

**Minister** - Rev. Angus Adamson B.D. Tel: 01770 870228  
**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 9.30am & Pirnmill Church 10.45am**

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

**AUGUST NEWSLETTER!**

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

*Printed @ Omsay, Lochranza*

# Lochranza & Pirnmill

Scottish Charity Registration No . SC009377



## Church & Community Newsletter MAY 2019



[www.lochranzachurch.org.uk](http://www.lochranzachurch.org.uk)



## A note from our Minister

When news broke of the state of the Brodick manse last summer, I received this wonderful and witty ditty from my dear friend, former Brodick Church organist Rod Smith, now living on Mull. It raised a smile and cheered me up. I felt it more than worth sharing as all the church congregations in North Arran including Lochranza & Pirnmill contemplate the demolition and re-building of Brodick manse with all the challenges that will entail, not least for the manse sub-committee who have already put in such sterling work to date.

*'Manse Sana In Corpore Sand'  
The Brodick manse, it's been agreed,  
No longer meets the church's need,  
And I am certain you will know  
It cannot cope with H2O!*

*A manse's ceilings, walls and roof  
Must vitally be waterproof –  
And Brodick's manse can no efface  
The fact that this is not the case;  
For from the ceilings and the walls  
A steady stream of water falls  
And moisture oozes more and more  
As Rising Damp pervades the floor.  
Oh, such a state would madden ones  
Less patient than the Adamsons -  
Whose minds and bodies bear the clamps*

*Enduring three-dimensional Damp  
Surveyors and the architect  
Brought their tape-measures to inspect,  
And solemnly declared the Manse  
Had hardly any future chance  
O fever drying – and advised,  
(And did not seem at all surprised)*

## CHURCH DUTIES

	DOOR	READERS	COFFEE	DUTY ELDER	FLOWERS
05-May	Hazel Gardiner	Hazel Gardiner	Hazel Gardiner	Sinclair MacLeod	Hazel Gardiner
12-May	Fiona Henderson	Fiona Henderson	Fiona Henderson	Bill Scott	Eileen McAllister
19-May	Marion Gentleman	Marion Gentleman	Marion Gentleman	Chris Knox	Lorna Hallyburton
26-May	Chris Siddle	Pip Siddle	Anita Ford	Anne Coulter	Anita Ford
02-Jun	Maureen Cumming	Archie Cumming	Maureen Cumming	Sinclair MacLeod	Maureen Cumming
09-Jun	Douglas Coulter	Robert Cumming	Hellen Thorburn	Bill Scott	Hellen Thorburn
16-Jun	Gail Scott	Bill Scott	Gail Scott	Chris Knox	Gail Scott
23-Jun	Richard Wright	Richard Wright	Aileen Wright	Anne Coulter	Aileen Wright
30-Jun	Hazel Gardiner	Hazel Gardiner	Hazel Gardiner	Sinclair MacLeod	Hazel Gardiner
07-Jul	Fiona Henderson	Fiona Henderson	Fiona Henderson	Bill Scott	Ethne Cumming
14-Jul	Marion Gentleman	Marion Gentleman	Marion Gentleman	Chris Knox	Lorna Hallyburton
21-Jul	Chris Siddle	Pip Siddle	Anita Ford	Anne Coulter	Anita Ford
28-Jul	Maureen Cumming	Archie Cumming	Maureen Cumming	Sinclair MacLeod	Maureen Cumming
04-Aug	Douglas Coulter	Douglas Coulter	Hellen Thorburn	Bill Scott	Eileen McAllister
*11 Aug	P/M 10.15	Communion			

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

7<sup>th</sup> July ACT Songs of Praise – Lamlash Green 3pm  
 17<sup>th</sup> July Lochranza Church Fete – 2pm  
 20<sup>th</sup> July Brodick Church Fete – 2pm  
 23<sup>rd</sup> July Corrie Church Fete – 12 noon  
 25<sup>th</sup> July Board & Session Meeting – P/M 2pm  
 \*11<sup>th</sup> Aug Communion P/M – 10.15am

## AUGUST NEWSLETTER!

Please could I have articles for this by **22nd July** at the latest!  
 bq.ornsay@btinternet.com



## Pirnmill Church

A new Church gate has been hung at Pirnmill Church. Our grateful thanks must go to Alec Dale for joinery work and to Liz Dale for the hand drawn Burning Bush, the emblem of the Church of Scotland.

