

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

Session Clerk - Peter Emsley Tel: 850232
Church Treasurer - Fiona Henderson Tel: 830270

Lochranza & Pirnmill Church Elders

Sinclair MacLeod Tel: 830319
Wren Gentleman Tel: 830313, Kitty Milne Tel: 830352,
Chris Knox Tel: 830618 Bill Scott Tel: 830304, Anne Coulter Tel: 830219
Peter Emsley Tel: 850232, Neil Robertson Tel: 850224,
Wilma Morton Tel: 850272, Elspeth MacDonald Tel: 850284, Christine Black Tel: 850263
John Adam Tel 850230, Louise Minter Tel: 850263

Church Organists

Lorna Hallyburton Tel: 830311, Lorna Buchanan Tel: 860262

Congregational Board Members

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

F.O.L.K.

(Friends Of Lochranza Kirk)

Chair – Shared by the Elders – **Treasurer** – Elisabeth Mobbs

PIRNMILL GUILD

Convener - Christine Black, **Secretary** - Wilma Morton,
Treasurer - Louise Minter

Pastoral Care Group

Group Leader - Anne Coulter Tel: 830219,
Aileen Wright Tel: 830353, Elisabeth Mobbs Tel: 830370, Lizzie Adam Tel: 850230,
Christine Black Tel: 850263, Robert Cumming Tel: 830302, Pam Swan Tel: 830301

Sunday Services

Lochranza & Pirnmill Church 10.15am
(alternate Sundays – see church notice board)
(Tea & Coffee is served in the church after services)

All are welcome

(Printed @ Ormsay, Lochranza)

Lochranza & Pirnmill

Scottish Charity Registration No . SC009377



Church & Community Newsletter February 2016



Brodict Manse

Recently I had to send a letter verifying the church attendance whilst on Arran of the children of regular visitors, to help ensure that they would be eligible to be enrolled at a Church of England school in London. For that to be possible, worship every Sunday was a mandatory requirement. With competition for places at a good school in many areas south of the border at a premium, by providing great education, the Church of England can use this carrot and stick approach to ensure their Sunday School rolls in such places are kept at a healthy level, whether or not parents are particularly church minded or not.

I'm sure there are good theological arguments to justify this approach, as no doubt there are good theological arguments for having denominational schools, be that Roman Catholic, Church of England, Quaker or otherwise, where Christian principles and ethos are part of the everyday curriculum. Despite some calls for the Church of Scotland to do likewise cropping up periodically at the General Assembly, the Kirk has quite doggedly declined to follow suit. It isn't that we couldn't do with a boost to falling Sunday School rolls – for we certainly could – it is rather down to a different approach to mission and outreach.

At the heart of that is our parish system, which seeks to ensure a territorial ministry for every parish in the land. Admittedly some parishes like ours at Lochranza & Pirnmill share a minister and Parish Assistant with Brodict, Corrie and Shiskine, whilst others often also share a place of worship. Still the aim remains to provide a Church of Scotland presence and witness at the heart of every community in the land, not just to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, but in imitation of their Lord, to serve all who live within the bounds of every parish, church and non-church alike.

Therefore, it is felt that educating Church of Scotland children in a distinct denominational school would undermine that whole principle. Instead of being involved in the everyday life of a community through the local school or schools in the area, we would be encouraging our children to be separate from it. After all, just as Jesus ensured he got alongside people where they were, so He calls Christians to witness in the real world, to engage with it, not separate themselves from it.

CHURCH DUTIES

	DOOR	READERS	COFFEE	DUTY ELDER	FLOWERS
07-Feb	P/mill				
14-Feb	Richard Wright	Fiona Henderson	Anne Coulter	Bill Scott	
21-Feb	P/Mill				
28-Feb	Fiona Henderson	Douglas Coulter	Marion Gentleman	Chris Knox	
06-Mar	P/Mill				
13-Mar	Hazel Gardiner	Hazel Gardiner	Anita Ford	Anne Coulter	
20-Mar	P/Mill				
27-Mar	Aileen Wright	Pip Siddle	Janette MacLeod	Sinclair MacLeod	Maureen Cumming
03-Apr	Maureen Cumming	Archie Cumming	Hellen Thorburn	Kitty Milne	Hellen Thorburn
10-Apr	Chris Siddle	Robert Cumming	Fiona Henderson	Wren Gentleman	Marion Gentleman
17-Apr	Gail Scott	Marion Gentleman	Maureen Cumming	Bill Scott	Gail Scott
24-Apr	Isobel Kerr	Janette MacLeod	Anne Coulter	Chris Knox	Isobel Kerr
01-May	Elisabeth Mobbs	Bill Scott	Gail Scott	Anne Coulter	Hazel Gardiner
08-May	P/Mill				

Dates for your diary!

