Funded By TNL COMMUNITY FUND

Girvan ARTS festival

2024

June 7th - 9th

Hi!

Welcome to the 3rd year of the Girvan Arts Festival. This year, with very generous funding from the National Lottery Community Fund, we have expanded our activities, including working with Girvan Academy in Art and Drama; providing transport to and from the festival for outlying rural areas, and holding a few one-off events during the year.

The festival continues to give voice to talented and creative speakers, and to artists, whose work will be on show at the Wee School Arts Space.

Come along to the Community Garden and immerse yourselves in a variety of fringe arts and crafts happenings, as well as buying those tickets for a wonderful programme of speakers!

Helen DW Humphries, Poet

Festival Director and Founder

Dear all,

It is wonderful to be able to welcome you to the third Girvan Arts Festival.

As patron, I was thrilled and honoured to take part last year, and to be asked to return in 2024, where I'll be giving a masterclass in playwrighting at our very own McKechnie Institute.

Much of my work was inspired by my upbringing in Girvan, and it still is. 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

(Community Garden unless stated)

Friday 7th June

1:00 - 4:00 School Art Exhibition (Girvan Academy)
7:30 - 9:30 Film: Brassed Off (Girvan Library)

Saturday 8th June

10.00 -12.00 Douglas Maxwell: Playwrighting Masterclass (McKechnie)
11.00 -12.00 Phoebe Crawford: Which Way to Ailsa Craig?
11.00 - 12.00 Elizabeth McKay: Granny's Magic Bag (Girvan Library)
12.30 - 1.30 Jeff Zycinski: Bring Me the Head of Radio Scotland
2.00 - 3.00 Brian W Lavery: Headscarf Revolutionaries
2.30 - 3.30 Children's Craft Session: Ailsa Craig (Girvan Library)
3.30 - 4.30 Stephen Watt, Poet: A Substitute For Something Else
5.00 - 6.00 Words by the Sea: Poetry & Storytelling 'A Sense of Place'
6.30 - 8.00 Music in the Garden with The Quiggs

Sunday 9th June

11.00 - 12.00 Blackthorn's Salt: A taste of the Sea
12.30 - 1.30 Madeleine Black Writer & Podcaster: Unbroken
2.00 - 3.00 Jamie MacDonald, Signwriter: Preserving Tradition
3.30 - 4.30 Iain Govan, Head Gardener: Notes from Culzean Gardens
5.00 - 6.00 Newmilns & Galston Brass Band (South Parish Church)

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th

12:00 - 4:00 The Art Exhibition (Wee School Art Space)
See board Arts, Crafts and Music in the Garden (board at box office)
10:00 - 4:00 Festival Cream Teas (Café Royale)

Friday 7th June 1:00 - 4:00 Girvan Academy

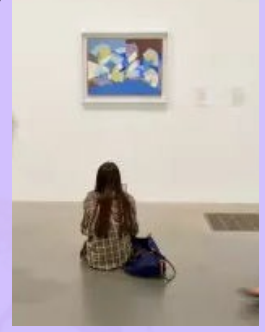
School Art Exhibition

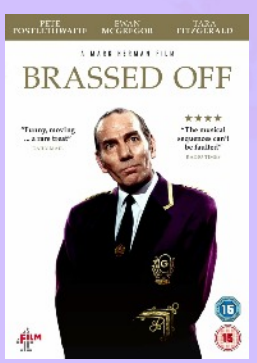
We are excited this year to be collaborating with Girvan Academy on a number of projects, including an art exhibition in the school.

FREE EVENT No need to book

It will showcase pupils' art and photography, and some of our exhibitors at the Wee School Art Space will also be displaying a sample of their work in the school exhibition.

As part of this project, there will also be a montage of the students' photographs in the Wee School Art Space. A grant to cover costs of film developing was awarded to the school by Girvan Arts Festival.





Friday 7th June 7:30 - 9:30pm Girvan Library

Festival Film: Brassed Off

FREE EVENT Phone Library 01465712813 to book

Brassed Off, starring Pete Postlethwaite, Tara Fitzgerald and Ewan McGregor, is a gem of a film, telling the story of the Grimley Colliery Brass Band, fighting to keep going as their pit is threatened with closure during Margaret Thatcher's sweeping cuts to the mining industry in the mid 1990's

There could hardly be a better choice for our festival film - our closing event features the Newmilns & Galston Brass band, who will be playing a few of the tunes from the film.

