

North Carrick Community

Winter issue 2018
www.nccbc.org

FREE

News

Crosshill . Dunure . Fisherton . Kirkmichael . Kirkoswald . Maidens . Maybole . Minishant . Straiton . Turnberry



Merry Christmas

& HAPPY NEW YEAR

to all our readers

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North Carrick Community Benefit Company Directors are:

- **Crosshill, Straiton and Kirkmichael:** Henry Anderson, Norman Geddes and Pat Lorimer (Treasurer)
- **Dunure:** Angus Craig and Tim Donaldson
- **Maidens, Turnberry and Kirkoswald:** Chris Savage (Vice Chair), Gordon Caldwell and Les McFadzean
- **Maybole:** David Kiltie, Senga Mason and Mark Fletcher (Chair)
- **Minishant:** Jackie Murray and Debbie Watt

Funding is available for a wide range of projects and to find out more or to apply to this fund please contact Marion Young on 01292 612626 or your community council representatives. You can also contact the company directly on ncarrickcb@gmail.com

Copies of the newsletter are delivered to every house in Maybole and the North Carrick villages. If, for any reason, you don't receive a copy please let your community councillors know. Extra copies will be left in various outlets in each community.



Board meetings 2019:

- 20th February 2019
- 15th May 2019
- AGM - TBC
- 21st August 2019

Application for funding must be received 3 weeks prior to these dates.



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You can also follow us on Facebook and download all issues of the Newsletter at: www.maybole.org



Your voice matters...

We would like all communities in North Carrick and individuals to get involved with the production of this publication. This is YOUR newsletter, so please use it to your benefit.



We want to encourage everyone to contribute. We also welcome your comments and thoughts on the newsletter as well as any ideas on what you would like to see more of (or less). This is our fourth issue and we want to ensure the newsletter grows from strength to strength but we cannot achieve this without the participation of our readers.

Please email all articles, stories, photos and comments to **David Kiltie** at: david.kiltie@talktalk.net; for all advertising enquiries please contact **Shona McMahon** at evolutiondesigns@sky.com



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CELEBRATING SUCCESS OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN MAYBOLE AND NORTH CARRICK



As part of the ongoing events for Year of Young People, around 50 young people from Maybole and villages throughout North Carrick got together in November to celebrate their achievements in their various youth clubs and youth groups.

The event was organised by South Ayrshire Council's Community Learning and Development Service and held in the Carrick Centre, whose training kitchen provided a tasty buffet for all the participants.

The young people enjoyed taking part in various workshops including cooking and crafts as well as enjoying a fun roller disco before Councillor William Grant (South Ayrshire Council Portfolio Holder for Lifelong Learning) presented the young people with over 80 different, Hi 5, Dynamic Youth and Saltire awards for activities including Indoor Climbing, Skiing, Theatre & Drama and Volunteering.

The event was made possible through the Maybole and North Carrick Youth Forum being voted by the public to receive funding at the recent



PAR2 Participatory Funding event.

Councillor Grant commented afterwards, "A fabulous event in The Year of Young People showing the achievements of young people in North Carrick.

"Special praise must go to those young people who achieved certificates in volunteering.

"Well done to all the young people and a big thank you to the South Ayrshire Council Community Learning and Development staff and to the youth workers who make it all possible."



North Carrick CARES



Maybole and North Carrick Villages Locality Planning Group (LPG) held an information evening recently so that local residents could find out more about what community-based services operate in their local area.

It was the fourth and final information evening held by the LPG and invited groups included Social work, Maybole/Girvan

community care team, Carrick Centre, Circles Advocacy, Out and About Scheme, South Ayrshire life (VASA), Maybole Over Fifties, South Ayrshire Dementia Support Association, Carrick Seniors' Lunch Club, Community Mental Health Team, The Speakers, Carers Centre and Telecare.

Each organisation attending spoke about the service they provide and, after a buffet, members of the public were free to circulate round stalls which were set up with more in-depth information.



The most valuable part of the event for people included information packs from social work, the information provided by service providers, learning about all the different activities and clubs in the town and speaking with the presenters.

Those attending found the evening very friendly and informative and said that as well as gaining information, the people were friendly and pleasant.

There was a feeling that it was a shame not a lot of the public had turned up and perhaps it could have been better advertised to bring in more people. A spokesperson for the LPG said that leaflets had been distributed, posters put up, it was on Facebook and details were in a magazine delivered to most homes in North Carrick. This seems to be a recurring theme in many public events nowadays.





North Carrick CARES

Maidens Primary School Fund receives funding

Maidens Primary School Fund received £2,825 from the North Carrick Community Benefit Company to provide picnic/activity bench sitting areas for Nursery through to Primary 7 children for use during school hours and for use by young people within the community out of school hours.

Provision of these resources would encourage development of positive social/educational relationships between children and adults through leisure and play activities.



Head Teacher Bobby McPherson told us, "The activity benches are in place and are well used by the children at all times of the day. They are modern, easily maintained and the children make great use of them to sit, socialise and play a variety of table-top games such as snakes and ladders, chess, draughts, ludo, flick football, connect four and toy town.

