

Community

#SupportDG 

EDITION 44
Friday 6 November 2020



Maxwellton War Memorial in Dumfries



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Support



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Dumfries
& Galloway



Welcome to Community



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@DumfriesGallowayCouncil



Email updates dumgal.gov.uk/newsletters



Cllr Elaine Murray
Council Leader



Cllr Rob Davidson
Depute Leader

Welcome to your Community Bulletin.

As we approach Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, it's important that we take time to reflect and honour those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

As we suffer the effects of the global Covid-19 pandemic, it is sobering to think that more people died in the Spanish Influenza pandemic of 1918, than lost their lives in the seemingly unremitting carnage of WW1, the "war to end wars".

But, of course, wars haven't ended and, since the Second World War, our service men and women have been involved in conflicts such as Korea.

Currently around 11,000 UK troops are deployed overseas, including Afghanistan, Estonia, the Falkland Islands, Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan, and Ukraine. 14 Royal Navy ships will be at sea over Christmas, and a submarine is on patrol every minute of every day.

1 in 5 of the Scottish population is a member of the veterans' community, being either an ex-service person or a spouse/dependant of an ex-service person.

Our Council is committed to supporting our veterans' community as demonstrated by our Armed Forces Charter and our Gold Award from the Armed Forces Employer Recognition Scheme.

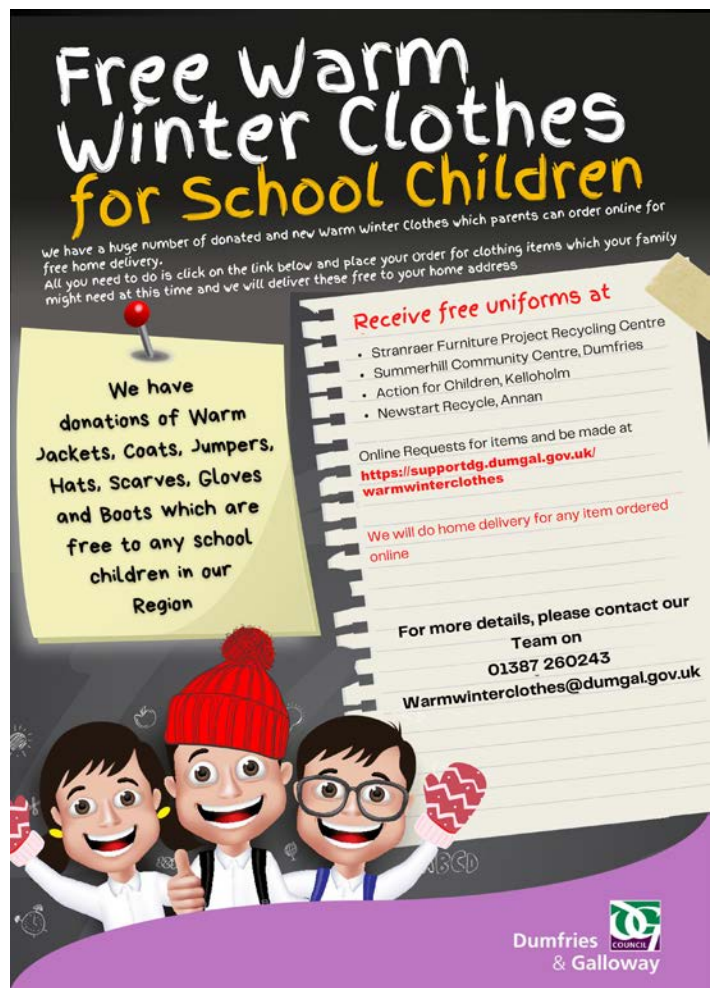
The Scottish Poppy Appeal is the main fund raiser to support veterans and their dependants in Scotland. It will be badly hit by us not being able to buy and wear poppies as we would normally do. So, please display a poppy in your window and donate at <https://www.legionscotland.org.uk/>

with best wishes
Elaine and Rob

Local Heroes **DGVC**

Six men from Dumfries & Galloway have been awarded the prestigious Victoria Cross, one in the Crimean war and five in World War 1.

