

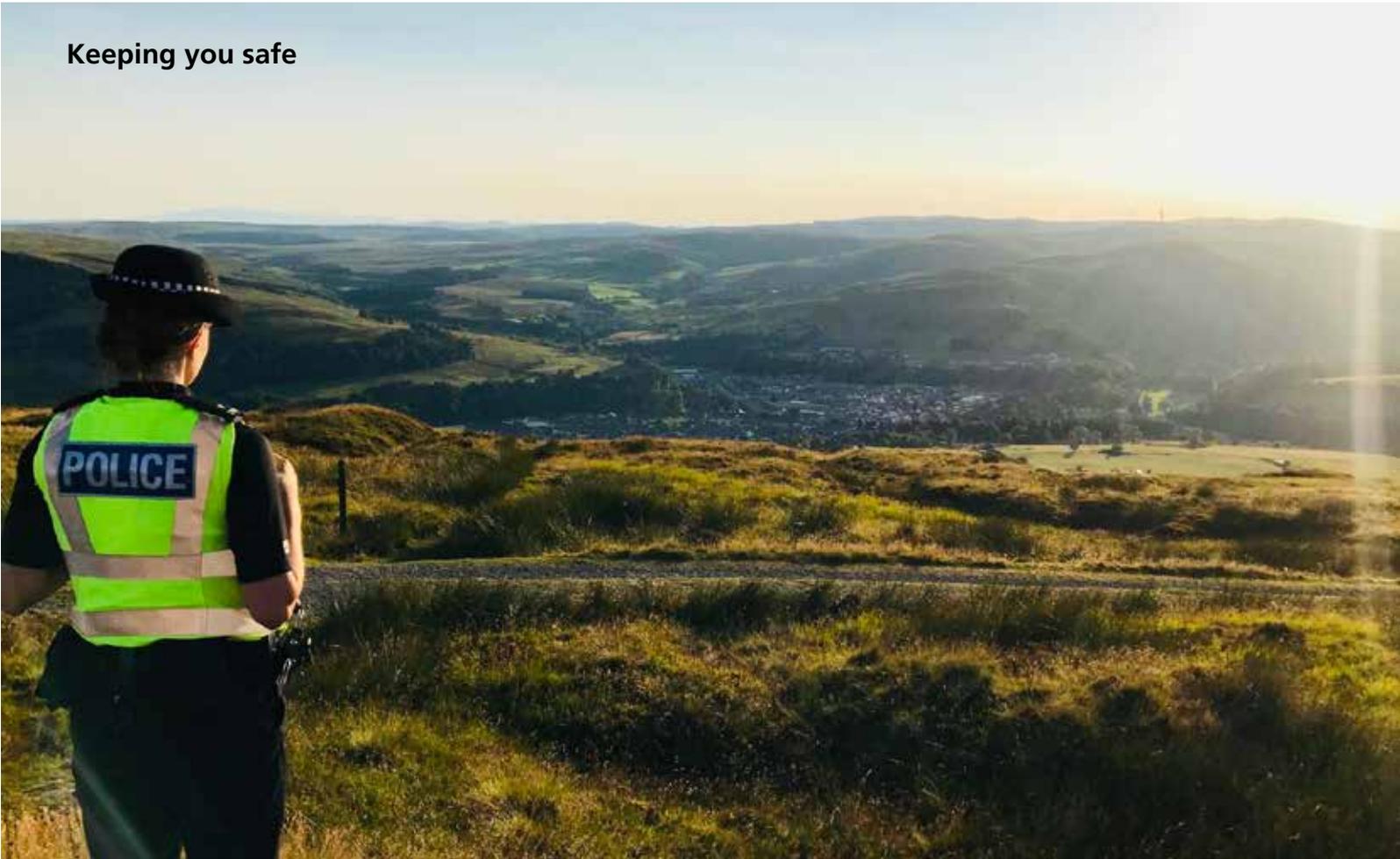
Community

#SupportDG



EDITION 20
Friday 12 June 2020

Keeping you safe



What's
Inside

Help and advice
The centipede that grew
Spotlight on police

Where Am I?



www.dumgal.gov.uk/supportdg
Tel 030 33 33 3000

Dumfries
& Galloway



Welcome to Community

Your Dumfries and Galloway Community Bulletin

Welcome to Edition 20 of Community.

If you have the opportunity this morning please join the live stream of our special COVID-19 committee, where we will be discussing a range of matters on economic recovery – including the small business grants scheme, early learning and childcare, and Common Good Funds.

