

The Straiton Arrow



It's been a year since the last Arrow so this is a bumper issue with an extra four pages! Slightly more expensive than before but the price, and size, will revert to 40p and 12 pages in future issues. Interspersed throughout this issue are news and results of village events over the past year. We hope you enjoy reading them.

Since November 2013 we've had three new wind farm applications; Linfairn, Kiers Hill and Glenmount plus one addendum, Dersalloch. Knockskae are expected to hold another exhibition this summer and Hadyard Hill later in the year.

A new group, VisitStraiton, has been formed and there is more about this inside the Arrow. You can go to visitstraiton.com to view the website.

A warm welcome to all visitors to the area, we hope you have an enjoyable trip and come back again soon.

Bea Holden

Happy Birthday

Cullen, 9 on 14 April

Olivia, 10 on 18 May

Tess, 9 on 21 May

Sofia and Marcus, 12 on 12 August

Congratulations to Connie Paton and Emma Walker who both celebrate their 21st birthdays in May.

Dates for your Diary

May	29th Straiton Village Co-op AGM McCandlish Hall, 7pm	24th Community Council Meeting, Kirkmichael, 7.30pm
9th-15th WalkFest, Newton Stewart Walking Festival	June	27th School Prize School closes for Summer Holidays
22nd European Elections	1st Communion Service, St Cuthbert's Church	July
23rd School Holiday	14th Straiton Agricultural Show and Show Day Teas	6th Car Boot Sale and Cream Teas, Playpark and Hall, 10am - 3pm
26th School Holiday and Spring Bank Holiday	20th Church Sponsored Walk, leaving McCandlish Hall 7pm	29th Community Council Meeting, Crosshill, 7.30pm
27th Community Council Meeting, McCandlish Hall, 7.30pm		



The Minister Writes

Oscar Wilde once said: "memory is the diary that we carry with us." How true! As we go through life, we gather memories along the way, and we are most fortunate today to have the equipment to store those precious memories we would like to preserve, whether in a book, or on a computer or mobile 'phone. Oscar Wilde is correct: "memory is the diary that we carry with us."

At Eastertide, the Christian Church celebrates the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. For many people today, however, Jesus is simply a memory – someone who lived in first-century Palestine, an outstanding charismatic preacher, teacher and healer, who died a cruel and shameful death on a Cross. According to this way of thinking, Jesus was a unique human being – perhaps the greatest personality the world has known – yet only a man whose life is well-preserved in the Gospels, as well as in art, literature, music and drama.

For the Christian, however, Jesus is much more than a memory. He is a living presence, 'Christ in the Spirit' at work among us in the world today, and just as influential as he was back in first-century Palestine. To the Christian mind, the Jesus who was crucified on Good Friday, is now the risen, ascended and glorified Lord, "the first to return from the dead, to become in all things supreme". (Colossians 1:18) According to this line of thought, Jesus is no longer a memory, but a real and living presence, who continues his saving work in the present age.

As such, Jesus is not a figure from the past to be revered, but a real and living presence to be celebrated.

How do you see Jesus Christ? Do you see him only as a memory, as a figure from the distant past, who is worthy of attention and respect? Or do you see him as a living presence in today's world, showing us the mind and the way of God?

May Eastertide be a time for us to reflect on this important question! With every blessing and best wish.

W. Gerald Jones

We would be delighted to have your news, announcements and events. Please email or write:

bea.holden@live.com 18 Main Street. 770247

Julie Walker 5 Main Street. 770276

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How to contact your local and national representatives

Along with Kirkmichael and Crosshill, Straiton has three community councillors and their contact details can be found on the back page. Meetings are usually held on the last Tuesday of the month alternating between the three villages. Contact details for other representatives are as follows:

Maybole, North Carrick and Coynton Councillors

Ann Galbraith

Home Tel: 01655 740447

Office Tel: 01292 612687

Email: ann.galbraith@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Brian Connolly

Mobile Tel: 07970 540591

Office Tel: 01292 612274

Email: brian.connolly@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

William Grant

Mobile Tel: 07794037597

Office Tel: 01292 612479

Email: william.grant@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Sandra Goldie

Home Tel: 01292 570054

Office Tel: 01292 612293

Email: sandra.goldie@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

MSP and MP

Adam Ingram MSP

Office 1, 4 The Square,

Cumnock KA18 1BG

Tel: 01290 425874

Email: adam.ingram.msp@scottish.parliament.uk

Sandra Osborne MP

139 Main St, Ayr KA8 8BX

Fax: 01292 885661

Email: sandra.osborne.mp@parliament.uk



Village News

Quite a few folk have moved to and from Straiton since the last issue a year ago. Even though it may be quite some time since you moved here we extend a very warm welcome;

To Catriona and Chris who have moved from Blairgowrie to Main Street along with their dog, Ben and the cat.

To Mike and Kirsty and their children Cullen, Cadhla, and Cada who have moved to Curroch, near Straiton.

To Ailsa who has moved to Kirkmichael Road from Lewis.

It's all change in Knockbreck Road. A warm welcome to;

Jeannie and her son, Camran who were previously living in Kirkoswald.

Carrie who has moved to Knockbreck Road from Ayr.