"Particularly during school hours, the children and adults often sit and play and converse together which is building positive relationships.

"It is harder for us to monitor how well the tables are used out of school hours but the tables are openly

available for use. We are also addressing how we leave the games pieces out on the tables as in poorer weather we found bits and pieces for the games were blowing away, so at the moment we don't leave these out after school hours until we find a good solution.



"We are now looking at having a chess club in school this year after the success of the tables and the Parent Council have now had some Family/Community game nights in school where we meet to socialise and play family games similar to those the tables provide."





Carrick Seniors' Lunch Club meet with Alzheimer Scotland

A couple of months back, Jenni McKeand from Alzheimer Scotland spoke about the disease to a group of twenty local North Carrick people in St. Oswald's church hall, Maybole.

Jenni provides support and information in South Ayrshire and the meeting was arranged as part of a project carried out by Carrick Seniors' Lunch Club and funded by North Carrick Community Benefit Company.

This is in response to the growing numbers in the community who are developing dementia symptoms and to raise awareness of the need to support locally any form of isolation and disability.

The information Jenni provided was interesting and raised the awareness of the group enormously, many of whom signed up as Dementia Friends, a project run by Alzheimer Scotland to raise public awareness.

The meeting learned that there are different kinds of dementia but probably the best known are Alzheimer's and Vascular Dementia. Among early symptoms are loss of short term memory, poor communication skills, motor skills and sequencing. It is important that people realise that dementia is not a natural part of ageing but caused by diseases of the brain. Nor is it just about losing one's memory; symptoms can be many and varied, affecting each person in different ways, especially as the illness progresses.

Dementia can also affect people's perception of reality. Given the right support, however, it is possible to live well with dementia, with proper awareness and understanding.

The Lunch Club hope that their project, which has a fuller report available if desired, will lead to voluntary action in North Carrick to support the already busy NHS and Care sectors of the local North Carrick Community.



SADSA brings Dementia Care to The Carrick Centre

Many and varied experiences are shared by all of those involved on the Dementia journey with loved ones.

SADSA already spends time with those living in Ayr at Eglinton Terrace, at Prestwick's Auchenday and now in Maybole.

The beautiful, custom built Carrick Centre has welcomed SADSA and Dementia Care for those living in Maybole and surrounding villages.

There is so much good happening today surrounding Dementia with the National Dementia Strategy in process, the increased opportunity for many of us to participate and input to how we can offer support, from Locality Planning Groups and Community Led Support activities....forming ideas and continuously improving care that works for the future, ensuring quality of life for all on the journey,

those living with Dementia and their loved ones.

SADSA is delighted to participate more widely in Dementia Care for those living in Maybole and Villages, reducing travel time for those living locally with Dementia, and helping to shape Dementia Care needs into the future.

We hope where care would benefit, or as a carer, you too would welcome the opportunity care for your loved one can provide, that you will come and join us.

Our Care Programme, begins with a Pilot Programme Period, until 19th December in the first instance.

Following positive feedback and monitoring, we will identify benefits and indicate ideas supplied in feedback for future Dementia Care, while gladly continuing to support those living with Dementia in Maybole and surrounding villages ... and their families.

SADSA
South Ayrshire Dementia Support Association



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This is a joint venture between Voluntary Action South Ayrshire, South Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership and NHS Ayrshire & Arran



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**This is the
LIFE!**

Looking for things to do, places to go or a helping hand when you need it?

There's more out there than you might think and the South Ayrshire Life website is a great place to start finding out about all the great things that are going on in our local communities.

There are now more than 1,300 activities to choose from!

Whether it's toddler groups, walking football, knit and natter, sport, money advice or lunch clubs, there's something for everyone on South Ayrshire Life.

You don't have to be on the internet to get the most from South Ayrshire Life as there is a free telephone number to call and find out about activities and help services near you. And now you can even text your enquiry to the South Ayrshire Life team.

South Ayrshire Life also has a community information centre at 57 Newmarket Street, Ayr, which is home to a whole range of regular help and advice drop-in sessions.

To find out more about South Ayrshire Life or to add your group's details to the website, please visit **www.southayrshirelife.org**, call the friendly team on Freephone **0800 432 0510** or text **07713 009 306**.



Welcome to the new minister of MAYBOLE PARISH CHURCH

Left to right- Jim Stevens, Rev Dr Robert Pickles and Peter Lynn

The Carrick Centre had the pleasure of welcoming Rev. Dr Robert Pickles, the new minister of Maybole Parish Church to an open evening when Robert, his wife Hazel and daughter Hannah were amongst 140 visitors to attend.

Robert has been married to Hazel for 36 years and became minister of the Church of Scotland charge of Crosshill and Maybole in September 13. Attending the Induction Service were Rev Brian Hendrie, Moderator of Ayr Presbytery, Rev Kenneth Elliot, Clerk to Ayr Presbytery, and Rev Christopher Blackshaw who conducted the public worship.

Rev Hendrie was the previous minister who said goodbye to the linked congregations of Crosshill and Maybole Parish Church on Sunday 22nd February 2015 after almost four and a half years as their minister.

