

Spring  
2025



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**Material for the Summer 2025 issue should be emailed to  
John Adams - [grizzly121@me.com](mailto:grizzly121@me.com)  
by Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> April, 2025 - No Later please**

Charity Numbers: Mochrum SC003300 Millisle SC010621

## LETTER FROM THE LOCUM MINISTER

**I ONCE KNEW a lady who had not spoken to her sister for over 40 years.**

The reason, she claimed, was that their mother had promised her one of her coats (made of fur – it was a long time ago!); yet when the mother died, the sister had taken the coat for herself.

As a consequence, the sisters never spoke again. And by the time I knew her, I expect the coat would be moth-eaten and not wearable anyway.

In the Bible, Jesus calls us to forgive again and again. (Matthew chapter 18:21), and St Paul says “God has reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the task of handing on this reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5:18)

Forgiveness is a difficult subject. When we have been hurt, and the person who hurt us shows no sign of being sorry, it is almost impossible. But can there be reconciliation in such situations?

A madman once went into a shop carrying a hammer. He swung it around and smashed all the china and pots on display. People stopped to watch, or ran to escape to a safe distance.

Some hours later, an old man came to the shop with a box under his arm. He took off his coat, and began, very patiently to mend the pots. No-one, you can be sure, stopped to watch him!

Forgiveness is never easy; sometimes it can take a lifetime, but keep trying. And in the meantime, try to make the first move, and at least be reconciled.

God bless,

**Steve**  
REV. STEVE FULCHER

# CHURCH SERVICES LIST

Services start at 11.00am and led by our Locum Minister  
Rev Steve Fulcher unless otherwise stated

**There may also be additional services arranged throughout Easter week  
so please keep an eye out for posters and Facebook notifications.**

*Refreshments are served at the end of the service, all are welcome Please come and join us.*

## JANUARY

26th Mochrum

## FEBRUARY

2nd Millisle

9th Mochrum

16th Millisle

23rd Mochrum

## MARCH

2nd Millisle

7th Mochrum (*Friday - 2pm*)

9th Mochrum

16th Millisle

23rd Mochrum

30th Millisle

**World Day of Prayer Service**

**Mothering Sunday**

## APRIL

6th Mochrum

13th Millisle

20th Mochrum

27th Millisle

**Easter Sunday with the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

## MAY

4th Mochrum

11th Wigtown Parish Church *11.30am*

18th Mochrum

25th Millisle

**Martyrs United Service**

**with the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

## JUNE

1st Mochrum

8th Millisle

15th Mochrum

22nd Millisle

29th Mochrum

**Pentecost**

# MOCHRUM PARISH CHURCH REGISTER

## **FUNERALS**

*“The Lord Is My Shepherd”*

Edna Carruthers	Ayr/Mochrum
John McCulloch	Barrachan
Margaret Ramsay	Millisle
Lyn Somerville	Kirkcowan

## **ELDERS' DUTY LIST**

<b>February</b>	Ann Wadsworth/Anne Highman
<b>March</b>	Moira Adams/Jane Nelson
<b>April</b>	Elizabeth Wallace/Vicky Parker
<b>May</b>	Ann Wadsworth/Anne Highman
<b>June</b>	Moira Adams/Jane Nelson

## SERVICES OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Sunday 23rd February**  
**MOCHRUM CHURCH**

### **COMMUNION DUTY ELDERS**

Ann Wadsworth, Moira Adams, Ann Gorman and Jenni Gray

**Easter Sunday 20th April**  
**MOCHRUM CHURCH**

### **COMMUNION DUTY ELDERS**

Elizabeth Wallace, Jean McKay, Jane Nelson and Vicky Parker

**There will also be a service of Holy Communion at Millisle Kirk on the 25th May**

## **FLOWER ROTA FOR MOCHRUM KIRK**

*(if the dates do not suit please swap and let us know)*

<b>January</b>	<b>12th</b>	Rose Christie
	<b>26th</b>	Ann Gerrish
<b>February</b>	<b>9th</b>	Anne Highman
	<b>23rd</b>	Annie Hyslop
<b>March</b>	<b>9th</b>	Vicky Parker
	<b>23rd</b>	Rosalind Smithson
<b>April</b>	<b>6th</b>	Barbara Shaw
	<b>20th</b>	Moira Adams
<b>May</b>	<b>4th</b>	Jenni Gray
	<b>18th</b>	Anne Highman
<b>June</b>	<b>1st</b>	Barbara Shaw
	<b>15th</b>	Wedding Flowers
	<b>29th</b>	Rachel Wadsworth

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## **COFFEE MORNING ROTA**

<b>February</b>	<b>5th</b>	Barbara Gaw and Ann Gerrish
<b>March</b>	<b>5th</b>	Pauline Todd and Elizabeth Wallace
<b>April</b>	<b>2nd</b>	Jean Hobbs and Frances Baird
<b>May</b>	<b>7th</b>	Jane Nelson and Kay Gibson
<b>June</b>	<b>4th</b>	Ann Wadsworth and Elsie Kirby

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## **ADVERTISEMENTS**

We have spaces on our advert page  
If anyone would like a slot the cost is £20 per annum

## MOCHRUM GUILD REPORT

**SPRING IS ON ITS WAY... but before we look ahead, let's just look back to the end of last year.**

What a fantastic afternoon we had at our November meeting when we were entertained by a local lady, Donna Brewster. Donna is a local historian who came to talk about one of her books, "The House that Sugar Built". She had been inspired by the home she had previously lived in for many years and researched extensively to tell us about the life of one young mixed-race woman who was brought to live in Wigtown by her father who had made his fortune in Barbados.

