

1995

2025



# Summer 2025 “OUTLOOK”

Welcome to this edition of our twice yearly  
Opportunities in Retirement Newsletter

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**Welcome Day 2025.**

The development of OiR.

A Big Birthday.

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A Summer Quiz– just for fun.

The Waverley Paddle Steamer.

And more.....

Published by Opportunities in Retirement, Ayr.

An Organisation for the over 50's



Welcome to "Outlook" our OiR Newsletter for Summer 2025.

Thank you to all our Group Leaders, and Members, who have contributed articles and pictures for this Summer edition.

Remember, if you don't have access to a computer we can arrange to have your handwritten article (s) typed and your photographs scanned. Pictures which are copyright protected cannot be reproduced. Please contact the office for help. Some articles may be amended slightly to fit the space available, but editing of text will be kept to a minimum. When submitting articles and pictures for publication please use a **Word** document and ensure that 'read only' is **not** applied to any of the text/pages. **Please send graphics & photographs, with relevant titles, to the office separately - do not insert these into pages of text - thank you.**

**Final submission date for the Winter edition of "Outlook" will be the end October 2025**

Group meetings and Town Hall meetings will resume in September and members will be able to enjoy the company of others again after the Summer Break. Information was correct when our pages were created but, readers should check the OiR Ayr website, or contact the office, for current information about group meetings or dates for the Town Hall Talks.

If you have access to a computer but the office is not aware of your current email address please send a message to:- **office@oirayr.org.uk** so you can access Outlook online and reduce our postage costs.

Stephen Dodd— Layout design & content

Isabell Rogers— Typing, proof reading & quiz.

Margaret Fagan - Collecting articles, Circulation & printing.

### **Our mission statement**

**To make OiR the organisation of first choice, to enable our 50's and over community to participate in co-ordinated and supported opportunities which enhance their lifestyle and personal well being.**

Published and printed by

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Opportunities in retirement, Ayr (known as OiR Ayr) is a registered Scottish Charity—No. SC005639

# 2025



## A message from the Chair



Hello,

Welcome to the Summer 2025 edition of Outlook. I hope you have all been able to get out and about during the recent spells of warmer but sometimes changeable Summer weather.

It is very disappointing that repairs to our Office have taken so long to progress. The work has recently been completed. We now need to fit new carpets and replace some furniture. It is hoped that the office will be open again from September onwards. This will be just in time for our Welcome Day in Newton Wallacetown Halls on Wednesday October 22<sup>nd</sup>. I hope as many of you as possible will attend this event which is primarily aimed at recruiting new members.

South Ayrshire Council has developed an "Ageing Well" Strategy. In connection with this, I recently attended an event in the Town Hall called "The Big Cheerio". This was a light-hearted and informative look at the serious subject of future planning. Information Packs have been developed, and these are available from Connect South Ayrshire, 53 Sandgate, Ayr, if you would like a copy.

I also attended the VE Day 80 Concert in the Town Hall in May and afterwards in Wellington Square. This was a very enjoyable event. I hope everyone was able to get along to see the "Standing with Giants" silhouettes in Wellington Square in May.

Our Town Hall talks will continue in their present format and will restart, with a variety of different topics, on Tuesday September 17<sup>th</sup>. If anyone has any suggestions for future talks, please let the Office know. The talk by Robert Watt on Antiques was well attended and it is hoped to arrange something similar again in the future.

To save on our printing costs, only a few copies of this newsletter will be printed. These will be available from the Oir Office, or at the fortnightly Town Hall meetings. If you wish to receive a digital copy of Outlook, please make sure the office has your email address.

Kind Regards

**Barrie Southwood (Chair)**

### Meeting times and venues

If you intend to visit/join a group please check the meeting place and venue before you travel as they may have changed. Visit the Oir website for current information or contact the office.

