

Autumn
2026



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**Material for the Winter 2026 issue should be emailed to
John Adams - grizzly121@me.com**

by Sunday 18th October 2026 - No Later please

Charity Numbers: Mochrum SC003300 Millisle SC010621

FALL COLOURS

WHAT A SUMMER SCORCHER! Some of you might be delighted that finally we have had a memorably hot summer with so much sunshine, rather than our usual grey.

But I happen to be an old redhead. The hair is now grey but the ability for my skin to burn bright red and peel has not diminished throughout the years. What this has meant, in practice, is I have spent much of the summer indoors. When I venture outside, I make sure I have lathered myself in plenty of sunscreen and that I am wearing a rolled up long-sleeved shirt and a hat.

This summer we made a decision to stay in Scotland rather than go to the States to visit family. A good choice, this year, as we have had some lovely breaks in our beautiful country. It has been a summer rather like the summer my wife, Renita, and I dated back in 1984; hot and dry. And over this past year we have been revisiting some of our favourite places while adding some new ones.

One highlight has been a trip out from North Berwick to the Isle of May to see the Puffins. The 24th August will see us on the Paddle Steamer Waverley to Loch Fyne; a day to recreate one of our first dates. But in October we will take a trip to Wisconsin in the States, around the date of our wedding, surrounded by the, 'fall colours.'

Now we know scientifically the cause of the colour change of the leaves on our deciduous trees. As the trees stop producing the strong green pigment of Chlorophyll the bright yellow, orange and red hues that were hidden are now revealed. These autumn colours adorn the leaves on our trees in a stunning display until the leaves finally fall to the ground, their task of feeding the tree accomplished for the season, as the tree enters a season of rest.

We all have seasons in our lives. The ancient book of Ecclesiastes speaks to us, 'There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under Heaven' (Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 verse 1).

Wherever you are in this season of your life, may you know the richness of colour that your life holds; sometimes hidden, sometimes revealed. Hold on to that richness and be prepared to share it with others, that all of us may be richly blessed by your presence in our lives.

For surely that is why we all exist: to brighten one another's lives.

May God's richest blessing be with you and yours, this season. Amen

Rev. Eric Boyle
(INTERIM MODERATOR)

You are always welcome to our regular Sunday Morning Services at 11 am, alternating between Millisle and Mochrum Kirks.

CHURCH SERVICES LIST

Services start at 11.00am unless otherwise stated

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

JULY

26th Mochrum Elder-Led

AUGUST

2nd Millisle Rev Alex Currie

9th Mochrum Rev Steve Fulcher

9th Marquee **3.00pm** **with Port William Community Association**

16th Millisle Elder-Led

23rd Mochrum Mike Johnstone

30th Millisle Donna Brewster

Carnival Week Closing Ceremony with Songs of Praise

SEPTEMBER

6th Mochrum Donna Brewster

6th Cruggleton **3.00pm**

Annual Ecumenical Service – don't forget the torch

13th Millisle Mike Johnstone

20th Mochrum Rev Eric Boyle

Sacrament of Holy Communion

27th Wigtown Parish Church **11.30am**

Book Festival Joint Service

FLOWER ROTA FOR MOCHRUM KIRK

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

July	26th	Jenni Gray
August	9th	Jane Nelson
	23rd	Maria Old
September	6th	Julie Walker
	20th	Elizabeth Wallace
October	4th	Pauline Todd
	18th	Rhona Morland
November	1st	Kay Christie
	15th	Julie Lohead
	29th	Kay Gibson
December	13th	Jean Hobbs
	27th	Barbara Gaw
January	10th	Clare Nash
	24th	Ann Gerrish

Again, thank you to all for putting flowers in the church. It is much appreciated,
especially by those who receive them.

*Church keys are available from Jenni Gray 01988 700948 and also
Robina Richmond at no. 21 just near the church 07950 335492*

Bridget Hillman

MOCHRUM PARISH CHURCH REGISTER

FUNERAL

"The Lord Is My Shepherd"

Mandy Borthwick

Mochrum

May McFadzean

formerly Airylick

ELDERS' DUTY LIST

July	Elizabeth Wallace/Vicky Parker
August	Ann Wadsworth/Gilbert Hyslop
September	Moira Adams/Jane Nelson
October	Elizabeth Wallace/Vicky Parker

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 20th September

MOCHRUM CHURCH

COMMUNION DUTY ELDERS

Ann Wadsworth, Gilbert Hyslop, Jane Nelson and Jenni Gray

*The Sacrament of Holy Communion is a very important part of our worship.
If you would like to receive Holy Communion and are unable to come to church, please contact
Jenni Gray, Session Clerk on 01988 700948 and arrangements for a home visit can be made.*

CARNIVAL WEEK CLOSING CEREMONY

and

SONGS OF PRAISE

With Rev. Steve Fulcher

on SUNDAY 9th AUGUST 3pm

In the Festival Marquee - all welcome

MOCHRUM GUILD REPORT

MOCHRUM GUILD members are enjoying their summer break at the moment and as I write this report the weather is extremely warm so that's me searching for shade.

