

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL MAGAZINE

2023 AUTUMN EDITION



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south
AYRSHIRE
COUNCIL
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Deas
Making a Difference Every Day

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A message from our new Chief Executive

Mike Newall



Welcome to the Autumn edition of South Ayrshire Council Magazine, which is my first as your new Chief Executive.

I've worked in local authority for a great part of my career, and I've been with South Ayrshire Council as a Chief Officer since March 2009. Over the years, I've worked in a

range of departments, including Neighbourhood Services, Housing, Facilities Management, Planning, Building Standards, Community Planning, and Policy and Performance.

It's a real privilege to work in such a beautiful part of Scotland, and an honour to lead our forward-thinking Council. I understand the weight of responsibility that comes with this position, and I'm committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity, transparency and accountability in everything we do.

I'd like to pay tribute to my predecessor, Eileen Howat, for her enormous commitment to the Council and South Ayrshire as a whole. One of these is undoubtedly the recent International Ayr Show – Festival of Flight. Never before have I experienced an event of this scale in South Ayrshire. This was the first airshow to be organised by the Council, and we are so proud of all the staff who worked tirelessly to make it such an overwhelming success. We have a special feature on the festival which you can read on page 8.

A key part of the airshow was education, in particular promoting STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) to make our young people aware of the career opportunities available to them at our thriving aerospace industry at Prestwick, and also to ensure the

future talent for this sector to allow economic growth in our region. You can read more about STEM activities at the airshow and also hear from some former South Ayrshire pupils who now work in STEM-related careers on page 12.

The tragedy of the Arandora Star, which sank during World War II claiming the lives of 800 people, may not be familiar to you, but it is of huge significance locally, as the body of one of the victims, Francesco D'Inverno, was washed up on the shore at Lendalfoot in 1940. Mystery has surrounded the final resting place of this gentleman, as he was buried in an unmarked grave in the village's Doune Cemetery. You can read the remarkable story - and the role Provost Campbell played in solving the 83 year long mystery on page 15.

Also in this issue, three of our teams provide round ups of what they've been doing recently to make South Ayrshire a healthier, safer and more interesting place for you to live. These include Sport & Leisure who are encouraging you to get active for autumn on page 18, and Destination South Ayrshire who share highlights from their upcoming events and activities on page 24.

Remember, you can stay up to date with Council news and updates via our website and social media channels.

Best wishes,
Mike

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Farewell to our former Chief Executive

Eileen Howat



Last month Eileen Howat, our former Chief Executive, retired after working with the local authority in South Ayrshire for 27 years.

Eileen's long career in public service began when she took up the role of Trainee Accountant with Strathclyde Regional Council in 1984. She then worked her way up over the years, with Auditor, Senior Accountant, Financial Services Controller, Corporate Finance and Accounting Manager, Head of Financial Services, Head of Finance and ICT, Assistant Chief Executive, Executive Director – Corporate Services and Executive Director – Resources, Governance and Organisation being just some of her roles, until she finally became Chief Executive in 2013. She's certainly an inspiration to any young person who is just starting their career with the Council!

We'd like to wish Eileen a long and happy retirement.



Update from South Ayrshire Council's Provost and Depute Provost

Provost Iain Campbell and Depute Provost Mary Kilpatrick attended a wide range of engagements and events over the last few months, as you'll see in our update.

Provost Campbell and Depute Provost Kilpatrick are both passionate about celebrating the achievements of young people in South Ayrshire, and supporting organisations that help children to thrive.

The winners of this year's Provost's School Footprint Challenge were announced at an awards ceremony in Ayr's County Buildings, with congratulations going to Carrick Academy. The Provost's School Footprint Challenge is an annual event that encourages secondary school pupils in South Ayrshire to develop and present local solutions for reducing their own school's carbon footprint.

Provost Campbell also congratulated the winners of the Energy Agency Calendar Awards in a ceremony at County Buildings. South Ayrshire primary schools had been invited by the Energy Agency to participate in the competition to design a calendar raising awareness of the climate crisis.



Provost Campbell accompanied pupils from Doonfoot Primary School to the unveiling of a new underpass and sensory garden on Dunure Road. The garden features a wetland area, pathways, a boardwalk with a sensory route, and planting that will stimulate visitors' senses through touch, sight, scent, taste and hearing. Pupils from Primary 5-7 classes were invited to take part in a competition to name the garden. Primary 5 pupil Lucy Roberts' winning name - Sense-Ayr-Ee - was voted the top choice.



Depute Provost Kilpatrick showed her support for Paul May and Janice Chappell as they embarked on a 400-mile bike ride from Ayr to Caldicot in South Wales. The pair took on the epic challenge to raise funds for Motor Neurone Disease.



Provost Campbell attended a Friday Night Divisionary Activity session at Carrick Community Campus in Maybole. Carrick Rugby Football Club started the project to tackle anti-social behaviour, giving young people from South Carrick and the surrounding villages in North Carrick the opportunity to participate in divisionary rugby. Recently, they have also worked with the local Taekwondo Club to deliver an introductory session, and arranged for apprentices to talk about their experiences of their new journey into employment and college.



Celebrating more of the great work that's improving the lives of children, Provost Campbell and Depute Provost Kilpatrick attended the 76th Annual Glasgow Taxi Outing. Each year, Glasgow Taxi drivers volunteer to take children with additional support needs on a trip to the seaside. As part of this much-loved tradition, drivers decorate the taxis and take the children on a tour of the city before heading to Troon to enjoy a parade.

Some members of the South Ayrshire community reached important milestones this year and were congratulated by the Civic Office. Kenneth and Constance Paton recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding Anniversary and were presented with a bouquet of flowers.



Depute Provost Mary Kilpatrick visited James and Gloria Aitken in Ayr to congratulate them also on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.



Charities and voluntary organisations within South Ayrshire are key to bringing support to the community. Voluntary Action South Ayrshire (VASA) recently celebrated their 25th anniversary and were invited along to County Buildings for a civic reception. VASA provides a range of services such as organising events and a telephone befriending service to help tackle social isolation. Events include their annual Christmas gathering, where older people can meet for a meal and exchange gifts.



THE INTERNATIONAL
AYR SHOW
 FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT

**A ROARING
 SUCCESS!**

AROUND 240,000 PEOPLE FLOCKED TO AYR'S LOW GREEN AND THE SURROUNDING AREA BETWEEN FRIDAY 8 - SUNDAY 10 SEPTEMBER TO EXPERIENCE THE BRAND NEW AIRSHOW.



Festival-goers from across the country enjoyed the fabulous entertainment and activities, visited a host of stalls, including that of our event charity partner, The RAF Benevolent Fund and Armed Forces villages, learned more about STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) careers at Prestwick Aerospace and, of course, watched in wonder at over four hours of dazzling aerial displays - all set against the backdrop of the beautiful South Ayrshire coastline, plus some amazing weather thrown in to top it all off!



