

# The BARRROMETER

Incorporating the Barr Community Association Newsletter

January 2013

Best Wishes to You and Yours for 2013



## **Barr gets set for another busy year**

*EVEN as the first snows of the year shrouded the village and the surrounding area, there were clear signs that Spring is on its way.*

*This edition of your village newspaper will try to find enough space to describe, in words and pictures, what's been going on in Barr over the festive season as village life continued at its usual hectic pace. But, look closely enough at our cover picture of the old farm machinery we snapped at Craigmalloch on January 21st and you'll see the green shoots of 2013 starting to emerge.*

*With them will come yet another burst of activity for the village - the date for the Gala Day has now been decided, the Tea Room is recruiting volunteers for another season and there's an early opportunity to elect a new Community Council coming along soon.*

*Yes, when you think about it, it's a lively old place is our wee village. But none of what goes on here can happen without the commitment and dedication of the people who MAKE it happen and our thanks and congratulations to all of them for their sterling efforts on behalf of all of us over the past year.*

*If you're one of them - well done! If you're not one of them yet, then why not resolve to help make a difference in the year ahead so that Barr can put its best foot forward for a Bumper 2013!*

## **Inside your Bumper 6 Page Barrrometer this month**

**Postcard  
from  
Fionn**



**Our  
Mini  
Moguls**



**In  
memory  
of Kirsty**



# DINMURCHIE PLANS UNDER REVIEW AFTER BARR GROUP OBJECTS TO EARLY PROPOSALS

*Valuation, feasibility study and business plan to be drawn up before final decision*

PLANS for the development of Dinmurchie Farm are under review after a local group objected to some of the proposals being put forward. Now the feasibility study and business plan, currently being prepared for the scheme, will take into consideration new ideas proposed by some of the group's members.

The move came after a meeting, held earlier this month, between the Hadyard Hill Community Benefit Fund, Ailsa Horizons and the group from Barr led by Andrea Jones of Alton Albany Farm, to discuss proposals for Dinmurchie which had been outlined and discussed at an open meeting in December. Following that meeting, the Barr group submitted a formal objection to the proposals alleging that they would be detrimental to existing accommodation businesses in the area. In their letter, they criticised what they saw as an emphasis on providing new accommodation at Dinmurchie and said, "If Dinmurchie Farm is to be purchased on our behalf then the main purpose should surely be to create a project to encourage new stimulation and visitors to the area the benefits of which will in turn bring revenue, create jobs, better facilities and an improved lifestyle for the residents of the village".

However, hard on the heels of that letter have come two separate proposals from individual group members as to how the development might progress and the ideas which they contain have been welcomed by Hadyard Hill and will now be fed into the business plan currently under preparation.

Catriona Haston, HHCBF's Village Development Worker said, "We have been heartened by the ideas which have been put forward, not just by members of this group but also by individual submissions from other areas as to the future of Dinmurchie and we will be taking their views on board. There has been a high level of engagement from all areas of the communities involved and this can only be good for the final outcome." A joint valuation of the property is now to take place.

Hadyard Hill had expressed "delight" with the turnout at Barr Village Hall last year after it invited villagers from Barr, Dailly, Pinwherry and Pinmore to look at some early suggestions for the site and to put forward their ideas as to how it might be developed. Around 85 people, including Sandra Osborne MP, Adam Ingram MSP as well as local councillors turned up to the Village Hall in Barr, to pore over some of the early ideas. Since then, there have been meetings at the offices of Ailsa Horizons with the consultants, board members and a considerable number of people from the Barr, Dailly and Pinwherry/Pinmore communities who have expressed an interest in being more closely involved with the project. These, say Hadyard Hill, have been both highly stimulating and very valuable with a variety of opinions expressed and an increasing number of ideas coming forward.



