



# CROC TALK

CUMBRAE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Millport Support Group

## Garrison Winter Wonderland

Thanks to Kirstin Watson and her group of volunteers, the Garrison sunken garden has been transformed into Millport's very own Winter Wonderland. This is the fourth year of decorating the Garrison grounds, and costs have previously been met by local fundraising events. As pandemic restrictions made these events impossible this year, the team decided to hold an online crowdfunder to raise the money to replace and expand the display. A fantastic sum of £1,741 was raised and the lights look fabulous. It was delightful to see so many people, young and old, turn out for the official switch-on by Santa himself.



Photograph by kind permission of Crawford Gillan

## Christmas Church Services



### 24th December

Church of Our Lady: Christmas Eve Carols - 3.45pm  
Mass - 4.15pm

Cumbrae Paris Church: Family Service - 6pm  
Cathedral of the Isles: Christmas Eve Service - 11.15pm

### 25th December

Cathedral of the Isles: Christmas Day Service - 11.00am

### 26th December

Cathedral of the Isles: Holy Communion 9.30am  
Cumbrae Parish Church: Canon Alex Boyd - 11.00am  
Church of Our Lady: Mass - 12.15pm

## Double success for Town Hall



The recent crowdfunding effort raised a fantastic sum of £42,682.50 towards the Town Hall Regeneration project thanks to the generosity of our many supporters. As well as donations and rewards, 150 bricks in the wall were sold and it was wonderful to see

some community groups buying bricks to show their support for the project. We look forward to welcoming groups and individuals with a whole range of interests and activities when the building opens later on next year. It's not too late to buy a brick or a plaque, just email [info@millporttownhall.co.uk](mailto:info@millporttownhall.co.uk) for details.

The other success was the recruitment of Judith Barbour as our Community Liaison Officer – clearly a popular choice locally from the social media reaction!



Community members have already put forward lots of ideas for the activities, services and events they'd like to see in the Town Hall during the widespread consultations that took place while the project was being developed, and Judith will be working with local groups, businesses and residents to make sure we've identified all the facilities and equipment needed for everything from indoor bowls to choir practice. She will also be investigating attracting mainland performers and events, so please do feed in any further ideas or suggestions.

## Thank You!

Many thanks to all who have contributed to issue ten of the CROC Talk, to the MSG volunteers, members of the local community and especially 1st Millport Boys' Brigade for helping to deliver this issue, much appreciated boys!

Happy Christmas Everyone - Stay Safe



OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL HERE TO OFFER SUPPORT!  
IF WE CAN GIVE HELP OR JUST A LISTENING EAR  
CALL US ON 01475 789 179



# What's on in Millport?

We asked in the last issue for local groups to let us know when and where they meet so the summary below is the result. Hope it's helpful as a reminder for everyone and as an introduction to all that's going on over the winter for newcomers to the island. We plan to keep the information as a 'live' table on the Millport Support Group Facebook page, so if any other groups would like to be included, just let us know.



Group	When	Where	Time
Age Concern	Tuesday	Age Concern Hall	2.30pm
Bridge Scrabble	Tuesday & Saturday	All Groups meet at the Bowling Club	2.00pm
Short Mat Bowls	Wednesday & Sunday		2.00pm
1 <sup>st</sup> Millport Boys' Brigade Anchors & Juniors Company Section	Wednesday	DA Hall	6.00 - 7.30pm 7.30pm - 9.15pm
<u>Cumrae Garden Club</u> *	Every 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday (October – May)	Newton Lounge	7.00pm
<u>Cumrae Parish Church</u> - Choir - Guild	Wednesday Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday (from January 2022)	<u>Cumrae Parish Church</u>	7.00pm 2.00pm
Fun Club (Primary 4 -7) Fun Club (Secondary School age)	Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday (from January 2022)		6.30 - 7.45pm 8.00 - 9.30pm
Dancing Classes: nursery age - P4 P5 & upwards	Wednesday	FSC, Marine Parade	6.00 - 6.45pm 6.45 - 7.30pm
Knitting Group	Monday	Newton Lounge	7.00/7.30pm
Millport Curling Club	Wednesday (September – March)	Greenacres Curling, <u>Howwood</u>	09.45 - 11.45 (08.30 ferry)
Millport Pipe Band	Tuesday	Drop in Centre (Garrison Grounds)	6.30pm
Millport – Rainbows (age 4 - 7) Brownies (age 7-10) Guides (age 10+)	Tuesday Tuesday Monday	Age Concern Age Concern Drop <u>In</u> Centre	5.00 - 6.00pm 6.00 - 7.30pm 6.30 - 8.30pm
SONORO Community Choir	Monday (when choir re-starts)	TBC	7.30 - 9.30pm
SWI (Rural)	Every 2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday (October – April)	Age Concern Hall	7.30pm

