

North Carrick

Spring issue 2021  
[www.nccbc.org](http://www.nccbc.org)

# Community News

**FREE**

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



Exciting  
transformation  
planned for  
historic  
Maybole Castle

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The 'Newsletters' section is where there will be copies of all of the North Carrick Community Newsletters (past and present). This will be useful for people who like to read things on screen or who want to send electronic copies to friends.

[www.nccbc.org.uk](http://www.nccbc.org.uk)



## Your voice matters...

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



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

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

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

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## North Carrick Community Benefit Company



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

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

Extra copies will be left in various outlets in each community.

### Board meetings:

- 12th May 2021

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

North Carrick  
Community Newsletter



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



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# Exciting transformation planned for historic Maybole Castle

The Scottish Government has granted £729,659 from its Regeneration Capital Grant Fund to help transform Maybole Castle. The funding will be used to turn the castle into a key attraction bringing the building back into use.

The 16th century castle will be completely refurbished so visitors and locals can enjoy the historic building and grounds. Visitors will also be able to enjoy the gardens which will be restored, too.

Communities Secretary Aileen Campbell said, "I'm delighted that alongside COSLA we are delivering a further £25 million of investment to support community led projects right across Scotland.

"This project will see a 16th century building brought back into use as a key asset for Maybole, creating new business and employment opportunities and contributing to the wider ambitions for regenerating the town."

Mark Fletcher, Chair of Maybole Community Council, commented, "This generous grant from the Scottish Government secures a sustainable future for the castle. It's an iconic building in the town and we can now look forward to a fully revitalised High Street that will make Maybole an even better town to live, work and visit."

Councillor Siobhian Brown, Economy and Culture Portfolio Holder for South Ayrshire Council, said, "This fantastic funding boost for Maybole supports our ambitions for thriving towns which generate employment opportunities, support new and existing business and add to our world beating tourist attractions."

## 1896 watercolour ...

Natalie Andrews from Adelaide, South Australia has been in touch with us. She writes, "I'm writing regarding an 1896 watercolour of Maybole Castle that I've found among family records that have been passed through generations to me.

"My four great-grandparents emigrated to Australia between 1856-1879, so they didn't bring it here. I suspect my grandfather, Thomas Andrews, may have obtained it during a Grand Tour in 1924 that included several locations throughout Scotland.

"In any case, while its frame is worse for age and wear, the watercolour is in excellent condition. It is signed at lower right; however, the cursive is a bit challenging to decipher. Possibly an "I" or "L" McGale?

If you can refer me to someone who might know or be interested to discuss this, I'd appreciate your help."

If anyone can help, Natalie can be contacted by emailing [nandrew1@bigpond.net.au](mailto:nandrew1@bigpond.net.au)



# TURNBERRY WAR MEMORIAL

Turnberry War Memorial has stood alone in stark and solemn contemplation on a small hill close to Turnberry Lighthouse on the world-famous golf links since it was erected by local people in 1923 and paid for through public subscription.

When the memorial was unveiled on 4th May 1923 those present heard the 3rd Marquess of Ailsa say, "The monument is a spontaneous tribute of the people of Turnberry to the gallantry and self-sacrifice of the Air Services of our King and Country. It is raised in the highest honour to those members of the Air Force who were killed or died near this spot, and is no less a tribute to all of those who passed through this fighting school..."

As we now know, Turnberry was also used during World War 2 and sadly more service men and women lost their lives while serving there.

Some names were added to the memorial in 1990, following some research of the Commonwealth War Graves in Dunure Cemetery, but it remained an incomplete account of local history; that is until November 2020.

There was, however, one local resident who identified that the memorial was still missing many of the names

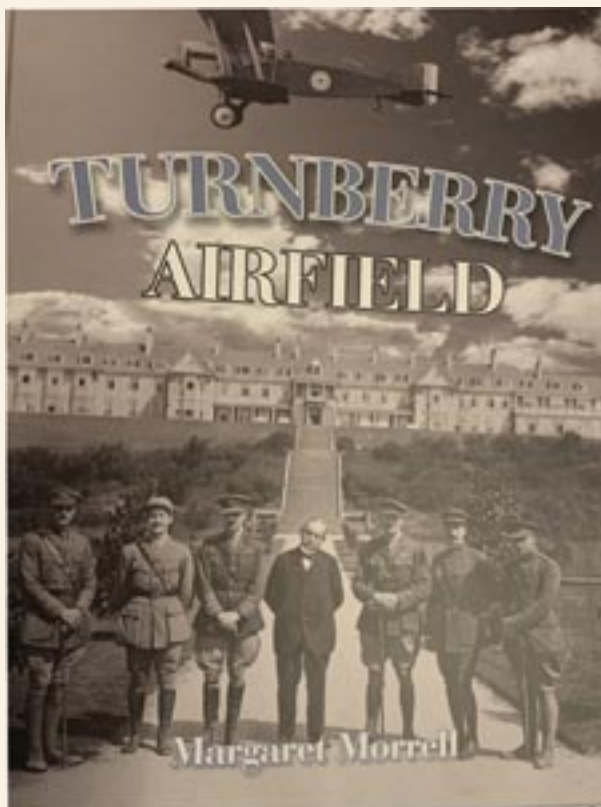


of service men and women who paid that ultimate sacrifice while serving at Turnberry Airfield, and so she set about ensuring the memorial was further updated and that these names would never be forgotten.

Coinciding with the publication of her new book, Turnberry Airfield, local historian Margaret Morrell worked with a group of local volunteers and the staff and management of Turnberry Hotel to ensure that all 89 missing names (70 British, 12 Canadian, four New Zealand, two Australian, and one American) were added to the memorial and the work was completed in time for a very small Remembrance Day service in November 2020.

Once we are clear of the pandemic restrictions the plan is to hold a dedication/rededication service to consecrate the memorial.

In order to make this project happen, it is important to acknowledge and appreciate the help and support of Margaret Morrell, the staff and management of Turnberry Hotel, Robertson Memorials, South Ayrshire Council, Chris Savage, The Marquess of Ailsa and the small group comprising Mr and Mrs J Paterson, Mr Sandie Dobie, Rev Stirling, Mr Iain Brown and Mr Leslie McFadzean who made all of this possible.



# Maidens Shorefront path

## Project Persistence gets the go ahead

By the time you read this, a long-anticipated project on Maidens Shorefront will have been completed which demonstrates community resilience AND the need for persistence.

A new path along the shorefront was first proposed by Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry Community Council in 2016. It was presented to PAR (Participatory Budgeting) in 2017 where it was sadly unsuccessful.

However, a resilient community like KM&T is nothing if not patient and they kept chipping away trying to find a way of delivering what the wider community kept asking for.

The Kirkoswald Maidens and Turnberry Community Action Plan 2019-2024 brought the path concept back to the fore and a working group of local people made sure that this project was included in the Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry Development Programme that residents will have received through their doors around the turn of the year. (Anyone in the three villages who didn't receive a copy of the Programme can contact Stuart Lindsay, NCCBC Development Officer, to arrange a delivery.) More recently, the working group, together with the newly formed Community Association, eventually managed to convince South Ayrshire Council to permit the works to go ahead and furthermore agree to part-fund the works.

The work commenced in late 2020 and the project, when complete, will provide a hard-surfaced path all the way from Maidens Harbour to Culzean Castle.

This project has been funded jointly by South Ayrshire Council and North Carrick Community Benefit Company Ltd, and people in Maidens can look forward to the same funding stream supporting projects such as new equipment for the play park and new notice boards in the near future.

The work on the path is being carried out by local firm John Marshall and Sons. It is understood that considerable additional works, beyond the original specification, have been donated by John Marshall and Sons, which is a wonderfully generous gift and many thanks must be extended to the Marshall family and their team of employees.

It is already evident what a huge asset this path will be to the community as local residents and visitors to the area are already using the path. These are clearly very challenging times in all of our rural communities and to see people taking exercise and meeting and greeting others doing likewise in a socially distanced manner brings hope and much-needed light at the end of what has been a particularly long and dark tunnel for many.

Underlying all of this success is a really important and vital message for all community groups: NEVER, EVER give up on what you want, persistence pays off, you just need to be patient and keep chipping away. This is particularly important for volunteers to appreciate, it is easy to become disillusioned when you are dealing with bureaucracy and local authorities, to give up is all too easy, don't. Stay positive and good things will come to those who wait!



# Wee Spout in the Glen flows again

**It's amazing how history repeats itself - as can be seen from the history of Maybole at [www.maybole.org](http://www.maybole.org)**

The Wee Spout in the Glen had fallen into disrepair and in the winter the frozen water spread all over the road and made it dangerous for horses. This time, due to the flow of the water ceasing in the 1980s at the time of the rebuilding of the wall that encompassed the church grounds, the water had to seek new ways of escaping.

It found new ways out further down the hill and, as before in the winter, created stretches of ice on the road and pavement making it treacherous for pedestrians and drivers alike.

Concerns were now raised about what damage the water could do to the steep banking especially as there are now houses built above on the ground next to what was the manse.

On 23rd January 2021, after concerns had been raised more than once, work was carried out to try to remedy the problem.

Thankfully, this was successful and the water started to flow out of the spout again.

The next step will hopefully be, as happened



all those years ago when it was repaired, to clean it up and repoint it. Although the well running keeps part of the important history of Maybole, the water will no longer be fit for drinking following all the

house building at the West Kirk.

**Councillor William Grant,  
Depute Provost**



*Sir Charles Fergusson, of Kilkerran, built the church in 1842. The church grounds, which Sir Charles owned, were granted to the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland in 1857 and more ground was granted in 1862 for a manse and glebe.*

**Because of Covid-19, Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) was marked in a very different way in Maybole on Monday 27th January at the Greenside.**

Normally, the service is organised by the Maybole branch of the Royal British Legion Scotland and led by the branch chaplain with local schools and residents attending. This year, Alex Kelly, branch chairman, laid a wreath on his own.

The theme for HMD 2021 was "Be the light in the darkness" to encourage everyone to reflect on the depths humanity can sink to, but also the ways

individuals and communities resisted that darkness to 'be the light' before, during and after genocide.



**HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
DAY 27/1**

## Holocaust Memorial Day



# Christmas Cheer delivered!



Following an idea from local community champion Lynn Reid, a rapid response team was established to bring a little bit of Christmas cheer to local people in and around Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry who were likely to be on their own at Christmas. After all, this was going to be one of the darkest Christmases in living memory with the Covid pandemic, travel restrictions, Christmas bubbles and so on...



The team set to work to prepare a Christmas Cheer bag which included a selection of Christmas fare, homemade Christmas cake, a box of shortbread, party popper, Christmas cracker and a Christmas card made by the children of Maidens Primary School.

These little bags of cheer were very well received; to see faces light up at the big-hearted gesture and to receive many appreciative messages has been humbling for all those involved and demonstrates how this quick-win initiative has been welcomed and valued.

The homemade Christmas cakes which were included in the goodie bags were prepared by local baker Debbie Eustace of Pasta Mama.

Special thanks also to the children and staff of Maidens Primary School, and Lynn and her team of helpers who delivered the bags around the villages and rural residents, you know who you are. Thank You.

## Why was this project special?

It was quickly identified that the covid pandemic has resulted in many local people feeling lonely, isolated and unable to see family and friends. That lack of social interaction has given rise to anxiety and depression. When the idea was proposed, those who were asked to help and support could readily see what a thoughtful idea this was and folk were quick to offer help.



## SEE IT – REPORT IT!

Often when we are out and about, we see things that need to be repaired or improved but we just tut and move on.

Let's change that! Let's be the people who report faults and get things improved! If you have access to the internet you can do this easily using the links below.

