

Autumn 2025

# The Review®

STEWARTON'S FREE QUARTERLY MAGAZINE

ISSUE FORTY-SEVEN

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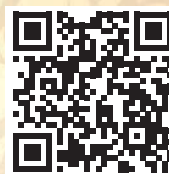
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## WELCOME TO OUR AUTUMN EDITION!

There's something special about autumn in Stewarton – the changing colours, the cooler evenings, and the strong sense of community that keeps our town buzzing all year round. As we step into the season, this edition of The Stewarton Review celebrates that spirit, featuring the brilliant local businesses and people who make Stewarton such a great place to live and work. Whether you've been here all your life or have just joined us, we're proud to share these pages with you.



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# Celebrating the 92nd Bonnet Guild Gala Week!



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The 92nd anniversary of Stewarton Bonnet Guild was celebrated in style this year with a week of well supported, fun and commemorative events from 14th – 22nd June 2025, all making for a very successful week.



The crowning of the Corsehill Queen took place on Gala Day, Saturday, 21st June in Avenue Square. Huge congratulations to this year's Court all of whom performed their duties exceptionally well and were a real credit to their families and schools. They were: Corsehill Queen Elect Eva Aiken, 1st Maid Lucy Muir, 2nd Maid Betsy Wylie, Maids: Bonnie Smith, Elspeth McNaught, Leoni Maitland and Ellis Chalmers. First Courtier Luke Baird, 2nd Courtier Donal Steel, Herald Ragnar Smith, Sword Bearer Oscar Wylie, Crown Bearer Cameron Nelson, Sceptre Bearer Struan Chalmers, Queen's Highlander Taylor Smith (from Nether Robertland Primary School), Pages - Conall Menzies and Innes Robertson (from Lainshaw Primary School).



Crowning duties were expertly performed by Crowning Lady Amy Young (Corsehill Queen 1957), musical entertainment was kindly provided by Irvine and Dreghorn Brass and



Kilbarchan Pipe Band and this year's Guard of Honour was ably formed by Girlguiding Stewarton including representatives from Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and their leaders. The full proceedings were narrated throughout by Master of Ceremonies, past President of the Bonnet Guild Walter Findlay.



We were so sorry to hear of Walter's sudden passing mid-July and offer our heartfelt and sincere condolences to his family and friends. He was a much-respected, long-standing member of the Bonnet Guild; only back in May we were delighted to be able to present him with his Honorary Life Membership. Walter is remembered with much fondness and will be greatly missed by all members. We thank him for all the time, commitment and guidance he gave to the Guild.

The Presentation of Colours Ceremony opened with a speech from Bonnet Guild President David Naismith followed by the Retiring Deacon returning the Colours to Councillor John McGhee who then assisted Presenting Lady, Jennifer Pryce (Corsehill Queen 2014), in performing the investiture of Yvonne Byrne as Deacon, Angela Goodwin as Senior Baillie and John Hill as Junior Baillie. Retiring Queen (2024) Rebecca Nokes presented the Presenting Lady with a beautiful bouquet of flowers. Also in attendance was the Deacon of Glasgow

Bonnet Makers and Dyers, Sheena Crichton, who presented Endeavour Awards to Stewarton Academy pupils S1- Orla Burrett, S2- Martha Messner, S3- Charlotte Robb, S4- Logan Gaddu, S5- Harriet Brooks, S6 – Abbi Steel. Senior Baillie Angela Goodwin then gave the proclamation.



Other platform guests joined the 92nd investiture ceremony including; the late Collector from Glasgow Bonnet Makers and Dyers Margaret Donald, Lillian Jones MP, Willie Coffey MSP, Councillor Ellen Freel, Deacon Convener of the Irvine Incorporated Trades John Macdonald and Depute Chairman of Stewarton & District Community Council – Brian Farrell.

**David Naismith, President of Stewarton Bonnet Guild said:**

*"I wish to thank our local community for their enormous support during our recent Gala week. You turned out in large numbers to all of our events and your generosity ensures we will have a Gala week in 2026. I would also like to thank local businesses large and small for their continued support. The local Police and Fire service once again stepped up to support their local community – many thanks. To our Bonnet Guild members associate members and volunteers none of this would be possible without your time and effort. Last but not least to the young people and children of Stewarton your kindness, manners and appreciation blew Bonnet Guild members away! You were a credit to yourself, your families and your community. Well done all!"*

Events across the week attracted enthusiastic support – from hockey, duck racing and junior





football tournament to trail runs, bowling, and the Fire Station Open Day there really was something for everyone! Everything was once again expertly captured by an invaluable team of talented volunteer photographers who worked hard throughout the week including: Richard Gass, Robert Whiteford, Sandra Hunter, Adam Lyon, Faye Ronald and Karin Gilmore.

President David Naimsmith added "Special thanks go to Dee MacColl for kicking off Gala Day proceedings by agreeing to help to reinstate the traditional role of Town Crier this year! What a great job she did encouraging a fantastic number of spectators to turn out and watch the crowning, the float parade and to visit the Gala Day park. Once again a lot of effort went into decorating floats with the popular "A favourite book" theme. Thank you to everyone who spent the time and effort participating in such a colourful parade – especially the winning floats - Dynamite Dance Studio and John Knox Church, and this year's judges Denise McDougall and Christina Mitchell. The Gala Day Golden Ticket was drawn with Jeanette Campbell winning the top £100 prize and Gavin Burrows securing the signed Killie football shirt! Thank you also to The Book Nook for offering each member of the Court a book voucher in recognition of their achievements!"

Bonnet Guild week was brought to a close with the traditional Parade to the newly-attended war memorial for the laying of wreaths followed by the annual Bonnet Guild Divine Service kindly led by Gavin Niven in St Columba's Church where the Corsehill Queen received the Warwick Rosebowl and First Courtier received the quach. Members of the 2025 Court also each received commemorative medals and the congregation enjoyed a performance from the children of Nether Robertland Choir. The inaugural presentation of the John Campbell Burns Memorial Award was also made at the service to J Drummond for her recital of 'To a Louse' at Nether Robertland Primary School's 2025 Burns competition and Sadie Messner for her recital of 'Scots Wha Hae' at Lainshaw Primary School's Burns competition earlier this year.

Anyone interested in volunteering, sponsoring or supporting the Bonnet Guild should contact President David Naimsmith via email: [info@stewartonbonnetguild.org](mailto:info@stewartonbonnetguild.org) or Facebook @ BonnetGuild. The Bonnet Guild is a non-profit organization with all proceeds raised from this year's festival going towards ensuring future Bonnet Guild events including the hugely popular Torchlight Parade, Bonfire and Fireworks, which will take place this year on Tuesday, 30th December 2025.

**In the meantime, well done to all this year's winners from events throughout Gala week 2025 – a selection is listed opposite:**



## Stewarton Garnock Hockey Challenge

Congratulations to the winning 'Blue team' who were presented with a trophy from Bonnet Guild President David Naimsmith.



## Duck Race

Congratulations to the prize-winning ducks that made it over the finish line - 1st 291 - Meghan Kinney, 2nd 191 - Avery Graham and 3rd - 557- Laura Andrew. Thanks again to sponsors Thomas McKellar & Sons.



## Shop Window Competition

1st place went to Poppy's with their beautiful Peter Rabbit themed window. 2nd place was awarded to Brownings the Bakers and their impressive Jungle Book entry and 3rd place went to New 2 You with their great Harry Potter themed window. Congratulations to everyone who took part and thank you to Julie and Robin Halliday for judging the competition.

## Car Treasure Hunt

Twenty-five teams took part in the 2025 Car Treasure Hunt. Congratulations to winners David Robertson, Janet Robertson and Jimmy Young! 2nd place went to Stewart Wallace, Sheena Wallace, Gordon Wallace and Sophie Atkinson. In 3rd place were Sheena Boag, Stewart Boag, Rory Boag, Jessica Robinson and Nathan Robinson.

## Trail run

101 runners took part in this year's Trail Run. Medals were kindly presented by President David Naimsmith to: Junior 3k (Under 16 Boys) 1st Lewis Sinclair, 2nd Murray Young, 3rd Lewis Madine. 3k (Under 16 Girls) 1st Lacey Naimsmith, 2nd Aela Gillies, 3rd Perrie Naimsmith. Senior 5k (Over 16 male) 1st Owen McWilliams, 2nd David Blane, 3rd Craig Wallace. 5k (Over 16 female) 1st Eilidh Ballantine, 2nd Sylvia Mullholland, 3rd Suzanne Dickson.



## Quiz of Two Halves

This year's Quiz was won by LPKR, in 2nd place S.A.C. and 3rd ME. Congratulations!

## Pool Competition

Huge congratulations to Peter McLanachan who successfully defended his Pool title with Alistair McDougall was the worthy runner up!

## Bowling

The winners of the Bonnet Guild Trophy were Bobby Hutchison and David Bentley, with Kevin McMullen and Hugh Sharp runners up.



## Darts

The winner of the Bonnet Guild darts competition was Chris Wilson with Calum "Spud" McCrae a worthy runner-up. Well done too to the other 29 players that took part!

## Fancy Dress

The return of this year's fancy dress parade attracted over 100 participants! Well done to everyone who took part including: Under 5s: 1st - Lottie Clark (Mini Pat McF - BG member), 2nd - Rosalee and Juliet McGrath (Sunflower and Bumblebee), 3rd - Leon O'Neil (Lightning McQueen). Under 7s: 1st - Jacob Connelly (Rubik's cube), 2nd Charlotte O'Neil (Butterfly) and 3rd Rowan Garratt (Katie Morag). Under 11s: 1st Ella-Mia Laud (Bubblebath), 2nd Eva Marshall (Bookworm) and 3rd Alice Corrigan (Tictacs). Groups: 1st Noah and Harris Andrews who came as Still Game at The Clansman, 2nd The Wizard of Oz team (Dorothy - Lucy McGregor, Witch - Hayley Mills, Glinda - Charlotte McGregor, Lion - Lola Baiilie, Tin Man - Zander Nightingale, Scarecrow - Rory McKie) and 3rd to Max and Theo Malone who came as two little ducks.

## Small Bore Rifle

Congratulations to Ladies winner Jess-Marie Paterson (Stewarton) and Girls winner Beth Gladston (Moscow)! The Gents section was won by Ben Wilson (Dreghorn) and Boys section by Jack MacArthur (Bishopbriggs).

## Golf

The annual Bonnet Guild Golf competition was won this year by Barrie McDonnell, with runner up William Smith.



# Another fantastic day for the 2025 Stewarton Beer Festival!



**W**hat an amazing day! We couldn't have done it without you! A massive thank you to everyone who attended the beer festival!

A reminder that all funds raised go towards the running of Stewarton Annick Amateur Football Club.

It's time for us to give thanks to everyone who helped us put on the event.

Tom Blackwood at Magbiehill Properties for allowing us to host the festival at Magbiehill

What an amazing day! The Stewarton Beer Festival was a fantastic success, and it's all thanks to an incredible community coming together.



