

Ballantrae NEWS

The Ballantrae Trust Update

I hope that everyone has been keeping well and coping during lockdown. Although the Trust hasn't been able to do many of the things we've wanted to do, an enormous amount of work has been taking place behind the scenes.

As reported in the last Ballantrae News, we had secured funding to take the next step to purchasing the Kings Arms Hotel for the community. Since the last news, we have made an offer, which Brian and Suzanne accepted (see below).

“The Ballantrae Trust is delighted to announce that Brian and Suzanne Stirling have agreed to sell the Kings Arms to the Trust. Due to the current economic climate, the total amount the Trust was able to raise was less than we had hoped, but Brian, Suzanne, and the family, wanted The Kings Arms “to remain a pub for the village”, and they have accepted what we were eventually able to offer, so we want to thank them for helping us to make this happen.”

At the time of writing this, we are hoping that the purchase will be finalised within the next week.



Next Steps...

We hope to be open for the groups who use the pub regularly, so although the hours will be reduced, we will try to accommodate everyone who has been missing their get togethers, but all done with social distancing of course! Opening times, to be advised, we will try to get them on the notice boards and online. However, please note that due to Covid facilities will be limited for the time

being, and initially the kitchen will be shut. We hope to start recruiting for a manager/management couple who will work towards

getting the pub fully functioning again, including meals.

We also want your thoughts and ideas about what you think the Kings Arms should look like. We are going to be circulating a questionnaire to get your opinions. Don't hold back, tell us what you think, even if you think the idea is totally 'out there', we still want to hear it.

As a Community Pub, it was always intended

that everyone in the village should be able to have a stake in the pub and it's use. With this in mind, we have applied to the Financial Services Authority to create a BenCom. This is a Community Benefit share scheme, in which everyone can invest in the revitalisation of the Kings Arms. This allows each shareholder (no matter how much or little you invest) an equal say in how the Kings Arms is run, as well as providing funds for its future development. Please look out for the Prospectus which will be available online, leaflets that will be available locally and, in the Kings Arms, itself.

The Trust is always looking for members to join and/or become a Board Member as will the BenCom, so, if you are interested, please let me know. You can give me a call or drop me a message through Facebook or our website and we can have a chat. Alternatively, you can speak to any of the other Board members who will be more than happy to chat with you about joining. I am delighted to say that in the last few weeks, we have been offered support from so many people in the community which gives us great hope for how we see the pub being the hub of the community of Ballantrae. Thank you to everyone who has supported this, without you we couldn't have made it this far.

Carol Bell,

The Ballantrae Trust

01465 831 489

Kings Arms Hotel Ballantrae

After 16 years of being in the hotel, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our customers for their continued support. We have enjoyed many good times with you all and will look back on our time here fondly. We would also like to extend our best wishes to the Trust on their new venture.

All the best

Brian, Suzy, Vicky, Sammy & Chelsea

Ballantrae and District Horticultural Society

I would like to thank everyone who donated and purchased from the table top sale held by the Horticultural Society on 15th August. I'm pleased to tell you all the grand total from the table top sale and very generous donations on the day amounted to £855.40 in aid of a memorial bench for Tricia McIlwraith. What a wonderful wee village this is! It shows how much Tricia was liked in this village and around. Thank you all very much.

Linden Hunt

In addition, Tina Boyd, Tricia's sister said:

"Just a quick update on the collection for Tricia's memorial bench! To date there has been £1615 raised including the £855.40 that was kindly donated from the Ballantrae Horticultural Society table top sale in August. I would like to say a massive thank you to all who donated and to let you all know all how much your generosity is appreciated! We are currently working on designs for the bench and we will update you again soon! Thank you all once again."

Stinchar Valley Photography Group

When lockdown was announced we were confident of being able to meet as a group before the end of summer, however as I write this in early September, we are still not able to meet - sadly if anything the prospect seems to be getting farther away. I am sure we are all missing our get togethers, I know I am. The summer has gone, and we can only hope for lots of new images to view when we are finally able to meet again. Perhaps our members were out during lockdown, when we maybe had more time? The glorious weather certainly leant itself to photography. In the meantime all we can do is keep taking photos, while of course sticking to the ever-changing restrictions. If anyone would like to be included in our updates, please contact Karen on 01465 831717, and check out our Facebook page.



