

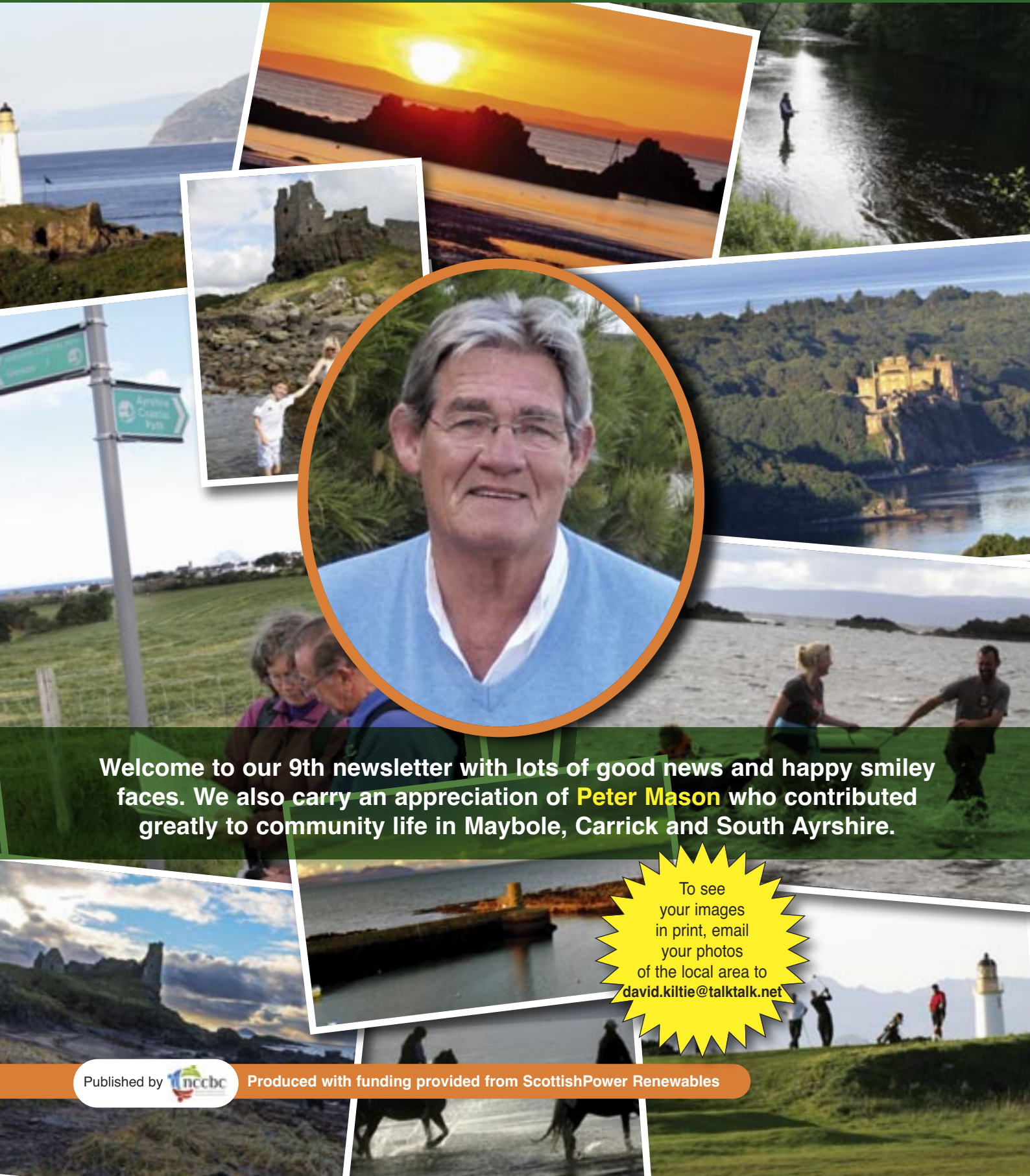
North Carrick

Spring issue 2020  
www.nccbc.org

# Community News

**FREE**

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



Welcome to our 9th newsletter with lots of good news and happy smiley faces. We also carry an appreciation of **Peter Mason** who contributed greatly to community life in Maybole, Carrick and South Ayrshire.

To see  
your images  
in print, email  
your photos  
of the local area to  
[david.kiltie@talktalk.net](mailto:david.kiltie@talktalk.net)

Published by



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# Marilyn Monroe and The Greatest Showman

Toasting the success of the first film festival "Around the world in Eight Movies", Tia Hill and Chris Gourlay are pictured at the launch.

The pair, who posed as Marilyn Monroe and The Greatest Showman for the first Maybole Film Festival when tickets went on sale, went along to the prosecco launch party along with other guests at the Carrick Centre, Maybole.

The festival which showed eight films to more than 120 people at The Carrick Centre was a hit with moviegoers. The biggest success was an Indian film called Monsoon Wedding. A curry cooked up by chefs at the centre was served beforehand to nearly 40 film buffs.

The festival, put on by The Carrick Cinema Club was sponsored by Regional Screen Scotland. Club secretary Liza Donaldson said: "We are delighted by the public's response to our first film festival. We asked film-goers to rate the films and their response was

overwhelmingly positive. We could not have put on this show, however, without the support of Regional Screen Scotland who gave us a grant so our thanks go to them and above all to all those who came and supported this new event."

## 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.



The North Carrick Community Newsletter is produced with funding provided from **ScottishPower Renewables**

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 ninth issue and we want to ensure the newsletter grows from strength to strength but we cannot achieve this without the participation of our readers and advertisers.

Please email all articles, stories, photos and comments to **David Kiltie** at: [david.kiltie@talktalk.net](mailto:david.kiltie@talktalk.net)

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## North Carrick Community Benefit Company



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](mailto: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:

- 13th May 2020
- 12th August 2020

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

North Carrick  
Community Newsletter



Download the Newsletter at: [www.maybole.org](http://www.maybole.org) or [www.nccbc.org.uk](http://www.nccbc.org.uk)



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## To finish off 2019, North Carrick Community Benefit Company (NCCBC) brought some festive cheer to three local organisations by awarding the last grants of the year.

The total value of the three projects is just over £21,000 and NCCBC provided more than £14,000 to ensure all three could be delivered.

Mark Fletcher commented, "Match funding like this enables us to support far more projects and allows the funds we have to make a bigger and wider impact.

"Maidens Bowling Club required a new lawn mower and sprayer to enable them to continue to maintain the high standard of their green which attracts players not only from Maidens but from all around including visitors to the area who holiday in the many caravan parks close to the village as well as visitors from other bowling clubs who take part in competitions.

"Maybole Indoor Bowling Club received their grant to purchase new mats so they can continue enjoying the game of bowls during the winter months when outdoor play isn't practical. The club has changed its constitution slightly to allow for more people to join them. There is now no age requirement, you simply need to want to play bowls. The group meet on

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons during the winter in Maybole Town Hall. If you're looking for an outlet this is a great sport for people of all ages and capabilities and the town hall is fully accessible.

"South Ayrshire Swim Team (SAST) is an organisation that promotes competitive swimming for youngsters, offering full training and support and the club's mission statement is *striving for excellence in swimming, allowing all swimmers to achieve their full potential*". Primarily, the club's focus has been in Ayr, Prestwick and Troon but this project is for Maybole and the North Carrick villages utilising Maybole Swimming Pool. Up to 24 youngsters within North Carrick will be able to continue learning and developing their swimming skills whilst being gently introduced to competitive swimming. This will greatly reduce the disadvantages that we sometimes face by living in rural communities."

NCCBC is open for applications on a rolling schedule and we make awards up to four times annually (subject to demand).



## Minishant Primary's Dyslexia and Inclusive Practice Award

The Dyslexia and Inclusive Practice Award Committee (DIPA) are delighted to announce that Lyle (P5) has won our 'Design a mascot and slogan' competition.

His mascot, a four-armed monster called Dipa, is always ready to help anyone with their learning. Dipa's slogan is 'be your brightest' which will encourage us all to shine and try our best.

Very well done to everyone who entered the competition; it was very hard to judge because of the high quality of all the entries.



# Over 200 voters decided who got funds

## 1. 1st Maybole Guides £1,000

To fund an activity weekend that will promote the development of skills such as communication, leadership, problem solving and teamwork along with increasing self-esteem and confidence as a result of facing and overcoming personal challenges.



## 2. Carrick Senior Citizens Lunch Club: Dementia Choir £1,000

The Lunch Club is looking for funding to establish, promote and run a monthly inclusive Dementia Friendly Community Choir. The long-term goal would be for this choir to showcase their talent at various community events.



## 3. Carers Connect: North Carrick Cares £1,000

Funding request to help set up a 'Come and Join us' friendly face and natter group for carers within the North Carrick Area. Guest speakers on various issues such as Basic First Aid, Dementia Awareness, Hearing Loss and much more. They also plan to have activities including mindfulness sessions, arts and craft activities, indoor bowls etc. Funding would be used to cover the cost of hall hire, publicity material and resources for the group.



## 4. Carrick Centre: Panto Project £1,000

To provide opportunities for young people in Primary 7 from all North Carrick schools to take part in an exciting 8-week project to create a Christmas Pantomime for 2020.



## 5. Crosne Street Sheltered Housing £900

Funding sought to put towards the cost of bringing entertainers to the unit, to purchase garden furniture and storage.



## 6. Crosshill Primary and EY Parent Council: Crosshill Cook & Chat £860

To provide cookery sessions for all the children within the school and early years group over a few days. The food prepared will be used to host an event in the school for the wider community to come and try the dishes.



