

THE GUIDE

SPRING/SUMMER 2026



AYRSHIRE
360

Foreward

"For many years, East Ayrshire has benefited from an extraordinary collection of services dedicated to wellbeing, creativity, community empowerment and opportunity. From the dynamic programmes of East Ayrshire Leisure and Vibrant Communities, to the trusted provision of the Galleon Leisure Centre, to the excellence of East Ayrshire Community and Corporate Catering, and the inspiring work of East Ayrshire Instrumental Music Service and Creative Minds-each has played a vital role in shaping the lives, aspirations and successes of our communities. Their collective achievements reach far beyond buildings or programmes; they are woven into the everyday experiences of individuals, families and groups who have grown, learned and thrived because of their commitment.

This year marks a new and exciting chapter. By bringing these exceptional services together under one ambitious organisation - Ayrshire360 - we honour their achievements while unlocking a future rich with potential. Ayrshire360 represents far more than a new name. It is a unified vision: one organisation, one culture and one shared commitment to delivering outstanding opportunities for everyone across East Ayrshire.

As part of this transformation, we are especially pleased to reintroduce The Guide - a trusted source of information for local people - and with it, an inclusive and accessible programme of activities for all ages and abilities. This renewed commitment to openness, participation and community connection reflects the very heart of Ayrshire360.

This new organisation is underpinned by a clear and confident direction. A strong and experienced leadership team will drive Ayrshire360's growth, ensuring it is well-placed to meet the evolving needs of our communities. The creation of £7 million worth of additional jobs by 2030 signals an unwavering commitment to local employment, skills and economic contribution. Importantly, Ayrshire360 is building a future with no reliance on external funding to deliver core services - creating long-term resilience.

Robust structures and agile service models will support innovation and excellence. Annual investment in apprenticeships will nurture talent from within, while the reintroduction of a Further Education programme reaffirms our commitment to lifelong learning. New business streams will support continued reinvestment in services.

***Ayrshire360 is the next step in an extraordinary journey
- and the beginning of an even brighter future."***

Anneke Freel

Anneke Freel
Chief Officer, Ayrshire360



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Arts & Museums



EXHIBITION - THE WEE MAN AND THE BIG YIN

5 Feb - End August 2026

• Baird Institute, Barony Gallery • Free

The Wee Man and The Big Yin is an opportunity for the public to enter the world of the 'The Big Yin' cartoon strip, created by friends Malky McCormick and Billy Connolly in the 1970s. This exhibition offers a chance to look back at the work that gave Billy Connolly his iconic nickname and skyrocketed Malky McCormick's careers to new heights.



EXHIBITION - MALKY MCCORMICK: A LIFE IN COLOUR

5 Feb - 16 May 2026 • Dick Institute, Main Gallery • Free

Malky McCormick: A Life in Colour is a retrospective exhibition celebrating the life's work of legendary Scottish Cartoonist and Caricaturist Malky McCormick. The exhibition will be a chance for the public to explore Malky's career and the legacy he has left behind for Scotland.

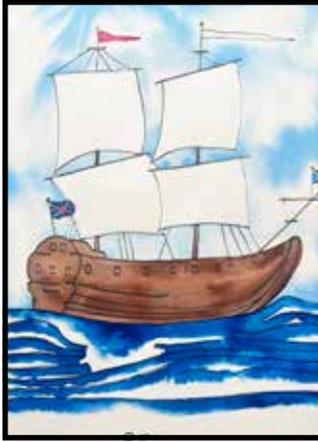


EXHIBITION - EUAN TAIT, BETWEEN THE PLATE, BLOCK AND THE PIXEL

21 March - 13 June 2026

• Dick Institute, Young People's Gallery • Free

This exhibition by emerging visual artist Euan Tait explores the intersection between analogue and digital through collage, printmaking and moving image. Structure and form dominate Tait's practice which examines boundaries of reality through architectural forms and found objects using monochrome and distorted colour. Depicting evocative street scenes including Kilmarnock and its buildings and rich history, the works create a dialogue between the tactile history of printmaking and its evolving digital processes.



