

# The BARROMETER

Incorporating the Barr Community Association Newsletter

May 2013

## ALL CHANGE AT THE TOP

### Fresh Faces at Community Association and Council

FOLLOWING the recent elections for Community Councillors and the Annual Meeting of the Community Association, both have now seen an influx of new faces.

The Community Council elections saw nine members elected to serve for the next three years.

At the Council's first meeting, Hamish Denham was elected as the new chairman following the stepping down of Alastair Smith who did not contest the election.



Jim Leil

Bill Dunlop stays as treasurer.

The new-look Council sees Merlin Corbett take on the position of vice Chair.

And, after the retirement of John Craig from the Council, the secretary's post has been filled by Jim Leil.



Merlin Corbett

Other new members include; Isabel Kay, Alex Forsyth, Alasdair Currie and Alex Tait.

Jim Gracie was also re-elected.



Isabel Kay

The full Council is comprised:  
*Hamish Denham, Chair*  
*Merlin Corbett, Vice Chair*  
*Jim Leil, Secretary*  
*William Dunlop, Treasurer*  
*Alex Forsyth*  
*Isabel Kay*  
*Alasdair Currie*  
*Alexander Tait*  
*James Gracie*

#### **CHAIRMAN 'ENCOURAGED' BY INTEREST IN COUNCIL**

"Our newly elected Councillors would like to thank the outgoing Council for their hard work and dedication towards improving community life. In particular to Alastair Smith and John Craig for their valued and effective contribution in leading and administrating the previous Council. It is encouraging to note the percentage of the community who voted in the recent election. This indicates that the community at large is interested and wants to be involved in the health and well-being of our village. We are committed to continuing and building upon on our predecessors' successes and are particularly keen to hear your views on any relevant matters. Community members can raise issues, ideas and concerns at our open forum during Community Council monthly meetings, verbally with one of the nine 'approachable' Councillors or alternatively by email at; [communitycouncil@barrvillage.co.uk](mailto:communitycouncil@barrvillage.co.uk)

*Yours Aye*  
*Hamish Denham*



### Association Moves Into Top Gear

ALSO last month, an appeal in the special edition of the Barrrometer for more people to come forward to serve in the village's Community Association met with an excellent response and Chairman, Dave Trotter and his new team are now forging ahead with plans and arrangements for the various events planned for the coming year.

Most important of those is the date of the Gala Day which will be held on Saturday, 22nd June. All the usual ingredients will be there with a return of the climbing wall being eagerly awaited by the more adventurous. Details are now being circulated all over the area. See the back page for your own Gala DayPoster - why not help advertise the Gala by cutting it out and putting it in your car window? Gala Day will end with a dance with live music and bar in the VillageHall and tickets will be on sale shortly



### DYLAN & SKYE WILL DO THE HONOURS

THIS year's Gala King and Queen are Barr Primary 6's Dylan Ross and Skye Trotter who took time off from lessons to tell "The Barrrometer" how much they were looking forward to their big day next month.

# LOCAL COACH TRAGEDY RECALLED

AN opportunity to look through the back copies of the Carrick Gazette has revealed the story behind a framed tribute to the village which hangs in the hall. It was sent by the Riccarton Community Centre Committee and relates to a tragic coach crash in May 37 years ago when seven members of their party were killed while on their way to Barr as part of a day trip.

The accident happened after the driver of one of the two coaches carrying the Kilmarnock party, missed the turn to Barr and went on through Girvan ending up on the B714. Realising his mistake, the driver turned the coach around and headed back towards Girvan with the first bus already having reached Barr for their high tea. Faced with an oncoming car, he pulled his coach on to the grass verge not realising that the ground was soft and the bus toppled and somersaulted down the steep slope into the small river valley. Three of the party died at the scene and another two later in hospital. At the time of printing, the Gazette recorded five fatalities, but the plaque in the hall reveals that altogether, seven trippers lost their lives in the terrible accident. It's also recorded that the trip organiser, waiting in Girvan to intercept the coach and put it on the right road heard of the tragedy and went to Barr to break the tragic news to the other members of the party. However neither Agnes nor Jim Gracie, who were there on the day recall the party being told of the accident by the time they had left for home.

