

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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PLEASE NOTE THE OFFICE WILL RE-OPEN TUE 7 JAN 2020

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PLEASE COMPLETE IN BLOCK CAPITALS

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1st Name(s).....

Surname

Address

Town.....

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OFFICE—61 MAIN STREET, AYR, KA8 8BU—HOURS TUE/WED/THU 10AM—2PM

TEL: 01292 260086, E-MAIL: OFFICE@OIRAYR.ORG.UK, WEB: WWW.OIRAYR.ORG.UK

Opportunities in Retirement Ayr (known as OIR Ayr) is a registered Scottish charity No: SC005639



OPPORTUNITIES
IN RETIREMENT

AN ORGANISATION FOR THE OVER 50s



Update from the Chair

We are, by now, well into the 2019/2020 season's activities.

On Saturday 19th October we held our annual Coffee Morning, which as well as being a fund raiser, is also an excellent opportunity for meeting up with and chatting to friends and acquaintances. As in previous years, we are very grateful to Margaret Rollo for having organised the event, and having arranged for volunteers to help smoothly run the setting up on Friday 18th and staff the event itself. In the present climate we were delighted that the sum raised, after expenses, was £1460. Special mention must be made of the financial contributions of almost £380 from the Crafts Group, and £300 from the Folk Group, without which the excellent total would not have been possible.

Throughout the month of November, the Wednesday Photography Group is running its annual Photography Display in the Carnegie Library, and I would encourage you to spend time admiring the excellent range of photographic work on display. Well done to the Photography Group for showcasing one of the many activities that OIR has to offer to its members.

In December, we look forward to two events which are already sold out. The annual Christmas Lunch, previously organised by the Tuesday Walking Group, and now an OIR event, is being organised by Christine Harris – we are extremely grateful to Christine for agreeing to take on this role and thereby allow this popular event to continue. As in recent years the Lunch is being held in the Horizon Hotel in Ayr. The annual outing to the Ayr Gaiety Christmas Pantomime is again being organised by Stephen Dodd and he is happy to announce that the allocation of tickets had been very quickly snapped up. We are grateful to Stephen for, year on year, organising this very popular outing.

In January, the OIR Burns Lunch will be held in the Malin Court Hotel and booking is now available for

this popular event which was sorely missed in 2019. Again, we are very grateful to Christine Harris for taking over the organisation of this event, and ensuring that it is back on the OIR calendar.

October saw the start of the new year for the OIR 200 Club, another important fund raiser for us. Places in the club are still available and can be booked by contacting the office.

I would also like to remind you, especially at this time of year, that we collect the used stamps off your mail. Jim Irving organises the collecting in of these, the sorting of your donations, and their disposal, thereby raising cash which can be donated, in the name of "Friends of OIR", to local good causes. We must thank Jim for all of his work and effort for this worthwhile cause.

As we draw ever nearer to Christmas, the office will be closed for the latter part of December. I am sure that you will join with me in wishing our Office Manager Margaret Fagan, and her hard working volunteer staff, a well-earned Christmas break. I would also like to thank the Group Leaders for their commitment to ensuring that OIR has a wide range of activities on offer, and to wish that they also enjoy a well-earned rest over the holiday period. Many of you still receive your Newsletter, hand delivered – the "posties" are another group of volunteers who merit our thanks for their commitment.

Please continue to use OIR's website and Facebook pages and also extend our thanks to Arnie and John who are always on hand to put up new information.

Please, all of you, enjoy the festive season and renew your membership for 2020, so that you continue to enjoy the benefits of our wonderful organisation.

**Best wishes
David**



Notice Board

THE MATINEE IDLERS

Matinee performances of music and plays in Glasgow are readily available to us by public transport from here on The Ayrshire Coast.

I am proposing to re-start the group in the near future. If you like the idea of attending a concert or a play in the various concert halls and theatres in Glasgow, travelling by bus, then please give the Office your name, telephone number and email address, or phone me and leave me your above details.

I shall adopt the arrangements previously in place. Former idlers and new idlers are welcome. Jean Lockley 01292 57085



New Groups

OiR are committed to enhancing the lifestyles and social inclusion of our over 50's members and to this end we welcome suggestions for new groups. If you think you have an idea for something that would be of interest, contact the office with your ideas.

You don't need to look for premises, we'll do that for you
You don't need a constitution, the OiR constitution covers you
You don't need to open a bank account, the OiR has one
You don't need public liability insurance, the OiR has that in place
You don't need a web site, the OiR can create a page for you on the OiR web site

All you need to provide is a good idea for an activity, along with a few enthusiasts, and we'll do the rest

This month we have prospective classes on Pilates and Ukrainian/Russian language. If you feel that would be of interest to you, contact the office with your details 01292 260086

Christmas and New Year Holidays

The office will close on Thursday 5th December 2019 and will reopen on Tuesday 7th January 2020

Inside this issue

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Our mission statement

To make OiR Ayr the organisation of First Choice to enable our '50s and over' community to participate in co-ordinated and supported opportunities which enhance their lifestyle and personal wellbeing

Published & printed by

OPPORTUNITIES in RETIREMENT, AYR

61 Main St, AYR KA8 8BU

Telephone 01292 260086

Office hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

10 am to 2 pm

Email: office@oirayr.org.uk

Newsletter news.oir@outlook.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/OirAyr

Website www.oirayr.org.uk

Opportunities in Retirement AYR

(known as OiR AYR)

Is a registered Scottish Charity No SC005639



Notice Board



Web site news

Hi Members

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who made the effort to send in photos and text highlighting their own group's activities for inclusion on our Web Site. .