### Limitation of Liability

*Oir Ayr does not assess the fitness of its members to participate in any of its various activities. The decision on your fitness lies within yourself, in conjunction with any medical advice you may wish to take. It is your responsibility to ensure your personal safety and that of your belongings.*



**Opportunities in Retirement**

# **Everyone Welcome**

To discover more about all the friendly activity groups run by OiR for the over 50's in Ayr, Prestwick and Alloway

**come along to our**

## **WELCOME DAY**

**On Wednesday 22nd October, 1.00 to 3.00pm  
Newton Wallacetown Church Halls, Main Street, Ayr**

Already a member of OiR?

Interested in learning about other groups?

**Or would you like to introduce a friend (or two) to OiR?**

Group Leaders, Committee members, office staff & current members will be available to answer your questions.

**New members can join.**

Renewing your subscription for 2025? – bring along your current membership card and we will do the rest on the day.

**We look forward to seeing you.**



# THE DEVELOPMENT OF OIR, AYR

1995



2025

*“When chill November’s surly blast”*

Thus began Robert Burns in his poem – ‘Man was Made to Mourn’

In many of his poems he saw tragedy in old age. He saw care and want, and for the last 200 years, being in the senior age-group was something nobody looked forward to.

As we celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of OiR this year, we remember the late Isabelle Johnston who had the vision to think of such an organisation and had the tenacity to keep it going. In her own words, she always said – “Given the opportunity, the retired and elderly are far more capable of making provision for themselves than any other age group in our society”.

In 1993/94, the first ‘steering committee’ was set up, it consisted of four retired people, who had been involved in education and David Rowan, the Assistant Principal of Community Education for South Ayrshire Council who provided support and useful information.

At their first meeting 40 people turned up. It was decided that four groups would be an initial start. These were:

- Fitness and Health
- Money Matters
- Gardening
- Photography

One of the early members offered to lead a walk along the River Ayr, and to identify some of the flowers and trees. Forty members and two dogs joined the walk. From that small beginning, all later walking groups arose.

I joined the OiR in April 1996 and have found enjoyment, and friendship, in sharing both old and new interests, throughout those years of membership.

An aspect of OiR membership which members are aware of and grateful for is that Group Leaders offer their skills and interests, acquired over a lifetime, freely for the enjoyment of like-minded people.

My years of retirement have been, and are, amongst the happiest of my lifetime, and for that I thank the many past and present OiR members for their friendship and help.

Because the OiR Ayr exists and has been so beneficial to so many members past and present, I am pleased to disagree with our famous Ayrshire Bard – Robert Burns – ‘Man was not made to mourn’!

Amy Kinnaird.

## Friends Remembered

Since the last issue of Outlook we have Sadly lost the following Members.

Iris Edgar  
Margaret Pettigrew  
Anna Irving  
George Hodge  
Jim Rosenburgh  
Robert Douglas



Our sincere condolences go to family and friends

## Alan Green – a tribute

When Alan, and his late wife Doreen, moved back to Scotland they settled in Ballantrae, the village where Doreen had grown up. In time, and while still living in Ballantrae, Alan and Doreen joined OiR Ayr where they became involved in several groups and were willing volunteers at events. Travelling to meetings in Ayr involved quite a lengthy round trip, one which sometimes was made several times per week. Eventually, they moved to Doonfoot and continued to enjoy their OiR membership. Alan was invited to join the Executive Committee and over several years gave valuable service as a loyal committee member.

At our September 2024 Committee Meeting, his fellow committee members were shocked to see the rapid deterioration in Alan's health in the space of just one month. Word came through on 1<sup>st</sup> November, that after a spell in hospital, Alan had passed away – we had lost a good friend, and loyal OiR member.

Alan was born in St Helens in Lancashire and served his engineering apprenticeship with Merseyside and North Wales Electricity Board, later moving to be maintenance foreman with the Ravenhead Brick Company, a post from which he retired in 2002. His work experience allowed him to hone his DIY skills which he used in his retirement, to good effect, in his homes in both Ballantrae and Doonfoot.

