

Community

#SupportDG



EDITION 43

Friday 30 October 2020



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Inside

Scary Places

It's Murrur!

Traditional Hallowe'en
Games

www.dumgal.gov.uk/supportdg

Tel 030 33 33 3000

Dumfries
& Galloway



Welcome to Community

If you would like help understanding this or need it in another format
telephone 030 33 33 3000



Cllr Elaine Murray
Council Leader



Cllr Rob Davidson
Depute Leader

Hello, and welcome to issue 43 of your Community Bulletin.

As France and Germany impose lockdowns, Europe is clearly in the grip of the second wave of Covid-19.

The number of Covid-19 cases is currently rising in Scotland but there are signs of positive progress as the rate of increase appears to be slowing.

It is crucial that we act as quickly as possible to reduce the transmission rate and prevent a rapid increase in cases, which could overwhelm NHS Scotland and cost lives.

On 23 October, the First Minister announced proposals for a new strategic framework for managing Covid-19 in Scotland, based on the view that it would be best to tackle its resurgence by targeting specific local circumstances rather than a national approach.

Following a short period of consultation, specifically involving local authorities and directors of public health, the proposals for the 5-level framework were agreed by the Scottish Parliament on 27 October, to be implemented from Monday 2 November. The arrangements will be reviewed weekly

This week the Scottish Government announced that Dumfries and Galloway will initially be categorised as Level 2.

To minimise the risk of Dumfries and Galloway moving to a higher level and maximise the chance of moving to a lower level, it is essential that we all follow the guidance and stay within the rules.

The coming week will see both Hallowe'en and Bonfire Night. Obviously, this year, children won't be able to go guising door to door. Nor will we be able to gather in the gardens of friends or neighbours for firework parties. But this edition of our Community Bulletin shows that you can still have fun while staying safe.

with best wishes
Elaine and Rob

On the Level

The Scottish Government has announced that Dumfries and Galloway will be categorised as Level 2.

Level 0 – nearly normal

- Indoor meetings allowed: maximum of 8 people from 3 households
- 15 people from 5 households can meet outdoors

Level 1 – medium

- 6 people from 2 households can meet indoors/outdoors
- There may be additional restrictions at times preventing socialising at home

Level 2 – high

- No indoor meeting with other households
- 6 people from 2 households can meet outdoors and in hospitality settings
- Pubs, bars and restaurants permitted to sell alcohol indoors with a main meal, and only until 8pm

Level 3 – very high

- Alcohol sales not permitted indoors/outdoors; cafes, pubs and restaurants allowed to open until 6pm to serve food and non-alcoholic drinks

Level 4 - lockdown

- Non-essential shops, hospitality and gyms closed
- Some outdoor meeting allowed
- Schools open

For full info on the strategic framework see:

<https://www.gov.scot/>



[@dgpcouncil](https://twitter.com/dgpcouncil)



[@DumfriesGallowayCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/DumfriesGallowayCouncil)



Email updates dumgal.gov.uk/newsletters

Spooked!

Dumfries and Galloway's 10 scariest places

Dunskey Castle

Theatre Royal, Dumfries

Scotland's oldest working theatre, opened in 1792, is said to be haunted by a lady dressed in green. A phantom of the opera can be heard singing arias. One staircase is said to be particularly eerie and it's best not to hang about. And there's the tale of a woman falling from the balcony and killing the unfortunate man whom she landed on!

Carnsalloch House

The lands at Carnsalloch were linked to the Knights Templar in the 12th century.

The site was the property of the Maxwells for hundreds of years before London chemist Alexander Johnston built a Palladian mansion there in 1759. In more recent times, the impressive house was used as a Leonard Cheshire care home, before being vacated and falling rapidly into disrepair. Its occupants are said to include a ghostly pink lady and a headless horseman who thunders up the drive!

Buccleuch Street Prison, Dumfries

Today, the site is occupied by Dumfries and Galloway Third Sector but it has a macabre past. The junction of Buccleuch Street and Irish Street was the site for hangings.

The last public hanging in Scotland, that of Robert Smith, the Annandale Murderer, was conducted there on 12 May 1868. There too, murderer Mary Timney was the last woman to be publicly hanged in Scotland on 29 April 1862.

