

FREE

North Carrick

Community News

Winter issue 2024
www.nccbc.org.uk

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



Read all about...

**MAYBOLE'S 8TH
HALLOWEEN
EXTRAVAGANZA**

Produced with funding provided by ScottishPower Renewables



Published by

Wishing all our readers a very

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year



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PROPERTY

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Looking to take the first step in selling your home? Or simply looking to find out how much it is worth in the current market ? Then lets arrange a free, no obligation appraisal of your property with an expert member of the Bruach team.

Our property appraisal will give you a valuation based on the overall assessment of your home, it's location, comparable sales and the current market conditions. Our experienced professionals at Bruach have a wealth of knowledge about the Ayrshire residential property market and are committed to providing you with a first class service while achieving the maximum sale price.

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Maybole Events Committee



WE HAVE A LOGO!

A huge thank you to everyone who voted and helped us choose our new logo. Your feedback is valuable, and hope our design represents our impact in the community!



Still to come for 2024

Our Christmas Card post-box is ready to make your holiday season stress-free! For a small donation, we'll deliver your Christmas cards to any address within the Town boundaries. Just drop your cards and donation into the box at the event. Please ensure names and addresses are clear for prompt delivery!
Spread the word and bring your friends and family along to start of this year festivities.

Cinderella is coming to Maybole!



Cinderella

Date: **Saturday 21st December 2024** Time: **3pm**

Email for tickets: mayboleeventscommittee@gmail.com

Don't miss this enchanting performance of Cinderella!
Tickets are selling fast, so grab yours now to avoid disappointment.

Interval Snack Bag: Make your evening extra special with a pre-booked snack bag for just £5! Each bag includes: A drink, Chocolate, Crisps, Popcorn, Sweets.

Limited snack bags will also be available on the day, but pre booking is highly recommended to secure yours!

Get ready for a magical evening!

Together, we can create a more connected community. Follow us on Facebook to stay informed about upcoming events and discover how you can get involved.

Here's how you can help:

DONATE: Every contribution helps us reach our goals.

SPREAD THE WORD: Tell your friends, family, and networks about us.

VOLUNTEER: Share your time and skills to support our efforts.

EXCITING NEWS: Maybole Gala Day 2025 Planning is Underway

We're thrilled to be working on an amazing day for our upcoming gala and can't wait to share all the exciting details with you soon.

But we want your input to make it truly special! What would you love to see on the day? Fun activities ... Great food stalls ... Live entertainment ... Competitions. Let us know your ideas and suggestions now. Together, we can create a gala to remember.

Ready to Make a Difference? Join Us!



We're proud to collaborate with local organisations to promote social and mental welfare through activities that inspire recreation and leisure. By working together, we can make a meaningful and lasting impact on causes that matter to us all.

Thank you for your continued support

**Chairperson: Robyn Young, Secretary: Laura Burke,
Treasurer: Jacklyn Johnson.**
Email: mayboleeventscommittee@gmail.com

View **ALL** newsletters online

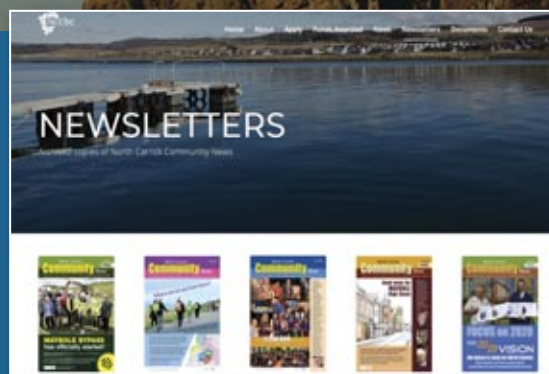
NCCBC

Working together to fund the future of North Carrick

MADE POSSIBLE BY SCOTTISH POWER RENEWABLES

The 'Documents' section is where you will find copies of all of the North Carrick Community Newsletters (past and present). This will be useful for people who prefer to read online or for those who want to send electronic copies to friends.

www.nccbc.org.uk



Your voice matters...

We would like all communities and individuals in North Carrick 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 by **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). 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 newsletter@nccbc.org.uk

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

Project development and funding: **Stuart Lindsay** at: stuart@nccbc.org.uk Tel: 07977 115974

North Carrick Community Benefit Company

Funding is available for a wide range of projects. To find out more, please visit <https://nccbc.org.uk/apply/> or email admin@nccbc.org.uk.

Please note: all applications must be complete with accompanying documentation for review, they may be deferred if not completed.

Closing date for funding rounds are as follows:

Friday 10th January for review early February
Friday 11th April for review early May
Friday 11th July for review early August
Friday 10th October for review November

Copies of the newsletter are delivered to homes in Maybole and the North Carrick villages. If, for any reason, you don't receive a copy please let us know. Extra copies are in various outlets in each community.

Next copy deadline: **19th February 2025**



Celebrating 40 Years of Service: The McKinstry Company's Commitment to Clients and Community

As The McKinstry Company celebrates 40 years, we reflect on a legacy of dedication to our clients and the communities we serve across Scotland. Founded in October 1984, the firm has grown from a single-practitioner operation into a leading legal practice with 40 staff members across Ayr, Girvan, and Dalry.

Growing Across Ayrshire

Over the past four decades, The McKinstry Company has expanded organically and through key acquisitions, most recently integrating the well-established North Ayrshire firm, James Patrick & Muir, in 2022. This growth strengthens our ability to serve a diverse client base, including individuals, businesses, and community organisations.

Reflecting on the firm's evolution over the past four decades, Managing Partner, Robert Honeyman remarked,

"Our continued success is rooted in the hard work and dedication of our colleagues, along with the loyalty of our clients. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported us on this journey, and we remain committed to providing the highest level of service to our clients and contributing positively to the communities we serve."



(L-R) Chairman Andrew Sleigh and Partners Kirsty Leitch, Thiona McQuiston, Debbie Dunlop and Robert Honeyman

Building Lasting Client Relationships

Our "Law Firm for Life" philosophy prioritises lasting partnerships over transactional services, offering comprehensive legal support at every stage of clients' lives and business ventures. From property law and family issues to wills, estates, and corporate advice, we are committed to professional, practical, reliable support, making us a trusted partner for clients across Ayrshire and beyond.

Celebrations and Community Engagement

This anniversary isn't just about business milestones; it's about our team, clients, and community. To mark the occasion, we hosted a gala at Lochgreen House Hotel, celebrating with loyal clients whose support has been integral to our journey. Our team also enjoyed a commemorative trip to Malaga, strengthening the close bonds that drive our success.

In gratitude for our community, we're partnering with Ayrshire Cancer Support, Diabetes UK, and RNLI Girvan over the next year. From charity events to fundraising challenges, we aim to make a meaningful impact, continuing our tradition of giving back.

Looking to the Future

As The McKinstry Company looks forward to the next chapter in its history, the firm's leadership remains committed to innovation, growth, and the continued provision of exceptional service to its clients.

As The McKinstry Company marks 40 years of success, it does so with a profound sense of gratitude to its clients, colleagues, and the local community. The firm's journey over the past four decades has been one of growth, adaptation, and commitment to excellence.

Here's to another 40 years of success, service, and community engagement!



Team-building trip bringing colleagues together in Malaga

PROPERTY LAW
BUSINESS LAW

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FAMILY LAW

EMPLOYMENT LAW
AGRICULTURAL LAW

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ACCIDENT CLAIMS



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Ayr
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Dalry
01294 832442

www.mckinstry.co.uk

MAYBOLE'S HALLOWEEN EXTRAVAGANZA

On the 1st of November Maybole Town Hall was transformed to host Cassie Milligan's 8th Halloween extravaganza!

Did you follow the Headless Horsewoman, spot the fire-breathing performer or visit the Witch of Auld Maybole? Did you ask for her potion of courage before entering Harvies' Auld Butcher Shop to see the bloody butchers chopping up bodies, did you buy a finger or toe? Or did you use your potion to brave the spider staircase, staying very quiet so as not to wake the baby spiders, before getting past the zombie that guards the spider's nest to escape!

If not, you missed a boo-tastic Halloween extravaganza! The night started at the Greenside when a Headless Horsewoman appeared and led the children to the Town Hall where the party kicked off with fire eating performers breathing dancing flames. The children then entered the Town Hall for a Halloween photoshoot with fun and creepy props, grabbing Slushies and candy floss, jumping at the sight of scary clowns, and a captured gargoyle.

For the wee ones the main hall was having the ultimate dance party, hosted by a live DJ. They danced the evening away surrounded by blow-up ghosts, pumpkins, and bouncing balloons! The braver souls ascended the stairs to enter the court room where the court bailiff had been turned into a zombie and was on the hunt for brains to ease his hunger, while the judge tried to keep order!

The ultimate brave souls followed the Mother of All Spiders down the spiderweb staircase leading to the old Maybole dungeon. Before reaching the bottom, they faced a formidable foe, Maybole's own Madam Witch. Upon entering her spell room she told the story of Harvies' Bloody Butcher Shop! The story goes that when a witch was found guilty of witchcraft they were taken to the bloody butchers and chopped into pieces to feed the Maybole townsfolk! After hearing the story some braver souls entered the Bloody Butcher Shop and saw bits and pieces of those who had meet an awful fate, before following the stairs down to escape the same fate!

Some of those that attended had the following to say:



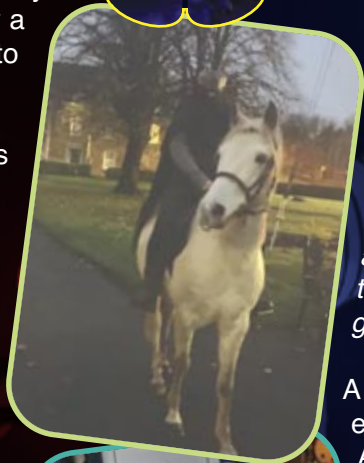
"Thank you for a fabulous Halloween party. Kids had a great time and well done for your great effort".

"Fantastic night for the kids".

"The entertainment, the music the decorations it was all outstanding".

"What a fantastic Halloween party put on for the Maybole weans. From the headless horseman to the fire eaters".

