Primary 7 pupils enjoy an action packed Summer
The ‘Newsletters’ section is where there will be copies of all of the North Carrick Community Newsletters (past and present). This will be useful for people who like to read things on screen or who want to send electronic copies to friends.

www.nccbc.org.uk

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 fourteenth 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

Design and advertising: Shona McMahon @ Evolution Designs Ltd. Email: evolutiondesigns@sky.com

Project development and funding: Stuart Lindsay at: stuart.northcarrick@gmail.com Tel: 07977 115974

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

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 meeting: 10th November 2021

Application for funding must be received three weeks prior to this date.

View ALL newsletters online

NCCBC

Working together to fund the future of North Carrick

Made possible by ScottishPower Renewables

North Carrick Community Newsletter

Download the Newsletter at: www.maybole.org or www.nccbc.org.uk

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The branch was formed on 28th June, 1921, a few days after Field Marshall Lord Haig was at Culzean on a visit to the Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire, The Marquess of Ailsa, to discuss setting up the British Legion and a public meeting was arranged in Maybole Coffee House on June 28. The branch claims this makes it the oldest branch in the United Kingdom.

The centenary ceremony was a sharp contrast to the 90th birthday celebrations due to Covid restrictions but members were keen to mark the historic occasion.

Attending the service were Col JD Hamilton (ret); Sharon Dowey MSP; Cllr Iain Campbell; Sgt S Woodley, Police Scotland; Watch Commander K Mc Dermott, Scottish Fire & Rescue; Squadron Leader B Wilson and Warrant Officer I Wilson, representing 1371 Girvan Squadron Air Training Corps; Sgt Major G Wakelam, representing Gulf War Veterans; Rev J Geen, Branch Chaplain; Pipe Major G Nicol, Maybole Pipe Band; and members of Maybole Branch Royal British Legion Scotland.

Pipe Major Nicol led a short parade from the Carrick Centre to the Greenside where Rev Geen welcomed everyone, saying, “The RBL remains as important and necessary as when it came into being 100 years ago. Our armed forces continue to serve in areas of conflict. Those who suffer injury and the families of those who make the ultimate sacrifice rely upon the RBL for much of the support and help they need.”

He also recounted the history of the events leading up to the forming of the branch before wreaths were laid at the sculptures created by three SAS International apprentices to mark the end of World War 1 in 1918.
St Cuthbert’s Primary had an amazing ‘Summer Holiday’ theme day to mark the end of a challenging year!

P1/2/3 Class had a great outdoor learning experience at the Little Acorns, Forest School, Auchincruive.
Maidens has recently been awarded Scotland’s beach award 2021. Local villagers are recognised for keeping Maidens Beach clean and beautiful.

Maidens Primary has also recently taken part in the Big Blue Ocean Cleanup which is an international non-profit foundation that is cleaning the world’s oceans.

Their ambassador network runs coastal cleanups all over the world and Big Blue Ocean Cleanup teams support and enhance ocean learning in hundreds of schools each year. Big Blue Ocean Cleanup educates and raises awareness about the importance of clean and healthy oceans for sustaining life on earth.
Green-fingered volunteers celebrated turning an old car park into a community garden with a tea party.

Guests at the open day of the Carrick Community Food Garden were treated to tea, home baked cakes, a tour of the garden and samples of the vegetables grown to take home and cook.

Thanking the guests, many of whom had donated plants and help, chair Simon Bloomfield said, “We wanted to show the supporters of the project how far we have come and to recognise the efforts people have made in difficult circumstances.”

He said the site, on land belonging to Our Lady and St Cuthbert’s Church in Maybole, had been cleared last year starting in August from being an overgrown jungle as an unused car park. It had been completely transformed and now has five raised beds, a fruit cage, small orchard with plans for a quiet corner, a pond and wildflower meadow.

Guests came away with yellow courgettes, broccoli and admired the leeks, carrots, peppers, spinach, potatoes, beans, peas and willow archway. Among the guests were Mark Fletcher chair of the North Carrick Community Benefit Company which helped launch work on the garden with a grant of £5,000 match funded with money from St Cuthbert’s; Pat Snee from the Society of St Vincent de Paul which donated £3,000; and councillors Brian Connolly and William Grant.

Mr Bloomfield added the aim of the project was to help users of the foodbank and others, “We are trying to help people who have inherited chaos to experience a different way of life, work together as a group and have a bit of fun!”

Pat Bloomfield thanked everyone who had contributed from all over North Carrick. He said: “Experience with this project has taught me what a fantastic community Maybole is. People listen and come on board very quickly. Once they know what you are trying to achieve, their strong community spirit means they freely give practical help.”

He paid special tribute to Patsy McCullum for her tremendous work in the garden including building raised beds and the fruit cage.

Mr Bloomfield said plans were being drawn up to encourage volunteers to master cooking skills to use the vegetables they have grown by teaming up with the training kitchen at Maybole’s Carrick Centre.
Maybole has been given its place on the Red Planet as NASA’s Rover mission uses Scottish towns to mark locations on Mars, the fourth planet from the sun and the second-smallest planet in the solar system, being larger than only Mercury.

Mars carries the name of the Roman god of war and is often referred to as the “Red Planet” due to the effect of the iron oxide prevalent on the planet’s surface.

NASA has also confirmed that Maybole is one of the first series of rock “benches” discovered by their Mars team last year by their Curiosity Rover vehicle on its 2,946th sol, with one sol a day on Mars.

Our editor, David Kiltie, asked the Ayrshire Post to follow up his find of the story and would like to thank staff for their work in confirming it with NASA.

He told a reporter, “I think it is absolutely fantastic that we have our town of Maybole, the ancient capital of Carrick, perpetuated on Mars. People have joked that Maybole is the centre of the universe so it is no surprise that there’s another form of it out there. I’m sure Maybole on Mars gets a wee bit more sun than we are used to here.

“I’m delighted that the Ayrshire Post has managed to go where no newspaper has gone before and get it confirmed. It will surely interest some of the local primary schools to learn more about the Rover missions and the outcrop that has been named after our home town.”

A spokesperson for NASA told the newspaper, “The scientists and engineers on the rover missions need to have common names for all the features they see on Mars.

“That allows them to know they’re talking about the same things when they want to drive toward a landmark or take data from a precise target. Because there are so many features, it’s convenient to have a long list of names to pull from.

“Maybole was the first of a series of rock ‘benches’ that the team investigated.”

The Maybole rockers, The Peas, were delighted to be back on the road after the lockdowns. Our photo shows Jimmy Murdoch, Gavin Loch and Davie Anderson at a recent outdoor event in Girvan.
The McCosh Hall in Kirkmichael has undergone several changes in the last two years. The lower part is now occupied by the lovely Community Shop & Café. The Kirkmichael Hall Users’ Committee was established last year with the aim of ensuring the continued use of the upper Hall. It has tastefully been redecorated and looks a lovely environment for any event. We are now ready to accept bookings!

A Facebook page exists - Kirkmichael Hall Users - as well as a booking system which is available electronically and on paper.

Our email address is – kirkmichaelhall@gmail.com which allows correspondence to the booking secretary. We also have a website – https://kirkmichaelhall.wixsite.com/kirkmichaelvillageha/ which provides access to the calendar, booking form and terms and conditions.

