

Winter
2024



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Material for the Spring 2025 issue should be emailed to
John Adams - grizzy121@me.com
by Sunday 19th January, 2025 - No Later please

Charity Numbers: Mochrum SC003300 Millisle SC010621

DO YOU HAVE A FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS SONG?

IT IS ONLY October as I write this, but yesterday I saw a house in Stranraer decorated for the Season, and my wife has twice mentioned Christmas shopping ... so, do you have a favourite Christmas song?

Perhaps Shakin' Stevens "Merry Christmas Everyone" or Mariah Carey "All I Want For Christmas Is You?" Elton John sang "Step Into Christmas" and The Pogues did "Fairytale Of New York".

Maybe you prefer the traditional "While Humble Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" or "O Little Town Of Bethlehem"?

My personal favourite is technically not a Christmas song at all. Joan Osborne (and later Alanis Morissette) sang "What If God Were One Of Us?"

Because for all the glitter and parties and excitement, Christmas is the festival of God come to Earth as a human being – Jesus Christ.

Now ministers are known to bang on about the REAL meaning of Christmas. That has all been done before, although it is important.

We can point out that for many this time of year is incredibly lonely and isolating; that in 2023 the Israeli army closed the church

in Bethlehem (a city surrounded by a huge and dominating concrete wall) and prevented Christians in Bethlehem gathering for worship. Given the on-going wars in the Holy Land it is not impossible this will be repeated in 2024.

Yet for all that we proclaim Jesus is the "Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6)" who began the process of changing this world, who is the light that shines in the darkness (John 1:4) who is our hope. And we are called to continue the work He started. It seems no nearer fruition than it did when He was born, but remember the Jewish dictum "He who saves one life saves the whole world." Every move we make to build peace and reconciliation makes a difference.

Mochrum Church will be OPEN to celebrate the birth of Jesus, as listed elsewhere in this magazine. Especially the Carol Service with Creetown Band on 15th December, and the Christingle Service for all ages on Christmas Eve at 6pm. You will be very welcome.

With every blessing for this Christmas and 2025,

Steve

REV. STEVE FULCHER
LOCUM MINISTER

VOLUNTEER WANTED - MACHARS BASICS FOOD BANK

THE MACHARS Basics Food Bank is desperately seeking a volunteer to collect food parcels from Newton Stewart and to then deliver within Port William area.

There would normally be around five

deliveries on a fortnightly basis - and also possibly emergency out-of-hours call-outs.

If you feel that this is something you can help with please contact the coordinator: **Ann McCollum on 07874 934387.**

Cover Photo: Port Man and Storm Ashley **by Louise De Lisle**

CHURCH SERVICES LIST

Services start at 11.00am and led by our Locum Minister

Rev Steve Fulcher unless otherwise stated

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

NOVEMBER

- 3rd Mochrum
10th **Remembrance Sunday**
Port William War Memorial **10.50am**
Millisle Morning Worship **12 noon**
Garlieston War Memorial **1.30pm**
Sorbie **2.15pm**
Kirkinner **3.00pm**

please look out for posters
to confirm times

17th Mochrum

24th Millisle

Sacrament of Holy Communion

DECEMBER

- 1st Mochrum
8th Millisle
15th Mochrum **Service of Lessons & Carols with Creetown Silver Band**
16th Millisle **(2pm)** **Garlieston School Service**
Mochrum **(date/time to be arranged)** **Port William School Service**
22nd Millisle **Nativity Service**
24th Mochrum **(6pm)** **Christmas Eve Service with Christingle Packs**
Midnight Service **(11.30pm)** **Kirkcowan Parish Church**
25th Morning Worship **(10am)** **Whithorn Priory**
Morning Worship **(11am)** **Wigtown Parish Church**
29th Mochrum

JANUARY

- 5th Millisle
12th Mochrum
19th Millisle
26th Mochrum

FEBRUARY

- 2nd Millisle
9th Mochrum
16th Millisle
23rd Mochrum

MARCH

- 2nd Millisle
7th Mochrum **(Friday - 2pm)** **World Day of Prayer Service**
9th Mochrum
16th Millisle
23rd Mochrum
30th Millisle

MOCHRUM PARISH CHURCH REGISTER

BAPTISM

“Children are a gift from the Lord”

Charlie Edward Roger Cooper

FUNERALS

“The Lord Is My Shepherd”

Carole Dacre	Port William
David Thomas	Port William
Gwen Ronnie	Port William
Elizabeth Jenkins	Wife of the late Rev Andrew Jenkins <i>(Pulpit Supply Minister Mochrum Kirk)</i>

ELDERS’ DUTY LIST

November	Ann Wadsworth/Anne Highman
December	Moira Adams/Jane Nelson
January	Elizabeth Wallace/Vicky Parker
February	Ann Wadsworth/Anne Highman
March	Moira Adams/Jane Nelson

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 24th November

MILLISLE KIRK

FLOWER ROTA FOR MOCHRUM KIRK

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

November	3rd	Jane Nelson
	17th	Lorraine Ker
December	1st	Jean Hobbs
	15th	Ann Wadsworth
	29th	Jenni Gray
January	12th	Rose Christie
	26th	Ann Gerrish
February	9th	Anne Highman
	23rd	Annie Hyslop
March	9th	Vicky Parker
	23rd	Rosalind Smithson

COFFEE MORNING ROTA

November	6th	Rachel Wadsworth and Helen McTier
December	4th	Barbara Mellor and Vicky Parker
	<i>(with Sales Table)</i>	
February	5th	Barbara Gaw and Ann Gerrish
March	5th	Pauline Todd and Elizabeth Wallace

JUST FOR FUN!