Fiona Nixon who has moved to Straiton from Ayr.

Claudia, Graham and their daughter, Daisy.

And finally to Nigel, Sarah and their son, Liam.

A fond farewell to those who have moved away including: Bernadette, who was one of the first residents in the new houses in Knockbreck Road.

Brenda and Graeme Girvan, who have moved from Knockbreck Road to Ayr.

Andy and Margaret who have also moved from Knockbreck Road.

Tom McIntosh who has moved to the middle east.

Helen, Rody and little Jacob who have moved from the Main Street to Ayr.

There is quite a tradition of Straiton folk living in several different houses in the village and surrounding area. Traditions are being kept alive and well with Ronnie moving from Traboyak to Fowlers Croft and swapping places with Scott and Rhianon and their family. Bruce has moved into the village from Milton Lodge to Dalmellington Road and Joy has moved from Main Street to Milton Lodge. Finally, Steven Dunlop has moved from Balminnoch to the Main St with his partner, Louise.



Congratulations to Leon Dowman and Bianca who were married in Thailand last November. Leon has been living and working in Sydney for several years now.



Congratulations to India Fullarton and Alastair McKay (pictured above) who were married at Blairquhan this May. The happy couple are enjoying a three week honeymoon in Mexico.

Well done to Keir Murray (Dalmorton) who graduated last year from Glasgow University with an MSc (1st class) in Museum Studies. Keir already has a 1st class honours degree from the University of Wales but decided to study further and follow his passion for history and museums.



Congratulations to Jen and Carl Williams on the birth of their second son, Ethan.



Congratulations to Whirly and Gregorie Marshall who have a baby daughter, Millie, a little sister for Rory and Lara.

Stork last seen flying up towards Craigbrae.

Well done to Iona Fullarton who is now the Manager of Top Man in Ayr. Iona was previously employed in the Truro branch of Top Shop.



Snakes Alive! Geoff and Trish Selleck watched in amazement as a rook flew over their garden with what they thought was a branch. The bird dropped the object and it was then they realised it was an adder.

The Buck

Coffee ♦ Cakes ♦ Crafts

Open Wednesday - Sunday and bank holiday Mondays throughout the summer from 11am to 5pm

Enjoy good coffee, speciality teas, tasty soups, sandwiches and toasties plus Dorothy's fabulously scrumptious cakes.

A wide range of quality-made crafts, cards, paintings, children's toys and gift items to browse.

PETER'S PICK

It is the centenary of the birth of Dylan Thomas later this year so I thought it apt to select one of his poems for the Arrow.

Men who seek power, politicians and dictators don't like free thinkers such as artists, writers and poets because they have a gift of observing the truth.

Underhand deals are done, the ordinary man suffers, wars, hunger, poverty – this short poem by Dylan Thomas sums it up.

The Hand that Signed the Paper

The hand that signed the paper felled a city;
Five sovereign fingers taxed the breath;
Doubled the globe of dead and halved a country;
The five kings did a king to death.

The mighty hand leads to the sloping shoulder,
The finger joints are cramped with chalk;
A goose's quill has put an end to murder
That put an end to talk.

The hand that signed the treaty bred a fever,
And famine grew, and locusts came;
Great is the hand that dominion over
Man by a scribbled name.



Church Sponsored Walk

The annual Church Sponsored Walk is coming off on Friday, 20th June, with participants leaving the Hall at 7pm and returning there for food and light refreshments.



Straiton WRI

The next session of the WRI starts next September and we would be delighted to welcome new members to either join, or just come as a visitor, if you see any demonstration which is of interest to you.



At the first meeting of the last session Dale Stevenson gave a spinning demonstration. Competition winners were; Four pancakes - Nessie Connolly, Favourite vase - Frances Murray.

Davie from Cranberry Cottage Flower Boutique showed off his floral art skills at the following meeting. Competition winners were - Hedgerow arrangement - Christine Welsh, Hand made birthday card - Christine Welsh.

The 'Rural's' 85th birthday party was celebrated in the Black Bull, with a lovely meal. In December 'Colour me beautiful' displayed facial and make-up techniques and in 2014, demonstrations and talks on ornithology, cheese making and a member's night completed the syllabus.

Overall points winners were:

First: Belle Shaw

Second: Frances Murray

Third: Christine Welsh

On the Net

Kirkmichael have a new village website, it's full of useful information, local news, events and history. Check it out at www.kirkmichaelvillage.co.uk

Fundraising event for The Straiton Fun Day Car Boot Sale & Cream Teas



Sunday 6th July 10am - 3pm

Straiton Playpark
and McCandlish Hall

Book early to avoid
disappointment



Contact Jen 01655 770254
or email
straitonfunday@hotmail.co.uk
or follow us on Facebook



VisitStraiton

Set up last year VisitStraiton is open to anyone within the parish of Straiton and surrounding area who runs a business which depends upon tourism, or who is simply interested in the recreational and tourism offerings of the area to both tourists and residents.