Catriona Haston, said that the board was delighted that so many of the Barr community in particular had become so engaged with this project, located in the heart of their village. The consultants were also "thrilled" with everyone's ideas and commitment to the project. Catriona said; "This project could do so much to strengthen the local economy, improve local technology such as mobile phone coverage, employment and skills training in everything from construction to eco-friendly energy generation, significantly improve the land, assure the future of some fine Grade 2 listed buildings, provide opportunities for local growers and youth activities and, by becoming part of the burgeoning activity tourism market, put Barr very firmly on the map". "

## Voucher scheme proves popular.

The Hadyard Hill voucher scheme offering villagers £200 to replace electrical equipment for a newer or more environmentally friendly model has been judged a success so far ... but time is running out if you have not yet applied for it. Out of a total of 820 potential voucher customers, nearly half have been claimed. Sales dropped off in mid-December and only started to pick up on 4th January. Experience with another appliance scheme shows that there is usually a last rush before the deadline. However, There have also been one or two isolated problems of people not receiving the letter containing the unique voucher number. So if you, or someone you know, has not received their letter, please contact Catriona Haston on 01465 710628 or email "catriona.hadyardhill@hotmail.co.uk" as soon as possible. The scheme only runs until February 28th 2013.



## Kirsty is Remembered

**Falling snow adds poignant touch**

The memorial service in the hills above Barr for Kirsty McTaggart, the young shepherd lost in a blizzard 100 years ago, took on an added poignancy when snow began to fall as a large number of villagers and relatives made their way to the Cairn which marks the spot where he fell.

At the service, Rev Ian K McLachlan, told the gathering that they were celebrating the life of a young man who knew where his duty lay. He had risked everything in awful wintery conditions to tend his sheep and had put his duties to them above everything else.

It was on January 11th, 1913 that the 19 year old shepherd left his home at Changue Stables in atrocious weather conditions to look after his sheep. Hours later his twin brother David, along with two friends, found him on the spot now marked by the memorial cairn. He died 15 minutes after being found.

Blizzard conditions in the Howe of Laggan made it impossible for the men to bring his body home until the following day. But he had not been left alone on the hill - his faithful collie Wag stayed by his master's side overnight in a makeshift shelter.

At his funeral, the Rev John Angus charged the men of the village with building the cairn in Kirstie's honour and it was at "Kirsty's Cairn" where the memorial service, organised by Wilma Gracie, took place last month.

With the snow still falling, piper Hamish Denham played a lament "The Flooers o' the Forest" before one of Kirstie's nieces, Mrs Betty Robertson from Colmonnel laid a wreath at the base of the cairn. Betty's father David was Kirstie's twin brother who had searched for and found him on that fateful day 100 years ago.

Later a shorter service was held in the Kirkyard at Barr where another niece, Mrs Betty Muirhead, also placed a wreath.

Afterwards, soup and sandwiches in the village hall were much appreciated by villagers and visitors alike and Wilma thanked everyone who had contributed to the occasion.

# A busy time for the Primary School

IT'S BEEN a busy time for pupils and members of staff alike up at the Primary School where everyone has been working flat out on a number of events and projects over the Festive season. From the first rocket of the fireworks display to the last song of the Burns' Supper, the village's young ones were involved in absolutely everything. The village is indeed fortunate to have such a great bunch of kids in the capable hands of a skilled and a dedicated staff. Well done to them all. Here's a snapshot of what they've been up to.

## OUR MINI TYCOONS TAKE CARE OF BUSINESS



THEY breed success early in Barr. The evidence? – Primary 1 and Nursery Class pupils at the primary school have won an award for budding businessmen and women.

They may not yet know quite what an entrepreneur is or even how to spell it, but there's no doubting their business acumen after they were presented with a Micro Tyco Award in a competition.

They had entered the Micro Tyco challenge in November which involved teams of budding, ethically-minded entrepreneurs getting together, applying to WildHearts for 'seed capital' (a loan of £1) which was used to kick-start their enterprise.

Ventures as diverse as ethical pet foods to car washes and festive decorations were set up, all aimed at earning as much cash as possible – with profits reinvested back into the little companies, to earn even more money, with every penny going to benefit others.

With their £1, the Early Level Class at Barr bought cookie mix and made cookies that were served at their Coffee Morning. The next activity was collecting and tidying leaves in the school garden. They then made reindeer food and gift tags to sell at a Xmas Fayre held in the Village Hall. Finally, they held a "Pyjama Day" at school, collecting silver coin donations for those wearing their PJ's to school.

At an awards evening held in Ayr, they discovered they had won "The Nippers" award and the nursery and P1 pupils were presented with it by Provost Moonie and Ian Steele of Deloittes.

Head teacher Mr Baird said, "They have done really well in winning this award and the whole school as well as the community in Barr is very proud of their achievement".



