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North Carrick

Summer issue 2025
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Community News

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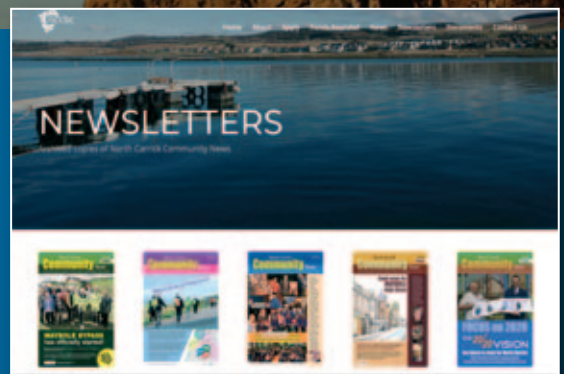
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The 'Documents' section is where you will find copies of all of the North Carrick Community Newsletters (past and present). This will be useful for people who prefer to read online or for those who want to send electronic copies to friends.

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Your voice matters...

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



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

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

Please email all articles, stories, photos and comments to **newsletter@nccbc.org.uk**

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

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North Carrick Community Benefit Company

Funding is available for a wide range of projects.

To find out more, please visit **<https://nccbc.org.uk/apply/>** or email **admin@nccbc.org.uk**.

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

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

Next copy deadline: **10th September 2025**

North Carrick
Community Newsletter



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Maybole Community Council

Scrolls of Appreciation

Every 5 years, Maybole Community Council award scrolls to volunteers or anyone who has made a difference to Maybole to show their appreciation for everything they do. Nominations can be made by a member of the public or by the organisation they volunteer for. Only people who have never received a scroll can be nominated. Blank nomination forms are available at the CO-OP, the Spar, the Carrick Centre and Maybole Library.

Closing date for the nominations is
31st July 2025

Nominations will not be accepted after this date.

An event will then be held in Maybole Town Hall at a later date for the presentation.

North Carrick Parish Church of Scotland

There were two events in the Parish to commemorate the VE 80 anniversary. Crosshill had a coffee morning in the church raising £140 for Poppy Scotland. Maidens hall had a coffee afternoon raising £400 for British Red Cross. Both events were well supported, the lovely weather bringing people out.

The Guild invited Dunaskin Doon Band to entertain at the Daffodil tea held in Crosshill. There was a good turn out of members and friends. The evening ended with a lovely tea of sandwiches and cakes.



A lunch at Wildings for Guild members was a great success in April.



Sunday services :
Crosshill 12 noon • Kirkoswald 11.15am • Maybole 10.30am

Crossraguel Community Choir

A concert for family and friends at the end of the spring session was held in Kirkoswald hall and raised £300 for Multiple Sclerosis Society Scotland. Thanks are due to Elizabeth Kelly for conducting the choir and keeping us together and in tune. We will re commence in the autumn.



Gardening at Kirk Wood, Kirkoswald

RecoverAyr came along on Wednesday 4th June and will return on 3 September from 10 am till 3pm to do some gardening in the community space.



If you would like to help with the gardening, come and join us, there will be soup and filled rolls in the hall at noon.



The winter syllabus starts on Monday 29 September at 2pm in Crosshill, all welcome.



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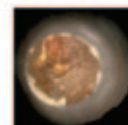


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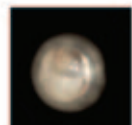


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Provost Sarah Dunn

An Extraordinary, Ordinary Woman

If anyone has ever visited the Council Chambers in Maybole Town Hall, they will have seen the very impressive, framed photographs of former Provosts. This was from a time when Maybole governed itself, until a change in the law in the 1970s. Amongst the faces of the male Provosts, there is one, cheery female face. This is Provost Sarah Dunn. Sarah was also known as Sally, Sal and Sadie and I will switch between these when telling her story...

In the 1950s, a serious controversy in Maybole occurred that was later called 'The Brown Affair'. This was where the Burgh surveyor was found to be using council workers, on council time, with council materials, to construct driveways on the sly and receive backhanders. This enraged Sally Dunn and her successful campaign against such council deceit, led to her being asked to stand as a Conservative Candidate for Maybole Council which she won (topping the poll!). It should be said, this author has it on good authority that she was Conservative with a small 'c'.

In 1956, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip visited Maybole as part of their tour of Scotland. Our Sal was ecstatic to be part of the Maybole delegation who got to welcome Her Majesty. On meeting the Queen, Sally proudly told her that she followed in her father's footsteps on the council as he was the Baillie. Her Majesty replied with "Oh really? How Interesting". Possibly the standard reply from Her Majesty but Sal was thrilled, nonetheless. She even kept the pen that The Queen used to sign the Town Hall Visitor Book.



Sarah and her family received a puppy on the day that President Eisenhower was inaugurated and was christened 'Ike'. Ike it turns out, was a well-known pooch in Maybole and was always keen to potter about the town, visiting shop owners for treats and helping to carry shopping for people. One day, a rather inebriated fellow gave Ike his fish supper to carry and it was never seen again!



Incidentally, Ike was in fact a son of Gun Dogs of King George VI and was taken to Culzean during one of Eisenhower's visits to meet his namesake!

Sarah Dunn was of course unanimously elected Provost of Maybole in 1960. Despite working hard in The Dairy Cafe (a very popular cafe at the time where queues were right down the street for Tattie Scones!) money was tight. To ensure she always looked her best, she took up Millenary and made her own hats. As a justice of the peace, a man was brought before her for a crime who exclaimed "I didnae ken it was against the law!" our Sal replied "Aye, weel ye ken noo" and promptly fined him.

When her mother died and her son left for university, Sarah decided she wanted to do more, and so completed a course at Newbattle Abbey and became a teacher. She taught for several years at Pinmore Primary, and this was a career that she loved.

When her Son, David settled with his wife Lorna in Lusaka, Sarah went out to visit for a 3-week holiday and decided she liked it so much, and so she emigrated. Here, she gained her driving license and was engaged as a legal secretary first in Lusaka and later Salisbury (now Harare, in Zimbabwe). A fearless driver, she once encountered a ditch stretching across the road and despite the shock, exclaimed "No time to Brake!" and instead floored the accelerator and sailed over the gap. It was here that she married an ex-serviceman, Lionel Knight and she only returned to Scotland after his death. Sal's tears as the plane left Durban showed how much she had loved life in Africa.



