

Interim Moderator – Rev. Tom McIntyre

Tel: 07464788678

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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

Wilma Morton Tel: 850272,

Elsbeth MacDonald Tel: 850284,

Christine Black Tel: 850263, John Adam Tel 850230

Hazel Gardiner Tel: 830635

Church Organist

John Clarke 860219

Congregational Board Members

Christine Black (Clerk),

Fiona Henderson, Lizzie Adam

Pastoral Care Group

Group Leader - Anne Coulter Tel: 830219

Lizzie Adam Tel: 850230,

Christine Black Tel: 850263, Robert Cumming Tel: 830302

F.O.L.K. & Pirnmill

(Friends Of Lochranza Kirk)

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

Sunday Service

10.15am St Bride's Church, Lochranza

Also

At present a shortened service can be found every week on the church web site

www.lochranzachurch.org.uk

Lochranza & Pirnmill

Scottish Charity Registration No. SC009377



Church & Community Newsletter

Summer Edition 2023

www.lochranzachurch.org.uk



Dear Everyone.

Its summertime! It is only mid-June but already we have seen an influx of visitors to our beautiful island, helped by the spell of hot, dry, and sunny weather. I occasionally had to pinch myself to remind me that I was on Arran!

What an amazing number of events take place at this time of the year, some organised specifically for our visitors but there are those events which are locally driven, like the Farmer's Show and Brodick Highland Games.

Apart from the livestock, one of the main attractions at the Farmer's Show is the vintage tractor section, which has grown and grown over the years. The variety of smells attached to the different sections of the show underlined where you were standing, from the sheep to the cattle to the horses to the dogs – each with their distinctive aroma. And then the tractors with their completely different but equally obvious smell.

And then there is the highland games. For the Clarke family there were two events of importance. The highland dancing competition and the massed pipe bands. The sound of the Scottish music being both distinctive and evocative.

Each and both of these events were soon over, but the memories last.

I used to be a part of the British Legion contingent here on Arran. We would hear our members individual memories of the war which were amazing and fascinating but I would also hear the person's spouse mutter something like "Not again," having heard it all many times before.

20 Years of North Arran First Responders

June 2023 marked the 20th anniversary of the North Arran First Responders. The volunteers are trained by the Scottish Ambulance Service to attend patients with certain medical emergencies such as chest pain, breathlessness, stroke, and cardiac arrest.

The group covers Pirmill, Catacol and Lochranza and over the years around 30 individuals living here have volunteered attending to numerous emergencies. 3 of the original responders are still serving today- Fiona Laing(group coordinator), Stuart Blake and Chris Traill.

The anniversary has coincided with the expansion of First Responders to the rest of the island, with 8 groups now providing cover to around 95% of the Arran population. The North Group has welcomed Krystyna Gruszecka and Simon Burgess to it's ranks and hopefully we will soon be able to return to providing 24 hour cover, as we did for the first 17 years before Covid interrupted.

Thanks to everyone who has volunteered over the years and here's to the next 20!

(First responders can only attend emergencies if tasked to do so by the Ambulance service)

Fiona Laing

TAKE NOTE OF DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

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

The Newsletter will be published **before Easter and in July & November**

Articles can be emailed to:
bg.ornsay@btinternet.com

This is from the N.A.C. web site:.....

DOG FOULING IS AN OFFENCE!

It's an offence for anyone responsible for a dog not to remove and appropriately dispose of any faeces after the dog has fouled.



Fines and prosecution

You could receive a fixed penalty of £80

Dog fouling should be picked up and disposed of in the nearest litter/dog bin or placed in your household waste bin.

Biodegradable bags can be purchased from most supermarkets, or requested from your local:

- community centre
- council office

There have been a number of complaints about the above apparently there are areas around Lochranza that are very unpleasant to walk though due to this problem. I was asked to put a reminder in here that dog owners are responsible to clear up after their dog. Ed.