Ringcroft of Stocking

The last remaining tree of a small wood marks the site of the farm that was tenanted by Andrew Mackie in the late 1600s. His family was attacked by unseen hands, pelted with stones, and fires suddenly ignited. Witchcraft was blamed and the ghost of a boy was seen. A local minister was called in to record the events and take witness statements from the locals. It is said that when the last tree falls, the poltergeist will return

Threave Castle

Built by Archibald the Grim, this 14th century keep sits on an island in the River Dee, near Castle Douglas. It was the scene for the beheading of Sir Patrick Maclellan. It is also linked to The Black Dinner, from which William, 6th Earl of Douglas, and his brother David, set out for Edinburgh Castle where they were brutally executed. A gallows and a pit dungeon add to the feeling of foreboding, and then there are the unidentified voices and breathing sounds.

Spedlins Tower

This massive 15th century tower house is said to be haunted by James 'Dunty' Porteous. In 1650, after a disagreement with Sir Alexander Jardine, Porteous was thrown into the pit dungeon. When Jardine had to rush off to Edinburgh on urgent business he forgot to leave the prison key with his servants. By the time Jardine returned, Porteous had died of starvation. In desperation, he'd gnawed on his own hands and feet!

Dunskey Castle

Built by the Adairs in the 16th century, the 4-story tower house's remote and wild clifftop setting make for a broody location. A previous fortification on the site was burned down in an act of vengeance. And an Abbot was imprisoned and tortured in the castle. A brownie supposedly roams the site and it's said to be haunted by a nursemaid who dropped a small child out of one of the windows.

Glenluce Abbey

In 1911, J Maxwell Wood wrote the chilling tale of a man who uncovered the skeleton of 13th century alchemist and wizard Michael Scot. Having cast spells to lure the plague, Scot was buried in the Abbey upright, along with his alchemy books. The shocking sight of Scot's upright body reputedly drove the man mad.

A75

The Gretna-Stranraer road is rumoured to be Scotland's most haunted road, particularly the Kinmount straight near Annan. Amongst its sightings are phantom hitchhikers, eyeless spectres, and a multitude of supernatural creatures, animal and fowl. The most frequently seen apparition is an old man in tweeds standing at the Kinmount bus shelter.

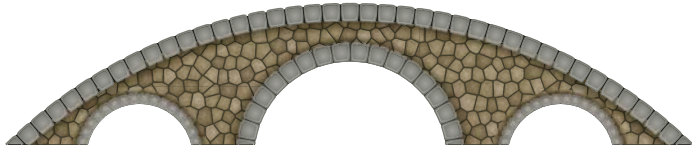
Lochmaben Castle

This Bruce family ruin, dating back to the 13th century, saw its fair share of bloodshed and is said to be haunted. People often hear a phantom drummer and the clatter of horse hooves. It's also said that there's a 12th century vampire on site.



"Thurs bin a murder!"

We're all familiar with Taggart's catchphrase as the grouchy detective solved the crimes of Glasgow. But what have been some of the deadly deeds perpetrated in Dumfries and Galloway.



The Bodies Under the Bridge Murders

On the morning of 29 September 1935 a young woman out walking glanced over the parapet of the old stone bridge located 2 miles (3km) north of Moffat. On the bank of Gardenholme Linn she was shocked to see **an arm protruding from a bundle of fabric**.

A search of the surrounding area by the Dumfriesshire Constabulary **found 2 human heads and 4 more bundles of dissected human remains**, all in an advanced state of decomposition. The wrapping included pillowcases and newspapers, dated 6 and 31 August and 15 September 1935. This triggered a murder investigation featuring some of the most advanced forensic science for its time.

A post-mortem established that the collection of 70 body parts belonged to 2 women and that the dissection had been carried out by someone with extensive knowledge of anatomy using a surgical knife. The **fingertips and teeth had been removed** to make identification difficult. However, another bag of remains subsequently found provided a complete set of fingerprints.

To approximate how long the victims had been dead, the then-pioneering techniques of forensic entomology were used to establish the age of maggots on the corpses, based on the life cycle of the pupae.

One of the **newspapers used to wrap the body parts** was a Sunday Graphic souvenir edition only circulated in the Morecambe and Lancaster area. The police focussed their search on persons reported missing in North West England. 5 days prior to the discovery of the body parts, Dr Buck Ruxton told Lancaster police that his wife had deserted him and gone missing. On 1 October Mary Jane Rogerson, a maid, was reported missing by her family in Morecambe.

