

# Ballantrae NEWS

## Contact Details

If you have an activity or event you would like publicised in the Ballantrae News, please email [RachelSymms@hotmail.com](mailto:RachelSymms@hotmail.com).

## Next Deadline Dates

Ballantrae News (February)  
January 17th for distribution in the middle of February.

Ballantrae News is funded by  
Ballantrae Community Fund

## Community Owned Kings Arms OPEN FOR BUSINESS

A lot has been happening at The King's Arms in recent months. We opened for the first time at weekends on 30 April. Since then we've extended our opening hours to 7 days, are now serving food 6 days a week and have installed a coffee machine so we can serve more than alcohol. We've decorated downstairs, installed a log burner in the lounge for the cold winter nights and installed new dartboards and a new pool table in the games / meeting room.

Mark Emond our manager and his team, with our volunteers working in the background, have done an outstanding job to get us to this stage. We held a "thank you" evening for those volunteers in mid-August, a well-attended "family day" on 14 August and an "inaugural Sunday roast" the following day. During the first 34 days of service (excluding Tuesdays when the kitchen is closed) Mark and his team served 1554 meals - an average of 46 per day. Quite an achievement.

Opening the King's Arms under community ownership has meant that we have been able to create new jobs - mainly for local people. Although our manager, chef, bar staff and cleaner are paid members of staff, they are supported by a team

of volunteers who have been working hard in the background, upgrading and maintaining the property inside and out, doing the book-keeping, exploring sources of funding and publicising what The King's Arms has to offer. If you have skills you could offer and would like to join the volunteer team, then Sue Macdougall (07737280163) our Volunteer Coordinator would be pleased to hear from you.

As a result of the share offer, over 220 people have so far invested more than £62,000 to help secure the future of The King's Arms. This means that we have surpassed our initial fund-raising target of £35,000 but we still have a way to go to reach our upper target of £130,000. All of the share certificates have been hand delivered or posted out. If you applied to invest but haven't received your share offer certificate yet, please get in touch with us. If you are already an investor, please consider increasing your shareholding if you can. We will also be pleased to welcome new investors if you know of someone who is interested. Our contact details can be found below.



We have started to make the detailed arrangements for our first AGM (likely to be November), at which the Inaugural Management Committee will stand down. Only members (ie shareholders) of Ballantrae Community Pub Ltd can attend and vote at the AGM. We are encouraged to have received applications from a number of shareholders who are interested in joining the new Management Committee. The new committee will comprise up to 12 members with "Community Members" i.e. people ordinarily living within the Ballantrae Community Council area, comprising more than half of the total number of Directors on the committee. This is to ensure that the King's Arms remains under the control of the local community.

You can follow our journey on our website; [www.kingsarmsballantrae.co.uk](http://www.kingsarmsballantrae.co.uk) on our Facebook page; **The King's Arms Community Hub and Pub** or contact us by email at; [info@kingsarmsballantrae.co.uk](mailto:info@kingsarmsballantrae.co.uk).

**NEW KING'S ARMS TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR BOOKINGS : 01465 757060**

We hope to see you in the King's Arms sometime soon!

Andy McAlpine  
Inaugural Management Committee  
Ballantrae Community Pub Ltd



# Setting the Scene for Becoming a Biosphere Community



The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere covers a region of over 5000sq kms, comprising a biologically diverse and unique range of habitats including mountain, river catchments, coastal, lochs, peat bog, woodland and grasslands to name a few. Nestled amongst this vast area are a number of communities ranging in size from towns to tiny hamlets, some of whom have chosen to become 'Biosphere Communities', such as St John's Town of Dalry, Glentroot, Whithorn and Gatehouse of Fleet. It is now hoped that Ballantrae will also become a Biosphere Community.

So what is a Biosphere Community? Well, let's start with 'what is a UNESCO Biosphere?' A Biosphere is an international designation given by UNESCO (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) in recognition of the fantastic array of landscapes, wildlife, cultural heritage and learning opportunities that an area offers for communities, businesses and visitors to experience and celebrate in a sustainable way. It is an incredibly special and prestigious designation, there are only 727 Biosphere Reserves in the world. Scotland has two; Galloway & Southern Ayrshire, which was designated in 2012 and Wester Ross which followed thereafter. UNESCO Biospheres are areas where communities, and everything that supports them such as work, food production and waste management, are all conducted in a way that is sustainable for the environment.

The Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere combines protection of important habitats and biodiversity with climate change

mitigation and sustainable development of communities, all rolled into one amazing corner of Southwest Scotland.

Working through the GSA Biosphere team, it is possible for Communities and Businesses to make a commitment to protecting and living sustainably within our Biosphere by signing

and share with visitors the special values of their community that make it a Biosphere destination. The Biosphere status brings opportunity to brand and market the businesses and communities of SW Scotland under the international banner of being a UNESCO Biosphere, an opportunity that can help make us stand out from the rest of the crowd! Biosphere Communities are further promoted through the GSAB social media and website.

For communities, the process involves a series of short workshops towards becoming a Biosphere Community. Being a Biosphere Community demonstrates the commitment of the community to upholding the ethos of living collaboratively with the environment surrounding us and to protecting its unique characteristics, habitats and species.

To hear more and be part of Ballantrae becoming a Biosphere Community, please come along to our workshop on Tuesday 16th November in the Kings Arms. Places will be limited so please contact [jenna@gsabiosphere.org.uk](mailto:jenna@gsabiosphere.org.uk) or 07436 030223 to register.



up to become Biosphere Communities and Biosphere Certification Marked Businesses. Becoming a Biosphere Community is an opportunity for communities to demonstrate



## Ballantrae's PLACE in the Biosphere

The Ballantrae Trust and Community Council have been a part of the Stinchar Valley element of this National Lottery Heritage Fund great places scheme for a number of years. Working with the communities in the Stinchar Valley, the PLACE in the Biosphere staff encouraged us to think hard about what is special about the valley and the various communities within it. As well as each community getting something unique from it - in Ballantrae's case it was an opportunity to find out more about the geology of our coastline, tell the story of Friar Hew of Ardstinchar, to explore what Ardstinchar Castle might have looked like around 500 years ago and to replace the interpretation panel at the castle. But the project also encouraged discussion and cooperation between the communities resulting in a lasting legacy involving a better understanding of what's important to the communities individually and collectively. There were lots of really useful outcomes - one was an updated version of the Stinchar Valley walks leaflet. Our thanks go to the project staff who encouraged and challenged our thinking throughout the project and to the funders who made it possible.



by Andy McAlpine

# Ballantrae Primary School and Early Years Centre

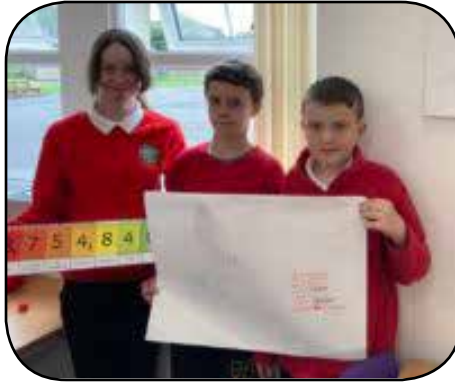
In August, we warmly welcomed back Ballantrae Primary school and Early Years for session 2021/22. All our children have settled back in to school life well and enjoying their new year stage.

We now enter our third year affected by Covid 19. Parents have received information from school about what to do if their child/ren have symptoms i.e. isolate and test. There is no longer an expectation of whole class isolation but instead, parents will be informed if Covid19 is present in their child's class. Our children take all the mitigations in their stride, from handwashing to face coverings (where required). Staff continue to ensure the safety of our children and each other.

During this term the children have continued to build their skills in Language and Literacy; Numeracy and Maths; Religious and Moral; Health and Wellbeing; Art & Design; Gaelic; Global Goals; Learning for Sustainability and Science. We are all kept busy and active!

Let's all hope, as Covid mitigations allow, that we can allow Ballantrae Community into the school again. We have missed being able to host some of the wider community events.

Yvonne Templeton  
Head Teacher



**Ballantrae  
Youth Club**  
has re-opened!

Wednesdays  
6pm - 8.30pm  
Community Hall  
10 - 14 year olds



**Kings Arms  
Community  
Share Offer**



If you live in Ballantrae and missed out on the Kings Arms Share Offer earlier this year, you can still buy shares in your own local pub!

Minimum shareholding £25 (for 25 x £1 shares)

For more information contact  
[andy@kingsarmsballantrae.co.uk](mailto:andy@kingsarmsballantrae.co.uk)

# Ballantrae Library

The Hall, Ballantrae KA26 0NB  
T: 01465 831 521

Customers are welcome to visit the library to browse and choose their own books.