### AYRSHIRE ROADS ALLIANCE

<https://www.ayrshireroadsalliance.org/faults/Faults.aspx>

To report road faults such as;

- Roads, potholes, road markings, road signs etc
- Lighting, streetlights, etc
- Drainage, flooding, gully covers, etc
- Structures, bridges, etc
- Traffic Lights



### SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

<https://beta.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/report>

To report issues such as;

- Dog Fouling
- Missed bin collection
- Antisocial behaviour
- Fly tipping
- Street or beach cleaning
- Works without planning permission



The authorities cannot fix things if they do not know about the problems. So, next time you see a problem – report it. (And if nothing happens – Report It Again!)

# Maybole charity shop bought for the community

North Carrick Community Benefit Company has purchased Maybole Charity Shop and also the flat above. The intention is to bring both back into use as soon as possible and we are currently tendering for the architect to assist in the process. The shop will be available to community groups across North Carrick and the 3/4 bedroom flat will be available to rent once completed. As community assets, the value cannot be underestimated as this will kickstart the improvements to that part of the town and ensure groups have a source of much-needed income.

As most of you will know, Maybole Charity Shop closed last year because of a flood from the flat above. It reopened briefly but safety issues caused by the flat above couldn't be ignored and the shop had to close until the owner of the flat made good the repairs needed.

NCCBC had already expressed an interest in the shop but needed to understand the issues with the flat and how they impacted on the shop. Had the company invested in the shop to find out later that the flat would cause ongoing issues, no continuity of provision of the shop could be guaranteed.

We employed a structural surveyor to assess the building to give us a better idea of what was wrong above and the owner allowed us access. We didn't expect great news but when the report came through we gave the existing shop committee the news that they really needed to close permanently or until repairs were carried out. Further advice was that unless the building could be under a single owner there was really no way anyone could invest in the shop so the news wasn't great.

It has always been understood that many local groups rely on the shop to keep them functioning

and locals rely on the bargains that can be bought. With a potential loss of £50,000 plus a year going into local groups, something had to be done. As the Maybole Regeneration project is looking at empty shops and getting buildings back into use, it seemed a good time to work together to start the process of redeveloping that part of the town.

After some negotiation and securing funding to match our contribution, we would like to say "Thank you" to Scottish Land Fund and the Regenerational Capital Grants Fund, through the Scottish Government, for assisting in the purchases.

We would also like to thank the wider Maybole Regeneration, which is a partnership between Maybole Community Council and South Ayrshire Council, for their commitment to assist in repairs to the historical elements that other properties in the High Street are making use of. This has been made possible by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, Historic Environment Scotland and, of course, NCCBC funding made possible by ScottishPower Renewables through the Dersaloch windfarm. NCCBC is contributing a third of the funding required to bring these buildings back into use for the community.

It's a cocktail of funders and has taken a lot of effort to pull this together but the benefits will far outweigh the work it took to get here.

NCCBC is a charity in its own right so any profits, after expenses on the property, will be put back into the wider funding pot that groups can apply to.

Exciting times lie ahead and we will keep you updated as we go. Please see images attached of the flat and the current issues that we need to deal with.



# Fundraising for Maybole Foodbank



Throughout the pandemic there has been a big focus on what life will be like after the government financial support ends and the uncertainty around jobs remains.

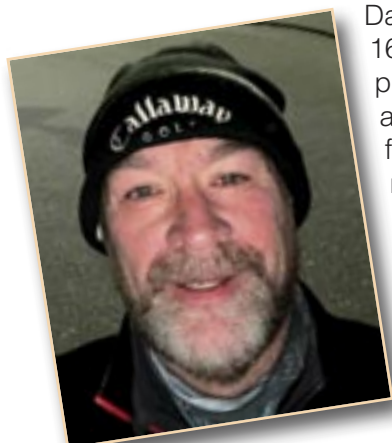
This is an issue that effects all in society and has been the focus of Masonic Fundraising in Maybole, Crosshill and Dailly over the last year with a number of donations made over the last 12 months.

It has been difficult for Masonic Lodges to raise funds over the last year as the Lodges are shut and no events can take place to raise money. However, as Master of St John Maybole No.11, I felt it was important to continue to find ways of supporting those members of our local community who need a little help.

In January, I therefore undertook to run 60 miles to help the Foodbank. This would not be a great challenge to many fit people but as an overweight 54 yrs old Scottish male it looked to be a difficult goal to achieve. The frosty weather and the early starts (-7C on Ayr beach pictured) did not deter me so, armed with my six-year old running trainers, I got

underway on New Year's Day. Surprisingly by the 16th of the month I had passed the 60 mile mark and thought I would try for 100 miles in the month.

After many a weary step, I managed to achieve 115 miles in January and I am happy to report that I



raised £1,060 for the Foodbank on behalf of Lodge St John Maybole No.11. Thanks to all for their kind donations. I intend to undertake other fundraising activities in the next few months for good causes and look forward to the wonderful support of the local community.

Bobby Green



## You can donate to your local foodbank at THE CARRICK CENTRE in Maybole

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

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

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

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

**Please do not leave donations outside the Centre!!**

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



# I WOULD WALK 500 MILES !

Maybole's Emma Broun has achieved the almost unimaginable total of a million steps to raise funds for Race against Dementia – the charity created by Sir Jackie Stewart.

Emma told us her story recently, "Having looked after my father-in-law Ken for almost four years, I knew the destruction dementia can have on a family.

"After a period in hospital, Ken was moved into Fairknowe Care Home and, knowing he was settled, I was keen to contribute something towards the research that goes into this horrendous disease.

"To walk 1,000,000 steps in January seemed enough of a challenge that was achievable but also worthy of people wanting to donate. The donations started very quickly which was a great morale booster.

"About half way through the challenge a local businessman committed a four-figure sum if I completed it; this was followed by another very

generous donation from another local businessman. I knew then I had to complete this challenge, wind, rain, hail or snow. Many donations followed as I updated Just Giving on my progress every few days. The final figure raised was just over £4,550 when I completed the task on 31st January.



*Just after Emma reached her 1,000,000 steps. Jack and Harry joined her for the last few miles which ended in Minishant*

"Thank you very much to all who donated, Heather Barclay and Bob Green for accompanying me on some of my walks and to Colin, Jack, Harry and Katy for their support in helping me achieve my target and in making an amazing contribution to Race Against Dementia."



*Ken with his son Colin and grandchildren L-R Harry, Katy and Jack*

**1,000,000 steps is approximately 500 miles.**

## WHY IS IT CALLED KING'S HILL?

*One of the committee members of Maybole Historical Society, John Jackson, lives at Blairquhan, Straiton where he has been archivist for many years. He has lots of interesting stories to tell.*

From Straiton, follow Dalmellington Road and just beyond Scienteuch Bridge go up to Glenhead. Turn left through the gate a quarter of a mile beyond the steading and as you head towards Altizourie you'll see Blairquhan Castle beyond the water meadows. Then you're close to King's Hill, the spot where in the early 1400s, a Scottish king, seeing smoke rising from the tower house then standing on the site now occupied by Blairquhan, declared, "That's either McWhurter or the Devil!."

This anecdote comes from "The Ballad of Blairquhan", a lost folk song telling of how Ranulf McWhurter, married to a twin daughter of the builder of the tower house who had just died, claimed ownership of the estate as against a member of the Kennedy clan who had married the other twin. With

nothing to prove which girl had been born first, a serious dispute as to ownership had arisen and soon became a source of local tension.

To stop the dispute from becoming toxic the king in response to a request for guidance had set the rivals a challenge. One day after he departed from Edinburgh en route to Blairquhan, the contestants would set off from the same spot with McWhurter on foot and Kennedy on horseback and the first to light a fire in the hearth at Blairquhan would be the new owner. In the 1400s there were no proper roads, fording a river took longer than swimming and thick woodland slowed you down.

*The rest is history – or is it?*



*Blairquhan*

# A Creative Lockdown ...

On 6th January last year we adopted a rescue pup. The storms that ravaged the west coast in January and February made house-training Honey somewhat of a challenge. Then, in March, lockdown hit. I was suddenly combining house training an incontinent beagle pup with recording the soundtrack for a new ITV drama called *The Sister*. For this project which was in post-production, COVID-19-style working from home was an immediate reality and a steep learning curve.

Luckily, my husband Dave, an excellent musician with years of experience recording his own music as well as the music we created together as Celtic Twist, was my sound tech. Music was coming through regularly from the composer, a talented TV and film composer called Ruth Barrett with whom I had already worked on the ITV 8-part series *Sanditon*.

Honey became a good little studio dog, although we think a few gentle beagle sighs made their way into the final soundtrack. After 'The Sister', I provided more remote recordings for the 4-part series *Bloodlands*, currently being shown on BBC.

By May/June Covid-19 had silenced musicians the length and breadth of the country. No more films or TV productions were being made. My brother and sister-in-law, also professional musicians, were in the same rocky boat. In addition to which they, like most parents, were home-schooling their two young children. I was sending regular postcards to my niece and nephew. Then one day, I decided to write them a story, "The Days of the Blackbird", inspired by an old Italian folklore tale.

I knew how exhausted my brother was and I thought that I would record the story as an audiobook. This way, he could relax at the end of a long day and sit back and listen with them.

They loved "The Days of the Blackbird", so I continued writing. The setting of my next story, "Oriana the Befana", was my hometown, Crema, in the north of Italy. I moved to Dunure with my family eight and a half years ago and although we live in a spectacularly beautiful place, I found myself, through lockdown, feeling homesick. Writing allowed me to revisit my hometown in my imagination.

After the first story, Oriana gained a momentum of her own and the one-off story became a series. Each time I finished a story and sent it to my brother he was so happy that he had something new for his children to listen to before bedtime.

As happy as they were for each new story, I was equally happy to be inhabiting this world that I had created for

them. It was a welcome respite from Covid-19, lockdown and the many worries that accompany them.

***In case you are wondering, Oriana is a good witch. She is also the Befana. The Befana in Italian folklore brings sweets to all the children in Italy on the night of the 5th of January each year.***

In my books, the Befana lives in the countryside around Crema, Lombardy. She has a big smile and plenty of style. She loves animals, baking and the colour purple. She lives with her trusty sidekick Broom, her dog Caspar and her two cats, Balthazar and Melchior. Her animals



are all based on my own cats and dogs. The dog, Caspar, is basically my daft, food-obsessed, good-natured beagle pup. He always wants to be involved, whatever is going on. My niece Olivia also inspired the character Olivia and she was thrilled to "be in the books". My brother was so enthusiastic about them that he convinced me to publish the books as audiobooks. He pointed out that many other parents were as exhausted as he was and the idea of an audiobook before bed was a welcome relief!

My daughter, to whom I used to read tirelessly when she was a child, was enchanted by Oriana and offered to create illustrations for me. As she is a talented artist and designer I was thrilled and took her up on the offer immediately. It has been great fun.

Lockdown continues for us all, as does the attendant anxiety, but I continue to escape to my little Oriana world when I can. I also feel that, despite the physical distance, it has helped me keep and even strengthen the connection with my niece and nephew.

So now, when Honey and I go out for our lockdown walks, it's really Oriana and Caspar heading out on their latest adventure.

**Philippa Holland, Dunure.**

As part of World Book Day, Primary 7 pupils at Gardenrose Primary were set a task to write a story about anything of their choice. **Aimee McDermott** came back to class teacher Sophie Caldwell with this beautiful piece titled **'The Story of Lockdown – through the eyes of a child'**.