While we were baking in the heat the committee was busy putting together the new syllabus to start in September. I've seen a sneak preview and what a great line up of speakers are in store for all you lucky people, you will have to come along and see for yourselves.

In the meantime, why not make a note in your diary about a couple of events which will be taking place over the next few months.

Firstly, Galloway Guilds Together are holding an afternoon tea in the North West Castle, Stranraer on **Wednesday 16th September** 2pm costing £17. Please give names to Ann Wadsworth or Vicky Parker if you would like to attend, no later than 23rd August.

Secondly, we shall be having our Galloway Guilds Together Autumn Gathering on **Wednesday 28th October** 2pm in Mochrum Kirk when our speaker will be Steve Munroe talking about his work and knowledge of the local Commonwealth War Graves.

We will resume our meetings on **Tuesday 8th September** and would love to see some new faces. Please do come along and join us, we usually have a speaker followed by a cuppa and biscuit and it lasts about an hour and a half.

Everyone is given a warm welcome to join us at these meetings held in the Supper Room of Maxwell Hall at 2pm. If you would like to become a member of our Guild, membership fees will be taken at our September and October meetings at a very small cost of £19 for the year. Looking forward to seeing you all soon.

Vicky Parker
SECRETARY

COFFEE MORNING ROTA

August	5th	Jane Nelson and Rose Christie
September	2nd	Lorraine Ker and Beth Robinson
October	7th	Francis Baird and Jean Hobbs
November	4th	Sandra & Chris Ducker and Monica McTurk
December	2nd	Moirra Adams and Elsie Kirby

Thank you to everyone who takes the time to do the coffee morning, I do appreciate your help. If anyone else is willing to do it I would be grateful as I am trying to get it only once a year. Please let me know if you can.

Bridget Hillman

PRESBYTERY OF THE SOUTH WEST – TWINNED WITH THE PRESBYTERY OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

On the weekend June 12-14 we were pleased to welcome five members of our twinned Presbytery of the Czech Republic, and what an enjoyable weekend it was.

Our visitors were met on the Friday afternoon at Edinburgh Airport by Steve Flower and Sarah Plant, two members of our Presbytery Twinning Committee. They brought them to the North West Castle for refreshments and the chance to meet with their hosts for the weekend, some past hosts from their previous visit and the rest of our committee. They had been travelling since 3am so were naturally very tired but were pleased to chat and were looking forward to what the weekend had in store for them.

Saturday morning started with our Presbytery meeting, which was held in Stranraer Parish Church where they joined us for morning worship and said how pleased they were to be able to meet with us in this way. With the exception of their Minister they all spoke good English, which was fortunate as none of us spoke any Czech! After worship they had a wander around Stranraer, with a visit to the beach the highlight of their morning as Czechia is completely landlocked.



They then came back and joined us all for lunch before going off to Wigtown where they met with Donna Brewster to learn all

about the Wigtown Martyrs, ending the day with a very enjoyable evening hosted by Sandhead Parish Church with plenty of refreshments, music and singing. This had been originally been planned as a barbecue, but the weather had other ideas!



Sunday morning saw us all at Penninghame St John's where Rev Edward Lyons invited them to take an active part in the service with their leading the readings and telling the congregation about their own church in Czechia. This was followed by lunch, very kindly supplied by Penninghame before they went off to enjoy an afternoon at Kitchen Coos and Ewes.



The remainder of the day was spent relaxing with their hosts before meeting up with us all again on the Monday for a coffee

morning at Leswalt Parish Church and a final get-together before they departed for the long journey home.

Twinning is an exchange of hospitality. It not only builds friendships with people of other nations but helps us to learn from our differences. Presbytery twinning is an opportunity to participate in God's mission based on the understanding that we all have gifts to offer and experiences of life and faith to share. It is also great fun so why not get involved. **Jenni Gray** SESSION CLERK



MOCHRUM/MILLISLE PARISH DIARY 2026

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

JULY

Wednesday	29th	7.30 pm	Port William Community Council	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	30th	7.00 pm	Port William Community Association (SCIO)	The Hub, Kings Green

AUGUST

Wednesday	5th	10.15am	Coffee Morning	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	6th	7.00pm	Craft Night	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	20th	7.30pm	Port William SWI	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	27th	7.00pm	Port William Community Association (SCIO)	The Hub, Kings Green

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

Thursday	1st	7.00pm	Craft Night	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Wednesday	7th	10.15am	Coffee Morning	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Tuesday	13th	2.00pm	Mochrum Guild	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	15th	7.30pm	Port William SWI	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Wednesday	28th	7.30pm	Port William Community Council	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	29th	7.00pm	Port William Community Association (SCIO)	The Hub, Kings Green

PORT WILLIAM BOWLING CLUB

THE BOWLING GREEN opened again in April and many members have been enjoying the regular Tuesday and Friday sweep nights.

