

Spring  
2026



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**Material for the Spring 2026 issue should be emailed to  
John Adams - [grizzly121@me.com](mailto:grizzly121@me.com)  
by Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 - No Later please**

Charity Numbers: Mochrum SC003300 Millisle SC010621

# LETTER FROM THE REV. STEVE FULCHER

**I WRITE THIS TO SAY GOODBYE, as I finished my time as Locum Minister on 31st December 2025, and reached my retirement.**

It has been a privilege to serve among you in Mochrum and Millisle parishes. I have got to know a lot of people, and found out a lot about the Machars, which I probably would have taken years to discover in other circumstances ... and I have become very fond of the folk in our congregations.

As many of you know, the Presbytery Plan for our area is to have two full time Ministers

working together as a team serving all the Machars parish churches. We pray that the plan will go forward, but in the meantime, Rev. Eric Boyle will continue as your Interim Moderator, and be the first port of call should you need a minister.

2026 offers potential for change, but there is a lot of strength to build on in our communities.

You will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers (and I will still pop up to lead Sunday services from time to time).

God bless, **Steve**

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## **MOCHRUM GUILD REPORT**

**GUILD GREETINGS** guy's and girls. **What have you missed out on??**

Unfortunately, we had to cancel our meet up with PIRSAC in November due to the weather but I'm sure we will arrange something again later in the year.

In **December** we had a cracking meal in St. Medans Golf Club where 21 hungry lads and lassies took part in a quiz then sang one or two Christmas carols ... with actions!!

New year and new members joining our friendly group which is brilliant. So, to welcome the New Year in we had a friendship homemade soup meeting in **January** with speaker Christine Fulcher.

So what meetings are left for the end of this syllabus?

**10th February** 2pm we will be welcoming back Phil Hayes with his mixture of songs and poems with a special guest leader of Jean Willis. The last time Phil came to our meeting he had us all singing and laughing with him, it was a treat.

**10th March** 2pm is our annual general meeting. Now don't let that stop you coming along because after our quick agm Kevin Parker will chat with us about "Galloway Talking Newspapers" and how it operates in our community.

**14th April** 2pm, finally we have a lady called Louise Liddell from the Fisherman's Mission who we tried to get last year but the weather prevented her from making it. This charity is close to many hearts in this area and especially Port William fishing community. The Fishermen's Mission is the only national charity that works solely to support fishermen and their families.

These are the last of the forthcoming events we have in our syllabus. I hope you can come and support us and the speakers to all of these events and enjoy yourself in the process. Pop in, sit down, have a listen then have a cuppa with us ... see you there.

**Vicky Parker**  
SECRETARY

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**Cover Photo:** "Boxing Day Dip", Second Sands, Port William **by Louise De Lisle**

# CHURCH SERVICES LIST

**Services start at 11.00 a.m. unless otherwise stated**

Additional Service may be held during Easter Week so please look out for posters.

*Refreshments are served at the end of all services and all are welcome*

*Please come and join us.*

## JANUARY

4th Millisle Rev Steve Fulcher  
11th Mochrum Donna Brewster  
18th Millisle Rev Alex Currie  
25th Mochrum Rev Alex Currie

## FEBRUARY

1st Millisle Rev Alex Currie  
8th Mochrum Rev Steve Fulcher  
15th Millisle Rev Steve Fulcher  
22nd Mochrum Mike Johnstone

**with Sacrament of Holy Communion**

## MARCH

1st Millisle Rev Alex Currie  
6th Mochrum **2.00pm**  
8th Mochrum Donna Brewster  
15th Millisle Donna Brewster  
22nd Mochrum Rev Steve Fulcher  
29th Millisle Mike Johnstone

**World Day of Prayer**

**Mothering Sunday**

**Palm Sunday**

## APRIL

5th Mochrum Rev Steve Fulcher **Easter Sunday - with Sacrament of Holy Communion**  
12th Millisle  
19th Mochrum  
26th Millisle

**Thank you to all who contributed to this year's PoppyScotland Appeal.  
The grand total was £910.68**

**Door-to-door Collectors:** Jane Nelson, Maria Old and Kathryn Smith

**Businesses:** The View, Spar Shop, Hair Flair, The Surgery and Port William Primary School Staff and Pupils.

**Donations:** Port William Community Association and Mochrum Kirk Congregation

**Poppyscotland** provide support for current and former members of the Armed Forces as well as their families. This support, in recognition of their sacrifices and service, is holistic and bespoke.