"Massive congratulations for the show put on tonight. From the headless horsewoman to the fire eaters, to the rooms in the tower and disco. An amazing job, giving your own time and energy so the children can have a great Halloween".

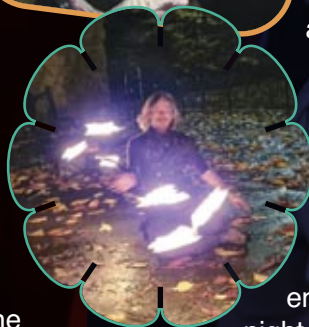


A massive effort goes into organising and ensuring the success of an event like this. A brilliant support team is key! Please recognize the following individuals for their tireless efforts, creepy creativity, ghoul-ing time and scary commitment, making this a special occasion for the children of our community.



Maggie McEwan, Cassie Milligan, Dana Milligan, Sophia Milligan, Norma Doherty, Sherrie McCorrison, Callaghan McCorrison, Annie McCorrison, Izzy McCorrison, Abigail Hutchinson, Kerrie Mahoney, Frank McCorrison, John Cannon, Deirdre Cuthbertson, Carol Campbell, Jayde Denholm, Gillian Durrant, Margaret Holligan, Dean McEwan, Andy McLean.

Special thank you to Gary Wilkie from the Greenside for his donation, and to Kaila and Fluke our Headless Horsewoman Team!



However, the biggest Thank You goes to Cassie Milligan who was the brains behind this awesome party. For those that don't know, she has been putting on Halloween parties for our kids for the past eight years. Starting at her house, using her own time, energy and money to make a memorable night for the kids. As her parties have grown, appreciative parents have started giving their support, which is most appreciated.

With over 175 attendees, it's safe to say this Halloween Party was an epic success!! Can't wait to see what next Halloween will bring.



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KA19 7AB

 - 01655 882235

 - Carrick Pharmacy

www.carrickpharmacy.co.uk | info@carrickpharmacy.co.uk



Dalrymple Pharmacy

6 Main Street Dalrymple
KA6 6DF

 - 01292 560931

 - Dalrymple Pharmacy

www.dalrymplepharmacy.co.uk | info@dalrymplepharmacy.co.uk

FREE PRESCRIPTION COLLECTION AND DELIVERY SERVICE: We collect prescriptions from the following surgeries:

Daily Medical Practice, Dailly | Dr McCulloch & Partners, Girvan |

Girvan Riverside Medical Practice (Drs McMaster, Brooksbank & McKelvey), Girvan |

Carrick Medical Practice, Maybole | Maybole Medical Practice, Maybole

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**Contraception &
Sexual Health Clinic**



Trouble hearing others?
Annoying ear aches?
Ringing in your ears?
Tired of sore or itchy ears?
It could just be wax.

Speak to a staff member and book an appointment today,
to learn the cause from as little as 30 minutes.

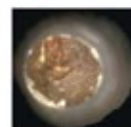


**Ear Wax Removal Service
Available at**



**Carrick
Pharmacy**

**It could just
be wax...**



Before



After

We can help with that and more...
Book a 30 minute ear & hearing
health assessment today.



PHARMACY FIRST SERVICE

If you have a minor illness, a
pharmacy is the first place
you should go for advice.

A pharmacist can give you advice
and treatment (if you need it)
for minor illnesses.

Please contact the pharmacy if you
would like any healthcare advice.

FLU VACCINATION

Flu Vaccination Service.

NHS eligible patients (FREE) and
Private patients (£15).

Please contact the pharmacy or drop
in to make an appointment.

CULZEAN PRIMARY NEWS



Sports News

Culzean entered a team to the Active Sports Cross Country competition at Rozelle. 37 schools took part and in the P5 round there were 57 pupils. It was a bit chaotic to start, however all our Primary 5 boys finished in the top 10 and the P6 boys finished in the top 20.



Kayleigh Haggo Visit

As part of their topic on the Paralympics, Primary 5 were very lucky to have our local Paralympian, Kayleigh Haggo, come to visit. She told everyone about all the different sports that she participates in. She explained that she had gone to the London Paralympics with her mum, and she was inspired to participate in the Paralympics. Kayleigh explained that it wasn't easy, but she was determined and didn't give up. Everyone found her very inspirational. She has competed at the Tokyo Paralympics as a frame runner and played Boccia for Great Britain in Paris. Kayleigh took everyone outside and taught us a little bit about Boccia. We all had a shot, and it was a bit tricky.

Day of Dance

Primary 6 have been taking part in a block of Scottish country dancing and are being taught by Mr Kerr. At the end of the block, the boys and girls are looking forward to hosting the other schools taking part, in a day of dance.

Alloway Tunnel Project

Some boys and girls from P6 were invited to participate in the Alloway Tunnel project. The project is bringing together local pupils and communities to create a mural that will decorate the inside of the Alloway tunnel. The boys and girls painted the graveyard scenes from Tam o Shanter. Dolphin House P7 recently enjoyed a fabulous trip to Dolphin House Outdoor Education Centre in

Culzean. They report the following "We went caving and heard some scary stories. We had great fun during orienteering. We enjoyed mountain biking where we had high vis jackets, gloves and helmets, we were very muddy! Rock pooling was great, we found crabs, star fish etc. We went abseiling, took part in archery and had the best time at the karaoke/party night"

Co-op Community Fund

We are fortunate to have been chosen to be part of the next round of the Co-op Local Community Fund. The funding round will start on Sunday 20 October 2024 and will run for 12 months until 19 October 2025. During this time, Co-op Members will be able to choose us as their cause, the more members who choose us, the more money we'll receive. Our focus for the fundraising will be to provide additional resources as we develop our outdoor space to encompass outdoor learning activities.



Bin Collections Over the Festive Period

Please note that there will be changes to your bin collections over the festive period. If your scheduled collection day is not one of the dates below, your collections will be carried out as normal.

Household Waste Collections

IMPORTANT - please make sure that you put your bins out by 5.45am on all scheduled collection days.

Non Recycling Waste (Green Bin)

Scheduled Collection Date	Festive Collection Date
Wednesday 25 December	Saturday 21 December
Thursday 26 December	Thursday 26 December
Wednesday 1 January 2025	Saturday 28 December
Thursday 2 January 2025	Thursday 2 January 2025

Glass Bin (Purple Lid)

Scheduled Collection Date	Festive Collection Date
Wednesday 25 December	Saturday 21 December
Thursday 26 December	Thursday 26 December
Wednesday 1 January 2025	Saturday 28 December
Thursday 2 January 2025	Thursday 2 January 2025

Food Waste - Please leave your food caddy out until it is collected.

Scheduled Collection Date	Festive Collection Date
Wednesday 25 December	Between Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 December
Wednesday 1 January 2025	Between Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 January 2025

Paper and Cardboard (Grey Bin)

Scheduled Collection Date	Festive Collection Date
Wednesday 25 December	Sunday 22 December
Thursday 26 December	Thursday 26 December
Wednesday 1 January 2025	Sunday 29 December
Thursday 2 January 2025	Thursday 2 January 2025

Plastic, Metals and Cartons (Blue Bin)

Scheduled Collection Date	Festive Collection Date
Wednesday 25 December	Sunday 22 December
Thursday 26 December	Thursday 26 December
Wednesday 1 January 2025	Sunday 29 December
Thursday 2 January 2025	Thursday 2 January 2025

Garden Waste (Brown Bin)

Garden waste will only be collected from properties with garden waste permits who have pre-booked the collection for the winter period.

Scheduled Collection Date	Festive Collection Date
Wednesday 25 December	Tuesday 24 December
Thursday 26 December	Friday 27 December
Wednesday 1 January 2025	Tuesday 31 December
Thursday 2 January 2025	Friday 3 January 2025

Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs)

Heathfield

Closed Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 December
Closed Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 January 2025

Troon

Closed Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 December
Closed Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 January 2025

Girvan

Closed Wednesday 25 and Thursday 26 December
Closed Wednesday 1 and Thursday 2 January 2025

Maybole

Normal Operating Hours

Please remember that our HWRCs operate a booking system for South Ayrshire residents. Bookings can be made online at www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/recycling-centres

Bulky Uplifts

Bulky uplifts will stop on Friday 20 December 2024 and recommence on Monday 6 January 2025.

More festive opening hours are available on our website by scanning the QR code below.



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COUNCIL
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Deas
Making a Difference Every Day

www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk



CARRICK COMMUNITY FOOD GARDEN LOOKS FORWARD TO ITS 5TH BIRTHDAY!

After 4 years of good progress, in August 2025 the Carrick Community Food Garden will be celebrating its 5th birthday.

During 2024, along with local gardeners and farmers, the garden experienced challenges caused by high rainfall and below-average temperatures. But this did not hold back our magnificent team of volunteers and the groups we work with! Their efforts and resilience resulted in another successful year.

A total of 160 children, from Culzean Primary and St Cuthbert's Primary, worked with us through the year. Every week during term time 20 children visited us to experience each phase of growing vegetables, from planting out to harvesting. This was the first full year of working with schools. Following very positive feedback, we look forward to continuing this partnership next year.

A team from RecoveryAyr led by Chris Jones, completed a number of works from building a paved area behind the polytunnel to treating raised beds and fences.

Maybole's Art Group leader, Coral McMillan donated a garden table and two benches made from recycled wood by husband Hugh. Coral and Hugh painted them working with a 3rd year group from Carrick Academy.

As a reward for their efforts, volunteers and members of the teams we work with are encouraged to take away vegetables they have grown. We also held a number of pizza days on the garden using produce we have grown if available.

Despite the challenges, we grew enough vegetables to supply the Food Pantry at the Carrick Centre.

In October, the Scottish Smallholders Association held their Apple Day at the garden. This provided an opportunity for the wider community to visit the garden as well as to make delicious apple juice which will not be found on the supermarket shelves!

The garden looks for opportunities to participate in Maybole community events and had a stand at the Robert the Bruce event in July.

For 2025, apart from hoping for fine weather, we are considering how work schedules might be organised to suit school parents and other local folk thinking of volunteering. We may also establish partnerships with additional groups. In February, the committee and volunteers will be meeting to finalise plans for the coming year.

