MOCHRUM Crosslink MILLISLE

Winter 2026



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Material for the Spring 2027 issue should be emailed to
John Adams - grizzy121@me.com

by Sunday 24th January 2027 - No Later please

Charity Numbers: Mochrum SC003300 Millisle SC010621

THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS

WONDER is a very child-like quality. As we get older, we seem to lose it. We've seen it all, done it all. We become cynical, jaded. How do we capture and keep the sense of awe and wonder at the birth of our Saviour Jesus Christ? How do we stop ourselves from thinking, 'same old' or from dwelling on how commercial Christmas has become?

I wonder what it is about Christmas that brings you the most joy? Is it the biggest or the most expensive present or is it some other event or experience? Pause for a moment, if you will, while you consider your answer.

For me, my happiest memories of Christmas are of the family at Christmas dinner, Carols in the Church, and community gatherings around the Town's Christmas tree as the Christmas lights are illuminated. The sounds, the smells, the atmosphere, the fun and the laughter, the warmth of human kindness. My memories of great Christmases are of the people not the things.

And it is in one person, especially, that we see the wonder of Christmas - Jesus.

"Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11)

I hope and pray that you have a wonderful Christmas this year. And I hope that you experience afresh some child-like wonder in this celebration of the birth of Jesus, the most godly person our world has ever known. Take some time this Christmas to wonder and worship.

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you and yours this Christmas.

Rev. Eric Boyle
(Interim Moderator)

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

Look out for our Special Services in the run-up to Christmas.

REMEMBRANCE - DAVID SINCLAIR CAVEN



A WREATH presented by the New Zealand Police Force, from Auckland, will be donated at the Remembrance Service in Mochrum Parish Church on November 8th at 11.30am.

David Sinclair Caven was born in Garlieston in April 1892 into the family of John Caven, who managed the family shoe and boot making business down Extreme Point (now North Street).

In his teens David left for a new life in New Zealand and aged 23 he joined the Police Force in Dunedin in the south of the South Island.

When the call came from Europe, he joined the Army and travelled to Europe as Sgt. Caven of the Otago Infantry Regiment, as part of the ANZAC force.

His unit was posted to the front joining action in the 3rd Battle of Ypres - he was killed at Passchendaele on October 12 1917. As he had no known grave, David's name was listed on the Tyne Cot Memorial.



The Wreath from New Zealand will be placed on the War Memorial at Garlieston at a Service at 1.30pm – David Sinclair Caven is listed amongst those remembered from the village.

Cover Photo: Who Are You Looking At? **by Louise De Lisle**

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.

OCTOBER

25th	Mochrum	Elder Led	**Songs of Praise**
28th	Mochrum	**2.00pm**	**Galloway Guilds Together Autumn Rally**
			Speaker Steve Munroe – Commonwealth War Graves

NOVEMBER

1st	Millisle	Rev Alex Currie
8th	**Remembrance Sunday**	
	10.45am	Port William War Memorial
	11.30am	Mochrum Kirk. Rev Steve Fulcher
	1.30pm	Garlieston War Memorial
	2.15pm	Sorbie War Memorial
	3.00pm	Kirkinner War Memorial
15th	Millisle	Donna Brewster
22nd	Mochrum	Rev Eric Boyle
29th	Millisle	Donna Brewster

DECEMBER

6th	Mochrum	Rev Alex Currie	
13th	Mochrum	Rev Steve Fulcher	**Service of Lessons & Carols with Creetown Silver Band**
tbc	Mochrum	*Date to be confirmed*	**Port William Primary School Christmas Service**
20th	Millisle	Donna Brewster	
24th	Mochrum	**4.00pm**	**Christingle Service**
24th	Wigtown Parish Church	**11.15pm**	**Watchnight Service**
	Kirkcowan Parish Church	**11.30pm**	**Watchnight Service**
25th	Wigtown Parish Church	**11.00am**	**United Service**
27th	Millisle	Elder Led	

COFFEE MORNING ROTA

October	**7th**	Francis Baird and Jean Hobbs
November	**4th**	Sandra & Chris Ducker and Monica McTurk
December	**2nd**	Moira 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

MOCHRUM PARISH CHURCH REGISTER

FUNERAL

"The Lord Is My Shepherd"

Emily Allison (née Little)	formerly Port William
Peter Christie	formerly Monreith Estate
Anne Walker	Monreith

ELDERS' DUTY LIST

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

HOLY COMMUNION

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.

FLOWER ROTA FOR MOCHRUM KIRK

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

November	**1st**	Kay Christie
	15th	Julie Lochead
	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 GUILD REPORT

HELLO everyone. By the time you read this we will have held our October meeting with Helen Crawford giving us a display of flowers that you can find in the bible. I hope you joined us and had a good time.

