

Winter
2025



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**Material for the Spring 2026 issue should be emailed to
John Adams - grizzly121@me.com
by Sunday 18th January, 2026 - No Later please**

Charity Numbers: Mochrum SC003300 Millisle SC010621

LETTER FROM THE LOCUM MINISTER

NEVER TALK ABOUT politics or religion is the advice often given.

Yet increasingly, people seem to have difficulty having dialogue with each other. Student groups try to stop a speaker they do not agree with being given a platform to speak; people like Charlie Kirk in the USA are shot for expressing their opinions.

Words can provoke violent action.

But amid arguments about free speech, I want to ask what is GOOD SPEECH?

The Bible has advice. “A soft tongue can break bones” (*Proverbs 25:15*). “Keep your tongue from evil” (*Psalm 34:13*). “A great forest is set on fire by a small spark; the tongue can be a spark” (*James 3:5*). Jesus said “Let your yes be yes, and your no be no” (*Matthew 5:37*).

Words provoke actions, and these can be both good and bad. Once King David in the Bible went to punish a man who had offended him, but was intercepted by Abigail, the man’s wife, whose words pacified the King (*1 Samuel 25*).

You see, we have the power to think before we speak, if we chose to. Social media often gets blamed for letting people react before they think, but it is people who have the capacity to pause, reflect, and respond. Free speech is important to democracy, but good speech is important for life.

Debates these days seem to get polarised; if you agree with me, you are okay; if you disagree you are the enemy.

This is NOT freedom.

In contrast, good speech is about restraint, respect, refusing to de-humanise those who have a different opinion or make us angry.

Jesus did not shy away from speaking unpopular words. When the authorities tried to silence his followers, Jesus said “If they were silent, the very stones would shout out” (*Luke 19:40*).

A truth will not cease to be true because we silence the speaker. Let us learn to control our tongues, and develop good speech.

God bless,

Steve

REV. STEVE FULCHER

CHURCH SERVICES LIST

Services start at 11.00 a.m. unless otherwise stated

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

OCTOBER

- 19th Mochrum
- 26th Millisle

NOVEMBER

- 2nd Mochrum
- 9th **Remembrance Sunday**
 - 10.50am** Port William War Memorial
 - 12.00 noon** Millisle Morning Worship
 - 1.30 pm** Garlieston War Memorial
 - 2.15pm** Sorbie
 - 3.00pm** Kirkinner
- 16th Mochrum
- 23rd Millisle
- 30th Mochrum

DECEMBER

- 7th Millisle **with the Sacrament of Holy Communion**
- 14th Mochrum **Service of Lessons and Carols with the Creetown Silver Band**
- 19th Mochrum **10.00am** **Port William School Service**
- 21st Millisle
- 24th Mochrum **4.00pm** **Christingle Service**
- 25th Wigtown Parish Church **11.30am** **United Service**
- 28th Mochrum

JANUARY

- 4th Millisle
- 11th Mochrum
- 18th Millisle
- 25th Mochrum

FEBRUARY

- 1st Millisle
- 8th Mochrum **with the sacrament of Holy Communion**
- 15th Millisle
- 22nd Mochrum

MOCHRUM PARISH CHURCH REGISTER

FUNERALS

“The Lord Is My Shepherd”

Robert Kay	Port William
Ray Knowles	Port William
Anne Edmond	Port William

ELDERS' DUTY LIST

October	Elizabeth Wallace/Vicky Parker
November	Ann Wadsworth/Gilbert Hyslop
December	Moira Adams/Jane Nelson
January	Elizabeth Wallace/Vicky Parker
February	Ann Wadsworth/Gilbert Hyslop

FLOWER ROTA FOR MOCHRUM KIRK

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

November	2nd	Jane Nelson
	16th	Lorraine Ker
	30th	Jean Hobbs
December	14th	Ann Wadsworth
	28th	Jenni Gray
January	11th	Rose Christie
	25th	Ann Gerrish
February	8th	Monica McTurk
	22nd	Annie Hyslop

Thank you to everyone who helps with the rota I do appreciate what you do.

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

Bridget Hillman

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sunday 8th February
MOCHRUM CHURCH

COMMUNION DUTY ELDERS

Ann Wadsworth, Gilbert Hyslop, Elizabeth Wallace and Jane Nelson

LUNCH / DISCUSSION

In the autumn, Mochrum and Millisle churches
are trying a new idea.