A few months ago, at a meeting of the IT Group committee, it was decided to update the appearance and content of the web site, to make it more appealing and welcoming. Since this decision was made I am happy to say the web site currently receives an average of 2250 viewers/month to the Home Page (based on the previous months figures). Previously, the average number of viewers over the last few years was 1180/month.

People are interested in what we do - your text and photos will hopefully help them decide to join.

So please keep the photos coming - either to the office or to me at oirwebin@gmail.com

**Arnie Green
Web administrator**



Back to basics Workshops

Lots of our members have been brushing up their skills on their phones, tablets and laptops. They have been taking advantage of the workshops arranged by our Technology Sub-group in the Carnegie Library. Here are some of their remarks: "You mean I can watch TV on my tablet in bed!" "I've forgotten my password!" "I didn't know it was so easy to attach a photo to an email" "It's amazing! I'm amazing!"

If you put your name on the list to take part in these workshops but haven't heard anything recently, do not worry. We are delighted that so many people showed interest but, because of these numbers, it is taking longer than expected to get to everybody. Some participants suggested we might start a new group, with monthly meetings discussing a different topic each month. These might include subjects such as shopping, banking, Skype, phone contracts, Bluetooth and



accessing books, magazines and newspapers online through the library.

**The contact is Betty McDonald on 01292 479083. Let her know what you think.
Do you have any suggestions? Is there anything you would like to learn?**

LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

Opportunities in Retirement does not assess the members' fitness for participation in any of its various activities. The decision for your fitness lies within yourself, together with any medical advice you might wish to take.

It is your responsibility to ensure your personal safety and that of your belongings.



Notice Board



Annual Coffee Morning

The Annual Coffee Morning on 19th October was a huge success –

- and it was all down to YOU!

There are too many of you who gave up your time and talents to mention individually – from folk who did the preparation on Friday afternoon, to serving teas, coffees and washing dishes on the Saturday, not to forget our wonderful entertainment by Ayrplay (members of the OiR folk group). Others sold tickets, donated home baking, cakes, scones and Anna Forbes surpassed herself this year when as well as supplying us with her legendary tablet on the day, she also gave us the proceeds from a previous event.



Morag Lewis and her craft group not only made all the items for sale on their stall, they also donated the proceeds from their fabulous creations. And the folk club also made a substantial contribution. It shows that the OiR community really pulls together when it matters.

So well done all of you!!

Margaret Rollo

Newsletter

Many thanks once again to everyone who contributed to this edition of the newsletter. Submission dates for future editions are listed below. Remember, if you don't have access to a computer we can arrange to have your articles typed and your photos scanned (Contact the office on 01292 260086 or myself (01292 739051))

**Submission dates for next newsletter is :
Spring 2020 21st February 2020**

**Margaret Rollo
Editor**

Short Tennis

Short version tennis, also known as short court tennis, offers the opportunity to learn to play tennis on a smaller court. It's a great way to meet new people while enjoying gentle exercise. Rackets and balls are supplied so all you need is a pair of trainers. The group meets on -

Friday

2:00pm - 4:00pm

Newton Wallacetown Church, Ayr

If you would like more details please contact the Office on 01292 260086

Saturday walking group 2019

Dean Castle Country Park, Kilmarnock in February was the destination for OiR's Saturday Group's first walk of 2019. Despite a cold grey day there was a good turnout of walkers keen to enjoy the exercise and the company. Sunshine and daffodils accompanied us on the paths through woodland and the shoreline as we enjoyed a satisfying March walk in West Kilbride. A very good lunch afterwards in the Seamill House Hotel completed *A Good Day Out*.



Sanquhar

Sanquhar in Spring with the Euchar Water as our location, April provided sunshine and abundant wild flowers, sheep and lively lambs. An enjoyable walk was followed by lunch in A' The Airts Cafe and Crafts shop. This gave us the opportunity to have a good chat with some local folks.

By train in May to the city - Glasgow - where we walked through Pollok and Bellahouston Parks. A drizzly day, but a satisfying walk in unfamiliar surroundings for most of us and a short experience of some of the city's green public spaces.

June saw us head to the Scottish Borders - to Eddleston, near Peebles. There we walked in the grounds of the Barony Castle Hotel where we viewed the Polish Map of Scotland, built between 1975 and 1979 and recently restored. Sunshine that day and a walk along the Tweed in Peebles enabled some of us to have lunch outside in one of Peebles's many eating places.