**John Adam**

## The HMS/M Vandal memorial service

is on 11th May around 11am ish.

A good 'turnout' of local residents would be much appreciated by the veterans attending.

### TAKE NOTE OF DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

- Distillery** - on front wall of the visitor centre
- Cal Mac building** - on the outside wall
- 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

May 21  
June 4, 18  
July 2, 16, 30  
Aug 13



May 14, 28  
June 11, 25  
July 9, 23  
Aug 6



*The only cure for its condition  
Had to be Total Demolition  
No other way would they decry  
To find a means to make it dry.  
What might replace it? Noah's Ark  
Would not look right in Alma Park!*

*So let's recall, because we oughter,  
That only One Man walked on water-  
Could clear the floors that Angus trod,  
No temple for Jerusalem,  
But a house that's more of user to them.*

*May those who moan at this decision  
As lacking time and full revision,  
Too final and too Absolute,  
At least Remember King Canute-  
Who on his beach stayed Firm and Set,  
And got his Metatarsals wet!*

*No need to ask the Reason Why-  
We want our minister and family DRY!*

(Not to speak of dog .... !)

Rod mentions an ark instead of a manse, but others have jokingly mentioned– or was that meant half fun, half in earnest – a big mobile home would be better suited and a much cheaper option to cover the 5 parishes, presently six, as I am also currently interim Moderator at Kilmory. Certainly, commuting at the moment from Corriecravie, my mileage exceeds 600 miles a month on our problematic island roads, and therefore I am glad that eventually there will be bricks and mortar provided in Brodick from which to work from and a warm, comfortable and dry home to live in, not just for me, but more importantly whoever may be my successor in years to come.

*Angus*

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## A Brief History of Pirnmill School

The 1872 Education ( Scotland ) Act marked a watershed in Scottish education. For the first time elementary education was made compulsory for all children aged between 5 and 13. The existing parish and burgh schools were taken over by the state and managed by locally elected School Boards. The emphasis in the curriculum was the teaching of the '3 R's - reading, writing and arithmetic. But many other subjects were also included. This new Act allowed for a school to be built around 1875 for the children of Pirnmill and the surrounding area.

Few records remain of this period but in 1902 a new log book was introduced to record events happening within the school. The first entry details the retirement of a Miss Flora Cameron and the arrival of Mr K MacLeod to take over as Head Teacher. He faced a daunting task. The roll of the school varied between 30 and 50 and all ages and abilities. He writes, "One feels he cannot do justice to all the classes alone with so many different subjects". Apart from the 3 R's he was expected to teach history, geography, sewing, singing, map-drawing Gaelic and the Shorter Catechism. Although a new building, there was no running water and no mention of toilet provision! The outside area also required more work to be done. Electricity was not installed until 1951 making for Spartan conditions indeed!

These early documented years of the 20th century provide a fascinating view of the social history of the district. The rhythm of the school year becomes clear and is closely linked to the seasons. Children were absent to assist with the 'potato lifting' and other farm work as required. There were epidemics of whooping-cough, influenza, measles and diphtheria. School attendance was closely monitored and there were frequent inspections by HMI. Religious Fast Days were observed as were other Christian festivals. Holidays were granted for royal events e.g. the coronations of George V and George VI. Winters were definitely much colder and stormier than today.

Improvements to the school came slowly and steadily over the years. The signing of the Armistice was recorded. " There was much rejoicing on every hand" In 1937 Dougarie School closed and the remaining pupils were transferred to Pirnmill along with the Head Teacher. On 1st August 1939 the school was closed due to "the international situation". On August 2nd the government ordered the evacuation of Calder Street School to the Pirnmill area. By 1941 the roll had risen to 72 and the school had to resort to splitting the day into 2 sessions to accommodate the numbers. The roll continued to fluctuate during the war years and no doubt made teaching and learning difficult for both pupils and teachers.