Rev Pickles has two sons, a daughter and four grandchildren. John, his oldest son, is minister at Annan in Dumfriesshire and he attended the Induction, or beginning service, and preached Robert in. Hannah, his daughter, stayed over the period of the induction as well. David, who works near Crieff, was able to watch the induction online.

Two of Robert's friends, Rev Bruce Dempsey, Moderator of Ross Presbytery, and Simon Jackson, Reader at Robert's former parish at Fearn Abbey near Tain, attended the induction as a link and support for this new beginning.

Hazel is from Inverness and a retired midwife. They enjoy each other's company, particularly drinking coffee and visiting places, and have a mad dog called Skye.

Robert has been in the ministry for 38 years after training in Birmingham. He began as a Congregational minister and whilst being full time chaplain at Strathallan School, Perth decided to be enter the Church of Scotland ministry in 2003.

Teaching Christians of all ages to become ministers and missionaries has been a major part of his ministry. He has also spent a good deal of his time in rural settings including about 12 years ago being Chaplain to the Royal Highland Show. He hopes to bring these many skills to be useful in both parishes.

Robert says that Maybole presents, with its new Carrick Centre, the challenges and opportunities he has always sought whilst Crosshill keeps him connected with the rural ministry that he enjoys.

Together Robert and Hazel look forward to being part of both communities with their differing styles and needs and are grateful that both congregations have called them here.



L-r: Mrs Hazel Pickles, Rev. Dr Robert Pickles, Peter Lynn and Robert's daughter Hannah.

Straiton Primary School

The children at Straiton Primary School have been enjoying a food technologies programme with input from the Home Cook School. The pupils planned, prepared and hosted a Fireworks themed Community Afternoon Tea. They welcomed family, friends and community to enjoy a tasty menu of treats and provided entertainment which told the story of Guy Fawkes.

Head Teacher, Liz Candlish, said the initiative which was made possible by funding from Education Scotland, gave the pupils an opportunity to learn and apply a huge range of lifelong learning skills in a real life context. They also held a Harvest Service to which members of the community were invited. Donations of non-perishable foodstuffs were given to the food bank at the Carrick Centre.



St Cuthbert's Primary School

We had four winners at our Halloween Parade and Winners. They were:
Jake Pick & Grace Murdoch from P4-7,
Ava Campbell and Daniel Boyle from P1-3.



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CROSSHILL

Fun and games were had at the village Hallowe'en party. Fantastic costumes were on show this year, approximately 40 children under twelve years attended and it was very difficult to pick out winners.



Our Christmas Fayre was held on Sunday 25th November.

Senior citizens annual Christmas party will be held on Friday 7th December.

Up coming event village Gala to be held on Saturday 18th May 2019.



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The village defibrillator has now been installed in an outdoor cabinet adjacent to the war memorial at the end of Newton Street.



Straiton

The PB event held in the McCandlish Hall in September was attended by a good number of the community. They delivered their priorities for the next five years and a plan is being prepared. Top of the list was new planters for the village to enhance the environs. These will be made available through the £3000 funding given to each community in North Carrick.

Lady Hunter Blair Walk bridge

Directors of North Carrick Community Benefit Company (NCCBC) were pleased to be able to offer grant funding of £5,000 to match monies from South Ayrshire Council's outdoor access fund.

Mark Fletcher, said that this is the second joint project where funding has been used to keep the walks around Straiton open to the public.



Mark Fletcher, William Grant, Brian Connolly, Iain Campbell & Rachel Shipley, Outdoor Access Officer South Ayrshire Council

The first project was the Church Walk where the path had collapsed along the river edge and this time the Lady Hunter Blair walk bridge has been unusable making crossing the river dangerous.

The contractors, Jamieson Plant Hire, have now completed the works on the lower footbridge at Lady Hunter Blair Walk, Straiton. Unfortunately, as they removed the deck boards and parapets from the bridge, they discovered the timbers were in a far worse state than expected. This means they had to use new timber to replace a lot more of the structure, rather than re-using the existing sections of the bridge. They've basically rebuilt the entire bridge.

However, the bridge is now finished and back in use. So the local (and visiting) walkers are very happy!



One local resident told us, "This is one of the beautiful Straiton Walks and the one where folk often comment on the magical element there. It's the sort of place you expect to see fairies and has different aspects of loveliness according to the seasons. With the new bridge in place locals and visitors will again be able to enjoy this circular walk instead of just being able to use the top path."

CHRISTMAS AT SAKS & HART



Saks & Hart has now launched its stunning Christmas range of furnishings, home accessories and gifts.

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Kirkmichael

The feasibility study for the new Community Shop was presented to the village by ARPL Architects on the 10th October. The meeting was well attended by the community with around 65 people.

The architects recommendation as to what the new shop should comprise and where it should be located were debated at length.

In a vote at the end of the meeting it was overwhelmingly agreed that the shop should be located to the east side of the playing field and the KVR committee should proceed on this basis. The Study was funded by a generous grant from NCCBC.



