

Minister - Rev. Angus Adamson B.D. Tel: 01770 302334
Parish Assistant - Mrs Jean Hunter B.D. Tel: 01770 860380

Session Clerk – Bill Scott Tel: 830304
Church Treasurer - Fiona Henderson Tel: 830270

Lochranza & Pirnmill Church Elders

Bill Scott Tel: 830304, Chris Knox Tel: 830618
Anne Coulter Tel: 830219, Louise Minter Tel: 850263
Peter Emsley Tel: 850232, Neil Robertson Tel: 850224,
Wilma Morton Tel: 850272, Elspeth MacDonald Tel: 850284,
Christine Black Tel: 850263, John Adam Tel 850230
Sinclair MacLeod Tel: 830319

Church Organists

Lorna Buchanan-Hollingworth Tel: 840681
Aileen Wright Tel: 830353, John Clarke 860219

Congregational Board Members

Rev. Angus Adamson, Christine Black (Clerk),
Richard Wright (Property Manager),
Fiona Henderson, Lizzie Adam, Archie Cumming

Pastoral Care Group

Group Leader - Anne Coulter Tel: 830219
Aileen Wright Tel: 830353, Lizzie Adam Tel: 850230,
Christine Black Tel: 850263, Robert Cumming Tel: 830302

F.O.L.K.

(Friends Of Lochranza Kirk)

Chair – Shared by the Elders – **Treasurer** – Anne Coulter

Sunday Services

Lochranza & Pirnmill Church 10.15 am
(alternate Sundays up to 29th March, see church notice board)
From 29th March (BST) Services – Lochranza 09.30am, Pirnmill 10.45am

Tea & coffee served after the services - **All are welcome**

MAY NEWSLETTER!

Please could I have articles for this by **22nd April** at the latest!
bg.ornsay@btinternet.com
Many thanks. Ed.

Printed @ Ornsay, Lochranza

Lochranza & Pirnmill

Scottish Charity Registration No . SC009377



Church & Community Newsletter FEBRUARY 2019



www.lochranzachurch.org.uk



The Manse, Brodick

As a result of continued falling Kirk membership, on the 9th February in West Kilbride Church there will be a conference to begin the process of once again making fairly drastic cuts in the national church. Every Presbytery in Scotland is going to have to reduce its number of ministers by a fifth. This will inevitably mean the linking or uniting of congregations and the closure of more church buildings. At least this time around, by inviting proposals from congregations themselves as to finding a plan for the future, the process will start from the bottom up, not something imposed from above by the powers that be.

Naturally our first instinct will be to ask, what will that mean for us here on Arran and at Brodick *lw Corrie lw Lochranza & Pirnmill lw Shiskine? The simple answer, we don't know. That said, having discussed this at Kirk Session level in preparation for the beginning of this process, we feel we have a good case to remain pretty much as we are. As a linkage with our motto 'independent but working together' we are still self-financing and paying our way. Equally importantly, we are managing to keep our buildings in good repair and open for worship. However, should we allow any of our churches to require huge sums of money to be spent on them, or fail to meet our ministry and mission allocations, then that would inevitably mean otherwise and even the closure of much-loved buildings.

And all of our churches are much-loved, not just by the individual congregations concerned but by your minister. I am often asked which of the five is my favourite. The simple answer, the one I am conducting worship in at the time. Although I subscribe to the old west-highland understanding that the church is not a building of bricks and mortar – or in the case of Pirmill of tin and wood – but 'wherever the people gather around the minister and word of God, then there is the church', I still feel that currently all of the five are vital to our Christian witness, each perfectly placed at the heart of each of our vibrant communities. And there is more to our church buildings than merely providing a dry, comfortable and hopefully warm places to worship, enabling people to gather around the minister to hear the Word of God proclaimed.

