

The Rainbow Children

The history books will talk of now,
That time the world stood still.
When every family stayed at home,
Waved out from windowsills.
At those they loved but could not hold,
Because they loved them so.
Yet, whilst they did they noticed all
the flowers start to grow.

The sun came out, they can recall,
And windows, rainbows filled.
They kicked a football in their yards,
Until the night drew in.
They walked each day but not too close,
That time the world stood still.
When people walked straight down
the roads,
That once the cars did fill.

They saw that people became ill,
They knew the world was scared.
But whilst the world stood still they saw,
How much the whole world cared.
They clapped on Thursdays from their doors,
They cheered for the brave.
For people who would risk their lives,
So others could be saved.

The schools closed down, they missed their friends,
They missed their teachers so.
Their Mams and Dads helped with their work,
They helped their minds to grow.
The parents used to worry that,
As schools were put on hold,
Their children wouldn't have the tools,
They'd need as they grew old.

But history books will talk of them,
Now adults, fully grown.
Those little boys and girls back then,
The ones who stayed at home.
They'll tell you that they fixed this world,
Of all they would fulfil.
The RAINBOW children building dreams,
They'd dreamed whilst time stood still.

Author: Unknown

Ballantrae NEWS



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6th April 2020

Dear Ballantrae Community

This letter is being written in what are unprecedented and ever changing times. On Friday 20th March we closed the school for an unknown period of time due to Covid-19. Ballantrae and Colmonell School and Early Years Centre staff will support parents and children throughout this period of uncertainty.

Prior to the closure staff and I had already planned ways in which we could support parents with their children's care and learning. We really appreciate that this will be a difficult and challenging time for parents and their children for a great many reasons. I ask our parents that they do not worry or stress about their child's learning at this point. Our children may be worried and anxious about what's going on in the world at the moment, and their wellbeing is crucial, we ask parents to spend time with their children listening to their concerns and worries and reassure them.

During this time, we do not expect parents and children to learn together in a typical school day routine. Learning takes place in many different ways. Parents were given packs including ideas, resources, books to read, jotters and workbooks; they are there as tasks which are straightforward and require minimal support, and should be light-hearted and fun to do. We know our children have already been baking, gardening and helping on the farm. Some have even been den building in their houses and gardens. What wonderful fun they are having, all part of learning.

We will be keeping in touch with parents and children during the closure. Each child was given his/her Glow log in details and from here they can access remote learning. Staff have given their contact details to allow our parents and children to get in touch with them. Parents will continue to be kept informed through school messages and emails along with our school blog pages and Facebook pages.

At the end of March our teachers contacted their class children by speaking with them on the phone. Our children all enjoyed hearing their teacher's voice and having a chat with them about how they are doing. We really miss all the children!

We are now at the start of the two week Easter Holiday, this is the time to have as much fun in the house and garden with your child/ren as possible. Our Teachers will be back in touch with children after the holidays.

Children's wellbeing and safety will continue to be a priority for me and school staff. If anyone has any concerns or worries or needs support please don't hesitate to get in touch. I wish you and yours well during these strange times. We need to continue to follow the Government guidelines to keep all of us safe. Stay home, stay safe and protect the NHS.

Look after yourselves, your wee people and our wonderful community who are friends of the schools.

Yours Sincerely,

Yvonne Templeton

Yvonne Templeton
Head Teacher

The Ballantrae Volunteers

Seventeen people from the village and outlying areas volunteered to help in various different ways. Mhairi McKenna and I are acting as main contacts as well as carrying out tasks where necessary. At the time of writing we have mainly helped out with prescription collections, shopping, and IT support. We have put in place specific arrangements for 3 families who live outside of the village, and they are now in direct contact with volunteers who live close to them. A lot of our volunteers are also collecting for their neighbours; these requests don't come through either of the coordinators. Both the shop and doctors surgery have been encouraging people in the at risk categories to contact us to reduce the need for them to leave their homes. Our contact details are on the back page.