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NORTH CARRICK ACTION PLANS

Jura Consultants and icecream architecture are continuing to develop the Local Action Plans for your area. The consultation events with the local communities and schools are drawing to a close and the results that have been received are in the process of being analysed.



Part of the consultation work included the casting of votes to allocate participatory budgeting funds. The results from each area were as follows:

MAYBOLE	New benches around the town at the Greenside, the Town Hall garden entrance and the War Memorial to mark the centenary of the end of WW1.
MAIDENS	Complete the next section of the shore footpath from bridge to harbour
TURNBERRY	To work with the Maidens on the footpaths at Maidens shore
CROSSHILL	New play equipment at the park
STRAITON	New planters around the village
KIRKOSWALD	New planters around the village
KIRKMICHAEL	Funding for the Gala
MINISHANT	New Christmas lights

Dunure has still to organise an event.
Look out for the projects that will be happening in your area soon!



Jura CONSULTANTS



COMMUNITY PROGRESS UPDATE

IN COMMUNITIES

Thanks to all that came out to speak to the team from Jura Consultants over a number of evenings in October. There were some great suggestions as to what is important and could be the priorities in each community over the next five years.

IN SCHOOLS

icecream architecture have been working in primary and secondary schools throughout North Carrick before a final schools event that will take place in late January. We have been talking to lots of young people and their views will become an important part of any future plans.



What has been great to see is young people are really engaged in thinking about their areas' needs not just from their own perspective but from the wider community's perspective too. Their ideas so far recognise the need for more employment opportunities, protecting the natural landscape and increasing health opportunities for all ages. The young people have been creating a set of actions they think would help improve their area - these actions will be refined and discussed by the schools in the event at the end of January to be included

NEXT STEPS

Both consultancies will be working with the local Community Councils over the coming weeks and months. The results, as part of your new 5-year plans, will be published in March 2019. An Action Plan will be developed for four Community Council areas and an overview Business Plan for the whole North Carrick area. These will identify and detail priorities, projects and the resources and responsibilities required to make the future of North Carrick a success!





Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday

This year, Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday fell on the same day, Sunday 11th November, so services to remember Maybole's war dead, which are normally held separately, were combined.

In addition, 2018 was special as it marked the centenary of the end of the first World War.

Maybole Town Hall was packed for an ecumenical service which was led by Rev Jim Geen and Rev Robert Pickles. The service began at 10am with Blair Hannah and Andrew McVittie carrying in the colours of the Royal British Legion Scotland and the Union Flag into the packed hall to be received by Rev Geen.

Carrick Academy pupils Sarah McElroy and Brad Gibson read the lessons and Rev Pickles preached the sermon.

Following the service, Maybole Pipe Band led the parade to the war memorial where at 11am there was the traditional two minute silence during a service led by Rev Geen.

Wreaths were laid by the local branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland as well as South Ayrshire Councillors and many of the town's organisations.

Afterwards, the pipe band led the parade back to the Greenside for a short service with wreaths laid and miniature poppy crosses planted.



Lest we forget



*When you go home, tell them of us and say,
for their tomorrow we gave our today.*

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, We will remember them.



**North Carrick
marks the
centenary
of the end of
World War 1**

**1918
~
2018**



Gardenrose Remembrance Assembly

Gardenrose Primary 7 class enjoyed sharing their learning of World War 1 with Gardenrose pupils and parents. They welcomed parents to their special centenary assembly on Thursday 8th November 2018.

The audience enjoyed seeing a great drama scene of the Christmas truce 1914. A few children discussed how the poppies were grown, are worn and why we should buy them to support the Royal British Legion. Emotional poems such as Flanders Field were read by the children.

We were also delighted to see children in WW1 costumes read out recounts from soldiers and nurses who took part in the war. It made us realise some of the hardships they went through.

The last post was played by Morgan a pupil of Gardenrose to commence the two minute silence. We enjoyed sharing our learning at this important time.

By Mirren and Lucy, P7 pupils



From the archives...

Ceremony at
the Unveiling
of Crosshill
War Memorial,
9th April 1921.

*Their name
liveth for
evermore.*

Maybole Over Fifties Knit and Natter group made this magnificent poppy display as a permanent reminder of the centenary of the end of World War 1.



L-r: Sally Anderson, Senga Mason, Ruth Mundell and Margaret Davidson.



St Cuthbert's Primary School

Our two House Captains, Cole Gillespie and James McGougan, along with Mrs McDermott, attended the local Remembrance Service. They felt extremely proud to represent St.Cuthbert's Primary School, at this moving and important event.

Maidens

On Friday 9th November @ 11.00 am Primary 5,6 & 7 pupils from Maidens Primary School laid a wreath at the Memorial at Trump Turnberry. They recited In Flanders Fields by John McCrae. Rev Stirling conducted a short service.