## 7. Crossroads (South Ayrshire): Care Attendant Scheme £1,000

To fund carers to take a break, visit friends & family, do shopping in a relaxed way, engage in sport or activity they enjoy, and re-energise in order to continue with providing the caring. They will also benefit from another supportive person, someone to talk to and provide advice. Carers are often forgotten about and this would ease some of the pressures they face.



## 8. Dunure Parent & Toddler Group £800

To establish a parent and toddler group in Dunure that would allow parents and carers of young children to connect with others in similar circumstances and to build support networks within the local community.



## 9. Gardenrose Primary Parent Council £1,000

To provide blocks of swimming lessons for all pre-school and Primary 1 pupils at the school.



Many thanks to all those who turned up on the day to vote!

### 10. Kirkmichael Kids and Community Groups

**£1,000** The group recognise that social isolation is an issue within the community and would like to arrange a Village Trip for the whole village, in particular, the older and the younger members of the community, encouraging them to build relationships within the community.

**WITHDRAWN**

### 11. L & M Wellbeing Consultancy CIC £1,000

To deliver a 10 week therapeutic music programme to young people who are struggling with their emotional/mental health. Within an open, supportive and nurturing environment, self-awareness, self-worth and respect for others will be developed.



### 12. Maybole & North Carrick Community Resilience Team £1,000

Funding would be used to equip the group members with essential equipment and clothing to allow them to work safely and communicate effectively as a team.



### 13. Maybole Juniors Football Club £1,000

To provide a sit-in tearoom. The club has an empty portakabin within the grounds and funding would help cover the cost to equip this unit. The tearoom would offer more opportunity for their supporters to meet and socialise.



### 14. North Carrick Young Volunteers £1,000

To host a family friendly Mental Health Awareness Day in collaboration with Ayr Action for Mental Health, Place To Be and NHS. The day would consist of various information stalls and



workshops including Mindfulness, Yoga, Arts, Music, Motivational Activities and general advice/awareness sessions.

### 15. SeAscape £900

Our main aim at SeAscape is Tackling homelessness, poverty and isolation. Our Befriending Project is seeking funding for transport costs to support individuals to attend group services within North Carrick.



### 16. Straiton Environment Group £1,000

To help with the cost of setting up a Summer/ Winter/Spring planting and maintenance programme for the 4 planters at each village entrance. Funding would help cover the cost of bulbs and plants, soil and compost and would also cover the cost of a new noticeboard for the Village.



### 17. Straiton Village Cooperative £850

To develop the Store to provide a greater range of goods and facilities for the long term viability of the stores. Funding would contribute to the cost of installing a bike rack for locals and visitors, opening up the window to allow people to see that it is a shop and for those in the Stores to improve security. Funding will also pay for some floor coverings.



#### **Participatory Budgeting unsuccessful applicants were:**

- Dunure Parent & Toddler Group - £250 Part Funded
- Crosne Street Sheltered Housing
- Gardenrose Primary Parent Council
- Crosshill Primary and EY Parent Council: Crosshill Cook & Chat
- Straiton Environment Group
- Carrick Centre: Panto Project



# Projects taking shape across North Carrick

Report from Stuart Lindsay, NCCBC Development Officer

## £213,000 for Playparks and Environmental Improvements in North Carrick

North Carrick Community Benefit Company and South Ayrshire Council have agreed to work together to improve playparks and outdoor access and facilities. The projects will be funded 50/50 by NCCBC and the Council and the aim is to get them agreed and implemented within the next few months.

£100,000 will be spent on environmental projects. We've compiled a list of proposed projects based on my discussions with people in each of the villages. But there is always room for new ideas. So please contact me if you have suggestions for improvements in your area. It's unlikely that we'll be able to fund everything from the NCCBC/SAC money but if we know about potential projects then we can explore other funding sources.

Decisions on improvements to playparks will be made in March after the Council has considered a report that may lead to even more money being available.

## An Apology to Dunure

We said in the Dunure Development Plan that we'd give the community an update on progress in January this year. However, a decision was made to delay the report so that we can combine it with an exhibition showing the work that UWS has been doing in the village. That will be held in March.

## North Carrick Website Refreshed

The Company's website has been updated and new sections added. Please have a look at <https://nccbc.org.uk> where you'll find copies of all of the issues of this newsletter, copies of the five local Community Action Plans, and more. (A word of thanks to Alex at [asm-development.com](http://asm-development.com) for his great work on this.)

## Development Programmes progressing in several villages

Following the lead given by Dunure last year, Maybole, Kirkmichael, and Kirkoswald, Maidens & Turnberry are all working towards producing



Development programmes for their areas. These are designed to build on the local Action Plans by identifying a list of specific projects that will be implemented over an agreed period of time.

Some people in Minishant and in Crosshill have shown an interest in following suit and we intend that most if not all of the communities in North Carrick will have Development Programmes by the middle of this year. The documents will help with getting funding and other support and will reduce wasted effort in villages by making sure that everyone is pushing in the same direction. (You'll find a copy of the Dunure Programme at: [link to NCCBC website](#))

## Local funds for Community-led Projects

Plans are being finalised for a scheme that will mean that each community in North Carrick can receive a sum of money from NCCBC each year for projects that will benefit the village or town. There will be a simplified application process and recommendations on which projects to fund will be made by panels of residents in each place. More on this in the next issue.

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Please get in touch if you have ideas for developments in North Carrick or just want to find out more about what's happening.

**[stuart.northcarrick@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.northcarrick@gmail.com)**



# STARTING OR GROWING A BUSINESS? IT'S EASIER WITH AMBITION

If you're thinking about starting your own business, or are keen to grow an existing one, South Ayrshire Council's business support programme, AMBITION, can help.

AMBITION has helped over 600 people across South Ayrshire achieve their business ambition through providing support, advice and grant funding.

Iain Scott received support from AMBITION to start up his business, Bucket List Scotland. Based in the grounds of Culzean Castle, the company offers bespoke tours across Scotland centred around Whisky, History, Golf and TV & Film.

Iain says: *"I was starting my business from scratch and met with a Business Advisor who was extremely helpful. She guided me through the process of applying for an AMBITION Start-Up grant for £1,000 which I have recently been awarded."*

*"This funding will be key to helping me market and promote the business online, something I couldn't have done on my own. I would recommend AMBITION to anyone who needs advice or funding to get their business moving."*

As well as the AMBITION programme, Business Gateway can also offer you support to start or grow your business at their free drop-in sessions. Here Business Advisors can offer advice on a whole range of issues including business planning, finance and funding. Local events include:

**Malin Court, Turnberry**  
Fri 13th March (10am - 12noon)  
and Wed 8th April (5pm - 7pm)

**Kirkmichael Community Hall**  
Wed 22nd April (8am - 10am)

If you've got the ambition to run your own business or take your business to the next stage, visit [ambitionprogramme.co.uk](http://ambitionprogramme.co.uk) or call 01292 616 349.

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# Peter Mason



Maybole, Carrick and, indeed, South Ayrshire have lost a great community champion with the death of Peter Mason. He was well-known for more than twenty years as a great activist in many local projects. His big legacy, though, will be the new bypass for Maybole. Towards the end of the 1990s, Peter was appointed Chairman of the Bypass Sub-committee. It was a non-political campaign and members met politicians from all parties – Maybole bypass was the only one that was supported by the four main parties. Wednesday 22nd May 2019 will go down as a momentous day in the history of Maybole and North Carrick. That was when the first sod was cut. Peter had been diagnosed as terminally ill and there was doubt that he would be there for it. Thankfully, he was. Sadly, he won't be there for the official opening, but he will be in everyone's thoughts that day. He maybe won't drive on it, but he was the main driver of the idea. He definitely drove it on. Nobody did more to get the bypass.

At his funeral service, conducted by Fr Stephen McGrattan at Masonhill Crematorium on 25th January 2020, there were many tributes paid to him as well as humorous anecdotes told of his life. Delivering Peter's eulogy, David Kiltie said, "Peter had been terminally ill, but nobody was expecting how suddenly he would leave us. It truly was a shock. He bore his illness well over a number of years and loved to get out and about with his wife Senga, creating memories.

"Like all of us, my overwhelming emotion right now is one of deep sadness at losing a very dear friend. Although seriously ill, if you ever asked him how he was, he would say "I'm fine" and then ask how you were."

Peter was born on 30th September 1945 and attended St Joseph's school and church in Kilmarnock. He left school at 14 and over those early he worked with Walker and Templeton, BMK, Scottish Aviation and Wallacetown Engineering. He was also in the Royal Military Police.

Latterly, he was the local "plunky man", or truancy officer, for South Ayrshire Council and finished his working career as a CCTV operator with the Council. After Janet, his first wife, sadly died, Peter decided to move away from Ayr where he had been involved with the Good Shepherd Boys Club which was open to all. After buying a house in Maybole in 1997 his community spirit really flourished.

Peter joined the community council not long after moving to Maybole and over 25 years he held various positions - from chairing committees to becoming Vice-chairman



and Chairman. Peter was able to communicate with people, no matter their status; famous, rich, poor, young and old. It made no difference – he was just Peter.

It is perhaps fitting that Peter's funeral was on the anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns as he was involved with a few Burns events in Maybole. There was "Where it began" in 2007 to celebrate the 250th anniversary of the marriage of William Burnes and Agnes Broun in a church in Maybole. Then there was "The Year of Homecoming" in 2009, to mark the 250th anniversary of the birth of Burns. Peter also led the project Maybole 500 which was a celebration of the 500th anniversary of Maybole being created a Burgh in 1516 and included a wide range of events based on the town's history.

