

FREE

Autumn issue 2026
www.nccbc.org.uk

North Carrick

Community News

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



AUTUMN
is a great
time for
exploring
around
your area

Published by



Produced with funding provided by **ScottishPower Renewables**

View **ALL** newsletters online

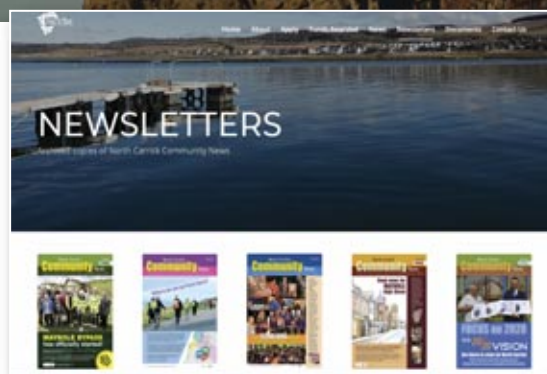
NCCBC

Working together to fund the future of North Carrick

MADE POSSIBLE BY SCOTTISH POWER RENEWABLES

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

www.nccbc.org.uk



Your voice matters...

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



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

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

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

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

Project development and funding: **Stuart Lindsay** on 07977 115974 or email: stuart@nccbc.org.uk

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: **11th November 2026**

North Carrick Community Newsletter



NCCBC does not make any representation as to the accuracy or suitability of any advertisements contained in this publication and does not accept any responsibility or liability for the conduct or content of those advertisements and the offerings made by the third parties. Goods or services advertised are not endorsements or recommendations by NCCBC (unless stated). Your access to or use of them is at your own risk. NCCBC is not responsible for any errors or omissions in articles or advertisements submitted to this newsletter and any views or opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of NCCBC. Copyright Warning: All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be copied or reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopy or otherwise without prior written permission of NCCBC.

Electrician

www.nhmelectrical.scot

No job is Too Small

- ♦ Extra Lights and Sockets
- ♦ **New Fuseboards**
- ♦ Rewires
- ♦ **New installation**
- ♦ interlinked Smoke Alarms
- ♦ EV chargers
- ♦ Landlord's and Home Buyers Reports EICR
- ♦ **Electric Heating**
- ♦ Fault Finding
- ♦ outdoor power
- ♦ Garden Lights and sockets

- ✓ Fully Qualified, Insured and Registered
- ✓ Lifetime Guarantee
- ✓ Reliable and Friendly Service
- ✓ Flexible Hours
- ✓ Satisfaction Guaranteed
- ✓ Proud to be Local

**Call Nicholas on
01655619017**



CHARITY CHAMPIONS

Two charity Champions received their honours at the heart of their community in Maybole, surrounded by family and friends.

The two separate ceremonies at the Carrick Centre, were for “Maybole’s Santa” Alex Kelly, 78, who was awarded a British Empire Medal for services to the voluntary sector and Wilma Milligan, who was awarded an MBE for services to charity and food poverty.

Alex, who many will remember, worked as a council lifesaver and swimming coach before he retired early and dedicated more than two decades to voluntary work in Maybole.

Among them were important leadership roles in 14 local and national groups including director of Maytag Job Training Agency and chair of the South Ayrshire Crime Prevention Panel for 36 years. As chair of the local Royal British Legion and area organiser for Poppy Scotland his work supporting veterans earned him the President’s Award.

He has also kept the town lit up with Christmas lights for more than 30 years, been Santa for years and organised the OAP

Christmas Dinner. He led a campaign for the restoration of Maybole Sports Pavillion raising £50,000 and helped charities raise thousands when he ran the town’s charity shop.

He said he was very humbled to receive the honour adding that he volunteered not for the awards or recognition but because he cared and wanted to help people.

Fellow champion Wilma was told by the Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire and Arran, Iona Sara McDonald her award was in recognition of her “compassion, resilience and unwavering commitment” which had transformed the lives of so many across South Ayrshire. “Her story is a powerful reminder of the difference one person can make”.

Wilma, 75, who lived in Crosshill before moving to Prestwick, supported the establishment of Food Banks in Ayr and Maybole following her retirement 12 years ago. Wilma was praised also by her South Ayrshire Foodbank Colleagues for giving countless hours of her time to people experiencing hardship, for her kindness, compassion and determination to help others.

In her acceptance speech Wilma said: “By accepting this award, it is not for me, it is to highlight the Food Bank work. It is all about helping each other. My motto is ‘Be kind’”.



Above: Lord Lieutenant and Wilma



Marguerite Hunter Blair, Alex Kelly and Wilma



Alex Kelly and his wife Margaret at the BEM



**Our
DALRYMPLE
pharmacy
has moved !**



**Dalrymple
Pharmacy**

5A Barbieston Road, Dalrymple

info@dalrymplepharmacy.co.uk

01292 560 931



**Carrick
Pharmacy**

71 High Street, Maybole

info@carrickpharmacy.co.uk

01655 882 235

**We have many services
on offer including:**

- Ear Wax Removal
- Flu Vaccine
- Sexual Health Clinic
- Smoking Cessation
- Travel Vaccination Clinic
- Collection and delivery
of your NHS prescriptions
- Pharmacy First Service
- Pharmacy First Plus Service
- Foot Healthcare Practitioner



**Weight
Management
Treatment**

Let science help you reach a
healthier weight. Starts at £179.



**FLU
VACCINES**

Having the flu vaccine against
this year's strain of seasonal flu
can give you protection and
peace of mind

www.carrickpharmacy.co.uk
www.dalrymplepharmacy.co.uk



Carrick Walking Football



Carrick walking football meet on a Monday evening at Maybole Community Campus from 6-7pm then in the pavilion from 7-8pm for tea and coffee and post-match banter, open to anyone over 50, sessions cost £3 with first session free. All abilities welcome whether you used to play or have never kicked a ball before you will be most welcome. Our sessions are about trying to improve both physical and mental wellbeing, laughter and enjoyment.

There is also a competitive element if you so wish with over 65 and over 70 teams competing in West of Scotland League, Scottish Cup, Glasgow Trophy and Glasgow Cup. Last year over 65 team were beaten finalists in The Scottish Cup which is the biggest one-day walking football tournament in the world and given coverage by Sky Sports. At the time of writing, we are mid-way through the 2026 league season with 65's lying in third place and 70's in second. The club recently took part in a tournament held in memory of the late Jim Fleeting where we edged out Glenafton 3-1 in the final.

COME ALONG AND HAVE A LOOK, SEE WHAT YOU THINK, MIGHT MEET SOME OLD FRIENDS GUARANTEED TO LEAVE WITH LOTS OF NEW ONES





Ayrshire
Eye Clinic

CLEARER VISION. BRIGHTER FUTURE.

CATARACT SURGERY



Prof. Sathish Srinivasan

Ranked in the
TOP 100
eye surgeons
in the WORLD

Expert Care, Local To You.

Cataract Surgery | Laser Vision Correction | Glaucoma Treatment
Eye Lid Operations | Retinal Surgery & More

 **01292 282 100**

Ayrshire Eye Clinic, 3 Broomfield Road, Ayr, KA7 2SP



www.ayrshireeyeclinic.com | info@ayrshireeyeclinic.com |   

Colouring Communities Have Some Great News

Colouring Communities are delighted to announce that they have been invited by NCCBC to run The Gatherings shop on Maybole High Street for a year to help increase the number of people using the town's main shopping thoroughfare. The group, led by Coral McMillan, will occupy the shop for 30 weeks of the year and support other groups to utilise the beautiful community space as a charity shop for the remaining weeks. Colouring Communities is a group for adults with additional support needs. Members of the group will work alongside Coral within the shop, selling preloved, recycled and upcycled goods- creating sustainable, affordable shopping for all.