The plaque in the hall, signed by Mr John A G McCluskie states that it was presented to the Barr Community Centre in appreciation of the kindness and help given at the time of the bus crash on 26th May 1976 which took the lives of seven members of the Riccarton Community Centre and ends with Burns' words "So there's a hand my trusty fiere and gie's a hand o' thine"

**Right top: The Gazette front page recorded the crash in detail**

**Below: The thanks of Riccarton still hang today in the corridor of the village hall.**



## FIONN BACK FROM BRAZILIAN ADVENTURE

**LOCAL LASS, Fionn Corbett left Barr in October last year on an artistic adventure to Brazil with Shannon Ross. She told "The Barrometer" a bit about her adventure.**

*"It was an extremely long journey, which took a total of 29 hours. When we arrived we were picked up by my Aunt who lives in Espirito Santos, in a little beach town called Manghuinos. After enjoying the beach for a while, we travelled to Belo Horizonte and went to the Mercado Central which is a giant underground supermarket and I went to a huge sculpture garden called Inhotim. I would definitely recommend that place to anybody, it was so pretty with emerald green lakes and a wide range of tropical birds and trees. The sculptures were really interesting inside the galleries and out. Unfortunately Shannon left after two months living beside the beach leaving me to go it alone. I became really good friends with a girl called Anna-Paula as her mother was from Birmingham and she spoke very good English. She took me to various samba concerts and some strange music events. I also met my niece who was much older than me (very confusing) who called me "titia", which means little auntie. She also took me to a samba concert where the national samba school was rehearsing for carnival. I was taken outside by a news reporter, asking my opinion on Samba in general and she asked me to demonstrate some Scottish dancing, so I gave them my best 'paddie-ba.' I made the front page of their newspaper and it was all because I had red hair. I will definitely be going back in the future."*



# From Jack Sparrow to Dixie's Chicks

## Plots and chicks hatched as Primary School goes nautical



**AHOY THERE!** Our Primary 5 to 7s took to the waves off Girvan last month. It wasn't exactly a round-the-world voyage but a great achievement for the youngsters who designed and built their own 10 man raft with the aid of Adrian from ACE - the Adventure Centre for Education. The weather was superb as they launched the boat at Girvan beach and, even with all ten of the crew aboard, they managed to keep it afloat and make a safe return to shore without the aid of the local lifeboat! "Brilliant"



**AVAST YE LANDLUBBERS!** Meanwhile the P1s & 2s went on a beach adventure to Maidens, where they built a pirate ship with items they collected on the shore. Cap'n Wright looks to have the mutinous crew in check with Gunner Denham keeping a close watch on - although at the back of the boat it looks as though one of them is about to jump ship! But it all ended on an exciting note when one of the crew found some buried treasure.



### DIXIE'S CHICKS

There was more excitement after Easter with the hatching of the six chicks which the School had been carefully looking after under the watchful eye of Mrs Crowe. But it was a sleepless night for janitor, Dixie who was in charge of them for the weekend when they decided to appear.

*Left: Rosie handles a new arrival carefully*



### Pilgrims' Progress

Rhona Anderson and Vera Dunlop were among a group of 40 walkers who recently took part in Paisley Abbey's 100 mile pilgrimage to St Ninian's church on the Isle of Whithorn. Organisers made everyone feel welcome on this enjoyable expedition. Barr to Barrhill was the most challenging of the ten walks which make up this commemoration of Paisley Abbey's 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Beginning on the Dinmurchie Trail, the modern-day pilgrims followed forest rides to Loch Scalloch and trugged through boggy patches above White Clauchrie. They looped past Ferter, rested at Black Clauchrie then rejoiced at their destination, Barrhill Memorial Hall, where Celia Strain and friends welcomed all with tea and home baking. Meanwhile Alan and Isobel Ringrose took part in the national Kilt Walk from Hampden Park to Loch Lomond to raise money for children's charities

**THE BOWLING CLUB** season is underway with a very good attendance at the opening days when Liz McKechnie, wife of president Johnny, threw the first jack. Club meetings are on Sunday afternoons at 2.00pm and Thursday evenings at 6.30



### NATIONAL TRUST TICKETS

The Community Association's tickets allowing free entry to National Trust properties in Scotland have arrived and can be had from Agnes Gracie on 861673. While the tickets are free to villagers, a small donation is acceptable to help pay for the Association's membership fee.

