

Portballintrae News

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Summer may be over but the Season is only Beginning!!

In recent times, it has been said that when the summer ended Portballintrae became a "ghost village". Well, no longer! There are many exciting things set to start in September and on into the winter months. You can join in circuit training, art classes, Pilates, Scottish dancing--there is even a full marathon! The Hallowe'en festivities will be bigger and better than ever and will include a carnival parade complete with a stilt-walking samba band. Of course, there will be the spectacular fireworks display over the harbour once again so generously sponsored by Trevor Kane and the Bayview Hotel. Christmas will be sparkling. Come out and meet your neighbours. You will find even more reasons to love Portballintrae. Who knows--you part-time residents may want to change your status...

Village Hall a Resounding Success

With the "official opening day" not even scheduled at time of printing, the new Portballintrae Village Hall is already becoming the jewel in the crown of the village as well as the wider Coleraine Borough Area.

From the very first event which was an open day sponsored by the Portballintrae Residents Association on 4 July, people from far and wide are coming to use and enjoy that state of the art, environmentally friendly facilities on offer.

That day hundreds of people came to enjoy everything including face-painting; an archaeological talk by Thomas McErlean from University of Ulster on the history of Portballintrae; and the incredible mobile Planetarium provided by the Irish Astronomical Society.

Pictured right:
Thomas McErlean,
Maritime
Archaeologist,
giving a talk
on Portballintrae
history



Pictured left:
Brian Beesley and
members of Irish
Astronomical Assoc.
with solar telescopes
at the Open Day"



Pictured above: Councillor Toye Black; Suzanne Mortimer, Sec., Portballintrae Residents' Assoc.; Councillor Robert McPherson; Ian Binnie, Chairman, Residents' Assoc.; Alex Carmichael, Dir, Leisure Services Dept., CBC



Above: some of the art on display

Pictured left: Aileen Gault, winner of raffled Michelle Carlin painting, along with Portballintrae Residents' Assoc. and Long Mountain Gallery representatives.

On the 22nd of August, the Residents' Association held a **one day Art Sale** to help raise funds for much needed equipment for the village hall. Again hundreds of people attended and not only enjoyed the beautiful and varied artwork as well as some very delicious tray bakes but helped us raise more than £1000 towards our goal of £7000. Suzanne Mortimer spearheaded the event and was aided by Margaret Binnie who headed the tea and tray bake sale. Thanks go to Jo McMillan, Brian Beesley, Sam Turtle, Barbara Cooke, Kerrie and Ronnie Laverty, Brian Mortimer, Mike and Muriel Meyler, Ian Binnie, Gail Morrow, Noel Rankin, Harry McMahan and Jimmy Wilmot for all of their hard-work. The Association also thanks all of the artists who generously participated.

Last Grass Cutting Collection for 2009

The last grass cutting collection will be on Saturday 19th September. We want to thank Tommy Neill and Coleraine Borough Council Technical Services Dept. for arranging this very useful service for Portballintrae. Even with their budget constraints, they have managed not only to continue providing the service but also have kept it free.

Runkerry Beach Bathing Water Designation

Surfers Against Sewage's (SAS) 'Love Your Beach' campaign is focusing on improving the water quality at Portballintrae's Runkerry Strand, by winning first time "EU bathing water" designation.

Throughout the summer, beaches designated as bathing waters benefit from weekly water quality testing, improved litter management and better safety facilities that help the public better enjoy their time spent at the beach. Portballintrae currently has antiquated sewerage infrastructures, which see the beach routinely suffer from poor water quality. If we can persuade the Department of Environment (DOE) for Northern Ireland that enough people use the beach for bathing and recreation to get it designated, then we can help improve water quality for all water users. To help you can sign the online petition. SAS will present the signatures to the key decision makers at the end of the bathing season and crucially before the Government decides on the future of the beaches.

If you use Portballintrae's Runkerry Strand, sign the petition at <http://www.sas.org.uk/pr/2009/love-your-beach-4.php>

Biggest Coffee Morning At Bayview Hotel

On Friday 25th September come out and help Macmillan Cancer Support. The Bayview Hotel is providing free tea/coffee and tray bakes. You provide the donation. It is a very worthy cause.

Be part of it from 11 am until Lunchtime.

Call 028 2073 4100 for more Information.



Help kit out the new Hall

As we all know money is very tight right now. Coleraine Borough Council has had to make cutbacks in many areas and as a result the hall will not be equipped in the way we had original intended.

We need your help to raise money to supply many very necessary items—everything from a toaster to a portable stage.

We have Portballintrae T-shirts and golf shirts for sale (pictured on the right) at the Bayview Hotel and at Your Store in the village.

We also have beautiful scenes showing Portballintrae in greeting cards and note cards. Book your Christmas cards now. All profit goes directly to buying equipment. Or you can just make a donation. No amount is too small. For more information call Joyce Rankin 028 2073 2922.