Convenor for Mochrum Parish: Moira Adams

poppy   
scotland

# MOCHRUM PARISH CHURCH REGISTER

## **FUNERALS**

*“The Lord Is My Shepherd”*

Anthony John Brawls	Port William
Robin Lockhart	Port William
Judy Kiltie	Port William
Gilbert Solomon	Port William
Brian Smith	Port William

## **ELDERS' DUTY LIST**

<b>January</b>	Elizabeth Wallace/Vicky Parker
<b>February</b>	Ann Wadsworth/Gilbert Hyslop
<b>March</b>	Moira Adams/Jane Nelson
<b>April</b>	Elizabeth Wallace/Vicky Parker

## SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Sunday 8th February**  
MOCHRUM CHURCH

**COMMUNION DUTY ELDERS**

Ann Wadsworth, Gilbert Hyslop, Elizabeth Wallace and Jane Nelson

**Easter Sunday 5th April**  
MOCHRUM CHURCH

**COMMUNION DUTY ELDERS**

Elizabeth Wallace, Moira Adams, Vicky Parker and Jenni Gray

## FLOWER ROTA FOR MOCHRUM KIRK

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

<b>February</b>	<b>8th</b>	Monica McTurk
	<b>22nd</b>	Annie Hyslop
<b>March</b>	<b>8th</b>	Vicki Parker
	<b>22nd</b>	Rosalind Smithson
<b>April</b>	<b>5th</b>	Barbara Shaw
	<b>19th</b>	Moira Adams
<b>May</b>	<b>3rd</b>	Arlene Morgan
	<b>17th</b>	Ann Wadsworth
	<b>31st</b>	Laura Rennie
<b>June</b>	<b>14th</b>	Rachel Wadsworth
	<b>21st</b>	Bridget Hillman

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**

## COFFEE MORNING ROTA

<b>February</b>	<b>4th</b>	Elsie Kirby and Ann Wadsworth
<b>March</b>	<b>4th</b>	Kay Gibson and Aileen Kirk
<b>April</b>	<b>1st</b>	Jean Hobbs and Frances Baird
<b>May</b>	<b>6th</b>	Bridget Hillman and Robina Richmond
<b>June</b>	<b>3rd</b>	Rachel Wadsworth and Helen McTier
<b>July</b>	<b>1st</b>	Kevin and Vicky Parker

Thank you to everyone who takes the time to do the coffee morning, I do appreciate your help..

**Bridget Hillman**

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## CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE HALL

**CHRISTMAS DAY dinner in the Maxwell Hall turned out to be another success for the Murray clan.**

Andy, Eunice and Joey did the village proud by hosting yet another free celebration meal for folk in the area who wanted to enjoy good company and

excellent food on this special day.

Twenty-five attended the 4-course dinner this time around which is becoming ever-popular.

Well done to the Murrays for showing some true Christmas spirit and spreading great cheer.

## MOCHRUM SESSION CLERK'S REPORT

**I PROBABLY shouldn't admit to this but one of the things I most enjoy about our Sunday services is the hymns.**

Music is such an important part of our worship. There are 1150 verses in the Bible that speaks of music.

The words of many of our hymns speak of giving praises to God, as well as asking for his help, and one of my particular favourites as we go into a new year is 'Look Forward in Faith'.

I know that this isn't easy especially for those who have recently lost a loved one, or when the bills are high and the funds are low, when we are so depressed by what we see on the news, but I do believe that God walks with us and gives us the strength to carry on.

I have a plaque in my house entitled 'Don't Quit'. It reads 'So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit - It's when things seem worse that you must not quit'; and in the words of yet another favourite hymn we will continue to pray that one day, 'Through the Love of God our Saviour, All Will be Well'.

**December** is always a busy time in the Kirk. It always looks so beautifully festive during Advent and we are so grateful to all who helped with putting up and decorating the tree, for the table arrangement and for

all the other little touches around the church that made it look so special.

As you all know one of my favourite services is the service of Lessons and Carols with the Creetown Silver Band which is always so well supported and so lovely to see the church so full. The refreshments which follow are equally well received and again our thanks go to all who not only provided tray bakes but also helped in serving these to the congregation, and it was good that everyone was able to stay and enjoy a time of fellowship together

This is always traditionally held at Mochrum on the 3rd Sunday of Advent and I have already asked them to put it in their diary for this year when we will hold it on the 13th December so make sure it is also in your diary, it is not to be missed.

My other favourite service of the year is the school service which was held in the Kirk on Friday 19th **December**. All the young people took an active part and must have worked really hard as they all read so well and they had us all joining in with their singing.

Sadly on the 22nd we held the funeral of Robin Lockhart. Robin had given over 40 years of service as an Elder of the Kirk, also serving two terms as Session Clerk. Even when he was no longer able to attend

he always took an interest in what was happening and was always there for me to ask his advice if and when I needed it. He will be sorely missed.

On **Christmas Eve** we held a Christingle Service which was very well supported and we all had great fun learning the meaning of Christingle and decorating our orange. Our thanks go to Vicky Parker for all her work in putting the Christingle packs together.



**Christingle Service**

Sadly for us the 28th of December was Rev Steve's final service as our Locum Minister, his having decided to retire as such from the 31st. He will remain as part of the Worship Team and will still lead worship on occasion but we will miss his regular presence every Sunday.