We have a team with a wide range of gardening expertise and experience combined with energy and enthusiasm. Nevertheless, the future of the garden will depend on more local folk volunteering. It's fun so, if you are interested, go to our Facebook page and send us a message!

To find out more and to keep up to date on our activities, follow us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CarrickCommunityFoodGarden>

Or come along and meet us at the garden:
Wednesdays and Thursdays.

From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Allan's Hill, Maybole, KA19 7AU

(behind the car park of Our Lady & St. Cuthbert's)

Achievement starts with **AMBITION**

Are you setting up a new business venture? Or maybe you already have a business and are looking to grow? Either way, South Ayrshire Council's AMBITION programme can help.

AMBITION provides support to local people to start or grow a business – including those right here in North Carrick.

The programme has been specially designed to work alongside your business, providing the right support at the right time.

Here are just some examples of how we can help:

- You've got a great business idea, but don't know how to bring it to market – we can provide practical support and advice to get you up and running.

- You've recently started trading, but potential customers don't know you exist – we can provide you with tools and techniques to maximise your digital opportunities to compete and grow.
- You've got an established business but need to find ways to reduce your energy bills – we can help you transition to low carbon technologies.
- You've got big plans for growth but need to be more competitive – we can help you improve efficiency, cut your costs and be more productive.

Whatever your ambition, SAC's Business Advisors will share it with you and help you achieve success.



For more details or to apply to the programme see www.ambitionprogramme.co.uk or call 01292 616 349.



Funded by
UK Government


AMBITION

STARTING OR GROWING A BUSINESS? WE CAN HELP.

Achievement starts with AMBITION

ambitionprogramme.co.uk
01292 616 349



The AMBITION programme is part-funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund



St. Cuthbert's

St. Cuthbert's Summer Term Memories and Welcome Back! We had an amazing last term at School and can't believe it is Autumn already. During the last term, the P7s had an amazing trip to London and a huge THANK YOU to the community and the Rotary Club for supporting our fundraising efforts - what a trip it was. Memories were created for life and the photos certainly say it all.

We welcomed our new 2024/25 Primary one children in for 'Bump Up' days and they all enjoyed getting to know their new Teachers and made new friends. Our P4 children celebrated their First Holy Communion, and we wish them all the best. An enjoyable day was had by all.

The whole School were extremely fortunate to attend and help at the Community Garden again and a Summer Term is never the same without the annual Sports' Day and whole School Trip. The sun shone for Sports Day, and we all had a 'bouncing' time at Bounce station.

The end of term is always special as we say goodbye to our P7'S...they are a wonderful group of children, and we wish them all the best on their new chapter at the Academy. We will miss them!

WE ARE BACK TOGETHER... and what a busy term it is shaping up to be. Lots of visitors and exciting opportunities. The pupils and staff are delighted to be back together and ready to work hard and create lots more new memories.





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View our
website

WELLBEING FOR EVERYONE!

The Community Wellbeing Hub has been busy as ever over the past few months, with a focus on bringing a wide range of wellbeing offerings to an even wider range of participants.

In October we facilitated an amazing drumming session at the Cutty Sark in Ayr in conjunction with VASA's ageing well team. The session was full to bursting and the participants were some of the most enthusiastic we've met – they certainly flew the flag for ageing well and we were delighted to be a part of their day.

We had some great news when The Asda Foundation selected us as one of their community beneficiaries and we received some much needed funding to transform two of our unused rooms into new wellbeing activity areas where we will be able to offer creative arts & crafts and creative writing for wellbeing, as well as hosting guest speakers with exciting activities and other wellbeing groups in the local area. Work is well underway and we are excited to welcome everyone to the new spaces soon.

We have been participating in a pilot scheme with the local Social Work team to bring funded holistic treatments to carers of dementia patients locally, and have been very happy to see them soak up the benefits of an hour of care just for them.

One of the things we've been asked for a lot in the last year is a weekly session where people can come along for chat, support, wellbeing activities and refreshments. After a successful bid for PB funding (thank you to everyone who voted for us), we were able to put plans in place and set a date to start. This was quickly followed up by our Psychic night fundraiser at the Carrick Centre which raised enough money to fund the extra activities we wanted to include, and we look forward to welcoming you all on Friday mornings from

10am-12pm starting 15th November. The sessions are open to anyone in the local area, and we extend an invitation to teens who may be struggling and are not in school – they are very welcome to participate when accompanied by a parent or caregiver. We have an informal booking system for the sessions, which are free, just to plan for numbers,

so if you'd like the details then please do message us through on either the **Community Wellbeing Hub CIC** Facebook page or on our email: **communitywellbeinghubcic@gmail.com**

After the success of our first ever Wellbeing Festival in August, we are happy to announce that we will be running another full day festival on 18th January 2025 – stay tuned to our social media for updates on that as we get planning underway.

We are grateful to Destination South Ayrshire for their continued support.

It was also a pleasure to take part in

South Ayrshire Health & Social care's community engagement event at Maybole Town Hall. We networked with a huge number of local charities, services and service planners which is always a great way to boost our knowledge of what else is out there for the benefit of our clients and to build on our existing relationships in the healthcare sectors. There was a presentation on the data for Scotland and the local area, and some of the statistics are quite concerning, so it's really good to have so many local organisations coming together to find solutions.

Behind the scenes we are busy as always exploring all available funding routes and submitting applications to extend our provision and keep our existing services running. We hope to have good news from our current applications to allow us to start 2025 with the ability to bring all of our new plans to life.



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See our website for festive opening hours: WWW.ADRATTRAY.COM

Fisherton Primary School



Outdoor Learning

As always, we love to take advantage of our local environment for quality outdoor learning experiences. Recently, P1234 visited the beach and harbour as part of our 'Beside the Sea' topic.



Halloween

At Fisherton, we love to celebrate Halloween. Miss McVie organised a spooktacular day of fun activities – dooking for apples, pumpkin carving, arts & crafts, 'Trick or Treat' feely boxes and a party to end the day! Thank you to our parents and grandparents who handed in treats for the children.



Remembrance

This year, Mrs Campbell and some pupils from P6 joined visitors from the Canadian Contingent for a special Remembrance Service at Dunure Cemetery. Afterwards the Provost, the Reverend, members of the Royal British Legion and parents joined us at school for our own service. Some of our wonderful ambassadors from P567, read a poem they had written. Children had previously spent time learning all about the significance of the poppy as part of Remembrance.



Road Safety

PC McGinlay visited the EYC and both classes to talk about safety around traffic ahead of Road Safety Week. Children learned about the importance of wearing bright colours in the winter months so they can be easily seen by drivers.



Parental Involvement

As part of parental engagement in the Early Years Centre, Fiona has been leading PEEP sessions in



school for children and their parents. They play games, sing songs and take part in arts and craft activities. We also enjoyed having our families join us for our Harvest Assembly. We look forward to more up-coming events.

Anti-bullying Week

We marked Anti-bullying week by wearing odd socks to school to celebrate that we are all different and unique. Children learned about this year's Anti-bullying Week theme 'Choose Respect' at assembly.

Robert the Bruce – Sculpture Unveiling

Finlay in P5 was delighted to have created the winning design for the Robert the Bruce sculpture trail. Mr MacMorland



and P567 attended the unveiling of the sculpture in Dunure. Everyone at Fisherton is very proud of Finlay and we all agree that the sculpture looks fantastic!

Nature Nook Update

Wildlife Watch – we were absolutely delighted that

some birds chose to build their nest in our Nature Nook over the summer holiday. We also had some frogs in our pond. Children have made some bat boxes hopeful for more visitors to our garden!

Budding Gardeners

Children have enjoyed cutting some of the varieties of Dahlias that they have grown and displaying these in vases around the school. They have been involved in planting new spring bulbs, and we will wait patiently for these to bud. We have to thank Mr Hill along with some of our parents who have volunteered their time to support with the maintenance of the Nature Nook.

What next?

The children have noticed that the grass around the pond is quite patchy so they have done some research and are keen to grow a clover lawn in this area. Our amazing Parent Council have also secured us a £250 Co-op grant to help us buy new gardening equipment and bulbs and seeds. We are excited to see this area continue to grow and develop!

Merry Christmas from Leslie
and all the Team at the Farm



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Kirkmichael Fireworks

For the 12th successive year, the weather in Kirkmichael was kind, or at least reasonably kind, and a humungous bonfire decorated with a resigned guy, supplied and designed by the primary school kids, was lit.

As the blaze reached its flaming peak, the fireworks began to go off in glorious style. As in the past, the whole was organised by KVR and village volunteers. It was funded by generous sponsors and bucket contributions on the night.

Huge thanks are due to the volunteer fireworks lighters, bucket wielders, bonfire builders, burger cooks, glowstick sellers and stewards.

As far as can be established, about 150 – 200 spectators turned up and about that many burgers and hot dogs were sold. Finally, thanks also go to James Watson our photographer on the spot.

North Carrick Community Benefit News



Bruce's Web Interactive Arts Trail

North Carrick's newest attraction is proving to be a hit with local communities! There were a couple of concerns along the way but these were addressed. Informal "unveilings", focused on primary school pupils, were held in each village. The youngsters, whose designs are reflected in the final artworks, enjoyed celebrating the new installations and, along the way, learned a bit more about their own heritage.

The official launch of the Trail was on St Andrew's Day. This featured Maybole's new 3m high Mercat Cross, topped by an impressive Lion of Carrick. The next issue of this newsletter will include images for that event.

Meanwhile, why not download the app from the Apple app store or Google play store and do your own tour of the sites to enjoy both the artworks and the Augmented Reality experiences?

Bruce 750 Celebrations

As we continue to commemorate the 750th anniversary of Bruce, the focus has now shifted towards the Arts and AR Trail, as well as the new Heritage Enterprise Village (HEV) project.

Heritage Enterprise Village (HEV) Project

The project to develop networks of local organisations, businesses, and attractions is well into its second year. Local historian, Simon Glendenning, was appointed as the Heritage Enterprise Village Coordinator until the end of March 2025 and there is funding for another year after that.