Once again, we headed to Scotland's capital, Edinburgh. In July, we walked along the Union Canal from Fountainbridge to Slateford. An interesting visit seeing nature still to the fore despite the path passing through mainly built-up areas of the city. The weather was mixed that day with the occasional shower, with lunch following the walk, in the café of a local supermarket.

Having left Ayr in heavy rain in August we arrived at Barstobrick in bright sunshine. Barstobrick was a former country estate and is now a large Riding Centre, which has expanded walking paths and points of interest for visitors. In the heart of Bonnie Galloway, not far from Castle Douglas and Kirkcudbright, the Visitor Centre with a café, and the walks there, can be thoroughly recommended.



Union Canal Edinburgh



Harry Richardson

Cumnock in October

Galloway once again, Newton Stewart was the destination in September. Always worth a visit, this time we enjoyed a woodland and riverside walk, which occasionally took us on paths beside the River Cree which was in spate due to recent heavy rain. As we did when we walked there in 2014, lunch was enjoyed in the Cinnamon Centre.

A drive to Cumnock in late October saw 25 of us complete a circular walk around the outskirts of the town, finishing in the Woodroad Park, where the glorious autumn tints of the trees formed a perfect backdrop to our walking. Afterwards we were joined by another 6 OiR friends for lunch in the Royal Hotel.

This was a fitting end to this year's walks and we were delighted to be joined on the walk and at the lunch, by Harry Richardson, OiR's first centenarian. Harry is now 101 and completed the walk of just under 4 miles - with a smile. He also enjoyed a very good lunch, as we all did, and all of us now wish to congratulate Harry, and hope that he will join us again on future walks.

The walks will resume on Saturday, 29th February next year and will run through to October. The provisional programme is shown elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Barrie Southwood & Amy Kinnaird



Saturday Walking Group



Saturday Walking Group - Provisional 2020 Programme

Meet at 11am unless otherwise stated

Date	Venue	Meet at	Notes
February 29th	Ochiltree	Community Hub	
March 28th	Irvine	Beach Car Park	
April 25th	Moffat	tbc	Minibus Travel
May 30th	Glasgow	Ayr Station	Travel by Train
June 27th	Dumfries	Dock Park	Minibus Travel
July 25th	Edinburgh	Ayr Station	Travel by Train
August 29th	Gatehouse of Fleet	tbc	Minibus Travel
September 26th	tbc	tbc	
October 31st	tbc	tbc	Followed by Lunch

Friday Short Walks October 2019 - January 2020

Meet at Millbrae car park at 09:30 to fill cars.
Those receiving a lift, please give driver a modest contribution to petrol
(non-drivers, if planning to walk, please phone day before a walk)

- Oct 25th RIVER AYR - Park at Millbrae (lunch in college)
- Nov 8th ALLOWAY CYCLE TRACK - Park in Broun Drive at 10 am
- Nov 22nd FULLERTON WOODS - Park at South Beach car park at 10 am
- Dec 6th DOONFOOT/BELLISLE - Park at Castle view car park Doonfoot at 10 am
- Dec 20th PRESTWICK PROM - Park at Links road car park at 10 am (Festive coffee in Parkstone Hotel).
- Jan 3rd AYR PROM - Park at 10 am in Cromwell Rd. car park

Contact Frank Crawley
01292 445314/07763339667



Tuesday walking group



William Topaz McGonagall, widely regarded as one of the worst poets in English literature, lived and worked in Dundee. He wrote and published over 200 poems and is forever associated with the city of Dundee. His topics ranged from disasters to temperance and one of his better known poems is "The Tay Bridge Disaster" which happened on 28th December 1879 with the loss of 75 lives.

Dundee is a Scottish city about which I knew very little. At school, a long time ago, we learned that Dundee was famous for three things - jute, jam and journalism. We knew about DC Thomson who published The Dandy, The Beano, The People's Friend and of course, The Sunday Post with Oor Wullie and The Broons.

In September, OiR's Tuesday Walking Group's autumn weekend was based in Blairgowrie. The walk on the Sunday was to be held in Camperdown Park and Cambo Woods. For those not walking that day, the coach dropped us off at the V&A museum on the waterfront in Dundee. With several other OiR friends I was happy to discover a little about a city which has come to the forefront in our Scottish media in recent years. Margaret Welsh and I walked up to the McManus Art Galleries & Museum in Albert Square. This is a most impressive building outside and inside and we really enjoyed wandering through the rooms with inspiring displays and narratives of Dundee's fortunes and its people. A café and museum shop were also sampled. (I bought an Oor Wullie birthday card for my brother).

We then walked down Reform Street - even the street names are evocative - and visited the V&A museum on the waterfront. This very modern architecturally designed building opened in 2018 and has experienced a year of very mixed reviews. I had a wander around the ground floor of the museum and enjoyed the exhibits on display. However, I am sure that there will be much more to explore in the years to come in Dundee's exciting new building.

