

Ballantrae Development Group

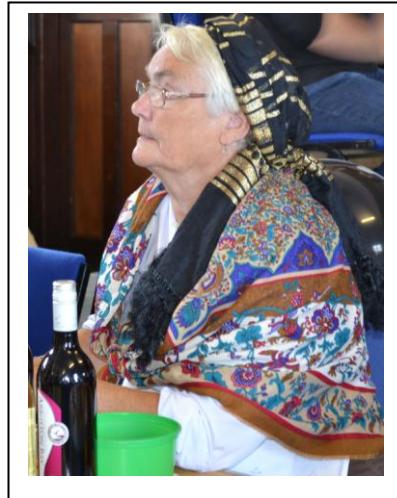


Costume Guide

The Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival is set in the period between 1700 and 1820 when smuggling around the coasts of Scotland was still rife. In the 18th and 19th Centuries the Isle of Man held a Royal Charter giving exemption from excise duty on certain imports. This resulted in wine, brandy, silks, tobacco and other products which were highly taxed in Scotland being collected on the Isle of Man and smuggled to various rugged parts of the Ayrshire coast.

Very often the smuggling "runs" were organised by upstanding members of the community including doctors, members of the clergy and indeed sometimes the local lairds. When the smugglers boats landed their cargo they were met by ordinary local folk who supplied pack horses, ponies and carts to remove the goods to a safe hiding place before onward transportation to the larger towns and cities to sell on. Local Ballantrae men and women were definitely involved.

During the Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival more people are wearing period clothes and we want to encourage more of you to do the same.



You have a wide choice of dress to choose from. You can be a villager of the period, a local worthy, one of the smuggler's boat's crew, or even a member of the Excise (a Revenue Officer)! This is a fun event so complete accuracy is not needed or expected. The idea is for everyone to be able to join in the fun of the event. For some suggestions on dressing up turn the page.....

Women: A local village woman would probably be dressed in a full ankle length skirt with an apron tied over it. A wide fitting or full blouse of any colour and over the top some form of shawl. On her head she would wear a scarf or a white dust cap with an elasticised frill. Flat shoes would be worn either with bare legs or black tights. Here are some examples of how people have dressed for the Festival in the past:



The better off ladies of the area would be dressed in a long dress falling straight from the bust (see overleaf). They too would wear a shawl but in their case possibly of silk or laced rather than plain wool. A hat would replace the village woman's scarf or dust cap and she would very often carry a parasol. Shoes would be flat hidden by the dress with bare legs or silk stockings. Colour choice of garments is up to you.

It is unlikely but not impossible that there would be women among the smuggler's crews. In that case a dark top, leggings and long boots will fit the bill!



Men: Village men would have worn a wide fitting long shirt not unlike a smock or a modern Ghillie shirt, the colours varying between white, grey and cream. Although here again the choice is yours. A neckerchief might be tied round their neck. The illustrations below will give you some ideas:



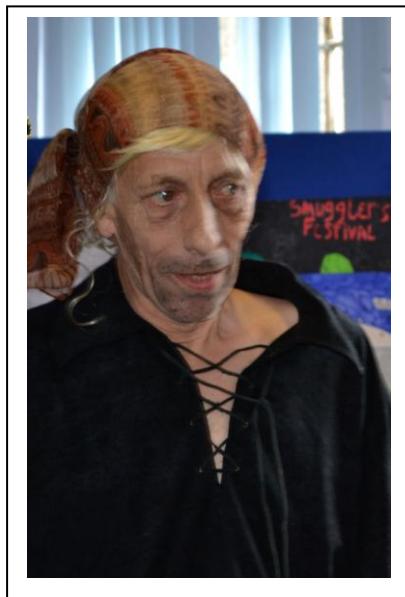
Knee length breeches would have been commonly worn either tying or buttoned at the knee. Some men would have worn full length baggy trousers split up the ankle.

These would have been worn over wool stockings again ranging in colours including black, white, grey or cream.



A pair of modern jogging trousers (without a logo) or old trousers cut off below the knee and seamed with a ribbon running through the seam and tied at the knee or with a brass button works well. These can be worn over a pair of kilt or long hiking socks (or thick black tights!). Footwear would have consisted of flat shoes or boots. A pair of modern flat shoes (black or brown) can be dressed up with a pair of buckles on elastic straps available from any good fancy dress shop. Wellington boots with the tops turned down or "boot tops" from a fancy dress shop can look like sea boots. A woollen cap or a bandana will complete the outfit.

A gentleman, Laird or Revenue Officer is another possibility with similar dress to the above but with a waistcoat, lace necktie and a tricorn hat. If you want to dress as a smuggling boat's captain or crew then to help differentiate you from a villager, a pirate costume would make a good alternative. So let your imagination run riot!



Charity shops are a great source of “smugglers” clothes for men and women!

Children: Children love to dress up so let's get them involved too. A child's costume would replicate that of the adults, the village girls would be dressed in long wide skirts, a wide fitting blouse and a wool shawl with a dust cap or even bare headed.

The boys would have dressed the same way as the village men and of course if any of them want to be members of the smuggler's crew then a pirate style outfit complete with headscarf or tricorn hat would be ideal.



The main purpose of the Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival is to have fun so while we hope that using this short guide will help you to get into the spirit of the festival, be imaginative and help us make sure that the Smugglers' Festival 2014 is an exciting, colourful, unique and fun filled event.



For more information about the Ballantrae Smugglers' Festival visit our website

www.ballantrae.org.uk/smugglers