Can you work out from the clues below, some of the ingredients needed to make a Christmas Cake?

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Coloured sweetener (2) | 6) Jumbled Epics (2) |
| 2) Lift ups? | 7) Easter gifts |
| 3) Used on icy roads | 8) Are these electrical? |
| 4) A simple bloom (2) | 9) Earthy Salmond (2) |
| 5) Concubines? | 10) This could be a goat |

Answers on Page 22

MOCHRUM SESSION CLERK'S REPORT

AS YOU READ THIS I expect that like me you are beginning to think about Christmas ...

Time certainly seems to pass quickly and although we haven't had much of a summer I hope that you have been able to enjoy at least some time out and about or maybe just sitting in the garden enjoying God's gift of nature even if He hasn't been very generous to us when it comes to warm sunshine this year.

But having said that He has blessed us with a beautiful and peaceful place in which to live and our thoughts and prayers are very much with those whose homes and lives have been devastated by recent weather patterns or who have been caught up in the many wars which now seem to be escalating around the world.

Sadly I know that for some of you there may also have been some bad times over these past months and life doesn't get any easier but I hope that there have also been some good times and again our thoughts and prayers are with you all.

In the Kirk we have been blessed with the appointment of a new Locum Minister, Rev.

Steve Fulcher, whom some of you may have already met. Steve started his ministry with us on the 1st of September and will lead us in worship each Sunday morning whether here or at Millisle and his ministry will encompass two days per week serving Mochrum Parish on a Tuesday and Millisle on a Thursday so if you haven't met him already I am sure that you will be seeing him out and about.

But his costs do have to be met. Sadly as we all get older and less mobile the numbers attending church have declined but the expenses in keeping the Kirk running continue to increase. Maintenance costs are ongoing to keep the Church in good repair. Our heating system is old and needs regular servicing and no one wants to sit in a cold church but the cost of oil continues to rise.

We want to keep Mochrum Kirk at the heart of the community but we can only do this with your help. In the magazine this month you will have found an envelope - please help us by placing a donation in this envelope, however small, either by cash or a cheque, payable to Mochrum Parish Congregation. Whatever you can afford, bring it along to the Kirk, on **Saturday 21st December** when we shall be open from 9.00am until 12 noon. Tea, coffee and mince pies will be available and you will see the Kirk beautifully decorated and ready for Christmas.

Or why not join us for our Service of Lessons and Carols with the Creetown Silver Band, 11.00am on **Sunday 15th December** or our **Christmas Eve Service** at 6.00pm on the 24th or come along to our regular Sunday morning worship every other Sunday at 11.00am. Refreshments are served and the welcome is always warm.

If you are unable to come to the Kirk please remember we are always there for you and you can hand your envelope to your district Elder at anytime.



One of the things I really enjoy at our services is the hymn singing and I would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to Jill Bateman our organist.

At the end of Carnival Week we were pleased to welcome the Carnival Queen, the retiring Queen and members of Port William Community Association to our morning service. We were also delighted to have the magnificent Port William Quilt made by Moira Adams on display (*see photo*). Jill then came along to play for us at the Songs of Praise in the Marquee which was very well attended, with some favourite hymns sung and some poems written by local people read.

Our annual Bursary has been awarded and went to Ella Wallace who is studying Physiotherapy at Glasgow Caledonian University and this year we were also able to award an additional Bursary from monies donated from the organisers of the Flower Festival who are sadly no longer able to

continue in this role and this award went to Shannon Perry who is going to be studying French and Spanish at Heriot-Watt University. We wish them both every success in their future careers.

We have enjoyed our annual Ecumenical Service at Cruggleton, celebrated Harvest Thanksgiving at Millisle, and are looking forward to the baptism of Charlie Cooper. We have arranged the Services of Remembrance and will now start to think about the Service of Lessons and Carols with the Creetown Silver Band.

Please come and join us if you can, and why not also come along to our monthly coffee morning, every **first Wednesday of the month** in the Maxwell Hall Supper Room, 10.15 to 11.15am, only £2.50 for tea/coffee and lovely home-made baking.

We are here for you and keep you and those you love always in our prayers.

Jenni Gray

PORT WILLIAM SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

AT THE END of the lawn bowling season many players migrate indoors to the short mat version.