A Bring-and-Share Lunch

followed by an open discussion on a topical subject

*Everyone is welcome. Bring something edible to share
and join in the conversation.*

MOCHRUM CHURCH - 12 noon - Thursday 30th October

MILLISLE CHURCH - 12 noon - Thursday 27th November

COFFEE MORNING ROTA

November	5th	Jane Nelson and Rose Christie
December	3rd	Babs Mellor and Vicky Parker – with sales table
January	7th	Barbara Gaw and Ann Gerrish
February	4th	Elsie Kirby and Ann Wadsworth

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.

Remembrance Day is commemorated this year on
Sunday 9th November (see page 3 for service details)

We appreciate your support

Local Convenor: Moira Adams



MOCHRUM GUILD REPORT

GUILD GREETINGS everyone. For those who missed our September opening meeting we welcomed Steve Fulcher talking about our new theme 'Living Stones'.

Then in October Ann Gorman gave us an insight into Crossroads Care and Support in Wigtownshire.

The Church of Scotland Guild introduce a new theme and strategy every three years and also choose to support four projects over these three years. Our project partners are:

Bear Necessities: Build My Church Bulgaria, supporting the community in Sliven in Bulgaria to build a church which

will provide a place of worship as well as community activities.

CrossReach: Playful beginnings, supporting children with additional support needs and parents struggling with the early years of parenthood to have the support they need for a positive start.

Release International: Operation Hope, supporting the Christian community in Upper Egypt by providing practical and pastoral support.

Scottish Bible Society: Bibles for Bairns, supporting every new child born in Scotland whose parents want it, to receive a bible and other reading resources over the first five years of their life.



WHAT IS COMING OVER THE NEXT FEW MONTHS:

11th November 2pm we will be hearing from PIRSAC, our local independent lifeboat inshore rescue service based in Port William which is crewed by volunteers 365 days a year. Listen to how it started, how they operate day to day and what is planned for their future.

10th December 12.30 for 1pm will be our Christmas Lunch in St. Medan Golf Club with maybe a carol or two afterwards. Names and numbers to be given to Vicky Parker asap please.

13th January 1pm we shall have a bowl of friendship soup and a talk from Christine Fulcher about our very own Guild.

These are a few of the forthcoming events we have in our new syllabus. I hope something takes your fancy and you pop along for an hour and if you like, stop for a cuppa and biscuit ... we would love to see you.

Vicky Parker

MOCHRUM/MILLISLE PARISH DIARY 2025

PLEASE NOTE that this is only a small selection of what is happening in and around Port William, some events over the Christmas period may be subject to change. -

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

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

Wednesday	5th	10.15am	Coffee Morning	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	6th	7.00pm	Craft Night	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Tuesday	11th	2.00pm	Mochrum Guild	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	13th	6.30pm	for 7pm Quiz Night (Parents & Friends of PW Primary)	Maxwell Hall
Saturday	15th	11.00am	Maxwell Hall Christmas Fayre	Maxwell Hall
Thursday	20th	7.30pm	Port William SWI	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Wednesday	26th	7.30pm	Port William Community Council	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	27th	7.00pm	Port William Community Association (SCIO)	The Hub, Kings Green
Friday	28th	1.00pm	Senior Citizens Soup and Afternoon Tea	Maxwell Hall

with Caroline's Caterers

DECEMBER

Wednesday	3rd	10.15am	Coffee Morning (with Sales table)	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	4th	6.30pm	for 7pm Port William SWI Christmas Meal	Maxwell Hall
Wednesday	10th	12.30pm	for 1pm Mochrum Guild Christmas Meal	St. Medan Golf Club
Friday	19th	10.00am	Port William School Christmas Service	Mochrum Church

JANUARY

Wednesday	7th	10.15am	Coffee Morning	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	8th	7.00pm	Craft Night	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Tuesday	13th	1.00pm	Mochrum Guild (please note earlier time)	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

FEBRUARY

Wednesday	4th	10.15am	Coffee Morning	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	5th	7.00pm	Craft Night	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Tuesday	10th	2.00pm	Mochrum Guild	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	19th	7.30pm	Port William SWI	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Wednesday	25th	7.30pm	Port William Community Council	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	26th	7.00pm	Port William Community Association (SCIO)	The Hub, Kings Green

MOCHRUM SESSION CLERK'S REPORT

WELL HERE WE are again already thinking about Christmas.

The years seem to pass so quickly and I am sure that there will have been good times and bad times for us all, but as we see the devastation happening, not just in far away countries but now coming into our own homelands we give thanks for the blessing of our peaceful homes, our families and our friends.