The afternoon was opened by Anne

Highman who welcomed everyone. She led us in prayer followed by a reading called 'Why Remember'.

Donna then took to the floor enthralling us with the history of Margaret McGuffie. She had taken eight and half years to research and write this impressive book. Donna then read a passage from the book which we all found emotional, honest, brave and passionate, making it a personal quest to inform everyone about this lady who no one spoke of and history had passed her by.

After some questions from the floor, Anne then thanked Donna and closed the meeting with a prayer which was followed by refreshments.

In December our group (with a few friends), attended St. Medans Golf Club for a splendid Christmas Meal (*see photo*). With our tummies full and permission from the chef Sheralyn, we kept with tradition and finished off with a couple of Christmas Carols ... some old and some new. Also, this month, the committee handed out nine gifts and approximately 30 Christmas cards to fireside members and friends.

To start the New Year off we held our January meeting a little differently. Friendship soup was the order of the day. The meeting started an hour earlier at 1pm when Jenni Gray welcomed nine members and five visitors to our afternoon.

Jenni then said grace and hot soup and bread were served.



While everyone tucked in, Jenni tested all with a food-related quiz, then afterwards reading out a poem.

Tea and cakes were handed out and while everyone munched away Jenni give us another quiz which Babs and Steve took 1st prize.

The meeting was concluded by Jenni giving a vote of thanks to all who organised the afternoon.

We then finished by singing a few Scottish songs before heading off home.

Time to look ahead. Dates for your diaries:

**Tuesday 11th February 2pm**

Ann Todd, My Work in Kenya

**Friday 7th March 2pm**

World Day of Prayer at Mochrum Kirk

**Tuesday 11th March 2pm**

AGM, Quiz & Activity

**Tuesday 8th April 2pm**

Louise Liddell, Fisherman's Mission.

Please do come along and attend any of our meetings. Anyone and everyone will be made very welcome plus we promise a nice cuppa afterwards.

**Vicky Parker** SECRETARY

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## PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SCIO

**IT SEEMS RATHER a long time ago since our last Carnival Week (2024) and now we are in the planning stage for Carnival Week 2025.**

We had a very good week with all the events being well attended ... even the rain could not stop us! We had numerous events catering for locals and visitors alike. A few different events are planned for this year so once our programmes are out please purchase one and support us.

I have had an idea to mark our Armistice Sunday. I have already shared the idea of poppies being created by knitting, crocheting or sewing to make a display on the Mill Hill. This is in the early stages so a decision as to what to create will be decided at a later stage.

Our Bowling Green plays an important part of our village so when The Community Association were approached for assistance we were keen to help financially so last year we donated £1000 to be used wherever necessary.

We held a stall at the Christmas Craft Fair selling goods of "The Man" to boost the "Statue Fund" which we manage for repairs and cleaning. Items are on sale all year

round so if you wish to purchase any please contact us and we will assist. They can also be bought at the Caravan Site throughout the summer.

A Christmas Party was held for the children ... and it's not Christmas without Santa paying a visit! Once the children had their games and food the big man popped in to deliver each child a gift.

Our Christmas Lights switch-on did not go as expected so we are now looking at different avenues to improve this.

The Hogmanay Party was again a fantastic night and this will be an annual event but alas we will have to find alternative music for this year as "Kippy & Co" are already booked elsewhere.

We as a committee will be providing the community with our list of planned events for the year which will be displayed on the notice board, on local websites and on facebook so watch this space.

Our meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month at 7pm at the Caravan Site. Our meetings are open to everyone and new volunteers would be made very welcome.

**Davina Kiltie**

SECRETARY

## MOCHRUM SESSION CLERK'S REPORT

**IN THIS FIRST issue of a new year I like to write about the special times we have had in the Church throughout the Christmas period.**

Although it now seems like an age away we are still in the season of Epiphany so although many of you have already said to me that you had a quiet time I hope also that you had an enjoyable time and I wish you all the very best for 2025.

I know that for some Christmas will have been difficult, 2024 may have brought sadness with the loss of loved ones, loneliness, ill health, and many are still struggling with the cost of living. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all, and whatever this year has in store I know that God will walk through it with us.

I particularly like the weeks leading up to Christmas. I like the lunches for Guild, Rural, Thursday Club and the Senior Citizens tea, among others. Not just for the food, although it is nice not to have to think about the cooking, but for the company and the crack.

I really enjoy our Service of Lessons and Carols with the Creetown Silver Band which is always so well supported and so lovely to see the church so full.

The refreshments which follow are equally well received and it was good that everyone was able to stay and enjoy a time of fellowship together.

