

# Community

#SupportDG 

EDITION 36  
Friday 11 September 2020



There's something exciting happening in Thornhill. See inside for details.



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Dumfries  
& Galloway



# Welcome to Community

## Your Dumfries and Galloway Community Bulletin

 @dgcouncil

 @DumfriesGallowayCouncil

 Email updates [dumgal.gov.uk/newsletters](https://dumgal.gov.uk/newsletters)

### Welcome to edition 35 of Community



**Cllr Elaine Murray**  
Council Leader



**Cllr Rob Davidson**  
Depute Leader

Our message this week focuses on the reopening of leisure venues.

From Monday most of our leisure venues reopen, and we're looking forward to welcoming you back. Adaptations have been made to our venues, and there are changes to opening times and booking arrangements – here's a summary of what you will find different:

- All activities are pre-booked only – up to 48 hours in advance at our website or by phoning the venue
- We're cashless and accept contactless payments
- We've safety guidance signage throughout our venues
- There are sanitisation stations to use before and after each visit
- All activities are timetabled with staggered session start times to reduce congestion

There's also ways that you can help us:

- We ask that anyone showing symptoms of COVID-19 does not attend our venues and follow NHS guidelines <https://www.nhsinform.scot>.
- Please arrive ready for your activity
- Follow the safety guidance in place in the venue
- Use the hand sanitiser before and after your session / activity

There is much more information on our leisure web pages <https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/leisure>.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

with best wishes  
**Elaine and Rob**

### Did you know?

Many Customer Service Centres and Libraries have reopened. Come on in, we're here to help!



The Emergency Services Day flag proudly flying over the Midsteeple in Dumfries on Wednesday.



# Langholm Community Secures £1 Million

South of Scotland Enterprise have announced up to £1 million financial support to the Langholm Initiative charity in its venture to purchase part of Langholm Moor from Buccleuch Estates.

The Langholm Initiative is spearheading a campaign to raise enough funds to buy the land and bring it into community control. If successful, the buyout will be the first large-scale purchase of this type in the South of Scotland.

The buyout at Langholm has garnered significant support both from the local community and further afield, with nearly 2,500 people donating £200,000.

Community ownership of Langholm Moor would enable the Langholm Initiative to develop a new National Nature Reserve and capture ongoing revenue from the asset, as well as providing a platform to unlock further community-led enterprise development and job creation.

It would provide significant social, environmental, and economic benefits to the area.

Kevin Cumming, project leader at The Langholm Initiative, said: "This generous support is a major step towards a successful outcome for the community."

"We have been working closely with South of Scotland Enterprise over recent weeks, and couldn't be happier with their commitment to support the people of Langholm."

"We still have a race against time to find the rest of the funding required for a purchase to take place. We are investigating every possible option to ensure the buyout is a success."

Professor Russel Griggs OBE, Chair of South of Scotland Enterprise said: "We are delighted to support The Langholm Initiative project, and recognise that our significant contribution will be a tremendous step toward reaching their ambitious funding package."

"As the new economic development agency for the South of Scotland, our plans to further the region's economic, social and environmental development are at the heart of everything we do, and helping communities to take advantage of the opportunities community asset transfer offers is one the objectives set out for us in the legislation that put us in place."

"Community ownership is a catalytic step in community development and empowerment as it enables communities to make decisions about how assets within their communities are used."

"The successful acquisition of Langholm Moor represents a long-term economic, social and natural capital development project, and we look forward to working with The Langholm Initiative as the situation develops."



# Wedding Dress Surprise

Annan Museum had a lovely surprise last week when the granddaughter of Janet Beattie visited the museum.

Janet's 1910 wedding dress was previously donated to the Devil's Porridge Museum and is now on show at Annan Museum as part of the Love in Wartime exhibition. One of six children, Janet was born at West Bowhill Cottage in Cummertrees. By the age of 14 she was working as a servant for John Thomson, the minister at Greenknowe Manse, Annan. Janet married William Grierson in Annan in 1910.

Amidst the dark times of War and the chemical fumes of HM Factory Gretna romance blossomed. Utilising objects and archive material from The Devil's Porridge Museum this exhibition include real love stories from the workforce, the impact of War on married life and sorrowful tales of widows and loss. This display includes additional wartime wedding dresses donated following the previous exhibition along with silk floral displays provided by Flowers by Joan, Annan.



# One Of The First In Scotland To Deliver 1140 Hours

We'll be one of the first councils in Scotland to deliver 1140 hours for our pre-school children.

It's a fantastic achievement that our council will be able to deliver the additional hours. As well as benefiting children, it will also deliver additional benefits to families in the region by providing opportunities for employment and helping to boost our local economy.

Chair of the Education and Learning committee, Jeff Leaver said, "Providing the best start in life for all our children is a priority for our Council. I am very proud that we will be one of the first local authorities in Scotland to deliver 1140 hours for our children. As a result of COVID-19, many of our local childcare providers had to temporarily close their businesses. The team have been working hard with our local childcare providers during this very difficult period. It is great news that now our local childcare providers will be able to provide families these additional childcare hours".