## Lochranza and Catacol Community Association Report

The Lochranza and Catacol Community Association ( LCCA ) held its **Annual General Meeting** and public meeting on **Wednesday 24th April** at 19.00 hours in the Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall.

After an initial welcome to the 25 residents and holiday home owners, the first order of business was a report from the treasurer, who was able to show from the audited accounts that the association had a credit balance of **£522.44**.

The accounts were approved and adopted and it was agreed that **D K Henderson** would be approached to continue as **auditor**.

With regard to the election of office bearers, the chair announced that **Bill Scott** had resigned from the committee to allow him more time for his work as session clerk. The Chair thanked Bill for his valuable contribution to the LCCA and a round of applause followed.

The Chair then announced that **Ros Lyle** had agreed to join the committee and a further request was made to those present to see if anyone else felt motivated to join the committee. Unfortunately there was a negative response.

The membership unanimously agreed to **re elect the committee** to serve for another year.

The public meeting then followed covering the following agenda points

**Planning** - Re-Zoning land on the Newton Shore. Nothing new to report.

**Forestry Jetty at Imachar** - In spite of all discussions, no planning application has been submitted to NAC.

**Removal of Whins** - The landowner has given permission for this to take place

**Ferries** - Discussions continue with Cal Mac to get an improved winter service from Lochranza to Tarbert.

**Derelict Housing / Affordable Housing** - work in progress .

**Salmon Farm** - Committee member John Ford gave a very thought provoking presentation on the ramifications of the proposed farm to be sited in the sea off Millstone Point. This presentation resulted in a lively discussion. It is felt that while everyone who is against this plan should write to the appropriate body, an action group should be formed to give more bite to the rejection of the proposed plan.

**Speeding Vehicles** - Speeding vehicles, both commercial and cars continue to be a problem through the village. It was agreed that the secretary will write to the police to see if any further measures can be implemented to slow the traffic down, and the distillery to be approached to see if their tanker lorry and tractor with trailer could be encouraged to reduce their speed through the village.

**The meeting closed at 20.30 hours**

**Ken Thorburn - Chair**

## Patient and Service User Group Meeting (PSUG)

The following is a report from the 2018 series of public meetings held round the island.

### Dear Attendee

Many thanks for coming along to our 2018 engagement events and for your input into plans for the future of health and social care on Arran. More than 150 people participated at our events: we held five events at different venues across the island.

We hope you found the discussions useful – plans to integrate our health and social care teams, plans to develop a single management structure to manage all health and social care services on Arran. We also discussed plans to develop a single care record for people and re-provide hospital, community, social care services and some GP services (Lamlash and Brodick practices) in an integrated hub space on the island.

We have collated all the information and feedback from the five local events.

Overall we received positive support to integrate our teams and co-locate services in a hub on Arran, so we can continue to provide and sustain services on the island.

We noted the following key queries:

- Transport
- Confidentiality and sharing of information
- Location of the integrated hub
- Integrated roles and training

We will be taking forward our plans and will be including the feedback we have received so far. We know that we have engaged with a small number of people on Arran and we are planning more events to ensure as many people as possible are part of the island-wide engagement about future proofing health and social care services on Arran. The events will take place over the next few months. We are also continuing to progress plans for an integrated hub on Arran. The next step is to seek endorsement from Scottish Government. If Scottish Government agrees with our proposed outline plan, we will then move to a formal consultation process.

We'll keep Arran residents updated with Information, including forthcoming engagement events, outcomes from these events, and updates from discussions with Scottish Government, via posters, social media, local media, GP practice newsletters etc.

If you would like any more information or further discussion, please do not hesitate to contact me. Many thanks again for your input so far, health and social care on Arran is about people and we need people's views to help us take our on island service provision forward.

Ruth Betley

The next meeting is at LOCHRANZA SURGERY on Monday 20th May at 7pm.