## CHAPTER ONE

It was a new year...2020. Everyone knew this year was going to be the best year! Or so they thought!!! Then...BAM!!! On 23rd March, the entire country had to go into Lockdown due to a horrible, dangerous virus called COVID-19. People had been talking about it back in December of 2019, when it was spreading around China. Then, it was spreading like a wildfire across the world, running out of control! It was like being held captive in a jail. Stuck at home, no school, could not leave the town and we were only allowed to go for a walk for one hour a day. Everything we had ever known up until this point had changed overnight. The Government said we would only be going into Lockdown for three weeks. That did not happen. NERVOUS. ANXIOUS. WORRIED. What was this virus that was taking over the world? Things seemed to be getting serious. Many poor people falling ill or even worse due to this disease. Nobody knew what was happening!

## CHAPTER TWO

In contrast to this dark storm that we were living in, were the positive things to come from Lockdown. Although we were being kept apart physically everyone started keeping in touch through Zoom and video calls. Masks would hide our smiles but the acts of kindness – taking people their shopping, drawing rainbows and displaying them in our windows and clapping for the NHS keyworkers brought everyone together. The simple things mattered the most. All of the extras didn't seem important anymore. Staying

healthy, being kind and staying connected with loved ones was the priority.


## CHAPTER 3

Resilience! That is one word to describe people today. We have been back to school for a few months. So close, yet still so far. We can see our friends and play together again. It really is the best thing! EVER! But school is so different. We cannot mix with friends from other classes. No cuddles for the teachers. What? I love cuddles. I NEED cuddles! The teachers are so kind and try very hard to make us all feel safe even when they are stressed and worried too!

## CHAPTER 4

Lockdown three million, four hundred thousand and BLAH BLAH BLAH! We went back into Lockdown AGAIN!!! Home-schooling...AGAIN! Staying home... AGAIN! To be honest, it hasn't been so hard this time. Our teachers have kept us so busy and we all keep in touch as a class every day. This has been a new normal. Dance class and music lessons are STILL online. Thank goodness for my brother. He keeps me company and makes me laugh especially when we can't mix properly with others.

I don't know how this pandemic will play out but one thing I do know is that I can adapt quickly and keep myself motivated. Most of all, I value and treasure my family and friends even more than before the virus changed the world!!!



**FREE HEARING AID BATTERIES**


Call South Ayrshire Lifeline on **0800 432 0510** to request your free Hearing Aid Batteries. Simply give us your postal details and battery size and we will get them to you.

**FREE SENSORY PACKS**

These FREE Sensory Packs, developed by SISG charity, are useful and practical in helping older people with hearing and/or sight loss.

Included in the pack are:

- a 3-in-1 cleaning tool
- a puffer to reduce condensation and debris
- alcohol cleaning wipes
- silica gel to reduce moisture in your hearing aid
- a hand-held magnifier
- bump-ons
- hearing aid tips
- sight loss tips
- stress management tips
- useful local sensory impairment contacts



To receive a pack, please contact South Ayrshire Lifeline on **0800 432 0510** or call SISG on **01292 266791** or email [denise@sisg.co.uk](mailto:denise@sisg.co.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 and Ropes  
**Maybole:** The Carrick Centre, Library, Co-op, Spar  
**Kirkoswald:** Souters, Saks & Hart, Kirkland Garden Centre and Post Office  
**Turnberry:** Balkenna Tearoom and Dowhill Farm Shop  
**Dunure/Fisherton:** Coffee Shop & Aruna Arts & Gifts



Should you have any problems retrieving a copy please email: [evolutiondesigns@sky.com](mailto:evolutiondesigns@sky.com)

# NEW FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GARDEN PREPARES TO PLANT FIRST CROP; RECRUITING VOLUNTEERS

The Carrick Community Food Garden (CCFG) came into being in November 2019.

A group of individuals decided to start a fruit and vegetable garden created by, and run for the benefit of, food bank users and others suffering the consequences of long-term social, economic and health issues.



Over the past year, Covid has dominated the lives of everyone and highlighted the issues that CCFG is seeking to address. The support we have received from individuals and organisations across the Maybole community has been both impressive and humbling. We are using a plot belonging to Our Lady and St Cuthbert's Church in Dailly Road, where Canon John McGee has become an enthusiastic supporter of the project. We have been using the knowledge and experience of Wilma Milligan from the food bank, Jim McDermott, Patsy McCallum and various members of the Carrick Centre led by Pete Lynn, as well as working in partnership with South Ayrshire Council (SAC).

As a result, despite significant disruption, we are now preparing to plant our first crop.

Our first challenge was clearing the plot which was overgrown and used as a rubbish tip. It was a massive task and we realised we could not do it alone. A chance conversation with Andy Gamble and Lynn McGeechan led to the involvement of a young team from SAC's Employability and Skills programme. Lockdown prevented us from starting work until August but the magnificent efforts of the SAC team, working with volunteers led by Patsy McCallum, meant that we finished clearing the plot in November. John Jamieson generously provided a digger and driver for levelling and Michael Pitt cut a long hedge running along one side of the plot. Pallets and other assistance were provided by Gordon Black and his son, Simon.

We have emerged from a cold winter and, with the Covid vaccination programme well under way, there is reason for optimism about progress we can make in 2021. Our plan is to get going in mid-March, planting early potatoes and fruit trees. Once lockdown is eased, we will complete preparations for planting out, making raised beds, erecting a covered potting area, and installing secure storage, a polytunnel, and a standpipe. A £5,000 grant from NCCBC will help to fund the purchase of tools, equipment and materials required.

We anticipate that the number of people, young and old, wanting to get involved will grow. Accordingly, we are now keen to hear from anyone who would like to join our team of volunteers. Specifically, areas where we will need more support include:

- Overseeing/working on gardening shifts
- Engaging with potential beneficiaries of the project
- Assisting with training
- Community PR and events
- Fund raising
- Administration

*Any offer of help, however small, would be much appreciated!*

Contacts: Simon Bloomfield (mobile: 07771 758517) or Jim McDermott (mobile: 07729 796620)

# SCOTLAND LOVES LOCAL

South Ayrshire Council has been supporting the national Scotland Loves Local campaign since it was launched last summer, following the first lockdown. As restrictions eased, SAC was keen to help boost sales for local shops and independent retailers across its five town centres by encouraging South Ayrshire residents to shop local and support their high streets, while staying safe and following public health advice. Beginning by engaging with local business groups to make them aware of the campaign, SAC promoted Scotland Loves Local to the public through features in South Ayrshire Council Live magazine, local press, adverts, posters, and social media posts.

After the second closure of non-essential shops towards the end of 2020, SAC gave an extra push to its promotional efforts to persuade people to 'think local'. This included banners in town centres and a social media campaign featuring local businesses from across the area, reminding people of the benefits of shopping local. When the current lockdown eases and shops reopen, SAC will once again be encouraging people to think local first, and help shops and businesses in all town centres get back on their feet following the latest challenges of Covid-19.



NorthCarrick.com

## 'North Carrick Loves Local' – our very local branch of the campaign!

Alongside the work on the new website for North Carrick, NCCBC and Maybole Community Council are also launching a North Carrick branch of the Scotland Loves Local campaign. Our area has



such an amazing variety of local businesses and this project

intends to really showcase what North Carrick has to offer to visitors - when restrictions allow - but also to remind local residents of the



incredible range of products and services available right on their doorstep. We hope that this campaign, alongside the new [northcarrick.com](https://northcarrick.com) website and e-commerce platform, will help our local economy to recover and thrive in the months and years ahead. Keep your eyes peeled for our campaign launching online and around the area this spring, featuring some familiar faces!

For more information on the Scotland Loves Local campaign please visit the campaign website at [lovelocal.scot](https://lovelocal.scot). If you would like to be a part of the North Carrick branch of the campaign, please email Claire on [claire.northcarrick@outlook.com](mailto:claire.northcarrick@outlook.com)

South Ayrshire Council supports

# Scotland Loves Local

Think local first • Support your town centre • Shop safely

[lovelocal.scot](https://lovelocal.scot)



## Recovery Project Update

The new website for North Carrick is almost ready to launch and we hope the local community will be as excited as we are as we take the next step in promoting our area and all its attractions! We aim to launch northcarrick.com in the coming months when we can best support businesses to recover as Covid-19 restrictions ease. The new website will provide residents and visitors with a full directory of local businesses; including all shops, cafes, restaurants, salons, pubs, accommodation, things to do, and everything in between! The site will allow you to easily find things to see near you, get key info like opening hours, locations and contact details.

Our 'business profiles' will also link through to every business's own website or social media channel so you can see their latest information, deals and promotions. The site will also detail links to local cycling and walking routes. The site will also play host to our exciting North Carrick Loves Local campaign which will also be launching soon. We encourage all local businesses to register for a free profile.

We still have some supplies of hand sanitiser available free to local businesses in North Carrick. For more information please email Claire on [claire.northcarrick@outlook.com](mailto:claire.northcarrick@outlook.com)

## NCCBC Website Update

The NCCBC website has also had some updates with the 'members area' live with information and a discussion forum. There is also a public news area which will be filled with lots of good news stories featuring projects which have benefited from NCCBC funding.

You will also be able to access the hundreds of photos that were submitted during our Photography Competition. Anyone can use these free of charge and copyright free to promote North Carrick.

The website also shows information about how to apply for funding, and also how to apply for NCCBC membership. NCCBC always welcomes new membership applications so please check out the website and fill in the online form if you would like to get involved. [www.NCCBC.org.uk](http://www.NCCBC.org.uk)



## North Carrick Community Resilience - Isolation Support Project Update

*As we approach the Spring, it is unbelievable to think that the North Carrick Community Resilience – Isolation Support project has been around for almost a year now.*

Supporting people through a very difficult year has been an honour for Claire and the volunteer team, and we hope that the community spirit we have seen through this project sticks around and that we can celebrate our amazing community together soon. As more and more residents get their Covid-19 vaccine and we continue to aim towards restrictions being loosened, it's time for our Project Coordinator, Claire to focus on helping our local businesses to recover and grow once they are able to safely reopen. Please see the article about the Business Recovery project to see what NCCBC has planned for this. Our community pharmacies are hoping to be assigned extra slots for delivering medication very soon and we are working to make sure all of the residents we have been helping are all set up and independent at home, supported by their families and neighbours.

South Ayrshire Council's website outlines Covid-19 support and advice for residents across the county after our project wraps up – support is still available for anyone who may need it! [www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Our list of the amazing local businesses who provide home deliveries is also still available on our Facebook page and on the NCCBC website for anyone who finds themselves isolating – [www.nccbc.org.uk](http://www.nccbc.org.uk)

Claire would like to extend a huge personal thanks to all of the volunteers that have supported residents across North Carrick over the last year. We have a small token of appreciation to be delivered to each of our amazing leaders and volunteers, and also the local businesses who were open through the first lockdown and went above and beyond to keep our local shops stocked, and essentials delivered to us at home. For those who have not yet received them, your medals and certificates will be dropped off as soon as the restrictions allow.

*Stay safe and best wishes.*



## North Carrick PB Awards 2020/21

South Ayrshire Health and Social Care allocated funding to support community groups, especially in response to the changing needs within communities as they respond to the effects of Covid-19. It was agreed that this would be through small grants approved by each of the six Locality Planning Partnerships. North Carrick's awards were:

**1st Crosshill Guides and Rangers** received £500 to help them prepare to meet in person again with a focus on the 'Know Myself' area of the programme, including the 'Think Resilient' peer education programme.

**Ayrshire Cancer Support** received £500 to help provide free transport to Maybole and North Carrick residents who require transport to a hospital appointment in connection with their cancer diagnosis.

**Carrick Community Leisure** received £500 to bring together the carers of the area on a regular basis and to have things that interest them and provide them with much needed respite even if only for an hour or two and to help them find new friends.

**Carrick Round Table** received £500 to transport Santa around the streets at Christmas time, raising funds along the way for their charitable work.