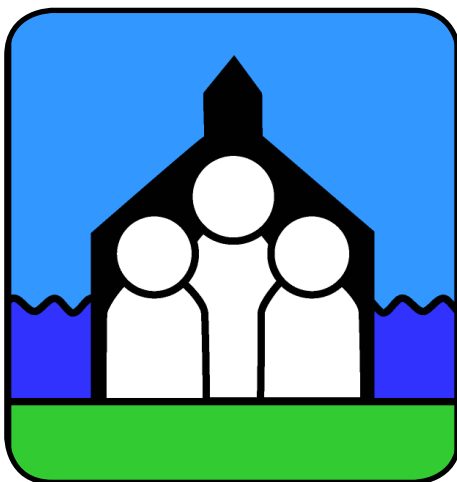
Laura Cunningham

Ballantrae Church

We have had quite a challenging few months as a nation. As a church the year got off to a good start. We had a lovely service of baptism for my baby Simeon on the 2nd of February, which was a time of much celebration. We also began the lent season well with the Guild Lent Lunch in the village hall, with many people in attendance. This was a great time of fellowship and was enjoyed by all.



We had plans for Holy Week services and events as well as Easter services, but in mid March we had to stop having services in our church. For a few days we kept the church doors open for prayer, which was appreciated, but we then had to lock the doors to reduce the risk of passing on infection. Since that time as a church family, members have stayed in touch by telephone and other forms of communication. As minister I have



been trying to reach out by phone and through our church websites and notice boards. I have heard of many kind acts and our members along with others have been looking out for neighbours in need and showing loving concern and help. The church is alive and well although our communal worship has stopped for a time.

I have been very much praying for our community at this time and I am heartened by the community spirit here in Ballantrae. This time of lockdown will pass and I hope to have a celebratory service after it in our church. But may we be thankful for what we have, may we look out for others and keep safe in these days.

Lent and Easter demonstrate how much God loves us and show that God can bring forth joy after times of testing and struggle. Christ has died!, Christ has risen! Christ will come again!

Every blessing

Rev. Theo Corney



How Our Lives Changed in March 2020

In March 2020 life changed beyond all recognition as the Coronavirus (Covid19) raged throughout the world. A pandemic was declared on 11 March 2020. Here are some of the things we experienced during March and early April 2020...

We were urged to stay at home only going out to buy food or medicine, exercise (once a day) or seek medical attention. "Social distancing" was introduced. Scotmid in Ballantrae asked shoppers to stay 2m (6ft) from each other. Elsewhere panic buying led to some shelves being bare. Non-essential shops and businesses closed - everyone was encouraged to work from home if possible. Non essential travel was forbidden. Virtual meetings were held over the internet as people went into "lockdown". Many were placed "on furlough" by employers with the government paying 80% of their wage. Parks and play parks were closed. Sports events, festivals, and other big events were cancelled. Schools were closed as were churches, pubs restaurants and cinemas. Socialising with anyone outside of our homes was not permitted and people were fined for breaking the rules. Weddings, family celebrations, and holidays were cancelled. The majority of airlines stopped flying. Funerals were limited to immediate family. Manufacturers, distilleries, and other businesses switched their production lines to help make visors, face masks, hand sanitiser and Personal Protective Equipment for the NHS and care staff. The SEC in Glasgow was converted to take Covid-19 patients. Streets were empty as the majority of people stayed inside.



In Ballantrae, like many other communities, volunteers provided support to the vulnerable. Ballantrae folk have always looked out for their neighbours but this felt different. We had to find new ways to keep in touch with friends and relatives. Social media played a key role.

On 12 April when I was writing this, we have been in lockdown for 3 weeks. We are told it could go on for some time yet. The key messages are "Stay at home, help the NHS and save lives"

The story continues.....

Andy McAlpine

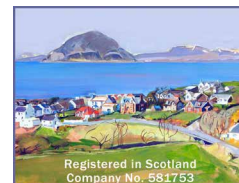
The Ballantrae Trust

Play Park Development



Our latest achievement was the installation of the zip line. Prior to the Covid-19 restrictions this was in daily use within the park. Cheryl and I visited the Youth Club and had a good discussion with them about the future of the play park. Sadly due to the current situation the Easter Hamper Raffle had to be postponed but when safe to do so, we will resume sales of the tickets. We are continuing to work behind the scenes on the "circuit" around the park. We would also like to improve the signage within the village to encourage those travelling through to stop off and enjoy the facilities we have on offer within the village. This of course would also encourage spending within local businesses and return visitors. Thank you to all who continue to support this project. Fiona 07917133220 Cheryl 07767081602

