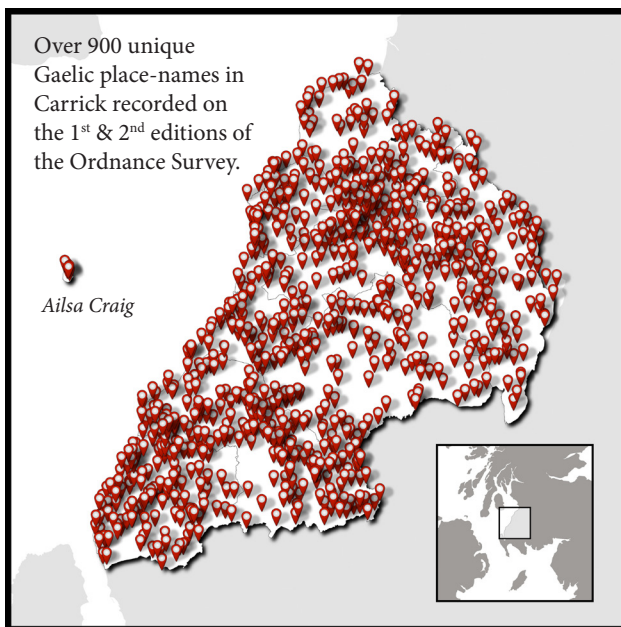


While the map below makes it clear how well represented Gaelic is in Carrick's landscape, there are hundreds of Gaelic place-names which did not survive until the 19th century to be collected by the Ordnance Survey. Ainmean Charraige is geolocating these names so that we can present a full picture of Carrick's Gaelic landscape.

The map is informed by a database of historical forms for all place-names in Carrick, not just those of Gaelic origin. We already have over 10,000 forms entered into the database with several thousands in the process of being added. Each place-name is tagged with information about its language of origin, linguistic form and semantic categories allowing for the analysis and mapping of fine-grained detail. We are able to visualise the distribution of place-names across time and track continuity and change in how the Carrick landscape was named, down to the level of individual words and concepts.

As well as mapping place-names, an innovative feature of the project is the mapping of **Gaelic surnames**. This enables us to view Carrick's Gaelic name-cape in a way that has hitherto not been attempted elsewhere, opening up new and exciting avenues for research.



Attiquin (*Aite Tighe Chuinn* 'the site of Conn's house') by Maybole, has seen a succession of owners over the centuries including the McIlvains of Grimmet and the Kennedys of Kirkmichael. It is now part of a corporate group of farms.



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Ainmean Charraige / Carrick Names
presents

CARRICK'S GAELIC HERITAGE

A **one-day conference** in association with Carrick History Society - Comann Eachdraidh Charraige. 

The Carrick Centre,
Culzean Road, Maybole KA19 7DE

Saturday, 14th September, 2024



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Saturday, 14th September, 2024

Tickets £30 - includes light lunch

09:15 – 09:50 Registration, tea and coffee.

09:50 – 10:00 Chairperson's introductions.

Followed by 8 papers, across three sessions.

At the end of Session 1, there will be a short break. After Session 3 there will be a Q & A Session.