The group's aims and objectives are:

- To increase the number of visitors, both day and overnight, to Straiton and surrounding area
- Increase awareness of the natural beauty of the village and area
- Provide visitors and residents with a positive experience by providing good facilities, interesting walks and information on other activities and the natural and social heritage
- Encourage rural businesses which rely on visitors as well as local trade to flourish, thereby improving employment and training opportunities and securing the long term viability of businesses
- To bring all sections of the community together and engage with residents

To achieve these aims we will:

- Promote the VisitStraiton website and ensure it is up-to-date and relevant
- Work with other agencies and businesses (Ayrshire & Arran Tourism, Forestry Commission etc)
- Liaise with nearby communities and visitor attractions where reciprocal promotional opportunities can be agreed
- Enhance the community's experience of the environment, its facilities and opportunities
- Consult with local residents and businesses to ensure that the promotion of the area and its assets is advantageous to them

To date the group has been working with the Ayrshire & Arran Tourism team to develop the walking routes and several walks have been identified as offering an exceptional experience. Currently these include Lady Hunter Blair's Walk, Church Walk, Auchenroy Hill and Dalcairney Falls, The Monument and Bennan Circuit, Ness Glen, Loch Doon Castle & Craiglea Trail and Cornish Hill.



A sample page from the website

VisitStraiton.com

This website (created by Jonathan Meuli) gives information on where to stay, eat and shop.

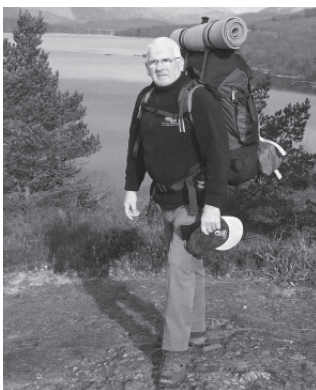
The news section gives information on upcoming and past events. You can also leave comments or advise the editors of any events you think should be included.



St Cuthbert's News

Stained Glass Windows: This work is now planned to commence in early June and all arrangements are well in hand; many thanks to all in the community who contributed.

General Assembly of the Church of Scotland: The General Assembly of the Church will take place from 17th to 23rd May 2014 and Jim Kirk, Session Clerk has been selected as a Commissioner by Ayr Presbytery.



Not content with walking miles delivering our post every day, Alec (from Maybole) regularly walks long distance routes raising money for charity. The above picture was taken by Loch Lomond when Alec was walking the West Highland Way, a trail he has completed more than once.

Need the police? Dial 101 any time it isn't 999

101 makes it quicker and easier to contact the police when you don't need an emergency response

For example:

- if you've had a minor traffic accident
- if your property has been vandalised
- if your car has been stolen
- if you suspect drug dealing
- if you've witnessed a crime
- if you've seen a missing person
- if you need crime prevention advice
- if you want to speak to a local police officer

101 replaces all local police station numbers with one easy-to-remember number, use it to contact police anywhere in the country.

101 is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

It costs a flat rate of 15p per call from landline and mobile networks, no matter what time of day or how long you are on the phone.

When you dial 101, the system will work out your location and connect you to the service centre covering your area.

Using 101 should make the police more accessible while reducing pressure on the 999 system.

Deaf, deafened, hard of hearing or speech-impaired callers can access the service via TextRelay on 1 800 1 101.

In an emergency always dial 999 – when someone is in danger, a crime is in progress or a suspect is nearby.

Recently there have been thefts of quad bikes and heating oil in the area. Please be vigilant and if you see any suspicious activity such as vehicles at unusual times (during the night for instance) call 101 to report it. If you notice the licence number be sure to note it down.

Email address for the local policing team is: maybolenorthcarrickandcoyltoncommunitypolicingteam@scotland.pnn.police.uk



Primary One children enjoying their lunch



*"Logs to burn; logs to burn;
Logs to save the coal a turn."*

*Here's a word to make you wise
when you hear the woodman's cries;
Never heed his usual tale
That he's splendid logs for sale
But read these lines and really learn
The proper kind of logs to burn.*

*Oak logs will warm you well,
If they're old and dry.
Larch logs of pinewoods smell
But the sparks will fly,
Beech logs for Christmas time;
Yew logs heat well;
'Scotch' logs it is a crime
For anyone to sell.
Birch logs will burn too fast;
Chestnut scarce at all;
Hawthorn logs are good to last
If cut in the fall.
Holly logs will burn like wax,
You should burn them green;
Elm logs like smouldering flax,
No flame to be seen.
Pear logs and apple logs,
They will scent your room;
Cherry logs across the dogs
Smell like flowers in bloom,
But ash logs all smooth and grey
Burn them green or old,
Buy up all that come your way
They're worth their weight in gold.*

Honor Goodhart, 1926

Is this Yours?

A padded counterpane has been waiting patiently for its owner to collect it after being dry cleaned last year. So if you've been unusually cold at night this winter it could be yours. Collect from Straiton Stores.

The Straiton School Community Garden

The Straiton School Community Garden lies to the north of the school on a piece of land which has been lying untended for at least 50 years. The land belongs to Blairquhan estate who gifted the land the school stands on. Present owner, Sir Patrick Hunter Blair, has given permission for the school to develop this small piece of adjoining land as a Community Garden with freedom to plan and develop within the school by the pupils.

