

Ballantrae News

Keeping you up to date with what's happening locally

Diary

May

- 7 Summer Outing Coffee Morning
- 31 Community Council Meeting

June

- 3 Fishing Competition
- 4 RVS Coffee Morning
- 5 Smugglers' Festival:
Smugglers' Road Trip Stranraer
to Girvan
- 12 Festival of Food & Drink
- 18 Malawi Cream Teas
- 27 Introduction of the Gala Queen
- 28 Community Council Meeting
- 28 Football Competition starts

July

- 1 Parade of Floats and Football
Final
- 2 Gala Day
- 2 Gala Dance
- 3 Bowler / non bowler
competition
- 23 Church Summer Fair

August

- 5 Smugglers' Festival: Landing
of the Contraband (evening)
- 6 Smugglers' Festival:
Strongman Challenge (evening)
- 14 Smugglers' Festival:
Smugglers' Chase (skiff racing)

Contact Details

If you have an activity or an event you would like publicised on the Ballantrae website, on the Community Noticeboard, in this Newsletter, or in the Stinchar Valley Magazine, please email info@ballantrae.org.uk or drop the information in to Andy McAlpine at 42 Foreland, Ballantrae



Craft Fair

Ballantrae Community Association held a hugely successful Spring Craft Fair on Saturday 9 April in the Ballantrae Hall. This event was to raise money for the Annual Fireworks Display on 5 November. Cream teas, home baking, and a light lunch were also served. Twenty craft tables holding all sorts of lovely home made gifts were on display on this beautiful spring day. This Craft Fair was the best attended yet with a steady stream of people coming in to admire the crafts and enjoy a delicious cream tea. The total sum raised on the day was £1225. A stall with home baking in aid of the Ayrshire Hospice raised over £300.

Thanks to all who helped (10 year olds to 15 year olds especially!), those who donated the home baking, raffle prizes and the people who turned up to support the event.

With all the cuts South Ayrshire Council has made to rural communities this year, it is heart-warming to see that we can still be a vibrant and thriving community who are willing to work hard to protect these traditions to enable each community to hold our special events for the sake of our residents young and old.



Ballantrae Gala Day Rescued!

Ballantrae Gala and other community events around South Ayrshire would like to thank Ayrshire LEADER Local Action Group for sponsoring 90% of the costs imposed on us by South Ayrshire Council for local galas and therefore enabling us to go ahead for 2016.

Ballantrae Community Association who run the Gala are always happy for new members and new ideas. All are welcome to attend meetings and volunteer to help at our events. Contact Sharon or Fiona (contact numbers below if you are interested).

Every event we organise is for the whole community from babies to our eldest residents. The future of our events depends of new ideas and willing volunteers.

A year of planning goes into Gala Week but it is worth it!

This year's Gala Party: Gala Queen Jenna McKinnon, King Adam Crawford, Attendants Chloe McIntyre and Jessica Orr, Page Boys Lewis Mawer and James McIlwraith. Congratulations to you all.

Gala Week Programme

Ballantrae Annual Fishing Competition Friday 3 June at 6pm, on Ballantrae foreshore.

The Introduction of the Gala Queen Monday, 27 June 6pm (field to be confirmed) as part of the Autograss Event at 6pm. The Gala Queen is a keen participant in this event!

The Football Competition Tuesday, 28th June until the final on Friday 1st July in the Recreational Field.

The Parade of Floats and Fancy Dress 6pm on Friday 1st July in the Recreational Field. The **football final** will follow this. If there is a poor turnout for the Parade of Floats and fancy Dress this year, this will be the final year.

Gala Day Saturday, 2nd July in the Recreational Field at 1pm. Many events are planned this year to ensure we have one of the best Gala Days yet after the Gala was hanging in the balance for 2016. Keep an eye out in the Stinchar Valley Magazine, on Facebook, on local noticeboards and in local press for more information. To book a stall please call Fiona Roper on 01465 831475.

The **Family Gala Dance** with Music by Destination Anywhere will be in the Community Centre at 8pm on Saturday 1st July. Anyone wanting tickets please phone Sharon on 07798710481 or Fiona on 01465 831475. There is only a limited number of tickets and this was sold out last year so be quick!

The **Bowler/Non Bowler Competition** will be held on Sunday, 3rd July at Ballantrae Bowling Green at 1pm. This is a great day out for all the family.



Ballantrae Community Council (BCC) Elections: Six local people put their name forward to serve as Community Councillors from 1 April for a term of 3 years: Susan Crosthwaite, Tom Davidson, Jeannie Macy, Mhairi McKenna, Stephen Ogston, and Janette Sloan. At the BCC meeting on 26 April John McIlwraith and Gwen Campbell agreed to be co-opted onto the Council for a year. Colin McNally has also been co-opted for his financial expertise. The Officebearers are now Dr McKenna (Chair), Stephen Ogston (Vice Chair), and John McIlwraith (Treasurer). The role of Secretary remains vacant. Lynn Young will continue as minute secretary.