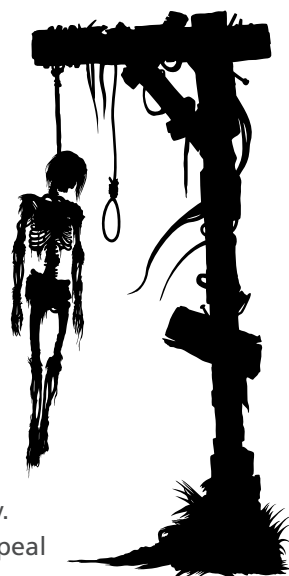
Ruxton was arrested by Lancaster police on 12 October and, after extensive questioning, charged with his wife's murder on 5 November. His trial opened on 2 March 1936 at Manchester High Court of Justice. The prosecution case alleged that, inflamed by jealousy, he murdered Isabell Ruxton and her maid who had witnessed or become aware of the crime. Ruxton's defence was that the bodies were not those of his wife and her maid. In another ground-breaking use of forensic anthropology, **an x-ray of the victim's skull** was superimposed on a photograph to identify Mrs Ruxton.

The jury found Dr Ruxton guilty of the murders. Despite a petition for clemency signed by more than 10,000 Lancashire residents, he was hanged at HM Prison Manchester on 12 May 1936.

Mary Timney

On 13 January 1862, a police constable was summoned to Carsphad near the east of what is now the Galloway Forest Park. He found a woman with multiple injuries in a "dying state". In this remote location, suspicion immediately fell on neighbour Mary Timney, who'd had several disagreements with the victim.

Charged with murder, Timney was tried at Dumfries, where a jury unanimously pronounced her guilty. Despite 3,000 people signing an appeal for clemency, on 29 April 1862, Mary Timney was the last woman in Scotland to be publicly **"hanged by the neck upon a gibbet till she be dead."**



Little Ross Lighthouse

In August 1960, the secretary of the local RNLI branch took a trip with his son to the Little Ross lighthouse off the coast of Kirkcudbright. Two relief keepers should have been on duty but only one was present, Hugh Clark, and he was dead! The other keeper, Robert Dickson, was arrested in Yorkshire and charged with murder. He was **found guilty and sentenced to hang**. His term was commuted to life imprisonment but he took his own life while in jail.

Many years later, comedy show Chewin' the Fat would appear to have been inspired by the incident to create their irritable lighthouse keeper characters, and the catchphrase "gonnae no dae that!"



On the right path

The Scottish Government Improvement Services is showcasing work by Crossmichael and District Community Council to develop the Crossmichael Woodland Path.

Councillor Andy Ferguson, Chair of the Council's Communities committee, said: "We place a huge emphasis on community empowerment and this work carried out by Crossmichael Community Council is a fantastic example. Well done to everyone who has contributed. I look forward to seeing the path for myself."

Councillor John Martin, Vice Chair, said: "The whole community will benefit from the path and the Community Council should be very proud of its efforts. It's great to see our countryside improved to benefit residents and visitors."

For more info, see:

<https://twitter.com/gallowayglens/status/1318832583875198977>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RdsZPa8xhfo>



Don't get caught by the ghoulies

The name Hallowe'en comes from All-Hallows Eve, first marked in the 16th century.

Communities would light huge bonfires to keep evil spirits at bay. Scary faces were carved into turnips to create lanterns to scare off wandering ghouls. Anyone who's ever attempted to hollow out a neep will appreciate how the American pumpkin from Trick or Treat has become the lantern of choice!

Here are some Hallowe'en traditions:

Guising involves children dressing up as malicious spirits and going from house to house on their street. Not this year, it doesn't. The belief was that they would blend in with wandering spirits and stay safe from harm. After performing songs, recitations, or other acts, the guisers receive treats, such as sweets, to ward off evil spirits.

Apple Dookin' is an ancient Celtic tradition and the game is still a favourite for children at Hallowe'en. Without using their hands, participants have to grab an apple floating in a basin of water with their mouth. It's harder than it sounds!

Treacle scones is another game that involves no hands. Participants have to catch with their mouth scones spread with sticky black treacle. As you can imagine, things can get a tad messy!

Nut Burning is a Hallowe'en tradition that was once common among recently engaged couples. The betrothed each put a nut in the fire. If the nuts burn quietly, the union will be happy. If the nuts hiss and crackle, the future will be turbulent.

