

Community

#SupportDG 

EDITION 60
Friday 12 March 2021



Wild goats in the Langholm Hills



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Dumfries
& Galloway



Welcome to Community



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Cllr Elaine Murray
Council Leader



Cllr Rob Davidson
Depute Leader

The Covid-19 vaccination programme continues apace in Dumfries and Galloway.

To date, more than 65,000 first dose vaccines have been given.

Second dose vaccinations continue to be rolled out to front line health and social care staff and care homes. Shortly, they will be available to over 80s.

Only by vaccinating as many people as possible will we have any chance of overcoming this dreadful virus.

So, it's absolutely vital that everyone takes up the opportunity to get their first and second dose vaccinations.

Of course, receiving the first dose of vaccine doesn't make someone completely immune. So please continue to exercise extreme caution and stick to the current restrictions. This is vital to protecting our own wellbeing and that of our loved ones.

As the vaccination programme progresses, we can permit ourselves some degree of optimism. We can begin to anticipate that one day, hopefully soon, we will begin to return to some sort of normality.

As we pursue progress from response to restart and recovery, our Council's new Community Events Fund will play a key part.

with best wishes

Elaine and Rob

Event Opportunity

Dumfries and Galloway Council has launched a new one-off Community Events Fund to encourage smaller scale community events in the region.

The Fund will stimulate and support grassroots events, such as outdoor walking festivals, gala days, cycling, and running events, and other projects that can demonstrate public support.

Developing community led events can be a key feature of the region's social and economic recovery in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Councillor Andy Ferguson, Chair of the Council's Communities Committee, said: "Over the years our festivals and events have put Dumfries and Galloway on the international map. This year we want to support grassroots development, to help communities come back together again and give local people things to look forward to. We also want to ensure that we retain event management skills in our rural towns and villages."

Councillor John Martin, Vice Chair, said: "The last twelve months have been grim. Most people have been negatively impacted by the Covid pandemic in one way or another. The Council's Events Strategy this year will therefore focus on trying to support and enhance the wellbeing of individuals and communities."

The Community Events Fund is now open for applications, with community and events organisations across the region being encouraged to apply. More than £50,000 of funding is available, with the maximum grant being £3,000. The closing deadline is Friday 23 April. Full details can be found on the [Council's website](#).



[activetraveldumfries](#)

Lord Lieutenant and former Council Convenor

Tributes have been paid to Elizabeth Patricia Gilroy (known to many as Patsy) who died this week.

Patsy was appointed as Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for The Stewartry of Kirkcudbright in November 2018, succeeding Sir Malcolm Ross GCVO OBE.

Patsy was first elected to Dumfries and Galloway Council in 1999 and served as its first female Convenor from 2007 until 2012 and as a Councillor until October 2018.

Patsy's commitment and dedication to The Queen and to the people of the Stewartry was evident in the way that she fulfilled her role as a public servant. Her recognition and support for the work of so many voluntary and public sector organisations was hugely important and made a significant positive contribution to many people's lives.



Sandy McCulloch, Vice Lord Lieutenant said: "What a tragedy for someone so young with a great future ahead of her as Lord Lieutenant to have been taken so untimely. Patsy approached the job with great enthusiasm and was the driving force behind the Kirkcudbright Summer Festivities Queen's Award for Voluntary Service as well as so many other projects and initiatives across the Stewartry. Patsy was delighted to have been given the opportunity to represent Her Majesty The Queen and saw it as an absolute honour and privilege to be able to do so. Patsy will be a hard act to follow."

Council Leader Elaine Murray said: "Patsy was a tremendous public servant, serving first as a Councillor then as Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant."

Depute Leader Rob Davidson said: "I have fond memories of Patsy as a friend, a fellow Councillor, and as the first female Convenor of our Council."

