

Community

#SupportDG



EDITION 25
Tuesday 30 June 2020



What's Inside

Shop local
Water safety
Keeping us connected

Where Am I?



SHOP LOCAL, SHOP SAFE

Most town centre shops reopened yesterday (Monday) with restrictions on most retail businesses lifted.

In our town centres you'll find street and shop signage to remind you that social distancing is still in place, and to ask for your patience should shops be busy. We've also got members of our town centre task teams, including ward officers and our new 'town centre ambassadors' on the streets, providing face-to-face contact, and advice for people.

We're also promoting the Shop Local, Shop Safe message and have produced specific branding to promote this.

In addition, we're also asking people, where possible, to leave their cars at home and walk, wheel or cycle into their local towns.

More information on town centres, and our business restart hub is available at <https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/Business-Restart-Hub> or email CV19TCRestart@dumgal.gov.uk



www.dumgal.gov.uk/supportdg

Tel 030 33 33 3000

Dumfries
& Galloway



Welcome to Community

Your Dumfries and Galloway Community Bulletin

Welcome to Edition 25 of Community.

Government advice on the reopening of schools on 12 August is changing apace, and we will continue to keep you best informed on how this will look for our children and young people.

Most shops reopened yesterday, and we are pleased to see the beginning of the restart of our local economy. While it is important to remember that social distancing remains in place, we are certainly encouraging you to Shop Local, Shop Safe. In our town centres who will see members of our town centres task teams out and about, so please do stop and ask for any advice or help.

And as you will read in the next column we're moving to one edition per week – publishing every Friday throughout the year.

with best wishes

Elaine and Rob



Town
Centre
Task
Team

 @dgcouncil

 @DumfriesGallowayCouncil

 Email updates
dumgal.gov.uk/newsletters



Cllr Elaine Murray
Council Leader



Cllr Rob Davidson
Depute Leader



We're Moving To One Edition Per Week

There are some important changes to your Dumfries and Galloway community bulletin. From Friday (3 July) we're moving to one edition per week. We'll still have your great community stories, and a range of council and public health information, but you'll have to wait until Friday – and every Friday throughout the year.

We're also moving to an online version – with the exception to those who are shielding from COVID-19, which is likely to end at the end of July.

Register to receive your online copy at dumgal.gov.uk/newsletters and sign up for Council News

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

Working to keep our citizens and communities safe



Wash Your Hands Regularly with Soap and Water for 20 Seconds

4,413

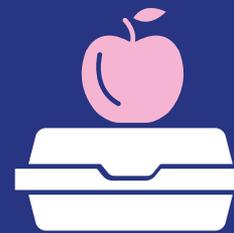
Business grants awarded and paid out totalling

£39M



5,807

Meal boxes for vulnerable people shielding produced and delivered



3,113

Free School Meals Direct Payments

5,127

#SupportDG emails handled



316

Community groups and hubs assisting in COVID-19 response



7.1M

Facebook reach

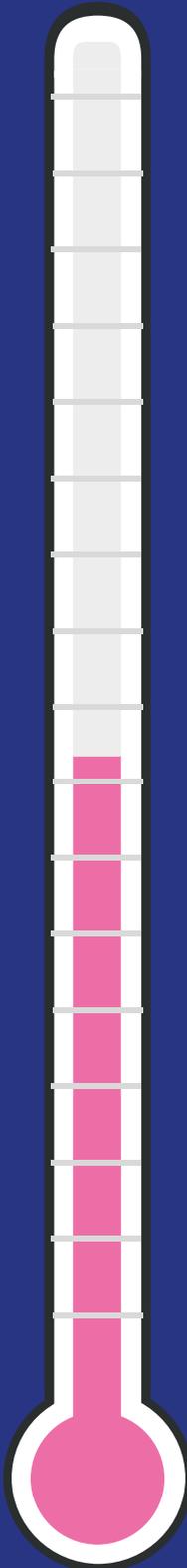
9.4M

Twitter reach



2,658

Volunteers registered



#SupportDG

www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG

NITHRAID 2020

The annual river festival Nithraid is going to look a little different this year. Held on the River Nith in Dumfries since 2013, this community event has played host to local musicians, artists, crafters, food artisans and performers. The highlight is always the arrival of the boats that race from Carsethorn on the Solway Firth up the River Nith.



But this year, the festival moves online, with a virtual celebration of the River Nith – and you're all invited to join in. Nithraid 2020 will look at and follow the river from its source to the sea, highlighting the villages and towns along the way, and focusing on the river's relationship to communities past, present and future. There will also be a summer programme of online events including education, craft-making, storytelling, history, health and music.

The festival begins on 1 July, so for some river-based fun, add a LIKE to the Nithraid Facebook page or visit thestove.org/nithraid for details.



Heathhall Litter Pick

Members of the Heathhall Community Centre and Bowling Club recently went on a socially distanced litter pick around the area. Litter has once again been on the increase across our region since lockdown measures were eased in Scotland. Well done to all who took part!



