

Community

#SupportDG 

EDITION 21
Tuesday 16 June 2020



Meet Shelby the Shielding Snake on our Communities Page

What's Inside

Call out from Kippford

Pop Up and Shop

New Scots in
Dumfries and Galloway

Spotlight on social work

Where Am I?



 **Refugee Week**

15 - 21 June

#RefugeeWeek2020 #SupportDG

Dumfries & Galloway
Together is Better

www.dumgal.gov.uk/supportdg

Tel 030 33 33 3000

Dumfries & Galloway



Welcome to Community

Your Dumfries and Galloway Community Bulletin



Cllr Elaine Murray
Council Leader



Cllr Rob Davidson
Depute Leader

Welcome to Edition 21 of Community.

In today's edition we have a range of wonderful community stories, as well as a spotlight on Police Scotland in Dumfries and Galloway. It's also Refugee Week, and there is an article in the bulletin today - we will also have posts on Refugee Week across our social media channels throughout the week.

Plans are well underway for Education Restart, and we know you will have many questions that you want answers to, so we have arranged for the opportunity for you to ask questions direct to our Director of Skills, Education and Learning, Gillian Brydson. You can submit a question at www.supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/questions by Sunday (21 June), and Gillian will then pre-record her responses to your questions for broadcast on Wednesday, 24 June.

with best wishes

Elaine and Rob



@dgcouncil



@DumfriesGallowayCouncil



Email updates dumgal.gov.uk/newsletters

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

Question Time

with the Director of Skills,
Education and Learning

Gillian Brydson, Director of Skills, Education and Learning and her team want to thank all of our parents and carers, children and young people, partners and staff for your continued patience as we keep learning at home.

Thanks also to everyone who answered our transport survey, this has helped us in the planning for safe school transport next term

We now know that the new term will start when we begin to welcome pupils back to school in August. There is now further information on this on our website, along with the new term dates. The Director has written to all parents to explain these next steps and your child's headteacher will make the specific arrangements for each school.

Gillian said, "We appreciate that you may have many questions that you will want answers to, and although your early learning and childcare provider, school, or other setting will be able to answer many of these questions, so there is the opportunity to ask me questions direct.

You can submit a question at www.supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/questions by Sunday (21 June), and Gillian will then pre-record her responses to your questions for broadcast on Wednesday, 24 June. Please include your email address so that she can respond to you direct if more appropriate. It is important to recognise that we do not have all of the answers yet, however the Director will do her very best to respond to all questions.



Working to keep our citizens and communities safe



Wash Your Hands Regularly with Soap and Water for 20 Seconds



5,460

Meal boxes for vulnerable people shielding produced and delivered

4,818

#SupportDG emails handled

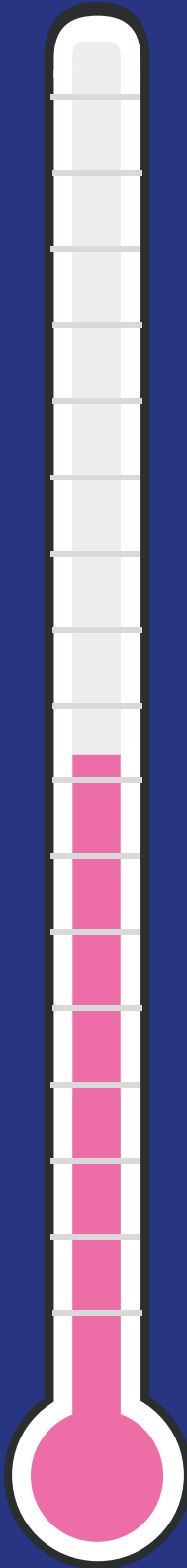


6.3M

Facebook reach

8.3M

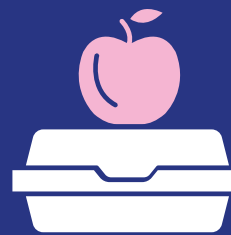
Twitter reach



3,532

Business grants awarded and paid out totalling

£37M



3,113

Free School Meals Direct Payments

316

Community groups and hubs assisting in COVID-19 response



2,648

Volunteers registered

#SupportDG

www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG

Communities responding to COVID-19

Call Out From Kippford



The Kippford Association put a call out for volunteers to help residents in the village who are vulnerable or self-isolating – and an amazing twenty-five people answered the call.

So far, the volunteers have undertaken shopping trips, medication collection, dog walking and check-in phone calls. Family members around the UK with elderly parents in Kippford have been reassured that their loved ones are safe and well, and have been in touch to say how grateful they are for the community spirit.

