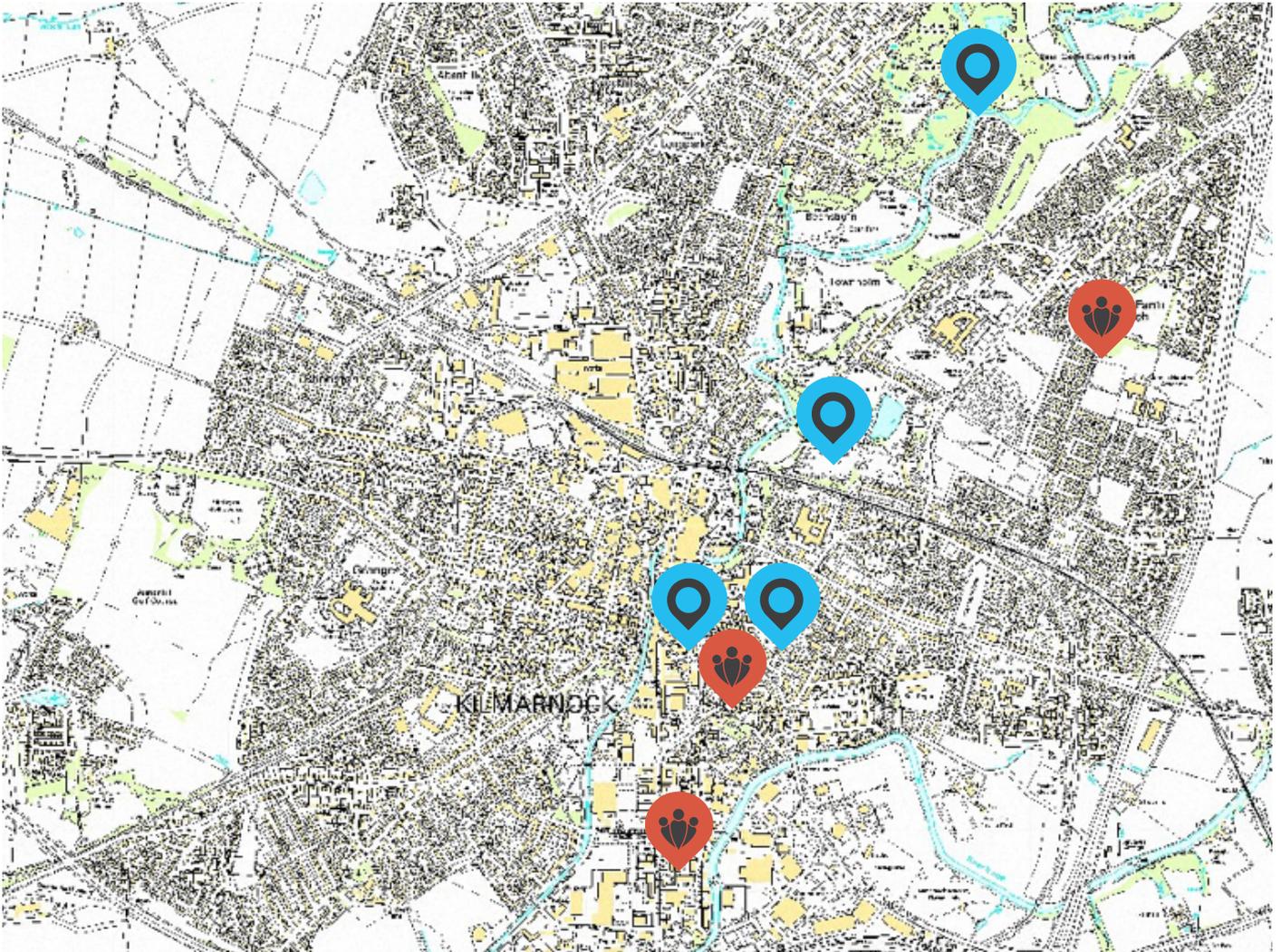


# FACILITY AUDIT



## KILMARNOCK - CULTURE

## EAST AYRSHIRE LEISURE FACILITIES



**Dean Castle** was the home and stronghold of the Boyd family for over 400 years. The Keep, dating to around 1350 houses outstanding displays that tell the story of the Boyd family and medieval life, as well as East Ayrshire's stunning collection of arms and armour.