Our new theme is "Beyond the Walls" so come on in, through the door, past the wall and join us for the **November** meeting. You will listen to local lad John Smithson talking about time and time-pieces with guest leader Jean Willis. That's on Tuesday 10th November at 2pm, Maxwell Hall.

This will be followed by our **Christmas Social Outing** in December then 2027 will be marching on when we will have a lovely afternoon of homemade soup and memories on 13th **January** at an earlier time of 1pm.

If you get this magazine issue before the 28th October you must come along to Mochrum Kirk that day at 2pm when **Galloway Guilds Together** are holding their gathering with special speaker Steve Munroe talking about the Commonwealth War Graves. This event is free and open to everyone with refreshments served afterwards, please do try and attend.

Lastly, we are always looking for new members to join us. Any new members and visitors will be made very welcome ... we'd love to see you.

Vicky Parker
SECRETARY

PORT WILLIAM GARDENERS GROUP

WHO ARE the Port William Gardeners' Group?

We formed 17 years ago to provide flower displays in the village, starting with a few tubs around The Square.

Now there are three roadside planters, eight tubs, the Friendship Garden by King's Green, the Otter Bed in The Square, the beds outside Maxwell Hall and other containers around the village.

Looking for volunteers

We would love to have new volunteers to join the group. Some members have retired or moved away, so we are looking for volunteers to help tending the plants. You don't have to be an expert gardener as we will help you get started.



What is involved?

Members care for one, or more, tubs or flower beds. Plants are supplied in the spring. If it's dry, they need watering once or twice a week. In the autumn bulbs are planted to replace the summer flowers.

Our funds.

All the plants and materials are paid for with money raised at our Spring Plant Sale and at the Carnival Week, Gardeners' Question Time event, plus grants from local organisations.

Are you interested?

If you would like to get involved and keep the village blooming, please contact us:

01988 700955
beachtrekker91@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Liz Perry

MOCHRUM SESSION CLERK'S REPORT

AS YOU READ this I expect that like me you are beginning to think about Christmas ... time certainly seems to pass quickly.

The proposed union of the parish churches of Millisle and Mochrum with Whithorn is now starting to get underway and we have our first **Joint Session Meeting** this coming Sunday to vote on the Draft Basis of Union for Whithorn; Mochrum and Millisle and the Draft Basis of Linkage for Machars North with Machars South.

Once everything is finally in place it is envisaged that the Unions will take place on the 1st January 2027 and the Linkage on the 2nd January so lots to look forward to next year. Rev Boyle has worked very hard to ensure that our churches do not close and hopefully this proposed Union will ensure that we will remain open for at least the next five years.

The only certainty that will ensure that Mochrum Church stays open is you. We had just 18 members at the last Service of Holy Communion and that is not sustainable.

I was very tempted to include a questionnaire in this magazine when the first question would have been 'Do you want to see Mochrum Church closed?' I like to think that the answer would be no.



My next question would be 'Do you go to the church?' and sadly most would also answer no. So next question 'Why don't you come?' Many answers to that I know – work, health, age, other denomination, to name just a few. I am sure you will have many reasons so my final question would be 'What can we change that would make you want to come back to church?'.

Once the Unions are in place we will be able to call a Minister. What would you like him or her to bring to Mochrum and the other churches in the Union to ensure their growth and once again have the thriving congregations that our churches have known in the past.

We give out over 500 copies of this magazine to every home in the parish, allowing for holiday homes and those who cannot come even a 10% attendance would mean around 50. Our service at Mochrum is just once a fortnight, that is just one hour out of 336. As Jesus said 'Could you not watch with me one hour?'

Our **Carnival week Service** and the **Songs of Praise on the Harbour Green** both went well and the annual Ecumenical service at Cruggleton was very well attended.

The **Service of Harvest Thanksgiving** this year was held at Millisle, and an enjoyable **Joint Servic**e was held in Wigtown Parish Church for the start of the Book Festival, although sadly the weather was not kind on that day and many wet raincoats graced the pews.

We have held a **Rededication Service** for the Guild and at the end of this month we shall host the **Galloway Guilds Together** Autumn Rally when the speaker will be Steve Munroe from the Commonwealth War Graves.

Maintenance is ongoing and we have recently had to replace the fuel tank which was leaking oil, and we are now looking to

replace one of the window panes which we had managed to repair in the past but cost permitting we are now hoping to get it changed.

We have held our **ASM**; have celebrated the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** and our annual **Bursary** has been awarded, this year going to Ruth Walker who will be studying midwifery and we wish her every success in her future career. Sadly the rules of the bursary only allow for one recipient each year but if you weren't successful this year please do apply again next year. The poster will go into the magazine in plenty of time to get an application into me.

