

PLACE In Your Biosphere

NEWSLETTER



GALLOWAY AND
SOUTHERN AYRSHIRE
BIOSPHERE

PG. 2

What is the PLACE Project and who are we working with. Our aims and objectives.

PG. 3

What has happened so far. Project phase breakdown.

PG. 4

What's next.

PG. 5/6

Upcoming events. How you and your community can get involved. Contact details.



Figure 1: Stinchar River from Ballantrae.

Quick Debrief

PLACE IN YOUR BIOSPHERE

The Place Project is a community focussed project working in partnership with Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere (GSAB) and Southern Uplands Partnership (SUP). The project will use a series of techniques to help reconnect communities with their landscape and each other, focussing mainly on their people, land, art, culture and environment. The communities we are currently working with are Ballantrae, Colmonell, Barr, Pinwerry & Pinmore (2Pins), Barrhill, Kirkcowan, Old Luce, New Luce and Borgue.

Aims and Objectives



Figure 2: Open Meeting in Borgue 2018

WHAT IS THE PLACE PROJECT AND WHAT DO WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE

The project is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, Dumfries and Galloway Council, South Ayrshire Council, SUP and GSAB. The project will run for 2 years, starting May 2018 and is facilitated by two Project Officers.

The PLACE Project aims to help communities recognise and gain a greater understanding of their cultural and natural assets in their surrounding landscapes within the Biosphere; the People, Land, Art, Culture and Environment. Following on from understanding and reconnecting communities to their landscape, we hope to connect them with neighbouring communities to generate a larger, interconnected landscape area. A larger landscape area with more community involvement will help communities have a better say on local development and strategic planning they may face in the future.

Project Officers, Lysay and Jono, will work with communities in three contrasting landscape areas within the Biosphere: the Borgue Peninsula; the Wigtownshire Moors; and the Stinchar Valley. Each area was carefully selected due to its distinctive landscape character and the desire of local communities to engage more with their local natural and cultural heritage.

The project will be delivered by a series of engagement events within the communities, whether these are walks, talks, open meetings, or special interest events based on what communities tell us they are interested in. The idea being to engage and enthuse the communities to create an idea to expand on and develop throughout the project; and leave an ongoing legacy, once the project end

Did you know? That South Ayrshire and Galloway are Scotland's First UNESCO Biosphere. It is over 5.5 thousand Km and has been designated since 2012.