All welcome

If you have any questions the following can be contacted - Representatives -

Julie Graham. Tel 830 247. email [julia74@btinternet.com](mailto:julia74@btinternet.com)

Fred Shortland. Tel 830 610 email [fshortland@hotmail.com](mailto:fshortland@hotmail.com)

Mark Harwood Tel 850 577 [doctor.ju](mailto:doctor.ju)

When Lochranza School also closed due to falling numbers, children were once again transferred to Pirnmill. A new classroom was added on which gave much welcome space for infant activities. I arrived in Pirnmill in 1980 and remained in post until June 1999. Having previously taught in a school with over 600 pupils in a large town it was a very pleasant change. Of course, no matter the number, there were still challenges to be faced. In 1990 the roll fell below 20 and I found myself in the same position as Mr. MacLeod in 1902 - admittedly with fewer numbers. Thankfully, it wasn't too long till new children were enrolled and I had the support of another colleague. Over the years the curriculum has altered in delivery but not greatly in content. The 3R's remain just as important as building blocks and the development of each child's potential equally so. I remember with great fondness my time as Head Teacher and have the pleasure of meeting up occasionally with ex-pupils. Despite lacking some of the facilities of a larger school, small rural schools can still provide a valuable foundation for a child's experience of learning.

Long may they continue to do so!

Wilma Morton

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## Arran Food Bank

A huge thank you to everyone who has donated items to the Arran Churches Together Food Bank based in Brodick Church. As a result of so many people's generosity, more than one thousand items a month have been uplifted by people in need. During the school holidays there is an even greater demand on the Food Bank so please keep the donations coming. Items can be left in a bag on the floor of the vestibule in the church or in the box in the Co-op.

Items we are short of at the moment are:

Rice sauces	Tinned Meat
Tinned Fish	Tinned Vegetables
Tinned Fruit	Tinned Custard/Rice
Cereals	Tea
Coffee	Long Life Milk
Juice	Sugar
Biscuits/Treats	Jam
Toiletries	Toilet Paper

### Household Cleaning Products

Please note that we have a huge stock of pasta, pasta sauces tinned tomatoes and sanitary products at present.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Arran Food Bank Team

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## Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall Report

By the time you are reading this letter I truly hope you all had a very happy and enjoyable day at the Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall **Daffodil Tea**.. We depend so much on everyone who comes along and supports the hall and we also appreciate the extra help we receive from the Friends of Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall who volunteer their time for our fund raising events. **Without their support in the past, there is every possibility the Hall would have ceased operation.**

This leads me to sharing with you a very real problem the hall is facing, We are no longer able to manage with so few committee members and we now have to take some **drastic action**, as the hall cannot continue with such a depleted group and regularly being unable to have sustainable attendance to discuss hall matters. **The hall constitution states we must have a minimum of six members attending each meeting**, there are usually two trustees attend also but as **trustees they are unable to vote** on any issues so do not count as part of the necessary **quorum**.

In the last two months two meetings have had to be abandoned due to **lack of quorum**. Too many people have worked and planned in the past to ensure the success of the hall to allow it to fail due to lack of participating committee members.

We of course all have holidays and fun times we have to go off island for. We have members who have jobs to consider, children and homes to run, and older members whom by being retired are often off island spending time visiting families or perhaps suffering from bouts of poor health or having to attend hospital appointments and clinics.

**We always have agreed that we need more active committee members .....now it is essential.**

**Every group** taking place in the hall **should be represented** on the committee, as it always was in the past, there was always also representation from the **Field Centre** I think it is essential that this restarts immediately as we work with them quite often.

Everyone of us should plead with friends, neighbours, new people in the villages (and there are several) and I even wondered about people who we all love to see coming down to their holiday homes frequently who may even manage four or five meetings a year. Then there are those friends we chat to who have said no in the past. Speak to them again and explain our predicament.

Cont.....

## Lochranza and Catacol Sea Society cic

The community pump has recently been serviced and remains stored in the church shed, with instructions. There is 5 L of Aspen 4 with the pump to use if required. We have a web page -:

[www.lochranza-pontoon.co.uk](http://www.lochranza-pontoon.co.uk)

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### Fiddle Concert

The annual fiddle concert will take place in **St Bride's Church, Lochranza** in August, date to be announced in Arran Banner and posters.  
**Look out for the date!**



### THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to **Rob Stevens** who has restored this beautiful seat in the hall garden. Rob, I am sure spent many hours repairing it as it was in an extremely bad way!