It's great fun the winnings are small but it's a good introduction to green bowling and new members are always welcome. No bowls, no problem, we have plenty of spares. Don't want to bowl, no problem, just come along and watch instead. Meeting time is 6.45pm for 7.00pm prompt start cost is £2 per person for bowling.

Work continues on the green by club members who take time out to volunteer. The green is in the best condition it has been for years and we have been getting lots of positive feedback which is very pleasing.

As you probably have all seen the clubhouse has a new sign, we have a new flag and banner, many thanks to Paul Hermiston for his contribution. Looking very smart!!

Two dates for your calendars during Port William Carnival Week:

**Thursday August 6th
Junior Bowling competition.**

Meet at Bowling Green at 1.00pm

**Saturday August 8th
Open Pairs Competition
1st prize £200.**

*Registration 1pm for a 1.30pm start.
£10 entry per pair.*

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ENTRANTS PLEASE CONTACT
Hamish Paton, club secretary
Email: sydtortoise@aol.com Telephone: 07850 516118

A huge thank you to our sponsors **Druchtig Limousines**, also to **Port William Community Association** and the other organisations who continue to give their support to the club.

Thank you to Babs Mellor for her on-going fundraising and organising the tea/coffee/buffet.

Fingers crossed the weather is kind to us. It should be a fun day so please come along and give your support.

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

Hamish Paton
SECRETARY

sydtortoise@aol.com or phone
07850 516118.

PORT WILLIAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL are your link to the wider D&G Council.

Please help us to help our community by bringing any local issues creating concerns or problems to our attention. We can then, if appropriate, bring these to the attention of the wider Council on your behalf. Responses can sometime be slow, please be patient with us. If the issues creating concern are not for the wider Council to deal with, we can relay these to the correct person/people/organisation.

There was a meeting to share and discuss progress to date on a local **tidal pool** on June 18th in Wigtown County Buildings. The expert working on the project, staff from the Solway Coast And Marine Project (SCAMP) and Jacqueline Crowther all spoke about the project.

AI images from the two proposed sites (Port William and Garlieston) were shared with the audience. We are awaiting advice from a marine engineer, the final report and will then decide next steps.

Electric Vehicle Chargers: Following further conversations with D&G Council, we regret to inform you, there will be no other EVC's installed in Port William in the future. To do so requires a lot of work and will cost the Council too much money. This is extremely disappointing and not what we wanted to hear. We will continue to liaise with D&G about this situation.

Village notice board: As you are aware this has now been broken for some time. We are in the process of obtaining quotes for a replacement of a more suitable, stronger one. In the meantime can we ask people to refrain from using the broken side to minimise risk of further damage to this and a completely broken door.

Windfarm donations: Carscreugh funds for distribution amongst local community groups will be available later in the year. Please submit applications to: secretary.pwcc@gmail.com

Applications for windfarm funds from Kilgallioch for community projects need to be submitted now by the individual groups. We no longer receive funds from them to distribute.

You may have noticed the village ladies public toilets were closed again briefly due to a blockage. This is now resolved and toilets back in use.

There was an event on July 22nd focusing on **scams**. This was a collaboration between Police Scotland and the Community Council. We hope any of you who attended found it useful. Please let us know if you would like any further events on scams.

We would welcome more people from the community coming forward to support YOUR Community Council. Please come along to a monthly meeting to observe and discuss what is involved.

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

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 what this is so we can re-direct your query if not suitable and allocate time at the meeting accordingly.

Please email: secretary.pwcc@gmail.com

Jacqueline Crowther

PORT WILLIAM INSHORE RESCUE SERVICE ACTION COMMITTEE (PIRSAC)



THE PORT WILLIAM Inshore Rescue Service continues to provide vital support to the local community and surrounding coastal areas.

Recent months have seen the team respond to several callouts, assisting both recreational vessels and anglers.

We also support local events, offering water safety advice to residents and visitors alike. The dedication of the volunteer crew remains at the heart of the service's success, with ongoing training sessions ensuring that all members are prepared for any eventuality.

At the end of June the volunteer crew and directors of PIRSAC helped to celebrate a milestone achievement – 30 years service by crew member **Gavin Lockhart**. Joining at the age of 16 as a member of the shore crew and then at 19 becoming a member of the boat crew.

Gavin is now one of the helmsmen of PIRSAC III and has been out to probably 100's of calls for help of all kinds and in all weathers. He still has the love for what he does and as the oldest volunteer is currently 76, he could get to 60 years service. Congratulations Gavin and thank you for your service. Long may it continue.

