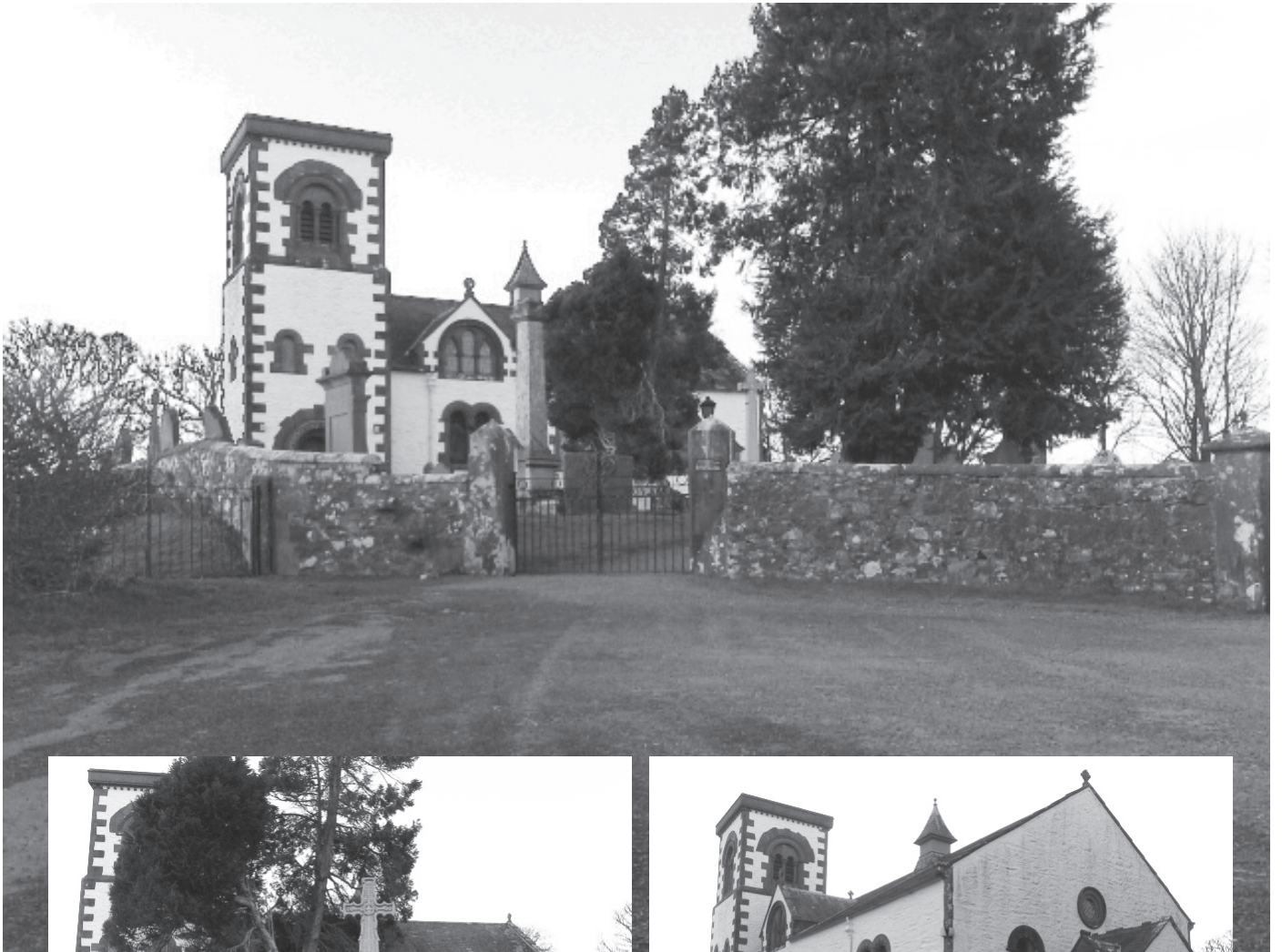


IRONGRAY COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2015

Editorial

Our cry for contributions in the Autumn 2014 edition has been heard and as a result we have a packed Newsletter for you this spring with several new contributors offering their reports, tales, memories and poetry. As well as news from Shawhead School, we have good news from Irongray Church and we hear about Castle Douglas

Scouts' fundraising efforts. We have personal contributions from members of the community and Ian Bryden keeps us up to date with the Community Council's affairs as well as other matters.

Many thanks to all contributors. Keep on writing and sending your material in for the Autumn edition.

Dates for your diary.

Upcoming events to look out for.

Scouts Strawberry Tea

Saturday 11th April 10 am - 12 pm
Shawhead Village Hall

Litter Pick

Sunday 26th April 1pm - 3pm

School Fete

Sunday 7th June 2pm - 4pm
Shawhead School

Irongray Craft and Produce Show

Saturday 29th August

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Friday 26th September 10-12
Shawhead Village Hall

Irongray Community Council

Community Council meetings are held in the village hall bi monthly at 7pm. Provisional dates for meetings this year are Mon 30th March, Mon 1st June, Mon 3rd Aug and Mon 5th Oct.