*THE Primary School won the contest for the Best Guy at the Fireworks display. There was a large number of entries, all of which showed some great imagination. So, here are the guys ... with the guys!*

## **DON'T LOOK DOWN**

**NOT sure who Barr's "Braveheart" on the end of the rope, is but P5s - 7s needed to summon up all their courage for the big drop when they were taken by the team at ACE to abseil at Mauchline Gorge.**



## **MAKING A SPLASH**

P5-7 ALSO visited Loch Braden to learn how to canoe with the ACE team. They were lucky to have lovely weather although it was very cold! This picture is entitled "Are we having fun yet?"

## **Nursery Nativity**

PUPILS from the Nursery and P1 class took part in the Nativity Show - Whoops-a-Daisy Angel. We were joined by friends and families and the show was enjoyed greatly by everyone.

## **Christmas Show**

PUPILS from P1-7 put on their Christmas Show at the Village Hall for the first time. There was a great turn out of people there to watch the performance of 'Nativity Nightmares' - a show about a school show. Older pupils enjoyed playing the role of the staff members and a certain P2 made a very good janitor!

## **BONUS BALL IS A FUNDRAISER**

MRS Ella McClinton kindly ran a Bonus Ball Fundraiser in aid of Barr Primary School Funds. This ran from the October break up until the Christmas holidays and raised £200 for our funds! Thank you to everyone who contributed to this, but especially to Ella who went around collecting the money. Congratulations to the winners who were:-Wendy Speirs, Toni Holmes, Jan Denham, Dougie Gordon, Elaine Denham, Fiona McFegan, Susan Trotter & William Turkington.

*... more Primary School news overleaf*

# COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

## A Message from the Chairman:

"As another busy year has come to a close and we are already looking forward to 2013, the forthcoming diary seems to be filling up rather nicely. The Association has continued on your behalf to keep the hall and all its functionality up and running, even in the face of austerity and new legislation.

The first of the completed projects is the new cooker yet to prove its success with the inaugural Burns supper, where hopefully a 'piping' hot Haggis will be toasted along with the Bard.

If all goes to plan this will be a trial run for the belated VIP Function, due to take place in the form of a High Tea on Saturday 30th March. Make sure you wear your best Easter Bonnet and maybe you could take away a prize whilst being entertained by Celtic Twist. This should be a welcome run out for the Barr Tea Room which is due to open for business the following day.

The theme for Barr Gala 2013 is "The Movies" and we would like to give you all as much advanced notice to apply grey matter to the task of creating costumes and float



themes - lets give Barr Primary school some competition this year! The Gala will conclude with a dance in the village hall, to include a licensed bar, live music and a kids party running concurrently. Watch out for posters and further information as it is finalised.

We intend to build on the successes of 2012 making this year one remember in "The Barr." As always with the Barr Community Association, (the clue is in the title) we - represent you, the Community and we will endeavour to provide the village with innovative and exciting events. But we don't hold the monopoly on good ideas and your input is imperative. Please support us, to support you! If you need to contact the Association a Suggestion Box will be placed in the Barr Community Store before the end of January 2013 ... if you can help, 10 minutes to a few hours of your time would make such a difference!

I am looking forward to meeting you all in the coming months."

best wishes  
Dave Trotter

## RACE NIGHT FOR SCHOOL FUNDS

SCHOOL Funds have benefitted by more than £400 as a result of a recent Race Night and Disco organised by the Parents Council.

Members of the Parent Council provided a great buffet at the event, which was held in the village hall, and the bar was run by the village's Community Shop. Those who attended voted it a very enjoyable night.

The school staff, pupils and Parent Council would like to thank all their sponsors and supporters for their continued support.



*They included; The Factory Shop, J Dunlops, Akita, Hendries (Butcher), Direct Outdoors, Costcutter, Thomas Cook, Leiths (Baker), RBS, Sloanes (Jeweller), Co-op, Premier, Carrick Bookmaker, Woodlands Farm, Nestle, Margaret's (Fruit&Veg), Sweetie Shop, Asda, Mark McFarland (Butcher), Scott Cabs, Purdies (Fruit/Veg), Wm Grant & Sons, Kings Arms Hoel, Barr, Mr & Mrs K Lorimer, Mr & Mrs McClinton, Mrs V Ross, Mr F Baird, Mr & Mrs McKenzie, Mr & Mrs J Farquhar, Mr Faulds & Miss McCleary, Mr & Mrs A McCleary, Mr & Mrs A Gray, Mr & Mrs P Campbell, Mr & Mrs J Milroy, Mr & Mrs D McWilliam and Barr Community Shop.*



## One World Picnic

AS part of Barr Primary's Eco Schools work, the whole school took part in the One World Picnic to raise awareness and learn about sustainable and local food.