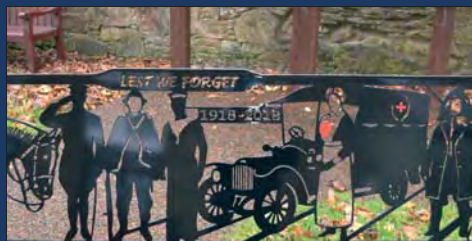


Long lasting memorabilia

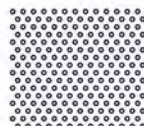
Maybole Community Council received a small grant from North Carrick Community Benefit Company and Maybole and North Carrick Villages Locality Planning Group. Following a public vote, the funds were used to purchase long-lasting memorabilia for the commemoration of the centenary of the guns falling silent to end World War 1.

Three of the benches were delivered to the Town Hall just in time for Remembrance Sunday and our photo Mark Fletcher, chair of the community council, unwrapping them.

There are two more to come and the benches will be installed at the town's war memorial, the Greenside and the Town Hall as soon as they are all delivered.



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BURNSFEST
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BURNSFRINGE
WED 1 – FRI 31 MAY 2019



Burns Night



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AYRSHIRE
COUNCIL

First Aid Training

Following on from a very successful First Aid training course, another one is planned for early in the new year.

The first of two first aid courses was held in September in the Carnegie Building in Maybole. The course was free of charge to community groups and focussed on emergency first aid in the workplace.

Mark Fletcher, chairman of the North Carrick Community Benefit Company who part-funded the courses through one of the participatory budgeting events held in the area, told us, "The event was well attended and everyone present gained one of the most important elements for first aid - the confidence to help in an emergency and the ability to stay calm and in control.

"Most of us never use the skills we learn and several people were having refreshers so if we need to call on the skills, they are fresh in your mind.

With the introduction of AED devices around the area, another project funded through the NCCBC, it was good that a large portion of the day was dedicated to CPR and the use of AED devices. Great lifesaving skills.

The next course will be held on Sunday 3rd February 2019 running from 9.30am to 4.45pm.

The full-day course will be delivered by St Andrews First Aid Training and held in the Carnegie Building, 1 High Street, Maybole – above the library - and there is a lift available for anyone who may have problems using the stairs.

To be eligible to attend the training, you must be an adult member of an active community group in Maybole or any of the North Carrick Villages.

Successful participants will gain key skills which will equip them to confidently administer emergency first aid and they will be awarded the nationally recognised "Emergency First Aid at Work" certificate which is valid for three years.

There are 15 places available on the course and applications will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

In order for this training to have the greatest impact, initially up to two places per organisation will be available and if there are places left further places could be available to groups if required.



"There is a second event in February and I highly recommend signing up if you haven't already. The day flew by for those attending, was brilliantly delivered by St Andrews and was equally fun whilst covering a serious subject."

If you would like to apply to attend this training and would like further information please contact
Alison Wales (Community Learning & Development Officer)
at **01655 882105** or
Alison.Wales@south-ayrshire.gov.uk



THE CARRICK CENTRE

CHRISTMAS LUNCHES

3rd December - 21st December - 12noon until 2.00pm

3 courses only **£10 pp** plus tea or coffee and homemade mince pie served in our cafe or hire a private room. See our website for menu. A selection of wines are available to enjoy with your festive lunch.

CHRISTMAS SUPPER

Friday 7th December

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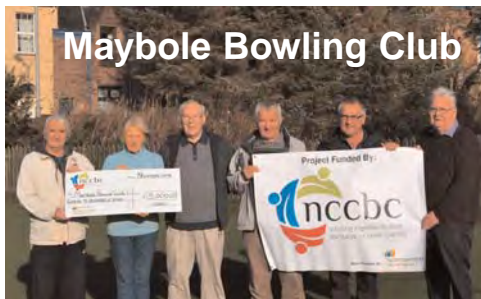


Maybole over Fifties



The Maybole over Fifties Walking Group joined in the campaign to Wear it Pink for Breast Cancer and enjoyed getting into the mood.

Maybole Bowling Club



North Carrick Community Benefit Company was approached by Maybole Bowling Club to part-fund essential repair works to the club's ground.

Mark Fletcher said, "The group were awarded £5,000 from NCCBC against a £7,400 repair project and the balance of the funding was received from SAWET and the bowling club itself.

"Partnership and joint funding is essential so we ensure that the funds from NCCBC stretch as far as possible. The bowling club works hard to maintain their premises and this essential assistance will ensure the club is there and useable for years to come."

He continued, "Encouraging good health and the involvement in physical activity is essential for all age groups and as bowling is low impact this type of activity appeals to all age groups. If you're interested in playing next season or fancy a taster session contact the bowling club who will be only too happy to introduce you to this great sport."

