

Winter 2025

The Review®

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ISSUE FORTY-EIGHT

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DON'T BE SHY...

Do you have news to share? Maybe you fancy yourself as a writer and have a hot topic to cover. We LOVE to receive stories of public interest so don't be afraid to get in touch! The Review, The Business Centre, 11 Standalane, Stewarton KA3 5BG. Tel: 01560 428031 or call Colin Crawford on 07931 850038 Email: inbox@thereviewstewarton.com

WELCOME TO OUR WINTER EDITION!

And just like that, Christmas is around the corner once again. It's been another quick year, and as always, the Stewarton community has made it one to remember. This winter edition of The Stewarton Review is full of festive warmth and local highlights, celebrating the businesses and people that make this town so special. We're incredibly grateful for your continued support – it's what keeps this magazine thriving. As the year draws to a close, we hope you find time to unwind, reflect, and enjoy the holidays with family and friends. Thanks for reading and for being part of our story.



The Review is part of The Solutions on Demand Group, which also comprises of Creo, The Print Room, SOD-IT and Mercuri. From web design and marketing to print and IT support, Solutions on Demand offers a comprehensive service to businesses throughout Scotland.



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The Centre (Youth Club): 01560 482934

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Stewarton Bible School: 01560 483524
Stewarton Community Council Resource Centre & Community Bus: 01560 482775
Stewarton Museum: 07811 062918

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Stewarton Initiatives: Robert Whiteford, Chairperson 07445 432273

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Back in the Saddle: Alex McPhee's Remarkable Comeback



Five years ago, Stewarton's Alex McPhee faced an accident that could have ended his cycling days for good. In 2020, a collision with a car left him with serious injuries, leading to 11 operations including major procedures on his hand, shoulder, and knee. For most people, that might have marked the end of competitive sport, but not for Alex.

Alex, a Dooleys Racing Team member, refused to give up the sport he loves. As

soon as he could, he was back on the bike, riding for fitness and recovery. This year, that determination paid off as he returned to competitive cycling with outstanding success: four third-place finishes, two second places, and two first-place victories. This included being crowned the SVTTA Open 25-Mile Champion (Open Road Bike Section).

Now, Alex has his sights set on even bigger



goals, including competing, and winning, at an English championship. But more than medals, his mission is to inspire others.

"I want people, especially those nearing or in retirement, to stay active," Alex says. "It doesn't matter how old you are, keeping physically active and connected with others keeps you young."

As motivated as ever, Alex proves that setbacks in life don't have to define you. Best of luck in all your future races Alex!

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Parkinson's Progress: Research Milestones, Activity Highlights, and Community Support



Scientific Focus & Research Updates

Our efforts to understand and combat Parkinson's disease remain a priority. In May, we toured the Edinburgh Research Centre for Parkinson's Disease, gaining firsthand insight into ongoing work led by Professor Tilo Kunath. This was followed in June by a visit from Joy Milne, who shared her unique diagnostic abilities and related research.



A significant clinical update came in July regarding our resident, Isaac. He underwent the ultrasound Thalamotomy at Nine Wells Hospital as part of the Sunrise trial—becoming the eighth patient in Scotland to receive it. Isaac is showing remarkable progress, with no recurrence of tremors three months post-procedure, and we look forward to his six-month review.

Active Living & Engagement

We've seen excellent participation and growth in our group activities:



• **Table Tennis:** An international-level tournament was successfully hosted in Largs in August, proving highly popular. We are currently negotiating access to the well-being facilities at the Rose Reilly Sports Centre for resident use.

• **Walking Football:** Sessions continue every Thursday (14:30–16:00) at the Irvine Circuit, and the team is prepared for a competition scheduled for November 15th.

• **New Initiative:** We are planning a trial class with the Senjokai Karate club soon, focusing on stability and breathing exercises for those with Parkinson's.



Community Funding & Innovation

We extend sincere gratitude to our generous community supporters. A special thank you goes to Catherine Shaw for donating £300.00 on her 90th birthday, and to local members for an additional £100.00. These funds, alongside ongoing donations, are vital for running our Monday Coffee Information Hub in Stewarton (open 11:00–12:00).



In technology news, the Strydar glasses, designed to aid walking, are available for a complimentary three-week trial to interested individuals.

Support is Available

Facing a Parkinson's diagnosis means navigating a new reality, but you do not have to walk this path alone. We invite anyone affected by the condition to visit our community hub in Stewarton on Mondays (11:00–12:00) for support and a chat.

For inquiries, please contact me at escoces177@gmail.com or call 07731 770086.



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Stewarton's Yuletide Sparkle: An Annual Tradition Returns

The festive season in Stewarton is set to officially begin as Stewarton Initiatives prepares to host the annual Yuletide Event—a beloved tradition that brings the whole community together.



Mark your diaries for Monday, November 20th, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, as the heart of the town transforms into a celebratory hub. The evening's main attraction will be the highly anticipated switch-on of the Christmas lights, illuminating the town centre and the magnificently decorated Christmas tree at The Cross.

Supporting Local: Shops & Stalls

The Yuletide Event is a key way to support our local economy. Town centre shops will remain open late, offering a perfect opportunity for residents to get a head start on Christmas shopping while supporting High Street businesses. Avenue Square will host a vibrant marketplace featuring stalls from both local businesses and essential community organisations, giving residents a chance to discover more about the life of Stewarton.

ORGANISATION	STALL
1 Boys Brigade & Lainshaw Lions - Bottle Stall	
2 SWAT - Calendars, Bramble Jelly, Bird Boxes	
3 Utility Warehouse - Bills Saving	
4 & 5 Maggie's Magic Faces - 3D Prints, Hair Items etc	
6 Girl Guides - Tombola	
7 Loudoun Academy Communications Centre - Craft/House Plants	
8 Talk of the Sweet - Pick n Mix Sweets	
9 Scouts - Hot Dogs	
10. Zoo Madness and Owl Magic - Showing birds of pray.	
11. Jess Marie - handmade pet accessories.	
12. Morag Shaw - toys.	
13. Stewarton Annick 2014s - chocolate tombola.	
14 and 15 Stewarton Annick Girls - raffle, sweets, food.	
16 Stewarton Beer festival - tickets.	
17. Stewarton Annick Youth and Community Association - Toasted mallows.	
18. Dynamic Dance will perform throughout the night.	
19. Stewarton Museum and Historical Society - promotion of our Museum and a raffle.	
20. Millhouse - Mulled Wine and tray bakes.	
21. Stewarton Bonnet Guild -Promotion and fundraising.	
22. Fiesty over fifties - promotion and fundraising.	
23. Stewarton Academy parent Council - Raffle tickets, tuck shop, novelties.	
24. Mrs McK Makes - Cakes, bakes, tablet.	
25. Masonic Lodge 127 - Promotion.	
26. Killie Can Cycle - bikes for sale, tombola.	
27. The Ubiquitous Sweet - freeze Dried Sweets, Pick n mix and sweet gifts.	
28. Cocos dog bakery and deli - Dog products.	
29. Tin Tin Designs - Childrens gifts and handmade items.	
30. Donald McLean - Christmas trees and wreaths.	
31. This will be held in John Knox Church Garden - Hot chocolate, nativity and lots more.	
<i>Or why not go along to the Hub at the Cross where the Scouts will make a child happy with their visit to Santa.</i>	

A Night for the Family

"This is an annual event run by Stewarton Initiatives for all of you, and it's where families come out to enjoy what our great town has to offer," a representative stated. The evening is an essential date in the social calendar, fostering community spirit and pride.

Residents are encouraged to attend and show support for the shops and dedicated organisations. Please note that while many vendors will be present, most stalls are cash only, so remember to come prepared!

We look forward to welcoming the entire community on November 20th for a night of festive cheer and local solidarity.

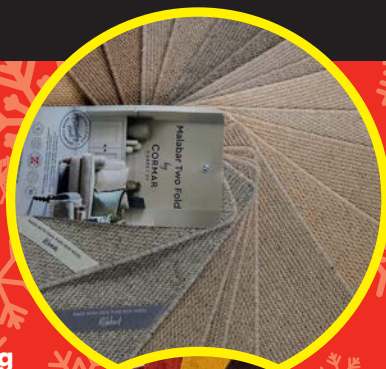




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Bonnet Guild Torchlight Parade, Bonfire & Fireworks 2025



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Stewarton Bonnet Guild will stage the popular Torchlight Parade, bonfire and fireworks once again this year, on Tuesday 30th December 2025. Led by Kilbarchan Pipe Band, the parade will start promptly at 7pm from Torrance's Garage on High Street in Stewarton and then head through Main Street, and Lainshaw Street, before entering David Dale Avenue into Lainshaw Woods. Once in the open area of the woods a bonfire will be lit, with musical entertainment from Gavin Wallace and a professional display staged by "Midnight Storm" - Scotland's largest firework display company.

Torches and foam glowsticks will be available to purchase from the Stewarton Community Hub at Stewarton Cross on Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th December 2025 from 10am-2pm both days. Any unsold torches will then be available for sale at the start point at Torrance Garage from 6pm until 6.45pm. Get there early to avoid the rush as the parade will leave at 7pm prompt. Please note there are a limited number of torches so don't delay or you may miss out!! Please do not bring your own sparklers to the event - they will be removed or you will be asked to extinguish them.

For the safety of those attending and event organisers, a temporary road closure will be in place between 6-9pm on the night of the 30th December after Old Mill View from Torrance Garage on High Street to the David Dale Avenue junction with the A735 Kilmarnock Road. Further details will be available at www.tellmesotland.gov.uk nearer the time. Anyone with additional support or accessibility needs should get in touch with Pat McFadden asap on 07809 888729 for advice on suitable arrangements including parking and hard-standing area.

The Bonnet Guild would like to thank all advisors, supporters and sponsors for their continued support and look forward to providing the town's children and adults with a magical, free night to remember! In particular to main event sponsors SOD-IT and 21 Kitchens for their generous support.

Additional volunteers are currently sought to support the event, so if you

can spare a few of hours from 6pm on the 30th December please get in touch with the Bonnet Guild Facebook page or contact Pat McFadden asap on 07809 888729. Full details will be given to all volunteers at a short briefing meeting.