**Carrick Rugby Football Club** received £500 to encourage their young people to participate in a positive activity to promote wellbeing.

**Community Learning and Development (CLD)** received £535 to support the diversionary youth work in Maybole and North Carrick which has resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Crossroads** received £500 to provide respite care to one or more Carers who don't otherwise qualify for SAC support or can't afford it for themselves.

**Maybole Juniors** received £500 to help with the cost of their training facilities.

**Stepping Stones** received £500 to provide a small gift to 50 of their most vulnerable children in Maybole and North Carrick.

**Ayrshire Sportability** received £500 to enable them to put on some outdoor events in partnership with Inspire South Ayrshire (South Ayrshire Active Schools and Sports Development Departments).

**Kirkmichael Village Renaissance** received £500 to expand their offer of takeaways for the village and wider community.

**L & M Consultancy** received £500 to allow them to widen delivery of their therapeutic music group to identified youth/adult population within the Maybole & North Carrick community.

## Happy 90th Birthday Mae !!

Members of Straiton community helped a very gracious and elegant lady celebrate a special birthday. Mae received cards and flowers on the occasion of her 90th birthday and the children from the school, out on their daily walk, waved and wished her a Happy Birthday. Neighbours had also festooned the outside of the house with balloons and banners to mark the milestone. Mae and her husband enjoyed a wonderful day.



### SOUTH AYRSHIRE LIFELINE



South Ayrshire Lifeline is an information resource that allows you to access activities, support, services, contacts and much more, offering you the opportunity to find out what's happening in and around South Ayrshire.

You can contact us on our **Helpline 0800 432 0510** Monday to Friday 9am-5pm where one of the team will help you find out whatever you need. If they don't have an answer for you straight away, they will find it out for you and signpost you to a relevant Organisation or service.

For those who are digitally connected, you can also visit our website [www.southayrshirlifeline.org](http://www.southayrshirlifeline.org) where a vast array of information is categorised allowing easy searching to find relevant support.



South Ayrshire Lifeline also offers Free Hearing Aid Batteries, Sensory Packs, Telephone Befriending and a Digital Helpline. Call us or visit the website to find out more about these other services.

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# CARRICK ROUND TABLE GETTING READY TO WELCOME AND GROW COMING OUT OF LOCKDOWN

*Well, the last 12 months for a club based on sharing friendship and getting out doing things in our community has certainly proved challenging - especially with many of our guys working on frontline services, taking the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic head on.*

We have tried to help where we can, whether by providing flowers and gardening materials to our local care homes, taking Santa on a summer tour of Maybole to collect a mountain of food for the South Ayrshire Foodbank, or through our members supporting community projects such as the NCCBC led



Isolation Support Project, assisting in delivering community newsletters and collecting prescriptions. In December, with financial help from NCCBC, and navigating our way through the

complexities of Covid legislation, we got Santa and his sleigh ready and out on the streets of North Carrick. Working with Cash for Kids, we raised around £2,200 from our annual collection, which was a highlight of our year, given the opportunity to be that light in the darkness of a very different Christmas. To all of those who came out to welcome us from your doorstep, we thank you for your continued support!

Socially, our opportunities to meet in person outdoors have been limited; a trip to Ailsa Craig, a couple of early morning Sunday walks with a tasty breakfast thrown in, and, more recently, some socially distanced exercise out running on a Tuesday night. Online comedy nights, quizzes and social catchups have filled the gap, but like the rest of the population we are all reaching the limits of Zoom!



Unfortunately, like everyone reading this, we have missed opportunities. We were due to visit tablers across Europe in the Netherlands last May and take in our first ever World Meeting in Delhi last August, and only time will tell when we can look to share experiences with our fellow tablers again!

This year, we are still looking to work with our fellow tablers in Troon and Cumnock to support a return for Round Table in Ayr and Prestwick. We feel that the Round Table is such an important organisation allowing young men to experience fellowship, especially given the mental health and physical benefits we know Round Table gives. We cannot wait to share the opportunity with more young men from across Ayrshire.

Already in the planning is a 'Beer Tasting' night with the Ayr Brewing Company. Then, as the lockdown hopefully relaxes, we are looking to increase our outdoor social activities with paddle boarding, land sailing and canoeing the Great Glen - all currently in the planning stages!



**So, to all guys in the 18-45 age bracket - make up for the last year stuck in house, and come and join us!**  
**To get involved drop us an email to [carrick@roundtable.org.uk](mailto:carrick@roundtable.org.uk) or Text Join and Postcode to 60066**



## ROUNDTABLE

### #DOMORE

**Calling all Young Men 18-45**

*Why not join the round table?*

- MAKE NEW FRIENDSHIPS
- Amazing Activities • Community Work
- TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES
- Helping with the magic of santas sleigh
- IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH
- Running Events • Charity Fundraising
- Improving people's lives
- Fun & Fellowship
- Personal development
- INCREASED PURPOSE
- The odd beer and curry
- IMPROVED HEALTH & WELLBEING
- NETWORK OF FRIENDS WORLDWIDE
- Being part of a club that raised over 5 million pounds last year
- Doing lots of cool stuff
- BEING A TABLER
- Undertaking random acts of kindness
- To get a feel good factor
- Newly moved to the area. Self satisfaction
- To get involved drop us a message on Facebook
- email: [carrick@roundtable.org.uk](mailto:carrick@roundtable.org.uk) or call 07786 735 355
- We look forward to welcoming you!



# KIRKMICHAEL VILLAGE

## Community History Project

This project is a continuation of the excellent work started during the successful Village Historical Day, held in November 2011 and was reignited at the beginning of March 2020, just prior to the Pandemic. The project aims to consolidate and build on the invaluable information gathered on this day and since.

Five villagers formed an initial group and they have been beavering away behind the scenes. Other residents have contributed electronically, whilst others have expressed a wish to become more involved once it is safe to do so, post Covid-19 restrictions. Placing Kirkmichael Villagers at the forefront, and being as inclusive as possible, was at the heart of the project from the outset. We wanted to utilise the interest and skills from all successive generations, including young people and children, whom we very much hope to involve post Covid-19. It is an opportunity for everyone in the village to get involved in their community and heritage.

Via social media, a new Facebook page 'Kirkmichael Hall Users' has been set up, which currently has over a hundred members. In also using the established Kirkmichael Photos Old and New, a surprising array of photos and other material have been posted. The richness of history gathered over time and since last March, has led to over a thousand items being diligently and painstakingly photocopied, catalogued and archived. It goes without saying, our preferred method of contact would have been face-to-face, but with three lockdowns and associated restrictions, it has been unsafe to do so. One project member has been able to collect a few social histories from some of our most senior villagers, via written questionnaires and over the phone. We really hope to be able meet one another soon. In the meantime, there is some amazing news!

Kirkmichael Village Renaissance's (KVR) successful bid for a collective sum of money for the village, from the North Carrick Community Benefit Company and Scottish Power Renewables, enabled the Women's Group, in turn, to bid for some of this money and we

have been awarded £700 to set up a History Corner in the Upper Hall of McCosh Hall.

When Covid-19 restrictions allow, the opening of the Village History Corner will be celebrated, along with our first display of 'School Through Time', to which so many of you have already contributed. We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible when the time comes. Our second topic, 'Trades and Traders of Kirkmichael' is already underway. We have already gathered lots of facts and some associated stories, like the cow which was carried down Dyrock Burn during a flood and ended up uninjured in a villager's garden, which gives an added richness to the facts about the floods. But we would really appreciate more individual and family stories and any other histories as they genuinely give life to the facts and help to fill in the gaps. This includes any individual and family photos of activities taken during the lockdowns, for we are Living History and Today's Present is Yesterday's Past! Why not become a Family and Village Detective?. Who knows what untold local history and hidden treasures are waiting to be discovered?

'Every photo tells a story' as the saying goes and stories matter. Stories are invaluable, they will be treasured and stored and kept alive for the future. If you are interested in being part of the group, or have photos and stories to tell, please email **Veronica Bilson at:- (capital K at the beginning)** [Kmvchistoryproject@outlook.com](mailto:Kmvchistoryproject@outlook.com) OR via the two Facebook pages mentioned above.

### KIRKMICHAEL HALL USERS' COMMITTEE

This committee was set up in 2020 after the Community Shop and Café was relocated to the ground floor of McCosh Hall. The aim is to manage the Upper Hall and make the best use of it for the village. Renovations are underway and grants have been obtained to make this a multi-functional space. The committee is open to anyone and there is still much to do. We are presently working on a booking system which will ensure that the hall is used to its full potential post Covid-19 restrictions.

The Hall Users' Committee is looking forward to all the village groups returning to the Hall and new ones too!

**Contact Noreen Lyon (Chair) –**  
[noreeneel@icloud.com](mailto:noreeneel@icloud.com)



# Work on Strategy for Youth Paused

The assignment to develop a Youth Strategy, funded by North Carrick Community Benefit Company and carried out by Community Enterprise, is being paused until lockdown restrictions ease.

The work so far has included an online and paper survey which opened in June 2020 and closed on 1st March 2021. To encourage responses, a £50 prize draw was offered and 123 responses were received. The draw was won by a youngster from Dunure who is in the 9-12 years age bracket.  
*Congratulations to her!*

When the first Covid-19 lockdown started last year, a decision was made to carry on with developing the new Strategy. Not surprisingly, the fact that the research has taken place during a pandemic has presented several challenges:

- Community Enterprise have not been able to meet face to face with young people.
- Young people have not been in school and therefore have not had direct "live contact" with teachers.
- Schools have had increased demands and have largely been unable to support the research by promoting the survey or facilitating online focus groups.
- Youth workers have been focussing on resilience work and have had limited face to face contact with young people.
- Out of school activities and clubs for young people have changed in their delivery or have become dormant.
- Young people's lives have been impacted and changed as a result of Covid-19, including: isolation, no peer contact, increased reliance on zoom for education and socialising, decrease in mental health and wellbeing.

Young people have less motivation to get involved in thinking about anything relating to the longer term. The second phase of the Strategy development is really important. It will involve working with young people and stakeholders to decide what should be done to make life better for young people in North Carrick. Some of this will be based on the issues that have been identified in the research. Some of it may need to address the ongoing effects of the pandemic on young people.

Over the next few months, Community Enterprise will keep in touch with young people and stakeholders. Plans will be made, subject to the relaxation of Covid restrictions, for face-to-face contact with young people.

**The aim now is to have a final Strategy completed by November. Projects to implement parts of the Strategy will be ready to start as soon as possible after that.**

Mark Fletcher, Chair of NCCBC, commented, "We are grateful to Community Enterprise for their good work and flexibility on this. The delay in producing the Strategy will not increase the costs. We all agree that we need to do whatever it takes to get to the point where we have a workable plan – a plan that has the support of the young people of North Carrick and buy-in from the stakeholders who will help to implement it."

*For more information on this contact:*

## Community Enterprise

Lynda Johnstone. Phone: **07898 983 931**

Email: [lynda@communityenterprise.co.uk](mailto:lynda@communityenterprise.co.uk)

## North Carrick Community Benefit Company

Stuart Lindsay. Phone: **07977 115 974**

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



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## OPENING SOON

After the first year of cutting costs and changing operations, it was agreed that the current model couldn't continue. One of the fundamental issues with the club structure was the requirement of a licence that was very restrictive and actually meant the building couldn't be used except by members or those signed in by members; so wider uses, even if they didn't require sales of alcohol, were very restricted. Member numbers had fallen off further so it was decided that Carrick Sports Club would be wound up and The Speakers was now the name for the building with a standard premises licence and no membership requirements so for the first time in over 40 years the building was open to all.

