

# CROC TALK

CUMBRAE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



Millport Support Group

## Cumbræ Forum Update

Like any organisation the Cumbræ Forum has been evolving over the years. What started as a group protesting the closure of the island Care Homes has become a charity who, over the years, has been supporting the community and speaking up for the vulnerable.

A lot of what was done was unseen. Increasingly the Forum Charity shop/office had become a drop in centre for people looking for support and advice, or just a friendly chat.

Lockdown emphasised to us the need for a place to formalise our work. We had come to a crossroads where we had outgrown our shop with small office and identified the need for a designated office, separate from the shop, where confidential issues could be more appropriately dealt with.

When the opportunity of buying a property arose our members voted unanimously to this next step. Our new property at 45 Stuart Street is just about to open. This is your property too. The success of our Charity Shop has allowed us to make this move. And without your support we couldn't move forward.



This last year has been challenging and we have supported several individuals, as well as continuing our commitment to support our local Primary school. Known for our support of the elderly, our Lunch Club, which is held on a Wednesday at The Newton, is a huge success. Our support of young folk is less well known but just as important to us. We are committed to supporting Cumbræ Primary School whenever we can.

None of this progress would be possible without your support. And so, it is with grateful thanks to our community, that we open our new Forum Hub in April. A special thank you to all our volunteers in the shop and at the Lunch Club. We couldn't do this without you all. You are amazing! And to all who went ahead of us paving the way for us to do what we do now, a special thank you from us all.

The Cumbræ Forum Board.



## Cumbræ Community Council

### New Website

A new community website has been launched by Cumbræ Community Council to give a quick and simple overview of the many projects, initiatives and groups on the island, as well as community events.

Until now, information about the island has tended to focus on supporting tourists and visitors. Cumbræ.org has been created for the 1,300 people who live, work and go to school on the island. The website includes a directory of the many projects, organisations, community representatives and groups on the island, with links to relevant websites and facebook groups. It also includes a calendar of events to help people keep up to date and maybe try something new. If you have something planned yourself, tell them so they can add it to the calendar and if we have missed your group, please let us know.

Cumbræ Community Council is here for you. To listen to your views about key issues affecting the island and to make sure they are heard. The Community Council has monthly public meetings, usually on the last Thursday.

Members of the Community Council are Alex Harvie, John McHenery, Lisa Christie, Stewart Kennedy, Duncan Fraser and Donald Campbell, with special advisors Graham Wallace and Gregor Harvie.

**OUR TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS ARE STILL HERE TO OFFER SUPPORT!**

**IF WE CAN GIVE HELP OR JUST A LISTENING EAR CALL 01475 789179**



The Cumbræ WAVE has just registered as a charity and Julie Armenaud has recently been appointed as Project Development Officer. She is keeping everyone updated online at our new website

[www.thecumbræwave.org](http://www.thecumbræwave.org)

where you can find out more about the project, share your thoughts and get involved.

## Island Arts Co-Ordinator for Arran & Cumbræ

Eòghann MacColl, is the Island Arts Co-Ordinator for Arran and Cumbræ, appointed by NAC and Creative Scotland.

Eòghann said, "Communication has been more challenging, due to the Covid-19 restrictions however I am building relationships already and hopefully moving to better days and the forward this Spring".

The remit is to improve community engagement in the existing creative activities and to widen participation across the arts for all on the islands.

"I see great potential looking deeper into place and environment as both stimulus for the arts but also to enable greater sustainability and improve wellbeing for all.

"There is a wealth of talent already and I plan to look at the potential to strengthen and support those creatives, so they can lead and share their talents with islanders and visitors alike".

Eòghann would welcome hearing from you if you are interested in becoming involved as an individual or within a group. He is eager to widen the creative engagement of the communities and also to put them in wider contexts.

He'll be at the Easter event in the Garrison grounds on the 9th of April if you'd like to find out more

Eòghann MacColl  
@eoghanmaccoll



## Millport Town Hall's Easter Community Event



Save the date! The Millport Town Hall team will be holding a family fun event in the Garrison Grounds on Saturday 9th April, (DA Hall if the weather's bad). Come along and find out more about the plans for activities when the building opens, join in with Tombola, The Human Fruit Machine, music and lots of fun and games.