You'll definitely laugh, you'll probably cry, and you might even want to take up the flugelhorn

Tracey Petherick, Common Sense Media

There is not a moment in "Brassed Off" when I did not believe Postlethwaite was a brass band leader--and a bloody good one.

Roger Ebert, Chicago Sun-Times

Advance tickets for all events can be purchased at www.girvanartsfestival.com and at the box office (cash only), subject to availability, or phone Helen Humphries on 07815 082662. All events are in the Community Garden

Saturday 8th June 10:00 - 12:00 Eventbrite **£10**

Douglas Maxwell: Playwrighting Masterclass

Top Scottish playwright Douglas Maxwell's work 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.

During this interactive session, Douglas will be taking ten lucky participants through the process of writing a script for the stage, passing on the knowledge that he has accumulated over his illustrious career.

Those taking part will also have a chance to write a short script as part of the event.

Saturday 8th June 11.00 -12.00 Eventbrite **£5**

Phoebe Crawford: Which Way to Ailsa Craig?

Phoebe Crawford is a curator, musician and writer from West Yorkshire, now living and working in Glasgow. She has a passion for socially engaged art and community.

Phoebe studied Curating at Goldsmiths University of London, and more recently completed a master's degree in Curatorial Practice from the Glasgow School of Art.

Phoebe will be delivering a talk about her most recent project, a film entitled *Which Way to Ailsa Craig?* which she made in collaboration with the community of Girvan. Narrated by people Phoebe met along the way, the film follows a failed attempt to visit Ailsa Craig, and explores themes of oral history and insight by reflecting on Girvan and its community.

Phoebe's talk will be accompanied by a short screening of the film, followed by a question and answer session.

Saturday 3rd June 11:00 - 12:00, Girvan Library

Elizabeth McKay: Granny's Magic Bag

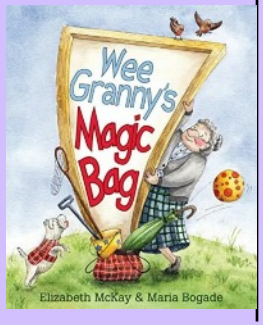
Elizabeth McKay is a children's author from Dalry in North Ayrshire and has had hundreds of stories and articles published in a variety of magazines.

FREE EVENT No need to book

Her *Wee Granny* series of picture books feature a Scottish Mary Poppins style character with a very surprising tartan bag!

In this interactive session, Elizabeth will be reading from her *Wee Granny* books, and there will be plenty fun, with memory games about what's in the bag, colouring in, and perhaps even a cupcake hunt.

With the *Wee Granny* series a big hit with children, this is a great chance to meet Elizabeth.



Saturday 8th June 12.30 - 1.30 Eventbrite **£5**

Jeff Zycinski: Bring Me the Head of Radio Scotland

Jeff Zycinski is the author of *The Red Light Zone* and *Travels from my Twilight Zone*, about his career before and after his time at the BBC including twelve years in charge of BBC Radio in Scotland, and his childhood, growing up in the east end of Glasgow as the seventh son of a Polish sailor who settled in Scotland after World War 2.

He's most commonly asked - mainly by his wife Anne - *What the heck goes on inside that head of yours?* In this talk he tries to answer that question as he recalls his experiences in Hollywood, his brief stint as a stand-up comedian and how a routine trip to the dentist ended with a shock diagnosis of mouth cancer, life-saving surgery and a decision to take up a new challenge, running a charity that helps elderly and disabled people get the most out of life.

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Saturday 8th June 2.00 - 3.00 Eventbrite **£5**

Frances Thorburn: Acting the Part

Brought up in Glasgow, Frances Thorburn lived in London after training as an actress, where she was lucky enough to appear at Shakespeare's Globe and in London's West End.

Frances has worked as an actor and a singer for many years, but she's most well known for playing Kim Monroe in the BBC's popular TV series, River City. As for treading the boards she has played many iconic women in theatre including Judy Garland, Doris Day, Dusty Springfield and Marilyn Monroe.

She now happily resides in Girvan and, in between TV and Theatre work, she also sings as part of a duo regularly and can be found performing for the guests at Cameron House and Gleneagles.

Saturday 8th June 3.30 - 4.30 Eventbrite **£5**

Stephen Watt, Poet: A Substitute For Something Else

Stephen Watt is the Poetry Editor for Nutmeg Football Magazine and the author of five poetry collections. In 2016, Stephen was appointed Poet-in-Residence at Dumbarton Football Club and became the first crime poet to appear at Bloody Scotland, the international crime-writing festival. Other titles include being appointed Poet-in-Chief for the Hampden Collection in 2018 and Makar for the Federation of Writers (Scotland) in 2019.