Usually one of our local councillors attend and a representative from Police Scotland. These are public meetings which anyone will be most welcome to attend.

If you have any issues which you wish to raise please contact any of your community councillors.

Your Community Councillors are

Ian Bryden (*chairman*)

Iain Mitchell (*vice chairman*)

Robert McGowan (*secretary*)

Sharon Hiddlestone (*treasurer*)

John Powell

Sally Hinchcliffe

Michael Cocker

Karen Little
(*co-opted member*)

David White
(*co-opted member*)

David Pennington
(*co-opted member*)

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New Minister for Irongray, Lochrutton & Terregles Church

News from the pews

I am delighted to report that Irongray, Lochrutton and Terregles are about to welcome a new Minister to the Parish.

Following a number of years seeking a full time replacement for Rev Taylor, who retired on grounds of ill-health, Rev Gary Peacock from Edinburgh will join us in early April. He will move into the manse near Shawhead along with his wife Fiona and their two young children (son 5 years and daughter 3 years). Good news for the local Head Teacher!

Rev Peacock's Ordination and Induction will take place at 7pm on Friday 17 April at Irongray Church, immediately followed by a social evening at Terregles Hall.

It is also important to recognise the wonderful support we have received from Rev Sally Russell as Interim Moderator and, for the last four years, our locum minister

Rev Bob Wotherspoon from Castle Douglas.

Bob retired (apparently for the last time!) on 16 November 2014 when a lunch and presentation was held at Terregles.

Very best wishes and thanks to Bob - and a very warm welcome to Gary and family.

Alex Dickson

ILT Session Clerk and Chair of Nominating Committee

**SCOUTS
NEED YOUR PENNIES
FOR KENYAN LATRINES**

The Scouts are holding a Strawberry Tea on 11th April 10-12 pm in Shawhead Village Hall to raise funds for their Kenyan latrine project.

Please come along.

Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning



**Friday 25th September
Shawhead Village Hall. 10 am - 12 pm.**

Scouts go the extra mile for Kenyan school latrines.

by Mr. David White

On the 6th of June 2014 the Castle Douglas Scouts commenced their journey from Newton Stewart upon a contraption devised by the Scouts in conjunction with a few bicycle experts. As the form of the contraption suggests the aim of this ride was to raise money to buy Ventilated Pit Latrines for schools in Kenya. After a rocky start having to disassemble and change tyres only a mile into the journey we soon got back on the bike. Two days and 60 miles of cycling later we reached our final destination in Castle Douglas, or so we thought....

In actual fact this journey would end 4500 miles away in Kenya. After the success of the bicycle run in raising the funds to buy 3 double pit latrines It was decided that some of the Scouts should have the opportunity to go to Kenya to see the work done, to experience the culture and to help finish the last toilet. The Scouts are sending over a group off to Kenya at the beginning of July 2015 for a fortnight; including David and Stuart White. The Scouts will be putting on numerous events to raise funds for

the trip and it is sure to be a great experience. The Scouts are holding a strawberry tea on 11th April 10-12 pm in Shawhead Village Hall. Please come along.



Summary of Hall Activities

Monday 7.30-9.00

Scottish Country Dancing

Tuesday 7.30-9.00

Badminton

Wednesday 7.30

WRI (3rd Wed of Month)

Wednesday 7.00-8.30

Shawhead Community Choir

Dates to be confirmed

Thursday 2.00

I.S.C.C.

For Hall lets call Sharon

Hiddleston by e mail

sharonhidleston@aol.com

Craft and Produce Show



Saturday 29th August 2015

**Spring is here! so let's all
get growing, and crafting...**

**4 months to go and
counting to come up
with the biggest and
best carrots, crafts and
creations.**

The Cup of Life

Colin Hammond, August 2014

Beneath the sky's pavillion across the gold-rimmed hills,
Down the woodland glade cascading silver rills;

Shadows from a twilight sky that glowed carnelian red,
As the day now lay sleeping on its dew-encrusted bed.

How faint the night's trembling heart 'neath its star-strewn shroud,
Where dreams take flight and soar upon some opalescent cloud.

Heaven's candelabra that lights the midnight sky –
The weary traveller gazes up and asks the question: Why?

Had I lain in heaven's bower waiting for the dawn,
I'd call for light and peace on this vernal morn.

Shadow of the night bestir and cast aside your robe,
Morn's sleeping beauty wakes on this ever-turning globe.

Her cheeks aglow in thie rouge-blushed dawn,
As the lights went out in Capricorn.

A painted lady rose on wings of velvet crush,
While down the glade the sparking waters rush;

And through the water's prism a shimmering rainbow hue,
Remembering a promise made when men were but very few.