Fiona Stevenson



THE
BALLANTRAE
TRUST

The King's Arms Project

By the end of February, with the support of Community Enterprise who assist communities taking over local shops and pubs, we completed a Feasibility Study and a Business Plan which we submitted along with grant applications to The Scottish Land Fund, Carrick Futures and the Ballantrae Community Fund. We are hoping to know the outcome by the end of May. We are working with Community Shares Scotland to devise a share option scheme to give people the opportunity to invest in the Kings Arms Community Pub / Hub and talking to the Plunkett Foundation about the support and advice they can provide from an adviser who has experience of establishing community pubs/hubs. So, despite the challenges of Covid-19 we continue to move the KA project forward. You can find a copy of the report on the Community Consultation and a Q&A about the project on the Ballantrae website at <https://www.ballantrae.org.uk/village-organisations/the-ballantrae-trust/projects/>

Andy McAlpine

Music, Theatre and Cinema

We had a great turnout for the return of Alan Bissett with "More Moira Monologues" on 6 March. Take a bow Alan! Unfortunately we have had to postpone The Barrstools (April), Simon Lamb (May) and cinema screenings for the foreseeable future but, the programme will be reinstated as soon as it is safe to do so.

Lynn Young



In common with other communities across the UK, on Thursday evenings in March and April, villagers in Ballantrae stood outside their front doors to clap and say THANK YOU to everyone who is still working to help deal with the Coronavirus pandemic. You could hear the sound of applause echoing around Downan Avenue, Ailsa Drive, Shore Road, Arran Avenue, Foreland, Church Street and Main Street.



Ballantrae Festival of Food and Drink

Unfortunately the Festival has had to be postponed from this June because of Covid-19. It will run next year, on 12 & 13 June 2021 and we will work hard to make it the biggest and best yet!

Mhairi McKenna

Ballantrae Scout Group



In January our annual Burns Supper was the biggest ever with 90 guests. Funds raised from the raffle went to the Australian Bush Fires Appeal. February and the beginning of March were spent indoors earning badges. The Beavers explored Space by making mini planets and learning about them. The international badge involved games, sampling food from foreign countries, and researching their flags. They also had their first camp of 2020 at Colmonell church hall. It was a great opportunity for some of our new Beavers to experience their first camp not too far from home.

The Cubs Pioneer badge saw some great knot tying (with sweets), catapult and ballista making! Cubs also learned some important life skills. Teaching them to sew on badges filled leaders with a bit of dread. Sharp needles, footery badges and excited Cubs is not always a good mix but... "Our Cubs were mature and sensible and tried exceptionally hard to sew on their badges" commented Cub Leader Charlotte!

Scouts also covered the international badge by sampling food from around the world and learning their Scout promise in a different language. Zoe's Chinese/Mandarin was particularly impressive! There was a quiz on scouting's history, they cooked a Chinese meal, and made some Australian dot art wood slabs. All 3 sections took part in archery and climbing ACE days. The Scouts started preparing for their expedition and summer camps which unfortunately for the time being are cancelled.

On Monday, 16 March everyone in the UK was asked to avoid non-essential travel and contact with others. Scout HQ decided that all face-to-face Scouting must be suspended but this does not mean that Scouting has to stop. The closure of schools and after school clubs can mean scary and worrying times for our kids so we felt it was important for us to continue, albeit in a virtual way, to provide stability for them but also to offer parents ideas for things to do at home.

With the help of modern technology our Scouting journey continues. Weekly challenges set on a Sunday have included a mini pioneering challenge, building and sleeping in indoor dens (a huge hit with all 3 sections), a "neckie flip challenge" and designing "loo characters". We are also continuing with our weekly Tuesday meetings (virtually). On week one we held a scavenger hunt that involved collecting items from around the house starting with each letter of the alphabet.



Above; ACE climbing wall, below and bottom; indoor dens



Our winner for the evening was George Mills. Over the coming weeks we have lots of other activities planned including a murder mystery evening and an escape room challenge.

On 30 April to 1 May we will join more than a million Scouts from across the world to beat the record for the largest virtual camp. We will be encouraging all our Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and their families to pitch a tent or build a den in their house or garden, build a fire (real or virtual), take part in some Scout-type activities and cook a meal together #CampAtHome!



These are tough and unprecedented times for us all and while Scouting continues we are only doing so safely in line with government guidelines. We will continue to encourage our youngsters to stay indoors and stay safe but hopefully in the process we can ease some of the stress and worries, and make some lasting memories along the way.