On the **10th August** we were pleased to welcome Port William Carnival Association with both the Carnival Queen and the retiring Queen, all of whom took an active part in our service. In the afternoon we led the closing ceremony in the Marquee when we also remembered VJ day, and all who have given their lives in acts of war.

On the **31st August** we held the second of our Café Church Meetings in Kirkinner Hall which was very enjoyable with lots of delicious home baking and endless cups of tea and coffee.

At the beginning of **September** we held our annual Ecumenical Service at Cruggleton. Despite it being a very wet day it was well supported and our thanks go to the members of Millisle Kirk who welcomed us into the church following the service and provided the very welcome refreshments.

On the **21st September** we held our Harvest Thanksgiving Service when everyone so generously brought along gifts for the work of the Machars Basics Food Bank. Then at the beginning of **October** we held our Guild Rededication Service.

We now start to think about the services of Remembrance in **November**. Also our annual Service of Lessons and Carols with the Creetown Silver Band on the **14th December** and our Christingle Service on the **24th**.

Rev Eric Boyle has often said how the real fellowship in the church takes place after the service when everyone gathers together to chat and enjoy some refreshments and now, by moving the piano we have made more space in our coffee area and members can sit around the table with a cuppa and catch up on the their news.



Our annual Bursary has been awarded and this year went to Emma Hobbs who is studying for an HNC in Agriculture and we wish her every success in her future career.

We have admitted two new members to our Congregational Roll. Our records have all been attested and found to be in good order and a new safeguarding panel has been formed.

Our monthly coffee mornings continue. **The Guild** has now restarted after the summer break and meets every second Tuesday of the month, 2.00pm in the Maxwell Hall. All are welcome and refreshments provided.

On the **30th October** we are going to hold the first of our *"Bring and Share Lunch Discussions"* 12.00 noon in the Kirk ... and we are here at Mochrum or at Millisle every Sunday at 11.00 a.m.

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

PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SCIO

CARNIVAL WEEK 2025 was exceptional this year for me! As secretary of the Association it was a proud moment when my granddaughter Iona McLaughlin was crowned Carnival Queen 2025.

Iona was following in her mum's footsteps, as Adele was Queen in 2008. We have lowered the age to perform the duty of Carnival Queen to 12 and over with Iona being the youngest Queen to date. Former Queen Louise Kerr did the crowning honours.

Our programme had a very interesting article on "The Story So Far" giving dates and detailing historical items that made a very interesting read.

Carnival Week was extremely busy with all events well attended. The Craft Fair as per usual saw a variety of stalls catering for all tastes. Also the attendance of The Glenluce & Galloway Flyers was a bonus and attracted a lot of interest.

We had several new events again this year ... the Sand Sculpture competition was re-introduced which was well attended with some amazing creations on view. Also the Murder Mystery Night was a great hit raising just over £1000! The closing ceremony was split between Parkinsons and Alzheimers.

The Fun Night was just as it was advertised and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. Crab Fishing saw 92 children taking part with all the crabs being placed back in the water after the event. Local lady Adele McKie did a cookery and cocktail event and this went down a treat.

Thanks must go to everyone involved in Carnival Week as without assistance from you all it could not run. New volunteers are made most welcome as are new ideas for events ... so if you know of something that

we have not yet tried and feel it would be suitable please get in touch.

Our **Hogmanay Dance** will be going ahead as normal with music by Shannon Bryden - please keep an eye open for posters with booking details.

The caravan site toilets/shower block is having a makeover so if you see a lot of activity that's what is happening ... follow facebook as we will keep you updated. Once they are complete there will be an open afternoon to allow the general public to see the result.

Our meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month at the Kings Green Caravan Site. If you wish to join or just wish to hear what we actually do please feel free to join us.

Davina Kiltie
SECRETARY



ALL WELCOME

Maxwell Hall

Christmas Fayre

FREE ENTRY

Saturday, 15th November 2025

11am ~ 3pm

Arts, Crafts, Food, Teas/Coffees, Festive Gifts, Soup 'n' Sweets, Santa's Grotto

Christmas Photographer ~ to book
contact ~ kerrscaptures@gmail.com



WE WOULD like to begin by thanking Jacqueline Crowther for her huge contributions to the management team. Her input will be sorely missed.

We have welcomed new recruits onto our management team – thank you to John Adams and Monica McTurk for joining us and we look forward to enjoying your expertise on the many subjects that pop up in the running of a village hall!