In addition, there's a promising opportunity for North Carrick to benefit from a community-led tourism initiative funded by ARIA and NCCBC. SCOTO's "Press Pause" programme is working

with communities that are keen to explore opportunities and issues around tourism. In some cases, the need is to explore how tourism could work better – due to recent or longer standing changes or tensions with visitors. In other cases, there are communities that feel there are visitors close by but they are being by-passed and not benefitting.

Press Pause, combined with the work being done in the HEV project, should help to maximise the benefits of tourism in North Carrick.

The Gatherings & Flat Above

Good news! In a project beset by external challenges, work on the flat is nearly finished and the new 3-bedroom flat will soon be available to let. The property has been finished to a high standard by a local builder and sub-contractors. It will be managed by an estate agent on behalf of NCCBC and should prove popular with prospective tenants.

NCCBC HQ – Community Asset Transfer

NCCBC has been leasing the former Golf Clubhouse from South Ayrshire Council from the time that the Golf Club closed down and the building became empty and there was a risk that it would fall into disrepair. A planning application for change of use was approved and NCCBC is now looking at securing the building for the long-term.

NCCBC is consulting local people on this and you can tell us what you think by scanning the QR code and answering the question in our survey.

NCCBC Impact Assessment

As NCCBC approaches its 10th anniversary of awarding grants, an impact assessment and a social return on investment study are being carried out. Community Enterprise Ltd and economist Richard Marsh are leading this work and a report will be included in a future issue of this Newsletter.





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The costs of this publication have been met out of parliamentary resources

CROSSHILL CRAFTERS

Crosshill Crafters have been busy at their group meetings making Post Box Toppers for Halloween and Remembrance Day along with a string of poppies for the war memorial and a hand painted picture of military cap badges. We have lots of craft materials for knitting, crochet, painting plus lots more and recently bought two sewing machines (one new, and one second hand) plus lots of accessories with £300 funding from Crosshill's share of the NCCBC Community Benefit Fund. They are already getting lots of use! So look out for our next Post Box Topper which is already in the making!



Crosshill Crafters

We meet every Wednesday 1pm till 3 ish

at Crosshill Community Centre

Fancy trying a new craft?
We have lots of goodies for knitting, cross stitch, felting, 5d diamond art, crochet, painting and more!

Or come along for a blether.

£1.00 per person - Tea/coffee and biscuits

Everyone welcome.

Launching the Interactive Arts and Augmented Reality Trail...

Bruce's Web

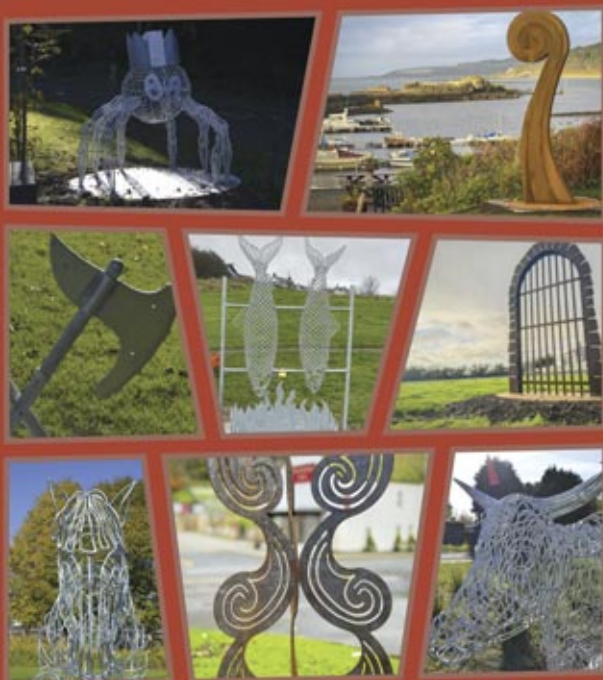
North Carrick's newest attraction has launched!

From Maidens to Minishant, Dunure to Straiton, all eight villages in our area have installed new artworks, and Maybole has a new Mercat cross topped with a Lion of Carrick. All this is to commemorate the 750th anniversary of King Robert the Bruce's Birth at Turnberry. Combined with the Bruce's Web App, this means that local people and visitors can follow the trail to discover the nine pieces of outdoor art with fun augmented reality elements and gaming challenges. Be sure to download the app from www.northcarrick.com/bruces-web/ before you start your visit and you can also collect one of the trail info booklets at a variety of local shops and businesses.

Collect all the
Bruce's Web stickers in
your trail booklet!



Download the app!



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PROJECT PHOTOGRAPHERS - KATY HARVEY AND CHELSEA HIBBINS

Robert the Bruce was believed to have been born at Turnberry Castle and spent much of his life in the North Carrick area of South Ayrshire which includes the towns and villages of Turnberry, Maybole, Minishant, Dunure, Maidens, Kirkoswald, Crosshill, Kirkmichael and Straiton. The villages where the trail is located form a web like shape - hence "Bruce's Web Interactive Arts Trail". The creation of the Bruce's Web eight village sculptures and Bruce's Web mobile app was commissioned by North Carrick Community Benefit Company and awarded to CRAG Community Arts SCIO led by Girvan based artist David Powell.

As you make your way around each location, you'll find fun sculptures such as a giant spider and a war horse. Each piece of art has a unique QR code for trail-goers to scan using the Bruce's Trail app. That will create augmented reality imagery and bring the artworks to life. Through the free and family friendly app, people will learn about Bruce's historical links with each place. There is a fun "Quest for the Crown" game to play as well!

North Carrick is also home to many rural businesses including independent retailers, artists and makers, eateries, a range of accommodation providers and unique suppliers. Whilst out and about, app users are encouraged to visit the local businesses listed where they can scan posters to collect virtual badges, uncover selected discounts and pick up free brochures and stickers. The app also links to popular walking and cycling routes in the area.



Funded by
UK Government



northcarrick.com/bruces-web

Artist David Powell, renowned for his work in willow and steel, including popular sculptures at Culzean Country Park, Rozelle Park and Eglinton Park led the project with a project team including Ross Graham (Artoryx – app design), Jacqueline Ross (clever river – copywriting and business engagement) and Mary Jean Govan (CRAG Community Arts – community engagement). All the eight village pieces have been created by artist David Powell with David commissioning Morells Forge in Maidens to produce the 'Twa Aixes' and Jamiesons Welding in Girvan to fabricate the three corten steel forms.



Photo- Chelsea Hibbins



Photo- Chelsea Hibbins



Photo- Lily Hurry



Photo- Chelsea Hibbins

Lead Artist David Powell told us:

"It has been a long journey, one full of twists and turns, but the pieces have now been positioned for the New Bruce's Web trail. From 'Ettercaps' tae 'Coo's' the sculptures stand celebrating the birth of Bruce, Earl of Carrick and King of the Scots. Follow in the footsteps of Bruce and uncover and discover the rolling landscape of Carrick from shore and cliff to hill and forest... From The Landing at the Maidens to the 'Twa Aixes' at Straiton the eight new artworks are now sitting in their new homes. There has been a lot of firsts on this project which gave the CRAG Community Arts Project Team the chance to engage and work with local communities and talented local artist artisans and makers to produce the works which will form the new trail. With the artworks being crafted to last 25 years, the trail is set to be enjoyed by locals, visitors and tourists alike."

The art pieces in each location relevant to Robert the Bruce's life and legacy are as follows -

- Turnberry – Sea Gate (The Birth)
- Dunure – The Fish & Fire (The Feeding)
- Kirkoswald – Droplets (The Baptism)
- Maidens – The Birlinn Prow (The Landing)
- Straiton – Twa Aixes (The Camp)
- Crosshill – Whitebred Shorthorn Cow (The Grazing)
- Kirkmichael – Spider (Ettercap)
- Minishant – War Horse (Coƿaidh)
- Maybole – Mercat Cross Pillar (Lion of Carrick)



Photo- CRAG



Photo- Chelsea Hibbins

Any businesses in North Carrick that would like to be included in the app as part of the trail can contact admin@nccbc.org.uk.

Maybole at the centre of Bruce's Web



Read more about
Maybole's Mercat
Cross here:



At the heart of the trail is the ancient Capital of Carrick, Maybole – with a special centrepiece to Bruce's Web comprising of a Mercat Cross with a 'Lion of Carrick' sculpture on top. 'The Lion of Carrick' is a nickname given to Robert the Bruce. The piece has been created by Turnberry based artist John McKenna, renowned for large-scale public art projects from intricate cast bronzes to the colossal stainless-steel Shipbuilders at Port Glasgow.



Artist John McKenna said: "I was thrilled when asked by Maybole Community Council and NCCBC to create a Mercat Cross and have enjoyed making it for them, producing the pillar and the historical plaques that adorn it. For the two decades that I have lived here in the Carrick area I have wanted to create a sculpture tribute to Robert the Bruce, who was born at Turnberry, the area I call home. The Mercat Cross, finished with my top finial of Robert the Bruce, Lion of Carrick, crowns the project for me and gives Maybole a unique centrepiece."

Mark Fletcher, Chair of NCCBC said of the project: "We are thrilled to see the completion of Bruce's Web which is the final element of the last 2 years' celebrations for one of Scotland's greatest Kings. We believe we are the first trail in Ayrshire to offer an augmented reality element that really brings to life the rich history of our area and shines a spotlight on Robert the Bruce through the combination of art and digital technology. Special thanks go to the young people of the area for their enthusiastic engagement and visions for the project. Connecting all the communities of North Carrick with this web of sculptures will not only appeal to locals but also visitors and keep people engaged with this wonderful place that we call home."



The Maybole piece was made possible by the Scottish Government, Maybole Community Council, May-Taq and North Carrick Community Benefit Company. Commissioned by Maybole Community Council, the piece boasts a pillar and commemorative plaques with the plaques telling the story of the town. The sculpture is designed to show the pride that the people of Maybole have in playing such an important part in the story of one of Scotland's greatest kings.

The Mercat Cross 'Lion of Carrick' unveiling on St Andrews Day 2024 declared the Bruce's Web trail officially open.

Photos of the unveiling and a full article on the completed Lion of Carrick and new Mercat Cross will follow in the next edition!

Visit www.northcarrick.com/bruces-web/ to plan your visit and to download the app for both iOS and Android.