At noon the ravens called, and waking from some dream
I saw them skyward fly on wings of iridescent sheen;

A myriad golden celandines arrayed the woodland floor,
Embroidered strands of gold entwined reach some distant shore;

Where perfumed evening comes with warm, embracing hand,
Whose spreading wine-dark fingers caress this troubled land.

Teardrops from a dying sun ignite the evening air,
Reflected on dark waters a dazzling solitaire.

The hills ablaze, a heavenly pyre remembering days now gone,
And dark obsidian nights through which bright stars have shone.

But now the wayfaring man rests in sleep
Beneath those stars, his final journey at last complete.

White bouquets of remembrance adorn some weeping almond trees,
And on the glistening turf uncounted dew-drop tears;

The cup of life which once brimmed full now empty lay,
awaiting the trumpet call of some future day

Irongray Community Council News

Thanks go to Gary Busby and Keith Harvey for their help and support. They have both now moved out of the parish and have resigned from the Community Council.

Harestanes Windfarm (community benefit)

The Harestanes Community Benefit Company has now been set up to manage the funds which local communities are eligible to apply for. Any properly constituted club or



Harestanes Windfarm

organisation within Irongray will be able to apply for grant funding for virtually any good purpose. (There are one or two exceptions – the money cannot be spent for religious purposes or for campaigning against renewable energy) In addition the Community Council will receive approximately £2000 every year to spend in the community. It has been agreed that this fund will be managed and administered by the Irongray Community Trust.

Finalised details of the grant application process are awaited, but

we have been advised that the initial annual payment will be paid out imminently. If you have any ideas as to how you think the money could be spent to benefit the community please contact any of the community councillors.

There are mixed views on wind-farm development but this is a good news story as it will provide a source of potential income to the community for the next 25 years.

Killylour Filter Station

Further significant development is planned at the Killylour Filter Station. Scottish Water have run public engagement events in the village hall to highlight their proposals and have also attended a number of Community Council Meetings. The



proposed works are to provide a circa £3m pre-treatment facility for the recently constructed filtration plant. There have been a number of objections to the scheme but the Community Council has been supportive provided measures are put in place to protect the interests

of the local residents as far as is practically possible.

Web Page

The Community Council are hoping to develop a web page in the coming months which will allow information and news to be shared more widely and to be easier to access.

Joint newsletter with Terregles

The Community Council has had initial discussions with our friends in Terregles to see if there is any appetite for producing a joint newsletter which would allow residents in both communities to be kept up to date.

Stewartry Area Committee/ Nithsdale services

Currently Irongray (and Terregles) is served by Stewartry councillors, Finlay Carson, George Prentice and Brian Collins who sit on the Stewartry area committee. Council services in Irongray are provided from Nithsdale and managed by the Nithsdale area committee. As a result there is a potential anomaly in the decision making process for matters which directly affect us. Normally one of the councillors named above attend our community council meetings and they have advised that they will pass any representations that we may have on to their appropriate counterparts on the Nithsdale area committee

Irongray Community Council News

Policing and Crime

Thankfully we live in a relatively low crime area. A member of police Scotland usually attends each community council meeting to provide an update. Unfortunately one of the biggest value crimes committed in Scotland remains unsolved, namely the theft of the Henry Moore statue from Glenkiln. The police have indicated that rural crime is still an issue with thefts of fuel, tools and quad bikes being the main target areas. We are all encouraged to report suspicious vans and other vehicles which may be seen in the area at odd times of the day.

Anti-Social Behaviour

The community wardens have visited the area on a number of occasions at differing times of the day to monitor for anti-social behaviour. In particular they are looking for the minority who continue to allow their dogs to foul on footways and in playing fields.

You have been warned - Bag it and Bin it! Or risk a fixed penalty fine

Information Boards – Church Car Park

The information boards which

are situated in the carpark at Irongray church have fallen victim to the elements. Irongray Trust have decided that part of the first payment from the Harestanes Community Benefit Fund will be used to replace them. They have been redesigned in a more contemporary style but retaining as far as possible the original text. They will hopefully be replaced in the next few months.

Notice Board – School

The Community Council is seeking prices for the erection of a new large notice board adjacent to the layby at the school. One half will be devoted to school news with the remainder being for community use. It is hoped that this will offer an additional location for community information which can be accessed by passing traffic or parents and guardians collecting children from the school.

Litter-Pick

This year's annual litter pick is scheduled to take place on Sunday afternoon 26th April. It will take the same format as previous events and end with tea/ coffee and cakes in the village hall as a thank you to all who participate.

This has turned into a really worthwhile event in recent years and makes a real difference to the roadsides and public spaces in the community. It is effectively a way of having a wonderful Sunday afternoon stroll along our network of roads in the knowledge that you are also helping by removing litter en-route.

If you can spare a couple of hours to help you will be most welcome.

Daffodil planting

For those of you who stay at the Shawhead end of the parish you may have noticed the springtime display of daffodils in the laybys between Shawhead and the A75. This has largely been the work over a number of years of Angus Robertson who has donated and planted bulbs (on occasions with the donations and assistance of other likewise community minded volunteers). This year the Community Council donated some funds to allow Angus to purchase some more daffodils and he received some help with planting.