The air buzzed with excitement, the scent of incredible food and unique beers filled the air, and laughter echoed across Magbiehill Park. The sun shone on a sea of happy faces, all celebrating one of our favourite traditions. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you to everyone who came out. Your support for the Stewarton

Annick Amateur Football Club is why we do this, and all the funds raised go directly to the club's running.



A day like this doesn't just happen; it's built, piece by piece, by an amazing team. A huge thank you to everyone who helped us bring this event to life:

- Tom Blackwood at Magbiehill Properties for generously allowing us to use Magbiehill Park, the perfect home for our festival.
- The Solutions on Demand Group and Billy Bowie Special Projects Limited for providing the marquees that kept everyone comfortable, with Billy even bringing a lorry for a windbreak and a skip for easy cleanup.
- PPS Logistics for sponsoring our event and providing all the cups.
- Hillhouse Group and gwfgenerators for powering the entire day.
- Stuart from The Mill House for being our license holder and ensuring everything ran smoothly.
- The Stewarton Bonnet Guild for their fantastic support with our market stalls, gazebos, tables, and bins.
- Up4 loo hire, Speirs Security, and E.R Medical Events & Training Ltd for ensuring everyone stayed comfortable and safe.
- Standing Stone for setting up the main stage



and Fleming's Marquees for giving us an incredible dance tent where the music played all day and night.

Thank you to our amazing entertainers who kept the energy high: Brian Ovens, our fabulous magician, and the incredible sounds of Roughcut LIVE BAND, The 505, and The Goalie from Wilson Windows.

And of course, a beer festival wouldn't be a festival without fantastic drinks and food! We want to send a massive thank you to all our wonderful vendors who brought their incredible creations to share:

Ayrshire Riviera Cider, The coffee pod, The Dispensary Bar, Ellis gin, Fizzbuzz, Valentino Five Kingdoms Brewery, The Pizza Pie Guy, The Little Margarita Truck, The Mill House, Reggaeicious Food Truck & Kitchen, SLOPEmeisteR, Smokin' Delights, Two Towns Down Brewing, Up Front Brewing, and WEST Beer.



A final thank you to Ayrshire Drinks for the pallets and The Timber Shop Ltd for the chipboard that kept our electrics off the ground and safe. Every small contribution made a huge difference.

We sincerely apologise if we've missed anyone, but please know your hard work and support did not go unnoticed. We hope you all had an amazing time and look forward to seeing you at next year's Stewarton Beer Fest!





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# Elsie Cook is inducted into the Scottish Football Hall of Fame as autobiography launches



**E**lsie Cook has been inducted to the Scottish Football Hall of Fame for her outstanding contribution to football, as a player but also as a pioneering administrator and champion of the girls and women's game. The celebrations took place at the Scottish Football Museum at Hampden Park today, Thursday 7th August 2025, as her autobiographical book, 'A Kiss Fae Pele' was launched.

Elsie's book launch was hosted by journalist, author and great friend of Elsie, Hugh MacDonald, who spoke of his own admiration for Elsie and welcomed friends and former colleagues to the stage to share stories and tributes to the woman of the hour.

Elsie's induction marks a new chapter in the Scottish Football Hall of Fame, as the Board and team at the Scottish Football Museum relaunch the project to bring the cohort of women inductees into balance.



## An outstanding impact

A player with the successful Stewarton Thistle team of the 1960s and 1970s, Elsie was a leading figure in the creation of the Scottish Women's Football Association in 1972. A driving force behind the development of the women's game during a crucial era in the overall history of the sport, she stepped up to become the inaugural secretary of the organisation at a time when the Scottish FA did not even recognise women's football.

She was instrumental in organising the first official international football match involving the Scotland Women's National Team. That historic game took place in November 1972 at Ravenscraig stadium in Greenock when Scotland faced England. Elsie resigned as secretary and was appointed Scotland manager in 1974. She took the team on a tour of Italy, playing in Ravenna and Milan. She also played an important role in the formation of the Strathclyde League during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Through Elsie's determination, the women's game in Scotland emerged as a more structured sport.



## Words of thanks to a legend of the game

Friend and publisher of 'A Kiss Fae Pele', Tom Brown, has been an integral part of Elsie's book reaching publication. In true Elsie style, the book is written in the Stewarton vernacular (complete with a glossary of Scots words) as she wanted to maintain authenticity and is a comprehensive look back through meticulous records and photos kept by Elsie over the decades and organised by Tom. Speaking of the respect and admiration Tom has for his great friend, he said: "When I say Elsie is a remarkable woman, it feels like I am not doing her justice. Her greatness is well camouflaged for, if you were to meet her and talk to her, she remains humble and understated. Her mission in life in life was to give all women of all ages the opportunity to play football."



On the importance of the work Elsie has done, Richard McBrearty, Curator of the Scottish Football Museum said: "I cannot think of anyone who has fought more for the women's game in Scotland than Elsie Cook. As a player, coach, administrator, advocate and activist, Elsie has been an inspirational presence within women's football from the early 1960s to the present day. The much-advanced game of today has been built upon the shoulders of pioneers, many of them unsung heroines. Standing at the front is Elsie – she is truly as colossus of the women's game."

Speaking of the new wave of change to bring the Hall of Fame into a new era, Robert Craig, Chair of the Museum said:

*"We are delighted that the Scottish Football Hall of Fame has entered this new chapter to address the balance within the roster and to induct women who have made a outstanding impact on the game. We are thrilled to honour Elsie today, surrounded by her family, friends and admirers, and her place on our walls is very well deserved. Her commemorative plaque is now officially installed in our new look Hall of Fame display which celebrates the women who have made the game great, a fantastic new attraction for our visitors to admire and learn more about these incredible women."*



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# A Legacy of Service: Happy Retirement Watch Commander David Roxburgh!



It is with immense pride and heartfelt gratitude that we extend our warmest wishes to Watch Commander David Roxburgh on his well-deserved retirement. After an extraordinary 39 years and 2 months – a remarkable 14,334 days – of unwavering dedication, David is stepping down, leaving behind a legacy that has profoundly impacted our community.

WC Roxburgh's journey began in Kilmarnock at Titchfield Street Fire Station, but it was here in Stewarton that he truly became a cornerstone of our local fire service. For the majority of his distinguished career, he embodied the very best of what it means to be a community firefighter.

The importance of individuals like David cannot be overstated. Community firefighters, particularly those on-call or retained like WC

Roxburgh, are the backbone of safety and resilience in towns and villages across Scotland. They are ordinary people who answer an extraordinary call, balancing their everyday lives with the readiness to respond to emergencies at a moment's notice. From battling blazes and attending road traffic collisions to providing vital first aid and offering crucial fire prevention advice, their commitment ensures that help is always at hand, protecting lives and property when it matters most.

This incredible milestone was marked by a poignant ceremony on Wednesday evening, attended by his dedicated local crew (both serving and retired), esteemed Ayrshire Senior Officers, the Deputy Assistant Chief Officer, and representatives from local organisations, all joined by David's loving family. It was a fitting tribute to a man who has given so much. The celebrations then continued at the Station, where everyone gathered to formally send David off into a well-earned retirement.



We wholeheartedly wish Watch Commander David Roxburgh a long, healthy, and incredibly happy retirement, filled with joy, relaxation, and perhaps a well-deserved break from the pager!

Our sincerest appreciation goes to The Coffee Pot and James & Clara from Classique Blinds for their generosity in putting on such a fantastic spread at the station, and to the entire Stewarton crew for organising this truly special and memorable moment.





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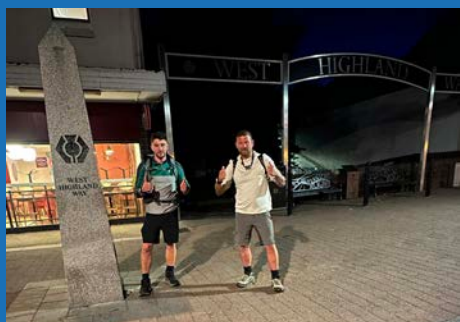
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# Take a walk on the West Highland Way!

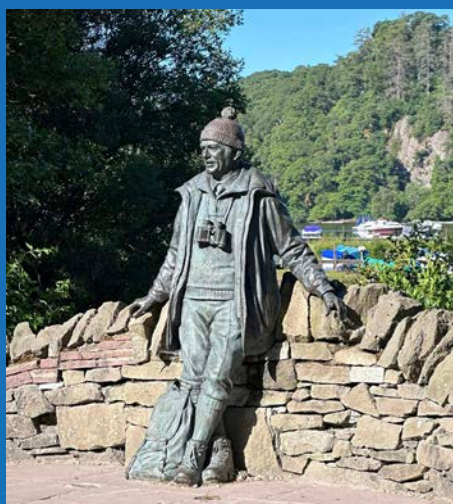
Wilson Windows very own Stephen Stakim and his brother decided to walk the entire West Highland Way in ONE GO to raise money for Young Munds Trust here's how they got on.



Kenny and I kicked off our West Highland Way adventure at 2:40 AM from Milngavie, running on fumes after only a few hours of sleep. We navigated the dark with head torches, enjoying a beautiful sunrise over Dumgoyne. We hit Balmaha by 8:30 AM, fueled by baguettes, and tackled the Salloch steps, which prompted an immediate "taps aff" moment as the heat began to rise.



By 11:30 AM, we reached Rowardennan, celebrating 27 miles with a well-deserved lager top. The heat intensified, leading to a blissful swim in the loch around 2 PM, which, though refreshing, threw off our timing. The relentless horseflies, or "cleggs," became our constant tormentors from this point on. A sand mishap from my bag chafed my back, adding to the misery of the unexpected, intense sun after Beinglas.



The real challenge began after midnight. Extreme fatigue and heat exhaustion caused us to "nod off" while walking, leading to terrifying hallucinations on Rannoch Moor – stones became CD Walkman's and prams! We managed a crucial 15-minute power nap near Bridge of Orchy to push through. Despite the

delirium, seeing the iconic Buachaille Etive Mòr around 7:08 AM on Sunday morning sparked a much-needed second wind.

We powered up the Devil's Staircase after another brief power nap, reaching the top around 9:30 AM, utterly exhausted. The downhill into Kinlochleven was brutal on our calves and knees. After a quick resupply, the final climb out of Kinlochleven zapped the last of our energy.

The last 15 miles to Fort William were a slow, scorching slog with no shade or fresh water. We resorted to splashing stream water on ourselves to keep going, clocking a painful 2 mph. Communication was reduced to grunts and



expletives about those never-ending cleggs.

Finally, at 8:30 PM on Sunday evening, 42 hours after we started, we dragged our sore bodies along Fort William high street (still shirtless!). We were greeted by our mum and dad at the finish line, having completed an incredible feat and raised over £2000 for Young Minds charity, all thanks to amazing support from everyone.

Our final advice: "Don't ever try this! 'Tis a silly thing to do!"





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# 1st Stewarton Boys' Brigade NEWS UPDATE

We have recently started our new session, and in the early stages of preparing our new session.