One of my favourite hymns based on 1 Chronicles 16:29 advocates that we 'Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness' (CH4 No 201). For me it is vitally important our churches are also places of beauty, be that with simple, plain, unfussy Presbyterian interiors as at Pirnmill, St Molios and Brodick St Bride's, or at the other end of the scale the ornate Scoto-Catholic Arts and Crafts interior of Corrie, its design based on

** linked with*

CHURCH DUTIES

	DOOR	READERS	COFFEE	DUTY ELDER	FLOWERS
03-Feb	Douglas Coulter	Douglas Coulter	Maureen Cumming	Anne Coulter	
10-Feb	P/mill Communion				
17-Feb	Hazel Gardiner	Hazel Gardiner	Hazel Gardiner	Sinclair MacLeod	
24-Feb	P/mill				
03-Mar	Fiona Henderson	Fiona Henderson	Fiona Henderson	Bill Scott	
10-Mar	P/mill				
17-Mar	Marion Gentleman	Marion Gentleman	Marion Gentleman	Chris Knox	
24-Mar	P/mill				
*31-Mar	Chris Siddle	Pip Siddle	Anita Ford	Anne Coulter	Anita Ford
07-Apr	Maureen Cumming	Archie Cumming	Maureen Cumming	Sinclair MacLeod	Maureen Cumming
14-Apr	Douglas Coulter	Robert Cumming	Hellen Thorburn	Chris Knox	Hellen Thorburn
21-Apr	Gail Scott	Bill Scott	Gail Scott	Bill Scott	Gail Scott
28-Apr	Richard Wright	Richard Wright	Aileen Wright	Anne Coulter	Aileen Wright
05-May	Hazel Gardiner	Hazel Gardiner	Hazel Gardiner	Sinclair MacLeod	Hazel Gardiner

Dates for your diary

- 10th Feb Communion P/Mill 10.15am
- 10th Mar Stated Annual Meeting P/Mill 1015am(after church service)
- *31st Mar BST – Church Service time alters to 0930am (Lochranza)10.45am(P/M)
- 17/18th Apr The labyrinth in St Molios Shiskine 10am-12 noon
- 18th Apr Maundy Thursday Communion Lochranza 7pm
- 19th Apr Walk of Witness from Holy Cross Church 2pm
- 21st Apr Easter Sunday Family Service Lochranza 1015am (ARCO playing)
- 25th April Board & Session Meeting Lochranza 2pm
- 5th May Communion Service Lochranza1015am

The **Health & Healing Services** are now fixed on the last Wednesday of every month in St Bride's Church, Brodick at 12 noon

F.O.L.K. (*Friends of Lochranza Kirk*)

Meet 2pm in church, **everyone most welcome.**

Wed 13th February * Speaker Fiona Henderson talking about her trip to Burma
Wed 13th March Speaker is Ian Quinn from PS Waverley talking about ships calling at Lochranza pier from 1960
Wed 17th July FOLK Fete
* Please note that the talk by Ken Pritchard about the Suez Crisis of 1956 has had to be postponed until 13th November, Fiona has kindly agreed to give her talk on 13th Feb instead of November.



Once again I have been asked to remind people that it is an offence not to pick up your dog waste.

It is very noticeable that this is not happening especially on the main road in Lochranza from the Centre to the Distillery. This is one area that has become quite unpleasant and I am one of many living in this area that would not hesitate to remind a dog owner of their responsibilities! Ed.

TAKE NOTE OF DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

Distillery - on front wall of the visitor centre
Cal Mac building - on the outside wall
Catacol - on wall opposite bus shelter
Pirnmill Shop - in red telephone box



All cabinets are unlocked and open to anyone who requires to take the defib. No prior experience of using one is required make sure you've called 999 to get an Ambulance & the **First Responders** on the way



Feb 12, 26
Mar 12, 26
Apr 9, 23
May 7

Feb 5, 19
Mar 5, 19
Apr 2, 16, 30
May 14



a French cathedral, with choir stalls, and Communion Table placed in the chancel almost like a high altar, or the three-hundred-year-old Lochranza St Bride's somewhere in between those extremes. High church or low, all churches are sanctuaries where we are enabled to be drawn out of the everyday mundane towards the sacred. Holy places where it is easy to feel in the presence of the holiness and otherness of God.