Town twinning had a huge effect on Peter's life. Although not officially involved as an office bearer, it was through twinning that he met Senga and they eventually married.

Peter had many years of involvement with Ayrshire LEADER including representing the organisation as part of a delegation to Talinn, the capital of Estonia, and receiving a standing ovation for his presentation. He was the mainstay of the Carrick Community Councils' Forum for many years. As Chair, he was influential in getting funding for a variety of projects in Carrick. He was also Chair of the Association of South Ayrshire Community Councils and secured the finance to create the South Ayrshire Bruce Trail. Peter loved to see other people recognised for what they did for the community. In turn, he was recognised as well.

He was the 2018 winner of the Matt Dunnachie Award, the modern-day equivalent of the town's Citizen of the Year Award. For all his community work, Peter was given a special award by the community council last year and the inscription on the rose bowl he was given says, "Presented to Peter Mason for his passionate and unwavering service to Maybole and South Ayrshire".



**Peter's life was not an average one. He was a one-off. He called it as he saw it; generous of spirit, passionate, controversial, persevering, committed. He could laugh at himself. Even if he knew he was wrong, he could turn his view round about to be right. He was a special person; Senga and his family have our sympathy and condolences.**

**He will be forever in our thoughts, our prayers and our hearts. As the Scottish poet Thomas Campbell said, "To live in hearts we leave behind, is not to die."**

"Maybole Community Council has lost one of our longest-standing and possibly most passionate members. Peter was very committed and driven to help Maybole achieve all that it could and was certainly a key player in many projects. He will be greatly missed."

**Mark Fletcher**

*Chairman of Maybole Community Council*

"I worked with Peter for many years in many Maybole projects. He was totally dedicated and committed to everything he was involved in and always saw these to a conclusion, as can be seen by his lobbying for Maybole Bypass. His expertise and commitment regarding Maybole will be sadly missed."

**Depute Provost William Grant**

"Peter Mason was a true asset to the community of Maybole and he will be sorely missed. For more than 25 years he played a key role in Maybole Community Council and was instrumental in securing a bypass for the town. He was determined to make a difference and he did just that."

**Provost Helen Moonie**

"Peter was a man of sharp intelligence who cared deeply for his local community. He was never afraid to challenge views or approaches he thought were wrong or overly cautious. But he did so with a kind heart, a warm smile and a generosity of spirit - those were his trademarks. A thoroughly decent man, it was my privilege and pleasure to know him and to learn from him. His is a sad loss indeed but his legacy will hold true in the community he loved and amongst all those who knew him, worked with him and loved him."

**Jeane Freeman MSP**

"Peter was an honest friend and critic in equal measure, very fulsome in his praise if he agreed with your action but equally critical if he didn't. All views delivered with no hint of malice and with 100% honesty, straight to the point with no words wasted. Peter was a huge friend of Maybole and South Ayrshire, always willing to give his time and energy, the local community has lost a great champion and we have lost a loyal friend."

**Councillor Brian Connolly**

"Personally, I will always be grateful to Peter for his advice, direction and guidance offered to me when I became a Councillor. Maybole has lost a real driving force. My regret, is that I didn't have longer to know this true gentleman."

**Councillor Iain Campbell**

"I worked with Peter from 2006 right up to his last few months, Peter knew how to get what he wanted out of the projects he led. But he also cared about the people he was working with. When Peter asked me how I was, it wasn't a platitude – he genuinely wanted to know; and he wanted to know if he could help in any way. I'll miss his advice and his friendship."

**Stuart Lindsay**

"Peter was a true Champion of the People. He campaigned and worked tirelessly for local people and local causes; his legacy will live on for a very long time. He stood up for what he felt was right and let you know if he felt you were wrong. Peter was always there supporting, badgering and provoking debate. I am honoured and privileged to have been able to call him a friend and ally and that is something that I will always cherish".

**Chris Savage**

*Chair of Ayrshire LEADER*

"Over the years he served his Community of Maybole with dignity and pride. He always tried to put forward actions for the benefit of the ordinary citizen. Peter was a straight-talking character who was always willing to lead and to help. Maybole has lost a local champion who really cared a lot for his town whilst Carrick in general has lost a good friend."

**Councillor Alec Clark** *Girvan*

"I'm very sad to know about the death of our good friend Peter. I remember he was joking in telling me during my stay in Maybole he was my taxi driver. I permanently have Peter in my mind and did write e-mails to him especially when you did inform me that he was a little sick. Our communications were always in Spanish, because he told me he wanted it that way. I am upset on Peter leaving us."

**Federico Kauffmann Doig**

*The Peruvian Ambassador to Germany who is now 91 and emailed his condolences*



# Minishant

Minishant Community Council would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their Christmas Lights and Christmas Funday: North Carrick Community Benefit Company for £3,000 towards the Christmas Light project; South Ayrshire Council's Christmas Light Fund for just over £1,000 for Christmas lights; Scott White and his team at Electrical Solutions for getting the lights up in time and going out to switch them on; Minishant Community Council members and Minishant Social and Leisure Group for all the hard work leading up to the day - months of preparation and organising the race night and the Christmas light funday and switch on; all the volunteer helpers from both these groups, you know who you are, the community council appreciates everything you do in your community and thank you so much.



They would add their thanks to all who went along and hope you all had a good time and enjoyed your wee afternoon in the IFE wing at the Funday, and hope you all enjoyed the Christmas lights. They are looking forward to making a bigger event for this year.

*The Race Night raised £1,146 and the Funday just over £300 which will go towards the Christmas light fund for 2020.*

The Minishant Social and Leisure Group has also been successful in securing a further £1,000 towards putting on Minishant's first proper Gala Day in 20 years from the #celebratenationallottery25 grant.



**The proposed date for the gala is 20th June 2020. (TBC)**



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# Straiton

The Burns Supper held in the McCandlish Hall, Straiton, on the 25th January was very much enjoyed by all those who attended.

The MC for the evening was Jim Kirk, who also delivered "The Immortal Memory". David Baird gave "The Toast to the Lassies" and Jean Brittain responded most eloquently. Finlay and Tynam Baird were in fine fettle as they performed the toast to the haggis. Chris Johnston gave a beautiful rendition of a couple of Burns' songs, accompanied most ably by Gerald Bacon and the vote of thanks was given by Sir Patrick Hunter Blair.

*Special mention and thanks to Rita Baird whose idea it was and who did the bulk of the organisation for the occasion.*



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# Dementia Friendly Awareness

Maybole and North Carrick Locality Planning Group are excited that Dementia Friendly Awareness training sessions have now been arranged for the last Tuesday of each month in 2020. The first session was held on Tuesday 28th January and we would like to thank those who attended. The next session will be held on Tuesday 31st March 5.30pm – 6.30pm, at the Carrick Centre. Dementia Awareness Training sessions are FREE and open to any businesses, voluntary and community group throughout North Carrick who are interested in promoting a more inclusive and Dementia Friendly Community.



We are also delighted to announce that The Carrick Centre, Maybole has become the first community establishment in North Carrick to

take part in Dementia Awareness training and become Dementia Friendly.

Photographed receiving their certificate and promotional window stickers (left to right) Jim Baird, Alzheimer Scotland, Jim McDermott and Ellen Hawkes, members of North Carrick Dementia Friendly Community and Carrick Senior Citizens Lunch Club; Jim Stevens (Volunteer Director and Treasurer of the Carrick Centre) and Andrea Hutchison (Centre manager). The Carrick Centre has also been making changes, where appropriate, to assist those living with dementia have a more supported and enjoyable experience when using the facilities. Look out for the North Carrick Dementia Friendly sunflower window sticker the next time you are in.

Any business or community establishments taking part in the Dementia Awareness training sessions will receive a window sticker to display. So keep your eye out for them as they are our way of letting you know that staff have been Dementia Friendly trained.

We invite anyone interested in receiving this training or discussing customised training for your company

to contact Sharron Connolly on [Sharron.connolly@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Sharron.connolly@south-ayrshire.gov.uk) for further information. You can also keep up to date with Dementia Friendly North Carrick via their Facebook page: **Dementia Friendly North Carrick**.

Thanks to our support, the Carrick Listening Service has been able to continue running from Maybole Health Centre with Alex Welsh, registered counsellor, running it. Many of us, at some time or other, will experience difficulty in life for a whole range of reasons and a listening ear could be a helping and therapeutic support, someone you can trust to hear your story. If you feel you may benefit from speaking to Alex at the Listening Service, please call Maybole Health Centre and ask for an appointment.



Please remember if you live in the North Carrick area and are looking for advice and support with your Health & Wellbeing please drop in to Maybole Connect for support and information. Maybole Connect Drop In is open every Wednesday 2pm - 4pm at Maybole Health Centre (car park entrance). You can keep track of any updates for Maybole Connect via Maybole and North Carrick Villages Locality Planning and/or South Ayrshire Connect Facebook pages and local advertising.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the Locality Planning Group they meet on the 3rd Thursday of every month 10am - 12 noon in the Carrick Centre, Maybole. Anyone living, working, studying or volunteering in Maybole & North Carrick villages is welcome.

*Come along and use your voice!*

*Sharron Connolly is leaving her current post and added, "The above are examples of the type of work being carried out at present by your Locality Planning Group. I have been lucky to have been a part of this group for the past year and as I move on I would like to wish them all the very best for the future and thank everyone who has helped and supported me during my time as Community Engagement Officer, it has been greatly appreciated."*

# PIES, PEAS and POETRY

It was a successful night at the McCosh Hall for Pies, Peas and Poetry presented by Rympie Productions.