In her later years, Sarah Dunn lived at Hillcrest in Girvan where she became part of the resident's committee and was linked into local politics once again.

Sarah died in 2000 and her funeral cortege passed by Maybole Town Hall as its bell tolled.

With thanks to Sarah's family and friends for the information and to Lorna Dunn for the photographs.





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KIRKMICHAEL EYC EARN DIGITAL AWARD

In March 2025, Kirkmichael EYC were awarded the Digital Schools Scotland Award for Learning Through Play. We have worked hard with the children to develop digital learning experiences including using technology from the council lending library, learning about algorithms in our life such as washing our hands, learning to code with Amanda Pickard from South Ayrshire Council, reading lots of stories about staying safe online and knowing that passwords are private. We are really proud to announce that we are the first EYC in the authority to gain this award!



VE80 Celebrated in Maidens

A small beacon was lit to celebrate VE 80 at the harbour in Maidens. The beacon was created by Morells Forge . The gathering was entertained on the harmonica by local man Dougie Caldwell. The event was supported by NCCBC, KMT Development Trust and Scottish Power Renewables.





The McKinstry Company Expands Private Client Team

The McKinstry Company Welcomes Robert Kelly to the Private Client Team.

We are delighted to welcome Robert Kelly as Trust, Executries and Tax Executive, strengthening our Private Client offering across all three offices.

With over 35 years of experience, Robert is highly respected in the legal profession for his specialist knowledge in executry and trust administration, Wills, Powers of Attorney, and inheritance tax planning. He joins us following a distinguished career, of almost thirty years, at D&J Dunlop in Ayr, where he led the Private Client Department.

Robert is known for his clear, solutions-driven approach and longstanding commitment to client care. His ability to manage complex estates and advise on sensitive family succession matters with clarity and confidence has earned him a reputation as one of the most trusted professionals in the field.

A key strength is Robert's in-depth understanding of inheritance tax compliance and planning. His practical experience is complemented by years of teaching with the Society of Law Accountants in Scotland, where he lectured on inheritance tax to students and fellow professionals.

Robert's arrival brings additional depth to our Private Client team and further enhances our commitment to delivering clear, expert advice to clients navigating the often complex areas of succession, tax and asset planning.

We are thrilled to have Robert join The McKinstry Company and are confident that both our clients and colleagues will benefit from his expertise and thoughtful approach.

Managing Partner Robert Honeyman says *"We're delighted to welcome Robert Kelly to The McKinstry Company. His depth of knowledge and decades of experience in private client work, particularly trusts and inheritance tax,*

are a tremendous asset to our team. Robert is highly regarded across the profession, and we know our clients will benefit greatly from his calm, clear, and considered approach."

Robert Kelly says *"I'm delighted to be joining The McKinstry Company and becoming part of such a well-respected and forward-thinking team. I'm very much looking forward to working with clients old and new, on what are often deeply personal matters."*

You can contact Robert today by calling **01292 281711** or send an email to robertk@mckinstry.co.uk

More information about The McKinstry Company can be found on our website - www.mckinstry.co.uk or follow us on Facebook.

Robert Kelly



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With 40 years' experience and based in Ayrshire, The McKinstry Company provides expert legal advice to people and businesses.

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Whatever legal advice you need, we can help. To arrange a meeting or for further information contact The McKinstry Company today.

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Community Wellbeing Hub 2025 projects off to a flying start

We announced the good news in the last issue that we had been successful in funding another year of holistic therapies for adults with long term conditions in the Carrick area, as well as new National Lottery funding for our work with teens. Both projects are now fully up and running and we have been able to take on a number of new Hub clients, as well as running group and one-to-one sessions for the young people in our communities struggling with their wellbeing. This work is so important as we are playing a vital role in catching both of these age groups 'upstream', before they reach crisis point. With NHS services struggling to manage the demand, we are proud to be able to plug some of the gaps and help more people reach their full potential. We have had a great response from our new teen clients, and are working closely with local secondary schools, community organisations and charities to bring the sessions to as many young people as we can over the course of 2025.



For more info on all the Hub can offer, find us on Facebook at Community Wellbeing Hub CIC.



Our Friday morning wellbeing group goes from strength to strength with close friendships being formed and peer support in high supply. We have teamed up with the Info & Advice Hub to bring an advisor in every 6 weeks to support everyone with advice on benefits and services. With a large number of our clients being unpaid carers, this has been a vital link for them and we are grateful to the Info and Advice Hub for bringing their support to our service. We also had a lovely morning hearing about the work of Dementia Befriending Ayrshire – and one of our attendees was inspired to sign up to train and volunteer with them. All of our connections have a ripple effect on the community which is lovely to see. The Hub has also been enjoying using our two new rooms, refurbished with the kind help of the Asda Foundation. We have a vibrant and colourful creative writing/workshop room upstairs and a cosy craft nook.





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North Carrick Community Benefit Update –

Spring Highlights

*Big ideas, local action –
here's what's new across our area!*



Bruce Trail & AR App

Local schools will be getting involved in a series of creative events linked to the Bruce Trail and its new artworks and augmented reality app. The new Development Trust is working on securing funding to keep the Trail in the public eye!

Carraig Connections & Reading Room

The HEV project is now in its final year. Plans are underway to renovate the Kirkoswald Reading Room into a vibrant community space. A new Trust, "Carraig Connections", is being registered, and drawings and technical details are being prepared to move things forward to Building Warrant stage.

Lion of Carrick

The idea of creating a nationally significant monument to Robert the Bruce is being taken up by the new Development Trust. A Lion of Carrick sculpture may be possible and a site near Turnberry has been proposed. The land owner has been consulted and seems to support the idea and has made helpful suggestions for the site.

A pre-application has been submitted to the Planning Authority. Decisions about how to move the project forward will be made taking account of the response from the Planners.

Maybole Memorial Park Plans

There are ongoing discussions with South Ayrshire Council about how NCCBC (and Carraig Connections) can help drive improvements at the golf course and wider Memorial Park when the current swimming pool closes.