**Monday** 4pm – 7pm  
**Tuesday** 3pm – 5pm  
**Wednesday** Closed  
**Thursday** 10am – 12noon  
**Friday** 10am – 12noon

PC Access: Ballantrae Library has PCs for public access. In order to ensure your slot, you can contact the library directly by phone, or book a PC online by visiting <http://netloan.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/netloan>. Please note, to use our PCs you will need a valid South Ayrshire Library card number and PIN. If you live, work or study in South Ayrshire and you don't yet have a library card you can join online or by contacting the library direct.



Instant Access to ebooks, audiobooks, newspapers and magazines. Check out up to 6 ebooks or audiobooks and enjoy unlimited access to your favourite newspapers and magazines – completely free!

Visit the 'What's on in libraries' section of our website for dates and times of our online events and discover what else we have to offer - [www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/libraries)



There will be no door to door collecting in Ballantrae village, however posters will be appearing locally and collection tins will be in the shops. Please give generously to this important charity.

## Ballantrae Church



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to let you all know that our church services are now very similar to how they were pre pandemic. Everyone is welcome to come and join us at 11.30 am on a Sunday for worship. We have reintroduced hymn singing, but there is still a requirement to wear a face mask, unless exempt.

We have recently begun to hold coffee mornings in the Kings Arms on a Tuesday from 10-30 until 12. These provide an informal opportunity to catch up with others and meet people from the village. There has been a lovely atmosphere so far and the coffee and home baking come highly recommended.

Our monthly services at Glenapp Church will recommence in October. The service is generally more traditional and is held at 3pm on the first Sunday in the month.

We look forward to welcoming you at our services.

Every blessing,  
Rev'd Theo Corney

## Ballantrae Bowling Club

Ballantrae Bowling Club held a closing pairs competition on Saturday 25 September. The tournament was kindly sponsored by SMC, we also received donation from Scotmid to provide the lunch for the players. The winners were Gary Richardson and Ritchie Doak.

We also announced the winners for club games throughout the season. Ladies Championship went to Fay Agnew, Gents Championship went to Sandy Wilson.



## Ballantrae Community Association

Hello Everyone,

We recently held the Community Association AGM. Laura Cunningham and Stacey Stewart stepped down from their roles on the board and new office bearers were elected. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Laura and Stacey for all their hard work for the Ballantrae community. The new office bearers are - I (Rebecca Agnew) am the new chairperson, Louise Ferguson is the new vice chairperson, and the new treasurer is Paula Sandford-Marsh. John Thorburn will remain in his role as secretary. We are working hard to get the hall reopened for all groups and events. It's an exciting time and we can't wait for all the groups to be welcomed safely back into the hall - hopefully, it won't be too much longer. If you have any enquiries about the hall, please do not hesitate to contact me by email ([rjgreen93@gmail.com](mailto:rjgreen93@gmail.com)).

by Rebecca Agnew

# Ballantrae Dippers

Last year Debbie Macpherson suggested that she and I did a Boxing Day dip. As we spoke to others about this, interest grew and other people wanted to join in. Anna Kosak suggested we set up a Just Giving page and we chose MND Scotland after my dad's diagnosis that January. We raised over £2000 for the charity. Because of the restrictions last year we ended up dipping on Christmas morning and 13 people took part. The support from the locality was amazing and many people came to watch.

From this Debbie Macpherson had the idea of having a dip all year round. So the Facebook group Debbie's Daft Dinners was created. We had our very first dip with no wetsuits on the 28th of February 2021. First dip was Debbie, Rebecca, Sharon McCann and myself. It was so cold and we only stayed in 3 minutes but we all felt amazing afterwards. From this the addiction grew and so did the Dippers! Some freezing cold mornings Rebecca Agnew and I would meet at 6am for a quick walk to Big Park and then end the walk with a quick 7am dip! Debbie was the driving force behind this and although her shifts at work sometimes prevented her from joining us in the morning, we would sometimes do another in the evening. Big waves days are our favourite, along with being in the water when the sun is setting. It is so beautiful. We have had a few young ones coming in to join us sometimes. They all loved it and some have been quite a few times. Some girls from Girvan also come to Ballantrae for the dips.