THE INTERNATIONAL AYR SHOW

FESTIVAL OF FLIGHT WILL RETURN IN 2024.



Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund



the local community during the three days of the International Ayr Show – Festival of Flight and to raise awareness about what the RAF Benevolent Fund can offer to the RAF veteran community in particular.”

The RAF Benevolent Fund, the RAF’s leading welfare charity, was delighted to partner with South Ayrshire Council at the International Ayr Show - Festival of Flight.

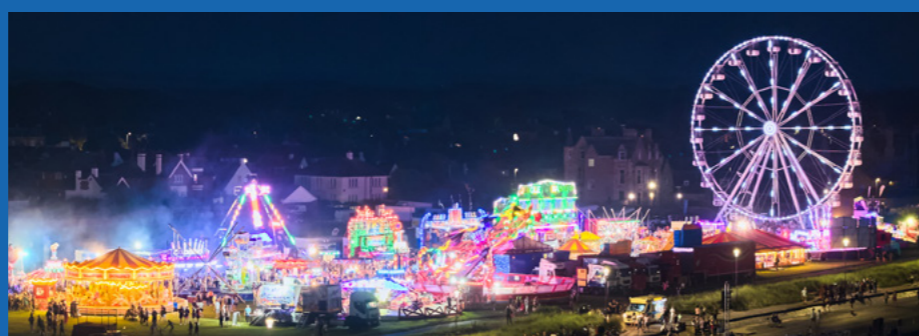
As the charity partner, Fund representatives were on site at the festival village, to explain more about the work of the Fund and the support it offers.

The Fund provides financial, emotional, and practical assistance to serving and retired RAF personnel and their families. This includes grants to help with financial difficulty, mental health support, Airplay youth clubs, and more.

Gavin Davey, RAF Benevolent Fund Area Director for Scotland said: “The RAF Benevolent Fund congratulates South Ayrshire Council and theSKYLAB on a very successful International Ayr Show – Festival of Flight, especially as it generated such an enormous response from the public. The event boosted our Charity Partnership with the Ayr Show, and this will help us to reach and inform more of the RAF Family in need locally, regionally and nationally.

“The Ayr Show had an atmosphere of warmth and friendliness, and this was reflected in the welcome we received from the people of Ayr and the west of Scotland – thank you – we very much look forward to being back next year.”

Chris Elliot, Air Vice-Marshal, and Controller of the Fund said: “What an amazing event to be part of! It was a fantastic opportunity for us to meet so many of



Chris continued: “The turnout was huge over the weekend, and we were humbled by the interest shown in what we do to support the RAF Family. We are so grateful and extremely honoured to have been chosen to be the charity partner with South Ayrshire Council and look forward to working together in the months and years to come.”

Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund

“The Fund has lifted an unbelievable weight from my shoulders”

Former RAF dog handler Mick McConnell's life changed in an instant when in 2011 he stepped on an IED his dog had failed to spot.

Mick, from Elgin, shattered his foot when he stepped on an improvised explosive device (IED), which eventually led to its amputation after two years of painful rehabilitation.

Since then, the RAF Benevolent Fund, the RAF's leading welfare charity, has been by his side, helping with a loan to buy a house. Relocating to Scotland from Lincoln enabled Mick and his wife Lorna to move closer to family who could be there to support Lorna during Mick's hospital stay and ongoing rehabilitation and recovery. The Fund helped with the necessary adaptations to make the home more accessible, including installing a lift room.

Talking about the day of his accident, Mick said: "I was working in the most dangerous square mile of Afghanistan when I was blown up on just my second patrol following RSR (rest and recuperation). Seven guys had been lost to IEDs before me, which is why they brought the dog handlers in."

He added: "I was the first person in my group to be injured and then three weeks later half of the platoon was injured in a grenade blast and the next day an IED blast took the rest of them. They all ended up in hospital next to me!"

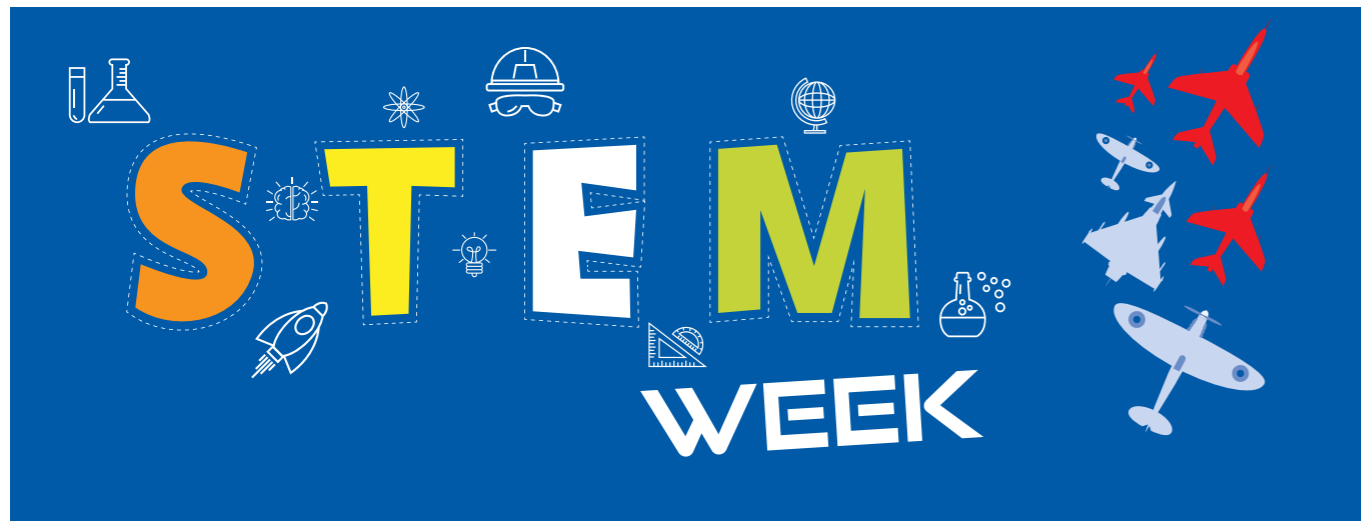
Mick's recovery was a challenging time but reaching out to the RAF Benevolent Fund helped

... support. I now make it my number one priority to raise awareness of the help available and I shout about the invaluable work of the Fund wherever I go, to ensure the services are reaching those who may be in need.

"The fact that the RAF Benevolent Fund has helped us to move from a house where it took me ten minutes to get up and down the stairs, to a home that's easily accessible and close to family where we can get support, has made a huge difference to our lives. They've lifted this unbelievable weight from my shoulders."

WILL YOU SUPPORT AN INJURED RAF VETERAN LIKE ME?

Please support the RAF Family with a £5 donation. Your donation will support RAF veterans and their dependants. Please visit rafbf.org/donation or scan the QR code.