**Anchors** – As well as our usual weekly programme, during the session the boys will join boys from rest of East Ayrshire Battalion, which include park visits, soft play as well as our joint summer trip with the Juniors in June.



6 boys attended the Kings Badge Civic Reception at Glasgow City Chambers. Photo is one of the boys during inspection of ranks



Our Junior out on their travels at the end of last session

**Juniors** – This session we will continue our monthly swimming visits as well as Battalion activities which include Treasure Hunt, Sleepover, Skate park, Ten Pin, Bounce Station, Supergroup, Quiz and visit to Newmilns for tubing. We will also be doing a residential for the boys in May, which is always a good experience for them.

**Company & Senior Section** – We have already started our session with an Adventure weekend away at Blairvadach Centre, in Helensburgh. Over 20 boys and staff took part in a weekend of fellowship and a full programme of Adventure activities. Our Battalion activities will include Assault course, paint balling, Water sports, archery, drill, Flip out & Pool for Seniors. Our major awards scheme this year includes 5 boys in last year of their Kins Award, 7 starting out in Year 1 as well as over 15 boys who are looking at their President Badge this session, which is the pre-requisite to the Kings Award.

All in all a busy session, and we look forward to welcoming our existing members, but always on the lookout for boys to try the BB Experience.

If you require any information, please contact Willie Campbell on 07932 540097



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# Stewarton Academy achieves double gold!

The young people of Stewarton Academy are celebrating double gold after achieving the UNICEF UK Gold: Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) and Gold: Reading Schools accreditation from the Scottish Book Trust.

Councillor Elaine Cowan, Spokesperson for Education, and Children and Young People, dropped in to Stewarton Academy with local members Councillors John McGhee, Ellen Freel and Stephen Canning to congratulate Headteacher John Stuart, his team and young people from the school on their achievement.

They learned more about the prestigious Gold: RRSA, from Shelley Hastings PT Social Subjects and Citizenship, Gillian Dunsmuir, Teacher of Social Subjects and RMPS and the pupil led committee.

The school had to be assessed by a Professional Adviser from UNICEF and demonstrate that children's rights were fully embedded throughout the school in its policies, practice and ethos. The young people and teaching staff had also to demonstrate that they had a thorough understanding of child rights, that the RRSA had a positive impact on their learning and wellbeing, and that the young people identify as rights respecting global

Charlotte, who has been a paired reader said: "For the past eight months we have been volunteering as paired readers once a week. It has been a really rewarding experience, we have all loved working with the children from the local early childhood centres and primary schools. It doesn't matter if you are a keen reader, it has all been about encouraging everyone to enjoy reading for pleasure. And it's worked!"

Councillor Elaine Cowan, Spokesperson for Education, and Children and Young People, was joined at Stewarton Academy by local members Councillors John McGhee, Ellen Freel and Stephen Canning. She said: "I was delighted to visit Stewarton Academy with the local elected members to congratulate Headteacher, John Stuart, his team and the young people from the school on their double gold.

"Both awards are incredibly prestigious. The UNICEF UK Gold: Rights Respecting Schools Award has four key areas of impact on young people – wellbeing, participation, relationships and self-esteem. The aim of the journey to the Gold Award is to ensure that the young people are healthier and happier, that they feel safe, that they have better relationships and that they are active and involved in school life and the wider world.



citizens and are advocates for social justice, fairness and children's rights.

Martha from S6 spoke to the visitors about the school's Rights Respecting journey. She said: "My rights respecting journey began in S2 so I've been on the whole journey to earning Gold. I have thoroughly enjoyed every part of the rights respecting schools process, but a real highlight has been mentoring young people within the school and presenting at assemblies and at parents' night. It's helped to develop leadership skills and improve our confidence and made us feel like we are part of something bigger."

For the Gold: Reading Schools accreditation, the project was led by teacher, Pamela Jannaway, and the school had to demonstrate a love of reading for pleasure, its benefits and the how they have created a reading community. Stewarton Academy has excelled in this field over the last three years with pupils, staff, parents and carers, and the wider community participating. Highlights include World Book Day celebrations, Reading Challenge achievements, Secret Santa's Bookshelf, book groups, author events and even podcasts.

Young people from the school have also been paired readers throughout the academic year, reading with children and young people from the cluster primary schools and early childhood centres, plus S1 and S2 pupils from the school.

"While Reading Schools is an accreditation programme for schools that are committed to building a culture of reading for their learners and communities. Research demonstrates that reading for pleasure has positive impacts on learners' attainment across the curriculum, supporting wellbeing, critical thinking, creativity, empathy and resilience. Speaking to the young people at the school was a wonderful insight into how the school achieved this accolade and the positive impact that reading has had on the young people and the whole school community."

Headteacher John Stuart said: "I am very proud of all our pupils, staff, families and wider community for all playing their part in achieving both gold awards. The awards are very prestigious and are hard to achieve. Stewarton Academy is lucky to have great teachers who are committed to ensuring that our children and young people have the best opportunities available to them through the curriculum and through projects like Rights Respecting Schools and Reading Schools.

"Working towards Gold was very much a team effort and everyone within the school embraced our shared goals. Whilst achieving Gold in both elements is welcome as awards for the school, the most important thing is how working towards them improved the ethos of our school and provided such wonderful leadership opportunities for our young people."



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# Boozebrunch bingo com

## Stewarton, get ready for the ultimate party with a purpose!



The Boozebingo craze that's been selling out venues across Scotland is coming to town on Saturday, October 11, at the SAYCA Community Centre.

This isn't your average bingo night; it's a high-energy extravaganza featuring classic '80s, '90s' tunes, dance-offs, prize games, and plenty of laughs.



This incredible event is being organised by local promotor Chris Sharpe and Coach Lisa Shek-Coutts as a fundraiser for Stewarton Annick Girls FC, with proceeds going towards a second football kit for all the girls teams, as they only have one strip. Your ticket not only guarantees an epic night out but also directly supports these talented local girls. Hosted by Go Radio's Stevie Lennon and Now Ayrshire Radio's Michael Smith, Fergie and a very special guest, this is your chance to party for a great cause.

But the night doesn't stop there! Keep the good times rolling at the



official after-party: a legendary Swell reunion at 6th Avenue. Swell played a significant part in Stewarton's nightlife for years by bringing the biggest and best DJs from across the country. Now, Chris Sharpe presents a collaboration with Stereofunk's Stevie Lennon, who will be on the decks spinning the best anthems from a classic era of clubbing, bringing back the unforgettable vibe that defined Swell.



Secure your spot for Boozebingo on [www.skiddle.com](http://www.skiddle.com) and contact Chris Sharpe directly on social media for Swell reunion tickets.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to support local girls' football while enjoying two unforgettable parties.



# mes to the Bonnet Toon!



A vibrant purple and pink poster for a 'Booze & Bingo' event. The background features a radial burst pattern with confetti. The text is arranged in a central layout with circular icons containing numbers 2, 4, 9, and 5. Two men are shown in circular frames at the bottom corners, smiling and pointing towards the center.

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A poster for 'Swell Reunion Part 3' with a grey textured background. It features a collage of images: a DJ at a turntable, a man in a 'Swell' t-shirt, and a '6th Avenue' logo. The text is bold and clear, providing event details and ticket information.

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## Stewarton Annick Girls FC: A Year to Remember & A Future to Build



2025 has been a whirlwind of excitement, growth, and achievement for Stewarton Annick Girls FC—and we're only halfway through! With over 140 girls proudly wearing our colours, the club continues to thrive both on and off the pitch.

From thrilling matches to unforgettable memories, our players have been busy. This summer saw our annual funday, a Couch to 5K challenge, and participation in tournaments across the country, showcasing the talent and spirit of our girls wherever they go.

### School Success Stories

Our impact reaches beyond the club too. Stewarton's primary schools—where many of our players and volunteer coaches are

involved—made headlines by reaching the finals of the East Ayrshire Council Girls Cups. Both schools triumphed, bringing home the silverware and making Stewarton proud!

### United by the Beautiful Game

We also came together for a special watch party during the 2025 Women's European Championship Final. Events like these remind us that football is more than just a game—it's a community, a source of inspiration, and a place where dreams begin.

### Join the Team

We're excited to welcome new players and coaches into our football family.

#### • U18 Team (New for 2026!)

As we look towards 2026, Girls born in 2008

or 2009—this is your chance to be part of something new. Whether you're seeking a fresh start or your current club doesn't offer an U18 squad, we'd love to hear from you.

#### • U16 & U14 Teams

We're also expanding our existing squads. Girls born in 2009, 2010, 2011, or 2012 are invited to join the fun and challenge themselves in a supportive environment.

#### • U6 & U8 Teams

Got a budding footballer at home? We're welcoming girls born in 2018, 2019, 2020, or 2021 to our youngest teams—where the journey begins with joy, teamwork, and plenty of smiles.

#### • Coaches Wanted

Passionate about youth sport? We're looking for enthusiastic coaches to help guide and inspire our youngest age groups.

### Get in Touch

Whether you're a player, parent, or potential coach, Stewarton Annick Girls FC is ready to welcome you. Please get in touch via social media. Let's build the future of girls' football—right here in Stewarton.



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Visit our website, call the office, or drop by the clubhouse to get started.

## Junior Membership

We're proud to support the next generation of golfers with competitive junior membership pricing, an engaging summer coaching programme, and regular competitions to develop skills in a fun and friendly setting. Whether your child is picking up a club for the first time or already loves the game, Caldwell offers a brilliant foundation. For more details, reach out to [proshop@caldwellgolfclub.net](mailto:proshop@caldwellgolfclub.net) Caldwell Golf Club – with a 97.5 on Golf Now and first in the County, come and find out why we are the course everyone is talking about and what keeps bringing them back. *Where everyone belongs, and every round feels like coming home.*



## Events & Functions

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# STEWARTON ALLOTMENT SOCIETY'S OPEN DAY

## BEAUTIFUL. STUNNING. AMAZING. WONDERFUL

They were just a few of the descriptions visitors to Stewarton Allotments Society's Open Day came up with after they'd toured the site and looked in admiration at the flowers, fruit and veg on show.

It was another hugely successful day and the site was again looking its best, even after a bit of a battering from Storm Floris earlier in the week.

The dahlias were dazzling; the gladioli were gorgeous; the sunflowers were stupendous and the tatties were terrific!!

Every year members put in hours and hours of hard work and it's all worth it when the folk of Stewarton turn up to appreciate the results.

This year was no different. Visitors got a warm welcome as they wandered round and members were on hand to answer questions.

One guest summed it all up: "I get garden envy when I come here. Your allotments are a credit to Stewarton."

It's not just what the allotments look like that draws the crowds every year...it's what they produce.

The stall selling vegetables is always very popular...you can't get anything fresher than tatties, carrots, cabbages and beetroot that were still in the ground ten minutes before you bought them.

The stalls in the marquee selling home baking, jams, herbs, cut flowers and house plants all did a roaring trade. The raffle and the tombola were hugely popular.

After all that it was time for a cuppa and a piece of cake or a tasty burger.