\* Garden Club meetings are currently suspended

## Thank You From Cumrae Forum & Cumrae Community Council

The **Cumrae Forum** would like to thank everyone for their support over the past year. Our membership now sits at around 120. The opening of the new Forum Hub has been delayed but we look forward to our new venture in the New Year. We wish everyone everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please Stay Safe.

**STOP PRESS!** A new Cumrae Community Council has now been established - full details will be provided in the next CROC Talk. The Community Council would like to thank everyone for their support and assistance and we wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a Good New Year.

Millport Support Group  
Wish You All A Very Merry Christmas



## Crucial Consultation

North Ayrshire Council's Islands Officer, Sarah Baird, has been working with stakeholders to develop the Local Islands Plans for Arran and Cumbrae. The draft Cumbrae Island Plan and 2022/23 Annual Action Plan are available to view for comment from the afternoon of Monday 29th November until 4th January 2022

at [www.northayrshire.gov.uk/islands](http://www.northayrshire.gov.uk/islands) and she would love to hear from groups and organisations who can share projects they are undertaking or planning, island case studies and further island actions relating to economic, community and environmental wellbeing. The final version will then be collated after the comments close on 4th January 2022 to include actions already being delivered or planned by community organisations, partners and Council and new actions suggested from engagement process that are feasible and deliverable. The timeline below outlines key next steps for the production and agreement of the Island Plans:

- Publication of draft 'Island Plans for comment' online at [www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/islands](http://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/islands) – 29 Nov-4 Jan
- Presentation of draft plan and endorsement of process to date and next steps at Locality Partnerships: North Coast & Cumbrae Locality Partnership – 14 Dec
- Collate feedback and circulate final draft 2022/23 Annual Action Plan -5 Jan-12 Jan
- Final design stage – 12 Jan-14 Jan
- Cabinet paper preparation – 21 Jan
- Cabinet meeting – 22 Feb
- Launch of Local Island Plan (post call-in period) – 3 March (TBC)

## Millport Library



Senior Library Assistant Fiona reminds us of the services and opening hours of the library:

Monday 1pm - 5pm

Tuesday 1pm - 6pm

Friday 10am - 1pm & 2pm - 5pm

We have a great selection of fiction and non fiction books for both adult and children, talking books on both tape and CD. The computer suite is open for bookings of 45 minutes per session, we have a colour and black & white photocopier and printer. and you can recycle your batteries here. Our digital services are available 24/7, you can borrow eBooks and audio books from BorrowBox, visit: <https://northayrshire.borrowbox.com/> or download the BorrowBox app. You can download magazines and newspapers from PressReader, visit: <https://www.pressreader.com/> or download the PressReader app. All you need is your library card number and PIN to use these services. Phone **01475 530 742** or email: [millportlibrary@north-ayrshire.gov.uk](mailto:millportlibrary@north-ayrshire.gov.uk)

## Age Concern

Age Concern Cumbrae have been operating on the island for many years and have provided a haven for older people on a Tuesday afternoon



during the winter months in our premises in the Garrison grounds. We have a very varied programme which includes a variety of musical entertainment, speakers on many appropriate subjects for pensioners and also provides the opportunity to meet and chat over tea and biscuits in a friendly environment on a regular basis.

Covid has disrupted our organisation over the last eighteen months but we are hoping to get started again in October. Publicity posters will be appearing in shops on the island in late September and we would welcome new members as well as a return of our faithful existing ones. For a small charge, we are able to provide a taxi service to and from meetings.

We are looking forward to getting started and meeting with friends old and new.

Further information can be obtained from our President, John McCubbin, on 530 393 .

## MSG Resilience Team



### WHO ARE MSG RESILIENCE TEAM?

MSG Resilience Team is a group of volunteers, drawn from all sections of the local community. Our members have a wide range of backgrounds and skill sets but each team member shares a common purpose - to assist the community if called upon in times of need. The volunteers in the Community Resilience Team are a smaller sub group of the wider Millport Support Group.