McGonigall's Dundee, the city on the Silvery Tay, is a city which is rapidly escaping from its past grey industrial past. OiR's members enjoyed their afternoon exploring a little of 2019's Dundee. The city has a flourishing university with an excellent reputation. Renowned too, these days, for the development of computer video games and many new cultural developments, which can only enhance Dundee's reputation worldwide. Glenton's coach picked up all of us (walkers and non walkers) later that Sunday afternoon, all of us having experienced a flavour of a city which I am pleased to know a little more about than the previous three J's.

Amy Kinnaird

The group meets on alternate Tuesdays at 9:15am at Mill Brae Car Park, Ayr. The walks planned for the next few months are shown below.

November 26 th	Walk details to be advised. (Led by Gordon Roberts)
December 10 th	Short beach walk followed by lunch at the Horizon Hotel. Meet at 10am
December 24 th	No Walk
January 6 th	Cumnock (Led by Frances Corbett & Andrew Mathieson)
January 20 th	Maidens followed by Burns Lunch at the Malin Court Hotel.

Everyone enjoyed our weekend to Blairgowrie in September. We were very lucky with the weather. We walked in Dunkeld on the Saturday, Dundee on the Sunday and stopped in Dunblane on the way home on the Monday.

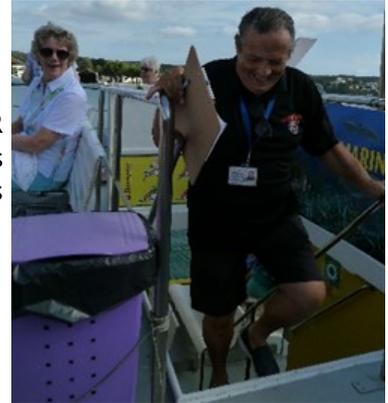
Barrie Southwood
Tuesday Walking Group
07766 755836 or bjsouthwood@btinternet.com



GROUP NEWS

A marvellous day in Menorca

Approximately half way through our week's holiday, the majority of our OiR holiday-makers went on a day trip. The tour took us to Mahon, Menorca's capital and to Monte Toro, the island's highest point. The entire tour was led by Fernando, our knowledgeable, English-speaking guide.



From our resort, Cala 'n Bosch on the south-west of the island, the coach travelled the entire width of Menorca (50km) to Mahon on the east coast. During transit Fernando gave us an overview of the island's history and geography. On arrival at Mahon, the group divided into two. One group explored a local market, then took the coach to the harbour while the other group walked down to the harbour with Fernando, who explained the diversity in local architecture. The entire group met up at the harbour where we boarded a yellow catamaran for a one-hour cruise round the harbour.



Mahon's harbour is the second largest natural harbour in the world, resulting in it being a much-coveted site through the centuries. The sail round the harbour was accompanied by an ongoing commentary pointing out all the places of historical interest, including those established during British control during the 18th century e.g. Admiral Collingwood's House and the British naval base. The catamaran is fitted with windows below sea level and at the end of the harbour, it stopped so those who wished could "go below" and view the aquatic life.

Once ashore again, we walked along the seafront to a restaurant for a pre-booked lunch. Here we enjoyed a three-course lunch accompanied by either a glass of wine or a soft drink. Once satiated, we re-joined the coach and travelled inland to Monte Toro (Mountain of the Bull), standing at only 358 metres, but to the locals it is a mountain! Legend states that Monte Toro takes its name from a bull which led a group of monks to a statue of the Virgin Mary in the rock face. The monks built a chapel on the site of the rock.





GROUP NEWS



We spent over an hour on the top of Monte Toro visiting the chapel, the local gift/souvenir shop and cafe. We also had time to admire the amazing views from the summit. There were three viewpoints at the summit, from which the majority of the island could be seen. At the allotted time, we re-joined the coach for the journey back to the hotel.

We were unanimous that this had been a superb day, well-organised and enjoyed by all. There was only one disappointment, that having arranged this trip, Ann and Andrew couldn't come as Ann was unwell; however, thanks go to John and Denise Fisher for co-ordinating the day's activities and us - the latter was not an easy task! This was one day in the middle of a wonderful holiday - many thanks to Ann and Andrew.



Meg Steel

Outdoor Bowling Group



The Outdoor Bowling Group has enjoyed a good season of happy and fun games at Northfield Bowling Green. The weather favoured us most days with only three games missed due to rain. We had a small increase in player numbers from an average of 7 last season to average 10 this year. Our in-group knock out competition was won by George Hodge.

We now meet at Ayr Indoor Bowling Club on Mondays and Wednesdays at 4:15 pm (games 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm)

If you would like to give Bowling a try
contact the office 01292 260086



**Outdoor Bowling will restart probably around
6th April 2020**

**Robert Kerr
Group Leader**



GROUP NEWS

Tuesday Photography Group Summer into Autumn

During the Summer small groups of members with an interest in landscape and townscape are invited to join town visits with the intention of making them look as attractive as possible in photographs. This year the towns chosen were Lochwinnoch and Kilbarchan, Douglas, St. John's Town of Dalry and New Galloway. Unfortunately heavy rain shortened the visit to New Galloway but some good photographs were collected at all three locations and stored for presentation at a later date.



