

November

- 1 Family Halloween Disco
- 5 Fireworks Display
- 8 Toddlers "Partylite" Night
- 10 Remembrance Day Service
- 20 Horticultural Society AGM
- 26 Community Council Meeting
- 29 Fashion Show
- 30 Christmas Craft Fair

December

- 7 Christmas at Craigmains
- 11 Senior Residents Christmas Party
- 14 Children's Christmas Party
- 24 Watchnight Service
- 31 Hogmanay Dance

January

- 25/26 Photography Exhibition
- 26 Bowling Club AGM
- 28 Scout Burns Night
- 28 Community Council Meeting

Contact

If you have an activity or event you would like publicised on the Ballantrae website, on the Community Centre noticeboard, in this newsletter, or in the Stinchar Valley Magazine, please email andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com or drop the information in to 42 Foreland, Ballantrae.

Next Deadlines

Ballantrae News (February)

6 January for distribution at the end of January

Stinchar Valley Magazine (Spring)

31 January for distribution w/c 2 March

Ballantrae NEWS

Summer Play School

During the summer holidays Ballantrae Primary School ran a hugely successful Summer Play School for all our children from Ballantrae and Colmonell. Whilst many of us remember the long summer holidays with nostalgia, and there is no doubt our young people look forward to the extended break, the summer holiday can present some challenges. We live in a rural area and access to a range of activities can sometimes mean travelling quite a distance. Summer Play School gave our children access to a range of activities closer to home or in some cases, provided children with access to activities further afield. During the holidays, children can often become bored with their own company, and miss the company of their friends. Summer Play School allowed them to meet again and to socialise with each other during play experiences. By combining the two schools, our children also had the opportunity to extend friendships. Seven weeks is also a long time to be away from school and formal learning. On return to school, teachers and school staff often find that children have forgotten some of their previous learning so the first few weeks are spent catching up on basic skills. Summer Play School helped with this, by keeping our young people in touch with each other and their school staff.

The Summer Play School ran for 5 weeks, on a Tuesday and a Thursday and was very well attended each day. It was supported by school staff from Colmonell and Ballantrae. Each day began with a 'soft start' breakfast club from 9am until 10am. On a Tuesday we remained in school to play. Activities included: outdoor games and sports; free play; art and craft activities; science activities; cooking; climbing on the wall bars; creating their own obstacle courses and cycling. On a Thursday we went further afield: we visited Agnew Park in Stranraer, went swimming at the Quay Zone in Girvan, played at Culzean and had a day in Straiton where some of us walked to the monument. Children were provided with home cooked lunches on a Tuesday. We helped our young people to make some lovely healthy homemade dishes for everyone to enjoy. On our Thursday excursion day, children were provided with a packed lunch. All activities and meals were free to all the children attending Summer Play School, funded by our Pupil Equity Funding money.

It is safe to say, we all had a great time during Summer Play School 2019!

Yvonne Templeton



Ballantrae Church

As the new minister of Ballantrae, I look forward to getting to know people over the coming months. I moved into the manse with my family back in August and we are now getting nicely settled in. It's a great privilege to be living in such a beautiful area and I look forward to leading the church forward in its mission.

I grew up in West Yorkshire, before moving to Lancaster where I studied for a degree in Christian Ministry. I then worked for Reebok, Gala Bingo and Sunlight Laundries, before moving to South Wales to study for The Baptist Ministry. Whilst studying I was pastor half time of Ebenezer English Baptist Church in Llanbradach. After finishing my studies I was ordained in 2006 and became the minister of a rural church in Somerset (Hatch Beauchamp and Ashill Baptist Church). I then came to Scotland in 2009 to be minister of the Thomas Coats Memorial Baptist Church in Paisley (aka The Baptist Cathedral of Europe) and remained there until 2018. I then began a familiarisation placement with Wellesley Parish Church, Methil which lasted 9 months after sensing a call to the Church of Scotland. We moved here from Pittenweem and hope to very much become part of the community Every Blessing,

Rev. Theo Corney



We've been encouraged by the number of people who have shown interest in The Trust purchasing the King's Arms Hotel on behalf of the community. We have continued to explore potential funders and started to talk to people who have done this sort of thing before. We have now received the architect's report and a Community Consultation will commence in November. You will find a questionnaire inside this edition of Ballantrae News. Please complete it and encourage all of your family and friends to complete it too and return it by the deadline. Funders will require that we demonstrate community support if we are to be successful.