Thoughts of Chairman Wow

This week, Rangers FC celebrated the winning of the Scottish Premier League. But, 8 years ago this week a local team pulled off a spectacular result at Ibrox: Rangers 1, Annan Athletic 2

Henry McClelland, then chairman of Annan Athletic FC, said: "After training on the Thursday night before the game, I sat down with the manager Jim Chapman and his assistant John Joyce. Our fans were getting restless and critical because we were around eight games into the season and our new management team had still to get a first win.

"As we supped our cuppa, Jim said that he had a feeling about Saturday. I did too. Wee Joycie was the same. They spoke clearly about their game plan.

"Sitting in the Ibrox directors' box on match day, the hairs on the back of my neck stood up as kick off approached. Unbelievably, David Hopkirk and Ally Love put us 2-nil up. I took umpteen photos of the scoreboard. We held on to win 2-1 and the elation at full time was incredible.

"After the game, I clearly remember sitting in the directors' box. The vast stadium was empty and the feeling was just surreal. Annan had just turned over

Rangers, at Ibrox. That shouldn't have happened. Our wee community club, on a budget under £100k, had gone to Ibrox and won. I was bursting with pride!

"Once I got back into the boardroom I asked Walter Smith if it would be okay to go down to the dressing room to see Jim and the team. The dressing room party had already started, it was a sight I will never forget.

"Afterwards I headed to the Bellahouston Hotel where our fans were having a swally. I think I cuddled every one of them. The number of Rangers fans who congratulated us was incredible. Instead of heading down the road on the team bus, I travelled with the supporters. We partook of some light refreshments on the journey. We stopped in Lockerbie to restock our supplies then headed back to Galabank for a bit of a hoolie. I don't have much recollection of the Sunday!

"As a volunteer and chairman, I never expected or sought any return on my efforts for the club. But, that day at Ibrox was my reward. It was a day that still provides a warm glow of happiness and joy."



What's bin going on?

Now that kerbside recycling has been successfully implemented in Wigtown Area, we're rolling it out across the region.

Our new waste and recycling service will be implemented in three phases by operational area, starting with the Stewartry area in late March, Nithsdale in April, and Annandale and Eskdale in May.

Most households will receive an additional two wheeled bins: a blue-lidded bin for recycling paper, card, and cardboard; and a red-lidded bin for recycling plastics, metals, and cartons.

As well as showing information on how to use them, the bin lids have notches to help visually impaired residents: 1 notch on the blue, 2 notches on the red.

Flats and other properties that can't accommodate the standard size bins will instead receive shared recycling bins or reusable recycling sacks.

The new service will operate over a 4-week cycle, with one bin set out for collection each week:



Details of how to use the new service, including what can and can't be recycled, and which bin to put out to be emptied will come with the new bins, with full details at www.dumgal.gov.uk/wasterecycling

You'll also be able to recycle glass bottles and jars at a local Household Waste Recycling Centre or Recycling Point, more than 90 of which will be spread around the region.



If you've seen some unusual goings on in and around Port William harbour over the past few days, the harbour is being dredged.

Dredging is essential in a lot of harbours to maintain navigable depths, enable access, and provide safe haven.

Port William harbour has little protection from north westerly storms and banks of seabed material can accumulate very quickly at its mouth. And it isn't the easiest of harbours to enter, especially in a following sea. Seafarers need to be able to rely on charted depths so, as operators, the Council has to ensure that they're maintained. There's no use in a boat missing the quay wall and breakwater on the way in only to run aground on a gravel bank.

Dredging of the harbour mouth banking is usually completed in one tide because it is very reactive. Safety is paramount bearing in mind that when the tide comes in it would be 2m above the top of the digger's cab.

So, the digger enters the water 2 hours before low tide and comes out 2 hours after low tide whether the day's work is done or not.

Young Voices on Climate Change

The Scotland Malawi Partnership will be hosting the Young Voices on Climate Change webinar on Tuesday 16 March from 6pm to 7pm.

Members of Dumfries and Galloway Youth Council's Climate Change and Environment Group will participate in the webinar which will ask young people to focus on the biggest asset in the fight against Climate Change: themselves.