THE STORY OF ROBERT THE BRUCE

Written by Simon Glendenning

FINAL PART

On 25 March 1306, Robert the Bruce, Lord of Annandale, Earl of Carrick, is crowned Robert I at Scone Abbey. Bruce is crowned a hated man and had to work hard to win over his kinship.

Edward I orders the raising of the Dragon Banner. This is to signify that the English army are to give no quarter. The wrath of Edward I defeats the bulk of Bruce's army at Perth. By the end of 1306, Bruce and his forces are reduced to exile on the island of Rathlin off the coast of Ireland.

Edward I takes vengeance against Robert the Bruce by killing three of his brothers and taking his wife and daughter prisoner. It is believed that while Bruce was in exile in a cave on Rathlin, he encountered a spider who inspired him to return.

In February of 1306, Bruce returns to mainland Scotland at Maidens beach in a final bid to reclaim Scotland. Bruce's first action is to retake his home, Turnberry Castle and he succeeds.

May 1307 was the Battle of Loudon hill. The English forces catch up with Bruce but Bruce and his forces are victorious. Bruce used his knowledge of the land to force the English on a narrow front. Bruce used trenches filled with spikes to deal with the English cavalry. Caltraps were also used to force the English into narrow spaces. Caltraps were a particularly nasty triangular spike. Standing on one of these rusty spikes could well have been a death sentence. Infection or tetanus could be the nasty end to many and so these were avoided at all costs. Bruce's victory in this battle brought with it the support of the Scottish people.

In July 1307, Edward I decides to lead an army himself to Scotland to put an end to Bruce once and for all. Unfortunately, Edward I died outside the Scottish border. Edward I was very ill and infirm at the time and yet his determination pushed him to make the journey with his army. On his deathbed, he tells his son and successor, that he wishes his body to be boiled and his bones put at the head of his army to conquer Scotland. Edward specified that he wanted his remains to be placed in a lead box rather than a tomb until the Scots are subdued. His remains are still in that lead box to this day...



Carrick History Society
Comman Eachdraidh
Charraige

During the next 6 years -

Edward II's Kingdom teeters on civil war and he finds it difficult to muster armies against Bruce. Bruce goes out of his way to avoid large battles. Bruce slowly takes back his Kingdom.

Bruce uses scorched earth tactics against the English, destroying castles including Turnberry to prevent the enemy taking them.

By 1313, Bruce holds every castle except for Stirling and Berwick. Stirling is his next target.

23 June 1314

The English amasses the largest assembled force ever seen in medieval Britain outnumbering the Scots 2:1. Before the battle, Bruce avoids being taken out by Henry De Boun. Bruce uses his axe to smash in De Boun's head and remarks 'That man broke my favourite axe!' The battle begins and the Scottish forces form a Schiltron forcing the English into the River. Archers fire upon the Scots but Bruce's cavalry wipe out the English archers quickly. A combination of marshy ground, heavy armour and cavalry unable to move forced the English to retreat. Robert the Bruce has won the war and begins to rebuild his beloved country.

On 6 April 1320, the Declaration of Arbroath is signed which was a letter to the pope to force Edward II to acknowledge Bruce as King of Scots.

Bruce dies in 1329 in Cardross (today Renton) and Bruce's remains are buried in Dunfermline Abbey while his heart is buried in Melrose Abbey.

Bruce the Lionheart

I hope the events of the past 2 years and this 3 part story have helped you to understand why Bruce needs to be acknowledged more in Carrick. Bruce has been overshadowed by another Robert for years. Bruce's reputation has also been destroyed by the film *Braveheart* and hopefully, you now understand that his 'traitorous' actions were not as cut and dry as that film. Do visit the Bruce Art Trail for further information!

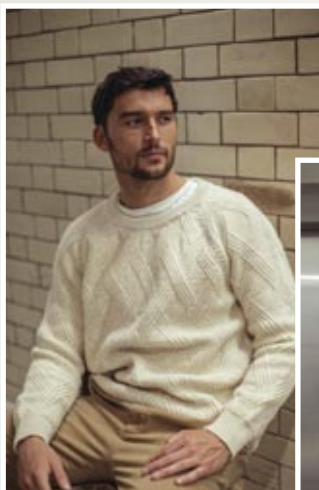
Simon Glendenning November 2024



North Carrick residents might already have heard about the Biosphere's recent big launches, some of which have been featured in national press. In October the organisation hosted the premiere of *Heart of the Biosphere: A Year in the Life of Merrick-Kells & Silver Flowe*, a unique cinematic short documenting twelve months of changing landscapes in the remote 'Core Areas' of southwest Scotland's UNESCO region. A crew from Lilac Howell Films worked with the Biosphere team to capture the fascinating wildlife of these wetland and upland areas in footage that followed slow-worms and toads through the bog, tracked birds of prey over the Galloway hills, and swam down rivers with otters and brown trout.

More than a hundred people attended the premiere of *Heart of the Biosphere* at Newton Stewart Cinema, and the film's first Ayrshire screening will take place on 11th January 2025 at the Carrick Centre in Maybole. Tickets are free to book on the Biosphere's Eventbrite page. The film is also available for organisations, schools, and special interest groups, with a Biosphere officer present to introduce the film and lead a discussion or workshop for attendees. Enquiries for this are welcome at any time via info@gsabiosphere.org.uk.

October was Wool Month 2024 and saw the launch of Merrick Scottish Blackface Knitwear, the GSAB Partnership's first social enterprise which has been supported by South Ayrshire Council's Community Wealth Building programme and a host of local and national partners including British Wool. Merrick's luxury knitted outerwear range is made using 100% Scottish Blackface wool sourced from farms in the UNESCO region; farmers are paid above market value for the fleece, and profits go back into local grassroots projects. The online shop is now live at www.merrickscotland.com where you will also find some great articles about the sheep farming history and the inspiration behind the clothing designs.



Finally: the Biosphere's Small Scale Tree Planting Programme is now open for applications. This season's scheme is supported by South Ayrshire Council, the Woodland Trust, Scottish Forestry and Land Energy, and has been expanded for 2024/25. Grants of up to £1,000 are available and applications will be accepted until 15th March 2025; if you have up to 0.6 acres (0.25ha) of land and would like to plant some broadleaf trees, please email Nature Recovery Officer Antoine Lemaire antoine@gsabiosphere.org.uk or go direct to the Biosphere website and fill in the application form.



In November Dolphin House, South Ayrshire Council's outdoor education centre, launched their new outdoor classroom and the GSA Biosphere team were there to help lead a full day of activities for primary and secondary pupils and adult groups, including beachcombing, rock pooling, and making bird feeders with SAC Rangers. Attendees also got to see a transparent kayak filled with seawater, a lobster, crabs, sea anemones and other creatures, a rare opportunity to observe marine life up close, and to go out on the St Ayles Skiff coastal rowing boat, allowing for beautiful views of Culzean Castle and the Carrick coast. The Biosphere's Community Officer, Faith Hillier, said, "The new outdoor classroom is a fantastic space for learning more about nature, wildlife and habitats and our staff are excited to be working in partnership with Dolphin House, supporting their important education programme within the UNESCO Biosphere."

The GSA Biosphere Partnership is a registered Scottish charity (SC044137) and more information about their activity programme including all the above is available at www.gsabiosphere.org.uk. On socials, follow #gsabiosphere to keep up to date with news and events.

CROSSHILL SWI



This year, the Crosshill branch of The Scottish Women's Institute (SWI) celebrates 100 years of fun, friendship and learning! In recognition of this magnificent birthday, we wanted to create a new trophy which would be presented to a member who had contributed significantly to our Rural. Having discovered 6 SWRI teaspoons in a drawer we thought that these could be used, once they were well polished, as part of the trophy! We approached Iain of The Pine Workshop, Maidens and were delighted when he designed and made a beautiful trophy at no cost to us.

We, the members, voted and the very first recipient of our Centenary Trophy is Hazel Murdoch. Hazel is our competitions convener and has worked away tirelessly in the background for years, co-ordinating all of our competitions, recording the winners and tallying up the points for the final yearly reckoning. We all agreed that she is a very worthy winner! Hazel was presented with the trophy at our birthday lunch, held in November at the Kirkton Inn, Dalrymple.

Our birthday celebration was attended by special guests: our Honorary President Mary Baird, Federation President, Nan Brown and Federation Treasurer Janette Harvey. Mary Baird opened our celebrations by cutting our birthday cake.

Entertainment at the event was decidedly home grown! Some members read a selection of favourite poems and epistles relating to the last 100 years, some specially written for the event. Nan Brown, having presented Hazel with our Centenary Trophy, closed our afternoon with a look back into our history. Members were amused by the combination of Scottish Country Dancing and, for the non-dancers, a knitting competition!

Our programme for the year is, as usual, varied and interesting, with subjects ranging from Beekeeping to a Scottish Quiz, Chair Yoga to an Air-fryer Demonstration. Of course, our syllabus would not be complete without one of our legendary afternoon teas. Entertainment at that meeting will feature our well known local musical



star, Davie Anderson. Joining in and foot tapping will be eagerly anticipated.

Come along and join us as, for a small fee of £4, visitors are always welcome. We meet on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, September to April, at Crosshill Community Centre at 2pm.



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Sharon Dowe MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament
for South Scotland Region

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Bfriend Award!



It was a night full of glitz and glamour for the Project Coordinators from Bfriend who attended the Chamber of Commerce Business Awards on 4th October at Ayr Racecourse. After a detailed application process consisting of a written application and interview (which was attended by a young person and Project Coordinator) Bfriend were placed in a category full of incredible and inspirational organisations including Seascope, Alloway Tunnel and Heads of Ayr Nursery. All had demonstrated huge commitment to their local communities however it was Bfriend who won the award on the night. The Community Award recognised the fundamental work of the charity, providing befriending between young people and volunteer befrienders, but also the additional community work

that is undertaken by the befrienders and young people themselves.

This can involve litter picks, volunteering their befriending time at other organisations including dog shelters etc. Some of the young people have also volunteered their time to become part of a youth committee, Beyou, influencing and shaping the direction of the charity while also supporting other young people who are part of the service.



