Friday 11 February 2022

Community

INSIDE

DISTANCE

JUSTICE

GULLS

Dumfries & Galloway COUNCIL

Welcome to Community

Cllr Elaine Murray
Council Leader

Cllr Rob Davidson
Depute Leader

As restrictions and isolation requirements ease, it feels like we're coming to the end of a phase in the Covid pandemic. Hopefully, our lives can soon revert to some sort of "normal".

However, it's really important that we don't get too relaxed and drop our guard. We must remember that Covid is a dangerous virus and remains potentially lethal. So we need to remain vigilant and continue to take precautions to protect ourselves and others.

To assist in the fight against Covid we should:

- Wear face masks when appropriate
- Maintain our distance
- Take regular lateral flow tests
- Be vaccinated

best wishes

Elaine and Rob

If you would like help understanding this or need it in another format telephone 030 33 33 3000

Stay away for 10 days

If you've tested positive for Covid, don't visit vulnerable people, care homes, prisons or hospitals within 10 days of the test or first being symptomatic.

Director of Public Health Valerie White said: "There have been a lot of changes to guidance lately, particularly relating to self-isolation after testing positive for Covid, which can be confusing.

"To be extremely clear, you should not visit people in care homes, hospitals or prisons within 10 days of symptoms starting or within 10 days of the positive test result even if you don't have symptoms, unless essential and agreed with staff in advance. You should also carefully consider meeting up with people who might be more vulnerable in this period.

"New rules in Scotland mean that someone can leave isolation if they don't have a fever and test negative with an LFD on Day 6 and again 24 hours later. But they are not to visit vulnerable people during the 10 days and should avoid large scale indoor mixing.

"They should limit close contact with people outside their household, especially in enclosed spaces and wear a face covering in enclosed spaces.

"We've seen over the past 2 years the impact that Covid outbreaks have had, particularly among those most vulnerable. So, it's important that we all do our bit to prevent such outbreaks.

"Amid all this, regular testing is vital in detecting cases at the earliest opportunity and preventing risk of spread.

"Getting fully vaccinated also remains incredibly important. Being fully vaccinated means, as an adult, having had 3 doses of vaccine. So act now to ensure you are as protected as possible."

www.nhsdg.co.uk/vaccines

Book your booster: https://vacs.nhs.scot/csp
or t: 0800 030 8013.

Blooming Marvellous

Wigtown and Newton Stewart Customer Service Centres are inviting young people to make their indoor garden bloom.

Young readers are being celebrated with their very own new Wall of Fame.

Children are being encouraged to make posters and pictures of their favourite stories, rhymes and poems, then display them for library visitors in the Reading Makes Your Mind Bloom display.

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

ACTIVE TRAVEL STRATEGY 2022 - 2027

More walking and cycling is at the top of the Scottish Government's priorities and our Council is working on a refreshed Active Travel Strategy for the next 5 years.

It will build on progress from the previous strategy and incorporate recent data to give a better picture of the actions required to improve uptake of active travel and the infrastructure in the region.

The Strategy will also shape goals and align them with national aims to decarbonise transport and deliver the vision for sustainable communities.

Place-based approaches will be key to aligning the Council's initiatives with those led by local communities on our journey to net zero.

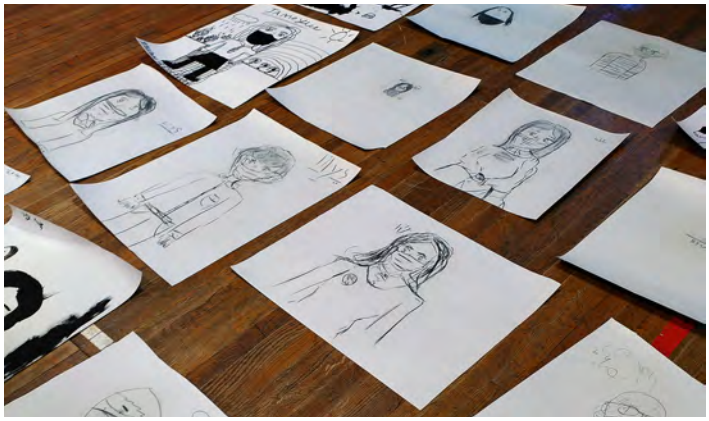
Have your say through the online survey, which is until 27 February: **https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/consultations**

Gracefield hosts Young Faces

At the end of last year, 15 pupils from North West Community Campus in Dumfries took part in a 5-week workshop as part of the Stove Network's Lochside-based What We Do Now project.

