

Summer 2026

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ISSUE FIFTY

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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](mailto:inbox@thereviewstewarton.com)

# WELCOME TO OUR SUMMER EDITION!

After a lovely run of spring weather, summer has arrived in Stewarton with a real buzz about the place. There's plenty to look forward to, not least Scotland being in the World Cup, which is sure to bring everyone together over the coming weeks. This edition of The Stewarton Review celebrates the local businesses and strong community spirit that makes the town what it is. Thank you for continuing to support the magazine. We hope this issue adds to what should be a brilliant summer for everyone.



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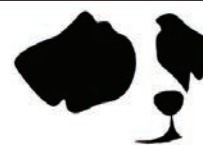
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# Bonnet Guild Festival Week 22nd – 30th August 2026



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## Gala Day & Coronation 29th August 2026

The Bonnet Guild is delighted to announce the Corsehill Queen and her court for 2026 as selected by Stewarton Academy, Nether Robertland Primary School and Lainshaw Primary School. The Corsehill Queen Elect will be Isla Logie and this year's First Courtier will be Andrew McLaughlin.



*First Courtier Andrew McLaughlin & Corsehill Queen Elect Isla Logie.*

All chosen from second year pupils by Stewarton Academy (with the exception of the two Pages and Queen's Highlander who are chosen by the local primary schools) the court is as follows;

Corsehill Queen Elect Isla Logie, 1st Maid Lily Price, 2nd Maid Evie Shiel, Maids: Erin Paterson, Robyn Paterson, Hannah Fenton and Orla Burrett. First Courtier Andrew McLaughlin, 2nd Courtier Fraser McLeod, Herald Toby McClue, Sword Bearer Callum Young, Sceptre Bearer Arthur Dyer, Queen's Highlander Struan Scott (from Lainshaw Primary School), Pages – Max McKie and Joe Coyle (from Nether Robertland Primary School). (The Crown Bearer has still to be confirmed at time of going to print).

This year is the 93rd anniversary of Bonnet Guild week which will run from 22nd - 30th August 2026 with the highlight of the week, the crowning of the Corsehill Queen, taking place on Gala Day, Saturday, 29 August in Avenue Square, Stewarton. This year's Guard of Honour will be formed by the Scouts.

Jim Gordon, Acting President of Stewarton Bonnet Guild said: "My huge congratulations to this year's Corsehill Queen and Court on what will be the 93rd anniversary of Bonnet Guild week. We are looking forward to the forthcoming festivities week very much!

"As many will already know, in a departure from the norm, we have had to delay this year's festivities until the end of August due to number of concerns, including conflicting demands on key external partners related to other major events happening in June (World Cup, fanzones, TRSMT festival etc). As well as related uncertainty around the granting or late withdrawal of the usual, required public entertainment and parades



*Court 2026. Back row (l to r): Sceptre Bearer Arthur Dyer, Herald Toby McClue, 2nd Courtier Fraser McLeod, First Courtier Andrew McLaughlin, Harris Steven (no longer available), Sword Bearer Callum Young, Queen's Highlander Struan Scott*

*Middle Row (l to r) 3rd Maid Erin Paterson, 2nd Maid Evie Shiel, 1st Maid Lily Price, Corsehill Queen Elect Isla Logie, 4th Maid Robyn Paterson, 5th Maid Hannah Fenton and 6th Maid Orla Burrett.*

*Pages (seated l to r) Pages – Joe Coyle and Max McKie*

*(Please note unfortunately Harris Steven (pictured) is no longer available and a new Crown Bearer will be appointed shortly).*

licenses; the availability of volunteers and marshalls; potential reduced attendance during Bonnet Guild week and the resulting financial risks. It was a difficult decision for Bonnet Guild volunteers to make but done in good faith and we are extremely grateful to key authorities and planning partners for their helpful advice and support of this decision".

"All that said, preparations are well underway and celebrations will commence with traditional bunting being hung along the main streets of Stewarton around the 3rd week in August and will finish with the parade to the war memorial and Divine Service in St Columba's Church on Sunday 30th August. "What a summer!" is the theme for the decorated shop window displays during the week and the float parade on Saturday 29 August, which is sure to give plenty of scope for creativity and colour and will once again be one of the most anticipated parts of the week. With thanks to the support of the local community, we are hoping for record participation in this our 93rd year!"

For full details of all Bonnet Guild week events, dates and times please see Bonnet Guild Souvenir Programme once it becomes available or visit [www.facebook.com/bonnetguild](http://www.facebook.com/bonnetguild)! Our huge thanks go to local traders for supporting adverts, programme sales and sponsorship – it is hugely appreciated.

The Bonnet Guild festival began in 1933 and was originally created by local businessmen in Stewarton to provide a summer gala day for local families. Today, it is a week-long community festival, run by volunteer members of the Bonnet Guild – a non-profit organisation. All proceeds raised from this year's festival will go towards ensuring the local festival will return next year for the whole community to enjoy once again.

**Anyone interested in helping, sponsoring, supporting or donating to this year's Festival should contact Acting President Jim Gordon via email: [info@stewartonbonnetguild.org](mailto:info@stewartonbonnetguild.org) For further information you can also visit [www.facebook.com/bonnetguild](http://www.facebook.com/bonnetguild)**

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# Dancers Flourish: Celebrating Progress at FitzPatrick

*From first steps to championship stages - a celebration of progress and passion*

The start of 2026 has been a season of growth, confidence and proud achievements for dancers at the FitzPatrick School of Highland Dancing. From beginners taking their first steps to seasoned competitors rising through the ranks, every dancer has shown that Highland dancing builds far more than technique - it nurtures resilience, discipline and the belief that you can achieve more than you ever thought possible.



## Milestones Worth Celebrating

This year has seen dancers embrace new challenges with enthusiasm.

Lyla Smith finished her Primary status on a high, earning her first-ever first places before moving into Beginners. After a standout year, Paige Roxburgh progressed into Novice, while others stepped confidently into Intermediate and Premier categories.

At the top level, Premier dancers Georgia Neil and Ineke Yates opened their season with strong, polished performances. Anna Pennington delivered one of the school's standout results, winning the overall trophy in her final Intermediate competition with five first places and a second.

A major highlight came when Anna and Ineke represented the school at the Confined Ayrshire Championships. For Anna, it was both her first Championship and her Premier debut - a huge leap taken with confidence. Both dancers earned judges' placings and valuable experience.

## Looking Ahead to a Busy Summer

Excitement is building for the Highland Games season, including Ardrossan and Dundonald. Newcomer Maisie Haddow is especially



looking forward to Ardrossan, where she will compete after just six months of dancing - a remarkable achievement.

## Confidence Growing in Every Class

Beyond competitions, the studio remains a place where dancers grow in confidence, fitness and self-belief. New Beginners have joined this year, each discovering the joy of mastering challenging steps and the pride that comes with progress. Watching a shy dancer gradually lift their head and dance with confidence remains one of the most rewarding parts of teaching.



## Sharing Dance with the Community

The school is also preparing for a busy calendar of performances, including Kilmours Gala Day on 28 June and a special appearance at Dean Castle on 6 June, inspired by the global success of Outlander and its celebration of Scottish culture.

## New Dancers Always Welcome

Classes continue throughout the summer, and dancers of all ages are warmly invited to join. Whether you're looking for fun, fitness, performance opportunities or competition, there's a place for everyone at the FitzPatrick School of Highland Dancing.

## Free trial classes available

E: [FitzpatrickHDS@gmail.com](mailto:FitzpatrickHDS@gmail.com)

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 FitzPatrick School of Highland Dance

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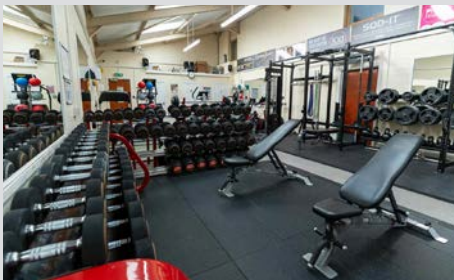
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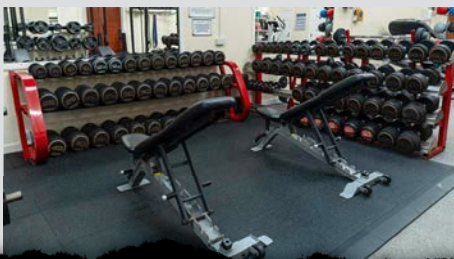


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# First Stop Ben Lomond, Next Stop Barcelona....?

Stewarton Annick 2012s took on a challenge over the May Bank Holiday, climbing Ben Lomond to raise funds for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to compete at the Barcelona Cup next Easter.

The climb formed a key part of the team's fundraising efforts, helping to cover travel and accommodation costs so every player can take part. For many of the young footballers, it was their first experience tackling a Munro, making the achievement even more significant and memorable.

The team currently competing in the NASA U14s Liam Morrison league have been fund raising for several years to make their dream a reality.

Team Manager Andy Warner said this latest challenge reflected the core values they aim to install in the players: resilience, teamwork and determination with players supporting each other every step of the way.

The group of 13 players, 5 coaches, 8 parents & siblings and 2 dogs set off at 8.30am. The weather was perfect with dry conditions and temperatures of around 8degC. They chose the difficult route with the much steeper incline to ensure the toughest challenge. The adults in the group soon regretted this decision after only 45 mins of the ascent! It was tough going and the group got spread out quickly with the players pushing on in front



# Stewarton Annick 2012s Climb Ben Lomond

and some of the coaches and parents struggling at the rear.

This route did reward the group with spectacular views of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs.

Through lots of determination and team encouragement the last of the group reached the summit in around 3 hours and 15 minutes with a group of the players first to the top in 2 and 30 minutes. A great achievement and with the clear skies, the views were well worth the effort.

Reaching the summit marked a proud moment for the team, bringing them one step closer to their goal of representing their community on an

international stage in Barcelona.

The team would like to thank all the family, friends and members of the local community who have sponsored the players and donated to the Just Giving page. Parents noted that the experience had already helped the boys understand the importance of hard work and commitment.

If you would like to show your support and donate to the team, please scan the QR code to reach the Just Giving page.



# Kilmaurs Photographic Club invites you to join our summer outings.

Kilmaurs Photographic Club's most recent competition at the end of March was our biggest event of the year. This annual competition gives our members the chance to exhibit their best photographs taken in the preceding season. The images presented are always of very high quality, some are shown as prints, and some as digital images projected on a screen. There are both colour and black and white photographs on show, and they are across all genres of photography, including landscape, portraiture, sport, wildlife, architecture, still life, street scenes, and concert images. There is an external judge who critiques and marks all the images individually.