Volunteer photographers are also sought to capture the spectacle of the parade and display! Please message the Bonnet Guild Facebook page if you can help!

As before there is no entry fee to take part in the event, but participants are encouraged to give a discretionary online donation to support the event by scanning a Bonnet Guild QR code - which is active now! Donation buckets will also be available on the evening for those who prefer to use cash. Please give generously - all money raised will be ploughed into meeting future event costs. Keep a close eye on the Bonnet Guild's Facebook page for further updates, guidance and announcements www.facebook.com/bonnetguild. Here's to a great night!

Safety notice: Participants must listen carefully to all advice given by Police Scotland and guidance from Bonnet Guild marshalls - they are helping you to remain safe from injury during the course of the event however each individual participates at their own risk. Please think and act safely at all times during the parade and within Lainshaw Woods. Stewarton Bonnet Guild cannot accept responsibility for any injuries from participating in the event, nor the loss or damage to any personal belongings. Attendees are reminded to wear old clothes, footwear (boots or wellies probably best) and nothing flyaway or flammable. You must take personal responsibility for your torch and its safe use. Keep a safe distance between you and those around you. The torches are open flames, and stray embers can escape from them - be aware of where embers land and understand that some torches will burn quicker than others. Melting wax can be hot and can also mark clothing - please use the protective shield issued with your torch and wear old clothes. Buckets filled with water will be placed along both sides of the route for you to extinguish your torch should you feel the need to, and all torches must be extinguished in the large drums provided before entering the woods.

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Rory McKinna Winter News Roundup

So, my previous Review article ended with victory in the 303 doubles class at the Hansa World Championships in Australia. But that was only the start on the year!

The next big event came in May with the French Hansa Nationals. After collecting 'The Glasgow Bonnet' from Calais, where I had parked it following the Belgian Sailability Cup (1st single, 2nd double) I drove down to Étang de Cazaux et de Sanguinet, south of Bordeaux. Sailing doubles and singles again, I paired up with Niko Lelu from Monaco. We did well in the doubles, having never sailed together, finishing 9th overall. The real thrill came in the singles though, where I raced the hardest I ever have in my life through strong winds and a huge fleet of highly competitive sailors. Despite missing one race that had been brought forward, because I hadn't read the notice board (professional, I know) I sailed all my races consistently and with a strangely fierce determination, ideal for battling my way through the rough conditions. By the end of the event, I was 1st overall. If I'm honest, on a personal level, this was a bigger deal than the Worlds, simply due to the quantity of quality sailors present.



Uk Challenger Championships

In June, there was a busy week involving both the UK Hansa Nationals in Weymouth and the KAKAPO Open Race in Barcelona. The UK Champs were the hardest they've been for a few years, with two relatively new sailors from the south-west giving me a real run for my money. But I managed to hold my own and won all but one of the races. Just as well, as I still had to engrave the trophy for 2024! From Weymouth, I drove home and boarded a flight to Barcelona the next day. I arrived on the morning of the first race day, but I needn't have rushed because it was cancelled due to strong winds. I spent the time wisely, sorting my kit, rigging the boat, and sleeping! Just by chance, I had looked up the entry for KAKAPO on the day that it closed. I put my name down immediately and worked out the details later, but I only sailed in the singles this year. There were two more days of singles racing in conditions very similar to last year, with a steady wind that slowly



Kakapo Open Race

shifted its way to the right. The course felt massive for the number of boats involved. Spanish top dog Pau Munar from Majorca always stayed just out of reach and I finished 2nd overall, also the same as last year.

After a short quiet spell, in August, I broke new ground competing in the Hansa Liberty class at the Dutch Hansa Nationals. Longer and faster than the 303 but only a single seater, I had only sailed the Liberty once about ten years ago. Up until August, I had been experimenting in the UK Hansa TT circuit by racing a 303 against the Libertys as a bit of a challenge, as the slightest mistake would result in a big loss against the faster boats. I had enquired about doing this in the Dutch Nationals, as their 303 sailors there are not as skilled as the Libertys. They said no, but in the process offered me a Liberty if I wanted to race one. I drove to Brassmermeer straight from the biblical downpours at the Birmingham Hansa TT, parked my car at the hotel, and used my bike for the rest of the trip (very Dutch). We had good wind speeds across the weekend (sometimes too good!) but shifty considering the surrounding landscape is so flat. I did well in all of the races and maintained a position at the pointy end of the fleet between 2nd and 5th. A 1st place remained elusive in all races but I was up against some highly experienced sailors and, having only spent a handful of hours in this class, I was pretty happy with my 3rd overall!

Back on home turf, I made a trip to Rutland in September. The journey was interesting in itself as I experimented with taking public transport to a sailing event, but that's a whole other story! I hadn't sailed a Challenger since the champs last year, so I was keen to see if I could improve on my 8th place. This class of boat seems to bring out the extremes in me, which was certainly the case on day one, when we sailed in very strong winds. I rapidly swung between "this is a silly boat and I'm a silly sailor" (language was more potent at the time) to "this is the best thing ever!" as I rocketed along, kicking up spray higher than the sail! It was a bit of a hard reminder of how the boat behaves but it set me up well for the remaining race days. Conditions got gradually lighter as the days went on but I managed to maintain a position at the front of the fleet and by the end of racing, I was sitting 1st overall!

That's two thirds of the year covered now but the third and final instalment will have to wait until the Spring issue. For now, I have one more competition lined up in December, and then it's head down and focus on uni work until Spring. Until next time, fair winds.



French Hansa Nationals Start Line



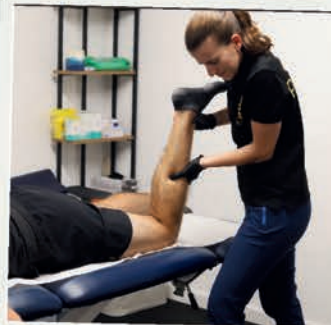
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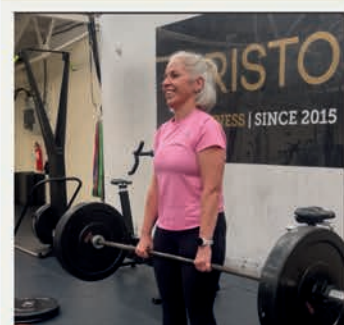
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Stewarton
Churches Together



Stewarton Churches Together Christmas Services 2025

*We wish you a very
Happy Christmas and
a peaceful New Year!*

Sunday 7th December

John Knox Church All-age Cookies and Carols service, 4pm
with cookies and hot chocolate

Sunday 21st December

St. Columba's Church Nativity Service, 11am with mince pies
to follow.

John Knox Church All-age Nativity Service, 11.15am with
mince pies to follow

Christmas Eve Wednesday 24th December

St. Columba's Church All ages' Christmas Eve
Family Service, 6.30pm.

Stewarton's Watchnight Service, John Knox Church, 11.15pm

Christmas Day Thursday 25th December

Joint Christmas Day Service at St. Columba's Church, 11am

United Reformed Church services, Lainshaw Street, 7th and
14th December, 10am

Other Events:

St. Columba's Church Christmas Craft Day for children with
entertainment and a visit from Santa, Saturday 6th Dec, 2-4pm

Bubble Church Angel Service, puppet-based family half hour.
Info/book thrivestewarton.org John Knox Church, 14th Dec,
9.30am.

United Reformed Church Xmas Film Afternoon, Wednesday
17th Dec, 2pm

Everyone has a Story



We love a good story, whether a film, a book or just one told to us by our friend. We enjoy them, smile, laugh, even cry, and move on to another story. The Christmas story is one of wonder and hope. It's the story of a humble little child who might just change the world but the Christmas season soon passes for us and usually we too move on to the next thing. Perhaps it's the same with our hopes and dreams that there really is a greater, higher power and that we do have a greater purpose. These dreams can feel a bit fleeting. They come and go, and we move on.

But the Christmas story is part of a much bigger story, a story that brings meaning, purpose, hope for today and the future. It's a story that the Bible charts starting with the existence of the eternal God then to life on earth then on to the coming of Jesus as a baby at Christmas and his death for us at Easter and then all the way to the promise of a wonderful new heaven and earth. It's a story that brings meaning, purpose and hope of a wonderful future to the story of our world, a story that includes us.

In the New Year at John Knox we're starting a free small group 8-week course with films and inspiring personal stories that will help us explore how the characters, stories, and themes of the Bible from beginning to end help us answer the big questions in life. It's called the Bible Course. Watch out for further details on our website www.johnknox.org.uk and our social media @jkchurch. We hope in this course you'll be able to explore the Bible and its relevance to our own life stories.

If you prefer just to read a good story then Bear Grylls, the adventurer and TV presenter, has written a new book, 'The Greatest Story Ever Told: An Eyewitness Account', which retells the life story of Jesus through the perspectives of those closest to him. It's a great way to dip into the life of Jesus. Of course you could just read the Bible for yourself. What a story it tells and you might just see your own story reflected back!

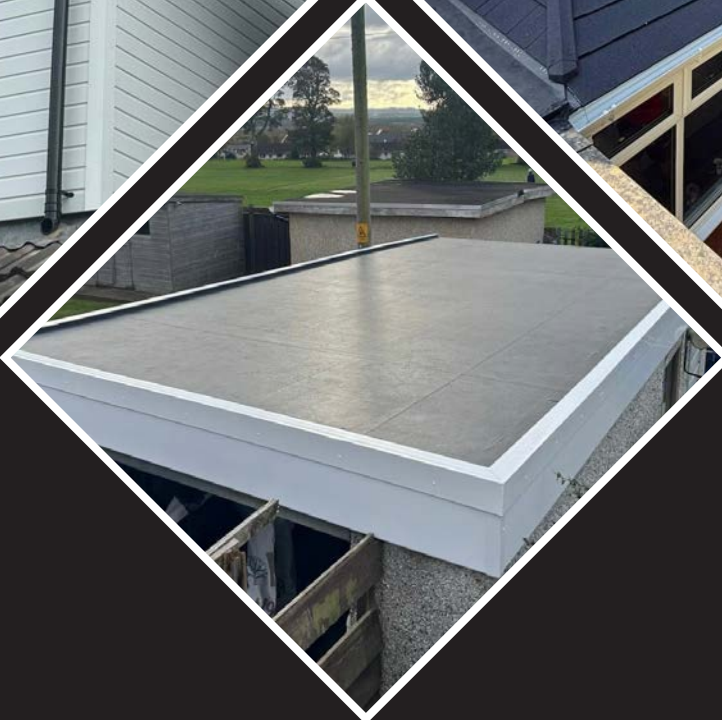
Happy Christmas!