The two clubs are separate entities but many of the lawn bowlers are members of both clubs and engage in both activities.

Short mat bowling is held in the Maxwell Hall on Fridays from 7-9pm. Although the same bowls are used it is very different to lawn bowling - but equally as challenging and great fun!

Friday is a sweep night and the cost is £2 per person to play. The hall is open at 6.45 for equipment setup. All players should be there no later than 6.50 when the draw will be made for play to start at 7pm sharp.

The short mat bowling annual general meeting was held on 11th October.

Membership fees for the 2024/25 season are: £25 Adults £12.50 Students/Juniors.

All abilities come and play, from those more experienced to those completely new. We welcome new members and anyone wanting to give it a go. Please come and try, you may surprise yourself and others by winning the sweep!

If you don't have any bowls, no problem, we have spares. If coming out in the winter months and darkness is an issue, don't let that be a barrier as I am sure we can organise some lifts and car shares ... just let us know. So, come along and join us for some Friday evening fun and a post-bowling drink in The View. A friendly welcome awaits you.

For more information please contact: Richard McElrea 01988 700195

Jacqueline Crowther

MOCHRUM GUILD REPORT

HELLO EVERYONE and welcome to our Guild report. We start this season with our new strategy for 2024-2027 which is 'Let Us Build A House' with our first-year theme being 'Sure Foundations'.

We held our first meeting on **Tuesday 10th September** at Maxwell Hall and it was great to meet up with old and new friends. Ann Wadsworth opened the meeting by introducing our speaker for the afternoon, Rev. Steve Fulcher who came along to talk about our new theme. Steve then took to the floor and thanked everyone for the invite to today's meeting.

He then went on to explain about the Guild and how it has been around for many years. "Sure Foundations" is our new theme and Steve gave us quotes from the bible and memories from his life regarding this topic. Steve said he has always tried to have good foundations through his life and this has helped him in his ministry. He then passed out five written questions about how we have sure foundations at home and for us to discuss with each other our thoughts. Afterwards, we all read out, as a group, the Guild Rededication Prayer.

Also in September we held an Autumn Meet & Eat Soup & Sweet event again in Maxwell Hall (*see photo*). This was well supported with approximately 75 folk attending enjoying food and fellowship together.

A big thank you to everyone who came along, sold tickets, cooked and donated food. Also a huge thank you to everyone who worked extremely hard during the day making it a great success.

What a turnout we had at our **October meeting** with eight members and eight visitors. It was lovely to see so many folk attending our second event of the new season.

Ann Wadsworth welcomed everyone and read Psalm 23 followed by a well-meaning poem about life being like a jigsaw. She then introduced us to her two brothers, Phil and Alec, who were visiting Ann and her family.

Phil had agreed to take our meeting and give us all aspects of life in verse and song. Phil got us to warm our own vocal cords first by joining in with him and his guitar to a changed Christmas tune which took a few people by surprise but joined in. After this, Phil gave us several songs and poems covering everything from farming life, love, death, outings and life in general, ending with a poem about having good foundations in your life followed by a reading. Most of the songs Phil had wrote himself and were very good indeed with some being very moving while others very humorous.

Phil finished with a great round of applause then Ann thanked her brother and finished with a closing prayer which was followed by tea and refreshments.



Our next meeting will take place on **Tuesday 12th November** at 2pm where Donna Brewster shall be talking about her book, "The House That Sugar Built".

We shall be enjoying a **Christmas Meal** together on **Wednesday 11th December** at 12.30pm at St. Medans Golf Club. Please contact Mrs Vicky Parker on 01988 700312 if you would like to attend.

We are always looking for new members to join us. Any new members and visitors will be made very welcome.

DATES FOR YOUR NEW DIARY:

Tuesday 14th January (1pm) Friendship Soup, Quiz & Cuppa.

Tuesday 11th February (2pm) Ann Todd ... My Work in Kenya.

Vicky Parker
SECRETARY

GALLOWAY TALKING NEWSPAPER

HI MY NAME is Kevin Parker and I volunteer for the Galloway Talking Newspaper.

The charity was established in the 1990's and we produced our first recording back in June 1994. We aim to help folk in our area who are registered blind or visually impaired.

We have a team of approximately 20 volunteers who produce the "talking newspaper". Each week there will be four or five volunteers who will read articles from the Galloway Gazette and the Stranraer & Wigtownshire Free Press. Normally we aim

to have around 50 articles to read, ranging from headlines, intimations, letters and the latest sports news.

The recordings are saved onto a USB and sent out to our loyal listeners.

The service is completely free, we provide a USB player and each week listeners receive their yellow pouch containing the USB. Once they have listened, they simply return it back in the pouch at no cost.

If you would be interested or perhaps know someone who would benefit, then please let me know on 07780 478215.

PORT WILLIAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

IT'S BEEN A SUPER Autumn Term with our children taking part in a whole variety of events and experiences.