BLUE BIN

Jul 25
Aug 8,22,
Sept 5,19
Oct 3,17,31
Nov 14,28



BLACK BIN

Jul 18
Aug 1,15,29
Sept 12,26
Oct 10,24
Nov 7,21



Memory is a funny thing. As we get older it is easier to remember things from the past than what we did yesterday. So it is good to help refresh the memory with a note in a diary.

God has a phenomenal memory and remembers everything about each and every one of us. Psalm 139 (hymn CH4 97), which begins with "You have searched me, LORD, and you know me....", extols God's complete knowledge and care for each of us.

At Jesus last meal, before He was crucified, He gave His disciples bread and wine in remembrance of Him. The bread and wine being symbols of His body and blood. This remembrance has come down through the centuries to us. It has never been forgotten and is unchanging. God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, is remembered by us as He remembers us. How fortunate we are.

May God be with you always and in all ways.

Liz

THANKYOU TO THE COULTERS

A big thank you goes to Anne Coulter who has been a tireless worker as an Elder of Lochranza Church for many years. Anne has led the Pastoral Care Team and kept Minister(s) and Elders informed of any need in the community. She has also helped organise several church fetes.

Anne has organised many enjoyable outings and Christmas parties for the 'North End' ladies.

Douglas has also been responsible for the floodlights and Christmas lights at the church for the past few years.

We thank them for their contributions to our community over the years and we wish them a happy retirement to Largs.

The Elders & Congregation of St Bride's

Climbing our own little Everest

By Gavin Pritchard, Laurelbank, Lochranza

“Believe me my young friend, there is nothing – absolutely nothing – half so much worth doing as simply messing about in boats.” So says Ratty to Mole in Kenneth Grahame's novel 'The Wind in the Willows'.

Flitting is a Scottish expression for moving house which usually means a large van, removal men and a long stressful day with a wee celebration at the end. For Kirsty and I, our decision to move to Arran meant building a plan to flit our yacht, *Local Hero*, about 600 nautical miles from Gosport in Hampshire to Lochranza.

Although we were both lifelong sailors and I had spent many years at sea navigating in the Royal Navy, we did not have much experience of long sea passages in a yacht. Early research was a bit scary reading tales of extreme tidal streams, fog, high speed ferries and multiple logistic hazards to overcome, so a lot of planning was required. First the boat had the yachting equivalent of a ‘well woman’ clinic as absolutely everything was checked, double-checked and cleaned; the engine was serviced and we stocked up with fuel, oil, spare parts, tools, clothes, food, emergency provisions (chocolate), charts, water, more water and a full inventory of safety equipment including a life raft and personal locator beacons.

It is possible to sail from the south coast of England to the west coast of Scotland primarily by day ‘hops’, but at least one overnight passage is inescapable, and we chose the route of crossing the St George’s Channel between Cornwall and the south-eastern tip of Ireland. For the record, our route was: Gosport, Weymouth, Dartmouth, Plymouth, Fowey, Falmouth, Helford River, Newlyn, Kilmore Quay (Republic of Ireland), Arklow, Howth (Dublin), Ardglass (Northern Ireland), Glenarm, Campbeltown then Lochranza.

Our passage west down the south coast of England was glorious with the weather Gods providing sunshine, following winds and favourable tides to whisk us along between marinas, sheltered anchorages and seafood restaurants. Eating ashore was a real highlight of the trip; the gastronomic delights were a massive boost for crew morale after a long day’s sail. However, the sun and favourable breeze of the Channel lulled us into a false sense of security when we turned the corner to head north up the Irish Sea where we faced a constant battle with strong headwinds and the choppy seas associated with ‘wind against tide’ situations. The anticipated Irish Sea ferries turned up like a leap of leopards too, so we kept a sharp lookout and took avoiding action to pass at a safe distance.