Committee will also consider a motion on Black Lives Matter. In common with millions worldwide, we are horrified by the death in Minneapolis of George Floyd, a 46-year-old black American, at the hands of police officers now arrested and charged with murder. His death highlights the discrimination and injustice that still exists for BAME (black and minority ethnic) communities. This must stop now. We support the Black Lives Matter movement.

Dumfries and Galloway Council stands for equality and diversity. We are in complete solidarity with black people in America, in Britain, and around the world. Our council is committed to increasing equality of opportunity in our region – a region where all people are welcome to live, learn, work and stay.

You can watch the COVID-19 committee by registering at <https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/cv19-committee>

Stay safe.

with best wishes
Elaine and Rob

 @dgcouncil

 @DumfriesGallowayCouncil

 Email updates dumgal.gov.uk/newsletters



Cllr Elaine Murray
Council Leader



Cllr Rob Davidson
Depute Leader

Rules around exercise have changed.

"Non-contact" outdoors activities such as golf, hiking, angling, canoeing, and outdoor swimming are now permitted in your local area.



But remember...

- Activities must be non-contact
- At least 2 metres distance maintained

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



Supporting Communities In North West Dumfries

Community food providers in North West Dumfries have been given a massive boost with a £127k grant to continue food provision across the area during COVID-19.

The partnership, led by Dumfries YMCA, will see six local organisations share the money to provide a coordinated response for food care and basic needs.

Dean Goddard from Dumfries YMCA said, *"We were delighted to be recognised by the Scottish Government as a community anchor organisation, which enabled us to make an application to the supporting communities fund. The funding is fantastic news for the area"*.

Dean added, *"partnership working is the key to delivering key services for citizens and communities across North West Dumfries, and are delighted to be working in partnership with Aberlour Child Care Trust, LIFT D&G, Lochside Community Association, MOOL, and Summerhill Community Centre"*.

I just wanted to say how efficient, patient and kind the team at the council were with our grant application... We are all extremely thankful for your help.

Business owner - on our COVID-19 response

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HELP AND ADVICE

Dumfries and Galloway Citizens Advice Service (DAGCAS) provides free confidential advice and assistance to the public.



Since social distancing measures were introduced, DAGCAS has paused their face-to-face service and have moved most volunteers and staff to home working, with a dedicated unit based in Dumfries. Since lockdown, around 2,500 members of the public contacted the service, and were provided with nearly 5,000 areas of advice. But they can still help more people.

DAGCAS' advisers are trained to help with a wide-range of issues. Since the COVID-19 outbreak most issues have related to Universal Credit and other benefits, employment, debt, legal, finance and charitable support.

If you need help, or knows someone who needs, support, advice and guidance to contact them by:

Freephone: 0300 303 4321

Email: info@dagcas.org

Online: www.dagcas.org

Last Chance To Comment

Evaluation of Free School Meals Provision



There's still time to complete the Free School Meals survey. If your family is receiving free school meals, we want to hear from you. Your comments will help inform future decisions about how we will provide free school meals over the coming months and school holiday periods.

So tell us what's went well, or not, and what needs to be improved. The online form will take roughly three to five minutes to complete. The deadline for responses is midnight on Sunday (14 June) with a report being considered by Full Council on 25 June.

You can find the survey at surveymonkey.co.uk/r/FreeSchoolMealsDG

Thank you so much for delivering my daughter's lunch, I'm so grateful. You are all doing an absolutely amazing job.

Shielding individual - on our COVID-19 response

#SupportDG



Communities responding to COVID-19



Nithbank's Cheeky Visitor

Staff from Nithbank Hospital's Community Occupational Therapy team were surprised by a cheeky wee visitor scoffing their bird food – and managed to capture the culprit on camera!

The team have an overgrown buddleia outside their office window, which is a popular spot for blue tits, great tits, goldfinches, and robins. Watching the birds has been very therapeutic, especially during these unprecedented times, when nothing seems very normal.

Team member Sharon Stewart, who snapped the mouse in the act, said, *"It was a really nice surprise when we saw this cheeky character turn up to feed on the nuts and fat balls we hang outside for the birds. We sent you the photo to put in the bulletin, as we felt he's too cute not to share with everyone!"*

I would like to thank everybody in the whole process of making and delivering my parcel. I received a parcel just a short while ago and the wife and I were emotionally overcome by the gesture. More so by the fact that people are risking their lives for the benefit of others. I know no suitable words to express our feelings at this time, overwhelmed is not sufficient. So please pass on our thanks to all concerned.