These include Lighthouse Music P1-3, Machars Rugby Festival P4-5, ADA Computer/STEM Day at the Douglas Ewart High School for P5s, Scotland Maths Week and much more!

We celebrated **Harvest Festival** with Rev. Steve Fulcher in our Harvest Assembly along with Mary and George Pattison who, with helpers, shared all their superb skills and fun in "Apple Pressing Day" with all pupils - which was brilliant! Thank you to everyone who supported our children's learning.

School Christmas Fair - Tuesday 3rd December 6-8pm Everyone welcome to attend, a special a "visitor" will be in his grotto!

A variety of local craft stalls will be present too as well as bakery, pupil craft tables, raffles, tombolas, children's activity room and Christmas cafe. Led by Parents & Friends Group for school fundraising. Everyone welcome!

Christmas Church School Service in the last week of school (date/time to be confirmed).

Look out for the **School Christmas Panto!**

Mrs Lesley McDevitt
PARTNER HEAD TEACHER

KIRKINNER AND PORT WILLIAM PRIMARY PARTNERSHIP



THE MhM committee continues to make improvements to the fabric of the Hall and the activities available there.

We have a new outdoor sign in place thanks to Helen Oxley for donating and to the Men's Shed for fitting it. Thanks to Windfarm money we have been able to purchase sports equipment for use of any hall users or individual groups. Details can be found on our Facebook page "Friends of the Maxwell Hall" and all messages will be dealt with accordingly.

Thanks to a kind donation from Bob and Rebecca at No 12, we have a new cooker to use before we embark on a complete kitchen refurbishment. We also now have WiFi!

Tony Cottam, our chairperson, is devoted to relentlessly continuing working with D&G Council to address all issues with the fabric of the building. Our sincere thanks to him and once the council carry out their repairs, we can go ahead with our plans to refurbish the kitchen and downstairs toilet followed by redecorating the building.

Several new fitness classes have started and bookings for the hall continue to rise.

Our next big event is our **Christmas Fair on Saturday 23 November**. We have over 20 stalls booked in as well as RAM photography who will be there to take family photographs like they did last year. Santa's Grotto will be in place with an opportunity for children to write their letters to Santa.

Machars Young Farmers will provide the catering at this event. Look out for posts and posters closer to the event.

Finally, a thank you to Julie Pope who won the Maxwell Hall Quiz Sheet and donated her prize money back to the Maxwell Hall Funds. Thanks also to the Tap Dancing Group for their generous donation. These gestures are very much appreciated.

Thanking everyone for continuing to support our Hall.

email: hallcommittee.mhm@gmail.com

BOOKINGS:

hallbookings.mhm@gmail.com

Mary Cowan
07810 435117

SEE PAGE 21 FOR REGULAR EVENTS HELD IN THE HALL

No. 12

AS YOU MAY have seen, since we paused the "Open Space" at the end of May, we have been organising renovation works on multiple fronts to update the house without changing too much of its character.

We're getting close to being able to re-open the main areas for the "Open House", but

also the "Creative Space" and "Music Room" will also be up and running very soon.

We're currently targeting 3rd November for our first "Open House", but please keep an eye out on our Facebook page, plus posters in our window and local notice boards for updates.

Contact us at Number12PW@outlook.com

Bob & Rebecca Sheppard

PORT WILLIAM MEN'S SHED

THE SHEDDERS have continued to carry out projects for the local community and have several more lined up to see us through the winter months.

If you have any projects that you think we could help with, then send an email to Number12MensShed@hotmail.com and we will add you to the list.

Bob Sheppard



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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

Interim 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 2024

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

PORT WILLIAM GARDENERS' GROUP

Secretary 01988 700955

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

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Vice President Mrs Elaine Milven 07901 623876
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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

PORT WILLIAM SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

Secretary Mr Richard McElrea 01988 700195

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PORT WILLIAM LAWN BOWLING CLUB

THE CLUB continues to thrive and we now have in excess of 30 members which is great news. Here's hoping we can increase this number next season!

We are still not a competitive club (yet) but the season was enjoyed by many members and visitors who participated in the twice weekly sweep nights on Tuesdays and Fridays. We regularly had 18+ people on the green on these occasions. It was also great to see folks out on the green outside of this practicing and fine tuning their bowling skills!

Children from Port William Primary School have also been on the green supported by members from the Club and some of their teachers. Bowls were loaned to us as we currently don't have any children's bowls. We are in the process of purchasing some so the children can hopefully have bowling as a regular activity on their curriculum.

Carnival Week saw the annual children's bowling competition which is supported by a local family. There were a number of local and visiting children who engaged with this competition which was won by a local lass who is a very good bowler. We hope she will join us back on the green along with other children who I'm sure you all agree, are after all, potentially the bowlers of the future.

We also held an "Open Come Try Bowling Session" during Carnival Week for people to come and try bowling and join us in some light refreshments. Members and new bowlers alike enjoyed a nice couple of hours on the green. We hope this will become an annual event on the Carnival Week programme.