The Barrometer  
16 Glenginnet Road, Barr  
TEL 861250



# BARR VILLAGE PRESENTS

FUN  
FOR  
ALL

CAKE  
STALL

1.30PM  
MOVIE  
THEME  
PARADE

CROWNING OF  
GALA QUEEN  
2 PM

Production **BARR GALA**

PLANT  
STALL

SAT. 22nd 2013  
JUNE

FELL RACE  
REGISTRATION  
9.30AM  
RACE 10.30

TEAS Home  
Baking

FELL  
RACE

Lots of stalls

Bouncy Castle, Climbing Wall, Games & lots more

TO  
BOOK STALLS  
CONTACT SUE SWEET  
01465  
861 223

EVENING  
FUNCTION  
7PM -  
11.30PM

[www.barrvillage.co.uk](http://www.barrvillage.co.uk)  
[www.facebook.com/TheBarrVillage](http://www.facebook.com/TheBarrVillage)



BARR VILLAGE ASSOCIATION

## Girvan Coastal Rowing

Rhona Anderson

“Weel may the keel row...”

On an impulse, and since the tide times are right, we drive out to Maidens to see if the Carrick Maid is being launched today. Bingo! We spy two 4x4 vehicles parked alongside the sea-wall at the harbour, one of them towing a pretty white and blue boat behind. It's the Carrick Maid, a St Ayles skiff: a lightweight wooden boat, kitted out with 4 single oars (two per side), especially designed to be fast in the water.



Girvan is the latest community to be caught up in the coastal rowing craze which is sweeping round the coastline of Scotland like a supernatural cyclone, enticing all in its path to take up their paddles and row.

Beginning in Anstruther, Fife, in 2010, communities and schools throughout the country have been buying the plans and the ready-made kits to create their very own St Ayles 'skiffies' so that they too can compete against their rowing rivals. More than 40 boats have been built since 2010, with fierce competition between neighbouring teams, such as Pittenweem versus Anstruther; Troon versus Cumbrae and soon, with the launch of Girvan's newly-built skiff on Friday June 21st 2013, it will be Girvan versus Carrick (Maybole).



All teams are encouraged to enter this year's St Ayles Skiff World Championships from 8th-14th July 2013 at Ullapool.

Back at Maidens Harbour, where the sea is splashing up and over the breakwater, I am invited by the organisers to 'have a go' at rowing with the three others in the team. On the coxwain's command "One!" we dip the oars in and pull back. I am operating one oar at the 'stroke' side of the boat. Incidentally, 'stroke' is not, as I first thought, a reference to the health risk of rowing without proper training! 'Stroke' is a command to rowers on one side: the opposite side respond to the command, "bow".

Our skiff speeds lightly over the gentle waves in the harbour. The cox steers a course past the buoys using his wooden rudder at the stern. "Stroke lift! Bow paddle!" This command turns us out of the quiet harbour into the open sea. And we're lifted high on a huge wave, front paddles failing to connect with the water until the bow rides over the crest of the wave.

A few minutes of rowing over the heads of white horses is enough exhilaration for me, so it's with relief we change direction and head for the safe haven behind Maidens breakwater. My unexpected Thursday adventure really fires my interest.

Coastal rowing is great team fun enjoyed by all: from young adults to veterans both women and men participate in the rowing teams. Strength is not as important as effective team-work, so the seniors' team might easily beat the young crew who have yet to learn the value of co-operation.

Girvan Coastal Rowing Club is on the lookout for members, so if you're interested, then contact Allan Ratray at Girvan Academy on 01465 716816 or email [Girvan.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:Girvan.Mail@south-ayrshire.gov.uk).