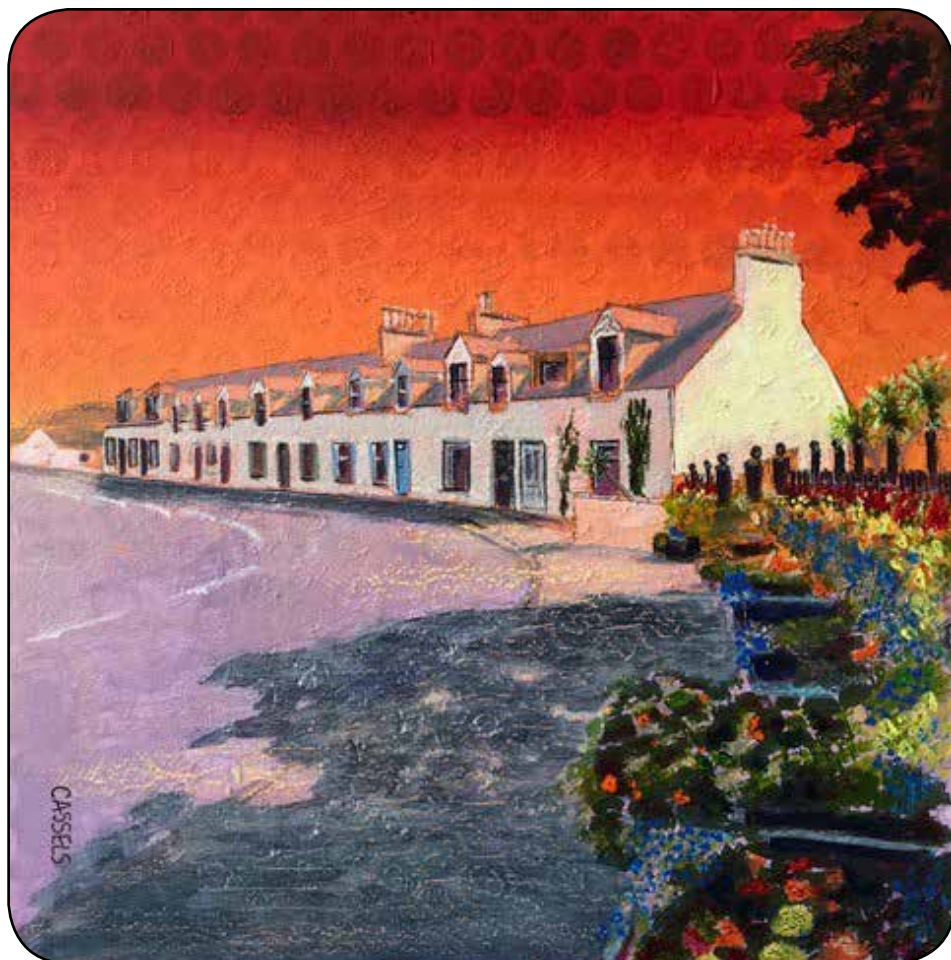
The health benefits from cold water dipping or swimming are worth it. It helps with mental health as well and physical health. When you are in that water on the cold days you are only thinking of what you are doing in the moment. If you have had a stressful day, you feel better after a dip. This wee group has forged friendships also. As jellyfish season came in most of us invested in a wetsuit. Not too expensive from Amazon! The wetsuits help you to stay in longer but you still get the benefits of the cold water.

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 or to go past your ankles if you prefer.

*by Sharon Robertson*



# New Art Gallery in Ballantrae!



Studio74 is an Open Studio and Gallery that opened in Ballantrae at the end of April 2021, featuring the work of Scottish Artist, Debbie Cassels.

The gallery is on two floors with over fifty original paintings of various styles and sizes with an emphasis on local land and seascapes. Much of Debbie's work features Harris Tweed and other forms of collage. Her use of bleach and ink as a medium provides a number of very striking original pieces.

The studio is on the mezzanine floor with open views across to the sea and the mouth of the River Stinchar. Visitors have the opportunity to see Debbie working in this wonderful and stimulating environment.

Greeting cards based on Debbie's original art work are also for sale together with a range of unframed originals.

Following a very successful and busy summer, Studio74 is now opening reduced hours during Autumn. Opening times will be the last weekend in the month, with a pre-Christmas 'not-to-be-missed' sale in November to make way for new pieces in 2022.

#### Autumn Opening Times:

October Fri 29th – Sun 31st

November Fri 26th – Sun 28th  
10am – 4pm

Please note that if you wish to visit outwith these times, we will do our best to accommodate you.