The Open Day is a great day for the members as well. It brings out their competitive side.

This year it was a BIG year for Jim Anderson. He fought off stiff competition to take the prize for the tallest sunflower, for the second year running, with a monster plant of almost 12 feet. Not only that, but he also shared the prize for

*Sunflower champ Jim Anderson is dwarfed by his monster plant*



*Burger boys, Graeme Hay and Bob Baker*

the heaviest weight of tatties grown in a bag and had the grandest gladiolus.

So, what's his sunflower secret?

"Plenty of good fertilizer. Mainly blood, fish and bone," he says.

A great hat-trick...many congratulations to Jim.



*Isobel Gray, vase of flowers; Colin Millar, best dahlias; Steve Wolstencroft, best plot and heaviest tattie bag*

There were other competition winners: Steve and Frances Wolstencroft won best plot and shared the tattie bag prize with Jim; Liz Leyden's polytunnel bed won first prize for the second year running; Colin Millar won the prize for dahlias and Isobel Gray had the best vase of flowers grown on the allotment.



*Jane Steele gets ready for a rush on her herbs stall*

The day was a great success, summed up by acting chairman Brian Slaughter: "It was one of our best ever Open Days and it was down to all the hard work put in by our members throughout the year and on the week leading up to the big day.

"We've had quite a few new members in the past year or so and it's been great they way they have joined in so well and contributed so much in so short a time.



*Visitors queue up for the home baking and jam*

"Again, we thank all the people of Stewarton for their support. They show their interest in us year after year and we enjoy seeing them at the Open Day as much as they enjoy seeing our allotments.

"We can maybe have a week resting on our spades...but then we'll have to start thinking about next year."



*Bob Baker has a different way to produce vegetables...he uses balloons!*

## THANK YOU!

Every year local businesses support Stewarton Allotments Open Day and this year was no different.

There were lots of fabulous donations from all sorts of organisations. Society secretary Isobel Gray expressed the society's gratitude: "The generosity of all the different businesses, who make the most wonderful contributions, is amazing. The raffle and tombola play a huge part in the success of our Open Day. We want to say a big thank you to every single one of them."

This year's generous donors were: Billy Bowie Skip Hire, The Book Nook, Café Fenwick, The Coffee Pod, The Coffee Pot, The Cup and Saucer, Deli at One, Dunlop Dairy, Dunlop Post Office, ELF Bothy Farm Shop, The Factory Shop, Forgotten Worlds, Fulshaw Mill Holidays, Idle Hands, Joan Scott Hairdressing, Kilmarnock FC, Kings Arms, Limetree Lifestyle, LumieScents, Meena's Indian Restaurant, The Mill House, McLaren's Nursery, Past and Present, The Sheep Game, Specially For You, Sorores, Struther Farmhouse Café and Shop, TTD Detailing, Update Boutique, Village Balti House.

SCAS would also like to thank Stewarton Co-op for their kind donation of £250 earlier in the year.



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Are you a beginner, an improver, or an expert; or someone who simply wishes to improve their photographic techniques and get the most from their camera? If so, why not come along to Kilmaurs Photographic Club?

We begin our autumn session on Monday 15th September, 2025. The club meets once a week in Kilmaurs Masonic Lodge Halls (KA3 2RQ) at 7.30pm. We have a varied programme including tuition and advice, and pride ourselves on being friendly, welcoming, instructive, and challenging. You are welcome to come along without commitment to join.

We have had a great summer this year with a long list of informal outings, including visits to take photographs at: Tartan Warrior obstacle races; waterfalls on Fairlie Moor; Kaffir wreck at Ayr; Pinkston Water sports' Centre; Glasgow Tigers Speedway; World of Wings at Cumbernauld; rugby at Millbrae; the birdlife on the Isle of May; and Dunaskin railway museum.

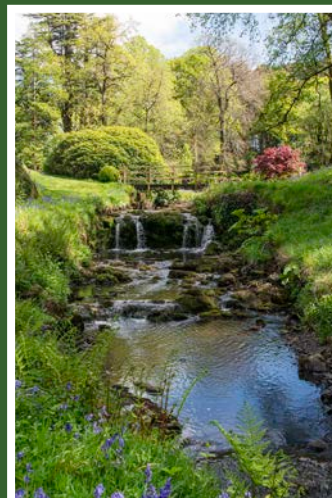
Attached are some members' images taken over the summer. The photographs highlighted in this issue were taken by Jim Muir, Kevin Thorne, Derek Orr, Martin Clark, and John Sommerville.

Further information from

[www.kilmaursphotographicclub.co.uk](http://www.kilmaursphotographicclub.co.uk)

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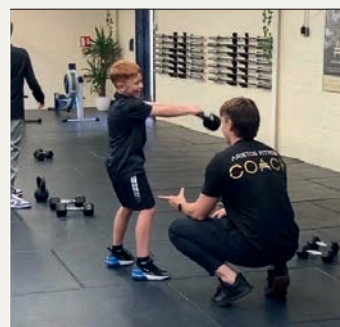
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## Stewarton Annick Football Club Small Sided Summer Festival, celebrating the club's 50th Anniversary.



The crisp morning air hummed with anticipation. Banners, emblazoned with "50 Years Strong," flapped in the gentle breeze, marking the momentous return of festival football to the town. For years, the pitches had been quiet on weekends like this, but today, they were alive with the shouts of players and the cheers of parents. This festival, a celebration of the club's 50th anniversary, was more than just a series of matches; it was a revival of a cherished community tradition.



Over the next three days, more than 700 young athletes graced the field. Every pass, every goal, and every save was a testament to the beautiful game, played in a spirit of pure sportsmanship. The sidelines, once empty, were now a sea of proud faces, a testament to the club's enduring legacy.



What truly defined the weekend, however, was the infectious joy radiating from each



child. As the final whistles blew, the scores didn't matter. What did was the brilliant smile on every face as they stepped off the grass, a medal clutched in their hand.



This was a perfect tribute to a half-century of community and sport, all made possible by the generous sponsorship of Macfarlane Heating Services, and the delicious food and drink provided by The BIG DAWG BBQ and The coffee pod.



# Studio Mazzolino

## born from a lifelong passion for floristry

**L**ed by Levi, Studio Mazzolino was born from a lifelong passion for floristry, nurtured in the beautiful gardens of Ayrshire, inspired by the palaces of Italy. Levi's journey began with childhood memories of tending roses alongside her Nana and spending summers living on the coast of Italy. With over ten years in the fashion and arts industries, focusing on photography and set design, she brings a unique artistic perspective to her floral creations.

After a life-changing accident in 2023, Levi chose to embrace a more intentional approach to life, leading to the founding of Studio Mazzolino. Her design philosophy celebrates vibrant colours and

rich textures, with a commitment to sourcing locally and sustainably. The result is a collection of seasonal bouquets that are as unique as the occasions they celebrate.



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# Kilmarnock Amateur Operatic Society's vibrant March production of Hello, Dolly!

**S**tewarton Duo Shine in Hello, Dolly! and Look Ahead to the Next Big Show

Two Stewarton locals, Andrew Bunting and Neil Kerr, recently lit up the stage in Kilmarnock Amateur Operatic Society's vibrant March production of Hello, Dolly!



Andrew took on the role of the lovable Barnaby Tucker, while Neil brought charm and energy to Ambrose Kemper. The production — full of dazzling costumes, big chorus numbers, and classic musical theatre fun — proved a hit with audiences and a joyful experience for both performers.

"Playing Barnaby was such a joy," Andrew said. "He's this wide-eyed, innocent character who just wants adventure, and to live that out every night with such a fantastic cast was magic. The audience reactions were amazing — you could feel the warmth from the stage."

KAOS members will next take to the stage on Saturday 13th September at the New Laigh Kirk in Kilmarnock for KAOS in the Kirk — a musical revue of songs from stage and screen performed in the atmospheric setting of the historic church. This more intimate concert will give audiences a chance to enjoy the society's singers up close, away from the grand spectacle of a full-scale musical.

Andrew will be among those performing.

"It's a completely different challenge," he explained. "With Hello, Dolly! you're playing a character for the whole evening. In a revue, you get to dip in and out of different styles and emotions — it's going to be a lot of fun."

Neil won't be taking part in the concert, but he will return to the stage alongside Andrew for KAOS's next major production — Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat — running at Centrestage from 10th–14th March 2026. The Andrew Lloyd Webber favourite promises a feast of colour, music, and family-friendly fun.

With their enthusiasm and talent, these Stewarton performers are set to keep the spotlight firmly on Ayrshire's vibrant amateur theatre scene.



# Helping Stewarton Thrive



What a Summer it's been helping Stewarton thrive! A highlight was the unveiling of the new Stewarton Town Sign at the Cross.



The 3.5m structure has been a real town effort, coming together to celebrate The Bonnet Toun's heritage.

Crafted by Thrives employability group at Stewarton Community Shed, the sign has been made possible by many different groups and individuals coming together for the benefit of the local community.

Thanks go to East Ayrshire CVO,

Mr Dodds and the technical team at Stewarton Academy for cutouts and lettering, artist John Strathdee painting the coat of arms twice, Stewarton Initiatives for allowing the sign to be sited at The Cross, tutor Bill Beaton, architect Don Lochrie, engineer David Watson and Iain at IG Contracts.

Tutor Bill presented one of the students, James Mitchell, with a certificate in appreciation of his contribution.

The shed launched in March and it's great to see the first community project come to fruition. It is open every Thursday 10am-1pm and the first Saturday of the month 9am-12noon.

In July we held a Dad and Me morning for kids, dads, uncles and papas to come and create making garden ornaments and planters which was great fun! Look out for more of these sessions.

We also held a great Summer party for our Baby Beats classes from throughout the year. See the website [thrivestewarton.org](http://thrivestewarton.org) to book for our free Baby Beats and Thrive Tots sessions.

In May we were delighted to place 2 beautiful planters in Avenue Square. The planters were fabricated by Ayrshire Steels free of charge and dip coated by East Ayrshire Council's technical workshop who installed them. Plants were generously provided by Rowley Wilson Garden Care and John Burns Nursery. Our thanks go to David Naismith, president of Stewarton Bonnet Guild for the Guild's assistance.

Just goes to show what can be done when we work in partnership.

Thrive Stewarton is an initiative of John Knox Parish Church and the SW presbytery. @thrivestewarton



## 3 is now your lucky number with Stewarton Initiatives Lottery!

There are now three chances to win cash every month in the Stewarton Initiatives Lottery!

**1st Prize - Over £1,000**

**2nd Prize - £100**

**3rd Prize - £50**

Tens of thousands of pounds have been handed out over the past four years - and you could be the next lucky winner!

Every month, 50% of the pot goes straight to community groups and projects in Stewarton, including the ongoing running of the town's community hub.

To find out more and sign up, head to [www.stewartoninitiatives.com/lottery](http://www.stewartoninitiatives.com/lottery).



## Happy belated 100th birthday to Margaret!

We'd like to wish a very happy belated 100th birthday to Margaret Maxwell, who celebrated her special day on July 9th! Margaret has been a part of the Stewarton community since moving to Robertland in 1972.

