

Ballantrae NEWS

Funders Support Ballantrae's Aim to Own and Manage its Own Pub and Hub

Last November we asked the folk of Ballantrae and others who care about our village, whether they thought the Trust should try to buy the Kings Arms for the community. The response - from more than 300 people - was nearly unanimous, with most enthusiastically supporting the idea of Ballantrae owning and running the Kings Arms as a pub and hub at the heart of our village. If we achieve our goal, we will be joining villages all over the UK that have already taken this step. Since that time, we have been busy applying to several funding bodies for the money we need to buy the Kings Arms; to carry out necessary repairs and refurbishment, then to develop and manage it as a community resource.

On 13th June the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) announced that they have awarded us £262,493 '...to purchase, refurbish, develop and manage the Kings Arms Hotel as a community resource.' We are 'over the moon'

with the Land Fund's decision, and three days after the SLF announcement began the process of trying to buy the building.

However, we are conscious that bringing the building into community ownership is only the first step - that there is still a long way to go, since the cost of repairs, refurbishment and development, along with the first's year's costs for a suitably experienced manager, will greatly exceed the portion of the Land Fund award that relates to these things.

That is why we are happy also, to announce that Carrick Futures have awarded us £15,000, and the Ballantrae Community Fund have awarded us £10,000 in connection with our aim to refurbish and develop the Kings Arms as a 'hub and pub' to serve the needs of our community. We are incredibly grateful to them and to the Land Fund, for the trust they have shown in us and the support they are

giving us by making these awards.

Something to Think About

Even with the money we have already gathered together, there is more to do. That is why, as a Trust, we are working so hard to secure more funding from other bodies, to allow us to do more than essential repairs and a quick 'makeover'.

In addition, in line with nearly every village that owns its own pub, shop, or post office, we will shortly be announcing the opportunity for everyone in the area to become even more closely involved, by purchasing 'Community Shares' in what we hope will become our new village pub and hub.

Look out for further announcements about the community shares offer on Ballantrae.org.uk, and on the Information Ballantrae Facebook page.

The Ballantrae Trust



VE Day Afternoon Tea Delivered to your Door

Ballantrae, our little town by the beach, commemorated the 75th anniversary of VE Day on Friday 8 May in style. Whilst all public gatherings had been cancelled nationally, Ballantrae celebrated the end of fighting against Nazi Germany in Europe during World War Two with a retro style stay at home afternoon tea party that nearly 250 of our veterans, elderly and those in isolation received from an army of village volunteers. Families decorated their homes, children made banners and bunting, and the village came alive within the restrictions of social distancing. Residents played music, danced and sang until early evening. A true demonstration of Ballantrae at its best!

Lots of people posted their thanks on the Information Ballantrae Facebook page. Here's a small selection:

by Lorraine Irving

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"A huge thank you to the BCA for the delicious afternoon tea on VE Day. A huge effort from all, so lovely. Thoroughly enjoyed being on the receiving end!" Janette Sloan



"Thank you to my neighbours for making today a very special day. We certainly had the war time spirit in Ailsa Drive" Linden Hunt

"I don't know for sure (so many involved) who started the VE day food parcels, but Jan and I would like to say thank you very much to all involved, it is a lovely thought and a lovely gesture that makes me realise how special our wee village is" Keith Donachie

"Thank you so much to the bakers and everyone in the village who contributed to the tea party packs for us. Helen and I were truly delighted to receive them" Shirley Risden



Ballantrae Church

Dear Friends,

I hope that you are all managing ok during these difficult days. I have been continuing to make phone calls and to pray for the community. I have also been providing weekly reflections on the church's facebook site. Some of these have been written and others have featured videos. In the better weather we have enjoyed I have been able to do these outside.

At some point in July we are hoping it will be possible to open the church again, following strict safety measures. Before this can happen we will need to take advice from the Church of Scotland and the government and will need to carry out a full risk assessment.

Please be in touch if you would like to talk. May you all know Gods peace in these days and keep well.

Every blessing

Rev. Theo Corney

Ballantrae Coastguard

During the pandemic Ballantrae Coastguard have been part of a mutual aid group alongside other emergency services and reliance groups identified by the government. As lock down has started to ease we have been doing incident prevention patrols along the coastline to make sure everyone who has been enjoying the lovely weather is safe. We have been responding to 999 calls as well.

John Cowieson



Winning Entry



VE Day House Decorating Competition

On behalf of Ballantrae Community Association I would like to thank everyone who took part in the house decorating competition. It wasn't an easy decision to make, however after much deliberation we chose Cheryl Agnew's entry. Well done to all the Agnews, enjoy your £30 voucher! As we were so impressed with all the entries, we decided to award 2 runner up prizes of a £10 Amazon gift voucher. The runners up were Christine Brown and Irene Grey. Thanks again to everybody for your hard work and for joining in.

