



Monday 15 May 2023

Community

SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE EDITION



Convener and Depute Convener Message

Welcome to this special commemorative edition of *Community*, marking the Coronation of their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla. It has been an enjoyable time for many of our region's residents and the amazing range of celebrations in local press and social media has demonstrated, yet again, that our communities are creative.

Wonderful buffets, enormous cakes, lots of crown making, dancing and music have all featured and it's been great to see people coming together in their communities. There's no doubt that this was a historic event and that we made the most of that opportunity to bring people together and learn about our past, both of which are valuable for our wellbeing.

We hope that you find this special edition interesting and uplifting.



Raising the Union Flag at Council Headquarters

Congratulating Their Majesties

The Convener and Depute Convener of Dumfries and Galloway Council, Councillor Malcolm Johnstone and Councillor Gail Macgregor sent a letter to congratulate their Majesties on their Coronation, on behalf of Dumfries and Galloway Council and the people of our region.



Echoing the thoughts of those sharing in the celebrations with their families, communities, faiths and cultures, Councillors Johnstone and Macgregor sent their best wishes to the newly crowned King and Queen.





Ding Dong!

In Dumfries, the church bells rang out on Saturday 6 May from 2.30pm for an hour. The bells rang in various patterns including 'Kings' (75312468), 'Queens' (13572468) and also rang a method called Grandsire Doubles. This was recorded on the Ringing World website ringingworld.co.uk

On Sunday 7 May, the bells were rung for the morning service but in the afternoon, with the help of three experienced ringers from Glasgow, a quarter peal of Plain Bob Triples was rung lasting for 43 minutes. This consisted of the eight bells being rung continuously and the order of the bells changed in a set pattern 1260 time without repetition.

On Saturday 20 May, ringers from all over Scotland will be visiting St John's for a striking competition where bands will be ringing for set periods and the accuracy of the ringing judged. Rather than having open bells and upsetting the neighbours, the clappers will be tied so they don't make a noise. However, sensors on the bell wheels are linked up to a computer so loudspeakers can play them in the church and allow them to be judged.

Normally the bells ring from 10.15am to 11am on the Sunday before morning service but they also ring for practice night on Thursdays from 7.30pm to 9pm.

Whithorn Celebrates

There were Coronation celebrations across our region, organised by individuals and communities. Whithorn and District Community Council held a full programme of events over the weekend, including a picnic with the primary schools, and a community showing of the Coronation. The community all got into the spirit by entering a competition to decorate their homes and businesses in royal style.



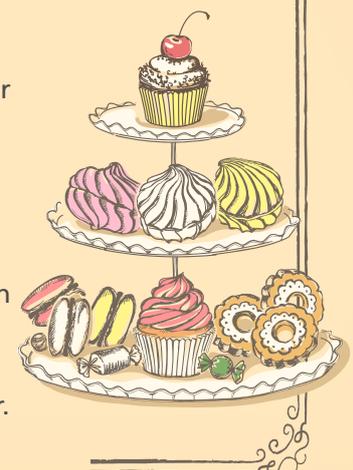
The events brought together individuals and organisations, including The New Town Hall, Dumfries and Galloway Council's Youth Work Team, musicians from the South Machars Community Centre, and Simpson's and the Central Cafe for the essential cake and ice cream. It will be a weekend that will remain long in the memories of those who were there.

Tea for the Queens



Dumfries and Galloway Council is to host a unique event in 2023 to celebrate the queens who are crowned in the many community galas and Riding of the Marches that take place across our region.

All the community gala queens will be invited to a special afternoon tea and group photograph in September 2023 to mark their coronation in this national Coronation year.



They are the Champions!

Dumfries and Galloway volunteers were among the Coronation Champions announced in the run-up to the Coronation of His Majesty The King and Her Majesty The Queen Consort.

They include Stephen Carruthers who helped to get a new half-million pound performing arts centre up and running for Dalbeattie. Stephen is a tireless youth leader, and has been called an inspiration to those he helps.

Matthew Rolfe from the Summerhill Community Centre in Dumfries has also been recognised. Matthew never stops in his efforts to keep the community centre running – and even grass cutting for neighbours.



Maththew Rolfe

Laura Howieson from Dumfries has been selected for setting up the Dumfries and Galloway Eco Warriors. She has been praised for organising teams of volunteers to do beach cleans and keeping the coastline tidy.



Laura Howieson with the D&G Eco Warriors

The Coronation Champions Awards are organised by the Royal Voluntary Service and celebrate extraordinary volunteers who have been contributing to their communities – and has the backing of the Queen.



THE QUEEN'S COMMONWEALTH ESSAY COMPETITION 2023

Since 1883, the Royal Commonwealth Society has delivered The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition, the world's oldest international schools' writing competition.

To mark the 50th Anniversary of the Commonwealth Youth Programme, Commonwealth Heads of Government declared 2023 a year dedicated to youth-led action for sustainable and inclusive development – and called on a renewal and strengthening of our commitment to youth engagement and empowerment.