A big thank you goes to Angus Robertson, Iain and Liz Mitchell, Colin Hammond and Robert McGowan for ensuring that we all get a beautiful splash of colour to bring some much needed springtime cheer.



Shawhead School News

Our “small” school now has a roll of 39 and our 40th pupil is due to commence after Easter! Such a difference from a couple of years ago when our numbers were due to go down to 11 – confidence in our new building as well as families moving to our catchment has meant we are now filling up our lovely village school.

We have 7 primary one children due to join us after the summer which is great and a phased induction will ensure they get to know the school, staff and other pupils before they start in August. This has worked really well in the past and means that there are very few problems once they start at “big school”! We look forward to welcoming them all in due course.

It is now over a year since we moved into our new school and the building/grounds have now been handed over from Portacabin to the Council. There are ongoing works required to our playing field but we hope to be able to fully utilise it sometime during the summer months. New fencing has been put alongside the stone dyke to the left hand side of the building which makes it much safer.

Our wonderful parents have helped clear out the overgrown shrubs from the roadside front border and we hope to replant it with some new foliage soon. Plans are being discussed to perhaps have some form of community allotment within an area of the grass too – further information will follow once we have made a decision but it would be great to provide something for the whole village to enjoy/participate in.

A new combined school and community noticeboard is being costed at the moment by our Community Council and will be placed at the front of the school for everyone in the village to see and use. Hopefully this will be a handy addition as not everyone passes by the noticeboard up at the village hall.

The school is having another busy term and we have had lots happening since we returned from our Christmas holiday in January:

Our older children have been learning to play Tin Whistles whilst the younger ones have been learning some traditional Scottish songs.

The four children in Primary 7 have travelled down to

Cargenbridge Primary on several occasions to take part in the Small World sessions which cover topics such as substance misuse, peer issues, smoking, alcohol etc. These sessions are organised by the Active Schools team.

Our two girls in Primary 7 will also be attending 5 sessions at the Sports Hub within Maxwelltown High School this term in order to participate in their “Girls Allowed” initiative giving them the opportunity to take part in different sporting activities and also meet up with other Primary 7 girls from the catchment.

We held a Scots Poetry Competition within the school early in February and all the children did really well learning and reciting a poem. Many of the children also attended the Burns’ Night at the Village Hall and were able to stand up in front of the large crowd and do their recitation!

Our project this term is the Egyptians and the whole school travelled to Edinburgh on the 19th February to the Playhouse Theatre’s production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat”. This was a long day with a bus journey both

ways and lunch at a Frankie & Benny's franchise in the city. The children were a credit to the school with excellent behaviour throughout the day and everyone enjoyed the show. We are now busy rehearsing for our own show based on "Joseph" which we plan to hold just before the Easter holidays. The children are treating this event as an enterprise project and have set up their own teams in respect of marketing, costumes and scenery etc. They have come up with designs for posters, tickets, moveable backgrounds and costumes as well as learning all the songs and dances within the show – busy times! The school is buzzing and "Joseph" music is providing the background to much of the day...

Each year we try and do some charity fundraising and always involve the children in choosing which charity to support. This Easter we are raising funds for Barnardo's and taking part in their "Egg Challenge". This involves the children acting as carers for a decorated boiled egg which they keep at home for a week and take it with them wherever they go – taking photographs if possible to record all the interesting places it has visited! The idea is to have an egg at the end of the challenge

which still resembles the one they started with – proving they have been reliable "carers" during that time.

Curling is once again on the agenda for our older pupils and they will be taking part in practice sessions as well as a tournament in March at the Ice Bowl.

We are lucky to have input from the I Bike Project and they are holding a "Bling your Bike Helmet Day" here at the school on 11th March. The children can be as creative as they like when decorating their helmets – using paper, tinsel, stickers or whatever comes to hand although the helmet must still remain safe to wear! We look forward to seeing some fantastic designs!

Our second Charity event this term will be on Comic Relief Day when we will be selling Red Noses to help raise some funds.

Each year we take part in some form of residential stay at an outdoor centre. Our Primary 5 – 7 children are travelling to Barcaple this May to stay and will take part in the activities provided by the organisation – Challenge Course, Blind Trail, Ropes Course, Tree Climb, Zip Wire and Archery. For some of the children it will be the

first time they have been away from home without their parents or other family members – a bit scary but they usually thoroughly enjoy themselves once they get to the outdoor centre!

We have a very active Parent Council at the school who help us to raise funds and provide support to the school in many ways. This summer they are planning to hold a school disco for the children and also a School Fete which will be open to the local community. The Fete is planned to take place on Sunday, 7th June, between 2 and 4 p.m. and various stalls will be set up as well as a Hog Roast and Ice Cream Van attending. Please pop this date into your diary and come along to join us – we love having the local community come along to school events. Now that we are a bigger school it is sometimes difficult for us to invite additional people along due to fire regulations. However, the fete will be both inside and out of the school therefore providing additional space so we look forward to seeing you.

