growing problems and of course we are not immune from the modern diseases of anti-social behaviour and drug related crime.

I believe an active, caring councillor can make a difference in tackling these problems. If elected I would not be able to wave a magic wand and relieve the A&E unit or deliver a by-pass but I will speak out on these issues.

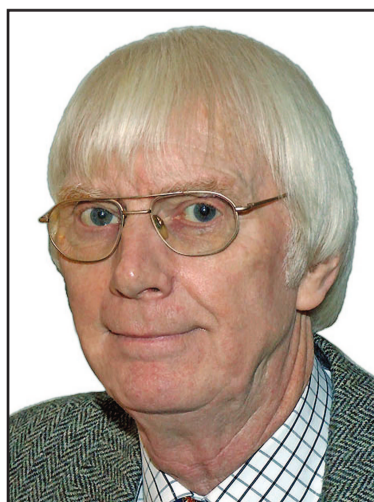
I will pursue a clean up for Maybole, better off street parking and traffic calming measures, more visible policing and support for better youth facilities.

As for the council chamber itself my voice and my vote will not be subject to party whips but will be used at all times to protect the interests of Maybole East & North Carrick.

It appears Tory control is secure till the 2007 elections thanks to local Labour's mismanagement. But I will fight tooth and nail against cuts in vital services or ludicrous proposals such as the sell off of Maybole golf course.

Neither should the Council's books be balanced at the expense of council tax payers. What is needed is a sustained attack on wasteful expenditure and inefficiencies.

With the support of my ain folk I would look forward to that challenge.



WILLIAM McCubbin, the Scottish National Party candidate.

CHURCH NEWS

Maybole Parish Church

THINGS are now moving ahead as the sign has been erected on our site, and application and approval is being applied for to demolish the existing buildings, and to clear the site ready for construction work. There is still a lot of work to do before we can start building the New Church and community facilities.

The new church, community and youth facilities are on display in the resource centre.

The Maybole music CD of our choir and organ memories is on sale in the Resource Centre together with bookmarks and coasters depicting both churches.

We continue to worship in Baptist Church and enjoy Christian Fellowship and continued warm welcome receive from them.

Rev. Dave Whiteman

Our Lady & St. Cuthbert's Church

ALL the hard work done painting and decorating Our Lady and St. Cuthbert's paid off at Christmas. The Church looked a fitting place to celebrate the birthday of Christ.

The packed congregation at midnight Mass joined heartily in the carol singing and throughout the service there was a real sense of a family celebrating a special birthday.

The Sunday morning continued the theme with the children singing Happy Birthday to Jesus, and then a surprise visitor appeared with goodies to share - Santa made a first visit to our Church!

The previous Sunday had seen over thirty senior citizens enjoy a great Christmas dinner with some of the younger members of the parish providing the entertainment, ably assisted by Fr. Stephen on the piano.

The school children presented their Christmas drama in the Church on the Tuesday before Christmas and it was voted by everyone as of exceptionally high quality. Congratulations to the school!

Fr. Stephen also took the youth of the parish to see Narnia, which was a great success.

Altogether, the year 2005 has seen the parish work together as a community in many and varied ways. The children, the young and the rest of us alongside our parish priest have a real sense of togetherness and there were many outreaches to the disadvantaged locally and internationally.

In January we begin our outreach to those interested in joining the Church, with an informal evening to explain what it's all about and answer any questions enquirers may have. For more information call 01655 882145.

Ellen Hawkes

Community News Items from around the area

Dunure

Hall and Parks Committee

DUNURE Hall and Parks Committee would like to thank everyone who returned a completed survey in December, and congratulate the winners of the £20 gift tokens which were drawn from the returned survey:

Jill & Robert Young, Gerry Davidson, Andrew Guthrie, Jeanette Breckenridge and Margaret Masterman.

If you indicated that you were interested in helping with the Hall and Parks Committee, or the Sports Bid, Janey McCreath will be in touch with you soon to invite you to an informal information session in February. If you didn't return a survey, but are interested in finding out more about either of these, please contact Janey on 01292 500320 after 5pm.

Kennedy Hall Lets

THE Kennedy Hall in Dunure is available for let for functions, parties, events and exhibitions. For more information and hire rates, please phone Janey McCreath on 01292 500 320 after 5 pm.

Dunure Website

HAVE you seen the Dunure Community Council website? Log on to www.dunure.info to find out what is happening in the village, and you will find contact details on the site if you have anything you would like to contribute.

Daily

Daily Scout Group

DAILY Scout Group is taking 25 members to the Bi-Annual Scottish Jamborette at Blair Atholl in July. This is a great opportunity for the boys and girls to meet and participate with other scouts from all over the world in a wide range of activities.

The group would be delighted to hear from anyone who could help in any way with sponsorship or a supply of camping equipment. In particular, the group is hoping to find someone willing to lend them the use of a trailer to transport their camping equipment to and from the Jamborette.

If you can help, please contact Mr Ronald Turnbull on 01465 811424.