The collision avoidance game of cat and mouse was much aided by our Automatic Identification System (AIS) which detects other vessels around about us and how close they will pass. This data is displayed on our navigation plotter and allows early decisions to avoid close passes with much larger vessels. We also always had our own AIS transmitter on

Three Ginger Sticky Cake with Lemon Icing

225g self-raising flour
1 tsp bicarbonate of soda
1 tbsp ground ginger
1 tsp ground cinnamon
1 tsp ground mixed spice
115g butter, cut into cubes, plus extra for greasing
115g dark muscovado sugar
115g black treacle
115g golden syrup
250g whole milk
85g crystallised ginger, chopped
85g drained stem ginger, finely chopped
1 egg

Preheat the oven to fan 160C / conventional 180C/ gas 4. Butter and line an 18cm round, 7cm deep cake tin with greaseproof.

Put the flour, bicarbonate of soda and all the spices, sieved, into a large mixing bowl. Rub in the butter with fingertips until the mixture resembles fine breadcrumbs.

Put the sugar, treacle, syrup and milk in a saucepan and heat, gently stirring until the sugar has dissolved. Turn up the heat and bring the mixture to just below boiling point and remove from the heat. No need to particularly cool the mix.

Add both the stem and crystallised ginger to the flour mixture and then pour in the treacle mixture, stirring as you pour with a wooden spoon. Beat the egg and add to the cake mixture. Beat until all the mixture is combined and it resembles a thick pancake batter. Pour the mixture into the prepared tin and bake for **50 mins – 1 hour** until a skewer comes out fairly clean. Leave to cool completely in tin before turning the cake out.

To freeze: wrap in greaseproof paper, then in cling film. Freeze for up to a month.

To make the icing, mix together the icing sugar and lemon zest, then gradually add lemon juice until you have a smooth, slightly runny icing, adding more juice, if needed. Drizzle over the cake.

The cake keeps up to 2 weeks stored in an airtight container.

I think freezing it makes it more sticky and delicious personally

This recipe was requested by many people having tasted it at the get together after Pam Swan’s Memorial Service and was kindly given to me by Ann Turner Swan. Enjoy! Ed.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Contact Number for Lochranza and Catacol.

Julie Graham Tel: 830 247 email:- acc.lochranzajulieg@gmail.com

Contact Number for Pirmill

Dr John Adam Tel: 850230 email: acc.pirmill.jca@gmail.com

The term “dip well” is new to me but there still is at the foot of the cliff behind numbers 2 and 3 of the Row what was once a well. It is now covered by a slab of rock, behind the slab there lies a muddy puddle and behind that boggy ground. These wells are at a considerable distance from each other and if you learned at school the rhyme ‘a pint of water weighs a pound and a quarter” you may appreciate how tiring it must have been to carry water from one end of the village to the other.

There is another rather muddled letter about the disputed well, it is only dated Caticol Monday and is from Mrs Marion McGregor and ends:

“There is no more supply of water for us as the best supply of all is in the disputed well.”

One wonders how M r Murray coped with this extremely difficult situation, he certainly earned his wages if as well as authorising repairs, responding to complaints about dampness in houses and so on he had to reconcile dangerously escalating local squabbles.

With grateful thanks to Mrs Lavinia Gibb for allowing me access to the Dougrie Lodge archives.

Penny McWatters

Lochranza & Caticol Village Hall Report

The Village Hall has hosted a number of events in the last few months. We had a successful Daffodil Tea which raised approx.£1000 for Hall funds, we held a Garden Party on the afternoon of Coronation Day in response to many people asking if we were doing anything. In the event, it was not well attended but those that did enjoyed Pimms and some excellent food provided by Committee Members. Beth Fearon won the Baking Competition.

Our next big event will be the **Gala Day on 22nd July**, an afternoon of fun and games for all the family, Burgers, Children’s races and Treasure Hunt and of course the Dog Show. We hope to have a Boat Race- in Fancy Dress on the theme of Superheroes. There will be a licensed bar (cash only) and Dark White will be providing music for the evening’s entertainment.

On **Friday 4th August**, the Argyll Ceilidh Trail will be coming to the Hall again. This time we expect that there will also be other young ceilidh bands playing so it will be an excellent night. Last year we had a great evening of dancing etc, so this year should be just as good. Again we will be providing a bar for the evening.