Alan's funeral service was held in Ballantrae Parish Church on 20<sup>th</sup> November, with his interment taking place at Ballantrae Cemetery. He was laid to rest beside Doreen, his devoted wife.

There was a large turnout of OiR friends at the service, showing the high regard that both Alan, and Doreen, had been held in during their time as members of our OiR Ayr family.

**David Bowman**

## It's all about Harry

A special event took place during the VE80 celebrations on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025, when Harry Richardson, our 107-year-old OiR member was invited to London to take part in the celebrations.

Harry and his daughter Penny, travelled to London on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May. On the morning of the VE80 celebrations – 8<sup>th</sup> May, they attended the Memorial Service in Westminster Abbey, at which King Charles and Queen Camilla, plus many other, notable, invited guests were gathered.

A necessary rest in a nearby hotel in the afternoon, was followed by a special concert which took place in the evening in Horse Guards Parade. At that event, Harry and Penny had special seats – Harry was seated next to the King, on his right, whilst Penny was sitting next to Catherine, Princess of Wales. Many photographs were taken to record the occasion and the event could also be viewed on BBC1 television. Harry could be seen deep in conversation with the King, while Penny enjoyed her chat with Catherine, who spoke proudly of her children.

When I spoke to Harry and Penny shortly after their return to Ochiltree, and a few days after the Event, Harry made the remark – 'There are no victors in war'.

Harry said that he is very blessed to still enjoy good health (he gets tired occasionally!) and this enables him to still attend the RAFA Club on a Saturday evening. He loves the company, the music and the dancing.

From all of us in OiR – "Keep dancing" Harry! Perhaps we will see you again soon at a Town Hall Meeting.

**Amy Kinnaird**



## HARRY'S 107<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY

In the Spring Edition of Outlook 2018, I wrote about our OiR centenarian – Harry Richardson, who had celebrated his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 8<sup>th</sup> February that year.

I now write further news of Harry – he celebrated his 107<sup>th</sup> birthday this year. He once again had a party in the RAFA Club in Prestwick. David Bowman and I were invited – representing OiR.

Many notable people, in addition to family and friends were there. These included – the Lord Lieutenant of Ayrshire, Sheriff Iona McDonald, and the Provost of Ayr, Iain Campbell among many other distinguished guests.

Letters of congratulations were read out by the Lord Lieutenant from King Charles, Lindsay Hoyle (Speaker of the House of Commons), Alistair Cairns DSO, OBE, MC (Speaker of the House of Lords) and Alan Gemmell MC, representing the MOD. There were also many other letters on the list from notable citizens and organisations, including the British Legion.

Harry received all these accolades with the calm equanimity and pleasure he has always portrayed.

I am sure that all of us in the OiR will join me in wishing Harry many more years of his OiR Life Membership.

**Amy Kinnaid**

Congratulations to Harry and to all our OiR members who have reason to celebrate. We would like to hear from you. If you have recently retired from long service, are celebrating a Big Birthday or Anniversary or any other event which you feel comfortable writing about, please email your article (and pictures too) to the office at - [office@oirayr.org.uk](mailto:office@oirayr.org.uk) - and we will do the rest

Please read the guidelines on page two before sending articles and/or pictures by email. .Thank you.



Clip-art

## OUT & ABOUT

In Ayrshire we are fortunate to have parks and gardens to visit all year round. Most are well known and viewed by large numbers of visitors each year and they all have something different to offer. There's Culzean with its cliff-top location, fountain garden, Swan Pond and Walled Garden with an orchard and vegetable plots. The Dumfries House Estate offers a Woodland Walk, Arboretum, Chinese Bridge and a large Walled Garden with colourful terraced borders and the Education Garden (vegetables). In Eglinton Park the castle ruins and the Tournament Bridge are surrounded by woodland and countryside. There are walking routes beside the river, the fishing loch, and to the Cairnmount Standing Stones. From here, on a clear day, there are views of Arran and the Ayrshire hills.. In Kilmarnock the 14<sup>th</sup> Century Dean castle stands in attractive parkland with a riverside walk, woodlands, and two large wildlife ponds.