We are constantly told as never before the modern generation are being drawn to the spiritual dimension to life, yet often I feel the fact we already have wonderful buildings designed to allow for that to happen, is completely overlooked.

Not only that, for many Christians, faith began in church and not just because they were taken there to Sunday School to learn about Jesus, but because once there, they felt and understood the presence and the nearness of Almighty God. I am one of those people. Church buildings and their beauty are very important to me, they help nourish and sustain my faith.

That doesn't mean that they should forever remain unchanged and not be allowed to evolve to meet modern day requirements. Currently at St Molios the congregation are contemplating doing away with the old dilapidated church hall and placing it inside the church. This is to be achieved by taking out the rear pews to make hall space, but by keeping the front of the sanctuary as it is, hopefully the building will still retain its architectural integrity and breath-taking beauty. Hence, from being used once a week, it will be used much more frequently. A new eco-friendly heating system will also be part of the plan.

Having hall-type churches is of course not a modern idea. John James Burnett the same architect who designed St Molios also designed Corrie Church, which has always had a hall-type sanctuary with no fixed pews and moveable seating, whilst the congregation at Lochranza have already taken out some of the fixed rear pews to make a social area for coffee after the service. And if I may advocate something even more radical, maybe there is scope to explore the idea of taking out the fixed seating to make the Pirnmill church building a possible replacement for the village hall, now well past its best. A church also used as a hall, nothing new there either. The current tin church hall at Brodick, which is used every day for a whole host of purposes was once the Bennecarrigan United Free Church and sat near the end of the Ross Road, until it was dismantled in 1949 and reassembled in its current location.

Whatever happens, hopefully all of our buildings in the joint linkage will remain useful and important to our work of mission, outreach and Christian service. And next time in church pause and think about your surroundings. Perhaps in doing so you too will find a renewed appreciation of them for your own spiritual life.

Angus

Lochranza & Catacol Community Association Report

It was unfortunate that Sheena Borthwick-Toomey was unable to attend the committee meeting on 30th January to discuss the matter of affordable housing for Lochranza.

However our secretary did receive a list of questions from her, which we discussed along with Chris Traill, who had been invited to attend as an interested party.

It was agreed that a further meeting be arranged to discuss the question of affordable housing, hopefully with councillor involvement, the LCCA committee and Sheena Borthwick –Toomey.

A discussion then followed on progress of the matters arising from the last open meeting held on the 28th November 2018

The secretary has had no response from the council on the matter of speeding vehicles through the village.

The rezoning on the Newton Shore is carried forward to our next meeting

The removal of whins in the village has been received with mixed response. Approximately 50% are in favour. As Council funding is available, the committee feel Arran Estates should be contacted, who not only own the land, but are in a position to clear some of the whins as well as some of the rhododendrons in the village.

The fence at the cemetery has been completed.

The abandoned caravan at Lenimore will be removed by Dougrie Estates as soon as the weather improves.

The Chairman has agreed to contact the owners of the abandoned advertising trailer. It was agreed to make available from funds an amount of £200 for the refurbishment of the gravestones at the sailors grave.

With regard to the winter ferry service from Lochranza to Tarbert and the ongoing issues with the Ardrossan service, efforts will continue to hold an open meeting with representatives from all interested parties.

It would appear that the distillery are now using the Lenimore effluent disposal facility.

The committee acknowledge and thank the secretary for all the correspondence he has undertaken.

The committee would like to hear from anyone who may wish to raise an issue as it affects the village you live in or visit.

It was agreed that the next open meeting of the LCCA will be on the 3rd April in the village hall at 07.00.

Ken Thorburn - Chair



Bell Ringing in Pirnmill on 11/11/18

Following an appeal from the British and German governments, churches throughout the both countries were encouraged to ring their church bells for ten minutes at 7.05 p.m. on 11th November 2018 to mark the hundredth anniversary of the end of World War I.