Work on the Play Park and Recreation Ground Development continues. New picnic tables and benches have been delivered are in storage awaiting the groundwork to be carried out and the sensory panels will be ordered shortly. Planning the Ballantrae Festival of Food & Drink 2020 to be held on the weekend 13/14 June has started. Following their extremely successful trip to Japan, we

had a wonderful afternoon in Ballantrae on a Sunday in August with the Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra. The Autumn and Winter programme is currently being planned. At the beginning of October we hosted a "Managing your Finances and Cash Flow" workshop in Ballantrae for new and existing businesses.

We continue to manage the village website www.ballantrae.org.uk on behalf of the village. If you run a business locally or are an office bearer in one of the village groups, please check that your entry in the "Living in Ballantrae" section of the website is up-to-date. We are keen to develop group entries in particular (text and pictures). Contact me on andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com if you have any amendments or suggestions. We were pleased to show the new website off at the church's "Best of Ballantrae" event in September and to talk to visitors about the village's historical timeline in particular.

We've had a few changes in paid personnel in the Trust recently. Fiona Conlan, who lives in Girvan, joined us as our new Trainee Development Officer at the beginning of September and Chris Hanna who worked for Creetown Initiative but was on loan to us as an experienced Development Officer left at the end of September. Her place has been taken by Rebecca Giblin.

Ballantrae Community Association

We still have several events planned before the New Year. We are holding a Fireworks Display on 5th November at 6pm at the Harbour organised by PyroEFX. We're looking forward to a breath taking display. Our next event in the hall will be a Christmas themed Craft Fair on Saturday 30th November between 11am and 3pm. If you would like to take a stall or help out please contact either Stacey or me - details below. Santa will be taking time out of his busy schedule between 12pm - 2pm, so be sure to come a long and have a quick chat and catch up with him. We're sure he'll be delighted to see you!

Our Seniors' Table Tennis Club is now up and running on a Wednesday afternoon between 1pm and 3pm, during school term times. So far we've had a good turn out, with players of various levels of ability, from complete beginners to more skilful players. We have 3 tables available along with bats and balls and there are always refreshments available.

Please come along and have a go. It's completely free; there's no need to bring any equipment or a partner, just turn up! We look forward to welcoming you.

The annual Children's Christmas Party has been arranged for Saturday 14th December between 6pm - 8pm. The Elves are already working hard to make sure the evening goes well and that all the Ballantrae children have a fabulous time. Santa will be coming along to the party, so all the children will be able to give him an update on their last minute Christmas present ideas and let him know how much help they've been around the house!

If you would like to take a stall at the Craft Fair or help out with this or future events please contact either Stacey Stewart 07809 266526 staceystewart21@rocketmail.com or Laura Cunningham 01465 831785, lauracunninghamruby@hotmail.co.uk.

Laura Cunningham



Andy McAlpine



Fiona Conlan: Ballantrae Trust Trainee Development Officer

Hello! My name is Fiona Conlan. I am excited about my new role as Trainee Development Officer for the Ballantrae Trust and look forward to helping the Trust progress its various projects and also to share Trust news with you. I am originally from Glasgow though have lived in Girvan for over 20 years with my family. I work for the Trust part-time. In my other role I run 3 wellness workshops for Weight Watchers in Girvan, Maybole and Stranraer. I plan to be in the Trust Office in the Community Hall every Wednesday from 11am to 2pm if you would like to come along for a chat or you can contact me by email at fiona.ballantraetrust@gmail.com.



Rosemary Stevenson is a Star (it's official!)

Rosemary Stevenson was recently recognised with a South Ayrshire Council Community Star Award.

Rosemary has worked tirelessly as a volunteer within the community of Ballantrae for all of her 54 resident years. Keen to encourage resources within her community, Rosemary and a group of other like-minded residents, set up Ballantrae Rural Initiative Care in the Community (BRICC) in 1995, with the aim of providing local facilities to care for the elderly and frail within the Stinchar Valley area. The BRICC Care Agency soon began offering a home care service to give residents the opportunity to maintain their independence and remain in their own homes and within their own community for as long as possible.

Rosemary has worked throughout this time to achieve the long term goal of opening a residential facility in her local area. She works in the BRICC Thrift Shop every day along with

a team of up to fifty other volunteers. The shop now raises in excess of £80,000 per year with a total of £859,500 raised in the twenty one years since it started. Thanks in no small measure to Rosemary's commitment and drive, the group are more than three quarters of the way to raising the £2 million needed to build the facility.