Note from Chairman of Portballintrae Residents' Association

This summer, with the village hall and shop now open for business, we are seeing the culmination of over five years' work to revitalise Portballintrae.

In 2003/2004 the Residents' Association commissioned a Community Audit, which was conducted by Claire Crawford of the Coleraine Rural and Urban Network (CRUN). A comprehensive questionnaire was circulated to every permanent household in the village and the responses were analysed and presented in a report that was launched at a public meeting in the Bayview Hotel in September 2004.

Following that meeting, a regeneration committee was formed, and from the audit the committee identified six priorities for the village:

- A community hall
- A shop
- Up-graded children's play area
- Beach clean-up and better access & harbour improvements
- Up-graded sewerage system
- A sports pitch or kick-about area.

Fortunately, about this time the Rural Development Council was launching the Vibrant Villages project and in 2005 Portballintrae was selected to be one of the three villages in the scheme. This meant that we had support and advice from the RDC and other agencies and the possibility of accessing a grant to assist with improvements.

In co-operation with Coleraine Borough Council, plans were drawn up for a hall and shop and the Residents' Association secured an RDC/EU grant of £200,000 towards the work. The Council also built a new set of steps, cleared litter and rubble from the beach and carried out some major repair work at the harbour. The children's play park was redesigned and fitted with new equipment.

For a time a piece of ground was leased to the Council by the Housing Executive as a kick-about area for the young people.

Unfortunately, however, the Executive required the land as a development site, so it is no longer available to us.

Nevertheless, despite a number of delays and setbacks, five of the six priorities have now been achieved.

In the meantime, the Association has continued to monitor planning applications and campaign for improvements in the quality of our bathing water. As a result, the beach in front of the Beach Hotel Apartments is now a designated bathing beach, and, by 2010, once the Bushmills Waste Water Treatment Plant is up-graded, the sewage from Portballintrae will be pumped to Bushmills for treatment. The Old Bushmills Distillery Company have also agreed to re-route their pipeline so that the discharges from the distillation process will no longer be pumped into the bay.

The Residents' Association will continue to work for further improvements in the village, and it is our hope that the village hall, play park and shop will be well used and will continue to be valuable assets to the whole community for many years to come.

Ian Binnie



Hallowe'en Festival 30th and 31st October

There will be two days of fun, fright and of course the spectacular Portballintrae Bay Fireworks Display sponsored by the Bayview Hotel this Hallowe'en.

On the 30th there will be many events during the day at the Village Hall culminating in the amazing Hallowe'en Lantern Parade with a stilt-walking Samba Band through the town from 7 pm, Fireworks Extravaganza over the Harbour at 8 pm. There will also be live music afterwards at Bayview Hotel.



On Saturday, all the ghouls and goblins come out to the Village Hall from 12-5 there will be face painting, a fancy dress parade, children's entertainment provided by Babcock and Bobbins, refreshments and a family movie. At night there will be entertainment at the Bayview and our annual raffle! Look for the full programme of events at the village hall, in local shops and online at www.portballintrae.net

Christmas Tree Lighting Party 12th December

It kicks off at 4 pm at the harbour where Santa and the Mayor of Coleraine will light the tree. The festivities move on to the Village Hall for entertainment, refreshments and surprises from Santa. Come out and enjoy some holiday cheer!

We would like to thank Coleraine Borough Council and the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure for their generous grants to help make these events possible.

Classes and Workshops Starting in the Village Hall

Sign up for Credit Crunch fabric recycling/soft furnishing workshops

Kate Mc Neill is interested in holding workshops on Saturdays in November. With extensive experience she suggests quick methods of using recycled scraps/vintage fabrics to make handbags, cushions or throws. These would make good Xmas presents. There could also be a series of soft furnishings workshops in the New Year to include curtain making --beginners and advanced-- as well as Roman Blinds, pelmets, cushions etc.

If interested call Kate at 2073 2678 after 21st September.

Pilates Classes on Thursday Mornings

Come along on Thursday mornings at 10.30 am to the new Portballintrae Village Hall and give Pilates a go. Even if you have mobility problems, Pilates exercises can be adapted for you. Pat Montgomery has been a fitness instructor for 20 years and took up Pilates 10 years ago and loved it. It gives your body flexibility and strength without having to leap about and get all hot and sweaty; it helps to improve posture and breathing, but best of all it makes you feel great. Classes cost £5. Wear comfortable training clothes and bring an exercise mat or large towel to sit on and a small hand towel or cushion may be useful to rest your head on. Contact Pat on 07762891833 for more information.