Rev Eric Boyle remains our Interim Moderator and we are grateful to him for his continued support and to all who will lead our worship over the coming months.

**January** and **February** are quieter months in our church life but we will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion on the 8th of February and we also have a wedding to look forward to in February.

On the 6th **March** at 2.00pm we will hold our annual World Day of Prayer Service, Easter Sunday we will again celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Communion and additional Easter services will be arranged so please look out for posters.

Later on in the year we are expecting a visit from members of the Presbytery of the Czech Republic with whom we are twinned, so definitely something to look forward to, and if you would like to know more about that please go along to the meeting in Stranraer Parish Church (The High Kirk) on the 17th February at 2.00pm.

Meanwhile our monthly coffee morning is held every first Wednesday of the month 10.15a.m in the Maxwell Hall Supper Room. The Guild meets every second Tuesday of the month, 2.00pm when all are welcome and refreshments are provided, and we are here at Mochrum or at Millisle every Sunday at 11.00am.

The welcome is always warm, the kettle is always on so please come and join with us if and when you can.

You all remain, always in our prayers.

**Jenni Gray**

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## GOD'S GARDEN

**AS WE MOVE from winter into spring our gardens are still quite bare.**

But there are signs of life popping up from the seeds and the bulbs that have lain dormant over the winter. We look forward to spring and Easter, the promise of new life and hope.

At one time or another, you may have seen on display in a garden somewhere a piece of poetry, 'The kiss of the sun for pardon, the song of the birds for mirth, one is nearer God's heart in a garden that anywhere else on earth.'

It is the fourth stanza of the poem, 'God's Garden' by Dorothy Frances Gurney (1858-1932). I hope you find inspiration in these words.

May God bring you and yours new life and hope this spring.

**Rev. Eric Boyle**  
(INTERIM MODERATOR)

*The Lord God planted a garden  
In the first white days of the world,  
And He sat there an angel warden  
In a garment of light unfurled.*

*So near to the peace of Heaven,  
That the hawk might nest with the wren,  
For there in the cool of the even  
God walked with the first of men.*

*And I dream that these garden-closes  
With their shade and their sun-flecked sod  
And their lilies and bowers of roses,  
Were laid by the hand of God.*

*The kiss of the sun for pardon,  
The song of the birds for mirth, -  
One is nearer God's heart in a garden  
Than anywhere else on earth.*

*For he broke it for us in a garden  
Under the olive-trees  
Where the angel of strength was the warden  
And the soul of the world found ease.*

**Dorothy Frances Gurney**

## NUMBER 12

**SINCE THE JULY magazine, a great deal has happened at Number 12.**

During the **summer**, in association with our partner MAC-CAN (Machars and Cree Valley Climate Action Network) a Beach Art Competition was held at Second Sands and afterwards held a discussion at Number 12 from the Green Britain Foundation and their "Fish Net Zero" campaign.

The MAC-CAN volunteers also came to the garden to help with improving it, as a gift to Rebecca and Bob for their wedding in **July**.

The MAC-CAN "Jim Johnson Library" was officially opened in **September**, followed by the construction of a bug hotel in the garden.

We held the Port William "Apple Day" along with MAC-CAN on a (thankfully) sunny day in **September**, and due to the bumper crops this year, we were able to send plenty of people away with some delicious fresh apple juice, often using fruit from their own gardens. Plenty of young folk also took part, which was great to see.

We also hosted "Jolabokaflo" for the second year running, with a good turn out on the day.

As well as our year-round "Open Space" on Sundays between 11 and 3, during **December** we hosted a large number of craft workshops, which were well attended.

The local music group also held their music sessions at the property during the period, which is always great and sends a real vibe around the building.

We had a stand at the Maxwell Hall Christmas Fayre, and attracted some new faces to workshops and to our Open House.

Over the weekend of 23rd to 26th **January** 2026, we held a very successful art exhibition in conjunction with MAC-CAN, with close to 100 exhibitors, including submissions from the Playgroup and the Primary kids. We also held a poetry session, and the music group performed in the Music Room.

We have now secured charitable status (SCIO), which will allow us to reach out for funding to run significantly more events at Number 12, at an affordable cost.

The renovation work has continued, with a new dormer added to the Music Room. The downstairs space has been revamped in readiness for it to be used for "messy crafts" that can't be performed on the upper floors. The old (failing) conservatory that had plastic roof sheets will soon be replaced with an insulated and properly roofed structure. The tool library is close to being functional, with many hand and power tools available to be borrowed, many of them at zero cost.