Gavin

Rev Gavin Niven, John Knox Parish Church

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Stewarton Community Allotments Society

John McClafferty and his daughter Leigh had no idea what they were doing when they took over Plot 12a, down at Stewarton Allotments, last spring.

Their new plot was run down and needed weeks of work and neither John nor Leigh had any experience of allotment gardening.

"We were clueless," said Leigh. "We've got gardens at home, but we'd never grown vegetables before. We asked for lots of advice."

So they got stuck in.

Just a few months later they were eating their own tatties, leeks, cabbages and lots more. They had discovered the joys of having your own allotment.

John, a retired police inspector and Leigh, a train driver with Scotrail, had been regular visitors to Stewarton Allotments Society's Open Days and three years ago John put his name on the waiting list.

Last spring, he got the call to say an allotment was his if he still wanted it. The plot was a bit of a challenge: "Dad needed a hand at first. It looked like too much work," said Leigh.

With other family members they set to work.

"At first I was just going to clean the plot up and then plan what to do," said John. "But people were so kind and gave us so much stuff that we planted up the plot. In fact, I think just about everything we grew this year was donated."

"You just don't realise how quickly the allotment fills up."

After starting out helping her Dad, Leigh became more interested and more involved: "She's in charge now. She puts all the time in," says John.

One thing they both agree on is the welcome and help they've had from everyone on the site: "It's a really nice community," says Leigh. "Though I think we sometimes spend more time chatting than growing things."

They're already planning for next year and are going to get that essential for any allotment plot.... a shed.

John and Leigh are among several new members who have been welcomed into the society over the past couple of years and discovered the pleasure of growing and eating your own food.



John and Leigh McClafferty on the plot they transformed in just a few months

It's been a good year for growing things but 2025 started badly for the society when Storm Eowyn raged in on January 24. It ripped the skin off the communal polytunnel and flattened individual greenhouses and polytunnels.

But everyone rallied round, and the site was cleaned up and ready to grow again. The polytunnel got its new skin in the summer.

The Open Day is always one of the highlights of Stewarton's year and 2025 was no exception. It involves a huge amount of work from members, but everyone enjoys it.

The folk of the town turned out to support us and couldn't enough of our home-grown fruit, vegetables, jams, chutneys and home baking.

The last event of the year was the annual members' barbecue with good chat and great cooking.

It's been a great year down at Stewart Community Allotments Society... now we can't wait for spring.



Members of Stewarton Allotments Society pose for a team picture before another highly successful open day back in August

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Tom Robertson for McIntosh



Joan's Angels' Choir



Joan's Angel's is a non-professional Community Pop Choir, Started 31 2019 within my Hair + Beauty Salon in Stewarton. Fast forward 2025 we are now in John Knox Church High Street Stewarton, which is a larger venue for more people!

We are on fortnightly on a Wednesday night (7pm – 8:30pm). The Choir's aim is for fun, wellbeing and to hopefully destress, while belting songs out from the likes of Queen, Abba, Elton, Ed Sheeran and Carpenters and many more. We only take £3 each visit to cover necessary costs, and the rest goes to "Cure Parkinson's", I make no money at all for running the choir. We also offer a free service to visit care homes, sheltered housing and any other groups who would like us to entertain them and

the ladies in the choir are kindly happy to give up their time to do this. If you would like to, join us you do not need to be a great singer we just sing along to CDs, it is just for fun and wellbeing.

If you are interested contact Joan on 07525 157272.

Keep Singing!

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Love from Joan, Wendy and Gemma xxx



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Celebrating Three Years of Gaelic in Stewarton:

A Thriving Community Spirit

An Evening of Gaelic Song

with Eilidh

This month marks a special milestone for our Stewarton Gaelic Group "An Teaghlach", as we proudly celebrate three wonderful years of language, song, and community in the heart of East Ayrshire. What began as a small gathering of Gaelic enthusiasts has grown into a vibrant local group, bringing people together to share in Scotland's rich linguistic and cultural heritage.

Over the past three years, our group has gone from strength to strength. We've been delighted to welcome both beginners and fluent speakers to our regular sessions, where the focus is always on friendship, encouragement, and a shared love of the Gaelic language. From conversation circles to musical evenings, every event has helped keep the spirit of Gaelic alive in Stewarton.

Our efforts haven't gone unnoticed — we've been featured on BBC Alba and in an online article with BBC News, helping to showcase our local enthusiasm for Gaelic to a much wider audience. It's been inspiring to see how interest in the language continues to grow, with new faces joining us regularly.

This past year has been particularly special. We were honoured to welcome Eilidh, a Gaelic singer and student from Glasgow University, who joined us for an unforgettable evening of song. Her passion and talent brought a wonderful energy to the group and reminded us how powerfully music can connect people across generations.



The Gaelic Book Council joins us on the 4th November with an amazing selection of Gaelic resources for Gaelic Learners and GME pupils alike.

We shall also have the privilege of hosting the acclaimed recording artist and clàrsach player, Maggie MacInnes on the 25th November for a heartwarming evening of Gaelic Christmas carols. Maggie's beautiful performances at this time of year fill many a venue with festive spirit and the timeless beauty of Gaelic song — a perfect way to end the year.

As we look ahead to the future, we hope to continue growing our group and welcoming anyone who would like to explore Gaelic language and culture, whether you're a total beginner or simply curious. Our sessions are friendly, relaxed, and open to all — and there's always a cup of tea (and often a biscuit or two!) waiting.

Here's to the next three years — and many more to come — of Gaelic, friendship, and community in Stewarton.

Interested in joining us? Contact at 1plus2jpreston@gmail.com for more information.

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A Big Thank You from The Book Nook Stewarton

The Book Nook Stewarton has continued to offer a wide range of events, activities and clubs throughout 2025 and I want to start by thanking everyone who has supported the bookshop in what is a personally sad and difficult year. I am grateful to all our regular customers, event attendees, club members at BookNookers, Junior BookNookers, families at Tales for Tinies and my team of volunteers who have run the events programme so successfully.

I hope that like me, you find The Book Nook to be a place that offers connection with others, to develop new friendships, to share the joy of books with others, to see children growing their love of reading, opportunities to meet interesting and well-known authors, somewhere we find new books which offer us comfort, fun, escapism, thrills, knowledge and broaden our horizons.

We have had many wonderful authors with us in 2025 - including events discovering some fantastic debut novels from Tom Newlands, Emma Cowing and Andrew Bergin. We welcomed some valued Book Nook author friends back including Gordon J Brown, Douglas Skelton, Karen Campbell, David F



Ross, Emma Christie, Michael J Malone.

We were deeply touched by the authors who gave up their time to come along to support our fundraiser event 'Authors Assemble' including Chris Brookmyre and Ambrose Parry, Craig Robertson, Alex Sokoloff, Alex Gray, Billy Sloan, Sara Sheridan, Helen Fitzgerald, Alex Kane and Sarah Smith.

Packed out audiences enjoyed our bigger events at Stewarton Area Centre with Liam McIlvanney, Nicola Sturgeon, Alice Feeney and Ann Cleeves.

At the time of writing, there are four more amazing events still to come before Christmas! Graeme Macrae Burnet and Sally Magnusson in November and then in December Nicola Sturgeon will be back for her third event with us and we round off the

year with a Christmas-themed event with global best-seller Jenny Colgan.

We have such fun with our tiny booklovers at our Tales for Tinies every Tuesday 9.15am, all welcome from new babies to pre-schoolers! The enthusiasm and passion for books from our Junior Book Nook Club members is always a source of joy. All P4-7 children are welcome to come along to these monthly meetings, where the children share book recommendations and reviews and enjoy stories and craft fun.

BookNookers book club continues to thrive and new members are always welcome. We enjoy an enjoyable social occasion as well as having lively discussions of book club reads.

Yuletide is fast approaching and we hope that you will enjoy a fun night out in the town and that all the Stewarton businesses will get a much-needed boost from this annual event. But please remember to support all Stewarton retailers throughout the festive season and all year round. All shops in the town, The Book Nook included, need everyone to shop locally if we are to keep our doors open. So before buying online, please think 'Local First' and see if you can find inspiration and get recommendations from your local retailers. Surely you can find something suitable amongst the books, gifts, clothes, candles, hardware, pet supplies, flowers, retro games, antiques, specialist food gifts, vouchers and more available locally!

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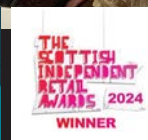
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Helping Stewarton Thrive

Thrive



It's been another busy session of FREE activities to help support our area's physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health needs! Thrive is run by local people to help care and support local people. Check out what's on...



BABY BEATS is a fun-filled drop-in session with music and wiggles for parents & carers with babies up to 18 months old with Thursday and Friday options. It's always great to see parents bonding with their babies and making new friends.

THRIVE TOTS is a music-led activity for parents and children aged 18 months to 4 years on Thursday lunchtimes. There is plenty of tea and coffee too while the children have time for free play.

JOURNEY TOGETHER for parents with children with neurodivergent needs and siblings to come together in a judgement-free space for some Friday after-school fun! Art, crafts, free play, parachute, games and more. Refreshments are provided. Find out too about our monthly peer support group. This session we have already enjoyed a visit from Stewarton community fire station with special thanks to Dan and Scott.

MONTHLY FUNZONE on the last Saturday of the month for families to enjoy art, craft, lego, duplo, board games, jenga, trains and cars, with exercise with Coach Shona from Aristos! There is also great coffee and cakes from Candy Chase for the grownups!

BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT DROP-IN - Thrive partner with Breastfeeding Network Ayrshire to run a session on Fridays, so bring your wee one and join other mums and peer supporters for chat about all things parenting. 12.30-2pm in the Cottage behind the church.

WHO LET THE DADS OUT is designed to provide dads, father figures, and their children with opportunities to spend quality time together, engage in fun activities, and build supportive relationships. Our first activity is on Saturday 6th December when we will be making Christmas decorations together. We will also be running a dads support group. Keep an eye on our social media on how to sign up and for more details.