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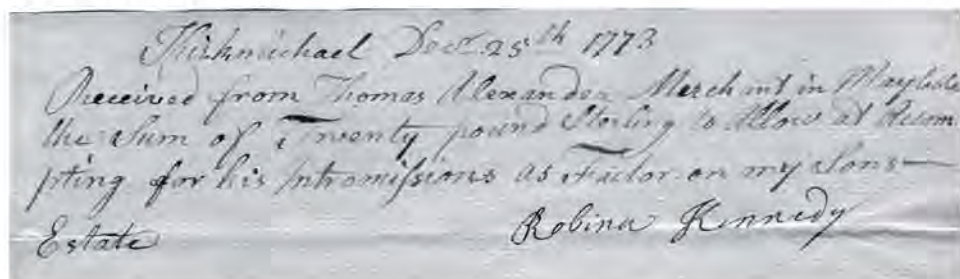
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When celebrating Christmas was banned

How long does Christmas last - one day or twelve? Or is it every shopping day from the end of September? In fact the twelve-day feast of Christmas doesn't start till December 25th and it runs until Twelfth Night on January 5th. And yet it wasn't till 1958 that Christmas Day was officially recognised as a public holiday in Scotland. Even so, more than a decade later, there were still workplaces where December 25th was just another day in the office. Many older readers will recall when the winter close-down was only a day (or two) for Hogmanay and Ne'erday.



Kirkmichael Dec. 25th 1773
Received from Thomas Alexander Merchant in Maybole
the sum of twenty pounds Sterling to Allow at Ac-
counting for his Intrusions as Factor on my sons
Estate
Robina Kennedy

Scotland has had an on-off relationship with Christmas for centuries and Ayrshire was no exception. The county featured prominently in significant events that led to, and followed, the 1560 Reformation, which included the famous debate between Quintin Kennedy and John Knox in Maybole. Still the Old Faith lingered for another half a century until the last monks of the abbey of Crossraguel died - none of whom converted to the reformed religion. An Act of Parliament in 1581, against pilgrimage and other Catholic rites, set severe punishments, from heavy fines to the death penalty, for those caught practising them, including 'the singing of Caralles'.

Two years later dozens of people were accused of "attempting to restore popery" at Kirkoswald, Maybole and Paisley. Worse was to follow with the banning of celebrating Christ's Mass - a ruling that lasted so long it created a common, but inaccurate, belief - that Scots didn't celebrate Christmas. The English had their own turmoil. In the mid-17th century their parliament, not Oliver Cromwell, clamped down on the celebration of Christmas and other saints' and holy days - a prohibition which remained in force until the Restoration of the Monarchy in 1660.

But Charles II's betrayal of the Covenanters (as they saw it) brought about the notorious 'Killing Times' of persecution - not the right time to bring back the celebration of Christmas. That had to wait 300 years!

By the last quarter of the 18th century David Kennedy of Kirkmichael could enjoy a Christmas break at his English boarding school. (see below) But for his mother, Robina, and his Estate factor, Bailie Thomas Alexander, a neighbour of the well-kent Bailie Niven, the 25th of December in Carrick would have been just another working day (see above) as it was for labourer William McMurtrie who was paid 1/8 (12 pence today) for one day's work cutting holly hedges at Kirkmichael in December, 1783. How times have changed!



1781
By two Pair of Stockings at 2/6 - 4.8
By Breaking up at Christmas Feasts - 2.6

Detail from David Kennedy's Bishop Auckland school account, 1781.

Advent, the run up to Christmas, begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. Those weeks may well be when the retail and hospitality industries get their peak trade. But many Christians still observe them as a solemn season of preparation and simplicity: no flowers or decorations in church, and no carol singing before Christmas Eve. It could also be a time for socialising as this quote from the treasurer's accounts, at the time the devout Queen Mary was in Stirling Castle, shows:

"Item, in the tyme of Yule, deliverit to my lord governour, to play at the cartis witht the quenis gracis in Striveling, ane hundreth crounis of the sunn."

The Scots word for Christmas is Yule, derived from the midwinter Nordic pagan festival of jöl.

About the author:

James Brown, owner of Baltersari Castle, is a local historian and author of "Carrick, Scotland: beyond the Tourist Guides" published by the Carrick Community Councils' Forum.

Words and images © the author



MOF's UPDATE

MOF's September bus trip was to Perth where everyone enjoyed some free time to do as they wished. On the return journey they came back over the new Forth Road Bridge, a first for many. The day finished off with High Tea in South Queensferry where everyone enjoyed the views of the 3 bridges as they ate their meal.

Peter Mason, Chairperson of MOF's, said he was delighted that the day had been enjoyed by everyone. "All of the trips which we have held so far have been a great success," he said. "The benefits of these outings include an opportunity for many to visit places they have never been before; to see old haunts; and, most importantly, to get people together to talk to each other, have fun and make new friendships. Plans are already in place for next September when we are taking a bus to the Edinburgh Tattoo.

"Before that we are going to a panto in Glasgow, a Christmas lunch at Wildings and a group of 18 are

going to Budapest to take in the Christmas markets for five days. My thanks must go to Anne and Derek Walker, the social committee, and also the main committee who work hard on MOF's behalf."



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Breast Cancer Awareness Month

October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month and staff at The Speakers decided to Wear it Pink for Breast Cancer for a week and encouraged their customers to do the same and also turn up in their pyjamas if they wanted.

To raise funds they had a raffle, pin badges and wristbands and raised £336 with the help and generosity of those who joined in – they were overwhelmed by everyone's kindness.