In 2016, Carrick Community Leisure Group secured funding for a small scale project to make the building wind and watertight and carry out some internal improvements. The building began to establish a new market in the town based around activities and facility for all to partake in. The building was sadly beyond small repairs and the extent of the wet and dry rot was huge and the building had a limited life left in it. Further to the structural issues, the building was largely inaccessible, something that had to be addressed. Everything from 2016 through to September of 2019 proved the need for the daytime facility. Many groups and third sector organisations like VASA, Stepping Stones and the Social Work team at times hosted support groups for the community. Volunteer organisations were utilising the spaces and reducing isolation in the community. Many charitable fund raisers were held for wider charities and the building was proven to still have a purpose and it was agreed that saving the building was a priority.

A very lengthy process began to secure the necessary funding to create a future for the building and in September of 2019 The Speakers held its last party night which had a great attendance. The building was emptied and the appointed contractors were given the keys and the work began in December which was always going to have its own issues being winter.

### The tendering process

In line with the procurement rules laid down by the

funders the contract was put on Public Contracts Scotland in mid-2019 and Lochlie Construction were appointed as a single lead contractor which was essential for a contract of this size. Because of the requirement for a single lead contractor and the requirement to tender publicly, larger contractors would be the most likely to tender and attention was given to ensuring local companies were aware of the contract and personal contact was made with local companies in case they weren't on Public Contracts Scotland. Lochlie Construction are a family business that originate from Mauchline although now based south of Glasgow.

### The use of local trades throughout

Lochlie moved onto site in December and set about the internal rip outs and the exterior demolitions that were required. This work was carried out by Blacks, a local contractor, who are now Lochlie's preferred demolition experts. Early in 2020, once the demolition was concluded, joiners were brought in to take out rotten timbers and repair or replace. Within that group there were local tradesmen subcontracted and throughout the entire build many local trades were utilised for mechanical and electrical, joinery, specialist joinery for the bars, air conditioning etc.

Unfortunately, Covid-19 was looming and, like the rest of the world, the site closed in March and this set the whole project back four months. When it reopened, the restrictions meant a smaller team than required was allowed on site and this combined with supply issues were all impacts that could never have been factored for.

The impact the workers from this site made to the local economy has been outstanding and their support and usage of local eateries and small shops was exceptional. At this point, we would like to add that four tradesmen appointed as subcontractors throughout this contract have now been employed by Lochlie Construction on a full time basis and are based with them on other sites. The garden was landscaped by John Cuthbert, latest fence additions by Scott and Brian Callow and the sound, lighting and wifi extensions have been carried out by Jim, Claire and Adam of GAB Audio.

Lochlie Construction and the design team led by Studio42 were amazing and navigated this build through one of the hardest times for all industry in many years, if ever. All of the works were carried out to the highest of conservation standards with traditional materials and skills. This included replacing all the pvc windows on the front and re-introducing timber sash and case as well as removing the single plastic fascia that ran the entire width of all three buildings and replaced this with two to give back something of a more traditional look to the front elevation and then reinstating the shop front windows back to their original much larger format, again in timber, completes the more traditional look. Sandstone elevations were stripped of Portland cement and re-pointed in traditional lime pointing and the roof elevations and lead work were reinstated.



The delays caused by Covid-19 and then the weather toward the end of the build meant the building was handed back in January 2021 to Carrick Community Leisure Group and when the weather eventually eases up, the sign writing can be added and the final bits of paintwork concluded. To all intents, the building is ready to go but, like everyone else, Covid isn't ready to let us open just now.

## Why Goudie's

Often, as progress happens, the past is lost so the name is a tribute to Maybole's boot and shoe industry which was so important to the town for many decades. Dick Goudie was the last of the boot makers in Maybole and within the logo and elements of the building we have utilised some symbolism in memory of the industry. Hopefully, it keeps a part of the rich history of Maybole alive. There is no direct link to the building and Dick Goudie but when the name was suggested to us and we put it to a public vote with other options, the people chose.

The future for Maybole is looking great with the wider town centre regeneration, new school and the bypass and new housing areas. This building had no long-term future before this refurbishment but now the area has a new fully-accessible community space. It includes a family-friendly restaurant facility catered by 1880dinner@Goudie's; a new function suite that will be amazing for celebrations of all kinds including high quality weddings; conference facilities;

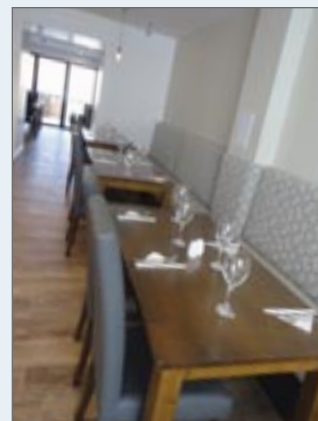
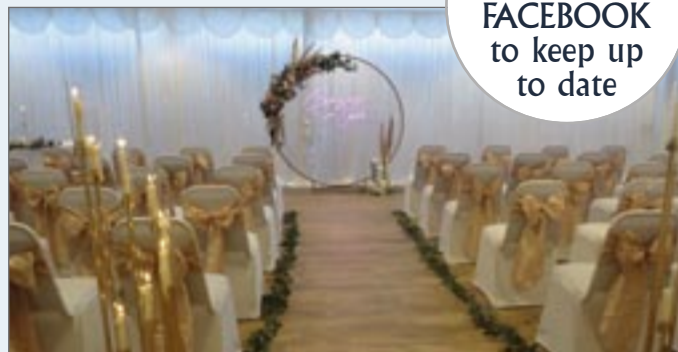
community and group meeting rooms and bars with outdoor spaces. The economic aspects of the building, like any other business, are key to the success of this venture. Unlike most other businesses, as a not-for-profit social enterprise (no shareholders and no trustees take salaries), any and all profits are put back into community provision. So please help us to continue our work by supporting local and subsequently the creation of more local employment which is one of the key drivers for the Maybole regeneration.

Carrick Community Leisure Group is planning a recovery programme that will, as restrictions lift, help people back into social activity and help community groups re-establish their place back in the community and we would ask you to please like our Facebook pages, Goudie's and Carrick Community Leisure Group, for the latest news and updates and most importantly for when we will be able to open.

*We would like to thank all of the funders that have made this possible and a good number of these are continuing to support the wider regeneration in Maybole - NCCBC, Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Environment Scotland, the Robertson Trust, Big Lottery Fund, Garfield Weston and Ayrshire Leader Rural Fund.*



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# Straiton

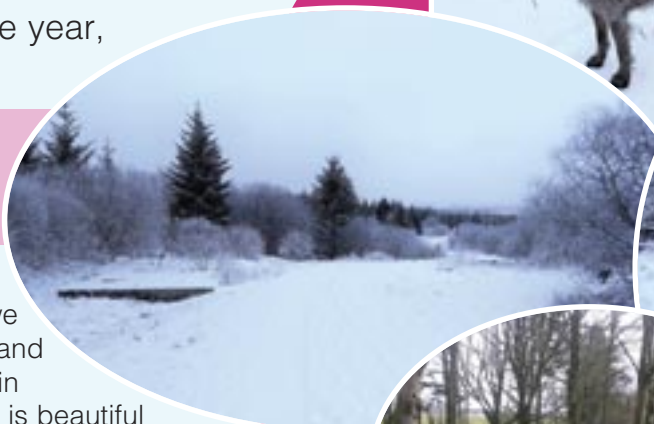
A rather cold start to the year,  
great for sledging!

*January brings the snow,  
Makes our feet and  
fingers glow.*

That poem was certainly relevant this January when we had significant falls of snow and the low temperatures kept it in place for some time. Straiton is beautiful at any time of the year but was stunningly so with the carpet of snow and blue skies to complement it. Hundreds of people drove out to our village to sledge on the fields and, further up the valley, on the forest roads. While it was lovely to see and hear the children having fun and enjoying the outdoors there was, unfortunately, the other side of the coin where a minority spoiled the experience by parking inconsiderately and leaving their litter behind. Folk in the community were ambivalent about so many coming out during what was now a second lockdown. Normally we would be very open and welcoming and keen to share, but we did wonder whether some of these visitors were breaking the rules about travel. Anyway, a lot of weans were outside being active and having fun, and that must beat being cooped up looking at a screen!

*February brings the rain,  
Thaws the frozen lakes again.*

True of February too when we had so much rain that on two consecutive days the River Girvan broke its banks and poured into the fields. Some of the villagers who had been flooded out of their homes in the last big floods had an anxious time but, thankfully, the waters did not reach them.



According to a local resident, the rainfall totalled 135.9mm which is about the average for January. So far, the highest was 229.1mm in 2018 and the lowest was 95mm in 2019. They also reported 17 days when there was overnight frost.

However, the last week of February has been dry and there is now a marked difference in the length of the days. We are looking forward to March and shows of daffodils and other Spring flowers. Speaking of which, the tubs in and around the village are certainly taking on the colours of Spring with the crocuses now blooming.

Gerald Jones, our minister, continues to send out what he calls a mini-service each Sunday morning and these bring comfort to so many, especially with the continued closure of places of worship. We do hope that Easter will herald the re-opening of churches and other places of worship, allowing people to join together (socially distanced of course) in praise.

## ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

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# Update on North Carrick Community Benefit Company

Without a doubt, it's been one of the strangest and hardest years that most, if not all, of us have lived through. Large parts of the world we know, and the lives we live, were put on hold and NCCBC did everything possible to continue.

When the crisis hit hard and fast in March 2020, we responded by pulling together a resilience team led by Claire Bryan. Around 150 volunteers came forward to help support the most vulnerable in our communities. This is now, with the rollout of vaccines, coming to an end but we haven't finished; our attention has switched to supporting community groups and businesses with PPE and also developing web support for the local businesses in a project again led by Claire who explains the project in her article in the magazine.

We have also made a pot of money available to every community to enable quick-fix projects that they choose and we will see the results of those in the next few months; this is known as CPF funding.

The partnership with South Ayrshire Council has seen us invest with the council in placemaking projects and the first of these in Maidens has been completed with the introduction of a shorefront footpath, something local residents have been aspiring to for a few years. Stuart Lindsay has been dedicating a good portion of his time as development officer into this.

Over the next few months, every community in North Carrick will see improvements to at least one play park in each village and further investment in outdoor exercise equipment in some. Community representatives have been consulted with and the partnership is now funding the works across the area to the sum of £300,000. This will feature in future magazines and will include all manner of things from new notice boards, benches and seating, walking routes improvements, community spaces made better etc. etc. This sum does not include the destination park in Maybole which was funded solely by the Council and the partnership will fund some personal touches in Miller Park to be unveiled in time.

We have funded extra counsellors in Carrick and Girvan Academies by employing a company called Place2Be and this has been made possible because of a funding partnership of NCCBC, The Robertson Trust, The William Grant and Paul Hamlyn Foundations and South Ayrshire Council.


We are also funding a youth consultation that will help inform future investment in youth-based activity and development. Without this valued information, directly

acquired from the youth of the area, it will be very difficult to draw in much needed funding and support; this will take the guess-work out of what is required.

NCCBC are pleased to announce that the charity has purchased Maybole Charity Shop premises and the flat above. We will be working with the Maybole Regeneration Group to enable the regeneration of this building which stood to be lost. This would not only have been damaging to the built fabric of Maybole but it would have been disastrous for community groups to lose this much-needed income. A bit of a challenge, but will be worth it in the end.

The board would like to thank Stuart and Claire for their dedication to their roles and the communities they work with, well done both. Also, thank you to Marion Young for her support with all the administration.

We wish all community groups every success as the world starts to open back up this year and remember we have four funding rounds every year with a rolling application system.