Shielding individual - on our COVID-19 response

#SupportDG



Trust in Kirkconnel and Kelloholm

Community organisations across the region do such valuable work in improving the lives and environments of the areas they serve. Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Development Trust (KKDT) was established five years ago, to oversee the ambitious community action plan for the area. Since then, the trust has gone from strength to strength, now employing two part-time and two full-time staff. All trustees are local volunteers, passionate about their local community, and bring a range of skills, knowledge and experience to tackle the challenges, and help meet the needs and aspirations of the community.

As well as building links with the community and local organisations, KKDT have worked hard to develop good partnerships with both the council and the Scottish Government. In the space of only a few years, some of the trust's key achievements have included:

- Securing over £800k extra funding for Kirkconnel and Kelloholm
- Buying a community tractor and ground maintenance equipment and partnering with the council to maintain open spaces
- Delivering the very first Participatory Budget event in Dumfries and Galloway, with Scottish Government support
- Achieving Scottish Government funding and carrying out a feasibility study into building housing for the elderly
- Developing an inclusive play park at Hillview, following community consultation



Now more than ever, the community has come together. Along with community councils in Kirkconnel and Kelloholm, and Sanquhar, KKDT have been co-ordinating the Community Resilience Plan for Upper Nithsdale during the pandemic. Through trust staff, and existing projects such as the food sharing project, food parcels have been distributed to vulnerable residents. The team have also organising many community resilience volunteers, mobilised community resources, and secured funding both to provide food, and activities to support residents' mental health and wellbeing.

More information on Facebook @KKDT.org.uk



The Centipede that Grew

A strange creature appeared recently in the Gatehouse town hall garden. And it keeps getting bigger... But don't worry – the plants are all safe, as this centipede is made from beautifully decorated stones!

Local resident Susan Hind started Gatehouse of Fleet stones group late last year. People were encouraged to paint a stone, then hide it around Gatehouse. The idea being that, if you find a stone, you take a photograph, post it on the group Facebook page, and hide it again for others to find.



Susan said, "It's amazing how far some of our stones travelled. During winter, the town was often buzzing with families out hunting and hiding. It was great fun. But, due to COVID-19, we stopped for safety reasons".

However, in a bid to cheer up both children and adults, the Gatehouse centipede began to emerge instead. It means people

can still enjoy painting the stones, then add them to the centipede and watch it grow. Designs can be anything: cartoons, sports, sweets, animals, or local landmarks – you name it. The very hungry centipede has also attracted more folk in to enjoy the town hall garden.

"Hopefully we can resume our normal hunting and hiding soon," concluded Susan. "In the meantime, we'd encourage everyone to get painting and make our centipede swell!"



WRAP AROUND CARE

Set up at the start of lockdown, Rockcliffe Connect WhatsApp group now has around 50 members. For villagers who don't use WhatsApp, or maybe don't have mobiles or emails, a system was also established to ensure they too had access to help and information if needed. Doing this allowed the Rockcliffe group to get a clear idea of who was potentially vulnerable, what support was in place and what help might be required if circumstances changed. The response from relatives who live outside the area to these all-encompassing efforts has been particularly heartwarming.

One of the group's aims has been to reduce the amount of people going out to local shops and pharmacies. They've done this by sharing information on local services, encouraging deliveries where possible, and pooling resources where collection is required. For shopping further afield – for example to get items for people with food intolerances – supermarket deliveries have been shared.

Diversion therapy has been provided too, with egg and rock decorating, and a village trail. Plans are afoot for a gardening enclave, and 'Clap for Carers' has been bringing everyone together with a wee bit of healthy competition, as more inventive noise-making methods get aired each week.



One of the group's most unexpected tasks has been tracking down two Belted Galloway cattle who went walkabout in the village, and successfully reuniting them with the farmer! Proof indeed that Rockcliffe is ready for anything!

A graphic of a spotlight shining down on a yellow circle on a dark blue surface.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Police Scotland

Police and staff in Dumfries and Galloway have continued to serve the public throughout the pandemic, with a local plan rapidly put in place to ensure communities were kept safe and well. Divisional Commander Linda Jones has also been able to call on specialist support from outwith the division if required, not to mention the outstanding assistance she's received from local special constabulary volunteers.

Like every other service though, policing has had to adapt. Chief Superintendent Jones said, *"We've been maintaining physical distancing where possible, implementing strong hygiene and health and safety measures in all offices and trying to reduce contact generally – for example dealing with minor incidents by phone rather than police attendance – protecting the public and ourselves"*.

Obviously, with incidents of a more serious nature, officers have still attended calls, while using appropriate PPE to help reduce the spread of infection.