The project, which will run as a pilot scheme for its first 12 months, will create opportunities for others, including work placements, drop-ins, workshops and more. To celebrate the project's launch Colouring Communities will hold an open day at The Gatherings on Tuesday 22nd September from 11am- 3pm, where visitors can enjoy complimentary cakes, tea and coffee. Coral and the group's members will be on hand to talk about their plans and collect valuable ideas from interested members of the local community. Colouring Communities can't wait to see you!



Our thanks to
NCCBC, ScottishPower
Renewables
and the Communities
of North Carrick.



For more information email:
coral.mcmillan@outlook.com



The Ocean

Quality Chinese Food to Take Away

海洋

中餐

CHINA MUNCHY BOX

3 ITEMS £14.50

4 ITEMS £18.40

PICK & MIX

ANYTHING FROM OUR MENU
(EXCEPT ROAST DUCK)



3 items munchy box

SMALL SALT & CHILLI MUNCHY BOX £14.50

Spare Ribs (2), Chicken Balls (2), Chicken Wings (2), Mini Spring Rolls (2), Salt & Chilli Chicken, Salt & Chilli Chips with Curry or Gravy or Sweet & Sour or BBQ or Sweet & Chilli Sauce

LARGE SALT & CHILLI MUNCHY BOX £19.00

Spare Ribs (3), Chicken Balls (4), Chicken Wings (4), Mini Spring Rolls (4), Salt & Chilli Chicken, Salt & Chilli Chips with Curry or Gravy or Sweet & Sour or BBQ or Sweet & Chilli Sauce

SPICY BOX £13.00

- Salt & Chilli Chicken
- Salt & Chilli Chips
- Chicken Curry



01655 887 219

TELEPHONE ORDERS WELCOME

OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

4A Cassilis Road
KA19 7HF Maybole

TURNING PLANS into ACTION across NORTH CARRICK

Over the next few months, NCCBC will be taking a fresh look at the **Foundations for Recovery** programme and the ideas and ambitions that communities across North Carrick identified four years ago.

A great deal has happened since then. Some projects have been successfully delivered, others are still worth pursuing, and circumstances and priorities have changed. The review will look at what has been achieved, what remains important, and whether some of the original proposals should now make way for new priorities.

Foundations for Recovery was deliberately ambitious. It brought together ideas for the long-term regeneration and development of North Carrick, many of which were always expected to take time to develop. The next stage will focus much more strongly on turning those ambitions into **practical, realistic, and achievable projects**.



Building on what communities have already said

This won't mean starting again.

Since Foundations for Recovery was prepared, lots of consultation, research, and planning has taken place across North Carrick. Local Place Plans, Development Trust business plans, community strategies, and other work have all helped to build an up to date picture of what individual communities want and need.

The review will bring this information together, avoiding unnecessary duplication while identifying areas where some additional discussion or consultation would help to develop promising project ideas in greater detail.

It will also reflect priorities that have become increasingly important in recent years, including **Net Zero, employability, and community resilience**.



From ideas to deliverable projects

The intention is to work with the nine North Carrick communities that wish to participate and help develop a programme combining local priorities with opportunities that could benefit North Carrick more widely.

Instead of just producing another list of aspirations, the aim is to identify projects that have a realistic prospect of being delivered. This will include several small easily delivered projects alongside a series of community priorities, **Flagship projects**, and an overarching North Carrick programme.

Particular attention will be given to developing a **pipeline of investable projects** – good ideas that have been developed sufficiently to begin attracting funding and moving towards delivery. This will include identifying possible sources of external funding and considering the practical steps needed to turn an idea into a viable project.



Opportunities for smaller community projects too

Not every worthwhile project needs to be large or expensive.

An important part of the exercise will be identifying smaller projects that communities can take forward themselves. Some of these may be suitable for support through **NCCBC's Community-led Projects Fund**, helping communities move more quickly from an identified local need to practical action.

The overall aim is straightforward: **to build on the work communities have already done, focus resources on the priorities that matter now, and create a realistic programme of projects that can make a difference across North Carrick.**

We hope communities will get involved as the work goes on.

McRoberts

Plumbing & Heating Engineers

Gas • Oil • LPG Specialists

Bathroom Showroom



What services do we offer?

Our dedicated team of local plumbers, boiler and heating engineers offer a comprehensive range of services to meet all your needs.

WE
COVER
THE NORTH
CARRICK
AREA !!



- ✓ Bathroom design, supply & installation
- ✓ Boiler and heating systems service, repair and installations
- ✓ Boiler break down cover from £15 per month
- ✓ Reliable, qualified engineers. Skilled and highly professional workforce
- ✓ Trustworthy, Established, gas safe certified & Oftec registered company.



info@mcrobertsheating.co.uk
01563 820559 • 07407 734 959

Unit 8B, Moorfield North Industrial Park, Kilmarnock KA2 0FE
www.mcrobertsheating.co.uk

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?

The Gatherings could be for you,
follow us on facebook
www.facebook.com/NCCBC
TheGatherings

Only **£115** per week,
day rates may be available.

Contact:
gatherings@nccbc.org.uk

The Gatherings



DRIVING LESSONS – Opening Up Opportunities

NCCBC's Driving Lessons Programme is continuing, helping people overcome one of the practical barriers to education, training and employment in a rural area like North Carrick.

The programme is delivered in collaboration with Thriving Communities. They support participants through the driving theory programme, and NCCBC then funds up to 40 hours of driving lessons and the practical driving test. It's great to see the programme already making a difference, with another four participants recently passing their tests.

Anyone interested must first go through the theory programme with Thriving Communities. You cannot apply directly to NCCBC for the driving lessons. The current course is fully subscribed, but further opportunities will be advertised when the next Thriving Communities course opens, so keep an eye on Facebook and other local information channels. The programme will continue to help local people gain the independence that driving can bring and make it easier to access jobs, training and further education both within and beyond North Carrick.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE FOUR RECENT SUCCESSES!

Jason Conn, who said, "Passing my driving exam now means I can put a van on the road now and expand my business, I now also have the freedom to go where I couldn't before, if it wasn't for the funding I don't think I would have been able to consistently take lessons every week as they cost so much money nowadays. I can't thank you enough for the course and funding. It really has helped change my life."

And Devon Milligan, who commented, "I would say passing my test has opened up more opportunities and freedom for myself for the future and certainly takes a weight off as I'm expecting a baby in November and managed to pass in enough time before his arrival, so I won't be confined to public transport to take him anywhere or do activities with him. The course made it feel more achievable and I really do think it is a great opportunity for others to be given so thank you."

Stephanie Murphy wanted to give a shout out to her driving instructor. She said, "The funding and support

has made a huge difference to my life with having an autistic daughter especially over the summer holidays.

I would also like to add that Laura, my driving instructor, was absolutely amazing! She has a very high standard and makes me a better driver for her experience."