The winner of the best image presented on the night was "Red Kite" by Martin Hancock, while top place in this year's league, and winning the Robinson League Cup was Derek Orr.

A selection of high scoring photographs, including Martin Hancock's "Red Kite" and several by Derek Orr and others are attached.

Over the last weekend in March, the club photographed the "Tartan Warrior" cross-country obstacle races at Wheatrig Farm, in Kilmaurs. This annual event attracts several hundred runners from all over the UK and abroad. Some runners are highly competitive and competing in the British Obstacle Sports' Championships. There are also many fun runners of all ages, with some raising money for a variety of charities, including a large group linked to the Ayrshire Hospice. Some of our images from this event are also attached.

Our indoor season (meetings are usually held on Monday evenings) has now ended. However it is replaced over the summer months by a series of outings, some of which are in the evening and some during the day. At each there will always be someone on hand to offer advice and tips to anyone new to photography. We are a friendly bunch, so feel free to give our secretary a call if you wish to come along. Car share is usually also available if needed.

Further information on any of these activities can be obtained by a phone call to 07720 416427 or by email to [secretary.kilmaurpc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.kilmaurpc@gmail.com) Other information on all aspects of the club can be found on the club website [www.kilmaursphotographicclub.co.uk](http://www.kilmaursphotographicclub.co.uk)



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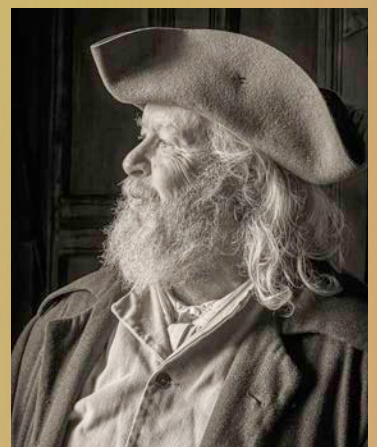
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Flameout



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Yawning Hippo



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Tartan Warrior



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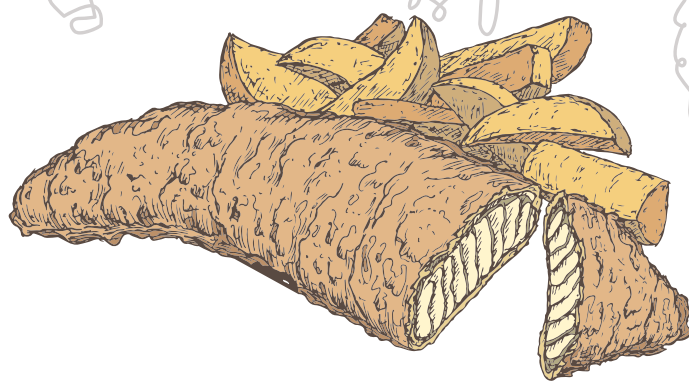


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# Parkinson's in the Community

The Monday morning coffee at the Hub in Stewarton have been busy as per usual with the organising of the fundraising event that took place last month



This would not have been possible without Gary Lochery and his willingness to cycle round Millport 3 times, thanks to your generosity who have supported this giving page, next time will provide the total received on donations

We remain committed to providing information, connection, and support whenever possible. come and enjoy coffee, tea, and a cake together.

We had the opportunity to have a visit from Lillian Jones MP where we had a good chat about the concerns some of us with Parkinsons had. We also had a visit from the Strydar support team to give us a demonstration on how the glasses can help some people with mobility issues

## Scientific Focus & Research Updates

The goal of attending the World Parkinson's Congress in Phoenix, Arizona, is here. Isaac will be volunteering at the event, assisting the organisers wherever needed. This unique congress brings together doctors, researchers, patients, and technology innovators from around the world under one roof. Hopefully this will bring some more news on technology and medication to prevent or even stop PD. This event will take place from the 23 May till the 28 May.

## Focused ultrasound thalamotomy

Almost a year on since Issacs operation, he has still not had any tremors.

## Activities & Wellbeing

Table tennis sessions at the Rose Reilly remain popular, with growing attendance every Friday from 3:00–5:00pm. Karate sessions are currently on a Thursday from 11.30 till 12.30, the plan is to continue for now but we need more willing participants , come forward and join us to beat apathy.

## Technology & Innovation

Strydar glasses, designed to assist walking for people with Parkinson's, are currently under development. For more information, please contact me directly or visit the Strydar Parkinson's Walking Glasses Facebook page.



## Community Funding & Support

Here we would like to thank the Ayrshire Parkinsons support group that kindly donated £475.00 for the running of the information hub.

We are actively seeking support from local businesses to help sustain and grow our initiatives. Without this backing, the Monday coffee sessions would not be possible.

We are also looking to formalise the Monday morning information group with the aim to be able to manage better . We have also been offered a gazebo to help promote our work at future outdoor community events donated by the Bonnet Guild, we really appreciated this generous donation.



## Support Is Available

A Parkinson's diagnosis can mean facing an uncertain and challenging future- but you are not alone. Everyone's journey is different, and support is available.

**You are welcome to visit the Community Hub in Stewarton on Mondays from 11:00 am to 12:00 pm, or contact me directly:**

**E: [escoces177@gmail.com](mailto:escoces177@gmail.com) T: 07731 770086**



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# Kilmaurs Show 2026



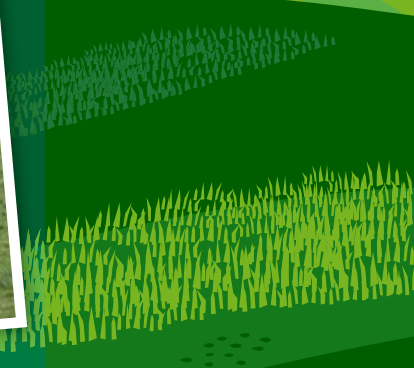
**K**ilmaurs Agricultural Show was held on Saturday 18th April at Scott Ellis Playing Fields in Kilmarnock. Although the weather was a little unpredictable, there was still a great turnout of cattle, Clydesdale horses and dogs exhibited on the day. Pony jumping also returned to the show field this year and was well supported by young riders. Credit must be given to all competitors for the immaculate presentation of all their exhibits, of which they should be immensely proud.

Four judges were kept busy all morning with all the entries in the industrial tent and they had their work cut out judging the best poster in our school poster competition where local school children had designed a Commonwealth Games poster. To keep the kids entertained, we had a scavenger hunt, Owl Magic, face-painting, hobby horse racing, beat the goalie and hotly contested races, not forgetting the free ice cream! Trade stands and stalls throughout the field gave added interest to the day- the Hawhill Alpacas were a huge hit! The day finished off with a well-supported raffle. A full list of all our prize-winners is given below.

Thank you to all of our advertisers, sponsors, trade stands, judges, those who gave donations and the families who came along and made the day such a huge success!

## All the winners...

Name of Cup	Name	Address
HALLBARNES CUP + BOCM Pauls Tankard Best Dairy Animal in Show	Montgomerie	Newlands
KIRKWOOD PERPETUAL CUP Best Friesian or Holstein-Friesian	Montgomerie	Newlands
CHAPMAN & FREARSON LTD CUP Best Friesian Type Cow or Quey	Montgomerie	Newlands
BUSBIE MAINS TROPHY Friesian Derby	Montgomerie	Newlands
SOUTHHOOK PERPETUAL CUP Best Friesian Calf	Cochrane	Nethercraig
R HOWIE & SONS LTD CUP Best Ayrshire Animal	Cochrane	Nethercraig
TOWERLANDS PERPETUAL CUP Best Ayrshire Calf	Cochrane	Nethercraig
SOUTHHOOK CHALLENGE TROPHY Best Beef Animal in Show	Duncan Thomson	Cairnbog, Kilsyth
NEWLANDS CUP Best Calf in Show	Cochrane	Nethercraig
ANNANDALE TROPHY Most Points	Smith	High Langmuir
CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS	S. Ritchie	c/o Hall Farm
NEWTONHEAD CUP Most Points in Industrial and Baking	Jean McFadzean	
McMURRAYS Ltd TROPHY Foursome Competition	Jean McFadzean	
BEST OVERALL EXHIBIT (Senior) Industrial and Baking	Elaine Bryson	
MOST POINTS IN JNR SECTION 6 years and under	Lexi & Lily Wilson	
MOST POINTS IN JNR SECTION 7 -10 years	Olivia Wilson	
MOST POINTS IN JNR SECTION 11 -15 years	Emily Smith & Ellis Shepherd	
MOST POINTS IN THE NOVELTY CLASSES	Olivia Wilson, Vickie Shepherd	Kuba Dziewiecki Kirsty Allan
Kilmarnock Pet Shop TROPHY Best Dog in Show	Linda McAlpine with Harper	
Reserve Best Dog or Bitch in Show	Rita McSherry with Annie	
Best Puppy in Show	Kirsty Torbet with Rani	
75th Trophy Best Junior Exhibit	Emily Smith	
Winning School Poster	P1-3 Isla Keegan P4-7 Shay Wade, Kilmaurs PS	
Auchengree Trophy Champion Clydesdale	Tulloes Monte Carlo - S.Ritchie	c/o Hall Farm
Young Handler	Freya Campbell	





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# Stewarton Allotments Society Open Day.

Jim Anderson aims to win big again at this year's Stewarton Allotments Society Open Day.



*Sowing the seeds of success... Jim's hoping for another triumphant year*

He's the reigning sunflower champion and this year's seeds are already in the soil ready to burst into life and give him another monster plant.

Jim's winner last year was almost 12 foot tall when it took first prize and then carried on growing.

So what's the secret of his success: "Good compost and a bit of blood and bone fertiliser. I water the seeds when I plant them then leave them until they come through.

"They're kept in the warmth of the greenhouse until they're about a foot high then they're planted out after the last frost.

"Then it's in the lap of the gods to see whether I've timed it right for the Open Day.

"It says 'Giant' on the packet, but we'll just have wait and see."

There's stiff competition among the sunflower growers with sometimes only millimetres of difference in height between the plants.

Jim took up the sunflower challenge after one of the plot holders next to him grew some giants: "I thought if he can grow them as big as that then so can I." He certainly has and he won't give up his crown easily.

This year's Open Day is on Saturday August 8.

Although the sunflowers will be one of the highpoints there will be lots of other attractions.

The gardeners are sowing and growing to provide fresh produce for the fruit and veg and plant stalls. The jams and preserves are being made and the bakers are getting ready to serve up the tasty treats Open Day visitors love.