Raffle winners were Margaret Wallace, Wilma Valdrighi, Rosaleen Murdoch Skilling, Kate (Vasa), Lynsey Raby, Shelley Wilson, Anne Meek, Christine Urie, Kay, Mary McGuire, Pat Scobie, Patricia Graham, Julie Parker, Liz Kerrigan,



Petesey McNair, Sandra McCartney, Ellen (lunch club), Anji Salhi, Liz (Girvan).

The staff would like to thank family and friends who helped donate raffle prizes. Hopefully, they will see everyone again next year.



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Intergenerational activities in Maybole

Children from Gardenrose Early Years Centre have been enjoying visiting the residents of Fairknowe House Care Home over the past few weeks. The children and residents come together in a variety of planned activities such as singing and playing parachute games. Both the residents and children have really enjoyed the visits and look forward to their future activities.



Scottish Opera

Primary 6 and 7 pupils at Gardenrose Primary School were lucky to participate in a Scottish Opera performance with Cairn Primary School pupils. After weeks of rehearsing various songs the final performance took place on Friday 9th November 2018, "The Dragon of the Western Sea", which was an old but true story! Each class represented a different country: India, Africa and the Persian Pirates which involved wearing traditional costumes and songs with the language from that country being sang. The performance was a great experience and we loved being part of it! Our Head Teacher, Mrs Trimmings said our performance was amazing and that we could have been performing on the West End! *By Eve and Olivia C, P7 pupils*



SportScotland Silver School Sport Award

Last session, pupils at Cairn Primary worked extremely hard on their school sports and attended many festivals and competitions. In school, each class participated in quality PE sessions with their teachers supported by Active Schools and Sports Students.

All this hard work and commitment was recognised last week when they were

awarded SportScotland's Silver School Sport Award. The school sports committee, along with Mrs Kay and Ryan Douglas (Active Schools co-ordinator), has set out targets for the next year and they are now working towards the Gold Sports Award.

Well done, everyone!



North Carrick Community NEWS

This newsletter is for **YOU**, the community, so **PLEASE** submit all your articles, events, news updates etc.

Your village/group/club can use these pages to highlight any forthcoming events, be it Gala Days, Fitness Classes, Children's Fun Days etc, if you want people to know what you're doing or what you have achieved then please do not hesitate to contact us.

All editorial submissions please email to:
David Kiltie at: david.kiltie@talktalk.net

We will aim to publish all information supplied to us but cannot guarantee this due to limited space. The editorial board will decide upon each submission.

The Carrick Centre Festive Fayre

The Carrick Centre Festive Fayre is an annual event raising funds for both The Carrick Centre and Maybole Parish Church and staff were delighted to see all their regular customers as well as some new faces, too, this year.

Fortunately, Santa turned up and the children were very excited. A total of £427.84 was raised on the night thanks to everyone's support and hard work. Both the Centre and Church value the support they get from the community as it allows them to grow and develop year in year out. The Centre is now in its eighth year having taken the keys for their building on 21st December 2011 and opened their doors on 8th January 2012.



A Hidden Gem in Maybole

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Carrick Academy

Carrick Academy recently hosted a Scottish Government roadshow targeting S3, S4, S5 and S6 pupils who may be interested in Early Education and Childcare.

Workshops included talking to external speakers about career pathways, modern and foundation apprenticeships and vocational qualifications, digital skills and learning through playing games.

Pupils from Girvan Academy and Marr College also had the opportunity of joining a workshop.

The school would like to thank
Union Connect,
Ayrshire
College, Glen
Family Centre,
Isobel Mair
Family Centre
and South Ayrshire
Council for inputs.



St Cuthbert's Primary pupils were delighted to take part in the annual Children in Need Appeal



The pupils and staff of St. Cuthbert's Primary School had a 'Dress Down Day' for Children in Need. They managed to raise £62.00 for this worthy cause.

Fairknowe House Summer House



Cake made and donated by Heather McNeish and won by Michael Chalmers. The cake is called 'SITOTTERIE' which is what the Summer House will be called when it is finished.



The Fairknowe Stars (All the guys who had their heads shaved and legs waxed). Left to right - Chris News, Connor Menzies, Ernie Caldwell, Neill Sloan, Ross Tait and Ryan Murray



Tam Robb and Winnie McCulloch who are the first ever Duke and Duchess of Fairknowe



The first two together

Some pictures from the Gala at Fairknowe House Care Home where they raised the fantastic sum of £3,505 towards the cost of building a Summer House.

Mary Caldwell, Activities Coordinator, said, "Well, what a day it was. A huge thanks to every business that supported us; to all the staff who gave up a day off; to all the people who came in and helped; to all the people who attended; to everybody who put their hand in their pocket; to those that did their bit by having a shave; to those who came along and supported our cause.

"The staff and residents of Fairknowe wish to thank each and every one of you for your support. We raised a load of cash but we need a load and a bit more. Thank you each and every one of you. Fairknowe summer house is getting closer.

Their next fundraising event is the Christmas Bazaar on Friday 7th December from 6:30pm.