The Easter Bonnet competition is open to both adults and children and will be judged at 1pm by Margaret Meechan. First prize for adults is an Afternoon Tea for Two at The Cloisters & for youngsters it's a voucher for the Garrison funfair.

The raffle has now been named the Really Remarkable Raffle due to the overwhelming response from our local businesses, with over 45 fantastic prizes to be won. Raffle tickets are on sale at Marina's salon or just email [judith@millporttownhall.co.uk](mailto:judith@millporttownhall.co.uk). Tickets will still be available on the day, with the draw taking place at 2.45. Here's a Word Search in the meantime:

S	I	G	C	T	G	N	I	G	N	I	S	I	L	HERITAGE CENTRE
U	E	V	E	N	T	S	C	S	N	C	M	I	A	ISLAND
H	U	B	T	T	E	G	D	Y	L	C	I	A	C	KITCHEN
A	M	A	R	D	K	A	D	R	T	A	E	E	I	LOTTERY
G	N	I	D	L	I	U	B	E	S	T	N	S	R	CLIFTON STREET
W	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y	E	T	D	O	BUILDING
D	A	N	C	I	N	G	T	T	S	R	V	T	T	EVENTS
C	I	S	U	M	I	I	O	O	A	I	E	R	S	WEDDINGS
M	I	L	L	P	O	R	T	L	N	N	N	U	I	STAGE PLAYS
S	T	A	G	E	P	L	A	Y	S	G	U	S	H	HUB
C	L	I	F	T	O	N	S	T	R	E	E	T	E	HISTORICAL
E	R	T	N	E	C	E	G	A	T	I	R	E	H	VENUE
M	L	E	N	W	E	D	D	I	N	G	S	E	E	MILLPORT
R	V	K	I	T	C	H	E	N	Y	H	I	S	I	COMMUNITY

**EASTER EVENT GARRISON GROUNDS**  
9 April 11am until 3pm

WHERE THE PAST MEETS THE FUTURE  
[www.millporttownhall.co.uk](http://www.millporttownhall.co.uk)

Sponsored by **COMMUNITY FUND**

**BONNET JUDGING AT 1PM**

**EASTER TREATS**

**EASTER GAMES**

**CAKE STALL AND EASTER TREATS!**

**EASTER BONNET PARADE**

**THE REALLY REMARKABLE RAFFLE!**

Come along and join in the fun!

Meet both The Islands Arts Co-ordinator and The NAC Funding Officer

Find out the latest on the restoration project from our team and Trustees and see what Millport Town Hall can offer you!

# Cumrae Primary School

We are all delighted that we have been back in school with no disruption to our normal school week and no lockdowns.

In February we held our very successful Scottish Poetry, Music and Art competitions. The children were fantastic and their art work is currently on display in the Garrison. While our main focus is always Literacy and Numeracy we are lucky in Cumrae Primary to develop these skills in many ways other than through textbooks. This session all classes experienced weekly outdoor learning activities with the FSC for 15 weeks where we learned about our local environment and sustainability. We were den building, creating insect houses, learning about plants, sea creatures and it was lots of fun.

P6/7 have been working with a local author for a 10 week project writing about our island, creating artwork and learning photography skills. A presentation of our work will be displayed in the Garrison after Easter and we will also be producing a book of our work which can be purchased.

Our pupil voice groups have started up again and our main ones are pupil council, eco council and digital leaders. Our pupil council is going to focus on improving our playground further with more games, furniture and hopefully a reading den. Our digital leaders will help promote internet safety and aim to achieve the primary school digital leadership award and our eco council is going to oversee the introduction of chickens to our school. We have been awarded a grant to promote sustainability so we are all going to learn from Nursery to P7 how to look after chickens, collect eggs and cook with eggs. If you're lucky enough we might have eggs left over to let you try!

We have also been awarded a government grant from the Healthy Islands fund and are hoping to build an outdoor classroom in the church grounds next to our garden so we can be outside even more. The Cumrae Forum is also providing a substantial donation to help this project come alive and we are very grateful. The community will be able to use this too and hopefully we will be able to restart our community café again.

Our P5/6/7 have had swimming lessons over 5 weeks at Vikingar funded kindly by The Cumrae Forum.

We are also planning a school show this year, Alice in Wonderland produced by Mrs Joyce. Practices are already underway and hopefully we will be able to share this with the community on stage in June.