The **Service of Remembrance** has been arranged and we now look forward to our **Christmas Services** starting with our Service of Lessons and Carols with the Creetown Silver Band. We then have the School Service which is one of my favourites and for me always marks the real start of Christmas, and on Christmas Eve we have our Christingle Service.

The date and time of all our services are listed in this magazine so please come and join us if you can.

Why not also come along to our monthly **Coffee Morning,** every 1st Wednesday of the month in the Maxwell Hall Supper Room, 10.15 to 11.15am only £2.50 for tea/coffee and lovely home made baking.

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

You all remain, always in our prayers.

Jenni Gray

NUMBER 12 PORT WILLIAM - SCIO

ANOTHER busy period at Number 12, with Art Exhibitions, monthly Family Craft Sessions, a visitor from East Anglia, and two apple days.

A big thank you to D&G Climate Hub for funding some of our sessions so that they can be free-to-attend.

Open House on Sundays continues to be a great success, with numbers growing now that we're in the latter part of the year. Its a great place to come and meet people and chat about almost anything … we always have homemade soup and cake, plus a large variety of hot beverages.

Craft & Chatter and **Messy Play** (Tuesdays and Thursdays respectively, 10 til 1-ish) and the **Men's Shed** (same days and times) continue to be well attended, and new members of the groups are always welcome. Tea and biscuits or cakes are always available and the cost per session is just £3.

MAC-CAN and PW Gardeners Group also use Number 12 for their meetings, which is also making good use of the space. We have a number of rooms, both small and large, that are available for hire — contact *Number12 PW@outlook.com* for more information. Overall, in the past three months there have been 700 adults and 33 youngsters that have come through our doors.

As we get nearer to Christmas, we have some more exciting things planned, and we will have a presence at the Maxwell Hall Christmas Fayre ... pop along and have a chat with us !

As a taster, wee have **"Jolabolaflod",** the Icelandic book-swapping event (usually done on Christmas Eve, but on 5th December at Number 12). Santa and his elf will be there for the young ones.

In February we have an Art Exhibition in collaboration with MAC-CAN from the 5th to 8th ... artists out there — get creating !

Have you ever thought about either becoming a Trustee or a volunteer at a community space? We have a few vacancies on our Board of Trustees, and volunteers are always welcome. Even an hour per week can make a huge difference to the running of Number 12.

Bob & Rebecca Sheppard

PORT WILLIAM PRIMARY SCHOOL

THE FIRST TERM in Port William Primary is always the quickest term of the year.

In August we welcomed five new pupils into Primary 1 who have had super start! It is brilliant to report all children have settled in well. We have three mixed stage classes with P1-2-3, P4-5 and P6-7.

At the end of last session, we wished a fond farewell to Primary 7s who were all ready and eager to start at the Douglas Ewart High School (DEHS). After the October break our 10 Primary 7s will start their S1 journey to the DEHS with their first of six visits to the High school; building friendships, experiencing new subjects, and learning their way around a much bigger school.

Student leadership got underway early in Term 1, with children across our three schoolhouses "Kirkmaiden, Monreith, and Myrton" voting for their new House Captains. Candidates delivered speeches to their respective houses, followed by a members vote. Meanwhile, pupils interested in becoming our **Junior Road Safety Officers** (JRSOs) submit applications, which are appointed through interviews with the Head Teacher.

Following the October break, all students will also have the opportunity to join one of our School Pupil Councils: Pupil, Community, Rights Respecting Ambassadors, Digital, Project Playground, or Eco. Our pupils are active decision-makers full of great ideas for improving our school community.

In September it was lovely to see almost all our families attending the **"Open Afternoon"** during Maths Week. All classrooms were ready with children leading maths activities; playing maths games and doing maths challenges together.

Outdoor Learning: Primary 6 students kicked off a new "Forest Schools" venture with Toni Lamont at Kilsture Forest. Despite returning home muddy and wet from fortnightly all-weather visits, they thoroughly enjoyed building dens, making wild maps, climbing trees, and learning vital teamwork, resilience, and problem-solving skills. Primary 7 will take their turn with a 10-week block at the forest in January.

We wrapped up Term 1 with a wonderful **Harvest Assembly.** Our school community generously donated an incredible amount of food for the Machars Churches' Basic Foodbank. Such kindness and generosity in support of others was truly humbling.

Term 2 promises to be just as busy and engaging, with **Halloween and Bonfire Night** right around the corner. A Community Police officer and Fire Officer will visit the school to discuss seasonal safety regarding bonfires and fireworks, including important tips for keeping pets safe. We have some very excited Primary 6/7s getting ready to head off to a Lockerbie Manor for a 3-day super active outdoor residential with archery, kayaking and abseiling.