Carnival Week also brought other good news. The Community Association very kindly awarded Port William Bowling Club the accolade of "Community Group of the Year 2024". This was proudly accepted by one of our co-secretaries, Hamish Paton. What an honour to be recognised for all the hard work by the management committee and club members. The trophy is now proudly displayed in the clubhouse.

Sadly, the lawn bowling season came to an end for us in September, a wee bit earlier than usual but work is needed on the green. To celebrate the end of the season a final sweep for members

and visitors was held and enjoyed by all who attended, particularly the refreshments that followed including the homemade cakes. We are all looking forward to 2025 and welcoming new and old members back to the Club.

During the winter the hard work to restore the green will continue. A small group of members, who worked hard pre and during the season, will continue to volunteer their time working on the green and surrounding areas. This will be under the guidance of the green convener and temporary green keeper. There is much work to be done and we are busy trying to raise funds for the larger, more expensive projects such as new lawnmower and replacement of banking and ditches. To date we have received contributions to this from the local windfarm funds via Port William & District Community Council, Port William Community Shop, Port William Pantomime Company, Wigtownshire Sports Council, The Galloway Association of Glasgow and Jas. T. Howat Charitable Trust. In addition, a lawn bowling focused quiz was circulated as part of fund-raising efforts which has also helped to boost the funds.

The quiz and prize of £25 was won by a local person, Joyce Corcoran. Well done Joyce for your efforts and all your correct answers! Hopefully we'll see you out on the green next season.

Thanks are extended to all groups mentioned above and any of you who purchased the quiz. All of your support and contributions are much appreciated and will be put to very good use. Thank you!

We continue to struggle to find a green keeper and are looking for volunteers to help us with this. You may have seen appeals round and about or on social media. 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 see contact details below.

The AGM will be held in February 2025 please look out for notifications.

Jacqueline Crowther

Co-SECRETARY

jaxcrowther@hotmail.com

Tel: 07917 277628

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.

Issues with The Harbour and degeneration of surfaces raised by residents have been brought to the attention of our Local and Regional Harbour Masters. These are being looked into and solutions sought. New signage is also being considered around The Harbour area. Dredging of the harbour occurred in mid-October. It is hoped this will be an annual occurrence and the strategy used may help reduce the “Port William stink”.

Port William Local Place Plan (LPP) is now with the printers, we are on the final leg of what feels like a long journey but we are almost there. Once the LPP is received from the printers a request will go to the team at D&G Council for it to be registered and put on their website for public access.

The name of the LPP is “Port William ... Our Dose of Vitamin Sea”. This name was chosen via a poll on social media, thanks to all who submitted suggestions. We hope you agree it is very appropriate for the village.

Once agreed and registered, a meeting for the community will be arranged in the Maxwell Hall for people to come and discuss the LPP again and view it for themselves. A copy will also be made available in the library in Maxwell Hall.

The Community Council will continue to lead on the LPP going forward and it will be reviewed annually. This is not the end ... it is a 10-year plan. We can amend and

change this as and when there are changes and developments in the village.

Some further actions taken arising from the LPP consultation exercises include the erection of a sign at Maxwell Hall. This sign was generously donated by a local person and erected by the Men’s Shed

There are more activities in the Maxwell Hall and its use increased generally. New equipment has also been purchased which will hopefully see the introduction of more activities soon and there are more planned for the New Year.

Sadly, we are still awaiting the Ward 2 event requested as a result of LPP consultation exercises. This is where we can bring our concerns about traffic in the area to the attention of those responsible for implementing changes.

Please continue to look out for notification of this event in the village and on social media. This will be your opportunity to come and discuss any traffic issues or concerns you may have.

The Community Council donations from our local windfarms have again been distributed amongst the local communities and groups applying for some of these funds. A total of £5,500 from the Killgallioch Community Benefit Fund and Carscreugh Windfarm Community Fund has been distributed this year. These funds are received annually.

Any local group can apply for a donation. There is no form to complete, just 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.

Since the parish magazine was last published elections for the Community Council have been held. All the people on Port William & District Community

Council with the exception of one, have been re-elected.

Richard McElrea, a long serving member of the Council, did not put himself forward for re-election, he felt it was time to bid us a fond farewell. Richard was our dedicated and very efficient contact for Foundation Scotland who administer the Windfarm Funds. We would like to express our gratitude and thanks to Richard for all his dedication and support as a valued member of the Council over many years and wish him well for the future. He will be missed.

The Community Council needs new blood. We encourage enquiries about joining us and would welcome new members from the age of 18 and over. If interested please go to www.dumgal.gov.uk to find out more

about what this entails. Anyone interested can join us at our monthly Community Council meetings to observe what happens before making a final decision. Please email our secretary if you are interested.

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 the secretary.

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

Jacqueline Crowther
secretary.pwcc@gmail.com



THE SENIOR CITIZENS Committee recently organised a “Mystery Tour” with afternoon tea, free of charge, for anyone over the age of 60 and residing within Mochrum Parish.