Our telephone number is 01387 730240 if you would like to contact us at any time.

Shawhead Show introduces Tattie Bogle.

by Susan White

After many years of successfully running the Irongray Village Show, Selina Ross has decided to hand the reigns over to a new committee this year who will hopefully carry forward the show with the same success. Everyone involved would like to take this opportunity to say a "Big Thank You" to Selina for all her help over the years.

The new committee hope to carry on with the same success and have made a few changes to the show schedule. Firstly in

the photographs, the winning photograph of "Irongray" will be mounted and hung in the Village Hall. Secondly we have introduced a new category which involves making a "Tattie Bogle" which we hope will be entered in teams. Lastly and probably the most exciting is a new prize which will see the overall winner becoming "Champion of Champions" and receiving a great cash prize. So go on everyone, even those who have never entered before HAVE A GO!!!!

In this newsletter you should have found your copy of this year's schedule for the Village Show. If you have not please feel free to contact Susan White 01387 730618 for a copy.



We Need Your Pictures.

From our neighbours in Terregles.

from Alan Lammin.

The Maxwell Memorial Hall Management Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have supported the events in the hall over the past year. Our aim is to try to provide a range of events which appeal to all age groups living in Terregles Parish. However, we realise that we may not always get it right and would be pleased to hear from anyone with ideas for events.

Hall Rentals

In addition to running events we also rent out the hall at very reasonable rates to anyone wishing to use it. Regular users are the SWRI, the local

Pony Club, the Community Council, the Transport Group, the Church, the Flower Show, the Yoga group and the Alzheimer's Support Group. Other rentals include birthday parties and in 2014, for the first time, a wedding and christening.

AGM

The hall AGM will be held on 23rd April at 7pm. The usual reports and updates on progress will be made, and elections for the committee will be held. I would urge anyone remotely interested in keeping the hall afloat to attend, as the committee is now down to 5 people

only, which is the minimum number for a quorum under the terms of the constitution - without new committee members there will be no more events and no new toilets or other improvements. The current committee consists of Russell Williamson (Chairman/Treasurer), Alan Lammin (Secretary), Emma Jahn, Carrie Robinson and Holly Forsyth. We are fortunate to have obtained the services of younger members like Emma, Carrie and Holly but need more, as Russell and I are not getting any younger!

The Cat Walk....

by Ruth Phoenix

If you drive, you've probably seen me out and about walking with my dog, Pickles...and a cat or two. I'm writing this by way of introducing the feline walkers to you, their public!

The smaller brown cat is called Sprocket, and she thinks she is a dog. Never mind the current advert for the mobile phone network...Sprocket has "been more dog" for a couple of years now. She adores marmite and pork scratchings, and will sit upright, next to Pickles hoping for a piece of my breakfast toast.

She also anticipates the walks. Just as the dog knows what's happening when I'm looking for the lead and getting my jacket, so does Sprocket, and if for some reason I don't want her to follow us I have to get to the cat flap before she does, otherwise she's outside, un-grab-able and ready for the off!

She started following us not long after we moved into the village and Sprocket now walks around two miles a day! In the early days she'd get tired and peel off over a wall to do her own thing. I'd

often come back without her, and she wouldn't return herself. I'd do the same route two or three days later and a very happy cat would appear very near where I'd last seen her, meowing like crazy and trying to wag her tail...well she does think she's a dog! The penny eventually dropped with me. Sprocket had learned that I was the one who'd led her to that point, so I would inevitably return for her.

Now I'm wise to this I'll only let her peel off if we're close to the village, as Sprocket can now find her way home. Otherwise I end up waiting for her and a half hour walk can stretch to three quarters quite easily. Pickles is long suffering, but she does look a bit fed up on these occasions!

The larger black cat is called Flash and he, thankfully, is all cat. He thinks his job is to guard the village until we return, and he does a good job!

Flash only occasionally follows us, and I don't know what prompts him. Perhaps he's a bit jealous of Sprocket sometimes, perhaps he occasionally fancies

exploring beyond his usual territory? What ever the reason, two cats with little road sense, meowing as they trail after me doesn't exactly make for a relaxing, stress free walk!

So to you very patient drivers who wait as I herd my wee menagerie off the tarmac, thank you! And if we've brought a smile to your face I'm glad...and to those in a hurry who've we've delayed a little, I apologise, but it will likely happen again!

See you out there!

Ruth

The Irongray Community Newsletter

would like to wish
all its readers a
joyful
Easter Season
and a fruitful spring

Dancing Class.

The country dancing class has continued throughout the winter season and ends with our party night on 23 March. Unfortunately 2 of our regular members have left the area and 2 others have had to give up temporarily having suffered injuries from accidents.

This has seriously depleted our numbers but fortunately a new couple have joined so we have managed to keep going.