We are at war. The enemy looks stronger, eager to wreak havoc. Have you seen them? Just look in the mirror. The face you see is your greatest adversary. But it's also the same face that can end this war. Urgent action needed!

The Youth Councillors will join the conversation on how they can influence decision makers and fight climate change as it continues to drastically change our world.

The learning from this session will link in with the group's Climate Action Plan which commits them to undertaking a series of personal and group action, and increase knowledge of how young people in our region can become involved in the fight against climate change.

The Webinar, hosted by Kathy, a student in Scotland, and Chifundo, a young Malawian climate leader, will feature inputs from experts in the field of climate change and young people from Scotland and Malawi.

Book your free ticket at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk>

Satisfaction Guaranteed

This is Young Person's Guarantee Week

The Young Person's Guarantee provides the opportunity of a job, placement, training or volunteering for every 16 to 24-year-old in Scotland, based on their own goals and ambitions.

The Young Person's Guarantee was launched in 2020 to protect young people from the economic impact of Covid-19. It covers a range of employability services and aims, within 2 years, to give young people the chance to succeed through the opportunity of a job, apprenticeship, education, training, or volunteering.

For employers, there is help to develop a future pipeline of skills and experience with young people at the heart of the workforce.

Young people bring organisations a wealth of talent, creativity, and enthusiasm, which is critical now and for future success.

If you're an employer who could help provide opportunities for Scotland's young people, watch DG Chamber's Developing the Young Workforce webinar [here](#)

More information on funding and support can be found at youngpersonsguarantee.scot

If you are a young person and need support to get into employment, education, training, or an apprenticeship, e: DGYouthGuarantee@dumgal.gov.uk or watch out for the live webinar [@ DG Employability and Skills](#) on Facebook.

Local information is also available: [The Young Person's Guarantee | DGTAP](#)

To search the local directory of employment, skills and related support click [here](#)

Case Study



One of the paths the Employability and Skills Service can help people take is Modern Apprenticeships. These combine learning and getting a qualification with working on the job with a salary.

The Apprentice will usually be integrated into a workplace while also completing course work and gaining real job experience. These positions also regularly develop into permanent jobs after the apprenticeship is completed.

Morgan Leggett joined the Devil's Porridge Museum in June as a Modern Apprentice after meeting manager Judith Hewitt earlier that month while still a student at Lockerbie Academy. He got to know the team and the job during a 2-day work experience placement.

Morgan said: "It was an opportunity for both sides to see if we could work together."

Judith said: "At the end of the second day we discussed whether or not Morgan wanted to commit to a year's apprenticeship at the museum and we were very pleased when he said yes."

Morgan works 25 hours a week in the museum office. His Modern Apprenticeship is in Digital Marketing, so a lot of his work involves maintaining the museum's website, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts. He also regularly completes coursework and has visits from his apprenticeship mentor, who is very pleased with his progress.

Morgan's apprenticeship was organised by Museums Galleries Scotland, which is keen to support entry level careers into the heritage sector and to help museums engage with audiences in new ways.

Morgan said: "I've really enjoyed my time at the museum so far and look forward to seeing what the future holds. The museum is a great place to visit and I learn lots working here."

Judith said: Although the brief of Morgan's apprenticeship is quite specific and we regularly meet to ensure that he is fulfilling the requirements of his qualification, he is a real member of the museum team and has taken part in lots of events and activities which we run. It's really nice working with him and it's very pleasing to see him learn new skills and develop his confidence. Having an apprentice has been a real asset to our business. Dumfries and Galloway Council has been very helpful throughout the process."

Morgan completed his Modern Apprenticeship in November and is now employed by the museum as a Museum Assistant.

If you think a Modern Apprenticeship would be right for you, or want to look into other paths towards employment, e: DGEmployability@dumgal.gov.uk or t: 01387 260 060

Dog Fouling still an issue in Sanquhar



When, in early 2020, the issue of dog fouling was raised in Sanquhar, the primary school took the initiative to tackle the matter.

