

## February

- 25 Deadline for grant application to Ballantrae Community Fund
- 26 Community Council Meeting

## March

- 4 SWI 89th Birthday Party
- 9 Annual Scout Auction
- 18 Church Guild AGM
- 24 Lenten Lunch in the Manse
- 26 Community Council Meeting

## April

- 8 Ballantrae in Bloom AGM
- 17 Stinchar Valley Gardening Club AGM
- 20 BRICC Coffee Morning in BRICC House
- 30 Community Council Meeting

## Contact

If you have an activity or event you would like publicised on the Ballantrae website, on the Community Centre noticeboard, in this newsletter, or in the Stinchar Valley Magazine, please email [andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com](mailto:andy.mcalpine@btinternet.com) or drop the information in to 42 Foreland, Ballantrae.

## Next Deadlines

### Stinchar Valley Magazine (Summer)

26 April for distribution w/c 3 June

### Ballantrae News

8 April for distribution at the end of April

# Ballantrae NEWS

## Ballantrae TV Stars!

A journalist from the ITV News Desk made contact with the school in late November after they discovered our school had suffered a major fire in June 2018, resulting in the children and staff being relocated to Girvan Primary School. After some discussions between Mrs Templeton and their Producers, This Morning invited our P2 pupils and accompanying parents/teachers to join them in their Studios to sing Christmas Carols on Monday 17 December.

This Morning flew us all to London on the Sunday and we stayed overnight in a hotel in Hammersmith. On the Monday morning we were collected and taken to the ITV Studios where we were allocated the "Green Room". Our first celebrity sighting was Dame Joan Collins who was leaving the building after being on the Good Morning Britain show.

During the morning the children practised their songs on a stage outside around ITV's Christmas tree. They had several takes of their songs, then Eamonn and Ruth came out to film the interview with the children and Yvonne Templeton. Jackson was asked what he missed most about the school, he replied "the Lego as it all got burned". Once the children had



finished filming their songs, we had lunch and then skated on ITV's outside ice rink. Unbeknown to us, the skating was also shown on This Morning – the children loved watching this from the Green Room before we left the Studios. This Morning organised for us to visit the Investigative Centre within the Natural History Museum. We had the Centre to ourselves and were allowed to touch and explore all of the items on display. We were collected from the NHM and taken back to the airport for our return flight home.

It was an amazing experience for all of us! For the majority of our children and some of their parents this was their first time on a plane. There was lots of excitement and a few tears at take-off from Glasgow. Archie said "it was scary but then I loved how fast the plane went". All the children enjoyed their flight home, especially when the easyJet Flight Deck asked them to sing a few of their songs to the other passengers on the plane.

Thank you to ITVs This Morning programme for giving us this wonderful opportunity!

Donna Ball





# Democracy Matters

Your Community. Your Ideas. Your Future.

The Community Council and The Ballantrae Trust jointly hosted a public consultation at the end of November so that villagers could have their say about how decisions which affect communities could be made differently by devolving powers, budgets and responsibilities from local authorities and other public bodies to local communities. This Scottish Government inspired consultation attracted 13 Community Councillors, Trust members and members of the public.

The hour-long event started with a short explanation of the purpose of the consultation. Those attending were then shown 2 short video clips - the official explanatory Scottish Government video, and the Development Trust Association (Scotland) video where Trust representatives from across Scotland shared their experiences and ideas on the topic.

Participants were then asked 5 questions. They wrote their thoughts on post-its which were then grouped where appropriate.

The ideas generated covered the following themes:

- The areas villagers thought communities should have more control over
- How new ways of making local decisions could work and the changes and support needed by communities
- What "local" means
- If more decisions were made locally which local organisations would be best placed to lead on this
- Other ideas on local decision making

The views expressed were fed back direct to the Scottish Government. If you would like a copy of what was submitted from Ballantrae, please email [ballantraetrust@gmail.com](mailto:ballantraetrust@gmail.com) with "Democracy Matters" in the subject line.

## Stinchar Valley Photo Group

Curlew photo credit: Andy Muir



We had an informal DIY Christmas Buffet on 29 November and are looking forward to hearing professional photographer Robert K Wilson, our guest speaker in January, who will show us some of his work and talk, in particular, about black and white pictures. We are planning our first ever exhibition in 2019. We meet on the last Thursday of the month at 7:30pm at BRICC House. Come and join us whether you take pictures with a phone, compact camera or digital SLR. You'll be very welcome.