This is always traditionally held at Mochrum on the 3rd Sunday of Advent and I have already asked them to put it in their diary for this year when we will hold it on the 14th December. Make sure it is also in your diary, it is not to be missed.

My other favourite service of the year is the school service which was held in the Kirk on Friday 20th December. All the young people took an active part and must have worked really hard as they all read so well and they had us all joining in with their singing.

On Christmas Eve we held a Christingle Service, which regrettably was not as well supported as we would have liked but we all had great fun decorating our orange, although when finished it probably didn't have as many sweets on it as it maybe should have had as we nibbled a few in the making!

The church always looks so beautifully festive during Advent and we are so thankful to Alan Murphie for the beautiful flower arrangements and to Claire Nash and her team who do such a magnificent job in decorating the tree ... not forgetting all their hard work in taking it all down again and putting everything away ready for next Christmas.

Sadly Claire has said that she now feels that the time has come to retire from this role and although we realise that as time passes things have to change we are so grateful to Claire, and her team for the many years of service they have given in arranging the Christmas and Harvest decorations as well as many of the other events. They have always been willing to give a hand to us and when the need has arisen.

In the last issue of the magazine you would have found an envelope asking for your help towards the rising costs of keeping the Church running and on the 21st December we had the church open

from 9.00am until 12 noon to receive these back.

The Christmas music was playing, the church was warm, the mulled wine was flowing and the mince pies made. Again this was not as well supported as we would have liked but we had an enjoyable time with those who were able to come and it was good to have a wee blether about Christmas's past.

Although not many folks came on the 21st; many of you did return your envelopes either when at the Kirk for a service or by giving it to your district Elder and we offer a huge thank you to you all.

To date we have raised around £2,500 and with the addition of gift aid which I can claim on a number of the donations we should reach upwards of £3,000, so again thank you to you all, but if you haven't yet returned your envelope please do so.

Rising costs are ongoing and as it says on it, we want to keep 'Mochrum Kirk at the Heart of the Community' and we can only do this with your help.

We have started to plan some of the services for the coming year and on the 23rd February at Mochrum we will be holding a Service of Holy Communion. If you are not able to be there and would like to receive home communion, please do let Rev Steve, myself, or your district Elder know and I am sure that this can be arranged.

On the 7th March we shall be holding our World Day of Prayer Service.

On the 11th May we shall be holding a joint service at Wigtown Parish Church in celebration of the Wigtown Martyrs and we shall of course be celebrating

such important events as Mothering Sunday, Palm Sunday, Easter and Pentecost so do please come and join us if you can.

Our monthly coffee morning continues to be held on the 1st Wednesday of the month 10.15 - 11.15am in the Maxwell Hall and in December included a Christmas themed sales table. It was well supported and we are always grateful to the volunteers who provide the delicious refreshments every month.

It is good to see folks getting together; there is always someone to chat to and for some it may even be the only time in the month that they can get together with others, so please come and join them. There is always something nice to eat, and there are also Kirk souvenirs on sale, so if you need a new mug or a shopping bag why not pop along.

Meanwhile we continue to meet for morning worship every Sunday at 11.00am, either at Mochrum or Millisle. The welcome is always warm, the kettle is always on and you've probably guessed by now that we never miss an opportunity to enjoy a cake or two ... so again there is always something nice to eat.

We are blessed to have some very talented people amongst our congregation, quickly hastening to say that I am not one of them! Moira Adams certainly is, and our thanks go to her for the beautiful new Pulpit and Lectern falls which she has recently made for us. Please come and see them if you can. We are here every second Sunday at 11.00am.

Keeping you always in our prayers.

**Jenni Gray**



**THE MAXWELL HALL Management Committee continues to work hard behind the scenes to improve hall facilities and to ensure user groups are being provided with the best possible service.**

Firstly, thanks to Rebecca at No 12 and George Murray for providing additional Christmas decorations, resulting in the hall looking suitably festive for all the Christmas and New Year events.

The hall provided an ideal venue for parties, including the Senior Citizens afternoon tea and the much enjoyed Hogmanay do.

Despite poor weather, we hosted a successful Christmas Fair. Thanks to all the stallholders, volunteers and members of Machars Young Farmers who made this possible.

We now have a Smart Meter installed and have secured a good contract with our energy supplier.

The Men’s Shed team is attending to all minor repairs and we are delighted to report, due to Tony’s ongoing hard work, that D&G Council has completed all their repairs to the building. This means we can move on with decoration and hall improvement plans.

A reminder that we have sports equipment available for use during bookings, including badminton facilities and a parachute for family or party games.

We thank you for your continued support.

*email: [hallcommittee.mhm@gmail.com](mailto:hallcommittee.mhm@gmail.com)*

**BOOKINGS:**

**[hallbookings.mhm@gmail.com](mailto:hallbookings.mhm@gmail.com)**

**SEE PAGE 21 FOR REGULAR EVENTS HELD IN THE HALL**

**Mary Cowan** SECRETARY  
(07810 435117)

**JUDGEMENT TO PRAISE**

May I plead for different eyes to look  
Beyond the horizon of visible human sight  
To the really Real, to the love-energy within Creation.  
To see the reflected face of the Creator in  
The countenance of the stranger, in the eye of the mayfly,  
In the mysteries of space. To recognise even in the cruelties and evils  
Of our evolving world and its humanity, the unrestrainable, irrepressible  
Search for Love.