Lewis Dolan explained how this will help in his career training. He said "The classes and the funding from NCCBC has helped me immensely. The classes were very informative which prepared you for Theory. The funding for lessons was of huge benefit to me too this let me save for a car as I am training to be a chef in a rural area of Carrick where public transport isn't regular or none at all, Having to rely on other people at unsociable hours. I'd recommend anyone thinking of driving to do this course. The support and help has been amazing. Thank you to NCCBC and staff."



NCCBC will carry on funding these lessons and is keen to see more people from North Carrick's villages getting involved. Look out for the next Thriving Communities Driving Theory course and make a move that might change your life!



MAYBOLE Charity Shop

The Maybole Charity Shop Committee would like to say a massive thank you to all the wonderful groups, charities and organisations who have used the shop over the past year.

Your support has helped us continue our work of giving local groups the opportunity to raise much-needed funds for their causes. Every week has been special, and we are so grateful to everyone who has supported the shop.

BOOKINGS NOW OPEN FOR NEXT YEAR!

If your group or charity would be interested in hiring the Maybole Charity Shop for a week next year, we would love to hear from you.

Email:
maybolecharityshop@gmail.com

Spaces can fill quickly, so get in touch to secure your week!

Thank you for supporting Maybole Charity Shop and the amazing local groups and charities that make our community so special.

THE HOME DESIGN STUDIO

BY S&C MCKAY PROPERTY SOLUTIONS LTD.

LET'S TALK
ONLINE / IN-STORE / ON-SITE

24, THE CROSS
PRESTWICK, KA9 1AL
COMING AUTUMN 26

KIRKLANDS STEADING,
MAIN ROAD,
KIRKOSWALD, KA19 8HY

NOW OPEN

WWW.THDS.CO.UK
ADMIN@SCMCKAYGROUP.COM



NORTH CARRICK COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

is for YOU, the community

PLEASE submit all your articles, events, news updates etc. to:

newsletter@nccbc.org.uk

Kirkmichael Primary and Straiton Primary News

Culzean Castle

Kirkmichael and Straiton Primary Schools and EYCs enjoyed a visit to Culzean Castle in March. We visited inside the castle, enjoyed a picnic lunch and a play in the playground. Pupil highlights included spotting the Lego figures, finding out the stories of the house, looking at the historical artefacts and finding out whether the Grey Lady really exists! Thankfully, the weather was nice for us to enjoy time outside in spring!

World Cup Wheesht!

Kirkmichael and Straiton enjoyed marking the World Cup, and all pupils took part in the World Cup Day of Dance. As part of this, they learned several Scottish dances to stand in solidarity with the national team, many of which had been renamed to make reference to some of our Scottish footballers. Pupils also learned the new 'World Cup Wheesht', created by school pupils at a school in Dumfries and Galloway, which they performed together in the playground.

JP Morgan 'Make It H-App-en!'

Kirkmichael and Straiton Primaries took part in

an app competition, hosted by JP Morgan, where they became app developers and designed their own apps. JP Morgan judged the entries, and made the winning design from each school into a fully working app. JP Morgan issued the following awards:

Inspiring ideas: Skye, Adam, Harry, Brodie (Kirkmichael), Oskar, Filippa, Max (Straiton)
Runners up: Zoe and Izzy (Kirkmichael) Lou and Freya (Straiton)

Winners: Rosie (Straiton) and Matilda (Kirkmichael) Rosie designed a mindfulness app with relaxing scenes and music. Matilda designed her app to focus on toothbrushing, supporting a friendly snowman to brush their teeth.

Straiton Primary Goes Digital!

In May 2026, Straiton Primary achieved 3 Digital Schools Awards. This reflects efforts to promote, model and deliver digital learning within the classroom, for wider life and work, making reference to careers which require digital skills. Furthermore, pupils have engaged in coding activities across learning. Well done to all pupils and staff!





CARRICK COMPUTER REPAIR SERVICES

**Is your computer or laptop
suffering from a software
or hardware problem?**



We provide IT help to domestic & small business customers throughout North Carrick

www.carrickcrs.co.uk

01655 728220



and



We have a vast range in stock at both outlets for all Pet Supplies, Compost, Heating Fuel etc.

Pop in to our FARM SHOP in KIRKOSWALD or our PET SHOP in MAYBOLE and browse our products

- WE CAN ALSO DELIVER TO YOUR DOOR !!



**Merkland Farm
Kirkoswald
Maybole
KA19 8HP**

**Pet Food Co.
27 High Street
Maybole
KA19 7AB**

Tel. 01655 760322

Tel. 01655 884228

www.merklandfeeds.co.uk

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

RATES PER ISSUE

Eighth page advert .£50
Quarter page advert £95
Half page advert£180
Full Page advert£250

**We offer 10% Discount for full year's booking*

Should you wish to advertise within our Newsletter please contact Shona McMahon at Evolution Designs Ltd:
evolutiondesigns@sky.com or call 07753 111 038



Elaine Stewart MP

Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock



If you have something you would like to bring to my attention, you can contact me by email or phone:

elaine.stewart.mp@parliament.uk

01292 502 058

You can also keep up to date with me on social media

Elaine Stewart MP
 [elainestewart.mp](https://www.instagram.com/elainestewart.mp)
 ElaineStewartMP



Subscribe to my Newsletter using the QR Code



A busy, bountiful summer at the Carrick Community Food Garden



The Carrick Community Food Garden (CCFG) was selected by the Co-op to get a share of their Local Community Fund. How much we receive depends on how many members choose us. If you are a member of the Co-op who hasn't yet chosen a cause, please choose CCFG before 17 October 2026.

Alternating sunny and wet spells led to good yields of fruit and vegetables for volunteers, school pupils and food pantry. Pupils from St Cuthbert's and Culzean Primary Schools helped us till June when we had a pizza day for each school. CCFG volunteers have pizza production down to a fine art. Pizzas were followed by strawberries from the productive patch. The Recovery Ayr team led by Chris Jones continued maintenance tasks. They repaired the wooden edging of the tattie patch and installed a trellis on the tool container for honeysuckle plants to climb. Now the container looks less stark. Our annual pizza day for volunteers coincided with their final visit in August; they joined that too.



In summer we delivered surplus produce to the food pantry at the Carrick Centre. Soft fruit, tatties, carrots, beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, herbs etc. were regularly dropped off. A second wildflower area on the boundary bank gave a colourful show particularly of oxeye daisies. As well as providing colour, wildflowers attract pollinating insects which also pollinate plants that produce fruit and veg.

Primary schools returned through September.

Pupils helped with harvesting vegetables grown from seed they sowed in spring. They also collected seeds for wildflower areas. Each takes home a bag of vegetables, bags decorated themselves.

We are gearing up for Apple Day on 3 October, an annual event run with the Association of Scottish Smallholders. See 'opposite' for more details.

If you can't make the day but have apples to drop off phone **Bryan Griffiths** on **07783 497514**. After that we'll get the garden ready for winter.

Our last working day will be 14 October. Everyone is welcome to visit the garden any time.



Shape the Future of Your Community!

Become a Trustee at THE CARRICK CENTRE



Are you passionate about making Maybole and North Carrick an even better place to live, play, work, and learn?



The Carrick Centre is looking for enthusiastic new **Trustees** to join our dedicated board!

As a Trustee, you'll help guide our thriving community hub, which supports everything from our popular Carrick Café and soft play area to vital community lifelines like our food pantry, Green Transport Hub, and the KA19 Youth Hub.