She resided in Darlington View for many years, until 2018, when she moved to Lochead Court, where she lives now. We hope she had a truly special day surrounded by friends and family, marking a century of life in our community.







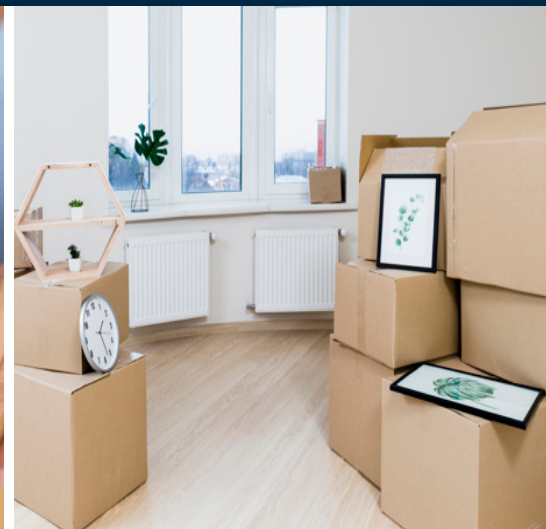
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Scotland's largest production nurseries, boasting Europe's widest variety from a single nursery.

What distinguishes McLaren's is their hands-on family involvement in every aspect, from

building tunnels to adapting to the horticultural world. Their passion shines through the quality and diversity of their stock.

Welcoming both trade and retail customers seven days a week, McLaren's offers everything from bulk orders for landscapers to perfect specimens for home gardeners. Explore their vast grounds to discover familiar favourites and rare finds. Well-behaved dogs are welcome too!

Relax at their onsite Coffee Container with a hot drink and homemade cake after browsing. Beyond plants, their farm shop offers fresh, local produce, including seasonal fruits, vegetables, eggs, cheeses, meats, and a curated selection of Scottish beers, wines, and spirits.

Stay updated via their website:

[www.mclarensnurseriesltd.co.uk](http://www.mclarensnurseriesltd.co.uk) where new trade customers can register. The McLaren family and their team look forward to sharing their passion with you.

## Gardening Tips from Louise McWhinnie – McLaren's Nurseries



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## Autumn Showstoppers: Three Elegant Plants for Seasonal Colour

If you're looking to bring bold autumn colour and character to your garden, these three ornamental favourites are low-maintenance, beginner-friendly, and guaranteed to impress as the seasons change.



### **Acer palmatum 'Osakazuki'** **The Classic Japanese Maple**

Renowned for its brilliant scarlet-red autumn colour, Acer 'Osakazuki' is a compact Japanese maple with fresh green foliage in spring and summer. Its leaves turn one of the most vivid reds of any maple in autumn, making it a

stunning focal point.

**Best in:** Dappled light or part shade

**Soil:** Moist, well-drained, slightly acidic

**Care:** Protect from strong sun and wind; mulch annually; prune lightly in winter if needed.



### **Euonymus alatus** **The Burning Bush**

Also known as the Burning Bush, Euonymus alatus is a deciduous shrub that transforms into a fiery blaze of crimson in autumn. Its winged stems add winter interest even after the leaves fall.

**Best in:** Full sun for strongest colour

**Soil:** Most types, well-drained

**Care:** Very low maintenance; prune in late winter to shape if desired.



### **Cercidiphyllum japonicum** – **The Katsura Tree**

Elegant and softly arching, the Katsura Tree offers heart-shaped leaves that shift from bronze in spring to green in summer, finishing with a golden to peach-pink display in autumn—often accompanied by a sweet candyfloss-like scent as the leaves drop.

**Best in:** Sun or light shade with shelter from wind

**Soil:** Moist, rich, acidic to neutral

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## The Book Nook hosts former First Minister

On August 12, 2025, The Book Nook Stewarton was proud to host Nicola Sturgeon for the first event of her book tour for her memoir, 'Frankly.' A packed house gave the former First Minister a warm Ayrshire welcome. Attendees greatly enjoyed the conversation between Sturgeon and fellow Ayrshire-born author Andrew O'Hagan. The Book Nook team expressed their gratitude to Sturgeon, O'Hagan, and the Stewarton Area Centre team for their hard work in setting up the event. They also thanked everyone who came along and made it a special evening. The Book Nook Stewarton shared more photos from the event, including one with the team that made it all run smoothly, and another with local footballing icon Rose Reilly Norberto.



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# Jam Street Dancers Dazzle in a Summer of Success

From standing ovations to international stardom, Jam Street School of Dance has had a whirlwind few months. As we gear up for a brand-new term, here's a look back at the unforgettable moments that made this summer one to remember.

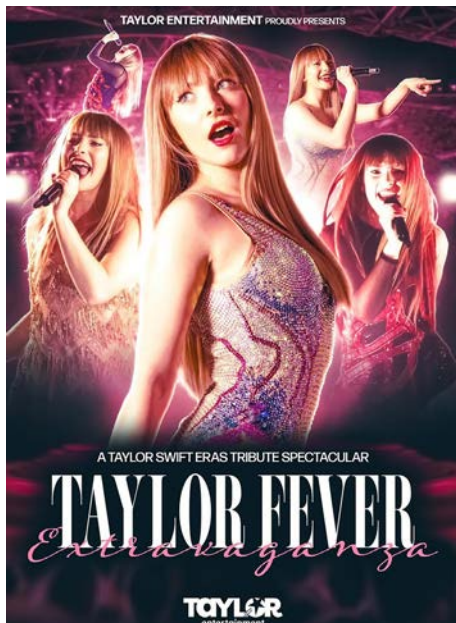
## Eight Shows, Seven Days, One Unforgettable Summer Showcase

Centrestage Kilmarnock was alive with energy as Jam Street delivered eight spectacular performances over just seven days. From the tiniest twirlers to our senior stars, every dancer brought passion, precision, and pure joy to the stage. The audience was blown away by the professionalism and heart on display—and we couldn't be prouder. The kids truly smashed it!



## From Stewarton to the Moulin Rouge: Julia's Parisian Dream

Jam Street alumna Julia has taken her talent to dazzling new heights—she's now starring in a lead role at the legendary Moulin Rouge in Paris! Her journey from local dance classes to the glittering lights of Montmartre is a testament to hard work, artistry, and the magic of believing in yourself. Bravo, Julia!



## Beth Dawson Brings Taylor Fever Home

Another Jam Street success story, Beth Dawson—former pupil and beloved teacher—is touring Europe as Taylor Fever, a tribute act that's thrilling Swifties across the continent. And guess what? She's coming home! Stewarton fans will get the chance to sing along and celebrate Beth's incredible journey when she performs right here in her hometown.

## Nat 5 Dance Students Ace Their SQA Exams

Every single one of our Nat 5 Dance students passed their SQA exams with flying colours! Their dedication, creativity, and resilience paid off in spades. We're so proud of their achievements and can't wait to see how they continue to grow as dancers and young leaders.

## College Bound: Lucy, Murrin & Faith Step Into Their HND Year

Congratulations to Lucy, Murrin, and Faith, who have successfully auditioned for their HND year at dance college! These talented young women are taking the next step in their professional training, and we're thrilled to see them soar. Their hard work and passion are an inspiration to our younger pupils.



## Skyla Heads to Liverpool for Her Degree Year at Jelli Studios

Former pupil Skyla is packing her bags for Liverpool as she begins her degree year at Jelli Studios. With a heart full of ambition and a suitcase full of dance shoes, she's ready to take on the next chapter of her journey. We'll be cheering her on every step of the way!

## Jam Street Dancers Light Up Local Events

Our dancers have been out and about all summer, bringing joy and entertainment to



the community. From Stewarton and Fenwick gala days to the Fire Station's Rodeo fundraiser in Kilmarnock, they've danced their hearts out for great causes. Highlights included a charity football match supporting Crosshouse Hospital's children's unit and uplifting performances at local care homes. Community spirit? We've got it in spades.



## Summer Dance Camp: Fun, Friendship, and Fabulous Moves

Jam Street's summer dance camp was a hit! Our kids had an absolute ball learning new routines, making friends, and soaking up the sunshine. It was the perfect mix of creativity, confidence-building, and good old-fashioned fun.

## Outreach Classes Inspire Young Movers

Our teachers have been busy bringing the joy of dance to pupils from nursery age to P7 at Nether Robertland, Lainshaw, and Crosshouse. These outreach classes are all about sparking imagination, building coordination, and giving every child a chance to shine—no matter their background or experience.

## New Term, New Adventures: Jam Street Reopens This August

The studio doors are swinging open once again as we welcome both returning and new students for the start of a brand-new term. With fresh routines, exciting projects, and a whole lot of heart, Jam Street is ready to make this year our best yet. Whether you're a seasoned dancer or stepping into the studio for the first time, we can't wait to see you. [Jamstreetschoolofdance@outlook.com](mailto:Jamstreetschoolofdance@outlook.com) [www.jamstreetschoolofdance.com](http://www.jamstreetschoolofdance.com)



# Stewarton Tennis Club

As ever the spring and summer months have been a very busy time up at Stewarton Tennis Club. The start of the Tennis Season always brings the annual Tennis Ayrshire Summer Leagues.



This year saw the club enter 3 teams into both the gents' ladies' leagues. After a hard-fought season special mention must go to the Gents 2nd Team who saw themselves win the 4th Division with a game to go. A fantastic league season by a team of young gents' players who have gained a lot of experience in the leagues over the past few years who are now seeing their hard work pay off.

The ladies third team also had a great season, with a number of junior players making the step up into the adult summer leagues for the first time. It is great to see so many young players making their way into the adult teams this season.

Thanks must be given to all the captains and players who compete throughout the league season for the club and put a lot of hard work into the campaigns.



This season has also seen STC compete in the inaugural Tennis Ayrshire Junior Summer leagues. Unfortunately, due to the inclement weather over the summer a number of fixtures had to be postponed however the club was able to gain experience for its junior players at Red, Orange, Green and yellow ball for a number of players. Both the U14 boys and girl's teams recorded strong results against Coyton. The club also had a number of players compete in the Ayrshire Open which is great to see.

As ever the summer holidays have seen the BL Tennis summer camps at the club. These have been extremely popular and have been great for the young players and have included a few Matchplay days that have been warmly received.

Now the league season is over the club looks forward to its club championships as well as the Masters leagues. As ever the weekly rusty rackets/beginner's session is available to the whole community for anyone who wishes to try tennis or get back into the sport.

If you wish more info, please email [stewartontennis@gmail.com](mailto:stewartontennis@gmail.com)



## COME ON IN!

As the long days of summer begin to soften and the promise of a new season draws near, it's the perfect time to slow down, savour the moment, and enjoy all the cosy comforts The Mill House has to offer. Whether you're catching up with friends over heartwarming dishes or toasting the change in seasons with something from our drinks list, we've got just the thing to help you ease into autumn.