EXHIBITION - GRAHAM FAGEN, THE KILMARNOCK EDITION

5 June - 5 Sep 2026 • Dick Institute • Free

To mark the 240th anniversary of Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect, the Dick Institute presents a solo exhibition by Graham Fagen, one of the UK's foremost contemporary artists. The exhibition brings together new and existing works which explore personal and shared experience and identity, with reference to links between Scotland and Jamaica now and at the time of the poet Robert Burns, a theme recurrent in Fagen's practise. This exhibition is also part of the RSA200: Celebrating Together project."

Image: Graham Fagen, Bell, 2026.
© 2026 Graham Fagen. All Rights Reserved, DACS.



EXHIBITION - AYRSHIRE COLLEGE, AFTER FREUD

20 June - 3 Oct 2026 • Dick Institute, Young People's Gallery • Free

After Freud is an exhibition of artworks by Ayrshire College's HNC Art and Design students made in response to the work of Lucian Freud. As part of their SQA Graded Unit the students have interpreted Freud's etchings which were on display earlier in the year in the Main Gallery. The students responded to an open brief as an opportunity to explore personal choices, to self-direct and to work independently in forming a fresh look at their creative processes and skills, through a range of media, approaches, themes and imagery. A partnership project between East Ayrshire Leisure and Ayrshire College.

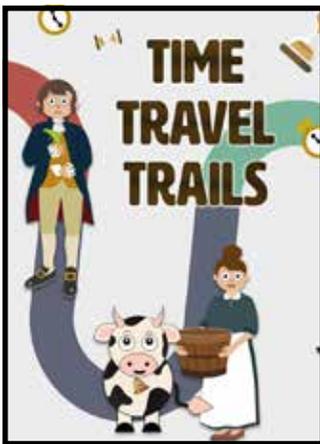
Arts & Museums



RAB'S SUMMER SCHOOL: KILLIE PRINT SHOP!

27 - 30 July 2026 •
10am-4pm • Dick Institute
/Dean Castle • 8-12 years •
£80 / 4 days

Welcome to the Dick Institute, where creativity comes alive! Explore Robert Burns's world, the magic of the Kilmarnock Edition, and the historic press that printed his poetry. Join us for a four-day creative adventure filled with Scots words, quills and ink, bold silhouettes, wearable costumes and lively drama across the Dick Institute and Castle. We'll hand-print backdrops, craft striking artworks and work towards a vibrant final showcase. Expect hands-on fun, imagination and plenty of creative energy!



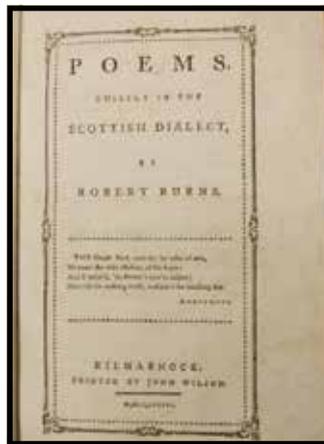
TIME TRAVELLER TRAILS

Ongoing • Dick Institute
/ Baird Institute / Burns
House Museum • Free

Step into our free, fun and family-friendly self-led trails and explore Ayrshire's amazing history. As you wander through our cultural venues, you'll journey across different eras, meeting famous local figures and fascinating creatures from our past each one helping shape the Ayrshire we know and love today.

Time travel is possible you'll just need a good sense of adventure!

Come along, explore, discover and enjoy a great day out for all ages!



BURNS KILMARNOCK EDITION 240 ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

31 July - 2 August 2026

• Dick Institute • Burns House Museum • Free
Arts & Museums will host a programme of activities across the Dick Institute, Kilmarnock, and Burns House Museum, Mauchline to mark the 240th anniversary of the Kilmarnock Edition of *Robert Burns' Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish Dialect*.

Published on 31 July 1786 by Kilmarnock printer John Wilson, this first edition is celebrated through exhibitions, displays, activities, and events inspired by our Burns collections including the replica of Wilson's original printing press.



MUSEUM COLLECTIONS

Dean Castle

Built in 1350 and still standing strong, Dean Castle is packed with historic treasures from Viking swords to Jacobean armour and our famous war horse, Sir Goliath.



DICK INSTITUTE

Home to our natural sciences collections and social history collections, the Dick Institute museums tell the story of Ayrshire's industrial past and more...