As always we could do with a few new faces. The class is not too strict and we have a lot of fun

especially trying out new dances. We start again on 5 October and the charge is only £2.00 per night including tea or coffee and home baking.

Angus

Irongray Community Trust.

The Irongray Community Trust was registered as a charity on 9 October 1998.

The objectives of the Trust are to “provide historical, cultural and environmental facilities for recreation and assistance in the interests of the social welfare of the general public resident or visiting the parish of Irongray and the provision of accommodation and recreational building and facilities to those persons in need of assistance including financial assistance or benefits in kind.”

The main achievement of the Trust has been to spearhead the provision of the well used car park

adjacent to Irongray Kirk together with the millenium stone and tree planting. The trust is responsible for maintaining the car park and organises the grass cutting which is paid on a 50/50 basis with the Kirk.

The Trust has organised the occasional activity such as lectures, a concert and garden openings and has assisted the school with various events.

The parish is now to receive £2000 per annum wind farm money and part of the first tranche is being used to replace the information boards at the car park. These are being designed

and produced by local resident Sean McKay and his team at Elitedisplay. Once complete they will be a useful facility for visitors to the area.

Applications are invited for future wind farm monies from properly constituted organisations within the parish and should be made to the Community Council in the first instance. Allocation of Funds will be decided by the Trust.

Angus

The first sponsored walk. *by Mrs. Margaret Proudlock*

Fifty three years ago, on a spring evening, a church fundraising meeting was held in Irongray Manse. The Rev Bill Aitken and Mrs Moira Aitken welcomed us in the log fired sitting room. A means of raising money instead of the usual fete at the manse was required. I came up with a sponsored walk. The Rev Aitken and Mr Jim Gibson from Gateside Farm said "Oh no, not one of those. Plastic cups, crisp packets and sandwich papers littering the road!" I said "Not a road walk, a hill walk."

Isn't it known, the people from the village and others walked down to church in the early centuries. Historians have said even the dead were carried down on a bier, a reusable coffin with long handles and a hinged base, which was placed over the grave to release the corpse. The parish owned the common coffin. Afterwards coffins with handles were carried on foot over the Kirk pad from Shawhead. There were many children's deaths from childhood diseases. Large families of ten were usual in those days. Historians say

square blocks were built into dykes to push the coffin on and retrieve at the other side, eventually arriving at the churchyard. Centuries later a bridge was built over the river at Rosebank, then lower down, the Routin' bridge over the rocky river there. Then the road went down a long stretch bordering the river for a time before reaching the church. In 1814 a plan to have a horse hearse supported by 126 parishioners who by subscription provided the funds for the purchase or a hearse and building of a hearse house at the cost of £16-12-6p and still stands at the edge of the village adjacent to the Old Post Office. For the use of the hearse, the subscribers paid nothing but the vehicle could be hired out to non subscribers and payment was charged by mileage covered. Payment for the poor was defrayed by the poor fund. The hearse was very widely used by neighbouring parishes, some as far afield as New Abbey. The hearse was eventually motorised and was able to go by road to the churchyard. The stepping stones over the wall at the churchyard are well bevelled by much use. Was

there a wall right round the church to keep the animals out ? There were big congregations in earlier days, the gentry and most of their servants, farmers and their cottagers, the village people, being regular attenders, filled the church.

The first walks down to the church.

The first walkers would go down the Shawwood branch off at the river and follow it down past Oakbank Farm till it turns away southwards and the ground rose up past Cluden Farm and from there on to the hills finishing up at the Manse near the church. Women would be dressed in black clothes, skirts down to their ankles, petticoats, bloomers, no trousered women in those days.

At the fundraising meeting when the suggested walk was agreed on, William Muir, company Sergeant Major in the Territorial Army and Elder at Irongray Church offered to post some of his men on the selected route and two of the women said they would have refreshments at points on the way.

On a June night of rain the first

The first sponsored walk, *continued...*

walk was from the Manse up the hills to the village, so walkers had to be transported down there. Bedraggled walkers were to be seen going up the village with their sponsor cards, for tea and biscuits in the hall. Most June walks on different routes were a treat to be on, on lovely nights. You set off with children who took off as if there was a prize for the first home. Our joint churches Lochrutton and Terregles took up doing alternate years with Irongray which made more different walks to do. These later walks were upgraded with lavish free barbeques afterwards.

One year I was a late entrant at a Lochrutton Church walk, making up on Doug Halliday and the Rev David Bennet up the Lochside Road, turning off at Lochside Farm, crossing two fields, one of them with boggy rushes, to walk uphill to Lochrutton Church. Earlier walkers were ready to cross over to the heather hills. I kept my eyes open among the heather, my mother used to say you could encounter adders sunning themselves among the heather. It was the route the family took years ago from Dalskairth to Church

when they didn't use the gig by road.

