



MCKECHNIE INSTITUTE
MUSEUM & GALLERY



THE MCKECHNIE INSTITUTE EXPLORERS

Journey through The McKechnie Institute and discover fun facts and interesting objects along the way.



Did you know?

The McKechnie Institute opened to the public in 1889 as a library, thanks to the kindness of two local businessmen and brothers, Robert and Thomas McKechnie.

Downstairs Gallery – The Pillar Room

1

Creation ceiling. *Look up at the ceiling – these stencilled patterns are called ‘creation’. What shapes and patterns can you see?*



2

All aboard! *What time is displayed on the big clock in the railway cabinet?*



3

How many birds can you spot in our Ailsa Craig cabinet? Name one type of bird you might find on the island.



4

In what year was the Ailsa Craig Lighthouse built?



Downstairs Gallery – The Pillar Room

5

Ammonites were sea creatures that disappeared 66 million years ago! They had shells like a snail, but were also related to octopuses and squids. Ammonite fossils can be found all over the world, can you spot one in our geology/fossils cabinet? Visit our engagement room to dig for your own fossils and discover more.



6

What colour is the RNLI lifejacket? Do you know what RNLI stands for?

7

What is the name of the sewing machine in our household/social history cabinet?



8

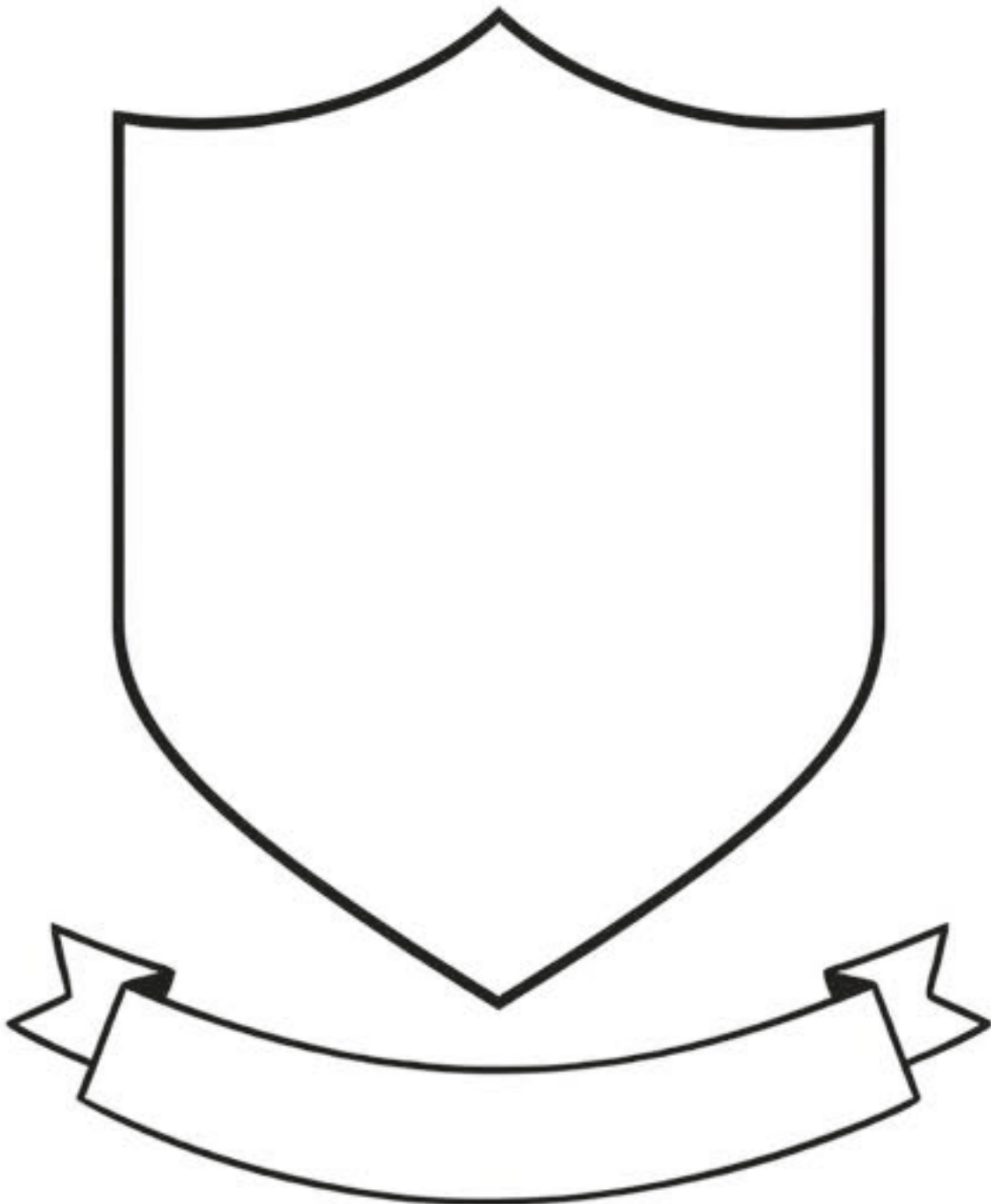
Shipwrecked! This steering wheel belonged to the cargo steamer SS Wallachia which crashed and sank in 1895. The shipwreck was discovered in 1977 by divers. What other items do you think would have been found in the wreck? Draw or write your ideas below.



The Staircase

Girvan's Provosts

The photographs on the staircase are of Girvan's past provosts. A provost is a special tile for the main leader of a local area in Scotland – a very important job. You can also see Girvan's town crest on these walls. Design your own crest below.



Upstairs Gallery – The Billard Room

1

Look at the ceiling and spot the stencilled patterns. Where else in The McKechnie have you seen these?



Fun Fact

Look at the seats in this room. Do they look like pews you would find in the church? The architects who designed The McKechnie also designed Girvan's North Parish Church – you can notice this in lots of features of the building.

2

Mini Masterpieces – pick your favourite painting in this gallery and create your own version, or design your own masterpiece.



Victorian Apartment

Victorian Scavenger Hunt



Queen Victoria reigned from 1837-1901, the period known as 'The Victorian Era'. These two rooms are decorated in typical Victorian style and colours. Can you find all of these items?

☐

Top Hat

☐

Kettle

☐

Hot Water Bottle

☐

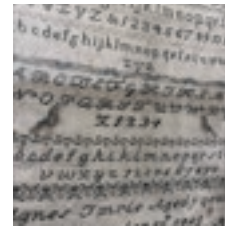
Rocking Horse

☐

Microscope

☐

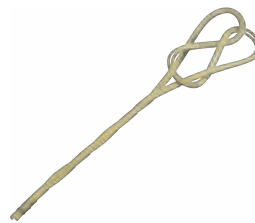
Embroidery

☐

Magic Lantern

☐

Clothes Beater

☐

Penny Farthing



Fun Fact

This funny looking bicycle was popular in the Victorian times and was called the Penny Farthing. The name comes from two coins that were used during the Victorian times.