BURNS HOUSE MUSEUM

Situated in Mauchline and in 1788 was the home of Jean Armour and Robert Burns. The Burns House Museum and Nanse Tinnocks was at the centre of village life during Burns' most creative period of writing. It is now home to many of the poet's original manuscripts as well as world famous Mauchline exports like curling stones and Mauchlineware.



BAIRD INSTITUTE

The Doon Valley has played background to religious and political history stretching back to the time of the Covenanters in the 1600s and into more present times with its mining industry and related strong socialist heritage. The founder of the Labour Party, James Keir Hardie, lived in Cumnock for a large part of his life and it is at the Baird Institute in Cumnock that we tell these stories in our collection displays.

Keep an eye on our website and social media platforms for info on holiday activities

360-DEGREE PRODUCTION



Your event, perfectly delivered

Sound, light, staging and complete technical support for events of any size, indoors or out.

For more information or to enquire about AV hire, email: equipmenthire@eastayrshireleisure.com



CATERING & HOSPITALITY

Expert hospitality and bar services for events of any scale – ideal for both corporate and private occasions.

- Convenient online ordering for catering packages
- Flexible options tailored to your event
- Professional, experienced staff
- Reliable service every time

Scan QR
to view menus



EAYT PRESENTS
PATCHWORK
CABARET
28 JUNE 6PM
LIVE@ DEAN CASTLE

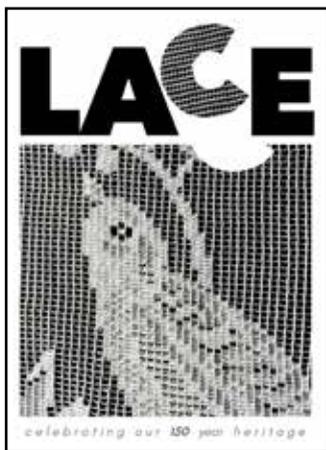
EAYT
JOIN US!

*Know a young person
who loves to perform?*

East Ayrshire Youth Theatre is now recruiting for its vibrant Musical Theatre classes in Kilmarnock! EAYT offers a fun, supportive space to develop skills in acting, movement and performance, all leading to an annual showcase and full musical. A great chance for young performers to shine on stage!

Wednesdays: Juniors: 4:30 - 6:30pm | Seniors: 7 - 9pm Email: EAYT@ayrshire360.com

Performing Arts & Events



DARVEL LACE FESTIVAL Upcoming events in 2026.

March 2026

Born in Kyle, an evening of stories and music celebrating the work of the Bard mixed with reflection of the lace industry in the valley with readings by Billy Kay and music from Robyn Stapleton. Hosted in Darvel Town Hall - arrangements to be confirmed.

May 2026

The Lace Trail: This year's Walkfest will feature for the first time a lace themed walk from Darvel to Newmilns, culminating with an accompanied visit to Morton, Young and Borland Textiles mill.

16 May 2026

This year Darvelo 26 will be graced with a lace themed

approach, with sponsorship for our main cycle event - the famous 90km sportive - by MYB Textiles.

20 June 2026

At the Darvel Gala Day we turn the clock back to the halcyon days of the Darvel lace queen, with the crowning as a one off of the Darvel Lace Queen and the Darvel Lace King.

Date tbc

Sports Darvel has arranged The Lace Run "roon the toon" - a gentle run for all the family.

30 September - 3 October 2026

The highlight of the year will be a Lace Exhibition held in Darvel Town Hall supported by East Ayrshire Leisure. The hall will be bedecked in lace to provide an appropriate atmosphere and there will be a wide range of information boards, photographic collages, films, artifacts and pamphlets. Material produced as part of a school project by Darvel Primary School will also be on show. There will be workshops and school visits arranged during the four days of the exhibition.

3 October 2026

The exhibition will culminate on its final day with an evening conversation - The Warp and the Weft - about memories of the lace industry in the valley and the current work still going on in MYB Textiles chaired by Billy Kay with a number of participants sharing memories and expertise. In addition a range of print and online materials will be produced commemorating this important anniversary. The Darvel Scribblers will be furiously scribbling with stories of life and times in Darvel's lace days.

There will be a special Darvel Bulletin with a focus on a multitude of stories, fact and figures, memories and all relating to Darvel Lace.

A comprehensive illustrated *History of the Lace Industry in Darvel* which will be available at the Lace Exhibition.