Looking further ahead, preparations are already underway for our annual **Christmas Fair**, taking place at the school on Tuesday, 1st December at 6pm, as well as our festive **Christmas Show** at the end of term. We are also eagerly anticipating our traditional whole-school **Christmas Service** at Mochrum Church, which is always a highlight and receives wonderful support from families and members of the local community.

Port William Primary School achieved the "Rights Respecting Schools Silver Award" which we are very proud of.

Thank you.

Mrs Lesley McDevitt
Partner Head Teacher

MOCHRUM/MILLISLE PARISH DIARY 2026/27

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 grizzy121@me.com

For a Full List of Church Services please see Page 3

OCTOBER

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

NOVEMBER

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
Saturday	14th	11.00am	**Maxwell Hall Christmas Fayre**	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

DECEMBER

Wednesday	2nd	10.15am	**Coffee Morning**	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	3rd		**Port William SWI Christmas Meal**	Maxwell Hall
Wednesday	9th		**Mochrum Guild Christmas Meal**	The Wigtown Ploughman

JANUARY

Wednesday	6th	10.15am	**Coffee Morning**	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	7th	7.00pm	**Craft Night**	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Tuesday	12th	1.00pm	**Mochrum Guild** *(please note earlier time)*	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	21st	7.30pm	**Port William SWI**	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Wednesday	27th	7.30pm	**Port William Community Council**	Supper Room Maxwell Hall
Thursday	28th	7.00pm	**Port William Community Association (SCIO)**	The Hub, Kings Green

KING'S GREEN CARAVAN PARK

THE CARAVAN PARK had a slow start due to our facilities not being completed on time but once they were up and running we have had a very busy season.

We have had our regular returning customers plus an influx of new visitors who had been recommended to the site and also by checking out customer comments.

They have found the site to be ideal and our facilities certainly are a talking point by them all.

After our annual inspection by the AA the site has a new and improved **3 Gold Star Caravan & Camping rating** and an improved overall quality score of 90%.

A fantastic result that reflects the ongoing commitment of the people running the site.

Davina Kiltie
SECRETARY,
PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

PORT WILLIAM INSHORE RESCUE SERVICE ACTION COMMITTEE (PIRSAC)

IT HAS BEEN a busy few months for the crew and directors at PIRSAC. At the time of writing the crew have attended eight call outs, mainly from HMCG Belfast, assisting numerous casualties in difficulties.

We attended the Burrowhead Sports Day in **July** and had Open Station throughout Carnival Week in Port William. Not to mention the various training sessions that the crew attend on a regular basis.

In **August** Rebecca and Rosemary, who have both been regular members of the boat crew, decided to step away due to other commitments. They gave their time, energy and commitment to supporting the charity. We are incredibly grateful for their contribution and for all the memories made along the way. Thank you Rebecca and Rosemary for everything!

As well as goodbyes, PIRSAC have welcomed a number of new volunteers to the crew and we look forward to working with them during their training and on-going service. If you want to be part of the team, come down on a Wednesday evening at 6.30pm and meet the crew and see what it is all about. We have boat crew and shore crew spaces available.

We have had some incredibly generous donations recently which will enable us to replace our aging launch vehicle and other vital equipment needed on the boat. We would like to thank Mr David Lamb, AB & A Matthews, The Port William Community Shop, The Sands of Luce Holiday Park, Burrowhead Holiday Park, The Ship Inn at Drummore, Barlockhart Lodge Gardens at Glenluce and Wigtownshire Golf Club. Our very grateful thanks also go out to everyone who continues to support us by using The View, participating in the P4P (Pounds for PIRSAC) monthly draw and all the local business and shops that host our money tins. Without this we simply could not provide the support and service we offer to those who use the waters of Luce Bay and the surrounding areas. Apologies to anyone we might have missed please believe us when we say we are incredibly grateful for all your support and generosity.

There are a number of fund-raising events planned for **November** and **December** at The View including a **Quiz Night, Christmas Dinner, Curry Night**, **Breakfast with Santa** and a **Christmas Jumper Disco**. Please check our Facebook Page and posters in The View for full details of these and all the other events taking place.

Although we work collaboratively with HM Coastguard and other rescue services PIRSAC is completely self-funded. So if you are interested in getting involved as a volunteer, entering the P4P draw or simply helping us in any other way, please contact us by email at *pirsac1@gmail.com,* by calling *01988 700166* or pop into The View where the staff will able to help.

Thank you all once again and on behalf of all the crew, directors and volunteers we wish you all a Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Julie Pope
HEAD OF FUND RAISING

Excerpt of 10/11-year-old answers to history tests and Sunday school quizzes:

Moses led the Hebrew slaves to the Red Sea where they made unleavened bread, which is bread made without any ingredients. Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the ten commandos. He died before he ever reached Canada but the commandos made it.