Rosemary is also known for other voluntary efforts in the area from growing, nurturing and maintaining the 'Ballantrae in Bloom' Main Street plants, keeping the church clock ticking, and previously being a Community Council member. Rosemary was awarded an MBE by the Queen in 2007 for services to the community of Ballantrae.

Presenting Rosemary with her Star Award, Councillor Douglas Campbell, Leader of South Ayrshire Council said: "The Community Star Award recognises the outstanding work of volunteers who are making a real difference in

our communities. There is hardly anyone who deserves this award more than Rosemary. She has been an inspirational figure for many years and her determination to succeed has achieved so much in her local community."



Ballantrae Scout Group



We have had a busy summer with all 3 sections taking part in ACE days over the holidays from stand up paddle boarding and gorge walking for Beavers and Cubs to canoeing and paddle boarding for Scouts. Our Scouts attended their first International Scout Jamboree in Leicester with more than 4500 other Scouts from around the world. The camp was unfortunately called to a halt early due to adverse weather conditions. Although things didn't go how we had hoped, our Scouts were amazing. They all pulled together keeping morale up around camp and making the best of a bad situation.

The Cubs have been doing their Cycling Badge and learning how to make sure their bikes are safe to ride. At the beginning of the term they did all sorts of experiments and made their own water compasses to earn their Science Badge. Over the October holidays they will be completing the Home Help badge by helping to keep their houses clean and doing the laundry and dishes!

Our youngest section (the Beavers) have been working on their Personal Challenge Badges. They went on an autumnal scavenger hunt and welcomed Barry the Beaver our new group mascot who will be going home with one of our Beavers each week.

All 3 sections recently camped at Culzean for our very first whole group camp. Once again the weather was not the greatest but we did manage to fit in a campfire with great songs, stories and jokes contributed by the kids, a 'midnight walk' up to the gates, games around the campsite, and the following day they joined in with the planned District Fun Day along with another 80 Cubs and Beavers from around Ayrshire trying activities such as crate stacking, archery and armpit fudge! At the end of September we held a Farm Fun Day



with lots of family friendly activities such as slippery pole, stock judging, Welly Wanging and our very popular Coo Poo Lotto. The day finished off with a BBQ. A big thank you to Willie and Fiona Stevenson of Auchenflower Farm who let us use their farm, were amazing hosts, and helped us make it a great event. A fantastic £906.90 was raised which will go towards Group activities.

If you think your child may be interested in joining our adventures please get in touch! **Beavers (6-8 years) – Kate 07765 490649; Cubs (8-10.5 years) – Charlotte 07388 909328; Scouts (10.5-14.5 years) – Wendy 07831 370515**

Wendy McKeachan

Sanitary products available in the Community Hall

South Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership has distributed free items to community centres (including Ballantrae), housing offices, council buildings and halls, activity centres, selected public toilets and Customer Service Centres. This campaign supports the Scottish Government's commitment to increasing the number and range of places where free sanitary products are available. The partnership is encouraging people to help themselves to the free products or take a 'wee white bag' which will contain a small supply. The products being used to support this campaign are from a company called 'Hey Girls', a social enterprise company using sustainable and environmentally safe products. In Ballantrae there are supplies in the ladies toilets in the Community Hall which will be replenished on a regular basis. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Community Association.



News Snippets

Ballantrae SWI

Our first meeting of the session in September was a practical night on book folding and in October it was an Ayrshire local produce talk by Howard Wilkinson who brought some samples of Dunlop cheeses. November will be another hands on session - Christmas decorations with Mrs Jeniffer Brodie and December a meal out with a "Secret Santa". We will be giving the school children a Halloween party in the school on 31 October.

Ballantrae Horticultural Society

Congratulations to all our winners at this year's Flower Show. We paid out £313.60 in prize money. We also presented a bouquet of flowers to Jean Dunlop to say "thank you" for all she has done for the Society in the past. Without the generous sponsorship from Glenapp Castle and the donation from our lovely tea ladies Fiona, Linda and Stacey who put on an amazing spread, we wouldn't be able to continue. If you didn't attend you missed a real treat! A very very big thank you from our small committee to everyone who contributed and made it a success. Our AGM will be held in the Community Centre on Wednesday November 20th at 2pm. All are welcome. We are always open to new ideas and would welcome new members.