Around 30 members of our community enjoyed a trip to Kirkcudbright and afternoon tea at The Selkirk Arms Hotel. Feedback from this event has been very positive and we are grateful for donations from various community sources for providing us with the funds for these events.

Our next event is on **Friday 6th December** at 2pm until 5pm in the Maxwell Hall. This will consist of a Christmas afternoon tea,

similar to last year's and will be catered for again by Caroline's Catering. Music and entertainment will also be provided.

A sign-up sheet will be placed in the Spar Shop in the following weeks. There will also be an opportunity on the sheet to sign up for transport if required.

Again, this event is free to anyone over 60 years, residing within the Mochrum Parish. And who knows? Our “Special Guest” may make a return visit!

Watch out for posters with information soon.

Mary Cowan
SECRETARY

NATURAL HISTORY OBSERVATIONS - JUNE - SEPT 2024

EARLY IN JULY a visit to Barsalloch Point found the site as flowery as we had ever seen it in the 19 years of our living in Port William.

Large areas were covered in Wild Thyme (*see photo*), Mouse-ear Hawkweed and Carline Thistle whilst plants of Eyebright were numerous and the area of lichen heathland, a rare habitat, appears to be increasing.

Other flowers present included Wood Vetch, English Stonecrop, Polypody Fern, Burnet Rose and, as usual, Sea Kale on the shore for as far as the eye could see!

The following day we visited the Mochrum Estate area where Loch Hempton and Black Loch are situated, and were delighted to find good stands of Water Lobelia (*see photo*), in both lochs. Other plants seen included Cross leaved Heath, Bog Myrtle, Common Gorse, Bog Asphodel, Fairy Flax, Marsh Cinquefoil, Wild Thyme, Lesser Water Plantain, Star Sedge, Bottle Sedge, Water Horsetail and White Water Lily.

A few days later, we had a circular walk around Port William that included part of Garnet's Walk, with fellow members of the *Bee Positive* group set up to raise awareness of the parlous state of insect populations and in particular, the bees. There were several bees and other insects on the wing albeit nothing like we would have expected just a few years ago. Those identified were as follows: White-tailed Bumblebee, Common Carder Bee, Meadow Brown butterfly and Ringlet.

The flora seen included Tufted Vetch, Hardhead, Ivy-leaved Crowfoot, Marsh Birdsfoot Trefoil, Common Birdsfoot Trefoil, Meadowsweet, Hemlock Water Dropwort, Cow Parsley, Lesser Stitchwort, Bittersweet, Pineapple Weed, Ivy-leaved Toadflax, Lesser Yellow Trefoil, Foxglove, Red Campion, Red Bartsia, Orpine, Bramble species, Yellow Meadow Vetchling, Curled Dock, Red Clover, White Clover, Common Catsear, Marsh Woundwort, Goosegrass, Dandelion species, Great Hairy Willowherb, American Willowherb, Hogweed, Crested Dogstail grass, Cocksfoot grass, Perennial Rye-grass, Polypody Fern, Male Fern, Common Spleenwort, Wall Rue and the Moss *Grimmia pulvinata* (no English name). Birds were not recorded, we were all looking down!!

The **middle of July** I spent some time on the foreshore close to Philip & Mary just up the shore from Port William. Botanically it proved well worthwhile with several interesting plants along with many others. Amphibious Bistort was found on the shingle close to a small Burn providing it with fresh water, Corn Spurrey was close by and a patch of Sea Bindweed was seen, a first in this area for me.

Walking back along the shore looking at the vegetation at the rear of the shingle there were some lovely large areas of Musk Mallow with Wood Vetch growing among it. On the shingle high up on the shore there were several large Oysterplants a rare plant nationally but between Port William and Auchenmalg it can be seen quite readily. Sea Beet, Sea Sandwort, Sea Kale, Sea Mayweed, Sea Radish, Sea Rocket and Sea Campion were, as their name suggests, common along the shore together with a single plant of Sea Spurge, a fast declining species in this area. Other plants included Lady's Smock, Marsh Woundwort, Common Ramping-fumitory, Monkey Flower, Perennial Sowthistle, Lyme Grass and Marram Grass. There were many species of lichen on the larger stones that took up permanence in the sparsely areas of grassland whilst there was evidence of Six Spot Burnet moths, their tell-tale cases on many grass stems.

Several White-tailed Bumblebees were on the wing as I walked on into the village. Towards the end of the month in the garden at Seymour House, Small Copper butterfly, Cinnabar moth caterpillar and Red-headed Cardinal Beetles were found. Birds seen included Redshank, Curlew, Oystercatcher, Ringed Plover and Rock Pipits.

August started well with a Heath Pearlwort in flower on the path beyond the camp site at King's Green in Port William, whilst in the garden a Red Admiral, Peacock and a caterpillar of the Elephant Hawk-moth (*see photo*) were seen.