**Brenda Pike**



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Let us know if you would like your  
organisation included on this list

# MOCHRUM PARISH

## MOCHRUM PARISH CHURCH

Interim Moderator	Rev Eric Boyle	01988 402314
Locum Minister	Rev Steve Fulcher	07484 139736
Treasurer	Ieuan Morgan	
Session Clerk	Mrs Jenni Gray	01988 700948
Organist	Mrs Gill Bateman	
Free Will Offering/Gift Aid	Mrs Jenni Gray	01988 700948
Guild Secretary	Mrs. Vicky Parker	01988 700312
Magazine	John Adams	grizzly121@me.com
Coffee Morning Convenor	Mrs Jenni Gray	01988 700948
Church Flowers	Anne Highman	01988 700353
Church Flowers Distribution	Moira Adams	01988 700263

## PORT WILLIAM DEFIBRILLATOR GROUP

Chairman	Mr Murray Morland	01988 700488
Secretary	Mrs Audrey Kevan	01988 700463

## PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Chairman	Mr Richard Dean	07464 757012
Secretary	Mrs Davina Kiltie	01988 700738

## PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Chairman	Mr Robert Sheppard	
Secretary	secretary.pwcc@gmail.com	

## PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY SHOP

Chairperson	Mrs Jean Hobbs	01988 700703
Secretary	Alison McMaster	01988 700439
Treasurer	Mrs Margo Brawls	01988 700832

## PORT WILLIAM BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Chairperson	Demi Robertson	
Secretary	Joely Barnes	portwilliamtoddlers@gmail.com
Treasurer	Erin McPhillips-Smith	

## PORT WILLIAM SCHOOL PARENT'S COUNCIL

Chairperson	Mrs Emily Nicholson	01988 700203
Secretary	Mrs Claire Cluckie	portwilliamparentcouncil@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Mrs Rachel Wadsworth	

# WHO'S WHO 2025

Please advise of any changes to contact details, etc - J. Adams (grizzly121@me.com)

## PORT WILLIAM GARDENERS' GROUP

Secretary		01988 700955
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## SENIOR CITIZENS' COMMITTEE

Chairperson	Mrs Margaret Gilmour	07825 739049
Secretary	Mrs Mary Cowan	07810 435117
Treasurer	Mrs Dib Penrose	01988 700741

## P.I.R.S.A.C.

Chairman	Mr Kenny Barr	07834 985536
Secretary	Mrs Helen Oxley	07900 046350

## PORT WILLIAM SCOTTISH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

President	Mrs Jean Hobbs	01988 700703
Vice President	Mrs Elaine Milven	07901 623876
Secretary	Ms Elizabeth Dally	07917 858230

## PORT WILLIAM PANTOMIME COMPANY

Chairperson	Mrs Helen Oxley	01988 700757
Secretary	Mrs Linda Plunket	01988 840291
Treasurer	Mr Douglas Ballentyne	01988 700877

## PORT WILLIAM MUGA AND YOUTH BUILDING (PWCDT)

Chairperson	Dr Mike Cooper	01988 700734
Vice Chair	Ed Robinson	07919 577011
Treasurer	Nicola Smith	07774 580132
Secretary	Arlene Morgan	07969 603077

## PORT WILLIAM MAXWELL HALL MANAGEMENT

Chairperson	Mr Tony Cottam	07742 057430
Secretary	Mrs Mary Cowan	07810 435117

## MADAG (MONREITH & DISTRICT ACTION GROUP)

Chairperson	Mr Robert Mckinnel	01988 700117
Secretary	Emma Drysdale	madagsecretary@gmail.com

## PORT WILLIAM BOWLING CLUB

Joint Secretaries	Hamish Paton / Jacqueline Crowther	jxcrowther@hotmail.com
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## PORT WILLIAM SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

Secretary	Mr Richard McElrea	01988 700195
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## PORT WILLIAM LAWN BOWLING CLUB

**IN THE FIRST instance can we offer our apologies to the Community Association for omitting to acknowledge in our article in the last edition of this magazine, their generous donation of £1000 to Port William Bowling Club.**

In our article we included a list of all those who had donated generously to the club but unfortunately and not purposefully, we omitted to acknowledge the Community Association donation. May we now offer a personal thank you to them for their generous donation and their continued support.

Work has continued on the green by member volunteers during the winter but to a lesser degree. We're sure you can appreciate this has also been hampered by the Scottish weather.

Hopefully you've all noticed improvements on the green which is now mostly grass rather than the previous moss. There is still much work to be done and we anticipate it will be at least another two years before we see the green at its best. Fundraising continues and the new lawnmower is now within reach.

Many of the members have continued to bowl indoors during the winter season and

are looking forward to the green re-opening late Spring (April). Regular sweep nights, Tuesday and Friday from 7pm will recommence and the green will be open again for members to practice and fine-tune their bowling skills.

We also encourage those new to bowling to come give it a try who knows you may just enjoy it and be our next champion bowlers!