A combination of our fundraising events supported by the wider local community, and a very generous donation from a frequent visitor to the area have enabled us to purchase a new **launch vehicle**. However, our boat PIRSAC III is now 10 years old and so efforts to maintain and upgrade essential equipment are ongoing.

Our **P4P draw** (Pounds for PIRSAC) costs £5 a month to enter. The winning number receives a half share of the total money raised that month with the other half going to PIRSAC.

Looking ahead, the Rescue Service plans to further strengthen community engagement through educational outreach and open days at the station. Please keep an eye on our Facebook Page for details. The team extends heartfelt thanks to all donors and supporters whose contributions enable continued lifesaving operations along the coast.

PIRSAC is totally self-funded. So if you are interested in getting involved as a volunteer, entering the P4P draw or simply can help us in any other way, please contact us by email at pirsac1@gmail.com, by calling

Julie Pope

HEAD OF FUND RAISING



Dates for your diary.

This year's Mystery Tour and Afternoon Tea has been organised for **Saturday 12th September** leaving The Square at 11am. Look out for the sign up sheet in The Spar.

Our **Christmas Event** will take place in the Maxwell Hall on **Friday 4th December** starting at 1pm with entertainment and afternoon tea.

The above events are free for anyone over 60 years of age residing within Mochrum Parish. If spaces are available we shall invite those under 60 years of age or living outwith the Parish to join us at a small cost.

Mary Cowan
SECRETARY



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Frankie Somerville



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8 Arthur Street
NEWTON STEWART
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M: 07850 705200

ian.broll@btconnect.com



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MOCHRUM PARISH CHURCH

Interim Moderator	Rev. Eric Boyle	01988 402314
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	Bridget Hillman	01988 700781
Coffee Morning Basket available	from Jenni Gray	01988 700948
Church Flowers	Bridget Hillman	01988 700781
Church Flowers Distribution	Moirra Adams	01988 700263

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	07484 600151
Secretary	Alison McMaster	01988 700439
Treasurer	Mrs Vicky Parker	01988 700312

PORT WILLIAM BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Chairperson	Kirsty Teasdale	
Secretary	Roz McIntyre	portwilliamtoddlers@gmail.com
Treasurer	Robyn Galloway	

PORT WILLIAM SCHOOL PARENT'S COUNCIL

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

PORT WILLIAM GARDENERS' GROUP

Secretary		01988 700955
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PORT WILLIAM SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

Secretary/Treasurer	Allison Scott	07796 164320
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WHO'S WHO 2026

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

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.

Secretary	Mrs Helen Oxley	07900 046350
Treasurer	Mr Chris Pope	07702 733219
Station Manager	Mrs Jane Dickerson	07973 272307

PORT WILLIAM SCOTTISH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

President	Mrs Jennifer Brodie	07990 844929
Vice President	Mrs Maria Old	07786 882860
Secretary	Mrs Elizabeth Wallace	07483 347069

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	Ed Robinson	07919 577011
Treasurer	Arlene Morgan	07969 603077
Secretary	Emily Nicholson	01988 700203
Bookings/Enquiries	Facebook: <i>Port William MUGA and Community Youth Building</i>	

PORT WILLIAM MAXWELL HALL MANAGEMENT

Chair/Secretary	Mrs Mary Cowan	07810 435117
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MADAG (MONREITH & DISTRICT ACTION GROUP)

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

PORT WILLIAM BOWLING CLUB

Secretary	Hamish Paton	sydtortoise@aol.com 07850 516118
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NUMBER 12 PORT WILLIAM

Co-Chairs	Bob Sheppard 07865 378993 / Rebecca Sheppard 07752 378124	
Secretary	Molly Hanson-Smith	
Treasurer	Jennifer Hendry	

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W.McSHANE PLUMBING & HEATING All types of Plumbing & Gas & Oil work INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE & SERVICING Landlord/Safety Certificate Tel: 01988 500611 Mobile: 07850 013023	PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY SHOP SUMMER OPENING TIMES Every day except Sunday 11am-3pm (Easter to September)	 FAY WALLACE HCPC Registered Mobile Podiatrist t: 07557 225878 e: faywallacepodiatry@outlook.com
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PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SCIO

CARNIVAL WEEK is once more drawing very close.

This year we have several different activities and different genres of music for you all to enjoy from local band “Kippy & Co” to “The Mercenary Fiddlers”, Haig McCulloch, and on our last evening we have “Scotland Rocks” so remember to book your tickets for these events.

Carnival Week has been running for over 70 years but we need more committee members and volunteers to help keep it alive. It takes a lot of organising but the end result is worthwhile. If you feel you would like to join our committee please come to Carnival Week and see for yourself what we do and even lend a hand if you wish.

Kings Green Caravan Park refurbishment is now complete. It had not completed

before we opened so we were a bit quiet but now visitor numbers have risen and compliments about all the work are coming in thick and fast.