Pirnmill residents and friends enthusiastically took part each one taking their turn to ring Pirnmill church bell.

From the moment the well wrapped up folks arrived in groups until these twenty seven silent torchlit figures thoughtfully returned home, these moments will be long remembered by those acknowledging their debt to others.

Earlier in the day at Pirnmill World War II Memorial there was a rededication ceremony following the addition of the names of the Pirnmill men who gave their lives in World War I. The evening bell ringing was a notable conclusion marking the hundredth anniversary of the end of World War I.

John Adam

LOCHRANZA BOOK CLUB

New resident Claire McDonald mentioned to me about starting a Book Club in Lochranza. She is coming back to Lochranza on 10th February until 16th February. She would like to meet up with anyone interested to discuss ways of getting it started.

Her email address is

Claire.mcdon@btinternet.com and her telephone number is 07707399489



Jelica Shortland

Hill Walking

This is the other regular activity undertaken by the more adventurous of the group and, since the challenging walks of last summer we have again been up Goat Fell (August) and Meall nan Damh (don't ask me to pronounce that) via Coire Lochan at the beginning of the year.

There have been other shorter walks this year and these are important as we are in training for our participation in the Arran Mountain Festival. We have high hopes of completing the Cioch na Oiche to Goatfell walk next May so we do need to be fit!!!

Well, that's all for now and remember, if you are out on your bike – wear white. And please join us at the Lochranza Hotel on Friday evenings.

Paul Padfield- Chair

Save the planet!

Recycle your batteries

Pirnmill Primary School want your flat batteries so we can recycle them in our large battery-recycling box.

We are happy to receive your batteries between 10.00 am and 3.00 pm – term time only.

Thank you



Some Interesting & Surprising Facts!

As most of you will know we have a visitors book in the entrance to the church. At Christmas we send a card to all the (U.K.) visitors who left their address. This year we counted the number of overseas visitors, these are the numbers.....



U.S.A. 10	Czech Rep. 4
Australia 6	Holland 9
Poland 1	France 4
Canada 8	Switzerland 1
Germany 12	Spain 2
Belgium 1	India 2

LATE NEWS ! Please note that Angus Adamson's telephone number is 870228 & not as published on the back page should you need to get in touch with him.

Food Bank Monthly Totals – October – December 2018

Item/Month	October	November	December	Total	Christmas Items
Pasta	13	19	12	44	2
Rice/Noodles	14	8	17	39	1
Pasta/Rice Sauce	9	16	32	57	3
Beans/Spaghetti	30	20	77	127	4
Soup	35	12	60	107	4
Tinned Fish	76	46	74	196	2
Tinned Meat	109	97	162	368	2
Tinned Vegetables	52	36	29	117	2
Tinned Fruit	47	38	39	124	2
Custard/Rice	53	51	58	162	4
Cereals	17	24	29	70	1
Tea	21	11	19	51	1
Coffee	17	13	30	60	1
Long Life Milk	14	23	19	56	0
Juice	18	2	46	66	1
Sugar	5	8	4	17	0
Biscuits/Treats	98	66	195	359	Note 3 below
Jam	17	12	54	83	1
Toiletries	120	64	99	283	3/4
Condiments	36	22	40	98	0
Sanitary Products	17	4	11	32	1
Baby (Nappies/Milk)	7	1	5	13	0
Household Cleaning	5	9	6	20	0
Toilet Rolls	26	38	75	139	2
Bread/Rolls	15	2	22	39	0
Dog/Cat Food	15	18	19	52	0
Totals	886	660	1233	2779	

For those of you who give so generously to the food bank all year round we thought this would be of interest to you.