The next big event will be "Love Your Clothes" on Saturday 14th **February** where there will be a clothes swap, sessions on revamping clothes, skill shares and various other activities. *See our Facebook page for more info.*

Contact us on [Number12PW@outlook.com](mailto:Number12PW@outlook.com) and keep up with what's going on via our Facebook page "Number 12"

**Bob & Rebecca Sheppard**

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## PORT WILLIAM SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

**THE SEASON has been going very well with new members adding to our existing numbers.**

We continue to meet every Friday at 6.45pm for friendly competition and a bit of fun. It is not too late to come and have a go, experience and equipment is not

necessary we have spare bowls just come along a give it a try. You never know you might love it.

The season continues until the end of March.

**Hamish Paton**  
CHAIRMAN

## 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**

### JANUARY

Wednesday	28th	7.30pm	<b>Port William Community Council</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	29th	7.00pm	<b>Port William Community Association (SCIO)</b>	The Hub, Kings Green

### FEBRUARY

Wednesday	4th	10.15am	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	5th	7.00pm	<b>Craft Night</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Tuesday	10th	2.00pm	<b>Mochrum Guild</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Tuesday	17th	2.00pm	<b>Czechia Twinning Meeting</b>	Stranraer Parish Church
Thursday	19th	7.30pm	<b>Port William SWI</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Wednesday	25th	7.30pm	<b>Port William Community Council</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	26th	7.00pm	<b>Port William Community Association (SCIO)</b>	The Hub, Kings Green

### MARCH

Wednesday	3rd	10.15am	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	5th	7.00pm	<b>Craft Nigh</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Friday	6th	2.00pm	<b>World Day of Prayer</b>	Mochrum Kirk
Tuesday	10th	2.00pm	<b>Mochrum Guild</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	19th	7.30pm	<b>Port William SWI</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Wednesday	25th	7.30pm	<b>Port William Community Council</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	26th	7.00pm	<b>Port William Community Association (SCIO)</b>	The Hub, Kings Green

### APRIL

Wednesday	1st	10.15am	<b>Coffee Morning</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	2nd	7.00pm	<b>Craft Night</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Tuesday	14th	2.00pm	<b>Mochrum Guild</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	16th	7.30pm	<b>Port William SWI</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Wednesday	29th	7.30pm	<b>Port William Community Council</b>	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	30th	7.00pm	<b>Port William Community Association (SCIO)</b>	The Hub, Kings Green



**THE SENIOR CITIZENS ended the year with a successful and enjoyable Christmas afternoon tea on the 28th November in the Maxwell Hall.**

Fifty-five guests were welcomed by Carnival Queen Iona who did a splendid job.

Once seated, Mrs Jenni Gray paid a heartfelt tribute to Mr Robin Lockhart who had sadly passed away. Jenni reminded everyone of the huge role he had played on the Senior Citizens Committee for many years and how he would be fondly remembered.

Port William Playgroup and pupils from the upper Primary School class entertained before Carolin's Catering served up a delicious afternoon tea.

This was followed by splendid entertainment from "The Wee Orchestra" and the party was in full swing thanks to Helen McColm and her fellow musicians.

A special shout out to Jenny who assisted Iona on greeting the guests and was our photographer for the afternoon.

A visit from Santa himself rounded off a lovely gathering. The committee would like to thank the Port William and Wigtown Community shops for their continued support.

Our annual general meeting takes place on Sunday 29th March at 7pm in the Supper Room. There are only four of us on the committee and we would welcome anyone of any age to join us. We do not have many meetings and we would be delighted to have more members on board.

Our next event will be the annual Autumn mystery tour and afternoon tea.

**Mary Cowan**  
SECRETARY



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## **PORT WILLIAM MEN'S SHED**

**THE SHEDDERS have continued to be active over the past few months.**

We have two projects that we are working on, and due to the loss of one of our members due to relocation, we're looking for more guys with time on their hands to

join us on a Thursday morning at 10 am for tea, blether and handiwork.

If you'd like to know more, contact us on [Number12MensShed@hotmail.com](mailto:Number12MensShed@hotmail.com).

**Bob Sheppard**



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

# MOCHRUM PARISH

## MOCHRUM PARISH CHURCH

Interim Moderator	Rev Eric Boyle	01988 402314
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	Moira 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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# WHO'S WHO 2026

Please advise of any changes to contact details, etc - J. Adams ([grizzly121@me.com](mailto: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.

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

## 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

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	<a href="mailto:madagsecretary@gmail.com">madagsecretary@gmail.com</a>

## PORT WILLIAM BOWLING CLUB

Secretary	Hamish Paton	<a href="mailto:sydtortoise@aol.com">sydtortoise@aol.com</a>	07850 516118
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## PORT WILLIAM SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