Our wardens, cleaners and grass cutters are doing a fantastic job and this was certainly noted by the AA when they visited. We were awarded a **3 Star Gold Award** and a Quality Score of 90% (last year it was 81%) so we are delighted.

Hair Flair sadly closed its doors after serving Port William for 40 years. A collection was organised for Margaret, Alison and Tracey who were overwhelmed when they were gifted a bouquet of flowers, wine and chocolates each. We wish them all the best for the future.

Davina Kiltie
SECRETARY

PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY SHOP

THE COMMUNITY SHOP in South Street, Port William continues to accept and sell unwanted and unused items including clothing and bric-a-brac which are still in good condition.

The profit from these sales enable the shop to support local community projects/groups and initiatives in Port William and surrounding area.

The shop is run by a committee of volunteers who meet four times a year to distribute funds and discuss topics relating to the shop. In recent months the shop has been decorated throughout with some layout adjustments to make a visit to the shop more enjoyable and the items for sale more visible.

A group of willing volunteers man the shop with new volunteers always welcome - this entails either a morning shift (11am-1pm) or afternoon (1-3pm). Relying on volunteers keep the running costs to a minimum while providing opportunities for people to

become involved in the community and meet others.

During the summer months the shop is open every day except Sunday and occasionally (Carnival Week and Easter) home baking is also for sale.

By encouraging re-use of goods we help to reduce waste and promote environmentally friendly shopping by giving items another life.

In the past year we have supported approximately 40 clubs/initiatives in and around the Port William area and could not do this without your help. All donations are appreciated and put to good use.

As we only donate to local charities and occasional national disasters, an application form is available in the shop and all applications will be considered. A list of the successful applications is posted in the noticeboard outside the shop.

Alison McMaster

MOCHRUM SESSION CLERK'S REPORT

AS I WRITE TODAY we are enjoying some lovely summer weather. It certainly helps us to feel better when the sun is shining, and although I know that we will still experience difficult times I am reminded of an old hymn entitled 'Scatter Sunshine'.

In a world where sorrow ever will be known, how much joy and comfort you can all bestow, if you scatter sunshine everywhere you go'.

In my last report I wrote of the proposed union of the parish churches of Millisle and Mochrum with Whithorn and the union of the parish churches of Wigtown with Kirkcowan. This has now been approved by Presbytery and will go to a congregational vote. Once the said unions have been formalised we will then be able to call a Minister, so definitely something to look forward to.

We are indebted to our Interim Moderator Rev Eric Boyle who has ensured that we have been able to continue with Sunday morning worship and we have enjoyed welcoming Rev Alex Currie, Rev Steve Fulcher, Donna Brewster and Mike Johnstone as pulpit supply as well as holding Elder-Led services.

On the **10th of May** we joined with Wigtown Parish Church when we remembered the courage of the Wigtown Martyrs.

In **June** we welcomed to the area visitors from the Presbytery Twinning of the Czech Republic and you can read about this else-

where in the magazine. Then in July we celebrated Sea Sunday, led by Rev Alex Currie and we were pleased to welcome a representative from PIRSAC to this special service, we even had special cake (*see photos*)

We now have **Carnival Week** to look forward to when on the **9th August** we shall welcome the Carnival Queens and members of Port William Community Association to take an active part in our service. This will be followed in the afternoon by the Closing Ceremony with **Songs of Praise** in the Marquee on the Harbour Green. Please come and help to say a big thank you to all of the members of the Port William Community Association who will have worked so hard to ensure that we will have had the most enjoyable week. Requests will be invited so come and sing some of your favourite hymns.

Our annual **Ecumenical Service** at Craggleton will be on the **6th September** and this will be led by Rev Eric Boyle together with ministers from both the Catholic and Episcopalian churches. We hope that you can come along. It is a lovely service with a retiring collection for the work of a local charity, but don't forget the torch. The closing date for our annual **Bursary** which is open to anyone in further education, regardless of age, who resides or has resided within the bounds of Mochrum Parish, is the **26th**



September. Sadly the rules of the bursary only allow for one applicant to be gifted this so please get your applications to me in plenty of time..

Although as I write I don't yet have a date for our service of **Harvest Thanksgiving** we shall be inviting gifts to support the work of the Machars Basics Food Bank.

Our **Guild** will restart on the **8th September** so I hope that you will be able to join with them when they will meet in the Maxwell Hall Supper Room at 2.00 p.m. All welcome.

Our monthly coffee mornings which are an important part of both our outreach and our fundraising continue and are held on the 1st Wednesday of every month at 10.15am in the Maxwell Hall Supper Room. We are very grateful to all who host and provide refreshments for these each month. There is always lots of lovely home baking to enjoy and at only £2.50 for endless cups of tea or



coffee and as much cake as you can eat where else would you get such good value.