Minishant Eco-Park Project

The Minishant Social and Leisure Group has rebranded to better reflect its work. With support

from NCCBC, they're developing plans for an eco-park and new community/environment centre in the woodlands around the football pitch.

The Gatherings & Flat

Looking for a local space for your fundraising event? The Gatherings is available to book! The flat above is also up for rent. You can see images and details at the Toner & MacCartney website. (High Street, Maybole KA19 3 bed flat to rent)

NCCBC HQ & Community Ownership

Talks are ongoing about transferring ownership of the former Golf Clubhouse to NCCBC through a Community Asset Transfer (CAT).

NCCBC Website – Policy Templates

Community organisations and charities are required to have policies covering a wide range of issues from Data Protection to Safeguarding. To help with this NCCBC has added downloadable Policy Templates to the documents tab in its website. (<https://nccbc.org.uk>)

Windfarm Funding Incoming

The first Community Benefit payment from Kirk Hill Windfarm Ltd is expected in June — great news for local projects and plans!

Meet Lynne!

We're pleased to welcome Lynne Hyslop, our new administrator. She's already busy with admin, book-keeping, and more! Lynne can be contacted at: lynne@nccbc.org.uk





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Maybole Over 50's

Maybole Over 50's recently held their Annual General Meeting in St. Oswalds Church. Office bearers for the following year are Chairperson Senga Mason, Secretary Anne Walker and Treasurer Jackie Johnstone.



Formerly known as Maybole and North Carrick OIR, we are a community-based group bringing local people together in safe, friendly and supportive environments with a host of activities and events on offer.

2025 is the start of our 10th year as Maybole Over 50's and over this time groups have grown from strength to strength. We now offer ten regular activities with many other events throughout the year. Our two annual bus trips are always a favourite with recent trips going to Peebles, Callander and Stirling. Our next trip in May is to Largs with the option of going to Cardwell and in September members will decide where they would like to go to next. Our Theatre group go to shows in the Gaiety and recently went to Roy Orbison. War Horse was a great success at Theatre Royal and our annual pantomime trip to the Kings Theatre in Glasgow is always a favourite day out.



Our web page www.mayboleover50s.org will give you all the information of what is happening and contact details. For anyone who cannot access our webpage details of our weekly activities are listed below.

Monday

10am - 12.30pm **Knitting and Nattering** Crosne Street
13.00 - 16.00 **In Stitches sewing group** NCCBC HQ, Memorial Park.

Camera Club Greenside time dependant on destination

Tuesday: 2pm - 3pm **Chair Yoga** St. Oswalds

Wednesday: 9.30am **Walking group** Greenside

10.00am **Short walking group** Greenside

2.00pm **Ukulele Fun** St. Oswalds

Thursday: 10.00am to 12.30pm **Knitting Sewing and Nattering** Crosne Street

Friday: 10.00am to 12.00noon **Art Group** St. Oswalds

2nd Friday of every month **Out & Abouters**
Greenside time dependent on destination.



We had a very successful charity shop recently in The Gatherings and our thanks to North Carrick Community Benefit Company for providing this excellent facility on Maybole High Street.

Chair yoga has started again and is now held on Tuesday afternoons in St. Oswalds Church. Funding from the Co-op has been a great support for this class.

The Ukulele group will be playing at Maybole Gala on the 7th June.

Craft fairs organised by our group are held in the Carrick Centre throughout the year.





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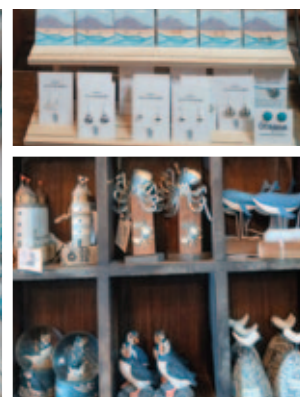


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Maybole Gala

Maybole Events Committee would like to thank everyone for not only coming along and enjoying the Gala, but also for all your support over the last 18 months. Bringing the gala back to Maybole would not have been possible without you.



We are always looking for new people to join our group and new ideas for any upcoming events you would like to see. Please email mayboleeventscommittee@gmail.com with any suggestions.

Growing Roots and Memories at Balbeg Estate

Pupils from Straiton Primary School recently rolled up their sleeves, pulled on their wellies, and got well and truly stuck in, literally, to plant a very special collection of Rowan trees at Balbeg Estate.

Across two visits, in March 2022 and again in December 2024, the children planted fifty trees as part of an ongoing commitment by the team at Balbeg to support biodiversity, outdoor learning, and community engagement. The tree planting was partly funded by the Galloway and South Ayrshire Biosphere and the Ayrshire Tree Planting Programme. It was a joyful and energetic effort, full of muddy



boots, laughter, and proud smiles. The children worked hard with their teachers and helpers, leaving behind something truly meaningful that they can return to in years to come and see flourish.

The project reflects Balbeg Estate's long-standing belief in the power of connecting people with nature. The newly planted trees will become part of the visitor experience, offering a living reminder of how local partnerships can shape the land in a positive way. For families staying at Balbeg, it's a chance to get close to nature and enjoy the simple pleasures of countryside life, something many return to year after year.

We're incredibly grateful to the children and staff who gave their time and energy to make this tree planting project so special. The trees will grow on, but so too will the stories, the memories, and the roots of a shared commitment to community and care for the environment.



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

Crosshill: Village Shop. **Kirkmichael:** Village Shop. **Straiton:** Village Shop.
Minishant: Minishant Stores. **Maidens:** Little K's Kitchen, Ropes Bistro.
Maybole: The Carrick Centre, Library, Co-op, Spar. **Kirkoswald:** Souters.
Turnberry: Balkenna Tearoom, Dowhill Farm Shop, Turnberry Holiday Park.
Dunure/Fisherton: The Anchorage, Harbourside Coffee Shop, Aruna Arts & Gifts.

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MAYBOLE ACTIVE TRAVEL - High Street Public Realm Design

You may be aware of the recent street trial in Maybole High Street, carried out during February and March of this year. This was to support an application to ATIF (Active Travel Investment Fund). Unfortunately, the application for funding was unsuccessful on this occasion.