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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	grizzy121@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	

WHO'S WHO 2026

Please advise of any changes to contact details, etc - J. Adams (grizzy121@me.com)

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
SENIOR CITIZENS' COMMITTEE			
Chairperson	Mrs Margaret Gilmour		07825 739049
Secretary	Mrs Mary Cowan		07810 435117
Treasurer	Mrs Dib Penrose		01988 700741
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 MUGA AND YOUTH BUILDING (PWCDT)			
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			
Chair/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	Mr Richard McElrea *(Interim)*		01988 700195
PORT WILLIAM GARDENERS' GROUP			
Secretary			01988 700955
NUMBER 12 PORT WILLIAM			
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Vice-Chairperson	Tony Cottam		07742 057430
Secretary	Bob Sheppard		07865 378993

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WHAT THE FIELDS CAN TELL US (PART 2)

IN A PREVIOUS ISSUE we told you about our Fields project.

Our aim is to produce a map of South Machars field names, and from this get stories from the past about the land and the people who worked it. *(Our map won't show land ownership or farm boundaries, it's only the field names we're interested in.)*

We mentioned the field "Pentland" by the Dowies, named in the late 17th century after a heroic horse, and that Dourie Drive housing scheme is built on what was once "McCall's Field", possibly connected to a proprietor of the Monreith Arms many years ago.

At first it was purely out of interest, but we've realised it's important to record this information now. Some boundaries are disappearing, with dykes being knocked down to enlarge fields. The landscape is changing in places, with rocky outcrops levelled to make more workable land (resulting in some fields named after a geographical feature which is no longer there). Some farms have changed hands from the families who had them for many years, and the old names may not always be passed on, or no longer used. So you can see how field names may disappear for good, and the stories that go with them.

So far, 10 farmers have kindly put their field names on maps we gave them. Thank you very much for your help, you know who you are!

And more stories are coming forward as we hoped. For example, some fields have people's first names or surnames. "Alan's Fauld", "Jamie's Hill" and "Dougan's Park", to name but three! We thought that we might never find out who the people were. Then we were told about a farmer, no longer with us, recounting that his fields with such names were of the people who once had a croft there, presumably in the days before fields were enclosed by dykes. So this may tell us about many of the names. However, we were also told about a "Rosie's field" near the Isle which many assumed to be named after a person, but was actually after a horse, so we won't make assumptions!

We were recently invited to give a talk to the Isle of Whithorn Heritage Group, and their enthusiasm made us realise there is definitely interest in this. We learned a lot from them too. We're happy to come and talk to any groups, to show our map as it develops, and pick up more stories and information. We're not the experts, you out there are!

As we work our way through the Machars, farmers among you are likely to hear from us over the coming months or so. We're still at quite an early stage and there are A LOT of fields, it'll take time! If you'd like to help us sooner, please contact either of us. We can provide a map for you to fill in!

Janis Edgar *janisedgar@yahoo.co.uk*
Dru Hatcher *hatcherdru@gmail.com*

PORT WILLIAM SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB

AT THE recent short mat AGM Alison Scott resigned as Secretary/Treasurer, Mr Richard McElrea agreed to fill the position on a temporary basis. Hamish Paton agreed to stay on as Chair.

The club is always happy to welcome new members and is looking for a new secretary/ treasurer. Support and guidance will be provided.

During the winter months short mat bowling resumes indoors in Maxwell Hall on Fridays at 6.45pm. There will be a sweep costing £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
CHAIRPERSON

PORT WILLIAM & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

YOUR Community Council are your link to the wider D&G Council. Please bring 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. If the issues creating concern are not for the wider Council to deal with, we can relay these to the correct person/people/organisation.

We also meet via a Teams meeting, with the police monthly. Please notify them initially of concerns or observations. If there are any issues you have reported you would like us to follow up on your behalf at this meeting, please let one of us know or send an email to: *secretary.pwcc@gmail.com*

Several incidents of anti-social behaviour, issues with **e-scooters** and **e-bikes** in the area have been reported by residents to the police. Unfortunately, issues with e-bikes and scooters are UK wide. The police are visiting local schools, primary and senior, to discuss the purchase of these in the lead-up to Christmas. Several have already been confiscated. These are to be used on private land only and not on public pavements and roads. Please think twice before purchasing any of these for your children. They are expensive and if used inappropriately will be confiscated.

The police have an ongoing recruitment drive and have visited the area recently. Please contact the police if you know anyone who may be interested in joining them.

The police are about to announce a scheme for more **"mature" drivers (65+)** to have the opportunity to go out with local driving instructors in an attempt to help develop confidence with any specific driving issues *i.e.* night-time driving. This is free and via application. Please look out for announcements on social media and police Scotland websites.