Over 60 people attended an evening of Poetry and Sang in the Guid Scots Tongue. Local poet Tracy Harvey headed the evening. Tracy has been writing and performing poetry in broad Scots for umpteen years and is the newly appointed Scribe for the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum. She has had poetry published in the Lallans Scots Language Journal and won the Imprint Poetry Award in 2017 with her poem "Lowsin Time". She has self-published "The Missus", an illustrated narrative poem book on events in the life of Jean Armour.



The subject of the evening was "Wummin Trouble" and was directed and produced by Isi Nimmo. Joining her were singer and actor Ken O'Hara who gave a medley of Robert Burns Love Songs and Jolyn Crawford, another local artiste, who also sang and gave a peek into the life of Senga Taylor of Happy Cabs.

A packed house also enjoyed the Pie and Peas provided by KVR and joined in with writing some poetry of their own.



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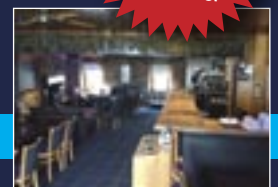
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# Carrick Academy News : Tech We Can!

Stuart Birnie and Sarah Kelly from PriceWaterhouseCooper visited the S3 Admin and IT pupils to introduce the program TechWeCan. The presentation on cyber security focussed on the need for business and personal security across all devices and the new careers found within this field. It is an ever-growing field and no doubt there are jobs not yet invented! Keep your digital literacy skills up to date!

N5 and Higher Business Management pupils received a presentation from Stuart and Sarah about their career journeys. They also provided background information about the company which was very relevant to the curriculum and could provide everyone with real-life examples for exams. Thanks to both Stuart and Sarah for their contributions.

## Rozelle Schools Exhibition

A number of our senior Art students had a selection of work submitted to the Rozelle Schools Exhibition. Katie Bryan and Rebecca Sloan won highly commended awards for their advanced higher work. Katie also scooped the Jack Kilgour award. As well as receiving the prize, Katie's success resulted in the school being awarded £100 for the Art Department.







# Volunteers Needed For Self-Management Programme

## Can you Volunteer to give your time to become a Trained Facilitator?

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There are many people living with long-term conditions that are finding it hard to cope.

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*"The facilitation training was excellent. I now feel confident in supporting people with long term conditions."*

*"It was a friendly, supportive environment and everybody felt relaxed and comfortable."*

*"I have improved my presentation skills, and enjoy helping others."*

*"The 2 day course motivated me to deliver and successfully facilitate a group."*

If interested, please contact:

**Carol Foster on Mobile: 07380 227 383 or**

**Email: carol@vasa.scot**

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## Concert cheques

*L-R: Helen Baskerville, Ayrshire Cancer Support; Jim Stevens, Liz Campbell, South Ayrshire Dementia Association; Hugh Paterson, Tony Riome, Ron Swanson, Ayrshire Hospice.*

Hugh & Friends recently presented cheques for £450 each to three local charities; the proceeds of their Christmas Concert in The Carrick Centre. There was a near capacity audience and everyone enjoyed a "Night of Christmas Music". A very successful raffle and teas added to the funds raised giving a total of over £1,300 for the three charities - Ayrshire Hospice, Ayrshire Cancer Support, and South Ayrshire Dementia Association (SADSA).

Morag McCulloch has been presented with the Matt Dunnachie Award for 2019, although the presentation was not made until after the new year. On Easter Sunday, 2007, a new trophy was presented to Carrick Sports Club in memory of founder member Matt Dunnachie, by his wife May, which the family felt would mark his long association with the club and the community.

The trophy is awarded annually in recognition of service to the community of Maybole in any capacity, and a sub-committee meets annually to decide who merits the trophy. It is the equivalent of the town's Citizen of the Year Award. Morag is a retired primary school teacher and volunteers in many different capacities in the town, especially at the Carrick Centre. The members of the sub-committee felt that would be an appropriate venue for the presentation. The trophy was presented by Margaret Davidson and Bill McCubbin, chair of the sub-committee, presented a framed certificate to mark the award.



## Trophy Winner

*L-r Morag McCulloch, Margaret Davidson, Brian Connolly, Bill McCubbin and John Jamieson*

# Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD)

Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) was marked in Maybole on Monday 27th January with the usual service at the Greenside. Organised by the Maybole branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland, the service was led by Rev Jim Geen who is the branch chaplain.

The theme for HMD 2020 is Stand Together. It explores how genocidal regimes throughout history have deliberately fractured societies by marginalising certain groups, and how these tactics can be challenged by individuals standing together with their neighbours, and speaking out against oppression.

HMD 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz - this is a significant milestone and is made particularly poignant by the dwindling number of survivors who are able to share their testimony. It also marks the 25th anniversary of the Genocide in Bosnia.



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Kirkmichael Gala is being held on **Saturday 23rd May** and it's going to be bigger and better than ever before.

This year, as well as the usual fun, they have lots of new attractions planned for 2020.

# Kirkmichael Gala

As in past years, they will be selling wristbands at £10 giving kids full access to all the rides, all day from 12 noon till 5:00pm. This great value makes it a great affordable day out for the family. This year there will be some of the favourites and lots of new rides including Water Walkers, Bucking Bronco, Gladiator Joust, Demolition Ball, Surf Simulator, Assault Courses and much, much more. They will also have a great under 5s area with Kiddie Castle, Soft Play, Ball Pit, Air Juggler plus lots of other activities to keep those wee ones happy!

The Gala's Star Attraction for 2020 is the spectacular "Stannage International Stunt Team" a Dare Devil cocktail of motorbikes, fire and near-death feats, not for the faint-hearted.

The Stannage Stunt Team have performed thousands of shows all around the world, they hold Guinness World Records and perform some of the most dangerous and spectacular stunts ever seen and are looking forward to performing at Kirkmichael Gala.

Coming back this year is "Galaday Wagathon", a fun dog show for all to enter, then later in the afternoon there is a great dog assault course for you and your pooch to try! Also returning is a big Kirkmichael Gala favourite the "Carrick Capers"; whether you're participating or just watching this is great entertainment and they have lots of new capers planned for this year! The Gala always has a great selection of quality stalls and this year 50

are booked in; no matter what you're looking for you're sure to find it. The 10K run always attracts participants from far and wide, the challenging hill route takes in some of the best views and scenery in Carrick, or for the kids they have a one mile run around the village. In the food

and drink corner you can get a coffee and cake in the tea tent, or a locally-produced burger from the BBQ stall, or relax with a cool beer or sparkling Prosecco from the bar in the Family Entertainment Marquee.



The gala fun continues through the evening and into the night with music, karaoke and bar open till late. No need to go home for tea, a great variety of food will also be available in the evening this year again, from a Sausage Supper to Nachos.

Where else can you get all this entertainment with no charge to get in, Kirkmichael Gala is definitely

**"The Best Wee Day Out in Ayrshire".**



# Nav and Faz invite you to let Priya transport your tastebuds on a journey of discovery

Having worked in local Indian restaurants for over twenty years, Nav and Faz have heard diners lament that they could not get an authentic Indian dining experience in Ayrshire.

Faz had previously worked at Ayr's Rupee Room for over 18 years and set up the Doonfoot based Priya Indian kitchen over a year ago with his business partner Nav, they are ready to welcome their customers with a celebration of Indian flavour and hospitality.

They named the restaurant after Nav's wife who first spotted the building as the ideal location for the pair to share their love of traditional Indian food so they opened Priya Authentic Indian Kitchen.

They invite you to immerse yourself in a mouth-watering experience and awaken your tastebuds with their authentic menu which showcases the very best of India's exotic cuisine.

Set over two floors, the restaurant has space to cater for many customers and has various menus to choose from including Vegan, A la Carte, Takeaway, Kids and a Half Price main course menu so there is something for everyone.

You can view the menus, book a table or place your order online at:

[www.priyakitchen.com](http://www.priyakitchen.com)

With a traditional approach to Indian cooking, Priya's dishes are authentic, not forced Western fusions.



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# 100th Birthday Celebrations

## Mary Barclay (née Reid)

On 22nd January 1920, Mary Barclay (née Reid) was born in Whitehall, Maybole. Mary has lived in Maybole all her life apart from when, aged 19, she joined the Women's Land Army and moved to a farm at Hollybush for a time. In 1949, Mary married the late John Barclay, Mid Brockloch Farm, Maybole, and she is a very special mum to Robert and Janet and niece Janice; Gran to Lorraine, Alistair, John and Heather; Great Gran to Cara, Jack, Cameron, Finlay and Archie, and a special friend to many.

In September 2018, Mary moved from the farm to Fairknowe House Care Home in Maybole where she receives



wonderful care and much love. On 22nd January 2020, Mary was delighted to have the Deputy Lord Lieutenant Nigel Martin visit her on her 100th birthday to present her with the telegram from Her Royal Majesty

the Queen. Deputy Lieutenant Martin asked Mary, "What's your secret to get to the grand age of 100?". In reply Mary said, "Good, honest hard work". Mary along with her family would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to send her wishes and gifts on this special occasion and memorable day.

## Mrs Ann Shearer

Mrs Ann Shearer celebrated her 100th birthday with family and friends at Crosne Street in Maybole.

Previously, William Stafford, Depute Lord Lieutenant, presented Ann with a message from Her Majesty The Queen and Provost Helen Moonie presented her with a basket of flowers.