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<b>FAMILY MEAT PACK 2: £28.95</b> 455g Mince, 455g Stewing Steak, 455g Sausages, 230g Bacon, 4 Chicken Fillets/or Pork Chops, 12 Eggs, Medium Steak Pie (for 3)	<b>PENSIONERS PACK: £8.50</b> 230g Mince, 230g Stewing Steak, 230g Sausages, 4 Slices Bacon, 6 Eggs, Chicken Breast or Bacon Steaks
<b>FAMILY MEAT PACK 3: £37.50</b> 455g Mince, 455g Stewing Steak, 455g Slice Sausage, 455g Links, 340g Bacon, 910g Silverside, 12 Eggs, Large Steak Pie (for 4)	<b>STEW PACK: £10.95</b> 455g Mince, 455g Stewing Steak, 455g Sausages
	<b>BLOCK SLICE SAUSAGE:</b> 910g / 2lb: £5.25 1630g / 3lb 10z: £8.25



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# Community-led funding ...

**North Carrick Community Benefit Company, NCCBC, has awarded each community in North Carrick a sum of money to deliver projects of importance and we reported on Straiton in the last magazine.**



Eleven NCCBC members, rather than put the money out to applications for this year, acted on previous information collected for the action plan and feedback previously received. The option to not go to applications was because the Locality Planning Group had already launched an application for groups to apply to and it would have complicated the process and could have resulted in groups receiving double funding and there was also a lot of Covid recovery funding available.

Previous information highlighted four major projects that could use the £10,000 to make a big difference to one of the actions within the plan.

The first was improving Miller Park but this was discounted as South Ayrshire Council was investing in a destination park for there.

The next put forward was improvements to the Crossroads walk to introduce safety strips to step off the road when faced with traffic and this had a longterm view to eventually create a path for the entire walk. (Scoring from the voting put this project 1st)

Following that was a shelter at the Greenside to take rest out of the elements when out and about in the centre of the town. (Voting placed this project 2nd)

The final project was to create a fenced-in dog exercise area in the town so dogs could be let off the lead safely. (Voting placed this project 3rd).

As we were in Tier 4, it was felt that the best way to gauge opinion was to use Facebook pages operated by Maybole Community Council and Maybole Ayrshire as well as using Survey Monkey. A very short survey was set up and people were invited to vote but also name one other thing that could possibly make a project in the future.

The combined coverage of the Facebook pages was over 5,000 and 575 people engaged in the process. Of those 575 people, 125 actually completed the survey and the winning project by a huge margin was the Crossroads walk improvements. Lots of new suggestions were put forward as potential projects going forward.

NCCBC would like to wish both communities success in delivering these projects and would encourage people to either join the company as a member or join your local community council or association face book pages to ensure you are kept up to date with local activity. The North Carrick Community benefit Company website is also being populated with news more readily available and being a member isn't a huge task but it could help you be involved in these and other processes.



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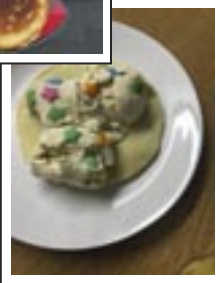
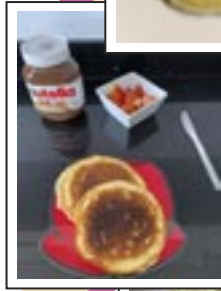
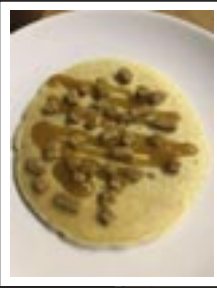
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## 1st Crosshill Guides

1st Crosshill Guides started off 2021 with their traditional 'Big Fat Quiz' with questions focusing on the good things that came out of a very difficult 2020! We also met on Zoom and made pancakes on Shrove Tuesday.

World Thinking Day is a very important part of the Girlguiding Calendar. Guides and Scouts around the world celebrate World Thinking Day every year on 22nd February, and this year's theme was Peacebuilding. Celebrated since 1926, World Thinking Day is a day of international friendship. It is an opportunity to speak out on issues that affect young women and fundraise for 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 150 countries. 1st Crosshill Guides celebrated at home with some fantastic packs that were made for the county, and some took part in online virtual events.

Our next activities will include some craft packs for Mother's Day and Easter.



## Photos taken over the Christmas period by Alistair Hastings

He wrote this: "Tommy". I first thought of this photograph back in November when, by chance, I saw the profile silhouetted against the red glow of the reversing lights of a car behind him on the road behind the Greenside. I was reminded of poppies and had been trying to think of ways to replicate the scene. Later, when I saw the Christmas tree going up, I thought of the truce. It took me quite a few attempts over several nights to get the shot I was looking for.



All Girlguiding meetings in Scotland remain virtual only for now, but we hope to get some good news soon that would allow us to plan for meeting outdoors face to face in the coming months!

## IT'S TIME TO JOIN NORTH CARRICK COMMUNITY BENEFIT COMPANY!

NCCBC is a membership organisation that has over £250,000 available to spend on improvements in North Carrick each year. Every year the members review the Company's work and elect the Directors for the following year. Any Full Member can be elected as a Director and the liability of members is limited to a maximum of £1 each. Membership costs you nothing and joining will give you and your village or town a say in how North Carrick should develop.

It is easy to join via <https://nccbc.org.uk/types-of-user/>. As a member you will have access to a dedicated area of the website with information and a discussion forum where we will ask your views on local issues and opportunities. (You can get a paper copy of the application form by emailing [stuart.northcarrick@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.northcarrick@gmail.com) or phoning Stuart on 07977 115974)

*Why not do this small thing to show your commitment to improving North Carrick?*



## Regeneration Project Gathers Pace!

There has been activity within the Regeneration Project over the last few months and those visiting the town centre over the coming months will begin to see conservation projects on site in the centre from early summer. Major milestones include:-

- **Small Grants.** A number of conservation schemes have been approved for homes and shopfronts in the centre with works due to start in late spring/early summer depending on consents.
- **The Town Hall.** The design team is now in place. Plans to improve the facilities are in development. When we have draft plans a consultation event will take place following which we plan to start works in late summer subject to gaining appropriate consents.
- **High Street and Active Travel.** The design team has been re-working options for the High Street to improve the public realm including widening the pavements. We will be holding a consultation event on draft plans in the Spring. Start date on this scheme is dependent on the bypass being completed and the high street being de-trunked however we plan to be on site in Spring 2022.
- **Castle.** Funding has been secured to bring the Castle back into use with a Design Team now in place. Dependent on completion of the bypass, the works should begin in early 2022.
- **Talks and discussions.** A series of talks have been organised (more information below) from speakers on a wide range of subjects – we hope you can join us.
- **Local Contractors.** The project is keen to encourage local contractors to tender for work and where appropriate free training can be provided in specialist areas of conservation and preservation. If you are a local contractor and wish to be kept up to date with tenders please get in touch.

## Maybole Regeneration Project



### Small Grants Scheme

Eight schemes have been granted provisional approval under the first two funding rounds and it is hoped the first schemes will begin in late spring/early summer.

The small grants scheme aims to improve the historic properties and streetscape in the centre of Maybole by offering support to property owners and tenants to preserve their historic buildings, bring vacant units back into use and reinstate lost architectural detail including traditional shopfronts. The scheme is funded by National Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Environment Scotland and South Ayrshire Council.

The core part of the town on the High Street between the Town Hall and Castle Street has been identified as having the highest potential to deliver sustained transformative change to both the built heritage and the economy of Maybole in this grant round. The current grant round is now closed with next grant round planned to open late 2021.

The value of grant applications is expected to exceed the available budget and therefore an application process has been put in place. It is unlikely that we will be unable to approve every application. Applications received for properties in this area will be scored on a variety of criteria including grant type, listed status, location and prominence, the scope of repairs and the participation of all owners so that an overall building scheme can be considered. The application process is available on the website [www.regeneratingmaybole.scot](http://www.regeneratingmaybole.scot).

We will be running a number of online events in the coming months with information for property owners and further information on our Grants Scheme can be found on our website.

## Team Introduction

**Duncan Clelland - Project Lead:** Duncan is responsible for managing the project with a background in project management, housing, regeneration and community development.

**Corene McCrindle - Assistant Project Officer:** Corene specialises in managing the repair and restoration of historic buildings. Following her studies in Architectural Conservation she gained experience on a number of Grade A Listed buildings including Paisley Town Hall and Glasgow School of Art. Corene supports Duncan in managing the project and will be working with owners to improve buildings on the High Street under the small grants scheme.

**Harriet Wilson - Administrative Officer:** Harriet is a resident of Maybole and has a real passion for the community and town. With a background in law, admin and customer service, she is excited to be your main point of contact for the project.

The team will also include an Activities Officer which is currently being recruited.



## Activities and Training Programme

The Activities and Training Programme is an important part of the Maybole Regeneration Project, where through community engagement, education and training projects local people will be offered opportunities to learn and develop skills and knowledge in areas such as historic buildings, traditional building skills and become involved in the project. The programme is starting with a range of talks on Maybole and historic buildings and with the appointment of an Artist in Residence to produce public artworks with the community!

We have started a partnership with the University of South West Scotland to create a podcast about the history of Maybole from a local community perspective. To find out more or If you have any local stories and want to get involved, email [mayboleregeneration@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:mayboleregeneration@south-ayrshire.gov.uk).

### Contact Us

Telephone: 01655 884 865

Email: [mayboleregeneration@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:mayboleregeneration@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/mayboleregen](https://www.facebook.com/mayboleregen)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/mayboleregen](https://www.twitter.com/mayboleregen)



## EVENING TALKS - Coming up we have a series of online Evening Talks about local history and heritage:

Thursday 25th March 7pm	<b>'Exploring Your Scottish Family History'</b> <i>A guide to the key records that can help you explore the lives and times of your Scottish ancestors.</i>	Michelle Leonard – Genes and Genealogy
Thursday 8th April 7pm	<b>A Guide to Conservation Area Building Maintenance</b> <i>A talk and Q&amp;A about how to maintain your property.</i>	P Drummond PDA Architects
Thursday 22nd April 7pm	<b>North Carrick Virtual Tour</b> <i>A zoom presentation travelling through North Carrick looking at its History &amp; Heritage</i>	Noreen Lyon – Lyon Tours Scotland
Thursday 6th May 6pm	<b>A guide to Historic Shopfronts in Maybole</b> <i>The importance of historic shop fronts in Scottish town centres.</i>	Dr Lindsay Lennie – Historic Shopfronts

Please email: [mayboleregeneration@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:mayboleregeneration@south-ayrshire.gov.uk) for the Zoom links.

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# A trip down memory lane

No. 1



No. 2



No. 3



No. 4



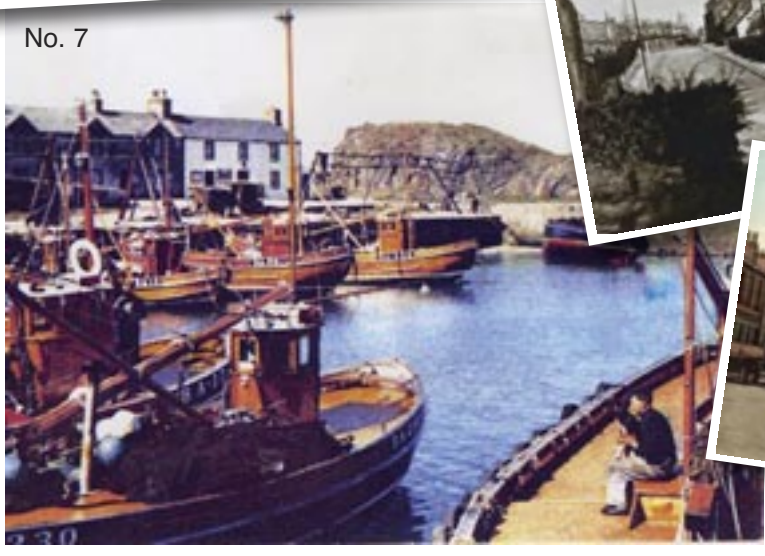
No. 5



No. 6



No. 7



No. 8



## Free online workshops to support people with long-term conditions

***Are you living with a long-term health condition?***

***Would you like to connect with others and find ways to feel better?***

A new self-help initiative to support local people living with long-term health conditions could be the answer.