## GENEROUS DONOR HELPS NURSERY GET OUT AND ABOUT

A KIND village resident donated £500 to the school at the beginning of the session. The school used the money to buy outdoor clothing and other items for the nursery and P1 pupils who now enjoy going outdoors every Tuesday no matter what the weather is like!

## BURNS TO THE FORE AT PRIMARY SCHOOL "SUPPER"

PUPILS from P1-7 are busy learning a Robert Burns poem to perform at their Burns Supper lunch on Thursday 24th January. We will have guest judges to help them to decide who should win the prize for each age group.

## CHINESE NEW YEAR

PUPILS in P1-4 are learning all about Chinese New Year and will be preparing a Chinese Meal for to mark the occasion on Thursday 7th Feb.

## Candidates wanted for Community Council Elections

YOUR chance to vote for a new Community Council is coming up soon. And so is your opportunity to put your name forward if you feel like making a significant contribution to the village's affairs. South Ayrshire Council has just announced the details of when the elections - which come up every three years - will be held, as well as the closing dates for nominations to be received. Barr is entitled to a Council of nine members and an election will only be held if more than that number of residents put their names forward. Nomination forms can be had from the secretary of the Community Council, Mr John Craig, Tel: 861614 or from South Ayrshire Council.

### TIMETABLE FOR ELECTIONS

1st February	-	Adverts to be placed in local newspapers
21 February	-	Closing date for nominations
1 March	-	Declaration of results if uncontested elections (Nine nominations or fewer)
20 March	-	Last day for receipt of ballot papers if contested elections. (More than nine candidates)
21 March	-	Counting of votes and declaration of results of postal ballot

IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE IN A POSITION TO GIVE SOME TIME AND COMMITMENT TO SERVING ON THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS, PLEASE GIVE CONSIDERATION TO PUTTING YOUR NAME FORWARD FOR ELECTION.

# Festivities started with a big bang ... and ended with a big splash!

It was hard to keep track of everything that was going on in the village over the festive period. But it all got off to a great start with the Community Associations's Fireworks spectacular at the field behind the Clachan where a giant bonfire and a tremendous display heralded the start of the fun. Close on its heels, the tradition Christmas Fair drew a big crowd - many of them visitors to the Village. Into December the switch on of the Xmas tree and lights at the hall, the arrival of Santa and a Wee Whist celebratory dinner for the older members of the population were all on the agenda. Add to this music evenings in the King's Arms and the Carol singers going from door to door and there was something for everyone as 2012 drew to a close. Into the New Year and the "dookers" once again braved the cold of Ne'erday at the Pot. As usual, the Barrometer's photographers were there to capture at least some of Barr's magic moments.

## ALL EYES SKYWARD AT THE CLACHAN FOR THE FIREWORKS DISPLAY



## CHRISTMAS FAIR IS BIG SUCCESS...

The Christmas Fair, held in November, attracted a large number of people - many of them from outside the village and there was a wide variety of merchandise on offer, much of it home made and crafted. The date of the Fair was brought forward this year to encourage people to put it on their Christmas Shopping diary and the additional publicity helped to ensure that the bargains were quickly snapped up.

## CAROLS FOR CHARITY



Once again the carol singers were out on Christmas Eve. They went from house to house spreading good cheer and receiving some as well in the form of mulled wine and mince pies. And when the last carol had been sung, they had collected £120 for a cancer charity from generous residents.



## SANTA PAYS BARR A VISIT

BARR'S Christmas celebrations officially got underway on with the switching on of the tree and decorations. Santa arrived right on time and was assisted by Gala Queen, Amber McClinton to switch on the lights. Then he went to his grotto in the village hall where he met the village's children and

## DOOKERS SHIVER AS TEMPERATURES PLUMMET

The Ne'er Day Dookers got a little more than they bargained for as they took the plunge into 2013 with their customary dip in the Pot. By all accounts it was the coldest the water had been in the last few years and not everyone made it to the other side. But well done to them all and for the money they raised for their favourite charity as a result.



## POPPY APPEAL

This year's Poppy Appeal in the village raised a creditable £142.99 for the Scottish appeal. Once again, well done to Jim Gracie for his efforts.