A key aim of the International Air Show – Festival of Flight was to highlight the fantastic career opportunities available in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics), ensuring the future talent for our thriving aerospace industry at Prestwick, home of Scotland’s largest aerospace cluster and emerging space hub.

In the week prior to the airshow, South Ayrshire Council’s Education service, the RAF, Royal Navy, the aerospace industries at Prestwick, Ayrshire College and Prestwick Airport engaged in an initiative at the airport to promote STEM to 800 S2 pupils from every secondary school in South Ayrshire.

Through an innovative approach, the aerospace companies worked collaboratively to generate a set of workshops and challenges that showed how important STEM is in the work they do and allowed pupils to explore STEM-related careers at Prestwick Aerospace.

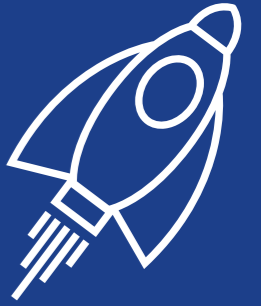


STEM Week proved to be an enormous success and we are immensely grateful to all the organisations and Prestwick Aerospace companies involved, including BAE Systems, Collins Aerospace, GE Caledonian, Mangata, NATS, Ryanair, Spirit AeroSystems, Storm Aviation and Woodward.

The STEM Week initiative moved to the STEM Zone for the festival weekend, which included a featured STEM display from the flying programme - the Gravity Industries Jet Suit demonstration.



INTERESTED IN A CAREER IN STEM



HERE'S WHAT SOME FORMER SOUTH AYRSHIRE PUPILS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT IT..

**“ MITCHELL LAMONT
FORMER BELMONT ACADEMY
PUPIL**

“I attended university for a few years to study architecture and realised it wasn’t for me. I moved home and got a part time job and then applied for an apprenticeship at Spirit AeroSystems, as I was more interested in practical work. I’ve been with Spirit for around a year now, and it’s a great team to work in, and a great learning environment. It’s definitely been a learning curve going into a more practical job, but I’ve had so many opportunities through my apprenticeship. I even got to meet an astronaut!”



**“ CAITLIN MCDOWALL
FORMER GIRVAN ACADEMY
PUPIL**

“I started a PEO Engineering course at Ayrshire College when I was in my final year at school, and then left school to study aeronautical engineering full time. I was fortunate enough to do work experience with British Airways during this course, and recently applied for a four-year aircraft mechanic apprenticeship with Chevron. I’m now a few months in and really enjoying it. I’m the only female apprentice aircraft mechanic at our location and I hope this can inspire other young people to choose this career.”



**AARON MCNAUGHT
FORMER KYLE
ACADEMY PUPIL**

“I found out about the apprenticeships available at Ryanair through flyers that were dropped into the school, and left in 5th year to join the company as an apprentice mechanical engineer. I’m really enjoying it so far, it’s been great to be able to work on live aircraft and learn on the job alongside more experienced colleagues.”



SPOTLIGHT ON.... GIRVAN

An update on our brand-new Bridge Street Depot

We're delighted to let you know that our ground-breaking new building in Girvan has received a category A+ Energy Performance Certificate (EPC)!

A building's energy performance rating is a measure of the effect it has on the environment in terms of CO2 emissions. The better the rating, the less impact the building has on the environment. The A+ rating means that the energy performance rating for the Bridge Street Depot building is net zero carbon or better.

The building has also been shortlisted for a Just Transition award at the BE-ST Accelerate to Zero Awards, which recognise those who are making the biggest contribution to decarbonising the construction industry.

With the build now nearing completion, the area's Golf operational, Grounds Maintenance and Waste Management staff can look forward to the move to their new base later this year.



New Merchant Navy Memorial Unveiled

The first Merchant Navy and Seafarer's Memorial was unveiled in a ceremony at Girvan Harbourside recently, thanks to funding from our £1m capital investment per ward in South Ayrshire.

Former merchant seamen from around Scotland and the Merchant Navy Association attended to mark the day, which pays tribute to the fishermen, lighthouse keepers and merchant seamen who died during conflicts.



Finding Francesco

In May 2023, South Ayrshire Provost, Iain Campbell, received an email from Michael Donnelly, a member of the Italian Garden Improvement Group (I.G.I.G.), seeking his help to erect a plaque at Girvan's Doune Cemetery. The plaque would honour a man called Francesco D'Inverno, who was a victim of a World War II disaster which involved a ship called the 'Arandora Star'.

Provost Campbell contacted local couple Ritchie and Lorna Conaghan, who run Girvan and District Great War Project (GADGWP). They, in turn, got in touch with Michael and Ralph Gonnella, also a member of the I.G.I.G., which maintains the Arandora Star Memorial Garden at St. Andrews Cathedral on Clyde Street in Glasgow.

This is the incredible true story that unfolded, solving an 83-year-old mystery.



The Arandora Star

Francesco D'Inverno was born in Villa Latina, about 75 miles south-east of Rome, Italy. He worked in the hospitality industry in London and was employed at the Selsdon Park Hotel, where he was the hotel's Head Plateman. In 1939 Francesco married Ginevra Tasselli.

When Italy sided with Germany in 1940, many Italians who were living in Britain at that time were rounded up and taken prisoner as they were seen as 'Enemies of the State'. Even though some of these Italians had been in Britain for many years, they were taken to camps with a view to deporting them to Canada and Australia.

On Monday 1 July 1940, the *Arandora Star* set sail from Liverpool with 1,678 people on board, of which 734 were Italian. In the early hours of 2 July, she was hit by a torpedo 75 miles west of Donegal and sank, with the loss of over 800 lives - 486 were Italian.

Only 22 Italians, whose bodies were washed ashore were identified. They were all buried in cemeteries in Ireland, the Scottish

Islands and the one body that washed ashore on the Scottish mainland, that of Francesco D'Inverno, was buried in Girvan.

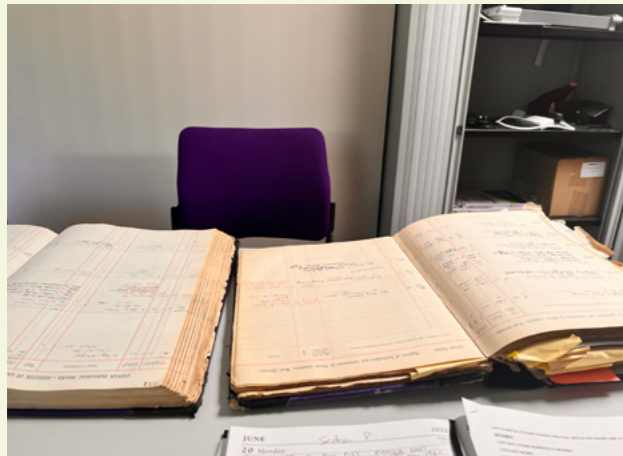
Over six weeks after the sinking, Francesco's body was washed ashore on Tuesday 20 August 1940, near Gamesloup at Lendalfoot, south of Girvan. The local parish priest attended as he was interred in Common Ground in an unmarked grave in the town's Doune Cemetery on Thursday 22 August 1940.