## Maybole Regeneration Project Appoints New Project lead!

*Duncan Clelland has been appointed as Lead Officer for the Maybole Regeneration Project.*

The multi-million pound five year project is a unique partnership between Maybole Community Council and South Ayrshire Council and will capitalise on the re-routing of the A77 with the new bypass.



Plans include major works to improve buildings on the High Street and significant streetscape works so that it becomes an appealing, safe and enjoyable place for residents, visitors and businesses. The project is already on the ground with renovation and building works at the Speakers at an advanced stage. Duncan, with a background in project management, community Investment and having run his own business, brings a range of experience and skills that will help drive the project forward. He will be based in Maybole, with the initial focus on progressing some of the larger projects like the Sustrans Active Travel project, Castle renovation plans in collaboration with the Cassillis Estate, and working with businesses to improve shop fronts on the High Street.

A project launch event is being planned where residents will be able to become reacquainted with the ambitious regeneration plans and, with a new website and web presence in development, residents and businesses will be kept up to date with progress and the many opportunities and activities that will result during the project.

Keep a look out for news of the launch event and the new web presence, both programmed to happen in early spring. Duncan can be contacted at [Duncan.clelland@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Duncan.clelland@south-ayrshire.gov.uk) or Tel 0300 123 0900



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## Community Link Practitioner ...

Tracey Middleton is a Community Links Practitioner for North Carrick. She is here to help you improve your health and wellbeing through connecting you with activities and services in your area. The Community Links Practitioner will work with you to find groups and services covering a range of needs, topics and interests and can provide support and information on a wide range of issues that can impact on health and well-being. Some of the things they can help link you with:

- Training, volunteering and employment
- Self-management of health
- Money and welfare support
- Local activities and hobby groups
- Housing issues

The community link practitioner does not provide a counselling service but may be able to link you in with a service that may meet your current requirements.

**You can get an appointment with Tracey by asking the reception staff at your GP surgery.**





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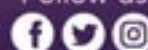
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TWO 4OZ BURGERS STACKED WITH CHEESE  
FRIES, DRESSED BUN & ONION RINGS

TREAT YOUR MUM THIS MOTHERS DAY!



# HAKUNA MTATA

says  
Gordon Caldwell

"Don't step back any further" he called. "Why not?" I replied, posing for a selfie. "That field of sugar cane is full of snakes". This was the helpful advice of Jay Shah on the first day of my visit to Kenya in the summer of 2019.

The first I knew about this life-changing travel opportunity was when emptying my spam emails - "Congratulations on your win!" Hold on, this one has got something to do with Round Table - I had better read on. "Our winner for the Travel Bingo trip to Kenya is no longer able to make the trip, we re-drew from the remaining applicants and you were selected so congratulations!"

A couple of months later I landed in Kisumu airport. Going by the looks I was getting not many other Scotsmen have travelled through this Kenyan equivalent of Prestwick Airport. A slight delay before I was picked up from the airport. Then we're on our way to meet my host for the week. The cattle grazing happily on the side of the motorway don't mind the traffic rushing past. We then overtook a family of four on a motorbike (this was not the most I counted on a two-wheeled vehicle over the week). Sunday morning and the streets were full of colour and bustle and children running between houses. Choral music was booming out of a recently built church. People were looking at me curiously. I start to think, ah this is real Africa!

I was taken to the house of my home host Shreyash. The security gates to the house were closed behind us. The guard dogs greeted me with a wet sniff before they pick up my friendly vibe and then we're pals. I was introduced to Shreyash's lovely parents and grandmother who could not have been friendlier towards me. They have been awaiting my arrival and have prepared breakfast. Chapattis and yoghurt are both home-made and the mango chutney has been produced from the mangoes and lemongrass growing in their garden! As it's a Sunday we then decided to go out for a liquid lunch. The 1999 Isuzu Trooper was no stranger to the pot holes around here and almost drove itself to the Club which rests on the banks of Lake Victoria. As I sipped my first beer I behaved like the tourist I was and took some photos of the hippos swimming by. A few more people arrived and we all just enjoyed the chat and the beer,

and the sun. The strange thing about Round Table is you can travel thousands of miles and meet people that you feel you already know. That was just the first day...

Next up, five of us hopped on a minibus and drove up through the Highlands to get to the amazing Maasai Mara. Here I will spend the next three days on safari with a Kenyan, a German and two Indians. Like me, these guys are Round Tablers and were all being hosted by Round Table Equator for the week of their regional AGM. Our tour guide Rashid treated us to the most stunning scenes and experiences across this vast landscape. We saw all of the Big 5, spotted a Rhino and her calf, encountered a deadly Green Mamba snake and briefly crossed over into Tanzania where the Serengeti meets the Mara. In the evening we watched the Maasai warriors who came to show us their traditional dance. Encouraged to join them, I am glad my dad-dancing was not recorded!

The journey back to Kisumu was much quieter as we all reflected on a breathtaking few days of seeing our very own "Big Cat Diary" and doing it in the fellowship of Round Table. We stopped along the route to stretch our legs and were immediately ambushed by 50 or so smartly dressed children who had just got out for their lunch break. It was a magical five minutes of watching them watching us! No words were exchanged but plenty was said between us all. A few more police check points on the way back and when we reached Kisumu I met a guy from Irvine...

More people from South Africa had arrived by the end of the week, amongst them David Costine. He was born in Irvine and had moved to South Africa as a child and joined Round Table in his hometown of Johannesburg. After the formalities took place I was getting homesick and ready to retire early that night. David had other ideas. As the chat and the beers got flowing we were reminiscing till the wee small hours about going swimming at the Magnum when we were weans, probably around the same time. It was a great way to end the trip of a lifetime.

2019 was a busy year for Carrick, some of the highlights have been the Sommerville Sports festival at the Glebe, albeit a bit wet on the day. We were also asked by Gordon Ross to assist with his fundraising for the Knockbrake Railroad weekend in Crosshill. A brilliant weekend topped off with being able to hand over cheques for £1,000 each to Whiteleys Retreat and MND Scotland. In August three of us set off for the National Sporting Weekend in Aberdeen. Some cross-country, swimming, and a few games of football later we came home wondering which will be cured first - the muscle pain or the hangover.

And of course Santa's sleigh – the highlight of the Round Table year. Thanks to funding from NCCBC our sleigh has had a massive overhaul in the past three years. She is now the pride of the Table and with some expert craftsmanship from members Donald and Gordon will surely outlive all of us!

I only have a few more years of Tabling left as I will “age out” at 45. As I reflect on the happy memories I have made and lifelong friends I have met I wonder what my life would have been like if I hadn't given it a go. We have welcomed three new members to our Table this year – Scott Simpson, Andrew Girvan, and Rab Moffatt. The thing that brings us together is the friendship we share and the prize of being able to make a difference in our local communities. In addition to our regular fundraising for local community causes we have recently started a Carrick Round Table Travel Fund. This will allow us every year to sponsor at least one of our members towards a trip of their choice to meet other guys from other Round Tables across the UK, Europe or further afield. An opportunity for members to make memories and friendships like I was lucky enough to do in Kenya.

The great thing about Round Table is that members can get involved in as much or as little as they like. Some of our members love the sleigh and only do that, others prefer the National events and go to all of them. I just hope that more people like you will, like me, Discover Round Table!

***Carrick Round Table is a young men's organisation open to anyone aged 18-45. Get in touch through our Facebook page.***





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 We look forward to welcoming you!



# Gardenrose Primary Burns Supper

*Gardenrose Primary 6 and 7 pupils put on a wonderful Burns Supper recently.*

Head Teacher Louise Morrison said afterwards, "Wow! A massive well done to all of Primary 6 & 7 who put on a fantastic Burns Supper. The effort and work that was put into planning, preparing, decorating and performing at our Burns Supper was amazing. P6 & 7 you all did yourselves and the school so proud – WELL DONE!!"

Andrew Fulton piped in the special guests prior to the welcome from Finlay Baird and Eva Pike who were chairpersons for the afternoon.

The Address tae the Haggis was given by Isla Gardiner, Neve Watson, Finlay Baird

*After the traditional meal the programme was:*

Some Hae Meat - Primary 6 & 7 choir

Scottish Dancing - Erin Caldwell, Aimee McDermott, Katie-Jo Malone and Hannah Briggs

The Immortal Memory - Lauren Jardine, Maisie Harper and Francesca Salotti

Leezie Lindsay - Primary 6 choir

Tam O' Shanter - Aimee McDermot, Erin Caldwell, Emme Campbell

Toast tae the lassies - Connor Watson, Ben Smylie and John Dunlop

Red, Red Rose/The Airs - Primary 7

Reply fae the Lassies - Isla Gardiner, Neve Watson and Eva Dalton.

Mrs Morrison gave a very comprehensive Vote of Thanks to everyone who had taken part or helped in any way and then it was time for Auld Lang Syne.





# Maidens

## Caring Cara is a Maidens Superstar

For her ninth birthday in December, Cara Logan asked family and friends to donate money to the West FM Cash for Kids Mission Christmas appeal rather than giving her birthday presents. This selfless act by the P4 pupil raised £275 for children less fortunate than her and ensured that many received gifts at Christmas that they would not otherwise have had. Cara, you are truly an inspiration to our whole school community and we are so proud of your desire to help others!



## Super Sophie Supports Macmillan

Having sadly lost her gran to cancer, Sophie Coburn and her family and friends decided to have a collection for Macmillan Cancer Support. A grand total of £530.44 was raised to support others living with cancer. This is such a typical gesture from Sophie who always thinks of others and continually demonstrates our school values of being kind and caring.