**continued**



Arboretum & Chinese Bridge at Dumfries House

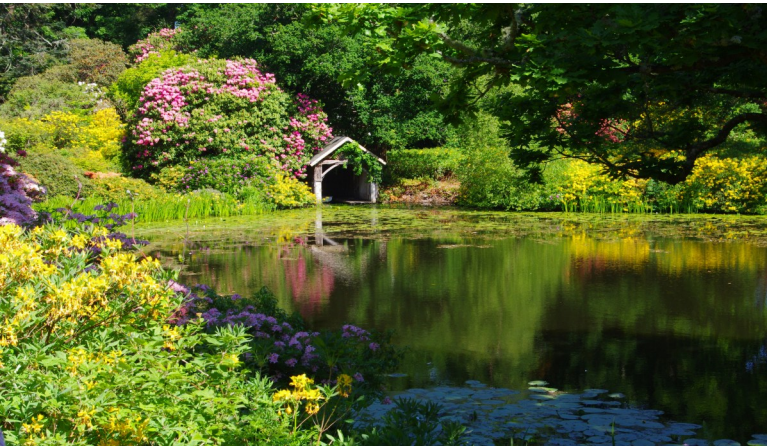


Out and About continued

Closer to home we have Rozelle and the Swan Pond, Remembrance Woods and Sculpture Park plus the museum and art galleries (good for a rainy day). Belleisle is also nearby with the quiet and colourful walled garden and the Belleisle Conservatory. Restored in 2016, currently closed for repairs. From the Robert Burns Birthplace Museum a short walk takes you to the Burns Monument Garden where, if you're feeling energetic, you can climb the monument stairs for an aerial view of the gardens, the Brig o' Doon and the River Doon. There is one more Ayrshire Garden to add to this list but, as it is not open all year, it is probably less well known. The Bargany Estate and Gardens open only for the month of May when the Rhododendrons and Azaleas are at their best. You can enjoy walking beside the large boating pond, through shady woodland and among colourful blooms around the large walled garden where cattle graze. Bargany is a working farm. Situated about four miles from Girvan there is a small charge for visiting, but the estate and gardens are wonderful in May and a walk there is definitely recommended.



Picture above Rozelle and below Bargany Boating Pond



A Summer Quiz— Just for fun...???????????

We have all heard of a herd of cattle, a gaggle of geese, and a flock of sheep but do you know what these groups of animals, birds or insects are called?

- 1. Ladybirds.....
- 2. Peacocks.....
- 3. Starlings.....
- 4. Owls.....
- 5. Crows.....
- 6. Eagles.....
- 7. Ravens.....
- 8. Parrots.....
- 9. Woodpeckers.....
- 10. Flamingoes.....
- 11. Lemurs.....
- 12. Frogs.....
- 13. Alligators.....
- 14. Cheetahs.....
- 15. Swans.....
- 16. Camels.....
- 17. Squirrels.....
- 18. Foxes.....
- 19. Guinea Pigs.....
- 20. Crocodiles.....



Have you scored 20 out of 20?  
Answers are on Page 14.





# The History Group-VE Day

Earlier this year, one of our speakers was Ken Nairn who spoke on behalf of the War Graves Commission.

In his very interesting talk, he told us of the local arrangements for celebrating the 80th Anniversary of VE Day and the intention of having around 100 figures installed in Wellington Square. Each figure would have the story of someone who had served during World War II, many of whom had paid the supreme sacrifice. Sponsorship was being sought from local businesses and organisation for the installation of these figures.

Following the meeting, one of our members suggested that the History Group might wish to sponsor a figure. The group members were in full agreement and a collection was taken at subsequent meetings.

