



Girvan

ARTS  
Festival

2023

June 3rd - 4th



Hi!

Girvan is full of artists: musicians, poets, authors, playwrights, sculptors and visual artists. Girvan is also full of beauty: the natural scenery is sublime!

I want to involve the community in welcoming visitors, for as long as they want to stay. The weekend of June 3rd & 4th is an ideal time to visit, because the Girvan Arts Festival is back, after last year's inaugural event was a great success!

The programme sees a diverse band of wonderfully creative people, both local and from further afield, to share their stories.

The festival is based at the Girvan Community Garden, which will be offering scrumptious food throughout the day. The Festival Art Exhibition will be around the corner, at the Wee School Art Space. Children's events and the festival film club are in the town's library.

I want to thank two friends, Derek Hall and Brian Neve, for believing in me and my idea of an arts festival in Girvan, and for financing the festival. Thank you.

Big thanks also to Claire McCormick, our head librarian, who has been of immense support, and to Bill Arnott and Rory McAdam for the original artwork and photographs.

Come, enjoy, and plan a return visit next year...look at our website [www.girvanartsfestival.com](http://www.girvanartsfestival.com) or on Facebook or Twitter for the latest exciting news on this year's programme.

Helen DW Humphries, Poet  
Festival Director and Founder



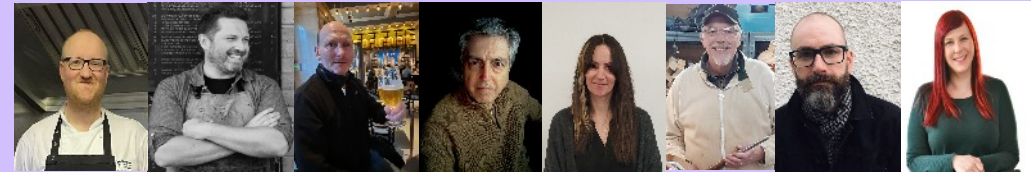
Dear all,

Welcome to the second Girvan Arts Festival, 2023. I'm honoured and thrilled to be a patron again for what is turning out to be an exciting addition to the cultural calendar.

Growing up in Girvan has inspired all of my work. It's a place which produces writers, musicians, artists, designers, makers and enthusiastic, knowledgeable audiences. A festival which brings all of those strands together is a wonderful thing.

My hometown is a special place for a visit any time, but with such a varied programme spread across the weekend, there's no better time to take a trip down the beautiful Ayrshire coast, and get a taste of that inspiration for yourself.

Douglas Maxwell, Playwright  
Patron of the Girvan Arts Festival



## FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

### Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June (Community Garden unless stated)

- 11.00 -12.00 **Douglas Maxwell: Setting the Stage**
- 11.00 - 12.00 **Marion Husband: Children's Workshop (Girvan Library)**
- 12.30 - 1.30 **Lex McCleary: Building boats - A life at the boatyard**
- 2.00 - 3.00 **Kayleigh Johnston: The Art of distilling**
- 2.00 - 3.00 **Arty Craft Session: Claire McCormick (Girvan Library)**
- 2.00 - 3.30 **Film: Cinema Paradiso (Girvan Library)**
- 3.30 - 4.30 **Douglas Skelton: The dark side of writing**
- 5.00 - 6.00 **Words by the sea: Poetry and Storytelling**
- 6.30 - 8.00 **Music in the Garden with John McGinnis and Friends**

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June (Community Garden unless stated)

- 11.00 - 12.00 **Alex Wilson: Woodturning Workshop**
- 12.30 - 1.30 **Scott Murdoch: Mackerel, Sea to Plate**
- 2.00 - 3.00 **Frances McArthur: The Art of Quilting**
- 3.30 - 4.30 **Jack Lowe: The Lifeboat Station Project**
- 5.00 - 6.00 **Strathclyde Chamber Choir (South Parish Church)**

### Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June

- 12.00 - 4.00 **Festival Art Exhibition (Wee School Art Space)**

Advance tickets for all events can be purchased at [www.girvanartsfestival.com](http://www.girvanartsfestival.com) and at the box office (cash only), subject to availability, or phone Helen Humphries on 07815 082662.

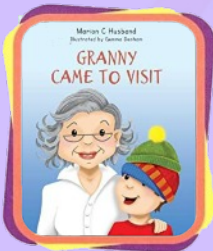


**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 11:00 - 12:00** **£5**  
**Douglas Maxwell: Setting the Stage**

A son of Girvan, and one of Scotland's top playwrights since his debut in 2000, his home town often features as a location in his work, which has been produced in almost every theatre in Scotland, and across the world: *Our Bad Magnet*, a play set in Girvan, ran for over a decade in South Korea and is currently being staged in Tokyo in a Japanese translation.