1. October records didn't start until 6th October.
2. Numbers in Red are where we ran out of the item during the month so more would have been used if the item was in stock.
3. Numbers are for the stock removed from the transept into the Food Bank in the entrance. Some donations have been put straight into the Food Bank so will not have been recorded.
4. Over 50 Christmas Boxes of treats (Cake, Shortbread, Fancy Biscuits, Selection Boxes, Sweets, Savouries etc.) were donated in the Christmas Appeal. Many of these and bags of staples as listed above were given out to those in need before Christmas by the Social Work Department with the remaining items added to the food bank store. Spare food from the Co-op was used on a weekly basis to restock the freezer. (No numbers for this)

Family holidays on Arran spanning over 100 years.

My family has longer connections with Arran than I had realised. It seems that my great grandfather, Andrew Swan b. 1847, and his wife Agnes [née Murray] brought their children from Glasgow to Arran for many holidays. They stayed in a series of farm houses, a favourite being Torbeg Farm. The story goes that on one occasion my grandfather and his brothers were on their way to a farm, crossing the String in a horse brake. When braking was urgently needed Grandpa's brother Hugh was persuaded to use a new, white, leather shoe for the purpose.

My Grandpa, John Murray Swan had been born in Glasgow in 1876 and was married in 1909. Sometime in the early years of the 20th century he and my grandmother skated many miles down the Clyde.

In 1911 he moved south, to open an office of his firm of export merchants in London, but he continued to visit Arran bringing his own family each year - eventually 6 children. He had large, wicker trunks sent home from the warehouse and the boys were allowed to put in all the sporting equipment they thought they might need, cricket, golf etc. for a six week stay.

Before crossing to Arran they visited their extended family in Glasgow where studio photographs were taken with boys in kilts, girls with large bows in their hair and adults in their best clothes. Albums of these pictures remain to intrigue and inform me about my family.

By this time the holiday house was Kilbride Farm at Shannochie with beaches and golf. Family photos show people playing on the Kilmory golf course at Lenamhor. It was said that the holidaying families prepared the course for play each year.

Across the road from Kilbride was Torylin Farm and close friendships were made with the family there. My Aunt Moira kept up her friendship with Vi Dewar and her two brothers for many years.

On one occasion Grandpa's older sister Jessie, who was married to a sea captain, was in a car returning to the ferry. She was incensed to think that the boat might be about to leave. Standing up in the back of the car and waving her umbrella she called "Captain Black, you will not leave without me!" He didn't.

My father and his brothers were good athletes and sportsmen. They enjoyed competing in games and sporting events around the island and often did well and came away with all sorts of prizes. A large set of coffee cups and saucers complete with silver spoons was a challenge for my father to carry home on a motor bike.

When Dad first brought a car to Arran he had to drive across two planks on to the boat.

As my father and his siblings grew up the long summer holidays here continued. His sisters Moira and Nessie both met their future husbands on the island and my mother was invited to join her future in-laws and family here in 1938. Moira later

Lochranza Philosophical Society (New Year report - 2019)

Hello All, here we are again with yet another New Year having come and gone. For those of us older residents of Lochranza this is yet another reminder of the rapid passage of time. The Philos have had a busy time in the last 6 months of 2018 with, below, a pot pourrie of our activities:

Philosophical Discussions

These, of course, are the *raison d'être* of our society and we have been amply entertained of late. We have discussed The British Empire, the impact of fake news on our democracy, Suez (from the perspective of a 'lowly' officer, First World War diaries, the importance of plastics, the problems of being human in a machine age and a rather depressing discussion about growing old in Lochranza. We have had external speakers too with Stuart Gough's, in depth, exploration of 'The Goat Fell Murder' being a high point. Was he really guilty? We were asked. On balance, we thought not! Stuart Blake, from the Activity Centre, reminded us why Arran is a magnificent draw for geologists the world over and we were royally entertained one night in November. More recently, Stuart Gough (he could become an honorary member) showed us around the Arran Heritage museum and a splendid time was had by all.

It is important to remind readers that these discussions and activities are held between 5.30 p.m. and 7.0 p.m. on Friday evenings in the winter months. All are welcome and that includes folk from Catacol and Pirnmill (we have members from both).

