

**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**

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

**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 Wood Tel: 830301

**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

**Sunday Services**

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

**All are welcome**

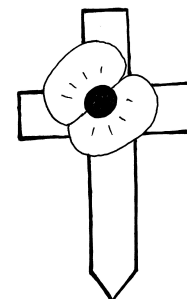
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# Lochranza & Pirnmill

Scottish Charity Registration No . SC009377



## Church & Community Newsletter Nov 2016



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

## 'Food Matters'

It is almost 5 years since the Arran Churches Together Food Bank was established in response to the knowledge that an Arran family had gone hungry over Christmas time. Yet for many still on this island, it is almost inconceivable that anyone in these modern times should know hunger. The fact is, but for the Food Bank, that would be the reality for many and it continues to support people all the year round.

Ordinarily we collect more food than we need and previously much of the surplus was sent over to Ardeer/Stevenson, an area of huge deprivation. However, that did not please some people, who objected that had they known the food they donated at church was going off island, they wouldn't have given to it. As a consequence I came in for some pretty nasty criticism from some church quarters. At the time, besides being a little hurt and pretty angry, I was astounded that any so-called Christian could think in such a way.

Once asked by a religious expert – someone who should have known better – “Who is my neighbour?”, 'Jesus answered, “There was once a man who was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho when robbers attacked him, stripped him, and beat him up, leaving him half dead.”’ So runs the opening preamble to the well-known Parable of the Good Samaritan, who stops and goes to the aid of the poor traveller in need, after the priest and the Levite have chosen to 'pass by on the other side'.

For me anyone who is in need, near or far, is my neighbour and I'm happy to say with the support of the majority of others on the Arran Churches Together committee, the supply of food to our 'near neighbours' in need across the water in North Ayrshire continued. The most recent batch of supplies was sent over in July to help a great many parents to feed school aged youngsters at home during the summer holidays and thus without recourse to a school meal. We were only enabled to do this once again, thanks to D.S Bannatyne and Arran Transport who continue to transport the food to the mainland without charge, for which we are enormously grateful.

However all that said, for the first time, during the period between October and February last winter, we had a job to keep up with demand made on the Food Bank locally here on Arran. This need tailed off around Easter time and we think that this was because seasonal related work then became possible for those who had relied on food bank assistance to get them through Winter time. In my experience no one asks for help from the Food Bank when they can afford to do otherwise. It illustrates too, that contrary to misguided opinion, very often it is people who are in work, or very willing to work, who find themselves in the terrible position of not being able to feed their own families.

## CHURCH DUTIES

	DOOR	READERS	COFFEE	DUTY ELDER
30-Oct	P/mill	Harvest Thanksgiving 1015am		
06-Nov	Joint Communion	Village Hall 11am		ALL
13-Nov	Remembrance Service P/M Hall 1015 P/M War Memorial 1055			
20-Nov	Hazel Gardiner	Hazel Gardiner	Anita Ford	Chris Knox
27-Nov	Come to Church Sunday' P/M 1015			
04-Dec	Aileen Wright	Aileen Wright	Aileen Wright	Anne Coulter
11-Dec	P/mill			
18-Dec	Maureen Cumming	Archie Cumming	Maureen Cumming	Sinclair MacLeod
25-Dec	Family Service 1015	TBA	-	Bill Scott
01-Jan	Chris Siddle	Pip Siddle	Marion Gentleman	Wren Gentleman
08-Jan	P/mill			
15-Jan	ACT Lamlash 12noon			
22-Jan	P/mill			
29-Jan	Gail Scott	Douglas Coulter	Gail Scott	Bill Scott
05-Feb	P/mill			

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December – ACT Christingle Service, Shiskine Free Church at 7pm  
 “ “ - Carols in the Co-op 11am – 12, come and join in!

## FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER!

Please could I have articles for this by **22nd JANUARY** at the latest! If you have an article larger than half a page it is helpful if you would let me know in advance.