We reported in an earlier bulletin that two of Kippford's younger residents have launched a weekly village newsletter, and we're pleased to say this email update, packed with pictures, puzzles and news, is still going strong.

Keen to keep up connections nationwide, the Association is also looking at how they might safely loan vulnerable villagers a laptop, so they can have FaceTime or Skype video calls with family who are further away.

Future Memories of Hardgate



History is being created as we speak, and two Hardgate Primary pupils hit on the clever idea of capturing this moment, by creating a memory book for pupils and staff at their school.

Lucie (9) and Annie (8) Barbour asked everyone to tell them about their favourite things they did during lockdown.

Acting head teacher Victoria Hastie said, "What an innovative and special way to remember our thoughts and feelings by creating a Lockdown Memory Book".

Once the book was produced, the girls then printed and delivered copies to local families and staff on their bikes.

Lucy said, "We were missing our friends and wondering what everyone was doing at home. We were so excited when every pupil and all our teachers and dinner ladies at the school replied to our message - we loved seeing their stories and pictures".

Annie added, "We also thought boys and girls that go to Hardgate in the future might be interested in what it was like for children during lockdown".

Pop Up and Shop

Are you missing your monthly markets? Well, maybe you'd like to pop along (virtually) to the Pop-up Shop at the Guild Dumfries.

The Guild are a community interest company (CIC) set up to bring creatives together, with a view to running a monthly market in Dumfries, as well as creating a sustainable workspace, managed for the benefit of the community.

Last year, they gathered over 30 talented artisans and producers to sell their wares in the Loreburn Shopping Centre, and this year, the Guild wants to keep supporting

makers and creatives, most of whom live and work in the region. They are hosting their first online Pop-up Shop on 27 and 28 June, from 11am to 3pm.

This virtual shopping experience will include demonstrations, online studio tours and the chance to chat directly with producers, as well as the opportunity to support our creatives and shop local during these turbulent times.

To shop till you drop, follow the hashtag #theguildpopup, visit www.theguiddumfries.org/pages/about-the-guild-online-pop-up-shop or go to Facebook / Instagram @theguiddumfries

SHELBY

the Shielding Snake

The McConnachie family in Dumfries are shielding, due to eight-month-old baby Cooper's respiratory condition. Unfortunately, this makes him very vulnerable, and they haven't been able to leave their house and garden for the last 12 weeks. So, inspired by other rock snakes in the area, the family made the most of being at home by creating Shelby the Snake.

Mum Kirsty, who is currently on maternity leave, was sad her eldest son Jude (3) was missing out on the daily walks and cycles his friends were enjoying.

Building Shelby has allowed Jude to see some of his family and friends at a social distance, when they come to add to the snake. Shelby may have started as a slowworm, but she's becoming a giant python!

Beginning with just 10 stones, a week later, Shelby has doubled in length and is currently 32 stones long!"

Kirsty said, "It's been a great experience. It's lovely to see people stop and comment on it as they walk by. We hope we can inspire other families, especially those who're shielding, to start their own snake".



Expect to hear more reports of stone serpents in the region soon!



New Scots in Dumfries and Galloway

"Refugees come to Dumfries and Galloway through several different routes and from a wide range of countries. Refugees are people who leave their own country because they are unable or unwilling to return because of a well-founded fear for their safety – this is different from migrants, who choose to move countries to find work, and asylum seekers who are seeking international protection", said Cllr Andy Ferguson, Chairman of Communities committee.

Over the last five years our region has been involved in the Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement Scheme to welcome 20 small families to Dumfries and Galloway. This is a national programme, put in place and paid for by the UK Government in response to the humanitarian crisis in Syria with over 17.6 million people being affected by civil war.

Naomi Spicer is our council's resettlement worker, who coordinates the arrangements across different aspects of their new lives – like housing, schools, banking and health care. She has also been working with a fabulous team of enthusiastic 'befrienders' – local volunteers from partner charities Massive Outpouring of Love (MOOL) and Dumfries and Galloway Multicultural Association (DGMA) who help the families settle in, especially when they arrive, and find their way around where they live and Scottish culture.

"It's been a great experience" Naomi tells us, "a real privilege to help people who have come through some very difficult and dangerous times and have the bravery to start a whole new life in a very different country. When they first arrive there's so much for them to deal with, especially when it's all in a foreign language. All the families have been so grateful for the support they have had and particularly when neighbours have been friendly and helpful. The children are doing well at school and, having studied hard to learn English, the adults are getting into work, volunteering, and opening their own businesses."

John Martin, Vice chairman of Communities committee said: "There are many benefits to our region of having these new families – having different backgrounds and nationalities adds to the culture of our region: it makes us more outward looking, and introduces working age adults to our economy. So, we've signed up in principle to the next UK Government resettlement scheme, although the timetable for that has been affected by COVID-19 pandemic."