Towards the **middle of August** we were at Port Castle Bay, not to look at St Ninian's Cave but to see the interesting flora that is here. Several plants of the uncommon Ivy Broomrape were seen growing, as you might expect, among the abundance of Ivy on these cliffs. It was well over flowering, but its large brown upright stems were clearly visible. The Portland Spurge, an

uncommon plant, was dotted among the shingle here whilst fine prostrate stands of Blackthorn were everywhere, an easy way to pick your Sloes later in the year for maybe your Sloe Gin! Other plants seen were Rock Samphire, Sea Kale, Rock Spurrey, Herb Robert, Common Agrimony, Black Spleenwort Fern and an Allium well past flowering.

In nearby Physgill Glen several Speckled Wood butterflies were dancing in the dappled sunlight and near the farm, on a Buddleja, several Red Admiral and Peacock butterflies were seen.

A few days later, on the Monreith Estate a Common Sympetrum dragonfly was seen and several Peacock and a single Painted Lady were mainly on Hardheads. Tufted Vetch and Yellow Meadow Vetchling were still in flower and the Yellow-flowered Strawberry was in flower and fruit! The following day we had a short walk near Barhaskine close to Challochglass Moor and the flora on sparse grassland in the centre of the track was surprisingly good.

There was an abundance of Eyebright flowers, a complex group with many species best left to the experts, but I'm sure there were at least two, maybe more species here. Other plants included Trailing St John's Wort, Lousewort, Lesser Yellow Trefoil, Least Yellow Trefoil and Pineapple Weed. Insects seen were lots of the Wall butterfly, Meadow Brown, Green-veined White, Peacock, Common Green Grasshopper, Common Sympetrum dragonfly and a fast moving Hawker Dragonfly too quick to identify! The rest of August was pretty wet and dismal with very little to record.

September continued weather wise as late August, miserable! However, there were one or two decent days and a trip to Shore Wood near Garlieston and on to Eggerness Point was really nice even though it is not strictly in our geographical area. Sea Aster and Lax-flowered Sea Lavender were still just in flower and many fine species of lichen were on the rocks along the shore. At Eggerness Point, Lisa heard Conehead crickets but try as we might, they never revealed themselves among the tall rushes and grasses. There are two species, Long-winged Conehead and Short-winged Conehead with similar songs! Another visit next year maybe. We then headed for Orkney and on our return, the last day of September, a pair of Speckled Wood butterflies were seen at Seymour House.

Alan Wake



Wild Thyme



Water Lobelia



Elephant Hawk-moth caterpillar

MOCHRUM/MILLISLE PARISH DIARY 2024/25

PLEASE NOTE that this is only a small selection of what is happening in and around Port William. There are always lots of other exciting events going on and some of these dates may be subject to change

particularly over the Christmas period - if you would like your events mentioned in the magazine please send an advertisement or even a poster direct to the Editor at at grizzly121@me.com.

For a Full List of Church Services please see Page 3

NOVEMBER

Friday	1st	10.00am	Mochrum Kirk 'Spring' Clean - please come and help (bring a duster)	
		6.30pm	No. 12, Port William	Taize style service led by Wigtown Churches
Wednesday	6th	10.15am	Coffee Morning	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	7th	7.00pm	Craft Night	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Sunday	10th		REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY <i>See Service List details on page 3</i>	
Tuesday	12th	2.00pm	Mochrum Guild	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	21st	7.30pm	Port William SWI	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Wednesday	27th	7.30pm	Port William Community Council	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	28th	7.00pm	Port William Community Association (SCIO)	The Hub, Kings Green Caravan Park

DECEMBER

Wednesday	4th	10.15am	Coffee Morning with Sales Table	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	5th	7.00pm	Port William SWI Christmas Meal	<i>Caroline's Caterers</i> Maxwell Hall
Friday	6th	2.00pm	to 5.00pm Port William Senior Citizens Christmas Lunch	
		6.30pm	Wigtown Parish Church	Taize style service led by Wigtown Churches
Wednesday	11th	12.30pm	Guild Christmas Lunch	St Medan's Golf Club
Saturday	21st	9.00am	to 12 noon Mochrum Kirk open for Tea/coffee and Mince pies please come along and see our beautiful tree	

JANUARY

Tuesday	14th	1.00pm	Mochrum Guild	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	16th	7.30pm	Port William SWI	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Wednesday	29th	7.30pm	Port William Community Council	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	30th	7.00pm	Port William Community Association (SCIO)	The Hub, Kings Green Caravan Park

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

Wednesday	5th	10.15am	Coffee Morning	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	6th	7.00pm	Craft Night	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Tuesday	11th	2.00pm	Mochrum Guild	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	20th	7.30pm	Port William SWI	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Wednesday	26th	7.30pm	Port William Community Council	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	28th	7.00pm	Port William Community Association (SCIO)	The Hub, Kings Green Caravan Park

REGULAR MEETINGS

weekly unless stated

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

10.15 - 11.15am	Kirk Coffee Morning <i>monthly</i>	Maxwell Hall
10.00 - 11.00am	Pilates	Maxwell Hall
11.30am - 12.30pm	Indoor Kurling	Maxwell Hall
1.45pm	Bridge Club	Wigtown Golf Club
7.00 - 9.00pm	Dance Class	Maxwell Hall

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SUNDAY

11.00am	Morning Worship	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

IT SEEMS like five minutes since I wrote the last report! I am very pleased to say we are now settling in to a routine with Rev. Steve Fulcher, who has been very busy already out and about in the two parishes. It is really lovely to have this happening again.