Our hall is well and truly open again and bookings are increasing monthly. We are extremely grateful to our returning groups, our new classes and our one off bookings for private parties and events.

Our refurbishments plans for the disabled

toilet and kitchen are well on track. Many thanks to the committee members and a small group of volunteers who responded to our request for helping with our deep clean before we could open up again.

We would like to thank Elizabeth our past hall keeper for all her hard work in maintaining the cleanliness of the hall and welcome Alison into our management team.

Our next major event is our **Christmas Fayre**. See poster on page 9 for details.

Finally a huge thank you for the donation from the Maxwell Hall Tap Dancing Team – much appreciated as we continue to redecorate and refurbish our hall.

email: hallcommittee.mhm@gmail.com

BOOKINGS:

hallbookings.mhm@gmail.com

Mary Cowan SECRETARY
(07810 435117)

SEE PAGE 21 FOR REGULAR EVENTS HELD IN THE HALL



ON THURSDAY, 11th September, 30 senior citizens boarded a coach for the Annual Mystery Trip and Afternoon Tea Outing.

The coach headed towards Kirkcudbright, Dundrennan, Auchencairn then Dalbeattie before arriving at the mystery venue. This year’s venue was “The Usual Place” in Dumfries.

The senior citizens enjoyed a splendid afternoon tea, served up by the wonderful staff who are always friendly and efficient. During their visit, they were serenaded by volunteer David on the piano.

Thanks go to McCalls Coaches, Robin for providing the sweets for the journey and to

the staff and volunteers at “The Usual Place”. We have received lots of super feedback and are delighted the day out was such a success. Pressure is on to keep up this standard for next year’s trip!

Our next event is our “**Festive Afternoon**” on **Friday, 28th November**, featuring afternoon tea by Caroline’s Catering plus musical entertainment. The sign-up sheet for this will be in The Spar at the beginning of November.

These events could not take place without the donations we receive. We continue to be very grateful to both the Port William Community Shop and the Wigtown Community Shop for their most generous support.

We look forward to welcoming you to The Maxwell Hall in November.

Mary Cowan
SECRETARY



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MOCHRUM PARISH CHURCH

Interim Moderator	Rev Eric Boyle	01988 402314
Locum Minister	Rev Steve Fulcher	07484 139736
Treasurer	Ieuan Morgan	
Session Clerk	Mrs Jenni Gray	01988 700948
Organist	Mrs Gill Bateman	
Free Will Offering/Gift Aid	Mrs Jenni Gray	01988 700948
Guild Secretary	Mrs. Vicky Parker	01988 700312
Magazine	John Adams	grizzly121@me.com
Coffee Morning Convenor	Mrs Jenni Gray	01988 700948
Church Flowers	Bridget Hillman	01985 700781
Church Flowers Distribution	Moira Adams	01988 700263

PORT WILLIAM DEFIBRILLATOR GROUP

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

PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

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

PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

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

PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY SHOP

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

PORT WILLIAM BABY & TODDLER GROUP

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

PORT WILLIAM SCHOOL PARENT'S COUNCIL

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

WHO'S WHO 2025

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

PORT WILLIAM GARDENERS' GROUP

Secretary 01988 700955

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 Jean Hobbs 07484 600151
Secretary Ms Elizabeth Dally 07917 858230

PORT WILLIAM PANTOMIME COMPANY

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

PORT WILLIAM MUGA AND YOUTH BUILDING (PWCDDT)

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

PORT WILLIAM MAXWELL HALL MANAGEMENT

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

MADAG (MONREITH & DISTRICT ACTION GROUP)

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

PORT WILLIAM BOWLING CLUB

Secretary Hamish Paton sydtortoise@aol.com 07850 516118

PORT WILLIAM SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

Secretary/Treasurer Allison Scott 07796 164320

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PORT WILLIAM LAWN BOWLING CLUB

WELL, ANOTHER outdoor bowling season came to an end in September.

The club has maintained a strong membership this year. New members are always welcome and will get a warm, friendly reception. Experience is not necessary; just come along and give it a go we have plenty of spare bowls.

Sweeps were held on Tuesday and Friday evenings every week throughout the season, which were generally well attended and good fun. The quality of the bowling may be variable but the camaraderie is always first rate.

The club received a kind donation from its oldest member, **Mr Bill Hedley**, who gave us the money to purchase a new lawn mower. This was very gratefully received and will be of great benefit going forward.

The club have also been busy trying to raise funds towards costs. The **Cake Sale** and recent **Autumn Fair** were a great success and our thanks go to club member Mrs Babs Mellor for her continued energy and efforts with fund raising.