## Intergenerational Tribute to the Bard

Maidens Primary 7 pupils Eva Lawrie, Jacob Booth and Luci Leck were an integral part of the Friends of Malin 24th annual Burns Supper recently. The evening was a huge success with our pupils delivering the Address to the Haggis which has become a key feature of the supper. The audience thoroughly enjoyed their performance and commented on how well they represented their school.



Piper Liam Rodgers with (left to right) Eva Lawrie, Jacob Booth and Luci Leck

## Maybole archers have excelled in the Scottish Barebow and Longbow Indoor Championships and Scottish Disabled Championship hosted by Ayr Archery Club.




Local club members performed admirably with Bennett Ward securing gold in the Visibly Impaired Recurve Category and James Fletcher winning gold in the under 12s Barebow category.

The club also entered all its young archers in the Archery GB UK-wide November challenge. Scores from all across the UK are entered by post and James Fletcher, who shot two bow styles at that time, secured 6th position with his Barebow and 14th with his Recurve Bow in the under 12s category.

Archery is a great sport for families. How many parents and grandparents are simply taxis for their children and then have to sit waiting or go back after the club to collect them. With archery you simply join and take part together. There are lots of styles of bows and lots of different strengths to suit everyone.


Of course, arrows aren't like boomerangs (luckily) so you do have to fetch them back, but that's a gentle stroll and a bit of chat with the people you're shooting with. If interested, you can contact the club through the contact page on its web site or check them out on Facebook.




## BUTCHERS

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# All's Well at the Speakers

**The regeneration of the building in Maybole known as The Speakers has been part-funded by £50,000 from North Carrick Community Benefit Company which is funded by ScottishPower Renewables. This amounts to just over 3% of the total of £1.6 million needed for the project.**

It is the largest project that NCCBC has helped to support and shows the levels of match-funding that can be gained with some hard work; making the funds that the company has go so much further.

The importance of this project is much wider-reaching than a single building and, thanks to its success in securing all the funding required, it also helped in securing the £6 million that will go into the wider Maybole regeneration project which effectively has now started with this building.

The entire Regen Project is a jigsaw of funding and different aspects of work including key buildings, new shop fronts, better roads and paths etc. The wider regeneration has been a partnership of the community council and South Ayrshire Council and they thank everyone involved for their support.

Up to this point, the work at The Speakers has been mainly based around demolition and take-downs with some elements starting to go back together. The nature of taking on an older style building is all the unknowns. Over the last three years, Carrick Community Leisure Group, who own the building, carried out as many surveys as was possible in a fully operational building.

Securing all the funding of £1.6 million was no easy task in itself and CCLG employed a team of architects and surveyors to redesign the building for future uses, assess the problems and value the works.

Gillian Lockyer (architect) for Studio 42 has put the team together which include, NBM Quantity Surveyors; Design Engineering, who are the structural engineers, and Atelier Ten who provide Mechanical and Electrical design.



Lochlie Construction are the main contractor and are already employing some local trades with three Maybole residents working on site in various roles. J B Black were the appointed demolition team and were on site for the first six weeks. Many of the suppliers are Ayrshire-based and the staff on the site are using local stores for their personal snacks etc. with one of them saying that he had the best lasagne he has ever eaten from one of the local cafés.

Within the surveys, dry and wet rot was found in most areas of the building. It was impossible to ascertain the levels of the problems, so it was assumed and costed for as being a high-risk factor. Over the past two months, Lochlie Construction have been stripping the building back to the shell, demolishing

areas for extensions etc and have now been able to fully assess the building.

The levels of timber rot and sandstone decay is best described as significant and has resulted in some entire floor areas being condemned as they are irreparable. Roof joist and truss ends are as expected and will be replaced and the roof in its entirety is being stripped, elements of sarkin replaced and all fully re-covered. Most of the sandstone lintels above the windows have crumbled to dust as windows were removed and again all will be replaced. All walls have been stripped back to stone, ceilings removed and floors lifted so not an ounce of rot or any other issues will be left.

A lot of the work and materials that will go into this building will never be seen again in our lifetimes so CCLG feel it's important that people know the depths of work being undertaken to secure this building for the future. All plumbing and wiring have been removed so they are literally starting anew with just the walls remaining.

The building will have a lift to the first floor, accessible toilets and the different use of the spaces will allow for much more community use as well as the commercial aspects of café, bars, function rooms that will be suitable for weddings, parties and celebrations of all types. The business aspects are crucial to the sustainability of the venture and with the support of the community CCLG will be able to offer spaces for community-led activity. The two things work hand in hand and rely on each other. The building will be as it was before it closed, open to everyone without any requirements for membership and this is fundamentally important going forward.

Mark Fletcher, chair of CCLG, told us, *"The building will operate under a new name and, whilst we recognise that to a good number it will always be The Speakers or The Club, a new wave of people using the building alongside existing users will begin to recognise the new brand."*

*"Our thanks to all of the funders as this has only been made possible by grants from National Lottery, The Robertson Trust, SAWET, EB Scotland, NCCBC, Garfield Weston, HES, HLF and Ayrshire Leader's rural fund."*

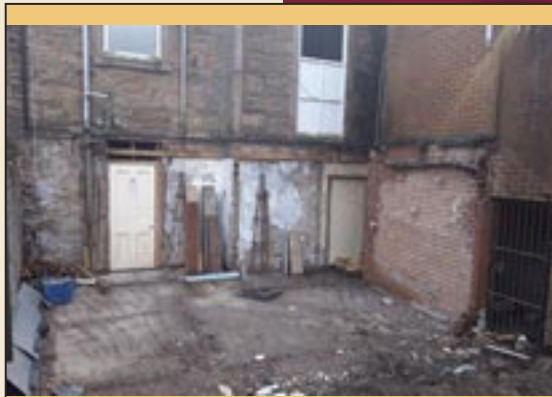
*"With continuing support from the National Lottery for the first two years of operation and some match-funding, we will be in a position to employ some staff to operate all that is in the building. Whilst the majority of those positions won't come into effect until we re-open later in the summer, we are going to be taking expressions of interest for positions with the CCLG."*

*"The posts will include a centre manager, development person, cooks, front of house staff and general assistants for operating the building. There will also be lots of opportunity for volunteering, both in the operation of the building and with community-led activity. If you have any interest in any of this please contact us by email at: Cclg5214@ gmail.com and attach a CV."*

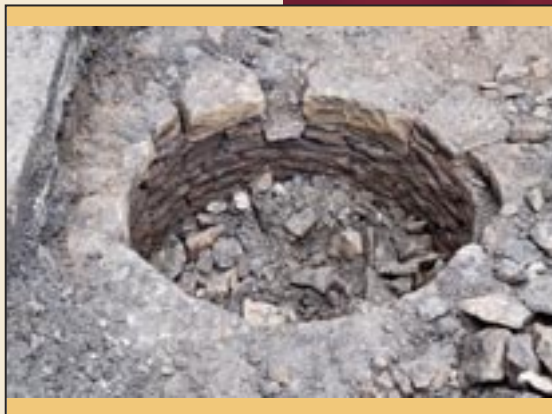
A statement from the National Lottery Community Fund's Scotland director, Neil Reitch said *"I am delighted that the CCLG has secured a grant from the National Lottery Community Fund. This award will*

*make a real difference where it is needed most and I wish the CCLG every success delivering a great project for their community."*

Mark continued, *"We are also taking enquiries for parties and functions as well as from community groups and businesses that may want to use our spaces. Enquiries can be sent to the same email address and we will respond accordingly."*



*"Just quickly back to the title 'All's WELL at the Speakers'. At some point, probably in the early 70s, an extension was put at the back of the building to accommodate toilets for downstairs. That building had completely rotted away, and its new use is to be a garden room."*



*"The demolition began and when the concrete slab was examined it was not fit to be built back on top of, so it was broken up to be replaced. On lifting the slab, a well was discovered. As there may have been an historic interest in this, Historic Environment Scotland were contacted who guided us to our own planning department in Ayr and then onto West of*

*Scotland Archaeology Services who monitor and advise on these issues."*

*"The result is these wells are dotted all over the area and it's noted 'that in the local and regional context, it is unlikely to be exceptional either in date or purpose'. Therefore, we have to take as many measurements as possible, measure and map its position in relation to buildings and GPS map it for future reference with WOSAS."*

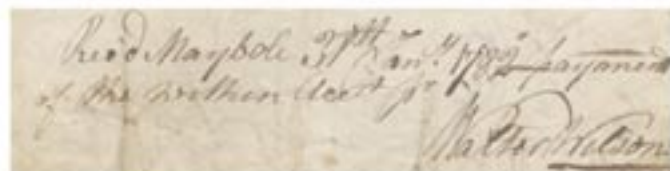
*"We then have to refill the structure with a sterilised granular material, cover the entire structure with a membrane so no new concrete can adhere to the original stone work and then we will cover it back over. It is photographed and these images will be kept. It was very fortunate, as it had not been previously recorded, that our diggers didn't do unnecessary damage. As we say all's well."*





# The Merchants of Maybole: suppliers to the gentry

Robert Burns's 'chapmen billies' were once a ubiquitous part of town and country life. These roving hawkers had an extra attraction over the static town shopkeeper. They were sources of kintra clatter (news and gossip) in the days when few travelled beyond their immediate locality. But they were limited to what they could carry.