(St. John's Town of Dalry)

Our Autumn session started on 3rd September and we were pleased to see most of our members return and looking forward to a full programme. With some administration dealt with this meeting turned attention to our Photographs of the Month for April, May, June, and July. These photographs ranged from serious to very amusing!



Ayr OIR Tuesday Photography Group

At our next meeting Irene Bell gave her "Visit to Jordan" presentation previously seen by some OIR Members at the Town Hall. The atmosphere and very different environment captured in Irene's pictures impressed us all and caused excitement for one group member scheduled for a similar tour a fortnight later.

With a lot of photographs in store our next meeting was set up to show pictures from our visits to Glenapp Hotel & Gardens, the Forth & Clyde Canal cruise and Summerlee Museum, Coatbridge. Pictures of Glenapp brought back memories of the attractive gardens followed by an excellent lunch in the luxury hotel. Technically the Canal Cruise and Summerlee Museum visit were the most challenging taking in landscapes, water, artificial interior light and no light at all for those

who visited the coal mine! A demanding but very enjoyable day out blessed with good weather.

To illustrate the ability of photographs to record history and remind us of the social conditions of the past we watched Jim Irving's presentation "Wagonways and Tramways of Ayr". An interesting and informative presentation which revived memories for some of our Ayr residents.

As a coach trip to Leith and the Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh was cancelled, we decided to travel to Stranraer by train. Noting that the weather forecast was not brilliant the day looked very dodgy however we managed to fit neatly into a dry spell for the whole period we were away from Ayr. It has to be admitted that Stranraer presents a few challenges in composing photographs which make the town look attractive but we had some interesting pictures to show a couple of weeks later.

At our next meeting we set the subject "Festive Food" for the annual competition to be judged at our Christmas lunch. We also presented a workshop giving tips and suggestions for taking portraits in natural light. Not sure if a Turkey can be set up for a portrait but someone may try!

With the end of our Autumn session fast approaching presentations at recent meetings have included "Filters", Stinchar Valley, The Baltic and Hampton Court Palace, plus a workshop using a camera set to manual. Some Pictures of the Month have been shown and some mini-presentations (around 10 mins each). Our last meeting and Christmas Lunch is in December at Ayr College where our Annual Competition results will be announced.

(cont.)



GROUP NEWS

(cont.)

Before the end of the year our attention will turn to planning our programme for Winter into Spring 2020.

There is space in our group for some new members. We meet in Newton Wallacetown Church Halls on a Tuesday morning at 10.00 am. Contact details are on the Timetable of Activities page.

Cyril Fox
Group Leader



(cruise on Forth & Clyde Canal)

THE CYCLAJETS CELEBRATE GILL STEWART



We warmed to Gill the very first time we met. The cycling group had been told to expect a "new recruit" that morning, and at the appointed time, a lady clad in hi-viz presented herself and said, "Hello, I'm Gill. You may notice I am missing something.....my bike!" She had locked her bike in the shed and had been unable to find the key.

Undaunted, Gill confirmed her commitment to the group and she would meet up with us later at the Belleisle café' (the designated coffee stop that day)...and true to her word, she did.....having walked all the way from town. Once installed in the café', Gill enjoyed her ubiquitous scrambled eggs, toast and a large cappuccino; this was to become a feature of our many coffee stops during the holidays and the cycle runs.

Gill was a very generous woman and saw the best in everyone; as such, she had the ability to engage with all the disparate characters of our group. She had the most wonderful sense of humour but also had a sensitive and thoughtful side too, very much in keeping with her mindfulness techniques.



We feel privileged to have been Gill's friends, albeit for a much shorter time than we would have chosen. We shared a friendship, much laughter and lots of great cycling and we will miss her greatly.

ANN BOLLAND and THE CYCLAJETS

Drawing and Art group 5



Although we are approaching the end of our autumn session, which ends on 29th November, there is still much creativity to be seen.

We have everything from a group of people with umbrellas in oils, via watercolour sunrises, kingfishers, seascapes in oils to a panoramic sunset on the go. Head and shoulder portraits and groups too. But all have been accompanied with the friendly chat and advice with which we help each other along.

We've also had a "paint along" session inspired by a DVD by Charles Evans. It was a landscape of the 'Seven Sisters' on the South Coast.



Or fancy a particular project, we've probably done that as well, this cottage was painted as a raffle prize for a school reunion

Perhaps "skies with attitude" are more to your taste - we do those as well! A recent visit as guests to an Ayr Art Circle demonstration of portrait painting in oils could well be very tempting for something new to try.

We meet every Friday at Alloway Church Hall from 1:30 to 3:30, there's still time to come along and meet us or perhaps you could make it your New Year Resolution to get out and about. Don't say "but I'm not good enough" we all had to start somewhere - and where better than with us.