Time Commitment: A few hours a month (meetings held locally at the Centre).

Who we need: We welcome diverse backgrounds, but we are especially keen to hear from individuals with skills in finance, legal, youth work, marketing, or community development.

No experience? Don't worry! We provide full induction and training support for those new to governance.

Help us keep youth and community support at the heart of North Carrick.

If interested please email: deirdre.cuthbertson@carrickcentre.co.uk

APPLE DAY Sat Oct 3

Make your own apple juice!



BRING APPLES HELP CHOP AND PRESS APPLES

BRING CLEAN BOTTLES! FREE! At Carrick Community Food Garden, Dailly Road, MAYBOLE KA19 7AU From 11am-2pm. All welcome!

CCFG With Association of Scottish Smallholders

Development Manager's Update

Building on Progress Across North Carrick

It's been another busy few months, with work continuing across tourism, heritage, community facilities and some new projects for the future. **The Community-led Projects Fund** and the new **Facilities Support Scheme** are covered in separate articles elsewhere in this Newsletter, so here's an update on some of the other things that have been happening.



Bringing the Bruce Arts & AR Trail to Life

The next stage of the Bruce Arts & AR Trail is now underway, jointly funded by Destination South Ayrshire and NCCBC.

The project is about making more of the investment already made in the Trail. It includes new interpretation panels at ten sites, marketing and work with local businesses, a Bruce's Web animation, a Carraig – Birthplace of Bruce brochure, postcards and other promotional material. We'll also be looking at how tourism websites and social media can work better together, with the Visit Carraig website playing an increasingly important role in promoting the area.

The aim is simple: to make it easier for visitors to discover and enjoy the Trail, explore more of Carrick and spend time in our local communities and businesses.

What's Next for Carraig Connections?

NCCBC's three-year Heritage Enterprise Village project has now finished. Between 2022 and 2025, around £120,000 of Scottish Government Strengthening Communities Programme funding was invested in developing what has become Bruce's Web - a network linking heritage attractions, communities and businesses across the area. Carraig Connections was set up to take this work forward, alongside wider economic development and regeneration activity.

NCCBC is continuing to support Carraig Connections so that this investment leaves a lasting legacy. A key priority is the plan for Maybole Castle to become the hub for Bruce's Web and North Carrick's Heritage Hub. Discussions about a possible long-term lease are continuing and draft Heads of Terms are being worked through.

Unfortunately, Carraig Connections' application to the ARIA fund was unsuccessful. Other possible sources of funding are now being explored. Funding will need to be in place before Carraig Connections can take on the Castle, but work is continuing to make that possible.

New life for The Gatherings

There's good news about The Gatherings in Maybole

NCCBC has reached an agreement with Colouring Communities for a pilot project that will see the organisation use The Gatherings for 30 weeks each year. At other times, it will help other community groups to use the premises as a charity shop.

This should mean much more use of the building and gives us a chance to try a flexible approach that allows different organisations and good causes to benefit from the space as a charity shop.



A flexible community
space for everyone!



Turning Good Ideas into Real Projects

Another new piece of work will focus on helping communities turn good ideas into well-planned community and regeneration projects.

We know that having a good idea is only the beginning. Community groups then have to work out what the project will involve, what it will cost, how it can be delivered and where the money might come from. Finding the time and expertise to do that can be difficult.

NCCBC plans to work with communities to develop project plans so that more ideas can become realistic, fundable proposals. These projects could then come forward for support from NCCBC and other funders.

It should also mean that communities are better prepared when funding opportunities come along, rather than having to start developing a project when an application deadline is already looming.

Skills, Jobs and Opportunities

NCCBC is also starting to look at how we might work with other organisations on employability and skills development.

The idea is to help connect local people with training, skills and employment opportunities, while also responding to the needs of local businesses and community organisations. It's still early days, but this could become an important new area of work for NCCBC in collaboration with other agencies.

Contact stuart@nccbc.org.uk if you have any thoughts or ideas on what this should involve.

Supporting North Carrick

Alongside these larger projects, there's a lot of less visible day-to-day work going on — helping community groups with funding and project ideas, making connections and trying to find solutions when projects run into difficulties.

NCCBC is about more than awarding grants. An important part of our role is helping communities develop good ideas, strengthen local organisations, and turn ambitions into projects that can make a real difference. That will continue to be a big part of NCCBC's focus over the months ahead.

Maybole Makers:

Bringing Back the Joy in Creativity



Do you ever think back to those days long ago when you did art at nursery school?

The freedom and pure joy of creating a scrambled drawing in coloured pencil, a newspaper hat with glued-on feathers or a wonky, lop-sided car out of boxes and bottle tops? Adult life and responsibilities may have intervened over the years, and our mental downtime reduced to searching through TV platforms for something 'decent' to watch, so our minds can simply relax and try to change gear. There is however an alternative: The Maybole Makers exists to bring back the joy of creation, in good company, to adults over 16. You may be amazed at what you've been missing all these years and, just what you can achieve.



Our activities from September '26 through to April '27 will range from sprucing up the painted sign for the Carrick Community Garden, a 'Zine' making workshop facilitated by the Glasgow Zine Library and a collage/gelli print session to making woollen slippers. During our November sessions we'll be preparing items to sell at our Christmas Market which will take place at the Gatherings on Maybole High Street from 4th -11th December.



Our ongoing projects include processing wool from fleece to yarn, weaving tapestries depicting local scenes with historical references and printing using linocut techniques. Meanwhile Wycinanki, the colourful traditional Polish style of decorative paper cutting featured as a popular workshop at the Girvan Arts Festival this summer.



The Maybole Makers is a community group offering arts and crafts activities in Maybole, which are currently free of charge.

We meet weekly in Maybole Library on Thursday afternoons from 2-4pm.

For full details of our '26-'27 schedule and more information on our projects including what a 'Zine' is, please find us The Maybole Makers, on Facebook and Instagram.

North Carrick Community Newsletter needs....



We want to encourage our residents to contribute to these newsletters, without your input we cannot produce a quality publication.

Our newsletters are well-read but we will always be on the look out for future articles and photos from locals.

We would also like to encourage our readers to SHOP LOCAL and support your local shops and suppliers, many of which advertise their products within this newsletter.

North Carrick Community Newsletter

Please send all your stories and photographs to:

newsletter@nccbc.org.uk

to advertise in future issues please contact:
evolutiondesigns@sky.com

HAIR & BEAUTY SALON

Hair • Nails • Make up • Waxing



16 School Vennel
Maybole
KA19 7DQ

01655 882988

Imcivittie86@googlemail.com

Roma Clark

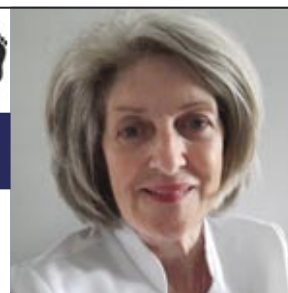


I am a **MOBILE** foot health practitioner based in Maybole



- Long nails
- Corns
- Calluses
- Ingrown Toenails
- Foot spa
- Foot massage etc.

e: rosemarysharp61@gmail.com
Reg. SAC. H.DIP F.H.P



For a home visit call Roma

01655 882383

or

07401 404 540



@improvingnc



@improvingNC



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

NCCBC is always looking for new members!