Private Eye

Around 15 per cent of total housing stock in the region lies in the private rented sector. Within the Council, we have a team of just five people, who maintain and monitor the private sector landlord register, as well as being responsible for the investigation, enforcement, and licensing of houses in multiple occupation (HMO).

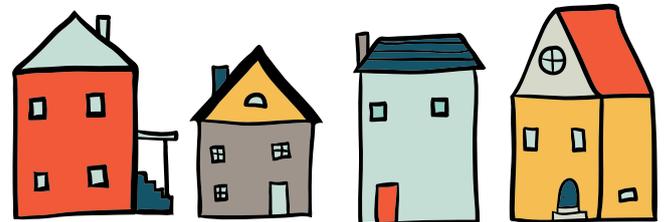
Adam Black, HMO Licencing and Landlord Registration Manager said, "We provide advice and assistance to landlords and tenants, and



make sure landlords are fit and proper. What we do can have a profound effect on improving the quality of accommodation available. And we've successfully helped hundreds of tenants who've come to us for help, often at the end of their tether. We've always done our utmost to bring poorly performing landlords to account where required".

However, most private landlords are keen to improve and maintain the reputation of the private rented sector. The Landlord Registration Team work closely with them to provide advice and assistance on new legislation, as well as ensuring that current requirements are up to date.

Despite recent lockdown restrictions, the team haven't relaxed their efforts to maintain the service. And there will be challenges ahead too, as new government legislation brings the biggest shake up the private rental sector has seen in the last twenty years, for example with EPC (Energy Performance Certificates) properties will have to meet minimum bands. Also, the regulation of short term lets will come into effect.



Throughout, the Landlord Registration Team will be on call to help tenants and landlords alike.

You can contact the team by emailing landlordregistration@dumgal.gov.uk or calling 01387 273164. More information at dumgal.gov.uk/landlordregistration

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www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG

Water Safety

We're lucky here in Dumfries and Galloway to enjoy some of the most beautiful rivers, lochs, and beaches that Scotland has to offer. However, as lockdown eases and we begin to enjoy what's beyond our doorstep again, it's important to remember water can pose many risks, regardless of your swimming ability or strength.

As the heat rises, it can be tempting to go for a dip, whether it's in a loch, river, reservoir, or the sea – but swimming in unsupervised open water can be extremely dangerous.

Open water can become very cold just a few feet under the surface, and can cause cramps or shock. Very cold temperatures can also affect your stamina, and you may find your strength and ability to swim deteriorates rapidly. Dangers lurk beneath too – open water can look calm on the surface, but strong undercurrents or unseen objects may trap or injure you. And of course, you should never enter water if you've been drinking alcohol.

It's really important to talk to children and young people about safety near water too. They should never swim unsupervised in lochs, rivers, or the sea if there's no adult present to help if they get into trouble. Please also stress that children shouldn't play with, or touch lifesaving equipment such as life-rings beside waterways, as these are crucial for saving lives.

Water Safety Scotland have produced this infographic to help you and your family stay safe when cooling off this summer.



STAYING SAFE IN AND AROUND SCOTLAND'S WATERS



Stop and Think Spot the dangers

If you are thinking of being near or entering the water, have you considered the following?

Scotland's Waters can be very cold even in the summer which can lead to Cold Water Shock

For more information: watersafetyscotland.org.uk/coldwatershock

Keep off all frozen waters, they may not be able to handle the weight of a person

Check for any **signage** or **flags** which could warn you of potential dangers

Alcohol/drugs and coastal or inland waters don't mix - they can reduce coordination and impair judgement and reaction times

The **depth** of the water may hide **underwater ledges, hidden currents and unseen items**

Be aware of other water activities that may pose a threat to you

If it is safe to enter the water, ensure you have a safe way out

If you are at the coast have you considered **rip currents, offshore winds and the tide?**



Stay Together Stay close

It is better to go near the water with a friend or family member

Float – If you are in trouble in the water, float until you feel calm...then think what to do next

If you fall into water, fight your instinct to swim until cold water shock passes

Lean back, extend your arms and legs

If you need to, gently move them around to help you float

Float until you can control your breathing

Then call for help or swim to safety



In an Emergency

If you see someone in trouble **DO NOT** enter the water

Look for a throw line or life ring to help whilst you wait on the emergency services

Call 999 or 112

For inland waters ask for the Fire and Rescue Service

For coastal waters ask for the Coastguard

TOP TIP: Thinking of taking part in a planned activity?

To enjoy your activity to the full, check that your provider is fully insured, with skilled staff and the relevant accreditation.



Keeping Us Connected

This Community bulletin was set up to help keep us all connected. In every issue, we aim to highlight the incredible efforts that people, groups and communities have been making to look out for each other, and ensure our communities stay resilient.