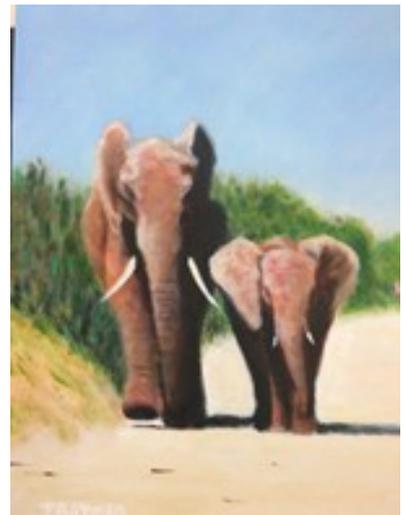


We start again on January 10th and would love to see you there.

If you would like more information, please contact :

**Anne McLanachan 01290 553183
or phone or text 07704 956306**

P.S. there's still time to get art materials on your Christmas list!



Member's Corner

Friends Remembered

Since the last newsletter, we have learned of the sad death of Jim Andrew, Betty Frew, Marion Peat, Marjorie Richardson, Betty Sloan, Gill Stewart and Moira Twedde. Our thoughts are with their families and friends.



HAPPY DAYS & LASTING MEMORIES

In 2002, being "new retirees" to Prestwick, we pondered how we could fill our leisure hours. Then, on driving into Ayr, we spotted the " OIR" sign above your door - and a visit soon sorted it all out! Andrew joined the Badminton club and I found myself enjoying the choir, under the control of our incomparable Isabel Anderson. Then later, came the " Golden Girls" fitness class, guided by Tara Jackson.

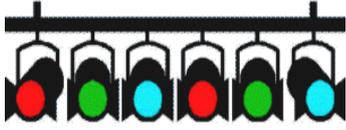
A colleague, on hearing we had spent several years in the Travel business taking foreign tourists around Scotland, suggested that we could "do the same" for the OIR,- and that was it! Soon, we were offering our day trips, enjoying the central belt, followed by "short breaks" further afield, north and south of Ayr. From this, our "holidays abroad" became popular, all 31 of them - with a final, just recently completed, on our visit to the lovely island of Menorca.

Alas, we must now bring both to a finish - mainly due to health reasons.

To all who have shared these diverse times, we both say a " very sincere thanks" for so many happy - and lasting memories!!! Our deepest gratitude for the great company and superb times we have shared!!

Warmest regards to all

Ann and Andrew Monaghan



IN THE SPOTLIGHT



J Mark Gibson OBE MRICS

Is a Patron of OiR Ayr and has been for a number of years

This year he was honoured by being awarded an OBE and OiR's Trustees thought that he should be congratulated on this prestigious award. We asked Mark to enlighten us about the many developments in his Craigengillan Estate, Dalmellington.

This is an astonishing and very impressive list of improvements and involvement of the local people and many other organisations.

This is Mark's list of the opening up of and progress throughout Craigengillan in the 20 years since he purchased it.

"When I purchased Craigengillan Estate 20 years ago it was in a sad condition. Most of the buildings, many of which are listed, had become derelict and the public were kept out by rusting gates. It nevertheless seemed to me a Sleeping Beauty. I have done my best to awaken her and to bring Craigengillan and the local community together, with a shared vision for a new future. Over the years and with the involvement of the schools and others we have"

- Restored all the listed buildings
- Converted the sheep and Highland cattle enterprise to full organic status
- Planted 18 miles of hedgerows, which are now being laid in the traditional way
- Created over 17 miles of footpaths, now enjoyed by over 100,000 people each year
- Won the Georgian Group Award for 'Best Restoration of an Eighteenth-Century British Landscape'
- Achieved recognition from Historic Environment Scotland for the development and enhancement of the landscape
- Developed a thriving stable yard with a well-deserved reputation, employing local people and contributing to the rural economy
- Restored ruined cottages to provide holiday lets, achieving high occupancy levels
- Hosted events (without charge) for more than 80 organisations including the Royal Scottish Forestry Society, the Architectural History Society, European Organic Farmers, Local history groups, horticultural societies, orienteering championships, Army Reserve & Cadets detachments, sponsored walks and runs and many more
- Welcomed skill seekers and work placements for primary school pupils and older people wishing to learn new skills to get back into the workplace.
- Worked in partnership with SRUC and Ayrshire College who use Craigengillan woods to teach practical forest skills and would not be able to continue without this cost free arrangement
- Won the 'Scotland's Finest Woods Award' for creation of new woodlands
- Installation of a biomass heating system
- Planted a further 156,000 native hardwoods dedicated to the Woodland Trust's First World War Centenary Woods project to plant 3 million trees across the United Kingdom
- Silver Lapwing Special Award – 'Sharing the Environment with People'
- Constructed Ford Carrick as a base for organised youth groups
- Created the Scottish Dark Sky Observatory, formed into an independent charity. A huge asset with further potential.

The above are only some of the achievements and improvements carried out at Craigengillan.

Words are not enough, but congratulations Mark and OiR's very best wishes.

