

Ballantrae NEWS

Contact Details

If you have an activity or event you would like publicised in the Ballantrae News, please email:
rachelsymmms@hotmail.com

Next Deadline Dates

15 July for distribution in August.

Key Dates

15 April - Studio Seventy Four Spring Opening

23 April - Ballantrae Bowling Club Open Day

25th April - Ballantrae Church Guild, Rev Chris Blackshaw will talk about his life "as a farming minister."

13/14 May - Ayrshire Coastal Path Relay

11/12 June - Ballantrae Festival of Food and Drink

27th June - Ballantrae Church Guild - Summer Outing

21 July – Ballantrae in Bloom (Judging)

27 August - Ballantrae Flower Festival

Ballantrae News is funded by Ballantrae Community Fund

Ballantrae Becomes First Biosphere Community in South Ayrshire

The historic village of Ballantrae has become a Biosphere Community, the sixth to be designated within Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere and the first in South Ayrshire.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation makes its awards in recognition of attributes which are unique and of global importance, and Galloway and Southern Ayrshire was designated a 'UNESCO Biosphere' in 2012. Over the last decade the Biosphere team has delivered projects in conservation, education, and sustainable development, with a strong focus on accessible community-led initiatives that celebrate local heritage.

The Biosphere Communities scheme invites residents in villages and towns across the region to explore what is special about their locality and the attributes that most inspire community pride. Local people are invited to take part in a Sense of Place workshop in which they share stories, favourite places, and thoughts on what makes their community unique. Ballantrae's workshop took place in November and residents have worked over winter producing text and photographs for the dedicated Ballantrae webpage which is now live on gsabiosphere.org.uk. This will promote the village to visitors from home and abroad who are seeking sustainable, slow tourism experiences such as those provided by Scotland's UNESCO Trail.

Ballantrae occupies a scenic location on the Biosphere's west coast and residents highlighted the meeting of land and sea: birdlife including cormorants, plovers and gulls, the historic herring landings, tales of smugglers who conducted their



trade from hidden caves, and sinister legends such as the Knockdolian Mermaid and cannibal Sawney Bean. To promote local life and culture in modern times, Ballantrae residents chose to spotlight forest walks among the Giant Redwoods at Glenapp Castle and Estate – preferably followed by afternoon tea – and the Kings Arms Community Pub and Hub, an 18th century hostelry which is now owned and run by the community themselves.

As the relationship between village and Biosphere grows the people of Ballantrae will be able to call on 'Team GSAB' for help in developing community initiatives and promoting special events. Jenna Cains, Community & Education Lead Officer, said, "Ballantrae has a long relationship with the Biosphere, which I have really only stepped into in recent months, but as with all our Biosphere Communities it has been great fun learning about the village and the area and what makes it unique. Ballantrae has such a spectacular coastal location and is swirling with legends and fables, alongside delivering world class events such as the annual Ballantrae Festival of Food and Drink."

The concept of Biosphere Communities is a blueprint for living that will not only help drive southwest Scotland's Green Recovery and Net Zero goals but will contribute to the Biosphere's overarching theme: making life better for people and nature. For more information about the scheme or about Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere please contact jenna@gsabiosphere.org.uk.

Ballantrae

FESTIVAL OF FOOD & DRINK

The Ballantrae Festival of Food and Drink returns as a two day *live* event in 2022. It will be held over the weekend of 11-12 June.

As in previous years, the festival will showcase workshops, demonstrations and tastings along with an excellent food market dedicated to quality, well-sourced food. In making sure there is something for everyone, this year we will have storytellers, some excellent music and the children's entertainer Fabulous Fraser.

Want to know more about the festival? Pop the date in your diary, follow us on FaceBook where not only will you find photos and videos from previous years, you will receive updates on who is coming to the festival and how and where to buy tickets. Also you can search for videos of the BFFD and a promotional video for Fabulous Fraser on YouTube. For those of you not gadget minded, posters will be displayed in the village in the coming weeks.

We hope you will consider joining with us this year; we certainly look forward to welcoming you.