ROOTS & SHOOTS is an exciting wee growing project beside the Area Centre car park behind JK Church meeting Thursday mornings Spring to Autumn. We also look after the planters in Avenue Square and our thanks go to McLarens and Burns nurseries for all their help in making Stewarton Beautiful.



BUBBLE CHURCH is our Sunday church service especially for parents and their young children. It's a puppet-packed, Jesus-centred, coffee-and-croissant-fuelled, 30 minute kids and families adventure every month! You turn up 10 mins before it starts for a croissant and a coffee, then you'll be guided to a 'bubble' mat, and you and your little ones share in 30 mins of song, story, puppets, and prayer. We have limited spaces available, so make sure you sign up your bubble in advance!

STEWARTON COMMUNITY SHED - connection, conversation and creation - that's what joining a Shed is all about. Sheds encourage people to come together to work on their own projects or supporting projects in the local community. This term we have been working on new stairs for the New Laigh Kirk church hall in Kilmarnock. We have also been supporting Thrive's sessions for dads and children making Christmas decorations. Work has now started on restoring the marker seat at the entrance to Nether Robertland and we look forward to updating you in the Spring. Our Shed is open to all over 18's, men and women.

TOWN SIGN - thank you for all the great feedback on our Stewarton Town Sign at the Cross! We have added a QR code for information on the history of the bonnet trade and the town coat of arms that features on the sign. See thrivestewarton.org/townsign

Thrive Stewarton is an initiative of John Knox Parish Church and the South West Presbytery - let's support one another. For information or to sign-up see www.thrivestewarton.org and be sure to follow us @thrivestewarton for all the latest.



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Update from Kilmaurs Photographic Club.

The autumn session of the Club is well underway. Our first competition of the year was the Quig Quaich. In this, participants had to submit two photographs from three out of six categories (that is six images in total). These images had to be taken over the summer months. This year's categories were: games; linear perspective; music; a touch of orange; shadows; and still life. Some of the entries in each of these categories are attached.

This competition is always great fun and encourages members to photograph subjects which they may not have tried before. It is always interesting (and sometimes amusing) to see what the others have come up with. Bob Quig, who is an Honorary Member of the club, judges the entries and always gives valuable advice on how each of the images might have been improved. It is a great way to learn how to improve your photography.

The winner of the Quig Quaich this year was Jim Stevenson, closely followed by Dale Powell and Martin Clark.

We are always keen to welcome new members or any visitors with an interest in photography.

Whether you are a beginner, an improver, or an expert; or someone who simply wishes to improve their photographic techniques and get the most from their camera, why not come along to Kilmaurs Photographic Club and see what we are doing?

The club meets once a week in Kilmaurs Masonic Lodge Halls (KA3 2RQ), on a Monday evening 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.

Further information from

- www.kilmaursphotographicclub.co.uk
- Email: secretary.kilmaurspc@gmail.com
- or simply contact 07720 416427.



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Still Life, Temptation



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Orange, Kingfisher



Games, Speed Game



Shadows, Shadow Play



Still Life, Jugs and Orange



Music, Bass Player





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Boozébingo Proves a S



On Saturday 11th October, SAYCA (The Centre) was absolutely buzzing as Boozébrunch brought the community together for a spectacular evening of Boozébingo. What's even more exciting, the funds raised helped Stewarton Annick Girls to purchase their new strips!

With local promoter Chris Sharpe at the helm and Coach Lisa Shek-Coutts driving the fundraising for Stewarton Annick girls, they both poured their heart and soul into the event, ensuring it was a fantastic, fun-filled celebration of music, laughter, and community spirit.

The stage lit up with headliners Stevie Lennon (Go Radio), Michael Smith (Now Ayrshire Radio), and DJ Fergie, following a loving ovation for special guest Rose Reilly. The DJs delivered floor fillers, creating an electric atmosphere that had everyone dancing, singing, and reconnecting. This sparked joy and even a few emotional reunions, proving music's powerful ability to reunite old friends.

From the bingo madness to the beats that kept the dance floor alive, it was a night of memory making that will be talked about for years to come.

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Spectacular Success!

Finally, we would like to thank everyone who attended, contributed, supported, and volunteered. Your help was truly appreciated and made the night a huge success. Our girls will be absolutely thrilled in their new strip!! So, when you see their big smiles, know you helped to make that happen!!

Look out for Boozébrunch 2026—if this year was anything to go by, next year will be even more unforgettable!



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CHARITY LADIES' DAY Update

Hi, so a wee update on my Ladies Charity Day at The Park Hotel, Kilmarnock, on Sunday 5th October. We raised an amazing £6,455 for Cure Parkinson's which is a charity very close to my heart as my husband Gary was sadly diagnosed with it at age 50.

This is now the second charity event since Gary was diagnosed which was 3 years ago. But I am now thinking of doing this as an annual event, as we had nearly 300 women at the charity day, which was amazing!

The Ladies' Day consisted of a lovely afternoon tea, singing from my community choir Joan's Angels, and amazing bargains from "Brian Taylors" clothes sale. We also had over 100 Raffle prizes, from a jar of giant pickles from the chip box which I auctioned for an amazing £70, to an overnight at Fullshaw Farm Pods.

"Cure Parkinson's was founded 20 years ago by Tom Issac and 3 others living with Parkinson's. Sadly, Tom was diagnosed at just 27 and sadly passed away at age 49. Tom's wife Lindsey, the Trustee of Cure Parkinson's explains the money raised goes to one of their research projects which they hope will slow, stop or even reverse Parkinson's." Thank you Lindsey to you and your small but amazing team for everything you continue to do!

I want to take this time to thank everyone who done something to help this event be such an amazing success. A special thank you to Wendy, Marie, Lynne, Gemma, Donna and Linda and all my choir Angel's and Michelle our amazing compare!! Also, all client's, family and friends for raffle gifts and donations.

Also, to all the businesses that have been so generous and kind to give raffle and donations from, Stewarton, Kilmaurs, Kilmarnock, Fenwick, Dunlop, Neilson, Newton Mearns, Glasgow, Irvine and Sunny Millport, and Facebook businesses.

A special shout out to Gordon Anthony (manager) at The Park Hotel Kilmarnock for all his help and advice, nothing was a problem to him, great service and great venue.

And of course, to Gary for keeping me calm!! Parkinson's has shown us that it can affect anyone all ages and fitness.

Gary was very fit and active; he ran marathons, played golf, and went to the gym. He continues to push himself to do as much exercise as he possibly can—it's a major part of managing his symptoms, as medication alone isn't enough, and thankfully, Gary is able to maintain this commitment.

Thank you, Love, Joan Scott

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MADE IN SCOTLAND
Since 1845

A very special day for Glasgow and the Glasgow and Clydeside branch of the Merchant Navy Association.

Branch members raised the matter at one of our monthly meetings as to why there was no Merchant Navy memorial in Glasgow. The history of the Clyde and its association with shipbuilding and crewing goes without mention but it was strongly felt that a permanent memorial should be established.



Following lengthy communications with Glasgow Council regarding location and the practicalities of installation, a site was eventually



selected on the Govan side of the new Govan/Partick Bridge. This footbridge connects both sides of the river. The site looks on to the riverside museum with beautiful views of the Clyde and the Tall Ship on the other side. Without the support from the Council and the Lord Provost's team this would not have been possible. We are so grateful.

Iain Lindsay of the Nautilus union engaged with the local community radio stations and local media ensuring a wonderful turn out on the day.

Iain opened the ceremony with a few words, and a blessing was made by Father Joe, followed by the formal unveiling by Cpt John Hood (a Falklands veteran). Iain's son released some red balloons into the clearest of skies. The memorial was flanked by two MN Standards and a guard of honour comprising Branch members from Glasgow and Edinburgh with representatives from the local nautical societies and institutions.

We were treated with the pipes and drums of the St Francis Pipe band. Our sincere thanks go to all those making this happen, particularly the focus team and the Pierce Institute for hosting tea and tabnabs (nautical term for cakes) afterwards. We are very grateful to the ladies of the Scottish Nautical welfare Society for the baking and help on the day.

It was a most memorable day, but all the above is unimportant – what is important is that a fitting memorial has been erected to those brave men and women of the service that never came back. We remember them and they will be remembered.

If you would wish to become involved in the Merchant Navy Association (MNA) and their work please contact Gerry McGeev, Chair Glasgow MNA.
Mnaglasgow@gmail.com

We meet monthly in Glasgow.

From Overwhelm to Focus: What Business Coaching Really Looks Like

Running a business or leading a team often means wearing many hats, sometimes all at once. Most professionals I work with are capable and full of ideas, but when demands pull in every direction, it's easy to lose your sense of focus.

People usually come to coaching feeling stuck. They say, "I'm busy all the time, but nothing's really moving forward," or "I know what I want, but I can't seem to get there." That mix of mental clutter and decision fatigue leaves you feeling flat, even when you're doing your best.

That's where coaching makes a crucial difference. It doesn't offer a magic formula; it creates the space to pause, reflect, and reconnect with what matters most.

For example, a small business owner I worked with described herself as "drowning in good ideas" but struggling with prioritization. In our sessions, we slowed everything down, focusing on what felt purposeful rather than just urgent. She soon restructured her week, dropped what wasn't serving her, and rediscovered her love for the business. Today, she's working fewer hours with greater clarity, and her clients see the difference.

Coaching isn't about fixing people. It's about helping you hear yourself more clearly, trust what you already know, and move forward in a way that feels grounded and aligned. This theme of building trust with ourselves—our values, pace, and voice—is what my book, *Working with Trust*, explores deeply.

If you've been feeling pulled lately, know you're not alone. Clarity and focus often begin with small shifts, not grand plans. Coaching offers that space to move from reacting to reconnecting with your purpose and your next steps. When you give yourself permission to stop pushing, you find the focus you've been looking for.

CLARITY, CONFIDENCE & GROWTH STARTING WITH YOU.





1-1 Business Coaching with Fiona Campbell Arrand

Scan Below to book a free
30 minute Consultation





Office: 0330 058 3217



Mob: 07596 119 206

fiona@theprofessionalgrowthcompany.com



YOUR FREE FAMILY CHRISTMAS WEEKEND IS HERE!