A dedicated Lace 26 channel is being developed for the heritage page at: DiscoverDarvel.com

The World's Only Festival of Biography & Memoir

BOSWELL BOOK FESTIVAL

8-10 2026
MAY ▼



Dumfries House Ayrshire
www.boswellbookfestival.co.uk

LIVE & ONLINE FEATURING:

- DAMIAN BARR
- GORDON BUCHANAN
- DOUGIE DONNELLY
- DAME HARRIET WALTER
- NICOLA STURGEON
- SALLY MAGNUSSON
- PENNY LANCASTER
- MICHAEL MORPURGO
- AND MANY MORE...

Saturday & Sunday

Boswell Children's Festival

Mauchline Holy Fair Saturday 30th May 2026

Music and culture for all ages and interests, in the ancient streets of Robert Burns' old stamping grounds

"I'm gaun to Mauchline Holy Fair to spend an hour in daffin'"

- 5 stages of Live Music & Dance - Funfair -
- Model Railway - Street Performers -
- Living History - Children's Entertainment -
- Live Magic - Art Competition - Vintage Vehicles -
- Crafts and Games - Poetry -
- Great local food - Over 100 stalls -



"Born in Alloway. Died in Dumfries. Lived in Mauchline!"



@mauchlinehf



HolyFairMauchline

Follow us

www.mauchlineholylair.com

hello@mauchlineholylair.com

Sport & Young People



KRIS BOYD FOOTBALL CAMPS

Calling all young male football fans! Build your skills, make friends, and enjoy the game in a fun, supportive environment. Take part in exciting drills and games designed to boost your technique, teamwork, and confidence. Whether you're new to football or aiming to improve, this is the perfect place to grow and have fun. Contact: cherryl.fulton@eastayrshireleisure.com

KRIS BOYD (BOYS) FOOTBALL CAMPS

Ayrshire College,
Kilmarnock Campus
5-12 years • Free

Easter Camps:

13 Apr, 14 Apr, 15 Apr,
16 Apr & 17 Apr 2026
10am - 12 Noon

Term Time Camps:

11 May, 18 May, 25 May,
1 June & 8 June 2026
4 - 5pm

Summer Camps:

27 July, 28 July, 29 July,
30 July, 31 July & 3 Aug,
4 Aug, 5 Aug, 6 Aug, 7
Aug 2026
10am - 1pm



ROSE REILLY FOOTBALL CAMPS

Love football? Come build your skills, make friends, and have fun in a supportive, friendly environment. Enjoy a mix of drills, games, and activities designed to boost your technique and teamwork. Whether you're new to the sport or looking to improve, this is the perfect place to grow and have a great time. Contact: cherryl.fulton@eastayrshireleisure.com

ROSE REILLY (GIRLS) FOOTBALL CAMPS

Ayrshire College,
Kilmarnock Campus
5-12 years • Free

Easter Camps:

13 Apr, 14 Apr, 15 Apr,
16 Apr & 17 Apr 2026
10am - 12 Noon

Term Time Camps:

14 May, 21 May, 28 May,
4 June & 11 June 2026
4 - 5pm

Summer Camps:

27 July, 28 July, 29 July,
30 July, 31 July & 3 Aug,
4 Aug, 5 Aug, 6 Aug, 7
Aug 2026
10am - 1pm

Sport & Young People

LOUDOUN BASKETBALL

27 April, 11 May, 18 May, 25 May, 1 June, 8 June, 15 June, 22 June 2026 • 7.30 - 8.30pm • Loudoun Leisure Centre • Free • P6+

Learn how to dribble, shoot, pass and other basketball skills through drills and games. Great opportunity to improve techniques and enjoy some basketball in a friendly environment. Come along and join the fun. Contact: Lynsey.Murphy@eastayrshireleisure.com

S1-S6 KICK ABOUT

10 Apr, 17 Apr, 24 Apr, 1 May, 8 May, 15 May, 22 May, 29 May, 5 Jun, 12 Jun, 19 Jun, 26 Jun, 3 Jul, 10 Jul, 17 Jul, 24 Jul, 31 Jul, 7 Aug & 14 Aug 2026 • 1.30 - 4.00pm • Townhead Park • Free • 11-18 years • Courtney.Cartner@eastayrshireleisure.com

All secondary aged pupils welcome to come and play football with friends in a relaxed and friendly environment.

