

## Saturday & Sunday



### Arts & Crafts at the Festival

Get your creative juices flowing with a range of arts and crafts in the Garden.



### Music in the Garden

As well as the Cafe Orchestra playing on Saturday evening, some wonderful local musicians will be entertaining festival-goers in the interludes between events. Pop in for some musical gems.



### 12:00-4:00 McKechnie Institute The Art Exhibition

Once again, the popular Art Exhibition showcases the creative talent we have in Girvan and Ayrshire, featuring new, exciting artists and our magnificent regulars. Also on show is some spectacular art and photographs from the pupils of Girvan Academy!

It runs from 24<sup>th</sup> May to 25<sup>th</sup> June. See website for the McKechnie Institute opening hours.

### The Festival Fringe



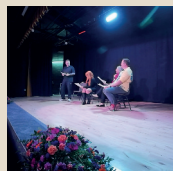
We're thrilled that Carraig Creatives are holding their launch event at Wilson's Mini Mart as part of the festival fringe, and we're delighted to welcome back CRAG, with lots of art activities based at the Wee School Art Space.

## Look out for...



### The Arts Debates

Theatre comes to Girvan



### The Girvan Community Garden

Most of the events will take place within the Garden, under canvas or in the dome. Volunteer-run, the Garden is a great place to chill out between events. A pop-up bar will be open, and food and hot beverages will be available at the garden cafe, along with music and pop-up crafts!



### Helen Humphries, Founder Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> Girvan Arts Festival

It's been a busy year with the operatic duo back for Christmas, a wonderful scratch night at Girvan Academy's new theatre, and Davie Hunter's musical play at The Wave in April. The Fringe Festival is developing, too, with workshops at The Wee School, and a

weekend exhibition by the newly-formed Carraig Creatives at Wilson's Mall.

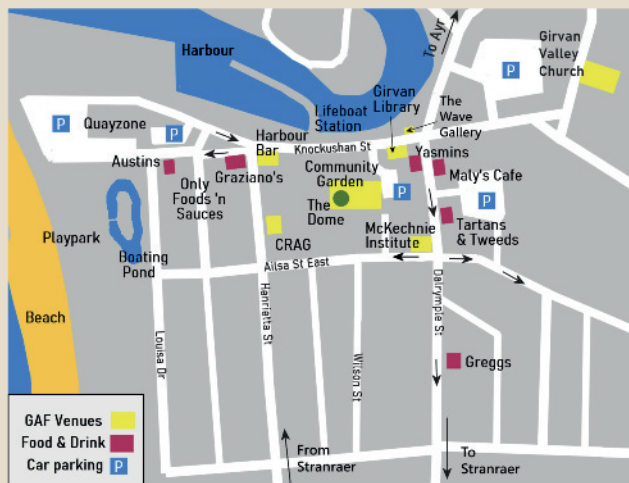
Once again, we look forward to our Art Exhibition at The McKechnie, and to an exciting cultural weekend, with fabulous speakers on a variety of topics, from wellbeing to book-selling, at the Girvan Community Garden, so book your tickets now!



### Douglas Maxwell - A message from our Patron

In a few short years the Festival has established itself as a joyous fixture in the town's calendar as well as making its presence felt on a national level.

This year the events and activities are as impressive (and eclectic) as ever, with exciting appearances from writers, artists, musicians and dancers. Enjoy!



[@Girvanartsfestival](https://www.facebook.com/Girvanartsfestival) [@Girvanarts](https://twitter.com/Girvanarts)

[info@girvanartsfestival.com](mailto:info@girvanartsfestival.com)

[www.girvanartsfestival.com](http://www.girvanartsfestival.com)



Thanks to Bill Arnott & Rory McAdam for original artwork & photography.



# Girvan Arts Festival

## 2026

## 29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> May



## Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May



### 6:00 - 7:00pm McKechnie Institute Art Exhibition Opening

**FREE  
EVENT**

email info@  
girvanartsfestival.com  
to book

Come along to the official opening of the Art Exhibition and meet the artists.

There will be wine and soft drinks, and a few nibbles. Please email to book.



### 7:30-8:30pm Girvan Library Ballantrae's Smuggling Story

Premiere of the short film, Ballantrae's Smuggling Story, by Craig Bradshaw and Roger Hunter, narrated by, and based on the books of Francis Wilkins.

The Filmmakers will be discussing the making of the film, and answering any questions.