Social

It is not all hard work though and we do try to get out from time to time! Thanks to Richard Wright and Douglas Coulter we enjoyed a splendid whisky tasting session at the distillery in November (with a taxi back to the hotel afterwards!). We do not always drink whisky and another trip in November saw many of us travelling to Glasgow to see how Tennent's beer/lager is made. The picture below makes me wonder whether we all enjoyed this trip!



The annual Panto, Pie and a Pint excursion to Glasgow, before Christmas, was compromised with ferries not running (bad weather would you believe!) but one of our group had hidden on the mainland and was able to attend alone as a 'rep.'

Cont.....

Patient and Service Users Participation Group

Five Public Engagement Meetings were held at different venues on Arran in 2018. 150 members of the public attended these meetings. Arran Medical Group are in the process of writing a full report which should be available in the next 2 - 3 weeks. Participants that left email addresses will receive a copy.

Local Representatives are:-

Lochranza and Catacol

Julie Graham Tel 830 247 Email:- julia74@btinternet.com

Fred Shortland Tel 830 610 Email:- fshortland@hotmail.com

Pirmill

Mark Harwood Tel 850 577 Email:- doctor.jug@gmail.com



Message in a Bottle

Do you live alone?

Do you know about this?

ACVS (Tel: 600611) your Doctor, nurse or careworker has them - you just have to ask for one.

‘What is Message in a Bottle’ A Piece of paper (Personal Information Form – PIF) containing accurate relevant medical and other information relating to the Bottle recipient. A readily identifiable green and white plastic bottle into which the completed PIF is inserted. 3 Self adhesive Green Cross Stickers

How does it work? One green cross is adhered inside the house front door in a clearly visual location to those entering the home. One green cross is similarly located inside the back door. The third Green Cross is attached to the **outside** of the fridge door. The Bottle (Complete with PIF) is placed onto the shelf inside the fridge. **What are the advantages of MiaB?** If an emergency arises and the emergency services are called to the home, they are directed to the Bottle in the Fridge, making all relevant information immediately available. The information enables quick and accurate decisions at the point of contact. The Bottle is taken to the hospital with the patient. It could be a ‘Life Saver’ **Who Benefits?** The Bottle recipient. Family Members. All Emergency services who are called to the home Hospital emergency ward medical team

NB 6 bottles now available in Lochranza surgery

came to live in Lamlash and Bunty and Pam had a cottage in Catacol where we were fortunate to be able to holiday until we acquired our own house in the Row. My own first visit here as a baby was to Kilbride Farm in 1947 but my earliest memory is of a stay in a holiday house in Lamlash in the 1950s with my parents, two sets of aunts and uncles, 4 cousins and grandpa. How did we all fit in? We children cycled, played tennis and nearly all the family group set off to walk up Goatfell from the castle one afternoon; a family stroll as I remember it! With my cousins we played competitive, exciting games of cards but had to keep the noise down on a Sunday as Grandpa would not have approved!

Holidays with my own children have given them such freedom; the hills, the glen, water and boating activities, golf; and now the grandchildren also delight in coming to the island.

It is such a special place that both our sons have chosen to be married in Lochranza Church and what happy memories we have of those occasions.

David Pilch

Community Council Information

The Community Council meet the last Tues of the month at the Ormidale Pavillion @ 6pm with the exception of December. The public can attend. Please note that the 29th January 2019 meeting will be in the Lamlash Council Offices. The Minutes of the meetings are available to read in the Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall, The Lochranza Hotel and the Pirmill Shop. They are also available on the Arran Community Council website page. The Ferry Committee Minutes dating back to 2012 and the Arran Economic Group Meetings are also available on this site. Google:- Arran Community Council then click Records.

If you have any concerns you would like taken forward, could you contact me (Lochranza and Catacol) or Liz Evans (Pirmill). Thank you.