His recent work includes the musical *Orphans*, *Man's Best Friend*, and the BAFTA-nominated *Fatbaws*, with Peter Mullan.

Douglas will be talking about how Girvan shaped his work, the Scottish theatre scene, and making a life as a writer.



**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 11:00 - 12:00, Girvan Library**  
**Marion Husband: Children's Workshop**

Marion, a local writer of two children's books, and a regular at South Ayrshire Libraries, was inspired to write *Granny Came to Visit* for a friend who showered her grandchild with knitted gifts. It was awarded first prize by the Scottish Association of Writers in 2020. *The Friendship Bench*, her second children's book, was published in 2022.

Marion's workshop will be interactive, with the children joining in, making paper hats and generally having fun.

**FREE  
EVENT  
No need  
to book**



**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 12:30 - 1:30** **£5**  
**Lex McCleary: Building boats - A life at the boatyard**

Lex, reared in Barr, has worked man and boy building and mending boats at Alexander Noble & Sons' boatyard at Newton Kennedy in Girvan.

A family man, Lex has seen the change from working with predominantly wooden fishing vessels, for which 'Nobles' is famous, to building steel boats for Scotland's rapidly expanding fish-farming industry, and maintaining the UK and Ireland's fleet of RNLI lifeboats.



**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2:00 - 3:00** **£5**  
**Kayleigh Johnston: The Art of distilling**  
**Event only open to those 18 years and over.**

Girvan born and bred, with a background in Biochemistry & Microbiology and a qualified Master Brewer, Kayleigh is a New Liquid Development Project Manager with William Grant & Sons.

Having developed a wide range of products, her job is all about flavour, and the blending of science and art to create a seamless taste experience.

Due to the alcohol-based nature of the subject, no one under the legal drinking age can be admitted.



**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2:00 - 3:00, Girvan Library  
Arty Craft Session, with Claire McCormick**

**Age 5+**

For all budding young artists, enjoy an hour of fun-filled creativity at Girvan Library at this nature themed Craft Workshop for over 5s.

Design and decorate your own mini cardboard 3D forest, using all recycled materials, before creating a colourful Girvan beach-themed collage.

This free art session is hosted by Girvan Library's Claire McCormick. Limited spaces available.



**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2:00 -3:30, Girvan Library  
Film: Cinema Paradiso**

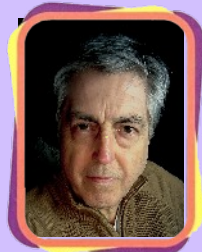
A showing of Giuseppe Tornatore's wonderful homage to the magic of cinema. Set in a small Sicilian town, the film centres on the friendship between a young boy and the local cinema's aging projectionist. Subtitles.

*'If ever a movie came from the heart, it is Giuseppe Tornatore's nostalgic Cinema Paradiso.'*

Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian

*'You leave Cinema Paradiso with that feeling that's kind of like getting kicked in the stomach, but nice.'*

Mick LaSalle, San Francisco Chronicle



**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 3:30 - 4:30 £5  
Douglas Skelton: The dark side of writing**

A former resident of Colmonell, Douglas is an unusual crime writer who specialises in both fiction and non-fiction from the darker side of our world.

His non-fiction works have gained him some television work as a true crime expert, and his crime fiction ranges from the tough streets of his home town of Glasgow to the wildness of the Scottish highlands. His latest Jonas Flynt crime novels take us into the murky past of 1700s Britain in his first foray into historical crime fiction.

Douglas will be in conversation with Alan Jeans.



**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 5:00 - 6:00 £5  
Words by the sea: Poetry and Storytelling**

Spoken words from local and visiting writers and poets, with a wee tippie thrown in to accompany the entertainment. Everything from poetry to prose, with a theme of our beautiful coastal environment, in its broadest sense.

Introduced by Helen Humphries, poet and founder of the Girvan Arts Festival, we hope that the event will help keep the long held tradition of communal storytelling alive.



**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 6:30 - 8:00**  
**Music in the Garden with**  
**John McGinnis and Friends**

**£5**

To round off the first day of the festival, what better way to chill out than to have a bit of 'craic', and listen to an eclectic mix of tunes served up by local musician John McGinnis, no stranger to playing festivals in his younger days with Stone the Crows, a band that featured Maggie Bell on vocals.

The Community Garden Bar will be open during the performance.



**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 11:00 - 6:00**  
**The Festival Box office**

The festival box office is located in the Community Garden. Our wonderful, friendly volunteers are ready to answer any questions you might have and sell you tickets for all the events over the two days of the festival.

Please note that the box office is cash only.