Karen Stewart

## Ballantrae Community Association

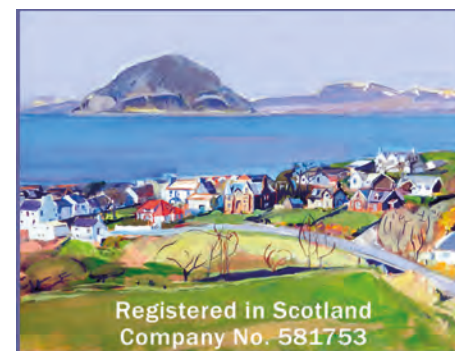


Our Fireworks Display on 5 November and the Craft Fair on 24 November were both very well attended and they raised a combined total of £546. The Children's Christmas Party on 15 December was a great success, with all of Santa's Elves working hard to ensure that the children had a great evening. Despite the awful weather on the day and his extremely busy schedule, Santa still managed to squeeze in a visit. Thank you Santa!

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who helped with these events and also to those who helped erect and dismantle the Christmas decorations. We are currently working on new "Affiliation Guidance" and a draft will be available to BCA member groups shortly.



Laura Cunningham



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## THE BALLANTRAE TRUST

Two cinema screenings - "Peter Rabbit" and "The Guernsey Literature and Potato Peel Pie Society" in association with Driftwood Cinema and "Christmas Celtic Strings" in partnership with the Ayrshire Rural Touring Network, brought our programme of cultural activities for 2018 to a close. "The Red Turtle" animation kicked off our cinema programme for 2019. As we go to press we are finalising our programme of theatre, cinema and music for 2019.



We continue to support businesses in Ballantrae and the surrounding area through our "AMBITION for Ballantrae" project and seven new & existing businesses attended the "Digital Marketing Strategy" workshop run in November in BRICC House by Digital Boost and Business Gateway. We hope to bring another workshop to the village in the Spring.

Funding has been secured for our award winning Ballantrae Festival of Food & Drink to return this year as a two day festival (8/9 June). Watch local Facebook pages and future editions of Ballantrae News for details.

In November, with the Community Council, we co-hosted a public consultation - "Democracy Matters" which considered

whether more decision making and budgets should be delegated to the local community.

Our Board recently visited two very different neighbouring Trusts - in Creetown and Kirkcudbright - to see their inspiring projects and discuss some of the challenges they have faced and how they have addressed them.

We continue to publish and volunteers hand deliver Ballantrae News and the Stinchar

Valley Magazine and we now have our own Facebook page "The Ballantrae Trust". Please "like" it if you have not already done so. Our search for permanent Trust office premises continues but, in the meantime, we have established a temporary Trust office in the Community Hall. Chris Hanna, our Development Officer will be in the village every Wednesday and available in the office between 11am to 2pm if you have anything you'd like to ask her or discuss. Our membership now stands at 120.

Our priorities for the foreseeable future include:

- The Play Park and Recreation Ground Development (in particular the MUGA).
- Planning the Ballantrae Festival of Food and Drink 2019.
- A new all-embracing village website and improved use of social media.
- Cultural activities (theatre, cinema and music)
- Supporting local businesses and tourism

If you would like to get involved with any of the Trust's projects please email Chris, our Development Officer at [ballantraetrust@gmail.com](mailto:ballantraetrust@gmail.com) or call me on 07920517700.

(Top: cinema screening of "Peter Rabbit". Middle: Digital Marketing Workshop at BRICC. Right: "Christmas Celtic Strings")

## Ballantrae Toddlers



2018 was a busy year for Ballantrae Toddlers. We were able to boost our funds through two successful fundraising events. This has allowed us to buy new toys and to provide fun art and crafts activities for the children. Thank you to the local businesses who donated items for us to use in hampers and raffles.

In December, along with the children from Ballantrae Nursery, we had a lovely Christmas party. The children were so excited when Santa paid them a visit and they were all delighted with their gifts.

We would love to welcome any new members who are thinking about coming along (baby to pre-school age). Toddlers take place on Mondays, 1:15pm-2:45pm, Ballantrae Community Hall, 50p per child.