Work started last year with an archaeological dig on the other side of the wall and the children were very fired up every Friday afternoon with their trowels and sieves.

Funding (£500) for the first phase has been partially spent on tools and some fruit trees ready for the open afternoon at the end of November. Work is being directed by Henry Anderson in full consultation with Miss McBean, the senior teacher, and the headteacher with the whole school (16 pupils) taking part in the dig. Finds have been interesting with a 1960's pepsi bottle, a 1950's chrome whistle and some Victorian marbles the highlights.

The work will continue with a fruit garden and a leisure garden with benches in the areas with most sunshine.

The Community Council has donated £200 towards the project.

Last year saw Straiton Primary School gain their Green Flag. For two years the children in Straiton Primary school have been working on the Eco schools project to earn their green flag. They have learned a lot about recycling, gardening, saving water, electricity and lots more. Their garden has improved a lot and there is a lot less litter around the school. They have really enjoyed the eco schools project and are really passionate about it. Receiving the Green Flag would not have been possible if it wasn't for the help and support from their teacher Miss McBean, Mrs Greig and parents. Special thanks to Sam McWhirter who gave up her free time to help them with their projects in school.

Raising the Green Flag was only made possible due to the hard work from Robbie Kidd and his team of helpers. Robbie very kindly donated his time and skills



in repairing their flag pole. The flag was raised by the Primary 7 boys while a Tom Fulton and Robbie Kidd played the pipes and drum.

A huge thank you to Robbie Kidd for mending our flag pole and to Sam McWhirter for helping and supporting the Eco Committee in their work.

Straiton Stores offer the following

- Newspapers and magazines
 - Household goods
 - Fresh fruit and vegetables
 - Pet food
 - Baking ingredients
 - Confectionery
 - Hot drinks
 - Mobile top-ups
 - Bread and rolls
 - Cashback (with purchase)
 - Preserves
 - Milk and dairy products
 - Tinned goods
 - Greetings cards
 - Dry cleaning agent
 - Batteries
 - Books and maps
 - Soft drinks
 - Sandwiches and pies
 - Eggs
 - Biscuits and cakes
 - Secondhand books
 - Delicatessen foods
 - Wild bird food
 - Regular ordering service
 - Fishing permits (Forestry Commission and Straiton Club)
 - Ice cream
 - Post Office (Mon, Thur 3-4pm)
 - Notice board (for sale, local services, local events)
 - Herbs
 - Stationery
 - Rice and pasta
 - Cigarettes and tobacco
 - Toiletries
 - Curry and pasta sauces
 - Frozen food
 - Stamps
 - Logs and firelighters
- And a friendly welcome!

Talking Shop



Straiton Village Co-operative has been successfully trading for over 5 years now with the latest figures showing an improvement in sales. In addition to our valued members, there are currently 13 volunteers, three part-time paid staff and a part-time paid manager, Alan Martin.

Over the years the shop premises has been improved (new flooring, chilled food cabinets, air conditioning and signage) and, for a store of this size, the range of services and products provided is astounding.

Straiton Stores now offers card payment, cash back (with purchases) and mobile phone tops-ups. On Monday and Thursday the Post Office is run from the shop between 3pm and 4pm. Dry Cleaning is also collected and delivered on these days courtesy of Quick Return Dry Cleaners of Stranraer. You can even buy a fishing permit here!

Earlier this year, a Shop Advisory Group (Frances Murray, Alison Stokes & Trish Selleck) was set up to help Alan look at sourcing and ordering.



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 or email pat@miltonblairquhan.co.uk

Consequently, the shop has a much improved range of greetings cards and several new suppliers. Fife Creamery provide a great new range of dairy and deli foods including yogurts, chorizo sausages, speciality cheeses, pâtes, smoked salmon, bhajis, pakora, fresh pesto, salads and olives – all perfect for delicious summer meals. Irving's of Castle Douglas provide a wide range of cakes and biscuits. James Paterson of Dalmellington is supplying good quality meat products: bacon, sausages, pies, cold meats, frozen beef or pork burgers. We also have a small number of local maps and an eclectic range of books. Where else could you find *The Wild Weather Book* next to *Mr Men*?

As always there are the popular staples. Frozen chicken breasts and goujons from Auchincruive are great value at only £5.99 and £6.85 per kilo respectively. Fresh fruit and vegetables from the market are delivered twice a week. Free range eggs come from Corrie Mains and Glenlochrie at only £1.50 for half a dozen. We also still have locally produced preserves from Mary's Marvellous Munchables and Ayrshire honey from Graeme Sharp.

Membership of the Co-operative is still only £10 – no increase in 5 years – and helps us provide an essential fund for maintenance and bills. It also ensures members have a say in the running of the Co-operative at our Annual General Meeting (scheduled for 29th May). It's not too late to join up!

If you can offer more practical help and can spare a couple of hours a week why not help as a volunteer? In the shop or behind the scenes, you'll be made very welcome. Most of all though, please show your support by using the shop and pop in to see the great range Straiton Stores has to offer.

"Just like the Oscars"

Congratulations to Scott Watson (Geordie and Gero-gie's son) who won **Salad Grower of the Year**. Scott is the manager at Feltwell Growers, part of G's and their fresh produce is sold in Straiton Stores. Scott, Joanne and their family live down in Norfolk now.