Wendy McKechn

Ballantrae Medical Practice Shellknowe Garage

We are living in unprecedented and unusual times at present and we would like to thank all our patients for respecting the new guidelines, such as only allowing one person at a time at the desk and dispensary.

We would like to remind all our patients that the practice is still open and that we are offering telephone consultations with a Doctor in the first instance. For this reason our receptionist must ask the reason for your call so they can give the doctor as much information as possible. We kindly ask that unless you have an appointment or are collecting medication, that you do not attend the surgery.

Should you have any ongoing or new health problems for which you would normally see a doctor, we would urge you to call the surgery, rather than ignore any symptoms. Please note that patients who regularly attend for INR, DMARDS bloods and dressings should make an appointment with the nurse and attend as normal. For those on repeat medication, we do expect a longer lead time for the dispensary to fulfil the orders but we would urge you not to stockpile your medication or order too early.

All the most up to date information and advice on Covid-19 can be found at www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus

March started badly for us with our car wash machine being broken into followed a few days later by a burst water main which flooded the garage and damaged some of our stock. When the Coronavirus hit we tried to continue for as long as possible - initially by minimising face-to-face contact to protect customers and staff. However with more stringent measures having been introduced by the government, Leonard, Michael, and Martin have now been furloughed. We felt this was the safest way to go. Robert will continue working on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6th April. Fuel is still available from the outside terminal 24hrs per day. Calor Gas, coal and peat can still be delivered - we don't want anyone to be without. Please call the number below to arrange. Robert is happy to undertake essential repairs to customers vehicles.

Key workers will be given priority. Anyone concerned can send a personal message on the Shellknowe Garage Facebook page, they can call the garage on 831365 or the recovery line on 044736881114.

Sharon Adams



My Visit to Ballantrae

As you may know, I was elected to be the Member of Parliament to represent the Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock Westminster Constituency in December 2019.

I was privileged to be invited to visit the village earlier this year by Andy McAlpine where I met with Andy, Carol Bell, Chair of the Ballantrae Trust and Mhairi McKenna, Chair of the Ballantrae Community Council. We spent a couple of hours discussing the proposal of the community purchasing the Kings Arms Hotel in the village and turning it into a Community Pub/Hub which will continue to provide good food and drink and incorporate a range of community activities and facilities. We also discussed many other matters including the hopes and aspiration of villagers, the Ballantrae Trust, and the Community Council to ensure that this area will continue to be an attractive area for people to live, work and visit. I commit to doing whatever

I can as your Member of Parliament to make that happen.



I am, as I am sure you are, very disappointed that as a result of the Corona Virus, that the award winning annual "Ballantrae Festival of Food and Drink" and your programme of music, theatre and cinema and other events have been postponed for the time being. However, I am sure that when they do go ahead, they will build on the success of previous years and I look forward to visiting them in due course.

In the meantime, may I record my thanks to the many wonderful and committed volunteers involved in these fantastic events and the people in Ballantrae who are supporting the most vulnerable during the current crisis.

Should anyone wish to contact me as their Member of Parliament, please do not hesitate to do so. I can be contacted by email at allan.dorans.mp@parliament.uk or at my Constituency Office in Ayr on 01292 848102.

Allan Dorans MP

Ballantrae Bowling Club

Funding from The Ballantrae Community Fund allowed us to lift 2 edges of the bowling green over the winter which will improve play on the green. Due to COVID19 the opening of the bowling green has been postponed until further notice. If anyone wishes to get in touch regarding the bowling green please contact me on 07917 843135.

Anne McCulloch

Craigmains Home and Garden Centre

During lockdown we are planning to open from 11am until 1pm Mondays and Thursdays.