- 17th Feb. 2pm F.O.L.K. (NB Changed date from 10th Feb!)
- 4th Mar. 2pm World Day of Prayer St Molio's Church Shiskine
- 24th Mar. 7pm Maundy Thursday Service Corrie Church
- 25th Mar. 2pm Walk of Witness (starting from the Holy Cross Church)
- 27th Mar. 10.15am Easter Sunday Service St Bride's Church Lochranza
- 8th May 10.15am Communion Service Pirnmill Church

MAY NEWSLETTER!

Please could I have articles for this by **22nd April** at the latest! If you want more COMMUNITY articles then please contribute! Preferably by email to bg.ornsay@btinternet.com
Many thanks. Ed.

for
your
info.

Pirnmill Shop Winter Hours

MON- FRI 9-1pm & 3-5.30pm
SAT 9-3pm, SUN 12-3pm

Pirnmill Post Office

TUES-FRI 9.30-12.30pm
MON SAT & SUN - Closed

Mobile Library

Visits **Monday** (fortnightly from 18th January}
Pirnmill 10.30 at Village Shop
Lochranza 12.00 at Pier
13.45 at Newton Rd housing

Mobile Banks

Bank of Scotland visits Wednesday

Lochranza 11.15 at Pier

Pirnmill 11.45 at Village Shop

Royal Bank of Scotland visits Tuesday

Pirnmill 11.45 at Village Shop

Lochranza 12.45 at Pier, 13.00 Newton Rd Housing, 13.20 Golf Course



TAKE NOTE!

DEFIBS located at the following points.

Distillery- on the front wall of the visitor centre

Catacol Bay Hotel- on the front wall below the kitchen window,

Pirnmill Village 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 2, 16,
Mar 1, 15, 29
Apr 12, 26
May 10,



Feb 9, 23
Mar 8, 22
Apr 5, 19
May 3, 17



Apologies got dates wrong last time! Who didn't dare tell me! Ed.

It isn't that in the Kirk we don't take Christian education of children and young people as of paramount importance, for we most certainly do, but we would never seek to compel anyone to accept Christ. Jesus never entered anyone's life by force, but waits to be invited, as the famous painting the 'Light of the World' by Holman Hunt illustrates so poignantly, 'Behold I stand at the door and knock, and if anyone should hear my voice and open the door I will come in.'

Invitation to be allowed access to religious education of children in schools here too is at the discretion of the Head Teacher. Jean and I are immensely grateful to be allowed to be involved with all our primary schools at Brodick, Corrie and Shiskine, as well as at Pirnmill and to have the wonderful opportunity to get to know the children and to tell them something of the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ, thus enabling them to make their own minds up about Him.

As to their wider knowledge, there is never any fear here, that our children receive anything other than a fabulous education. Besides excellent and dedicated teachers that is partly because our schools are not too big and each part of our island has its own school, which in a rural area like ours is also of immense importance for a well balanced and healthy community life of which the Kirk strives so hard to be a part.

The threat of the closure of Corrie School was for a time a real prospect, now thankfully averted, although there are always fears for the future of smaller schools like Corrie and Pirnmill, as indeed there are for smaller congregations like those at Corrie and Pirnmill churches. It is interesting to note that just as the parishes of Brodick, Corrie, Lochranza, Pirnmill and Shiskine share one minister and Parish Assistant, one Head Teacher with assistance is responsible for Brodick, Corrie and Pirnmill Schools, whilst Shiskine and Kilmory have a similar arrangement. The most recent development is that there might be only one Head teacher for the whole island with Deputy Heads responsible for even bigger clusters. For the present a good solution to a pressing problem. I hope it is an enduring solution and thus may both our schools and our churches remain open for the foreseeable future.

Angus

May Fenton – Lochranza- 3.12.16-08.10.15.