Photo Credit: Anthony Hills

Heather O'Hare

Ballantrae Church

Dear friends,

I hope that this magazine finds you well. It has been good to enjoy some better weather over the last few weeks and we have much to be thankful for living in an area with such lovely views.

We have also seen some lifting of restrictions in place to prevent the spread of Covid 19, which has enabled many people to finally catch up in person with friends and family members.

Since the last magazine we have been able to re-open our parish churches for worship. This has been a positive move forward, although we are having to do things differently at this time. Strict social distancing is in place as well as the use of hand sanitizer and face masks. No hymns can be sung as yet, and there is to be no socialising inside. We opened our buildings for the first week and reflected on Psalm 122. In this Psalm, the author is glad to be going to the house of the Lord to worship. The Psalm was used by pilgrims as they approached Jerusalem to worship at the great festivals of God. We were glad too to be able to worship again in familiar surroundings along with fellow Christians. A lot of hard work goes into the necessary cleaning and stewarding duties that need to take place and I am very grateful to those who have been offering their time to help with this.

For the time being we need to pray for the future and consider how things might be when restrictions are lifted further. As a church and nation, we face uncertain times. We must remember that God knows what the future holds and will accompany us into it.

May we thank God for what we have and be positive for the days ahead.

Every blessing
Rev'd Theo Corney

Ballantrae Bowling Club News and Update

On Saturday 1 August we managed to hold a club game with COVID19 restrictions in place. This event was sponsored by SMC Plastering. Winners of the day were Jack McCulloch and Kenny Balfour. Runners up were Scott Agnew and Billy Lyle. We will be holding our AGM on Sunday 31 January at 2pm in the clubhouse and would ask that all members attend to give their input into the Committee selected and next year's programme. It has been a difficult season but we are looking forward to 2021 being a year to get back onto the green.



Anne McCulloch



Ballantrae Scout Group



As a very active Scout group the past few months has been a very strange experience! Back in March everything changed overnight. We had to cancel all meetings, not knowing when we might be able to see our Scouting family again. The summer was supposed to have been a time of adventure for every section with a Scout camp in Durham, a Cub camp at Lochgoilhead, Beaver sleepover at Blair Drummond Safari Park and a leader only camp at Scoutfest at Fordell Firs. It became painfully obvious that these fantastic opportunities were not going to be able to go ahead, not only this but our biggest fundraisers (a mud run and an abseil off the Falkirk Wheel) were also quickly cancelled.

But we are 2nd Ayrshire (Ballantrae) Scouts and you can't keep us down! We might not have been able to meet but we sure found a way to Scout!

Between March and September we moved our Scouting online, we had family quiz nights, cook-offs, and even had a few online camps! We found ways to show our support to the heroes in our communities by making posters and videos, we celebrated VE Day with stay at home street parties and even had fun compiling our own videos! We (the leaders) could not be any prouder of all of the achievements of the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts during lockdown, and we are all so very grateful to the parents who suddenly found themselves with the additional roles of Teacher and Scout Leader!



In August we were granted permission to re-start our meetings. There were some adjustments to be made to ensure that our whole Scout family could get back together safely but we did it! We are now back to meeting every Tuesday (in term time). The Beavers and Scouts have enjoyed being back together at the beach around the campfire cooking something tasty and negotiating a blindfolded maze. the Cubs could be found



exploring the glen and the grounds at Glenapp Castle, finding and identifying all of the wonderful critters and plants, and stopping off for a well earned hot chocolate from the Kelly Kettle!

The Scout Group has not only been able to get back together but we have been privileged to welcome so many new members into our Scout family, in fact some sections have doubled their numbers! We would love to continue to make all of our fun and adventures accessible to everyone, but our growing numbers mean that we need more adults to come and join the fun too!