CS Jones noted: *"During the first few weeks, we saw a drop in violent crime levels – but we also had an increase in calls from the public, looking for advice on Scottish Government guidelines."*

Other police duties have continued too, with positive results daily of drug recoveries and the detection of road traffic offences. With the roads being quieter over recent weeks, a small minority have taken unnecessary risks through speeding or drink/drug driving, but police have been stopping drivers and taking appropriate action.



Another priority has been domestic violence, with the police recognising that 'staying at home' is not always the safest place to be. CS Jones said, *"We know that private and virtual spaces are not safe places for everyone. We've been working proactively with partners to tackle domestic violence and abuse as well as sexual exploitation to ensure victims are given the vital support they need and deserve"*.

Right at the start of lockdown, the police worked closely with the council, helping to deliver food packages and urgent prescriptions to people who were shielding. And, over the last few weeks police, council and other key partners have come together to look at how compliance to guidance is ensured regionwide.

CS Jones explained, *"We're asking people to take personal responsibility for doing the right thing. All of us – police and public – have been working together collectively to protect the NHS and save lives by preventing the virus from spreading, and I want to say thank you for that"*.

"I recognise people have made significant sacrifices until now, and while the temptation may be to head

straight for one of our beauty spots, we'd ask you to use your judgement and avoid going to places which are normally busy during good weather. My officers will continue to engage with the public, explain the legislation and guidance and encourage compliance. We'll use enforcement as a last resort, only where there's a clear breach of the legislation".

"At times like these you need to have a bit of humour," said CS Jones. "We've had a few laughs at some of the longer and more interesting hairstyles appearing over the last few weeks, and also at some of the excuses we've heard – including one a few weeks ago where a man claimed he'd never heard of COVID-19 or any restrictions which were in place!"

Overall, police and staff have risen to the challenges presented by the pandemic, by being flexible and resilient – and CS Jones is very grateful to her team. *"I'd like to thank my officers and staff who've continued to carry out their roles so well. Team spirit, humour and pride in our work have all gone a long way! I'm extremely proud of them and appreciate all they've done."*

Crossword

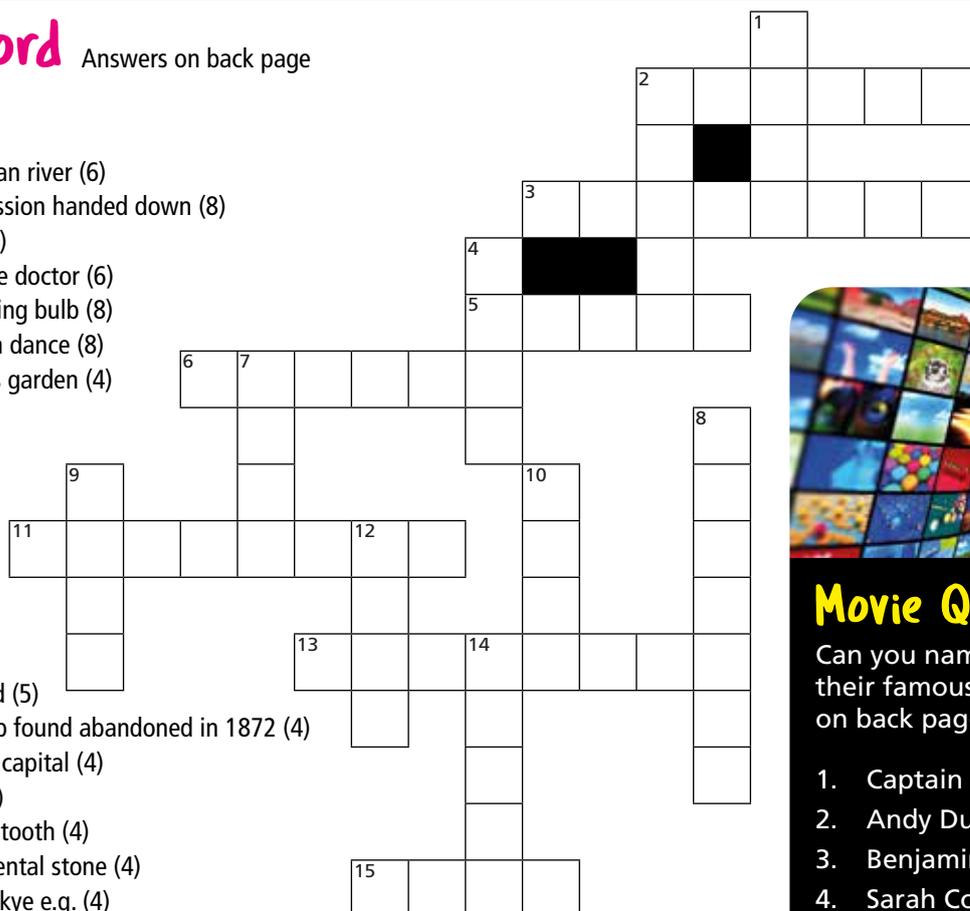
Answers on back page

Across

2. South American river (6)
3. Valued possession handed down (8)
5. Fire-raising (5)
6. Nursery rhyme doctor (6)
11. Spring flowering bulb (8)
13. Lively Spanish dance (8)
15. Adam & Eve's garden (4)