Our annual general meeting is being held on Wednesday February 12th 2025 at 7.30pm, within the Supper Room, Maxwell Hall. All are welcome, please look out for notifications locally and on social media.

We continue to struggle to find a green keeper and are looking for volunteers to help us with this. You don't have to be an expert or have experience but that would help massively! We have all the equipment needed but need more willing hands.

If you are interested in volunteering and helping out in any way please contact the Bowling Club Co-Secretary below.

**Jacqueline Crowther**

CO-SECRETARY

[jxcrowther@hotmail.com](mailto:jxcrowther@hotmail.com)

(07917 277628)

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## PORT WILLIAM SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

**THE INDOOR bowling in the Maxwell Hall is progressing well this season with 26 active members and great fun for all.**

Membership is still open and the season runs until the end of March. People joining at this stage of the season need only pay a 50% fee (£12.50). No experience? Don't worry! We will tutor you into the game and even supply the bowls to get you started.

We meet every Friday night for a 7pm start and finish by 9pm. Whilst there is a

measure of competitiveness we do not take it too seriously and you would initially be teamed up with someone who would show you the ropes.

Come along and join the friendly fun and meet the villagers. All welcome.

For further information please call me for a chat.

**Richard McElrea**

(01988 700195)

## PORT WILLIAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL continues to work on behalf of local communities as a link into the wider Dumfries & Galloway Council.**

We continue to report issues brought to our attention by local residents to the wider Council. Sometimes there is a frustrating wait on responses and actions but we usually get there in the end! Thank you for your patience.

Dredging of The Harbour occurred towards the end of 2024. This is due to be done again in the Spring. There are plans to replace some of the signage on the harbour and to install CCTV. However, the Regional Harbourmaster was unable to give a time-frame for this.

Port William Local Place Plan (LPP) has now been forwarded to the Planning Committee for them to consider and hopefully agree, this is now acceptable and can be placed on Dumfries & Galloway Council website for open access. This committee meets at the beginning of February and the decision will be communicated to us following this. We will keep you updated on developments.

Please look out for an invitation to come together to view and discuss the final document and our way forward with the LPP. The Community Council would like to express their gratitude and thanks to all who have contributed to this important piece of work, thank you!

Sadly, we are still awaiting the Ward 2 event requested as a result of LPP consultation exercises. We should have further news on this early February. Again, please look out for invitations to this ward event and come and have your say about local traffic issues.

**Windfarm donations:** please remember to submit your applications via simple letter to the Community Council for the next

round of windfarm donations. Gentle reminder: no form to complete, send a letter to the Community Council Secretary explaining who you are, what you do, what are the benefits to the community, what you would like a donation for and if possible, the amount (*secretary.pwcc@gmail.com*).

Unfortunately, we are losing another member of the Community Council. Leom Gray who has been our Secretary for a number of years since moving into the area (Mochrum), has decided it's time to move on. Leom has been an excellent, dedicated and very efficient Secretary and will be missed greatly by us all. We would like to express our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Leom for all his dedication and support over the years and wish him well for the future.

The Community Council needs new members. We encourage enquiries about becoming a member and would welcome new members from the age of 18+. If interested please go to [www.dumgal.gov.uk](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk) to find out more about what this entails. Anyone interested can join us at our monthly council meetings to observe what happens before making a final decision. Please email our secretary if you are interested: *secretary.pwcc@gmail.com*

Members of the community are welcome at monthly meetings. However, if you wish to raise an issue or discuss anything it is helpful to let us know so we can re-direct your query if not suitable and allocate time accordingly. Please email: *secretary.pwcc@gmail.com*

Port William and District Community Council meets in Maxwell Hall Supper Room at 7.30pm on the last Wednesday of every month apart from July, August and December.

**Jacqueline Crowther**



**ON FRIDAY 6th December, around 50 senior citizens were treated to a Christmas party in the Maxwell Hall.**

Thanks to kind donations from The Community Shop and from Windfarm money via the Community Council, a splendid afternoon of feasting and entertainment was enjoyed.

Carnival Queen Katelyn welcomed guests on their arrival on what was a dreich winter's day.

The entertainment began with a performance from Port William Playgroup children, followed by songs from pupils from P5-7 from the primary

school.

Caroline's Catering, as always, provided a super afternoon tea which was enjoyed and appreciated by all present.

The "Wee Orchestra" then took to the stage, led by Helen McColm. Their tunes were well received and thoroughly enjoyed.

The final guest was Santa himself who gave out goodie bags to the party goers who certainly had their dreich winter's day brightened up.

**Mary Cowan**  
SECRETARY

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## FOR THE GARDEN OF DAILY LIVING

**I'm sure many of you are thinking about what you are going to plant in your garden this year. I came across this recently and thought I'd share it with you ...**

### **Plant three rows of Peas**

- 1) Peace of Mind;
- 2) Peace of Heart;
- 3) Peace of Soul.

### **Plant three rows of Squash**

- 1) Squash Gossip;
- 2) Squash Grumbling;
- 3) Squash Selfishness.