1. John Ross was born in 1822 in Inch, near Stranraer. Around 1849, he enlisted in the Royal Engineers. During the siege of Sebastopol, in 1855, Ross performed 3 acts of gallantry: leading a party of 200 men to connect with a forward rifle pit; leading an attack under heavy enemy fire; carrying out a mission to report the evacuation of an enemy location and bringing back a wounded man he found in open ground. Ross received his Victoria Cross in person from Queen Victoria in June 1857. He died in London in 1879.



Free Warm Winter Clothes for School Children

We have a huge number of donated and new warm winter clothes which parents can order online for free home delivery. All you need to do is click on the link below and place your order for clothing items which your family might need at this time and we will deliver these free to your home address.


Receive free uniforms at


- Stranraer Furniture Project Recycling Centre
- Summerhill Community Centre, Dumfries
- Action for Children, Kelloholm
- Newstart Recycle, Annan

Online Requests for items and be made at <https://supportdg.dumgal.gov.uk/warmwinterclothes>

We will do home delivery for any item ordered online

For more details, please contact our Team on 01387 260243
Warmwinterclothes@dumgal.gov.uk



Dumfries & Galloway Council 

Remembrance 2020



Guidance from the Scottish Government and Legion Scotland is that there should be no Remembrance Day events held at war memorials this year. This includes Remembrance Sunday on 8 November and Armistice Day on 11 November.

Legion Scotland suggests that in towns and villages in Dumfries and Galloway people observe 2 minutes silence on their doorstep at 11am on Sunday 8 and Wednesday 11 November.

If possible, on Remembrance Sunday, a bugler can play the last post from a prominent position in the town or village at 11am.

No formal Wreath Laying Ceremonies should be held. Those wishing to lay a wreath are asked to do so individually.

Churches are allowed to hold an indoor service, subject to the guidance that includes no more than 50 people attending and physical distancing being observed.



Why a Poppy?

This poem was written, in May 1915, by Canadian physician Lt Col John McCrae, after the funeral of a friend who died in the Second Battle of Ypres. Wild poppies were blooming between the simple wooden crosses marking the graves.

The poem was first published in Punch magazine in December 1915. It was the penultimate poem that McCrae would write. He died of pneumonia in January 1918, aged 45.

The poppy was adopted as a symbol of remembrance in 1921. The Royal British Legion ordered 9 million silk poppies for 11 November. They sold out immediately, raising more than £106,000.

The next year a factory was set up in Aylesford, employing disabled veterans to manufacture the poppies. In 1926, the Lady Haig Poppy Factory opened in Edinburgh.

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

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amongst the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

Today, disabled veterans in Edinburgh make around 5 million Legion Scotland poppies, with 4 petals and no leaf, unlike the 2-petal variety produced in England.

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. Last year around 40,000 volunteers distributed 40 million poppies throughout the UK. This year,

however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the restrictions we must all adhere to, many events and fundraising initiatives will necessarily be different.

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 the Legion Scotland website or paint or draw one.

Legion Scotland is asking too that you donate at <https://www.legionscotland.org.uk/>



Horrible History in Dumfries

Horrible History is a new project run by the Youth Enquiry Service on Wednesday evenings.

As young people have previously enjoyed learning about local history, for projects such as last year's Hallowe'en event at Oasis Youth Centre, the project will look at the history of Dumfries and the surrounding areas. It will link to various appropriate topics, such as witch trials, mental health stereotyping and stigma, and progress in the treatment of mental health issues.

The project will also explore clan names and family heritage and look at how Dumfries has changed.

Wednesdays, 6.30pm to 8.30pm, Youth Enquiry Service, DG One, Dumfries

Booking essential: www.tinyurl.com/dgyouthwork



3. Samuel Thomas Dickson Wallace

Wallace was born in Thornhill in 1892. In November 1917, while serving as a lieutenant in the Royal Field Artillery at Gonnellieu in France, he performed an act of heroism, the citation for which stated: *'For most conspicuous bravery and devoted services in action in command of a section. When the personnel of the battery was reduced to five by the fire of the artillery, machine guns, infantry and aeroplanes; had lost its commander and five of the sergeants, and was surrounded by enemy infantry on the front right flank, and finally in the rear, he maintained the fire of the guns by swinging the trails round close together, the men running and loading from gun to gun. He thereby not only covered other battery positions, but also partially assisted some small infantry detachments to maintain a position against great odds. He was in action for eight hours, firing the whole time, and inflicting severe casualties on the enemy. Then owing to the exhausted state of his personnel, he withdrew when infantry supports arrived, taking with him the essential gun parts and all wounded men.'* He died in Moffat in 1968.