The annual children's bowling competition held during **Carnival Week** was a great success and the new children's bowls purchased by the club were put to good use.

It was lovely to see so many of the youngsters having such a good time.

Despite not having a greenkeeper, volunteers from the club have given up their time every week to maintain the green and surrounding areas. This work will continue over the winter as we try to make the playing surface as good as we can. A huge vote of thanks go to them for their efforts.

The club is still looking for a new greenkeeper and any help with the maintenance of the green would be welcome.

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 SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

AT THE RECENT short mat annual general meeting Richard McElrea and Douglas Ballantyne stood down from their Treasurer/Secretary and Chairperson roles after many years in office.


Thanks to both for all their hard work and dedication over the years.

Hamish Paton has taken over as Chair and Alison Scott the role of Treasurer/Secretary.

During the winter months short mat bowling resumes indoors in Maxwell Hall each Friday at 6.45pm, finishing at 9pm. Entry to the sweep costs £2pp.

No experience is necessary, we have plenty of spare bowls. Come for the camaraderie and banter and give it a go, it's great fun!

Hamish Paton
CHAIRMAN

<p>★ QUIZ ★ ★ NIGHT ★ Parents & Friends of Port William Primary</p>	<p> THURSDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER 6.30 for 7pm start in THE MAXWELL HALL Sponsored by Swift Cars and Andrew Brawls Private Hire £50 to winning team Max 5 per team (£3 per person)</p>	<p>PLEASE BOOK YOUR TEAM: gw08oldmaria @ea.dumgal.sch.uk</p>
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PORT WILLIAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

PORT WILLIAM and District Community Council (CC) continue to work on behalf of local communities as a link to the wider Dumfries and Galloway Council.

If you bring issues to our attention, we can report these to the wider Council. Response times can be frustrating and your patience is appreciated.

We are now meeting again in the Supper Room at Maxwell Hall following the floor repairs. Thank you to Number 12 for hosting us during the hall closure.

YOUR COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEEDS YOU !

THE Community Council still needs new members and a new secretary.

Some of the members have served on the Council for a number of years and will be retiring from their roles in the not-too-distant future.

If we cannot recruit new members and fill these posts **YOUR** community council is at risk of being lost.

Please don't let this happen and consider becoming a member ... go to www.dumgal.gov.uk to find out more about what this entails.

Anyone interested can join us at our monthly CC meetings to observe what happens before making a final decision.

If you are interested, please email:
secretary.pwcc@gmail.com

The new **Village Map** is now in place. There have been one or two comments on this but we hope you all agree, it is a huge improvement on the old one.

WINDFARM DONATIONS:

WE NOW have the fund from Carscreugh Windfarm to allocate. Please submit your application electronically to:

secretary.pwcc@gmail.com

or post to 2 Bowling Green Road, Port William, where it will be passed on. **Applications by 21st November.**

Applications will be discussed and monies allocated at the Community Council meeting on 26th November. Please include in your application the amount you require and what it will be contributing to.

We have sadly lost another two valued members of the CC recently, Tony Cottam and Rebecca Davison. Tony has moved on to pastures new outwith Mochrum Parish, we wish him and his wife Joan well. Thank you Tony and Rebecca for all your hard work during your time in office, you will both be missed greatly by us all.

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

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

Jacqueline Crowther

PORT WILLIAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE FIRST TERM in Port William Primary from August to October has flown by in the blink of an eye.

In **August** we welcomed eight new pupils into Primary 1 and waved good-bye to seven Primary 7 pupils to the Douglas Ewart High School (DEHS). Our current Primary 7s have also completed their first Transition Day in the DEHS in preparation for their move to S1 next year.

As usual we have been very busy across all stages in school. Primary 7 pupils have been using their 'Playmaker' leadership skills to organise and lead lunchtime games sessions for younger Primary 1-4 pupils which has been very popular and successful, well done to P7 for their super effort.

Primary 6 children have started taking part in a new Forest Schools venture with Toni Lamont at Kilsture Forest. They have all thoroughly enjoyed the fortnightly visits which take place whatever the weather with a few muddy and wet children returning to school!

In the forest they have been learning about the environment and nature, building dens, creating wild maps, climbing trees and swinging in the hammocks! They have also been working together; co-operating, being curious, determined and resilient all necessary skills. In **January**, Primary 7s will then begin their 10 week block at Kilsture Forest.

Primary 4/5 children have been taking part in D&G Active Schools, after school club, playing various multi-sport games.