## Dougarie Open Garden Day

**Tuesday 2nd July: 2pm –5pm.**

Cream teas in the Boathouse, Home baking, tombola, plant stall and gardens open in aid of Scotland Garden Scheme with beneficiaries such as Maggie's Centres and The Queen's Nursing Institute of Scotland to name but a few.

### Apology

*In the last edition of the Newsletter I wrongly accredited the story "**Family holidays on Arran spanning over 100 years**" to David Pilch. In fact it was Barbara Pilch who wrote it. My apologies! Ed.*

## **Imachar**

Beautiful brown trees  
Leaves falling down  
Squirrels cracking acorns  
Making a nest in the trees

Calm and gentle  
Birds are tweeting tunefully  
Waves crashing loudly  
Sun shining brightly

Birds tweeting  
Otters playing with their friends  
Spiders weaving webs  
In the tickly grass

Otters swimming quietly  
Seaweed waving silently  
Smooth pebbles, shiny shells  
Calm and beautiful

People climbing, birds whistling  
Bright sun glowing, waves waving  
Jellyfish floating  
In the sparkly blue sea

River flowing gently,  
Bubbly waves crashing,  
Autumn leaves falling,  
Forest crying sadly.

Gentle wind  
River flowing  
Water splashing  
Seals swimming

Crashing trees crushing squirrels  
And little baby birds  
Colourful butterflies dying  
Please don't do it

Deafening destruction  
Noisy and filthy road  
Overwhelming smelly engines  
Dusty, dead trees

Loud trucks going past  
Bulldozers squeaking  
Cranes lifting wood  
Mucky lorries going past

Chainsaws chopping trees  
Dirty diggers digging  
People crying  
Breaking hearts

Trees are dying  
Animals leaving sadly  
Sneaky workers hiding  
People getting cross

Engines rumbling loudly  
Diggers moving slowly  
Slippery and grey  
Animals in danger

Stinky trucks  
Dead wood everywhere  
Dirty roads  
All is now lost.

The children of **Pirnmill School** wrote this poem. I gather they had a picnic and nature day on Imachar Beach last year and were very upset to hear about the plans that are likely to destroy this beautiful area! The children performed this poem at their Easter Service on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April. A full church was entertained by songs and poems from all the school and the Early Years Class as Easter Bunnies. **Michael Innes** gave a brilliant rendition of Willie Wastle and **Michael Nicholl** gave us a very talented performance of 'Mack the Knife' on the clarinet. We are privileged to have so many gifted children in our primary school.

**Lizzie Adam**

I am appealing to anyone who is willing to volunteer to be co-opted to the committee to contact myself; on 830226, or speak to any other committee member.

**Kate Hartley**  
Chairman

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## **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.

The Minutes of the meetings are available to read in the Lochranza and Catacol Village Hall, The Lochranza Hotel and the Pirnmill 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 (Pirnmill). Thank you.

Contact Address:-

**Julia Graham** The Old Exchange, Lochranza KA27 8HL Tel: 01770 830 247  
Email: [acc.lochranza.julieg@gmail.com](mailto:acc.lochranza.julieg@gmail.com)

**Liz Evans** Shore Cottage, Pirnmill, KA27 8HP Tel: 01770 850 267  
Email: [acc.pirnmill.lize@gmail.com](mailto:acc.pirnmill.lize@gmail.com)

**Julia Graham**

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**F.O.L.K. FETE**  
**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

**Donations for all the usual stalls are very welcome**

**Contact:**

**Anne Tel: 830219 or Gail 830304**

## Kids at War

When it was suggested to me that I should write an article for the Parish magazine I was more than a little apprehensive. It was so long ago that I thought that memories would have been lost. However, a trigger had been pulled and memories came flooding back. Foremost were sounds that I shall never forget: the scream of the warning sirens and the sounds of the 'all clear, the sounds of the air raid wardens' whistles and their shouts of "put that @&@&@&@ light out number 35" if the slightest chink of light showed. Then the zum, zum, zum of the German engines overhead, so different from the sounds of our aircraft. Then anti-aircraft fire opened up. The loud, hard bark, of the big guns accompanied by the softer, pom, pom, pom, of the multi barrelled smaller guns. The culmination was the crumping sound of the bombs exploding followed by the sounds of fire appliances rushing around.