Signature of Walter Wilson, merchant in Maybole, 1782

In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century the goods one could buy in Maybole's High Street were surprisingly varied - brandy and wines from France, rum, spices, sugar, citrus fruits and tobacco from the Caribbean and the southern States of America, silks from England, iron from Canada and textiles from Ireland and Wales. Add to that a variety of local goods such as candles, clay pipes, coarse linens and ale (traditionally women were the brewers) which leaves us wondering how much space was needed to store and manage such wide-ranging stock.

Security was a problem as shown in the nefarious activities of Jon and George Kennedy, who had been "guilty of robberies in many parts of the kingdom, especially in the bailleries of Carrick, Kyle and Renfrew". This nasty pair, half-brothers on the father's side to Hew Kennedy of Garrihorn, caused great offence by breaking into a Maybole shop on a Sabbath night in the mid-1660s and removed a great part of the stock. The following day the merchant, John McMillan, younger, pursued the thieves and recovered some of his goods. The pair were arrested and jailed but they escaped to continue on their rampages.

In the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century merchants were specialising, for example, in groceries or textiles but could still offer unrelated items like Walter Wilson supplying lead shot to Robina Kennedy, Lady Kirkmichael, in February, 1781.



Gilbert Goudie waited over a year to have his account paid

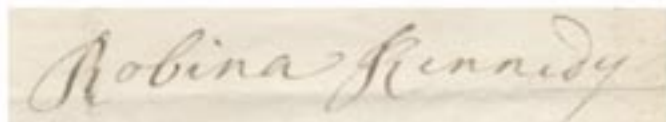
Both Goudie and Wilson were supplying fabrics for dressmaking, bedding and other domestic needs. It was common for people to make clothes for their family and estate workers were sometimes given clothes and shoes as part of their wages.

Wilson's account includes 'Russian Drab' - a coarse, unbleached, hemp fabric. Another item is corded dimity, a lightweight, sheer cotton commonly used for bed upholstery and curtains. Also in his bill is muslin, combed wool, gauze, printed cotton, a boy's hat, hair pins and lead shot!

In the above account Goudie provided Lady Kirkmichael with silk and black sateen as well as utilitarian items - soap and a hearth brush.

However, for sheer variety, who could beat Thomas McMurtrie in 1728? Kirkmichael's servants shopped with him for hair powder, soap, candles, spoons, oil, sugar, salt, vinegar, herring, nutmeg, butter, tobacco, brandy, shoes, buttons, scythes, nails, sprigs, tar, rope and Champlain iron. That last item might have come from a small town in Nova Scotia which imported Scottish coal (perhaps from Ayr or Irvine) in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century.

Signature of Lady Kirkmichael (pron. Kirkmichell)



Images: © James Brown



About the author:

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





## TEAM-BUILDING DAY



On Wednesday 8th January, Class 2 of Crosshill Primary School enjoyed a fantastic Team-Building Day at Dolphin House. The pupils developed their personal skills and positive attitudes through a variety of exciting and challenging outdoor activities.



At Crosshill WI's December meeting, President Mrs Young welcomed members old and new to a "hands-on" crafts and cookery night. Mrs McQuaker demonstrated how to make truffles, then everyone had a go at making a festive table-centre and a hand-painted Christmas card.

The first meeting of the new year was held on 14th January in the Community Centre and "Birding On The Edge" was the title of the much-appreciated illustrated talk given by Angus Hogg when members met at the earlier-than-usual time of 1.30pm in the Community Centre.

Covering an area of Scotland's north-west from South Uist to Lewis, the photography throughout was outstanding, as was Angus's impressive

knowledge of the birds to be found in the remote Western Isles of Scotland. Both native and migratory species were shown in a wonderful collection of slides, with Angus describing the habitat, nesting, feeding and breeding of each. Discussing the journeys of migratory birds, some flying 3,000 miles across the ocean without a stop, and delighted to be sharing his wealth of knowledge with an interested audience, Angus had the audience spell-bound from start to finish.

At the conclusion of the slide-show, Angus received many questions and comments, with the members showing a keen interest in protecting and preserving the wildlife we are so fortunate to enjoy.

CROSSHILL WI



### Community Group Pushing for "The Culzean Way"

A local community group has a great aspiration - the development of a safe, attractive and traffic-free, all-abilities walking and cycling path linking Ayr to Girvan with Culzean Castle and Country Park as its centrepiece. For further details of The Culzean Way visit: [www.theculzeanway.org.uk](http://www.theculzeanway.org.uk)

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# Happy Birthday to South Ayrshire Life!



Award-winning community information service South Ayrshire Life is celebrating its third anniversary.

That's three years of helping local people connect to social groups and activities as well as signposting them to advice and support when they need it. South Ayrshire Life picked up the Self Management Resource of the Year award at the Scottish Parliament in October.

The national award scheme, organised by the Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland, recognises organisations which are leading the way in helping people manage their own health and wellbeing and putting them in control when it comes to improving their lives. South Ayrshire Life is your one-stop-shop for information on everything that's going on in communities throughout the area.

From coffee mornings to craft clubs, mindfulness to money advice, there's something for everyone on the South Ayrshire Life website. It's packed with details of more than 1,600 activities, events and support services.

But you don't have to be on the internet to tap into South Ayrshire Life – there's a free telephone number to call and find out about activities and help services near you.

South Ayrshire Life also has a community information centre at 57 Newmarket Street, Ayr, which is home to a whole range of regular drop-in sessions. The door is open for help and advice on a host of issues from housing problems to mental health, with no need for an appointment.

***The team are out and about in North Carrick too! You can drop in and speak to someone from South Ayrshire Life at:***

- **The Carrick Centre** on the FIRST Monday of the month, 11am to 1pm
- **Straiton Village Hall** on the SECOND Monday of the month, 11am to 1pm
- **Maybole Library** on the SECOND Monday of the month, 2pm to 4pm
- **Maybole Connect** at the Health Centre (rear car park entrance) on the SECOND and FOURTH Wednesdays of the month, 2pm to 4pm

To find out more about South Ayrshire Life, please visit: **[www.southayrshirelife.org](http://www.southayrshirelife.org)**, or call Freephone **0800 432 0510**.



## Spelling Bee

Pupils, parents and supporters of St Cuthbert's Primary School held a 'Spelling Bee' afternoon, recently, to raise much needed funds for two amazing Military Charities - The Army Widows' Association and Scotty's Little Soldiers. They would like to thank all those who supported this fundraiser.

# Cairn Primary

## Burns Supper

P6/7 hosted an amazing Burns supper this year. There was a piper in attendance to welcome the parents and pupils and pipe them into the hall. The children then served the traditional meal and entertained their families and invited guests with Burns poetry and Scots songs.



They created their own 'Toast to the Lassies' and 'Toast to the Laddies' and some of the girls provided entertainment with their Highland Fling. Our musicians finished the afternoon with a rendition of 'Auld Lang Syne' where all parents, pupils and staff joined together to finish the celebrations.

## Scots Celebration Afternoon

The whole school came together for a Scottish celebration. Talented parent Liam Rodgers piped the whole school round our 'Daily Mile' and all families were entertained with songs



and dancing. The fantastic poetry winners from each class performed their winning poems and primary 7 gave us an entertaining rendition of their own 'Toast to the Laddies and Lassies'. Well done to all who took part.

## Sporting Success

Twelve talented gymnasts from Cairn Primary attended the Citadel for the South Ayrshire competition. We were thrilled to have great support from a parent helper who assisted us with our training and enabled us to complete our routines. All pupils performed their routines beautifully and had a great day out. We were delighted that our senior team placed 6th overall and our infant team came 2nd. Our infant team will now travel to Perth to represent South Ayrshire in the Scottish Schools Gymnastic Final. Well done!



## Mental Health Week

A few weeks ago Cairn primary participated in Mental Health week. The theme of the week was 'being brave' and that are many different ways to show 'bravery'. Pupils took part in pilates, bootcamps and mindfulness. We also worked hard on our 'Say it Out Loud' mental health charter, which we hope to achieve this session.



## St Cuthbert's Safety

Staff and pupils at St Cuthbert's Primary School enjoyed a Safety Presentation from Wills Bros relating to the building of the new Maybole ByPass.

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# Fisherton Primary

## THE WONDER OF THE STARS

Our Christmas show 'The Wonder Of The Stars' was WONDERFUL - We are utterly humbled by the generosity of the community and delighted by all our little stars. Fisherton church was the perfect setting for our Christmas celebration .... what amazing day and evening performances.



## Road Safety Week

Our Junior Road Safety Officers enjoyed carrying out speed gun tests during road safety week with the help of PC McKinley.



## Giant Lanterns

P7 enjoyed a trip to see the giant lanterns in Edinburgh zoo.



## Rights Respecting School



Our amazing Rights Respecting Steering Committee did a fantastic job presenting what they have learned about the conflict between Israel and Palestine and its impact on 'The Tyre School'. <https://www.unrwa.org/newsroom/features/rubber-tyre-school>



## CELEBRATING BURNS AND SCOTTISH CULTURE

All pupils took part in our annual Scots Poetry competition. We'd like to thank Alex Kelly, Jean McGinn and Elspeth Carter for volunteering their time to be our panel of judges for the event. Our pupils delivered fantastic poems and speeches at our 2020 Burns Supper. We enjoyed welcoming family members and having our panel of poetry judges at the top table.





It's now two years since we gained Wellbeing Across the Ages Project

funding for the Health & through PAR2.