Primary 1/2/3 children have also been actively joining in 'Lighthouse Music' visits where children are singing a variety of songs, playing musical games and learning about instruments and rhythm.

On **1st October** the whole school and many families at home, took part in the "Restart a Heart" campaign where we all learned about CPR and how to do it safely. All children brought teddies to school, followed short film demonstrations and practiced how to save a life using CPR and using a defibrillator, which are present in Port William and many villages and towns.

I am sure Term 2 will be just as interesting and busy with **Halloween** and **Bonfire Night** just around the corner. The Fire Officer and Community Police will visit school to talk to children about fire safety (including pet safety) for bonfires and fireworks. We will also begin to prepare for the annual **Christmas Fair** and at the end of term the wonderful whole school **Christmas Service** in Mochrum Church which is always lovely and very well supported by families and local community members.

Mrs Lesley McDevitt

PARTNER HEAD TEACHER

KIRKINNER AND PORT WILLIAM PRIMARY PARTNERSHIP

PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY SHOP

FORMS FOR APPLYING for funding can be collected from Community Shop.

If returned by the second week in November they will be considered at the following meeting held at the end of that month.

We will be closed for the whole of January as we are redecorating, so please save your after-Christmas sorting-out for us until February

when we will be pleased to take them off your hands.

Yet again tons of thanks to our volunteers, we could not manage without you.

*We wish everyone a Happy Christmas
and Healthy New Year*

Jean Hobbs (Chair)

WINTER OPENING HOURS (TILL EASTER): MON, WED, FRI & SAT 11AM TO 3PM

NATURAL HISTORY OBSERVATIONS: JULY - SEPTEMBER 2025

A WALK CLOSE to the Otter site at Monreith early in July saw several Meadow Brown butterflies on the wing and lovely flowers of Common Toadflax, Tufted Vetch, English Stoncrop and Wild Thyme. A Chiffchaff was calling and there were views to the Isle of Man, Mull of Galloway, The Scares and Monreith Village.

Later, at Barsalloch Point there were lots of Teasel, Carline Thistle, Sea Kale and Sea Campion, with several flowers of Common Forget-me-Not, Common Centaury, Common Mullein, Ivy-leaved Toadflax, Wood Sage, Wood Vetch and Eyebrights. The following day I saw four Swifts over Wigtown although I had not seen them in Port William this year.

We put the moth trap out in the garden on the 11th of the month and recorded only fourteen moths comprising of twelve species including Scalloped Oak, Burnished Brass, Grass Emerald, Dark Arches, Double Square Spot, Large Yellow Underwing, Engrailed, Rosy Minor, Light Arches, Bright-line Brown-eye, Common Quaker and a micro moth with no English name.

In the middle of **July** we walked round the White Loch of Myrton on the Monreith Estate and saw the following: Amphibious Bistort, Common Valerian, Meadowsweet, Raspberry, Yellow Meadow Vetchling, Tufted Vetch, Purple Loosestrife, Yellow Flag, Golden Rod and Common Enchanters Nightshade. Also seen was Oak Marble Gall and a Speckled Wood butterfly. Later that day, Lisa found a Smooth Newt in the garden pond and a Large Red Damselfly was on the vegetation.

The third week of the month I was on the foreshore near Philip and Mary and found three good sized plants of Saltwort, an uncommon plant in Wigtownshire (*see photo*). Close by were several plants of the Oysterplant also an uncommon species in

the county although it is relatively common between Port William and Auchenmalg.

Towards the end of the month, I walked to Clone Point, a short way along the foreshore from Port William. There was a good deal of Musk Mallow around, Wood Vetch was creeping over the shingle as was the prostrate form of Blackthorn with masses of large Sloe fruit visible (*see photo*). A Stonechat was seen high up on the vegetation and a single Painted Lady was seen. On the way back, Field Bindweed was seen, an unusual sighting in this area.

The following day I walked to Moormains Wood and the Killantrigan Burn. Several Red Admiral, Large White and Green-veined White were on the wing. A lot of Tufted Vetch was in the verges as was the uncommon Orpine yet to flower.

At the end of the month, a short visit to Barsalloch Point, close to Port William, found Common Green Grasshopper, Scarlet Pimpernel, Common Centaury, English Stone Crop and at least two differing Eyebrights.

Along the road to Wigtown several showed us a Large Dark Horsefly areas of the blue Meadow Cranesbill could be seen in the verges. The last day of the month Heath Pearlwort was seen on the footpath near King's Green, Port William.