"The Best of Ballantrae"

Our "Best of Ballantrae" event had over 80 visitors into the Church to view the archives and history of 200 years since the Church was built on its present location. Sixty people had a stunning afternoon tea, surrounded by floral displays and with an organ recital filling the church with music. They also left with a large volume of baking from the very well stocked baking stall. The following day a lunch in the hall celebrated the 200th Anniversary with 60 people attending. Both events collected £600 before costs for church funds.

Women's Guild

The speaker at the Church Guild's September meeting was new minister Rev Theo Corney, who told a good turnout of members about his background and his journey to Ballantrae Church and Colmonell Church.

Stinchar Valley Photo Group

Following our successful exhibition in Barrhill in July we are taking the exhibition to Colmonell (in October) and Ballantrae on 25/26 January. Watch Facebook and local posters for details nearer the time. Our Autumn / Winter programme is being developed and will consist of practical sessions and guest speakers. We are a small informal group which meets on the last Thursday of the month (with the exception of December). Our aim is simple. We help more people take better pictures. Why don't you come along and join us? Contact Karen on 01465 831717.

Ballantrae Parent Council

The Parent Council is running a Family Halloween Disco in Ballantrae Hall on Friday 1st November from 7.30pm to 11.30pm. We'll have a bar, games and dancing. There will be prizes for kids fancy dress. Tickets £5 adults, £2.50 for children. Our second fund raising event is a Fashion Show, featuring Louise's Ladies boutique of Girvan, on Friday 29th November from 7pm-9pm in Ballantrae Community Hall. Drinks and nibbles are included in the ticket price. £5 per ticket with a Raffle on the night. Tickets for both events are available from Laura on 07702375120.

Ballantrae Bowling Club

Ballantrae Bowling Club closed on Saturday 28 September after a very successful year. The open Triples, Pairs and Invitation competitions held at Ballantrae were well supported. We were extremely pleased to win, for the first time, the Maybole League Triples/Pairs/Singles in a final against Maybole Memorial Park.



We are delighted to have recent work completed at the Bowling Club and were supported by Ballantrae Community Fund with funding from Scottish Power Renewables' Glen App windfarm. The funding received allowed us to upgrade the pathway to the club house, replace a hedge with a wall, replace 2 double glazed windows, purchase kitchen equipment, garden tools and a garden shed. Our AGM will be held in the club house on Sunday 26 January at 2pm.

Anne McCulloch

Ballantrae Crafty Bees

I love the Autumn with it's misty mornings, beautiful colours and darker nights. It is a time to get out your half finished crafts or be brave and start a new project. Ballantrae Crafty Bees is the perfect place to come to try your hand at a new craft, share skills with like minded people, and have some tea and cake. We meet every 2nd and 4th Monday of the month in Ballantrae Village Hall at 7.30pm with a cost of £3. Each week we do a different craft and learn as we go. New faces are always welcome and no crafting experience is necessary. See you there!



Liz Jenkins

Ballantrae in Bloom

The Annual Garden Competition took place on a lovely summer's day in August after thunderstorms had done their worst. The judge was Annmarie Mitchell, Head Gardener at Glenapp Castle. The winners were: Best kept garden - Janette McCulloch; Most varied garden - Dorothy Duffy; Tub/container/wall box - Phyllis Barnes; Hanging Basket - Phyllis Barnes; Plants in a bucket (Primary School) George Mills. We are hoping for more entries from young people next year. The Committee, whose motto remains "Love your village" would like to thank everyone who took part in the competition for all your efforts.

Ballantrae News is funded by the Ballantrae Community Fund

Christmas at Craigiemains Ballantrae

Santa's Grotto
Christmas Games
Elf on the shelf
Mrs Clause Raffle
And much more...

£6 per child

Saturday 7th December 12-3pm

Ballantrae Toddlers

Ballantrae Toddlers have been busy making Halloween spiders. We are looking forward to using our new craft materials to paint pictures and to make autumn crafts. We continue to meet on Monday afternoons (school term) from 1pm - 2.45pm. All pre-school aged children are welcome to attend. For more information contact me on 07767081602. On Friday 8 November at 7.30pm please come along to the King's Arms Hotel in Ballantrae to see a beautiful range of products from Partylite. You'll find perfect Christmas presents or a treat for yourself. There will be a raffle on the night and other opportunities to win prizes. Funds raised will go to the Ballantrae Toddler Group.



BALLANTRAE PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP



Meet Every Monday (Excluding School Holidays)

Ballantrae Community Hall

1.00pm - 2.45pm

£1.00 per child and bring along own snack

New members welcome!

For more information contact Cheryl Agnew on 07767081602

Cheryl Agnew