Congratulations

To **Alan Carle** of Ballantrae who has been selected to attend Space camp at NASA in Houston, Texas

To **The Ballantrae Gymnasts (see opposite)** who, resplendent in their new Ballantrae leotards and T shirts sponsored by Carrick Futures and the Ballantrae Community Council, achieved considerable success at the recent South Ayrshire Inter Schools Competition in Ayr in February. They emerged from the competition as Overall Cluster Winner, Overall Small Schools Winner, and P4/5 Silver Medallists. In addition, their coaches Claire Erskine and Stacey Stewart won South Ayrshire Volunteer of the Month Award. Well done to everyone!

The Ardstinchar Castle is on the front page of Scottish Local History journal Issue 94, Spring-Summer 2016. On pages 31-37 is an article by Jean Brittain and James Brown telling the stories of two French ambassadorial missions in Ayrshire, one of which is about our Hugh Kennedy of Ardstinchar's stint as French Ambassador to his own home country of Scotland in 1434-36. Copies of the journal can be purchased at <https://www.slhf.org/publication/issue-94>.



Keeping Ballantrae Safe (KBS): A report on actions taken by the various public agencies since the event in September was presented to the Community Council at the end of February. If you would like a copy email andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com or call 07920517700.

Neighbourhood Watch: Only a handful of residential and business properties have so far shown interest in reviving the Ballantrae Neighbourhood Watch Scheme. The scheme costs nothing to join but will keep you informed about how to keep yourself and your property safe and the village a safe place to live, work and visit. For more information email info@ballantrae.org.uk or call Andy on 07920517700.

South Ayrshire Council (SAC) Budget Cuts: Over 90 villagers and representatives of other nearby communities attended the Ballantrae Community Council (BCC) meeting on 29 March when Dr Claire Monaghan, Head of Communities at SAC explained the background to the decisions regarding charging for the stalls for the Gala Day and electricity and heating oil consumed in the hall. We are delighted to report that Ayrshire Leader have agreed to underwrite most of the costs related to the Gala stalls for 2016 but, as we go to print we understand that discussions are continuing about electricity and oil charges.

Ballantrae Bowling Club opened for the season on 16 April. If you are over the age of 10 years and would like to try a game of bowls or are interested in joining the bowling club please phone Anne on 07917843135. Everyone is welcome – they hold sweeps on Wednesday and Sunday nights and Thursday afternoons as well as holding club competitions and open tournaments throughout the season.



Ballantrae
FESTIVAL OF FOOD & DRINK

**Come and Join us
at the
Ballantrae Festival of Food
and Drink
on Sunday 12th June 2016
11.00am to 5.00pm**

Entry to the Main Festival Marquee is **FREE** and we have an exciting line-up of cooking demonstrations, foraging walks and "Grape & Grain" tasting sessions with tickets starting from £10.00 as well as a Ballantrae Biosphere marquee for all the family to enjoy. Festival Organiser, Susan Crosthwaite says "We are aiming for a superior quality festival in 2016 building on the amazing success of last year when over 3800 people attended".

Early Bird Bonus Tickets Free

Visitors can pre-book with our Early Bird Bonus ticket for express entry to the main marquee on the day and will receive a FREE eco shopping bag containing a festival programme and a free entry card to the Prize Draw (*this can be bought on the day for £2*).

To buy your Early Bird Bonus Ticket or to book one of the cookery demonstrations, foraging sessions or to book one of the talks please go to our website
www.ballantraefoodfest.com



This year's Ballantrae Smugglers Festival will take place over a number of months (rather than a 7 day festival during one week in August). The draft programme, will include: "The Landing of the Contraband" in Ballantrae (on the evening of Friday 5 August) with the

tall ship La Malouine, skiffs, Smugglers, Excisemen and the Militia, and horses all re-enacting the Ballantrae Smuggling story; the popular "Strongman Challenge" on the evening of Saturday 6 August; the publication of a book of smuggling stories for children written by local children, with poems and illustrations (this is nearing completion); the launch of the "Smuggling Road Trip around Scotland" phase 1, Stranraer to Girvan; Walking the Smuggling Trails; a Smugglers' Supper; and on 14 August the "Ballantrae Smugglers' Chase" - a skiff race. Watch out too for an animation done by the children to publicise this year's festival. Watch local press, Facebook "Information Ballantrae" and the next edition of the Stinchar Valley Magazine for more information.



Ballantrae Scout Group (2nd Ayrshire)

We have around 47 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The Beaver Section of the Scout Association is 30 years old and the Cub section 100 years old. We were due to hold a joint birthday party on 29 March but that was postponed because the Community Council needed the large hall that night for the Budget cuts meeting. It will be re-scheduled!

We enjoyed our visit to Glenapp Castle Hotel as their guests and are looking forward to our Scout Auction (30 April) and Woodland camp (28/29 May).

We are always on the lookout for adults who might be interested in helping us so - if you were a Scout (or maybe a Guide) - or even if you weren't but can spare a few hours a week, we would be pleased to hear from you. Although it may not be politically correct to say so - just stating a fact - five of our six leaders are female so male volunteers would be particularly welcome!

Do you have any pictures of Cubs, Scouts, Venture Scouts or Rover Scouts in Ballantrae from years gone by or maybe some other memorabilia? If so, we would like to hear from you. If you have anything at all from Ballantrae's Scout history please contact info@ballantrae.org.uk or contact Andy McAlpine Group Chairman 07920 517700 or John Allsop Group Scout Leader 831391.