Join now,
visit our website

www.NCCBC.org.uk

The Carrick Cinema Club

Kicks off its new Sept 2026 - May 2027 season in style. Pay for your ticket £6 at the door or save £14 for the season's nine films by joining as a member at £40. Our cinema-goers report that they enjoy making friends and the stronger sense of community that this friendly club offers.

Friday Sept 25 : HAMNET

William Shakespeare and his wife, Agnes, celebrate the birth of their son, Hamnet. However, when tragedy strikes and Hamnet dies at a young age, it inspires Shakespeare to write his timeless masterpiece 'Hamlet'. A great, emotionally powerful film. Directed by Chloé Zhao and starring Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal, adapted from Maggie O'Farrell's bestselling novel to explore grief, marriage, and the genesis of Hamlet with piercing poignancy. Cert 12A.

executive, as they compete for advertising revenue amid declining print media. Stanley Tucci and Kenneth Branagh add spice to the fashion satire mix. Cert 12A.

ALL FILMS
shown from 7:30pm
at The Carrick Centre,
Maybole KA19 7DE.
Tickets £6

Friday Oct 23 : THE ODYSSEY

Christopher Nolan's epic film is to be shown on huge screen with Dolby surround sound. Odysseus, king of the Greek Island of Ithaca, sets sail to return home after the Trojan War with his warriors. But crossing the Mediterranean Sea they find they are battling for their lives against the elements, witch-goddesses, giants and mythical creatures along the way.

Odysseus played by Matt Damon seeks to return to his beloved wife Penelope - Anne Hathaway, who is being besieged by suitors led by Antinous, portrayed by Robert Pattinson attempting to seize control of the kingdom but resisted by Odysseus' son Telemachus, played by Tom Holland. Interval with Greek hospitality Xenia-olives+ nibbles. Cert 15.

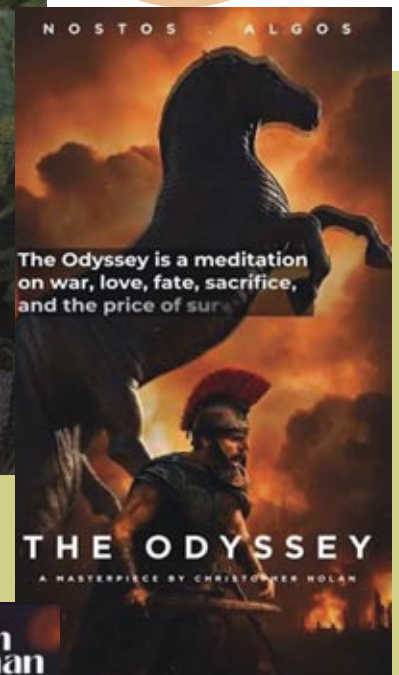
The Odyssey is showing thanks to a grant from Film Hub Scotland and its partners seen on this Logo.

Friday Nov 20: Song Sung Blue

Based on the real life story of two performers facing the roller-coaster of life, played by Hugh Jackman and Kate Hudson who form a Neil Diamond tribute band, which aims high and proves it's never too late to find love and follow your dreams. Cert 12A.

Friday Dec 11 : The Devil Wears Prada 2

A comedy drama for Christmas. Anne Hathaway returns as Andy Sachs, assistant to the formidable Miranda Priestly – Meryl Streep - who struggles against Emily Charlton, her former secretary - Emily Blunt- turned rival, now a high powered Dior



**Join as a
member for
£40**



KIRKMICHAEL PRIMARY

SCHOOL NEWS ROUND-UP ...

P4-7 became entrepreneurs through Virgin Money's Grow a Fiver project, creating businesses such as toy sales, refreshment stands, games and raffles. They designed plans, logos, pricing and advertising, sold to pupils and families, making £291 profit, which they spent on a visit to Topgolf Glasgow.

P6/7 pupils from Kirkmichael and Straiton joined Minishant, Crosshill, Fisherton and Maidens Primaries for a fourday residential at Dumfries House, enjoying archery, STEM challenges, a farm visit, campfire fun, a disco and a rather muddy mud run!

P4-7 spent a day on the River Ayr with Dolphin House staff learning to kayak and paddleboard, resulting in lots of pupils getting rather wet! Kirkmichael EYC visited Rozelle Park before heading to Kidz Play in Prestwick for lunch and playtime. Our P7s enjoyed their leavers trip to Edinburgh Zoo and Cosmos, especially seeing exotic animals.

Kirkmichael P1-7 celebrated their learning with a trip to Glasgow Science Centre, watched a 4D animal

film at the IMAX and enjoyed a meal at Wagamama, linking to their Japan topic.

P4-7 worked with Mrs Nelson to perform excerpts from Oliver for EYC-P3 pupils and families. The June show featured acting, solos, dancing, props and London accents. One P1 pupil called it "the best thing I have ever seen".

Kirkmichael Primary's P5-7 football team proudly won the McCrindle Cup for the first time, celebrating with staff, families and the wider community. Thank you to other teams for being such worthy opponents.

The end of year service at Kirkmichael Church celebrated pupils' learning and achievements, welcomed new P1s and said farewell to the three P7s heading to Carrick Academy – Thanks to Mr McPike for presenting their new ties. Certificates recognised sporting, STEM, curricular and wider achievements from the year. We said farewell to Miss Melvin who, after a very successful NQT year, is moving onto new things. We wish her all the luck for her future, which looks to be very positive.



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.

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

Community-led Projects Fund – Getting This Year's Cycle Underway

NCCBC's Community-led Projects Fund (CPF) gives communities across North Carrick the chance to decide how funding is used for local projects and activities. Each of the eight village communities receives £10,000 a year, with £20,000 for Maybole.

The CPF is particularly suited to **small, community-led projects**. (Larger or more complicated projects will be better suited to NCCBC's Main Fund.)

Over the past year, Local Panels and NCCBC experienced some difficulties with the monitoring and evaluation of the grants that were awarded. So, meetings were held with Local Panel members to look at whether the CPF should continue and, if so, how it could work better.

Three options were considered:

- Local Panels could continue to manage the whole process;
- Panels could continue to publicise the Fund and choose projects while NCCBC took over administration, monitoring, and evaluation; or
- The whole process could be passed to NCCBC.

Local Panel members unanimously agreed that the CPF should remain community-led, with Panels continuing to manage the process locally.

To help make this work successfully, NCCBC has produced a new, more detailed **Local Panel Handbook**, together with a shorter **Quick Reference Guide**. These set out what needs to happen, who is responsible, and the timetable to follow.

September – get your community involved

This year's CPF cycle should already be underway.

Groups that got CPF funding in the last round should have sent their Project Completion Reports to their Local Panel by now.

Local Panels should be meeting, consulting their communities, inviting applications, and starting to select projects.

Consultation doesn't have to be complicated. It might include community meetings, short surveys, social media, local events, or simply getting out and talking to people. The important thing is that people across the community get a genuine opportunity to suggest projects and have their say about local priorities.

Now is the time for local groups to bring forward ideas. Projects should provide clear community benefit, reflect local priorities, offer good value for money, and be ready to proceed.

October – turn ideas into projects

October is the time for Panels and community groups to turn good ideas into practical proposals. Applicants should make sure their costs are realistic, think about any permissions or insurance they will need, and make sure the project can be delivered within the funding period.