On a more sombre note, we were sad to note the passing of Margaret Kerr on 27th March this year. Margaret had been on the hall committee in its various incarnations since the age of 18. She had been a stalwart supporter and contributor to many events.

We look forward to seeing many of you at our next events.

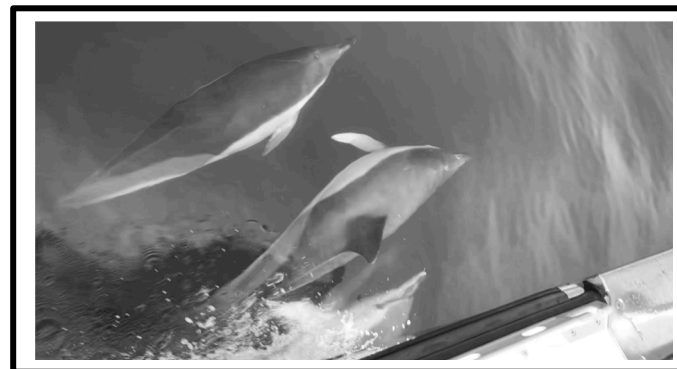
Ros Lyall – Hall Secretary

whenever we were at sea and our track, like Hansel and Gretel’s breadcrumbs, could be viewed on the internet. We were acutely aware throughout the passage, that many of our friends and family were closely monitoring our progress, which was very reassuring from our perspective. Apart from when we crossed the Irish Sea, we also had good 4G signal throughout and kept in regular touch as we sailed and motored along.

Observing marine life is one of the utter joys of being at sea and we had near-daily sightings of dolphins and porpoises, often close encounters. In glassy calm conditions, as we motored towards Kilmore Quay, we were joined by a pod of about nine dolphins that swam and jumped alongside (see picture) us for the best part of an hour, which bordered on magical. Dolphins swimming next to a boat occasionally roll onto their side and look you right in the eye – if only we could communicate back. Seabird sightings are endless, especially guillemots.

Three weeks together as a couple in a boat offers some special relationship challenges! Who is the skipper, who is the crew and who is the galley chef? Kirsty and I have sailed together ‘just-the-two-of-us’ for many years and have developed a set of routines on board, prioritising safety. We are always both on deck for berthing, unberthing or narrow navigational passages and there is great sense of teamwork as we work together, checking the depth, proximity to danger and delivering our plan. Although plans are only a basis for change, we always have one; we figure out what the wind and tidal streams will do and how we will respond in the event of things not going to plan. Our plans changed often – we never made it to the Scilly Islands for instance, which had been much anticipated, and we had never even heard of Glenarm until we met a friendly fellow sailor in Howth who told us it was the best springboard from Ireland to Campbeltown.

So we planned and delivered a proper adventure making friends along the way, and enjoying Dorset, Cornish and Irish hospitality. We dodged a few ferries and managed to avoid the navigational hazards that lie in wait for the unwary. As we turned around Lochranza Pier (avoiding the ferry) there was a quietly triumphant feeling that we had stayed safe, stayed friends and thoroughly enjoyed the experience of sailing about a third of the way round the UK. **Ratty was right!**



Continuing “Letters from the past “ Part Two by Penny McWatters

Here are more letters from over 100 years ago to the Duke's Factor, Patrick Murray which reveal details about some of the conditions our predecessors lived in. Until the 1920s it seems that the Duke or his Trustees were most reluctant to allow property on Estate land to be sold or even externally modified and permission to build a new house was most reluctantly granted. Those tenants with housing problems who wrote to Mr Murray usually tried therefore to be as persuasive and polite as possible in presenting their case though sometimes displeasure can be discerned as in the abrupt beginning of this letter:

Pirnmill, Arran, NB 22nd April 1914

Mr Murray

Sir, I am quite disappointed at the answer I received yesterday from you regarding the repair of the Old Mill. The few remaining years of my life, my wife and myself would like some comfort in our old home and as it is my first dread this winter coming on we are quite willing to pay more rent according to the sum of money that may be spent on it. I am too old now to look after workmen myself. I do hope that when the Commission does come it will agree to do something that will make the old house more comfortable.