The booking secretary is also contactable by phone – 07815197748, and paper copies are available via entrance to hall.

So far, we have had Yoga classes (Sat 11.30 – 1.00pm), The Dalrymple Ukulele Orchestra, Kirkmichael Women’s group (1st Tuesday of month), local meetings and our History Corner Open Day. Unfortunately, our grand opening was not possible under Covid restrictions, however, this was a very successful first event for the Kirkmichael History Group. A special taster display of Kirkmichael’s History took place. A lot of interest was shown in the wide range of village groups which have existed from the Wine Circle, Gardening Club to children’s groups. We are grateful to Veronica, Fergus and Gillian for the work so far. A small corner will exist for collation/storage/display of all our archives.

We would like to thank the many contributors who have made this History Corner develop. This is just a start and anyone who is interested in contributing or helping in any way contact Veronica Bilson at Kmvchistoryproject@outlook.com.

The village was buzzing at one time. The Hall still provides an opportunity to have many village groups, commercial groups, or private groups. Look forward to seeing you all soon.

Noreen Lyon, Kirkmichael Hall Users Committee

Classes are ON in Maybole at Goudie’s!
Kids’ Muay Thai Class with Martin Smith
5pm - 5.45pm
All levels welcome absolutely no experience needed!
Learning new skills and developing self-defence.
Martin is a Professional Muay Thai Instructor and Strength and Conditioning Coach. You can find him on Facebook to book – @Unbeatable Muay Thai
Could you help us support children and young people living in South Ayrshire?

We are looking for dedicated carers to help make a big difference to their lives and ensure they can continue to grow and develop in South Ayrshire.

There are lots of different ways you can help us achieve this, you might have an existing family or be on your own, you might be able to help for a few hours every week or make a bigger commitment, whatever your situation we would love to hear from you.

The following is a list of the types of care we provide and we are looking for carers to help us deliver these services:

- Foster Care & Emergency Foster Care
- Adoption
- Supported Carer Placement
- Shared Care

We are also recruiting for foster carers and supported carers for unaccompanied and asylum seeking children / young people. They have had to leave their home and families and need the compassion people in South Ayrshire are able to offer to support them in this life change.

For more information contact us today:

- Phone: 01292 267675
- Email: fostering@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
Carrick Community Leisure Group, CCLG, the charity that owns and operates the building known as Goudie’s, was very pleased to be selected as one of the participants for the “Get into summer activity programme” funded by South Ayrshire Council.

Teaming up with fabulous local artist Emily Devine, CCLG was able to offer free of charge arts and crafts sessions not just for the children but it also allowed for a parent, grandparent or guardian to take part in the fun as well. Everyone taking part had lots of fun and learned new skills and everyone attending received a light lunch and refreshments and, thanks to SAC, this was all free. The feedback has been amazing and everyone loved Emily.

CCLG has been working hard to re-establish its wider links to the community since the refurbishment of the building and, several groups are resuming activities during the daytime and evenings with several new activities also. You can follow them on Facebook to stay up to date with what’s new.

In May and June, as restrictions were easing, CCLG ran a six-week programme of free activity to help get folk back into the community after nearly 18 months of lockdown. This included martial arts, yoga, pilates, zumba, circuits, knit and natter, arts and crafts - again with Emily - and so much more. Although numbers were limited for safety reasons, and Covid restrictions were tight, most of the classes were as fully attended as was allowed.

The group is pleased to say most of these activities are remaining operational with the instructors running the classes for a small fee so they remain viable and sustainable. Maybole Muay Thai meet on a Monday and Wednesday evening with both children’s and adult classes. Yoga on a Monday evening with Ruth, Arts and crafts with Emily, Tuesday evening and Wednesday during the day, Maybole Pipe Band is returning on a Wednesday evening and then there is line dancing on a Thursday evening and Slimming World also meet on a Thursday.

The colouring communities group is also based at Goudie’s and the wonderful Coral McMillan has an amazing group of young people that come together weekly and enjoy each other’s company.

CCLG is working with other service providers to bring in more activity during the day time and the Maybole Over Fifties group has been resuming some of their groups and activities including knit and natter and sewing. The MOFs and other groups may be based at Goudie’s but they remain independent in their own right and details for contact can be found on their pages and advertising. It’s great to see people back out and about and whilst some restrictions still apply people are slowly feeling more comfortable back out in the world.

Most recently, the Tuesday seniors’ lunch club has come back together and a minibus is available to collect you if transport is a problem.

Goudie’s was designed as a community and function facility and the spaces available are varied in size; most spaces have wifi and good connectivity as well as audio visual equipment available so it is perfect for meetings. Most areas have moveable furniture and folding tables of various sizes when required, so a room can be empty for exercise or set for full conferences.

All of this is complemented by the coffee shop facility where refreshments can be purchased at affordable prices along with breakfasts, light lunches, snacks and full buffets or meals if required.

CCLG is happy to support new-start groups or existing organisations and can offer affordable space and support to help your groups grow. With a wide range of variable spaces available in a modern purpose-built facility, why not pop along and chat to Linda to see if she can help your group.

Thank you to all who have taken part in the relaunching communities programme; stay safe and hope to keep seeing you coming in and out of the facility.

For further information on all things Goudie’s/ CCLG contact Linda Paterson on goudies2020@gmail.com, ring 01655 882577 or message them through their Facebook pages.
We have space in Goudie’s to suit everyone so come and try us out!

The Tannery a cosy area off the main bar set out with leather sofas, tub seats, low tables and subtle lighting to set your mood.

Tackety Boot Bar main bar and restaurant area.

Ghillie Brogue amazing sunroom, leading to our outside space.

Beer Garden where you can eat, drink and just relax, even with your dog.

Boot room contains a 9ft pool/snooker table, dartboard, skittles, games and a 70 inch TV where you can relax on the leather sofas and tub chairs with a drink.

Burns Lounge our largest space ideal for weddings, conferences, events, activities and celebrations.

Jean Armour room smaller space off the Burns Lounge, ideal for smaller events.

We provide a perfect space to connect whether it’s a flexible space to host meetings, conferences, training days, weddings, celebrations or other events.

Goudie’s can make it easy to plan and book your space.

All areas are fully accessible on both levels and outdoors.

SAVE THESE DATES

11th September: live band ‘The Splinters’
25th September: live band ‘Tequila’
30th October: Halloween Party
11th December: live band ‘Cherry Crumble’
23rd December: Christmas Jumper night
31st December (Hogmanay) live band ‘The Hustle’

Don’t miss out... book your space NOW!

Check out our Facebook page for full details

Dont’ miss out... book your space NOW!

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Crosshill Guides

On Sunday, 8th August, Crosshill Guides had an amazing, adventurous day out at Craigengillan Estate thanks to funding they received from South Ayrshire Council’s #GetIntoSummer Fund.

The girls took park in gorge scrambling, abseiling and MEGA stand up paddleboarding! A fantastic day was had by all! Our tasty lunch boxes were provided by the famous Crosshill Post Office Emporium!

1st Crosshill Guides and Ranger Units are returning to their regular weekly meetings from September, on Wednesday evenings at Crosshill Community Centre.

North Carrick has active Brownie, Guide and Ranger Units. If you would like to find out more, or if you know a girl who would like to get involved, visit the website to register your interest and this will put you in touch with our local leaders!