If there are more applications than money available, Panels will need to decide which projects will bring the greatest overall benefit to their community. Community benefit, local priorities, value for money, and readiness to proceed will all be important.

It is also worth keeping good records from the beginning. Panels should record consultation, meetings, funding decisions, conflicts of interest, publicity, and correspondence with NCCBC. Doing this as you go along will make the monitoring and evaluation process much easier later.

November is an important month in the cycle.

NCCBC will confirm the annual CPF allocation and Local Panels should submit their Local Panel Funding Recommendation Report, setting out the projects they want to support.

NCCBC will check that projects are eligible, the recommendations are within the available budget, the guidance has been followed, and the necessary information has been provided. Once approval has been confirmed, the process can move on to Offer Letters and payment.

Let's make the community-led approach work

Keeping the CPF in the hands of local communities means local people continue to have a real say in how this money is spent. It also means that Panels and communities need to work together to keep the process moving and meet the timetable.

If you have a project idea for your community, contact your Local Panel representative and get involved now. If you are a Local Panel member, now is the time to consult your community, encourage applications, and get ready for November.

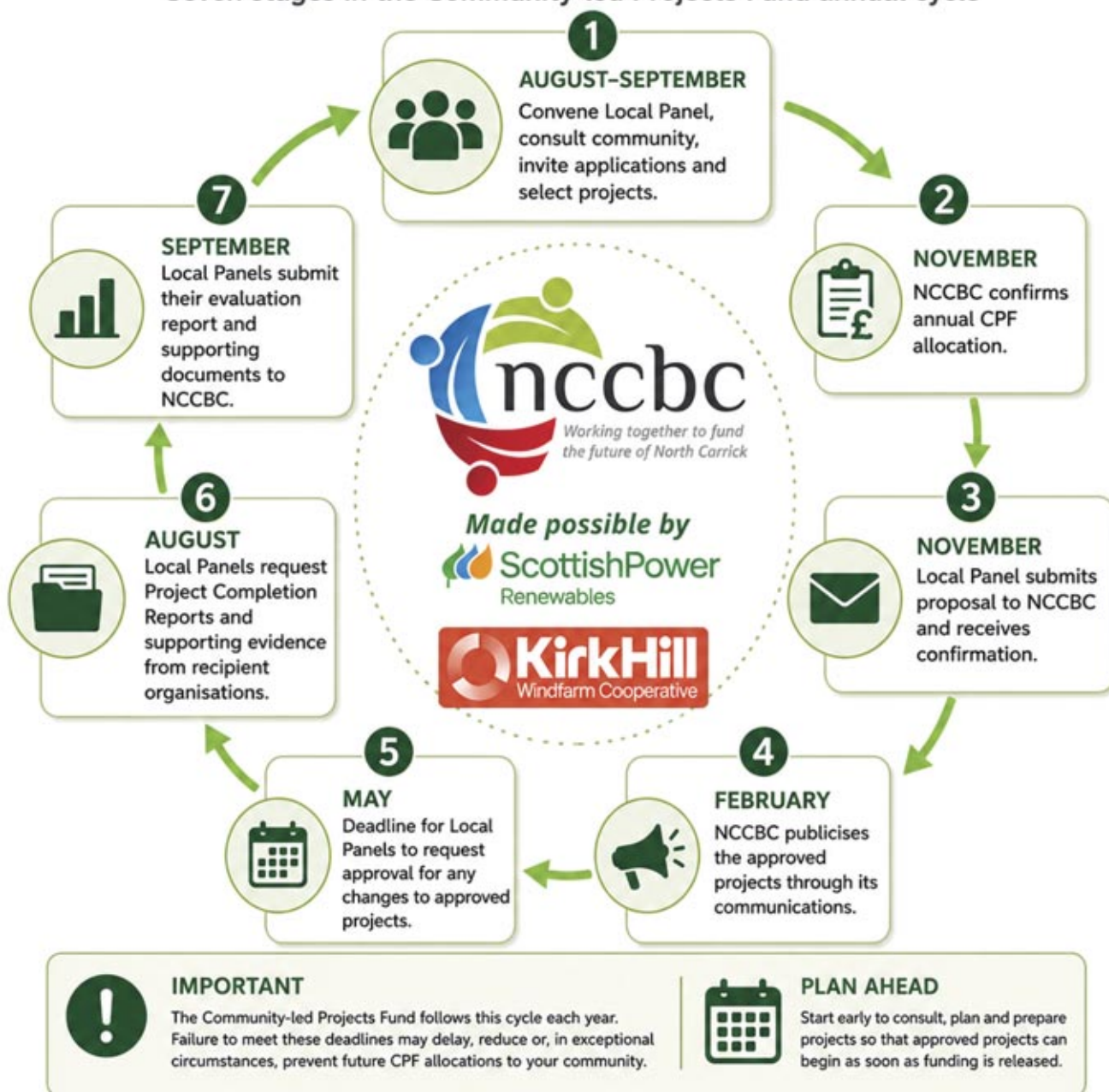
:: CPF LOCAL REPRESENTATIVES ::

Community	Contact Name	Contact email
Crosshill	Kirstie Hepburn	crosshill.nccbc@gmail.com
Dunure	Daisy Seymour	D.Fnccbc@mail.com
Kirkmichael	Pat Lorimer	pat.lorimer@gmail.com
Kirkoswald, Maidens and Turnberry	Chris Savage	kmtdevt@gmail.com
Maybole	Jackie Johnson	CPF@gmail.com
Minishant	Elaine Goldie	Elaineggee7@aol.com
Straiton	Eleanor Kerr	ekerr853@btinternet.com

Contact admin@nccbc.org.uk for more information

The Annual CPF Cycle

Seven stages in the Community-led Projects Fund annual cycle



New Facilities Support Scheme Backs North Carrick Community Facilities

NCCBC has launched a new Facilities Support Scheme to help community-owned and operated facilities across North Carrick cope with rising running costs and keep their services affordable for local people.

The three-year scheme is supporting a wide range of community organisations, including village halls, community shops, sports and bowling clubs, harbours, rowing clubs, and other community facilities. The support can contribute towards eligible running costs including insurance, repairs and maintenance, equipment, IT, licences, professional fees, and other essential expenses.

In total, 21 grants worth £75,000 a year have been offered, ranging from £1,000 to £10,000 per facility. As the scheme is intended to run for three years, subject to the availability of NCCBC funds and recipients providing the

required evidence of expenditure and local benefit, this represents a potential commitment of £225,000 to North Carrick's community facilities.

Uptake has been good. A few organisations that were offered support did not respond, and NCCBC hopes they will take up the opportunity in future years of the scheme.

The scheme recognises the financial pressures facing the organisations that run facilities at the heart of our communities and aims to give them some breathing space while they work towards longer-term sustainability.

For more information about the Facilities Support Scheme, contact admin@nccbc.org.uk



Who Needs Subsidised Swimming Lessons?

PRIMARY PUPILS GET SWIMMING LESSONS AS PART OF THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

But more than 1 in 3 adults in the UK can't swim a length of a pool and 14 million adults don't know how to swim at all

Would you or someone in your family be interested in having subsidised swimming lessons?

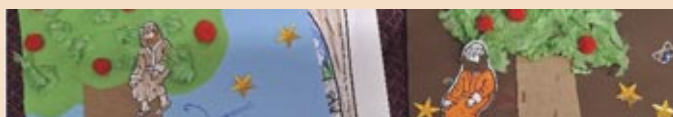
NCCBC is thinking about funding a scheme for young people and adults but needs to know how many people in North Carrick might want to get involved.