Born Mary Mirk MacGregor in Glasgow, she was the youngest of three. James, her father, left the family when May was three and the couple subsequently divorced so her mother Catherine brought them up on her own, while running a business. This must have affected on May's childhood, particularly given the then stigma of divorce, but made the family closer and forged strong personalities and characters. May had a happy childhood, attending Sir John Maxwell Primary and Shawlands Academy. Family worship was in Eastwood Parish Church.

During the war May did service with Rolls Royce. She met Alistair Liddell and they married in 1942. Ten months later Alistair was diagnosed with TB, which necessitated the move to the clean air of Arran, where May had spent many happy childhood and family holidays. They rented a house in Corriecravie but with Alistair's condition deteriorating it was decided to buy the Rock Hotel in Blackwaterfoot, where May would be the breadwinner. May worked running the Rock while nursing both Alistair and her mother, a stroke victim, until their deaths - Alistair in 1947. Many neighbours helped during difficult times and through this May met Bill Fenton, her second husband, whom she married in 1949 and Karine arrived in 1954. When possible May attended St Molio's church.

With Bill's failing health the Rock was sold in 1969 and they moved to Lochranza. May strengthened her links with Church and Guild. She found much solace in St Bride's Church, particularly after Bill died in 1972. May's philosophy of 'If you want to make yourself happy, do something for someone else' led her to work tirelessly for the Red Cross, The Women's Guild, The Women's Rural and the Village Hall, etc. But her great love and comfort was St Bride's Church. Over the next 46 years she worked for the life, work and witness of St Bride's. She took particular pride in preparing the linens herself and dressing the church for Communion. She was one of the first women Elders on the island and the first female Session Clerk in the long history of Lochranza and Pirmill. She had the honour of robing Minister Angus Adamson in 2006. Although always supportive, May was never less than honest when talking to any, including the Minister, when she disagreed with decisions on certain matters. She held her own views, even when the general consensus might be different, stood by them. Health issues latterly meant she had to resign from Church office, but she always kept her interest and her faith.

Although travelling a lot in later years, May was always happiest at home. Sadly a series of strokes robbed her of her independence and finally her sight, meaning she had to move to Montrose House where she was well looked after and she could again attend Sunday services.

May slipped away on the evening of October eighth – to be with the God who had sustained her through her long and challenging life.

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

Meet in St Bride's Church Lochranza at 2pm on the following dates.....

17th February Chris Traill on Lochranza Centre CIC

9th March to be announced

Pirmill Guild

We are holding Soup and Sandwich Lunches in Pirmill Hall from 12.30 – 1.30 on the second Monday of each month as follows

8th February, 14th March, 11th April, 9th May

The proceeds from these lunches go to **the Church Fund** and our Guild projects for the next three years. These are **Breaking the Cycle of FGM**, promoting a culture of change by raising awareness, sharing knowledge to drive positive local action, and **Let's Stick Together** which aims to promote strong family relationships and help those who face family difficulties.

We have two remaining meetings for this session. Everyone is welcome. They take place in Pirmill Hall from 2.30. Our theme for the year is

Be Bold, Be Strong, Go in Peace

8th February Reverend Brvan Remsburg on Peace and Reconciliation in South Africa

14th March Reverend John Webster on C.N.D.

A Little Kindness

*Someone listens, someone shares
Someone hears and someone cares,
Someone says a kindly word
And joy and hope are gently stirred*

*Someone is in need of you
Needs a cheerful line or two,
Be the one to light their day,
Sending happiness their way.*

*Someone needs a friendly smile,
Just to make their day worthwhile,
Show a little kindness to,
And kindness will return to you.*

*Taken from
'Grace Magazine'*



**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.**

Message in a Bottle

‘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’

Why in the fridge? The vast Majority of homes have fridges By Nature of it’s insulation the fridge is unlikely to be destroyed in a fire.

Who Benefits? The Bottle recipient. Family Members. All Emergency services who are called to the home Hospital emergency ward medical team

Lochranza and Catacol Community Association News

The committee continues to address issues and concerns raised at our public meetings. We would seek your help in continuing this work and very much value your support. There are one or two matters we would like to draw to your attention.