We are aware that concerns were raised with the design that was trialled in February and March. This combined with the unsuccessful application for funding leaves us with two options:

- 1. We do not apply for further funding and leave the High Street as it is, OR**
- 2. We do apply for further funding in January 2026, based on a different design. This will require community input to ensure the new design is more aligned to what the community of Maybole want to see on their High Street.**

The form below can be completed and handed into "The Gatherings", 44 High Street, Maybole,

KA19 7BZ, during the week of **16/06/25** where there will be a comments box for any member of the community to leave their feedback. You can also take the opportunity to learn more about the scheme and chat about your views.

Thereafter, the comments box will be in Maybole Library until **27/06/25**. Alternatively, you can email **enquiries@ayrshireroadsalliance.org** using the subject header "Maybole Active Travel". Please email views by **30/06/25**.

Ayrshire Roads Alliance will collate all of the feedback and share an overview of the comments which will then help to inform the initial stages of their redesign.

If you would like to be included in the distribution list for any updates on the project as it progresses this year, please contact **mayboleregeneration@south-ayrshire.gov.uk** We will add your email address to the list for inclusion (*please note that you can have your email address removed from the distribution list at any time*).



MAYBOLE ACTIVE TRAVEL - High Street Public Realm Design

Following the unsuccessful application to the ATIF (Active Travel Investment Fund), I wish to have my option for the next steps recorded: (Please put an 'X' in the appropriate box)

NO

(I do not think that any further application or redesign of Maybole High Street should be undertaken)

☐

YES

I think we should apply for further funding in January 2026, based on a different design that should have community input to ensure the new design is more aligned to what the community of Maybole want.

☐

Please use the comment box below to provide any further comments (these can include those aspects of the current high street that work well, or things that you would like to see improved)

Thank you for your contributions to this project.





The Gatherings

*A flexible community space
for everyone!*



Are you looking for an affordable, comfortable and modern space to do some fundraising? Perhaps you want a space to teach an art class? Or maybe you are just looking for a place to work in peace? Then, The Gatherings in Maybole is the place to be!

For only **£115 per week**, you can make use of this space for several different purposes. Day rates may be available. For more information or to book a slot, please email gatherings@nccbc.org.uk

The Kings Foundation Decor

Within The Gatherings, some of the fixtures and fittings were created by students as part of the Kings Foundation in Dumfries House. The wooden 'counter' incorporates woven textile as a nod to Maybole's weaving past and the lead work of the front windows contain a thread motif as a reminder that the shop was once a haberdashery.

The tiles in the windows feature butterflies and plants that are found locally, and the bespoke handmade wallpaper frieze tells the story of Maybole High Street.

Together, these fantastic decorative touches make The Gatherings a stunning venue for any purpose.

What's been on in The Gatherings so far

As well as being used as a traditional charity shop for several local groups to fundraise, The Gatherings has been used for a number of other purposes.

Carrick History Society have used the shop as a pop-up exhibition and museum space. They also had the shop as an 'Art and Vintage' shop to raise funds. Both events were very successful.

Maybole Regeneration had the shop as an Exhibition space to showcase the result of the weaving project. The weaving project is now on permanent display in Maybole Library.

A local shop owner used The Gatherings before they opened their own shop on the High Street.

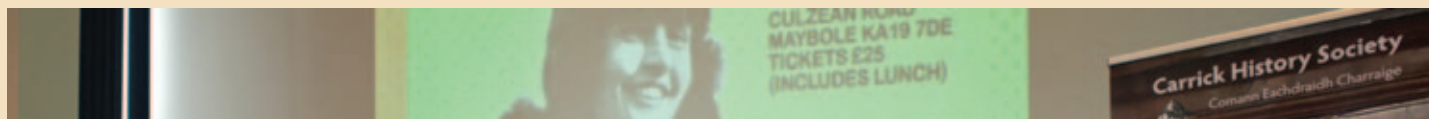
Carraig Connections, a new development trust in Carrick, used the shop as a pop-up information centre for people interested in their upcoming projects.

In the future, the shop is being used as a consultation space, fundraising spaces and meeting spaces.



To find out who's in the shop, visit their Facebook page www.facebook.com/NCCBCTheGatherings.

Only £115 per week, day rates may be available. Contact gatherings@nccbc.org.uk



Carrick History Society's FIRST CONFERENCE

On the 12 April, Carrick History Society held their first conference on the subject of 'Carrick's Women in History'.

The day was kindly guest chaired by Professor Elaine McFarland, Emeritus History Professor and Chair of Ayrshire Federation of Historical Societies. The first speaker was Sara Sheridan, author of 'Where are the women?' a reimagined history of Scotland where all memorials and statues of men were swapped for women. Sara's talk also highlighted the fact that there are more statues of animals than women in Edinburgh.

Then, there was the first of two playlets where two women were brought together from different time periods. In this case, Lady Evelyn Ailsa met Sarah Dunn, first and only female Provost of Maybole. Hilarity ensued as the two women discussed their different lives and settled down for a cheeky nip of brandy.

The next speaker was James Brown who conducted three 'Lightning Talks' about different women in Carrick including: Egidia Blair, Mary Osburn, Robina Kennedy and Agnes Broun.

Dr. Lauren Beatty was next and spoke about the history of

women's golf and included some examples of stories from our area, particularly Turnberry Golf Course. Lauren demonstrated how her research included oral histories of women and their experiences.

Jayne Baldwin, author of 'West over the waves', then spoke of the story of Elsie Mackay, pioneering aviator from Glenapp in Ballantrae. Elsie's story is extremely interesting, and she is one woman in particular who deserves to be remembered.

Next, was the second playlet of the day. This time, Elsie Mackay met Robert Burns. Of course, Burns was entranced by Elsie's beauty but she had no time for his nonsense! In the end, Elsie and Burns realised that they had been brought together to learn from each other.





Last but not least, Julia Macdonald from Stranraer and District History Trust spoke on the subject of the Suffragette movement. A very important topic with several connections to places all across Carrick.