The Allotment Society's Open Day has become one of the most popular events of Stewarton's summer. Visitors come back year after year. They wander round the plots, admire what's been grown, have great chats with the gardeners, then sit down for a cup of tea and cake or even a juicy burger from the barbecue.

It's a great day out and it's free to get in and free to park.

***Make a date in your diary!***



*Jim is dwarfed by last year's winning sunflower*

## Allotments Grant Award

Stewarton Allotments Society will find it much easier to keep its site looking smart following a generous grant from Stewarton Initiatives.

The award of £589.98 paid for a brand-new petrol lawnmower and a strimmer just in time for summer.

Allotments Society Chair Brian Slaughter said: "We can't thank Stewarton Initiatives enough. Our new pieces of kit will make it much easier for us to keep our site clean and tidy and be a credit to the town."

Stewarton Initiatives runs a community lottery which raises funds to reinvest in the community. It is drawn once a month with a top prize of more than £1,300, as well as second and third prizes of £100 and £50.

For more information on the lottery and how it supports Stewarton go to [www.stewartoninitiaves.com/lottery](http://www.stewartoninitiaves.com/lottery)



*Stewarton Initiatives treasurer Adam Lyon (left) after handing over the cheque and happy committee members of Stewarton Allotments Society: Eileen Stewart, Liz Leyden, Carol Nixon, Isobel Gray and Brian Slaughter*

# Never a better time to join



The sun is shining, and the course beckons! Whether you're new to the game, looking for a social scene, or planning your next group outing, Caldwell Golf Club is the perfect place to enjoy golf and great company. We have a full range of membership options to suit every lifestyle, email [secretary@caldwellgolfclub.net](mailto:secretary@caldwellgolfclub.net) for more information.

## Ladies into Golf

Golf is no longer just a man's game - more women than ever are discovering the joy, challenge, and social side of the sport. Our "Ladies into Golf" programme is designed to welcome beginners and returners alike, with friendly coaching, relaxed sessions, and a warm, encouraging atmosphere. It's the perfect opportunity to try something new, get active, and make lasting friendships on and off the course. To learn more, contact [proshop@caldwellgolfclub.net](mailto:proshop@caldwellgolfclub.net)



## LADIES FANCY GIVING GOLF A GO?

'LADIES INTO GOLF' SESSIONS ARE BACK - PERFECT FOR BEGINNERS OR THOSE LOOKING TO BUILD A BIT MORE CONFIDENCE ON COURSE!

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## Visiting Groups

If you're planning a group golf day, look no further than Caldwell Golf Club. Our picturesque course offers a rewarding round for all levels, complemented by renowned hospitality in the clubhouse. With home baking, custom packages, and a welcoming team ready to make your day special, visiting parties keep coming back—for good reason. For bookings and enquiries, contact Elaine at [clubhousemanager@caldwellgolfclub.net](mailto:clubhousemanager@caldwellgolfclub.net)



## 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

From funeral teas and birthday celebrations to private parties and gatherings, our newly refurbished function suite offers a beautiful, adaptable setting. Need transport? Ask about our bus package for a stress-free journey home.



For clubhouse and event enquiries, contact Elaine at 01505 850366





**“As a parent you can spend the whole day being climbed on by your little one but still feel like you’re on your own.”**

That’s Mary, one of the mums at Thrive Tots.

Looking after young children can leave you feeling lonely or isolated.

Jono, a new dad, says, “It can be frustrating when you’re in a different place to your friends. Your life’s changed completely”.

How can you make sure you’re getting the support you need?

Thrive is run by local people for local people and we’re all about providing **FREE** activities in Stewarton to help support physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health needs.



**BABY BEATS** and **THRIVE TOTS** - It’s always great to see parents bonding with their wee ones, making new friends and having lots of fun. Mary says, “What a great place to spend time with my baby and have conversations with other grown-ups.”

**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. Snacks are provided. We also hold a monthly peer support group. “The team are so welcoming and it’s a no judgement space at the end of the week to help relax and unwind.”

**WALK AND TALK** - our buggy friendly 45-minute health walk with a cuppa at the end. We meet outside the Cottage in John Knox church car park in the High Street on Fridays just after 10am to set off at 10.10am. There’s no need to book, just come along and introduce yourself to the hosts.

**BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT DROP-IN** - bring your wee one and join other mums and peer supporters for chat about all things parenting. Fridays, 12.30pm - 2pm in 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 craft activities, and build supportive relationships. We get together on the first Saturday of the month from 9.30am – 11am. “It’s good to hang out with other dads and tune into your children.” We also run community activities for dads to get involved in.



Our dads rolled up their sleeves and repainted an underpass in the Robertland last month. Great job lads!

**ROOTS & SHOOTS** is an exciting wee growing project caring for creation beside the Area Centre car park behind JK Church meeting every Thursday 10am till 12noon. We also keep an eye on the planters in Avenue Square.



## 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 items and support projects in the local community. We were delighted to work on new storage chests for The Jogs in Kilmaurs. We are open Wednesday and Thursday mornings with evening groups too.

Thrive Stewarton is an initiative of John Knox Parish Church and the South West Presbytery to reach out and serve our community. Our thanks to the organisations and individuals that help us keep activities free so everyone can take part.



If you would like to support us financially with a one off gift or standing order please see [www.thrivestewarton.org/giving](http://www.thrivestewarton.org/giving). Be sure to follow us @thrivestewarton for all the latest.

# Giving Care Workers Time to Care

## The Challenge

Across Scotland, thousands of residential care professionals face a daily reality: supporting vulnerable young people while drowning in administrative tasks. Incident reports, wellbeing logs and progress notes are duplicated across systems that don't communicate. When information sits scattered, managers struggle to spot patterns, compliance becomes a scramble and valuable insights get lost.

Geco Connect set out to solve this.

## A Different Approach

Geco Connect emerged from a simple question: what if we could turn everyday observations into meaningful insight without adding to the burden?

Developed through a UKRI-funded Knowledge Transfer Partnership with the University of Strathclyde, Geco Connect was shaped alongside care workers and managers dealing with these challenges daily. The platform uses AI-powered technology to support staff processes by organising information, aligning it with Scotland's wellbeing frameworks and transforming scattered notes into actionable insight.

**Built for Care.  
Backed by Outcomes.**



## Key Benefits

-  **Time reclaimed**  
Record information once, freeing hours for direct support instead of duplicate entry.
-  **Earlier intervention**  
Dashboards highlight wellbeing trends, enabling targeted support before issues escalate.
-  **Better collaboration**  
Shared information enables coordinated support across staff and leadership.
-  **Confident compliance**  
Regulatory obligations met naturally through daily workflows.
-  **AI-supported processes**  
Technology strengthens staff capability without replacing the human touch.

## The Road Ahead

Geco Connect is expanding across Scotland's residential care sector with growing interest from organisations seeking to transform how they evidence outcomes and support young people. Future development will deepen intelligent insights and scale across the UK and beyond.

The core mission remains unchanged: ensuring every young person's journey is visible, understood and supported while giving professionals tools that enhance their vital work. Geco Connect proves that the best solutions give us back what matters most: time, clarity and focus.

## Partners



[geco-connect.co.uk](https://geco-connect.co.uk)



# Jam Street School of Dance: A Season Bursting with Energy, Achievement and Big Moments

It's been a whirlwind of a term at Jam Street School of Dance, filled with hard work, huge smiles and unforgettable experiences for our dancers, families and staff. From London adventures to exam success and everything in between, our young people have truly shone.

## Spring Kicked Off With Our Easter Camp

We started the season with our lively Easter Camp - three days of dancing, creating, laughing and building confidence. Our camps are all about giving young people a space to move, express themselves and feel part of something special, and this year's group brought every ounce of energy.



## London: Three Days of Training, Theatre and Memories

A major highlight was our three day trip to London, where our dancers trained at the legendary Pineapple Dance Studios and BASE. They pushed themselves in professional level classes, explored the sights, braved the London Dungeons, and experienced the magic of a West End show. Trips like this are more than just training - they're about opening doors, building friendships and showing our dancers what's possible.

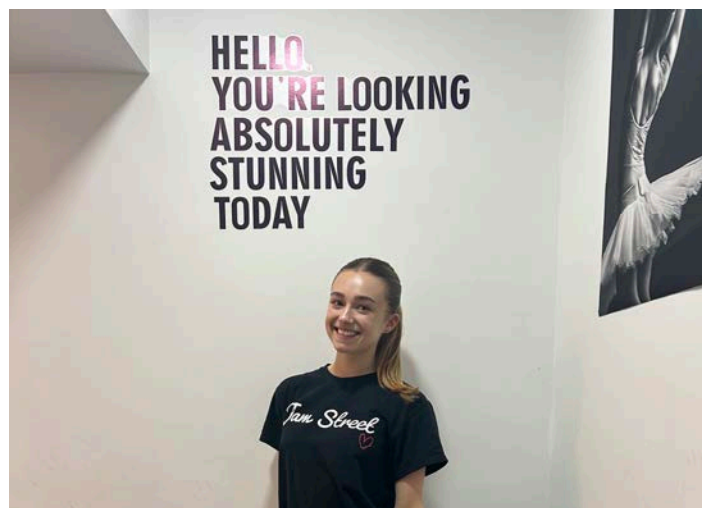


## Celebrating Neve Dawson

We are incredibly proud of Neve Dawson, who has secured a place at Glasgow Clyde College to begin her professional dance journey. Neve has grown up with Jam Street, and watching her take this next step is a joy for all of us.

## Keeping Our Dancers Safe

Our teaching team also completed their updated First Aid training this term. Safety is at the heart of everything we do, and we're committed to ensuring every dancer is supported, protected and cared for in every class and rehearsal.



## DanceFest 26: Our Dancers Light Up the Stage

Our pupils took to the stage at DanceFest 26, performing with confidence, passion and the trademark Jam Street spirit. Their teamwork and commitment were clear to see, and we couldn't be prouder of how they represented our school.



## NPA 4 & National 5 Practical Exams

While most of our photos this term capture life at Jam Street, we're also celebrating the achievements of our NPA 4 and National 5 Dance students, who completed their final practical exams. Their dedication, discipline and creativity have been outstanding.



## 8 Shows in 7 Days - And Then... New Pupils Welcome!

We're now gearing up for one of our biggest challenges yet - 8 shows in 7 days at the end of May. Our dancers are working incredibly hard, and we can't wait to showcase their talent and commitment.

Once the curtain falls on show week, we'll be opening enrolment for new pupils for the next term. Whether your child is brand new to dance or ready to take the next step, Jam Street is a place where they'll be welcomed, supported and encouraged to shine.