The pupils' work is on display in the café at Gracefield Art Centre, Dumfries until 24 February.

Over the course of the 5-week block half the students worked with artists Alice Francis and Rosie Giblin developing large scale portrait drawings. The other half worked with glass artist Andy Brooke designing and making Tiffany style glass light catchers based on personal objects.



Through drawing games such as left-handed drawing, two-handed drawing, and drawing with paintbrushes on the end of long sticks, they experimented with letting go of control and big bold expressive mark making.

Together they looked at street artists, such as SWOON, who draw big portraits and use paper paste techniques to stick their artwork to the side of buildings.

Under the personal objects theme, students were able to design and make a copper foil stained glass panel to represent an aspect of their identity or personal interests. Each pupil started with an object which they photographed and then simplified into a design suitable for stained glass. They were able to learn and use all the processes involved in making a finished piece of stained glass to their own design.

Lead artist on the project Andy Brooke said: "It was great working with the young people and helping them learn the skills of traditional copper foil stained glass. They came up with very creative designs and worked carefully with tools such as glass cutters and soldering irons. The results speak for themselves."

In Gracefield Gallery 2 until 19 March, the Scottish Portrait Awards: telling the story of 2021, features the works by the top prize-winners and almost 60 works selected from over 700 entries.

The paintings, drawings and photographs in the current Scottish Portrait Awards exhibition echo the dominant themes of our times: family, environment, black lives, women's empowerment, and mental health.

Admission to Gracefield is free of charge, Tuesday to Saturday, 10am to 5pm, café until 4pm.

Charge!

Manufacturers must reduce the purchase cost of electric vehicles and the charging network must be rapidly expanded to accelerate the switch away from fossil fuels, according to a survey by the Electric Vehicle Association Scotland.

In its 2021/22 review of members, EVA Scotland found that more than 83% said that purchase costs were a major factor in choosing an electric vehicle (EV), with 50% wanting to see new EV prices reduced.

More than 43% said they want to see rapid development and growth of Scotland's EV charging infrastructure.

Asked what influenced them most when considering making the transition to owning an electric vehicle:

- more than **90%** wanted cheaper fuel costs
- **71%** wanted reductions in overall running costs
- **82%** said a more enjoyable drive
- **87%** wanted a quieter drive
- **68.75%** wanted increased acceleration

More than 96% said they were very satisfied (78%) or satisfied (18%) with their EV.

Although battery range was one of the key factors in choosing their current EV (63%), only 14% of those surveyed thought that EVs weren't suitable for long journeys.

Commenting on the results of the survey, EVA Scotland director Neil Swanson said: "We firmly believe that these results show tremendous confidence in the future of all-electric vehicles as the way forward in our global battle against climate change and, if manufacturers address the current higher costs of buying an EV, the current rate of change from fossil fuel vehicles will accelerate even more rapidly. Members also want to see further development and growth of Scotland's EV charging infrastructure."

There are now more than 30,000 licensed vehicles in Scotland that are classed as ultra-low emission vehicles (ULEVs), with the majority being either pure battery or plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

EVA Scotland
Electric Vehicle Association Scotland

SoSE seeks creative views

South of Scotland Enterprise (SoSE) wants to find out more about how it can support the creative and cultural sector in Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders.

Businesses, employers, and freelancers working in the sector are invited to complete an online questionnaire about their current activity and their views on how the sector can be supported to flourish.

The online survey will be complemented by a phone survey in February.

The online survey is open now until Monday 28 February.

SoSE Chief Executive Jane Morrison-Ross said: "The cultural and creative sector has a crucial role to play in supporting our vision of the South of Scotland as a centre of opportunity, innovation and growth. We want to support the sector to thrive, celebrating and enabling creativity and making the most of our regional strengths. The findings will help our work over the next few years, including the kind of support required to help the sector recover from the impact of the pandemic."

Freelancers and sole traders should complete this survey: **https://online1.snapsurveys.com/SOSEfreelance**

Businesses and creative organisations should complete this survey: **https://online1.snapsurveys.com/SOSEbusiness**

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY PUBLIC PROTECTION PARTNERSHIP WEEK 14 - 18 FEBRUARY 2022

An opportunity for key partner organisations to connect with the community, share best practice and knowledge, and support each other to enhance services.

The week of online events will involve key speakers across public protection to raise awareness and understanding of public protection in Dumfries and Galloway and facilitate discussions between staff and communities.

To book a place on events and find out more see: www.dgppp.org.uk

Concerned that a child or adult is at risk of harm?