2. James Edward Tait

was born on 27 May 1886 in Greenbrae, Maxwelltown. He emigrated to Canada, where he worked as a civil engineer. He enlisted in the Canadian Expeditionary Force in February 1916 and served with the 78th [Winnipeg Grenadiers] Battalion during World War 1.

He was awarded the Military Cross [MC] in 1917. He died in action on 11 August 1918 at Amiens in France. His VC citation stated: *'For most conspicuous bravery and initiative in attack. The advance having been checked by intense machine-gun fire, Lieutenant Tait rallied his company and led it forward with consummate skill and dash under a hail of bullets. A concealed machine gun, however, continued to cause many casualties. Taking a rifle and bayonet, Lieutenant Tait dashed forward alone and killed the enemy gunner...this gallant officer displayed outstanding courage and leadership and, though mortally wounded by a shell, continued to aid and direct his men until his death.'*



A Stroll in the Park was launched at Springfield Playing Fields last week for active communities.

These strolls are aimed at anyone who is living with or recovering from a long-term condition. But, they are also ideal for anyone wishing to maintain a level of fitness by developing strength, balance and walking confidence.

The low-level walks, organised by the Council's Health and Wellbeing team, are not only important in terms of physical wellbeing, they also provide a valuable social opportunity for people to get together, improving mental wellbeing

At Springfield, walkers get the opportunity to use the Green Gym equipment to improve strength and balance.

Comments from people taking part include:

"These strolls are helping me to get back walking again and to improve my breathing"

"I'm glad I can get out the house and meet new people"

"I'm enjoying using the facilities within a group as I don't know if I would normally do it on my own"

The strolls take place on Wednesdays, from 1.30 pm to 2.15pm. Meet at playfield entrance on Bensmoor Road. Booking is essential, t: 07921 038 688 or e: Active.Communities@dumgal.gov.uk

TRACTORS ON TOUR



Lower Nithsdale Young Farmers' Club held a tractor tour on 1 November at Park Farm in Dumfries.

The event raised money to buy an interactive table for dementia patients in the Glencairn Ward at Midpark hospital in Dumfries.

100 vehicles registered to take part: 1 lorry and 99 tractors, new and vintage.

Despite pouring rain and high winds, the socially distanced event was a huge success.



DGVC  **4. Private James Mackenzie** went to school in Dumfries and enlisted in the Scots Guards in February 1912. He went to France in October 1914 with the 2nd Battalion of the Scots Guards.

On 19 December 1914, Mackenzie rescued a severely wounded man from in front of the German trenches, after a stretcher party had been forced to abandon their attempt under very heavy fire. Later the same day, he was shot dead by an enemy sniper while attempting a similar act. Private James Mackenzie was subsequently awarded the Victoria Cross for conspicuous gallantry.

MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS

The Mental Health in Schools project started in August 2020, providing low-level mental health support in the region's secondary schools.

Each school has been allocated a trained youth information worker 2 days a week, to deliver 1-to-1 support to pupils going through a difficult time or struggling with feelings. By identifying negative feelings, young people can develop coping strategies and manage their wellbeing.

In addition to a team of 9 youth information officers, 3 youth workers are delivering an 8-week course called Living Life to the Full for P6 and P7 pupils in 11 primary schools, with more than 200 pupils participating. This course aims to improve the pupils' wellbeing, teaching skills to raise, confidence, tackle problems, and build resilience.

Lottery Boost for 11 Dumfries and Galloway Groups

Eleven community groups in Dumfries and Galloway have hit the Lottery jackpot sharing a total of £273,958.

The latest round of National Lottery Community Fund money was confirmed this week, and next week, we'll report on some of the lucky groups, and how they plan to use their grant funding.