Our chefs have been busy crafting seasonal specials made with the freshest ingredients - think bold flavours, warming plates, and indulgent treats that invite you to linger just a little longer. From familiar favourites to new discoveries, our menus are made for sharing, raising

glasses, and making memories - whether it's a midweek bite or a weekend celebration.

And if you're planning something special, our private dining room is the ideal spot for birthdays, get-togethers, and all the little milestones worth marking.

So, whether it's a long lunch, a cosy dinner, a pint in the pub or a big celebration,

*We can't wait to welcome you!*



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# Stewarton Bowling Club's Invitation Triples



**Winners: Tommy, Jackie and Graeme REDMOND winner of the invitation triples with sponsor Stuart Queen**



**Runners Up: Gordon Bennett, Stuart Ferguson and John Kilpatrick with sponsor Stuart Queen**



**Beaten semifinalists (1): Adam Wright, Allan Andrew and George Moncur with sponsor Stuart Queen**



**Beaten semifinalists (2): Davy Stevenson, Wullie Higgins and Ally Muir with sponsor Stuart Queen**

**I**t was a truly brilliant day at the Stewarton Bowling Club's Invitation Triples, generously sponsored by Royale Joinery! The event was a huge success, and we extend a massive thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to making it so special.

A great big shout-out to all 22 teams that took part and made this a very successful day (results are below). We hope you had a fantastic time on the green.

Of course, an event like this couldn't happen without a lot of hard work behind the scenes. We'd like to give a special thanks to:

- The catering team: To the guys who served up a delicious breakfast and to the ladies in the kitchen for preparing a smashing lunch—your efforts were greatly appreciated and kept everyone fuelled throughout the day.

- The bar staff: To the girls who worked tirelessly at the bar, keeping everyone well refreshed—thank you for your excellent service.

- The games organisers: Your efficient running of the tournament was key to the day's success. Your hard work in the lead-up to and during the event did not go unnoticed.

- Our sponsors and donors: A special thanks to our sponsor, Royale Joinery, for their generous support. We'd also like to express our gratitude to everyone who kindly donated a raffle prize, and a big congratulations to all the lucky winners!

It was a fantastic day of bowls, great food, and even better company. We appreciate every single person who was involved, from the players to the volunteers. Thank you again for making the Stewarton Bowling Club Invitation Triples a memorable event!

## Nether Robertland Primary at one with Nature

**C**hildren and young people from across East Ayrshire are nurturing nature.

Children and young people from Nether Robertland Primary welcomed visitors from the Council and East Ayrshire Leisure to their school recently to demonstrate how they have been enriching and embracing nature.

The school is one of 12 primaries that has been taking part in the new natural environment initiative – Nurture Nature, which is led by Vicky McWilliam, Principal Teacher of Climate Change and Active Travel. They have been challenged to play an active part in helping to increase biodiversity in their local communities by completing Enriching Nature and Embracing Nature quests.

There are three Nurture Nature award levels – Green Guardian that requires six completed quests, Confident Conservationist that requires eight completed quests and Expert Environmentalist that requires ten completed quests.

Enriching Nature quests include collecting wild seeds, growing sunflowers, planting seed bombs and building a minibeast hotel, while the Embracing Nature quests included bee spotting, pond dipping, wildlife bingo and wild writing.

Councillor Elaine Cowan, Spokesperson for Education, and Children and Young People and Councillor Graham Barton, Spokesperson for Planning, Property and Environment along with Paddy MacDonald from East Ayrshire Leisure, were warmly welcomed by Headteacher Mrs Beveridge and Emma, Isobel, Sophie and Jorja from P4, who provided a fascinating, and very enthusiastic, outline of Nether Robertland Primary's nurturing nature journey.

P4 had been working hard throughout the term with P1 completing



their quests. Eight had already been completed and Councillors Cowan and Barton helped with the final two quests to complete the Expert Environmentalist award. First off, they planted sunflower seeds and Emma promised to look after their plants for them.

P4 with their teacher Mrs Henderson, then led a tour of their quest activities providing informative, and very well-presented updates on each quest including a wind sock to show wind direction in their peaceful garden, a mini beast pond, a bee hotel and demonstrated using a magnifying glass to search for bugs. A large snail was discovered during the tour, causing great excitement, and was named Bertie by one of the P1s.

Councillor Barton said: "What a joy to join Nether Robertland Primary to find out more about Nurture Nature, the new natural environment initiative. The P4 children were incredibly engaged in the project and keen to tell us about their quests, and Councillor Cowan and I really enjoyed taking part.

"When it comes to Climate Change and encouraging people to care for our environment it can feel like an uphill battle at times, but engaging our children and young people in initiatives like Nurture Nature is key to future success. The enthusiasm of the children and young people was really uplifting; they cared deeply about the environment and their community. I would like to thank Vicky McWilliam for all her hard work delivering this initiative, I am looking forward to meeting all the schools who have earned their award at the Clean Green Awards in June."



# Bingo Boogie Bash!

**Bingo, boogie, and a brilliant cause!**

**S**tep into a night where the balls are rolling, the beats are pumping, and the prizes are shining! Our Bingo Boogie Bash Fundraiser isn't just another bingo night — it's a full-on party with dazzling disco vibes, fun competitions and a community spirit you can't beat. All proceeds go directly to supporting Stewarton Annick Ladies Football Team, helping to fund equipment and training for the team.

**Venue:** Stewarton Annick Youth & Community Association Centre, Standalane. **Saturday, 13th September**

**Doors Open:** 7:00pm | **Eyes Down:** 7:30pm sharp

**Hosted by:** Pixels Entertainment - bringing the beats and the banter!

**Entry:** £10 per person

## What's in store:

- **Bingo with a Twist** - Play for fantastic prizes and a few cheeky surprises along the way.
- **Disco Fever** - Our DJ will keep the dance floor alive between games with the very best disco hits.
- **Bar Available** - A range of drinks to purchase so you can sip while you dab.
- **Raffle Extravaganza** - Amazing prizes generously donated by local businesses.
- **Support Local Sport** - Every ticket helps Stewarton Annick Ladies continue their journey.

**Book Now** - spaces are limited and this event will sell out!

**Tickets:** Scan the QR code or email [stewartonafcladies@gmail.com](mailto:stewartonafcladies@gmail.com) to purchase your ticket(s).

Spread the word and bring your friends!





**STEWARTON ANNICK LADIES FC**  
PRESENTS  
**BINGO BOOGIE BASH**  
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**SATURDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER** | **STEWARTON ANNICK CENTRE** | **7PM - LATE**



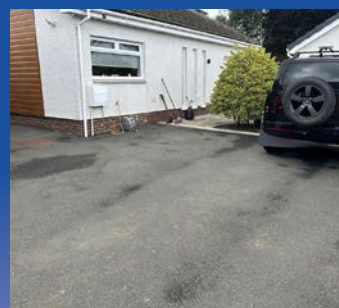
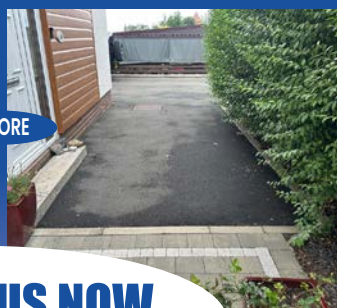
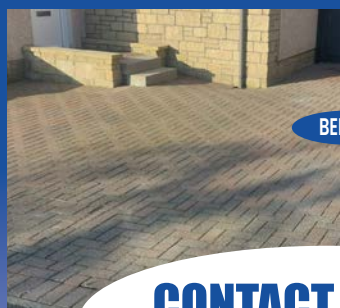
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[jamstreetschoolofdance.com](http://jamstreetschoolofdance.com)

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For more info contact Susan or Lizzie on

07834 783555 or 07868 618501, visit our website [www.jamstreetschoolofdance.com](http://www.jamstreetschoolofdance.com),

email: [jamstreetstewarton@outlook.com](mailto:jamstreetstewarton@outlook.com) To book classes follow the link - <https://jam-street-dance-centre.class4kids.co.uk>

Check out the latest news, videos and pictures on our Facebook & Instagram pages





## John Knox Church News Update

**JK CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

**Church at the Heart of the Community – Celebrating 200 years!**

**It's a new session and there's something for you at John Knox!**

### BICENTENARY

In June we celebrated 200 years of the congregation worshipping and serving Stewarton with a special service giving thanks to God, cake and a time capsule being buried! You can see some photos through the years on our webpage [johnknox.org.uk/jk200](http://johnknox.org.uk/jk200)

### THE COTTAGE

Down the street for the shopping? Need a blether and a cuppa? Pop into the Cottage (just behind the church in High Street), open Mondays and Fridays from 10am till 12noon for tea, coffee and friendship. Baby changing facilities and accessible toilet.

### YOUTH

We have loads of stuff on just for young people – hangouts, games nights, bowling, pizzas, bible study... all for years S1 to S6.

### ALPHA – EXPLORE LIFE

Life is full of endless possibilities. Whether it's learning a new skill, finding a new interest, or simply opening up to a different perspective on life. Trying something new can be the start of something good. Why not give Alpha a go? Alpha over 8 sessions jumps into various topics of Christianity and what faith looks like in different people's lives. The best conversations are open, everyone's thoughts are welcome, no matter your background or beliefs. No pressure, no cost, no follow-up. See [johnknox.org.uk/alpha](http://johnknox.org.uk/alpha) to sign up for the intro.

### THRIVE STEWARTON

Our Thrive teams provide a range of activities geared towards 20s to 40s but open to all that support physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health needs. Sessions include wellbeing cafe, walking sessions, growing project, Baby Beats, Thrive Tots, Funzone, Mums and ASN peer support, ASN afterschool drop-in and Stewarton Community Shed.

See the website for details [www.thrivestewarton.org](http://www.thrivestewarton.org)

### THE GUILD

The Guild is about fun, encouragement and fellowship which leads to providing opportunities for continuing growth in Christian faith through worship, prayer and action. We meet on Tuesday evenings each fortnight. Join us!



### SUNDAYS

Join us for a mix of contemporary and traditional worship with band and choir each week at 11.15am with creche and groups for children and youth. Join us in the building or on livestream – live or on catch up: [youtube.com/johnknoxchurch](https://www.youtube.com/johnknoxchurch)

### OUR VISION

To **KNOW** God-reality in worship together  
To **REACH** out to others in God-initiative  
To **SHARE** generously God-provisions in our world

### HOW CAN WE HELP?

Check out our website [www.johnknox.org.uk](http://www.johnknox.org.uk) or find us on social @jkchurch

Look out for other groups at JK...

Cottage Cycling Club - Mondays

Gardening Club – Mondays

John Knox Baby & Toddler Group – Tuesdays

Joan's Angels Pop Choir - Wednesdays

Country Dancing Group - Thursdays

Stewarton Rainbows – Thursdays

Ayrshire Breastfeeding Network Stewarton drop-in – Fridays

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## Dunlop Musical Memories

**D**unlop Musical Memories meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month in Dunlop Church Hall from 2 - 4 pm.

All are welcome to come along and enjoy an afternoon of song and chat with delicious home baking at the interval.