Mhairi

Debbie's Daft Dippers

Debbie's Daft Dippers are a group who enjoy swimming in the sea locally.

Anyone who wants to join us is more than welcome. You can find us on Facebook under Debbie's Daft Dippers or alternatively feel free to just come down to the harbour and join us. The page is a great tool for anyone fancying a dip and posting when. There is no pressure to come to all the dips and you can just have a paddle if you prefer.



King's Arms Update: Spring 2022



After the carnage and loss that the Pandemic brought to us all, and despite the constant stream of rules and regulations being fired at the hospitality sector, especially around the festive season, the King's Arms fought on defiantly. It was a difficult period in our history and is still being felt across the industry with a real shortage of staff across the board coupled with bouts of illness. If you have an interest in working in the hospitality sector, it might certainly be productive to have a chat with us here at the pub.

We have finally found ourselves at Spring's doorstep and with a 'spring in our step' moved the business up a notch and begun introducing some specialty menu's, event streaming (Rugby etc.) with monthly regular features like local folk jamming sessions and Karaoke nights. There has also been interest from local MSP's, MP's and even the UN (Biosphere) have noticed 'Oor wee pub', building on making the King's Arms the pub and hub we all want to see.



We have also all been pleased to enjoy the warmth and the welcoming of the place whilst using it to meet friends and family. With the hard work of all our staff ably led by Mark with great support from the volunteers and regular customers and a big thank you to everyone for your custom and we look forward to continuing to build on the success so far.

Here's to health, prosperity and more settled times for us all!



Ayrshire Coastal Path Relay

Some friends who have been part of our ever growing walking group came up with an idea to do a relay of the Ayrshire Coastal Path (approx 58 miles) in memory of my dad Gary Voce who died from MND in November last year and in aid of the I am Doddie Weir Foundation. As many know my dad was a keen walker and also a fisherman most of his life and fished the coast of Scotland among many other places. My friends Mike, Bryan and Anna thought it would be a fitting tribute and came up with the plan.

On Friday the 13th May there are 2 events.

Event 1, the relay, will start with the runners who will start at Skelmorrie with one of my dad's walking poles as the relay baton. They will run the path (they choose how much or little they run) and pass on to the next runner and so on as far as Ballantrae. This will take approximately 15 hours so be an early start but daylight is on our side in May. There will be support drivers to take people back to their transport when they have finished their leg of the relay.

Event 2 is for walkers. We aim to have walkers on each stretch of the Ayrshire Coastal Path throughout the day. Again each group or individual walker will choose how much they can do, be it 2 miles or 10 or more.

We will post on social media, updates throughout the day. It would be great to have as many people as possible turn out to cheer the runners on as they pass through the towns etc.