Among the awards won by Stephen are the Poetry Rivals Slam, the StAnza International Digital Poetry Prize, the Tartan Treasures award, and he was the inaugural winner of the Liverpool Poetry Prize, judged by Roger McGough.

Stephen's work has appeared in a French art gallery, a German chapel, and the American metro system, and he has edited two punk poetry collections: *Ashes To Activists* for the Joe Strummer Foundation and *Pogo Serotonin* for Buzzcocks. Since 2016, Stephen's side project has been the gothic spoken word/music collaboration, Neon Poltergeist.

Saturday 8th June 2.30 - 3.30 Girvan Library

Children's Craft Session: Ailsa Craig

Over 5's

This children's craft session will be an hour of creative fun for children hosted by our lovely librarians and themed around Ailsa Craig.

Using recycled material, the children will make their own mini island. Wear old clothes as there may be paint and glue involved!

FREE EVENT
Phone Library
01465712813
to book

Saturday 3rd June 5:00 - 6:00 Eventbrite **£5**

Words by the sea: Poetry and Storytelling 'A Sense of Place'

Spoken words from local and visiting writers and poets, with a wee tipple 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 Stephen Watt, fresh from his own event, *A Substitute For Something Else,* we hope that Words by the Sea will help keep the long held tradition of communal storytelling alive.

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Saturday 8th June 6.30 - 8.00 Eventbrite **£5**

Music in the Garden with The Quiggs

This Danish/Scottish folk duo, married couple Stephen and Pernille Quigg, present a unique tapestry of songs woven with a Celtic thread. Traditional or contemporary, the Quiggs' distinctness is the quality of the voices in harmony and the strength of the songs.

Stephen Quigg, part of part of the legendary folk group The McCalmans for 10 years, has made a living playing music for over 40 years. He grew up on the west-coast of Scotland where music was an important part of life. Stephen toured with the group all over Europe and he met singer/songwriter Pernille while performing in Denmark.

The Quiggs tour regularly with great success in Denmark, Germany and The Netherlands, and at home on Scottish soil.

"Pernille and Stephen Quigg are a duo who pack a real punch with their sparkling harmonies and no nonsense musicianship." David Jones

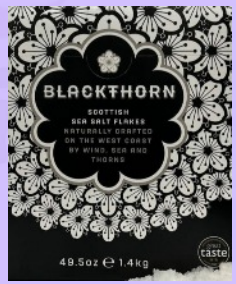
Sunday 9th June 11.00 - 12.00 Eventbrite **£5**

Blackthorn's Salt: A taste of the Sea

The simple goal of everyone at Blackthorn's Salt is to make the best salt they can, in flavour and crystal quality, as well as ensuring provenance and sustainability, here on the Scottish West Coast. Their unique method harnesses the sun, wind and sea with the world's only working Thorn Tower.

During this event, you will learn how pure Scottish seawater dribbling slowly through these thorns transform into a uniquely tasting organic salt that harnesses nature alone in its production, and about the Salters who make it happen.

There will be a chance to taste Blackthorn's Salt and make up your own mind



Sunday 9th June 12.30 - 1.30 Eventbrite **£5**

Madeleine Black Writer & Podcaster: Unbroken

'*It's not what happens to us that is important, but what we do with what happens to us and if we choose to, we can get past anything that happens to us in life*.'

Violently gang raped when she was 13 years old, and raped three times more before the age of 18, Madeleine has experienced more trauma in her life than most ever will. Living in a state of shock and self-loathing, it took her years of struggle to confront the buried memories of that first attack and begin to undo the damage it wrought, as men continued to take advantage of her fragility in the worst possible way.

Madeleine, who gives inspirational talks worldwide, discusses how forgiveness, living the best life she could, and sharing her story through her book, her podcast, her talks and her appearances on radio and TV, gave her back her life and inspired her to become an advocate for others.

Sunday 9th June 2.00 - 3.00 Eventbrite **£5**

Jamie MacDonald, Signwriter: Preserving Tradition

A self-employed traditional sign writer and decorative artist based locally, Jamie specialises in traditional hand-painted signs and bespoke artistic work.

He spent 3 years at Glasgow College of Building and Printing, studying Interior Design and Advanced Signwork Craft. After travelling in New Zealand and Australia for 18 months, working for several sign manufacturers and occasionally being commissioned for hand-painted signs or bespoke artwork, he returned home to Pinwherry in 1997 to start his own signwriting business, from vintage vehicles to traditional shop signs, branching out to restoring chancel ceilings, painting wall murals and signs for a film set.