Secretary/Treasurer	Allison Scott	07796 164320
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<p><b>ACE CLEANING SERVICES</b></p> <p><i>Carpet &amp; Upholstery Cleaning specialists</i></p> <p>Contact Clark Gracie</p> <p><b>T: 01671 820899</b> <b>M: 07584 297274</b></p> 	<p><b>GALLOWAY PLUMBING SERVICES</b></p> <p>Gary Huxtable gallowayplumbing@btinternet.com</p>  <p><b>M: 07917 385887</b> <b>T: 01988 700663</b></p>	<p><b>SAM HORNELL</b> ELECTRICAL SERVICES</p>  <p>All types of electrical work undertaken</p> <p><b>Telephone: 07500 113076</b></p>
<p><b>W. McSHANE</b> <b>PLUMBING &amp; HEATING</b></p> <p>All types of Plumbing &amp; Gas &amp; Oil work</p> <p>INSTALLATION, MAINTENANCE &amp; SERVICING</p> <p>Landlord/Safety Certificate</p> <p><b>Tel: 01988 500611</b> <b>Mobile: 07850 013023</b></p>	<p><b>PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY SHOP</b></p> <p><b>WINTER OPENING TIMES (till Easter)</b></p> <p>Mon, Wed, Fri and Sat 11am-3pm</p>	<p><b>Hairflair</b> UNISEX STYLING</p> <p><i>Traditional and Modern Colours</i></p>  <p><b>Tel: 01988 700511</b></p>
 <p><b>FAY WALLACE</b> HCPC Registered Mobile Podiatrist t: 07557 225878 e: faywallacepodiatry@outlook.com</p>		<p><b>ADVERTS</b></p> <p>We have space on our advertisement page</p> <p><b>If anyone would like a slot the cost is £20 per annum</b></p>

This publication is generously supported by our  
advertisers and donations.  
Please give them your support

## PORT WILLIAM DEFIBRILLATOR GROUP (Port William First Response Team)

**A PUBLIC MEETING was held on the 30th January, 2003, to gauge the support for a First Response Team based in the Port William area.**

It was unanimously agreed that this would be an asset to the village. Over the following months the volunteer Responders were trained to a high standard by Mr J. Dawson of the Scottish Ambulance Service and the Team went 'live' in July 2003. At that time we were the third team in Scotland and the first in Dumfries and Galloway.

An on-call rota was established giving cover 24/7 with two responders on call at any given time. The 1st call was on 30th October 2003. The Team continued to give this commitment for the next 14 years with 299 calls attended.

The upkeep and monitoring of the three defibrillators (Maxwell Hall, MUGA and South Street) has continued since then.

However, due to changes to the criteria of the Scottish Ambulance Service in training Responders it became difficult to attract volunteers. The decision was made by the Management Committee to dissolve the Charity.

Port William Community Association have agreed to take on the upkeep of the three defibrillators and our remaining monies have been transferred to the Association. We would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Team in any way over the past 22 years.

**The Management Committee**

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## PORT WILLIAM LAWN BOWLING CLUB

**AS USUAL it has been a quieter period for the Bowling Club over the winter.**

Extensive work was carried out in the autumn to try and best prepare the green for the season ahead. Huge thanks to all those who gave their time and effort, fingers crossed that the work bears fruition.

We are still without a dedicated greenkeeper at this time. We have a core group of volunteers who help with the maintenance of the green and the club but would welcome any offers of help.

There has been lots of on-going legal work in relation to funding and ownership of the land which is being led by Mr Douglas Ballantyne and he deserves much praise for his dedication.

The annual general meeting is to be held on **11th February** at 7pm in the Maxwell Hall Supper Room.

There will be vacancies in key positions this year and we would urge anyone who would like to join and help the club in any way to come forward.

The club is one of the oldest in Scotland and an ever-present facility in the village.

The new season will commence in **April 2026**, we look forward to welcoming you onto the green ,look out for notification of opening day.

**Hamish Paton**  
SECRETARY



## PORT WILLIAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**FIRSTLY, can the Community Council take this belated opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year and 2026.**

Due to continued vandalism the village public toilets will now be kept locked overnight. Apologies for any inconvenience but as everyone is hopefully aware, public toilets are being reviewed as part of D&G Council cost savings.

Unfortunately, continued vandalism and subsequent costs of repairs could result in the loss of these facilities completely and we need to avoid this if possible.

You may be aware funding for a feasibility study to explore the resurrection of the "Fleuk Hole", a small tidal pool once in the village, has become available. This project arose from the consultation exercises for the Local Place Plan (LPP).

Solway Coast and Marine Project (SCAMP) are taking the lead on this project and work will commence mid to late February. If we cannot resurrect the tidal pool in Port William another local location may be selected.

Please look out for information about this project, its development and an invitation to the public consultation.

We have had feedback from the Ward 2 event held, again as a result of the LPP development process. Sadly, none of the issues raised and reported can be dealt with swiftly.

Amey have been approached by D&G Council about diversions through the village during A75 closures, more notice of these has been requested. A speed restriction of 20mph is being rolled out across D&G towns and villages. The school 20mph signs will be operational outside of school hours during the interim. Any speeding, obstructive or dangerous parking issues should be reported to the police using 111.

Installation of public use Electric Vehicle Chargers in the village (EVCs) is being explored with the necessary department.

