

Community

#SupportDG 

EDITION 24
Friday 26 June 2020



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Be Kind



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Take Notice



Support



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www.dumgal.gov.uk/supportdg

Tel 030 33 33 3000

Dumfries & Galloway



Welcome to Community

Your Dumfries and Galloway Community Bulletin

Welcome to Edition 24 of Community.

In today's edition we have answers to some of the 200 questions asked by parents and carers, children and young people on schools and learning. Many of the questions were answered by Gillian Brydson, Director of Skills, Education and Learning at her Q&A event on Wednesday, a recording of which is now available at supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/chat-with-us. Throughout the coming days and weeks we will continue to keep you best informed about the reopening of schools.

On Tuesday, our household waste recycling centres fully reopened. There is a booking system in place, and you can find out more about this, opening times and frequently asked questions at supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/waste.

And of course, we have your wonderful community stories from across Dumfries and Galloway. Enjoy.

with best wishes
Elaine and Rob

 @dgcouncil

 @DumfriesGallowayCouncil

 Email updates
dumgal.gov.uk/newsletters



Cllr Elaine Murray
Council Leader



Cllr Rob Davidson
Depute Leader

COVID-19



SHOP LOCAL
SHOP SAFE

Most shops are to reopen from Monday (29 June) as part of a further easing of the country's lockdown rules.

#SupportDG

Dumfries & Galloway COUNCIL

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

Communities responding to COVID-19

ALL 12 HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING CENTRES FULLY OPERATIONAL FROM TUESDAY 23 JUNE

Booking system live from Mon 22 June, 2pm

Must book a slot to attend

supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/waste
or call 030 33 33 3000 to **book** a slot

Cars and vans permitted | No trailers

Opening times, maps to sites and FAQs also on website



supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/waste

We're Not Scared

Many towns and villages in Dumfries and Galloway hold an annual scarecrow competition when locals compete to create their own unique scarecrow!



In Scotland, scarecrows are sometimes referred to as 'tattie bogles', and our bulletin photographer, Andrew Hay, has sent in some cracking pictures of tattie bogles he has come across while out and about at work.



The 'mechanic' in New Galloway has caused people passing by to take a second look!

Look out for competitions happening in your area, getting involved is a fun way to keep yourself occupied as we spend more time at home.

If you have made your own tattie bogle this year, why not send us a picture to communitybulletin@dumgal.gov.uk

Spoonville

The LIFD Project (Local Initiatives for Dalry) have come up with a fun new project for residents in St John's Town of Dalry.



Locals have been asked to create an image of themselves on a wooden spoon and place it according to where they live on the town map.

'Spoonville' can be found in the town's Kirkland Street and is providing much amusement for locals and passers-by!

LIFD are a group of local volunteers aiming to bring hope, joy and unity to the community of Dalry through activities that can be done safely at home.



More information on Facebook at LIFD – Local Initiatives for Dalry



Skills, Education and Learning



Last week, we asked if you had any questions that you would like to ask the Director of Skills, Education and Learning about anything relating to our schools or learning. We received over 200 different questions!

On Monday (22 June), we had a session with the director, Gillian Brydson, where we put your questions to her to answer.

Here, we go over some of the questions that you asked and the director's answers.

Will it be safe for my child to attend school?

Our main priority is to look after your children's safety and wellbeing, and to ensure that they can continue to learn and make good progress. Anxieties are understandable and we will work with parents to build confidence. We are putting measures into place to make sure that pupils and staff are safe, follow good hygiene rules, and can stay a safe distance away from each other.

The Scottish Government's decision to reopen schools is based on scientific evidence. This suggests that the virus is sufficiently under control to start planning for reopening, and that measures can be put in place to ensure it is as safe as possible.

No-one is in my school. How do I contact my school?

Although staff are not physically in school, they're all working. Use the school email address if you have a specific enquiry. The contact details for all our primary and secondary primary schools can be found on the council website.

Why are children not going back sooner?

The national decision on when schools in Scotland should return is based on the scientific advice on the spread of coronavirus and what is best for children. This advice may be different in other parts of the UK and because of this, schools may open at different times and in different ways in Scotland, England, Northern Ireland and Wales.