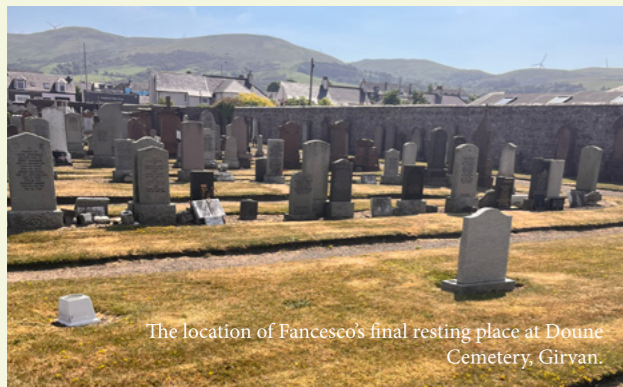
Gamesloup near Lendalfoot, where Francesco's body was discovered.

Research

Ritchie and Lorna commenced their painstaking research at the cemetery. Beginning in the general location of where they knew Francesco was buried, they photographed the headstones to try to build up a mental picture of where he could be. Next, they employed the help of Angela and the staff at Masonhill Crematorium in Ayr, where the burial records are kept. This led to them eventually pinpointing Francesco's final resting place.



Our team at Masonhill Crematorium gave Ritchie and Lorna access to the Doune Cemetery Lair Books.

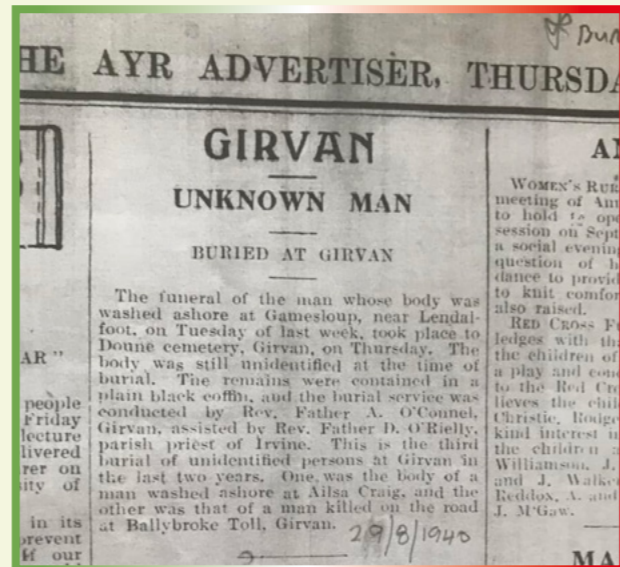
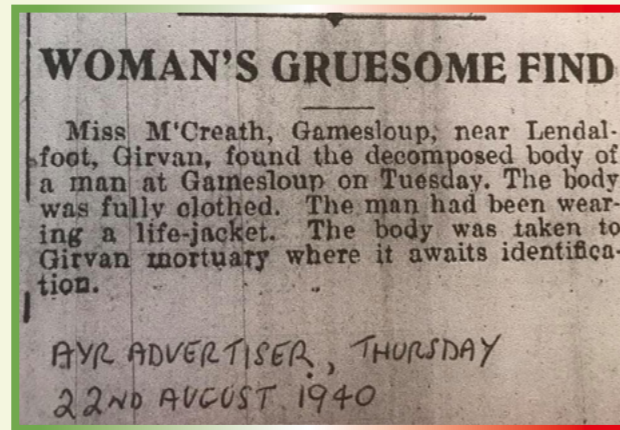


The location of Francesco's final resting place at Doune Cemetery, Girvan.

They also discovered that although Francesco was buried in Common Ground, there was no one buried in the same lair as him. This meant that rather than put up a simple plaque, a headstone could be erected to honour him.

This was wonderful news for Michael, Ralph and the members of the I.G.I.G. However, there was even more revelations to come. By pure coincidence, a friend of the Conaghan's had spoken to someone about what they were doing and urged them to get in touch with her as she knew more.

Newspaper reports of the day stated that a Girvan woman, Miss McCreath, had reported the discovery of the body to the police. This was true however, it wasn't Miss McCreath who found the body.



Francesco's body was actually discovered by a nine-year-old evacuee from Rutherglen, who turned out to be the now 92-year-old husband of the woman the Conaghan's had been put in touch with. This man had been trying in vain for many years to find out the identity of the body he found all that time ago and where he was buried so that he could pay his respects.

Finally, after all these years, Ritchie and Lorna were able to fill in the missing pieces.

Francesco's headstone will be unveiled on 17 April 2024, which will be his 123rd birthday.

In memory

This is just one story of life lost following the torpedoing of the Arandora Star. There were many other families from Ayr affected by this disaster too. These gentlemen also sadly lost their lives: Umberto Battistini; Luigi Biagi; Pietro Dalli; Mario Filippi; Simone Filippi; Giacinto Fratticoli; Francesco Gargaro; Antonio Mancini; and Guiseppie Pieroni. All of whom are commemorated on a wall plaque at the Arandora Star Memorial Garden at St. Andrews Cathedral on Clyde Street in Glasgow.



The Arandora Star Memorial, at the Arandora Star Garden, St. Andrews Cathedral on Clyde Street, Glasgow.

Quotes

South Ayrshire Provost, Iain Campbell, said:

"When I received the email out of the blue from Michael I was immediately intrigued and wanted to help. Ritchie and Lorna of GADGWP are dedicated to carrying out their wonderful research work, so I knew they would be the best people to contact to try to establish a bit more about where Francesco was buried. I was completely taken aback when the whole story began to unravel. It's been an honour to have played a small role in solving this 80-year-old mystery and now I'll look forward to being able to mark Francesco's final resting place and pay my respects."

Ritchie Conaghan said:

"This has been truly humbling for Lorna and me. Just to be a tiny wheel on this juggernaut of a story and we can only begin to imagine how important this discovery has been for the Arandora Star community, and the Italian Scots Community. We feel very privileged to have been part of the 'Finding Francesco' story. A just giving page was recently launched that will hopefully help to raise the funds needed to erect a headstone for Francesco, in what will most likely be the last chance to honour a victim of the Arandora Star."

Arandora Star - a relative's story

Raffaello (Ralph) Gonnella lost his maternal grandfather in the Arandora Star tragedy and his own father was arrested and interned in 1940. Ralph is dedicated to preserving the memory of those who perished when the Arandora Star was torpedoed, and is passionate about educating people on the treatment of Italians in Scotland during World War II.

Ralph is the main historian and tour guide for the Glasgow Italian Garden and Arandora Star Memorial on Clyde Street. He is a member of the I.G.I.G. whose aim is to maintain the Glasgow Arandora Star Memorial and improve the Italian Garden. Ralph studied genealogy at Strathclyde University and is also a main historian of Scottish Italian 20th Century History, covering the main themes of emigration and immigration of Italians to Scotland pre-1945.