Marie McCulloch

Stinchar Valley Photo Group



Photo Credit: Anthony Hills

KINGS ARMS HOTEL BALLANTRAE

CARRY OUT MENU

TEL 01465 831 202

Deep Fried Haddock	£7.95
Whole-Tail Scampi	£8.50
Homemade Lasagne	£7.95
Steak & Ale Pie	£8.50
Macaroni & Cheese	£7.75
1/2lb Steak Burger	£7.25
Kings Arms Burger	£7.95
Breast of Chicken Burger	£7.95
Spicy Chicken Burger	£7.95
Breaded Chicken Strips	£7.75
Highland Chicken	£11.25
Kids Burger	£3.95
Kids Sausage	£3.95
Kids Chicken Nuggets	£4.50

(For Adults Portions Add £1)

All Meals Come With Chips. Change To Curly Fries Add Extra 25p

CHIPS	£3.00
CHIPS & CHEESE	£4.00
CHIPS & CURRY SAUCE	£4.00
CURLY FRIES	£3.25
CURLY FRIES & CHEESE	£4.25

PIZZA MENU

9" Deep Pan or Thin Base

	<u>Toppings</u>			
Plain Cheese £6.50	Peppers	White Onion	Pineapple	Prawns
2 Toppings £7.25	Tomato	Sweetcorn	Pepperoni	Chicken
Extra Toppings 35p each	Red Onion	Mushrooms	Ham	Spicy Chicken

FOR ALLERGY ADVICE PLEASE ASK STAFF

The management cannot guarantee that any product on this menu is totally free from nuts or nut derivatives and that any fish are free from bones and not knowingly sell foods required to be labelled as containing GM material.

All prices inc vat.

Our first meeting of 2020 was held in Ballantrae and was a talk by Stuart Strachan one of our members. Stuart's theme was "family and friends" and included a huge variety of subjects. The evening was much enjoyed by everyone present, and also included a good number of pictures from other members who had brought along fine examples of their own work. In February we met in Barrhill for a talk and demonstration from Colin Keane, another of our members. Colin showed us some uses of Photoshop, which was new to several members, and can be used to improve and enhance our work. This was a subject too big for one evening and we hope to revisit the topic at a later date. Again we had a good number of pictures from other members to look at while we had coffee and made plans for the lighter evenings. These plans have had to be postponed because of the coronavirus, but hopefully restrictions will be lifted in time for us to get together before the dark nights return! Meantime members are keeping in touch via our Facebook page.

Heather O'Hare

The King's Arms

Takeaways between 5pm and 8.30pm (7days). Many people are self isolating or not wanting to leave their homes at the moment. We are providing a delivery service free of charge in and round Ballantrae. This may be extended if required. If you prefer you can still collect your order from the hotel. When ordering we will ask you to come at an allotted time. To reduce risks we can also take card payments over the phone when ordering. We hope you are all well and staying safe.

Brian and Suzanne Stirling

Ballantrae Primary School

Prior to the school closure on Friday 20th March, term 3 saw quite a few activities within the school.

One of the firm favourites is the Scots Poetry competition. All of our primary children took part and performed their poems to in-house judges on 18th February. Parents were invited along and we had a lovely afternoon listening to the poems. Three winners were selected from each year group and on 21st February we welcomed Denis Reid, Jennifer Ramsay and Jeannie Brittain into the school as our Scots language judges. They were highly impressed by the performance of the poems by our children, making their job all the more difficult, however the winners were P1 Scott McKinley; P2 Brooke Pitt; P3 Jackson Curtis; P4 Oscar Cunningham; P5 George Mills; P6 Sarah Millar; P7 Ceilidh Lorimer. Thank you to all our children and our judges!



Above - Scots poetry competition; Below - world book day

On 12th February our P7s attended Girvan Academy for a Maths Event as part of their transition to the Academy that involved a range of different activities using their knowledge and skills in Numeracy and Problem Solving. All of the other P7s from across the cluster schools were there, allowing our children to make and meet new friends. The Academy Maths Department ran the event and interacted with everyone coming their way in August. S6 students assisted and were a great support for our children during this very well organised event. Thank you Girvan Academy!

Last term the school curriculum included learning about substance misuse. Aaron Sloan from Community Learning & Development talked to each class. The children participated in interactive workshops and even had a chance to try on some beer goggles!



Above - P7 maths event; Below - beer goggles;



Our World Book Day and first ever Big Booky Breakfast at the start of March was a great success!! Children came to school dressed as their favourite book character - these included Gangsta Granny, Cat in the Hat and The Stick

Man. Well done children!! Parents / friends of the school came along in the morning to enjoy a lovely breakfast and chat with the children and staff. Thank you to the Parent Helpers who helped us serve our children and guests. The money we raised was for Book Aid International.