Bfriend is always looking for new volunteer befrienders. If you would like to join an award winning charity and give them a few hours each month to support a young person please call **01292 264000**, email **info@bfriend.org.uk** or visit **www.bfriend.org.uk**

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,
Ropes Bistro

Maybole:
The Carrick Centre,
Library, Co-op, Spar

Kirkoswald:
Souters

Turnberry:
Balkenna Tearoom,
Dowhill Farm Shop,
Turnberry Holiday
Park

Dunure/Fisherton:
The Anchorage,
Harbourside Coffee
Shop, Aruna Arts &
Gifts



KIRKMICHAEL STAGE AND SCREEN GOES PINK FOR BREAST CANCER NOW !!



In aid of Breast Cancer month in October, the club decided to hold a PINK night—obviously we had to show Barbie, the ultimate 'Pink' film. We also had raffles which everyone generously donated to, pink cup cakes, sponsored silence, sweepstakes and a free cocktail!! What's not to like? In total the whole evening plus donations raised £1000 !!!!!

Look out for our posters every month in the shop, on Facebook, Instagram etc so as not to miss out on a great evening - entry only £5, this includes a free welcome drink, and a free prize draw. Tickets are available at the Kirkmichael Community Shop in advance, or on the night space permitting. We look forward to seeing you there!

Find us on Facebook—Kirkmichael Stage and Screen or email
kirkmichaelstageandscreen@outlook.com

Carrick Coastal Rowing Club



Carrick Coastal held another successful Regatta on Saturday 21st September and looked after nine other clubs. Including the furthest away – Anstruther RC.

With windy conditions The Chase – from Maidens Harbour to Gas House Bay at Culzean Castle was a challenging row and the return team back to the harbour had a slightly easier row. Delighted that Troon won the chase and home team Carrick came second. The wooden Spoon went to Dunure .

The mini chase was held later in the harbour and again Troon were the winners .

It was wonderful hosting the other teams not mentioned, FOKKERS/Prestwick/Portpatrick/Royal Gourock and Renegade. It was great to see so many people come and support all the teams and enjoy a row down the water!



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NOTE TO OUR READERSPlease submit all articles as early as possible to assist us with preparing the newsletters. We appear to receive most copy on the final week of the deadline which means we are inundated with stories but we want to make you all aware that we can accept articles during the 3 months between deadlines so please do not feel the need to wait until the deadline approaches.

Next deadline is **19th February 2025**

ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

Should you wish to advertise within the next edition of the **North Carrick Community Newsletter** please contact Shona McMahon at Evolution Designs Ltd: evolutiondesigns@sky.com or call **07753 111 038**.

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Stories Etched in the Carrick Wind

By Beachcomber

The coastal stretch between Dunure and Maidens is riddled with myths that emerge from the soil, the hills, the Croy Shore and the farmlands that dip to the sea.

Take this example: above the Clyde is The Electric Brae with its peculiar name. Put the car in neutral pointing down a decline and, remarkably, it rolls backwards up the hill. Yes, upward. The Victorians mistakenly thought carriages and carts were pulled up by the mysteries of electricity, hence the name. Some bright spark finally proved it's an optical illusion caused by rolling contours. When you think you're going up, you're actually heading down the Brae.

The sea stretches under me as I roll slowly up (or is it down?) the hill. This old smuggling coast is littered with myth and fable. There's David Boran's Loup, a deep cleft splitting the rocky headland. It's reckoned our Davey louped (leapt in Old Scots) across the ravine to escape the excise man. Others say it wasn't The Excise that was after him. But his Ex-wife.

Then there's Katie Gray's Crag. Here, tucked into the most northern edge of Croy Beach past Isla Port, she supposedly lived peering over the silvery Clyde, to the ridges of Goat Fell, the Kintyre Peninsula, The Kyles of Bute, and the roll of distant West Highland hills. Archaeologists later found that Katie, if she ever existed, shared this little coastal outcrop with a Neolithic hamlet which actually did exist. It's about 4000 years old.

Now, nothing remains except humps, rocks and tough sea grass. Not a plaque, not a signpost, not a note on a map. The ancient site is lost to memory. Its only mark on the landscape is a grassy path that corkscrews up a headland, a brow of land, now that winter is entrenched, that's dotted with dying brambles, red Hawthorn berries, the spikey burrs of burdock and, also, miles of bracken dieback.

These tales are the jewelled bones of history. If

they're not specifically true, they still reflect the times in which they were born and enriched.

How about Hippy Woods just south of Dunure? It's not far really from Katie Gray's Crag and David Boran's fantastical leap. It seems a gathering of folks used to head to this copse of beech and ash near The Mill Burn each spring to celebrate Beltane, an age-old festival of fertility. They were kind to the land, cleaned up after whatever pursuits they enacted after dancing around a roaring fire. Supposedly, a curious farmer approached during one year's nocturnal fertility rites. The festive folk asked if he wanted to join in. He courteously declined, as they say in the tabloid press, made his excuses and left them to their all night fertility revelries under the Carrick stars.

Farther south, above Maidens is Shanter Farm. That's where Douglas Graham used to live more than two centuries ago. Yes, the very man Robert Burns used as his tipsy model for Tam O' Shanter. It stands today, the farm does, between the harbour village and the glitz of Turnberry Hotel, no longer a working steading but a livery stables - but still a monument to the power of storytelling by Scotland's greatest poet.



Photo by Mary and Angus Hogg



Straiton News

On the solar side we have had, in October, a super moon also known as the hunters' moon. In ancient days the last chance for hunting and laying down the ladders for the winter. Some will also have witnessed the spectacular displays of the aurora borealis which were lighting up the night skies at the beginning of October.

Weatherwise there was below average rainfall in September and October with even a few sunny, warm days making up somewhat for the lack of summer. A good crowd turned out to enjoy a musical evening in the McCandlish Hall. This time it was Dixieland Jazz with the Rhythm Kings and the group had us all swaying and foot-tapping along. Another success for the Gaiety on Tour and we look forward to what will be on offer in the new year.

The community again benefited from funding from NCCBC with the following organisations receiving support: Kids Craft Group which ran well attended craft workshops in the hall; Community shop had a new door and window frame to replace the existing rotting structures; the McCandlish Hall was able to purchase black out blinds; the environment group had funding for the ongoing upkeep of the planters and the toilets had chain fly nets to deter birds from nesting inside.

It's been a busy time for the church with communion and the Remembrance Sunday services. This year the wreath laying service at the war memorial was blessed with sunshine. The Rev. G. Jones led the act of remembrance and wreaths were laid by Myra Paterson on behalf of the community; Councillor Brian Connolly on behalf of South Ayrshire Council; Peter Clapton on behalf of the Scots Greys Association and Adam Ferguson on behalf of the Hunter Blair family.

Members of Straiton and Kirkmichael churches and communities filled over one hundred shoeboxes with necessities for children and adults in need in Eastern Europe. This was the thirty- first year of supporting the Blythswood shoebox appeal and shows the commitment of Janet, our Minister's Wife, to such a

worthy cause. As always it brings such joy tempered with humility to think of the pleasure that simple things which we take for granted bring to those who have so little.

The guild recommenced in October when we welcomed Angela Seymour as our guest speaker. She gave a most informative and personal talk on MPS (mucopolysaccharidoses) a genetic disease for which there is currently no cure.

We have a varied programme throughout the winter months, and everyone is most welcome to join us. The Christmas Fayre was another success story with a wonderful variety of stalls where you could start your Christmas shopping. When you wanted a rest from the retail side you could relax over tea or coffee with sandwiches and delicious home-baking supplied by members of the church and community. If you are looking for something to do on Monday afternoon, then join the Cosy Corner group for a cuppa with cakes and a good blether.

A short sixty years ago a young couple married in Greenock and, at the beginning of October, celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary with their family and close friends.

The Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, Eric Ross, delivered a card from King Charles and Queen Camilla to Hugh and Fiona McConnachie and the Depute Provost of South Ayrshire, Mary Kilpatrick, presented them with a lovely glass memento to mark the occasion.



Crosshill Early Years Centre

Dough Disco Fun: The children in the EYC had an energetic and creative time with their Dough Disco! This fun activity helped develop their fine motor skills, as they worked with the dough in different ways. Everyone took turns choosing their favourite songs and leading the dough disco.

Autumn Leaves Exploration

The children had a great time exploring the autumn leaves in our EYC garden this week. They also took the opportunity to use our 'talkie walkies' to communicate with friends across the garden. It was an exciting way to blend outdoor play and technology, and the children loved it!

Class 1

Robert the Bruce Sculpture Walk: Class 1 enjoyed a lovely walk with Class 2 to see the newly unveiled sculpture of the cow in Crosshill. This sculpture was part of the Robert the Bruce project, and the children were thrilled to see their ideas and designs come to life. The children were given Bruce's Web booklets which provides information about the trail and sculptures in the surrounding area. You can also download the Bruce's Web app that will bring the sculptures to life. As part of a South Ayrshire Reads partnership, some Ayr United Ambassadors joined us to read some stories to us. We loved listening to them and welcoming them to Crosshill!

Class 2

Icehouse to Hothouse: Class 2 were fortunate to have a visit



from Steve at the Energy Agency, who delivered an engaging lesson on climate change and the greenhouse effect. The children participated in an interactive quiz using remote controls, and then discussed ways they could help protect the planet. They also designed some amazing posters on climate change!

Swimming Achievement

P5-7 showed great determination and perseverance during their swimming lessons. They have been practicing since August to improve their stamina and technique. They have recently been challenged to swim as many lengths as possible, and we are excited to award certificates for their hard work and success!



FORMER GOLF CLUBHOUSE AT MAYBOLE GOLF COURSE

When the Golf Club closed down the building was empty and might have fallen into disrepair. North Carrick Community Benefit took on a lease from South Ayrshire Council and has invested in improvements inside and out. Now we want to take over ownership through a Community Asset Transfer from the council.