Laura Cunningham

Runner Up



Ballantrae Primary School Parent Council

On Friday 22 May the Parent Council had planned to hold their main fundraising event of the year but, as a result of school closures and the national lockdown they were unable to go ahead. The Parent Council and school staff were still keen to have an event which all the pupils could take part in, while raising money for the school at the same time. Everyone was encouraged to have a picnic at lunchtime on Friday 22 May or sometime over the weekend, either outside or inside and help raise money for the school. Friends, neighbours and relatives were encouraged to sponsor the event. A target of £300 had been set; £310 was raised as a result of the generosity of sponsors.

Laura Cunningham



Runner Up



Ballantrae Primary School

A very warm hello from the school. The last few months have been very strange indeed, and I hope that this newsletter finds you and your families safe and well.

Although school has been closed, learning has continued and I would like to thank our children's teachers and Early Years Practitioners for all the hard work they have been doing since Easter. I know that they have continued to 'teach' our children in the very best way possible, during these trying times, and have continued to keep in touch, regularly, through Microsoft Teams, Facebook or telephone calls.

A huge thank you too, to our Parents, for continuing to support our children's learning at home. I have been delighted to see the huge variety of real life learning that has been going on, from baking and cooking to building and creating. We've even been able to hold a virtual sports' week, and what an effort our children and parents have made. Well done. You've done an amazing job. Look out for our star bakers on the Ballantrae Food Festival web page.

At this time I continue to focus on our return to school in August and what this means for our children and their families. As announced recently by John Swinney, Deputy First Minister, Scottish schools are aiming to reopen full-time with no physical distancing in August if Covid19 continues to be suppressed.

Staff will have an in-service day on Tuesday 11th August. School will have a soft start over the first 3 days, Wednesday 12th to Friday 14th, where groups of children will attend on certain days. Thereafter, all children will attend school from Monday 17th August starting at 9am each day as normal. We are still awaiting clarification for the return of Early Years children, Parents will be advised when we know more.

However, this return to school is conditional on the continued decline in Covid 19 cases, and may revert to the original "blended learning" information sent out to Ballantrae Parents mid June. Information will be sent to Parents in August, prior to children returning to school.

As we approach the summer holidays, I hope that the sun keeps on shining, and as lockdown begins to relax a little, we all are able to get out a little more and continue to stay healthy and well. I wish you all a warm, healthy and safe summer holiday.

Yvonne Templeton

Primary and Early Years Virtual Sports Bingo

During week commencing 8 June, children were given challenges each day; teabag challenge, jump for joy, wellie toss, target practice, long jump, under and over challenge etc. Parents posted pictures and results onto our (secure) Ballantrae Primary School Facebook page. It was good to see lots of families taking part – parents too!

Donna Ball



Ballantrae's VIRTUAL Festival of Food and Drink

On Saturday 13th June the first ever virtual Ballantrae Festival of Food and Drink (BFFD) was held as our live BFFD was postponed until 12 & 13 June 2021. We settled on holding this virtual festival in order to give support to the small, local, artisan food and drink businesses who have taken part in our festival over the years. Many of these businesses rely on a network of food festivals and markets for their livelihoods. Most of these events have been put off or cancelled this year due to the government measures to contain COVID-19. We felt that we must do something to help, so we invited our stallholders and demonstrators to partner with us to hold an entirely on-line, virtual festival to coincide with World Gin Day.

We repurposed our existing website (<https://ballantraefoodfest.com/>) and the BFFD Facebook page (@ballantraefoodfest) to promote a series of on-line events and a virtual food fair. On the day, we had fantastic contributions from forager Symon Szyszczakiewicz of Foragerium, Chris Saunders of The Gin Show who made gin-based cocktails, as did Craig from Pixel Spirits. Pure Roasters Coffee demoed how to brew an amazing coffee, The Co Co Company who showed us how to make chocolates and we had a brewery tour at the Five Kingdom's Brewery in Isle of Whithorn. We also hosted recipe demonstrations from John McCreadie of Glenapp Castle, David Alexander of Dunskey Estate, Lindsay Guidi of The Home Cook School and The Pakora Explorer. Ballantrae and Colmonell primary schools also gave a video of all the cookery done by the children during the lockdown.

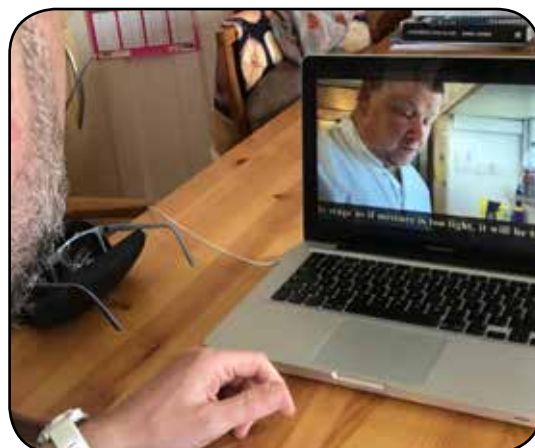
So far, we have had over 7,000 views of the videos, and nearly 6,000 hits on the website. The videos will remain available to view via the website and Facebook page.