The Living Well programme is a series of free online workshops specially designed to help participants develop the skills they need to better manage their health conditions.

Living Well is open to any South Ayrshire resident who is living with a long-term condition including, but not limited to, diabetes, asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), stroke, heart disease, MS and depression or low mood.

Delivered by VASA's South Ayrshire Lifeline, the programme runs over six weeks with one two-hour session each week for small friendly groups of up to six people.

Joyce Anderson, the Programme Co-ordinator, said: "Living with any long-term health condition can have an impact on our physical, emotional and social wellbeing.

"Living Well is about self-management. It is not about specific health conditions but instead it gives everyone taking part resources and tips about staying well in general and developing a sense of control over their own health and their life.

"The programme includes relaxation, motivation, digital skills and resources, food and mood, confidence building and much more.

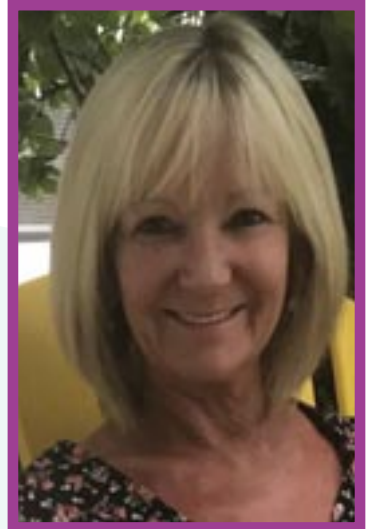
"Living Well also offers an opportunity to chat and get to know other like-minded people as living with a long-term health condition can often be very isolating for many reasons – from being unable to go out and about, to not being able to work due to ill health."

The Living Well programme is free to attend – the only requirement is a tablet, laptop or PC to access Zoom.

Joyce added: "No-one needs to sign up for Zoom or pay for a subscription. The links to each session will be emailed and we can help with this if anyone is unfamiliar with the basics of Zoom."

Living Well is funded by the Health and Social Care Alliance. If you are interested in taking part in the Living Well programme, please contact **Joyce** on **01292 432661** or email: **joyce@vasa.scot**

Voluntary Action South Ayrshire Charity no: SCO28234



*Living Well Programme Co-ordinator, Joyce Anderson.*

No. 9

No. 10

**Do you recognise where the photographs were taken?**

**Check page 34 for details**

**Maybe you have some old photos you would like to share?**

If so, please email them to:  
**david.kiltie@talktalk.net**  
and we will try to print as many as we can in future issues.

## Christmas Chronicles of Kirkmichael Primary School

The boys and girls of Kirkmichael Primary School were very busy having fun with Christmas activities during the festive period. Although we haven't been able to take part in our usual parties, we have been very creative and came up with lots of fun ideas! We enjoyed National Christmas Jumper Day, Christmas movie afternoon and Panto and PJ's day. Pupils took part in the 12 days of Christmas activities throughout December and made lots of Christmas crafts. Christmas lunch was delicious as ever and we dressed to impress. Additionally, we had a special guest visit the school...SANTA! He was recorded on CCTV leaving us lots of lovely presents.

*We hope to see him next year.*



# Lockdowns may be off and on, but we are pushing ahead in North Carrick.

**The time since the last Community News has seen some big steps forward, some steady progress and a few areas where progress has been slower than we wanted.**

*Several are covered elsewhere in the magazine and others include:*

## **Joint SAC/NCCBC Funding Programme**

- Discussions have continued in each of the communities and decisions are being made about how to use the £28,750 that is available in each of seven villages for play park equipment, and the £9,375 that is available in all North Carrick Communities for Environmental Improvements.
- Hopefully, the next few issues of this Newsletter will be full of photos of projects that have been done using this joint funding scheme.

## **Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry Development Programme 2021-24**

- Has been delivered door-to-door and electronic copies can be found at: <https://nccbc.org.uk/development-programmes/>
- Anyone who would like to get a hard copy of the Programme can contact Stuart: [stuart.northcarrick@gmail.com](mailto:stuart.northcarrick@gmail.com), 07977 115974

## **Developing and Managing Tourism in Coastal North Carrick**

- The communities in Dunure and Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry came together to secure a grant from the NatureScot's Better Places Fund.

- Consultants have started work and will produce proposals for easing current problems – notably lack of toilets and parking – and developing capacity and facilities to cope with the expected growth of tourism in future.
- Community Representatives met with the consultants and highlighted the many excellent local facilities and resources. The representatives also emphasised the urgency of the existing problems and the need to protect the local environment in any future tourism-related developments.
- Many thanks to @NatureScot for supporting our project, aiming to make visiting this area an even better experience for both visitors and the community.



*Stuart Lindsay, NCCBC Development Officer*

# Surgeon General John McCosh. Part II

Surgeon General McCosh may have returned to Kirkmichael on 25th May 1857, as he presented a signed copy of his first book, 'Topography of Assam' to Ayr Library, before setting off on his travels again.

His travelling is recalled in three books of poetry, essentially forming a long poetic travelogue, recording the places he visited and the sites he saw. Going beyond the usual tourist haunts, such as the Alps, John McCosh also travelled through the Balkans, at a time when many of the Balkan nations were struggling against the rule of the Ottoman Empire. This was travel, not tourism. Jane McMaster, his niece, usually accompanied him on his travels.

In 1862, Surgeon General McCosh became a 'Fellow of the 'Royal Geographical Society'.

From the 1881 Census, McCosh was living in London in a lodging house in Paddington with his niece, Jane McMaster.

At the time of his death on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 1885, he was living at the 'Junior United Service Club' in London. A Gentleman's Club founded in 1815, for the use of senior officers in the British Army and Royal Navy.

A remembrance stone to Surgeon General McCosh's memory stands on the north wall of the first northern extension of Dean Cemetery in west Edinburgh, where his siblings are buried.

Memorial to  
Surgeon General  
John McCosh



## Surgeon General John McCosh's Will.

His will was proven in 1887. He left £13,000 (equivalent to £1,750,000 in 2020) to his niece Jane McMaster, who was named as sole beneficiary. Jane was to have use of the money until her own death in March 1896 where upon Surgeon General McCosh's charitable bequests could be effected. Additionally, he left money to Edinburgh University to establish two annual bursaries which were awarded in 1898. The 'McCosh Graduate Bursary', which gave post-graduate students the opportunity to study abroad, was among the biggest of its kind and was linked with a smaller annual bursary, 'The McCosh Medical Bursary', which came from the residue of Jane McMaster's estate.

These bursaries continued until the 1950s, when the University's Medical School combined many annual and other grants into a more sizeable and manageable pot. Many of those who benefitted from the McCosh Bursary went on to have distinguished careers, especially in the fields of Psychiatry and Psychology. Vienna being a particular draw for many of the bursars. McCosh also left money to Ayr Academy, to allow four or five needful students to continue their studies each year. This was at a time when education was not always, at all levels, free and doubtless McCosh's money helped many bright students to stay longer and progress further at the Academy and beyond.

The bulk of the gifted money was destined for the building of the Working Men's Club at Kirkmichael, which was named after him.

## McCosh Hall

Architect was John. S. Baxter



The foundation stone for the red Ballochmyle stone two-storey hall, with Gothic-detailed Clock Tower, was laid in May 1898.

At the laying of the foundation stone, in testament to Surgeon General John McCosh, Mr. Frederick Shaw Kennedy declared Dr. McCosh as being:-

*'A Hardworking man, who recognised the importance of Self-Motivation, Education and Philosophy. His charitable bequests reveal a man who recognised the importance of education to that philosophy. He most certainly deserves his name should still have significant meaning in the 21st Century'.*

McCosh Hall was formally opened on Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December 1899.

### In Commemoration of Our Village Benefactor.

Surgeon General John McCosh was not only an Army Surgeon and Pioneer Photographer, who had a passion and respect both for his patients and his photographic subjects alike, he was a Kirkmichael Village Benefactor, who generously gifted the money to build a Working Mens' Club, now a Community Hall, which has stood as a testament over time to the generous legacy he left to the Village.

McCosh Hall has been a great source of community gatherings over the years and as Frederick Shaw Kennedy declared, when speaking about our village benefactor, 'He well deserves that his name should still have meaning in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.'

We certainly hope that this story has given renewed meaning to the name of 'John McCosh'.

*The Villagers of Kirkmichael Thank You General Surgeon John McCosh for your lasting legacy, which has benefitted the community in numerous ways over the last 121 years.*

**This article has been collated from the following sources:-**

- Army Photographs, National Army Museum: 'The Images of the Surviving Album are identified as 'Photographs of, John Jethro McCosh, Surgeon, Bengal Army'.
- 'Encyclopaedia of Nineteenth Century Photography', Edited by John Hannavy'.
- 'Approved Biography of John McCosh', Courtesy of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, U.K.
- Rob Close, Architectural Historian, 2020. 'John McCosh, 1805-1885, Village Benefactor'.
- Rob Close and Anne Riches:- 'The Buildings of Scotland, Ayrshire and Arran', 2012, Published by Yale University Press.
- Carol Watt, Kirkmichael Villager. Research into the Genealogy of John McCosh's Family.
- Roger Taylor & Larry J. Schaaf 'Impressed By Light: British Photographers from Paper negatives. 1840-1860'. (Approved Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, 2007).
- Maybole.org
- National Army Museum, Online Collection: Surgeon John McCosh, Bengal Medical Establishment, 1852.

## St Cuthbert's Primary

Pupils at St Cuthbert's Primary School Hub have been busy coming up with games to play, simply using paper plates and tape. They have also used their Art time to create a fabulous window display, to brighten up lockdown and make the outside world smile!



Welcome back to our P1/2/3 pupils, who have quickly settled back into school life. Here they are enjoying learning outside, drawing a huge map and plotting all the points from the book 'We're All Going on a Bear Hunt'.



# Crosshill EYC

Tis the Season to be jolly! One thing was for sure at Crosshill EYC, we did not let Covid-19 stop us from having lots of Christmas fun.

The children engaged in a vast amount of experiences. Pupils created, narrated and produced their own Nativity called 'Sparkle and Shine'

We had lots of games, dancing and fun during our Christmas party, too. Although we couldn't go to the theatre this year, we had a great 'virtual' Jack and the Beanstalk panto by Peter Duncan which was enjoyed by all! (Oh, yes it was!!)

We loved our Christmas craft activities; decorating mini Christmas trees, decorations, ice-play, making coloured and scented Christmas playdough and making Christmas cards for our family and friends.

In the EYC garden we experienced lots of winter play, developing our senses, developing our fine-motor skills and fuelling our senses. Brr! It was cold!



## Crosshill Primary - Class 1 Christmas Fun

In Crosshill Primary School, Class 1 did not let the Coronavirus stop all the children from having a great fun time celebrating Christmas! The pupils enjoyed a variety of Christmas craft activities, stories, a virtual pantomime and a visit from Santa, socially distanced, of course!