LOCAL PLACE PLAN UPDATES

Electric Vehicle Chargers: D&G have offered to replace the E-charger at PIRSAC. This will be a "like for like" replacement and not one of the newer, faster speed chargers. This is now in the hands of PIRSAC who will hopefully negotiate replacement of this EVC with D&G.

Village Notice Board: The Community Council has applied to Killgallioch Wind Farm for financial support to replace the current board. A decision should be known on our application in November 2026.

Tidal/Sea Pool: Work continues in the background. Funding applications are being made for next steps, engineering and planning. Water quality testing around the two potential sites proposed will be carried out and some testing of burns in Port William has already begun. Phosphites, Nitrates and E-Coli will be tested for over a period of time, at different times and with support from Glasgow University.

Public transport: Online consultation via D&G website ran until 9th October 2026. You may have seen a link to this on social media. This is your opportunity to make your views known further if you can. We are aware online consultations exclude a number of people but are having difficulty influencing this.

WIND FARM DONATIONS

Carscreugh Community Fund will be distributed at the November Community Council meeting, deadline for applications being 14th October. The fund is not a large amount and is distributed amongst applicants as fairly possible. It is important to explain in your application what the

money requested will be used for. We have to provide an annual report to Carscreugh on this, thank you!

Applications for wind farm funds from Killgallioch for community projects need to be submitted now by individual groups. Newton Stewart Initiative have a new Business Manager coming into post. They cover the DG8 area and will be able to support anyone with an application to Killgallioch. The Community Council can also give advice if needed.

PORT WILLIAM WEBSITE REVAMP

The Port William website funded by the Community Council ***(portwilliam.com)*** has been revamped.

If you have a business or run an organisation or club you would like included in the directory please contact John Adams at *grizzy121@me.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

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 for us and allocate time at the meeting accordingly.

Please email: *secretary.pwcc@gmail.com*

Jacqueline Crowther
Community Council Member (not secretary)

PORT WILLIAM SCOTTISH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

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

We welcome women of all ages for friendship, a cuppa and a varied programme of speakers, outings, and activities. Visitors are always welcome for £5.

May - We welcomed Aileen McClymont from Stranraer Cancer Drop-In Centre, who spoke about the valuable support the centre provides to local people affected by cancer and their families.

Our Ruralympics at Maxwell Hall was another great success, with the Port William ladies winning.

June - Members enjoyed a busy month of outings and activities, including a visit to the Isle of Whithorn Heritage Centre, a walk from Torrs Warren, green bowling at Sandhead and a wonderful visit to Opal Alpacas at Stoneykirk.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Dally and Joanne Porter, who won the National Golf Competition at Langbank.

Several members also travelled to "The Gathering" in Dundee, enjoying an inspiring programme of speakers, demonstrations, and entertainment.

COMING UP

- **15th October** – Out of Africa with Ann Todd
- **17th October** – Federation Show at Green Valley
- **19th November** – All Creatures Great and Small with local vet David Campion
- **December** – Christmas Meal & Party

Our craft evenings are on the first Thursday of each month at 7pm, in the Supper Room, Maxwell Hall with Christmas Crafts and Coloured-Pencil Art coming up.

For more information, follow Port William SWI on Facebook.

Everyone is welcome ~ come along and join the fun!

Maria Old
VICE-PRESIDENT

NATURAL HISTORY OBSERVATIONS:

EARLY in July we put out the moth trap during a warm sunny spell of weather and were rewarded with 124 moths comprising 48 species.

Some of the more notable were: Magpie moth (9), Garden Tiger (3) *(see photo),* Elephant Hawk (3), Poplar Hawk (1), Burnished Brass (3), Buff-tip (1), Ghost (1) and Brimstone (1). We had seen lots of Cinnabar moths at Seymour House earlier in the season and in July there were 24 caterpillars on a single plant of Common Ragwort *(see photo)*.

Several Swifts were seen flying high over Port William on the 11th July, a lovely sight! A few nights later we put the moth trap out again with the following result: 79 moths comprising 40 species of which several were of interest - Beautiful China Mark (1), Common Plume (1), Willow Beauty (2), Early Thorn (2), Coxcomb Prominent (1), Ruby Tiger (1) and Scalloped Oak (3).

With the fine weather continuing we put the moth trap out again at the beginning of **August** and trapped 43 moths representing 27 species. The night was a few degrees lower than previous nights probably the reason for the fewer species recorded. Those moths of interest included Canary-shouldered Thorn (1), Currant Pug (1), Dingy Footman (2) and Flounced Rustic (1).

There was reported a possible sighting of a Clouded Yellow butterfly at Kings Green,

PORT WILLIAM 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.

Last year the club received a kind donation from Mr Billy Hedley and a new fantastic lawnmower was purchased. This along with the superb efforts of volunteers has brought the condition of the green to its highest standard for several years.