*Providing the best start in life for all our children is a priority for our Council*

*...it is good that we are able to provide certainty for families*

Vice Chair, Ros Surtees said, "This was a priority project for our council so I am pleased that we are now able to deliver this for local families. It has been an uncertain few months for everyone, so it is good that we are able to provide certainty for families, ensuring that children are able to receive the additional childcare hours".

# Celebrating Adult Learning

It's Adult Learners' Week this week, and we've been celebrating the adult learners who have been supported by our Lifelong Learning Service throughout the year.

Lauramay Smith is one of our adult learners who over the last year has been participating in Peep Learning Together training, an extensive course, which helps build strong parent-child relationships, increases parental knowledge and confidence in how to support their child's learning and play in day-to-day life, support children's personal, social and emotional development, communication and language, early literacy and maths, and health and physical development.



Lauramay and her daughter Isla

'Lauramay said, "Over the course of the last year I've thoroughly enjoyed learning about child development whilst attending our local Lifelong Learning Peep group. The group has provided a wide range of different activities, stories and songs that can be done at the group and at home. I was also grateful to have the opportunity to gain a national accreditation alongside attending the group with my daughter. Although face-to-face sessions have had to stop, the support of Lifelong Learning team have been much appreciated in order to complete my course work. I feel the accreditation will help me support my child's learning, development and education to the best of my ability and will also help in future if I wish to seek employment in school or nursery".

Well done to Lauramay and others who have participated in Peep training over the last year.

More on the work of Lifelong Learning at @DGCLearning or [adult.learning@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:adult.learning@dumgal.gov.uk)



## Power To The People

This week saw the long-awaited restart of three Active Communities sessions in Dumfries.

The sessions, led by Dumfries and Galloway Council's wellbeing team, were a huge success with superb numbers coming along to take part in the new 'physically distanced' favourites.

Monday morning's Power Walk attracted 13 ladies and the Tuesday evening Power Walk attracted 22 ladies. Both sessions leave from the Cupcake café in Dock Park and cover approximately 3.5 miles. Our women-only Pedal Power cycling group returned on Thursday evening which saw the group cover a 7-mile loop from Dock Park to the Royal Infirmary, to Nunholm and then returning to the Cupcake café.

Chair of the Communities Committee, Councillor Andy Ferguson said, "It's great to see the return of these activities to our communities. They're not only important in terms helping people to live healthier and more independent lives, they can also provide a very valuable social opportunity for people to get together. Such groups and activities should be viewed as vital non-clinical services as part of the wider 'social prescribing' system, whereby healthcare professionals can refer patients into these activities by means of meeting their wellbeing needs".

Vice Chair of the Communities committee, Councillor John Martin said, "These outdoor opportunities are a welcome addition to the many activities that are beginning to restart in our local communities. These groups are vital for enhancing wellbeing, especially given the long period of isolation that many of our community members have experienced".

**Look out for more active communities sessions across Dumfries and Galloway.**



# Catalyst for Change

Earlier this year visual artist Ursula Cheng was commissioned to complete the Old School Thornhill mural.

The project is the first onsite activity since bringing the building into community ownership. Acting as a catalyst for change, the project hope it will have a significant positive impact on a much loved but neglected building.

Through conversation Ursula discovered hugely personal and poignant stories about the building's heritage and the significant place it holds in the collective memories of the community. These stories have been brought to life through her mural.



Old School Thornhill project manager, Samuel Sparrow said, "We've ambitious plans for the building to transform it into an innovative, design-led, community asset. Our vision is to build a strong, collaborative community in Thornhill and the surrounding area that combats rural isolation and nurtures rural entrepreneurship, creativity, and innovation".

The mural project was funded by The National Lottery Community Fund Awards for All.

**More at @OSThornhill**

Bill Cunningham's Film of the Week

## Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy

This week I am in the murky world of British Intelligence Services during the Cold War in the 1970's for, Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy, adapted from the book by John Le Carre. This is not the world of 007, but of a sort of gentlemen's club where a veneer of respectability covered a realm of suspicion and treachery.

In 1979 the BBC produced a very successful series with Sir Alec Guinness as the disenchanted espionage agent George Smiley and it is Gary Oldman who was brave enough to follow in his footsteps. Despite his name, George never smiles but Oldman's body language and eyes betray a penetrating assessment of every situation. His performance is mesmerizing.

In this grey world of desk bound acolytes, dark deeds are afoot. There is a Soviet mole at work and Smiley is engaged by the Government civil-servant responsible for intelligence to investigate and find the traitor. This sets in motion a labyrinthine plot using flashbacks to reveal how the 'mole' could be any one of four of George's former colleagues nicknamed after the famous rhyme. The supporting cast is superb with John Hurt, Colin Firth, Toby Jones, Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom Hardy, Mark Strong and Kathy Burke in a brilliant cameo as a former analyst who got too close to the truth.



Directed by Thomas Alfredson who made 'Let the Right One In', this is what you would call a slow burn film that allows time and space to reveal the layers of duplicity and ruthlessness of the world of spies. There are no fast cars and globe-trotting Bond style, but a growing tension as Smiley peels back the layers of betrayal to finally expose the truth. It is on BBC I-Player as well as on Amazon Prime.