Kale Pulling uses the now fashionable green vegetable to predict future romance. In Robert Burns' poem Hallowe'en, people pull kale stocks from the ground with their eyes closed. The length and shape of the kale stalk represents the future partner's height and figure and the amount of soil around the roots is an indicator of wealth.

A poster for the Moffat RFC Halloween event. The background is orange with black spider webs and bats. The text is in white and black. At the top, it says "MOFFAT RFC PRESENTS". Below that, "THE BIG HALLOWEEN WEEKEND PUMPKIN TRAIL". Then, "FRI 30TH OCT - SUN 1ST NOV". Below that, "COVERING MOFFAT & BEATTOCK". Then, "DECORATE YOUR WINDOW OR GARDEN WITH PUMPKINS / HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS OR SIMPLY CARVE A PUMPKIN AND LEAVE IT AT THE END OF YOUR PATH FOR PEOPLE TO FIND." At the bottom, there is a small globe icon and the text "Please observe social distancing and good hand hygiene throughout." and the Moffat RFC logo.

DON'T GET BLOWN UP

It's hard to think we are almost at November 5 and Bonfire Night once again. It's also likely this year that more people than ever will buy fireworks for their own use in the absence of organised displays due to Covid-19.

Trading Standards Officers within Dumfries and Galloway Council's Community Safety section will be carrying out visits to licensed retailers to ensure fireworks are legal and safe for your use. However, you can do your part by:

- Ensuring you only buy safe fireworks from a legitimately licensed retailer
- Making sure that the fireworks are labelled with a CE mark, which indicates compliance with appropriate safety standards, and that they are either F2 or F3 category for ordinary consumer use. The former British Standard (BS) is no longer acceptable.



- Reading and following all safety instructions for safe use and following the safety distances when setting off your fireworks
- Never discharging fireworks in a public place

In a year when we can all do with some extra cheering up let's make sure our fireworks night is fun and as safe as possible by following the firework code.

<https://www.britishfireworksassociation.co.uk/firework-advice-for-consumers/>

Films of the Week

Hallowe'en House of Horror (and Laughs) at RBCFT

There is a triple bill of Hallowe'en films for you at the Robert Burns Centre Film Theatre this weekend.

In true scary horror film fashion, **The Evil Dead and Evil Dead II** are screening as a double bill on Friday evening. Director Sam Raimi and actor Bruce Campbell made their names with the series, Raimi going on to make three Spiderman films with Tobey Maguire and Campbell becoming a huge cult star.

The first film is a superb low budget horror about a group of youngsters who venture out to an isolated cabin in the woods. In the sequel the lone survivor of an onslaught of flesh-possessing spirits holes up in a cabin with a group of strangers while the demons continue their attack. The follow up has plenty of scares but Raimi also pays homage to The Three Stooges' brand of slapstick: the 'evil hand' scene finds Ash (Campbell) poking himself

in the eye, punching himself in the face and imitating Charlton Heston, before he has to cut the hand off to save himself. Then the hand takes on a life of itself.... The Evil Dead Double Bill is showing on Friday 30 October at 7.30pm.

On Saturday night it's **Young Frankenstein**, Mel Brooks' fabulous spoof of the Universal monster movies of the 1930s. Gene Wilder stars as Dr Frederick Frankenstein (grandson of Victor) so embarrassed by his family's legacy that he pronounces his name "Fronk-en-steen." When he finds out he has inherited the family castle he travels to Transylvania to claim it. There Frederick finds his grandfather's books and decides to resume his experiments. Wilder is brilliantly supported by Marty Feldman as the not terribly bright



Igor ("Abby Normal"), Madeline Kahn as the seductive Bride of Frankenstein, Terry Garr as Frederick's glamorous assistant, Cloris Leachman as besotted housekeeper Frau Blücher, and Peter Boyle as the Monster. Mel Brooks doesn't have a starring role but provides the voices for the werewolf, Victor Frankenstein, and a cat getting hit by a dart. Brooks adds his trademark goofy comedy to the mix and the whole cast have a ball. The Putting on the Ritz routine with Wilder and Boyle is an all-time classic. Altogether now, "To ze lumberyard!" Young Frankenstein is showing on Saturday 31 October at 7.30pm.