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2023 asks entrants to explore the power young people hold within the global community and consider how this power can be harnessed to make a meaningful impact in the world.

There are two categories in the competition – the senior category for young people aged 14 to 18, and the junior category for children and young people under 14 years of age.

The top two winners from each category will be awarded a trip to London for a week of educational and cultural events, culminating in a special awards ceremony at a royal palace. All successful entries will receive a Certificate of Participation – and a number of entrants will receive Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards for excellence in writing.

The Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition 2023 is now open for entries until 30 June 2023. For more information on how to enter the competition please visit www.royalcwsociety.org



Snaps Around the Region

These photographs are from our online photograph collection (viewdumfriesandgalloway.co.uk) and from our collection of the Dumfries and Galloway Standard covering visits by HM King Charles III during his time as Prince of Wales and Duke of Rothesay.

He made his first visit in 1979 and paid further visits in 1989, 2006 and most recently, in 2019 when Camilla, the Duchess of Rothesay, joined him.



Prince Charles viewing a picture of Edward, Prince of Wales (taken in 1878) – held by Tom Johnston, by the steps of Sanquhar Tolbooth Museum in February 1979. The Prince received a pair of Sanquhar gloves from the Cornet's Lass, made by Jean Williamson

The Duchess of Rothesay visits Moat Brae in Dumfries



Time for a chat with some of the workers at Century Aluminium, Sanquhar, after the royal visitor had made a tour of the factory. "There's not much work being done here, today," joked the Prince



Prince Charles and Dumfries MP, Sir Hector Munro share a lighter moment with Miss Jean Kennedy, Mrs Isabelle Haggart and Mrs Mary Starkey in Park Place



Tucking in to Celebrate

Around our region, pupils joined in the festivities and enjoyed a Coronation menu – prepared by school catering staff. The happy faces tell us a good time was had by all.



Drummore



Sandhead



Kirkgunzeon



Calside



Castle Kennedy

Lord-Lieutenants

Lord-Lieutenant for Wigtown, Mrs Aileen Brewis

"The Coronation was a truly wonderful occasion, and I was honoured to be part of such a diverse congregation that saw political representatives of all parties, celebrities and faith leaders mixing with people from all parts of the UK who had been invited for their outstanding contributions to their local communities. It was a celebration for communities and people of all ages."

Lord-Lieutenant for The Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, Matthew St Clair, The Lord Sinclair

"It was a great honour and privilege to represent the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright at the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla on Saturday 6 May. A day when the country and people from all walks of life came together, as one, in celebration of our King and Queen."



Lord-Lieutenant of Dumfries, Mrs Fiona Armstrong

"What an amazing few days: colour, celebration, reflection – above all a chance to get together and help each other. This was a fantastic example of old-fashioned community spirit."



BIG HELP OUT

Fiona Armstrong, Lord-Lieutenant of Dumfries, helping out at the Food Train, Dumfries office, on Monday's Big Help Out. Fiona helped take the phone orders and met the volunteers.



"This is not just a delivery group," she said, "these volunteers offer friendship and a listening ear."



Deputy Lord-Lieutenant, Andrea Thompson took part in The Big Help Out during what was a very busy and happy day at The Usual Place, Dumfries.

Andrea told young people that she had learned a lot about what goes on behind the scenes in the cafe and that she had felt welcomed.

The Lord-Lieutenant of Dumfries, Fiona Armstrong, outside Westminster Abbey with Mouswald's Ann Hill, BEM, quilter extraordinaire and charity fundraiser; Graham Watson, BEM, community champion from Moniaive; and Annan's Hardip Atwal, BEM, community champion



Armed Forces



The monarch of Great Britain has three important roles with the Armed Forces:

- Promoting the role of the Armed Forces within national life
- Supporting the welfare and interests of service personnel, veterans and their families; and
- Maintaining the history and heritage of the Armed Service

Formally the sovereign is the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, which makes King Charles III 'the boss' of all serving personnel across our forces. Although it is essentially an honorary position, being a role model for integrity, loyalty and service are important leadership qualities that can have a great influence on culture and morale.

The fantastic display at the Coronation Parade last weekend was a great exercise for the troops, as well as showing the world the discipline and skills of our Armed Forces. There were a number of people from our region involved – including the two sons of former councillor John Charteris.

Coronation events held in Dumfries and Galloway brought together veterans in comradeship and reflection, including one at the Dumfries Veterans Garden that the Convener, Councillor Malcolm Johnstone attended, along with Armed Forces Champion, Councillor Archie Dryburgh, Councillor Linda Dorward and MSP Colin Smith.



Provost Maureen Johnstone with the entry in the Council Visitor Book commemorating Prince Charles's visit to the area in 1979.

We hope that King Charles III will make another visit to our region again soon.

Quilt made by Ann Hill, BEM, and children from Kirkbean School and Clover Glen students.