For more info contact [jamstreetschoolofdance@outlook.com](mailto:jamstreetschoolofdance@outlook.com)



# 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



## Dance Classes & Events for Children & Adults

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Beith



### Jam Street Dance Centre

35 Lainshaw Street, Stewarton KA3 5BY

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

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



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  

# Proud Family Finish and Fundraising Success at Manchester Marathon

There were plenty of emotions at the Manchester Marathon on Sunday, and none more so than at the finish line, where Alasdair surprised even himself by crossing it hand in hand with his daughter, Hope, in a time of 5 hours 19 minutes.

Going into the race, Alasdair had fully expected to be closer to the six-hour mark and admitted he was really chuffed with the result, especially considering everything the family has been dealing with lately. Training had been far from ideal, with no proper runs or preparation for almost a month beforehand.

The effort took its toll. By Monday, walking was a challenge, and Hope had even lost a toenail along the way. Despite that, the pair were already half joking about the possibility of signing up for another marathon.

The family are no strangers to marathon weekends. After spectating at London last year, when the boys took part, and again at Manchester this year, Alyson has joked that she has had enough of navigating busy cities on marathon day, admitting it is a challenge in itself. That said, there is still hope she might be persuaded again in the future.

There was also pride for the wider family on the day. A special mention went to Brooke, partner of their son Kane, who also completed the marathon and raised over £1,500 for Breast Cancer Now. Her run was in honour of her mum, Alison, who beat cancer this year, an achievement celebrated by everyone.

Alongside Brooke's efforts, fundraising continued closer to home. With the help of a local butcher's raffle and a JustGiving page, a total of £2,100 was raised for Ardgowan Hospice, who cared for Alyson's brother, John, prior to his passing a couple of weeks ago.

When the race became tough, Alasdair and Hope simply focused on who and what they were doing it for. Remembering that kept them going through the hardest miles. The run was dedicated to Elaine Kelly and John Kelly, never far from their thoughts every step of the way.





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# Stewarton Woodland Action Trust (SWAT)

## Following the Water: A Peaceful Walk on Stewarton's Doorstep

Stewarton is fortunate to have nature threaded quietly through the town, and one of the simplest ways to enjoy it is by taking a walk alongside the Annick Water. These gentle riverside paths and nearby green spaces offer a welcome escape — one that feels reassuringly close to home.

Leaving the main streets behind and heading towards the water, the change is subtle but immediate. The sound of traffic fades, replaced by birdsong and the soft movement of water over stones. Trees line the banks in many places, offering shade in summer and a sense of shelter year round. Even a short walk can feel like a pause from the pace of daily life.



*Old Weir*

Annick Water, the largest tributary of the River Irvine, has shaped Stewarton for centuries, and walking beside it gives a quiet sense of continuity. In some places, the path opens out with clear views across the water; in others, it narrows and winds through more wooded sections where moss, ivy, and old stonework, including the remains of the Lainshaw Estate weir, can be seen. This weir once fed water to Lainshaw House stables and laundry, and, further west, the bridge stone piers of the original Stewarton to Irvine road are clearly visible. These structures, and the numerous road bridges and impressive rail viaduct add character to the area, and offer walkers a connection to the local history of Stewarton. A recent discovery whilst SWAT volunteers were clearing thick undergrowth, was a large grinding stone which may have formed the main focus point of the estate mill. SWAT are considering recovering this artifact and displaying it in due course. Seasonal changes also bring constant variety — spring growth, summer greenery, autumn colour, and the stark beauty of winter.



*Lainshaw House*



*Rail Viaduct*



*Kilmaurs Road Bridge*

routines — a familiar dog walk, a quiet solo wander, or a relaxed stroll with family. The routes are generally easy, making them accessible to walkers of all ages and abilities, and their informal nature means there's no pressure to plan or perform — just walk. What makes these local nature routes special is how little effort they require. No long journey, no special equipment, and no need to set aside a full day. They are there in all seasons, offering fresh air, movement, and moments of calm whenever they are needed.



*Old Stewarton to Irvine Road Crossing*

## Stewarton Woodland Action Trust (SWAT)

A group of approximately 20 local volunteers of varied backgrounds from the Stewarton area who's primary aim is the maintenance and enhancement of the local woodlands, associated paths and bridleways in and around Stewarton, to allow year-round use.

*SWAT is a registered charity - Charity No SCO35744. SWAT meets every second and fourth Sunday of the month and welcomes new volunteers whatever your skills. For further information contact 07734 308244.*



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# DUNLOP GALA DAY

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Free Shuttle Bus from sq. square, Stewarton every 30mins from 10.30am

**Saturday 6th June 11:30am - 4:30pm**  
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## New Parade Route

### DUNLOP PHOTO COMPETITION THEME

## FAVOURITE PLACES

Choose from places you've been on holiday, places at home, at work, at classes, clubs, cafes, shops, museums, festivals... favourite places anywhere.

Fri 12th June: Hand in photos, printed A4, to the Conservatory Cafe between 11am and 2pm or arrange an earlier day that suits.

Cost to enter is £5 for three photos, free for children. Forms from the hall or from dunlopgallery24@yahoo.com.

Fri 19th June: Prize giving 7pm to 9pm. Prizes kindly donated by Idle Hands.

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# Stewarton Sparkles Again – BoozēBingo Delivers Another Night to Remember

With Stevie Lennon, Michael Smith, DJ Fergie and local promoter Chris Sharpe leading the charge from the outset, Stewarton once again enjoyed a standout night as BoozēBrunch brought the community together in style.

The atmosphere was electric as locals filled the venue in support of Stewarton Annick Girls, raising valuable funds while enjoying a brilliant mix of 90s and Noughties classics. From the first track to the final tune, the dancefloor stayed alive with laughter, energy and feel-good moments that captured everything BoozēBrunch is all about.

More than just a night out, this premier event continues to build a real sense of community spirit – creating memories, supporting local causes and giving people a reason to come together and celebrate right on their doorstep.

A special thank you also goes to Stereofunk, Kirsty @ Kick Salon, Meena's Indian Restaurant, Mind Body and Harmony, Lady Graze and Headquarters for their generous donation of prizes, helping make the night even more memorable.

The excitement continues with BoozēBrunch 3.0, landing back in Stewarton on Saturday 10th October, bringing back the sparkle once again.

For those who haven't experienced it yet – now's the time. Come on down, make a night of it and see why it's become such a talked-about event. And when the main event winds down, the party keeps going with the official after-party, "Throw Back", continuing at 6th Avenue.

It's a great, local night out packed with value, fun and surprises, and you won't be disappointed... just ask recent £500 cash winner, Linda Muirhead.

Good times, good vibes, and a community that knows how to celebrate.

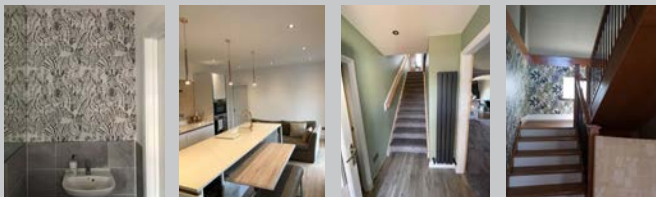


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# Stewarton Tennis Club

As the nights grow longer and the cherry blossoms on Corsehillbank Street burst into bloom each year, it marks the traditional start of a new season at Stewarton Tennis Club. This season, however, has begun with a significant transformation at the Stewarton courts. After more than 100 years of service, the club's original clubhouse was dismantled in less than ten minutes, making way for an exciting new chapter. Work on the replacement facility is progressing well, with the Ecobrix foundations now in place and steel frames beginning to shape the future home of the club.

The new building, being constructed by Ecobrix will provide a modern space for tennis to flourish while continuing to strengthen the strong sense of community that has been at the heart of the club for generations. The developments do not stop there. Committee members have also been hard at work transforming the unused area beyond Court Three into a new seating and viewing area, alongside additional storage facilities for club equipment. Thanks to support from the Stewarton Initiatives Lottery Fund, this once neglected patch of land has been turned into a welcoming social space for members and spectators alike.

On the court, Stewarton Tennis Club has made an impressive start to the Tennis Ayrshire Summer Leagues season, competing against clubs from across Ayrshire. This year, the club has entered three ladies' teams and three gents' teams, with early fixtures already producing several strong performances and memorable victories. While the season is still in its early stages, it has been encouraging to see so many members proudly representing the club and enjoying competitive tennis.

The coaching programme run by BL Tennis continues to produce excellent results among the club's junior players. This season has already seen two young players selected to represent the South of Scotland in County Cup competition. Georgia Murray earned selection for the 8U South of Scotland team and travelled to Aberdeen in April, where her team competed against North, West and East of Scotland sides, securing an impressive third-place finish.



Meanwhile, Sophie Murray represented the 10U South of Scotland team at the County Cup event in Morpeth in May. Sophie and her teammates faced strong opposition from the East of Scotland, Northumberland, and Durham & Cleveland teams, performing admirably in difficult conditions to finish fourth overall. These achievements are a testament to the continued growth of the coaching programme under the leadership, dedication, and hard work of head coach Louise.

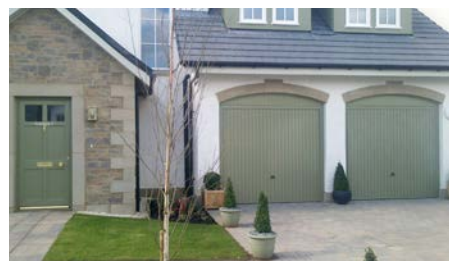
Beyond tennis, BL Tennis has also introduced the increasingly popular sport of pickleball to Stewarton. Coach Brian now runs well-attended sessions every Tuesday at the Rose Reilly Sports Centre, as well as evening sessions at The Grange in Kilmarnock. Pickleball has proven to be a fantastic year-round activity and has become particularly popular with members during the winter months. **Anyone interested in giving it a try is encouraged to contact the club at [stewartontennis@gmail.com](mailto:stewartontennis@gmail.com).**

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# Wake Up Your Garden for Spring

## Summer Planting in Scotland: What to Grow from May to July

Summer is one of the most rewarding times in the Scottish garden. From the first warm days of May through to the height of July, each month brings new planting opportunities, colourful displays and the promise of homegrown harvests. At McLaren's Nurseries Ltd, our family-run team knows that successful Scottish gardening is all about planting at the right time and working with the seasons.

### MAY: The Start of the Growing Season

May is when Scottish gardens truly come alive. The soil begins to warm, daylight hours increase dramatically and gardeners can finally start sowing and planting with confidence - although late frosts can still appear unexpectedly.