Down

1. Bucket (4)
2. Spanish friend (5)
4. _ Celeste, ship found abandoned in 1872 (4)
7. Scandinavian capital (4)
8. Italian Mrs (7)
9. Long pointed tooth (4)
10. Green ornamental stone (4)
12. _ of Man or Skye e.g. (4)
14. Three feet (4)

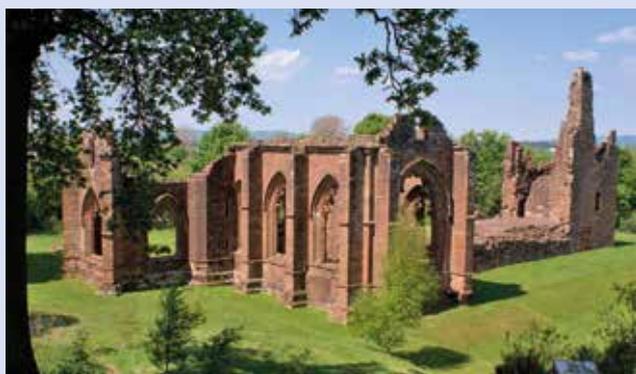


Movie Quiz

Can you name these films just by their famous characters? Answers on back page.

1. Captain Jack Sparrow
2. Andy Dufresne
3. Benjamin Buford (Bubba) Blue
4. Sarah Connor
5. Vito Corleone
6. Atticus Finch
7. Elle Woods
8. Clarice Starling
9. Han Solo
10. Buzz Lightyear

Where Am I?



Described as a 'hidden gem', **Lincluden Collegiate Church**, known earlier as **Lincluden Priory** and **Lincluden Abbey**, is a ruined religious house, situated in a bend of the Cluden Water, at its confluence with the River Nith, the ruins are on the site of the Bailey of the very early Lincluden Castle, as are those of the later Lincluden Tower. This religious house was founded circa 1160 and was used for various purposes, until its abandonment around 1700. The remaining ruins are protected as a scheduled monument. In late spring there are bluebells here, and apple blossom from a community orchard planted in 2014.

Sudoku

Answers on back page

		2	5	9			8	6
		9			8			
				7	2			3
							3	
9	8		6		7		1	5
	3							
7			9	5				
			8			7		
4	6			1	3	8		

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.

Democracy Live



While we've had to change the way we do council business during the pandemic, our councillors still take important decisions on many things. Right at the start, a special COVID-19 sub committee was established, bringing together executive decision-makers. Local democracy means that the public should be able to watch our proceedings. Social distancing means you can't come to us, so we're live streaming to you instead.

You can watch the COVID-19 sub committee live today (Friday) by registering at:

<https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/cv19-committee>

Topics being considered include:

Economic Recovery Update; Implications for Early Learning and Childcare and Common Good Fund issues.

Future meetings to be live streamed include:

Ad Hoc COVID-19 Sub Committee	16 June at 10.30am
Ad Hoc COVID-19 Cub Committee	23 June at 10.30am
Full Council	25 June at 10.30am

Crossword Answers
Across
2. Amazon, 3. Hellroom, 5. Arson, 6. Foster, 11. Daffodil, 13. Flamenco, 15. Eden
Down
1. Pail, 2. Amigo, 4. Mary, 7. Oslo, 8. Signora, 9. Fang, 10. Jade, 12. Isle, 14. Yard
Movie Quiz Answers
1. Pirates of the Caribbean, 3. Shawshank Redemption, 4. Terminator, 5. The Godfather, 6. To Kill a Mockingbird, 7. Legally Blonde, 8. Silence of the Lambs, 9. Star Wars, 10. Toy Story

4	6	5	7	1	3	8	2	9
1	9	3	8	2	6	7	5	4
7	2	8	9	5	4	3	6	1
6	3	1	2	8	5	9	4	7
9	8	4	6	3	7	2	1	5
2	5	7	1	4	9	6	3	8
8	1	6	4	7	2	5	9	3
5	4	9	3	6	8	1	7	2
3	7	2	5	9	1	4	8	6