Meanwhile we are here or at Millisle every Sunday. Please come and join us. The welcome is always warm; the kettle is always on and there is always cake!

You all remain, always in our prayers.

Jenni Gray

MOCHRUM PARISH EDUCATIONAL TRUST

Applications are invited for a

BURSARY

from the above Trust

The fund is used to assist students in Further Education, who reside or have resided within the bounds of Mochrum Parish or who have close connections with the Parish.

Closing Date 26th September 2026

There will be ONLY ONE BURSARY AWARDED

Applications from previous applicants are welcome

A letter of application should be forwarded to the Session Clerk at the address below:

**Mrs Jenni Gray, Session Clerk, Mochrum Parish Church,
33 Main Street, Port William, Newton Stewart DG8 9QH**

by Saturday 26th September 2026

NATURAL HISTORY OBSERVATIONS:

THE BEGINNING of April was a blustery affair, hardly surprising as it was Easter!

Despite this, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Red Admiral butterflies were on the wing at Seymour House in the first week of the month.

A visit to Monreith Estate, also in the first week saw a lot of the Purple Toothwort in flower together with the Oxlips that inhabit a disused garden area together with an abandoned dwelling. They must have been planted there many years ago.

Spring is gathering momentum with sightings of Common Whitlow Grass, Thale Cress, Hairy Bittercress and Danish Scurvy Grass and on the 10th April at Second Sands in Port William there were nine Brent Geese still with us, no doubt they will be on their way soon.

We had a Twenty Plume moth at Seymour House (*see photo*) on the 12th and we followed this up with a trip to Barsalloch Point where several good flowers were seen including Meadow Saxifrage, Sea-mouse Ear, Cornsalad, Early Forget-me-Not and Spring Vetch (*see photo*). Few-flowered Garlic, a fast spreading non native Allium is turning up on road verges for several miles around in this area, a real pest!

In the Blairbui area recently Meadow Saxifrage, Few-flowered Garlic, Common Dog Violet, Red Campion, Lesser Celandine, Alkanet, Honesty and Common Dog Violet were all flowering and a Red Admiral was on the wing.

Swallows have been seen and heard around Port William in the middle of the month, a real boost after what seems a long Winter! Towards the end of April in the Kings Green area of Port William Bulbous Buttercup, Sea Sandwort, Meadow Saxifrage, White Comfrey, Soft Cranesbill, Cornsalad, Danish Scurvy Grass were all flowering and Spring Squill was just coming into flower. A Sedge Warbler was singing in the shrubs beyond the Kings Green Caravan Park.

A moth trap was put out at Seymour House a day earlier but the cool night produced just four species consisting of 5 Hebrew Character, 1 Common Quaker, 1 Powdered Quaker and 1 Cluuded Drab. Julie our next door neighbour, reported a Holly Blue in the garden on the 28th April and a Swallow was seen at Seymour House the same day.

On her daily walk at the end of April Lisa saw five Whimbrel (*see photo*) on the foreshore at Kings Green. The eyestripe and slightly less regular curve to the bill separate this species from the more common Curlew, a Sedge Warbler was also heard singing from the Blackthorn bushes and a Shelduck was also seen. Bulbous Buttercup, Soft Cranesbill, Spring Squill, White Comfrey, Clustered Mouse-ear, Cornsalad and White Comfrey were all flowering in the vicinity of Kings Green late in the month.

On the first of **May**, the Northern Marsh Orchid once again showed itself in the 'No Mow' area of grassland at Seymour House, the third (or maybe fourth) year we have seen it here.

Barsalloch Point was a riot of colour as the second week of May approached, Meadow Saxifrage, Spring Squill and Sea Kale all flowering profusely whilst Stonechat and Sedge Warbler song was heard.

The cold wind persisted into the middle of May and a walk beyond Second Sands at Port William saw Sea Kale, Common Vetch, Bulbous Buttercup, Ivy-leaved Toadflax all in flower and several large plants of the Oysterplant were just coming into flower. A Sedge Warbler was singing from the Gorse bushes close by.

A week later an Oystercatchers nest was seen on the breakwater at Port William with three eggs, this was a repeat of last year. The grassland by the war memorial at Port William was full of flowering plants including Cuckoo Flower, Common Birdsfoot Trefoil, Burnet Rose, Germanda Speedwell and Cut-leaved Geranium. The mowing of this grass

APRIL TO JUNE 2026

appears to have been delayed this year, giving the plants time to flower and produce this colourful scene.

We set up a moth trap at the end of May at Seymour House and had a few interesting species including White-pinion Spotted, Clouded Silver, Buff Ermine, White Ermine, Brimstone, Scorched Wing, Pale Prominent, Small Phoenix, Spectacle, Garden Carpet, Heart & Dart, Marbled Coronet, Small Clouded Brindle, Marbled Minor, Plum Tortrix, Bee, White shouldered House & July Belle.