**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> & Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 12:00 - 4:00**  
**Wee School Art Space**  
**The Art Exhibition**

Admission to the exhibition is free, and will showcase the work of local artists and those taking part in the festival. The school art competition winners will be on display, and also at Girvan Library.

**FREE  
EVENT  
No need  
to book**



**Sunday 4th June 11:00 - 12:00** £5  
**Alex Wilson: Woodturning Workshop**

Working with native hardwood species like oak, ash, yew, beech, sycamore, and especially spalted beech, Alex, a retired education professional from Cumnock, has been turning wood for over twenty years. Turning a hobby into a passion, he likes to allow the beauty of the wood to speak for itself.

Sustainability is vital, and Alex will not use imported or exotic timber unless it is reclaimed stock. Most of the timber he uses is from local woodlands in Ayrshire, much of it already fallen. He is a member of The Association of Woodturners of Great Britain and the Ayrshire Woodturning Club, where he regularly demonstrates woodturning projects.



**Sunday 4th June 12:30 - 1:30** £5  
**Scott Murdoch: Mackerel, Sea to Plate**

The head chef at Culzean Castle and Country Park, Scott joined Turnberry Hotel as a 16-year-old junior in 2001 and, since then, has worked in kitchens in London, Cornwall and France, where he cooked in a 2-Michelin star restaurant. After another stint at Turnberry, he jumped at the chance to run the kitchen at Culzean, developing menus for other National Trust for Scotland sites as part of his remit.

A trio of Mackerel: pate, pan fried, and pickled, will showcase Scott's skills, from filleting to curing, and will whet your appetite. You will be able to taste Scott's food at the end of the demonstration.



**Sunday 4th June 2:00 - 3:00** £5  
**Frances McArthur: The Art of Quilting**

Frances has sewed and embroidered all her life, taught by her mother and aunts. In her forties she enrolled on a City & Guilds Embroidery course at the local college, which was an eye-opener.

Learning new techniques about embroidery which she didn't know existed, she was encouraged to visit galleries, museums, and quilt shows, taking in everything, not only textiles. Coming across 'art quilts', hanging on the wall, Frances was hooked, having always believed patchwork was meant just for bed coverings.



**Sunday 4th June 3:30 - 4:30** £5  
**Jack Lowe: The Lifeboat Station Project**

Photography has been in Jack Lowe's blood since, aged 8, he received a Kodak Instamatic camera from his grandmother, and from childhood he's had a love of lifeboats. After a career in photography, Jack needed a new project, and he had the idea of travelling to all 238 RNLI lifeboat stations in the UK and Ireland to photograph them, in order to preserve a vital aspect of our island nation's culture for generations to come.

And there's a twist! Jack works as the Victorians used to, making the photographs on glass plates from his mobile darkroom, a decommissioned ambulance called Neena. His work will also be shown in the Art exhibition.



## Sunday 4th June 5:00 - 6:00, South Parish Church Strathclyde Chamber Choir £5

Formed in 1980, the choir has a repertoire ranging from plainsong and renaissance music to the *a capella* staples of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and more contemporary work. The choir is self-funding, and performs regularly at Durham Cathedral and York Minster. They have toured widely abroad, recorded for BBC Radios 2,3, and 4, and have released a CD of Scottish part songs. In 2022 they performed Nitin Sawney's *About us* work at Paisley Abbey.

The choir has been led by its musical director, Alan Tavener, BEM, since its foundation, and is assisted by the associate conductor, Michael Graham.

This concert will have a focus on Scottish music, both old favourites and contemporary pieces, including new work by Tom Cunningham, set to words by Alexander McCall Smith.

### Our pricing policy

We wish to make the events at the Girvan Arts Festival inclusive, whatever your financial position. For that reason, the prices for events at this year's festival have been reduced to £5. If you feel generous, it would greatly benefit the future of the Girvan Arts Festival if you could afford to pay a little more. You can do this by cash donation at the box office or through our funding page [www.girvanartsfestival/festival-tickets/](http://www.girvanartsfestival/festival-tickets/)

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## The Girvan Community Garden

Most of the festival events take place in the wonderful Girvan Community Garden. The Garden provides a space for the community and creates opportunities for everyone to engage in horticultural events throughout year. It is a positive, safe, and welcoming environment to improve health and welfare, broaden skills in gardening, and create a vibrant, inclusive and multi-generational community.

The Dome is a fairly recent addition to the Garden, and we are delighted to host most of our speakers here.

Hot food and refreshments will be available to purchase throughout the day, and the pop-up bar will be open during the festival. Feel free to spend time at the garden - it is a lovely place to sit and reflect between sessions. [girvancommunitygarden.com](http://girvancommunitygarden.com)



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