Preferably by email to **bg.ornsay@btinternet.com**

*Many thanks. Ed.*

## PIRMILL GUILD

**Soup and Sandwich Lunches** in Pirmill Hall from 12.30 – 1.30

14th November, 12th December, 13th February, 13th March. All proceeds to Guild Projects.

**Guild Meetings** take place on the same dates, in the Hall from 2.00 – 4.00

November we have a **Craft Day**, December is our **Christmas DIY**, in January we visit **St Molio's Guild**, February brings the **Rev Lily McKinnon** as our speaker, and in March we have **Mrs Alison Page**.

**Please join us for all or any of these meetings.**

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## F.O.L.K.

*(Friends of Lochranza Kirk)*

The first meeting of the season was held on October 12<sup>th</sup>, the speaker was Jean Hunter who gave an informative talk with slides on her cruise to South America and the Falkland Islands.

At the business meeting afterwards it was agreed that FOLK funds would pay for a new church printer.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November**, the speaker will be **Anthony Baboolal**.

**Meetings take place in the church at 2pm, all are welcome.**

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## Pirmill Shop

### Winter Opening Hours

Monday – Saturday 9am – 1pm

Sunday 12 – 4pm

### Post Office

Tuesday – Friday 9.30am – 12.30pm

## Lochranza Post Office

Tuesday & Friday 10am – 1pm

This takes place in the hall at the same time as the coffee morning to which **everyone is welcome** to come in and have a chat.

Nov 1,10,29  
Dec 13,27  
Jan 10,24  
Feb 7



Nov 8,22  
Dec 6,20  
Jan 3,17,31  
Feb 14



## TAKE NOTE OF DEFIBRILLATOR LOCATIONS

**Distillery** - on front wall of the visitor centre  
**Cal Mac building** - on the outside wall  
**Catacol Bay Hotel** - on front wall below the kitchen window

**Pirmill Shop** - in red telephone box

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



Another possible explanation for this tail off in demand at Easter, is that some families had to choose between staying warm and eating and quite simply the need to find money for heating wasn't as great once the worst of the winter was over. Thanks to funds that we hold from donations, we will also be able to disburse coal/logs and electricity tokens to many families once more this winter as we did last December/January, hopefully ensuring no one freezes over the festive period, or has to choose between staying warm or eating.

In response to our Food Bank appeal at Harvest Thanksgiving in our various churches, we are now hopefully ready to meet any demand that might arise over the long winter months to come. In this regard we are also hugely grateful to Helen Nelson our foodbank coordinator and to Matthew Johnson who assists her in the foodbank distribution from our new base at Brodick Church. Previously thanks to the kindness of Vivienne Haigh, the Food Bank had operated out of the garage at the rear of her home at 'Thornlea', Lamlash. The change of location is due to Vivienne having recently sold 'Thornlea'. All the above, along with D.S. Bannatyne truly our local 'Good Samaritans'.

And so to return to the Parable of the Good Samaritan. Jesus concludes it with these words: "In your opinion which one of these three acted like a neighbour towards the man attacked by the robbers?"

The teacher of the Law answered, "The one who was kind to him." Jesus replied, "Go then, and do likewise".

Anyone wishing to make donations of either food or money for the ACTS Food Bank can do so at church on a Sunday morning, or by contacting me directly. I guarantee your contributions will certainly make a difference to some of your 'neighbours' in need, near or far.

*Angus*

\*\*\*\*\*

## PETER EMSLEY

Peter has been our Session Clerk for the past six years. During that time his life changed radically, with the illness and subsequent death of his wife Margaret, and his own ill health. Through all this he continued to serve God and our congregation steadfastly with grace and humility, and to go about his duties determinedly, showing an example to us all. As Clerk to the Board I had the privilege of working closely with him, and learned from him. I know you all join me in wishing him well in his "retirement" and in saying **"Thank you Peter"**

**Chris Black**

## Women in Black – Lest we Forget

On the last Saturday of every month between 1 and 2pm a few 'Women in Black' hold a silent vigil opposite the Douglas Hotel at the beginning of the Arran Walk-a-way.