We were delighted in early summer to bid and receive funding of £750 from the film production team who used various locations and props in the village in the making of their film. This money will be used towards next year's outing for our members.

We have had a busy summer inviting a variety of guests to entertain us. Morgan Allison, our resident exercise instructor, has kept us fit and active. James Blackwood and his son Robbie brought along their guitar and fiddle to have our toes tapping and our voices raised with a wide selection of tunes.

Our Autumn meetings look like being just as exciting so why not come along and see for yourself?

## WELCOME TO THE STEWARTON COMMUNITY LARDER



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## New 2 You Charity Shop, Stewarton: Making a Difference Together

We can hardly believe that Summer has flown by, and what a fantastic year it's been so far for New 2 You, the only Charity Shop in Stewarton. We want to take a moment to extend a huge shoutout and heartfelt thanks to our incredible volunteers and all our amazing customers and supporters. Your contributions and enthusiasm truly light up our shop.

We're thrilled to report that through to the hard work and dedication of our volunteers this Summer we are donating a whopping £20,000 to local charities and organizations that are doing wonders for people in need. These funds will work their magic in our community, and we're so proud to support the following recipients:

- East Ayrshire Foodbank
- The Star Centre: Rape Crisis Ayrshire
- Shortlees YFC
- Stewarton Annick Girls FC
- Lainshaw Primary School
- Dunlop Primary School
- Fenwick Primary School
- Patna Primary School
- Crosshouse Education Centre
- Rascals Pre/After School
- Nether Robertland Primary School

Each of these organizations plays a vital role in helping individuals and families right here in our area, and we couldn't help them without you. So, to everyone who has shopped with us or volunteered their time, thank you for being part of this incredible journey. Let's keep the good vibes rolling and continue to make a positive impact together.

Stay tuned for more updates and ways you can get involved. We're just getting started.

*With lots of gratitude, The New 2 You Charity Shop Team*



## Stewarton Gardening Club: How Does Your Garden Grow?

The Stewarton Gardening Club is delighted to announce a new and stimulating program for the upcoming season! We are passionate about helping our community's gardens flourish and providing a space for gardeners of all levels to learn and connect.

We'll be kicking off our new session on Monday, September 29th, with a fascinating talk entitled "Growing Herbs in the West of Scotland." Whether you're a seasoned green thumb or just starting your gardening journey, this session promises to be both informative and inspiring.

Join us at 7:30 PM in the John Knox Church Hall. All are welcome, whether you're a long-standing member or considering joining our friendly club. We believe that shared knowledge and a love for gardening make our community stronger.

**For any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Shirley Donaldson at 07884 021 747. We look forward to seeing you there!**



## Stewart Residential, welcoming *you* home

Stewart residential would like to thank Stewarton and surrounding areas for the support as a small independent trader it can be tough fighting against the big companies, however we never fail on personal service. We are now entering our fifth year, and we are going strong. We have built some wonderful relationships with other traders in the town and met some really nice people who have become lifelong friends, but this isn't just our job it is our passion.

Our ethos was to price the sales fees to help everyone, this is why we chose the fixed fee, this allows the client to know what they are spending and how they can save. We have introduced the interactive tour which you can add on to your sales package, with professional Photography with an up-and-coming Photographer Chloe, who is a local girl from Kilmaurs, and we can offer Drone Photos as well.

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# Stewarton Annick Ladies Season Update & Community News



Following the fantastic success of the 2024/25 season, which saw our ladies finish an impressive third place, the team has been hard at work preparing for the new campaign. Pre-season has been intense, with a focus on building fitness, sharpening skills and strengthening our squad for the challenges ahead.

We're fortunate to have retained a strong core of players from last season, while also welcoming a few exciting new signings to help us push even further this year.

Stewarton has a proud and rich history in women's football — a legacy shaped by inspiring figures from our town who have made a huge impact on the game in Scotland. As we look ahead, our mission is clear: to put women's football back on the map in Stewarton.

We'd love to see our community rally behind the team. Entry to all home matches at The Rose Reilly is free, and you can find fixture details on our social media pages. Bring your friends and family, cheer on the girls and help make this season one to remember.

## Coach Recruitment

We're on the lookout for another coach to join our passionate coaching team as we continue to grow and develop the women's game in Stewarton.

This is a voluntary role. While experience and coaching qualifications are preferred, they're not essential — enthusiasm, commitment, and a love for football are just as important. We provide:

- All kit and equipment
- First Aid training
- Ongoing support towards SFA coaching qualifications

If you're ready to inspire, encourage and help shape the future of women's football in Stewarton, we'd love to hear from you.

## Player Sponsorship

We're incredibly grateful to the following local businesses who are proudly sponsoring our players this season:

- G. Donaldson Traditional Family Butchers
- Blossom Beauty

- Cloud 9 Events – Ayrshire
- Dispensary Bar
- Bryan Taylor Flooring Specialist
- DP Professional Fencing Services
- Stu's Handyman Services
- The Sunroom Tanning Kilmarnock
- David Howie Electrical Services
- Take It Easy Massage
- The Owl & Pussycat Nursery

Player sponsorship is still available for the 2025/26 season. For a one-off payment of £50, your name or business logo will feature on your sponsored player's profile graphics, with mentions across our official social media channels all season long.

## Club Sponsors & Collaborations

A huge thank you to our club sponsors for their invaluable support:

- Billy Bowie Special Projects Limited
- Stewarton Beer Festival
- The Mill House
- Grant Welsh Commercials
- RJM Sports Ltd. & uhlspport
- The Little Margarita Truck

We're also proud to collaborate with these fantastic local businesses:

- Take It Easy Massage
- Staggering Designs
- Buns & Guns – Stewarton
- The Athletic Development Academy

Let's make this season unforgettable - together.

Follow us on social media for updates, fixtures and events, and we'll see you at The Rose Reilly Sports Centre!

Contact details: [stewartonafcladies@gmail.com](mailto:stewartonafcladies@gmail.com)







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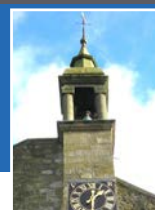
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# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH



## SUNDAYS

A warm welcome awaits anyone joining us for morning worship at 11.00am & for Café Time after the service in the Church Hall. Children take part in the first part of the service then leave to join their own groups at the Sunday Club in the Church Hall.

## FELLOWSHIP

Sunday 7th September 2025 - Family Service & Barbecue. Service starts at 11a.m. followed by a family barbecue. All welcome  
Saturday 15th November 2025 - St John Scotland, Fayre & Coffee Morning in the Church Hall 10am-12noon.  
Saturday 6th December 2025 - Christmas Craft event, Church Hall from 2.00 - 4.00p.m. Look out for information nearer the time.

## MESSY CHURCH

Messy Church meets in the Church Hall one Saturday a month from 3.30 - 5.00pm nursery and primary aged children are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult.  
The first Messy Church will be on Saturday 6th September 2025, thereafter 4th October & 1st November.

## TODDLERS GROUP

The Toddlers Group meet in the Church Hall on Thursday mornings from 10.00-11.30am and is open to children under nursery age. Everyone is welcome, parent, grandparent or guardian. The cost of each session is £1.50.

For further information contact Margaret Smith on 01560 483266  
The Toddler Group resumes on Thursday 21st August 2025

## BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meets in the Church Hall on Monday afternoons at 1.30 - 3pm. Please do give this some thought as a warm welcome will be given to all. The group resumes on Monday 1st September 2025.

## FRIENDSHIP & FAITH

Held on the last Tuesday of each month in the Church Hall 2.00 - 3.30pm. All adults are welcome to join us for table chat, table games, quizzes, arts & crafts and refreshments, the chance to meet up with friends old and new. Friendship & Faith resumes on Tuesday 30th September 2025.

## THE GUILD

St Columba's Guild meets in the Church Hall on Tuesday afternoons at 2.00pm (fortnightly), it is open to ladies AND gentlemen, and includes a wide variety of entertaining speakers at the meetings covering light-hearted subjects as well as more serious topics.

### 2025 Syllabus

9th September - Musical Afternoon with Robbie Menzies & Gordon Jenkins  
23rd September - Elaine Wardrop, The Howard Centre  
7th October - Tom Barclay. 1945 (VE)  
21st October - "Ourselves"  
4th November - Alice McKie Muir, "Growing up in Stewarton"  
18th November - Rev Kim Watt, The Glasgow Bible  
2nd December - Guild Project, "Relief International"  
17th December - Christmas Lunch

## BADMINTON

The badminton group meets in the Church Hall on Wednesday afternoons from 2.00 - 4.00pm. Come along and enjoy an afternoon of badminton and friendly chat, all abilities will be welcome, for both ladies and gentlemen. The new session will begin on Wednesday 3rd September 2025

## HALL LETTING

Our Church Hall is available to let for community organisations, group meetings and birthday parties (a large bouncy castle fits in the hall), it is wheelchair friendly, has accessible disabled toilets & baby changing facilities & kitchen facilities.

Please contact [laurenhussain3480@gmail.com](mailto:laurenhussain3480@gmail.com) for availability

For further information visit [www.stewartonstcolumbas.org](http://www.stewartonstcolumbas.org) or better still come along on Sunday mornings at 11am, for a warm and friendly welcome.

## ST COLUMBA'S KNITTING GROUP JULY 2024 TO JUNE 2025

To Crosshouse Maternity, Princess Royal Maternity & Forth Valley Maternity: -

265 Hats, 115 Blankets, 10 cardigans & 250 Canula sleeves  
To Crosshouse & QEUFH - 80 Teddies, 10 Hearts & 20 Toys  
Beatson & Edinburgh Royal - 20 Syringe bags  
Breastfeeding Network UK (Paisley) - 20 Boobs  
Malawi - 20 Fish & Chip sets  
St Columba's - 240 Poppies, 140 Christmas Tree decorations, 1 knitted Christmas Tree, 1 Easter scene & 34 Daffodil cups  
Thank you to all who have contributed wool and knitting skills



## HOLIDAY CLUB 4TH TO 8TH AUGUST

We had a very successful holiday club this year in St Columba's church hall. Up to 35 children attended each day during the week from ages 3 to 12 years. Our theme this year was 'A Tale of Two Kings'. The children enjoyed craft sessions each day making flags, shields, pipe cleaner glasses, catapults & friendship bracelets. Each group decorated 'worry stones' & the older children made castles. Games were played each day including 'corners' and a favourite using a giant parachute, and this year an inflatable punchbag that the children had to knock down (pretending that it was Goliath). The children heard a bible story each day relating to 'The Tale of Two Kings' and learned songs. A snack was provided each day but by far the favourite was the chocolate fountain on the last day. A big thank you to the organisers and helpers who helped make this a very successful holiday club.

See you next year. (Messy Church starts again on Saturday 6th September 3.30-5.00p.m.)