Late May and a trip to Garheugh Rocks produced some good flora including Sea Holly, Sea Spurge, Oysterplanr, Sheepsbit, Black Spleenwort, Saltmarsh Rush, Sea Arrowgrass, Distant Sedge, Sand Sedge, False Fox Sedge, Rock Samphire, Wild Thyme, Bloody Cranesbill and Burnet Rose.

The Hairy Buttercup still thrives on the old Baldoon Airfield site close to Wigtown and at Auchenmalg at the end of May several nice plants were seen including Sea Fern Grass, Sea Storksbill, Wood Vetch, Crested Hair Grass, Yellow-horned Poppy, Soft Clover, Yellow Vetch, Kidney Vetch and Hop Trefoil.

Early in **June**, several Cinnabar moths were on the wing in Port William and at Kings Green, several Painted Lady butterflies were seen on Sea Radish and some Crested Hair Grass was also around. Little else to report as I was on holiday for the remainder of June. Happy holi-day making!

Alan Wake



Twenty Plume moth



Whimbrel



Vicia lathyroides



THE MAXWELL HALL continues to be well used by regular groups and individuals and we thank you for your continued support.

A pop-up Sunday morning Zumba class was well attended recently and we hope that Abby will pop up with us again once she has completed her dancing stint at the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony. We would welcome anyone who would like to provide other one-off activities.

We were very grateful to receive £500 from the Port William Community Shop. We have used this money towards purchasing

Hall Rates (per hour)

Main Hall	£15
Supper Room	£10
Upstairs Room	£7

Commercial Rates (per hour):

Main Hall	£25
Supper Room	£15
Upstairs Room	£10

SEE PAGE 21 FOR REGULAR EVENTS HELD IN THE HALL

an additional two table trolleys following the positive feedback received after purchasing the initial trolley. We hope these trolleys make setting up for events much easier.

Members of our team had a very positive meeting with council representatives Alastair Bryce and Billy Broll. We were delighted to learn that Billy is now our main contact person in his role as Community Assets Officer.

The building has been inspected recently by a member of the Newton Stewart Fire Brigade. This has resulted in an updated report on the maximum capacities for each area of the building.

Finally, the new kitchen has been ordered and will be fitted soon. We shall inform user groups affected as soon as we know exact dates but we have been assured the removal of the present kitchen and the installation of the new one will be completed in just a few days. The rest of the hall will remain in use during this time.

email: hallcommittee.mhm@gmail.com

BOOKINGS:

**hallbookings.mhm@gmail.com
also messenger or text 07810 435117**

Mary Cowan CHAIRPERSON
(07810 435117)

NUMBER 12 PORT WILLIAM - SCIO

WE CONTINUE to ramp up our offerings to people in the Parish (and beyond)

Every month for the rest of 2026, we have a Saturday craft session, and during the summer months we will be holding various workshops, some of which will be free due to our having received funding from local windfarms.

Open House is open throughout the year, and continues to be a great place for people

to come and meet up for a chat, and enjoy the homemade soup and cakes.

Our Trustees continue to have some great ideas for future events, but we are always open to suggestions from people in the villages for things that would interest them.

Contact us on Number12PW@outlook.com and keep up with what's going on via our Facebook page "Number 12"

Bob & Rebecca Sheppard

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>	Whauphill Hall
6.00 - 7.00pm	PWCDD Football - 5 to 8 years old	Port William MUGA
7.00 - 8.00pm	PWCDD Football - 8 years and over	Port William MUGA
7.30 - 9.30pm	Community Bingo	Maxwell Hall

TUESDAY

9.00 - 11.00am	Library and D&G Customer Services	Maxwell Hall
10.00am - 12.30pm	Port William Men's Shed	No. 12
2.00 - 4.00pm	Guild <i>monthly</i>	Maxwell Hall
6.00 - 6.45pm	HIIT Fitness	Maxwell Hall
7.00 - 8.00pm	Popdance	Maxwell Hall
6.45pm	Port William Lawn Bowls Sweep	Bowling Green

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

10.00am - 12.30pm	Port William Men's Shed	No. 12
10.30am - 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
6.45pm	Port William Lawn Bowls Sweep	Bowling Green
7.30pm	Bingo	Garlieston Hall

SATURDAY

11.00am	Craft Workshops <i>(3rd Saturdays)</i> See FB for details	No. 12
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SUNDAY

11.00am	Morning Worship	See Rota on page 3
11.00am - 3.00pm	Open House <i>(3rd Saturdays)</i> See FB for details	No. 12
2.00pm	Music Sessions <i>monthly (8th Feb / 15 March)</i>	Maxwell Hall

*NB: Not all exceptions to regular meetings are shown.
Please refer to individual organisations if in doubt!*

MILLISLE SESSION CLERK REPORT

I CANNOT BELIEVE I am writing a report for Autumn magazine.