They meet with a worldwide network of women committed to peace with justice in our world. They meet in silence to remember ALL the forgotten victims of war, civilians and soldiers killed in war situations not of their making. They meet to demonstrate against war and hate, to state that violence breeds violence and that peace with justice for everyone is the way.

Women in Black was started by Israeli and Palestinian women protesting against the actions of the Israeli army.

Vigils are held around the world, including Edinburgh and Inverness and now in Arran.

Women of any or no political or religious view and who can relate to these aspirations are warmly invited to gather as above on the last Saturday of each month. Please wear black and if desired bring along a placard to state your conviction. The support of our men is also welcome.

**Contact: Isla 302214 or Jennifer 700747**

## Some useful info for you.....

For those of you with access to a computer (Facebook).....

## CAR SHARE AND LIFTS OFFERED ARRAN

This group is to help the folks of Arran and visitors get on and off the island by offering or requesting a car share or lifts to the mainland and beyond.

## ARRAN FOR SALE AND WANTS

This Facebook page is for local adverts on private goods for sale and for local businesses to use.

There is also an **ARRAN MEDICAL GROUP** site to be found.....

[www.arranmedical.co.uk](http://www.arranmedical.co.uk)

This web site is updated regularly and details of services offered are given here. You can also join the Facebook page and follow on Twitter (@ArranMedical) to keep abreast of news and other articles.

*Thank you to all who suggested the above, if you have any more useful info. To share let me know so I can publish it in the next Newsletter. Ed.*

## Lochranza & Catacol Village Hall Report

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November – AGM 7pm

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December – Seniors Xmas dinner at the Hotel

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December – Carol Concert and Santa's visit

We will shortly be selling **raffle tickets** for a festive wheelbarrow of spirits, beer, cider, wine and festive fayre which will be drawn on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> between 10.30 and 1pm at our pre Hogmanay festive coffee morning, which will have coffee and tea including Gaelic coffees for the less faint hearted along with some Christmas goodies and home made soup, and lots of good cheer!

We have been approached by Heather Gough to produce another Pantomime and Fiona has advised me this is scheduled for performance in January.

**Kate Hartley**

\*\*\*\*\*

## Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner



The Senior Citizens Christmas dinner will be as usual at the Lochranza Hotel on **December 14<sup>th</sup> 5.30 for 6pm** followed by the usual local entertainment. The hotel can only accommodate 36 places so Ethne Cumming will compile the list in seniority of resident villagers and make contact with those concerned. Arrangements will be made for transport if necessary.

This Christmas event was started many years ago and rekindled by John and Nan Lowe when they were running the **'Wednesday Club'**. A grant is received from **North Ayrshire Council** and augmented by the **Village Hall funds**.

If you haven't been contacted and wish to go (or anyone who knows someone wishing to go) please **contact Ethne 830302**.

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## Arran Community Council - October Report

### Ferries

The new Winter timetable has been released. New to the timetable is the early Sunday departure at 8.20am. For details of bus service disruption due to adverse weather, late ferry operations etc, please listen to recorded message on 01770 302000.

### Police Report

Sergeant Dodds confirmed that telephone calls to the police are now directed through a Glasgow call centre. Ask for "Arran Police" in order to be connected to the island police.

### My Bus

Stagecoach was awarded the new contract from October and can be contacted about this service on 302000.

### Elderly Forum

Marilyn Woods from Shiskine is the current Community Council representative on the Elderly Forum Committee.

### Harbour Development

A consultant has been appointed to look at potential future uses of the current ferry terminal. If you have a suggestion drop me an email.

### Winter Boxes

It is time to stock up on candles, matches and emergency supplies. The forecast shows no predicted return of "the Big Snow" to our villages but it is better to be prepared for the unexpected!

### Community Council

The September meeting was undertaken by the current Community Council members but it is intended that the November Meeting will see members elected for the next 4 years .

If you wish any more information or updates, or have any concerns or issues or wish an election nomination form please do not hesitate to contact me at [hazel.gardiner13@gmail.com](mailto:hazel.gardiner13@gmail.com) or by telephone 830635.