Visit: www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-your-daughter/
North Carrick Community Newsletter needs....

Please take some time to write up a small story, could be on your work experience, charity event, your recent dog walk, first day at school, your own poem, updates on your club/organisation etc. We are basically looking for any stories, large or small to include within future publications as North Carrick needs YOU.

Please send all your stories and photographs to: david.kiltie@talktalk.net

Please support our advertisers by using their services
There has been a lot of work happening in the background on the project since the last update and you can expect to see some of the projects on site in the next few months.

As you may have read elsewhere there are major issues within the construction industry that are pushing up prices across the sector. However, major projects that we expect to see start in the next few months include the Town Hall and the Charity Shop.

Following the relaxation of rules, the good news is that we hope to have the Project Office open in the Town Hall at the end of September subject to guidance. The project team would be based there and open for appointments. The poor condition of many building within the centre of the town is a concern and will impact the number of properties the project can support with grants.

**Major Schemes Update**

The tenders for the Town Hall and Charity Shop scheme should go live around the end of September. We hope local suitably qualified construction companies will bid for these projects. Subject to a suitable tender being accepted, work should begin in earnest later in the Autumn with the works running to about seven months. The main works are securing the exterior of the building, new electrics, new lighting rig, re-positioning of the toilets and kitchen/bar to ground floor and improvements to access. These are all designed to secure the future of the Town Hall and make it a more attractive place for both large and small scale events.

Similarly, the Charity Shop works are expected to start in late Autumn and to finish in Spring 2022. The building will be completely renovated and brought back into use as the Charity Shop.

The Castle scheme is dependent on the completion of the bypass and de-trunking of the existing A77 and works are hoped to start in Spring 2022.

**Small Grants Scheme**

The progress of our small grants scheme continues to be affected by a number of factors including the de-trunking of the A77 (due to narrow pavement widths), rising construction costs and the poor condition of buildings in the town centre. We have been working with owners to develop repair and conservation schemes that will secure the future of their buildings and by taking this long-term approach we can help to ensure their continued use and contribution to our historic town centre. The first of our projects are now planned to start in Winter 2021.

With restrictions easing we are hoping to deliver further building maintenance events, particularly to support owners of buildings under multiple ownership who may have experienced difficulties in organising common repairs.

**Maybole Active Travel/ Public Realm Scheme**

Thank you to all who took the time to complete the survey on this scheme. We had a phenomenal response with over 160 returns and 76% of respondents supported the scheme. We are still pulling together all the results and will publish a report when this is complete. We are already re-shaping the scheme as a result of the consultation which included direct consultation with many businesses. Again this scheme depends on the opening of the bypass and de-trunking of the existing A77. Draft plans are available to view on the project website, see below for link. We will work hard to minimise the effects on businesses, and we will make sure everyone can access the shops and deliveries can be made. Works are expected to start in Spring 2022 and last for 12-14 months.

**Training and Activities**

Our extensive activities and training programme is now well under way! In June, we delivered our first two contractor training courses - Traditional Window Repair and a Lead Sheet Bossing and Welding Course. The courses were all fully attended with a 100% pass rate! We would urge any local contractors to get in touch if they would like any training.
We will also be offering bursaries to any local contractors who wish to undertake On Site Accreditation.

During the months of May and June, we asked young school children to interview older neighbours and relatives about their Maybole Memories creating a colourful exhibition that we hope to share in Maybole Library. Local groups also painted beautiful pictures of their favourite Maybole place.

Our Artist in Residence, Cate Ross hit the ground running last month. Cate hosted two Silk Screen Printing Workshops that were a huge success. Cate will run workshops throughout the term of the project and will work with all different groups of people in this vibrant multigenerational project.

Over the school summer holidays we ran a Treasure Hunt. We hid 12 photos of historical figures in windows of some iconic buildings in Maybole. Great, free fun and a chance to win a family voucher for the Farm Park.

Senior Students at Carrick Academy’s Design and Technology Department took part in our competition to design the best welcome sign for Maybole, Lyall McGawn S4 was the winner of a gift voucher. We intend to use Lyall’s design within the public realm.

There are now Red Maybole Regeneration Post Boxes at Goudies, Maybole Library and the Carrick Centre for corresponding with the team. Our very popular Virtual Evening Talks will begin again in the Autumn and will kick off with the amazing Denis Reid who will join us to explore the myths and legends of Carrick!

Sadly, due to the dramatic increase in COVID-19 cases in Ayrshire and Scotland the planned Maybole Heritage Day event had to be cancelled.

Coral McMillan, Activities Officer for the organisers, Maybole Regeneration Project, said, “We had all been working hard to make this event a success and, like many, been looking forward to a fun day out in Glebe Park celebrating Maybole rich heritage after this difficult 18 months.

“I hope you will agree that the safety and wellbeing of our stall holders, volunteers, employees and those looking to attend was our primary concern. With this significant spike in cases - with Ayrshire recording one of the highest increases in cases in Scotland - and the pressure this will be placing on our Health Service – we had no alternative but to cancel. We will however look to hold an event later in the year so please keep a watch on our social media pages.

“Again, I am sorry to those who would have been looking to have an enjoyable day out with their friends and family but I do hope that you understand why the decision to cancel had been made.

“We at Maybole Regeneration Project, so value your support and commitment and hope to see you in the very near future.”
DO ask “What’s in it for me?”
WHAT CAN NORTH CARRICK COMMUNITY BENEFIT COMPANY DO FOR YOU?

SUPPORT YOUR PROJECT OR ACTIVITY!

NCCBC can help you to develop your ideas for improving North Carrick and then we can help you to get the money you need – from NCCBC and from other funders.

The main conditions are that your idea must be for something that will benefit people who live in North Carrick and the applicant must be a constituted group with a bank account. (We can even help you if that last one is a problem!)

So, DO ask “What’s in it for me?” The answer is, “Help with project development and funding.” Check out https://nccbc.org.uk/ for more details on how to apply.

Or contact Stuart: stuart.northcarrick@gmail.com or 07977 115 974

DON’T ask “What’s in it for me?”
WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR NORTH CARRICK COMMUNITY BENEFIT COMPANY?

JOIN!

NCCBC is a membership organisation that has around £300,000 available to spend on improvements in North Carrick each year.

So, DON’T ask “What’s in it for me?”

The answer is: “Not a lot!”

(But if you join before the end of October, you’ll get a goodie bag as a thank you.) Being a member costs you nothing, so why not do this small thing to show your commitment to improving North Carrick? JOIN NCCBC AT: https://nccbc.org.uk/types-of-user/ You can get a paper copy of the application form by emailing or phoning Stuart: stuart.northcarrick@gmail.com or 07977 115974

WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR NORTH CARRICK COMMUNITY BENEFIT COMPANY?

JOIN!

Every year the members review the Company’s work and elect some Directors for the following year. Any Full Member can be elected as a Director and the liability of members is limited to a maximum of £1 each. Membership costs you nothing and joining will give you and your village or town a say in how North Carrick should develop.
Maybole Over 50s (MOF's)

We are a community based group bringing local people together in a safe and friendly environment. We aim to help to fight social isolation and loneliness by bringing locals back together after the impact of lockdown and shielding, trying to getting us back to “normal”.