Schools in different parts of the UK also have different term times and holiday periods, which means that children attend school at different times even under normal circumstances

Will the school look different?

Exactly how this works will be different from school to school – your school is planning for this already, and will be in touch with you as soon as they can to let you know how it will work for your child, and which days they should come in.

Other changes could include:

- making changes to how or where pupils are dropped off and picked up
- changing how people move around the school buildings
- putting up signs and markers to ensure appropriate physical distancing

- ensuring everyone washes their hands regularly
- teaching in smaller groups
- staggering lunch and break times
- deep cleaning more frequently
- holding more lessons outside where possible

What are the council and schools doing to support transitions?

Before schools return in August, children due to start P1 or S1 will be supported to start their new school. Local authorities and schools are working to provide virtual tours of schools, introductory videos, and information to help you and your child with this transition. Your child's school will be in touch with you once these arrangements are in place.



How many children can be transported on a bus?

We have 4,000 pupils who use bus or taxi transport on a normal day during term times. To meet current social distancing for example a 72-seater coach can only transport 10 people with social distancing of two metres maintained. This poses a great challenge in co-ordinating how we support parents to get their children to school. We will share our transport arrangements as soon as possible.

How will transport arrangements change?

We are working with all of our providers to ensure that social distancing and hygiene rules are followed on all transport. We are awaiting guidance from the Scottish Government confirming what the implications for transport are. Once we have more information on transport arrangements, we will share this.

What support will there be for school leavers?

This work is underway through our pastoral care teachers, the employability team and partners such as Skills Development Scotland. This is a high priority and it is our aim to ensure every school leaver has the offer of a positive destination.

Any pupil who was planning to leave but no longer has a positive destination available due to the impact of COVID-19 should contact their school to explore the options available.

My child is not returning to school and is now preparing for post school transition, what help is available to them?

Skills Development Scotland has a range of supports in place to support young people who are leaving school to move onto the next stage of their learning, or into work.

My child will be starting school in August and will be entitled to free school meals - how does this work?

You can still apply for Free School Meals through our Council website at dumgal.gov.uk/schoolmenus

Details will be provided shortly on the arrangements for lunches when children return to school in August.

Information will be sent to parents and made available online.

What meals will be provided when my child returns to school in August?

Details will be provided shortly on the arrangements for lunches when children return to school in August. Information will be sent to parents and made available on the council website.

My child is anxious about returning to school? What support is in place?

Teachers will be doing everything they can to help pupils adjust to this situation, which will seem very strange at first. Many pupils may be anxious about going back to school, and some may have experienced traumatic events during lockdown, so teachers will be extra sensitive to the mental health and wellbeing needs of all pupils. The first few days after schools reopen are likely to be focused on welcoming pupils back and getting used to the new set up rather than lots of learning.



Cut out and keep

Term Time Dates and School Holidays

Future school year (2020/21)

Term 1

Teacher training

Monday 10 August and Tuesday 11 August 2020

First day - Wednesday 12 August 2020

Last day - Friday 9 October 2020

Autumn holiday

Monday 12 to Friday 23 October 2020

Term 2

First day - Monday 26 October 2020

Last day - Friday 18 December 2020

Christmas holiday

Monday 21 December 2020 to Tuesday 5 January 2021

Term 3

Teacher Training - Tuesday 5 January 2021

First day - Wednesday 6 January 2021

Mid-term holiday

Monday 15 to Friday 19 February 2021

(Teacher training - Thurs 18 and Fri 19 February 2021)

Last day - Friday 26 March 2021

Spring holiday

Monday 29 March to Friday 9 April 2021

Term 4

First day - Monday 12 April 2021

May Day holiday - Monday 3 May 2021

Last day - Friday 25 June 2021

Summer holiday

Monday 28 June to Tuesday 17 August 2021

Future school year (2021/22)