The award ceremony was held in a prestigious hotel where Scott and nine other employees were wine-d and dined in style.

Ayrshire Roads Alliance

South and East Ayrshire Councils have collaborated to provide a shared roads service, **The Ayrshire Roads Alliance** is responsible for:

- maintenance of public roads, bridges, footways and footpaths
- street lighting
- traffic calming and road safety roads design and structural design
- parking enforcement and mobility
- bus infrastructure and interchange facilities
- winter maintenance



Fishing Permits are available from Straiton Stores

	March - June	July - Oct
Day Tickets	£10	£15
Weekly Permits	£30	£50

Straiton Stores

Summer Opening Hours

Monday - Friday
7am - 6pm

Saturday & Sunday
8am - 4pm

In addition to the shop, the Co-operative also runs the toilets in the village. Henry Anderson is the man in charge of this venture and, with funds much needed for redecoration and repair, he booked a slot for the Co-operative in the Maybole Charity Shop. This is usually a good fund raiser and the week at the end of March was no exception with over £1,400 raised. The monies will be split between the toilets and shop

Huge thanks are due firstly to Henry but then also to all those who donated goods and gave of their time to run the shop. It was a busy but enjoyable week thanks to our kind-hearted workers – with lots of laughs to keep us going. We did a roaring trade in a bizarre mix of goods: children's jeeps; prints of game birds; sturdy boots; vintage china; good quality second hand clothes; designer stockings; kitchenalia, etc. Other donations during the week from Maybole folk who wished to support us included commemorative Commonwealth Games scarves from the 1958 Cardiff games. Very topical!

After all that hard work, a good profit was made and there are still enough items left for an interesting stall at the Straiton Car Boot Sale in July. And, by then, the toilets will be looking so much better with their fresh coat of paint. Thank you Henry and Co!

A Rose among the Sunflowers



Last year I had an amazing summer. I was lucky enough to visit Peru with the Vine Trust, a charity based in Leith which works with abandoned and vulnerable children both in Peru and in Tanzania. Six of us girls from Carrick Academy travelled out with a group of other young people from Lothian.

In Peru I visited three different boys centres. The first of these, Kimo was close to a town named La Mersed. We spent a week there working and spending time with the boys. We then flew to Cuzco in the mountains where we visited the Urabamba Centre. Finally, we ventured into the jungle of Iquitos and stayed at the Puerto Alegria Centre for three days.

These centres we visited were not at all institutional. They were all proper homes. Each had a house mother and father who treated each boy as if they were their own, and the boys even referred to the carers as their 'mamas' and 'papas'. The boys ages varied from centre to centre. We met street boys as young as three. The oldest were seventeen – the homes were for boys of all ages in need up to adulthood. In the centres, the boys were known as the "girasoles" which translates as sunflowers. This is because all who care for them want to see them grow big, bright and tall and follow the sun, or the Son as in Son of God.

On one of our first nights in Kimo, Billy Clarke (who works with Union Biblica de Peru) came to talk to us about the boys and how they end up on the streets. What we heard was devastating. The mothers of the children would take their young boys down to a busy market and just let go of their hands, losing them in the markets and abandoning them to fend for themselves. One of the wee boys we met Erick, now aged 9, had been living under a bridge for three years before being found and taken to the centre.

We were there to work as well as to learn. In Kimo we worked to improve the centre. We dug out 6ft deep holes for rubbish. We sanded and varnished buildings. We also dug out a trench and laid electrical cables down a hill to the river.

Not surprisingly, my favourite part of the trip was spending quality time with the boys. We played football and party games with them and got lots of cuddles. They performed dances for us and we organised fun sessions for them. We all enjoyed soaking each other with water balloons!

We also had dinner with the boys each night. Our favourite thing to do then was to try and teach each other our own languages. Over the trip we managed to teach the boys some English, including some good Scots... including the word "bowfin" which they enjoyed to shout as loud as they possibly could!

My other trip highlights included visiting the amazing world heritage site of Machu Piccu, set in breathtaking mountains; travelling to a shanty town where we saw the devastating conditions some of the boys used to live in; going down the Amazon to visit a tribal village, and learning to haggle at the markets. And, yes, I did eat guinea pig but much preferred alpaca!

Many thanks to all who supported the trip. It so exceeded all my expectations and I will definitely return. For more information on the Vine Trust and taking a trip like mine see www.vinetrust.org

Rose Baird

Congratulations to Rose who will be starting her Physiotherapy course at Aberdeen this Autumn.

Junior Badminton
8-16 years 6.30 - 8pm

Adult Badminton
over 16s 8 - 10pm

Mondays in the
McCandlish Hall

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on 770254

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or on 01655 770370 or email fraser@fabulousfraser.co.uk



The Late Mrs Margaret Douglas (Ewen) 1922-2014

Margaret Douglas was a homely and a home-loving lady: a devoted wife; a much-loved mother and mother-in-law; a dear grandmother and great-grandmother; a kindly, considerate, compassionate neighbour; a loyal and faithful friend.