The children also considered different ways that they could help their mums and dads at home over the holidays – giving them a special type of gift! *There was lots of Christmas cheer!*



*A trip down memory lane  
did you recognise them all?*

- No. 1: Main Street, Kirkoswald
- No. 2: Kirkton Inn
- No. 3: Souter Johnnies Cottage, Kirkoswald
- No. 4: Main Street, Crosshill
- No. 5: Cassillis Road, Maybole
- No. 6: Coral Glen, Maybole
- No. 7: Dunure Harbour
- No. 8: The Greenside, Maybole
- No. 9: Dalhowan Street, Crosshill
- No.10: High Street Pump, Maybole

# Primary 7 Newspaper Stars at Crosshill and Minishant a.k.a – Minihill!

As the P7's could not meet up physically this year, they embarked on an exciting newspaper project to help get to know each other, develop their literacy skills and raise money for a local social enterprise supporting food poverty.

To start with, they met virtually and discussed what should be in the newspaper and assigned roles. Some pupils took responsibility of Christmas film reviews, recycled Christmas decorations, Christmas recipes and jokes. As a local publication, they were keen to promote local businesses and approached them to ask if they'd like to advertise in the paper (in exchange for a raffle prize). Each newspaper was numbered and some of these were lucky numbers – with excellent prizes offered by local businesses. Between Minishant and Crosshill Primary School, nearly £100 was donated to Unity Grill to help with the costs of reducing food poverty at Christmas. The publication was sold in both schools and the local community and was very well received by all that read it! A wonderful job!

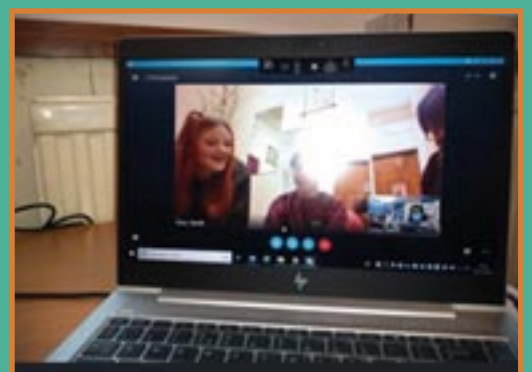
They have also already been presented with their leavers' hoodies. They looked so smart in them and it made us realise how ready for Carrick Academy they are becoming! We're looking forward to seeing you in them when we're back at school!

## STEM – Class 2 Crosshill PS and Minishant PS

Last term, we were visited by a STEM ambassador, Katie Walker, to plan and undertake a Science investigation. We already knew a lot about conducting a fair experiment and keeping certain variables constant. After a walk around our local environment, Crosshill decided to conduct scientific research in Crosshill on 'How temperature affects number of worms' and in Minishant on 'which area had the most biodiversity.' Pupils in Crosshill identified three locations to undertake these experiments in, measured out the area of the space where we would try to encourage worms, and then did a 'worm dance' for one minute. This was repeated at each location and then repeated the following day when the temperature was warmer. In Minishant, the three locations were visited on two separate days to collect information about biodiversity.



After gathering our data it was time to analyse it and then display it. We drew graphs in our jotters and explained our findings. We then used natural materials and made graphs outside. We had so much fun and learned loads.



# The Carrick Centre Online

## Time flies....

It seems like yesterday that we were preparing for Christmas and the reopening of the centre. The sheer delight in being able to welcome back our customers, hear the Christmas tunes and prepare for Santa's visit. It is always a special time at the centre. Christmas 2020 may have had slight alterations, but the festive cheer was still the same. Working with Jim McDermott and The Carrick Seniors Lunch Club as well as our merry band of volunteers



Isla, Max and Ben donating the Christmas advent box on behalf of everyone from G.M Childminding



we took their Annual Festive Lunch out and delivered 70 festive lunches to their customers' doors.

Our Christmas events went down a real treat and it was lovely to see our regulars enjoying quality time.

## Into the New Year

Along came 2021, and with more difficult times ahead, our team continued to rise to the challenge.



Gordon & Juliet

The Food Project is now a regular service to those in need of a little help, a cheery call from Evan, a delicious, nutritious meal from Gordon and Juliet, or the friendly face of our drivers Margaret, Allan, Callum, Craig, and Susan.



The team are there to provide support.

and with the support of the community, local schools, and organisations - the service goes from strength to strength

Our doors may not be open, but the work continues. Online we provide a variety of services for young and old alike. Including our



regular publications of The Carrick Courier (weekly newsletter), and Tales from The Back Page (the centres weekly topical comic for the little ones.

**'All Around The Post Box'**, our weekly newsletter for young people is our latest creation put together by Skye Hunter and Alastair Stobbs, with articles of beauty and fashion trends from Hollie Fotheringham. All trainees, either volunteering or through organisations (SCVO/CJS,) within The Carrick Centre organisation are gaining the opportunity to try something new while working from home. Using software packages such as Inkscape, Publisher and Adobe Illustrator, they participate in daily Team workshops to design, create and share ideas as well as enjoying the learning experience.

Hollie, having completed an SVQ in Hospitality and Catering, is now working with the media team before moving on to pastures new in the Autumn.

**Can Connect** continue to get together on Monday and Friday afternoons although their resident DJ Michael is often known to host his get together on a Friday night. Zoom is the new platform and once all the technical stuff is out the way, it is on to the latest challenge, quiz or craft from Hannah. We have a bit of chat and the dish of the day from Juliet with some fabulous recipes shared. It is always great to keep in touch. For more information, please email [hannah.westwater@carrickcentre.co.uk](mailto:hannah.westwater@carrickcentre.co.uk)



**Tots TV** on Tuesday mornings @10.30am Hannah and Juliet provide 30 minutes of fun, games, and crafts - with a little cooking thrown in for good measure! Grab a soft drink, make the little ones comfy, and tune in to Facebook Live.

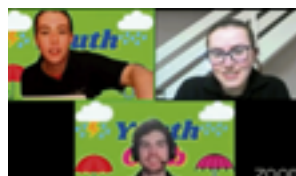
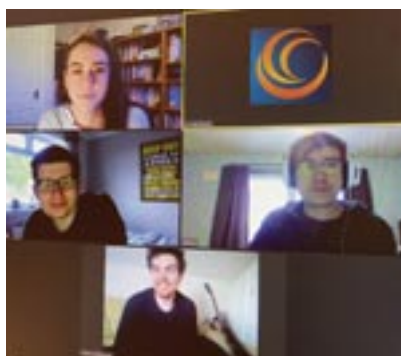


# THE GAMING SECTOR –

## What is it all about!

In November last year I was given the opportunity to help develop a new project for The Carrick Centre called 'The Gaming Sector'. During Lockdown, people have found various ways to keep themselves busy such as baking or watching TV. For me, playing video games was very important during lockdown. As someone who suffers from anxiety it was a great way of passing the time and keeping my mind off the upsetting world events. Another important thing for me was the social aspect of playing games with others online, and these are the benefits that The Gaming Sector has been designed to highlight.

I meet with Joshua Zakaszewski, a trainee at The Carrick Centre, each weekday to plan and record content for our YouTube Channel and website. This content consists of Josh and I playing games such as Minecraft or Sea of Thieves together online. Gaming is always better together and in all our gaming sessions, I cannot stop laughing! In Sea of Thieves, you play as pirates, and Josh asked me who should be the captain. I replied with 'Do you know your port from their starboard?' and Josh's reaction was hilarious! Through regular meetings and gaming together, I have got to know Josh more than I would in normal times. Together,



our communication skills have been developed and it has been a pleasure to experience his quick wit and humour!

Our weekly podcasts are another aspect of the project where we have a more in-depth discussion about gaming and the misconceptions surrounding it. Making the podcast is another beneficial activity because it further develops our communication and critical thinking skills while providing content for the community. This project has also allowed us to engage with more people in the community, teach new skills and show that gaming is for everyone no matter what age you are.

For me personally, this project has allowed me to get to know our trainees in a totally different way and has had a positive impact on my mental health. I hope you all get as much enjoyment out of listening to and watching our videos as we do in making them!

*Simon Glendenning*

**To find our more scan the QR code on the poster to go to our YouTube page or go to <http://www.carrickcentre.co.uk/the-gaming-sector>**

**The Carrick Youth Zone** – Every Sunday evening Hannah and her team bring our Sunday night youth club online. Patiently waiting for current restrictions to be eased, Hannah, Louis and Iona provide a great mix of creative flair, banter, and chat to our social media site. They are currently working on the activity packs and booklets for Easter Holiday programme, bringing their ideas and thoughts to the table for young people to try.

Hopefully, it will not be long before we can throw our doors open and welcome the P4's to P7's of North Carrick back into the centre. In the meantime, join us online at 6.30pm on Sunday evenings! <https://www.facebook.com/carrickcentre/videos/742615166456154/>



# MAIDENS PRIMARY SCHOOL



AWARDS  
FOR ALL  
SCOTLAND

Maidens Primary School is celebrating after being awarded funding from the National Lottery to support its Coastal Community Connections project. This project will involve the construction of sensory paths to the outdoor learning classrooms and hopes to secure involvement from volunteers within the community. This school and community partnership aims to unite pupils, families and community members whilst building learning pathways and communal garden areas that will be accessible all year round. It is hoped that spades will break the earth as soon as a change in the restrictions allow, marking the beginning of an exciting venture for the school and its wider community.

## Christmas Lunch

Our school Christmas Lunch took place on Tuesday 15th December, with pupils and staff enjoying a feast of turkey with all the trimmings or roast beef, followed by a choice of shortbread or ice-cream Christmas trees! There was plenty of festive chat about the holidays and about what Santa might bring. Thankfully none of Maidens Primary pupils were on his naughty list this year!



Amelia, Lyla, Olly B and Harris Y –  
clean plates all round!



Great Xmas jumpers Primary 4/5



Jack, Harry, Emily and Jacob explored minibeasts. They used bug view finders to identify different insects and to look at them closely and with care.

After a morning of activities that helped us learn to assess and manage risk and how to protect ourselves in a beach environment, we watched Miss Crane making hot chocolate using the Gillie kettle – it tasted delicious!



These primary 4/5 pupils are tucking in!



## OUTDOOR ADVENTURES!

On a monthly basis, the children attending our Early Years Centre spend an entire day learning in an outdoor setting such as Culzean or Maidens beach. These outdoor environments provide a wealth of opportunities for the children to participate in learning about the outdoors, some examples of which are pictured below. In addition to promoting individual investigation and enquiry, children are encouraged to work co-operatively to build shelters and small fires which not only provide warmth but come in handy for toasting marshmallows – everyone's favourite activity!



Emily, Harry and Lottie created bark rubbings and investigated the different patterns that can be found in a forest environment.

## CAN YOU HELP? Volunteers Required

If you have a few hours to spare and would like to contribute to the project, please contact Mrs Campbell, Head Teacher or Mrs Foakes, Principal Teacher at Maidens Primary School 01655 885806 or email [Maidens.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Maidens.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk)

## Landscape Gardeners Required

Do you work for or run a landscaping business that would be interested in quoting for the tender? Please be aware that as a community project, volunteer and pupil involvement is crucial and should be considered in any

proposal to undertake this work. Interested parties should contact Mrs Campbell or Mrs Foakes in the first instance.

# Carrick Academy •

You may have seen workmen on site preparing work to start on the new Carrick Academy campus. The project is ahead of schedule and we feature. Here is a selection of graphics of the completed project and it looks special.

The plan is to lay the first playing surface over the summer break which will allow the school and community to use the facility in the new term. This will then allow construction of the main site to start.

This has been a joint push on the Council with Portfolio Holder for Education, Cllr William Grant, and members of the 'Planning Panel', Cllr Brian Connolly and Cllr Iain Campbell, ensuring the project reflected the views of the local populous.

This is the Council's biggest ever project and the children and communities of North Carrick deserve this.



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

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