#### Contact details:

74 Main Street, Ballantrae, KA26 0NB

07862 063559

Facebook; Studio Seventy Four

email; [studio74ballantrae@gmail.com](mailto:studio74ballantrae@gmail.com)



## The National Cyber Security Centre's Suspicious Email Reporting Service

The Suspicious Email Reporting Tool (SERS) was launched by the NCSC in 2020 to allow members of the public to report suspicious emails. The public have reported over 6 million suspect emails to the NCSC in this time. As of 30th September 2021, the number of reports received stands at more than 7,700,000, with 119,000 individual URLs linked to 64,000 sites having been removed.

Please forward any suspicious emails to: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). Suspicious text messages should be forwarded free of charge to 7726.

# Ballantrae: Becoming a Biosphere Community

Tuesday 16 November  
7 - 9pm  
The Kings Arms

You are warmly invited to attend an interactive workshop where we aim to gather local knowledge about Ballantrae & discuss becoming a Biosphere Community.

At this informal gathering we will explore what makes the village special to the people who live here, including...

- Local heritage
- Wildlife & landscapes
- Local produce

...and much more!



Attendees welcome on the day or contact: [jenna@gsabiosphere.org.uk](mailto:jenna@gsabiosphere.org.uk)



OPEN STUDIO & GALLERY  
74 MAIN STREET,  
BALLANTRAE, KA26 0NB

**STUDIO**  
SEVENTY FOUR

ORIGINAL, CONTEMPORARY  
VISUAL ARTWORK BY  
DEBBIE CASSELS

AUTUMN OPENING  
WEEKENDS  
August Fri 27<sup>th</sup> – Sun 29<sup>th</sup>  
September Fri 24<sup>th</sup> – Sun 26<sup>th</sup>  
October Fri 29<sup>th</sup> – Sun 31<sup>st</sup>  
November Fri 26<sup>th</sup> – Sun 28<sup>th</sup>  
10am to 4pm



CHRISTMAS SALE!  
Last weekend in November:  
Fri 26<sup>th</sup> – Sun 28<sup>th</sup>  
10am to 4pm  
Put it in your diary!

NEW AUTUMN TIMES – LAST WEEKEND OF THE MONTH



[studio74ballantrae@gmail.com](mailto:studio74ballantrae@gmail.com)  
07862 063559

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

# News Snippets

## Ballantrae in Bloom

We know everyone has derived pleasure from the containers & baskets this year. Lots of irrigation required! The group are delighted Rev. Theo has joined us as Secretary. We held a mini AGM, saying goodbye and thanks to Lynne Nield. No competitions this year due to pandemic restrictions. We hope to resume them in 2022. Meanwhile, continue to keep your 'own patch' neat and tidy and Love your Village!

Janette Sloan (Chair)

## Ballantrae collects donations for Afghan Refugees

Once again, the villages of Ballantrae and Colmonell have shown their generosity and compassion by donating clothing, bedding and toys to the refugees fleeing Afghanistan. A van load of donations was delivered last week to South Ayrshire Council, who are working to resettle three families, with perhaps more to come in the future. Your kind gifts will help to keep many a wean warm this winter!

## BRICC

A generous customer of the Thrift shop, Irene Threlfall, kindly donated a magnificent home made cake with a photo image of Rosemary inside the shop printed onto the icing. It was decided that this would make an appropriate first prize in the BRICC summer raffle. The lucky winner was Margaret Marshall, formerly of Mains of Tig. The second prize of a bottle of malt whisky was won by Margaret Haldane and the third prize of whisky was won by Jean Dunlop. Over £700 was raised. Rosemary and her team of volunteers extend their grateful thanks to everyone who bought a ticket and made the raffle such a success.



## Mr Ls Couch to 5K

In memory of our good friend Michael Laverty the much loved school janny. 12 weeks of training Monday Wednesday & Friday a free event for all



## BALLANTRAE COMMUNITY FUND

### Announcement of 2022 dates

Application closing date 7th March - decision May  
Application closing date 5th September - decision November

Grants of between £500 and £10,000 are available for community groups and projects that support the community of Ballantrae.

Application form and guidance can be found at  
[www.foundationscotland.org.uk](http://www.foundationscotland.org.uk)  
e-mail [clare@foundationscotland.org.uk](mailto:clare@foundationscotland.org.uk)  
telephone 07554 709542

OVER £140,000  
HAS BEEN DISTRIBUTED  
TO THE COMMUNITY GROUPS  
OF BALLANTRAE, WITH 23  
GRANTS AWARDED  
IN THE PAST  
THREE YEARS

**Congratulations** to Sharon Robertson for her fantastic picture (below) which recently featured on the cover of Showcase Scotland.