Firstly, within the magazine you will find a stamped return postcard which we would ask you to complete and return by post. A further recent case of Lyme disease reminds us all of this hazard to health, and as we have not had a great response from Ayrshire and Arran Public Health, we have decided to do our own survey to try and establish the real extent of the problem. Please take a minute to fill in the card and put it in the post. Even if every answer is none, it is still very important that you send it back. Given some houses are holiday homes, it may be some time before we are able to conclude the study, but rest assured we will see you all get the results when they become available. Lyme disease is a very nasty illness with significant disabling long term consequences if untreated, so please do your best to help even if nobody in your house has had a problem.

Secondly, the issue of speeding in the village has been raised again and this remains a great concern to the committee. It has been suggested that many of the suspects are people who live locally, and we would respectfully like to ask everyone to consider slowing down. Particularly in summer, there are a lot of pedestrians and children, often on bikes, so let's all think about driving a little slower!

As all must be aware, several properties were once again inundated with flood water. Our thoughts are with those affected, and we hope it won't be too long till they are back to normal. The committee has been working with those affected and a meeting has taken place with the council and other interested parties to address the issue with a possible flood relief system. Further longer term issues such as the maintenance of the lade are still to be addressed and the committee continues to pursue the matter. In the meantime, we would like to remind you that the Fire Brigade have a responsibility to attend if your property is about to get flooded, so please phone as a first point of contact if you are in trouble.

Lastly, it finally looks as though we may finally be able to progress work on restoring the Catacol Barking house. We are very anxious indeed to enrol volunteers to come on a working group. It will require minimal commitment, and if you are interested, please let Robert know. (tel 830302 email robert.cumming4@btinternet.com)

These are just a few of the issues that we have discussed and if you have anything you would like us to address please get in touch with anyone on the committee.

Robert Cumming (Secretary)

Lochranza Centre CIC

Happy New Year to you all!.

Practically a year ago now, the Directors of **Pgl** visited the centre and informed us that the delivery of field studies specifically, was no longer seen as a growth market. As such they had decided to sell the centre and transfer or enter into redundancy talks with those staff on site.

After over 50 years of combined service at the centre, Chris and I were deeply saddened by the decision, but also realistic. We asked the question, could the centre still be viable? To this end. **North Ayrshire Council** and **Business Gateway** helped us, part paying for a feasibility study. This study came to the conclusion that provided we could attract enough business, then it could be a going concern. Listening to the advisors and others who said that they did not want to see the Centre disappear, we felt we had to try and save it, for the customers who still want to come, for the people who want to work here and for the village and the island as a whole.

Throughout the negotiations which ensued, Chris and I felt humbled by the good wishes, concern and support from the Northend villages and the rest of the island. People have contributed in so many ways, from just talking to us with ideas and connections that may prove useful to giving up their time and expertise to guide and advise us. We have also been buoyed up by those who supported us financially via the crowd funding website **'Indiegogo'** and those investors, 4 of whom loaned us some of their hard earned money .

Thanks to the support of **Triodos bank** and the investors, on the **20th October 2015** the centre became, **Lochranza Centre CIC** (Community Investment Company). This means we are in existence to provide a quality experience for our guests and to help and support the local community and we are not for profit. The last part is slightly misleading, because any business needs to make a surplus to cover costs and a rainy day!. In our case any surplus would go into the centre first and then back into the community. As I write this, today is our birthday, we are three months old!.

Going forward we do need our existing school/college and university groups and some of the families we have had previously in the summer. We would also like to offer ourselves as a venue for interest groups who want to visit Arran i.e walkers, photographers, athletes or those who just want a suitable venue providing food and accommodation with a beautiful setting thrown in. Since we are part of the community we want to supplement the range of opportunities from existing businesses rather than compete with them. We have simple/clean accommodation and a good kitchen team who can provide meals. We also have very knowledgeable and competent instructors.

AND TO TEST YOUR BRAINS.....!

Guess the Scottish cities, towns or villages.....answers next time!

- 1. Mater in good health.....
- 2. See with it and talk with it.....
- 3. Dispose of the Kirk.....
- 4. Tumbler – proceed.....
- 5. Vehicle and river crossing.....
- 6. Game like snooker – a sheep.....
- 7. Wide, but shallow river crossing.....
- 8. Hit – whip.....
- 9. Put out candle with fingers.....
- 10. Larger.....
- 11. Hit – in – and Roman river.....
- 12. Don't turn! Go ahead.....
- 13. Dark coloured water.....
- 14. Vehicle – but goes up to next landing.....
- 15. Mother and Father in good health.....
- 16. Gamble with numbered cubes.....
- 17. Like castle – got up.....
- 18. The Spanish – spirit!.....
- 19. Pub counter – has hair on.....
- 20. Pedestrian waterway.....