1 Where is Transylvania?

Hungary
Scotland
Romania
Nowhere - it's made up

2 What do you call a fear of Halloween?

Samhainophobia
Spooky-itis
Acute Boring Syndrome
Deadly Pumpkin Disease

3 Which of these would be most useful if a werewolf attacked you?

A gun with silver bullets
A big stick
A cardboard box to hide in
A 10 second headstart to run away

4 When do werewolves transform themselves?

10pm every second Tuesday of the month
During lunar eclipses
When there's a full moon
Whenever they feel like it

5 Victorians were big fans of spooky things, but why did they put bells in their coffins?

So they could into heaven easier
In case they were buried alive by accident and needed to ring for help
So their ghost could call for supper
It made a nice tinkling noise at the funeral

6 What do you call a ghost that moves things around your house?

A poltergoose
A poultry-ghost
A poltergeist
A pointy-beast

7 What are mummies wrapped up in?

Linen Cloth
Crepe Paper
Loo Roll
Nothing, that's just their pyjamas

8 What's the only way to kill a zombie?

Feed it cold custard
Cut off its head or destroy its brain
Make it watch old black-and-white movies until it dies of boredom
It's impossible - try to make friends with it instead

9 Are pumpkins fruits or vegetables?

Fruit
Vegetable
Both
Neither

10 Which famous Prince was Dracula based on?

Prince Charles
Vlad the Impaler
Prince Charming
Beat from Beauty and the Beast



Halloween activities for children

Dumfries Museum has some great resources to keep young ones entertained this Halloween. If you head over to <https://www.dgculture.co.uk/learning/> you'll see how to make a Haunted House and how to make a Haunted Puppet too!



Make a Pumpkin Heid

How to carve a pumpkin heid:
<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/how-carve-pumpkin>



Eat the contents of the Pumpkin Heid

And, once you've made your pumpkin heid, don't waste the innards:
<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/recipes/collection/pumpkin-recipes>

Key Contacts



National COVID-19 Helpline 0800 111 4000

For people who don't have family or existing community support and can't get online and who are over 70, disabled, require the support of mental health services, are pregnant or receive a flu jab for health reasons, will be directed to our dedicated local team who can offer essential assistance.

NHS24 111
www.nhsinform.scot

Emergency 999

Doctor Out of Hours 111

Dumfries and Galloway Council 030 33 33 3000
www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG

Business Support Helpline 01387 260280
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub 030 33 33 3001

Social Work Out of Hours 01387 273660

Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway 0300 303 8558

**Dumfries and Galloway
Citizens Advice Service** 0300 303 4321
www.dagcas.org

Samaritans 116 123

SHOUT Text SHOUT to 85258 for free

Scotland's Domestic Abuse Helpline 0800 027 1234

Age Scotland 0800 12 44 222
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

Shelter Scotland 0808 800 444
Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

LGBT Helpline Scotland 0300 123 2523

Childline 0800 1111



REMEMBRANCE DAY

Paint a Poppy to Put in your Pane

Since 1921, the poppy has been used to raise funds to support veterans and the poppy has become an enduring symbol of remembrance.

The annual fundraising would not have been possible without the efforts of thousands of members of the British Legion and Legion Scotland volunteering to sell poppies.

However, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the restrictions we must all adhere to, many events and fundraising initiatives will necessarily be in a different format this year.

In the week of Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday, you're being asked to display a poppy in your window. So, you can either download a poppy from <https://www.poppymap.org.uk/products/download-a-remembrance-poppy> or you can draw or paint one and display it.

Legion Scotland is asking too that you donate at its Just Giving Page for Poppy Appeal 2020



The answers to last week's quiz:

1. The Nu-Sonics
2. Slik
3. The Isley Brothers
4. Guns N' Roses
5. Prince
6. Jimmy Sommerville
7. Black Horse & the Cherry Tree
8. Emeli Sandé

9. Calvin Harris

10. Roy Williamson
(The Corries)

11. Annie Lennox

12. The Humblebums

13. Michelle McManus

14. Sweet

15. Fish

Spooky Quiz Answers

1. Hungary
2. Samhainophobia
3. A gun with silver bullets
4. When there's a full moon
5. In case they were buried alive by accident and needed to ring for help
6. A poltergeist
7. Linen Cloth
8. Cut off its head or destroy its brain
9. Fruit
10. Vlad the Impaler