Amy Kinnaird

DISCOUNT LIST 2019

Company	Address	Other Info	Contact	%
Alloway Chiropody Centre	21 Alloway, Ayr	Above Alloway Pharmacy	01292 440275	10
Ayr Goldsmiths	23 Sandgate, Ayr		01292 283980	10
Bicycle Room	82 Portland St, Troon	Discount available on parts, spares and services	01292 310937	10
Beserk Computers	10 New Bridge St, Ayr	Computer repairs, technical support, IT, Consultancy – no fix, no fee, fully insured, collect and return, evening appointments, drop-in tech support	0800 998 9186	10
Carpet Care	152 Caledonia Road, Ayr	Carpet and upholstery cleaning	01292 263699	10
Enterkine House Restaurant	Annbank	Please mention OIR AYR when booking lunch or dinner	01292 520580	10
Horizon Hotel (Main Menu)	Espanade, Ayr	Discount from main menu only . Not on a Friday or Saturday evening.	01292 264384	10
Mctimoney Chiropractor	39 Belmont Crescent, Ayr	Joy E Gill	01292 287827	10
Mountain Warehouse	183-185 High Street, Ayr		01292 283016	10
The Frame Shop	32 Alloway Street, Ayr	Frames, picture, mirrors etc.	01292 282712	15
Thomson Self Storage and Removals	Dundonald	Self storage and removals	01563 851947	10
Margaret Wallace	47 George Street, Ayr	Garment alterations and soft furnishings	01292 619662	10
PK Authentic Hair (Paula Keenan)	Flexible	Mobile hairdresser/barber Also nail tidy and hand massage	07988 294783	*
Zumba Gold with Kirsty Anderson	Castlehill Church Hall, St Margaret's Cathedral	Wednesday & Friday – 10.30 Tuesday, 12.00	07815740306	*
Zumba Gold with Fiona Young	North Church, Prestwick	Tues 11-12. A dance workout tailored for seniors, less able bodied and beginners – Class £4	07976282962	
Zumba Gold Mhairi Tindall	Alloway Parish Church Alloway Parish Church Kingcase Parish Church Halls	Monday 1000-1100 Thursday 0930-1030 Friday 1000-1100	07557 870504	*
Zumba Chair Class with Mhairi Tindall	St James Church, Prestwick Road, Ayr	Monday 1330-1415 For those in a wheelchair, balance problems or who find standing difficult for long periods of time	07557870504	*
Tudor Restaurant and Grill	8 Beresford Terrace, Ayr		01292 261404	10
PC Wranglers (Gary Morris)	8 Longlands Park, Ayr	Computer repairs	07871599780	15
The Vitality Clinic	104 Main Street, Ayr	Facials, body treatments	08468863109	10

Asterisk denotes special prices on production of OIR membership card

TIMETABLE of ACTIVITIES 2019

GROUP	VENUE	TIME	LEADER	STOP	START
MONDAY					
Bird Watching	Contact Group Leader	Monthly	Brian Lennox	21-12-19	06-01-20
Creative Writing	Newton Church Hall	1000-1200 <i>Fortnightly</i>	Irene Howat	21-12-19	06-01-20
			Jim Thomson	Going forward, contact Jim	
Drawing & Art 3	Auld Kirk Church Hall	1000-1200	Margaret Lawson	16-12-19	06-01-20
Golden Girls	Dansarena	1330-1430	Ann Bourke	09-12-19	06-01-20
Guitar for Beginners	Prestwick Community Centre	1330-1500	Robert English	21-12-19	06-01-20
Indoor Bowls	Ayr Indoor Bowling Green	1615-1830	Jim Kay	Contact Leader	06-01-20
Line Dancing Beginners & Intermediate	Citadel Leisure Centre	1130-1315	Lilian Drynan	16-12-19	06-01-20
Outdoor Bowls	Northfield Bowling Green	1000-1200	Robert Kerr	Contact Leader	Contact Leader
Table Tennis	Newton Church Hall	1330-1530	Jim Mason	16-12-19	06-01-20
TUESDAY					
Choir	Newton Church Hall	1030	May Smith	17-12-19	07-01-20
Cycling	Contact Group Leader	1000	Alan Bates	Contact Leader	Contact Leader
Drawing & Art 4	Alloway Church Hall	1000-1200	William Kerr	03-12-19	T.B.A
Family History for Beginners	Carneigie Library	1400-1600 (4 week course)	Ken & Betty McDonald	Contact Leader	Contact Leader
Folk Music	Prestwick Community Centre	1400-1600 <i>Fortnightly</i>	Tom McCrorrie	Continuous	Continuous
Hill Walks 1	Meet at Public Parking (Shanters Way)	8.45	Andy Mitchell	Continuous	Continuous
Hill Walks 2	Belleisle Park	8.45	Jean Lockley	Continuous	Continuous
Hill & Mountain Walks	Meet at Public Parking (Shanters Way)	8.45	Dick Vernon	Continuous	Continuous
Tuesday Photography	Newton Church Hall	1000-1200	Cyril Fox	TBA	07-01-20
Walking	Meet at Millbrae Car Park	0930 <i>Fortnightly</i>	Barrie Southwood	Continuous	Continuous
Table Tennis	Newton Church Hall	1400-1600	John Bellingham	17-12-19	07-01-20
WEDNESDAY					
Aerobiking	Citadel Leisure Centre	930	Contact Office		
Basic Karate/Self Defence	Newton Church Hall	1100-1200	Harry Connelly	11-12-19	08-01-20
Badminton		1330-1530	Ann Ross	27-11-19	08-01-20
Drawing & Art 6	Alloway Church Hall	1330-1530	Carol Hayes	11-12-19	16-01-20
Golf (Ladies Social)	Contact Group Leader	By Arrangement	Myra Clark	Contact Leader	Contact Leader
History	Free Kirk	1000-1200	David Bowman	11-12-19	08-01-20
Indoor Bowls	Ayr Indoor Bowling Green	1630	R Kerr	18-12-19	Contact Leader
Men's Mobility	Whitletts Activity Centre	1330-1430	Matt McNair	Contact Leader	Contact Leader
News Review	Ayr Free Church	1300-1430 <i>Fortnightly</i>	David Walton	Contact Leader	Contact Leader
Photography 1	Newton Church Hall	1000-1200	Avril Lees	Contact Leader	Contact Leader
Scottish Dance	Newton Church Hall	1330-1500	Catriona Gregson	11-12-19	08-01-20
Scrabble	Glenpark Hotel	14:00	Margaret Pettigrew	11-12-19	08-01-20
Sew & Stitch	Prestwick Community Centre	1000-1200	Maureen Paterson	27-11-19	08-01-20
Ten Pin Bowling	LA Bowl, Ayr	1000	Jim Kay or	ongoing	ongoing
			John Mould		