Born at Kilwinning, North Ayrshire, in 1922 - the second of the three daughters of Henry Ewen (from the north of Scotland) and Margaret Eccles (Kirkmichael), Margaret came to Kirkmichael as a young girl with her family.

At the start of the Second World War in 1939, however, she moved to Straiton to work with Mr Grimwood as his housekeeper. In 1941 Margaret joined the Women's Royal Air Force (WAAFs) as a cook; she was based in London and witnessed the London blitz. Margaret made, among other foods, large cauldrons of porridge, topped up with gallons of syrup to cater for great numbers of servicemen and women.

Before the War started Margaret met Blair Douglas, a forester from Straiton: the couple married in 1948 after which they brought up their daughter Margaret, and their son Ian. For a year or so after their marriage Blair and Margaret lived at Glenhead, just above the village; then for some fourteen years at Craigbrae; and finally at their cottage in Dalmellington Road: where they moved about 1961/62.

Margaret was, as we remember her, a marvellous cook and baker. Her cooking and baking skills were always to the highest standard and enjoyed by family and friend alike. Throughout her life, Margaret (with Blair) attended whists and beetle drives and here in Straiton she took a keen interest in all village events. She also enjoyed horse-racing.

Professionally, Margaret cleaned for the White family at Traboyack for many years; and also at the former manse, when the late Rev John F McCallum was parish minister.

But Margaret will always be remembered as a keen bowler. For years she was a loyal and active member of Kirkmichael Bowling Club and took part in many local and regional competitions. Bowling gave her immense pleasure – and her skills on the bowling green were well-recognised and well-rewarded.

More than anything else, however, Margaret was very family-oriented. Not only was she a devoted wife and mother. Margaret was especially fond of her six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren: she followed closely the activities and careers of those young lives, taking a personal interest in what they were doing, or where they were going. Margaret also had a close bond with her late sisters Flora and Cissy. She and Blair would often travel north to spend holidays with Cissy at Grantown-on-Spey and in the north-east. Family life meant much to Margaret and her home was always a hub of family engagement. We offer our deepest sympathy to Blair, their children Margaret and Ian, their grandchildren and their many friends, together with our kind thoughts and prayers.

The Straiton Struggle

Entries were up from last year for the Straiton Struggle Cycle Race organised by Ayr Roads. The race consists of five circuits from Straiton to Kirkmichael over to Crosshill and back to Straiton again – about 50 miles in total. Once again entrants came from all over Scotland; Shetland, Aberdeen, Ayr, Glasgow, Kinross, Straiton and Edinburgh. This year was a combination of a 3rd and 4th category races which means they were restricted to riders of the similar ability irrespective of age or gender.

First was Kenny Armstrong from Ayr Roads cycling club, team mate Greg Templeton was second and third was Robert Robertson from Glasgow. First lady was Gabriella Nordin, originally from Sweden but now living in Glasgow. She came in a few seconds after the main group of cyclists (peloton) showing that you don't have to be tall and muscular to do well at cycling.

Kenny and Greg broke away from the peloton on the penultimate lap with Kenny completing the final lap out on his own. The warm sunny weather suited him although just near the finish he felt his muscles starting to seize up. He kept his legs spinning but tried not to use muscle mass and managed to keep his lead.

Straiton's Michael Robb came in a very respectable 19th.

Unfortunately there was a pile up between Straiton and Kirkmichael resulting in cyclist, Mark Skilling, going to A&E with a suspected broken shoulder. We hope all casualties are well and make a full and speedy recovery.



Top: Winner, Kenny Armstrong

Above: First Lady, Gabriella Nordin

Far Left: Not the most comfortable looking seat although I was assured it's quite comfy.

Left: It is common for tyres to be glued on to wheel rims.



The Rural's, children's Hallowe'en party was held in the McCandlish Hall and as usual the fancy dress costumes were terrific. The difficult task of deciding the prize winners fell to Jean Britain, who is new to the village, and they were as follows:

Pre-school - Luke as The Milky Bar Kid, and Mirrin as Rapunzel.

Primary 1-4 - Lucy as The Bride of Dracula, Sarah as Nanny McPhee and Joseph as a Pirate.

Primary 5-7 - Niamh as Avatar, and Cameron as The Empire State building, complete with King Kong.

Thank you to Sam and Leslie McWhirter, for organising the games and Margaret and Arthur Logan for decorating the hall so appropriately.

The annual rainbow whist drive was held last November, with 13 tables present. First prize winners, one for each colour, were Agnes James, Agnes Marshall, Robert Baird and Jenny Bacon. Prizes were presented by Nessie Watson. £400 was raised for local charities.



Following the huge success of the Straiton Village Recipe book the Fun Day Committee are compiling another book. This time your favourite baking or sweet recipes are wanted.

You must either live in Straiton or have a connection to the area. Please detail the origin of your recipe and give it a great name. Remember to include your name, address and age if under 16.