Join us
**Saturday 6th
& Sunday 7th
December**
Two days packed with
festive fun & activities
for all ages.



Bring the magic home this year! Our beautiful, fragrant Real Christmas Trees will be on sale, ready to be the stunning centrepiece of your celebrations. Complete your festive look with one of our gorgeous, hand-made wreaths, crafted with care to welcome guests to your door.



Sam Bowsher chainsaw carving doing live demonstrations both days

Get ready to witness a truly spectacular sight at our Christmas Fair this year! We are thrilled to welcome back the incredibly talented Sam Bowsher Chainsaw Carving. Using nothing but a powerful chainsaw, Sam transforms raw logs into breathtaking works of art—from intricate wildlife sculptures and detailed festive pieces to characters that leap straight out of a storybook. It's a **must-see live demonstration** that captivates all ages! Adults will be mesmerised by the **speed and precision** of his craft, while kids will be absolutely enchanted as the wood chips fly and a beautiful new creation takes shape right before their eyes. Come and be amazed by one of the UK's best chainsaw artists!



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www.mclarensnurseriesltd.co.uk
Lochlibo Road, Uplawmoor,
Barrhead, Glasgow G78 4DN



Local artist Sue Rothwell exhibits her paintings and cards.

Take a moment during the fair's excitement to appreciate the stunning work of local artist Sue Rothwell, who will be exhibiting her beautiful **paintings and cards**. Sue's work is a celebration of local landscapes and charming subjects, captured with an eye for detail and a delicate use of colour. This is your chance to acquire a truly **unique and meaningful Christmas gift**—perhaps a framed print of a familiar local scene or a set of her exquisite handmade cards.



For the adults, get ready to indulge in some sophisticated sips! We're thrilled to host **Clubby Cocktails**, offering delicious **cocktail samples** sure to get you in the festive spirit. Right alongside them, our popular farm shop will be serving up delectable **wine and food samples**. This is a perfect chance to sample some fine local produce and perhaps pick up an elegant gift for the holiday season.



The younger (and young-at-heart) guests are certainly not forgotten! Everyone can warm up and enjoy a **complimentary mug of rich, creamy hot chocolate**. It's the perfect comforting treat after browsing the stalls, guaranteed to bring a smile to every face.

Finally, nothing says "Christmas Fair" like the aromatic spice of **mulled wine**. We will be offering this traditional favourite completely **complimentary**! So whether you're seeking a tasty tippie, a warming hot drink, or a gourmet sample, there is something here for every palate to enjoy.



Sparkle in the Park 2025

We've been hard at work tallying every last penny and processing final commitments from our auction. Following the spectacular Sparkle in the Park 2025 event last month, we are delighted to announce that your collective generosity raised a phenomenal £11,742.89!



This total, which exceeds all expectations, will now be split right down the middle, providing crucial funding to two amazing charities.

The Teenage Cancer Trust will use their share to continue offering life-changing support for young people facing cancer, while the George Pantziarka TP53 Trust can accelerate its vital work in rare cancer research. We simply cannot thank everyone enough for attending, supporting, and donating. Whether you won a bid or just bought a raffle ticket, your participation underscores the true spirit of our community and makes a deep, lasting difference to the lives these two organisations touch every single day.



❄️ Wishing all our customers a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support. ❄️



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Join Kilmarnock Girls Rugby Teams!

Are you ready to make new friends, build confidence, and have a lot of fun? Whether you've never picked up a rugby ball before or you've been playing for years - everyone's welcome!

Who: Girls aged 10-18

When: Training every Monday and Wednesday

Where: KRFC, Bellsland, Queens Drive, Kilmarnock

Why join?

- Learn teamwork, strength, and leadership
- Get fit while having fun
- Be part of an amazing, supportive team

Come give it a try - your first few sessions are free!

Bring your trainers, a smile, and a great attitude - we'll do the rest!

For more info: Call Alison on 07745 320759

Follow us on: Facebook: Kilmarnock RFC Girls Sections

TikTok: [krfc.girls.sections](https://www.tiktok.com/@krfc.girls.sections) Instagram: [kilmarnock_rugby_girls](https://www.instagram.com/kilmarnock_rugby_girls)



THE MILL HOUSE

GET COSY

With the clocks turned back and a crisp chill in the air, winter is very much upon us once again, so what better time to make for The Mill House and cooie in for some seasonal specials, home-from-home comforts and great company?

We're welcoming the colder months with open arms this year. Our brand new menus are packed with comforting favourites and exciting new dishes - hearty, full of flavour, and made with the freshest local ingredients. And to top it all off, our new range of cocktails are just the thing to sip and savour as the party season begins.

Speaking of which, we're all set for a fabulous festive time and can't wait to celebrate Christmas with you - from our much-loved Festive Fork Out Less menu to lively nights out and cosy catch-ups in the pub...

Whether for a seasonal retreat, a sparkling celebration with friends and family, lunch with the kids, or just a quiet pint after walking the dog, we can't wait to greet you all with a warm welcome this winter!



VIEW OUR
CHRISTMAS
WEBSITE



BOOK
NOW



Visit The Mill House Pub & Restaurant in Stewarton, bring this voucher & enjoy £10 off* your bill when you spend £30 or more on food!

Valid 1st November - 12th December 2025 and 2nd - 31st January 2026.

THE MILL HOUSE

*Please note this offer excludes drinks & cannot be used in conjunction with any other discount, offers or promotion.



4 DEAN STREET, STEWARTON KA3 5EQ
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1st Stewarton Boys' Brigade

We always start the session in time for the school starting and now well settled in with our roll sitting just over 90 boys. A busy session as always. In October as a Company, we post Stewarton memories on our Facebook page, and it's always good to share with current members and friends of the Company.



Anchors Boys – as well as our normal programme, we have attended 2 Battalion events, 1 was a visit to Ayr Beach Park and the second was a visit to West Coast Wonderland at Magbiehill in Stewarton. As well as this we have also had a visit from the Police and also visited the local Fire Station.

Junior Section – We have continued our normal monthly swimming programme and

as well as this we have attended a Battalion Treasure Hunt at Eglinton Park in Kilwinning, a Battalion Sleepover in Kilmarnock (Shared online with Companies from all over UK) and a visit to Shred Skate Park in Ayr.



Company and Senior Section – We have participated in the National Competitions with both Chess, Masterteam and FIFA, with a good overall performance, with Chess still to be played. The boys have taken part in various events which include Ten Pin, Assault Course & Paint ball event, Scotland International matches and a movie/Chippy night. As part of our programme our Seniors work for 2



Major Awards – President Badge – We have 20 starting to work for it over this year), as well as 12 Kings Badges – 5 who finish this session and 7 who finish next session. As well as our fun parts to the programme the boys volunteer for various fundraising events, which include Review deliveries and door to door collection, as well as our Christmas Card delivery service which is coming up shortly.

The Juniors and Company Section also competed in the North Ayrshire Battalion running event, where we managed 5 medals and won the Junior Section Junior Team trophy.



Stewart Residential, welcoming *you* home

Christmas is around the corner, we can't believe its been another year. We have a new member of Staff on the team Gemma, who back ground is marketing, and we have added new tools into our tool box, we can now offer staging for vacant properties along with Drone Photos, again this is an offer by the young talented local Photographer Chloe Candlish, for the sales and rental market, our 3d Interactive tour has been a massive hit with our buyers and sellers and we can offer a forever Tour, once you down load it you can keep it forever.

So what's changing? well in the New Year, we are looking to offer support to landlord and tenants alike, (you do not need to be a tenant, or under contract is you are a landlord , of Stewarts) but we have come across some issues with paperwork and communication breakdowns between landlord and tenant, this will be free service and we will post on Facebook with times and dates.

As fully qualified letting agents who has successfully gained their LARN with the Scottish government and with continue professional development, we are now looking to become accredited with our industry. if you have experienced any problems just reach out and we can guide you as we have access to Solicitor and Housing members.

As you may have noticed this year the sales were few and far between, many people have held off placing their property on the market and there is several reasons for this, so lets hope the budget in November do not go forward with increasing the council tax for H AND G Properties' and they can do something to encourage the sales and not inhibit buyers and sellers. Check out all our properties on Instagram or Facebook and our website www.stewart-residential.com

Rentals:

- Assisted Viewings
- Let Only
- Full Management
- Assist With Housing and Property Tribunal
- 8% Management Fee
- Inventories

Sales:

- Fixed Fee Agent
- Professional Photography
- Drone Photos
- Interactive Tour
- Assisted Viewings
- Online Schedule
- Key Changeover

We would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas from all the Team at Stewarts!

35 Main Street Stewarton KA3 5BS

Buying/Letting: 01560 485473 **Email:** info@stewart-residential.com

Visit our Facebook page for all our latest properties, plus you can find all of our properties on rightmove.com and onthemarket.com



Ayrshire Young Framers 80th Anniversary Dinner



Ayrshire Young Farmer members donned their finest attire last Saturday night for a memorable celebration marking the district's 80th Anniversary at the Park Hotel in Kilmarnock. The evening was a wonderful reunion, with many past and present Kilmaurs members in attendance to honour this incredible milestone. A highlight of the night was the inspiring address given by past chairman, Alistair Borthwick, who served as the guest speaker. We extend our sincere gratitude to Fiona, Iain, and the entire Ayrshire 80th Committee for organizing such a fantastic and successful event.



1st Stewarton Boys' Brigade

Local Christmas Card Deliveries

The Boys' Brigade are delivering the local Christmas cards again this year.

Cards can be handed in to John Knox Church from 9am to 4pm Friday 12 December and 9am to 12 Noon Saturday 13 December.

It is a great help if they are banded and sorted in street alphabetical order.

Donation for Company Funds.

Please note - Stewarton town area only can be delivered – No farms or outlying properties please.

**Deliveries will commence on
Sunday 14 December**

Anyone who either requires further information please contact W. Campbell (07932 540097).



Join Stewarton Golf Club – Where Golf Meets Community!

Are you looking for a welcoming club to enjoy golf, meet new friends, and improve your game? Stewarton Golf Club is now accepting new members!

WHY JOIN US?