Early in **August**, Dave, our neighbour, brought round a Large Dark Horsefly a menacing looking insect! The second week of the month and a visit to Back Bay Monreith turned up several plants of Saltwort. I mentioned earlier this is an uncommon plant, so to see it in two different locations recently was very rewarding. Also growing alongside it was Sea Rocket, Sea Kale, Sea Sandwort, Spear-leaved Orache and Frosted Orache.

Black Bindweed, Weasel's Snout and a Bladderwort in the pond appeared in the

garden at Seymour House on the 10th of the month, whilst in the third week of **August** there were upto 15 Red Admiral butterflies on a large Eupatorium in the garden at any one time. Just one Small Tortoiseshell was seen at this time and no Peacocks! These large numbers of Red Admirals continued into September. Least Yellow Sorrel was still in flower at Seymour House towards the end of August and Speckled Wood butterflies were in the dappled sunlight too. On the last day of August, Sea Aster was still in flower at Wigtown Harbour.

September opened with Red Admirals flying all around the garden at Seymour House with a few Small Tortoiseshell among them and a couple of Speckled Wood. A Heron started to take an interest in our wildlife pond in the first week of the month, as to whether it found anything to its liking is open to conjecture! On the 5th of the month our first Ballerina Waxcap appeared for this year, they have been with us for many years now.

The following day, a Red-Legged Shieldbug was found in the garden and in the afternoon at Back Bay, Monreith, a Harbour Porpoise was found dead on the foreshore (*see photo*). The flora here included several large plants of the Saltwort found earlier, Spear-leaved and Frosted Orache, Sea Mayweed, Sea Beet, Sea Rocket and a large plant of Rock Samphire close to the cliffs. Sea Holly was found a few years earlier in this area and despite much searching, I have been unable to refind it!

The second week of the month we had a surprise visit from a frog into our kitchen, this is the second time this has happened and we guess they must squeeze under a gap in the side door! The Heron was back again on the 10th of the month so maybe it will be a regular visitor. The second week of September cooled and interestingly only one Red Admiral was seen in the garden but there were three Small Tortoiseshells and a single Speckled Wood still on the wing. As September drew to a close, a whole host of Fungi appeared in the garden, a sure sign that Autumn was with us!

Alan Wake



Saltworts



Sloe



Porpoise

PORT WILLIAM SCOTTISH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

HERE WE ARE in the autumn season when leaves fall from trees and carpet the ground with bright intense colour, giving us a last show before winter comes and our warm clothes and boots come into use.

On a positive note winter brings Christmas celebrations and a New Year to look forward to and whatever it brings.

At the "rural" members are looking forward to celebrating Christmas together with a meal and a party in the Maxwell Hall on **Thursday 4th December** (6.30 for 7pm). Cost will be £23, pre-booking is essential and although we love to invite all you lovely people from the Parish we have on this occasion to limit it to members of Port William Swi.

We know we will have a delicious meal as Caroline is catering and I'm sure we will enjoy fun, games and lots of laughter as we celebrate together.

In **September** several local ladies took part in a very enjoyable two-day weekend macrame workshop. Our tutor who had come down from Largs Swi was extremely knowledgeable and patient and everyone went home with at least three completed articles.

Locally on our craft night we wet-felted bars of soap and at our regular meeting we were busy again creating, with the guidance of the talented Carol Rennison from Drummore. Everyone created a

teapot or jug with a gorgeous arrangement of stunning autumn flowers and leaves.

At the **October** craft meeting Linda Adams came with a huge selection of mosaic tiles and we had fun creating patterns with them for coasters. It was lovely to welcome some new faces from around the area.

The craft meeting takes place on the first Thursday of the month at 7pm in the Supper Room of the Maxwell Hall and we extend an invite to all ladies from the community to join us. It would be nice if anyone who would like to join us could indicate their interest on our Facebook page or phone me (07990 844929) just to make sure we have enough material for whatever craft we have planned!

For those of you who enjoy walking with sociable, friendly like-minded ladies, Jenny, from the Port, runs Wigtownshire Swi Federation **Walking Group**. Jenny organises local monthly walks, usually two walks ... a longer more energetic one and a second easier, often wheelchair friendly.

The outing always includes a visit to a coffee shop! where non-walkers are invited to join them as they relax and chat. Full details and how to contact Jenny can be found on Facebook at Wigtownshire SWI Federation Walking Group.