If you would like to come and see what we are all about you can message us through our Facebook page: Ballantrae 2nd Ayrshire Scout Group and don't forget to check out our Scout, Leader and ever popular toilet roll pass videos! You can find them at:

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=663618984556816&extid=JYumJY-WqB8uTXcTa>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=747437039157649&extid=jjRADw-gaulrKlySV>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1174483912898453&extid=O4Y-HEXtIaAwSpInF>



Charlotte Whitehurst

Ballantrae Medical Practice Update

We are still trying to minimise the footfall in the surgery so can we please ask that where possible all appointments / enquiries and repeat prescription requests are made by telephone.

We also now kindly request that face coverings are worn when coming to the surgery, either for an appointment or to collect a prescription. Social distancing and hand hygiene rules remain in place. **Please also note that for repeat medication please allow 48 hours from the time of ordering until collection.**

Thank you to all our patients for your continued understanding.

Flu Clinics

We are in the process of finalising the dates for this year's flu clinics. Once the dates are confirmed, all those eligible for this vaccine will receive an invitation letter asking them to telephone the surgery to make an appointment. Please note that you must bring your invitation letter with you when attending your appointment.

Resumption of services

The following services have now resumed:

- Outpatient appointments (these may be done via telephone / video call)
- Some endoscopy services including colonoscopy
- Cervical Screening (non-routine only)
- Breast Screening (priority to those invited prior to the pause in services)

There are new procedures in place when attending out-patient clinics but you will be advised of these prior to any appointment.



Wash your hands.



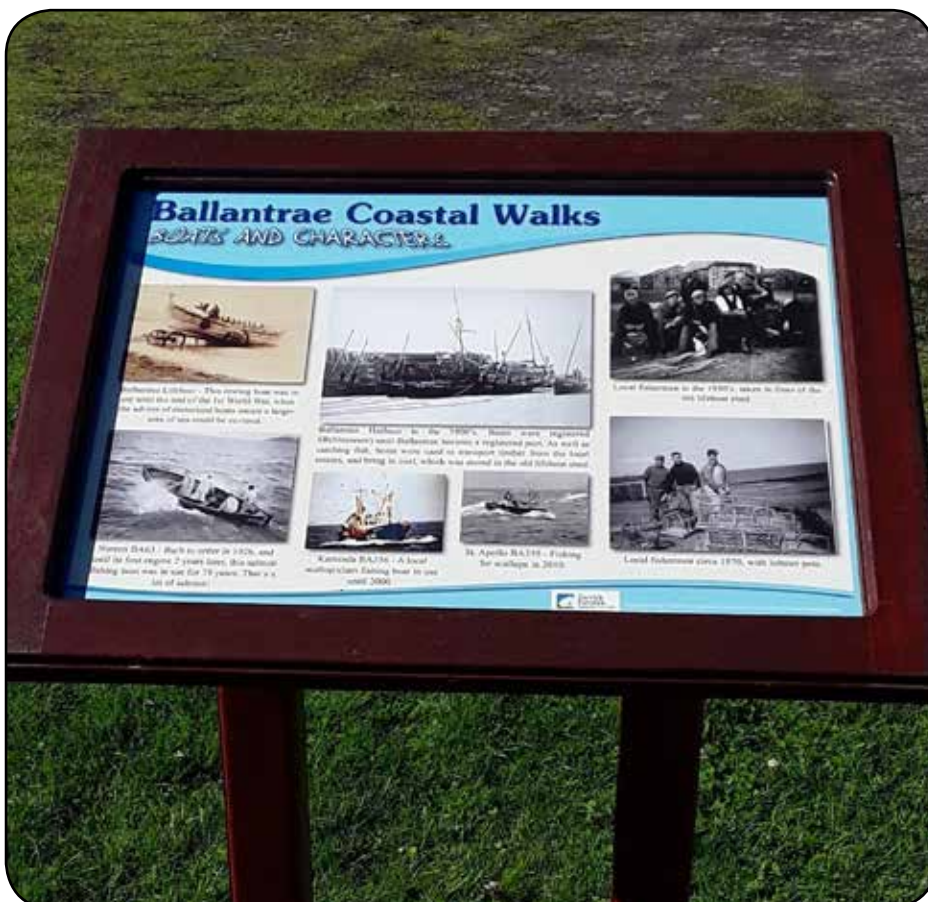
Use a tissue for coughs and sneezes.