His main subject area of expertise is the treatment of Italians in Scotland between 1940-1945, which includes the events that led up to the internment of "enemy aliens". This covers the tragedy of the Arandora Star, Canadian Internment (the Ettrick) and the Isle of Man and Australia (Dunera).

Ralph's maternal nonno (grandfather), Quinto Santini, died on the Arandora Star on 2 July 1940. His uncle, Raffaello Santini (also known as Ralph), died with the King's Own Scottish Borderers in Caen Northern France in July 1944. While his father, Renato Gonnella, was arrested and interned as an enemy alien in June 1940. He was then transported to Canada on board the Ettrick and spent the next four years in a prison camp on St. Helen's Island in Montreal.

Ralph said: "I'm very proud and humbled to be a small part of this project. It is so important that we raise the funds to get a gravestone memorial for Francesco. It was extremely sad to see the empty unmarked plot in the graveyard. Over 800 men died in the Arandora Star tragedy.

My support and donation for the project are in memory of my maternal nonno, Quinto Santini, who was one of those men who died."

Ralph continues to raise awareness of how Italians were treated in the UK at this time – something that is not always highlighted in the history books of this era. His work has included various TV and radio appearances across the UK, Italy and Canada. He has also written and helped research numerous articles, books and productions. Most notably the Gresti/Nalin project that identifies their final resting places and his article; Italian-Scot to Scottish Italians 'Tallys', Cafes and Chippies – Their Story and Mine!

Ralph is currently working on 'Project AS94', a project where he hopes to identify and obtain photographs of all 94 Italian men from Scotland who died on the Arandora Star. The results of Project AS94 will be added to two similar projects that are being carried out in Wales and England to create a detailed record of all those Italians who perished in the tragedy.



Raffaello (Ralph) Gonnella has received great recognition for his work, including the Lucchesi nel Mondo Gold Medal (Medaglia d'Oro) for services to the Scottish/Italian community, the Gold Medal from Italian/Scotland in recognition of his work in the Scottish/Italian community.

Hello from South Ayrshire Sport & Leisure!

It was great to see so many of our young people enjoying our School Holiday Programme. Happy faces make what we do worthwhile! You can see some of these smiles in our Learn 2 Swim feature below.

As the nights draw in, it's easy to settle down on the sofa. But before you reach for the remote, why not do something active first? We've got plenty of opportunities for you to take part in indoor sports activities across South Ayrshire and have highlighted a few of these here.



As well as being good for you, fitness can be fun and sociable too. And with our new Sport & Leisure app, booking a class or activity has never been easier – so no excuses! Search "SAC Leisure" in your app store and download today.



PS....

For more details on all our activities visit www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/leisure

To keep up to date with our latest news, follow us on Facebook @ Sport and Leisure South Ayrshire.



Summer Learn 2

Swim crash courses a hit with the kids!



Over 350 children took part in our summer holiday swimming crash courses at our facilities at Ayr Citadel, and Troon and Prestwick Swimming Pools.

Youngsters aged four and upwards - from complete beginners to improvers - enjoyed lots of water fun through a range of activities to help introduce key aquatic skills and develop their stroke techniques.

Here's what a few of our customers had to say:

"One of the coaches was a carer which was especially useful as my daughter has a stoma"

"Excellent value for money and my child thoroughly enjoyed it. Thank you"

"I'm really blown away by how far he has come over the past few days, he now has a good foundation to build on in his weekly lessons"

Check out our Full Fitness Memberships

Are you looking to get into fitness for the first time? Or maybe you're already active but want to do more? Either way, our Full Fitness Membership is for you!

Offering the best value around for fitness, sport and leisure, this membership costs just £30 per month, with no minimum period or notice required. There's also the option to pay in full and enjoy 12 months for the price of 10, saving you £60 per year!

Our Full Fitness Membership offers you access to activities across 10 Sport & Leisure facilities in South Ayrshire, including:

- Unlimited fitness classes (including Cycling, Circuits, Yoga, Pilates, Dance Fit and loads more)
- Unlimited gym access at Ayr Citadel, and Prestwick and Troon Pools (with free gym inductions also for new users)
- Unlimited swimming at Ayr Citadel, and Prestwick, Troon and Maybole Pools (includes general and lane swimming)
- Unlimited sauna suite
- 50% off court hire at Ayr Citadel and our five activity centres
- Indoor and outdoor lane hire at the Riverside Sports Arena, Ayr



FULL FITNESS: £30 PER MONTH

ABILITYFIT: £15 PER MONTH

FULL FITNESS (OFF-PEAK): £20 PER MONTH

TEENFIT & JUNIORFIT: £15 PER MONTH

CLUB FITNESS: £20 PER MONTH

CLASS AND SWIM, OR GYM AND SWIM: £25 PER MONTH

Tempted to give it a go? Visit www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/leisure for more details and to sign up.

Remember – you can try it for just one month to see how it goes.

Get active this autumn on our indoor courts

When was the last time you played badminton? Ever tried squash? Or maybe footie's more your thing? You can play all these sports and more at six of our sports and leisure facilities across South Ayrshire.

Here's what you can do:

- Citadel Leisure Centre, Ayr - indoor football, badminton and squash
- Coylton, Dundonald and Muirhead Activity Centres - indoor football, badminton, basketball and squash
- Mossblown and Whitletts Activity Centres - squash

You can check court availability and make or amend your bookings via our app. (Search "SAC Leisure" in your app store and download today.)

Racquets and other equipment are included with your booking, so all you need is a chum (or few!), bottle of water and you're good to go.



Pool Parties!

Are you planning to celebrate a special occasion? We offer pool party packages on Saturdays from 2:30pm at Maybole and 4:00pm at the Citadel, Troon, and Prestwick.

For further information, visit www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/leisure



Maybole Leisure Club

The Maybole Leisure Club within the Maybole Community Campus is on course to open in January 2024 and we cannot wait to welcome you.

This fantastic new facility offers:

- 25 metre, 4 lane swimming pool with changing village
- state of the art gym
- 3G football/rugby pitch with changing pavilion
- community room
- games hall
- gym hall

We'll soon share details about opening times, memberships and timetables within the new facilities. Keep an eye out on our Sport & Leisure website:

www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/leisure and also the "Latest News" section of our Sport & Leisure app. (Search "SAC Leisure" in your app store and download today.)

Revamping Fitness with Evolve: Shaping the Future of Health and Wellness

At Sport & Leisure South Ayrshire, we're continually tuning in to what our members want and what the market demands. This commitment recently led us to look again at our services and create a revamped fitness programme – all designed around your feedback and market analysis.