Unfortunately the syllabus for 2026 has not been finalised but be sure folks that we have a selection of appealing and interesting ideas and events in the pipeline. All details of forthcoming meetings will be posted on Port William Facebook page and in notices around the village.

*I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the community a very **Happy Christmas and a Guid New Year from the "rural"**.*

Jennifer Brodie
PRESIDENT

ADVERTS

We have space on our advertisement pages

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

REGULAR MEETINGS

weekly unless stated

MONDAY

9.30 - 11.30am	Baby & Toddler Group	Maxwell Hall
7.00 - 10.00pm	Port William Bridge Club <i>Autumn to Easter</i>	Maxwell Hall
7.00 - 10.00pm	Kirkinner Bridge Club <i>Easter to Autumn</i>	Kirkinner Hall
6.00 - 7.00pm	PWCDT Football - 5 to 8 years old	Port William MUGA
7.00 - 8.00pm	PWCDT 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
2.00 - 4.00pm	Guild <i>monthly</i>	Maxwell Hall

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

MILLISLE SESSION CLERK'S REPORT

I THOUGHT FOR this report, I would ask Morag (previous Session Clerk), a good friend to many, to give us a little insight into her life in Australia.

Dear Friends,

I can't believe it is more than 14 months since I left Sorbie, on a wet miserable morning and arrived on a bitterly cold winter night in Melbourne.

Winters are very cold here in the southern state of Victoria and despite what everyone thinks about the weather in Australia, it is definitely not always warm and sunny.

It was lovely to go back to the United Church of Echuca, to meet up with old friends and make new ones. Sadly, there were a few no longer there.

Despite promising myself I would not become involved with Church matters, I

am now part of the Worship Committee for the church.

We have no minister at present, but Presbytery provides a service every week which the Worship Committee decide how to use.

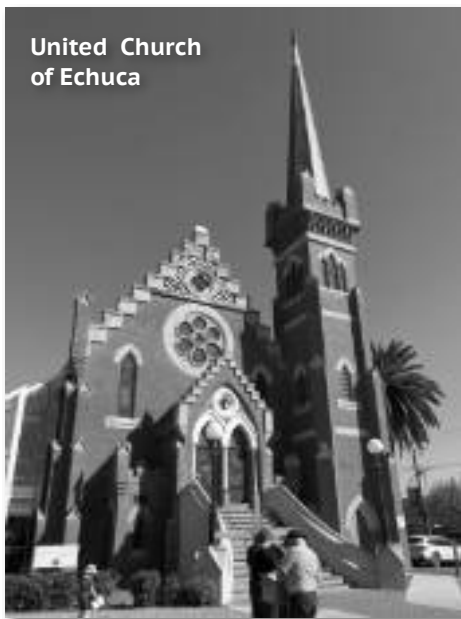
We decide who will conduct the service, who will read the bible or deliver the prayers. Occasionally we have a locum who takes a Communion service.

I had considered travelling to the nearest Presbyterian Church in the next town. However, I was surprised to learn that women don't hold any type of office in the Australian Presbyterian Church! I think they are allowed to make the tea or dust the pews!!

I have now bought my own house, after staying with my son for 11 months. I think my house may be as old as, if not older, than my house in Sorbie. I shall bring you up to date with that maybe at a later time.

I wish you all well my friends

Morag



FLOWER ROTA FOR MILLISLE

October	26th	Alison Graham
November	9th	Remembrance
	23rd	Jean Whittaker
December	7th	Communion
	21st	Hilda Johnston
January	4th	Ann Houston
	18th	Ann Kelly
February	1st	Jean McKay

MILLISLE DOOR DUTY

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

*Whoever is on door, can you shut outside door before coming in - one of you take offering plate,
and take to Rev. Fulcher at end of second last hymn & stand until after prayer. THANK YOU.*

October	12th	Jean McKay and Norrie McIntosh
	26th	Bunty Cloy and Tom Galloway
November	9th	Jean Whittaker and Jean McKay
	23rd	Anne Gorman and John McDonald
December	7th	Agnes Adams and Willie Johnston
	21st	Alison Graham and George Houston
January	4th	Anne Gorman and John McDonald
	18th	Jean McKay and Norrie McIntosh
February	1st	Bunty Cloy and Tom Galloway
	15th	Jean Whittaker and Jean McKay
March	1st	Anne Gorman and John McDonald
	15th	Agnes Adams and Willie Johnston

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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Mochrum Kirk Carol Service

with the

CREETOWN SILVER BAND

on Sunday 14th December

11.00 am

followed by refreshments

EVERYONE WELCOME

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