YOUTH DROP INS!

Across East Ayrshire • 7 - 9pm • Free • 11-17 years
Looking for somewhere to hang out with your mates, try out something new or learn a new skill. Our youth clubs provide a safe space for teens in your local area. If you would like find out more information, email: Kerry.Dair@eastayrshireleisure.com



FRIDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

Free • 12-18 years

Looking for something fun on Friday nights? Join Friday Night Football - free, informal sessions for young people aged 12-18. Stay active, make friends, and enjoy the game in a safe, friendly space.

Loudoun Leisure Centre 5:30 - 7pm
Grange Leisure Centre 7.30 - 9.30pm
St. Joseph's Leisure Centre 7.30 - 9.30pm
Muirkirk 3.30 - 5pm
Stewarton 3.30 - 5.30pm
Doon Valley 7 - 9pm



Sport & Young People

LGBT YOUTH SUPPORT

11-25 years • Free

Are you, or do you know someone who is Gay, Lesbian Bisexual or Transgender or even questioning? Our LGBT groups provide a space to explore who you are in a confidential, safe setting. Clubs and Support is available to all 11-25 year olds. For more information contact: Kerry.Dair@Ayrshire360.com

YOUTH EASTER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

8, 9, 15, 16 April 2026 • 1 - 4.30pm • Kilmarnock • Free • 11+

This Easter, come hang out with friends, meet new people, and try stuff you don't usually get to do at school. We've got games, challenges, creative sessions, music and food plus a space to chill and be yourself. Kerry.Dair@Ayrshire360.com

Keep an eye on our website and social media platforms for info on holiday activities

LIFE HACKS

6, 13, 20, 27 May, 3, 10, 17, 24 June 2026 • 7 - 9pm • SL33 • Free • 15+

Life Hacks is a youth project made for teens, all about learning real-life skills you actually need but don't get taught! Try new things, learn from each other and feel confident and independent to take on life one smart move at a time. Contact Kerry.Dair@Ayrshire360.com

YOUTH SUMMER HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

29 June - 2 July, 6 - 9 July 13 - 16 July, 20 - 23 July, 27 - 30 July 2026 • Kilmarnock area, Cumnock Area and Dalmellington Area • 11-17 years • Free

Bored of scrolling all summer? This is your chance to do something epic. Join our Youth Summer Holiday Programme- a high-energy mix of fun, friends and unforgettable experiences designed just for teenagers. Creative Workshops, trips and adventure days, chill zones, food laughs and new friends. Keep an eye on our website for more details.



TEENFIT

Easter & Summer Holidays • Rose Reilly Leisure Centre, McIlvanney Leisure Centre, Doon Valley Leisure Centre, Hunter Fitness Suite • The Galleon • 12-15 years
A bespoke & tailored programme specifically designed for young people as their safe introduction to the Gym environment.

Helping teach the safe fundamentals of correct lifting technique, resistance machine usage, personal adaptation and programming specific to goals.

Please contact your local venue for specific dates and times.



SHOUT SWIMS

Easter & Summer Holidays
• Galleon • Free

SHOUT is delighted to offer FREE public swimming for all SHOUT card holders during the Spring and Summer holidays. Places must be booked in advance directly to each participating leisure centre.

Please contact your local venue for specific dates and times.

SHIPMATES SUMMER CLUB- SUMMER HOLIDAYS

Mon-Fri 10am-4pm
8 to 15 yrs
T: 01563 524014 for more information.

LIFEGUARD COURSES

13/14/19/20/21 June
9am-5pm 16 years+

RLSS SAVE A LIFE ADULT & CHILD WORKSHOPS

13 April 2026 •

Galleon • 11am-1pm
Teaching basic emergency skills to anyone who cares for a baby, child or adult
Covers CPR and use of an AED. Sessions running for those aged 8-16yrs.

SCOTTISH SWIMMING TEACHERS QUALIFICATION

April/May
16 years+

Contact:
Learntoswimenquiries@eastayrshireleisure.com

CRASH COURSE SWIMMING LESSONS

5 consecutive days - maximum 6 in a class.
Beginners - classes suitable for non swimmers/ beginners using armbands/ discs
Recommend - Stanley 1-6 or Swim Skills 1a/1b
Class will run in shallow water in Main pool.
Improvers - classes suitable to those in Stanley 7 and above or Swim Skills 2/3.