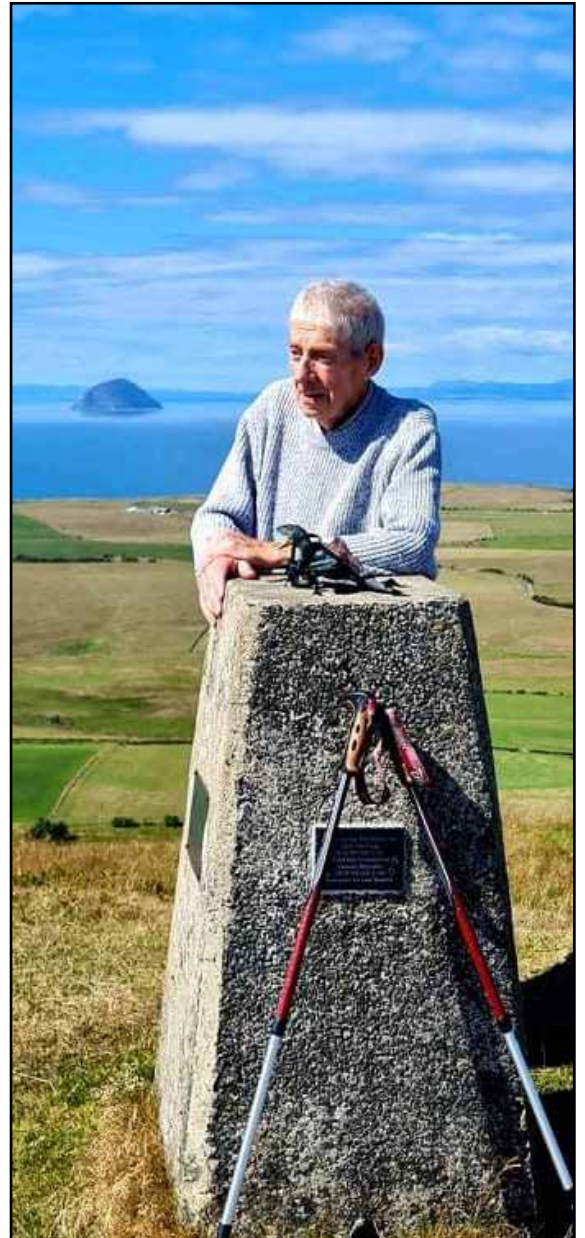
On Saturday 14th May the walk (and maybe a running race) will start from Glenapp to Ballantrae. This will be finished off with a walk from Ballantrae to the top of Knockdolian where my dad's other walking pole will be reunited with the one that travelled South from Skelmorrie the previous day.

In the evening the Kings Arms will have food available to buy for anyone wanting to come along and enjoy an evening of music and celebration. Davie Anderson Music will be entertaining and he will be recording a new version of The Shoals of Herring in memory of my dad.

Anyone wanting to get involved can find more details on our public Facebook page Ayrshire Coastal Path Relay or contact me on 07798710481. As well as many walkers and runners we are also looking for volunteers to be support drivers and people to cheer the runners and walkers at as many stages as possible.

Promises to be an eventful and fun weekend and all for a worthwhile cause. Let's help find a cure for MND.

Thank you, Sharon Robertson



Ballantrae Primary School and Early Years Centre

Outdoor Learning

The first Friday in March was a lovely afternoon for our whole school outdoor learning activity. All our children worked together to make Ballantrae's longest ever obstacle course around the bike track. They worked in their house teams and took a side of the bike track each to make their fantastic obstacles. They demonstrated excellent team work, cooperation and problem solving skills.



Connecting Classrooms

Primary 5-7 enjoyed a special day at the end of January, where, as part of our connecting classrooms project, they met on zoom with the pupils and staff of Pragnya Bodhini school in Mumbai, India. During this meeting, pupils recited their Burns poem, shared their knowledge of their topic – life on land- and enjoyed a fun and interactive quiz. We meet again with our partner school later on in March.



World Book Day – Thursday 3rd March 2022

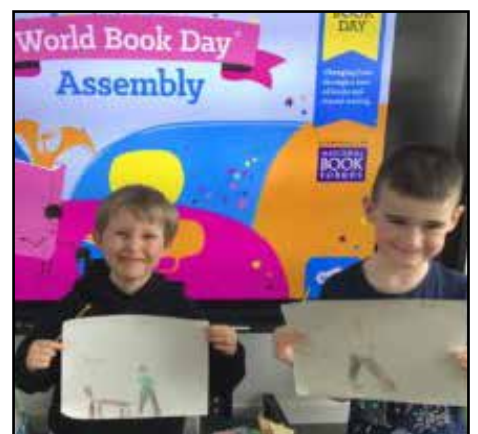
In school we celebrated World Book Day and discussed how important books, authors and illustrators are in our lives.

The children drew pictures of their favourite book characters and wrote about why they liked them.



All of our pupils took part in a Talk for Writing workshop with Mr Sisi, where they learned all about the book 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. Pupils studied the language of the book before creating their own 'story maps' visually representing the major events within the book.

The children also took part in a STEM challenge to create a house for The Three Little Pigs.