Introducing The Evolve Programme

As the name suggests, our Evolve Programme represents our dedication to growth, transformation and continuous improvement. Recognising that stepping into the world of fitness can be daunting for many, we've designed the Evolve range of classes to be the ideal introduction to exercise for beginners or those returning from a break in exercise. However, it's worth pointing out that "beginner" doesn't mean mundane or less effective; it's about building a solid foundation and increasing confidence step by step.



What Sets Evolve Apart?

Evolve is not just another workout routine. It's an adaptation of our most popular mainstream classes, carefully molded for those who might be entering the world of fitness for the first time. Here's a glimpse of what's on offer:

1. Evolve Circuits: Dive into a routine that challenges different muscle groups, while ensuring a balance tailored to newcomers.
2. Evolve Cycling: Embark on a cycling journey that ensures endurance building at a pace that's comfortable, yet effective.
3. Evolve Stretch & Core: Focus on the core, while ensuring the body gets that much-needed stretch, all under expert guidance.
4. Evolve Aqua fit: Experience the magic of water workouts, known for being joint-friendly and incredibly effective.
5. Evolve Circuit Series: Try out a series dedicated to introducing circuit training, ensuring the beginner's transition is seamless and confidence-boosting.
6. Evolve Legs, Bums and Tums: Target those specific areas with workouts that are effective, yet enjoyable.
7. Qigong: Immerse yourself in this ancient Chinese practice that balances body and mind, making it an ideal addition to our Evolve Programme.

Your Feedback, Your Fitness Programme

We analysed current market trends, combined them with invaluable input from our members and staff, and evolved (pun intended) our offerings to ensure a programme that truly reflects our community's needs.

As we step into this exciting phase, we want to invite you to be part of the Evolve Programme. Whether you're rediscovering fitness or starting fresh, there's something here for you. Embrace the journey, evolve with us, and witness a healthier, happier version of yourself.

For a timetable of Evolve classes, visit www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/gym-and-fitness or see our Sport & Leisure app. (Search "SAC Leisure" in your app store and download today.)



HELLO FROM FROM TRADING STANDARDS!

In this issue, we want to help you be on your guard about a couple of issues which are causing concern locally, as well as alert you to digital scams.



Remember, we're here to help. We offer free, impartial, expert advice and assistance with any consumer problem. Call us on **0300 123 0900** or email tradingstandards@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

The Trading Standards team

IN SOUTH AYRSHIRE

Our Trading Standards Officers are continuing to monitor local retailers selling disposable vape devices. A number of illegal, disposable fruity flavoured vapes - retailing at approximately £2,500 – were recently seized from a shop in Ayr, as they were classed as 'bigger puffs' ranging from 1,000 – 6,000 puffs. The regulations are clear - disposable vapes like these cannot be sold with a volume exceeding 2ml of nicotine containing liquid, which equates to around 600 puffs.



If you're a retailer of disposable vapes, it's crucial you ensure that the products you sell are legally compliant.

If you come across illegal vapes/cigarettes, have concerns about underage sales or would like advice on tobacco compliance, please contact the Trading Standards Team on **0300 123 0900** or email tradingstandards@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

UNINVITED TRADERS



There's been an increase in doorstep scams across Ayrshire relating to gardening, paving, roofing work, etc.

Please, do not feel pressured by any uninvited trader who may call at your home offering to carry out repairs and maintenance.

If you need to get work done to your property, we strongly recommend you find traders who have been vetted through a national or local authority approved trader scheme, such as South Ayrshire's Trusted Trader <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/trusted-trader> rather than dealing with cold callers.

If cold callers do turn up at your door asking to carry out work at your property:

- Ask for proof of their business name and address – they must provide this.
- Don't agree to let a cold caller start work straight away - do plenty of research into their company and, if something doesn't look right, don't deal with them.
- Report any suspicious behaviour to Police Scotland on 101 or 999 in an emergency.

If you have concerns about traders selling goods or services at your home, we can provide you with an 'uninvited caller' sticker for your door – call us on **0300 123 0900** or email tradingstandards@south-ayrshire.gov.uk.

It's also worth signing up for Neighbourhood Watch Scotland Alerts to stay up to date with what's going on in your community and across neighbouring areas: www.neighbourhoodwatchscotland.co.uk or Trading Standards Scotland: www.tsscot.co.uk/priority-areas/doorstep-scammers

DIGITAL SCAMS

MORTGAGE SCAMS

As the cost of living and mortgage rates rise, there's been an increase in scam emails offering cheap deals to people buying or re-mortgaging homes.

Some emails ask the recipient to complete a survey to check if they're eligible for a reverse mortgage, stating that the offer is only available for 24 hours. Others offer mortgage rates as low as 2.39% and ask the recipient to click on a link to 'get personalised rates'.

LINKS IN THESE EMAILS LEAD TO MALICIOUS WEBSITES THAT ARE DESIGNED TO GATHER PERSONAL AND BANKING DETAILS.

BE ALERT

- Unexpected emails offering cheap deals are unlikely to be legitimate.
- If you receive such an email and are unsure if it's legitimate, contact the company who supposedly sent it using details found on their official website - do not click on a link in the email.
- Banks will never ask you to provide financial details via a link in an unexpected email.
- Forward suspicious emails to report@phishing.gov.uk

PURCHASING NEW/USED GOODS ONLINE: KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

As the cost of living crisis continues to take its toll on household budgets, many of us are turning to online retailers and marketplace offers to bag a bargain.

However, it's important to be aware of potential dangers of online purchasing. Here are our top tips to keep you safe from scams:

1. Do your research

Before buying from a site you haven't used before, spend a few minutes checking it out. Read what people have said about the person or company you're interested in buying from by looking at reviews on different websites - don't rely on reviews the company has put on its own website!

2. Be wise to scams in disguise

If a bargain seems too good to be true, it probably is. If it's a branded item, but a lot cheaper than it appears on the brand's website, it could be fake. Or it could be a legitimate 'look-a-like' product. Either way, it might not be the quality you were hoping for.

3. Ways to pay

Beware of a seller who asks you to pay by direct bank transfer, as there's limited protection if things

go wrong, so it's best to avoid using them. You should only send and receive money through the online marketplace app or website using a debit or credit card, or via trusted methods of payment such as PayPal.

4. Know your rights about faulty goods

If you've bought from a retailer, you might be entitled to a replacement product or a repair of your faulty goods. You can even claim a full refund if you can prove the goods are faulty.

If you've bought from an individual, perhaps via an online marketplace, you have far fewer rights. In fact, you have no right to return, so long as the goods are 'as described'. Always be sure to take a screenshot of the description and be sure to check and double check before you buy.

5. When things go wrong

Sometimes things just don't go to plan. If you've bought something that arrives broken, damaged, unsafe or not what you expected, then contact the seller and give them a chance to put it right. If that doesn't work, reach out to our Trading Standards team by emailing trading.standards@south-ayrshire.gov.uk or call us on 0300 123 0900.



Destination South Ayrshire App
Whatever experience visitors are looking for, they can find it here.