- Local Golf Course – Enjoy a well maintained, privately owned, local golf course
- All Skill Levels Welcome – From beginners to seasoned pros
- Member Events & Tournaments – Social & competitive play
- Sunday Morning Medals – Guaranteed Sunday morning medal tee off times
- Additional Competitions – Midweek medals, Ayrshire competitions, Club open day, summer outings and many more exciting days to be a part of
- Practice Facilities & Coaching – Sharpen your skills with expert guidance
- Clubhouse & Dining – Relax after your round with great food & drinks

Located at Caprington Golf Club, Ayr Road, Kilmarnock, KA1 4UW
Come be part of a club that's more than just golf – it's a community!



Visit our **Facebook** page and send us a message to learn more and join today!
For further details please contact **Martin Shields** on **07792 821569**

Winter Events at Lodge Thistle No. 127

As the festive season approaches, the members of Lodge Thistle No. 127, Stewarton, are looking forward to once again celebrating the spirit of Christmas with our friends, families, and neighbours. The end of the year is always a special time for reflection and gratitude, and we are proud to continue our long tradition of being part of Stewarton's vibrant community life.

Throughout the year, the Lodge has supported a range of local initiatives and groups, and we will have a stall at the upcoming Stewarton Yuletide Event, where you can learn about the charities and good causes supported by Freemasonry across Scotland. Between now and February, we are delighted to invite everyone in Stewarton to join us for a series of community events hosted at the Lodge. Whether you are attending for the first time or are a familiar face, you will be assured of a warm welcome and a friendly atmosphere.

Upcoming Events Open to All:

Sat 29th Nov: Grand Buffet Curry & Quiz Night - 7pm. £10 per person

Sat 24th Jan: An Evening with Tom Pierre - The Gentleman Hypnotist - 7pm, plus buffet. £10 per person

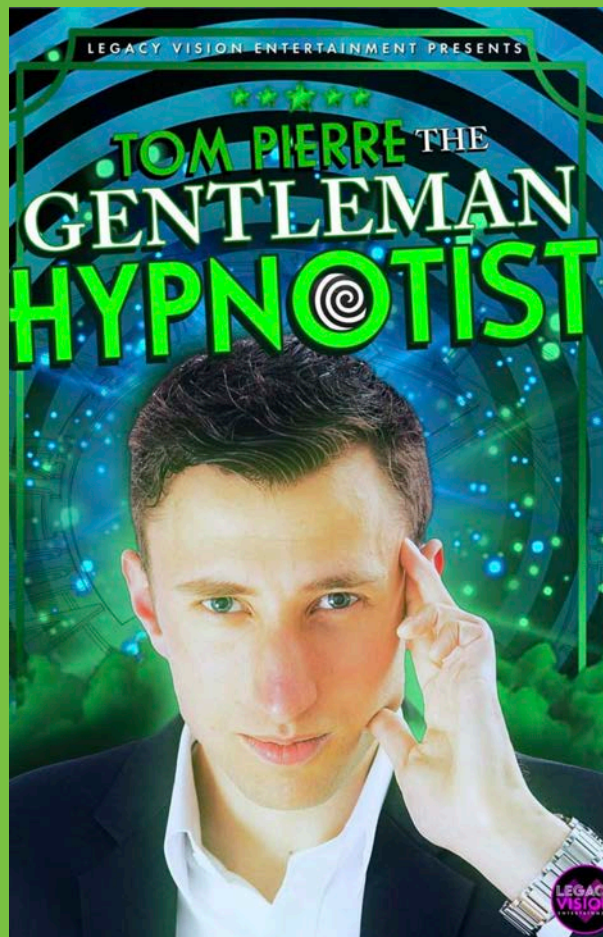
Sat 14th Feb: Burns Supper, a great evening of storytelling and laughter as we celebrate our National Bard, plus Soup, Haggis, Neeps & Tatties - 7pm. £10 per person

Visit our website for ticket details and for further information: <https://thistle127.com/events-at-127>

Each of these events is open to all Stewarton residents, and we hope they will bring people together to share in the joy and goodwill over the coming months. The support and enthusiasm shown by our community every year make these gatherings truly special.

As 2025 draws near, Lodge Thistle No. 127 extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported our events and initiatives throughout the year. On behalf of the Lodge, we wish all residents of Stewarton and the surrounding areas a Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy, and prosperous New Year.

We look forward to welcoming friends old and new in the months ahead and to continuing our shared tradition of fellowship, charity, and community spirit that has defined Lodge Thistle for generations.



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Huge Congratulations! Marion and Robert Myles celebrate Diamond Wedding Anniversary

A huge congratulations to Marion and Robert Myles on celebrating 60 years of marriage! Provost Claire Leitch and Councillor Ellen Freel were delighted to visit and share in your very special diamond anniversary. May your day be filled with joy, love, and wonderful memories of a lifetime spent together. Here's to many more happy years!



STEWARTON COMMUNITY LARDER

Better together this Winter

Stewarton Annick Centre
7 Standalane, KA3 5BG
Every Saturday
10am-12noon



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Fall into Autumn with Jam Street!

We've been keeping the studio buzzing lately — from an epic workshop with the brilliant Alyx Steele to birthday bashes, teen parties, and special events for local groups. Add in some feel-good fundraising and it's safe to say we've had a cracking few months! There's loads more coming up, so keep reading to catch the highlights and see why Jam Street is the place to be for dance, fun, and community vibes.



Workshop Highlights: Alyx Steele at Jam Street

We had an absolute blast hosting LA-based choreographer Alyx Steele for a high-energy commercial dance workshop at Jam Street Studios! Dancers from across Ayrshire came together to train, connect, and pick up some seriously insane moves.

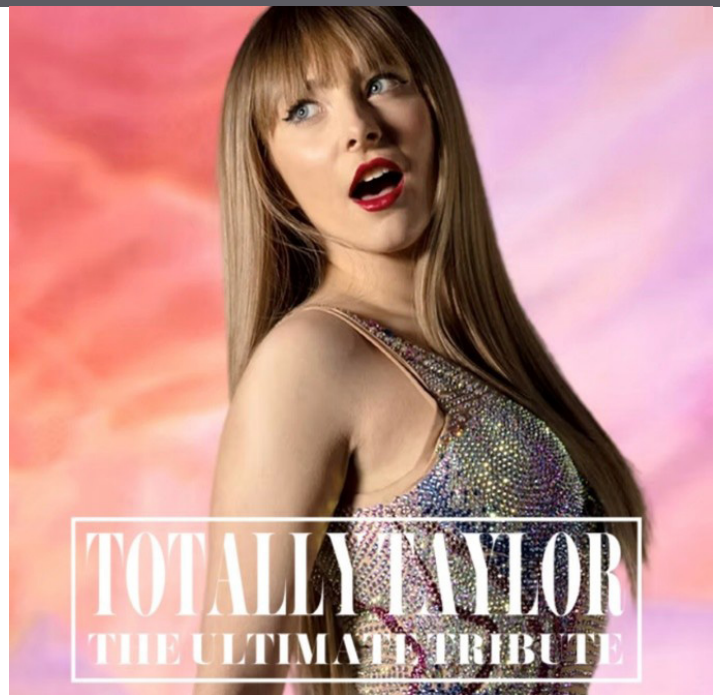
Huge thanks to everyone who joined us — it was a joy to welcome so many talented students from local schools. We loved having you in the studio!

Dancethon Success at Nether Robertland Primary!

We were delighted to team up with Nether Robertland Primary School for a high-energy Dancethon — and we're thrilled to share that the event raised an incredible £4,553 for school funds!

It was a brilliant day full of dancing, laughter, and enthusiasm, with pupils giving it their all from start to finish. Huge thanks to the Jam Street teaching team for leading the fun and making the day so special.

Well done to everyone who took part — what a fantastic achievement!



Totally Taylor Takes the Stage at Jam Street

We were buzzing to welcome the amazing Beth Dawson back to Jam Street for her spectacular Totally Taylor show! A former student turned international performer, Beth brought all the sparkle, energy, and Taylor vibes to our stage — and the crowd loved every minute.

She's now touring across the UK and beyond, lighting up venues from community halls to packed arenas. We're so proud to be part of her journey — and cheering her on every step of the way!

Spooky Fun at Jam Street!

Halloween was a total treat at Jam Street this year! Our dress-up week brought out some amazing costumes — from spooky to sparkly, our dancers went all out and looked fantastic in class.

We also hosted not one but two Halloween discos, and both were packed with dancing, games, and loads of laughs. Thanks to everyone who joined the fun — we loved celebrating with you!



Thank You to The Co-op — Supporting DanceTech UK's Future Stars

We'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to The Co-op for their generous donation to DanceTech UK and to AD&CO for their continued backing. Their support has helped us invest in vital resources for our SQA-accredited dance courses — and it's already making a difference.

Our 2025 candidates are thriving in their NPA Level 4 and National 5 Dance programmes, showing real dedication and talent in every class.

If you're curious about joining DanceTech UK, we're hosting an Open Day on Saturday 25th January at Jam Street Studios, Kilmarnock — a chance to meet the team, explore the courses, and see what we're all about.

Auditions for 2026 entry (NPA Level 4, National 5, and Higher Dance starting August 2026) will take place on Saturday 1st February. We can't wait to welcome the next generation of dancers! Message dancetechuk@outlook.com for more details

Next Up: Yuletide at Jam Street!

We're getting into the festive spirit as we open our doors once again for Stewarton Initiative's Street Market!

Jam Street will be buzzing with holiday cheer — from our ever-popular Grinch's Grotto to a studio packed with brilliant stalls, warm drinks, and plenty of tasty snacks. Whether you're shopping, dancing, or just soaking up the atmosphere, it's set to be a fantastic night for all ages.

Come along and celebrate the season with us on Thursday 20th November!

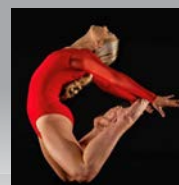


Come along and learn to

Dance!