Layla

# Moving into 2020 with Health & Well Being

Our purpose was to:

- Develop, encourage and support health and wellbeing among individuals using the centre
- Support existing stand-alone groups – Early Years, Carrick Tots, Carrick Sensory and The Carrick Senior Citizens Lunch Club
- Provide a bank of equipment (Screens, matting, chairs etc.) LW2 Mindfulness Training. Relaxation and Timeout Areas for all groups aiding their development and sustainability.
- Provide support and collaboration between groups, benefiting the people of Maybole and surrounding villages bringing communities together.



Supple & Sleek



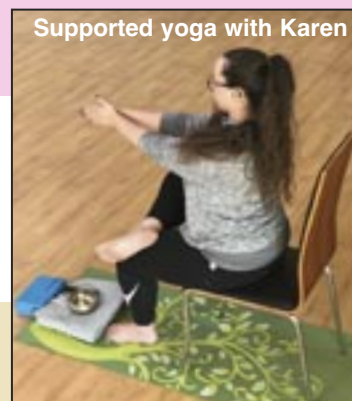
Relaxation with a difference

Exercise classes were available at the centre, but the project aim was to create awareness and encourage individuals to embrace exercise and wellbeing at any age.

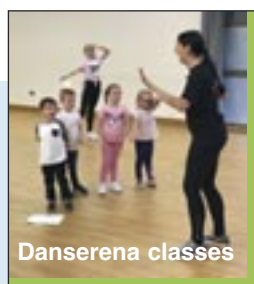
**MINDFULNESS** – We now have a drop in on the first Monday of each month giving individuals the support to develop skills as well as an opportunity to practise techniques to become calmer and more at ease. In addition they are currently running another eight week course for adults, Alistair and Zana offer a friendly and welcoming environment. Life brings challenges to all ages and they can benefit from Mindfulness.

**YOGA FOR SENIORS** – Karen Steven now has a full class on a Monday morning from 11.45am until 12.45pm. The participation within these classes helps to maintain muscle softness and flexibility, keeps the mind alert, encourages relaxation and strengthens muscles and joints. Its versatile approach can encourage the body, mind and spirit to remain healthy and strong while reducing many age-related issues.

**YOGA FOR CHILDREN** – Not only do the children and carers have fun, yoga can provide a wealth of other benefits. Yoga encourages the creation of new neural pathways and connections between both hemispheres of the brain. It reaches the parts other activities cannot reach. Meditation improves concentration and memory skill. Qualities that become lifelong skills.



Supported yoga with Karen



Danserena classes

February saw the start of **SOUND BATH** – complementary and holistic healing. To find out more come along on a Monday at 1pm or contact via Facebook "abreathofreshayr" with Anya.

Dementia is a word on everyone's lips, the illness touches us all in different areas of our lives. We are all still learning and being guided on how to cope as both carers and individuals suffering. Support is there, but we could do more to improve and assist in our continued good health as we age. Relaxation, exercise, mindfulness, yoga and healthy living is the way forward. Our support groups allow us discussion and provide ideas and guides as to the services we can provide in the future.

We have something for everyone Monday to Friday.  
**T'AI CHI, PILATES, YOGA, DANCE, MUSICAL THEATRE, TAI KWON DO, CRAFTS, BOOK CLUB** there is so much going on for young and old.

Check out our website, or pop in to get an update on what we have to offer. Take time out in our café, enjoy a coffee and home baking or one of our tasty savoury dishes.  
Contact us on **01655 883222** • [www.carrickcentre.co.uk](http://www.carrickcentre.co.uk)





*They had a great time-  
oh yes they did!*



Pupils from P7 in Maybole's schools were invited to take part in a very professional production of Snow White in December.

The Carrick Centre, in partnership with South Ayrshire Council Community Learning and Development and local schools, worked with professional actors from Moxie Events to put on the knockout performance.

The project spanned over eight weeks and was funded by Maybole and North Carrick Health and Social Care Locality Planning Group, STV Children's Appeal and South Ayrshire Council Cultural Planning.

Over 600 people got to see the show over three performances. One young person from Carrick Academy was involved in volunteering with the project and was able to develop their

leadership skills and gain a Saltire Award for their involvement.

There wasn't a single negative comment after the show with many of the school and community audience commenting on how brilliant it had been. The pupils themselves appeared to thrive in delivering their talents and skills to their peers. The young people have all submitted Youth Scotland Dynamic Youth Awards and are waiting for the arrival of their certificates.

*"It was great fun - I made friends from other schools."* said Findlay Baird 11

Neve Watson added  
*"I loved every minute of this experience!"*

Councillor William Grant said,  
*"A great time was had by all!"*



# Gardenrose Primary School Nativity P1-3



P1-3 performed the Strictly-themed Nativity 'Lights Camel Action 2' to family and friends. A fantastic effort from all of our pupils as they re-enacted the story of Christmas with a glitzy ballroom twist. We are very proud of our pupils at Gardenrose for putting on a FAB-U-LOUS performance once again! It's a ten out of ten from us!



## Christmas Tree Festival

Crosshill Parish Church held its Christmas Tree Festival recently with Depute Provost William Grant attending. Everyone was invited to go along and see the trees, decorated by local groups, in the church windows and to see the work of local crafters. The winning tree was decorated by Crosshill Rural.





# Breakfast with Santa

It was Christmas time and Santa was about; he took time out to join he folks at The Carrick Centre for a wee bacon roll, cup of tea and one of Morag's mince pies. The children were delighted to be able to make a Christmas wish and Santa gave them a present, too. It was a lovely morning with an added bonus of Lorna @facepaintparties.com who went along and one or two of the parents joined in the fun as you can see.





# Carrick Sensory



Mickey and Minnie, The Mascots, Baby Shark and a Limbo meant it was absolutely non-stop fun for everyone who went along to Sensory Santa at The Carrick Centre in December.

It was the third year that Carrick Sensory had run

this event; an opportunity for children with additional support needs, their brothers and sisters, mums and dads and, of course, grans and grandpas to join in the festive fun. Santa was there throughout the afternoon and the children just popped in and out when free. It was wonderful to see the smiles as the children danced to the music, joined in the games or just played with the ice blocks.

Carrick Sensory would like to thank volunteers Cristina, Lyndsay, Helen and Jen; Santa who took time out of his busy day and the team at The Carrick Centre who continue to support the group. If you want to learn more about the group, check out its Facebook page and drop them a message [carricksensory@carrickcentre.co.uk](mailto:carricksensory@carrickcentre.co.uk)





# Maybole's Christmas Lights

Maybole's Christmas Lights were switched on at the Town Hall by Provost Helen Moonie and Kerr Stevenson who is the current Gala King of Carrick. The provost thanked local volunteers for organising the event and then led the countdown to the switch on. Before the big switch on, there had been entertainment by Gardenrose Primary, Maybole Majorettes, St Cuthbert's Primary and singer Emily Best before Maybole Pipe Band led Santa's sleigh up the High Street. After the switch on, there was a disco for primary school pupils followed by a night of live music. The organisers would like to thank Provost Moonie and everyone else who helped out – especially Santa!

*The bands/singers were: Becca Sloan, Stereo Fire, Switchboard Heart, Catching Fireflies.*







Photos on this page were courtesy of The Ayrshire Post.





## Carrick Seniors' Lunch Club held its annual Christmas lunch in the Carrick Centre at the beginning of December.

The committee was delighted to see their usual guests and some new ones to help them celebrate the Christmas season. Christmas lunch is a very special time and there were all the usual festive ingredients and entertainment - soup, sausage rolls, mince pies, Christmas cakes and sweets, so no one left feeling peckish. There was also the traditional visit from Santa himself, and entertainment provided by Cairn Primary School choir's carol repertoire.

The Seniors' Lunch Club takes place every first Friday of the month, with the exception of January. Anyone over 60 can go along, no previous booking is required. Free transport can be arranged if required by leaving your details with the Carrick Centre. The lunch costs £3 per person.



## St Cuthbert's Primary



Junior pupils at St Cuthbert's Primary presented their version of "The Nativity". Senior pupils presented "Robin and the Sherwood Hoodies"; a toe-tickling tale of tights, fights and footlights.



## Gardenrose Primary's Early Years Centre's Nativity show this year



The show centred on a lovable shepherd who just couldn't keep awake. Would he miss out on the big adventure? You really had to be there to find out!



## NANA NORMA'S NIPPERS



Nana Norma's Nippers playgroup held its Christmas Party just before the holidays. Norma would like to say a special "thank you" to Brian Connolly for the selection boxes and Paul Skilling from the Co-op for the contribution to the party food and thanks everyone for going.



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

**david.kiltie@talktalk.net**

## Advertising Opportunities

This newsletter has been created for the local community and we want our readers to use this as a way of keeping up to date with what is going on in and around your area. Should you wish to advertise within the next edition please contact Shona McMahon at Evolution Designs Ltd: [evolutiondesigns@sky.com](mailto:evolutiondesigns@sky.com) or call 07753 111 038.

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With the staggering number of bank closures and the lack of local financial advice services available, Lang Financial feel very strongly about engaging with our local community. Nearly 6,000 local branches have closed across the UK since 2010 and Scotland has been hit harder than most areas with the number of branches falling by around a third.

**Lang Financial is a firm of expert, independent financial advisors, established in 1999.**

At Lang Financial we provide a bespoke financial advice service at our offices in Wellington Square, Ayr or in the comfort of your own home. Our advice is truly independent as we are not tied or restricted to any companies.

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.

Please feel free to contact us to discuss your financial circumstances at **[enquiries@langfinancial.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@langfinancial.co.uk)** or alternatively call us on **01292 282116**.

Expert advice on pensions, investments and retirement that helps you plan a financial strategy for your business, family and future.