One of the VE Day Anniversary events was a concert in Ayr Town Hall on the evening of Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> May, to which sponsors and supporters were invited – we were allocated 4 seats. This was followed by a parade to Wellington Square where a memorial service was held, and then on to the Low Green for the lighting of the Ayr Beacon.

A very memorable evening.

It was interesting to note that one of the figures in Wellington Square was dedicated to the story of one of our OiR members. 107-year-old Harry Richardson, who on Thursday evening, 8<sup>th</sup> May, was in London at the special concert there, and seated in pride of place at King Charles's right-hand side.



## Visit to Dunfermline

This thriving group finished the 2024/2025 session, on 18th June, with a bus trip to Dunfermline. Members of the History Group and fellow OiR members – 50 in total – had a very enjoyable day away.

We were given time to visit Dunfermline Abbey, the Palace, and Church; Andrew Carnegie's Birthplace Museum; Pittencrieff Park; and other places of interest including the town itself.

A memorable time was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Liz McAdam for all her arrangements and to Margaret in the office for her help with booking the bus.

**David Bowman (Group Leader)**



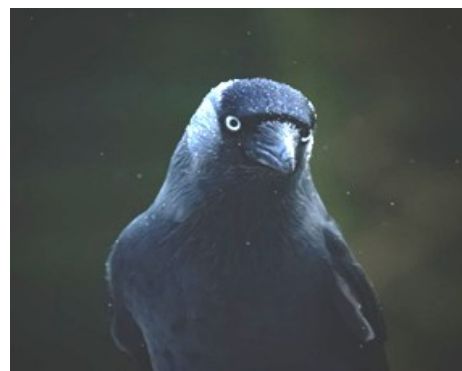
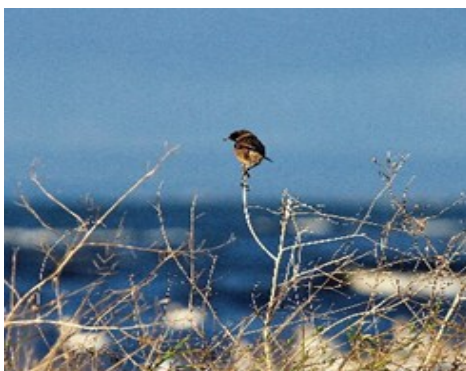
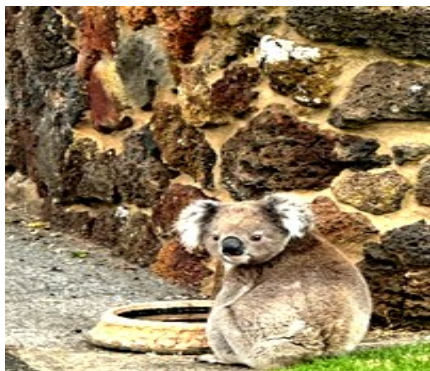


# The Tuesday Photography Group

The Group restarted on 14th January 2025. Over the 17 weeks we have enjoyed a full weekly program.

Throughout this session, members' photographs were viewed. These included images from the weekly topics; Photographs of the Month; Monthly Favourite images, Jolly images and group visits. Members were encouraged to discuss their photographs – when, where, why and how they were taken.

Three group members each gave a presentation - entitled "An Aussie Adventure": "Naples" and "Birds". The third presentation also included a birds quiz which was enjoyed by all.



Our group was also entertained by visiting speakers. Jim English gave us a very informative talk & presentation about Kays Curling Stones of Mauchline. Another speaker was David Blanchard who is very knowledgeable about plants and Scotland's Yellow Book Garden Scheme.

As the weather improved our group ventured out. First, we visited The Cumnock Heritage Museum and were made very welcome by the volunteers. They showed us around the many different exhibits ranging from Transport, Farming, Emergency Services, Family & Home History, Steam Engines and the vast collection of historic memorabilia. Well worth a visit. Check website for opening times- [www.heritagecentrecumnock.com](http://www.heritagecentrecumnock.com).