If you'd like to know more, or support this work, please get in touch with Naomi at naomi.spicer@dumgal.gov.uk



SPOTLIGHT ON: Social Work

No matter the difficulties we're all living through, our Social Work Service remains on the frontline of the Council's COVID-19 response twenty-four hours a day. And this is alongside social work's ongoing duty of managing risk and protecting the most vulnerable people in our region.

Staff have remained positive and upbeat, showing the team spirit and sense of compassion fundamental to the service. But of course, some services are having to be delivered in a different way.

Polly Hastings, Children and Families Social Worker in the Stewartry, explained: "We're finding different and creative ways of communicating with children and families, such as arranging family sessions on video communications platforms. We've also been attending hearings and child protection case conferences online, as well as our team meetings. The children we work with are saying it's strange not to see us in person, but others are finding they feel more included and have more opportunities to connect with us, using things like text or email, which they're more familiar with. This has given us something to think about for the future, how we can bring in new ways of working, and talking to each other, once restrictions ease".



A social worker from our Children and Families team has drawn a day in the life, visually highlighting the work she is doing throughout the pandemic.

For many, lockdown has given us time to reflect on what isolation really means, especially for those who feel this way all the time. It might also give an insight into what good, and not so good, mental health feels like - and not just during COVID-19. Polly added, "Lockdown has definitely brought communities closer together, supporting each other. And the support of colleagues, the children and families we work with, and the wider community has so far been amazing".

If you would like to speak to social work, you can contact them Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm on 030 33 33 3001. If you need to speak to someone urgently outwith these times, please call the out of hours number 01387 273660 or email socialworkoutofhours@dumgal.gov.uk.



Coronavirus Testing for Everyone

Testing is available for all members of our community with Coronavirus symptoms who are aged 5 years or older, through the Mobile Testing Unit that moves around Dumfries and Galloway on a daily basis.

- Tue 16 June** Lockerbie DG11 2BJ - McJarrow Car Park, High Street
- Wed 17 June** Sanquhar DG4 6DB - Fun Pool, Blackaddie Road
- Thu 18 June** Castle Douglas DG7 1AE – Market Street Car Park
- Fri 19 June** Langholm DG13 0QJ - Market Place
- Sat 20 June** Dumfries DG1 2HT - DG1, Hoods Loaning
- Sun 21 June** Dumfries DG1 2HT - DG1, Hoods Loaning
- Mon 22 June** Stranraer DG9 7JJ – Ashwood House
- Tues 23 June** Annan DG12 6AQ - Swimming Pool, St Johns Road
- Wed 24 June** Thornhill DG3 5LH – Community Centre, East Back Street
- Thu 25 June** Newton Stewart DG8 6JQ – Douglas Ewart HS, Corsbie Rd
- Fri 26 June** Moffat DG10 9HF - Station Park Car Park, Beattock Road
- Sat 27 June** Dumfries DG1 2HT - DG1 Leisure Centre, Hoods Loaning
- Sun 28 June** Dumfries DG1 2HT - DG1 Leisure Centre, Hoods Loaning
- Mon 29 June** Stranraer DG9 7JJ - Ashwood House, Sun Street

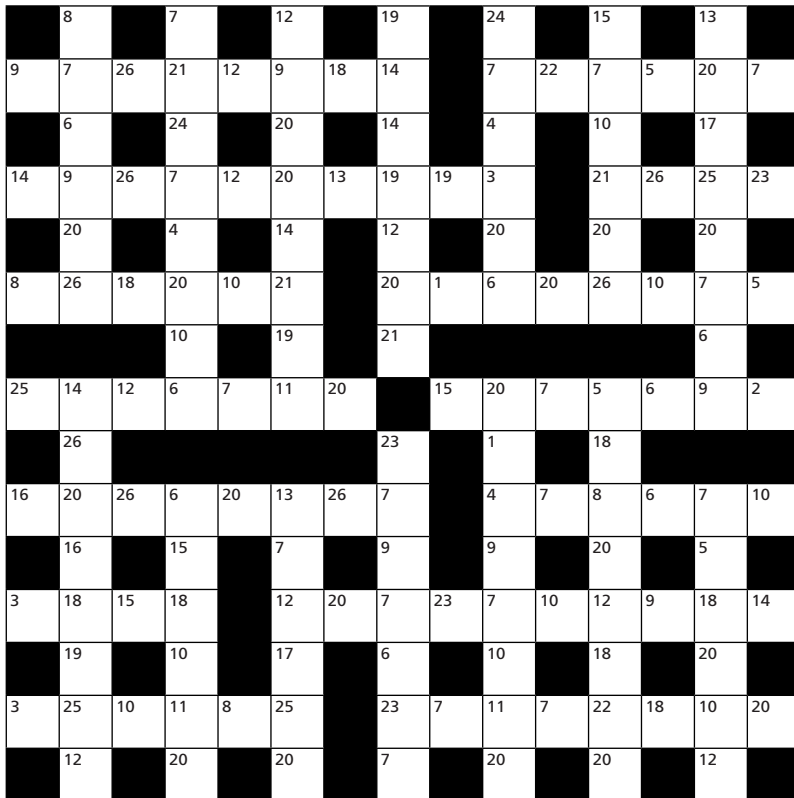
The mobile unit will return to these locations on the same days in following weeks, on a two-week rolling basis. Appointments can be made at these centres each day from 9:30am, by logging on to the website: www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test