If you would like further information on any of the above courses please contact us at:
Learntoswimenquiries@eastayrshireleisure.com

Swimming - Loudoun & Doon Valley



SHOUT SWIMS

Easter & Summer Holidays
• Loudoun & Doon Valley
Leisure Centres • Free

SHOUT is delighted to offer
FREE public swimming for
all SHOUT card holders
during the Spring holidays.
Places must be booked in
advance directly to each
participating leisure centre.

Please contact your local
venue for specific dates
and times.

RLSS SAVE A LIFE ADULT & CHILD WORKSHOPS

8 April 2026

10am - 1pm Doon Valley
Leisure Centre

Teaching basic emergency
skills to anyone who cares
for a baby, child or adult
Covers CPR and use of an
AED. Sessions running for
those aged 8-16yrs.

RLSS SAVE A LIFE ADULT & CHILD WORKSHOPS

11 April 2026

1 - 4pm

Loudoun Leisure Centre

Contact:

*Learntoswimenquiries@
eastayrshireleisure.com*

CRASH COURSE SWIMMING

6/7/9 and 13/14/16 April
2026 • Doon Valley Leisure
Centre • 3yrs+ • 9 - 9.30am,
9.30 - 10am

5 consecutive days -
maximum 6 in a class.

Beginners - classes
suitable for non swimmers/
beginners using armbands/
discs.

Recommend - Stanley 1-6
or Swim Skills 1a/1b

Class will run in shallow
water in Main pool.

Improvers - classes suitable
to those in Stanley 7 and
above or Swim Skills 2/3

Play Events



Fun 4 Hire offers exciting activity packs and equipment for groups, including games, circus skills, inflatables, assault courses and creative activities. Fun-day packages are available.

Visit ayrshire360.com for more information.



EASTER PLAYTIMES

EVENT 0-8 years (older siblings welcome)

Play event for children along with parents/carers including messy, physical, creative and sensory play.

Tuesday 7 April 2026

10.30am - 12.30pm
Barony Sports Village,
Cumnock

Friday 10 April 2026

10.30am - 12.30pm
Loudoun Leisure Centre

Tuesday 14 April 2026

10.30am - 12.30pm
William McIlvanney Leisure
Centre, Kilmarnock

FAMILY WELLBEING

EVENT 0-8 years (older siblings welcome)

Family play, health and wellbeing activities will be on offer as part of a partnership approach.

Tuesday 7 July 2026

10.30am - 12.30pm
Doon Valley Leisure Centre

Tuesday 14 July 2026

10.30am - 12.30pm
Galston Community Centre

Tuesday 21 July 2026

10.30am - 12.30pm
Rose Reilly Sports Centre,
Stewarton

Play Events

Playday

Wednesday 5 August 2026 11am - 3pm
Kay Park, Kilmarnock

The celebration of the child's right to play. This event will have a plethora of activities all part of our Zones including; Messy Zone, Free Play Zone, Physical Zone, Creative Zone, Fun Zone and Adventure Zone.





Get out & Explore

*For Dean Castle Country Park events meet at the Visitor Centre.
Book kids places only - adults go free!*

POND DIP

7 April 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
From newts to tadpoles, boatmen to water tigers, dip the lagoon ponds and see what amazing creatures you can find.

FORAGING FOR FEASTS

8 April 2026 • 1pm-3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £6.00
Gather some tasty treats from nature's larder and rustle up a feast.

TREASURE HUNT

9 April 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
Follow nature themed clues to find the hidden treasure!

SOW AND GROW

14 April 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
Help the bees and butterflies by making and planting your own pot with wildflower seeds.

URBAN FARM

15 April 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
Get up close to the Urban Farm animals including any new Springtime arrivals.



OSPREY EVENT

16 April 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Loch Doon • £4.00 • Meet at Roundhouse Cafe
Learn all about our returning raptors and make your very own Osprey craft.

Countryside & Outdoors

WATERY WORLDS

29 June 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
Compare and contrast the creatures of the still and running waters of the park.

BUZZY BEES

30 June 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
Buzz around the country park looking for our favourite pollinators. Make your very own bee craft to take home.



TRANSFORMERS

1 July 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
Learn all about the lifecycles of butterflies, make a butterfly feeder and take your very own caterpillar home.