This is the perfect month for planting hardy vegetables outdoors such as carrots, beetroot, peas, lettuce, spinach and radishes. Hardy young plants including cabbage, broccoli and leeks can also be planted out after being hardened off.

May is also an excellent time for planting summer bedding, herbaceous perennials and shrubs to establish strong roots before the warmer months ahead. Tender plants such as tomatoes, courgettes and beans should still be protected or kept in greenhouses until frost risks ease later in the month. For colour, gardeners can plant flowers like cosmos,

dahlia's, gazania and sunflowers for vibrant summer displays and pollinator-friendly gardens.

### JUNE: Growth and Colour

By June, gardens are growing rapidly and the risk of frost has largely passed across most of Scotland. This is the month when tender crops can finally be planted outdoors safely, including tomatoes, courgettes, Brussel sprouts, French beans and cabbage.

Containers, hanging baskets and patio displays begin to flourish in June, making it one of the busiest months for seasonal planting. Regular watering and feeding become increasingly important as temperatures rise and plants put on strong growth.

#### *June is also ideal for planting:*

- Summer bedding plants
- Perennials
- Herbs
- Climbers and roses
- Wildlife-friendly plants for bees and butterflies

At McLaren's Nurseries Ltd, June is filled with colour as thousands of summer plants reach their peak, helping gardeners create vibrant displays throughout the season.

### JULY: Maintaining the Summer Garden

July is often the height of the gardening season, with borders full of colour and vegetable gardens beginning to produce regular harvests. While

much of the focus shifts towards maintenance and enjoying the garden, there is still plenty to plant.

Fast-growing crops such as salad leaves, beetroot, carrots and radishes can continue to be sown for late summer and autumn harvests. July is also an excellent time for planting autumn-flowering perennials, shrubs and container plants while the soil remains warm.

Deadheading flowers regularly encourages continuous blooming, while feeding hanging baskets and containers helps maintain strong displays throughout the summer.

July is also when many gardeners begin planning ahead - choosing shrubs, trees and hardy perennials that will provide structure, colour and interest for seasons to come.

### Growing with the Scottish Seasons

Gardening in Scotland comes with its challenges, from unpredictable weather to cooler temperatures, but it also creates strong, resilient plants and beautiful seasonal displays. At McLaren's Nurseries Ltd, our family-run nursery has spent decades growing quality plants suited to Scottish conditions, helping gardeners enjoy success throughout the summer months.

Whether you're sowing your first seeds, filling containers with colour or planning a full garden transformation, May through July is the perfect time to enjoy everything the growing season has to offer.



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## Gardening the Scottish Way

Scottish gardening always comes with challenges - late frosts, heavy rain and strong winds - but it also produces some of the toughest, most resilient plants. That's why locally grown stock is so important.

McLaren's Nurseries prides itself on producing plants that are grown in Scottish conditions, making them well suited to thrive in gardens throughout the country.

**WE ALSO HAVE A HUGE SELECTION OF POTS!**



## Tropaeolum: A Bright and Beautiful Garden Favourite

Tropaeolum, more commonly known as Nasturtium, is a vibrant and easy-to-grow flowering plant loved by gardeners for its bold colours, trailing habit and versatility in the garden. Native to South and Central America, Tropaeolums thrive in a wide range of conditions and are especially valued for adding a splash of colour from summer through to autumn.



Available in shades of fiery orange, deep red, golden yellow and soft cream, these cheerful flowers work beautifully in borders, hanging baskets, containers and cottage-style gardens. Both bush and trailing varieties are available, making them ideal for everything from ground cover to cascading displays.

One of the most appealing features of Tropaeolum is that it is entirely edible. The flowers and leaves have a peppery flavour similar to rocket, making them a popular addition to salads and summer dishes.

Tropaeolums are also fantastic for pollinators, attracting bees and beneficial insects into the garden, while their quick-growing nature makes them perfect for beginner gardeners and families looking for easy seasonal colour.

Easy to grow from seed and tolerant of poorer soils, Tropaeolums truly earn their place as one of the most rewarding plants in the summer garden.

**McLaren's Nurseries, Lochlibo Road, Uplawmoor, Barrhead, Glasgow, G78 4DN**

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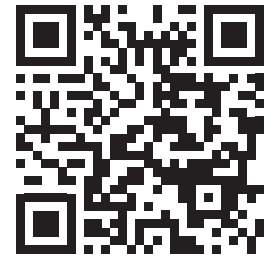
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# Stewarton Beerfest back and bigger than ever!



SCAN FOR TICKETS!



**G**et ready to raise a glass with your neighbours! The Stewarton Beerfest is officially back and bigger than ever, returning to the magnificent Magbiehill Park on Saturday, August 1st, 2026.

Following the incredible turnout at last year's event, we're ready to do it all again. This is more than just a festival; it's a celebration of our local community coming together. The best part? Every single penny raised goes directly back into the running of Stewarton Annick Amateur Football Club. Your good time helps keep local grassroots football thriving for players of all ages in our town.

What to expect:

**A Taste of Scotland:** Get ready to enjoy a fine selection of Beers, Cocktail's, Gin, Vodka and many more excellent craft refreshments.

**Street Food Feast:** A variety of mouthwatering local food vendors will be on-site to keep you fuelled throughout the day.

**Live Vibes:** We've got a fantastic lineup of live music to keep the energy high and the atmosphere buzzing from start to finish.

Whether you're a craft beer enthusiast, a fan of local street food, or just looking for an unforgettable day out with friends and family, this is the place to be. It's the perfect way to support your local club while enjoying the best our community has to offer.

Tickets are moving fast! Don't miss your chance to be part of the biggest community event of the summer.

**Secure your spot today: Scan the QR code or head over to: [buytickets.at/stewartonunited/20899](http://buytickets.at/stewartonunited/20899)**

Let's make this a record-breaking year for the club. We can't wait to see you all at Magbiehill Park on Saturday August 1st!



## Dear Parents: A Lesson from Our Children

**I**'ve learned a lot from children over the years: the scared, worrying, confused, sad, lonely, silent, fidgety, distrusting, giggly, furious and curious children who have trooped into my therapy room. A small number have had terrible things happen to them, and I'm amazed that this child of 6 is still standing, still in school, still smiling. Many of my young clients have experienced something complex: an unexpected family loss, acrimonious family breakup, serious illness, a chronically ill sibling or are struggling at school. Some children are 'simply' different but in the playground this difference can be very costly.

The children I've worked with are unique, and I am often captivated by them. They've made me work hard, slow down, wonder, rediscover humility, laugh and worry about the way of the world. But do you know what all these children without exception often wanted to communicate about? What was so important to them?

Friendship or, at the least, acceptance. Why? Because it is crucial to survival. Yes, there are solitary children – sometimes neurodiverse – who like being on their own. Yes, there are children who really want just one good friend, but out in that school playground, football field, park or in online games, every child needs the safety of their peers' acceptance. Your child needs to know they belong.

So Dear Parents, for the sake of your children's mental health, please encourage the tricky qualities they need for such acceptance:

- Being themselves yet co-operating (a tough balancing act)
- The self-control needed to take turns - not being too 'bossy'.
- Mostly following the rules, and winning and losing with grace.
- Defending themselves when attacked but knowing the difference between intentional hurt and unintentional.


This for me over the last 12 years is a vital lesson I've learned from our children: finding friends and acceptance in the playground is crucial.



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# The Stewarton Annick Success Story: Building a Football Family

In the heart of Stewarton, a remarkable community is thriving. Stewarton Annick Girls FC recently celebrated a major milestone, signing its 163rd player. While the numbers are impressive, the club's true heartbeat is its mission: fostering an inclusive "football family" where every girl belongs.

## More Than Just a Game

The club serves as a vital social bridge, connecting girls from various schools. By playing together, they build confidence and forge friendships long before the transition to secondary school. It's about teamwork and belonging that starts on the pitch and lasts a lifetime.

## A Community Effort

This year, the girls are hitting the field with extra pride. Thanks to sponsors Drumclog, Cookie Doon, ANC Plumbing, Cup & Saucer and Brunch, along with Chris Sharpe paring us with Boozèbrunch, every player now has home and away strips. Also, a new partnership with Geco ensures every girl sports a brand-new team jumper. The club is now focused on the future, raising funds for training equipment to sharpen technical skills.

## Save the Date: Boozèbingo Returns!

To support these goals, the legendary Boozèbingo team returns to Stewarton on Saturday, October 10th. It's a night of fun with a serious purpose: investing in the girls' development.

## Join the Squad

Space is available for new players in the U6, U8, and U10 age groups. Whether she's a budding pro or a total beginner, a warm welcome awaits.

Facebook: Stewarton Annick Girls FC Email: [stewartonannickgirls@gmail.com](mailto:stewartonannickgirls@gmail.com)



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# A NEW innovation by the Stewarton and District Historical Society.

**H**i everyone, some of you will know that the History Society now records our monthly talks which can also now be viewed from the comfort of your own home on your TV, computer, tablet and mobile phone if you did not manage to the lecture. This is available free of charge to our Society Membership. Membership costs £18.00 per year and with that you will get the above f.o.c together with a reduced entry fee (£1.00) to our monthly lectures which are held in the Stewarton Area Centre and at the close of each lecture, refreshments are served.

We also we provide a loan copy of each of our talks on DVD to local retirement homes etc. and to those who are house bound to view in the comfort of their own homes. If this service is of interest to you please make contact with us and we will arrange it all.

**If you are considering joining, membership application forms are available from the museum, or you can apply via our website at [stewartonhistoricalsociety.com](http://stewartonhistoricalsociety.com)**



## When Public Speaking Nerves Take Over

**Y**ou may have read some of the articles I've written in this magazine around mindset, coaching, confidence and personal development.

While coaching and leadership development remain a big part of what I do nationally and internationally, one thing you may not know is that I've also been a qualified Clinical Hypnotherapist since 1992.

One area where these two worlds often come together is public speaking. Recently, I worked with someone who was confident in their job and knew their subject well, but the thought of presenting to a group made them feel physically sick. Days before a presentation, their sleep would suffer, their confidence would drop, and they became convinced they would forget everything the moment they stood up to speak.

The challenge wasn't a lack of knowledge - it was what was happening in their thinking beforehand.

Using a combination of hypnotherapy and practical NLP techniques, we worked on calming the physical response, changing negative self-talk, and helping them visualise themselves speaking confidently.

A few weeks later, they delivered their presentation successfully and, more importantly, realised they were far more capable than they had believed.