### **Plant four rows of Lettuce**

- 1) Lettuce be Faithful;
- 2) Lettuce be Kind;
- 3) Lettuce be Patient;
- 4) Lettuce really Love one another.

### **No garden is complete without Turnips**

- 1) Turnip for meetings;
- 2) Turnip for service;
- 3) Turnip to Help one another.

### **To conclude our garden you must have Thyme**

- 1) Thyme for Each Other;
- 2) Thyme for family;
- 3) Thyme for Friends.

Water freely with patience and cultivate with Love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

**Ann Wadsworth**

## WHAT FIELDS CAN TELL US

**WHEREVER we go here we're surrounded by fields. They nearly all have names, given to them by the people who owned or worked the land.**

The section shown, from a larger map of Blairbui which Jock McMaster kindly provided, shows that many of the names are explained by a physical feature, for example "Standing Stones" has two small standing stones in it, and "Wee Field" is very small! But, for example, who was Jamie of "Jamie's Hill", and who was Nannie and what was planted in "Nannie's Planting"?

Villages which have expanded may have had fields with names where houses now stand. Dourie Drive in Port William was once "McCall's Field". Why? We have a possible clue but would welcome any definite information.

These names may tell stories from our past. We understand that a field by the Dowies house has been known as "Pentland" or "Horse Park" since the late 17th Century, after a horse which brought his rider, John Maxwell, all the way back from a battle near Edinburgh in one journey. John's father felt that Pentland had done more than

enough work for a lifetime in that journey, and built a stone-walled field for him to retire to pasture.

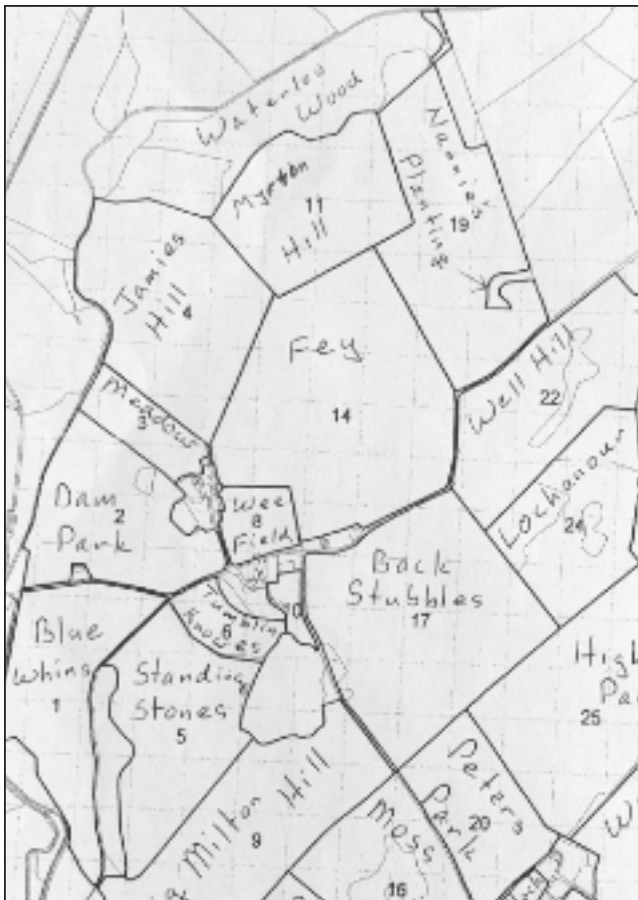
Farmers, and others, will know many of the names, and we'd like to contact local farmers about this. If you haven't heard from us already, you might do! (Feel free to decline!)

Old maps held in Stranraer Library contain field info which we'll investigate, thank you to Jean Hobbs for this tip!

The idea is to have a display of Machars fields with the stories and information we've gleaned, and perhaps host a local history talk, if we get enough to do this.

If you have any knowledge or stories, we'd be delighted to hear from you if we don't get to you first!

**Janis Edgar  
and Dru Hatcher**



## NATURAL HISTORY OBSERVATIONS - OCT - DEC 2024

**THE FIRST WEEK** in October saw several Speckled Wood butterflies in the garden at Seymour House whilst a walk to King's Green Port William, produced a flowering plant of Common Storksbill.

Ballerina Waxcaps appeared in the grass in both the front and rear gardens of Seymour House. The Waxcaps have been a regular feature in the back garden but never appeared before in the front garden.

The middle of the month saw an unusual event in the house. A fully grown frog appeared in our bathroom followed two days later by a further different one! The only explanation I can come up with is that they somehow squeezed through the back door but it must have been a tight squeeze indeed!

At the end of the month Ramping Fumitory, Red Dead-nettle and Bladder Senna were all in flower at Seymour House whilst a brief walk to Second Sands at Port William saw a single Little Egret.

Towards the middle of **November** a walk along Back Bay at Monreith there were several plants of Rock Samphire. The sun was low lighting up the magnificent faulting in the sea cliffs here. Later in the day a Little Egret was again seen at Second Sands, Port William.

The following day, this time at Front Bay Monreith, Common Gorse and Ivy were in full flower, the Ivy being festooned with Insects. What a precious plant this is for all kinds of species as it is in flower for much of Winter. Curlew and a Red-throated Diver were seen from the beach.