Call Single Access Point,
t: **030 33 33 3001**

Call Police, t: **999** if it's an emergency or t: **101** for advice

If you see something, say something.

www.dgppp.org.uk

Dunscore Play Park Project Group and Community Assets Nithsdale are working together to develop the play park at Dunscore. The Council has recently replaced the gate into the park and received a donation from the group to install 2 new recycled plastic benches and a family picnic table. The group is now working on further developing the area, including a cycle path and upgrading the play equipment.

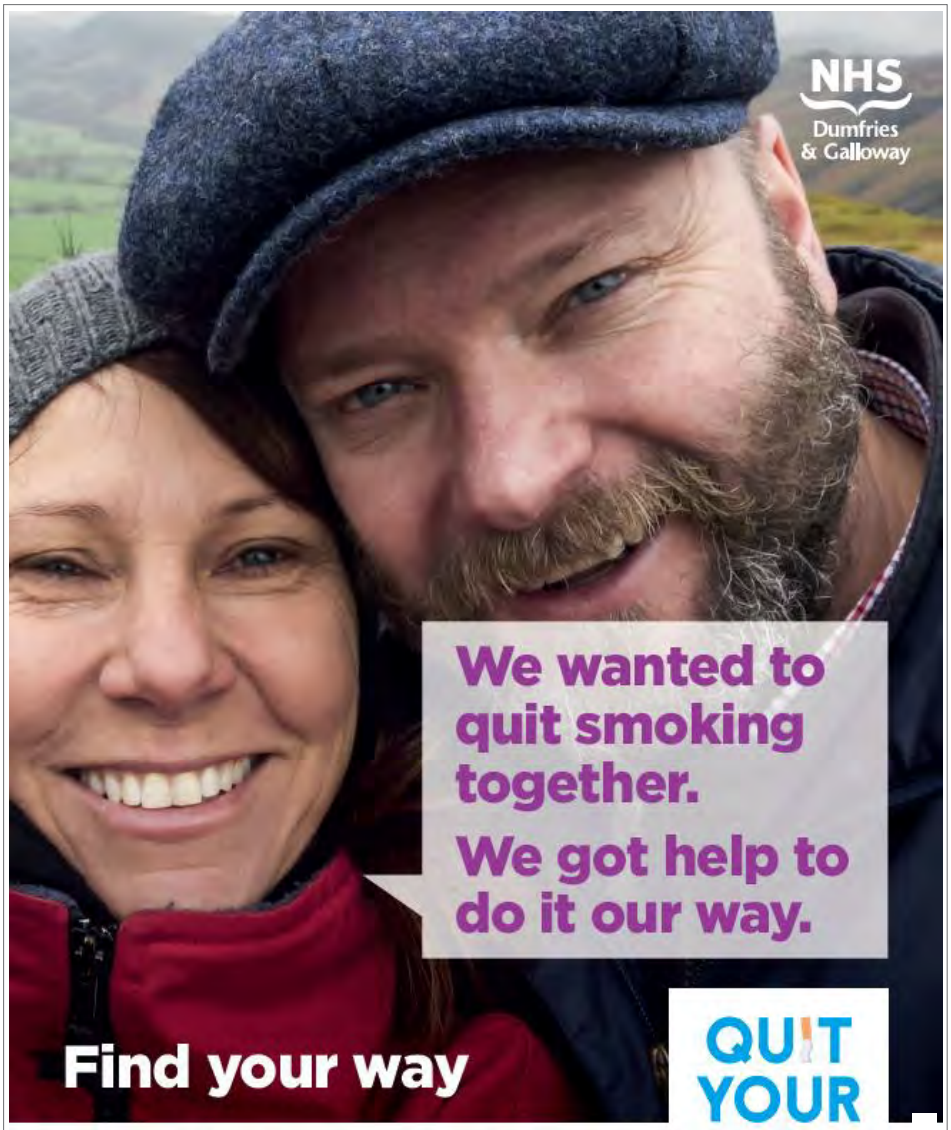
During a road closure on the **A75** between Annan and Gretna at the end of January, the Community Assets Team from Annandale South took the opportunity to carry out a **litter pick**. A 4-mile stretch was cleared of 78 bags of litter and 11 tyres.

The Community Assets Wigtown team cleaned the **MV Princess Victoria Memorial** and surrounding area in Stranraer's Agnew Park to ready it for the annual memorial service held on 31 January.