Classes at Jam Street Dance Centre, 35 Lainshaw Street,
Stewarton and Fenwick Church Hall

- Two beautiful dance studios, equipped with sprung flooring, full length mirrors and ballet barres
- Fun classes for boys & girls aged around 18 months – adult
- All classes taught by fullyqualified & insured teachers B.A.T.D.
- From beginner to professional level, Jam Street School of Dance have classes to suit all ages & abilities.
- Established 31 years, former pupils now working professionally in the UK and all over the world as performers and/or teachers



Our Studios

Kilmarnock / Stewarton / Fenwick
Beith / Crosshouse / Dunlop



F.B.A.T.D.
Professional Teachers



DanceTech UK
SCQF Level 4 Dance,
NAT 5 Dance, Higher Dance

Book Online



Kilmarnock
& Crosshouse



Stewarton,
Fenwick &
Dunlop



Beith



Jam Street Dance Centre

35 Lainshaw Street, Stewarton KA3 5BY

jamstreetschoolofdance.com

dancetechuk.com



For more info contact Susan or Lizzie on

07834 783555 or 07868 618501, visit our website www.jamstreetschoolofdance.com,

email: 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

258 STONE Lost in first year of Stewarton Slimming World

I can't believe we've recently celebrated our 1-year anniversary, and the results have been amazing! 258 Stone in total lost in the last year, that's the weight of an average African Elephant! Every week our group is getting lighter by an average of 5 stone, all whilst getting to enjoy real food, centred around really easy to follow dietary guidance with lots of support and encouragement in group.

When you become a member, I go through everything you need to know to begin seeing weight losses straight away. We've had many members get their half a stone award on their first weigh in! Another member who joined our one opening night last year has also joined member 6 Stone Award and we just love celebrating every moment in between!

We've celebrated so many moments in the last year - our ICON Member, Woman of the Year, Man of the Year amongst more personal moments - weddings, birthday celebrations, pregnancies and we've had our very first Slimming World baby born recently!

Following Slimming World, eating Healthy foods and reigniting your passion for food really does work. If you follow the plan, you will lose weight. It doesn't matter about your age or existing health conditions; Slimming World works for everyone. We have members in our group who have diabetes, coeliac, kidney disease and of course, people who are already using weight loss injections who have joined Slimming World to learn how to eat healthily alongside these, so they protect their weight loss and learn how to maintain when they reach their weight loss goal.

Whatever your motivation for wanting to lose weight, and no matter how much you want to lose, whether it's 7lbs or 7st, then we'd love to welcome you to our friendly and supportive Stewarton Slimming World Group. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or just pop down on a Tuesday evening!

Slimming World

Slimming World Stewarton

**Tuesdays at
5.30pm & 7.00pm
The Centre,
Standalane.**

Kirsty - 07854 763424

E: SlimmingWorldStewarton@gmail.com

slimmingworld.co.uk

touching hearts, changing lives

our
groups
are open
and we're waiting
to welcome
you!

Festive Cheer at New 2 You (Ayrshire): Get Ready for Stewarton's Yuletide Night!

As Christmas draws near, New 2 You Charity Shop is filled with festive excitement as the team prepares for Stewarton's annual Yuletide Night. This much-loved community event is a highlight of the local calendar, and New 2 You is ready to help everyone celebrate in style — while supporting good causes close to home.

The shop is brimming with seasonal stock to suit every festive occasion. You'll find party clothes to make you shine at Christmas gatherings, a great range of Christmas jumpers, and plenty of gift ideas including handbags, toys and games, and books for all ages. Whether you're shopping for yourself or looking for thoughtful presents, there's something special waiting on the shelves — and every purchase helps make a difference in Ayrshire.

There will also be a prize tombola on Yuletide Night, so be sure to stop by for a bit of festive fun and the chance to win some lovely prizes.

The team at New 2 You would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all their supporters, customers, and volunteers who make their work possible throughout the year. Your kindness, donations, and time help the shop continue its mission of supporting local causes and families in need.

As the holidays approach, New 2 You is also encouraging the community to donate their pre-loved toys and gifts in plenty of time before Christmas, so that every child can experience the joy of receiving something special on Christmas morning.

So, when you're out enjoying the sparkle of Stewarton's Yuletide Night, make sure to visit New 2 You. Pick up a festive bargain, join in the fun, and help spread the true spirit of Christmas - giving, community, and kindness.



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M: 07926 730909

E: rejuvenationbydebbie@gmail.com

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Jam Street Night: The Story of Our £1,800 Victory

On a spooky Halloween night, something truly special happened on Jam Street. Thanks to the incredible energy and generosity of everyone who showed up, we absolutely smashed our fundraising goal! We are thrilled to report that we raised approximately £1,800—an outstanding total that speaks volumes about our community.

This figure translates directly into financial strength for the team. Once all the night's expenses are covered, we estimate walking away with a net profit of around £1,500 to £1,600. After facing heavy operating costs this year, nights like this aren't just a celebration; they are the foundation that puts us firmly back on strong financial footing for the season ahead.

This triumph belongs entirely to you. A huge, final thank you goes out to every single person who contributed, and especially to our chief fundraisers who put in countless hours of hard graft to make the event such a fantastic success. Thanks again, everyone—you've given the team the crucial backing it needed!

Congratulations again to our trophy winners from 7 aside.

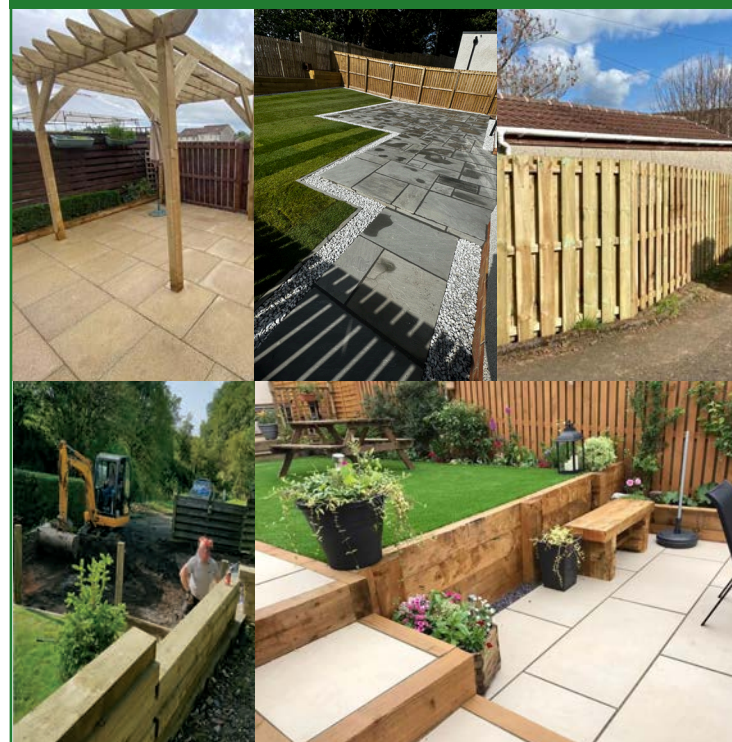
Murray, Rian, Thomas, Ella, Stewart, Jamie

All to play for in our 9 aside season...with a trip to Barcelona to look forward to in April.



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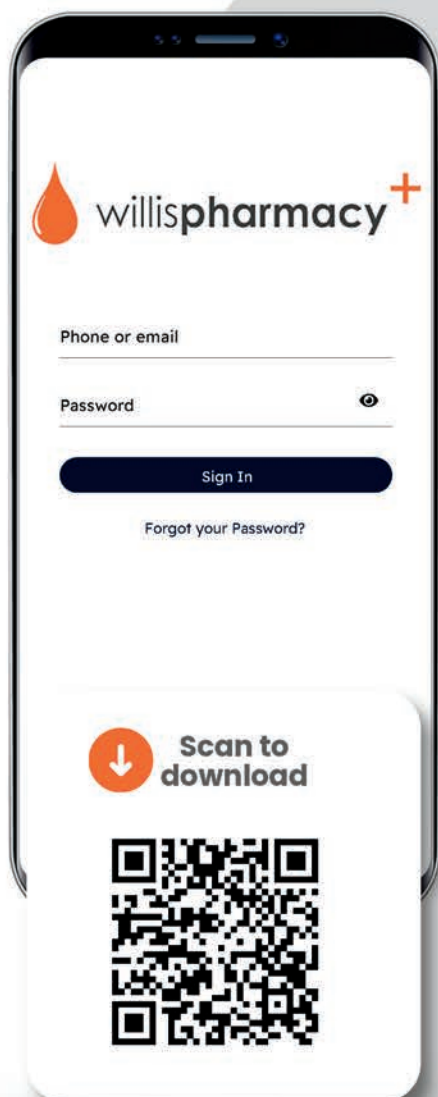









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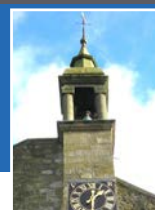
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WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH



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.

MESSY CHURCH

The first MESSY Church after the festive season will be on Saturday 7 February 2026 in the Church Hall from 3.30 - 5pm. MESSY Church is open to nursery and primary school children (P1 - P7) and must be accompanied by an adult. MESSY Church will also take place on 7 March, 4 April, 2 May & 6 June.

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

The above event will take place on Saturday 6 December 2025 in the Church Hall from 2pm - 4pm and will feature: - Uncle Billy's Magical Show (Uncle Billy is an award winning Children's entertainer) Christmas Crafts, a visit from Santa & refreshments. This is a free event, but children should be accompanied by an adult, and places must be pre-booked by contacting Lauren on 07738 689 121

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

BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER GROUP

The Group meets in the Church Hall on Monday afternoons at 1.30 - 3pm. We would love new members to join us, think about it, and come and see for yourself what it is all about. We remember World issues, local issues and people who need our love and prayers. For more information contact Catherine Hay 482799.

FRIENDSHIP & FAITH

This group meets 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, ending with a short act of worship.

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. There are a wide variety of entertaining speakers at each meeting covering light-hearted subjects as well as more serious topics.

17th December - Christmas Lunch

2026

6th January - Janice Grant, East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action

20th January - Jonathan Buchan, Robert Burns in music and word

3rd February - Susan Williamson, Stewarton Woodlands Action Trust

17th February - Norman Liddle, "Bible for Bairns" Scottish Bible Society

3rd March - Isobel Beck, Kilwinning Abbey

17th March - AGM

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 former, current & new members both ladies & gentlemen of all abilities will be made very welcome.