During the breaks, guests had the opportunity to view displays and objects related to women's history in Carrick. These included display boards one of which was on the subject of Provost Sarah Dunn and her extraordinary life. The other display board was about Jane McCulloch, one of the first women to enter the Fire Service in Carrick. There was also a display on objects women would use around the home, cookery books and two Baille Robes that were kindly on loan from South Ayrshire Council.

Chair, Simon Glendenning said –

'Our first conference was a total success. It was great to hear all the different kinds of topics that our

women are normally left out of. I hope this has raised awareness on a demographic that is continually missed out in celebrations of local history. I know I've certainly got a list of projects that have come out of this! My thanks to my colleagues in Carrick History Society and everyone who attended.'

Carrick History Society would like to thank The Carrick Centre and staff for their attentiveness and help on the day, all the speakers and actors involved in the programme as well as Toria Cassidy for the directorship, Renata for the marvellous poster, SAC Museums and Galleries and lastly, everyone who attended and supported the event.

www.carrickhistory.scot

Taster Row and Open Day at Carrick Coastal Rowing Club

Carrick Coastal Rowing Club hosted two successful taster rows and open days and were blessed with the weather. New members were signed up and they will hopefully continue to row for the season.



The Wonderful Litter Pickers

Kirkmichael and Straiton Primary took part in a litter pick at the local park and their playground. The children took part as part of their learning about their rights. They looked at Article 24 of the UNCRC, which is the right to a clean environment. The children gathered 4kg of litter from their community. After that the children came back and started to clean their playground by putting away equipment and removing any sand. The children enjoyed this activity and would like to litter pick in the village again to make sure their environment stays clean.

Written by Moon (P7), Lewis (P7, Adam (P5), Lacey (P5) and Olivia (P3).



ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

We hope you find this newsletter of some interest as we would like to welcome new advertisers. The newsletter has become a huge success with our readers and since they receive a copy direct through their door then it is very well received.

We print 4,500 copies which are hand delivered to households throughout our villages and town. Extra copies are placed within each area for our rural readers to collect as well as visitors to the area.

Each issue is also available online which means your advert will be seen by a vast audience

To view previous issues of the Newsletter visit www.maybole.org or www.nccbc.org.uk

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Half page advert.....£180
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**We offer 10% Discount for full year's booking*



Should you wish to advertise within our Newsletter please contact
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evolutiondesigns@sky.com or call 07753 111 038

Carrick Tots Easter Party

Tots had a great Easter party. Entertainment was provided by The Road Runner and the group. The tots loved all the dancing, singing and games. Big thanks to the group for the entertainment. Easter bunny also made a surprise visit to deliver Easter eggs and juice bottles

Recently, the tots had been painting stones which included Sammy the snake, butterflies, bees, adybirds and lots of Picasso's. The community garden were interested in having them in the garden to brighten up a corner thank you to Simon Bloomfield and all volunteers.



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Carrick tots meet every Tuesday at the Carrick Centre
at 10am - 11.30. £3 per Tot which includes
Tea/Coffee/Juice and biscuits.

Tribute Nights in Maybole

The Maybole Tribute Nights are being well received and enabling local organisations to fundraise without risk whilst offering affordable nights out for all with a variety of different acts. The Jersey Boys cover in May was described as fabulous by attendees and the next tribute 'Ultimate Oasis' in July is looking like it will be very popular so contact Carrick Rugby Club, the host group, as soon as possible.

Thanks go to Murray Hamilton Hospitality for their support with these events.



Maybole Music Nights brings you...

★ ULTIMATE ★

OASIS

SAT

26th July

Maybole Town Hall

7.30pm

£10

Your Hosts for the evening are:

Carrick Rugby Club

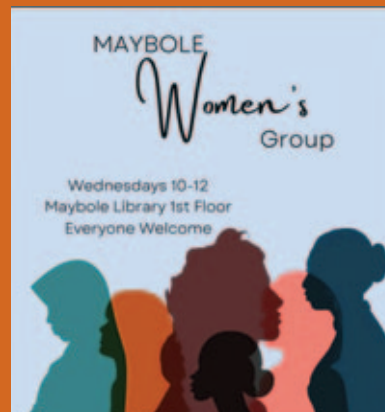
tickets & info:

Charelene Blackhurst - 07368971622

email: carrick.hospitality@gmail.com

Sponsored by Maybole Project Fund made possible by NCCBC and SPR. Bar provided by MHH

Maybole Women's Group



Maybole Women's Group has been running since April 2024. Thriving Communities support us with space to hold our group in Maybole Library, 1st Floor each Wednesday 10am till 12pm. We knew there were women in the town who were feeling isolated and felt the need to get out the house and meet new people, have a cuppa, some cake, a bit of banter and beat loneliness.

We started off small, but our group has grown in numbers. The women have a voice within the group, it's about them and for them, it's run by the women that have been empowered to make choices on what activities we have every week. Each week is different, we have crafting, games, bingo, quizzes, film and pamper mornings. We've visited the Carrick Community Gardens and Garden Centres as a change from being indoors.

We have had the opportunity to invite guest speakers to deliver presentations of interest, like Simon from Carrick History Society, Women's Aid, and Ayrshire Healing Centre who kindly gave us a drumming session. Our ladies love the fun factor to the group and often say that the morning goes too quick! So, if you are looking to fill a couple of hours on a Wednesday pop along to the 1st Floor of Maybole Library from 10am till 12pm. You can also find us on our Facebook page Maybole Women's Group. Give us a like and check out what we've been up to.

Looking forward to welcoming you at the group.



Straiton News

“The flowers that bloom in the spring
Tra La
Bring promise of merry sunshine” *The Mikado*

This could not have been truer than this year. The pure white of the snowdrops heralded the end of winter and was quickly followed by the colourful crocuses and then the vibrant jewels of the tulips. April saw the return of the swallows and the cuckoos were heard again too. What seemed like the incessant rain of winter gave way to much drier weather from the beginning of the year and the past weeks have seen lots of sunshine too, always guaranteed to lift everyone's spirits.



The only downside to the dry conditions has been the risk of wildfires and we have had at least three in the area. The risk remains very high and visitors to the countryside and the hills are urged to be very careful. For example, why not take a picnic instead of a barbecue which can so easily be the cause of grass catching fire and quickly spreading.