PROTECT THE BUILDING AND GIVE NCCBC A BASE FOR THE LONG-TERM

Please let us know what you think by completing the short survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LL9QRLD>



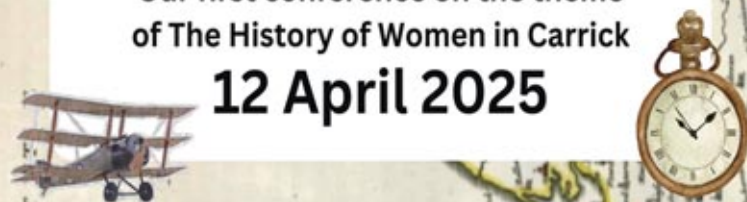
Carrick History Society
www.carrickhistory.scot

SAVE THE DATE

Carrick History Society Presents -

Our first conference on the theme
of The History of Women in Carrick

12 April 2025



THE GATHERINGS
THE NEW MULTI-USE COMMUNITY SHOP
AT 44 HIGH STREET, MAYBOLE!



YOUR NEW COMMUNITY SHOP CONTINUES TO BE POPULAR! SOME OF THE GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS THAT HAVE USED IT RECENTLY INCLUDE: CARRICK DISTRICT GUIDES, MAYBOLE JUNIORS, MAIDENS AND KIRKOSWALD PARISH CHURCHES, NCCBC PHOTO COMPETITION GALLERY, SARAH TWEEDIE POP-UP SHOPS, 1ST CROSSHILL GUIDES, COLOURING COMMUNITIES, MAYBOLE EVENTS COMMITTEE, MAYBOLE REGENERATION WEAVING PROJECT AND JGB CRAFTS.

Book Now! **OPEN**





Email: gatherings@nccbc.org.uk

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Get in touch to book your group's week, weekend or day hire! £115 per week or from £30 per day!

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Savings club
available

News from Colouring Communities

Colouring Communities have had a busy Summer and Autumn. The group is made up of adults with additional support needs who meet weekly to add a splash of colour to North Carrick. The group is run entirely by volunteers and any money raised goes back into the group to provide materials, trips and experiences.

We were in Maybole charity shop in June. Thank you to everyone who donated items and their time. The group also had a wonderful summer trip to The Farm Park.

For the past few months, the group have been making items to sell in The Gatherings and had help from pupils at Carrick Academy who painted recycled wood Christmas Trees. Chrisanne Wands also helped the group to prepare beautiful items to sell at The Gatherings. The group are also grateful to Hugh McMillan who donated his time and skills to help make beautiful, reclaimed wood Christmas decorations.

In November, the group spent a week selling the items they had been making for the past few months in The Gatherings as well as many more items to raise funds.

The group is grateful to everyone who has donated their time, skills and supported the group's endeavors this year.



RECYCLE AYR

Recycle Ayr celebrates after receiving £14,400 of National Lottery funding to promote recycling, reuse & upcycling!



Local community group, Recycle Ayr, is today celebrating after being awarded over £14,000 in National Lottery funding to support its work promoting recycling, reuse & upcycling and as a result helping and supporting lots of individuals, families, community groups and charities.

The group, based in Ayr, will use the money to rent storage facilities and hire vehicles to collect and deliver donations. Recycle Ayr has been running since 2022 and is staffed by 12 volunteers. It was founded after seeing the success of a similar group nearby and how recycling could be not only be good for the environment but could offer help, support and funding to many individuals, groups and charities. The group now has collections once a month and then coordinates the passing on of the donations to local schools, craft groups and a variety of local and national charities.

The new funding from The National Lottery Community Fund, which distributes money raised by National Lottery players for good causes and is the largest community funder in the UK, will

see Recycle Ayr be able to offer support to more individuals, families, groups and charities. Also, by being able to rent storage space and hire vehicles the group will be able to offer more people opportunities to donate items for recycling, reuse or upcycling, as they can store items but have easy access to then deliver them, when and where they are needed.

Frances Brown, co-founder says: "We're delighted that The National Lottery Community Fund has recognised our work in this way. Now, thanks to National Lottery players we will be able to offer more support to a wider range of people, groups and charities. This is important because it helps such a wide cross section of people groups and charities. At the same time, we are helping to promote reuse and stop things going to landfill." Aileen Dickson, volunteer at Recycle Ayr, says: "'I popped along to Newton Primary School a year ago to drop off some donations and I was really impressed by the number of charities benefiting from the collection. I got chatting to volunteers who told me of people fleeing domestic violence and

refugees who benefited from the household goods and bedding that was being collected. I was invited along to a meeting and have been involved ever since. In that year I've seen Facebook followers grow to almost 2000 and the collections going from strength to strength. Recycle Ayr is now collaborating with other community groups and charities to help with their appeals" More volunteers like Aileen would always be welcome. Contact Frances on 07850 778080 or email: recyclingsaturdayayr@yahoo.com for more details on how you can get involved.

The National Lottery Community Fund recently launched its strategy, 'It starts with community', which will underpin its efforts to distribute at least £4 billion of National Lottery funding by 2030.

As part of this, the funder has four key missions, which are to support communities to come together, be environmentally sustainable, help children and young people thrive and enable people to live healthier lives.

National Lottery players raise over £30 million a week for good causes across the UK. Thanks to them, last year (2023/24) The National Lottery Community Fund awarded over half a billion pounds (£686.3 million) of life-changing funding to communities across the UK, supporting over 13,700 projects to turn their great ideas into reality.



To find out more visit
www.TNLCommunityFund.org.uk

Community Choir

The North Carrick Community Choir would like to thank everyone who has joined them during 2024. We hope you have enjoyed our sessions as much as we have and it has been a pleasure meeting you all. Tuesday 3rd December will be our last sing along for 2024. We will have a small break in January 2025 and will return on Tuesday 4th February 2025, 2pm – 3pm at the Carrick Centre, Maybole where we look forward to seeing our familiar faces and hopefully some new ones too. Everyone is welcome, especially those living with dementia or other conditions. Come alone, bring a friend, family member or carer. Singer or not, please come along and enjoy a sing a long. Refreshments provided. No booking required. Choir will meet the 1st Tuesday of every month starting from Tuesday 4th February 2025 2 – 3pm, The Carrick Centre, Maybole.

North Carrick COMMUNITY Choir



2pm-3pm

**Choir will meet the 1st Tuesday of every month
The Carrick Centre, Maybole.**

All welcome, especially those living with dementia or other conditions.

Come alone, bring a friend, family member or carer.

Singer or not, please come along and enjoy a sing along.

Refreshments provided. No booking required.

Carrick Festival of Light 2024 – The Bogle's Ball

CRAG ran a very successful project through October leading to the Carrick Festival of Light event on the 27th. Although the weather wasn't the best, there was still a good turn out with around 150 lantern bearers and their families on the night. The arts team made four large puppets including scarecrows, goblins (bogles) and a large ghost.

In North Carrick, with finance from NCCBC, there were two sessions of lantern workshops during the October holidays held at The Carrick Centre. These were well attended with almost 100 people taking part. There were also three sessions of workshops in Minishant, Maidens and Crosshill primary schools.

The feedback was very positive from all the lantern workshops and the school pupils enjoyed learning about the 3D form, use of different materials and positive and negative images when cutting out decorations for the lanterns.





North Carrick Parish Church

Christmas Services Maybole and Crosshill

Sunday 22nd December Christingle Service
10.30 Maybole and 12 noon at Crosshill

Watchnight Service

Tuesday 24th December : 11.30 Maybole

Christmas Day Service

Wednesday 25th December : 10am at Maybole

Usual Services

Sunday 29th December : 10.30 Maybole
and 12 noon Crosshill

Big Breakfast Joint Service

Sunday 5th January 2025 : 10.30 at Crosshill.

INTERNET SHOPPERS

North Carrick Parish Church is registered on a charity website called **easyfundraising.org.uk**. Any shopping you do online could lead to the Church receiving a % of your purchase cost at no extra cost to you or the Church.

Log onto easyfundraising.org.uk and type in North Carrick Parish Church as your chosen charity and follow the instructions before you go on to your purchase. No details of your payment or shopping details are given to the Church.

This is a valuable way to support the Church at no extra cost to you and at the same time raise funds for North Carrick Parish Church.

Presbytery has granted the new parish of North Carrick together with Kirkmichael and Straiton permission to vote 13 members on to a vacancy committee. Their task is to advertise the position of minister for North Carrick and hopefully go on to select a candidate as nominee.

Services continue to be held in each church every Sunday at the usual time, thanks to worship teams and retired ministers covering pulpit supply.

Harvest thanksgiving was held in October (see photo) and Linda Stroud with Fisherton Worship team took the service at Kirkoswald.

Kirkoswald Christmas Fayre was held on Saturday 23 November 1 and played host to all the usual stalls and teas in the hall.

Communion was held on the first Sunday in November thanks to Rev Paul Russell taking the services in Maybole and Crosshill and Rev Duncan Campbell taking the service at Kirkoswald.

RecoverAyr once again came to help clearing paths in Kirk Wood at Kirkoswald and will be coming back again on Wednesday 4 December. There will be lunches in the hall for anyone who would like to join us at noon or help in the garden from 10 am.

The Guild are holding a Candle Night

on Monday 9th December at 7pm in Crosshill church all welcome, entertainment by Hugh & Friends.

Church services will continue through the Christmas season in all churches, please come along and join us.

Crossraguel Community Choir has been invited to sing Christmas Carols at Humston Byre on two Christmas evenings, at Culzean on a Sunday afternoon and Turnberry Hotel on Christmas eve. Each rehearsal we see more people coming along to enjoy the singing and we are going from strength to strength. Thank you to Liz Kelly for keeping us together and in tune.

MAYBOLE MAVERICKS

Do your bit for the town and show everyone that this is a wonderful place to live and work!

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they have the heart." Elizabeth Andrew

Enquire at the email address below

Activities Include -

- Tour Guide
- Litter Picking
- Sign Cleaning
- Event Assisting
- Gardening
- Maintenance



maybolemavericks@gmail.com



THE MAYBOLE HALLOWEEN TOURS WERE A GREAT SUCCESS WITH OVER 100 PEOPLE JOINING US.

THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF ACTIVITY IN THE BACKGROUND TO SUPPORT THE PROJECT OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS. WHILST IT HAS BEEN A CHALLENGING PERIOD, WITH SOME CHANGES TO THE TEAM, THERE HAS BEEN SOME REALLY POSITIVE STEPS FORWARD. THE CASTLE IS PROGRESSING WELL AND A VISIT FROM THE EXTERNAL FUNDERS WAS POSITIVELY RECEIVED. SEEING THE BUILDING CLOSE TO WIND AND WATER TIGHT BEFORE THE WINTER SETS IN IS GREAT NEWS, AND ANOTHER STEP CLOSER TO BEING AVAILABLE FOR USE AGAIN. AT THE RECENT PROJECT BOARD, REPRESENTATIVES FROM AYRSHIRE ROADS ALLIANCE (ARA) CONFIRMED THAT THEY ARE ON TARGET FOR THE FUNDING APPLICATION FOR THE PUBLIC REALM AND ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECT. APPLICATION WILL BE MADE IN JANUARY, WITH MARCH LIKELY TO BE WHEN THEY WILL HEAR IF THE APPLICATION HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL. THEY ARE ALSO LOOKING TO HAVE A TRIAL OF THE PROPOSED ROAD CHANGES AT THE END OF DECEMBER OR BEGINNING OF JANUARY. THEY WILL SEND OUT NOTIFICATION IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS SO THAT EVERYONE IS AWARE OF WHAT TO EXPECT. THIS PROJECT SITS OUT WITH THE MAYBOLE REGENERATION PROJECT BUT WE WANT TO KEEP EVERYONE UPDATED ON THE PROJECTS THAT AFFECT THE COMMUNITY.

MYSTERIOUS MAYBOLE

AN ILLUSTRATED BOOK OF SPOOKY TALES FROM CULZEAN P7'S



CULZEAN P7'S WORKING WITH MOXIE KIDS EVENTS HAVE CREATED AN ONLINE BOOK OF SCARY STORIES BASED ON LOCAL PLACES AND PEOPLE. USE THE QR CODE BELOW TO TAKE A LOOK,,IF YOU DARE



THANKS TO

Carrick History Society
GAB Audio
Gerry Moore and helpers
History Matters
K19 Youth Hub
Moxie Kids Events
Our Volunteers
Puddin
The Carrick Centre
Undersky
And all that came on our tours



The Carrick Centre

THE CARRICK CENTRE BECOMES UK'S FIRST ACCREDITED COMMUNITY MOBILITY HUB

We're thrilled to announce that the Carrick Centre has been officially recognised by Collaborative Mobility UK (CoMoUK) as the UK's first accredited Community Mobility Hub! This exciting achievement highlights our commitment to making sustainable travel options accessible for our community.

Our Community Green Transport Hub brings together services that make it easier to leave private cars behind, offering convenient e-bike hire, electric vehicle charging points, and a community minibus service. Ideally located next to Maybole railway station and close to the National Cycle Network, our hub links to local bus routes, making eco-friendly travel simpler than ever.



"Our Green Transport Hub was set up to tackle service access issues, increase active travel and encourage tourism and visitor numbers to North Carrick"

MARGUERITE HUNTER BLAIR,
CHAIR OF THE CARRICK CENTRE

CoMoUK, which is responsible for accrediting shared transport schemes and mobility hubs across the UK, drew up guidance for community mobility hubs in 2022.

The guidance is designed to ensure that accredited hubs achieve a minimum set of standards for users, but also recognises that community-led projects will have less resources than larger ones led by councils or developers.

"South Ayrshire Community Transport are delighted to have worked in partnership with the Carrick Centre and CoMoUK in the development of the UK's first accredited community mobility hub"

JOHN REID, MANAGER OF SACT

"It's brilliant that the Carrick Centre is setting an example for the rest of the UK by making the town of Maybole home to the country's first accredited community mobility hub"

RICHARD DILKS, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF COMOUK



As a vibrant social enterprise, the Carrick Centre offers much more than transport. We're home to a café, a soft play area for children, a food bank and pantry, and a full calendar of community activities and classes—all supporting our mission as the heart of Maybole's community.



Together with SACT, we worked hard to achieve official accreditation from Collaborative Mobility UK (CoMoUK), listening to local residents' transport needs, enhancing signage, and simplifying e-bike rentals to ensure the hub serves everyone.

www.carrickcentre.co.uk

Thank you for Keeping the Heart of Our Community Beating!

At the Carrick Centre, we're more than just a place—thanks to you, we're truly the heart of the community. Every day, we see firsthand the impact of your generosity, dedication, and support, from the funding that powers our projects to the loyal customers and community partners who bring life to our space. This past year, you've helped us grow, connect, and serve in ways that reach far beyond our walls. Today, we pause to say thank you to each and every one of you for keeping the heart of our community strong and vibrant.



**we are
Open**

MON-FRI 9AM-4:30PM
SATURDAY 9AM-2:30PM

**FREE
Soft
Play**

Cafe

The Carrick Centre, Culzean Road,
Maybole, KA19 7DE
01655 883 222



Heart of the Community

In this place
Nearly as old as me
Where anyone can come
And just, well, be,

This place is well known
By far and wide
In Maybole
Where we provide.

Come and visit
You'll be welcome
In this place
Here in the United Kingdom.

We're here making sales
And donating for causes
Having fun days
And not taking pauses,

We're always working
To meet your needs
Help you out
And doing good deeds,

So come and visit
Come on enter,
Here in Scotland
Here in the Carrick Centre.

*The Carrick Centre, a poem by
local young person and Carrick
Centre volunteer, Shannan Boyd*



Christmas Opening Hours

Closed - Saturday 21st December @ 2:30pm
Reopen - Monday 6th January @ 9am

Twixmas hours:

Food Pantry - Friday 27th

Food Bank - Monday 30th December 10am - 12pm

Minishant Primary School



Minishant Primary School had some family Maths fun at our November Maths learning event when families joined us to share in some of our favourite activities, including creating our own versions of Addition Snakes and Ladders. Class 1 had a great time playing Maths games and demonstrating the fun ways they learn in class.

Both Class 1 and Class 2 have made an excellent start to preparations for the Christmas Show! The pupils have begun learning their lines and songs, and the excitement is building. We can't wait to bring this festive production to life and share it with our families and friends. A huge thank you to all the parents for helping their children practice their lines at home.

Class 1 and Class 2 enjoyed a walk to see the newly unveiled sculpture of the horse in Minishant. The sculpture is part of the Robert the Bruce project,

and the children were thrilled to see how their ideas and designs came to life. The children have been given Bruce's Web booklets. The booklet provides information about the trail and sculptures in the surrounding area. You can also download the Bruce's Web app that will bring the sculptures to life.

Some other news is that Class 1 and 2 enjoyed a visit from Paralympian athlete Kayleigh Brown. Kayleigh shared her experience of competing in the Paralympics in Paris. She also introduced the children to the game of Boccia, and they even got to try it themselves!

Our Phunky Foods ambassadors worked on their presentation for an assembly. They shared what they have learned and are encouraging others to make healthy food choices.

Rights Respecting Schools Mascot: one of our pupils worked hard to design a character that represents the rights of the child. He had the overall winning design for our school competition, well done!



Maidens Primary

Primary 5, 6 and 7 pupils from Maidens Primary had a fun and messy day at the Cutty Sark in Ayr. They worked alongside the artists to create murals as part of the Alloway Tunnel Project.



CRAG Girvan visited Maidens Primary School and helped pupils in P3-7 create beautiful lanterns for the Carrick Festival of Light! Pupils worked with their peers and some parents to put their lanterns together and decorated them with a spooky theme! Lots of fun was had by all who took part.

Farewell Baltersan Hello Baltersan! Change of ownership at historic castle

Baltersan Castle: Rebuilding a Legacy for Scottish Heritage and the Arts

Baltersan, a 16th-century Scottish landmark, is set for a new chapter under the vision of Angelo Ovidi, the current Laird of Baltersan. This effort goes beyond preservation—it's an ambitious rebuilding project, transforming Baltersan from an historic ruin into a lively cultural centre for music, the arts, and community gatherings. However, the realisation of this vision hinges on substantial fundraising efforts and private investment, and activities will only commence once the necessary funds are secured. These aspirations, while inspiring, depend largely on external factors and the willingness of partners and supporters to join in rebuilding this piece of Scotland's past.

At the heart of this endeavour is a commercial initiative led by Angelo's company, Lichtsome Hoose Ltd., to support the project's financial foundation. Inspired by heritage brands like Duchy Originals, Baltersan-branded Scottish products are already in development, designed to foster sustainable revenue and engage supporters near and far. Alongside this, plans for private investment and community-driven partnerships aim to generate the resources necessary for the castle's physical transformation.

In the future, as funding goals are reached, Baltersan could serve as a vital cultural hub, creating new job opportunities and celebrating Scottish arts and heritage. A petition for a new coat of arms and the development of a tartan design, speaks to Baltersan's historical and cross-cultural significance, reflecting the Laird's Welsh and Italian connections and the castle's origins on St. David's Day, 1584. For now, this rebuilding is a vision grounded in aspiration, with the commercial arm already underway as a first step toward making the dream a reality.



19th c. anonymous painting of Baltersan and its millpond



Based on wood panels from Baltersan - note Welsh dragon.



A fascinating documentary film of James Brown's 30-year struggle to save Baltersan Castle from ruin was recently shown to a specially-invited audience in the 16th century part of Maybole Town Hall to mark the arrival of a new owner of Baltersan. The film was produced by Monika Deupala, a Nepali Masters degree student at the University of the West of Scotland, Ayr. It traced the six-year old James's introduction to castles at Ardsossan in 1952 to his acquisition of the Category A-listed tower-house of Baltersan in 1992. From there a series of interviews with key people in his mission to save Baltersan took Monika from Fairlie to Fife, from South Ayrshire Planning department in Ayr to Historic Environment Scotland in Edinburgh.

Monika's film has been widely praised for its sensitive handling of what could have been considered a sad account of long-term, exhausting struggle by James. Instead, in masterly, muted colours and artistic cinematography, a beautiful record has been created that will form an important and lasting part of Baltersan's archival record.

Left to right: Angelo Ovidi, the new owner of Baltersan, filmmaker Monika Deupala, Lee Atkinson of Maybole High Street Regeneration.



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