Destination
South Ayrshire
HELLO EVERYONE!

GET IT ON
Google Play

Download on the
App Store

Summer may be well and truly over, but at Destination South Ayrshire we've been doing our best to make sure there's plenty to keep you busy over autumn and winter.

Here we've highlighted a few things happening in our Ayr Town Centre spaces, museums and galleries, and libraries, including a great new Mending Hub in Girvan.

From learning new crafts, to browsing local markets, developing digital skills or maybe even indulging in a bit of culture, there's plenty to choose from across South Ayrshire - and the great news is, all admission is free!

You'll find more details on everything on offer at www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk or www.destinationouthayrshire.co.uk.

The Grain Exchange and Cutty-Sark Centre, Ayr



Creative Markets
in The Grain Exchange every
Saturday (10am – 4.30pm)



Farmers Markets at the
Cutty-Sark Centre on the first
Saturday of each month,
9am-4pm



Exhibitions of art,
photography and textiles at
both locations from now up
to the Christmas period



Festive Markets
at The Grain Exchange from
Thursdays – Sundays (tbc)



Christmas Surprises at
the Cutty-Sark Centre, in
partnership with The Gaiety
Theatre (tbc)

For our full calendar of markets,
exhibitions and events see:
www.thegrainexchange.co.uk and
www.destinationouthayrshire.co.uk/cutty-sark-centre

Where to find us:

The Grain Exchange
77- 81 High Street, Ayr
KA7 1LU

The Cutty-Sark Centre
40 High Street, Ayr
KA7 1PA

Keep up to date with what's happening via our social channels: Instagram: [@thegrainexchange](https://www.instagram.com/thegrainexchange) | Facebook: [@thegrainexchangeayr](https://www.facebook.com/thegrainexchangeayr) | Twitter: [@grain_exchange](https://twitter.com/grain_exchange)

Museums and Galleries

CONVERGE:DIVERGE

**GORDON COCKBURN AND RONALD RAE
JOINT RETROSPECTIVE - A
CONVERSATION OVER FIVE DECADES**

18 NOVEMBER 2023 - 28 JANUARY 2024

FREE ENTRY

This exhibition follows the path of the two Ayrshire artists, who met in the 1970's and became



lifelong friends. Both artists recognised a desire to capture the heights and depths of the human soul, exploring subjects outwith the mainstream. The artists' transcendent achievement is an ability to use gesture, line and form to shortcut emotional expression in a spontaneous expressionistic style. They worked closely together in the 1970's (the 'converge' concept), and the exhibition then follows the subsequent development of each artist ('diverge').

Rae's tableau of images in 'found books' will be exhibited for the first time with the aid of slide shows, showing the contents in sumptuous detail.

Exhibition Opening Hours

Monday to Saturday: 10am - 5pm
Sunday: 12noon - 5pm

With wonderful museum and art collections at both The McKechnie and Rozelle, and in our newly open Heritage Hub in Ayr town centre, from world famous modernist sculpture to models of Ailsa Craig, we've got it covered for a range of fascinating things for everyone to see and do for free.

To explore our busy calendar of events visit:

Web: south-ayrshire.gov.uk/galleries
Twitter: [@samuseums](https://twitter.com/samuseums)

Libraries



**FREE EVENTS FOR
ALL AGES
13-19 NOVEMBER 2023**

ADVENTURE BEGINS WITH A BOOK!

Our libraries will be host to a fantastic line up of free events for Book Week Scotland 2023



The celebrations run from 13-19 November, and all events and activities are linked to this year's theme of Adventure. With something for all ages to enjoy, we have everything from Crafty Adventures to Tartan Teas!

Visit our online calendar for details:

www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk

THE GRAPHIC NOVEL WORLD OF METAPHROG

**11 NOVEMBER 2023 – SATURDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2024
CARNEGIE LIBRARY, 12 MAIN STREET, AYR KA8 8EB**

FREE EXHIBITION

This exhibition is of comic and graphic novel art by award winning duo John Chalmers and Sandra Marrs aka Metaphrog. The exhibition originally started at The Park Gallery in Callendar House in 2022. This showing at Carnegie Library is launched as part of Book Week Scotland 2023.



Metaphrog are Franco-Scottish duo John Chalmers and Sandra Marrs, author and illustrator of children's graphic novels. They are winners of the Sunday Herald Scottish Culture Awards Best Visual Artist 2016, have received multiple Eisner Award nominations and critical acclaim worldwide, and have appeared at many international festivals. They live in Glasgow. Search Metaphrog online for website and social media.



MARR EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES CENTRE, NEXT TO TROON LIBRARY

This autumn, we've got two new digital workshops on offer, both free for anyone aged over 16:

- Painting with Pixels – enjoy fun digital art sessions! For adults, no experience necessary.
- Get Digital at MERC – develop essential digital skills using the 'Learn My Way' website and help from the MERC team.



NEW LEND AND MEND HUB, GIRVAN LIBRARY

Have you heard about Girvan Library's new Mending Hub? It's a fantastic new pilot project aimed at bringing the local community together to reuse, share and repair clothing and textiles.

It's recently opened thanks to funding from the John Lewis Circular Future Fund – it's one of only nine Hubs to receive funding throughout Scotland, so it's great to have it here in South Ayrshire!

The Mending Hub in Girvan is provided free alongside existing library services and offers people a superb facility with everything they need to get mending - including sewing machines, dress mannequins and a sewing overlocker.

Don't worry if you've never tried this before - there's a programme of workshops, classes and events to help you develop your sewing and mending skills.



Fancy giving it a go? For more details, call Girvan Library on 01465 712 813.

THE LOW-DOWN ON OUR LIBRARIES

South Ayrshire Library service operates 11 branch libraries across our towns and villages, a mobile library service and the main library Carnegie in Ayr.

Today, there's so much more to our libraries than book loans, with a huge programme of events and activities for all ages.

Crafts include knitting, sewing, crochet and lacemaking. Or if board games are more your thing, there's Scrabble and Rummikub. There's

also film clubs, creative writing, Spanish classes and so much more. Children and young people are catered for too, from Bookbug sessions all the way to Senior Pupil Study Groups, and even Lego!

For the full list, see www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/libraries and click on What's on in Libraries.

Keep up to date via our social channels:

Twitter: [@salibraries](https://twitter.com/salibraries)

Facebook: [@salibraries](https://facebook.com/salibraries)

Community Funding



Hello!

I'm Milissa McCulloch, SAC's External Funding Officer. I'm based within the Community Engagement & Development team, which is part of the Thriving Communities service. My role is to provide community groups and organisations throughout South Ayrshire with advice on external funding opportunities and also funding that's available internally from SAC.

Every two weeks we issue a funding alert newsletter which includes information on funding that has been released nationally. If your group or organisation would like to be on the mailing list to receive this newsletter, please email externalfunding2@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

I can also come out to meet with your group or organisation to discuss what kind of funding you're looking for, and then develop a dedicated funding report for your needs and requirements. This report usually includes a range of national funders and Trusts. For new groups who have little experience of completing funding applications, I'm happy to provide support and guidance.