To submit your recipe simply type it out or handwrite it neatly and leave it in Straiton Stores. Alternatively you can email it to straitonfunday@hotmail.co.uk



Fishing Club

Members of Straiton Angling Club can fish the Approach Loch this year. Please have your permits on you at all times and park in the appropriate place. Welcome to the club's newest member Stuart Bryden (aka Badger). If you would like to join please contact David Stokes, 770370 who will explain membership rules and fees. *Tight lines*

The Late Mr James (Jimmy) Hannah 1924-2014

Born in Crosshill in 1924, the eldest of the Hannah brothers, Jimmy started work at Kirkmichael Creamery at the age of fourteen. Following the outbreak of the 2nd World War, Jimmy, already in the ATC (Air Training Corps), was called up in 1943 to train as a telegraphist learning Morse Code in Blackpool and the Isle of Man. Due to a shortage of telegraphists in the Navy, however, Jimmy was transferred there from the Royal Air Force; serving mainly in the Mediterranean and around the African coast, Algiers, Greece and Malta. Jimmy's War service ended in Malta where he worked on a large air base helping to protect the island, after which he was dropped off in the south of France, travelling by train to Calais, and finally by ferry to Dover.

After the War, Jimmy resumed work at Kirkmichael Creamery where he remained until the Creamery closed in 1983. In 1951 he married Mary Fergusson from Straiton (who also worked at the Creamery), and, having lived in a caravan for a short time, the Hannahs moved to Knockbreck Road in 1953 where they brought up their two children: Margaret and Jim. Jimmy was best described as a quiet-living country gentleman – gentle, gracious, sincere. He was a man of simple tastes and pleasures and a run out in the car with Mary gave him much pleasure; favourite venues being Stranraer and Portpatrick and the gardens at Culzean Castle. After Mary's death in 2001 he went out walking most recently up to the glen behind Straiton, almost on a daily basis. He was very keen on woodwork and skilled at making things from furniture to small ornaments and utensils. Indeed, he had always wanted to be a joiner and his delight in making things was a sure sign of his clever-handedness. He also liked watching football on the television and spent time gardening – though more out of necessity than for leisure.

But Jimmy's first love was his family, especially his four grandchildren in whom he took particular pleasure and whose photographs at various ages were proudly displayed in his home. It was Jimmy's great desire to reach his 90th birthday: a wish fulfilled a few weeks ago in the Royal Infirmary in Glasgow and where a few days later he slipped quietly out of time into eternity. We offer our deepest sympathy to his family, together with our kind thoughts and prayers.

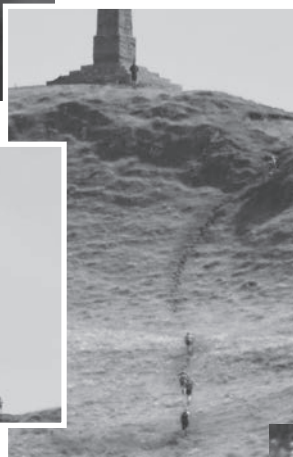
The Black Bull Hotel

Dinner served from 6 to 9pm
Open weekends for lunch and dinner
Beer Garden
Lovely room available for private functions
A warm welcome awaits you from Kenny and Jane
01655 770240





Left: Liz Limond hurls the handbag. Below: Scott Dunlop wins Hurl the Sheaf - yet again!



Above: Nick and Lewis Wise



Above: Rebbekah looking gorgeous
Below: Lesley and Julie watching Hurl the Handbag



Just a few of last year's Fun Day pictures by Jim Kirk, who, apart from roping himself to a passing helicopter and circling the Monument then running up Bannan and back down for the finish, took the photographs of the hill race from a suitable location in the field with his Nikon D5100 camera and attached Nikkor 55-300mm Zoom lens. They are excellent photographs which sadly, our reproduction process doesn't do justice to.

Straiton St Cuthbert's Guild

As the speaker for the first meeting was called away at the last moment, Jim Kirk, stood in and presented a lovely slide show on the German city of Lubeck. At the November meeting, Charlotte Rosteck, the curator at Dumfries House held members enthralled as she told them all about the project. The AGM was held in the Malin Court hotel in December where members enjoyed a pre-Christmas dinner before the money raised at the show day teas was divided for charity.

Recipients were: Straiton Church, McCandlish Hall, Straiton co-op toilet fund and St Andrew's church project in Malawi.

The guild is a branch of the Church of Scotland and anyone male or female who wishes to join us will be made most welcome.

To celebrate Guild week, a concert was held in the church on Sunday 24th November. The entertainment was provided by Hugh Patterson and friends, a group of superb singers and entertainers from Maybole. A great turnout of people attended to raise money for Cross Reach, a church of Scotland charity for dementia sufferers and £295 was raised.

*I did not trip and fall.
I attacked the floor and I believe
I am winning.*

The Late Mrs Fiona Bowman 1946 - 2013

Though born in Ayr, and baptised in Straiton Church, Fiona spent most of her life in Edinburgh, and also in Bonnyrigg, Midlothian, her father Harry Woolford being chief art restorer at the National Gallery of Scotland. During childhood and teenage years, Fiona gained happy memories of weekends spent at Blairquhan Castle, through which she always felt a strong affinity with this area.