**December**, like much of November was mainly dull and dreary but there were several days when hundreds of Golden Plover were seen at Second Sands, Port William.

On 29th of December, a visit to the Monreith Estate found the following plants in flower: Ivy, Daisy, Butcher's-broom (*see photo*), White Butterbur, Yellow-flowered Strawberry (*see photo*), Lesser Periwinkle (*see photo*), Dandelion and Gorse. A sign of the times with Global Warming the main culprit I suspect.

Alan Wak



## MOCHRUM/MILLISLE PARISH DIARY 2025

PLEASE NOTE that this is only a small selection of what is happening in and around Port William. - if you would like your events mentioned in the magazine please send an advertisement or even a poster direct to the Editor at grizzly121@me.com

**For a Full List of Church Services please see Page 3**

### FEBRUARY

Wednesday	5th	10.15am	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	6th	7.00pm	<b>Craft Night</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Tuesday	11th	2.00pm	<b>Mochrum Guild</b>	meets Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	20th	7.30pm	<b>Port William SWI</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Wednesday	26th	7.30pm	<b>Port William Community Council</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	27th	7.00pm	<b>Port William Community Association (SCIO)</b> (All Welcome)	The Hub, Kings Green Caravan Park

### MARCH

Wednesday	5th	10.15am	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	6th	7.00pm	<b>Craft Night</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Friday	7th	2.00pm	<b>World Day of Prayer</b>	Mochrum Kirk
Tuesday	11th	2.00pm	<b>Mochrum Guild</b>	meets Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	20th	7.30pm	<b>Port William SWI</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Wednesday	26th	7.30pm	<b>Port William Community Council</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	28th	7.00pm	<b>Port William Community Association (SCIO)</b> (All Welcome)	The Hub, Kings Green Caravan Park

### APRIL

Wednesday	2nd	10.15am	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	3rd	7.00pm	<b>Craft Night</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Tuesday	8th	2.00pm	<b>Mochrum Guild</b>	meets Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	17th	7.30pm	<b>Port William SWI</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	24th	7.00pm	<b>Port William Community Association (SCIO)</b> (All Welcome)	The Hub, Kings Green
Wednesday	30th	7.30pm	<b>Port William Community Council</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall

### MAY

Thursday	1st	7.00pm	<b>Craft Night</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Wednesday	7th	10.15am	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	15th	7.30pm	<b>Port William SWI</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Wednesday	28th	7.30pm	<b>Port William Community Council</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	29th	7.00pm	<b>Port William Community Association (SCIO)</b> (All Welcome)	The Hub, Kings Green

### JUNE

Wednesday	4th	10.15am	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	5th	7.00pm	<b>Craft Night</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	19th	7.30pm	<b>Port William SWI</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Wednesday	25th	7.30pm	<b>Port William Community Council</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	26th	7.00pm	<b>Port William Community Association (SCIO)</b> (All Welcome)	The Hub, Kings Green

## REGULAR MEETINGS

*weekly unless stated*

### MONDAY

9.30 - 11.30am	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>	Maxwell Hall
7.00 - 10.00pm	<b>Port William Bridge Club</b> <i>Autumn to Easter</i>	Maxwell Hall
7.00 - 10.00pm	<b>Kirkinner Bridge Club</b> <i>Easter to Autumn</i>	Kirkinner Hall
7.30 - 9.30pm	<b>Community Bingo</b>	Maxwell Hall

### TUESDAY

9.00 - 11.00am	<b>Library and D&amp;G Customer Services</b>	Maxwell Hall
2.00 - 4.00pm	<b>Guild</b> <i>monthly</i>	Maxwell Hall
6.00 - 7.30pm	<b>Youth Group</b>	Port William MUGA

### WEDNESDAY

10.15 - 11.15am	<b>Kirk Coffee Morning</b> <i>monthly</i>	Maxwell Hall
10.00 - 11.00am	<b>Pilates</b>	Maxwell Hall
11.30am - 12.30pm	<b>Indoor Kurling</b>	Maxwell Hall
1.45pm	<b>Bridge Club</b>	Wigtown Golf Club

### THURSDAY

9.30 - 11.30am	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>	Maxwell Hall
10.30 - 12noon	<b>Knit &amp; Natter</b>	The View
1.30 - 2.30pm	<b>Tap Dancing</b>	Maxwell Hall
7.00 - 9.00pm	<b>SWI Craft Group</b> (open to all) <i>(1st Thursdays)</i>	Maxwell Hall
7.30 - 9.30pm	<b>Scottish Women's Institute</b> <i>(3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays)</i> (visitors welcome)	Maxwell Hall

### FRIDAY

3.00 - 5.00pm	<b>Library and D&amp;G Customer Services</b>	Maxwell Hall
7.00 - 9.00pm	<b>Short Mat Bowling</b> <i>(arrive no later than 6.50)</i>	Maxwell Hall
7.30pm	<b>Bingo</b>	Garlieston Hall

### SUNDAY

11.00am	<b>Morning Worship</b>	See Rota on page 3
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***NB:** Not all exceptions to regular meetings are shown.  
Please refer to individual organisations if in doubt!*

## MILLISLE SESSION CLERK'S REPORT

**WELL, HERE WE ARE in 2025! What a busy year it has been.**

I like to think we are settling in well to the Union with Kirkinner and linkage with Mochrum. Kirkinner Church and Manse are now sold and we look forward to seeing how new owners transform them.