For physical activity we have a walking group, a yoga group or you can meet up with members at the Maybole Swimming Pool. Improving our mental health is important, and we do this just by meeting up for a chat or if you like you could join our backgammon, knitting and crotchet, sewing or art groups. Being a charitable organisation and community group, we exist solely for the benefit of our members who are encouraged to contribute suggestions for future events and activities.

There are events such as presentations, talks and other social get-togethers such as the popular Burns Supper. We aim to have a couple of all-day bus trips around Scotland every year, stopping for tea on the way home.

Some up-coming events are: 3rd September 2021 we have the Maybole Charity shop for the week. Saturday 23rd October, our first Craft Fair with over 20 stalls selling great local crafts. This is being held at Goudie’s from 10am until 2pm.

If you would like more information please contact Maybole Over 50s telephone: 07961 833 401 email: admin@mayboleover50s.org or have a look at the website: www.mayboleover50s.org

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Maybole Community Council update

As the world is now opening back up in a more meaningful way, it’s good to see huge progress in the town with some of the projects that have been on the burners for a good while now.

The bypass, as you can all see, is now making huge progress and is on target for an opening in November - December subject to the weather and other unforeseen issues but, even if it slips slightly, it won’t be far off those dates.

The Community Council engaged with South Ayrshire Council, SAC, a few years back in relation to the poor condition of play parks in Maybole and, as with a good number of our conversations, a way forward has been found. SAC had a refund of VAT money that had been charged against leisure activities and decided, as the money had come from leisure, it should be reinvested in leisure and projects were decided on that could make best use of the funds. As previously reported, Maybole was in line for a share of this and a huge investment has been made at Miller Park which is now nearing completion. This park is a destination park and certainly from looking at it, even in these images you can see it’s a park that future generations of children can enjoy.

The town centre High Street project is progressing very well although it’s difficult to see how and that is largely down to the delay with the bypass caused by Covid. The paperwork aspects of any large project is always a lengthy process but that is all well progressed now so we would hope to see, if not this year but early next, things starting to come together with public realm, new shop fronts and general property improvements within the town centre.

The school campus is progressing well with the preparatory works and we understand that one of new sports fields will be available for use hopefully during October so that is again great progress.

The community councils will be moving into an election early in the new year so if joining your local community council is something you’ve been considering, keep an eye on the local press and particularly the Community Council Facebook page where we will announce any dates as SAC release them to us.

Health and Social Care Information

Cycling is not only a method of sustainable travel, it also has many physical and mental health benefits. Cycling UK have recently launched their ‘In Tandem’ pilot programme which aims to develop tandem cycling opportunities for people who are visually impaired across the West of Scotland. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in attending a taster session, or to simply find out more about the sport, please contact Andrew Campbell by email Andrew.campbell@cyclinguk.org, or phone 07879 481 284

The annual bidding for funds for community groups to procure festive lighting is now open. Each year, our residents look forward to the magical sparkle that the festive lights bring and, thanks to our investment in this fund, local communities will be able to bid to secure more lighting, displays and Christmas trees. As part of the bids process, community groups have to take into consideration factors such as: storage; energy, installation, transport and removal costs; ongoing electrical compliance testing; and public liability insurance. It’s easy to make a bid via the online form, and you can find this, plus a full breakdown of the criteria, on the South Ayrshire Council website

Link to Strictly Seniors magazine https://hscp.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/article/29582/Strictly-Seniors-Issue-8-June-2021

Supporting Fire Safety in the Home – A Carer’s Guide

The Scottish Fire and Rescue Service have identified a number of health and lifestyle behaviours that increase the likelihood of being involved in a fire. They have produced a Carer’s Guide to provide information on best practice to prevent the person you care for becoming a victim of fire. Visit: www.firescotland.gov.uk
CARRICK’S YOUTH RUGBY IS BACK!

Carrick Minis and Micros are a community club run exclusively by volunteers. Their aim is to deliver affordable rugby in the community with all profits invested in our young people!

Primary 1-3s play touch rugby and learn all about working together as part of a team, learning the basics (passing, scoring tries etc.) and having fun. Primary 4-7s play contact and learn all about respect, social interaction - brilliant for the P6 and 7s as they prepare for going up to Carrick Academy. They meet other kids from across the region, while working on teamwork and improving their health and wellbeing! Carrick Rugby have 10 coaches across the three age groups and they play all of their fixtures within a 30 mile radius.

Please Like their Facebook page ‘Carrick Rugby’ and check out their public group ‘Carrick Micros/Minis’ for more information and additional sessions and events! ‘Carrick Rugby’ on Facebook gives info on the whole club and how to get involved, it also gives fixtures and up to date Midi section (S1 to Under 18s) info.

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North Carrick Community News... 19
After months of frustrating delays, it feels like at least a few things are beginning to move in the right direction.

Carrick, Ayrshire – Foundations for Recovery
North Carrick Community Benefit’s application for over £0.5m from the UK Government made it through the first stage of the process in June. That was when South Ayrshire Council assessed over £12m worth of applications that it had received and decided to include our programme in its shortlist of projects. The Council’s shortlist had to cost no more that £3m. So, getting onto the list is an achievement.

Now it is up to the UK Government to decide which projects it will approve and how much money will come from its Community Renewal Fund to South Ayrshire. They had said that their decision would be given in July, but in late August, no news had come. We are optimistic that we will be able to do a range of project design and development work leading to at least £4.5m worth of funding applications in Spring/Summer next year.

Charity Shop and the Flat above in Maybole
Soaring costs in the construction sector led to NCCBC looking into alternative uses for this building – including combining it with next door properties and developing social housing. None of the alternatives seem to be viable and so NCCBC has decided to plough on with the original proposal to repair and renovate the building, reopen the Charity Shop, and put the flat up for rent. We are working closely with the Maybole Regeneration Project to see how this can be done.

Crosshill First to get New Play Equipment
All communities with play parks have been working with NCCBC and South Ayrshire Council to decide what new equipment they should install using money from the joint funding programme. As reported in the last issue of this newsletter, the delivery times being quoted by suppliers were longer than usual. The good news is that work has started at the play park in Crosshill. Hopefully, the other villages will follow soon.

NCCBC £5,000 Community-Led Projects Fund
All communities in North Carrick were allocated £5,000 from NCCBC’s funds and most have decided how they want to use the money. The idea for this fund came from communities who complained that applying to NCCBC for small projects was too complicated. The main bugbear was that every applicant to the ‘normal’ fund must come up with some other money to match what they are asking NCCBC to pay. (For grants of less that £1,000 from NCCBC, the applicant has to find at least 10% of the project costs, for grants of between £1,000 and £5,000, the ‘Match Funding’ must be at least 25%, and for grants over £5,000, it’s 50% of the project costs).
So, the Community-led Projects Fund removed the need for any match funding and made it easier for projects to be put forward and approved by NCCBC. A wider range of projects can be funded, and the main condition is just that the local panel that puts forward a list of projects must be able to show how the local community was consulted. All but two communities have consulted, put their lists of projects forward to NCCBC, and had them agreed. As soon as these communities can show that they have used their £5,000 in line with what is in their approved lists, they will be able to access the next allocation of £5,000 from the scheme.