Contact us at admin@nccbc.org.uk or via the website www.nccbc.org.uk

NORTH CARRICK PARISH THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

As a church we are here to serve our community. All are welcome to our Worship services and other activities.

We started with All Age Messy Church at Crosshill church and Maybole church.



Community Lunches dates:

Crosshill @ 12 noon - 25 Sep, 30 Oct, 27 Nov.
Kirkoswald @ 12 noon - 7 Oct, 4 Nov, 2 Dec.

Thanks for supporting the Kirkoswald Church charity shop at Maidens Hall and at the Gatherings in Maybole. We made £2040.

Harvest Sundays: 27 September in Kirkoswald & 4 October in Maybole & Crosshill.

Communion Sundays: 25 October in Kirkoswald & 1 November in Maybole & Crosshill.

The Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra will have a concert in Kirkoswald church, come and enjoy an evening of beautiful music.

Concert at North Carrick Parish
Kirkoswald Church

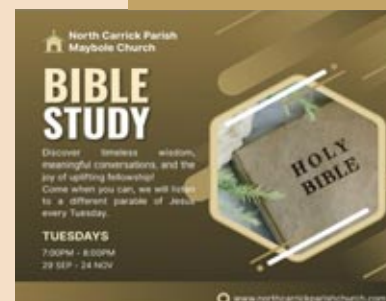
www.fiddleorchestra.com

Friday 2 October 7:00pm
Tickets £8
Contact: eveitch@btinternet.com
www.northcarrickparishchurch.com

Our Autumn Praise & Worship evening will be on Friday the 16th October at 7:00pm in Maybole Church, Carrick Centre. Come and join in the singing.



We will discuss the Parables of Jesus at a Bible study group on Tuesdays at 7:00pm.



Come and join in prayer on the last Friday of every month in Maidens and Maybole.

The Church of Scotland
North Carrick Parish

Worship Services are held on Sundays at:

Maybole Church 10:30am
Kirkoswald Church 11:15am
Crosshill Church 12 noon

For more info, visit
www.northcarrickparishchurch.com
Follow us on Facebook, Instagram & YouTube

Crossraguel community choir practising every 2nd Wednesday at 7:00pm in Kirkoswald Church Hall. Anyone welcome to join!

We are already planning our Christmas Programme. Kirkoswald Christmas Fayre on Sat 28 November 10-2pm.

Looking forward to Celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ !

Blessings. Rev Karlien Becker
kbecker@churchofscotland.org.uk
www.northcarrickparishchurch.com

Christmas 2026 at North Carrick Parish Church of Scotland

10 December - 19:00
Winter Praise & Worship @ Maybole Church

18 December - 19:30
Hugh & Friends Christmas Concert @ Carrick Centre

20 December - 19:00
Carols Service @ Kirkoswald Church

24 December Christmas Eve Service
19:00 @ Crosshill Church
23:30 @ Kirkoswald Church
23:30 @ Maybole Church

25 December - 10:30
Family Service @ Maybole Church

For unto us a child is born!

www.northcarrickparishchurch.com

Spooky Stories for Halloween

The COUNTESS and *The* GYPSY

Once upon a time, there lived The Earl of Casillis and his wife, Lady Jean. To the rest of Maybole, they were happily married and a perfect match. Unfortunately, Lady Jean had another True love, Johnny Fa who was known as 'The King of The Gypsies.' They both had known each other since childhood, but her family wanted Lady Jean to marry into wealth.

One day, Johnny Fa returned to the area and convinced Lady Jean to elope with him. The two arranged to run away when the Earl was next on business in London.

On the dark and stormy night that the Earl had gone to London, Lady Jean packed her things and made off with Johnny Fa. Unbeknownst to them, the Earl had changed his mind and decided to come home as the storm was causing the journey to become dangerous.

Suddenly, the eloping couple bumped into the returning Earl's Carriage and the Earl was enraged to find Lady Jean and Johnny Fa together. The Earl ordered his men to capture Johnny Fa and his men and bring them to Casillis House.

There, The Earl made Lady Jean watch as Johnny Fa and his men were hung from the Dule tree until they were dead.

Lady Jean was imprisoned for the rest of her life in the 'Prospect Room' of Maybole Castle with nothing else to do but embroider a tapestry of her tragedy.

It is said that the Earl had Johnny Fa and his men's heads carved around the Oriel window of the Prospect Room and these can still be seen to this day.

It is also said that on a particularly stormy night, the image of Lady Jean can still be seen in peering out of the Oriel window...

Have fun completing our word search and colouring in the images, answers are on page 31.



Straiton News

"August rains; the best of the summer gone, and the new fall not yet born. The odd, uneven time." Sylvia Plath



Summer suns were certainly glowing, but we were lucky that we did not have the prolonged extremes of temperature that there were down south. Now the nights are drawing in and there is more of an autumnal feel to the days.

It has been a busy time for our community, starting with a successful week in the charity shop

in Maybole during May to help with the upkeep of the village toilets. These are so appreciated by visitors as well as the regular bus and lorry drivers.

One of the highlights of June is always Straiton Show and this year was no exception, despite the day being cold and, at times, very wet. Show Day would not be complete without Show Day Teas, and the downpour around noon had folk flocking into the hall for a welcome hot tea. As usual there was a vast array of delicious sandwiches and cakes – a great example of the community coming together to help with funding for the hall. Well done to the hall committee for hosting this ever-popular event.

The end of June always heralds another popular event, the sponsored walk in aid of church funds. Although the day had to be changed, this did not deter the determined walkers who enjoyed a warm evening with the advantage of



a good breeze to keep the midgies at bay. After their invigorating walk there was a welcome supper in the hall. The next church date to remember is Communion on the first Sunday of November.

This has been the ideal summer for the launch of pétanque in the park, which has been very popular, and now the indoor activities will be resuming in the hall over the autumn to spring period.

Among these is the guild which meets on the second Wednesday of the month at 2.30. We have a very interesting and varied schedule, beginning with a talk on Buddhism in October and Exercise for Seniors in November. We look forward to welcoming new as well as former members.



The monthly quiz continues in The Black Bull on the first Saturday of each month and the Sunday morning quizzers meet in The Buck. The community was delighted to have the news that The Buck had been awarded "Best café in Ayrshire" through Scotland's Business Awards Show, Ayrshire Show Winner. This is so well deserved and a tribute to the hard work

that Paul, Lindsay and Courtney have put in to making the tearoom the success that it is.

Finally, many thanks to the teams who dress the shop window and have kept up with so many changes, from football and the World Cup, through tennis and Wimbledon to seaside and holidays. Your creativity is very much appreciated, and very often is the topic of conversation.



Launch of The "Grayflower" in Memory of Billy "Gray" and Dr "Flower"dew

Carrick Coastal Rowing Club launched a new boat The Grayflower on 3rd May this year and they are delighted to be able to offer this wonderful boat to smaller crews or two or three.

The boat was built by the boatbuilders from the Club that meet every Tuesday to build and repair existing rowing boats. The name Grayflower was chosen in memory of two past members – Billy Gray and Dr Jimmy Flowerdew – both from Turnberry the Boat was launched by Mrs Pat Gray and her family, followed by a small gathering of family, friends and members of CCRC.