In January, SEPA published **updated Flood Risk Management Plans** for each of Scotland's 14 Local Plan Districts. The plan for the Solway district can be accessed at sepa.org.uk

The plans have been shaped in collaboration with responsible authorities and public consultation carried out July to October 2021.

Responses will be published by SEPA in Spring 2022, then local authorities will publish a Local Flood Risk Management Plan when directed by the Scottish Government.



Or call your local service, Quit Your Way on
0845 602 6861
or speak to your Community Pharmacist

Back away now

Customer Service Centres are supporting the Scottish Government's Distance Aware Campaign, with free badges and lanyards for people worried about Covid risks in public spaces.

The Distance Aware scheme is aimed at people at high risk or those who are nervous about mixing with others.

The badges and landyards show a yellow shield and signal that the wearer would like others to give them extra space. They can be collected from Customer Service Centres.

Dumfries and Galloway College

College supports learners

Dumfries and Galloway College has launched a new course to help people with supported learning needs prepare for work.

Based in Stranraer, the Pathway to Employment National Qualification Level 3 course will be delivered with The Better Lives Partnership, which delivers services to young people and children affected by autism and additional barriers.

The full-time programme, with learners in class a minimum of 2 days a week, is open to school leavers and adults looking to return to education or on an employment pathway. To be accepted for the course, learners will need to demonstrate their ability to work independently and with others and to pass an interview process.

Once they complete the course, learners can move on to the Bridge to Employment with the Better Lives Partnership, Project Search at the College's Dumfries campus, or any other service that offers support into employment or volunteering opportunities.

More information is available from Dumfries and Galloway College.

Justice League

Justice Social Work emphasises public protection through risk management and by reducing reoffending.

Practice is firmly rooted in social work principles and values, with a strong commitment to inclusion.

Aims:

- to deliver a justice system that contributes positively and helps to create an inclusive and respectful society in which all people and communities live safely and securely;
- to reduce reoffending and support people to pay back constructively for their crimes, to build better lives for themselves, their families and their communities;
- to carry out work within the framework of the National Objective and Standards for Justice Social Work Services and produce agreed qualitative improvements;
- to promote strong, equal partnership working between third party and public sector organisations and other agencies with an increased emphasis on public protection;
- to contribute to making communities safer places to live.

[Community Sentences]

[Caledonian System]

[Justice Throughcare Team]

[Community Justice Partnership]

[Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)]

Share a thought for gulls

Students at the University of Glasgow's Dumfries Campus are conducting research on the public perceptions of gull issues in Dumfries and Galloway and are seeking your views.

You can take part in an online focus group to share your perspectives and opinions on gull issues.

Each focus groups will have around 6 participants and last around an hour.

For further information and to register for a focus group:
[www.eventbrite.co.uk]

Quiz of the Week

> **Aim for a cloud. You might land on a high mountain.**
> Maori proverb

1. How many Academy Award nominations did The Power of the Dog get this week?
2. Who beat Championship side Bournemouth in the 4th round of the FA Cup?
3. Who directed the film Licorice Pizza?
4. Rik Mayall played fictional MP Alan B'Stard in which ITV comedy series?
5. Who became minister for Brexit Opportunities in a recent Cabinet reshuffle?
6. Which West Ham player kicked a cat this week?
7. Who won last weekend's Calcutta Cup?
8. Who won Best Actor at the 1968 Academy Awards for In the Heat of the Night?
9. Which political document sold for $43m last year?
10. Who wrote the Jack Reacher novels (until his recent retirement)?
11. Which Scottish knight was hanged, drawn and quartered for high treason and crimes against English civilians by King Edward I in 1305?
12. Who is the Secretary of State for Scotland?
13. One of Elon Musk's Space X rockets is on course to crash into what?
14. The Blackwood convention is used in what card game?
15. Which TV show took its title from a Whiskas advert?
16. Which 2 teams will meet in this year's NFL Super Bowl?
17. What nationality is Metallica's drummer Lars Ulrich?
18. How many awards did Adele win at this years' Brit Awards?
19. Who directed the films Belfast and Death on the Nile?
20. How many times has Tom Holland featured as Spider-Man / Peter Parker in film?

RBCFT Film of the Week

Licorice Pizza

Directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, whose previous films include The Master, There Will Be Blood, and 2017's Phantom Thread, Licorice Pizza tells the story of Alana Kane and Gary Valentine as they grow up, run around, and fall in love in the San Fernando Valley in 1973.

Based on stories from an actor friend, Anderson wanted to make a film about the relationship between a student and someone a few years older.