Living about two/three hundred yards from the docks we were in the target area. Most people, at the first warning, headed for the air raid shelters. My Mum and I went only once (Dad was in the army). Conditions in the shelter were awful. Crammed full, people, coughing, spluttering and sneezing. Mum decided we would not go again, as she said in later life, "You had more chance of catching your death in there than you had by way of a German bomb". For the rest of the blitz she shoved me under a stout dining table and followed herself. Situated between ourselves and the docks was an extensive soap factory owned by Bibby's, a well known brand. One night this received a number of direct hits with dire consequences for our whole neighbourhood. A huge chunk of masonry flew over our roof and landed in our front yard. We held our breath thinking it was a bomb that failed to detonate until we were taken out by wardens and fire bobbies. That damage in the front yard was there for many years as a reminder that, "God was looking out for us that night" said Mum. And he was.

It was as a result of this incident that I and many other kids were evacuated into North Wales. This was my first introduction to the countryside. You hear today, disparagingly so, of kids who don't know where milk comes from etc, etc. "Well, hello! I can empathize with that" the new world was all greens and browns with huge four legged smelly monsters more scary than German bombs. I was of course located on a farm. Yes, we did have a local park back home, it was called 'the baldy pitch'. However, I decided, after one day, I wanted no part of it so I absconded determined to go back home. Unfortunately I didn't know where home was, and, I was soon apprehended by the police. This did not deter me and I zotted off the next day with the same result. The upshot was that I was sent back home. I had a lovely greeting from Mum, she had baked a cake.

I think she missed me. (Richard Henderson don't you dare!).

In those days motor vehicles were few and most cargo between the docks and local warehouses was carried by horse drawn carts. This plus an insatiable kids' curiosity led to us partially alleviating the scarcity of sweeties. We discovered that incoming brown sugar congealed into lumps when wet and this happened when the sacks were damaged. Further, we discovered that these lumps, which we called 'toe gee' were very palatable. We took to loitering in the vicinity of the sugar berth and jumping on the back of the carts rummaging for lumps. The drivers would shout at us and flick their whips at us. This added to the excitement of the game and it was with hindsight we came to realise their hearts were not in it. Sometimes the drivers even threw lumps of toe gee 'at' us.

I remember when we saw our first American troops. There had been frantic activity at the bombed out site of Bibby's factory. Rubble cleared away, the ground levelled, and dozens of American tanks started to arrive. There was excitement in the air as everyone wondered what was happening. Even more excitement when we discovered that these troops HAD SWEETS, CHOCOLATE, AND CHEWING GUM. We determined they were going to be our best friends. I'm sure the Gerries would have been if they had bombarded us with goodies instead of bombs. Well we were kids! We soon discovered the tanks were not locked which led to us finding a new game. There were many bags of Silica Gel Chrystals within, so we would pick our tanks and pelt each other with these bags in lieu of real ammo. Lord knows what we would have done with that. Probably flogged it to our army.

It was with mounting excitement and uncertainty over what was happening and rumours about possible invasions that led us to consider we should do something to help the situation. After much serious discussion we went into the town centre where the armed forces recruiting offices were located, Pownall Square I think. We went to the army office first and informed the sergeant we wanted to fight the Germans. He was very good to us. He sat us down and had a chat with us before thanking us and advising us to come back when we were a few years older. When we got up to leave he pulled out a bag of sweets and gave us one. JACKPOT. We left the army office thinking we may be on a roll, so, the Royal Air Force office was next in our new plunder and pillage operation. Our luck was in. We received the same treatment from another nice man and another sweet each. The pride goeth before the fall. The Navy sent us away with a flea in our ear!

**Terry Crawley**