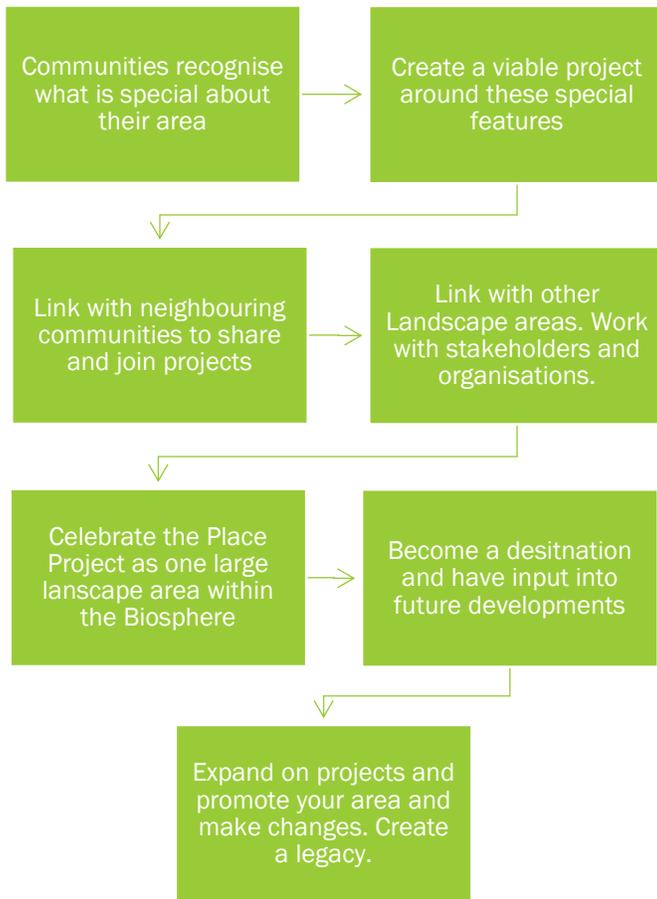


Figure 3: Phase breakdown of the Place Project

If so, it would be great if you could record these verbal treasures, using your smartphone (you don't have to film them, just record them talking), then email it to us here at the PLACE Project, saying who is talking and which community they are from. We will then extract & edit the sound recordings together, to create a valuable spoken archive, for your community to keep for future posterity

Any questions welcome, or just drop us an email to tell us how things are going and what is new in your community for 2019! We would love to visit again and need some dates for our diaries. Contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

Our funders and partners



WHAT HAS HAPPENED SO FAR.....

We look forward to getting another event organised within your community. Some communities already have great ideas for projects or events. For example, Borgue are hosting "Place Names and The Heritage of Borgue and Its Folk"; Kirkcowan are setting up a historical society; New Luce would like to create a nature trail to their old curling pond; and 2Pins want to establish a proper, mapped, river walk. This will be a great achievement for the PLACE Project and help shape the aims of the project as we enter stage 2.

In stage 2 we are looking to get more involvement from our communities, whether that is an informal meeting, event or a guided walk, or a little bit of fun like the ideas below!

To get the New Year underway we would like to invite you to participate and send us, via email, a 1-minute film of your area and community. You can film anything you like that represents your place and why it is special to you and why you think people would want to visit. You can film this on any device you wish - phone, camera, go-pro, drone etc...

Once we've received your film clip, we will get it professionally edited and collect all films from one area to create a longer film, that we will show at a premier in your community! This footage will be shared and can be accessed by the community at any time for you to use and promote your area. We will share it using the GSAB website and social media, again helping promote the region.

Alternatively, you could help us with our "Voices of Your Community" initiative... Is there someone in your community with a tale to tell? A story, snippet of history, memory, folklore, legend? Something that brings your place to life?



WHAT'S NEXT.....

We just had our second Steering Group meeting. The steering group is made up of 3 landscape area representatives, the Project officers and 3 board members from the GSAB. These meetings are imperative to the development of the PLACE Project and gives us time to discuss and reflect on how and where the project is going.

Here is a brief description of the 9 communities so far and what we plan to do next:

Ballantrae – Working with the Community Council, it had been agreed that going forward the next step is to try and engage more community members. Therefore, an event on the 15th February has been organised with the Community Development Trust, in order to try and gain more interest in the PLACE Project and joining the Community Development Trust. Aimed at younger and less active community members.

Colmonell – Jono had made contact the community garden and trying to get the PLACE Project involved with this. There is also a possible project that will allow walks to connect all communities throughout the Stinchar Valley, there is a proposed meeting on the 19th February in 2Pins/ Colmonell area to discuss this and how to reinvigorate the 'Stinchar Valley Walking Group' that already has a constitution and a bank account, but has become inactive.

Barr – Barr have a 'Barr Trails Day' taking place on 19th May 2019, Lynsay has been in correspondence regarding this about offering a guided walk during this event and a bus of people to support the event from other PLACE communities.

2Pins – Discussions ongoing about the Stinchar Valley Walking Group and updating and re-printing walking leaflets, there is also discussion of holding guided walk events throughout the Stinchar Valley to generate and interest. This is part of the meeting being held on 19th February. Location TBC.

Barrhill – Working with their Community Development Officer, Lynsay has had a few meetings to discuss moving the project forward. Going forward Lynsay will attend a craft meeting and the meeting regarding the community purchase of the Trout Inn on Saturday 9th February.

Borgue – An event will be held in the Borgue Hotel on 28th February. The event named 'Place Names and Heritage of Borgue and Its Folk' – will focus on the local place names and their origins and the history of Borgue and the local heritage. We will also focus on the past, present and future of farming in this landscape area and the impacts it has on local diversity and how to work together to improve this in the future.