In February we had a visit from The Gaiety on Tour, this time with Short Attention Span Theatre. We were entertained with five fifteen-minute performances on a range of subjects. There was a good audience, and we could not believe how quickly the time passed.

Then in March there was a Military Whist for church funds. As always, this turned out to be a good night with good company, fun and scrumptious suppers supplied by the table hostesses.

Monthly quizzes continue in the Black Bull and are well attended by quizzers from near and far.

The Guild had two very interesting talks to end this session. In February two volunteers from Scotland's Charity Air Ambulance told us about the valuable work of the air ambulance in saving lives. Just for the helicopter to lift off costs £4500 and the charity needs



£15m per annum to function, but what price can be put on saving a life?

In March we had the co-ordinator from The Riverside Community Trust speaking about the work they do with homelessness and addiction in Ayr. Again, such a worthwhile cause but always having to be looking for the wherewithal to keep going. The Guild has finished for this session but will start again in October.

This year the Good Friday service was held in Straiton, St Cuthbert's Church and there was a good gathering from Straiton and the neighbouring villages of Kirkmichael and Crosshill. Tea, coffee and biscuits were served after the service, giving an opportunity for folk to meet and chat.



The post box was decorated for Easter with a couple of very smartly dressed bunnies which were much admired by a grateful community. No-one could look at these works of art without smiling. Thank you to the very clever crafts people who undertake this work for the benefit of us all.

Straiton Toilets had a very successful week in the Maybole charity shop, realising a healthy sum of over £1k. Thank you to all who helped in any way to keep the toilets flushing.

The sale of The Buck has now been completed, and we look forward to its re-opening and to welcoming the new tenants.

On Mochrum Hill

By Beachcomber

Mochrum Hill rises less than 900 feet up from sea level. It doesn't look more than a bump.

But in rapidly changing weather... clear, cloud, clear again... it can be a suddenly tricky walk. And arduous too. Its slopes and shoulders are riddled with a spider web of twisting curving trails and forestry roads. A steep path turns to a river of mud, a footbridge is strangely slanted with slippery moss, a cleft in the hillside is hemmed in by wet walls and downed trees that need scrambling over. It's not a cute place for a bad knee. But above the maze of nature, on the windy grassy top, the world opens out. There's a trig point with western views all around. To clouds, the sea and the grey sky.

You can get a bit muddled. A compass, a crumpled map, a quick peek of Google maps on the phone and a longer peek through the thick wood get you a better bearing. Towards a stand of birch and spruce.

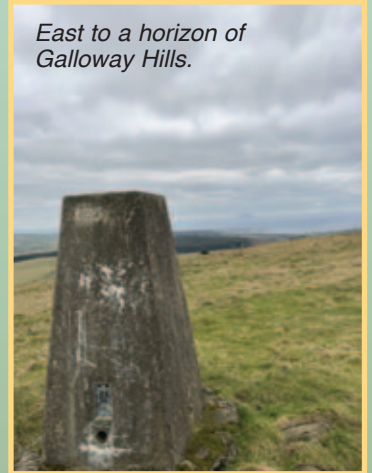
Way below, miles away, a flight of steps wind to a quiet beach. The weather has cleared. On the horizon: the seabound sister of Mochrum Hill. And like Mochrum, this islet has a volcanic past.

It's Ailsa Craig and it resembles a 1100 foot high Christmas pudding. The rock is ten miles off the coast and its granite provides curling stones for the world and a reminder that there is nothing but change around us.

Additional photo credits: Mary and Angus Hogg/ Janepix



East to a horizon of Galloway Hills.



path turns to a river of mud, a footbridge is strangely slanted with slippery moss, a cleft in the hillside is hemmed in by wet walls and downed trees that need



CLARIFICATION

The Newsletter has been notified that an article in the last issue relating to a new Outdoor Education service commented on the development of the new KA19 Youth Hub. This facility is owned and operated by the Carrick Centre, and the role played by the National Lottery Community Fund was omitted. These omissions are the responsibility of the author of the article, but this Newsletter agrees that, for completeness, the author of the article should have included mention of these organisations.



The Green Fringes of Maybole

Local ecologist Carol has delivered a series of guided walks of Maybole's local habitats looking at the changing seasons around our green fringes. Look out for more guided tours soon.



Town Hall Talks

Last year we delivered a series of local history talks at Maybole's Town Hall. They were all recorded and will soon be available for everyone to see. Look out for more talks later this year.



Culzean P7's Nominated for Youth Award.

After delivering amazing performances of "Jack and Jill and the Beanstalk" pantomime at Maybole Town Hall last year they were nominated in the category of Learning and Achievement Award at The South Ayrshire Youth Awards.



They were deserved finalists and were presented with certificates at the awards ceremony at Ayr Town Hall.

About Us

Carraig Connections is a new Development Trust, created and led by the people of Carrick, South Ayrshire. Formed in December 2024, Carraig Connections looks towards becoming a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) by Summer 2025.

Carraig Connections aims to develop the economy, quality of life, and wellbeing of our community over time by focussing on elements including capital assets, a series of priority projects, cross community infrastructure and capacity building and training. Our work has started, in line with funding, in North Carrick with a view to widening out to the wider Carrick region.

Why Carraig Connections?

In choosing the name, it was agreed that although we work within 'Carrick' there are several organisations in the area that have this word in their name. 'Carraig' is the Gaelic form of the word which means 'rock' and is related to the name of Ailsa Craig. Not only does this choice nod to Carrick's Heritage, but it also allows us to be unique. The 'Connections' part is because we are all about connecting services, people and places into a network.

Who are we?

Our Development Coordinator is Simon Glendenning who is currently working to implement various projects that will help to meet the Development Trust's aims. There are currently three Trustees on the board who will be initially working to establish the Trust as a SCIO and there will be voluntary opportunities for more Trustees in the future. Simon is currently going through First Port's 'Launch Me' programme which is a specialist training scheme aimed at people who are starting up social enterprises and third sector organisations. Through this programme, Carraig Connections will be established with strong governance, policies, a diverse board and a number of projects that will be beneficial to all communities in Carrick.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Kirkoswald Reading Room

Our first project is to re-develop the former



Reading Room in Kirkoswald located next door to the former 'Peggy's Tearoom'. This is hoped to become a local and visitor information centre as well as our Headquarters. Within this space there will be opportunities for exhibition and museum space, local information, research space and retail space. The venue could also be used by local groups as a meeting space and the garden space behind could be utilised for a number of purposes. There are plans for the other room in this building to become a unique entertainment and learning experience which would be the first of its kind in Carrick. Watch this space!