I've included a couple of examples below on how certain funding has been allocated in the past.

For more information on funding, or to arrange for me to meet with your group, please email me at: milissa.mcculloch@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

LACER fund

In March 2022, the Scottish Government announced a new £80m LACER fund. South Ayrshire Council's allocation was confirmed at £1.688 million. The funding was flexible and designed to empower local authorities to use it where they considered it necessary and could justify, based on local circumstances. The funding was intended to support local economic recovery and cost of living impacts on low-income households.

As part of this, a £100,000 Empowering Communities Fund was created to help 3rd sector groups and organisations to continue supporting families who were being impacted by the cost of living crisis. This funding was used to address issues such as food insecurity and fuel poverty, while supporting communities to recover from COVID-19. A total of 13 local organisations across South Ayrshire received a share of the £100,000.

Internal funding

SAC offers a range of funding opportunities for communities internally. An example is the Coastal Communities Fund. This year a total of nine local organisations received a share of £112,991 available.

A new fund will be opening from January 2024 to support Community Empowerment initiatives within South Ayrshire. More information on this fund will be included in our future funding alert newsletters.

Scotland Loves Local South Ayrshire Gift Card



Are you looking for the perfect gift?

Look no further than the Scotland Loves Local South Ayrshire Gift Card!

Over 190 local businesses have signed up to accept the card, so you're spoiled for choice on where it can be spent.

For a full list of retailers who accept the card, please visit <https://scotlandgiftslocal.com/product/south-ayrshire-gift-card/>

If you're a business looking to accept the card, you can sign up for free now here: <https://lovelocal.scot/register-your-business/>

Ailsa Craig Gifts

A local business that's signed up to the Scotland Loves Local Gift Card Scheme is Ailsa Craig Gifts in Maidens.

Whether you're looking for a gift that's a little bit different, or a special treat for yourself, Ailsa Craig Gifts offer a fantastic range of eco-friendly, personalised and locally themed items.

Their online shop boasts a host of unique, quirky gifts, many of which can be laser engraved with a selection of designs. You can even request specific designs of your own to order.

You could opt for keyrings carved from locally sourced whisky casks, some beautiful glassware, slate coasters or fridge magnets.

If you're looking to brighten up your home, Ailsa Craig Gifts also have a wonderful range of Harris Tweed luxury cushions to choose from – these too can be personalised.

Prices start from as little as £5 for the slate coasters. So there really is something on offer for everyone.

If there's just too much to choose from their delightful merchandise, and you can't decide on that perfect gift, you can purchase a Scotland Loves Local gift card and let your loved one choose something for themselves.

You can view Ailsa Craig Gifts online shop at www.ailsacraiggifts.scot



Ayr Concert Series: 'Big' Music for Young Ears!

Ayr Arts Guild - a registered charity run by volunteers - has been celebrating its Golden Jubilee this year with some special concert invitations for young listeners.

Through a partnership dating back to 1987 between South Ayrshire Council, the Scottish orchestras and the voluntary sector, the Guild has been arranging 'big' classical music to be performed by professional orchestras in Ayr Town Hall each winter for the Ayr Concert Series.

Keen to introduce young ears to this 'big' music, and to mark their 50th Anniversary, Guild Members worked with South Ayrshire Council's Instrumental Music Service to arrange for a hundred young listeners, along with parents and carers, to attend concerts by the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra and the Orchestra of Scottish Opera, free of charge.

This proved to be a tremendous success, with audience feedback full of applause for the initiative:

"What a wonderful opportunity for the young musicians to come and be inspired. We have so much to talk about after the concert tonight about what Kenneth saw and heard! Thank you!"

"Lovely that the musicians came out to speak to the young people."

Laura (10) "I really liked the concert but my favourite part was the number with the solo violinist. I was really surprised about how quick they put the fingers down. It looked like their fingers were dancing."

Lucas (13) "10/10, best thing I have been to in ages – just beautiful."

Lottie (10) "I really enjoyed it! Lovely music! Would go again."



Rosanne Philippens from The Netherlands chatting with young musicians from South Ayrshire.

Shonagh Stevenson, SAC Education Support Officer said: "We were delighted to collaborate with Ayr Arts Guild this session. Any opportunity to support our young people and their families to hear live music from national professional orchestras, in a local venue, is very welcome. We look forward to supporting more collaborative opportunities and thank them for their support."

Michael Hitchon MBE, speaking on behalf of Ayr Arts Guild, said: "We were thrilled at the reaction of the youngsters. They listened intently, were pleased that the soloists spent the 20-minute intervals chatting with them, and will never forget meeting two international star performers, and admiring the female conductor. Across the generations, we share a love of music which is for life!"

In October, young musicians, and parents and carers were invited to Ayr Town Hall to hear principal conductor of the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Maxim Emelyanychev, open the concert with a World Premiere of The Origin of Colour by Jay Capperault, followed by Bruch's Double Concerto for Clarinet and Viola and finally Beethoven's beautiful Symphony No.3 Eroica.



Young musicians will also be invited back to the Ayr Concert Series on 9th February 2024, to hear the Orchestra of Scottish Opera, conducted by Stuart Stratford, open with Jonathan Dove's piece Out of Time, then Finzi's Clarinet Concerto, ending with the Fifth Symphony composed by Vaughan Williams. Tickets for members of the public are available from The Gaiety box office.

The concerts are supported by Destination South Ayrshire, Ayr Arts Guild and the Scottish Children's Lottery Trust.

This information can be made available, on request, in braille, large print or audio formats and can be translated into a range of languages. Contact details are provided below.

درخواست کرنے پر یہ معلومات نابینا افراد کے لئے اُبھرے حروف، بڑے حروف یا آڈیو میں مہیا کی جاسکتی ہے اور اسکا مختلف زبانوں میں ترجمہ بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ رابطہ کی تفصیلات نیچے فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔

本信息可应要求提供盲文，大字印刷或音频格式，以及可翻译成多种语言。以下是详细联系方式。

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ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਬੋਲ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਸਣਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਰਪ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਲਈ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ, ਅਤੇ ਇਹਦਾ ਤਰਜਮਾ ਹੋਰ ਬੋਲੀਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ।

Niniejsze informacje mogą zostać udostępnione na życzenie, w alfabecie Braille'a, w druku powiększonym lub w formacie audio oraz mogą zostać przetłumaczone na wiele języków obcych. Dane kontaktowe znajdują się poniżej.

Faodar am fiosrachadh seo fhaighinn, le iartras, ann am braille, clò mòr no clàr fuaim agus tha e comasach eadar-theangachadh gu grunn chànanan. Tha fiosrachadh gu h-ìosal mu bhith a' cur fios a-steach.

South Ayrshire Council
Contact Centre
0300123 0900