"The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more things you learn the more places you will go!" Dr Seuss



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SPRING OPENING: FRIDAY 15th APRIL 2022



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FIND US ON FACEBOOK

BALLANTRAE BOWLING CLUB



OPENING DAY
23 April 2022
2pm



All welcome; bowlers, non-bowlers, members, non-members

For any further information please contact
Anne McCulloch 07917843135

BALLANTRAE BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

Mondays 10am - 12noon

Ballantrae Village Hall

£1 entry

All welcome!



New
friends

Story
time

Toys

Rhymes

Messy
play

Snacks

Request to join our page on Facebook; Ballantrae Toddlers 2022

News Snippets

Ballantrae in Bloom

We are glad to let you know that we will be updating the village flower displays over the coming months. We will be holding a competition for 1) Best kept garden, 2) Best vegetable patch, 3) Best tub/container and 4) Best hanging basket. Judging will take place on Thursday 21st July. Please keep an eye out for posters. We will also be holding a Best Sunflower for primary 6/7, in conjunction with the school.

Theo Corney - Secretary

BRICC

The BRICC Lunch Club will be resuming, every 2nd Thursday in the BRICC House. Names to be given to BRICC if you would like to attend.

The BRICC Club will be starting on Tuesday 22nd of March in the BRICC House. Afternoon tea and entertainment will be provided. All welcome.

Ballantrae Community Centre

The hall is up and running again. Most groups are back. Bookings can be made by contacting Paula Sandford Marsh, e-mail paulasmash@icloud.com

Our aim this year after the Covid disruption is to get activity established and gradually expand the range of uses within the hall. However we could do with a few more members to volunteer for the management committee. In addition to this in conjunction with the Council we are hoping to adopt a new constitution which will allow BCA to apply for charitable status. This will help with applying for funds from grant giving organisations.

John Thorburn

Ballantrae Church

We are glad to say that things are beginning to return to something like normal for the church. Despite the pandemic our congregation size has remained good and we have been able to welcome new faces which has been a real pleasure. We are now able to sing once again in church and we are beginning to involve the congregation more in our services.

We are hoping over the coming months to reintroduce the "Sunshine Club" on a Sunday morning to cater for younger children, and our coffee mornings at The Kings Arms on Tuesdays are working well.

Our Guild is up and running again and we have moved our services at Glenapp to the third Wednesday in the month at 3pm and look forward to seeing people there.

I hope that you had a good time over Easter celebrating New Life and Jesus triumph over the grave.

We held a Good Friday Service at 10.30 am, and on Easter Sunday we hosted once again the Harbour Service at 7am (this year followed by coffee and bacon rolls in BRICC House). We enjoyed good weather, a good turn out and good fellowship for our Easter services.



Every blessing,
Rev'd Theo Corney

Ballantrae Church Guild

The Church Guild began meeting again on the 29th November last year, when Covid restrictions finally allowed us to do so. We meet between 1.45 and 3.15 in the Buffet Room in the Community Hall, on the last Monday of the month.

As a church organisation, our meetings always include a short reading from the bible and begin and end with prayer and a hymn; the singing is always enjoyable. However, the topics we address are wide ranging, which is why anyone who cares about our village church and the Guild's work is invited to attend meetings, whether or not they are church members.

Most meetings focus on an issue or idea that is important to modern life and often involve heated discussion, as well as fun, as we come to know one another better. Sometimes we discuss the social projects the Guild across Scotland is supporting. One of these this year is 'Chocolate Heaven', a project in the far East that is helping farmers to benefit from fair trading of the cocoa beans they grow, which are used in the production of Fairtrade chocolate. Another is 'Home for Good', a group that encourages people to consider fostering and adoption as a way of caring for children and young people who have a need for a home and a family, and provides training and support for them as they share their lives and their love.

At the Guild's meeting on 25th April, the Rev Chris Blackshaw, will be talking about his life 'as a farming minister'. On 30th May our last meeting of the year, will be a fun time, with opportunity to reflect on some of the good times we've all had in the past year; to sing some favourite hymns (and maybe learn a new one) and to share some food. On June 27th we will be having our summer outing – more details to follow.

Susan Fairbairn