If you do not have access to the internet please phone the NHS Dumfries and Galloway Contact Tracing Hub on 01387 241350

If you work in health or social care, the emergency Services, or Dumfries and Galloway Council and have symptoms of Coronavirus (even if mild) then please arrange for testing through NHS Dumfries and Galloway through the well-established routes.

Code Word

Answers on back page



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	

Local Quiz

Answers on back page

- Where in Dumfries & Galloway is the Devil's Beef Tub?
- Which 3 counties were amalgamated in 1975 to form Dumfries & Galloway?
- Which town in Dumfries & Galloway is known as the "Muckle Toon"?
- Which football team plays at Galabank?
- Who is the current leader of Dumfries & Galloway Council?
- The world's oldest working post office is in Dumfries & Galloway. Where?
- Which town in Dumfries & Galloway hosts a famous book festival every year?
- Where in Dumfries & Galloway is Drumlanrig Castle?
- Situated near Moffat, what is the Grey Mare's Tail?
- What is the name of the main road that runs from Dumfries to Stranraer?



Where Am I?



The **Devil's Porridge Museum** commemorates HM Factory Gretna, the largest munitions factory in the world during the First World War. Nine miles long and two miles wide HM Factory employed 30,000 people, most of them women, and by 1917 produced 1,100 tons of cordite (the Devil's porridge) every week.

The museum also tells visitors about the Quintinshill rail disaster in 1915, and explores the stories of the Solway military coast during the Second World War and beyond. The museum uses artefacts, information panels, film and audio, photographs, and oral histories to bring the fascinating history of this Border area to life!

Football Scramble

Answers on back page

cbrarsso	<input type="text"/>
edr rdca	<input type="text"/>
rglkpeaeoe	<input type="text"/>
ossisosnpe	<input type="text"/>
picht	<input type="text"/>
lacflkub	<input type="text"/>
usdaq	<input type="text"/>
ktecla	<input type="text"/>
eyrsalp	<input type="text"/>
rtphoy	<input type="text"/>

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.



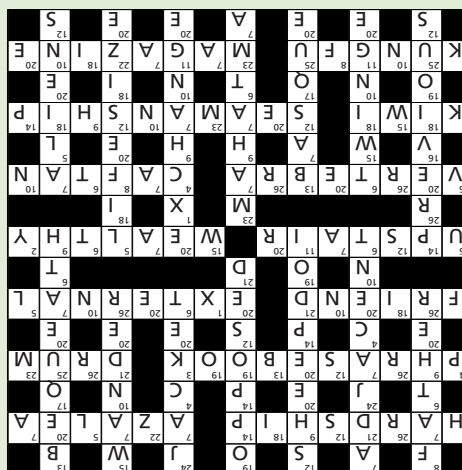
We are hosting a series of public online Q&A events focused on Community Support, Business Support and Children, Young People and Parents.

Funding advice for Community Groups involved in Community Resilience

The next Chat With Us event is 16 June on funding advice for community groups involved in community resilience. It will highlight funding opportunities, support available, and will include interviews with organisations across the region who have successfully secured external funding for their activities.

This event is pre-recorded and will be available online on 16 June at

<https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/chat-with-us>



Local Quiz Answers
1. Moffat,
2. Kirkcudbrightshire/
Wigtownshire/Dumfrieshire,
3. Langholm, 4. Annan,
5. Elaine Murray, 6. Sanquhar,
7. Wigtown, 8. Thornhill,
9. Waterfall, 10. A75

Football Scramble Answers
1. possession, pitch, fullback,
2. squad, tackle, players, trophy,
3. crossbar, red card, goalkeeper,
4. possession, pitch, fullback,
5. possession, pitch, fullback,
6. possession, pitch, fullback,
7. possession, pitch, fullback,
8. possession, pitch, fullback,
9. possession, pitch, fullback,
10. possession, pitch, fullback