In her professional life, Fiona worked with the Bank of Scotland in Edinburgh, and in 1984, moving to the new Mortgages Department, she met Lizabeth Mackie (Liz), with whom she enjoyed a thirty-year friendship, being more like sisters than friends. Fiona left the Bank of Scotland in 1991, and thereafter moved to the picturesque Anstruther in Fife. In 2004, however, she moved permanently to this part of South Ayrshire - initially to Kirkmichael Road, Maybole; then to Dyke Cottage, Straiton; and finally to Myrtle Cottage in Kirkmichael's Patna Road.

Fiona was a lady who loved country and village life, and felt she truly belonged in such an environment. In later years, she travelled widely overseas, while also giving time to be a volunteer worker at Kirkmichael Community Shop. She was a regular attender at Straiton Church, often accompanied by her friend Jack Patrick, and had a strong faith, holding fast to all her opinions. Her dogs also gave Fiona much pleasure, and she enjoyed entertaining and socialising with friends.

Unfortunately, Fiona's health deteriorated following her move to Kirkmichael, and Jack's death in 2012, and she was frequently in hospital during this time. Fiona passed away peacefully in October 2013, in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, surrounded by her family and with Liz - to whom we offer our deepest sympathy, together with our kind thoughts and prayers.



Well done to George Bryden (Kirkmichael) who set out from Lands End on 7th January and walked to John o' Groats, reaching it on the 28th of February.

George nearly gave up after the first week with badly blistered feet but the knowledge of all the donations and some strong painkillers kept him going.

Over £4,000 has been raised for the Ayrshire Hospice - a superb achievement.



Curtains, Cushions & Crafts
Curtain, Blind and Pelmet Making Service
Free measure and estimate

Samantha Jane McWhirter 14 Dalmellington Road, Straiton KA19 7NG
01655 770315 or 07884 076 313 samjomcwhirter.309@btinternet.com

Church

Church of Scotland service
every Sunday at 12 noon

Straiton Stores

Mon - Fri 7am - 6pm
Sat, Sun 8am - 4pm
Dry cleaning is collected/
delivered on Mon and Thurs

Post Office

Mon & Thurs 3.15 - 4.15pm

Mobile Library

Every 4th Thursday 11.30am

Post Box Collection Times

Mon - Fri 4pm
Sat 11am

Bank

The Royal Bank of Scotland
Mondays 1.30 - 2pm

Fishmonger

Thurs 12.30 - 1.30pm

Butcher

Tue 10am
Sat 10.30 - 11.15am

The Buck Coffee • Cakes • Crafts
Open Wed - Sun 11am-5pm
Closed Mon, Tue except bank
holidays.

Coal

Fergusson 01292 591 543
MacPherson 01290 551 660

Logs

Blairquhan Estate 770239
Bobby McFadyen
1 Dalmellington Road
07986 445 317

Accommodation

Balbeg Country Holidays Self Catering	01655 770665 www.balbeg.co.uk	Genoch Cottage Self Catering www.genochcottage.com	0141 258 4474 liffygrant@talktalk.net
Blairquhan Estate Self Catering	01655 770239 www.blairquhan.co.uk	Holly Tree Cottage Self Catering www.straiton.org.uk	01655 770247
Craigview Cottage Self Catering Self Catering	www.kathleengood.co.uk	Hazel Lodge B&B Toll Cottage Self Catering	01655 770660 0141 341 0558

Community Councillors

Henry Anderson, Craigard 770242 henry.craigard@googlemail.com
Mary Arthur, 24 Main Street 770318 maryarthur_ethel@hotmail.co.uk
Bea Holden, 18 Main Street 770247 bea.holden@live.com

Kirkmichael Community Shop and Café

Mon - Fri 7.45am - 5.30pm Weekends 7.45am - 4pm

The shop and related café are part of South Ayrshire Council's Comfort Scheme
and public toilet facilities are available during opening hours.

Service 361 is provided by Stagecoach (Strathclyde Partnership for Transport)

Traveline Scotland 0871 200 22 33 open 24 hours 7 days a week

Bus Timetable Mon to Sat. On leaving Ayr the bus stops outside Skills Development on Carrick St and Burns Statue Square

Straiton	7.00	9.17	11.17	13.17	15.17	17.47	19.17	21.47
Crosshill	7.15	9.25	11.25	13.25	15.25	17.55	19.25	21.55
Kirkmichael	7.26	9.32	11.32	13.32	15.32	10.02	19.32	22.02
Maybole	7.33	9.40	11.40	13.40	15.40	18.10	19.40	22.10
Ayr Hosp	7.48	10.05	12.05	14.05	16.05	18.35	20.05	22.35
Ayr	8.03	10.20	12.20	14.20	16.20	18.50	20.20	22.50

Ayr	6.02	8.12	10.12	12.12	14.12	16.42	18.12	20.42
Ayr Hosp	6.18	8.29	10.26	12.26	14.26	16.56	18.26	20.56
Maybole	6.36	8.51	10.51	12.51	14.51	17.21	18.51	21.21
Kirkmichael	6.43	8.59	10.59	12.59	14.59	17.29	18.59	21.29
Crosshill	6.50	9.07	11.07	13.07	15.07	17.37	19.07	21.45
Straiton	6.57	9.15	11.15	13.15	15.15	17.45	19.15	21.45