Since the last magazine, we have had the new sound system installed and as far as I can tell it is a big improvement. I appreciate it might not suit everyone's hearing but we keep trying to do our best.

Work on the notice board at end of the church road is still ongoing, hopefully by the time next magazine comes out it will be done and dusted.

The Council sign saying Sorbie Church is also work in progress. Nothing could be done about that until I had officially changed Church name. This is now done, so watch this space or the sign!

We had a lovely Harvest Thanksgiving Service conducted by Donna, it was good to have her back with us. Thank you to all who helped get the Church ready for this service.

Just a reminder that the Remembrance Service is on the 10th November at Millisle at 12 noon (please note change of time). See page 3 for memorial service times at Port William, Garlieston, Sorbie and Kirkinner. Retiring Collection: Earl Haig Fund.

I have been in touch with Morag and she is settling in well to life in Australia and enjoying being with family. She is attending Church there, and says like us, has a cup of tea afterwards with some lemon biscuits every week (no home baking there!)

As they are in a large town the Church provides services to homeless people who are struggling. They also have a craft shop and book stall at the local market. Morag sends her very best wishes to everyone.

Finally, I hesitate to add this, but as this is the last magazine for the year, I wish everyone a very happy time when festive season comes around and look forward to us all being together in 2025!

Jean McKay



Nest
GALLOWAY

SOON AFTER Nest opened in Wigtown I paid the shop a visit. Having to use a disabled walker it was a relief to find so much space available to walk around and see all the lovely items for sale, from wooden spoons to local pottery. Also there were candlesticks and chopping boards with a difference. Claire Nash has made it so welcoming to all visitors including 4-legged friends. Please do take note of the design of NEST which Claire's daughter Emily created. It was a pleasure to visit. Please do visit to see it all for yourselves. Thank you so much Claire.

Bridget Hillman

ANSWERS TO QUIZ (page 5)

- | | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-------------------|
| 1) Brown Sugar | 3) Salt | 5) Sultanas | 7) Eggs | 9) Ground Almonds |
| 2) Raisins | 4) Plain Flour | 6) Mixed Spice | 8) Currants | 10) Butter |

SORBIE VILLAGE HALL WEEKLY MEETINGS

MONDAY

- 10.00am **Aerobics** (Trish active.communities@dumgal.gov.uk)
1.30pm **Craft Club** 1st, 3rd and 5th Monday (Rosamond 01988 850237)
1.30pm **U3A Table Tennis** 2nd and 4th Monday
3.30pm **Sorbie Junior Sports Club** (Michael 01988 850237)
6.00pm **Mad Mutts Dog Training** (Mel Duncan 07880 590703)
7.30pm **Carpet Bowling** (Neil Milven 01988 840396)

TUESDAY

- 9.15am **Yoga** (Susie McKay 01988 850258 / 07703 677117)
6.00pm **Lego Club** (Morag Cuomo 01988 8850270)
7.00pm **Community Council** 2nd Tuesday of month (Morag Donnan 01988 850288)
7.30pm **Sorbie WI** 3rd Tuesday of month (Rosamond 01988 850237)

THURSDAY

- 9.30am **Homestart Wigtownshire** (Office 01776 706984)
7.00pm **Yoga** (Susie McKay 01988 850258 / 07703 677117)

FRIDAY

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

*We also host meetings for Machars Motorcycle Club, these are not in a regular slot,
please contact Michael (01988 850237)*

PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY SHOP

THIS YEAR WE HAVE DONATED FUNDS TO:

- Port William Green Bowling Club
- Galloway Music Festival
- Port William Short Mat Bowling Club
- Newton Stewart Food Train
- Newton Stewart Sub Aqua Club
- Port William Primary School
- Newton Stewart Ladies Football Team
- Port William M.U.G.A.
- Enable
- Bee Positive
- Port William Baby & Toddlers

Application from local clubs/groups etc are welcome throughout the year,
please apply in writing to the Shop.

Many thanks for all your continued support.

We all wish you a Happy Christmas and Healthy New Year

WINTER OPENING HOURS (TO EASTER) - MON, WED, FRI & SAT 11.00AM TO 3.00PM



Mochrum Kirk Carol Service

with the
CREETOWN SILVER BAND

on Sunday 15th December

11.00 am

followed by refreshments

EVERYONE WELCOME



COME JOIN US: CELEBRATE FOR THE KING IS BORN!!!