Hoping I am not troubling you too much.

I am yours truly

David Currie

Fiona Laing informs me that there were two David Curries in Pirnmill about that time, father and son, and that the houses Ashgrove and Seafeld were built by them which perhaps explains the reference to being able to pay for the repairs through an increase in rent. Was the remark about the Commission some sort of veiled threat? Arran was not in the purview of the Crofting Commission set up in 1886 but what other Commission would be visiting the island in 1914?

Here is another much more persuasive letter from the the Reverend John Murray writing on behalf of a parishioner, it is dated 13th Nov 1905:

Dear Mr Murray

I called at the Cock of Arran farm on the 8th inst. in connection with the Side School there and found that Mr D McAlpine intends calling for you tomorrow in hope that some repairs may be made by the Estate on his house. He has just three places below - room, bedroom and kitchen. There is a family of 8 of them, father, mother, five sons and one girl. Five of these are of school age ie above three years of age. They had a lady teacher last winter and she is going there today for four months. The accommodation is so inadequate that she will have to walk from Lochranza to the Cock and back every school day - about four miles from her house. Mr McAlpine will explain that what he wishes is that two garrets should be made of the open space above the room and kitchen at present. It is just to put wooden partitions ie inside but no structural changes are required.

From the School Board point of view we shall be greatly indebted to you if you can help Mr McAlpine in this matter.

I am Yours Truly, John Kennedy

The letter has a note at the top perhaps written by Patrick Murray: “Mrs McAlpine asks for a porch or scullery to shelter the door, has no scullery at the moment.”

It is to be hoped that this letter, presenting the pertinent facts of the situation did indeed gain the Factor's approval, so that both the McAlpine's and the Lady Teacher's life could be bettered. Walking four miles every work day up hill and down dale throughout winter sounds awful as does a family of eight living in a house with only one bedroom! It is interesting to read about the importance of education - that children as young as three were considered ready for schooling and that the School Board provided a visiting teacher for the months of November through to early March. Presumably when the weather got better the children would have to make their way to the school at Lochranza.

And now, back to Catacol and the water problems there. The letter reported in the previous article about defective and insanitary water supply and drainage was dated July 1897, here are others written about two years before about ongoing problems with water in the village:

17th June 1897

Mr

Murray

Dear Sir

I am sorry to trouble you again but we are still annoyed with our neighbours about the well the dispute was about last year. Last week Mrs McGregor and us got the pipe out of our own well down to the houses in the Row and would be very pleased if they would supply the houses there but since we have done that McKillop and Miller and Kerr would like to deprive us of water for our own use in our Summer houses. On Friday last Mrs McKillop filled it with dirt and stones before me, that is the dip well where we get water for our own use and Miss Kerr and Mrs Miller was present and Miss Kerr then said our share would be very small of the water. I went to Capt. Kerr about it and he told me to write to you. I delayed doing so as Miss McKillop's niece who stays with her cleaned out the dip but now this morning it is as bad as ever quite filled with dirt and stones so that we can get no water. I don't know who has done it this time but it must be either of them. We are going to clean it out but it may be the same tomorrow again which is very annoying as we had to carry from the corner well before. So will you please do something in the matter. If you would kindly write to them as they are determined to deprive us one way or another as I also took a bottle cork out of the small pipe that leads on to the dip yesterday and they were doing the same last year if it is not too much to ask. Will you kindly let me know if you will write to them as we are very much troubled about it.

Yours respectfully, M Murchie

Poor Patrick Murray! Clearly there was an ongoing feud about water, Lochranza already benefited from piped water but Catacol had to wait about twenty more years before receiving such a supply. Meanwhile, the village used well water: one well, presumably the “corner well” mentioned in the letter was in the far corner, nearest the hill, of the village drying green. This was still there in the early 1970s but was filled in when a house was built on the green.

Cont.....