Our next outing was to St. John's Tower. Yolanda & Peter McCall, Friends of the Tower, explained the history of the Tower and the grounds before escorting us, in two groups, to the top of the Tower. It was a warm and sunny day which allowed us to see wonderful views all around Ayr. ([www.stjohnstower.com](http://www.stjohnstower.com))



St John's Tower and the view from the top



## Tuesday Photography Group continued

At the end of April, a bus trip was organised for the first time since Covid. The purpose, to visit The Dumfries & Galloway Air Museum which has a collection of aircraft, including the Battle of Britain Loch Doon Spitfire and a huge collection of aeronautical memorabilia. We stopped at Thornhill on the way to Dumfries and an excellent garden centre for tea and cakes on our return journey. This proved to be a very enjoyable trip for all who came along. ( [www.dumfriesaviationmuseum.com](http://www.dumfriesaviationmuseum.com))



The restored Loch Doon Spitfire and Air Museum memorabilia.

Our session ended in early May with twenty-four members meeting at The Fairfield Hotel for a very relaxed two-course lunch.

Thanks are due to the TPG committee who work hard during the year to produce a varied programme for our members. The Tuesday Photography Group restarts on Tuesday 16 September 2025 at 10:00 am in Newton Wallacetown Church Hall. .

For information about joining the Tuesday Photography Group please leave your contact details with the office and the Group Leader will contact you.

## OUTLOOK NEEDS YOU

To fill the pages of Outlook we need your help, so please send us news about group activities ( doesn't have to come from the Group Leader ) your hobbies or holidays, recipes and books you've read, poems and practical advice on how to cope with new technology and advancing years. Please send your articles and pictures to the OiR office at - [office@oirayr.org.uk](mailto:office@oirayr.org.uk) - and please read the guidance notes on page two (2) before sending an email or delivering your article (s) to the office.

Thank you



# Drawing & Art Three



Members of Drawing & Art Group Three enjoyed a session of speed painting, as these pictures show. It was good fun and enjoyed by all. This group is based in the Auld Kirk, Ayr, and meets on a Monday morning between 10.00 am & 12.00 noon.



## THE INDISPENSABLE MAN

Sometimes when you're feeling important  
Sometimes when you're feeling in bloom  
Sometimes when you take it for granted  
You're the best quality man in the room

Sometimes when you feel that your going  
Would leave an unfillable hole  
Just follow these simple instructions  
And see how they humble your soul

Take a bucket and fill it with water  
Put your hands in up to the wrists  
Pull them out the hole that remains  
Is the measure how much you'll be missed

You may splash all you please, as you ponder  
You may stir up the water galore  
But stop and you find in a minute  
That it looks just the same as before

The moral of this story is quite simple  
You must do the best that you can  
Be proud of yourself but remember  
There is no indispensable man!

**ANONYMOUS**

## WORDPLAY FOR LEXOPHILES

A fancy name for word lovers – even if you wouldn't call yourself one, these might make you smile!

- With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress
- A boiled egg is hard to beat
- When she saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd dye.
- A will is a dead giveaway!
- Time flies like an arrow, fruit flies like a banana!

**Amy Kinnaird**

**Did you know...**The Lyles Golden Syrup tin holds the Guinness World Record for the longest unchanged packaging design. Abram Lyle, who was born in Greenock, launched the packaging in 1883 and it remains unchanged to this day.

Source - the Scots Magazine





# The Hill and Mountain Walking Group.

## Thirteen go to Kintail.

No lashings of ginger beer (or dog!) just thirteen members of the Hill and Mountain Walking group off, on what is now an annual jaunt up north to tackle Munros\* and other hills. Kintail is a great area – 23 Munros, including the Five Sisters of Kintail – a superb walk over three Munros and two other peaks – a big route (about 16km in length and 1,500m of ascent) and one of the most famous and finest traverses in the country. It also has the south Glen Shiel ridge where the very fit can climb seven Munros in one go!