Visitors to the website were also able to enjoy the delights of a virtual food fair featuring more than 20 stallholders, who showcased their produce. Everything from gin to fudge via pakoras and locally roasted coffee was available, in addition to chocolates, cheese, smoked products, fish, fruit wines, beer and cloutie dumplings. The virtual stalls will remain open for the foreseeable future.

In addition to these attractions, there was a quiz on the website. The winning entry was received from James Wilkin.

We really hope that this effort will have helped some of these small enterprises to stay afloat in these exceedingly difficult times.

The BFFD Team



News Snippets

Ballantrae in Bloom

The Ballantrae in Bloom AGM and committee meetings could not take place, therefore the annual competitions are off for 2020. But, there's no excuse for not having our gardens pristine with lovely weather and extra time on our hands. The baskets are ready to hang and village tubs will be planted. Many thanks to our volunteers. Please continue to "Love your Village."
Janette Sloan

Ballantrae Horticultural Society

The Ballantrae Horticultural Society will be having a table outside the community hall on August 15th where there will be flowers, vegetables and hopefully other donated items plants etc. There will be a honesty box for donations and the proceeds raised will go to charity.

We'll also be taking part in the Carrick Virtual Flower Show (closing date noon on 31 August). See advert.
Linden Hunt



Carrick Flower Show
Lockdown Special

We can't have a normal flower show this year due to the pandemic, so we are having a virtual flower show that you can enter from home using pictures.

Entries are **FREE** and all ages can take part. There are lots of categories, including **Baking, Photography Handicrafts, Fun Stuff like Plasticine/Clay creations, paintings, NHS rainbows, Painted Stones and more.**

For full details please visit:
wigweb.biz/flowershow

Ballantrae Bowling Club

Ballantrae Bowling Club opened the green on Monday 8 June to members. We are following government and Bowls Scotland guidelines to ensure the safety of our members who wish to enjoy a game of bowls as part of their exercise. If you are interested in joining the Bowling Club please contact me on 07917843135 for further information.
Anne McCulloch

Ballantrae Scouts Bake Off!



Ballantrae Medical Practice

We are trying to minimise footfall in the surgery therefore could we please ask that:

- Where possible you order medication and make appointments/enquiries by telephone. Medication can also be ordered online, if you would like to register let us know and we will post out forms for you.
- Stand back from the Dispensary hatch and reception at the lines indicated on the floor. For prescription collections we will place your bag on the shelf and we will stand back to allow you to step forward to lift it.
- Please do not linger at either reception or dispensary.
- For repeat medication please allow us 48 hours from the time of ordering until collection (if online ordering then it is 48 hours from the next working day i.e if you order on a Saturday it will be 48 hours from Monday).
- Only one person is allowed in the building at reception or dispensary at any time, please wait outside at the A - frame sign and the lines indicated along the path until the person has left.

For reception please call, Ballantrae - 01465 831302, Barrhill - 01465 821218, Dispensary 01465 831600. Open for calls and collection of prescriptions between 9am - 11am and 3pm-5pm.

Thank you for helping us all Stay Safe

Fiona Maclean

Red Squirrels

It is a pleasure to report that we have currently a very healthy population of red squirrels - a different story to 7 years ago when they were almost extinct. Our first year, helping the Ayrshire Rivers Trust project showed only a very few left in the area with the incursion of grey squirrels far greater than anyone had imagined. Control of this invasive species is unfortunately the only method to help the native red population.

Since project funding ended 6 years ago, we have continued, having inherited feeding boxes, and traps, with donations of maize and nuts from people whose land we operate on. The small grant we get from Ballantrae Community Council helps us immensely. We appreciate the support we get and it is said we have done good work. However it is very satisfying to see red squirrels back in woods where they have been absent for years. People out for a walk, if they are lucky, can see them around Glenapp Castle woods, Auchairne Road, Cosses area and on the back lane leading to Laggan Caravan Park where they were absent for about 8 years. We cover the whole area to the south of the River Stinchar to the boundaries with Glenapp (although we do the north part) out to Arecleoch and Heronsford. On the village side we cover Balnowlart's woods as far as the boundary with Knockdolian. It is unfortunate that certain estates do nothing to help. Glenapp and Dalreoch are helpful.

We have a secret agent working quietly and efficiently in the Tig Glen - the Pine Marten! Galway University discovered a few years ago that where Pine Martens lived, there were no grey squirrels and red squirrels are mostly ok as they could climb to places which the Martens couldn't reach. There are a few in this area.

Chris McCulloch and David Ollier



Photo credit: Andy McAlpine



Photo credit: Jan Jerome



Photo credit:

Richard Kosak

You can see more of Richard's photos on the "Ballantrae through a Lens" Facebook page