**Hazel Gardiner**  
**Community Councillor**  
**Lochranza and Catacol Villages**

## Lochranza and Catacol Community Association

The committee met recently after the summer break and discussed issues including where we are with Lyme disease, ferries, roads, local health services and the price of fuel on the island.

Minutes will be circulated shortly and fuller reports given at the open public meeting which is scheduled for **Wednesday 16th November**.

(Further details to follow by email)

One problem needing addressed at the meeting is our **lack of a chairperson** and a need for further committee members. Over the last two or three years we have had a great deal of positive feedback from the community, and feel our efforts have been largely worthwhile and appreciated. We share however, the problem of other village committees, and without new faces and commitment it is unlikely that our work will be able to continue. We do need your support so please come along to the forthcoming public meeting and consider contributing. We would remind you that as a member of the committee what we need are opinions and thoughts. There are no coffee mornings or hands on jobs to organise and we only meet 4 or 5 times a year for a couple of hours. It can be very rewarding to help the community in this way.

**Robert Cumming (Secretary)**

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### Lochranza Ladies Group

A Christmas Lunch has been organised for **Thursday, 8th December** at the **Kinloch Hotel Blackwaterfoot for 12.30pm**, leaving on the service bus from Lochranza at 11.30am (Church) returning on the service bus from Blackwaterfoot at 14.56pm. Anyone interested please let me know by **Friday, 18th November**. Please telephone me for menu as I require your choice beforehand. Prices are - **2 course** including tea/coffee and tip - **£13.50** - **3 course** including tea/coffee and tip **£16.00**.

Money due for meal on **1st December** or before.

**Anne Coulter - Tel: 830219**

**PS Gentlemen!** You are welcome to come too but please organize to be in another room!

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## South American Adventure (Part 3)

*'Lord, you have been our dwelling-place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God'*

In Part 2 of the adventure I closed by describing our journey rounding Cape Horn with its unique rock formations. From there we cruised up the coast of Chile heading to the Chilean Fjords. On reaching the area we cruised through Tierra del Fuego and saw the snow capped peaks of the Andes mountain range in the distance. We entered into the Fjords, Passo Shoal then Passo Summer where at its shallowest point there was only 1.4 metres below the keel. As we sailed slowly up the fjord with the mountains steep and rugged on either side, I had a walk round the outside deck of the ship as we sailed and I was told if you went one and a half times around the ship that was one mile.

We headed for the Sarmiento Canal where the captain told us to look out for the largest colony of sea lions in South America. When we entered the canal the captain told us to look to the left. However I think the sea lions were on holiday because all we saw were two of them basking on the rock. The blue and greens of the sea though showcased the silvery ice of the immense glaciers of these majestic Chilean Fjords. We sailed on up the canal to see the Brujo Glacier it was an awesome sight. We were told that it is moving forward 1 metre a day. We saw the ice falling off the glacier but didn't hear it calving. The ice went sailing past the ship in big chunks and on down the canal. The ship turned and cruised back down the canal and eventually into the Pacific Ocean.

Our next destination was to sail to the Chilean Lake District, a region with more than its fair share of spectacular natural beauty. We disembarked in Puerto Montt and headed on our tour to the 'Petrohue Cascades' & 'The City of Roses'. We travelled to the Petrohue River and towards Vicente Perez Rasales National Park where there was a series of waterfalls cascading over the hard volcanic rocks. The scene was lovely but you can see similar waterfalls here on Arran although at the time I had to remind myself I was at the other side of the world. As I walked along the path there was a breathtaking view of the Osorno Volcano the snow capped top of which looked as if it was sitting on top of a cloud. We then headed to Puerto Varas – the City of Roses, called so because there are roses growing everywhere, they were lovely though. On the bus we headed back to the ship along Lake Llanquihue, one of Chile's largest lakes.

## 'Words of my Father' – talks broadcast by the late Rev James Dow Compiled by his son - Tom

We have kindly been given a number of books "Words of my Father" a compilation of talks broadcast by the late Rev. James Dow. They are in Lochranza church foyer on sale by donation. These have been donated by his son Tom Dow. You can also purchase a DVD for £5 this can be arranged by contacting me.