We went to Kintail last year and between us climbed 17 of the Munros, so some unfinished business! Also, Kintail is such a great area to walk in but, despite what it has to offer, it is relatively quiet. By contrast Glencoe has become like Sauchiehall Street and Skye isn't much better.

The first day was dry, but overcast, while the rest of the week was sunny. Nevertheless, most of the group tackled the Five Sisters on the first day – as, strangely, it had escaped our attention the previous year. A great start to the trip. This was followed later in the week by Irene and Lindsay climbing the 7 Munros of the South Glen Shiel ridge in one go, following in the footsteps of Gillian, Rick and Ross who did it last year; a considerable achievement being about 25km in length and 1,800m of ascent! I also did the ridge, but in two bits and rather slowly, more befitting my octogenarian status, but still very pleased to top 7 Munros, even if it did take two days! I greatly appreciated the patience of my hillwalking companions.

These are just a few highlights of our trip. Indeed, between us we climbed 19 of the Munros, including all those we missed on our first visit. We are also very fortunate to have some great photographers in the group, and so enjoyed some splendid slide shows on our return home.

But beyond the statistics, walking in Kintail, like much of the Western Highlands, is special. When tramping the ridges and summits, all around there are range after range of superb 'blue remembered mountains' (certainly not hills!): "Et in Arcadia ego". Not surprisingly, there are a lot of endorphins racing through the blood generating a superb sense of euphoria. I have been climbing mountains for over 65 years and still get a huge kick out of it. Also, there are my companions. I still see friends I climbed with in the 1960s and currently enjoy the company of a great group of friends in our OIR group. Sadly of course, at the age of 82, I know my high hill walking days are numbered – the legs just go slower– but hopefully for just a little bit longer – so hard to it give up.

- **Scottish mountains of 3,000 feet or more in height.**
- **Photos by Irene, Roy and Dick**



Picture on right - Dick on a Munro Ridge.

Picture on left—  
Liz Brown on the South Glen Shiel Ridge





## The Hill and Mountain Walking Group - continued

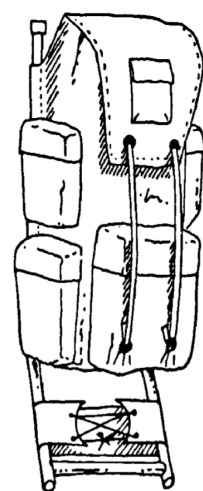


Picture on left - Irene and Lindsay on a Munro ridge.

Picture below - Group members walking on the Five Sisters Ridge.



Picture below— group members assemble on the Five Sisters Ridge



Our thanks to everyone who has contributed to this Summer edition of Outlook. To fill the pages of our next edition, due for publication in December, we would like to hear from you. So please put pen to paper or create a Word document on your computer and deliver to the office, along with pictures if you have them, to arrive no later than the end of October. If you need help please don't hesitate to contact us.



## OiR PAST & PRESENT.

I came across a cutting today among my assorted collection of interesting extracts from old newspapers. To my mind, it is as relevant today as it was in the mid 1990's.

Then, the Ayrshire Leader devoted a full page to Opportunities in Retirement – the headline being – **RETIRING, BUT NOT EXPIRING!**

In the article the reporter states that 900 senior citizens have waged war against the Zimmer and the walking stick – in a bid for a more active life! Thirty activity groups had been formed, and they don't include being taught to use a commode or watching TV with a cup of tea and a biscuit!

There was an apt quote from the late Helen Downie – a past Chair of OiR:- 'So many people expire when they retire, and OiR proves that we are not on the scrapheap. We're not dead yet!

In fact, many of us have done things we never dreamed were possible. We have learned to really enjoy our retirement.

The fuels that power OiR are involvement, enthusiasm, humour, enjoyment and self-expression.

Our Groups were launched in response to demand, and members are taught by fellow members who are experts in their field.