BUSHCRAFT BAKERY

6 July 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 1 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £6.00
Bake your own bushcraft bread twists over a woodland campfire.



MAMMAL MONITORING

7 July 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
Discover the hidden mammals of the country park using traps, tunnels and trails.

DEN BUILDING

8 July 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
Learn how to build a woodland shelter and other useful bushcraft skills.

WOODLAND ART

13 July 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00

Use clay and natural materials to create your very own nature themed masterpiece.

RAFTING DAFT

14 July 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
Build your very own mini raft to sail your pine cone captain down the river



POND DIP

15 July 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
From newts to tadpoles, boatmen to water tigers, dip the lagoon ponds and see what amazing creatures you can find.

PEDAL POWER

20 July 2026 • 1 - 3pm
Whitelee Wind Farm • £6.00
Pedal around looking for hidden clues. Participants need to make their own way to Whitelee Visitor Centre. Bikes can be provided.

Countryside & Outdoors

RAINBOW RAMBLE

21 July 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
How many colours in nature can you find as you explore the park? Come along and make your very own rainbow craft to take home

DEAR DEER

22 July 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
Find out more about the deer that call Dean Castle home. Get up close with Stanley the Stag and feed our resident fallow hinds.

IT'S A WORMY-FULL WORLD!

27 July 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
Bring along an empty 2ltr plastic bottle and we'll help you transform it into a wonderful wormy world.

FIRE AND WATER

28 July 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
How to make fire and filter water safely. Master these vital skills to become the King of the Campsite.

ROTTEN RHODDIES

29 July 2026 • 11am - 12

Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
Rhododendron looks nice, but this 'bushy bully' is taking over! Help us cut them down to size, and give the other plants a chance to thrive

In May visit the
IRVINE VALLEY WALKING FESTIVAL

In August look out for the
KILMAURS WALKING FESTIVAL

Keep an eye on our website and social media platforms for more information

FUR AND FEATHERS

3 August 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
Who wins in the battle for food between our feathered friends and the cheeky grey squirrels.

URBAN FARM

4 August 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
Get up close to the Urban Farm animals.

TREE-MENDOUS!

10 August 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00

Learn to ID the key species and hear their fascinating stories and create a 'birch badge' to keep.

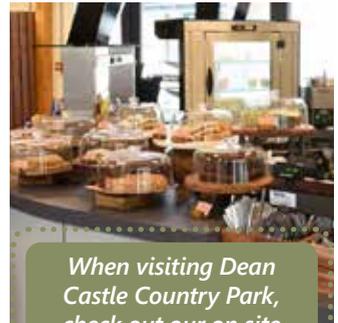
BERRY BONANZA

11 August 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
Join the Dean Castle fruit picking party! Let's share our spoils, mix them with yoghurt, then dive in!

URBAN FARM

12 August 2026 • 11am - 12 Noon, 2 - 3pm • Dean Castle Country Park • £4.00
Get up close to the Urban Farm animals.

*For Dean Castle Country Park events meet at the Visitor Centre.
Book kids places only - adults go free!*



When visiting Dean Castle Country Park, check out our on site cafe for a range of delicious food and treats!

Libraries



BOOKBUG SESSIONS

Song, rhyme & story session for children aged 0-5 and parents/carers. Weekly, term time • Free

Newmilns Library • Mondays, 10 - 10.30am

Auchinleck Library • Tuesdays, 10 - 10.30am

Dick Institute • Wednesdays, 10.30 - 11am • 2 - 2.30pm
Saturdays, 10.30 - 11am

Crosshouse Library • Thursdays, 2.30 - 3pm

Cumnock Library • Thursdays, 10.15 - 10.45am

Galston Library • Thursdays, 1 - 1.30pm

Stewarton Library • Fridays, 10 - 10.30am

Burns House Museum & Library •
Fridays 10.30 - 11am & Saturdays, 10.30 - 11am



CHIT CHAT

Social session for local community to meet and chat over a cuppa.

Newmilns Library
Mondays, Weekly • Free
1 - 3pm

Stewarton Library
Tuesdays, Weekly • Free
2 - 3pm

Auchinleck Library
Tuesdays, Weekly • Free
11am - 12 Noon

Darvel Library • Fridays,
Weekly • Free



BOOK GROUP

Book group meeting for participating adults.