HALL LETTING

Our Church Hall is available to let for community organisations, group meetings and birthday parties, please contact laurenhussain3480@gmail.com for availability.

FOOD BANK & EACHa

Please leave your donations in the boxes at the rear of the Church, we are particularly looking for UHT milk, sugar, tea, coffee, bottles of juice and packets of pasta (the ones with sauce included)

EACHa CHRISTMAS GIFT COLLECTION

The collection will be on Sunday 14 December in the Church. Please wrap your gift and label boy or girl and approximate age the gift is suitable for, from babies to young adults.

For further information visit www.stewartonstcolumbas.org

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT ST COLUMBA'S

On 31 August the congregation enjoyed their annual BBQ at the end of morning service.

The 14 September was the Boys Brigade dedication service conducted by the Rev Bill Jackson and attended by over 160 boys, families and congregation.

The Harvest service conducted by Rev Bill Jackson took place on Sunday 5 October. The children of the Sunday club donated to the food bank and donations from the congregation amounting to £465 were handed over to the Guild for a project in Malawi

The Guild dedication service took place on 21 September

Blytheswood shoe box appeal, boxes were handed in on 26 October for distribution to many European countries including Ukraine

UPCOMING EVENTS

St John Scotland Coffee morning will be held in the Church Hall on Saturday 15 November from 10am - 12 noon, tickets are £4. There will be Christmas stall, baking stall, produce stall (jams & chutneys), craft stall, tombola, raffle and a defibrillator demonstration.

St Columba's Church

Children's Christmas Celebration

Saturday 6 December 2025
2pm - 4pm
In the Church Hall, featuring



Uncle Billy
Award Winning
Children's entertainer



Christmas Crafts



A visit from Santa



Cake & Drink

This is a free event

All Children must be accompanied by an adult

Places MUST BE PREBOOKED by contacting:
Lauren: 07738 869 121

JK CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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



It's been a busy few months at JK, with the official opening of our new ramp into the church for our services and activities serving the local community. The ribbon was cut by congregation member Helen Anderson and our architect Donald Lochrie. Our grateful thanks go to Donald and all those who worked on the ramp including Parkhead Welding, West Coast stone masons, IG Contracts and our main contractor Dicksons.

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.

WEDNESDAY RENEW WELLBEING CAFE

Don't be isolated - our Renew at JK drop-in at the church sanctuary is open for art, crafts, card making, dominoes, scrabble, jigsaws, knitting, a blether and a listening ear with great coffee, cake and freshly made soup. And it's all free.

YOUTH

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

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

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

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

YULETIDE NIGHT

Pop over to the church garden for firepit shepherd stories, nativity scene, puppet Angel drama, photobooth, hot chocolate, bands and Christmas choir!

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 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



THE POTTER'S HOUSE STEWARTON

Who We Are The Potter's House started in Stewarton in 2001 and has been serving the Ayrshire community for 24 years. We are part of a global network of over 300,000 Christian communities in the Assemblies of God fellowship of churches in 212 countries. While we are a church, our doors are open to anyone looking for connection, support, or community.

Sunday Gatherings Join us every Sunday at 10:30am at the Stewarton Area Centre. Our gatherings last about 90 minutes and include:

- Friendly conversation and community
- Live music and modern worship
- Activities for children and toddlers

Whether you are curious, exploring faith, or just want a friendly space to meet people, you're welcome. Stay up-to-date on our Facebook page: [PottersStewarton](https://www.facebook.com/PottersStewarton).

Mid-Week Groups We run small groups during the week focused on spiritual growth and living life well. Contact us to find out more.

Debt Advice & Support Through our partnership with Christians Against Poverty (CAP), we provide free, professional debt counselling. If you need advice or help managing debt, call 0800 328 0006 – this service is completely confidential and open to everyone.

Community Larder Our Community Larder is open Saturdays from 10am – 12 noon at The Centre, Standalane, Stewarton. For a small yearly membership fee, you can purchase essential items at a reduced price.

Drop by for a coffee and a chat—everyone is welcome. Stay in touch on Facebook: Stewarton-Community-Larder.

THE POTTER'S HOUSE CHURCH

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POTTERSSTEWARTON

**SUNDAYS
10:30AM**

**STEWARTON
AREA
CENTRE**

CHILDREN'S WORK

DEBT COUNSELLING

COMMUNITY LARDER

STEWARTON FOODBANK



A very big thank you to all those who have donated to us recently. We are most grateful.

If you were thinking of donating to us, currently we are short of tinned meat, semi-skimmed long-life milk, sugar, rice pudding and custard, and coffee.

We have enough pasta, baked beans and chicken soup. We also do not need feminine hygiene products as the local Council now give these away.

The Food Bank is open at The Centre, Standalane, on Tuesdays from 12:00 noon to 1:30 pm, and on Fridays from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. If you need us, please come.

A very Merry Christmas from all at Lainshaw Lions!

Lainshaw Lions staff, Margaret, Kelly, Kayleigh, Jenny and Lauryn (not forgetting Jennifer who is on maternity leave) would like to wish all our families a very Merry Christmas.

We have had a fabulous year offering breakfast club and after school care as well as all day care. We have worked closely with community groups and groups further afield.

Thank you for your support especially

1st Stewarton Boys Brigade,
Stewarton Initiatives,
Bellfield After School Care,
Fenwick Foxes,
United Reformed Church,
Cup and Saucer for sweets at Halloween,

The Centre at Standalane committee,
Vibrant communities, especially Arlene Hodgart.

I am sure there are lots more but most important is our children in our care and their families who have supported our fundraising. Supported completing care plans, new and old families for registering for 2025.

We have stall one at Yuletide in partnership with 1st Stewarton Boys Brigade. Please support both organisations.

A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all.

We close on the same Friday as the schools at 5.30pm and reopen when the schools open.

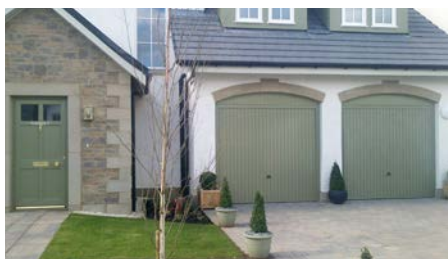


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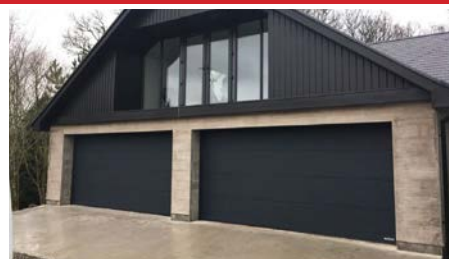


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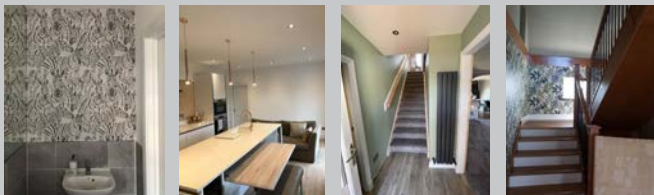


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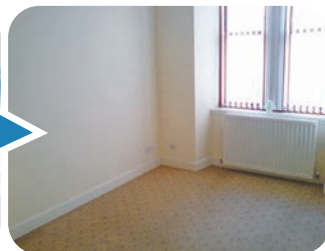
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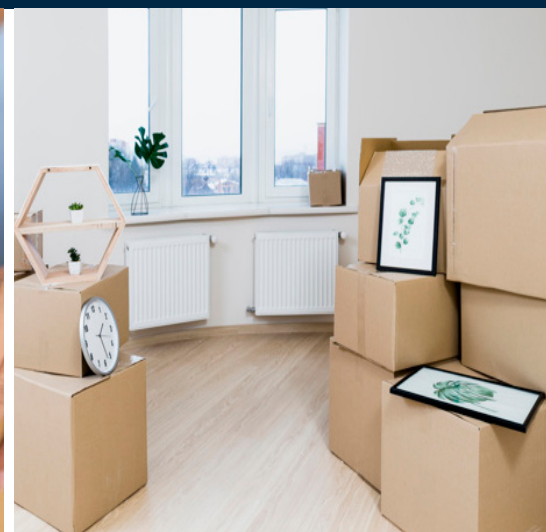
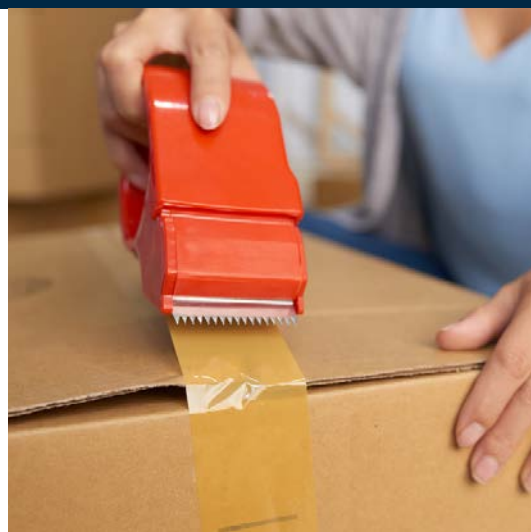
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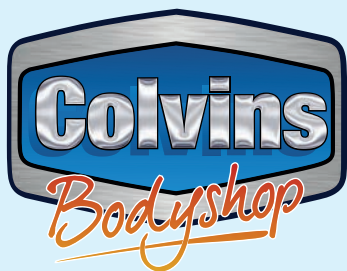
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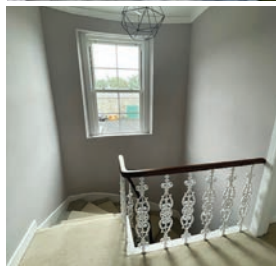


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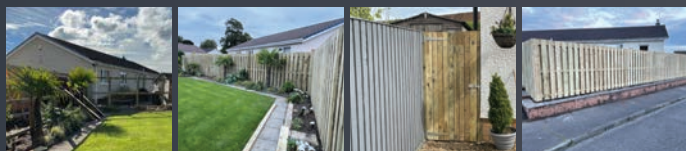
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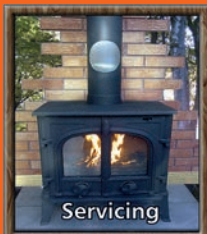
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