All children must be accompanied by an adult)

## Mr Joe Auld retired recently after a lifetime as organist and choirmaster.

He began playing occasionally in St Columba's when he was 14 years old, under the tutelage of the organist Jim Bowman. His first post was in the Maxwell United Free Church, Kilmaurs aged 15, progressing to St John's Onthank, later to St Andrew's North for 11 years and then the Laigh Kirk for 18 years, all these in Kilmarnock. He then did a spell free-lancing and was part of the rota for Darvel Parish Church. Just before moving house, back to Stewarton, he began playing again at St Columba's, and continued for the next 15 years. On his last Sunday (June 22nd 2025) he accepted a gift from the congregation and a standing ovation at the end of the service. As the organist he will be very sadly missed, but will be a welcome addition to the choir.





## From Busy to Intentional: Shifting Gears for a More Focused Autumn

August is a strange kind of month, isn't it? The height of summer is behind us, but you're not quite into the full-on rhythm of autumn yet. Things slow down a little, emails ease off, meetings get moved, and there's just a bit more breathing space in the day.

It can be tempting to use this quieter spell to catch up or cram more in—but what if you gave yourself permission to pause instead?

Rather than pushing through or already gearing up for the September rush, August can be a lovely opportunity to reset and reflect. A chance to check in with yourself and ask:

**What's been working really well so far this year?**

**What do I want to keep, let go of, or maybe do a little differently?**

**What kind of energy do I want to bring into the next season?**

For many, the shift begins as schools go back, and routines slowly return after the summer holidays. There's a natural pull toward getting organised, setting goals, and feeling a bit more structured again—but that doesn't mean you need to launch yourself into overdrive.

I was chatting with a small business owner I've been coaching recently. She came to me feeling pulled in all directions—lots of ideas, lots of pressure, but not much clarity. Over a few gentle sessions, she began to see where she was spreading herself too thin and where her energy really needed to go. She's now doing less—but with more focus—and actually feeling excited about what's ahead. Sometimes, we just need that quiet space to hear ourselves think.


**And August is perfect for that.**

So, if you find yourself with a bit of extra time this month, take it. Go for a walk, sit with a wee cup of tea or coffee, grab a notebook—or don't. Let your mind wander a bit. You don't have to be productive to be making progress.

And if you're feeling ready to make a few intentional shifts but not quite sure where to start, you don't have to figure it all out on your own. A little outside perspective can go a long way. Here's to slowing down, taking stock, and easing into the next season feeling more like you.

**Fiona Campbell is a Business Coach, Corporate Trainer, Clinical Hypnotherapist and NLP Business Coach Trainer**

[www.theprofessionalgrowthcompany.com](http://www.theprofessionalgrowthcompany.com) [fiona@theprofessionalgrowthcompany.com](mailto:fiona@theprofessionalgrowthcompany.com)



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## Dunlop Table Tennis Club



**H**uge congratulations to Laurence Edge and Tony Park for their incredible victory, winning the Division 3 cup of the Ayrshire League! Both players were in top form, showcasing their skills with a standout win against tournament favourites North Ayrshire Table Tennis Club. Their dedication and hard work paid off, and we couldn't be prouder of their fantastic achievement. This is a brilliant win for the club and a testament to their talent. Well done, lads! The cheers from the sidelines were a testament to their hard work and incredible play, as they battled their way through the competition with grit and determination. Their success is an inspiration to all our members, proving that with passion and perseverance, anything is possible. We are so proud to have you both represent us, and your win will be celebrated for a long time. It's a great moment for the club and highlights the talent we have. We can't wait to see what you achieve next!



## Summer fun for Lainshaw Lions

**T**his summer we have been lucky enough to have two trips per week. Our trip days have been Tuesday and Wednesday. On Monday, Thursday and Friday we stayed local.

One of our local days was to Kilmaurs Park. Another day we used the Scarecrow trail that was organised by the Centre. We also completed the learning about Stewarton activity organised by The United Reform Church. After this event we were welcomed into the Church for cakes, juice and received crisps for our walk back. Thank you to both groups for putting on these events for our children and for the families of Stewarton.

Another highlight this summer was visiting the allotments where we learned about fruit and vegetables. We also tasted cucumbers which were given to our children for snack.

Fun and friendships have developed even more as we have had playdays with Bellfield After School and Fenwick Foxes. All three groups have been playing, enjoying lunch together and staff have been networking. Thank you to both groups for the summer fun.

Our next holiday we are open is September weekend and then the October School holiday.



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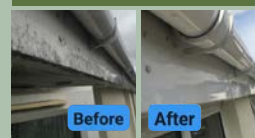
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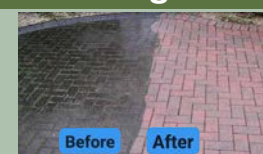
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## Lodge Thistle 127 Members Helping to Showcase Masonic Charity Work

Although many Freemason Lodges are in recess over the summer months, the work behind the scenes continues for the members of 127. Whether it's our weekly Wednesday bingo, some building maintenance or planning for the upcoming session, you will usually find our gate open as you pass Springwell Place.

The members of the Lodge are also well known faces in Stewarton due to their past and present business links, support for SWAT, The Bonnet Guild, the Bowling Club, local churches, and many other activities. With the Lodge now in its 254th year, the heritage and ties to the community are as strong as ever. However, Freemasonry is a wider organisation, and we also support causes outside the town.

The Ayrshire Freemasons' project, "Teddies for Loving Care", which commenced in August 2023, has donated over 3,300 teddy bears to the Accident and Emergency departments at Crosshouse and Ayr Hospitals to help alleviate the apprehension experienced by children attending these departments. The success of the initiative means we are now distributing to Ayrshire Paediatric Dental Services.

The Teddies for Loving Care initiative was only made possible due to the generosity of members of Lodges across Ayrshire, under the auspices of The Provincial Grand Lodge of Ayrshire (PGLA) who have collectively raised almost £1 million since 2008 and contributed generously to the £1.2 million raised as part of the Grand Lodge of Scotland's Prostate Scotland initiative. However, as the old saying goes, charity begins at home. For Lodge Thistle No. 127, Stewarton, supporting local charities, football clubs, and good causes is the key objective for its members.



The PGLA has set up an events committee to help promote the charitable works of Freemasonry, and recently had a stand at the Dundonald Highland Games, where members from across Ayrshire, including Lodge Thistle No. 127, chatted with the visitors who attended the games as conversations flowed from "What is Freemasonry" and "My Dad was a Mason" to "I never knew that you supported that charity" and "My son received one of these teddies at the hospital".

The purpose of attending events is to dispel the myth that we are a secret society and to encourage men who may be interested in becoming members to find out more. The first event was a great success, with the Lodges in Dundonald and Troon receiving interest from members who had not attended for many years and would like to return, as well as a few who would like to meet to discuss Freemasonry in more detail.

**If Freemasonry is of interest, or you have a local group, a good cause or charity in need of support or a place to meet, please visit our website at: [www.thistle127.com](http://www.thistle127.com)**



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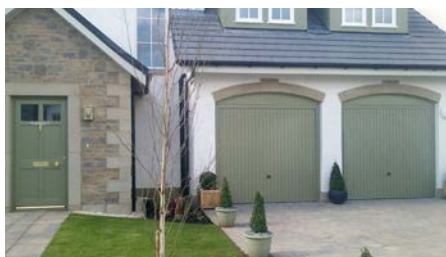
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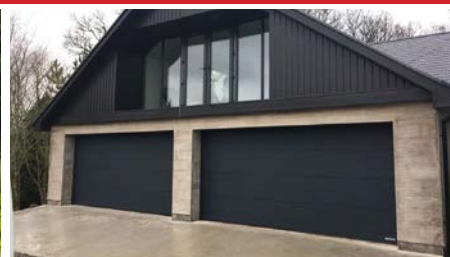


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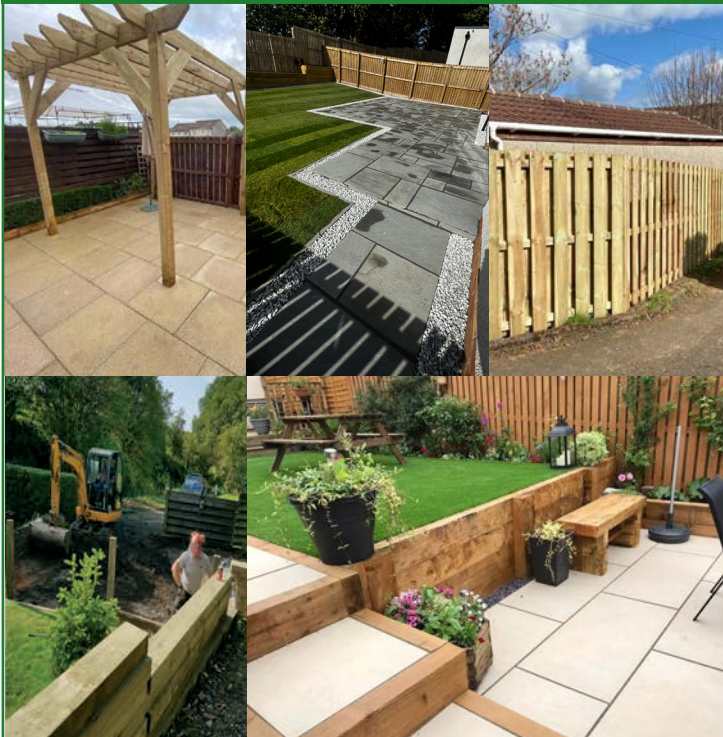
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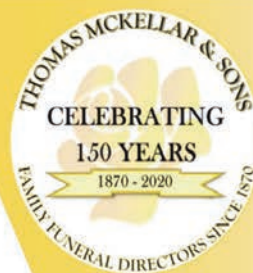




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Following last weekend's Scottish Young Musicians Solo Performer of the Year National Final - held on Sunday 25th May at Glasgow's Royal Conservatoire of Scotland - we are delighted to announce that our S4 pupil Gregor C proudly took part, representing our local authority.

As one of 33 finalists (one finalist for each local authority in Scotland and one from independent schools), Gregor was awarded Best Percussionist - playing Concerto No 1 for Marimba with Piano Accompaniment (Movements 1 & 4 abridged) by Ney Rosauro.

As reported by Scottish Young Musicians, all winners will go on to receive career-enhancing opportunities provided (very generously) by the UK's leading music organisations, to support their future emerging musical talents.

A wonderful achievement for Gregor and we wish him many congratulations!"



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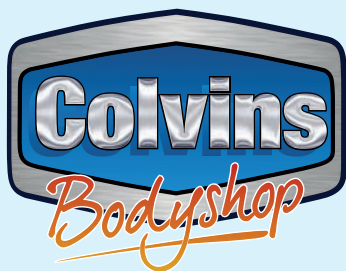
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While his repair methods were legendary for their heavy use of duct tape and cable ties, Stewart's presence was always felt. All jokes aside, he has been an excellent and supportive member of the Galleon Team, consistently looking out for everyone and always ready to help. We are certainly going to miss his hard work and unforgettable personality.

We want to wish Stewart a long, happy, and well-deserved retirement. The Galleon Centre won't be the same without him. We think you'll miss us, Stewarty Boy... at least for a little while!



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