Contact Address:-

Julia Graham The Old Exchange, Lochranza KA27 8HL Tel: 01770 830 247
Email: acc.lochranza.julieg@gmail.com

Liz Evans Shore Cottage, Pirmill, KA27 8HP Tel: 01770 850 267
Email: acc.pirmill.lize@gmail.com

Julia Graham



A Yorkshire Vineyard

Many residents of Lochranza, Catacol and Pirnmill know that we retired to Arran from our vineyard in North Yorkshire. Some coffee morning regulars will even have tasted our sparkling wine. Those who have got to know us well understand that we are a couple of dreamers, but with at least two feet on the ground between us.

Planting our vineyard was the fulfilment of a shared dream, but we did it in a very business like way,

researching local weather records and looking at various possible sites. Even so, planting 10 acres of vines and an acre of fruit trees was a huge risk and a big commitment, creating endless work.

There was a lovely natural cycle to the year, as in any type of farming. Winter pruning was key, shaping the vines for the following season. Then getting through the spring without late frosts to damage the flowers. Vineyard tours started after Easter, there were markets and festivals, and deliveries to some lovely farm shops and outlets.

We had so much support from all generations of our family, especially at harvest, and from local volunteers and friends. There's a magic about a vineyard which draws people in. And we had the good sense to buy in professional help, an agronomist, a web designer, a graphic designer and a consultant winemaker.

Harvest was a wonderful time, and the harvest lunches were memorable, though not much picking was done in the afternoons! People crowded into our cowshed winery to watch the first pressing of grapes. Quite a celebration, but like the whole enterprise, so dependant on so many people.

The winter winery work was more solitary, but there were important decisions to be made. One of our rituals was that as it was getting dark, Stuart would bring a sample or two from the winery for tasting. We were very fortunate to have a volunteer wine educator who came every spring to help us finish the wines pre bottling. Both he and our consultant winemaker have already been to see us on Arran.

Our only regret is not having planted a vineyard when we were younger. After 10 years and more, we ran out of steam, no surprise given the physical nature of the vineyard and winery work. And running a B&B was getting harder too. We used to laugh about the computer only being switched off for 6 hours in 24, Elizabeth doing the late shift and Stuart the early mornings. But despite the relentless work we are so proud of our teamwork which saw us through. We've always been able to work closely together, and help each other make the most of our talents and interests.

We have great memories of our involvement in the wider UK vineyard scene, from the 1990s when we went each September to the English Wine Festival in Sussex, through to the award ceremonies in 2014 and 2015 when Elizabeth went to the Vintners Hall in London to receive our certificates. Making good quality wine so far north certainly surprised many of those southern vineyards and wine "experts". And we have helped a few Scottish vineyards who are trying to push the boundaries still further.

What do we miss about the vineyards? RED TAPE, unbelievable amounts of it. And the constant flow of interested and supportive people. Do we regret retiring, absolutely not, we love Arran, its pace of life and its people. And so does Beth, the vineyard dog.



Stuart and Elizabeth Smith

Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall Report

The last few months since our **Festival of Fire**, our amazing storm bound fireworks things have been rather quiet in the hall.

We spent a lovely afternoon of singing and good cheer in the hall in December, which was wonderfully stage managed by **Aileen Wright** and completed by a cheery Santa Claus. We were so delighted to have young **Callum Trail** to switch on our Christmas Lights and what an incredible display it made as it lit up Lochranza. Great thanks is due to those of our several new **Friends of Lochranza Hall** volunteers who helped to keep switching the lights on, up until the 12th night after Christmas.

Looking to the future in Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall there has been talk of planning leisure equipment in the garden by the mothers and toddlers. Unfortunately we have a delay until decisions are made by the group so the committee can move plans forward.

In the mean while we have tentative enquiries under way to the possibility of once more having tennis courts in Lochranza. This is still in the early stages as yet but there does appear to be grants available. Hopefully the committee will have as much information as possible gathered together for discussions at our next meeting.

Kate Hartley – Chair