Primary 6 & 7 setting off to learn some photography skills

# 1st Millport Boys' Brigade



The Boys' Brigade met virtually on zoom throughout lockdown which enabled the young people to continue working towards their badges and awards. We did various activities over the winter including arts & crafts, competitions, quiz nights, etc and we were pleased to welcome some of the dads who got involved. Some of the boy's even helped with the delivery of the CROC Talk.

North Ayrshire Council opened their community halls in September and so we were up and running again face to face following covid-19 guidelines. We are fortunate to have a staff team of 9 volunteers across the 3 sections and a total of 28 young people. The company is running it's usual programme of activities and badgework as well as planning for a day trip to the Heads of Ayr Farm Park in May for the Anchor and Junior Section. The Company Section are preparing for the Battalion Camp at Hemel Hempstead the first week in July.

The picture above was taken at Cumrae Parish Church on Sunday the 27th of March when the Company Section boy's were presented with awards as follows:

President's Award - Zack Stevenson,  
Troy Laidlaw, William Ferris & Aiden Armstrong

Queen's Badges - Benjamin Hamilton,  
Ross Hagan & Luke Laidlaw

We would like to thank the community of Millport for their continued help and support and wish you all A Happy Easter.

Friday 27th to Sunday 29th May

Watch out for The Boys' Brigade Camp in the Garrison Grounds. 130+ young people and volunteer officers from across Scotland will be visiting our beautiful island to enjoy what we have on our doorstep.



Millport Support Group - 01475 789179

Email: [cumbraecs@gmail.com](mailto:cumbraecs@gmail.com)





## Cumbræ Churches Together

### Sunday 10th April

Palm Sunday Service The Cathedral of the Isles 3.00pm

Palm Sunday Mass Our Lady of Perpetual Succour 12.15pm

### Monday April 11th

Service at Cumbræ Parish Church 7.00pm

### Tuesday April 12th

Service at Our Lady of Perpetual Succour 7.00pm

### Wednesday April 13th

Service at Cumbræ Parish Church 7.00pm

### Thursday April 14th

Holy Thursday Mass of The Lord's Supper  
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour 4.15pm

Service at The Cathedral of the Isles 7.00pm

### Friday April 15th

Walk of Witness leaving The Cathedral of the Isles 11.00am

Good Friday The Passion of the Lord  
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour 12.15pm

Good Friday Service at The Cathedral of the Isles 2.00pm

Good Friday Service at Cumbræ Parish Church at 7.00pm

### Saturday April 16th

Easter Vigil at The Cathedral of the Isles 9.00pm

### Sunday April 17th

Sunrise Walk (or meet) at the Gledstane 6.00am

Sung Eucharist at The Cathedral of the Isles 11.00am

Easter Service Cumbræ Parish Church 11.00am

Easter Sunday Mass of the Resurrection  
Our Lady of Perpetual Succour 12.15pm

### Looking ahead to Celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

#### Saturday 4th June

Jubilee Service at The Cathedral of the Isles 3.00pm

#### Sunday 5th June

Dedication Festival of The Cathedral of the Isles joint service  
with Cumbræ Parish Church, 11.00am



## Cumbræ Supports Ukraine

The community of Millport has pulled together in many ways to support the people of Ukraine, many acts of random kindness will never be known but here are a few that are:

Susan and Austen Currie arranged for goods to be collected at their home and then transported to Glasgow. The Island Express Van was loaded with baby formula/food, first aid kits, medication, torches, tinned foods, sleeping bags, etc

Cumbræ Forum raised £2000.

Cumbræ Parish Church had a retiral collection which raised £812.50.

Premier Store has also been receiving donations from customers for Ukraine

We understand some of our island community are offering homes to Ukrainian refugees. Millport Support Group stand ready to support them in any way we can - we're here to help!

## Cumbræ Parish Church



Pictured above are 3 of the 4 retiring church elders who were presented with long service certificates signed by Lord Wallace of Tankerness, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland on Sunday the 27th of March.

Pictured includes:

Gus Mackay Parish Assistant, Margaret Meechan, John McCubbin, Retired Rev Marjory Mackay and Annie McGill, not present Mr Iain McGill.

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

[cumbraecs@gmail.com](mailto:cumbraecs@gmail.com)