**Calling on North Carrick’s Young People**

Work on the Strategy for Youth in North Carrick was put on hold during the lockdowns but has started up again. As part of her role with NCCBC, Claire Bryan is supporting Lynda Johnstone, the consultant who is employed to produce the Strategy. Both are keen to talk with young people about what needs to be done to improve things. So, if you’re a parent or work with young people – or better still, if you’re a young person – please contact them via [https://www.facebook.com/improvingNC/](https://www.facebook.com/improvingNC/) or [https://www.instagram.com/improvingnc/](https://www.instagram.com/improvingnc/)

Stuart Lindsay, NCCBC Development Officer, stuart.northcarrick@gmail.com
BOOKBUG SESSIONS

Tuesdays, 2pm – 2.30pm from 31st August – 14th December (except 12th October)

We have some exciting news – Bookbug is back! Bookbug resumed in-person sessions in our library every week from Tuesday 31st August but we will be operating a little differently with the library closed to the public during the session, so booking a place is essential. Please phone Maybole Library to book a place.

Sensory Impairment drop-in sessions will start in the library on Monday 13th September, from 1.30pm – 2.30pm. Sessions will then be held on the second Monday of every month.

Fancy a movie night? Borrow the latest blockbusters for a week free of charge. Adults can borrow two DVDs per week, young adults 12-16 years can also use this service but will be limited to one DVD per week. You can also place a hold for a DVD held at another branch using our online catalogue and we’ll deliver it to Maybole Library for you to pick up.

PC Access

Maybole Library has PCs for public access. In order to ensure your slot, you can contact the library directly by phone, or book a PC online at http://netloan.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/netloan

Please note, to use our PCs you will need a valid South Ayrshire Library card number and PIN. If you live, work or study in South Ayrshire and you don’t yet have a library card you can join online or by contacting the library direct.

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7th Ayrshire Scouting – Ready for new members and leaders!

Scouting is back in Maybole, and they are on the lookout for new members and leaders!

Maybole Beavers and Cubs are welcoming new members aged 6 – 8 years, and 8 – 10½ years for their packs! Maybole Scout Troop is also looking to restart, and they are encouraging people to get in touch if they are aged 10½ - 14 and are up for new challenges, and lots of adventures!

Scouting gives young people aged between 6 and 25 years old the opportunity to discover just what they can do and what they can achieve. From spending their first night away from home to planning an international expedition, the unique experiences Scouts of all ages enjoy help them to realise their full potential and set them up with skills for life.

The North Carrick community would like to say a huge thank you to Jackie and Len who will soon be retiring from their volunteering duties after an amazing contribution to scouting during their time as leaders! Len was a cub and a scout himself and has dedicated over 35 years’ service, and Jackie joined the committee, and the rest was history – 33 years ago! A huge thanks to both for their service to local young people.

Volunteering Opportunities!

7th Ayrshire have a new leader who is currently in training, but they need more to help the unit grow and thrive! It has never been easier to get involved, and the training process is so easy now with so many resources available online! Why not find out more? - [https://www.kcscouts.scot/](https://www.kcscouts.scot/)

Check out Facebook group – ‘MAYBOLE SCOUT GROUP, 7th Ayrshire’

Iona Barrie (Beavers and Cubs Leaders) – 07909 124 220 – ionabarrie1912@gmail.com

Jackie and Len Boughen – 07712 257 960
The south-west also has a more benign climate than other parts of Scotland and is less of a distance for people to travel from south of the border. The south-west of Scotland as a whole could take the ‘overspill’ from the Lake District, given the sharp rise in ‘staycations’ because of the pandemic.”

Fiona continued, “This year saw the launch of the United Nation’s ‘Decade of Ecosystem Restoration’. The Culzean Way could be a superb wildlife corridor, if it retains the plant communities it already has. The disused railway line is extremely overgrown in places - this can be seen very clearly, looking down from the bridge at Fisherton - and the bed of the line will obviously need to be cleared to construct the path - but there is no need to bulldoze trees, bushes and flora growing on the banks beside the old line. The plant communities that are already there may indeed constitute a wildlife refugium for species that are no longer in the local area. Where there is necessary disruption and displacement of soil, this could be seeded with local wildflowers, to enhance the habitat for pollinators.

“In terms of landscape, it has to be said that hawthorn trees and hedges are a characteristic feature of parts of Ayrshire, especially the area around Dunure. They offer a truly beautiful sight in late spring/ early summer. The hawthorns along the proposed path should not be destroyed - they can simply be cut back. The hawberries feed a lot of birds and small mammals.
“Dunure has a very special cultural figure in its history who has largely been forgotten - the Scots ‘makar’, or poet, Walter Kennedy, who was born in Dunure and who was a great-grandson of King Robert III. Walter Kennedy was a noted poet of the late Mediaeval period, a contemporary of the three ‘Scottish Chaucerians’ - Henryson, Dunbar and Douglas – and best known for ‘The Flying of Dumbar and Kennedie’, which has been described by a modern commentator as “Five hundred lines of filth”. Flying was a Mediaeval Scots literary genre where insults were hurled in a competition to see who could be most creatively rude. There is scope to bring him to the attention of visitors to Dunure and to further enhance the literary reputation of Ayrshire itself, whose writers include Robert Burns, John Galt (Irvine), George Douglas Brown (Ochiltree), James Boswell (Auchinleck), Janice Galloway (Saltcoats), William McIlvanney (Kilmarnock).

“Although not by an Ayrshire writer, The Master of Ballantrae by Robert Louis Stevenson, has an obvious Ayrshire connection. Dumfries and Galloway is using its own literary connections to try to help its economic recovery in the wake of the pandemic. With the Boswell Book Festival, Burns Festivals and permanent Burns heritage, Ayrshire has an advantage over almost every other area in Scotland.

“I have proposed that a good way to meld together the environmental and cultural suggestions I have made would be to name the foot and cycle path the ‘Walter Kennedy Way’ and to line the section of the path that does not have trees with trees that form the Gaelic alphabet. Kennedy was a native speaker of Gaelic - indeed, Dunure and the whole of Carrick and Galloway spoke Gaelic during his lifetime and for a long time thereafter. There’s a bit of serendipity in the fact that the new signage for Dunure incorporates its original Gaelic name, Dùn Iùbhair, supposedly meaning Yew Hill, but could mean fort of the yew, or even fort of the mountain yew – juniper.”
Summer suns have certainly been glowing over the past week just as they did for most of July too. What a glorious summer it has been - just like the summers we remember as weans when we would be out playing from morning till night, going home when hungry! In Straiton, we have the benefit of a resident who records rainfall so here are the figures for the past three months.

You will remember that the first half of May was cold and wet with hail and sleet as well. Not surprising then that there was 98.7mm of rain with 31mm falling in one day. June was certainly not "flaming" but it was quite dry, with just 27.3mm of rain and July had only 17.2mm, making it the driest July for the past six years.

The hot weather certainly brought out the visitors to Straiton and the shop did a roaring trade in ice creams and cold drinks. The cyclists made good use of the new cycle racks while they revived themselves with drinks and "goodies".