Avoid touching your face.

www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus

Tanya Orr



Ballantrae in Bloom

2020 has been a difficult year for all village groups and Ballantrae in Bloom has not been the exception. We were unable to hold our annual garden completion which would normally take place during July. All being well we plan to continue next year. The council have done us proud this year with a great display at the Churchyard and thanks to Rosemary's watering regime they are continuing to look really good. Despite lockdown Ballantrae in Bloom and Rosemary have managed to fill the remaining village planters. Cathy Thorburn has very kindly repainted the seat at the war memorial and we plan to smarten up the one at the top of Church Street.

I am pleased to report that the 4 information boards on the Foreland have now been replaced. We were able to do this through funds obtained from Carrick Futures. They look very smart and hopefully will remain so for many years to come.

Lynn Nield

Ballantrae Primary School and Early Years Centre

We welcomed back all of our pupils to school and Early Years back in August. It has been wonderful to see everyone back healthy and well. Our children are now coming to the end of their first full term in school since March 2020, and all have settled in exceptionally well. We are all adapting as best as we can to the changes that we face at this uncertain time. Teachers and other school staff have been delighted to see their classes, and children are enthusiastic and happy to be back in school. Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing remain strong focuses within the school and the children and staff are making the most of Outdoor Learning both within school and in our local community.

In school, we continue to follow guidance from both Scottish Government and South Ayrshire Council. Children regularly hand wash and have staggered breaks and lunchtimes. This session we are encouraging our children to take part in a healthy mid-morning snack. This is going well and the majority of children are taking this.

Clare Sloan



Early Years



P1 - 3 Outdoor Learning



P4 - 5 Maths



Early Years



P 6 - 7 Outdoor Learning



P 6 - 7 Gaelic



P1 - 3 Writing Table



Junior Road Safety Officer Handover

Ballantrae Geology and Poetry

Stuart Graham received a “Highly Commended Poetry Award” in the Hugh Miller Writing Competition. In this extract from an article he wrote for Scottish Natural Heritage (now Nature Scot) he talked about geology and the rock formations around Ballantrae.

“In these uncertain times we often look for havens that promise long-term stability. Our wilder landscapes, for example, can seem permanent and resistant to change.

Working from home during lockdown, I have

taken comfort in my view of our local hill Criffel, made from reassuringly strong granite. It was named by the Vikings and, while the native woodland clothing its sides has vanished, has not changed noticeably in shape or form since mankind first set foot in Scotland.

With just a little knowledge and imagination however, our seemingly static landscapes can erupt into life and personally I see many Scottish landscapes as wildly dynamic. In South Ayrshire at Ballantrae, you can see the muds that lay on the ocean floor between Scotland and England now stacked like a deck of cards and crumpled into mountains as the ocean crust was pushed up onto the earth’s surface.

For me however, it is the deep time of Lewisian Gneiss that signifies true stability. A quarter the age of the earth, it has rested deep in the crust with only an occasional episode disturbing it from its long sleep.

When I saw the Hugh Miller Writing Competition call for submissions on a geological theme earlier this year I saw an opportunity to combine two of my interests to celebrate the legacy of Hugh Miller – Cromarty’s pioneering geologist and poet of the early 19th century – and raise the profile of Scotland’s outstanding geology and landscapes through poetry.” Here is one of Stuart’s three submissions entitled “Ballantrae”.