From the walk over the hills we arrived at the Turnfine on the old Military road to Lochfoot. The road was steep and harder than over the heather hills. We eventually started going downhill to Lochfoot Hall and joined other walkers for refreshments.

I had to give up doing the hill walks in my declining years, as angina set in. I started sponsoring walkers instead. Going over to another Lochrutton Hill Walk to be there at the finish to pay Jock Wallace and Angus Robertson I arrived only to be told Angus had finished early and was away with a group to show them round a tricky part on the walk round the loch. I drove up through the village encountering them marching up the steep Whinniehill. I blew on the horn but they just marched on into the side. I drove to the top of the hill where I saw a sign saying sponsored walk and down a steep field to the lochside. I paid Angus his money when they arrived and then I took off to Milton Village and visited my daughter there.

Last year I went up to the hall where the walk of 2014 finished. There at John Bryden's garage as usual the barbeque was in full swing, pots of soup ready, beefburgers frying. It was being staffed by lady Elders from Terreglas Church, probably to let Irongray Elders take part in the walk. The Terreglas ladies were waiting on a friend sent to Tesco's to get forgotten onions to fry.

I got a cup of tea while I waited for my sponsored walkers, Angus Robertson and Colin Hammond. At last the walkers arrived feeling the heat and by the look of exhaustion, ready for a meal. Colin who lives near the hall went straight home so I took a carton of soup and a roll with a beefburger in it down to him with his money. He said the next day he enjoyed his supper so much.

I see other churches bordering Dumfries do hill walks now. My money making idea has taken off in more places than our own.

Angelic Beings

The Hugh Norma Crossword Quiz No. 8

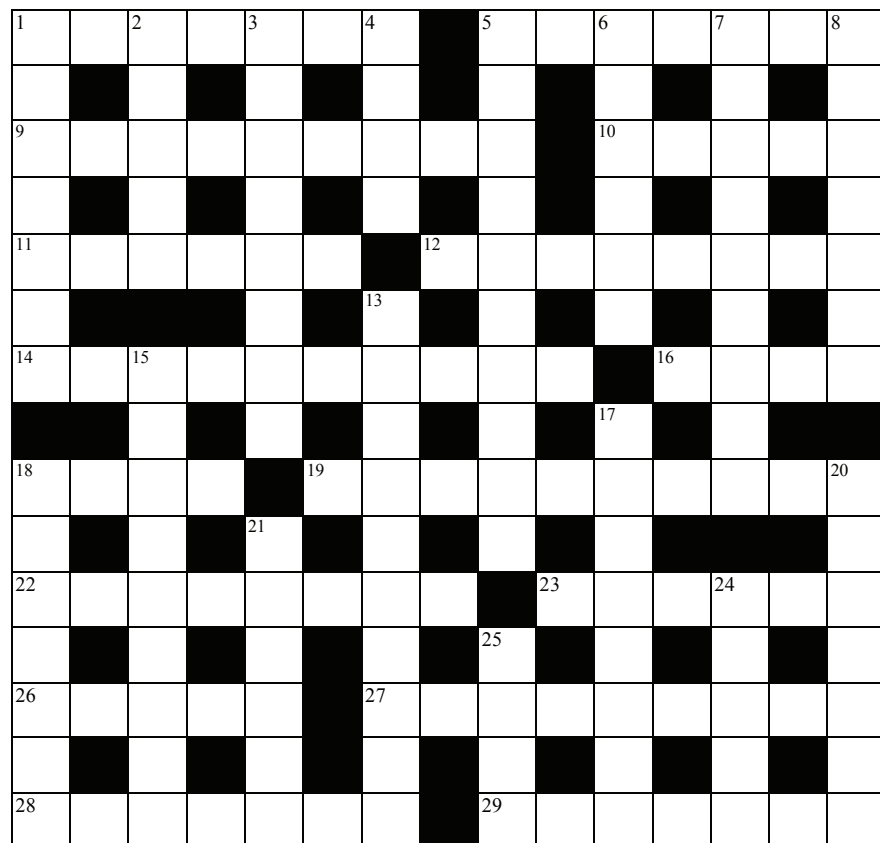
The four unclued lights are all in the same group and are connected with 5 Down

Across

1. Fifty-one praised the centre on the affair (7)
5. Resolves to swear violently about the Poles (7)
9. Second degree Quaker leaders take one from the sea (9)
10. (5)
11. Excuse former partner with timeless charm (9)
12. Story about novice, fifty-one, prone to error (8)
14. Apropos Josephine's cake decorations for the celebrations (10)
16. Spirit of gravel (4)
18. Fashion endless copy (4)
19. Buzzer on boat without a stern – needs a sound complainer (10)
22. Second order angel demolished much Brie (8)
23. Tearaway disturbed Crown (6)
26. First drink – acidity measure (5)
27. Instrument inflicting damage on an accountant (9)
28. To add in stories is an understatement (7)
29. (7)