More on the Community Fund at tnlcommunityfund.org.uk



DGVC

5. Louis McGuffie was born in Wigtown in 1893. In October 1914, he joined the Galloway Rifle Volunteers [D Company], subsequently serving with the King's Own Scottish Borderers 1st/5th Battalion.

On 11 May 1915, the battalion sailed from Liverpool to serve at Gallipoli. Casualties were high and some Wigtown men were killed. Louis was twice wounded. In January 1916, the battalion moved to Egypt, seeing action in Palestine and Gaza. The battalion was deployed to Belgium in April 1918.

He was awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions at Piccadilly, near Wytschaete, Belgium, on 28 September 1918. He was killed in action only a few days later, on 4 October 1918, when he was hit by a shell, unaware that he would be awarded the Victoria Cross.

A KOSB officer describing McGuffie's actions, stated: *'The chief strong point in the Boche line was Piccadilly Farm, a fortified house held by a number of machine guns. Time and again McGuffie rushed the machine guns by himself and knocked out or captured their crews. Then, later, it was found that a party of 20 fellows from another battalion had been cut off and surrounded by twice as many Germans. McGuffie took a couple of men with him, made a surprise rush on them, and surrounded and captured all the Boche.'*

Bill Cunningham's Film of the Week

The Secret Garden

In this topsy-turvy cinema year, *The Secret Garden* is another major film that was due to be released in April when the Covid crisis struck and was subsequently delayed to August. Sky stepped in to purchase the British distribution rights with the film now having only just opened in cinemas in time for the October holidays (as well as premiering on Sky TV channels).

This is the fourth film version of the classic children's book by Frances Hodgson-Burnett, originally published in 1911 and set in the Edwardian era. The new film moves the time frame to 1947 during the partition of India where a 10-year-old girl, Mary Lennox, is orphaned when her parents die in a cholera outbreak. She is sent to stay with her uncle, Lord Archibald Craven in his gloomy mansion and estate

in Yorkshire. He is a widower and has become a reclusive alcoholic.

Mary is a spoiled, impertinent child haunted by her loss and now intimidated by this strange house with noises in the night. But her discovery of an invalid cousin and an enchanted garden changes her personality and her life.

Marc Munden's film revels in the gothic mystery of the huge mansion with ghostly overtones and the secret garden is revealed as a CGI enhanced mixture of a Peruvian jungle and English country garden with herbaceous borders. Instead of the overgrown walled garden of the book this is an expansive Kew Gardens in a constantly sunny Yorkshire.



The performances by Dixie Egerickx as Mary, Colin Firth as her uncle, and Julie Walters doing her stern housekeeper act are fine and while I found the slow pace and the fabricated back story diluted the magic, this is a welcome family film to escape in. It is on at the Lonsdale in Annan and will be at the Robert Burns Centre from November 6. *The Secret Garden* is also showing on Sky Movies and Sky Now TV.

Bill Cunningham worked as a member of staff at the Robert Burns Centre Film Theatre and, previously, wrote the film page for the Dumfries & Galloway Standard.

"Only the dead have seen the end of war."

Jorge Santayana

Activities Page



PET QUIZ

Have your kids or grand-kids got pets?

Ask them these questions and see how good their knowledge is.

Answers on the back.

Questions from Beano online

1. Which of these is NOT a real breed of dog?

- Chow Chow
- Asian Wheat Hound
- Clumber Spaniel
- Otterhound

2. There are more pet fish than pet horses. True or false?

3. There are more pet dogs than pet fish. True or false?

4. How long have humans kept dogs as pets?

- 524 years
- 10 years
- 4,000 years
- Over 10,000 years

5. In South America, guinea pigs are sometimes eaten as dinner, as well as kept as pets. True or false?

6 Which of these things do cats NOT have?

- Rough Tongues
- Claws that go in and out
- Sweat Glands
- Cute little noses

7. According to scientists, dogs like to go to the toilet in line with the Earth's magnetic field. True or false?

8. How many different types of pony are there?

- About 10
- 82
- Over 200
- Only 1 - Shetland ponies

9. Pigs actually make great pets (if you have enough space for them), and they're smarter than you might think. Which of these animals are pigs smarter than?