Whether it's presenting at work, interviews, confidence, anxiety, vaping cessation or changing habits, our thoughts often shape how we perform.

Over the coming editions, I'll continue sharing practical tips around confidence, habits and behaviour change.

**Author: Fiona Campbell Arrand: Coach, Clinical Hypnotherapist and Author of Working with Trust**

[fiona@theprofessionalgrowthcompany.com](mailto:fiona@theprofessionalgrowthcompany.com)

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Fiona is a Clinical Hypnotherapist, NLP Master Practitioner & Trainer, Life and Business Coach and Author of **Working With Trust**. A member of the British Society of Clinical Hypnosis since 1992, she has helped thousands of clients create lasting personal and professional change



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# Kilmaurs SWI - Past and Present

The first of the Scottish Women's Rural Institutes was founded in 1917 in Longniddry, East Lothian, with a clear mission: to empower women, celebrate Scottish culture, and build strong local communities.

Catherine Blair, a passionate Suffragette, founded the organisation to help rural women gain skills, share knowledge, and support each other. It quickly became Scotland's largest women's movement, where women learn and share skills, take leadership, and positively impact their communities.

Today, as the SWI, we are proud of our heritage and delighted to remain women supporting women to live their best lives by experiencing lifelong learning, fun and lasting friendships.

The SWI is a place where women get together and thrive. They preserve Scottish traditions across a range of subjects and soft skills, including embroidery, baking, and basket-making. They also champion important causes like environmental sustainability and community work. The SWI provides a space for personal growth. Whether that's gaining confidence, finding your voice, or making lifelong friendships, all boosting wellbeing along the way.

Throughout its history, the SWI has been a powerful force for community development. It has focussed on preserving traditional Scottish crafts, celebrating heritage, and making positive impacts in women's everyday life.

Today, the SWI helps preserve endangered crafts like Straw Work, Shetland Lace, and Sanquhar knitting. Classes and workshops across Scotland blend traditional values with modern ideas. They build connections, share skills, and empower entrepreneurial women to shape their futures.



Our story is one of resilience, friendship, and growth. Women support each other in the SWI, contributing to Scottish life for over a century and inspiring new generations today.

The Kilmaurs group meet in Kilmaurs Community centre on the first Thursday of the month from September to May at 7:30pm until 9pm. If you are interested, come along and you will be made very welcome.



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# End of Hockey Season Celebrations



Stewarton Garnock Hockey Club are celebrating another fantastic season! Our 1s secured a top 5 finish in West District League 1, while the 2s held their place in WD League 3 following promotion last year.

To top it all off, at the end of April, we brought home the West District Plate after a closely fought final against Giffnock. Well done to Kate for picking up player of the match!

A huge congratulations as well to our players representing at District and Masters level this summer. Special mention to our younger members Zara and Farrah on their selection for the WD U15 squads, and to our more experienced players selected for their respective Masters squads – best of luck in your competitions over the summer!

If you'd like to give hockey a try, come along to our fun summer games nights!

Stewarton Academy pitch - Wednesdays, 7-8:30pm  
From 3rd June through to August

Check out our Facebook page @garnockhockeyclub for more details - we'd love to see you there! @pinkhatphotos

# THEY DID IT!

£1,775 raised and 23 miles of the Big Stride at the Kiltwalk completed. This is the same dedicated group who began Football Fans in Training and Weigh to Go back in January. Over the past 13 weeks, they have shown real commitment and determination to put themselves in this position. Seeing them cross the finish line together, while raising vital funds for The Killie Community, was truly special.

A huge congratulations to every single participant, as well as Lenny, who also completed the Kiltwalk on the day.

If you would like to recognise their efforts or support the cause they have raised funds for, donations can be made here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/ffit-kiltwalk-2026>

Thank you to everyone who has supported them along the way.

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<https://kilmarnockfc.co.uk/community/programmes/wellbeing/>



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# Joan's Angels' Choir



Joan's Angels Community Pop Choir is a relaxed, non professional choir open to anyone who enjoys singing for fun. We meet every fortnight on a Wednesday evening from 7:00pm to 8:30pm at John Knox Church, High Street, Stewarton.

There are no auditions and no pressure. We simply sing along to CDs, enjoy the music, and spend time together in a welcoming and supportive environment. The focus is on fun, wellbeing, and enjoyment, rather than performance or perfection.

If you are looking for a friendly group, love pop music, or just want a joyful way to unwind mid week, you would be very welcome to come along and give it a try.

For more information or to express interest, please contact Joan on 07525 157272.

*Keep Singing!*



# Ladies Charity Day

This year I am hosting my next Ladies Charity Day on Sunday 11th October, from 1:00pm to 5:00pm, at The Park Hotel, Kilmarnock.

Tickets are £20, which include a glass of bubbly on arrival and a delicious afternoon tea. The afternoon will feature Brian Taylor's clothes sale with amazing bargains, a fantastic raffle, and live singing from Joan's Angels Community Pop Choir.

Last year we welcomed nearly 300 women, and we are hoping for another great turnout this year. All proceeds are in support of an amazing cause, Cure Parkinson's.

Tickets are available from:

- Joan Scott  
Hairdressing,  
14 Main Street,  
Stewarton
- Contact Joan  
directly on  
07525 157272
- Or contact  
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Hotel,  
Kilmarnock

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# The Stewarton Connection Behind New Leadership Book

When leadership specialist, business coach and clinical hypnotherapist Fiona Campbell Arrand attended a business networking event at The Mill House in Stewarton, she did not expect it to play such an important part in the development of her first leadership book. Yet a conversation that evening with Suzanne Ulph, author coach and founder of The Curious Wolf Collective, became a key turning point.

Both Fiona and Suzanne live in Stewarton, which makes the connection even more special. What began as a local conversation grew into a professional collaboration that helped shape Working with Trust into the clear, practical and accessible business book it is today.

Fiona had already been developing a manuscript based on more than 35 years of work in leadership development and using NLP skills in business and coaching. She had strong ideas, practical frameworks and real leadership stories, but Suzanne helped her sharpen the message, strengthen the structure and keep the reader at the centre of the book.

That support continued through The Curious Wolf Collective, founded by Suzanne, which brings together experienced book coaches, editors, designers, layout specialists and self-publishing professionals. Together, they help authors create high-quality books while keeping their own voice and message.

At the heart of Working with Trust is one simple but powerful idea:



trust is built through everyday conversations, behaviours and decisions. The book explores how leaders can build and sustain trust, improve communication and create workplaces where people feel valued, confident and able to do their best work.

Fiona recently launched Working with Trust at an event in Glasgow, surrounded by colleagues, clients, friends and supporters.

From that first meeting in Stewarton to publication, this is a lovely example of local connection, collaboration and professional talent.

**Working with Trust by Fiona Campbell Arrand is available now on Amazon in Kindle, paperback and hardback.**



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The BBQ Hut will feature a central island BBQ/fire pit, bar area with bring-your-own-bottle option, toilet facilities, Smart TV and jukebox. It will cater for parties of up to 8 guests at a time, with bookings available through an online booking system.

We'll also be opening a small outdoor spa facility, including a 4-person sauna, ice bath, outdoor shower, changing facilities and a relaxing water feature with outdoor seating. We're also planning to add one or two extra features which are still to be confirmed.

Subject to planning approval, the spa facility will also be available to the general public through our online booking system.



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# East Ayrshire Young Musician of the Year 2026

Ten very talented young musicians took part in the Music Service's East Ayrshire Young Musician of the Year competition held at Stewarton Area Centre recently.

Competing in the final within the junior category were – Angus from Loudoun Academy (piano), Lucy from Stewarton Academy (voice), Kai from Doon Academy (electric guitar), Mariella from Kilmarnock Academy (voice) and Evie from Grange Academy (tenor horn) – and within the senior category – Alex from Loudoun Academy (guitar/ voice), Logan from Doon Academy (cello), Gregor from Stewarton Academy (percussion),

Neave from Kilmarnock Academy (voice) and Ethan from Grange Academy (piano).

The competition was adjudicated by Siobhan McAuley, Head of Instrumental Music from Clackmannanshire Council and David Munn, Director of Music from Sistema Scotland, while Mae Murray from the Music Education Partnership Group presented the awards. The standard was extremely competitive, and the judges had a very difficult task selecting the winners.

Mariella won the junior competition singing Alma del core and Vanilla ice cream, while Ethan won the senior competition playing Chopin's Premiere Ballade.

The junior runners up were – Angus and Evie while the senior runners up were – Gregor and Neave.

Dr Julie Carrie, Music Services Manager said: "The East Ayrshire Young Musician of the Year competition is one of the highlights of our year. The incredible talent of our young people never fails to impress, and I was really delighted to congratulate winners – Mariella and Ethan and runners-up – Angus, Evie, Gregor and Neave.

"Heartfelt thanks go to the judges Siobhan McAuley and David Munn, they really did have a tough job; the standard of performance was exceptional."



Ethan performing in the final



Gregor from Stewarton Academy



Junior winner Mariella from Kilmarnock Academy





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Ready to take flight from 100ft in the air? Places are very limited so please register your interest asap by emailing [aimee.king@hansel.org.uk](mailto:aimee.king@hansel.org.uk) or call 07841 436255.

Date: Sunday 16th August 2026

Registration Fee: £20

Minimum sponsorship: £200

Restrictions:

- Over 12 years old (12-16 years old must have parental consent)
- Over 35kg( 4.7 stone) in weight and under 120kg (18.8 stone)



## Winners at Stewarton Bowling Club!

Congratulations to the Stewarton winners at the Champion of Champions event held at Kilmaurs. Hugh Sharp claimed the Senior Singles title, while Ali Gilbert and David Bentley secured victory in the Pairs, a tremendous achievement.

Stewarton players also delivered strong performances across the competition. The rinks narrowly missed out on reaching the final by just two shots, while the triples were denied a place in the final after losing by a single shot on the last end. Scott Carline also performed well but was beaten in the final.

It was a massive collective effort from all Stewarton players involved, and everyone should be extremely proud.

A sincere thank you to Kilmaurs Bowling Club for hosting the event.



## STEWARTON FOODBANK



A really big thank you to all those who already support us with donations. You are doing an amazing job!

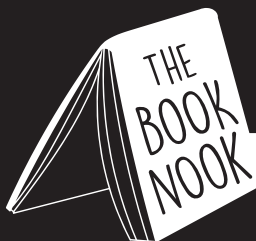
Stewarton Food Bank relies on donations and there's a simple way for you to help. When you shop online through easyfundraising, popular brands including eBay, Just Eat, Sainsbury's and thousands more will give us a donation - and it costs nothing extra.