This has been a very busy few months for me celebrating grand-children's graduations and doing lots of lovely things celebrating our Diamond Wedding. On that note I would like to thank everyone for the lovely plant and hope I have not neglected anyone or anything with everything going on.

As Jenni outlined the Presbytery Plan in the last magazine, there is not much more to report on that score, other than to say the plan was approved at a Presbytery meeting in June.

Hopefully Unions will take place soon and a minister can be called to the Parish and by the Christmas edition of the magazine we will be in a more settled situation. Meanwhile we are all very grateful to Donna, Alex and Steve for keeping our churches going.

In May it was the Joint Churches Martyrs Service in Wigtown Parish Church which was as usual very well attended.

There has been two weddings recently at Millisle. It is lovely to welcome those folks into our church.

A few of our congregation have been unwell and unfortunately have had a visit to Stranraer or Dumfries infirmary. Our thoughts are with them and we wish them all a good recovery

The cuppa after the service remains very popular in our extended area and I cannot thank all the ladies enough for all the baking etc. they provide and also their help on a Sunday.

Thanks also to the folks who do readings and of course where would we be without Jill? Thank you everyone and hopefully lots more to report next time.

Jean McKay

MILLISLE FLOWER ROTA

Anyone wishing to put flowers in Church for Sunday Service
Please put name down on a day that suits you.

August	2nd	Vera Christison
	16th	Ann Kelly
	30th	Jean McKay
September	13th	Lynn Fisher
	27th	Alison Graham
October	11th	Helen McCornick

PORT WILLIAM MEN'S SHED

THE SHED continues to be fitted out with shelving and workbenches, and its permanent home is looking very good

More progress has been made with the tractor for the school, and one section has

been relocated to the playground

New members are always welcome – we meet every Tuesday & Thursday at 10 am.

Bob Sheppard

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 the door, can you shut outside door before coming in - one of you take the offering plate to the front at the end of second last hymn. Please stand until after prayer.

THANK YOU.

August	2nd	Jean McKay and Willie Johnston
	16th	John McDonald and Anne Gorman
	30th	Jean Whittaker and Alison Graham
September	13th	Tom Galloway and Agnes Adams
	27th	Jean McKay and Willie Johnston
October	11th	Norrie McIntosh and Bunty Cloy
	25th	John McDonald and Anne Gorman

SORBIE VILLAGE HALL WEEKLY MEETINGS

MONDAY

10.00am	Aerobics	(Trish active.communities@dumgal.gov.uk)
1.30pm	Hobbies	<i>1st and 3rd Monday of each month</i> (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	<i>3rd Tuesday of month</i> (Rosamond 01988 850237)

WEDNESDAY

7.00pm	Dog Training	(Mel Duncan 07880 590703)
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THURSDAY

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

9.30am	Homestart Wigtownshire	(Office 01776 706984)
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SUNDAY

2.00pm	Dance Class
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PORT WILLIAM SCOTTISH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE



PORT WILLIAM SWI meet on the third Thursday of every month at 7.30pm in the Maxwell Hall Supper Room.

We warmly welcome women of all ages to join us for a cuppa, a chat, inspiring guest speakers, and the opportunity to make new friends. Visitors are always welcome, with an entry fee of £5.

At our recent meeting, we welcomed Aileen McClymont from the Stranraer Cancer Drop-In Centre, who spoke about her career, the vital work of the centre, and the invaluable support provided by its volunteers to people affected by cancer. A very important and interesting talk about the support we have in our area.

Congratulations to our members on two fantastic achievements:

Port William SWI won first place at the Wigtownshire Federation Ruralympics, and Elizabeth Dally, alongside her golfing partner Joanne Porter, won the SWI National Golf Competition.



Members also enjoyed a fascinating visit to the Isle of Whithorn Heritage Centre, followed by a walk around the harbour and an excellent meal at St Medan's.

In July we had an enjoyable outing which took us to Opal Alpacas in Stoneykirk. Claire gave us a warm welcome and members enjoyed meeting

and walking the alpacas before lunch at the Tigh na Mara Hotel. Our Wigtownshire Walking Group continues throughout the year, and members have also been enjoying pop-up green bowling sessions at various locations. We recently attended a lovely basket tea at Auchenmalg, where we were delighted to welcome Mary Burnie, SWI National President, as our guest speaker.

Looking ahead, Port William SWI will be involved in the Stranraer Agricultural Show and will also be taking part in the Wigtownshire Federation Show in October. Some of our ladies are heading away for a "Get Together" in Dundee in September.

Our craft evenings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm in the Maxwell Hall Supper Room. The next session, in September, we will be making cup and saucer bird feeders. A small

fee applies to cover materials, and everyone is welcome.

We don't meet again until September but for any updates and further information, please visit our Facebook page, Port William SWI.

We look forward to welcoming you soon!

Maria Old
VICE-PRESIDENT