Maybole Castle

Discussions have begun for potential usage of Maybole Castle. This space has a few more months to go before it is ready for any community use. A business case is currently being written and there are further discussions to be had with those involved in this project.

Bruce Art Trail

Carraig Connections is looking to have community engagement events around the Bruce Art Trail Sculptures across North Carrick. This will be a series of small pop-up events that will be all about finding out more about each villages' heritage and the other stories connected to them. Local school children will be heavily involved in shaping how this will look and there will also be a project that will create a digital animation to tell these stories for visitors online.

We have a new Tourism Website for Carrick which showcases our different heritage sites and joins them together under the 'eco-museum' concept.

See opposite for contact details.



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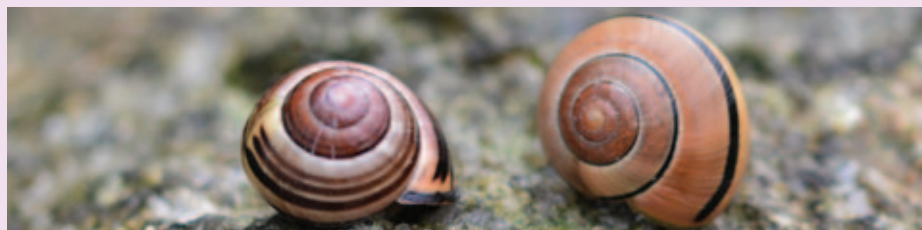
Our work has started, in line with funding, in North Carrick with a view to widening out to the wider Carrick region.

Visit our webpages below for more information

carraigconnections.org

visitcarraig.com

info@carraigconnections.org



The Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere

Partnership has launched two new itineraries in its popular series of Low Carbon Days Out, including a Carrick and Alloway route which explores the UNESCO Biosphere's stunning West Coast. Designed to support sustainable leisure and tourism, Low Carbon Days Out are aimed at both local residents and visitors and encourage adventure by bus, bike and rail, with some lovely walks in between. Each itinerary is available as a free digital download for use on-the-go, or as a foldout leaflet which can be picked up from community hubs and visitor information points – look out for copies on display at the Carrick Centre in Maybole, and Kirkmichael's McCosh Hall. The Carrick and Alloway route includes the designated Biosphere Communities of Ballantrae and Colmonell, the castles of Dunure, Greenan and Culzean, Girvan's marine and architectural heritage, the Ayrshire Coastal Path and Snorkel Trail, and the birthplace of Robert Burns. Public transport information and cycle times are provided through QR codes and links on the Low Carbon Days Out pages on the Biosphere's website.

The Biosphere's officer team have also been busy planning Green Health Workshops for their summer calendar of events. These are available on request to communities anywhere in the UNESCO Biosphere region; each workshop introduces Green Health as an opportunity to increase individual and collective wellbeing and connects residents with nature-based outdoor activities available locally. The first Green Health Workshops are incorporating an easy-going wildlife recording session in local green space, to demonstrate that Green Health can be something as simple as a short stroll looking for birds and bugs! The Green Health Workshop sessions expand on the collaborative work already underway between a variety of organisations which have created the Green Health App for Ayrshire and Arran and which is now expanding to include Blue Health activities, those centred around the region's rivers, lochs and the coast.



The Biosphere's ongoing initiatives are open for applications all year round, and the team is particularly encouraging local businesses and events to get involved. Businesses located within the UNESCO region are eligible for the Biosphere Certification Mark scheme which brings with it national and international marketing opportunities, as well as business development support, learning and networking events. This year the GSA Biosphere Partnership is launching a new 'Business for Biodiversity' workshop and a Carbon Literacy for Business training course, both of which can boost the green credentials which are an increasingly important reference point for customers. Event organisers can get involved through the Sustainable Event Charter which has already been awarded to Girvan Folk Festival, Newton Stewart Walking Festival, The Gralloch, Knockengarroch and Spring Fling for 2025, with more still to come.

There is no charge for any of the Biosphere's accreditation schemes although donations to support the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Partnership (registered Scottish charity SC044137) are always welcome. The Partnership receives no funding from UNESCO and relies on the support of core funders South of Scotland Enterprise, South Ayrshire, East Ayrshire, and Dumfries & Galloway Councils, and on donations and legacies. More information about the charity's work, support available for local groups, and opportunities to get involved, are available at www.gsabiosphere.org.uk.



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

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1/4 page advert.....	£95
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Louis Simpson, Lead Youth Worker at the Carrick Centre's KA19 Youth Hub

CELEBRATING 1 YEAR OF The Carrick Centre's KA19 Youth Hub

What an amazing year we've had since opening our doors in June 2024!

Thanks to the support of our funders, local partners, dedicated volunteers, staff, and most importantly, the young people themselves, our youth provision has tripled.

What started as a single youth club session split by age group has now expanded into a diverse and inclusive programme. We now offer youth clubs, drop-ins, ASN (Additional Support Needs) provision, counselling services, youth employability support, nurture sessions, children's birthday parties, and more, delivered both by our team and in collaboration with external partners.

Looking ahead, our strategy is to continue growing these opportunities while establishing a sustainable foundation that secures them for years to come.

The Young people of Carrick deserve this space where they can thrive. They deserve to explore their potential, build confidence and broaden their horizons. And our vision is to do just that.

We've come a long way in just one year—and this is only the beginning.

-Louis Simpson

Lead Youth Worker at the Carrick Centre's KA19 Youth Hub

"One year on and we are thrilled at how many children and young people are having fun at the KA19 Youth Hub. Their participation in running the Hub and organising the programme is impressive and at the heart of our youth strategy. A big shout out too for our key funders, the National Lottery Community Fund, William Grant Foundation, and the Scottish Children's Lottery as well as our Youth Service Partners at Thriving Communities"

-Marguerite Hunter Blair OBE DL
Chairperson, The Carrick Centre



WHAT'S GOING ON
AT THE KA19 YOUTH
HUB ?