Windfarm donations: We received a large number of applications for this round of funding. Unfortunately, due to this we were unable to allocate the full amounts people requested but all applicants received some funds.

Windfarm donations in this area are not large amounts and we ask people to consider this when making applications. There should be more Windfarm funds available late Spring. Please submit your application electronically to Secretary. [pwcc@gmail.com](mailto:pwcc@gmail.com) or post through Number 12 Main Street. Please include in your application the amount you need and what this will contribute to.

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](mailto:secretary.pwcc@gmail.com)

**Jacqueline Crowther**

### **ADVERTS**

We have space on our advertisement pages

**If anyone would like a slot the cost is£20 per annum**

## PORT WILLIAM SCOTTISH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

### **PORT WILLIAM SWI invites you to join our Women's Group!**

We meet every third Thursday of the month in the Maxwell Hall at 7:30pm. We're a friendly group of ladies of all ages, so come along for a cuppa and a chat. It's a great opportunity to make some new friends.

Next month, in **February**, we're thrilled to have the talented local lass, Adele McKie, who will be giving a cookery demonstration. If you're familiar with Adele, you know we're in for a real treat!

In **March**, we have an interactive evening planned with Paul from Kingdom of Craft,

and in **April**, we'll welcome the artist Sarah Louise from Kirkcowan.

Visitors are welcome (£5). We look forward to seeing you there! For updates, please check our Facebook page, Port William SWI.

In addition to this, if you enjoy crafting, we meet on the first Thursday of the month in the supper room at Maxwell Hall at 7pm.

Our next craft evening will be in **February**. We look forward to seeing you there! All ages and abilities welcome.

**Maria Old**  
VICE-PRESIDENT

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## PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SCIO

### **AFTER Carnival Week our time is spent tidying up, placing everything in its home and having a rest before we start our next event.**

In **October** we held a "Pumpkin Carving Competition", and we had lots of entries and this year the winners were all boys and Iona our Carnival Queen delivered their prizes to their doors.

We had organized a Christmas Lunch but due to lack of interest the committee took the decision to cancel the event, however our "Hogmanay Bash" was a sell-out as normal.

This year we had the pleasure of Miss Shannon Bryden to entertain us. Everyone had a great night and were in good company to bring in the New Year.

The Kings Green Caravan Park toilet block is now in the process of being upgraded.

By **December** it had been taken right back to being just a shell. **January** saw the laundry room being altered and things being dismantled and walls being built up.

The electricians followed to do the necessary alterations for the proposed work and once that is completed the next stage can be tackled.

Once it is all complete we will hold an open afternoon where everyone will be Welcome to come and see the transformation.

**Carnival Week** is now on our minds as we must start planning for this year. Nominations will be requested shortly for Carnival Queen 2026 so if you know a young lady who you think would be keen to represent our village and be Queen, please ask her permission if you can nominate her.

We hope to have our programme on sale by **Easter**. Each year we try to provide events for everyone so if anyone at any time has an idea for a different event that they think would work please get in touch with Davina.

Due to our location when you contact people to host different events, they check out where we are and their reply is its too far away! We try to do our best for our community but it is frustrating when our location is the problem.

The Community Association are always looking for new members so if you feel you would like to join us you would be made most Welcome. Our meetings are held the last Thursday of the month at the Kings Green Caravan site at 7pm.

**Davina Kiltie**  
SECRETARY

## NATURAL HISTORY OBSERVATIONS: OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2025

**IT HAS BEEN a very good year for apples and so the local birds have had plenty to feast on.**

The bird feeders were out early in **October** and it was immediately noticeable that Coal Tits were constantly at the sunflower hearts far more than in previous years.

A Single Red Admiral butterfly was seen in the second week of the month and the Ballerina Waxcaps quickly followed. The middle of October on the shoreline at Port William Curlews, Redshank, Oystercatchers and a Heron (*see photo*) were seen by Lisa with possible Stonechat (very poor light).

The garden was full of Goldfinch, House Sparrow, Great Tit, Blue Tit, Coal Tit and Collared Dove for the remainder of the month. A Sparrow-hawk accounted for two Collared Doves during this time which always poses the question to feed or not to feed the birds!

**November** started off mild with some sunny spells and a walk at Blairbuy near Monreith saw lots of lovely Common Hawthorn berries in the hedgerows with Oak Marble Galls, Ivy in flower and several lichens including the common *Xanthoria parietina* lichen (no English name) showing up bright yellow in the sunshine.

The Sparrow-hawk continues to pay visits to the garden, I think our feeding birds are getting wise to it! The very mild weather for November continued into the second week and Candlesnuff fungus (*see photo*) was found in the garden along with Red-edge brittlestem fungus, both on a decaying tree stump. A gentle stroll around Port William on the 10th November in warm sunshine rewarded me with Parrot Waxcap in grassland by the war memorial.