The prime mover for the birth of the OiR was the late Isabelle Johnston – a lady who worked in Community Education. She saw miserable old people stuck in chairs, being offered tea and biscuits, and she knew she had to change that.

In those early years, the annual subscription was £5.00 and, in those early years, you must have retired from full-time employment and be over 50.

Forgive the cliché but time, like a river, rolls on. Forty years – a milestone in the history of OiR and another anniversary to celebrate. For myself, I am very thankful and proud to be a member of our wonderful organisation.

**Amy Kinnaird**



### **Our Summer Quiz — Just for fun** **The answers**

1. Loveliness of Ladybirds
2. Ostentation of Peacocks
3. Murmuration of Starlings
4. Parliament of Owls
5. Murder of Crows
6. Convocation of Eagles
7. Unkindness of Ravens
8. Pandemonium of Parrots
9. Descent of Woodpeckers
10. Flamboyance of Flamingoes
11. Conspiracy of Lemurs
12. Army of Frogs
13. Congregation of Alligators
14. Coalition of Cheetahs
15. Bevy of Swans
16. Caravan of Camels
17. Scurry of Squirrels
18. Skulk of Foxes
19. Muddle of Guinea Pigs
20. Bask of Crocodiles

**Quiz devised by Isabell Roger and the three  
images created by her daughter Alyson.**  
Thanks to both.

## **OFFICE UPDATE**

Unfortunately our office on Main Street remains closed due to the flood damage. We continue to operate two 'pop-up' offices -

**Tuesdays 10.00 am - 12.45** at Prestwick Community Centre, in Caerlaverock Road.

**Thursdays 10.00 am - 11.45** at Newton Wallacetown Church Hall, in Main Street.

You can contact us by emailing [office@oirayr.org.uk](mailto:office@oirayr.org.uk)

We hope to be back in the Main Street office by mid September, but please do keep an eye on your **August News Email** for more details.

To receive our monthly news emails please ensure the office has your correct email address, you can do this by messaging us at the address above. Also check your spam folder regularly as things can occasionally get misdirected.

## THE PADDLE STEAMER “WAVERLEY”

PS Waverley, named after Sir Walter Scott's first novel – Waverley, is the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world.

Built in 1946, she carried passengers on the Firth of Clyde from Craigendoran Pier, near Helensburgh, to Arrochar on Loch Long, until 1973.

Rescued by the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society and bought from CalMac in 1973 for the token sum of £1.00, she has been restored to her 1947 appearance and operates excursions around the British coast.

Today, Waverley has the LNER livery of red, white and black funnels, brown grained superstructure, and black paddle wheel boxes, decorated with gold lettering on each side.

On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025 our Town Hall Talk was given by Paul Semple, General Manager Waverley Excursions Limited, based at Lancefield Quay, Glasgow. This was a most interesting and informative presentation, excellently and seemingly effortlessly delivered to an appreciative OiR audience.

OiR members send Best Wishes for the continuing success of this special paddle steamer, Waverley. Long may she sail on the seas which surround our shores. Waverley sails from Ayr Harbour in July and August

### SAILING ON THE WAVERLEY

Some of our older members will recall our annual summer outing on the Waverley, organised by the Group Leader of the Tuesday Walking Group, the late Bob Smillie, a true enthusiast for the paddle steamer.

Eagerly looking forward to sailing 'doon the watter', members and friends gathered at Ayr Harbour on a sunny, summer morning (hopefully!), to board the ship. The destinations were usually Arran and Bute.

Arriving at whichever island was the destination that year, the walkers would head off for an enjoyable hike, while the non-walkers would visit places of interest, and seek out cafés or pubs, for coffee, tea and refreshments.

After a most enjoyable day, the pattern would be for members to gather at the pier for the return sailing – tired but happily enjoying their fish suppers purchased from a nearby café.

Some superb sunsets might be appreciated, as Waverley returned to Ayr at the end of a summers day.

**Amy Kinnaird**

Pictures

Left - 1947

Right - 2025