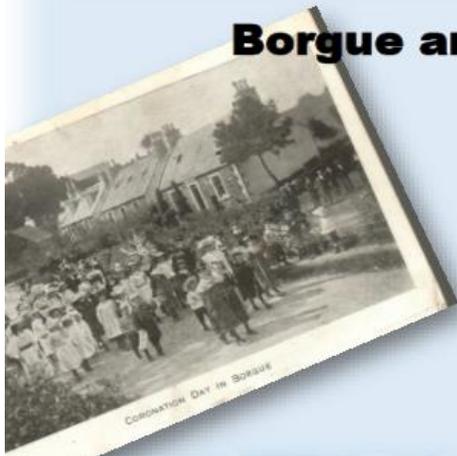
New Luce – New Luce Development Officer has been working with Jono and discussing the possibility of reinstating an old curling pond. This fits in with the Development Trust Green Space targets and links in nicely with the PLACE Project aims and objectives.

Old Luce – Little engagement with Old Luce has come to light. We will make a final push with the community owned woodland contact and try to encourage participation through this group.

Kirkcowan –Lynsay hopes to organise a Historical Society introduction event, where PLACE will provide specialist speakers and allow the community members of Kirkcowan to learn about their local history and heritage. In return we hope that this event will spur a group into action to set about memberships and then another future meeting and /or event.

EVENTS AND HOW TO GET INVOLVED.....

PLACE Names and Heritage of Borgue and Its Folk



The PLACE Project invites you to a FREE event

On

Thursday 28th February 2019

At

The Borgue Hotel

From 7pm

Buffet, tea & coffee supplied

FREE

Join specialist Michael Ansell and Ted Cowan as they uncover the historical influence of Norse, Brittonic, Scots and Gaelic place names in and around Borgue. Explore why Borgue was an important Parish both on land and sea. And reminisce on some memorable Borgue characters and achievers who made their mark on Scotland and abroad.

Come along and enjoy an informal discussion where the speaker hopes to inform but also be informed.



fearann bainne agus mìl

Contact: Lynsay@gsabiosphere.org.uk



Here is a list of upcoming events to watch out for and attend!

9th February – Barrhill Community Interest Company meeting about the purchase of the Trout Inn. 10am-1pm Barrhill Memorial Hall.

15th February – Ballantrae Community Development Trust meet and greet. A great chance to get involved in your local community and the PLACE Project. 7pm Ballantrae Community Center.

19th February – Stinchar Valley Walking Group Meeting – a discussion about reinvigorating this fantastic group, organise walks and events and reprinting of walk leaflets. 3.30pm Colmonell Community Center.

28th February - 'Place Names and Heritage of Borgue and Its Folk' – focus on the local place names and their origins and the history of Borgue and the local heritage. We will also focus on the past, present and future of farming in this landscape area and the impacts it has on local diversity and how to work together to improve this in the future. Borgue Hotel 7pm. Buffet, tea and coffee supplied. (see poster opposite).

19th May – Barr Trails Day – A series of walks, stalls, food and events in Barr. PLACE are offering a free bus to this event for anyone in a community involved with the PLACE Project. If you are interested in coming along, please get in touch lynsay@gsabiosphere.org.uk spaces are limited so booking is essential.



GET IN TOUCH.....

If you would like to get in touch about anything regarding the PLACE Project then please feel free to send us an email, we can arrange a face to face meeting too of that is more suitable, either way we would love to hear from you. Our phone service is a little touch and go but if you require a phone call best to leave us an email and we can call when we have a service.

Here are the Project Officer Contact Details:

Lynsay Bradford – lynsay@gsabiosphere.org.uk

Jono Hudson – jono@gsabiosphere.org.uk

We have an office at Kirroughtree Old Visitors Centre Stronord, Newton Stewart, please pop in if you are passing for a cuppa and catch up (if we are in!).



NEXT EDITION....

Find out how our events went and learn about more project developments and ideas. Advertisement for our second intern recruitment will be going live shortly; and hear about the premier of short films and audio recordings from things you have sent in, in your community, a great social event and popcorn!