On the 12th of November I looked at the

grassland in Maxwell Park behind the war memorial in Port William. It was surprising to see lots of fungi especially the group known as Waxcaps. They can be difficult to identify and I have struggled with some of them. There are several Apps available and they provide helpful but unreliable identification for some species. However, the following species were seen: Scarlet Waxcap (*Hygrocybe coccinea*), Pink Waxcap (*Porpolomopsis calyptriformis*) and Parrot Waxcap (*Gliophorus psittacinus*). There were others which closely resemble Butter Waxcap (*Hygrocybe ceracea*), Crimson Waxcap (*Hygrocybe punicea*), Meadow Waxcap (*Cuphophyllus pratensis*) and Glutinous Waxcap (*Hygrocybe glutinipes*) but I am unable to name them with any certainty. (*photos of the Scarlet, Pink and Parrot Waxcaps opposite page.*) Also in the grassland there were several species of both Ivory Bonnet (*Atheniella flavoalba*) and White Spindles (*Clavaria fragilis*). It seems therefore that the Maxwell Park grassland is a valuable habitat for these Waxcaps, a declining species of fungi due mainly to habitat loss of old, undisturbed areas of grassland.

It is interesting to note that since publishing these findings on Facebook, several people have noted finding more Waxcaps especially on the golf course at Monreith.

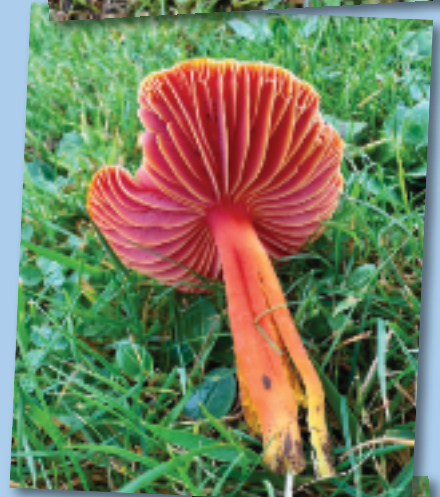
Towards the end of November there were good numbers of Golden Plover on the shore at Second Sands, Port William. It is interesting to note that we are seeing far more Red Kite birds in and around the Machars recently, they are obviously spreading out from their original feeding stations.

**December** started very wet and continued to be so up until almost Christmas. The

usual array of birds were at the feeders in the garden at Seymour House but nothing of note was seen. On 20th December I had an email from a Port William resident who saw an Otter from the bridge over the Killantrae Burn at South Street. It had caught a fish and was swimming inland presumably to feast on it. Despite the mild and wet month, little else was seen in the area.

A walk around Port William on both Christmas Eve and Christmas day saw little wildlife apart from Oystercatchers, Redshank and Rock Pipits, however the weather turned from the dark, dank miserable days to two lovely sunny days but with a sharp easterly wind. The Sparrowhawk was in the garden at Seymour House on Christmas Eve no doubt lining up his (or her) Christmas dinner! Christmas will be well over when you read this however I can wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year.

**Alan Wake**





**THE MAXWELL HALL Management Team would like to thank all our regular user groups and other customers for your continued support.**

The hall is being used more frequently each month and we now have a t'ai chi class.

Our "Christmas Fayre" in **November** was busy and well supported by the local community and the pop-up café provided by the MUGA was a great success. *See pics on outside back cover.*

Twenty-five people attended a Christmas Lunch, kindly provided by Andy and Eunice Murray on Christmas Day. This annual event has grown in numbers and we would like to say a huge thank you for their generosity.

Another success was the "Hogmanay Party" organised by the Community Association. We are grateful for their continued support throughout the year.

The Monday bingo group has kindly donated £300 towards our funds and plans are well afoot for more refurbishment projects.

The Community Shop has kindly donated a

wheelchair to the hall for anyone who requires it during a visit to the hall.

Finally, a reminder that we have free sports equipment available including badminton and a parachute.

The main hall is ideal for large parties while the supper room can accommodate smaller groups.

Set up time for hall users is free of charge and we politely ask that the spaces are left tidy and clean before leaving.

We thank everyone for their continued support and all the groups for their patience when we had to close the hall due to leaks.

<b>Hall Rates (per hour)</b>	
Main Hall	<b>£15</b>
Supper Room	<b>£10</b>
Upstairs Room	<b>£7</b>
<b>Commercial Rates (per hour):</b>	
Main Hall	<b>£25</b>
Supper Room	<b>£15</b>
Upstairs Room	<b>£10</b>

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

**BOOKINGS:**

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

**Mary Cowan** SECRETARY  
(07810 435117)

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

**SAYINGS TO MAKE YOU THINK!**

- † Anger is just one letter short of danger.
- † When the power of love overtakes the love of power we shall be moving towards peace.
- † You can't have a silver lining without a cloud.
- † When it seems that God doesn't solve your problem, perhaps He has faith in your ability.
- † I do not want the peace that passes understanding; I want the understanding which brings peace. (Helen Keller)
- † No act of kindness, no matter how small is ever wasted.
- † Open a door before you close it.
- † Faith moves mountains; doubt creates them.
- † God didn't promise days without pain, sun without rain, but he did promise strength for the day and light for the way.