All classes, including the nursery, had a presentation from the Community Safety Team about the environmental issues that most towns and villages suffer. While litter and fly tipping are a blight on our communities, it is probably dog fouling that people find most offensive and unacceptable.

The pupils were made aware that anyone caught by an authorised officer or on the authority of two statements from members of the public, can receive a Fixed Penalty Notice of £80 for failing to clear up immediately after their dog has fouled. The students also learned that the Council hands out more than 1 million dog poo bags every year.

All agreed that taking formal action against irresponsible dog owners is fine but it's far better to try and stop the offence happening in the first place.

Primaries 5, 6 and 7 agreed to design temporary posters to be displayed in public places around Sanquhar.

Around 60 entries were received for a design competition and Ronnie Johnstone, a member of the burgh's community council agreed to be judge, picking two from each class.

Ronnie said: "The community council receives many complaints about dog fouling in Sanquhar. Hopefully seeing these posters irresponsible dog walkers will take heed."

Unfortunately, before the winning posters could be displayed, Covid intervened, delaying their installation. But now, they're in position. Irresponsible dog owners beware!

RBCFT Film of the Week

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom

The late Chadwick Boseman shot to international fame as the African Chief T'Challa in the Marvel superhero action spectacular *Black Panther*. But, it is in the jazz inspired, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* that he reveals his true acting genius as the mentally and emotionally unbalanced trumpeter Levee.

The film is based on a 1980s play by August Wilson that was a huge hit on Broadway and at London's Royal National Theatre.

The story is set in 1927 and confined to a recording session in Chicago where the Queen of the Blues, Ma Rainey (Viola Davis), is to record a group of her songs with her backing band.

Ma Rainey is notorious for being difficult as she confronts the white recording manager and her own obsequious manager over their exploitation of black musicians. One member of the band, the trumpeter Levee, is a cocky youngster with his own plans to further his career while having an eye for Ma's young girlfriend. But Levee is both arrogant and unbalanced with a back history of loss and abuse that is a recipe for tragedy.



Davis and Boseman give powerhouse performances that reveal the struggles black artists had in the face of racial segregation.

Davis appears as an overweight heavily made-up bundle of intolerance and rudeness compensated by a divine talent, while Boseman is a mix of talent, insecurity, and rage.

This week saw Boseman nominated in the Best Leading Actor category for this year's BAFTAs. Sadly, he died in 2020, a year after completing the film.

Ma Rainey's Black Bottom is on Netflix and is a worthy memorial to him.

Bill Cunningham worked as a member of staff at the Robert Burns Centre Film Theatre and, previously, wrote the film page for the Dumfries & Galloway Standard.

Quiz of the Week



- Which English writer and journalist, best known for the Discworld novels, died on 12 March 2015?
- Which city is the capital of Australia?
- Which castle, located near Castle Douglas, was built by Archibald the Grim in the 1370s?
- Which TV broadcaster, who walked off and subsequently left Good Morning Britain this week, was the editor of the Daily Mirror when it was implicated in the far-reaching phone hacking scandal?
- The Spanish Inquisition, used to identify heretics who converted from Judaism or Islam to Catholicism, began in which century?
- Who played Cardinal Ximenez in Monty Python's comedy sketches about the Spanish Inquisition?
- Who was leader of the UKIP party twice, first from 2006 to 2009 and then 2010 to 2106?
- The Last King of Scotland, a novel by Giles Foden, featured which real-life African leader?
- Leningrad is now which modern Russian city?
- Robert Fripp is the founding member of which long-running British rock band?
- Where in the world would you find the Maracanã Stadium?
- Who is the current holder of the women's 100m and 200m track records?
- The Mini was first manufactured in 1959 by which company?
- The European Union consists of how many member states?
- Duke University is located in which American city?
- Randolph and Mortimer Duke were characters who appeared in which Eddie Murphy comedy?
- Who starred as Frances 'Baby' Houseman in 1987 romantic drama Dirty Dancing?
- Which river flows through the Grand Canyon?
- What was the codename for the Allied evacuation at Dunkirk during World War II?
- Which British film received the most nominations at this year's BAFTA awards?