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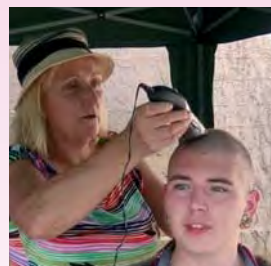
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Bryce McCulloch who piped in the Duke and Duchess up the drive



Adella McCulloch shaving Neill Sloan's head



Ina Speirs (manager) shaving Connor Menzies head



Our Lady and St Cuthbert's Senior Citizens' church outing this year was to Rozelle. Photo shows some of them afterwards at The Coo Shed for a meal.

From the chair of North Carrick Community Benefit Company



North Carrick Community Benefit Company (NCCBC) is pleased to be delivering the fourth edition of what we think is a great newsletter that the whole of North Carrick can use to share information.

Please keep the stories - and news of what's happening in your area - coming in and think about letting us know what's going to happen in your communities next year.

At our meeting following the AGM, the board re-nominated the office bearers and all were happy to continue in post. Chris Savage was nominated for Vice chair, a position previously not filled; Chris was happy to accept the nomination and I welcome the support and experience that he will bring to the post.

At the AGM, the focus was very much on newly revised action plans and we are pleased to report that Jura Consultants and ice cream architecture are driving these forward for delivery to the community councils in the new year.

At the public consultation events that largely took place in October, the public were offered the opportunity to discuss their likes and dislikes about where they live and, further to this, the opportunity to discuss how to progress the changes talked about.

Included in those consultation events was the chance to vote in a participatory budgeting event and each



community council had been tasked with coming up with five or more small projects that could be delivered without the need for further funding as the £21,000 put up by NCCBC was match-funded by £9,000 from the Locality Planning Group. Keep your eyes peeled for delivery of these projects.

The response to these engagement events was better in some communities than others, but the quality of information gathered, and in the previous postal replies from earlier in the year, is very informative and when this is combined with the schools' input, the information will enable us to produce robust action plans that will help draw more funding.

Thank you to everyone who took the time to engage in this process and I would assure you it was time well spent as all views are valued.

Another key element that came out at the AGM, and is consistent with feedback at the consultation events, is the need for someone to work with communities to help deliver larger strategic projects.

With that in mind, NCCBC is actively seeking to appoint a development officer and applications for this post close on 7th December with a view to an early new year appointment.

On the next page we have a report from Mark Fletcher who is also the Chair of Maybole Community Council. We would welcome regular reports from the Chairs of other community councils.

From the chair of Maybole Community Council



Maybole Community Council and Bypass Committee are overjoyed to see that the enabling work for the bypass has started. The site at Smithston Bridge truly symbolises the start of something special - and long awaited.

The enabling work sets the line of the bypass with the removal of trees and hedges and the placement of temporary fences ahead of the main works. This work has to take place before birds start nesting in the spring and is a very normal stage in roads development.

South Ayrshire Council, in partnership with Maybole Community Council, submitted the second stage funding application for the wider town regeneration project and we are waiting on the result of that application. To say that the regeneration project, combined with the bypass, is a once in a lifetime opportunity for Maybole is possibly underselling the importance of the potential changes that Maybole can now embrace.

To remove all of the artic lorries from our town centre and at least 50% of cars gives us great opportunities to restore the fabulous architecture that we have. Maintenance on buildings has been hampered by traffic and the cost of road

closures to carry out even basic maintenance.

The opportunities to bring buildings back into some form of use, carry out essential repairs, widen footpaths and create a more pedestrian-friendly town centre that is still accessible to essential traffic will only prove to help businesses we have and potentially attract new business of all sorts.

The planning for this has been three years of consultation, professional engagement of landscape architects, surveyors, traffic management experts, building architects etc. etc. We would like to thank everyone that took time to get involved in the engagement process, the council officials for their support and expertise, our local elected members for their support and belief in us and the project. We now wait with baited breath for the outcome of the application and will, of course, let everyone know as soon as we do.

Follow us on our facebook page for updates.

In the meantime, we would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



The latest meeting of directors of North Carrick Community Benefit Company was held in Maybole Town Hall on 21st November.

Local residents in Maybole and surrounding villages had been asked to vote on priorities for their communities and funding was provided by NCCBC and Maybole and North Carrick Villages Locality Planning Group.

Our photo shows representatives from all five community councils receiving cheques to fund the choices of local people. These priorities were:

- Crosshill** - New play equipment at the park;
- Kirkmichael** - Funding for the Gala;
- Kirkoswald** - New planters around the village;
- Maidens** - Complete the next section of the shore footpath from bridge to harbour;
- Maybole** - New benches around the town at the Greenside, the Town Hall garden entrance and the War Memorial to mark the centenary of the end of World War 1;
- Minishant** - New Christmas lights;
- Straiton** - New planters around the village;
- Turnberry** - To work with Maidens on the footpaths at Maidens shore.

Dunure has still to organise an event.

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David-John, one of our qualified Independent Advisors, has worked within financial services for 30 years within the Carrick area. He has worked within the Royal Bank of Scotland and within the independent financial advice market, and is looking to provide you with the service that you can no longer obtain from your local banks.

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