GOOD LUCK!

Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall Report

The months November, December and January saw the traditional Hall events but some new ones. At the Hall's AGM in November two new members, **Ann Hill** and **Jessica Fearon**, were elected to the committee. The committee's office bearers were unchanged - **Tony Baboolal Chairman; Kate Hartley Vice Chairman; Anita Ford Secretary and David Henderson Treasurer.**

Looking towards young families a successful market for baby and children's items was held, also in November.

The traditional **Seniors Christmas dinner** was followed by a very well attended **Carol concert.**

It was decided to hold a **Hogmanay party** with the emphasis on the family. Although only about fifty attended, with young children in double figures, it was an enjoyable fun night. Despite or perhaps because entry was free to all with soup and bread being provided free, over three hundred pounds was raised from games, raffle sales and donations.

A successful fire drill was held in January as well as **heart start** sessions in conjunction with the Field Centre.

A **kindergarten morning** is planned to start on Friday mornings and the winter pursuits of **indoor bowls** on Saturday, **badminton** on Monday and the **whist** afternoons every second Wednesday continue.

Dates for the diary: **Burns supper** is on Friday 19 February,
Daffodil Tea Afternoon of Saturday 26 March

The Hall would still like to hear from villagers who can give us a couple of hours once a month at our committee meetings. More than anything else what we are hoping for are new committee members from a wider range of villagers. At meetings all we are looking for are your ideas, comments, suggestions and opinions.

For any Hall matters please contact:

Anita Ford at 830200 and as.ford@btinternet.com

Tony Baboolal at 830217 and anthonybaboolal@hotmail.com

Just to remind you.....!
Church times alter on Sunday 3rd April to 0930 & 1045

So if **you know** of any groups or individuals who might wish to come to Arran to experience the magic which we live in the midst of, we would appreciate you mentioning us to them.

We have a website : www.lochranzacentre.co.uk a **facebook** page and are now mentioned on **Tripadvisor!**.



At the start of negotiations, Chris, I and the rest of the staff thought we had a chance of building something different and hopefully special. Over the 6 weeks we have offered the **Wednesday Winter Warmers** I feel we have already seen a small ember of potential with people gathering, spending an hour or two on a winters day and in so doing supporting us and meeting people. We have also managed to run 2 **Heartstart Courses** over the closed period with plans for more and a **Christmas party**. If you feel we can help in providing a venue for a meeting group, please get in touch on **01770830637** to see if we can accommodate you..

Thank you once again for all your help and continued support . I hope this year is a good one for all of us!

Kindest Regards, Stuart Blake & Chris Trill

ARRAN CURLERS REPORT

It started with an advert in the Banner from David Cameron of Millport Curling Club last year. He challenged Arran to raise a team of 12 to play in The County Cup competition held annually in January. This competition was first played in 1934 between Arran, Bute and Cumbrae, with Arran winning the cup in 1938. We believe Arran dropped out of the competition sometime before 1986.

Contact was made with David Cameron expressing our interest and a team of 12 players was raised, mainly from Lochranza and three experienced players from the mainland with strong Arran connections also joined us.

After much encouragement and help from Millport CC we ventured forth to Greenacres Curling Rink near Beith on 27th January to compete in the County Cup competition with Bute and Cumbrae. Millport won the cup this year and we won a cup for the best Skip.

We had a great day with a really friendly bunch of people from both clubs and we are already looking forward to a re-match next January !

Arran Curlers hope to restart games in Autumn this year and anyone interested in joining us please phone me on 830219.

Anne Coulter

Memories of Lochranza by Brian Miller

L.P. Hartley wrote that "the past is a foreign country". And it is very difficult for anyone to appreciate a community of even a few decades ago. It is certainly true that the village of Lochranza was a very different place fifty years ago. There were fewer houses (around twenty or so) and many more shops, with no Distillery or Fire Station, and no Field Centre or Sheltered housing.

Although I lived in Glasgow for the first thirty years of my life, "Dunira" had always been in the family since its foundation. Thus I was able to spend long summer months and other times of the year in Lochranza. Few of the people living in the village today will have any memory of the place of fifty years ago.