Signing up is quick and easy, and every shop supports us.  
<https://join.easyfundraising.org.uk/stewarton-food-bank>

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# Kilmarnock RFC Girls and Ladies Section

It has been a busy and exciting few months for the Girls and Ladies section at Kilmarnock RFC, with plenty of positive events both on and off the pitch.

On 11th April, members of the U18 Girls squad and Ladies team attended the club awards dinner at the Fenwick Hotel, celebrating another fantastic season for the section.

**Try Time Thursdays**  
**Ladies and Girls of all ages welcome!**  
**Female Touch Rugby**  
 Every Thursday of July & August  
**7-8pm**  
**Completely FREE!**  
 KRFC, Queens Drive,  
 Kilmarnock, KA13XF  
**Contact: 07745320759**

Congratulations go to:

- U18s Coaches' Player of the Year – Lucy Shepherd
- U18s Players' Player of the Year – Heather Howe and Lucy Gunn
- U18s Most Improved Player of the Year – Erin Buchanan
- Female Honour Award – Emma Graham
- Ladies Rising Star Award – Shannagh Hynd

The section would like to extend a huge thank you to the Asda Kilmarnock Community Fund for their generous £500 grant, this will be used to purchase new training equipment for the girls' section. Fundraising efforts have also been a great success, with our bingo night held on 24th April raising an incredible £800 for the section. A massive thank you goes to everyone who attended, donated prizes and helped organise the evening.

On the 1st of May, the section proudly hosted a hugely successful Schools Come and Try Night, welcoming girls from primary through to secondary school age to the club. The evening was packed with enthusiasm, teamwork and fun as new players had the opportunity to experience rugby in a friendly and supportive environment. It was fantastic to see so many girls from across the local community coming along to give rugby a try, highlighting the continued growth of girls' rugby within the club and local schools.

There was fantastic success on the field for our U17 Girls team on 3rd May as they defeated Oban 48–21 to become West Youth Bowl champions. The squad produced an outstanding performance in the final, showing great teamwork, determination and skill throughout the match. Congratulations also go to Bethan McGarey on her selection for the U16s Glasgow Warriors squad. This is a fantastic achievement and a reflection of all the hard work and dedication she has shown throughout the season.

We are always on the lookout for new players of all ages and abilities, so if you have ever thought about trying rugby, now is the perfect time to get involved. Go on — give rugby a try!

For more information, contact Alison on 07745 320759.

Follow us on social media:

Facebook: Kilmarnock RFC Girls Section

TikTok: @krfc.girls.sections Instagram: @kilmarnock\_rugby\_girls

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**KILMARNOCK LADIES AND GIRLS RUGBY TRAINING!**

**MICROS GIRLS & BOYS MIXED: (P1-P3)**  
 TRAIN: WED 6.30 - 7.30PM  
 CONTACT: 07359 161093

**MINIS GIRLS & BOYS MIXED: (P4-P7)**  
 TRAIN: WED 6.30 - 8PM  
 CONTACT: 07359 161093

**GIRLS: (AGES 11-17)**  
 TRAIN: MON & WED 6.30-8PM  
 CONTACT: 07745320759

**LADIES 1XV: (AGES 18+)**  
 TRAIN: TUE 7-8.30PM  
 CONTACT: 07745320759

**AYRSHIRE MIXABILITY: (AGES 16+)**  
 TRAIN: MON 6.30 - 7.30PM  
 CONTACT: 07969739705

★ ALL TRAINING IS AT KILMARNOCK RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB ★

NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED FOR ANY AGE GROUP AND NEW PLAYERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

★ CONTACT US NOW FOR MORE INFO! ★

# Stewarton Annick 2014s

Our SAFC 2014s squad recently returned from an unforgettable football tour to Catalunya, expertly facilitated by inspiresport. It was a week packed with action, culture, and high-stakes drama that provided the young players with an experience they will cherish for a lifetime.

The itinerary was diverse and engaging, highlighted by the squad attending a tense relegation battle involving Tarragona v Real Murcia. The boys were treated to a thrilling finish, witnessing a dramatic last-minute winner that sparked wild celebrations in the stands. Beyond the professional game, the players sharpened their skills through specialized coaching sessions with the Catalan Federation and gained valuable international experience in competitive friendlies against local teams.

While the boys focused on their development, the parents and coaches enjoyed some well-deserved relaxation in the spa. Between visits to Barcelona's iconic Camp Nou and plenty of poolside fun, the tour was a perfect blend of football education and community bonding.

"A special mention must go to Ewen Logie, whose meticulous organisation ensured the trip ran seamlessly. His efforts allowed both the players and parents to simply turn up and fully immerse themselves in the experience."



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

# Continuing Our Successful Run of Events and Community at Lodge Thistle No. 127 Social Club



Lodge Thistle No. 127 Social Club continues to go from strength to strength, bringing the local community together through a growing calendar of well-supported and enjoyable events.

Recent highlights include our hugely successful Country Night, which saw a fantastic turnout and a lively atmosphere from start to finish. With great music, dancing, and plenty of familiar faces, the evening captured exactly what the Social Club is all about: good company, entertainment, and a welcoming space for everyone.

Hot on its heels was our Psychic Evening, another memorable night that drew strong interest from across the community. Guests enjoyed an engaging and thought-provoking

experience, with many commenting on the unique atmosphere and sense of connection throughout the evening. It was a brilliant example of how varied and inclusive our events programme remains.

Looking ahead, we are excited to be part of the wider community celebrations during the Stewarton Initiatives weekend. We will be hosting a Cheese and Wine Evening on Saturday, 25th July, offering a relaxed and sociable setting to enjoy a selection of cheeses and wines with friends and neighbours. It promises to be another fantastic evening and a great way to be involved in a weekend of local activity. Details have still to be confirmed, so follow our 127 Social Club Stewarton Facebook page for updates.

## One for the Gentlemen

An Evening With... Bobby Shaw & Iain Gordon, two greats of the speakers' circuit, promise a night filled with humour, raffles, auctions and a few drinks with friends. All tickets are available from Lodge members or online at <https://thistle127.com/meetings/events-at-127>.

Beyond our events, Lodge Thistle No. 127



Social Club also offers hall and bar hire for private functions, celebrations, and community gatherings. Interested in hosting your own event? Contact our friendly team to discuss availability and see how we can help make your occasion a success.

## Interested in Freemasonry?

If you are male and 18 plus, and would like to find out more about Freemasonry, we'd love to hear from you, and our members are always happy to have a chat, give you a tour of the lodge, and provide some information on our fellowship and good causes we support across Ayrshire and Scotland. **Drop us an email at [secretary@thistle127.com](mailto:secretary@thistle127.com)**



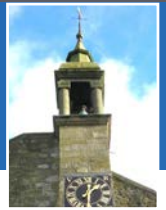
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# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH



## SUNDAYS

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

## MESSY CHURCH SUMMER HOLIDAY CLUB

This year the summer holiday club called 'A Jungle Adventure', will be held in the Church Hall from Monday 3rd August – Friday 7th August from 10.30am – 12.00noon. It is open to all children aged 3 – 12 years of age. Come along and have some jungle fun, we will be playing games, arts and crafts, songs, stories and there will be snacks. For further information & to register contact Lauren Hussain 07738689121

## FELLOWSHIP

There will be an all-age service in the Church on Sunday 9th August to hear all about the activities of the Holiday Club

## MESSY CHURCH

The last Messy Church before the schools break up will be on Saturday 30th May 2026 from 3.30 - 5.00pm, in the Church Hall it is open to nursery and primary school children. The children enjoy games, crafts, stories, songs and DVDs. Snacks & drinks are provided. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

## BIBLE STUDY & PRAYER GROUP

The last meeting of the Bible Study/Prayer Group will be on Monday 25th May and will then resume on Monday the 7th September. The group meets in the Church Hall on Monday afternoons from 1.30pm – 3pm. We would love to see more people attending.

## FRIENDSHIP & FAITH

Friendship & Faith will resume on Tuesday 25th August. The group meets on the last Tuesday of each month in the Church Hall 2pm -3.30pm. All adults are welcome to join us for chat, table games, quizzes, arts & crafts and refreshments, a chance to meet up with friends old and new, ending with a short act of worship, come and join in and bring a friend.

## THE GUILD

The Guild will resume their meetings in September. St Columba's Guild is a lively, friendly group which meet in the Church Hall every second Tuesday at 2.00pm, it is open to ladies AND gentlemen and new members will be made very welcome.

## TODDLERS GROUP

The last meeting of the Toddler group will be Thursday 25th June, the sessions starting again 20th August 2026. The Toddlers Group meet in the Church Hall on Thursday mornings from 10.00–11.30am and is open to children under nursery age, all will be welcome, parent, grandparent or guardian. The cost of each session is £1.50. For further information contact Margaret Smith on 01560 483266

## BADMINTON

The badminton group will resume their games on Wednesday 2nd September 2026. 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 refreshments, ladies and gentlemen of all abilities will be very welcome. Contact 07510677297 or 07740463421 for more information.

## FOOD BANK & EACHa

Please continue to make your kind donations in the boxes just inside the church. Thank you for your continuing support.

## 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 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.**

## What's been happening at St Columba's

### MESSY CHURCH

Founded in 2004, Messy Church continues to grow & develop.

Messy Church is an approach to Church that is family based, promoting values that are faith centred through crafts and activities caring for the environment & conservation.

We have an active group meeting once a month which is thriving. At our last meeting there were 26 young people accompanied by family members & we have recently formed a senior group who are working on conservation and environmental projects having recently completed making bird boxes. It is rewarding to see genuine interest from our young people.



### ECO CHURCH

As a church we have become a member of Eco-Congregation Scotland. This is a Christian environmental charity addressing climate change and conservation. At the moment we are working toward the Bronze Award.

St Columba's have already introduced recycling and are looking at various projects in all areas ranging from Sunday club, Messy Church, World Church to involvement with Fair Trade and local environmental groups along with community and global engagement.

It is early days and there will be opportunities for all members to be involved in some capacity as the project builds up.



### HOLIDAY CLUB 3rd – 7TH AUGUST 2026.

Come along for some Jungle Fun and make new friends open to 3 years to P7.

### SCOTTISH NIGHT - 27 MARCH 2026

Rev Alec Shuttleworth, his son and ensemble entertained those present in the Church Hall to songs, poems and stories and of course finished off with a traditional fish supper.