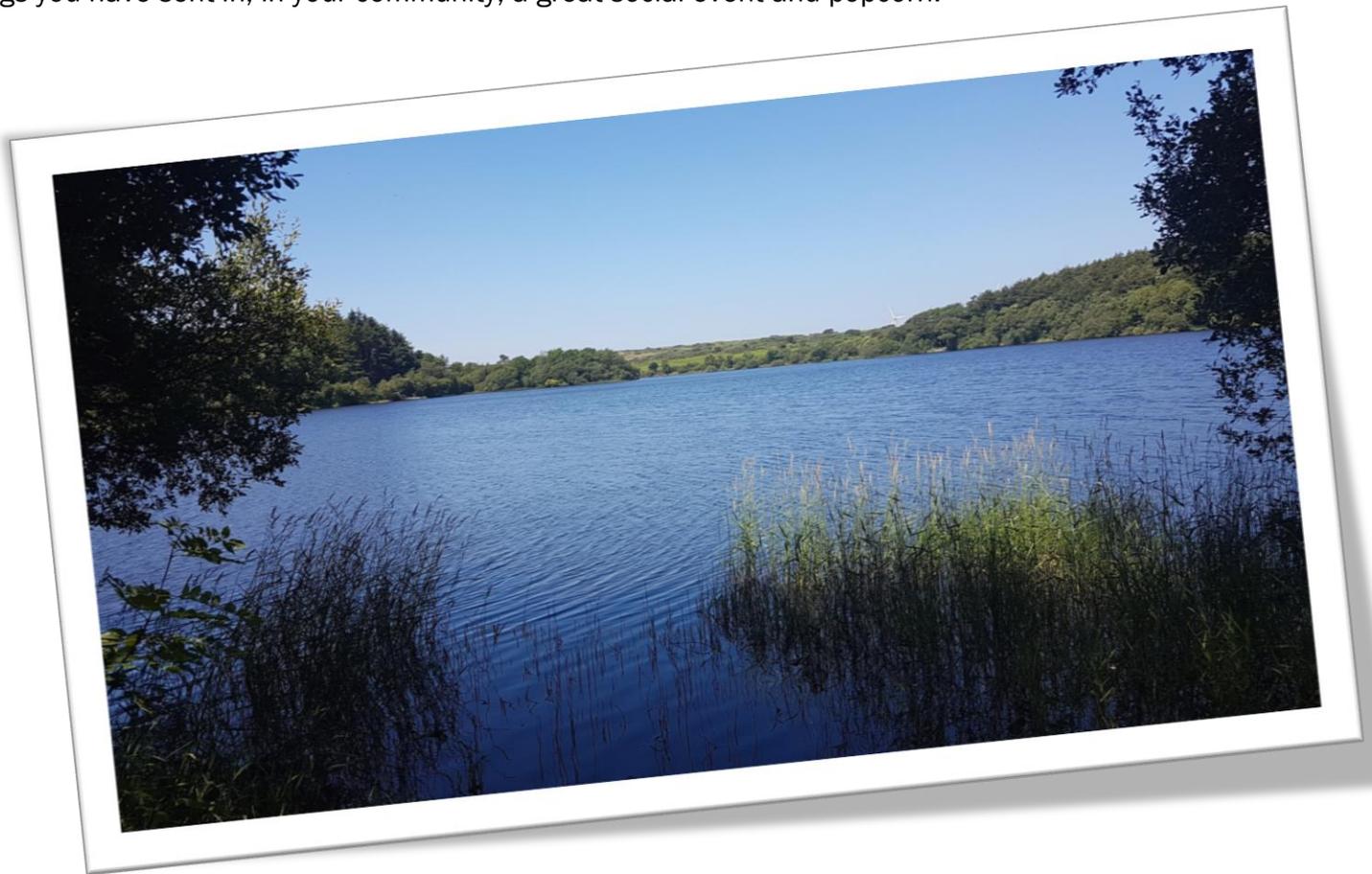


Figure 4: Whitefield Loch near Glenluce