Here at the Council, we've also been working really hard to keep providing frontline Council services, while also dealing with many new challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought. Here's an update on what we've been doing:

Children and young people



- Provided emergency childcare for key workers, sometimes for up to 500 children a day
- Provided remote learning online and via learning resources to children and families
- Safeguarded our most vulnerable children through childcare hubs and partners, with around 100 children and young people attending each day
- Supported our most vulnerable young people through targeted Youth Work
- Provided around 150,000 free school meals and 8,248 direct cash payments
- Responded to a rise in social work referrals for children and families
- Continued to provide face to face or direct contact with children on the Child Protection Register or assessed as high risk



Vulnerable people



- Contacted 6,067 people who've been shielding and 8,509 people who've sought help via the national helpline
- Provided advice on COVID-19 related scams and frauds
- Responded to increases in demand for Social Work interventions
- Continued out of hours mental health officers to deal with increased emergency detention certificates and weekend cover
- Sustained care and support to people in their home, working with care providers
- Reconfigured care at home packages, providing an extra 360 hours of care a week
- Developed a rapid response team of social workers, social care and nursing staff to deliver emergency care home support
- Continued to manage 700 high risk offenders
- Delivered 5,120 meal boxes to people who're shielding
- Provided emergency water supplies to properties with private water supplies
- Provided enhanced contact and support to Gypsy/ Travellers groups



Communities



- Worked with more than 300 community groups and over 2,500 volunteers on COVID-19 response
- Distributed hardship funding to food providers and key third sector organisations to support vulnerable people
- Allocated around £400k hardship funding to support community organisations
- Sustained essential weekly waste collection, supported by redeployed staff
- Reopened household waste recycling centres
- Provided bedding plants for community planting projects
- Developed new communications arrangements, including the Community bulletin, social media webinars, and daily reports for Councillors, MSPs and MPs



Economy and business



- Delivered 3,736 Small Business Grants worth £39M to local eligible businesses
- Awarding 121 grants from the Newly Self-Employed Hardship Fund, worth £242,000
- Distributed business grant funding worth more than £42M
- Provided rent holidays for businesses and community organisations for Council-owned properties
- Secured funding for temporary Active Travel via Sustrans Spaces for People Fund
- Provided safe trading advice to business allowed to operate during lockdown and/or preparing for restart
- Developed a Town Centres Restart Plan

Animal Wordsearch

B R B O K D O R M O U S E R P
 O E T O R W L T N A H P E L E
 N I A R A B Y P A C P T R E I
 M N M A V C W A L L A R O O A
 O D A G D H D D A E M P B A B
 N E R N R I I T T A K A K C R
 G E M A A P Y N R A B N I H Y
 O R S K A P A M S H M G N I B
 O M H Q U P O U E A A O K P A
 S A E S U S R D N N T L A M B
 E R D O E I G D E L E I J U H
 S M G T B E R M O N G N O N S
 Q O E A H I K R A N T E U K U
 U T B O L K O B E T N O B E B
 I R G L M O N G O L M A R M O

AARDVARK	DORMOUSE	MONGOOSE
ANTEATER	ELEPHANT	PANGOLIN
BABIRUSA	HEDGEHOG	PLATYPUS
BONTEBOK	KANGAROO	REINDEER
BUSHBABY	KINKAJOU	SQUIRREL
CAPYBARA	MANDRILL	WALLAROO
CHIPMUNK	MARMOSET	

Connecting Words

Find a third word that is connected or associated with both words below.

- | | |
|-------------|---------|
| 1. LOCK | PIANO |
| 2. SHIP | CARD |
| 3. SCHOOL | EYE |
| 4. PILLOW | COURT |
| 5. RIVER | MONEY |
| 6. BED | PAPER |
| 7. ARMY | WATER |
| 8. TENNIS | NOISE |
| 9. EGYPTIAN | MOTHER |
| 10. SMOKER | PLUMBER |

Where Am I?



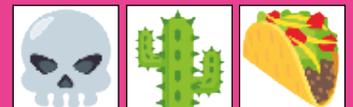
The **John Paul Jones Cottage Museum** in Kirkbean is the historical birthplace of "The Father" of the U.S. Navy. This cottage sits on the Arbigland Estate where John Paul Jones grew up.

John Paul Jones is famous in the United States as the 'Father of the American Navy'. He was born in poverty and through his skills became a distinguished naval officer fighting for both the USA and Russia. In Britain he is rather remembered as a pirate. He was awarded a gold medal and a gold sword for his exploits, but he was buried in an unmarked grave for over a century. More information at johnpauljonesmuseum.com

Guess the Country

Answers on back page

1



2



3



4



5



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.

THE FIGHT'S NOT OVER.

Together we've saved hundreds of lives in Dumfries and Galloway. Don't stop now.

Try to stay indoors when you can, keep 2 metres from others, keep washing your hands, catch your sneezes and don't touch your face.

NHS Dumfries & Galloway, POLICE Dumfries & Galloway, DGHP, DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY Health and Social Care, SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

SHOP LOCAL
SHOP SAFE

ENJOY YOUR
SPACE
PLEASE
SOCIALLY
DISTANCE

Connecting Words Answers
1. Key, 2. Deck, 3. Pupil, Exam or Private,
Guess the Country Answers
1. Mexico, 2. Italy, 3. China, 4. Brazil, 5. India
7. Tank, 8. Racket, 9. Mummy, 10. Pipe
4. Case, 5. Bank or Flow, 6. Sheet