The 15th century Palace was spectacularly rebuilt from ruins by the 8th Lord Howard de Walden in the 1930s. The result is a sensitive restoration in keeping with the interior design of the 16th and 17th centuries and even re-using original 17th century fixtures and fittings taken from Balfour House, Fife. This building tells the stories of the Howard de Walden family and showcases an internationally significant collection of medieval musical instruments

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Opened in 1901, the **Dick Institute** is a 4 star attraction, attracting over 120,000 visitors each year. It houses the largest museum and gallery spaces in Ayrshire and East Ayrshire's central library. A recent refurbishment and the addition of a cafe has breathed new life into this stunning building ensuring it will continue to be enjoyed by a new generation of visitors.

It features a programme of nationally important exhibitions, permanent displays of the museum's diverse collections and innovative work by contemporary artists, film makers and young people from the area. It has been described by the Glasgow Herald as 'Scotland's finest municipal gallery' through hosting an ambitious range of temporary exhibitions and is regularly the only Scottish venue for significant shows.

Previous major exhibitions at the Dick Institute have included Quentin Blake, Wallace and Gromit, Bill Viola, Michael Morpurgo: A Lifetime in Stories, Robert Colquhoun, Abram Games, Pop Art in Print and Gerhard Richter, often in partnership with national institutions including the V&A, National Galleries Scotland and TATE Modern. Many of Scotland's leading contemporary artists including Christine Borland, Dalziel and Scullion, Nathan Coley, Rachel MacLean and Graham Fagan have been shown through creative commissioning programmes that support artistic talent by linking with major national initiatives.

The South Museum and Loom Room feature stories of the local and social history of the area, whilst the North Museum contains objects from our natural history sciences and archaeology collections. A separate Young People's Gallery is a dedicated space programmed for, and by, young people in East Ayrshire.

The lending library, housed on the ground floor, offers a vast range of resources as well as regular Bookbug sessions for youngsters, Little Explorer groups, adult and children's book groups, digi-classes, art classes, meet the author events and literary festivals.

The Dick Institute is open Tuesday – Saturday every week.

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**The Burns Monument Centre** is a venue shared by East Ayrshire Leisure, East Ayrshire Council and Ayrshire Archives. The local and family history collections at the Centre are cared for by East Ayrshire Leisure. The collection includes items such as newspapers, maps, historic photographs, books and many other local and family history resources.

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**The Palace Theatre** was originally opened as a corn exchange in 1863 and was converted to a theatre in 1903. Together with the Grand Hall, the Palace Theatre dominates a huge corner plot in the heart of the Town, The Palace boasts a 500 seat theatre and has a varied programme of events and shows on all year round. The Grand Hall, as well as hosting a number of large scale music events, can also be used for conferences, meetings and wedding receptions.

## COMMUNITY LED FACILITIES



**Centrestage Communities Ltd** is a leading charity in the field of the arts. The company's objects are (a) The advancement of the arts, heritage and culture, to provide aspirational, artistic and inclusive opportunities for anyone, regardless of age, background or experience; (b) The advancement of education; (c) The provision of recreational facilities and the organisation of recreational activities, to improve the conditions of life for the persons for whom the facilities or activities are primarily intended; (d) The relief of those in need by reason of age, ill-health, disability, financial hardship or other disadvantage. They are currently based in a purposely designed 'production house' facility in Kilmarnock that allows for the development of performing arts activities and shows. The facility also has a café which is open to the public.

In February 2019, Centrestage officially took responsibility of the former Kilmarnock Academy site, which was the largest asset transfer in Scotland to date.

The historic landmark has formed part of the Towns skyline since 1898. The transfer to the Kilmarnock Village will allow Centrestage to continue to deliver their vision of 'building energetic and inclusive communities with the arts at the heart.' Not only will '**Centrestage Village**' become the new home of Centrestage, it will also allow their activities to grow and develop and to explore new opportunities for collaboration.

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**Take a Bow** is a Kilmarnock based musical theatre and dance company for 2-16 year olds. Their aim is to introduce children to musical theatre with singing, dancing and acting through weekly term time classes leading to full scale productions on a fully professional working stage.

Take a Bow recently took over responsibility for the **New Farm Loch Community Centre** and have developed it as an 'Opportunity Centre' for community and performing arts engagement. They offer classes 3 nights a week from their new centre. The Centre is also available for community lets and provides function facilities across 2 storeys supporting by a full catering kitchen.