Our minister, Gerald Jones, continues to post his mini sermon every Sunday morning and, as always, I recommend looking at our church website to enjoy the beautiful photos which accompany the service:

www.straitonchurchayr. Singing is now allowed in church albeit with masks but what a joy to be able to participate in the service again. With a wedding and a christening in the past month it has seemed like another small step towards normality. It was especially heart warming to see little ones in the church again and to have them join in the occasion.

After a slow start, the village planters seemed to flourish in the heat and sunshine with vibrant colours being the order of the day. Now the more mellow colours herald the end of summer. The bright yellows of so many wild flowers which predominated the verges of the forest roads have given way to, first the pink of the willowherb and now the purple of the heather. If you are out early enough you will see the gossamer webs of the busy spiders which have worked through the night sparkling with dewdrops.

South Ayrshire Council has also provided new signs at all entrances to the village. These replace signs which had certainly seen better days so thank you to SAC too.

Jeanette Heggs
Industry leaders from across Ayrshire have come together to form a new Destination Management and Marketing Organisation for the region - Ayrshire & Arran Destination Alliance - to drive a collective way forward for the tourism industry following the pandemic. Over the past year, industry leaders have stepped up to try and drive forward recovery, working collaboratively with Local and National Government to focus on the challenges faced by one of Ayrshire’s key sectors.

Earlier this year, industry leaders appointed international destination experts, in2destination, to conduct research on behalf of the region to shape thinking around the development of sustainable visitor management across Ayrshire. With input from North, South and East Ayrshire Councils, along with businesses and residents, the research highlighted that tourism is overwhelmingly a “force for good” contributing over £600 million of visitor spend and supporting over 13,000 jobs regionally – but there was a need for more cohesion and joint working across the whole region.

Building on this research, AADA worked collaboratively with VisitScotland, Scottish Enterprise and Local Authorities to successfully deliver a series of industry events throughout May and June attracting almost 200 industry representatives to look at areas of best practice from across the UK.

Through this work, Ayrshire & Arran Destination Alliance was developed and launched as an industry-led Destination Management and Marketing Organisation for the region. The organisation will operate on a not-for-profit basis, working collaboratively to grow the visitor economy sustainably to deliver benefits for businesses and communities. As part of this move, AADA has taken on management of The Coig – a collaborative tourist route project and will continue to promote this as part of the regional offer.

Ayrshire & Arran Destination Alliance Chair, Linda Johnston from Auchrannie Resort, said: “We are incredibly excited to announce the launch of Ayrshire & Arran Destination Alliance. It has been formed with a very clear intention - as the regional Destination Management and Marketing Organisation we want to make sure that visitors to this region have outstanding experiences, whilst balancing this with the needs of our amazing communities and environment which make this region so special.

We have a huge amount of experience amongst our voluntary industry board, existing marketing channels reaching tens of thousands of visitors each month, an exceptional team already in place, and a range of exciting work planned over the coming weeks. Working closely with other sectoral, destination, and community groups, and our public sector partners, we believe we can help to bring cohesion and focus to future tourism development for the region.”

Welcoming the launch of AADA, VisitScotland CEO, Malcolm Roughead, said: “The past year has been incredibly challenging for businesses up and down the country, but we know that tourism is resilient and will bounce back. We can only achieve this by working together so I am delighted to be working with industry leaders through Ayrshire & Arran Destination Alliance to make sure that we grab the opportunities ahead and manage tourism responsibly to create real sustainable benefits for everyone.”

Paul McCafferty, Head of Tourism for Scottish Enterprise, said: “I’m delighted to see industry coming together, demonstrating strong leadership and a clear vision to drive forward activity to attract visitors who are critically important to the economy, sustainability and growth of communities. There is no doubt that tourism plays a vital role within the regional economy of Ayrshire, and we look forward to working closely with AADA to recover and regrow sustainably over the next few years.”

AADA will work to inform and influence national tourism policy and support sustainable development through the Scottish Tourism Alliance and working with national tourism bodies.

Scottish Tourism Alliance CEO, Marc Crothall, said: “The launch of Ayrshire & Arran Destination Alliance is a really positive step forward for the tourism and hospitality industry in Ayrshire and Arran. I know just how passionate and committed these industry leaders are, and I applaud them for their energy and drive to establish this new body at a time when they have been faced with managing many challenges within their own businesses. We have seen at national level the importance having strong industry leadership and taking an industry-led strategic approach. I have no doubt that this will be a hugely positive step for the region as they work together with public sector partners to drive forward and regrow beyond COVID.”

Ayrshire & Arran Destination Alliance will be communicating widely with businesses and groups across the region over the coming weeks to share plans and gain wide input to the future direction of the alliance.

For further information on AADA, please contact: Daniel Steel, Chief Executive Email: daniel.steel@ayrshireandarran.com Phone: 07983331501
The Plan aims to provide a ten-year vision for integrated health and social care services which sets out objectives for the HSCP and how it will use its resources to integrate services in pursuit of national and local outcomes.

In preparing this new Strategic Plan, the HSCP would like to have met with as many of you as possible as well as visiting community groups and provider organisations. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented them from doing this, so they had to be innovative in their methods. A big thank you goes out to all those who supported this engagement activity particularly VASA (Voluntary Action South Ayrshire).

The overarching aim of the HSCP is to work together with the citizens of South Ayrshire to improve health and wellbeing and support communities to be resourceful and supportive of family, friends and neighbours. The long-term health and wellbeing of citizens will only be improved if communities, organisations and individuals work together to take charge of the health and care needs of its citizens.

As part of the Strategic Plan the HSCP aims to build a system which looks at ‘care’ not just as ‘healthcare’ and formal support services but one that encompasses and supports informal care, communities and their citizens as crucial parts of the system. The introduction of a South Ayrshire Wellbeing Pledge sets out this ambition.

The HSCP will develop a ‘Wellbeing Pledge’ reflecting the notion of two parties (public services and the community) contributing to a common goal. The Pledge will look to build on the amazing resilience, spirit and mutual support our communities have displayed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Tim Eltringham, Director of Health and Social Care said, “The Plan sets out our vision for a new partnership with communities and individuals so we can work together to achieve the best possible outcomes for the people of South Ayrshire.”

“Our collective ambition is for a Partnership that is founded upon strong engagement with service users and carers, driven by quality data and information and committed to continuous service improvement.”

Councillor Julie Dettbarn, IJB Chair added, “Despite the challenges and uncertainty brought by the pandemic, we have a bold ten-year ambition for South Ayrshire to improve outcomes and tackle health inequalities in the area.”

As part of the launch the HSCP have also started a redesign of their public website, this went live on 23 June 2021. Full details of the Strategic Plan including alternative versions (Easy Read, Summary, Animation) can be found on this new site. Visit today: [https://hscp.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/](https://hscp.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/)
You can donate to your local foodbank at THE CARRICK CENTRE in Maybole

It is managed by Wilma Milligan, a well-known, amazing volunteer from the area and other fantastic volunteers who support the foodbank every Monday and Friday. If you know of anyone who might be struggling at this time please let them know about the foodbank and you can also help by making donations.

Normal Opening Times: 10am – 12noon every Monday and Friday.

Donations: You can help local people in crisis at this time by donating to the foodbank, preferred list below.

All non-perishable goods are greatly appreciated but the following items are the ones most needed right now. Donations can be dropped off at The Carrick Centre.