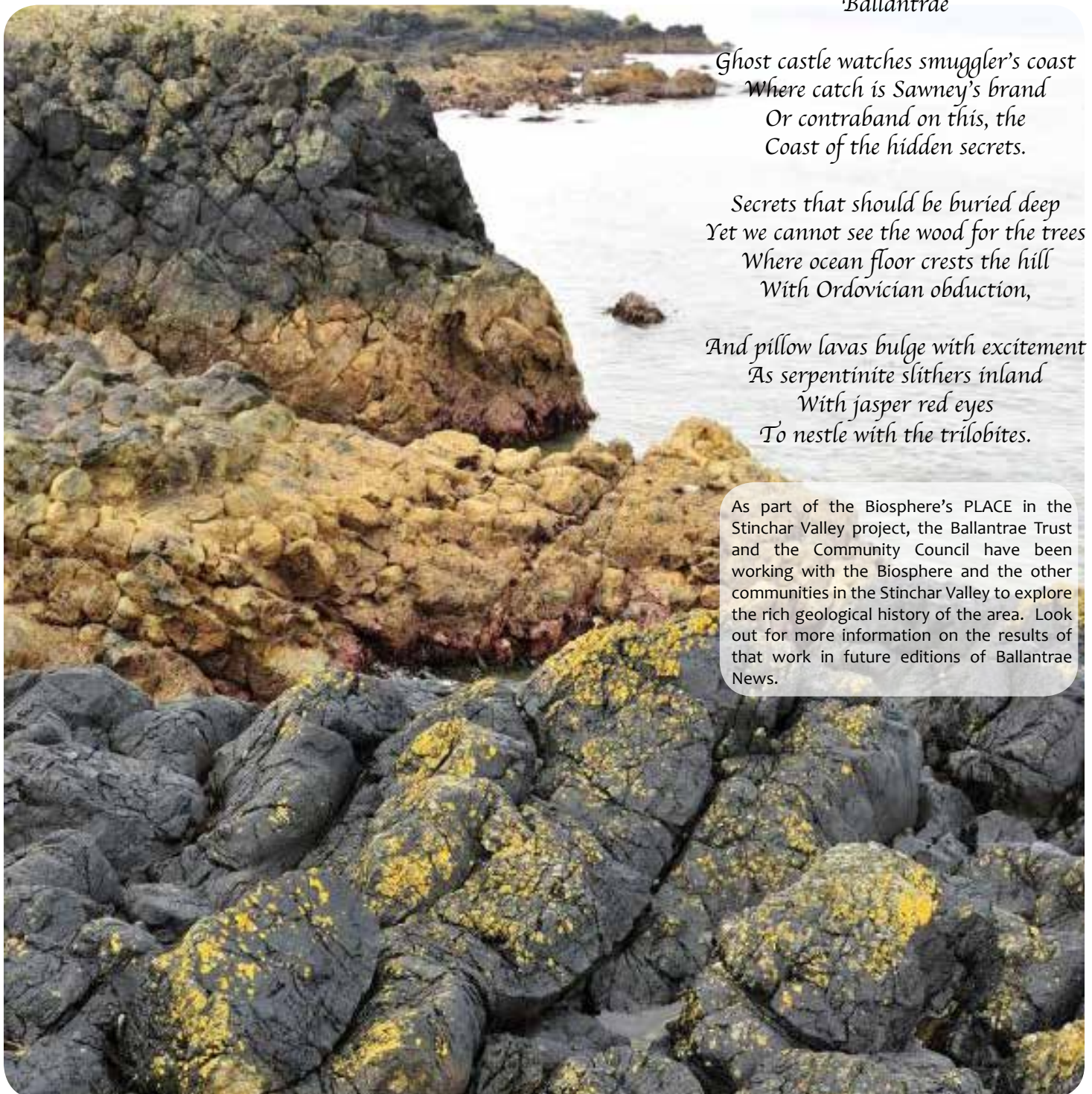
Ballantrae

*Ghost castle watches smuggler’s coast
Where catch is Sawney’s brand
Or contraband on this, the
Coast of the hidden secrets.*

*Secrets that should be buried deep
Yet we cannot see the wood for the trees
Where ocean floor crests the hill
With Ordovician obduction,*

*And pillow lavas bulge with excitement
As serpentinite slithers inland
With jasper red eyes
To nestle with the trilobites.*

As part of the Biosphere’s PLACE in the Stinchar Valley project, the Ballantrae Trust and the Community Council have been working with the Biosphere and the other communities in the Stinchar Valley to explore the rich geological history of the area. Look out for more information on the results of that work in future editions of Ballantrae News.