Tall Ship visits Portballintrae



It was a rare sight when the tall ship "RARA AVIS" anchored in Portballintrae Bay. The ship, whose homeport is Brest, France, is a 3-masted schooner and was built in 1957. Its hull is 26 metres with a 3 metre overall length and its sail area is 500 square metres. The Rara Avis had been sailing its way around Ireland and made stops in Galway Killybegs as well as Portballintrae. After Belfast it intended to head to the Isle of Scilly on its way home to Brest.



Causeway Coast Off Road Marathon – 10 October 2009

For the first time ever, there will be an off-road marathon along the Causeway Coast; and Portballintrae is in the heart of it all. The marathon route will follow the paths, tracks, beaches and coastline of the Causeway Coast Way, between Portballintrae and Ballintoy Harbour. The event will take place on Saturday 10 October 2009 and will include a half marathon, a 10k run/walk and a 26 mile challenge walk. The event is limited to a maximum of 750 competitors across all events, and each of the events on the day will have different start times and three start locations. All of the events will finish in Portballintrae. For more information or to sign up contact 07752 371100 or go to www.causewaymarathon.com.

Scottish Country Dance Classes

Start 5 October 2009 at 7.30 pm until 9.00 pm for 10 sessions then resumes 11 January 2010 for a further 10 sessions. Cost is £40 for 20 sessions. Beginners are welcome and all that is needed is something light on the feet. No partner is necessary so come and enjoy a fantastic way to exercise and meet other dancers enjoying the fun. Contact May Rooney at 7035 2050 or Anne McLaughlin 2073 1063

Art Classes and Club

The **art class**, with teacher Penny Ramelmo, will meet Wednesdays, starting 16th September, from 2-4 pm at a cost of £35 for the 10-week session. The **art club**, where people interested in getting together to paint independently, starts on Thursday 17th September and will run for 10 weeks from 2-4 pm. The cost is £15 for the 10 weeks. Contact Suzanne Mortimer at 2073 2685. Places are limited.

Entertainment Schedule

September Wed 16th Folk & Traditional Music from 9 pm
 Fri 18th Harmony
 Sat 19th John McGrath
 Wed 23rd Folk & Traditional Music from 9 pm
 Sat 26th Live Music- Jason McAllister

Bayview HOTEL

Have Fun @ the Porthole-
ANY EXCUSE FOR A PARTY!!!



GUINNESS presents Arthur's Day 24th September 2009

24th Sept starting @ 17.59 pm—that's when Arthur signed for the St James Gate Brewery in Dublin!

Celebrate Arthur Guinness' 250th in style at the Porthole. The party starts at 5 PM with Guinness promo; a LIVE LINK around the world and the world's largest "CHEERS" at exactly 17.59 HRS .

Of course there will be a free pint o' the black stuff for all of our guests, a wee bit of traditional music will be played by Robert Boyce and Domonic McNabb. We will also have all types of Guinness products from, pies to cheeses Guinness with Oysters! Join the Celebration!

October Sat 3rd Tom Laverty
 Sat 10th Live Music
 Sat 17th Live Music
 Sat 23rd Jason McAllister
 Fri 30th Fire Works Night Live Entertainment with Billy Cliff
 Sat 31st Kevin Hughes

Live Music every Saturday Night throughout November/Live Music every Friday & Saturday during December
 Christmas Menu is now available and party bookings welcome.

The new early evening tea-time menu is now on and available from 5.00 pm to 6.30 pm, at a super value of £9.99.
 For more information or to make a booking call 028 2073 4100

"Your Store" is Open



Come in and visit Jade and Nancy for a pint of milk, bread or even a cup of coffee. Newspapers will be on sale from the end of September. **Your Store**, located in the main car park, is open 7 days a week from 9 am to 8 pm Monday to Friday and until 9 pm on the weekends.

Causeway Coast Marathon

10th October 2009, Causeway Coast
 Off Road Marathon and Challenge Walk

Causeway Run and Challenge Walk 26 Miles
 Half Marathon Run 13 Miles
 Run / Walk 10 Km

To enter this unique event log onto the website or call the number below for an entry pack
 Tel: 07752 371100 (From ROI) 0044 7752 371100
 Email: info@causewaycoastmarathon.com

www.causewaycoastmarathon.com

www.26Extreme.com

Portballintrae Residents' Association Membership Form

Name:

Portballintrae address:

Home address (if different from above)

Contact Telephone:

Email:

Enclose £5 per person--Make cheques payable to Portballintrae Residents' Association and send to: Treasurer, Portballintrae Residents' Association, 15 Benbane Park, Portballintrae, BT57 8BP.
 Membership runs from January to December

Put Yourself in the News

Portballintrae News and Portballintrae.net, the website, are for and about the village. If you would like to publicise your groups' events or your business, we are offering the opportunity to be included on the website and/or the newsletter. It can be as simple as a link or a full display ad. For more information call Joyce Rankin at 028 2073 2922 or e-mail info@portballintrae.net