Jamie will demonstrate his craft, and talk about his artwork while he paints!

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Sunday 9th June 3.30 - 4.30 Eventbrite **£5**

Iain Govan, Head Gardener:

Notes from Culzean Gardens

Hear first hand from Head Gardener, Ian Govan, about all aspects of Culzean gardens and estate. He will focus on the challenges, highlights and future developments that are planned, giving an unseen insight into what goes on in managing a historic designed landscape.

Ian started his gardening journey as a 'boy with a strimmer' at Logan House Garden nineteen years ago before stints at Edinburgh Zoo (while studying for his RHS qualifications at the RBGE) and at the National Trust for Scotland's school of heritage gardening at Threave Estate, gaining a Diploma in heritage gardening. Iain has been an NTS gardener ever since, working at Kellie Castle in Fife, then as the First Gardener at Crathes Castle in the North East of Scotland before 'coming home' to work at Culzean at the same time as starting a family in 2017.

Sunday 9th June 5.00 - 6.00 South Parish Church £5

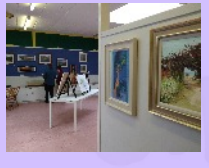
Newmilns & Galston Brass Band

Eventbrite

Newmilns and Galston Brass Band are one of the longest running brass bands in Scotland, with over 170 years of history attached. Ayrshire is proud and famous for its musical history and the band continue to deliver entertainment and excitement at their events.

Currently graded in the First Section of the National Championships, the band performs locally & nationally, as well as competing regularly in contests, maintaining a long musical tradition within the Irvine Valley.

In the wonderful acoustic setting of the South Parish Church, the band will play a selection of their favourite tunes and, in subtle nod to the Festival Film, *Brassed Off*, screened on the first day of the festival, they will perform selected tunes from the film.



Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th June 12:00 - 4:00

Wee School Art Space

The Art Exhibition

FREE EVENT No need to book

As ever, the popular Art Exhibition will highlight the creative talent we have in Girvan and Ayrshire. This year, there will also be a display of Girvan Academy pupils' photography.

Admission to the exhibition is free, and it will showcase the work of local artists and those taking part in the festival.

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th June 10.00 - 4.00 £5

Café Royale

Festival Cream Teas

A short walk from all of our venues, treat yourself to a coffee, tea, or a soft drink, and a cake or a jam and cream scone, all for a fiver.

Just ask for a Festival Cream Tea.

Saturday 8th & Sunday 9th June 11:00 - 6:00

The Festival Box office

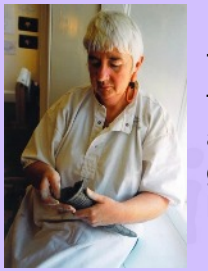
The festival box office is located in the Community Garden. Our wonderful, friendly volunteers are ready to answer any questions you might have and sell you tickets for all the events over the two days of the festival.

Please note that the box office is cash only.

Advance tickets for all events can be purchased at www.girvanartsfestival.com and at the box office (cash only), subject to availability, or phone Helen Humphries on 07815 082662. All events are in the Community Garden

Arts, Crafts and Music in the Garden

A new addition for this year, you will be able to take part in some artistic activities and, in between events, we hope to have a few local musicians providing a backdrop to the wonderful beauty of the gardens.



Pottering about!

Try your hand at a little pottery. Winnifred Wright from The Wave Gallery, who runs pottery classes as well as her lovely shop, will be on hand to guide festival-goers who don't mind getting their hands dirty through the pottery process.

Making small items from clay slabs, you'll get a photograph of your finished masterpiece. In the interests of sustainability, the clay will be recycled for someone else to have a go!

FREE EVENT No need to book

It's all fun, but you might just catch the pottery bug…

Pottery Taster now at the pottery in Hamilton Street. 11am - 1pm, Sat and Sun

FREE EVENT No need to book

Design your own Print!

Catrin Jeans, a local community artist, will give you a chance to design your own postcards using traditional printmaking techniques.

Printmaking goes back thousands of years and, while digital printing has now almost completely taken over, there is always a place for creative printmaking in art.

Let your creative juices flow and, when you've finished, you can take it with you, or sign it, and we'll stick them up around the garden.