Term 1

Teacher training - Wednesday 18 August 2021

First day - Thursday 19 August 2021

Last day - Friday 8 October 2021

Autumn holiday

Monday 11 to Friday 22 October 2021

Term 2

First day - Monday 25 October 2021

Last day - Wednesday 22 December 2021

Christmas holiday

Thursday 23 December 2021 to Friday 7 January 2022

Term 3

Teacher training - Thursday 6 and Friday 7 January 2022

First day - Monday 10 January 2022

Mid-term holiday

Monday 14 to Wednesday 16 February 2022

(Teacher training - Tues 15 and Wed 16 February 2022)

Last day - Friday 1 April 2022

Spring holiday

Monday 4 April to Monday 18 April 2022

Term 4

First day - Tuesday 19 April 2022

May Day holiday - Monday 2 May 2022

Last day - Friday 1 July 2022

Summer holiday

Monday 4 July 2022 to Wednesday 17 August 2022

Communities responding to COVID-19



Stay In Scotland Campaign

In addition to existing support under the Stay in Scotland campaign, the Scottish Government commissioned JustRight Scotland, a legal centre for justice and human rights, to develop a range of factsheets for EU citizens. This guidance explains the rights of EU citizens in Scotland to vote, work and access healthcare, education, housing and benefits. These are now available in English, Polish, Romanian, Lithuanian, Spanish, and Italian and can be accessed at justcitizens.scot/EU/

In light of the devastating impacts of the current pandemic, the Scottish Government hopes that these resources will be useful for EU citizens in accessing further sources of support, and for anyone who wants to better understand the rights of EU citizens.

KATE'S KITCHEN DISHES UP COMMUNITY SPIRIT



Annan based charity Kate's Kitchen may have closed their doors at the beginning of lockdown, but the quick-thinking team soon adapted their services to ensure their clients and volunteers received the support they needed at home.

The organisation admits they would be unable to deliver the services that they are currently providing without the amazing team of volunteers who have rallied to help.

Together, they have set up a telephone support service for local people to call for advice, support and help on **01461 206 444** and is available **Monday - Friday between 11am and 1pm.**

Kate's Kitchen provides hot meals to vulnerable individuals in need across the Annandale

and Eskdale area, receiving referrals from organisations such as Social Work, Support in Mind, Rape Crisis and Richmond Fellowship to name a few. The team also offer a befriending service, checking in with individuals over the phone on a weekly basis, offering a listening ear, advice and information and are also helping people who are currently shielding with their shopping.

On top of these lifeline services, the team have been putting together painting kits for their service users, enabling them to get involved in the new 'rock painting' craze that is sweeping the nation!

A huge well done to everyone involved in Kate's Kitchen for the wonderful service they are delivering to people across Annandale and Eskdale.



Rotarian's 1,000 Mile Fundraiser

James Robertson, a long-standing member of Castle Douglas Rotary Club is cycling 1,000 miles this summer to raise funds for Cancer Research UK.

Traditional annual fundraising events have had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus, so Jimmy came up with this new challenge instead.