# JK CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

CHURCH AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

## GAME ON!

Our FREE 4 day holiday club inspired by the Summer of Sport for P1-P7 kids! Mon 13th - Thu 16th July, 10am - 12noon. With games, crafts, bible stories, messy challenges, and bad jokes! Get the kids booked in [johnknox.org.uk/holidayclub](http://johnknox.org.uk/holidayclub)

## 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.

## RENEW WELLBEING CAFÉ

Don't be isolated - our Renew at JK drop-in on Wednesdays in the church sanctuary is open for art, crafts, card making, dominoes, scrabble, jigsaws, knitting and a listening ear. With great coffee, cake and freshly made soup served at 12.30pm. Open from 10.30am till 1.30pm.



## 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 walk and talk, growing project, Stewarton Community Shed, Baby Beats and Thrive Tots, Journey peer support group for parents with children with additional support needs, Journey Together Friday after school ASN drop-in, Who Let The Dads Out monthly dad and kids get together and breastfeeding support. And we have plans for even more family support in 2026. See our column or the website for details [www.thrivestewarton.org](http://www.thrivestewarton.org)

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 are putting together our syllabus for the season ahead. Keep an eye on the church Facebook page @jkchurch

## SUNDAYS

A mix of contemporary and traditional worship with band and choir with teaching from the bible each week at 11.15am. Creche and groups for children and youth. Join us in the building or on livestream - live or on catch up: [youtube.com/johnknoxchurch](https://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

Look out for other groups at JK...

Cottage Cycling Club - Mondays Gardening Club - Mondays

Joan's Angels Pop Choir - Wednesdays

Country Dancing Group -Thursdays Stewarton Rainbows – Thursdays

## HOW CAN WE HELP?

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

# United Reformed Church Stewarton

## ABOUT US

In the year 2000 the Congregational Church became part of the 'URC' now run by the Synod in Scotland. Regrettably we had to leave our Church building in Avenue Street and went to McKellar's Parlour until we found alternative premises and we are now happily settled in the old RBS Building in Lainshaw Street. We are now part of a cluster of 5 Churches and share our minister Rev Lesley Thomson with 2 of them.

## FRIENDSHIP

Over the last 2 years we have been running a Knit and Chat group for anyone with knitting problems, every second Wednesday from 2-4pm with Tea Coffee and Cake. Next dates are on 27th May, 10th June, finishing for the summer on 24th June and starting back on 19th August. Our Minister runs Film, Craft and Games afternoons on alternate Wednesdays from the knitting. She also gets involved with the Lainshaw Lions during the holidays.

Craft Afternoon 1st July

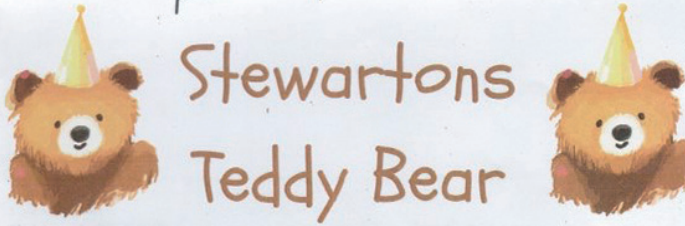
Film Afternoon 5th August

## COMING UP

We are having another Classic Film afternoon during the summer, date to be decided, check our Church window posters. All are welcome to any of our activities. SERVICES. We meet every SUNDAY at 10am, with tea and coffee. We are holding a Healing Service on Sunday 12th July at 10 am anyone interested please join us.

## ALL WELCOME TO OUR WEE FRIENDLY CHURCH


Calling all local groups,  
ECC'S and School's to  
participate in .....



**Stewartons  
Teddy Bear  
Showcase!**

Where: St Columbas Church Stewarton

When: 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 2026



What we would  
like from you...

We are looking for community groups to come up with a teddy bear scene, you might want to showcase your community group/school such as a group of teddy bear guides, teddy bear tennis or disco dancing bears, the idea is up to you!..



Please email  
isobel.brown2@btinternet.com  
for more info.  
Thank you x



# New Faces

Sarah and Ross Granger are delighted to announce the arrival of their twins, **Theodore** and **Charlotte**, who were born in April. Big sister Sophie is absolutely over the moon and proudly welcoming her new brother and sister. The family couldn't be happier as they begin this wonderful new chapter together.



Having a baby?

Send us your photos, we'd love to share them!



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 07727 298205
  @dogdaysandholidays
  Dog Days and Holidays

## Stewarton Community Bus

Did you know that Stewarton Community Council operates a sixteen-seat minibus that is available to rent to local groups and individuals?

The bus is fully insured for any driver aged 21-69 and you can check availability by email to [stewartoncc@gmail.com](mailto:stewartoncc@gmail.com) or by calling 01560 482775.

Day hire costs £40 (rising to £50 from June 1st) and covers first 35 miles, then £1 for each additional mile.

The bus is operated on a non-profit basis for the benefit of Stewarton and surrounding districts and so as the summer months approach, then consider hiring the community minibus for concerts and sporting events.

Perhaps you are a local group requiring transport on a regular or semi-regular basis, if so, then please get in touch.



## Life skills at Lainshaw Lions



For the month of May our lifeskill for the children is cooking/ baking. Throughout May we have baked chocolate cake, bread and butter pudding, mince with tomato sauce and pasta as well as lots more.

We have found books in our library that contain food and take them to our garden area to read during the good weather.

We have made insects out of fruit and vegetables which brought our life skill together with our May topic table of insects.

Our diary is open for our summer days and plans are well underway.

Our registration week began on 18th May and anyone looking for spaces please visit us any day.



## Stewart Residential, welcoming *you* home

We have a new member of Staff on the team Gemma, who's background is marketing, and we have added new tools to our toolbox, 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 download it you can keep it forever.

So what's changing? well we are looking to offer support to landlords 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 have 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 does 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](http://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

35 Main Street Stewarton KA3 5BS

Buying/Letting: 01560 485473 Email: [info@stewart-residential.com](mailto:info@stewart-residential.com)

Visit our Facebook page for all our latest properties, plus you can find all of our properties on [rightmove.com](http://rightmove.com) and [onthemarket.com](http://onthemarket.com)



## Steam Locomotive 45407 Delights Onlookers on West Highland Line

Rail enthusiasts and local residents were treated to a rare spectacle as a heritage steam locomotive passed along the railway line at approximately 11.30am.

LMS Stanier Class 5 “Black Five” 4 6 0 No. 45407, known as The Lancashire Fusilier, was seen hauling a set of vintage carriages as part of “The Great Britain XVIII”—an annual luxury steam-hauled tour of the UK. Built in 1937 in Newcastle, the locomotive remains one of the most recognisable and well travelled steam engines still operating on the main line today.

“The Great Britain XVIII” is a seven day journey that attracts rail enthusiasts from across the world, with passengers paying up to £4,895 for the experience of travelling behind steam through some of Britain’s most scenic landscapes.

The journey saw 45407 travel from Carlisle to Fort William. The tour continues tomorrow with the locomotive scheduled to run from Fort William to Mallaig, crossing the iconic 21 arched Glenfinnan Viaduct. The viaduct, which overlooks Loch Shiel and the Jacobite Monument, is internationally known for its appearances in the Harry Potter film series.

Although the famous “Hogwarts Express” was portrayed on screen by GWR 4900 Class 5972 Olton Hall, No. 45407 is no stranger to the route. The Lancashire Fusilier has previously operated over the same line as part of “The Jacobite” steam service and remains a firm favourite with photographers and steam supporters alike.

Further details of 45407’s ongoing itinerary can be found on The Railway Touring Company’s website.



THIS SUMMER AT  
THE MILL  
HOUSE

With brighter days, longer evenings and summer plans starting to fill the diary, there’s no better time to make the most of The Mill House.

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And now, there’s even more reason to stay a little longer, as we introduce our brand-new bedrooms at The Mill House! Thoughtfully styled

with soft interiors, cosy beds, and all the touches you need to switch off and settle in.

Whether you’re here for a night away or simply extending your evening, we hope you feel right at home.

Here’s to good food, sunny days and plenty of reasons to pop in, settle in, and stay awhile.



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# Get Set for a Slimmer Summer



**S**ummer is just around the corner and there's never been a better time to join Slimming World Stewarton. Whether you're hoping to feel more confident, healthier or simply happier this summer, it's definitely not too late to start your weight loss journey.

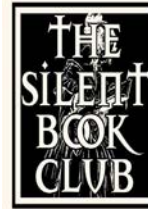
Our friendly and supportive group has already celebrated an incredible success so far this year, with members losing a fantastic 67 stone all together! Every week we see inspiring achievements from people who once thought they could never lose weight – proving that with the right support, anything is possible.

We're also delighted to celebrate six members reaching their Personal Target Award so far this year, achieving the weight they dreamed of and learning how to maintain it for life. Their success stories continue to inspire everyone in group.

For new members, the results have been just as exciting. Several people joining recently have lost more than half a stone in their very first week, showing that small changes really can make a big difference very quickly.

At Slimming World Stewarton, there's no judgement, no guilt and no deprivation – just real food, real support and real results. Our warm and welcoming group is here to help every member achieve their goals at their own pace, while enjoying delicious meals and lasting lifestyle changes.

So, if you've been thinking about making a change before summer arrives, now is the perfect time to take that first step. Come along and discover how Slimming World Stewarton could help you get set for a slimmer, healthier and happier summer.



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@The Book Nook Stewarton

### New Meeting Day

Monday 25th May

6.30pm 8.30pm

(In session the last Monday of every month)

Comfy clothes encouraged. Pyjamas acceptable.

### @The Book Nook Stewarton

Bring a book, your kindle or headphones, to listen to your favourite audiobook, and enjoy reading together, but silently.



### What to Expect

30 minutes of book talk, 1 hour of reading then an extra 30 minutes to browse The Book Nook book shop!



For more information please PM me

Wondering what life is all about? Having thoughts about God? Whether you're full of questions, returning to church, or simply curious, you'd be very welcome at The Potter's House Church. Come and explore these questions and more in a warm, relaxed, and friendly setting.

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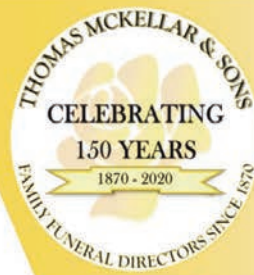
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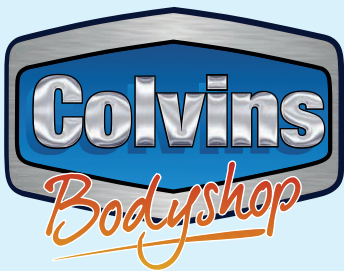
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