Who knows, there might even be a prize for the best one…

Watch Out For

Coming in late summer \ autumn

Drum Workshop with Jay Hepburn

Local drumming maestro Jay Hepburn will take a break from his international touring schedule with the Red Hot Chilli Pipers to take a handful of beginners through the rudiments of drumming. And, it's going to take place in the Library, so if you ever wanted to make a noise…

Coming in early winter

Comedy Night

We aim to put on a comedy night in November to chase away those winter blues. Details still have to be sorted out but we are very hopeful that this will happen.

Advance tickets for all events can be purchased at www.girvanartsfestival.com and at the box office (cash only), subject to availability, or phone Helen Humphries on 07815 082662. All events are in the Community Garden

Funded By TNL COMMUNITY FUND

Our pricing policy & lottery funding

We wish to make the events at the Girvan Arts Festival inclusive, so the prices for most of this year's events have remained at £5. We were delighted to have been awarded a substantial grant from Creative Scotland through the lottery fund, which helps immensely, but if you feel you can afford to pay more, it would greatly benefit future Girvan Arts Festivals if you could afford donate a little extra, as cash at the box office or online.

Our lottery funding has also enabled us to:

- provide transport to allow those in outlying rural areas to attend the festival.
- Put on one-off events during the year under the umbrella of the Girvan Arts Festival. Keep an eye on the website and social media for news.
- Work with Girvan Academy on a number of exciting projects.

We are very excited to have teamed up with Girvan Academy for this year's festival, and the pupils will be playing a big part in the event - there will be a youth art exhibition at the school and some of the students' photography will be shown at the main exhibition in the Wee School Art Space.

And the pupils will be involved in the QR Code Trail which will take visitors on an art tour of Girvan.

A few of our festival speakers have pledged to visit the school and Douglas Maxwell, our patron, will talk to the pupils about his work and kick start a playwrighting competition, with a drama evening later in the year to showcase some of the talent that the academy boasts.

Pupils will also be volunteering in and around the festival, including being photographers and journalists, reporting on the events as they happen.

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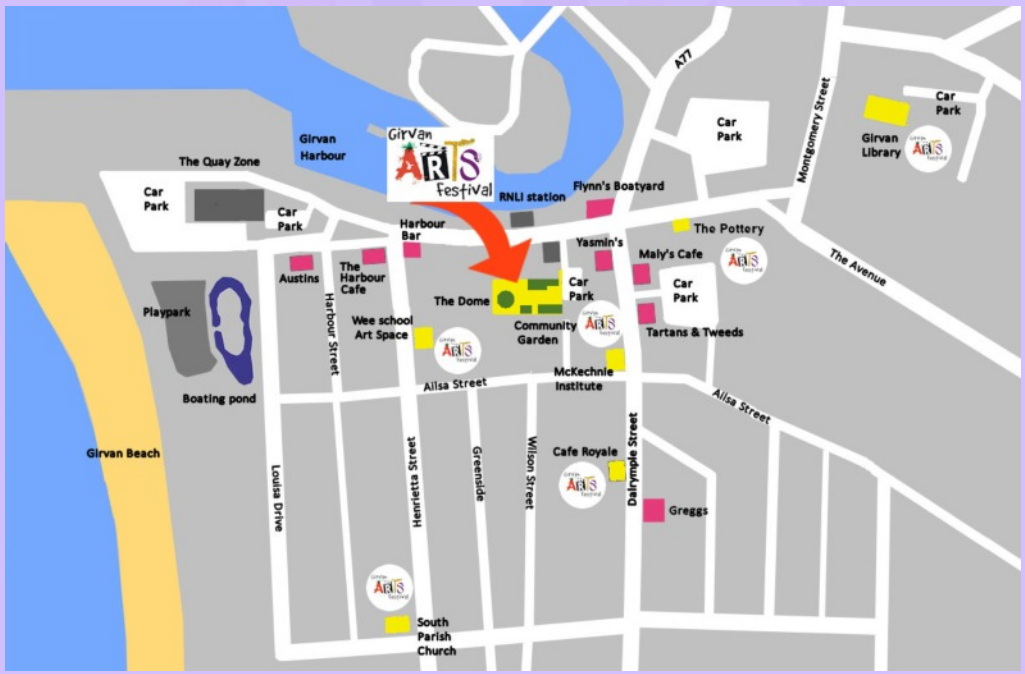
The Girvan Community Garden

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

Our other venues include Girvan Library, the McKechnie Institute, The Wee School Art Space and the South Parish Church.



info@girvanartsfestival.com
www.girvanartsfestival.com
/Girvanartsfestival
@girvanartsfestival