- Horses
- Cats
- Dogs
- Horses, cats and dogs

10. At what age does a chinchilla's teeth stop growing?

- 6 months
- 1 year
- 3 years
- They never stop growing and have to gnaw on things to keep them short



Ingredients

- 1 (about 1.5kg) butternut pumpkin, halved
- 2 tbs extra virgin olive oil
- 8 thyme sprigs
- 2 large carrots
- 4 slices cured and smoked streaky bacon (optional)
- ½ tsp fennel seeds
- ½ tsp chilli flakes, plus extra to serve
- 1 onion (unpeeled)
- 3 garlic cloves (unpeeled)
- 500ml chicken or vegetable stock
- 2 tbs creme fraiche, plus extra to serve

Warming Autumn Pumpkin Soup

Method

1. Preheat oven to 220°C (200°C fan-forced). Line a large baking tray with baking paper. Drizzle the cut sides of the pumpkin with 1 tbs oil, then place, cut-side down, on prepared tray on top of thyme sprigs.

2. Place the carrots and bacon, if using, in the middle of a large piece of foil. Sprinkle over the fennel seeds and chilli flakes. Drizzle with the remaining 1 tbs oil. Add to the baking tray and roast for 30 minutes.

3. Remove the vegetable mixture from the oven and add the onion to the tray. Enclose the garlic in foil and add to the baking tray. Roast for a further 30 minutes or until tender.

4. Meanwhile, for the croutons, combine the parmesan, butter, fennel seeds, chilli flakes, coriander seeds and thyme in a bowl. Season. Stir to combine. Spread the butter mixture over 1 side of the baguette slices. Place on a lined baking tray. Sprinkle with extra parmesan. Set aside.

5. Remove vegetable mixture from the oven and replace with the crouton tray. Roast for 8 minutes or until golden and bubbling.

6. To make the soup, strip the thyme leaves from stalk and add to a large saucepan. Scoop out the pumpkin seeds and discard. Scoop out the pumpkin flesh and place in the saucepan with the carrots and bacon, if using. Peel the onion and garlic, and add to the pan. Add any remaining pan juices. Use a stick blender to break down slightly, then add the stock and 1½ cups water. Blend until smooth. Stir in the creme fraiche. Season to taste and cook over medium heat until warmed through.

7. Transfer to serving bowls. Top with extra creme fraiche and micro herbs. Season with pepper and sprinkle with extra chilli flakes. Serve with spiced parmesan croutons.

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

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

DGVC  **6. William Clark Kennedy** was born at Dunskey House, near Portpatrick in 1879. His great grandfather, Captain Alexander Clark, was decorated on the field following the Battle of Waterloo (1815), where he captured the Eagle and Colours of the French 105th regiment.

Having emigrated to Canada around 1903, William enlisted in the Royal Highlanders of Canada in September 1914. He was mentioned in despatches 4 times, received the Distinguished Service Order and Bar, was made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George, and was awarded the Croix de Guerre.

He was awarded the Victoria Cross for most conspicuous bravery, initiative and skilful leading on the 27 and 28 August 1918 when in command of the battalion at Arras in France. While commanding the 24th Battalion (Victoria Rifles) Canadian Expeditionary Force, he led the initial charge on enemy trenches. On the second day he was badly wounded in the leg. Though bleeding profusely and in intense pain, he refused to be evacuated from the battlefield. Using a shell hole as his command post, he continued to direct his men until, realising that his exhausted troops could advance no further, he established a strong defensive line. His actions saved countless lives and made it possible for fresh troops to resume the forward attack. His VC citation stated: *'Undismayed by annihilating fire Lt Col Clark Kennedy, by sheer personality and initiative, inspired his men and led them forward. On several occasions he set an outstanding example by leading parties straight at the machine-gun nests which were holding up the advance and overcame these obstacles...It is impossible to overestimate the results achieved by the valour and leadership of this officer.'* Two of his brothers were killed in action in WW1. He died in Montreal in 1961.



Answers

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Asian Wheat Hound | 6 Sweat Glands |
| 2 True | 7 True |
| 3 False | 8 About 200 |
| 4 Over 10,000 years | 9 Horses, Cats and Dogs |
| 5 True | 10 They never stop growing |