Shellknowe Garage Main Street Ballantrae

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repairs.

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shellknowegarage@gmail.com

Shellknowe Garage

As well as being fully back up and running again with our staff back off furlough and abiding by Scottish Government Covid-19 advice on social distancing, we have started to stock some hardware items and are always open to suggestions of what people find they need but can't currently buy in the village.

Sharon and Robert Adams

Ballantrae Coastguard

With the easing of lockdown we saw an increase in 999 calls made to the Coastguard. Working with other Search and Rescue units, Police, Fire and Ambulance we have attended calls for help ranging from missing persons, inflatables drifting out to sea and ordnance washed up on the beach.

This year has been a busy year for the volunteers of Ballantrae Coastguard with 34 callouts to date made up of 4 ordnance, 10 missing persons, 3 vessels in distress, 3 suspicious objects on or near the water, 10 water rescues and 4 persons in distress.

This year has also seen the launch of What3words which has been a great help for the emergency services. It is a free app for your phone that breaks the UK into 3 metre squares that are identified by 3 unique words. When calling 999, giving these 3 words helps emergency services find your location quickly and easily.

In a coastal emergency call 999 and ask for the Coastguard.

John Cowieson



There was an increase in scams during lockdown. It's more important than ever to make sure that we stay "Scam Aware" and that we share information about scams with vulnerable relatives or friends.

Kilt Walk

Congratulations to Wendy McKechnan, Fiona Stevenson and Lynne Hyslop who took part in the Kiltwalk recently walking 29 miles locally to raise £1000 for MND Scotland (Motor Neurone Disease).



Support for Ballantrae Businesses

During the Covid-19 crisis the Ballantrae Trust has continued to support 21 local businesses by providing advice and up-to-date information from our partners and other contacts. This included daily updates from the Scottish Government (now three times a week), information from South Ayrshire Council's Economy and Regeneration Team, and updates from VisitScotland for tourism businesses. If you run a business in Ballantrae and don't already receive these updates but would like to in future, please drop an email to andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com.

Ardstinchar Castle as you've never seen it before!

The Ballantrae Trust and the Ballantrae Community Council working with the Biosphere PLACE in the Stinchar Valley project, have used aerial filming to create a virtual impression of the castle over 400 years ago with view points from the war memorial and bridge, sliding images of now and then, as well as a 3D image of the remains of the castle today (see image right). The virtual castle was created with research undertaken by Andrew Spratt and Jean Brittain. Take a look at: <https://www.fearannalba.co.uk/feardstinchar/>

Ballantrae News is funded by Ballantrae Community Fund



Scam Share Top Covid-19 Scams in Scotland

- Travel**: Issues obtaining refunds/cancellations and booking scams
- HMRC Messages**: Fake Government emails/texts offering grants or tax refunds
- Events**: Issues obtaining refunds/cancellations for bookings
- Fake Websites**: Selling products which are never delivered
- Business Grants**: Fake Government emails offering business grants
- Contact Tracing**: Scammers posing as contact tracers to obtain consumer's details
- Price Gouging**: Retailers inflating prices of in-demand products
- Fake PPE**: Counterfeit face masks and PPE which doesn't offer the advertised protection
- Doorstep Scams**: Cold callers offering overpriced or unnecessary services

Report all scams to Advice Direct Scotland
Report fraud to Police Scotland on 101

At the time of going to print, the most recent scams included:

- Netflix, DVLA, lottery, energy meter & bank scams
- Misleading 'boiler funding' ads
- @CMAgovUK advice on wedding cancellations/refunds
- @SFRSYourSafety business safety advice

Details of these, and more can be found at:
<https://mailchi.mp/fdo55a2d3983/scam-share>

An information video on computer fraud can be found at:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCboSJqehhxgkofjcX8mvEdg>

Anyone with information can contact Police Scotland on 101, or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.



3D image of Ardstinchar Castle