**Bill Scott**

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## Lochranza and Catacol Sea Society CIC

Our AGM was held on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The Minutes and financial statement is available to read in Lochranza Hall.

**Julie Graham – Secretary**

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## Answers to the 'Bible Quiz' from August Newsletter

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an aeroplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much that he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his John-boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it, she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column.

Another friend judges the job of solving this puzzle so involving that she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are easy to spot that's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the books are not necessarily capitalised. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in these paragraphs. During a recent fundraising event, which features this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phil-Lemonade booth set a new sales record.

The local paper the Chronicle, surveyed over 50 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "The books are all right there in plain view, hidden from sight!" Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books Timothy and Samuel appear without their numbers. Also keep in mind that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember there is no need for a mass exodus, there really are 30 books of the bible lurking somewhere in these paragraphs waiting to be found.

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## "HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE"

I was walking down life's highway a  
long time ago.

One day I saw a sign that read,

### "HEAVEN'S GROCERY STORE"

As I got a little closer  
the door came open wide  
And when I came to myself  
I was standing inside.

I saw a host of ANGELS.  
They were standing everywhere.  
One handed me a basket and said,  
"My Child shop with care".

Everything a Christian needed  
was in that grocery store.  
And all you couldn't carry,  
you could come back the next day for  
more.

First, I got some PATIENCE:  
LOVE was in the same row.  
Further down was UNDERSTANDING:  
You need that everywhere you go.

I got a box or two of WISDOM,  
a bag or two of FAITH.  
I just couldn't miss the HOLY GHOST,  
For it was all over the place.

I stopped to get some STRENGTH and  
COURAGE  
To help me run this race.  
By then my basket was getting full,  
But I remembered I needed some  
GRACE

I didn't forget SALVATION,  
For SALVATION was free,  
So I tried to get enough of that  
To save both You and Me.

Then I started up to the counter  
To pay my grocery bill,  
For I thought I had everything  
To do the MASTER'S Will.

As I went up the aisle, I saw  
PRAYER:  
And I just had to put that in,  
For I knew when I stepped outside,  
I would run into Sin.

PEACE AND JOY were plenty  
They were last on the shelf.  
SONG and PRAISE were hanging  
near,  
So I just helped myself.

Then I said to the angel,  
"Now, how much do I owe?"  
He smiled and said,  
"Just take them everywhere you  
go."

Again, I smiled and said,  
"How much do I really owe?"  
He smiled again and said,  
"MY CHILD, JESUS PAID YOUR BILL  
A LONG, LONG TIME AGO."



**Author: Author Unknown**

After another day at sea we arrived in Valparaiso and disembarked the Zaandam for the final time. We boarded the bus which took us to Santiago for a night in a hotel. Santiago is a city of over six million people. It is surrounded by part of the Andes mountain range. We went on a walking tour around a small part of the city. Some of the roads are closed off on a Sunday to encourage the people to take exercise – cycling, jogging or walking, hence our walking tour. We then went on the Fenicular railway which took us up to the top of San Christobel hill where from the top, the panoramic view of the city was spectacular.

Before going on to the hotel there was time for some shopping and to find a place for a meal.

After breakfast at our hotel the next morning it was time to head for the airport and our flight home via Paris, London and finally landing in Glasgow, then of course the ferry back home to Arran.

Elizabeth and I certainly had an amazing South American adventure from Buenos Aires to the Falkland Islands, the Strait of Magellan and the Magdalena penguins, Cape Horn, the Chilean Fjords, Santiago and all places inbetween. We had visited some amazing places and saw some awesome scenery on the way, all part of God's creation. This was an adventure I will not forget in a hurry.

**Jean Hunter**

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The Elders and church members would like to congratulate Jean on her appointment as Presbytery Clerk. A huge job, she is responsible for the administration of 28 congregations in the Presbytery of Ardrossan.

This is over and above her current duties here on Arran.  
We wish her well in the forthcoming years.