Cheryl Agnew

The Trust Board meets monthly and, in the future, minutes will be available on the Trust page of the new Ballantrae website. Until then anyone who wants a copy of Board minutes can get one by emailing [ballantraetrust@gmail.com](mailto:ballantraetrust@gmail.com).

Andy McAlpine





# News Snippets



The Ballantrae SWI 4th February meeting is Anne Walker demonstrating tray bakes. On Saturday 9th February in BRICC House from 1.30-3.30 there is a practical class in crochet (£6). Our 89th birthday party is on 4th March. Visitors are always welcome.

## Ballantrae Church Guild

Ballantrae Church Guild are having a guest night on Monday 18th February. Entertainment is by Isobel Montgomerie and the Rural Revellers in the Community Centre at 7.15 pm. All are welcome.

## Ballantrae in Bloom

The Ballantrae in Bloom AGM will be held on Monday 8 April at 7pm in BRICC House.

## Ballantrae Community Fund

This fund is provided by ScottishPower Renewables community benefit funds from its Glenapp Windfarm. The fund supports projects benefitting Ballantrae. The Fund Factsheet and details of how to apply can be found at <https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/ballantrae>. The deadline date for the next funding round is Monday 25 February for a decision in early May.



CONGRATULATIONS to Leonard MacKinnon and his colleagues John Cowieson, Mhairi McKenna and Laura Cunningham for a great Hogmanay Ceilidh to bring in 2019 with 120 people attending. Thanks too to "The Wah Wahs" (and Colin Irving guest fiddler) for their fabulous music. £250 was raised for this year's Festival of Food and Drink. The hall is already booked again for next Hogmanay!



THANK YOU to the Doctors, nurses, pharmacists and staff of the Ballantrae Medical Practice and the staff of BRICC for all you did for the residents of the village and the surrounding area in 2018.

# Ballantrae Scout Group

Wendy McKeachan



Our swimming sessions at the Quay Zone in the Autumn culminated in the presentation of a great haul of badges for our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. Everyone received a badge to celebrate their achievements. We had Swimmer Stage badges from 1-5 with 3 Scouts earning the top staged badge by swimming 40 lengths in 35 minutes. Congratulations to everyone for such a great achievement. Three of our Cubs were also presented with the Chief Scout's Silver Awards by our District Commissioner. This is the highest accolade a Cub can receive.

We are preparing for our Burns Supper on Tuesday 29 January with a 3 course traditional Scottish meal and entertainment provided by our Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. It looks set to be a great evening. Our Beavers are looking forward to a fun packed sleepover in February. Our Annual Auction is being held a little earlier this year - on 9 March at 1pm to 2pm in the Community Hall. This is an ideal opportunity for you to donate unwanted Christmas presents! Please lay them aside, along with other donations, or give them to a leader on a Tuesday evening.




## Scout Auction

**Saturday 9 March**  
Community Hall, Main Street, Ballantrae  
Auctioneer Dr Tom Smith

1pm Doors open for viewing  
2pm Auction begins  
Entry £1

Children accompanied by an adult FREE  
Watch local press and Facebook for information on unusual lots!

**Refreshments Available**

All items sold as seen

To donate items please call  
Andy McAlpine on 07920 517700  
(or speak to one of the Leaders)



# Stinchar Valley Gardening Club



December's meeting of the Gardening Club saw us salivating at all the suggestions our speakers had for growing our own food. Some were straightforward, others more exotic, and a few downright odd, but entertaining. We will try to follow their examples!

Our January meeting is about bees – how to keep them and then how to encourage them into our gardens. On 13 February we have invited local expert Angus Hogg to talk about "backyard birding" in which he will share some of the wildlife surprises which he and his wife have found in their garden at Crosshill as well as tips about how to attract a wide range of wildlife into our green spaces. Both talks should be fun and informative. Our final talk is on Wednesday, 20 March when Denis Reid will speak about his interest in Bonsai. We can guarantee that he will be entertaining as well as hugely knowledgeable on the subject. Our AGM will be on Wednesday 17 April.

Our summer visits are still in the planning stages, but the quality of the choices for garden visits bodes well for our days out. Please come along and sign up. The talks and outings are always fun, and the company is good, too. For more information contact Moira McAlpine (Chair) Tel:01465831122 email [moira.mcalpine@btopenworld.com](mailto:moira.mcalpine@btopenworld.com).

Dr. Tom Smith