The bowling club have also been busy trying to raise funds towards costs. On-going thanks go to club member Mrs Babs Mellor for her continued energy and efforts.

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 maintenance would be welcome.

The club have plans to improve the banks and ditches over the winter/spring and are looking at improvements to the clubhouse.

The season will commence in April 2027 when we look forward to welcoming you onto the green … look out for notification of opening day.

Hamish Paton
SECRETARY
sydtortoise@aol.com or phone
07850 516118.

JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2026

Port William, on the 7th August. Later in the day, I went to the area in the hope of maybe turning it up but to no avail!

There were Red Admiral and Painted Lady butterflies in the garden at Seymour House eagerly awaiting the coming into flower of the large Eupatorium species which is always full of these butterflies along with Peacock & Small Tortoiseshell.

Mid August and a further moth trapping at Seymour House resulted in 74 moths representing 31 species, it has been good weather this Summer for these insects. All four species of the Vanessid butterfly group namely Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock were all in the garden late on in August for several days running along with Green Veined White and Speckled Wood. Other species in the garden at this time were Common Sympetrum and Golden-ringed Dragonflies along with Green Shieldbug.

Late in the month a walk along the Monreith Burn resulted in seeing several large Hawker dragonflies together with mating Common Sympetrum. There were also several Common Field Grasshoppers, Large White, Speckled Wood & Wall Brown butterflies, a Silver Y moth and several Common Carder Bees.

At the end of August we were alerted to Clouded Yellow butterflies having been seen on the RSPB reserve at the Crook of Baldoon and were lucky enough to find and photograph them *(see photo)*.

Early **September** at Front Bay area of Monreith, Green Shieldbug and several Speckled Wood butterflies were on the wing.

Hummingbird Hawkmoths have been widely reported in Port William in the latter half of August and the firt week of September favouring Common Honeysuckle. Several large Birch Boletus fungi have appeared in the grass at Seymour House in the middle of September *(see photo)*.

Alan Wake


Garden Tiger Moth


Cinnabar Moth caterpillars on Common Ragwort


Clouded Yellow Butterfly


Birch Boletus Fungi

MAXWELL HALL PORT WILLIAM

Maxwell Hall Management (SCIO) SC049537

THE Maxwell Hall is thriving! Thanks to Alison, our brilliant hall keeper and our very much hands-on committee members, we continue to provide a great space for our regular groups and one-off events.

Our venue is attracting many more events as well as our regular clubs and groups.

We have a date for the **new kitchen** installation which will see a much better use of the space and future-proof the hall. Thanks to our committee member, Monica, for all her hard work and enthusiasm for this project and for bringing to reality a much talked about refurbishment over the last few years.

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**

As the Pantomime Company has now folded, we were given a share of their funds. We have used this money to upgrade the blackout blinds which were broken and in need of replacement since the Pantomime Company installed the original ones many years ago. Huge thanks to Nicola at Kinnears who expertly guided our *"Blind Team"* when choosing replacements! We are currently in discussions with a theatre group looking to use the hall.

We also received funding from the Wigtown Community Shop to buy more smaller wooden tables and these are proving to be popular already.

So, from The Blind Team, The Bin Team, The Kitchen Team, The Maintenance Team, The Table Team for the Christmas Fair and the Admin Team, thank you so much for your continued support.

email: hallcommittee.mhm@gmail.com

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

SEE PAGE 21 FOR REGULAR EVENTS HELD IN THE HALL

Mary Cowan CHAIRPERSON
(07810 435117)

PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION SCIO

CARNIVAL WEEK 2026 has once more come and gone, this was an extremely busy year with numbers attending events very high.

Several different events were on offer and people were willing to give them a go. Welly Wanging was predominantly for children but ended up being a family affair with lots of adults taking part. It shows that something simple can provide a lot of fun.

Our music nights were brilliant and people have requested that we bring back several of the acts but that remains to be discussed.

A few First Aid requirements this year but as all our committee are First Aid trained they were dealt with immediately.

It is now time to start compiling the **2027 programme** and if you can think of any event that you think would be enjoyed by everyone please let any committee member know.

We are always looking for new committee members so if you feel that you would like to be part of a village group please come to a meeting and see if its for you.

Our meetings are held on the last Thursday of the month at the Kings Green Caravan site.