### Answers to Christmas Quiz

1. Japan, 2. Brandy, 3. Tinsel, 4. Maida-a-milking, 5. Marzipan, 6. Jacob Marley, 7. Fig, 8. Bohemian Rhapsody, 9. Postmen, 10. Dick Whittington, 11. Poinsettia, 12. Spice Girls, 13. Aladdin, 14. Christmas Crackers, 15. William I

## Close Encounters of the Firth of Clyde Kind

Whilst taking my sail boat Ogun to Ardrossan from Lochranza for the winter layup, last Monday the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2016, my family and I became embroiled in the NATO exercise "Warrior" then taking place in the Firth. We were mid-channel, a little north of the Caledonian Isles route, when an American voice announced over the VHF radio, emergency channel 16. "This is warship 78, warship 78, warship 78! Will the vessel at position xxx° xx.x' N, xxx° xx.x' W, please alter course to port. OVER".

We were sailing at about 6 knots, on a course 120° magnetic, towards Ardrossan. I did not catch the position coordinates. I was on deck sail handling, no pencil and paper quickly to hand anyway. So I had a look around the horizon, no vessels in sight and nothing unusual to report apart from several porpoise sightings. So I ignored the message. No response either from any other vessel in the Firth. We carried on. A few minutes later the VHF call was repeated with a little more urgency. Oh dear I thought, I had better do something here and so went below to make my own channel 16 call. "Warship 78, I repeated 2x. This is yacht Ogun, I repeated 2x. My current position is 055° 40.319' N, 005° 02.314' W, (read from the radio). My course is 120° magnetic, speed 6 kts, sailing on the starboard tack. Are you asking me to change course? OVER." Response, silence! I repeated the message. Again silence! OK, whoever is giving warship 78 a problem, it is not us, so carry on.

Then my wife Anita calls down from the deck, "You had better come up here. Quick!" About 500 m away, off the starboard bow, was an attack submarine, menacing and wetly shimmering in the Autumn sunshine, heading for us. Don't panic I thought, just warn them on the radio. It is probably warship 78, which we could not see because it was submerged. So I repeat my message above, saying, "Surfaced submarine, 2x. This is yacht Ogun, 2x. Position and course as my last. We are on a collision course. I am unable to steer further to port as I am already close-hauled and will not turn to starboard under your bows. I request you turn to port NOW as you are powered and I am the stand on vessel. OVER." Or words to that effect. Response was silence. I repeated the call. Again silence. Just then Anita calls down to me from the deck, "The submarine has disappeared, the bounder!

We subsequently heard over the VHF another yacht, Salamander, I think it was, replying to a warship saying their yacht was now turning to port. Then we saw a large naval vessel (destroyer size) emerging from the Largs Channel behind Little Cumbrae, close to the land, about 4 Nm away and proceeding into the Firth towards Ardrossan. We think this destroyer could have been warship 78, but was it? What we saw was too big for a porpoise or a whale. Ours was truly a close encounter with NATO! Eventually, we did make the 15.15 from Ardrossan.

**John Ford**

**Homelea, Lochranza 16 October 2016.**



## Christmas Quiz Questions

- 1 To what country did Hong Kong surrender on Christmas Day, 1941?
- 2 What alcoholic beverage is used in the English Christmas game called 'Snapdragon'?
- 3 What Christmas item takes its name from the old French word *estincelle*, meaning spark?
- 4 In 'The Twelve Days Of Christmas', what were there eight of?
- 5 What are you eating if you are enjoying 'March Bread'?
- 6 Who was Scrooge's dead business partner in A Christmas Carol?
- 7 What animal is Snowball in George Orwell's Animal Farm?
- 8 Which record was a Christmas number one in 1975 and 1991?
- 9 In Victorian England who were popularly called robins because of their red uniforms?
- 10 Which pantomime character marries Alice Fitzwarren?
- 11 Which Christmas plant takes its name from the first US Minister to Mexico?
- 12 Which act besides the Beatles is the only other other act to have three consecutive Christmas number one singles?
- 13 In which pantomime does Wishee Washee appear?
- 14 In 1847 what did Tom Smith, a London confectioner, invent?
- 15 Which monarch was crowned on Christmas Day in Westminster Abbey?

*Answers on previous page!*