During the last term P4/5 participated in a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) Lighthouse project. Through the project the children developed their

skills in coding, circuit making, design and technology. They learned about Lighthouses across Scotland and had a visit from Councillor Peter Henderson a former Lighthouse Keeper. The children enjoyed learning all about the daily routines of being a Lighthouse Keeper.



Above - Lighthouse Project

The Ballantrae Volunteers

Hello!

All the main groups in Ballantrae including the Community Association, the Community Council, the Church, the Primary School and the Trust have co-ordinated to help residents where needed.

The main contacts are:

Laura Cunningham
lauracunninghamruby@hotmail.co.uk
Tel: 01465 831785
Mob: 07702 375120

Mhairi McKenna
mlm@doctors.org.uk
Mob: 07901 506691

Our volunteers can help with picking up shopping / prescriptions, posting mail, a friendly phone call, urgent supplies, helping to set up your smart phone / iPad so you can video call friends or family. This is not an exhaustive list. Please just ask. Call, text or email and we'll do our best to help for free!

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are only spreading kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m distance). Wash your hands regularly. Items should be left on your doorstep.

Using Facebook (FB) we asked villagers "What have you been doing during lockdown?" People talked of taking up cycling, researching their family tree, taking the children for their daily walk and spotting rainbows and teddy bears placed in windows by villagers, encouraging the children to create indoor dens, try mini pioneering as part of the Scout Challenge and create the "Loo Roll video" (good fun and a feat of co-ordination!), chopping logs, clapping for carers, having FaceTime sessions with family and friends, setting up daily social media challenges with positive pictures, reading more about Ballantrae's history and baking more. But gardening, painting fences, clearing garden huts, cupboards and the "dark corners of the house" were definitely mentioned most! One man discovered a charming woman in his living room who turned out to be his wife!

We also asked people to describe "Acts of Kindness" during these difficult times. Mention was made of the local volunteers from Ballantrae and nearby communities providing support for the most vulnerable while others are posting on Information Ballantrae FB page when they are going to the supermarket to see whether anyone needs anything. Special mention was made of the support provided to those living in Glenapp, Heronsford, Garleffin and Arran Avenue. The Easter Bunny made an appearance in Ballantrae on Easter Sunday to help lift the spirits and the Ballantrae Coastguard Rescue Team distribute activity packs to local children on Easter Monday.

Lots of people have been going the extra mile: the staff at Scotmid, the Garage, and the Garden Centre; the coal man, the delivery drivers, the bin men and the postie; local farmers, the Kings Arms with their takeaways, the Medical Centre, and BRICC Home Care staff. Local tradespeople who continue to provide support in an emergency (roofs, plumbing etc) and deliveries by Margaret's fruit and veg and Hendries the butcher from Girvan all received a mention. People appreciated Glenapp Castle's lovely gesture of putting daffodils and tulips in the bus stop and at Scotmid for villagers to pick up or deliver to a neighbour.

The Primary & Early Years teachers who provided ideas for the youngsters and who message the children regularly to make sure they are getting on ok received a special mention. We were also asked to remember our very own front line nurses/midwives and carers who live in the village. People were especially touched by the ex resident of Ballantrae now living in South Africa who bought all our local fisherman's crabs and lobsters which he couldn't sell to market due to the market closing, on the condition it was given to the people of Ballantrae. 25 families benefitted from this generous gesture.



Wash your hands of coronavirus scams!

Friends Against Scams aims to protect and prevent people from becoming victims of scams.



Contact
For advice on scams call the
Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on **0808 223 11 33**
To report a scam call Action Fraud on **0300 123 2040**
Contact your bank if you think you have been scammed.

**NATIONAL
TRADING
STANDARDS**
Scams Team

To learn more about the different types of scams visit www.FriendsAgainstScams.org.uk

The children of the village each created a poster thanking all the key workers for what they have been doing and these pictures were turned into a short video and posted on the Information Ballantrae Facebook page. We know we will have missed giving someone a mention for which we apologise. The point is so many people are doing something - very often in a small way without others knowing. Perhaps it can all be summed up in one comment we received... "every time the streets are quiet I'm proud of how much we're adhering to the advice and protecting each other. Weird how in a time we see so little of each other we have such a sense of community".

While we have been living through the coronavirus crisis, the sun continues to rise in the morning and set in the evening, the daffodils continue to grow, and the lambs appear in the fields. We wanted to leave you with this lovely image of a new born lamb, courtesy of Fiona Stevenson.