Bill Cunningham works at the Robert Burns Centre Film Theatre and wrote the film column in the Dumfries & Galloway Standard for many years.



"How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Anne Frank, German diarist (1929 - 1945)

# Activities Page



## Science & Nature Quiz

Answers on back page

1. In which modern-day country was the physicist and chemist Marie Curie born?
2. How many wings does a mosquito have?
3. Which is the largest internal organ in the human body?
4. Arachnophobia is the fear of what?
5. What is the collective name for a group of crows?
6. What part of a human body is the Mandible?
7. The rate at which the body produces energy from nutrients is controlled by which gland in the neck?
8. At what speed does light travel?
9. What is the largest moon of Saturn called?
10. Percy Spencer invented which time saving kitchen appliance?
11. Ascorbic acid is a form of which vitamin?
12. What is the name of the light sensitive panel of cells at the rear of the eye?
13. Humans and chimpanzees share roughly how much DNA?
14. What is the biggest planet in our solar system?
15. What is a material that will not carry an electrical charge called?
16. How many hearts do octopuses have?
17. On the periodic table, what symbol stands for silver?
18. How many ribs do you have?
19. Which is the most sensitive of the senses?
20. What is the soft spot on a babies head known as?

### Riddle 1

What has roots as nobody sees,  
Is taller than trees,  
Up, up it goes,  
And yet never grows?

### Riddle 2

Voiceless it cries,  
Wingless flutters,  
Toothless bites,  
Mouthless mutters.

### Riddle 3

It cannot be seen, cannot be felt,  
Cannot be heard, cannot be smelt.  
It lies behind stars and under hills,  
And empty holes it fills.  
It comes out first and follows after,  
Ends life, kills laughter.

## Gollum's Riddles

Can you guess the answers to the riddles that Gollum asked of Bilbo Baggins in J R R Tolkien's 'The Hobbit'? (Answers on back page)

### Riddle 4

Alive without breath,  
As cold as death;  
Never thirsty, ever drinking,  
All in mail never clinking.

### Riddle 5

This thing all things devours;  
Birds, beasts, trees, flowers;  
Gnaws iron, bites steel;  
Grinds hard stones to meal;  
Slays king, ruins town,  
And beats mountain down.

## Movie Dingbats

Answers on back page

1 **Dr. Do**

2 **Here → Forever**

3 **NERO ROOF**

4 **CAM CAM CAM  
CAM CAM CAM  
CAM CAM CAM**

5 **FIB  
HENRY VIII**

6 **mid-day**

7 **CHORUS**

8 **1<sup>st</sup> April to 6<sup>th</sup> June**

9 **~~LOOK~~**

10 **FAITHFULNESS**

# 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** 111  
www.nhsinform.scot

**Emergency** 999

**Doctor Out of Hours** 111

**Dumfries and Galloway Council** 030 33 33 3000  
www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG

**Business Support Helpline** 01387 260280  
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

**Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub** 030 33 33 3001

**Social Work Out of Hours** 01387 273660

**Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway** 0300 303 8558

**Dumfries and Galloway  
Citizens Advice Service** 0300 303 4321  
www.dagcas.org

**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

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

# Stranraer Goes Live

Stranraer FC continue to break new ground in their 150th anniversary year, as they bring you live streaming video coverage from Stair Park for the very first time in the club's history.



In recent months, they've been hard at work to get ready for their big screen debut, and they're delighted to announce that both UK/Ireland and overseas viewers will be able to watch home games this season via their new Stranraer FC Live streaming service.

The club aim to provide free access for season ticket holders to all home league games via their new look website, with non-season ticket holders able to view these fixtures on a pay per view (PPV) basis.

Home cup games and friendlies will also be streamed live on a PPV basis where possible, with prices and match availability to be confirmed.

Chairman Iain Dougan said: "We feel this is a major step forward for the club, through Stranraer FC LIVE and our new website."

"We are now providing the tools to our media team that they deserve, and to whom we are indebted for their efforts on behalf of the club and supporters."

"As this is a first for the club, we're having a 'test run' tomorrow for the friendly between our first and second teams, which you can watch live in Stranraer FC Fitba' Bar free of charge (3pm kick-off)."

Physical distancing applies!

**More at @StranraerFC**

## Answers

### Gollum's Riddles

1. Mountain, 2. Wind, 3. Dark, 4. Fish, 6. Time

### Science and Nature Quiz

1. Poland
2. Two
3. Liver
4. Spiders
5. A murder
6. Lower jawbone
7. Thyroid gland
8. 186,000 miles/second
9. Titan
10. Microwave oven
11. C
12. Retina
13. 98 per cent
14. Jupiter
15. Insulator
16. Three
17. Ag
18. 24
19. Smell
20. The Fontanelle

### Movie Dingbats

1. Doctor Dolittle
2. From Here To Eternity
3. Fiddler on the Roof
4. Camelot
5. Lion King
6. High Noon
7. Chorus Line
8. Nine and a Half Weeks
9. Don't Look Back
10. High Fidelity