Forteviot Hall has also been sold and the new owner has already started renovations.

Christmas services were well attended with Rev. Fulcher having a very busy time between the two churches and three schools plus the many visits he does in the parish.

It was good to have Garlieston School children back in the church, all taking part in their Christmas Service with great enthusiasm.

At the regular Christmas Service the reading was done by a very capable young lady, Naomi Sloan, who was visiting her Great Aunt, Anne Gorman. It is really enjoyable to have young people take part.

Morag sent a lovely message at Christmas time. She certainly had a very different celebration in the sunshine. I spoke to her one day and it was 40 degrees !!

Lynn has completed her first year as treasurer and I would like to thank her for her very efficient work. It is not an easy job and she has certainly been on top of it.

When I am on the subject I would also like to thank everyone who contributes to the work of the Church ... Rev Fulcher, Gift Aid Convenor Anne, Tom with the Glebe, Willie the Church Officer, Hazel Safeguarding and George the Bell Ringer ... plus all the folk who willingly do the readings on a Sunday

Last but not least everyone who helps in any way with the very important cuppa after the service. It is good to see so many staying and the chat is usually good!!

Take care everyone and may 2025 be filled with health, peace, prosperity and love, as we remember those we have lost during the year.

Just like to finish with a quote I came across which I would like to share with you.

*"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much".*

**Jean McKay**

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## MILLISLE DOOR DUTY

If you are unable to come on your listed day, do not worry, as I am sure someone else will step in!

*Whoever is on door, can you shut outside door before you come in and one of you take offering plate, and take to front during last verse of second last hymn. THANKYOU.*

<b>January</b>	<b>19th</b>	Alison Graham & George Houston
<b>February</b>	<b>2nd</b>	Anne Gorman & John McDonald
	<b>16th</b>	Agnes Adams & Willie Johnston
<b>March</b>	<b>2nd</b>	Jean McKay & Norrie McIntosh
	<b>16th</b>	Bunty Cloy & Tom Galloway

# MILLISLE PARISH REGISTER

## DEATHS

*“The Lord Is My Shepherd”*

Harold Gray                      Sorbie  
Margaret Ramsay                Garlieston

## BAPTISM

*“Children are a gift from the Lord”*

Anne Catherine Mae McMillan

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## FLOWER ROTA FOR MILLISLE

<b>February</b>	<b>2nd</b>	Alison Graham
	<b>16th</b>	Jean McKay
<b>March</b>	<b>2nd</b>	Hilda Johnston
	<b>16th</b>	Ginny Arnott

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## SORBIE VILLAGE HALL WEEKLY MEETINGS

### MONDAY

10.00am **Aerobics** (Trish active.communities@dumgal.gov.uk)  
1.30pm **Hobbies** *1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month* (Rosamond 01988 850237)  
6.00pm **Dog Training** (Mel Duncan 07880 590703)  
7.30pm **Carpet Bowling** (Neil Milven 01988 840396)

### TUESDAY

9.30am **Yoga** (Susie McKay 01988 850258 / 07703 677117)  
6.00pm **Lego Club** (Morag Cuomo 01988 8850270)  
7.30pm **Sorbie WI** *3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of month* (Rosamond 01988 850237)

### WEDNESDAY

7.00pm **Dog Training** (Mel Duncan 07880 590703)

### THURSDAY

7.00pm **Yoga** (Susie McKay 01988 850258 / 07703 677117)

### FRIDAY

9.30am **Homestart Wigtownshire** (Office 01776 706984)

### SUNDAY

2.00pm **Dance Class**

# Port William School Pantomime

**PORT WILLIAM Primary School held a pantomime in December. We performed 'Panto Pandemonium' in the Maxwell Hall to a sell-out crowd.**

We worked hard practising our parts to make the panto the best we could. Primary 5, 6 and 7 had the main acting roles and primary 1-4 joined in with the singing.

Everyone had fun and enjoyed themselves and everyone in the audience seemed to enjoy it too.

Everything went very smoothly on the night and we were proud of how it turned out.

There was also a group that made all the props and worked hard to make the Panto come to life.

It was a great night with lots of laughs and great entertainment. We would like to say a big thank you to Mr Barr for doing all our lights and sound, Mrs Marshall and Mrs Doherty our teachers

for making this pantomime possible, Mrs Old and Kathryn Smith for helping us make props and the pupils for learning their roles and performing so well.

## Christmas Service

As well as our panto at the end of term, we also visited Mochrum Church for our Christmas Service.

Thank you to everyone who came along to join us and to the organist and the minister for a lovely service. A special thank-you to the church for paying for our transport.

The end of term is always a busy time in school and we enjoyed our annual Christmas parties too. We had been working hard with Mrs Hornell learning some social dances and had great fun performing them as well as playing our usual party games.

**Primary 7 Pupils**