**FREE  
EVENT**  
Phone Library  
01465712813  
To Book

## Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> May

10:00-12:00 McKechnie Institute £10

### Sharon Bairden & Noelle Holten: Femme Fatale - Crimewriting Workshop



If you've ever had an inkling to write a crime fiction story, or you have a story in your head but don't know where to start, this workshop could be just the thing for you.

Crime Authors and bloggers Sharon and Noelle will guide you through the pitfalls.



11:00-12:00 Girvan Library (ages 3-10)

### Gillian Spiller: Imagination Workshop

Enjoy a reading from one of Gillian's wonderful books, followed by a creative storytelling session designed to spark imagination for children and grown-ups alike.

**FREE  
EVENT**  
Phone Library  
01465712813  
To Book



11:00-12:00 Community Garden £5

### John Linck: The long road to Glastonbury

From Bowie's roadie to Welsh Opera, boat-liveaboard to teacher, ex-pat to quartermaster of the Park at the Glastonbury Festival, John has a story to tell!



12:30-1:30 Community Garden £5

### Christine Sparks: Loving Ourselves Wildly

Through story, stagecraft, humour, and song, Christine explores the visceral landscape of what is to be human in a world so hungry for magic.



2:00-3:00 Community Garden £5

### Andrew Horn: A Silver Lining

A jewellery maker whose work is inspired by the truths in many traditions, taking the best ideas from around the world, trying to integrate them into his designs.

From Los Angeles to Girvan in a lifetime.



2:30-3:30 Girvan Library (ages 5 to 11)

### Family Crafts Imagination Workshop

Come back in the afternoon for a hands-on Imagination Crafts Workshop! Let your creativity run wild with fun, family-friendly crafts. Remember to call the library to book your place



3:30-4:30 Community Garden £5

### Tanya Laing: Tango Stories

Creative freedom, communication and connection is paramount in tango. Tanya and Howard have developed their own style of dance that uses the natural spirals of the body to improvise movements inspired by the music as it plays.



5:00-6:00 Community Garden £5

### Words by the Sea: Poetry & Aromatics

Three poets. One alchemist.

A melding together of poetry from three local wordsmiths and spirits infused with the tastes of nature.



6:30-8:00 Community Garden £5

### Music in the Garden: The Café Orchestra

A unique gypsy jazz quartet made up from four of Ayrshire's top musicians. They play originals and gypsy favourites and have a unique flavour to their sound.

## Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May

11:00-12:00 Community Garden

£5



### John McKenna: Mastering Sculptural Excellence

From intricate cast bronzes to colossal stainless steel structures, John McKenna works with a diverse range of media and subjects and is one of the most respected sculptors in Scotland.

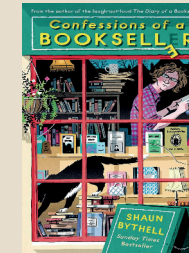


12:30-1:30 Community Garden £5

### Mystery Guest

We're working hard to bring this guest to the Arts Festival, but due to work commitments, they can't give us a definite 'yes'.

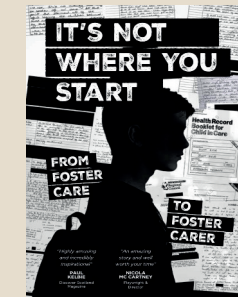
We have a cracking substitute lined up if needed, someone we have pencilled in for next year but who would be willing to come a year early. Watch this space.



2:00-3:00 Community Garden £5

### Shaun Bythell: Confessions of a Bookseller

A unique chance to join Shaun Bythell, the owner of The Bookshop in Wigtown, and the author of the bestselling 'The Diary of a bookseller', hearing tales from twenty years at the biggest second-hand bookshop in Scotland.



3:30-4:30 Community Garden

Scott Kyle: £5

### It's not where you start

Based on his memoir, It's Not Where You Start is a powerful live show blending storytelling, theatre, and film. Scott Kyle shares his journey from foster care to Hollywood, including working with Harrison Ford—an uplifting story of resilience and second chances.

5:00-6:00 Girvan Valley Church

£5

### Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra: A Scottish Medley



We are delighted to welcome the Ayrshire Fiddle orchestra to perform on the Sunday Evening at this year's festival.

The Ayrshire Fiddle Orchestra is a self-funding registered charity open to all young string players in Ayrshire, and they sound fantastic!