Please do not leave donations outside the Centre!!

- Cereal (Corn Flakes/Rice Crispies/Weetabix) 250gms and 500gms
- Tinned Main Meals (Curry/Stew/Mince/Chilli/Cold Meat)
- Tinned Fish
- Tinned Vegetables
- Tinned or Packet Potatoes
- Pasta Sauce
- Dried Packet Rice
- Tinned or Packet Custard
- Tinned Fruit
- Biscuits
- Diluting Juice
- Tea
- Coffee
- UHT Milk 1ltr
- Special Treats e.g. Sweets, Biscuits etc.

Carrick Coastal Rowers

Carrick Coastal Rowers are based from The Boathouse in Maidens and row most weekends during the summer months. Come along and join us for a row in the harbour and beyond. All ages and capabilities. We provide life jackets if needed.

Carrickcoastal.org
Enquiries@carrickcoastal.org

Copies of the North Carrick Community Newsletter are available throughout many North Carrick venues, if you need to pick one up your main outlets are:

- Crosshill: Village Shop
- Kirkmichael: Village Shop
- Straiton: Village Shop
- Minishant: Minishant Stores
- Maidens: Little K's Kitchen and Ropes
- Maybole: The Carrick Centre, Library, Co-op, Spar
- Kirkoswald: Souters, Saks & Hart, Kirkland Garden Centre and Post Office
- Turnberry: Balkenna Tearoom and Dowhill Farm Shop
- Dunure/Fisherton: Coffee Shop & Aruna Arts & Gifts

Should you have any problems retrieving a copy please email: evolutiondesigns@sky.com
The Carrick Centre is delighted to see their regular groups restarting - Tai Kwon Do, yoga, Sensory, patchwork.

Carrick Tots return to their normal times of 10am until 11.30am every Tuesday morning with Norma, Lyn and Davie offering a chance for the little ones to socialise, play and have fun. For some of these children, it’s a brand-new experience and so important in the early years. The cost is only £2.00 per child with teas, coffees, scones or a bacon roll available to the parent/carers too!

New to the centre, bringing a real Latin beat on a Monday night, is Charlotte with a fantastic DanceFit Class. Music, movement, motivation, just what we all need going into these winter months so go along and join in the fun.

Youth Zone starts back in September with a wide range of activities for children P4 to P7 within North Carrick. If they can’t make it in, check out the latest news www.carrickcentre.co.uk and links to other social media.

A generous Friends loyalty card scheme is being launched for the first time online by The Carrick Centre. Anyone who wants to become a Friend of the centre, a charity, can apply for a Friends card for just £15 and in return receive two free filter coffees or teas a month, for a whole year.

In addition to the 24 teas or coffees, the “Friends” scheme has further benefits which include: an invitation to special events, weekly newsletters via email, and promotional offers.

Volunteers Susan Paton and Jean Clarke, pictured, also have a leaflet for those who would rather join on paper with the option of setting up a standing order from their bank. Susan, who is also a board member of the centre, pointed out that the leaflet contains a QR code to give more information on the scheme.

Anyone interested in joining can just call up the web site www.carrickcentre.co.uk and follow the link to join online, or drop into the centre and fill in the leaflet. The Friends card plus two loyalty cards with 24 stamps for free coffees or teas can either be collected from reception or will be mailed out.

"Let’s get active"

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Forty-seven young people across North Carrick enjoyed another active summer this year.

This was the “Get into Summer” programme organised by a partnership of The Carrick Centre and South Ayrshire Council’s Thriving Communities Team. Young people were able to choose between Arts and Crafts, Multi-sports and Cooking sessions and take part in 15 sessions over the summer.

All activities were free including a free healthy lunch, making the programme inclusive and accessible to all. Young people made the following comments about the programme;

“I loved learning new recipes and eating what I had made”

“Making slime was brilliant fun, even if it was a bit messy”

“I learned new tricks in basketball”

Through this successful partnership, young people across the area were able to access a quality programme, and enjoy a summer of fun, learning and getting together with their friends.

Planning is now underway for the October Holiday Programme and more information will be available soon.
AWARDS HONOUR OUR LOCAL HEROES

North Carrick volunteers recognised for contribution during Covid

An amazing army of volunteers were honoured during the summer for their tireless work throughout the Covid pandemic. To celebrate national Volunteers’ Week, Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) hosted an outdoor awards event at Kirkmichael Bowling Club to say ‘thank you’ to the local heroes who stepped up to support people in communities across North Carrick.

On a lovely sunny day, volunteers were treated to afternoon tea on the lawn, entertainment and a huge round of applause as their names were read out in a roll of honour. Paying tribute to the award winners, Marie Oliver, Chief Executive Officer of VASA, said: “The South Ayrshire Volunteer Awards are a chance for us to say a very big thank you to the people who give their time so generously to help others, and this past year has highlighted more than ever just how valuable their contribution is.

“Volunteers have been vital in supporting their communities through the pandemic and it is no exaggeration to say that we couldn’t have got through it without them. “From delivering food and prescriptions to befriending calls and checking on the vulnerable and isolated, each local volunteer has made a real difference and we hope these awards let them know how much they are appreciated.”

Picking up awards at the ceremony in Kirkmichael were volunteers from Kirkmichael Community Shop and Café, NCCBC’s Isolation Support Project, Straiton Village Co-operative, The Carrick Centre, and Crossroads South Ayrshire.
Get connected with free digital helpdesk

Are you out-smarted by your smartphone, at a loss with your laptop or in a tangle with your tablet?

Help is at hand thanks to a new free digital support service for people in South Ayrshire.

South Ayrshire Lifeline’s Digital Support Helpdesk is open for anyone who has a phone, computer or tablet and needs a helping hand to get set up, get connected and get online.

Computers have been a vital link to the outside world for so many during the pandemic and Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) have launched the new helpline to ensure that even more people can access the benefits of being on the internet.

Sarah McWhirter is the friendly voice on the end of the phone who can talk you through how to get the most from your digital devices.

She said: “This project is something I’m passionate about, especially because I’ve had a lot of experience with my own family members needing digital help and I’ve seen first-hand how it’s helped their lives and built their independence back.

“I can’t assist with maintenance and repair but what I can do is help you set up your device from scratch - in simple steps without any computer jargon - and support you to connect to family, services, your community and so much more. Sarah added: “I’m here to help so if you’re not sure about something or you feel like you just don’t know what’s going on, just give me a call and together we’ll work through it.”

The South Ayrshire Lifeline Digital Support Helpdesk is free to call on 0800 432 0510 and lines are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm.

Funding available for ‘FRESH AIR AND FRIENDSHIP’ events

A special fund is giving out cash to help local communities re-connect in the great outdoors!

The Open Air Small Grants Fund, managed by Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) and the South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership, is designed to encourage outdoor events where local people can meet up again after long months of isolation. Funding is available to allow small community groups or charities based in South Ayrshire to host a one-off OUTDOOR event. Marie Oliver, Chief Executive Office of VASA, is urging local groups to make a bid for the cash.

She said: “We want to help South Ayrshire communities to re-connect and to rebuild all the great activities and social connections that had to be put on hold during the pandemic. Offering grants for outdoor events means that people who are still understandably anxious about being in a larger gathering can feel safer to come along.”