Known for frequent collaborations with actors such as Joaquin Phoenix, Daniel Day-Lewis, and Philip Seymour Hoffman, this time he's gone with unknowns for the roles of Alana and Gary.

Anderson has made numerous music videos for the band Haim, and wrote the screenplay with one of the singers, Alana Haim, in mind. Haim's sisters and parents were also cast to play the roles of her family. Cooper Hoffman, son of the late Philip Seymour Hoffman, was cast as Gary.

Licorice Pizza marks the feature film debut of both Haim and Hoffman, and they're terrific. Bradley Cooper, Sean Penn, and Tom Waits all make appearances in small roles (Cooper is hysterical as film producer Jon Peters).

Anderson's films are often psychological dramas depicting truly despicable characters. However, Licorice Pizza is reminiscent of Boogie Nights and Inherent Vice.

The cinematography has a wonderfully grainy sun-bleached 70s feel to it, more analogue than digital (Anderson is a fan of presenting his films in 70mm whenever possible). He also has a unique visual style that uses moving cameras and long takes, drawing the viewer in.

At over 2 hours the film seems like a series of short stories strung together but the effect is hypnotising, the unhurried movement of it all is just so effortless.

Funny and engaging, it's a film well worth watching for Haim's performance alone. In cinemas now.

Community Assets Stewartry provided **two used litter bins for the playground at Twynholm Primary School**. Pupils will decorate them then encourage younger children to use them and care for their environment.

Bookbug Sessions for under 5s are set to return at Castle Douglas Customer Service Centre and Gatehouse Customer Service Centre from mid-February. Sessions must be pre booked.

The **Solway Sharks ice hockey team** returned to the rink for their first home match of 2022 at Dumfries Ice Bowl, watched by a capacity crowd, after restrictions were lifted on indoor sports in Scotland.

Community Assets Nithsdale staff have been assisting Dumfries Initiative with **planting at The Globe Inn, Dumfries.**

Community Assets Nithsdale staff picked up 25 bags of rubbish following a litter pick by **DG Eco Warriors**.

Public **ice-skating sessions** returned to the **Ice Bowl,** with full capacity achieved on 29 and 30 January.

Roads and Community Assets staff recently assisted the **Sandside Community Garden Project**, providing plant and people to dig a trench, provide road planings, and secure a power supply.

Customer Services is taking part in a new project **Memories Scotland**, which aims to provide library-based memory groups with resource packs that include local social history photographs for reminiscence. Themes include working life and social life.

The Council's **Registration Service** has had its busiest January for marriage applications since 2015. The service processed 320 weddings application forms for weddings happening in the next 3 months. Currently, 540 **wedding ceremonies** are booked in Dumfries and Galloway between now and Easter.

Key Contacts

National COVID-19 Helpline	0800 111 4000
For people who don't have family or existing community support and can't get online and who are over 70, disabled, require the support of mental health services, are pregnant or receive a flu jab for health reasons, will be directed to our dedicated local team who can offer essential assistance.	
NHS24 www.nhsinform.scot	111
Emergency	999
Doctor Out of Hours	111
Dumfries and Galloway Council www.dumgal.gov.uk	030 33 33 3000
Employability Support Helpline	01387 260 060 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Business Support Helpline	01387 260 280 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub	030 33 33 3001
Social Work Out of Hours	01387 273 660
Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway	0300 303 8558
Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service www.dagcas.org	0300 303 4321
Samaritans	116 123
SHOUT	Text SHOUT to 85258 for free
Scotland's Domestic Abuse Helpline	0800 027 1234
Age Scotland	0800 12 44 222 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
Shelter Scotland	0808 800 444 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
LGBT Helpline Scotland	0300 123 2523
Childline	0800 1111

Quiz of the Week Answers

1. 12
2. Non-league side Boreham Wood
3. Paul Thomas Anderson
4. The New Statesman
5. Jacob Rees-Mogg
6. Kurt Zouma
7. Scotland (beating England 20-17)
8. Rod Steiger
9. An original copy of the US Constitution
10. Lee Child
11. William Wallace
12. Alister Jack
13. The Moon
14. Bridge
15. 8 Out of 10 Cats
16. Cincinnati Bengals and Los Angeles Rams
17. Danish
18. 3 - best artist, album, and song of the year for Easy on Me.
19. Kenneth Branagh
20. 7 - Captain America: Civil War, Spider-Man: Homecoming, Avengers: Infinity War, Avengers: Endgame, Spider-Man: Far From Home, Venom: Let There Be Carnage, Spider-Man: No Way Home