**Ann Wadsworth**

## REGULAR MEETINGS

*weekly unless stated*

### MONDAY

9.30 - 11.30am	<b>Baby &amp; Toddler Group</b>	Maxwell Hall
7.00 - 10.00pm	<b>Port William Bridge Club</b> <i>Autumn to Easter</i>	Maxwell Hall
7.00 - 10.00pm	<b>Kirkinner Bridge Club</b> <i>Easter to Autumn</i>	Kirkinner Hall
6.00 - 7.00pm	<b>PWCDT Football</b> - 5 to 8 years old	Port William MUGA
7.00 - 8.00pm	<b>PWCDT Football</b> - 8 years and over	Port William MUGA
7.30 - 9.30pm	<b>Community Bingo</b>	Maxwell Hall

### TUESDAY

9.00 - 11.00am	<b>Library and D&amp;G Customer Services</b>	Maxwell Hall
2.00 - 4.00pm	<b>Guild</b> <i>monthly</i>	Maxwell Hall
6.00 - 6.45pm	<b>HIIT Fitness</b>	Maxwell Hall
7.00 - 8.00pm	<b>Popdance</b>	Maxwell Hall

### WEDNESDAY

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

### THURSDAY

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

### FRIDAY

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

### SUNDAY

11.00am	<b>Morning Worship</b>	See Rota on page 3
2.00pm	<b>Music Sessions</b> <i>monthly (8<sup>th</sup> 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'S REPORT

**HERE WE ARE in a New Year and I do wonder what is ahead for everyone. The world is certainly in a worrying state.**

Closer to home we are again in the midst of changes in our Church. Sadly Rev. Fulcher is no longer our Locum Minister, which means he will no longer be preaching every Sunday. We will all miss him but he is still very active in the Parish and he will be here on one or two Sundays.

We will also have Rev. Currie, Donna Brewster and Mike Johnston from Stranraer preaching for the next few months. We are very grateful to them all for helping us keep the church going until such times ,as a more permanent solution is decided by Presbytery.

The Remembrance Service was well attended and again the Church looking good thanks to Steve Hanna for various items and to Hilda who knitted, I can't even tell you how many, poppies!

We had a lovely service prior to Christmas and thanks to everyone who

helped decorate the church and clear up again after the festivities.

It was also good to welcome Garlieston School children and their parents into the Church for their end-of-term service.

At the beginning of January we held a "Bring & Share Lunch" plus discussion in the Church. We had about 12 people attending, which was encouraging, and certainly plenty to eat!!

Perhaps next time it would be good if anyone attending brought someone who doesn't normally attend church. Just a thought!

Our lovely organist Gill has been quite ill. I am pleased to say she is now back at her "station" and we hope feeling much better.

Thanks again to everyone who helps me in any way. We look forward to lighter, brighter days and seeing you in the Kirk for Sunday worship and of course a cuppa and chat afterwards.

**Jean McKay**

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## MILLISLE FLOWER ROTA

<b>February</b>	<b>1st</b>	Jean McKay
	<b>15th</b>	Lynn Fisher
<b>March</b>	<b>1st</b>	Ann Houston
	<b>15th</b>	Hilda Johnston
	<b>29th</b>	Vera Christison
<b>April</b>	<b>12th</b>	Anne McDonald
	<b>26th</b>	Jean McKay
<b>May</b>	<b>10th</b>	Hazel Campbell

## 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.*

<b>February</b>	<b>1st</b>	Bunty Cloy and Tom Galloway
	<b>15th</b>	Jean Whittaker and Jean McKay
<b>March</b>	<b>1st</b>	Anne Gorman and John McDonald
	<b>15th</b>	Agnes Adams and Willie Johnston
	<b>29th</b>	Jean McKay and Norrie McIntosh
<b>April</b>	<b>12th</b>	Alison Graham and Tom Galloway
	<b>26th</b>	Jean Whittaker and Bunty Cloy
<b>May</b>	<b>10th</b>	Willie Johnston and Agnes Adams

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## SORBIE VILLAGE HALL WEEKLY MEETINGS

### MONDAY

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

### TUESDAY

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

### WEDNESDAY

7.00pm	<b>Dog Training</b>	(Mel Duncan 07880 590703)
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### THURSDAY

7.00pm	<b>Yoga</b>	(Susie McKay 01988 850258 / 07703 677117)
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### FRIDAY

9.30am	<b>Homestart Wigtownshire</b>	(Office 01776 706984)
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### SUNDAY

2.00pm	<b>Dance Class</b>	
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MAXWELL HALL  
*Christmas Fayre*

