

Colvend & Southwick Community Council

Project Report June 2021

1. Borean Crannog Interpretation Board Project

- Cooking pot photograph has been taken at the Museum and the image is awaited.
Because of the delays, the museum have reduced the cost from £130 + VAT to £70 + VAT

2. Bus Shelter Projects

- Southwick
 - Shelter installed on a concrete base. Doorway design modified to allow wheelchair access. Internal noticeboard and C&SCC project sign still to be purchased (both included in the project cost).



Southwick Bus shelter



Sandyhills Bus Shelter

- Portling road end & Sandyhills
 - Sandyhills staining competed inside & out. Shelter will need monitoring as the cladding is extensively affected by woodworm and the roof is starting to show signs of deterioration. D&G Roads Dept notified of condition.
 - Portling window glass needs replacement as it is opaque. D&G Roads dept asked to provide glass for us to install, but so far no response. There has been a request to install a noticeboard in this shelter

Decision required: Cost of a noticeboards for Portling shelter is approx. £100. This is unbudgeted. However, do we want a locked noticeboard in the shelters, or should we install fibreboard on the walls in Portling, Southwick & Sandyhills shelters to discourage people from just pinning notices anywhere on the structures?

3. Coastal Path Interpretation Boards grant application

- RWE Renewables have formally agreed to a sponsorship of £791.10p (more than we asked for!) RWE will not carry out the graphic design for their board, but will provide information & photographs. They reserve the right to approve the final design.
- £850 grant received from Galloway Association of Glasgow
- Total budget available for the project is now confirmed as £4641.10p which should be more than enough to complete the project now that we are doing the designs in-house.
- Sub group have completed the draft design for the Smugglers & Shipwrecks board and the Gutcher's Isle board. The Flora & Fauna board is under development. Locations for the boards are being finalised.

Provided by Colvend & Southside Community Council with assistance from Dumfries & Galloway Council

Smuggling & Shipwrecks

Regular shipping began on the Scottish side of the Solway in the late 1200's as the main form of transport because the roads were so poor. Shipwrecks were almost a daily occurrence with 1 in 5 sailors dying at sea in the late 1800's. The local ports were at Dalbeattie, Kippford and Palnackie. In order to reach Dalbeattie and Palnackie, the ships had to be towed by horses from the head bank.

Mines & Quarries

On 2nd January 1913 a smuggling vessel called the *Ann* from the Isle of Man foundered at Castle Point with the loss of all hands. Only one body, that of Joseph Nelson of Whitehaven was found 6 months later. There were superstitions about buying shipwrecked mariners in the churchyard and so he was buried, although this path led to the NW of Castle Point.




On 7th January 1913 a 50' foot schooner, the *Edie*, captained by the young George Wilson, left Maryport, bound for Palnackie with his father and former captain Samuel Wilson aboard as a passenger. The voyage was uneventful until the ship anchored in Balcary Bay. On the next tide it got blowing a gale and the schooner was caught between Hascote Island and the mainland.

When the tide was finally in, the schooner was damaged and the rigging lost. The crew had to raise with the aid of the sails and a spar. Even worse the sea was rising on water. Heretic cables broke between the rigging points a little to the westward of the old ruins of Castle Point on the 7th December 1913. Near the ancient *Edie* memorial.

The *Edie* surged backwards and forwards into the cliff, enabling all in company to escape unharmed. The schooner then drifted east into the waters of the Solway and subsequently sank near Raxacarril. The wreck has never been found although its timber cargo washed ashore a few days after the sinking.

Smuggling

This part of the coast has many ancient castles, towers and forts and extensive sailing is used to smuggle goods by boat across the sea. In 1800 the majority of the ships coming from the west coast were commissioned on the part of the Solway Coast. Considerable was imported from the West Indies and the East of India in the form of rum, sugar, coffee, tea, etc. but the most valuable cargo was opium. The opium was smuggled from the East Indies to the West Indies and then to the coast of North America. The opium was smuggled from the East Indies to the West Indies and then to the coast of North America. The opium was smuggled from the East Indies to the West Indies and then to the coast of North America.

Map Ref XXXXXXXXXX

You are Now from Port O'Warren and Run from Raxacarril Car Park

in an emergency ring 999 and ask for the COASTGUARD

Provided by Colvend & Southside Community Council with assistance from Dumfries & Galloway Council

Gutcher's Isle

Gutcher's Isle is named after a hermit who occupied the small island between the ruins and the sea.

The Ruin

The Ruin (C12th/13th) (C12th/13th) was a 17th century fortified farmhouse of a type known as a *Black House*. It dates from c.1585. Details show it was abandoned in the late 1800's. Repairs and consolidation of the remains were carried out in 2006.

The buildings comprise a main dwelling (A) and a standing (B) with enclosed lands.

The Range (Building C)




The Range building (C) comprised at least three open housed compartments which were all entered from the west. The two end rooms apparently being directly approached. It is thought that the middle compartment may have been a kiln and shed away from the main residential space. A few fragments of 20th century pottery and pipe stems, and the remains of a rough stone boat, possibly a mortar, together with hand made bricks were found in the rubble.

The Steading (Building B)

The Arched building (B) represents the remains of a steading which has subdivided into 5 parts, some of which would be for domestic use by the small gable end of the steading is the upper part of a raised foundation and floor. This building may have been a 19th century building but had a raised floor but after the earthquake 1969/70 has been protected from view.

The main dwelling (Building A)

The ground floor was entered from the small courtyard through the only door which still shows signs of a large well built door. The building was built by a large window at the collapsed eastern end of the western gable are the remains of a fireplace. Its position and form indicated by the groundwork and signs of the floor. The upper floor was timber framed and formed a sort of a roof. Lacking stone which project from the outer angle of the north gable demonstrate the intention for an extension which may or may not have been built.

Map Ref XXXXXXXXXX

You are Now from Raxacarril Car Park

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Map Ref XXXXXXXXXX

You are Now from Port O'Warren

4. Litter Campaign Project

The Head Teacher at Colvend Primary School has agreed & is enthusiastic for the school to take part in designing the signs for the anti-litter campaign. Irrespective of the outcome of our grant application, the school will complete the poster designs by the end of June. We are asked to provide them with a brief. The C&SCC will be responsible for selecting the winning designs to be used

Decision required: Approve the wording of the brief for the schoolchildren to produce their posters. (See draft)

5. Tablet Computer

Computer presented to the school on Thursday 25th May by S.W.Pain. Article planned by the school in the Galloway News. We have also succeeded in being given a Leica Lumix camera for the Community Council, which is surplus following the closure of D&G LEADER.

S.W. Pain 28/5/21