So if you are a small community group or charity looking to re-connect with your volunteers, service users and your local community, this fund could be a great opportunity to bring people back together again.

Grants of up to £350 are available to groups with an annual income of under £30,000. There’s still time to get your application in – the closing date is 29th September 2021 and any funds awarded must be spent by 31st December 2021. For an application form, please email enquiries@vasa.scot

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South Ayrshire Council’s Thriving Communities Team delivered an exciting programme of activities for Primary 7 pupils in North Carrick, as well as an action packed ‘Get into Summer’ Programme.

The Primary 7s had missed out on a lot over the last year and the team was finally able to get them together for a P7 outdoor Youth Club in early May this year. This gave youth workers the chance to re-engage with young people who enjoyed a variety of activities including sports, games, team-building and support to ease the transition from primary to secondary. The young people helped to shape the programme with their own ideas of what they would like to do each week and had great fun deciding on which trips they would like to do. They enjoyed trips to Flip Out, LA Bowl and Galloway Activity Centre and all activities were free making it accessible and inclusive for all.

Young people commented on the programme saying;

“I have enjoyed coming to P7 Club, I have missed my friends”

“I am glad I made a new friend at youth club”

“I’m looking forward to going to Carrick, I’m still a bit scared but I’ll be fine”

The new Primary 7 Youth Club is due to start on Tuesday 7th September in The Carrick Centre, Maybole at 6.30pm. The club is open to all P7s in the North Carrick Cluster, for more information contact: yvonne.kiltie@south-ayrshire.gov.uk
The Locum Minister

Kirkoswald Parish Church, linked with Fisherton Parish Church, has a new Moderator and Locum.

Rev Dr David Hume was appointed, with effect from 1st June 2021 to the part-time role and involves leading worship, providing pastoral care to members and the parish, and assisting members managing the business of the church.

Here, he tells us a little about his background, “I live in Kilmarnock with my wife Karlyn. We have three grown up children, two granddaughters (aged 10 and 3) and a wee grandson, 2.”

“Karlyn and I are members of Alloway Parish Church where I hold the position of Church Family and Schools Worker – another part-time role. At Alloway I assist Rev. McNaught with worship but also have a focus on pastoral care and work with the two local primary schools.

“I was educated at Kilmarnock Academy and thereafter at Paisley College of Technology (now UWS), the University of Strathclyde and the University of Glasgow.

“I was employed in Higher Education for 32 years and was a lecturer ‘to trade’ (Employment Law and Human Resource Management) although latterly I was employed as Head of Department and Dean of the Ayr Campus with SRUC.

“I was fortunate enough to be given the opportunity of early retirement at the end of 2018, this allowed me to concentrate on my training for ministry. I studied Theology on a part-time basis with Highland Theological College gaining a Certificate in Higher Education. I do not have too much time for hobbies, but I love to travel, going to the theatre and cooking!

“I do hope that you will visit us at Kirkoswald Parish Church where worship takes place at 11.15am each Sunday. If I can assist you with any pastoral matters, or you would just like to meet for a chat, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

God bless.”

David’s contact details are: Mobile 07858 966367 or via email at dhume@churchofscotland.org.uk
THE RICHMOND FUND

The fund was set up in 1962 to help those in straightened circumstances living in the parish of Kirkoswald. Applications to the fund should be made in writing explaining your financial situation and any other matters that are relevant.

The Trustees will consider all applications at their December meeting.

Please send your application by 30th November to:

Mrs Elizabeth Veitch,
21 Ainslie Road,
Girvan KA26 0AY

The Richmond Fund is a Registered Scottish Charity – no SC011299

KIRK WOOD

KIRK WOOD is situated directly opposite Kirkoswald Church. The space was originally a wild overgrown piece of land made up of various trees, lots of weeds, brambles and nettles.

It was the vision of a few folk from within the community to turn it into an amazing and tranquil area where people could come and sit, walk and reflect; and to just be at one with nature.

Three benches are situated throughout the garden so people can come and rest and enjoy the space.

A lot of hard work has gone into creating KIRK WOOD and it's an inspirational place, where you want to spend time. We have made a path around the garden and have planted thousands of Spring bulbs including snowdrops, bluebells and daffodils. There are also various shrubs to admire.

It's amazing what can be done with a piece of neglected unused land, turning it into a space that is truly appreciated by all who visit. Through gardening we develop a spiritual relationship with nature which in turn helps with our health and wellbeing.

Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy KIRK WOOD. Why not come along and join the gardening team for a cuppa and maybe get involved in a bit of weeding, we are always looking for volunteers to help out.

For further information contact Linda Stroud on 01655-332756.
On Saturday, 5th October 1946, the Freedom of the Burgh was conferred on him by the townspeople. In his remarks after the ceremony he said, he would always consider himself "a true Minnieboler, if not by birth, at least by adoption".

Dwight D. Eisenhower spent holidays at Culzean Castle with his family and friends and was a frequent visitor to Maybole, which he always considered, as he said, his "Scottish hometown".

When the Kennedy family donated Culzean Castle to the National Trust in 1945, they asked that the top floor be given to General Dwight David Eisenhower as a thank you from the people of Scotland for his wartime service. The top floor of the magnificent castle was given to the General for his lifetime.

Ike, as he was nicknamed, first came in 1946 and was clearly touched to accept this gift. He visited the Castle three more times, once as President of the United States, when, for a short time, Culzean was his Scottish White House. His longest stay was during his retirement when he enjoyed painting and walking in the woodlands and by the shore and, of course, playing golf in the area where the sport originated.
Notes for Maybole Ceremony, Maybole, Scotland

~ October 5, 1946 ~

I am delighted to meet you of Maybole today to begin an association that I know will be happy for my family and myself. It is a special honor to be welcomed into the community life of this village here in the country of Bobby Burns. I was born and raised in small towns of the prairie lands of the United States and I know that there is nothing impersonal about the relationships existing among the dwellers of the small community. It is the next thing to being accepted into the family itself, and I assure you that my wife, my son and I are exceedingly proud of your readiness to count us as part of Maybole.

I look forward to meeting and talking to the veterans with whom I served in World War II. They were part of those Scottish units that in numberless wars have established a soldierly record that was carried without blemish through the latest conflict.

My family and I will take special pleasure in discovering for ourselves many of the bits of loved ancient history that you know by heart. Centuries before my own home town of Abilene, Kansas, was more than an uncharted spot in an undiscovered continent, Maybole was an established community where men planned and worked, and were sending forth their sons to places beyond the seas to lend the vigor of their hands and brains to the building of the modern world. In America we count ourselves fortunate that a significant and valued portion of our population has Scottish forbears. Good citizens and valiant protectors of their present home, they never fail to celebrate St. Andrews’ Day, and in every way show their justifiable pride in the land from which they sprang. They take great pains to preserve the burl in their speech, to quote the poems of Bobby Burns and to remind us that the best of our music is but pail imitation of the beauties of the bagpipe.

Much of your blood flows in the veins of America, so from the beginning, my family and I cannot feel strangers to you. Add to this knowledge the warmth of the welcome and the wonderful hospitality extended to us by Lord Ailsa, by his family and by all of you, and you can see why we say, “We are proud and happy to be of you as well as with you.”

(Note: These notes were merely referred to prior to giving speech.)
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