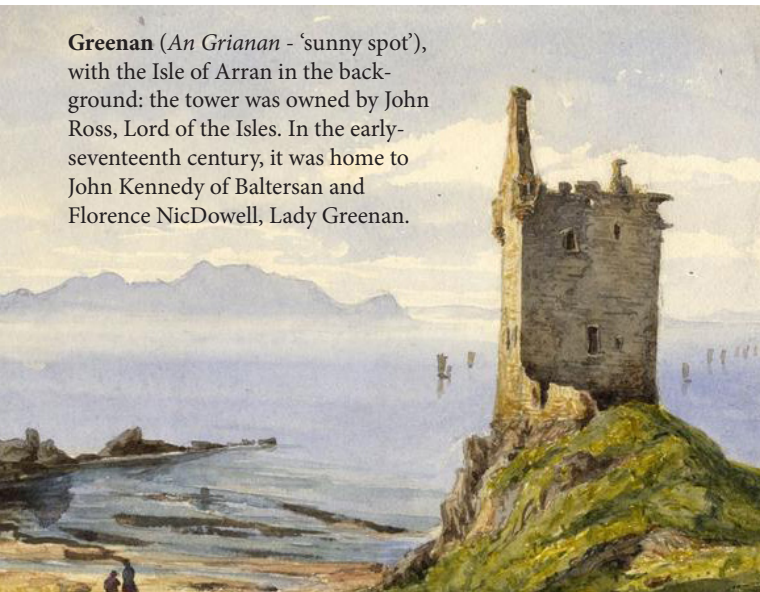
Session 1 10:00 – 11:30

Dr Martin MacGregor, University of Glasgow
The Flying of Dumbair and Kennedie (10:00 – 10:30)

Professor Hector MacQueen,
University of Edinburgh:
The Gaelic Laws of Carrick (10:35 – 11:05)

James Brown, Independent scholar:
Carrick's Gaelic Surnames (11:10 – 11:40)

Greenan (*An Grianan* - 'sunny spot'), with the Isle of Arran in the background: the tower was owned by John Ross, Lord of the Isles. In the early-seventeenth century, it was home to John Kennedy of Baltersan and Florence NicDowell, Lady Greenan.



Programme may be subject to change without notice.

Break 11:40 – 11:55

Session 2 11:55 – 13:00

Professor Roibeard Ó Maolalaigh,
University of Glasgow:
The Gaelic Element in Carrick Place-Names
(11:55 – 12:25)

Dr Colin Mackenzie: Independent scholar
Mapping the Carrick Gaelic Landscape
(12:30 – 13:00)

13:00 – 14:00: Lunch included in ticket price -
(sandwiches & soup).

Session 3 14:00 – 15:45

Dr Ronald Black, University of Edinburgh:
Greenan Castle and its Hebridean connections
(14:00 – 14:30)

Dr Aonghas MacCoinnich, University of Glasgow:
Evidence for Gaelic in Carrick and how it died out
(14:35 – 15:05)

Michael Ansell, Independent scholar
Carrick Gaelic Mythonyms: evidence for Carrick's pre-Reformation mythological beliefs (15:10-15:40)

15:40 – 16:30 Questions/discussions and
Chairperson's concluding remarks.

The Carrick Centre is beside Maybole Train Station. Please check timetables nearer the date of the conference. Bus services from north and south of Maybole stop beside the venue and limited free car parking is available there.

Ainmean Charraige / Carrick Names

In 2018 the Glenkens Story hosted a conference '*Galloway: The Lost Province of Gaelic Scotland*' in New Galloway. This spawned a successful book of the proceedings of the same name which generated a small financial surplus.

It was agreed to put these funds to further research use in the South-West of Scotland, this time focussing on the somewhat neglected but fascinating Earldom of Carrick which is part of the same historical-cultural space as Galloway and shares its rich heritage of Gaelic place and family names. To this end Ainmean Charraige/Carrick Names was established as an unincorporated not-for profit body, dedicated to furthering research in this field.

Project aims

To build a publicly-accessible database of place-names in Carrick showing their earliest forms, evolution through time and possible origins. This will assist in our understanding of the environmental, social, economic and cultural development of the earldom from earliest times to the present-day.

The need for this project

Places were named by people with a close attachment to the land they owned or worked and lived in. Carrick folk used several different languages to coin new place-names over the last couple of thousand years, from Brittonic through Old English, Gaelic and Scots/English. Of these, it is the Gaelic language that has left by far the strongest impression on the landscape of today. This project will seek to shine a light on the different layers of Carrick place and personal names in order to illuminate the area's mostly obscured heritage.

We know the 'what', but we don't know the 'why'.

There came a time when farm names incorporated family names. This might have been the landowner's ploy to attract tenants with a 'vanity-naming' quasi-propiertorial opportunity giving them a perceived higher social status.