During the season, which was much shorter than today (basically July and August), the village became very busy. The same individuals and families would arrive every summer during the "fairs" – traditional local holidays – Greenock, followed by Glasgow, followed by Paisley. The visitors tended to stay in the village for the duration of their holidays, since car ownership was very limited (the first dedicated car ferry - the Glen Sannox - to the island was not in service until 1957). As a result, locals and visitors were well known to each other. Many of the residents moved into their summer houses and let out their main houses at this time.

Considering the number of residents, Lochranza boasted an impressive array of small shops – a bakery and off-licence (Fyneview), a general store and Post Office (Croftbank), a bank (Rockbank), a café at the pier. A butcher (Torwood), a shop at the Golf Course, and even a Co-operative (Glen Askaig)! In addition, there were several travelling shops, which included a chemist van, a fish van, the bank, and a greengrocer. Morning rolls were available at the bakery and milk was delivered straight from Ballarie or Catacol farms. Sadly, the advent of car ownership and the existence of a supermarket have ended all but one of the shops mentioned above.

The centre of village life was, without a doubt, the pub at Lochranza Hotel, which was the only licensed premise between Corrie and Blackwaterfoot (Catacol Bay did not get a full license until 1971). The bar was closed between 2.30 and 5 o'clock in the afternoon and at 10.10 at night (well, in theory). No food was served, not even crisps or nuts! The bar was half the size of today, there was no Boguille extension. The crush was so incredible that, at times, up to four people would be working in the tiny bar-space.

Our days were long and full in those summers. Sometimes I would be employed in the hall or in the bar of the hotel. If the weather was poor, my friends and I would gather at the hall, where there were tennis courts and a small games area. Occasionally, George Lammie would ask us to help at Ballarie Farm, usually with the sheep dip. If the weather was good, we would play football (there were plenty of "baby boomers" around) or spend the afternoon on the pier, swimming or

watching the antics of a pair of brothers who should never have been allowed near any kind of boat.

The big occasion was the visit of the steamer – the "Duchess of Hamilton" or the "Duchess of Montrose" and occasionally the "Waverley" – on a daily basis. These fine boats, crammed with tourists sailed into Lochranza at 12.15, departed for Campbeltown, and then returned at 4.15. Most of the village would be present. The visitors would be met by a fleet of buses, all resplendent in their various liveries. At that time, there were at least six bus companies on the island, including Ribbeck, MacMillan, Lennox, and Weir. The pier then had no slipway, but an imposing structure built from greenheart timber.

Again, the hall hosted two Sales of Work each summer – one by the Church of Scotland and one by the Free Church. Unlike those of today, each Sale of Work was more of a jumble sale – many people bought along stuff which today would be taken to the coup or placed in the "free to uplift" section of the "Banner". A friend of mine once bought a television for 10 shillings! Unfortunately, there was no guarantee offered.

The church was, as far as I remember, well attended. I suppose it was a less secular age in those days. The attraction was the presence of a minister – James L Dow – who had a rich baritone voice and who was something of a TV personality with frequent appearances on "Late Call".

The true highlight of the summer season in the village were the renowned, even legendary, Lochranza dances, held on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Alcohol was forbidden in the hall, although this restriction did not prevent conspicuous consumption in the car park (or in the toilets). There was even a glitter ball! Buses would come to these dances from Brodick and Shiskine. Two hundred people packed into the hall was not uncommon. They were a marvellous way to bring the whole community together and to meet folk from other villages socially. The Saturday dance finished at 11.45 to respect the Sabbath, although we would often turn back the large clock in an attempt to fool the MC into prolonging the dance.

The village contained a number of larger - than – life true characters – Ian MacMillan (the hotel owner), Finlay Murchie, Duncan McAlister, Billy Gilmore, Jimmy Dow, Gordon Whiteford, Archie "Doc" Cumming, John Hendry, Neil Clark, and, latterly Charlie Napier and Alistair McVicar. All are sadly no longer with us.

As you can see, the village has changed in so many ways since those days. I suppose some of the reasons for the changes are widespread car ownership, the longer season, and the attraction of foreign holidays. I look back fondly on those halcyon days when the weather was always good (selective memory) and there were no garish neon lights, no mobile phones, (and no phones for most people), no bus stops, no social media – just a close-knit community of locals and visitors with the greater age range than today. **It was a simpler time which we will not see again.**