WELL..

M	• Open for new Groups/ Activities
T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nurture group - Wellbeing support (Bi-weekly) • Place2Be - 1:1 Counselling (weekly) • Family First - Wellbeing and educational Support (weekly) • P4-5 Youth Club (Weekly) • P6-7 Youth Club (Weekly) • S1+ Youth Club (Weekly)
W	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family First - Wellbeing and educational Support (Weekly) • P7+ Drop In (Weekly) • Carrick Sensory - Sensory Session (Weekly) • KA19 Youth Board Meeting (Monthly)
T	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family First - Wellbeing and educational Support (Weekly) • Nurture Group - Wellbeing support (Bi-weekly) • Carrick Academy - Educational Support (Weekly) • Thriving Communities High street team - Employability and skills Support (Weekly) • Youth Employability Team - Employability Support (Weekly) • P4-5 Youth Club (Weekly)
F	• Family First - wellbeing and educational Support (Weekly)
S&S	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Occasional Youth Work Events/Drop-ins • Occasional Children's Parties • Carrick Sensory - Sensory session (Monthly)

****Holiday Programs sessions are flexible to align with Carrick Centre activities & other community events ****



KA19 Youth Hub, 4 Carrick Street, Maybole, KA19 7DN.

CELEBRATE SUMMER

at THE CARRICK CENTRE

Ices are nicest from the Carrick Centre's brand new Carte D'Or cabinet as these youngsters are showing.

As they scoop into summer, these boys and girls found seven different flavours to delight their taste-buds.

There's something for everyone from fruity cherry swirl, strawberry and Solero, to vanilla, mint chocolate, triple chocolate and blue candyfloss.

VISIT THE CARRICK CENTRE FOR.....

- Free soft play
- Cafe discount for Blue light card holders
- Indoor and outdoor seating
- Accessible Toilets
- Baby Change Facilities
- EV Charging
- EBike Rental
- Free Parking
- Free WiFi



And how about trying the new tables in the fresh air outside, complete with parasols. It's enough to tempt anyone enjoying Carrick Centre Cafe delights into the summer sunshine!

**EVENT SPACE
HIRE
FROM £10/HOUR**

Planning a party or other special occasion? Did you know that residents of Maybole and the Surrounding Villages are eligible for our Community Hire Rates. Call 01655 883 222 to book!

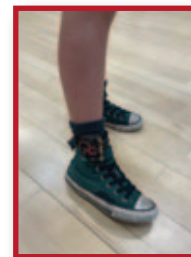
Open: Monday to Friday, 9am - 4:30pm, Saturday 9am - 2:30pm

**Carrick Centre, Culzean Road, Maybole, KA19 7DE.
01655 883 222. www.carrickcentre.co.uk**

Kirkmichael Primary Numeracy Events



Kirkmichael Primary received £4000 of funding from the Multiply fund to purchase new numeracy resources to support teaching and learning. As part of the funding, we hosted four drop-in numeracy events for families of the school to attend. Themed around Jack and the Beanstalk for our EYC-P2 children and Brazil for P3-7, we looked at how numeracy links closely with technology, textiles, outdoor learning and cooking through activities. Our technology event was supported by Amanda Pickard, digital learning officer for South Ayrshire Council, and we had lots of fun working with her using codable toys and resources from the Council Digital Lending Library. This links in closely with our efforts to achieve the Equitable Coding Award. P3-7 used the VR Headsets to explore Brazilian landmarks and designed these on Tinkercad. EYC-2 coded the Bluebots to travel the path from Jack's house to the market. We were lucky with the weather for our outdoor morning and had a lovely time using the outdoor blocks to build Jack's house and Brazilian landmarks. For our textiles focus, P3-7 created Brazilian masks, and P1-2 made new outfits for the giant and explored textures within the school by making crayon rubbings. Finally, for our final afternoon, we had a whole school cooking afternoon. EYC-P2 had a 'Giant's Tea Party' where they used fractions to create and cut sandwiches, and used their measuring skills to bake cupcakes. P3-7 embraced Brazilian Culture and made Brigadiros (chocolate truffles) and Canjica (Brazilian rice pudding). We finished with a showcase of our work. Thank you to the Multiply fund for supporting our purchase of new numeracy resources.



Kirkmichael P1-2 Take on The World of Work!

P1-2 have been learning all about the different jobs that they could do when they are older, making links to the Meta skills. We have had lots of different visitors in class to talk about what they do in their job, what they like and dislike about their jobs and why they wanted to do their jobs. P1-2 also got to give our guests a grilling by asking them lots of different questions. Our guests included Mr Hislop, PC McGinelly, Justin from the Kirkmichael Arms, the Fire and Rescue service, the army, an architect, and we will soon be having a visit from an opera singer!





Kirkmichael Primary Get Stepping!

Before the Easter holidays, P1-7 took part in a sponsored step-a-thon. As part of this, P3-7 worked to create coded step counters on Micro:Bits. The next day, they got to put them on and it counted their steps. The next day, P1-7 participated in the step-a-thon and enjoyed an obstacle course too in the spring sunshine.



Kirkmichael Primary Gets Growing!

In August 2024, Kirkmichael Primary received their new polytunnel. Since then, we have worked each week to create a nice growing space in our playground. P1-7 have worked with Brenda and Lesley from Kirkmichael Gardening Group to get it up and running by sorting the flooring, planting a range of plants, learning about soil and identifying signs of the seasons changing. We are immensely grateful for Brenda, Lesley and the Gardening Groups support with this, and the kindness of the community for their donations of gardening resources.



The Magical Tale of The Wizard of Oz

Primary 3-7 at Kirkmichael Primary school put on a great performance of the Wizard of Oz on 30th April. They were supported by Miss Nelson. The children sang, danced and gave a fabulous performance in all their roles. The class performed in front of all their parents and younger pupils who all thought it was the best performance. The children hope to do another performance like this soon.

Written by Aurla (P7), Piper (P7), Darcey (P5) and Zoe (P6)





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