HALLOWEEN WORD SEARCH : Answers

H	N	O	T	E	L	E	K	S	G
A	A	C	A	N	D	Y	U	H	J
H	B	R	D	A	D	S	O	V	I
B	I	T	E	E	K	S	O	O	B
X	L	Z	R	D	T	X	M	C	E
P	U	M	P	K	I	N	K	Z	W
R	P	P	B	M	P	P	U	B	Q
F	I	H	K	O	E	A	S	A	T
S	U	W	I	T	C	H	E	T	H
N	I	W	W	D	M	G	Z	I	P

PUMPKIN	GHOST	WITCH
CANDY	BAT	SPIDER
HAUNTED	BOO	SKELETON

J & J LINDSAY
— FUNERAL DIRECTORS —

115-117 Wilson Street, Girvan, KA26 9AR
Tel: (01465) 712145 Email: info@jjlindsay.com

Serving Girvan and the surrounding areas

Feet First

All your foot health needs in the comfort of your own home by a fully qualified foot health practitioner.

For further information call
Annie on: **07897 958 760**

- Toenail Clipping
- Corns • Calluses
- Verrucas etc.

All treatments include a massage with moisturising foot lotion.

Litter Letter

BEACHCOMBER

loves nothing more than picking up rubbish, here's his day!

Shore walkers don't usually approach me. I'm part of the seaside landscape with my rubbish bag, my litter picker stick, my gloves. And, of course, who knows what's inside that plastic sack I'm carrying. There's the ocean, the waves, the dog walkers, the sand, the happy kids shouting and running, the boats, and then me, the beachcleaner.

It's a 2.5 mile round trip on the curve of the Maidens beach. I don't pick up much glass these days, less and less each year. And that means, less weight in the disposable bags (they can get heavy) and, crucially, no dangerous shards of bottles that can seriously injure someone.



After a hot weekend, the detritus is nighttime party leftovers. That means loads of cans and plastic bottles, mostly of beer and fizzy drinks.

Then come cartons of fast food off supermarket shelves. I shift through the remains of fire pits to find junk that won't burn.

Beer cans, plastic bottles, tee shirts, doggie bags.... On the return trip- the patrol is 1.25 miles each way- I go into the high grass. This is where the wind and the waves push garbage to a final resting place. The stuff is easy to find as a lot of it is a ghastly orange or horrible purple. I'm getting good with my grabber at snaring the tangled up mess that's stuck in the tough shrubbery or stubborn rocks that line the upper reaches of the shore.

Of course, this is where lazy pathetic dog walkers

throw their waste bags. It's the bane of all litter teams. These people diligently round up their pooch crap, neatly tie it up in the little baggies, then chuck them rather than take them away to a rubbish bin. Yes... the volunteer litter squads do pick them up. Though I do want to track down these selfish dog owners and personally shove their deposits through their postboxes.

Back to the run of the mill stuff such as abandoned or lost clothes. If they're not too drenched (they can be heavy) I'll pick them up: swimming trunks, a lonely running shoe or plastic clog, a tee shirt, a baseball cap. And there's intriguing flotsam from the sea: bits of a boat that's gone overboard and carried away by waves, miles of ocean rope buried deep in sand, a hunk of wood or a yellow sea boot.

Wire, nappies, tissues, bbq trays, a vape, a sock... Sometimes, I will get a nod from some of the beach walkers. A brief acknowledgement as if to say: 'Thanks, I guess someone's got to clean up the mess.' One woman, with the inevitable terrier bouncing around, asked if I get paid. Another stopped to say how clean the beach is- as if it was all down to me and not the tireless volunteers and all the courteous and careful beach goers who carry their rubbish home.

Yesterday, a robust pensioner in his eighties stopped me as I scrounged around in the tall tough grass and explained that he'd been holidaying at Maidens beach for seventy years. 'Used to be fishing boats in the harbour before it silted up' he remembered. I told him my late father-in-law owned one of those busy trawlers he saw.

We both scrunched up our eyes to look west into the sun and the sea, him with his seven decades of memories. Me with my bag of rubbish. 'Well, see you soon.' he said as his terrier pulled at him. 'Happy hunting..' Then we went our separate ways. He north to The Barwhin headland. Me to the nearest bin.

~ The writer is a member of the Maidens Litter Action Team





CHRISTMAS party night!

The next event from Maybole events committee is our Christmas party night on 19th December at Maybole town hall. £45 per ticket which includes a meal and live music from local band escapade.

To book tickets please email mayboleeventscommittee@gmail.com.

Strictly over 18s only this time.



Maybole events committee would like to thank everyone who came along, enjoyed and supported our gala. Everyone in the parade looked amazing, as did the local businesses who dressed their windows. Special thanks to our king Angus, Queen Orla and attendants Sophie and Matthew.





Open Studios Ayrshire at *The Gatherings*

Over 40 artists and crafters took part in Open Studios Ayrshire for one weekend in September, opening their home studios and exhibition spaces to the public to showcase their work.

Here in Maybole, The Gatherings was turned into a gallery and shop by locals Emily Devine, Gemma Sangwine and Jaz Melville. 'We all produced new work inspired by our hometown of Maybole.' Gemma said, 'there is a wealth of creative history here, from the boot and shoe factories to the beautiful architecture of the Castle and Town Hall, and the surrounding beaches and countryside'.

Emily created a hand drawn graphic print featuring the places and objects significant to the area. The iconic Tacketty Boots were reimagined by Gemma in a Schiaparelli inspired shoe hat in wool felt with gold sequins and Jaz penned a poem to go alongside her graphite drawing of a pair of Tacketty boots. Throughout the weekend Jaz had her easel set up and was demonstrating her pastel drawing technique for the pet portraits she does to order, a lovely way to commemorate a beloved canine companion or furry friend.





Meanwhile Emily was working in a different format, making hand drawn pet portraits on her computer graphics tablet. Once done, the drawing can then be printed and framed or even applied to a multitude of different products from scarves and tote bags to shoes and onesies. Gemma had her full range of hats and hair accessories on display, and ready to try on. She can make pieces to order, in the desired colour and size, and also hires them out, perfect for a one-off event like a wedding. Emily and Gemma also ran a pop-up shop at The Gatherings for two weeks, as Handbags & Gladhats, showcasing Emily's leather bags and Gemma's millinery, just in time for customers to get decked out for Ayr Races.

Their Ladies Night Clothes Swap was a great success, a fun way to revamp and style your wardrobe by swapping garments and accessories whilst enjoying a glass of fizz!



ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

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

RATES PER ISSUE

1/8th page advert.....	£50
1/4 page advert.....	£95
1/2 page advert.....	£180
Full Page advert.....	£250

*10% Discount for full year's booking

We print 4,500 magazines and distribute these through most doors throughout North Carrick, the newsletter is also available online which means your advert will be seen by a vast audience.

EVOLUTION
Designs
Limited



designer of the
North Carrick Community Newsletter

Graphic design for leaflets, magazines, business cards, adverts

Bruce Square, Crosshill
t: 07753 111 038

www.evolutiondesigns.org.uk



Expert advice on investments and retirement planning.

Retirement Planning
Investments
Inheritance Tax Planning
Life Assurance

Take control of your financial future today...
Call us today on **01292 282116** for a free consultation.

www.langfinancial.co.uk