Last but not least we must ***Thank you all for the continual support.***

Davina Kiltie
SECRETARY

REGULAR MEETINGS - *weekly unless stated*

MONDAY		
9.30 - 11.30am	**Baby & Toddler Group**	Maxwell Hall
7.00 - 10.00pm	**Port William Bridge Club** *Autumn to Easter*	Maxwell Hall
7.00 - 10.00pm	**Kirkinner Bridge Club** *Easter to Autumn*	Whauphill 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
10.00am - 12.30pm	**Port William Men's Shed**	No. 12
2.00 - 4.00pm	**Guild** *monthly*	Maxwell Hall
6.00 - 6.45pm	**HIIT Fitness**	Maxwell Hall
7.00 - 8.00pm	**Popdance**	Maxwell Hall
WEDNESDAY		
10.15 - 11.15am	**Kirk Coffee Morning** *monthly*	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) *(1st Thursdays)*	Maxwell Hall
7.30 - 9.30pm	**Scottish Women's Institute** *(3rd Thursdays)* (visitors welcome)	Maxwell Hall
FRIDAY		
3.00 - 5.00pm	**Library and D&G Customer Services**	Maxwell Hall
6.45pm	**Port William Short Mat Bowling**	Maxwell Hall
7.30pm	**Bingo**	Garlieston Hall
SATURDAY		
11.00am	**Craft Workshops** *(3rd Saturdays)* See FB for details	No. 12
SUNDAY		
11.00am	**Morning Worship**	See Rota on page 3
11.00am - 3.00pm	**Open House**	No. 12
2.00pm	**Music Sessions** *monthly (8th Feb / 15 March)*	Maxwell Hall

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

MILLISLE SESSION CLERK REPORT

AT LAST a meeting has been arranged to vote on Union and Linkage.

By the time you read this the meeting will have taken place and if votes go with everything proposed it will then go to Presbytery who, if all in agreement, hopefully a minister can be called.

In the meantime we continue on Sundays with the help of many people, to whom I am extremely grateful.

Sadly, I must mention Ronald Graham, who passed away very suddenly. Ronald was a very competent and dedicated treasurer at Kirkinner for 25 years and then became a regular member and friend at Millisle. Our thoughts are with Alison and the family.

It was a lovely surprise to see Morag Donnan at the Cruggleton Service and to catch up at the tea afterwards. She was looking very well and seems very happy and settled in Australia.

Talking of Cruggleton, thank you to Lynn for getting everything ready in the church and to Jack for allowing us to park in the field.

October 4th saw **Harvest Thanksgiving** with Rev. Currie. Again thanks to the folks who helped decorate the church, clearing up afterwards and for all the very generous donations of food. The food all went to Basics Bank ,who were extremely grateful.

Our good friend Norrie has been in and out of hospital recently and I am sure everyone wishes him a full recovery. We miss his cheery chat on a Sunday.

Forthcoming services in the run up to Christmas (dare I say that word!!) are listed on page 3. Thank you and best wishes to everyone

Jean McKay

PW
SENIOR CITIZENS

ON 12TH September 22 senior citizens headed off on the annual mystery tour and afternoon tea.

This year the venue was Dobbie's Garden Centre near Ayr. We have received lots of positive feedback from those who attended.

Our next event is the **Christmas Afternoon Tea** on Friday 4th December from 1 - 4pm in the Maxwell Hall. There will be entertainment provided by The Playgroup, The School and The Wee Orchestra. The North Street Deli, Wigtown is catering.

This event is free to all people aged over 60 residing within the Mochrum Parish who sign up in The Spar.

Polite Notice: please do not sign up if you are unsure of your availability to attend. We were left several hundreds of pounds out of pocket after the Mystery Tour when people did not turn up and we were charged for the numbers we had submitted. It would be appreciated if last-minute changes of circumstances were made aware to us.

Mary Cowan
SECRETARY

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.

November	**1st**	John McDonald and Anne Gorman
	15th	Jean Whittaker and Jean McKay
	29th	Tom Galloway and Agnes Adams
December	**20th**	Norrie McIntosh and Bunty Cloy
	27th	Willie Johnston and Alison Graham

MILLISLE FLOWER ROTA

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

November	**1st**	Ginny Arnott
	15th	Jean McKay
	29th	Anne McDonald
December	**20th**	Hilda Johnston
	27th	Lynn Fisher

SORBIE VILLAGE HALL WEEKLY MEETINGS

MONDAY

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

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

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

SUNDAY

2.00pm	**Dance Class**	



Mochrum Kirk

Carol Service

with the

CREETOWN SILVER BAND

on Sunday 13th December

11.00 am

followed by refreshments

EVERYONE WELCOME

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

PORT WILLIAM COMMUNITY SHOP

THE Community Shop on South Street, Port William, continues to thrive thanks to all your contributions and support.

We have had a record-breaking summer and have been able to support even more organisations.

Our next distribution of funds is Thursday 26th November and application forms are available in the shop.

We are now on **winter hours** - open Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday, 11am to 3pm. We will be closed over Christmas period from Monday 21st December to Monday 11th January.

Look out for our stall at the **Christmas Fair** in Maxwell Hall on Saturday 14th November 1 to 3pm.

We would like to wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year

Jean Hobbs