Cardamom Biscuits (*nankhatai*)

Makes 24 biscuits
Prep 25 mins Cook 20 mins

Nankhatai is a popular and traditional Indian cookie which is equally liked by kids as well as elders. Basically it is popular as a tea time cookie and is easily available in most bakery shops in India.

Ingredients

3 green cardamom pods
40g icing sugar
100g unsalted butter, at room temperature
70g self-raising white flour
25g gram flour
25g semolina
24 skin-on almonds or chopped pistachios



Method

STEP 1 - Split the cardamom pods and remove the seeds. Pound the seeds to a powder in a pestle and mortar with 1 tsp of the sugar.

STEP 2 - Beat the butter until soft, then gradually add the remaining icing sugar and the ground

cardamom. Continue beating until light and creamy, about 10 mins.

STEP 3 - Sieve the flour and gram flour into a bowl and whisk in the semolina and a pinch of salt. Stir into the butter and sugar in two increments. Gently bring everything together into a soft dough.

STEP 4 - Roll the dough into small, marble-sized balls with your hands and arrange, spaced out, on baking trays lined with baking parchment.

STEP 5 - Slightly flatten the top of each ball and press a whole almond or some chopped pistachios in the middle of each one. Chill for 20 mins.

STEP 6 - Heat the oven to 160C/140C fan/gas 3. Bake the biscuits for about 20 mins or until golden. Leave to cool before storing in an airtight tin.

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 260 280
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub 030 33 33 3001

Social Work Out of Hours 01387 273 660

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



CAT's pyjamas

One of the first Community Asset Transfers in the Mid and Upper Nithsdale Ward, the transfer of land at Closeburn agreed by the Council in 2018, has won a major award.

The land was transferred to the Nith Valley Leaf Trust and it has now won a Scotland's Regeneration Form SURF Award in the Housing and Regeneration Category for the houses it built. They are Scotland's first Community-owned homes built to Phasshaus ultralow energy standards, meeting the needs of affordable housing and fuel poverty. The project is an exemplar of how a CAT can be a catalyst for wider community empowerment.

Name in Lights

The Attic Youth Group in North West Dumfries has been successful in a recent funding bid for more than £7,000 to continue the Saturday Nights Under the Lights Project. This project is run as a partnership involving North West Community Campus, Dumfries Police Division, The Attic Youth Group, and Youth Work DG.

Bags a Book

In line with government restrictions, Customer Service Centres, including libraries and PC, access are closed to the public until the restrictions are relaxed.

The virtual library offers free access to eBooks, eAudio, eMagazine and online resources such as Ancestry, GoCitizen and Theory Test Pro.

Many library services are being delivered on the Library Facebook Page. ([@dumfriesandgallowaylibraries](https://www.facebook.com/dumfriesandgallowaylibraries)). Regular features including A Daily Wake up, Shake Up Session, Storytimes, 50 Word Friday, and a new local quiz Where/Who Am I?

Path to Success

A grant of £14,760 from Paths for All will enable a Regional Walking Co-ordinator post from March 2021 to February 2022. This will result in developing a wide range of new walking groups and support for existing groups. The funding will also support partnership working with NHS and Health professionals to refer people into local walking groups.

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

Answers

1. Terry Pratchett
2. Canberra
3. Threave Castle
4. Piers Morgan
5. 15th Century (it started in 1478)

6. Michael Palin
7. Nigel Farage
8. General Idi Amin
9. Saint Petersburg
10. King Crimson
11. Rio de Janeiro in Brazil

12. Florence Griffith Joyner
13. The British Motor Corporation
14. 27
15. Durham, in North Carolina
16. Trading Places
17. Jennifer Grey

18. The Colorado
19. Operation Dynamo
20. Rocks