### WHAT IS COMMUNITY RESILIENCE?

Community Resilience is a measure of the ability of our local community to use its available resources, local knowledge and assets to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations, whatever they may be.



# MSG Resilience Team (cont'd)



## WHAT WE DO

Our main role is to support the Local Authority & Emergency Services in their response to emergencies and major incidents. In a serious situation we could be asked to do just about anything, from helping to open a rest centre for vulnerable residents, providing welfare facilities for emergency service personnel in the event of a serious incident on the island, right through to helping the local police and Coastguard to search for a missing or vulnerable person. Community is a big part of what we do and we can be asked to get involved in other beneficial projects such as cleaning up after floods, heavy snowfall, storms or attending community events, etc

## PREVENTING

We may be asked to be part of the planning process for incidents and emergencies, and the Community Resilience Team is on hand to help to prevent and plan in order that our community is better able to avoid incidents as well as be more resilient to them.

## HELPING THE VULNERABLE

In an emergency such as a fire, flood, storm or snow we would work, if requested to do so, with other local groups and local authority services to identify people who may become vulnerable during such events and put systems in place whereby we can help those in our community who are most in need. Volunteers from the team have recently been giving talks at Age Concern, and The Cumbrae Forum, who have distributed forms for their members to complete. This helps us compile a register of those who might need some support in the event of an emergency, so we can target assistance to those who need it most. The wider Support Group will continue to offer their vital services as usual.

If anyone would like a form to register themselves or others for support in an emergency, then please contact Age Concern, The Cumbrae Forum or call Millport Support Group on **01475 789179**

## Cancer Support Group Coming

Keith Hammond wants to thank everyone for their kind messages and support following his recent diagnosis and writes:



I hope to set up a Cancer Awareness and Support Group in the **Forum HUB** when it opens. Screening for cancer is vital and I hope to play my part in reminding everyone that this is what we all have to do – regularly! Also this community has been good to me and my dog Charlie and I want to put a little back into the community by setting up a small group of cancer survivors that can help people through the early days after diagnosis when everything seems so frightening.

# Ferry Users Group Update



A new ticketing system will be implemented across the Calmac Network, currently scheduled to go live on 1st March 2022. What does this mean for Cumbrae?

- Tickets will be required both at the Cumbrae to Largs journey & the Largs to Cumbrae journey. A soft transition approach will be applied from January (date TBC). The Largs office will explain this when tickets are purchased at the Largs Office to help customers familiarise themselves with the new process.
- As from 1st March 10 journey tickets (the old book of 5 tickets) will be available both in the office and online, with availability via the Calmac App from Apr 22.
- Round trip tickets (Largs to Cumbrae & Cumbrae to Largs) will be available at Largs office. The Ferry Users Group are working with Calmac to provide single trip tickets and have roundtrip / single tickets available online and via the app in addition to the office.
- Concession tickets will only be purchasable via the Largs office. The Ferry Users Group are lobbying Calmac and SPT for further options.
- Blue badge tickets and associated passenger tickets will be purchasable via the Largs office, however these can also be purchased in advance by contacting the Calmac Contact Centre (0800 066 5000). The ticket/s will then be emailed to the customer for presentation to the ticket collector at Largs.

The Ferry Users Facebook page will be updated on a regular basis with the latest status of the new ticketing system as we approach full implementation. For those that do not use social media, the local port office will be able to provide information and the Ferry Users group are working with Calmac to provide community sessions on the changes. For further information any of the reps on the Ferry Users group can be approached or email **cumbraeferryusers@gmail.com** and a rep will respond as soon as they are able.

For info the Ferry Users Group comprises:

- Kari Lundie (Chair / commuter)
- Angus Campbell (Vice Chair / commuter)
- John McCubbin (Age Concern)
- TBA (Elderly Forum)
- Gail Murphy (Businesses)
- Scott Ferris (IOCTA)
- Robert Cunningham (Festivals Committee)
- John Riggins (NHS)
- Alister McIntyre (Farming rep)
- TBA (Cumbrae Community Council)
- Crawford Gillan (MSG Resilience Team)
- Iain Morrison (Millport Motors)

We're always happy to receive suggestions for future content or articles to include in the Croc Talk. Please send to:

**cumbraecs@gmail.com**