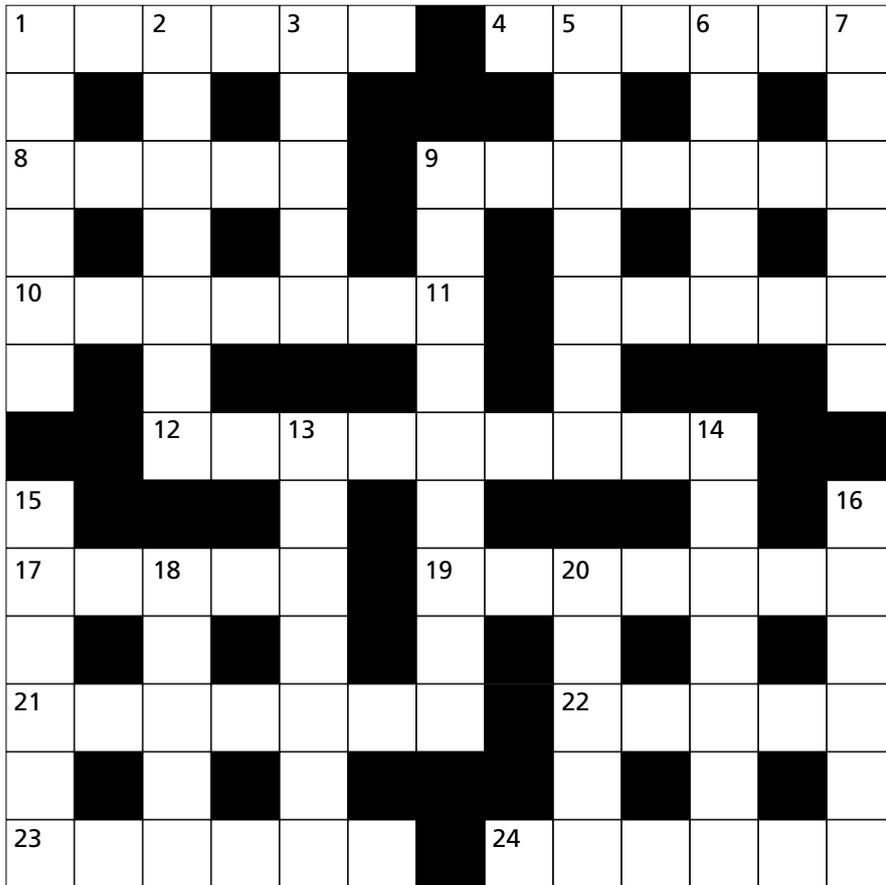
Jimmy, at 79 years young, is completing the ride on his 40-year-old bike! If you'd like to support his fundraising efforts, you can do so at fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/james-robertson-bike-ride

Good Luck Jimmy!



Crossword

Answers on back page



Across

1. Quicker (6)
4. Second sign of the zodiac (6)
8. Young eel (5)
9. Large tent (7)
10. Nuts from a horse chestnut tree (7)
11. Helped (5)
12. Polar region (9)
17. Fire-raising (5)
19. Long pillow (7)
21. Long-necked animal (7)
22. Satirical imitation (5)
23. Small wave (6)
24. Dried plums (6)

Down

1. European language (6)
2. African grassland (7)
3. Eagle's nest (5)
5. Side by side (7)
6. Circular (5)
7. Not tottering or wobbling (6)
9. Wretched (9)
13. Melodious (7)
14. Felled (3,4)
15. Animal at home in a sett (6)
16. Moves aimlessly (6)
18. Thick sweet sticky liquid (5)
20. Defeated contestant (5)

Where Am I?

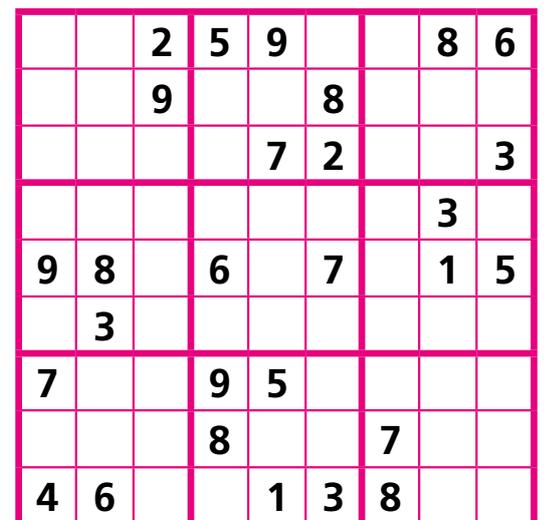


St Michael's Bridge, Dumfries

The most southerly of Dumfries' road bridges, St. Michael's Bridge conveys traffic over the River Nith and comprises four arches. Built in 1925, it was constructed of concrete, faced with local red sandstone. Roundels on its outside walls bear the arms of Dumfries and Maxwelltown. Its construction was seen a symbolic link between the two burghs.

Completed in 1927, the bridge was officially opened by the Duke of Buccleuch in 1929 formally joining the two burghs.

Sudoku



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 have any positive stories about things that are happening in your community and would like to see them featured in Community – please email us at communitybulletin@dumgal.gov.uk and one of our reporters will get back to you.