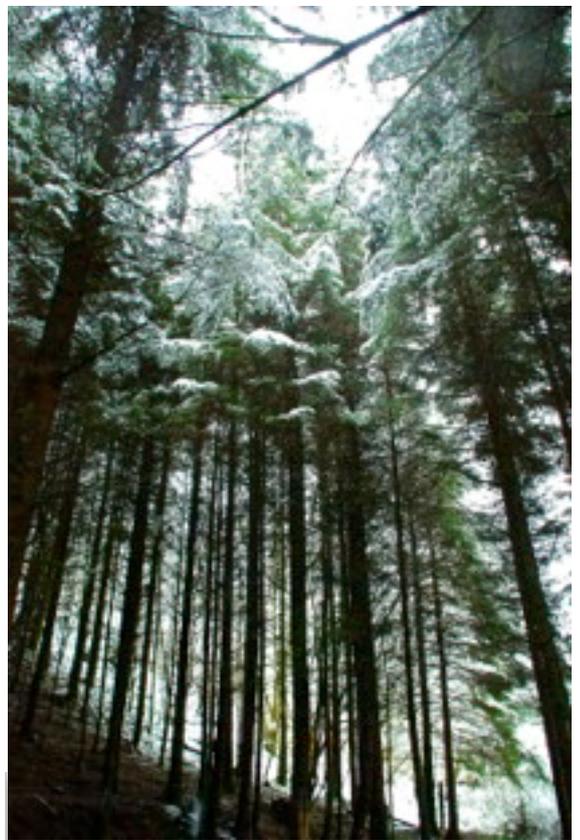


## WAKING TO A WINTER WONDERLAND IN BARR ...

Kirk Angus pokes its spire above the tree line as Barr gets its first heavy snow fall of the year while up Change Road, the snow was just penetrating the canopy of the trees along the banks of the Gregg.

## ... BUT IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY IN FAR-OFF BRAZIL

Meanwhile, Barr's very own Fionn Corbett was enjoying a very different kind of weather thousands of miles away from home and while the New Year dippers in the Pot were braving freezing temperatures, Fionn was enjoying a more leisurely swim in the warm waters around Brazil. However, she took time to send us a postcard from across the miles.



*Hello Barr! I am hoping you had a great Christmas and New Year. They don't really celebrate Christmas much here in Brazil. However, I was able to go and see a massive display of fireworks on New Year's Eve. I recently went to Cabo Frio to see the incredibly clear water and a protected area called 'Perfect Beach.' It's called that because of its glorious white sand and blue water. While I was there I also went deep sea diving for my 18th birthday! It was so amazing! All the best for the new year, and I'll see you all in March. Love Fionn xx*



## Dates for your Diary

### COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION AGM

The A.G.M. of the Barr Community Association will be held on Monday 18th March at 7 p.m in the Village Hall to which everyone is welcome.

### GALA DAY

Gala Day this year will be held on Saturday 15th June and the chosen theme is "The Movies". More details will be announced later.

### BOWLING CLUB

The Bowling Club's AGM will be held on Friday 5th April at 7pm in the Clubhouse. The green will open for bowlers on Saturday 4th May.

### TEA ROOM

The AGM of the Village Tea Room will be held on Monday 11th March at 6.30pm in the Village Hall when everyone is welcome. If you want to help keep the Tea Room running, please come along and offer your services for the coming year's rota or get in touch with Isobel Ringrose on 861651. All being well, the Tea Room will open for business on Easter Sunday,

## "RIGHT YOUSE LOT - FEET AFF THE SEATS!"



It was just like the good old days when the Upper Stinchar SWRI staged a "Night at the Movies" recently. Main feature was the old favourite "It's a Wonderful Life" with James Stewart and Donna Reid. Projectionist Rhona Anderson did well to subdue the customary rowdy foot stamping in the auditorium and she and chief usherette Yvonne Jack dispensed the customary popcorn, soft drinks and ice-cream at the interval.

## KING'S ARMS HOTEL

- Live music on the first Saturday of every month
- Monthly Pub Quiz
- Girvan Folk Festival 3rd/4th/5th May - live music and sessions over the weekend
- Hog Roasts
- Outside Bars
- Weddings, Christenings  
Funeral Parties & Buffets
- Can cater for 64 people.
- Telephone your requirements to 861230