Down

1. Fifty-one line up – limited right to drink (7)
2. Religious meal, shared with a page originally (5)
3. First order angel demolished sapphire (8)
4. Clear profit from reconstructing tent (4)
5. Can leg rash be obtained from dead nettles? (10)
6. It's dodgy about our sullen manner (6)
7. Neighbour with penny for nothing moves capital (10)
8. Signal directed round boxer (7)
13. Incidental illustrations of happiness in a wee sister (10)
15. Estimate workforce – Tory leader's opinion (9)
17. Animal has a grooming in a very old store (8)
18. (7)
20. (7)
21. Haunts unnatural shade (6)
24. Spice up the fifty-one in a letter (5)
25. Medicine pot (4)



Answers to Crossword No. 7 contributed by Hugh in our Autumn 2014 newsletter

Irongray 7: Time for Music

J	A	C	K	P	O	T	C	A	L	I	P	E	R
U	O	U	H	H	E	I	E	I	I	I	I	I	I
S	E	M	I	B	R	E	V	E	N	O	T	E	S
T	M	L	A	E	G	C	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
I	T	A	L	I	C	C	R	O	T	C	H	E	T
C	C	S	F	H	I	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
E	X	T	R	A	N	E	O	U	S	U	N	C	O
R	A	M	L	M	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T	T
R	E	E	D	V	I	L	L	A	I	N	O	U	S
A	A	H	Q	Y	N	O	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
I	N	T	R	I	G	U	E	Q	U	A	V	E	R
N	M	T	A	I	T	A	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
B	R	E	V	E	V	E	S	T	I	B	U	L	E
O	N	C	E	I	A	L	R	R	R	R	R	R	R
W	A	T	C	H	E	R	S	W	E	E	T	L	Y

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

In order to create this newsletter we need your articles, news, stories, puzzles, images, recipes, anecdotes, gardening tips...

So please get writing and take some photographs too !

DEADLINE FOR AUTUMN SUBMISSIONS
1ST SEPTEMBER 2015

Send to either;

kate@elitedisay.co.uk

sean@elitedisplay.co.uk

or call us on;

Tel: 730373

or pop your copy through the letterbox at Meadowhead, Shawhead.



SHAWHEAD WRI SYLLABUS 2015

President: Mrs Nan Mckinnon Tel: 257 320

Vice President: Mrs Carol Bryden Tel: 730 527

Secretary: Mrs Margaret Gordon Tel: 730 424

Treasurer: Mrs Mamie Johnstone Tel: 270667

Press Secretary: Mrs Selina Ross

Magazine Secretary: Mrs Selina Ross

Competitions: Mrs Margaret Proudlock
Mrs Jean Hawley

APRIL 15th 2015
Competitions Linda Mcturk
3 Custard Creams
Decorated Easter egg
Hostess Carol Bryden
V.O.T. Maimie Johnstone

MAY 20th 2015
Competitions Mostly Ghostly
Small bottle of Lemonade
Small Tea pot **PFF**
Hostess Margaret Proudlock
VOT Selina Ross

Stewartry Federation Show 8th 9th May

JUNE 17th 2015
Outing to Dumfries Police Museum (Supper TBA)
Competition Dress Ring (to be worn)
V.O.T. Carol Bryden

JULY/AUGUST Holiday

July 31st/ Aug1st Dumfries Show

August 6th Stewartry Show

August 29th Irongray Show

SEPTEMBER 16th 2015 Doreen McCrosky

Flower arranging
Competition Miniature Flower arrangement in a
Sherry glass

Hostess Selina Ross
V.O.T. Margaret Proudlock

OCTOBER 21st 2015 Open evening (TBC)

Competitions 6 Pieces of Tablet
Halloween Limerick

Hostesses Committee
V.O.T. N McKinnon

NOVEMBER 19th 2015 A.G.M.

Competitions Taste and Try Evening
Recipe to be provided
Item incorporating Tarta
Committee

Hostess

DECEMBER 16th 2015 Christmas dinner

Wednesday T.B.A.

Competition T.B.A

The rural meets monthly in Shawhead Village Hall and has a varied and interesting syllabus of talks and demonstrations. Anyone who wishes to come along and give it a try will be made most welcome. Meetings are on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.30 unless otherwise stated.

Annual Parish Litter Pick

Sunday April 26th
Meet at the Hall, 1pm
for breifing and
to collect your
Litter Pick Kit.

Refreshments for all
hardy Litter pickers
when the job is done.
3pm at th Hall

Badminton in the village hall

Tuesdays 7.30 – 9.00 pm

The next generation of badminton players has arrived. Three young players, Gregor Hiddleston, Jessica Bryden and McKenzie Ross are giving the older players a good runaround and their game is improving all the time. New players, younger and older are always welcome to join us in the hall on Tuesday evenings from 7.30. Perhaps if more young players showed an interest there could be a possibility of a separate junior badminton club.

Shawhead Community Choir

The Shawhead Community Choir have been taking a break after five years of dedication and hard work.

A social, musical evening will be held in the Autumn to discuss future plans.