THURSDAY					
Chess	Horizon Hotel, Ayr	1400-1600	Steve Rivett	12-12-19	09-01-20
Contact Group	Horizon Hotel, Ayr	10-30-12.30 1st Thurs of each month	Margaret Bowman	Continuous	
Crafts	Castlehill Church	13.30-15.30	Morag Lewis	26-12-19	09-01-20
Croquet	Auchincruive Croquet Club	1400-1600	Malcolm Smith	Contact Leader	Contact Leader
Curling	Ayr Ice Rink	1430	Ian Taylor Andy Rae	28-11-19	09-01-20
Cycling	Contact Group Leader	1000	Alan Bates	Contact Leader	Contact Leader
Golf	Contact Group Leader	By Arrangement	John Clark	Contact Leader	Contact Leader
Mah-Jong	Prestwick Community Centre	1000-1230	Fay Reid	12-12-19	09-01-20
Outdoor Bowls	Northfield Bowling Green	0945-1200	Robert Kerr	Contact Leader	Contact Leader
Outdoor Tennis	Coylton Tennis Club	1400-1600	Anne Patterson	Contact Leader	Contact Leader
Swimming	Prestwick Baths	1400-1445 – Beginners 1445-1530 – Swimmers	Prestwick Baths		
Table Tennis	Newton Church Hall	1330-1530	Christine MacIntyre	12-12-19	09-01-20
Tai-Chi Beginners	Newton Church Hall	1145-1245	Ann Gwynne	12-12-19	09-01-20
Tai-Chi Transitional	Newton Church Hall	1045-1145	Joanne Mullen/ Sylvia Simpson	12-12-19	09-01-20
Tai-Chi Intermediate	Newton Church Hall	0945-1045	Martin Wilkinson	12-12-19	09-01-20
Wine Tasting	Majestic Wines	1830-2000 5 Meetings/Year TBA	Ken & Betty McDonald	TBA	
FRIDAY					
Bridge	Citadel Leisure Centre	1330-1600	Dick Vernon	13-12-19	10-01-20
Decoupage	Prestwick Community Centre	0945-1145	Sylvia McKinlay	13-12-19	10-01-20
Drawing & Art 2	Alloway Church Hall	1000-1200	Rosie Hutchison	06-12-19	10-01-20
Drawing & Art 5	Alloway Church Hall	1330-1530	Ann McLanachan	TBA	TBA
Jewellery Making	Prestwick Community Centre	1000-1200	Carol Hayes	13-12-19	18-01-20
Cycle Runs (Cyclajets)	Contact Group Leader	By Arrangement	Jean Lockley	Contact Leader	Contact Leader
Short Tennis	Newton Church Hall	1400-1600	Lorraine Dupuy	13-12-19	10-01-20
Short Walks 1	Meet at Millbrae Car Park	9.15 fortnightly	Frank Crawley		
Short Walks 2	Contact Group Leader	Meet at 10.00 Alternate Friday	Alice Bates		
Short Walks 3	Contact Group Leader	Meet at 10.00 Alternate Friday	Alice Bates		
Yoga	Auld Kirk Church Hall	1000-1130	Fiona Clarence	Contact Leader	Contact Leader
Yoga (Chair Yoga)	Auld Kirk Church Hall	1145-1300	Fiona Clarence	Contact Leader	Contact Leader
SATURDAY					
Monthly Walks	Details announced at Meetings		Amy Kinaird Barrie Southwood	Feb-19	Oct-19
Lunch Group (Sat/ Sun)	Contact Group Leader		Johny Turnbull	Contact Leader	