Dick Institute • Tuesdays, Thursdays, Monthly • Free

Auchinleck Library
Thursdays, Monthly
Free • 7pm

Darvel Library • Thursdays, Monthly • Free

Stewarton Library • Thursdays, Monthly • Free

Burns House Museum & Library • Second Saturday of Month • Free • 10.30am

BOOK GROUP (KIDS)

Dick Institute • Thursdays, Monthly, Term time • Free

Book group meeting for Children aged 7-12 years.

ART GROUP

Newmilns Library • Thursdays, Weekly • Free • 1.30 - 3.30pm

Group for art and crafters to bring their projects to work on in a social space and meet others.



YARN-A-GO-GO

Dick Institute • Thursdays, Weekly • Free • 6 - 7.30pm
Fridays, Weekly • Free • 10.30am - 12.30pm

Knitting and crocheting group for adults.

GERMAN CONVERSATION GROUP

Dick Institute • Fridays, Fortnightly • Free • 11.00am - 12 Noon

Social language group.



Easter & Summer Holidays

Keep an eye on our website and social media platforms for info on holiday activities



COMMUNITY HEALTH WALKS

A selection of low - mid level health walks at various locations • Free

Dean Park, Kilmarnock

12:30pm

Meet at the picnic benches at the Main Car Park for all walks.

April: 13, 20, 27

May: 11, 18, 25

June: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

Dumfries House

10.00am

Meet at the Car Park near Information Office for all walks.

March: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

April: 7, 14, 21, 28

May: 5, 12, 19, 26

June: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

Newmilns Walk

10.00am

Meet at Brown's Road Car Park, Newmilns for all walks.

March: 4, 11, 18, 25

April: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

May: 6, 13, 20, 27

June: 3, 10, 17, 24

Stewarton Walk

1.00pm

Meet at Meet at Rose Reily, Stewarton for all walks.

March: 4, 11, 18, 25

April: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

May: 6th, 13th, 20th, 27th

June: 3rd, 10th, 17th 24th

PROSTATE FOOTBALL FANS IN TRAINING (FITT)

10.00am • Killie Community Hub

Delivered in partnership, by Ayrshire 360, Killie Community and Prostate Scotland and is for men living with Prostate Cancer. The 12-week programme provides education on living with Prostate Cancer, physical activity and healthy eating to improve health and wellbeing. To register for Prostate FITT, contact: Elaine.Stewart@prostatescotland.org.uk

LETS CHAT ABOUT WELLBEING GROUP

6 - 7.30pm •

Stewarton Annick Centre Suitable for people with mild/moderate mental health issues.

Active Recovery

Do you know someone whose recovery journey could benefit from taking part in regular activity?

Make sure the person is ready to take part, then scan this QR code to make a referral:



Activity on prescription

Do you need support to become more active?

AOP offer support if you're inactive and living with or recovering from a health condition.

Email: CHAT@eastayrshireleisure.com
or call 01563 576354



WEIGH TO GO

12-week programme with up to 1 year of support. Weekly 60-minute group sessions on healthy habits and wellbeing, plus optional weigh-ins and activity info.

Ages 17+ | BMI 25+
Contact: CHAT@ayrshire360.com
01563 576354

ACTIVE WITH PARKINSON'S – EAST AYRSHIRE

Want to get active or need support to stay active?

Our fitness classes suit all stages of Parkinson's and focus on mobility and balance.

Delivered with Parkinson's UK and NHS Ayrshire & Arran.

Contact CHAT@eastayrshireleisure.com
01563 576354



COMMUNITY HEALTH CHECKS

Come along to have a chat about healthier lifestyle choices. We can check: blood pressure, weight, BMI & body fat

Kay Park Church 10.30 - 11.30am

1 April, 6, 27 May, 10, 24 June, 8, 22 July, 5, 19 August

North West Area Centre 10 - 11am

10 April

Ochiltree Hub 12.30 - 2pm

14 April, 12 May, 2 June, 14 July, 11 August

East Ayrshire Community Hospital 10am - 12 Noon

17 April, 15 May, 5 June, 17 July, 14 August

Take a Bow 10 - 11am

22 April, 20 May, 3, 17 June, 1, 15, 29 July, 12, 26 August

Shortlees Food Larder 1.30 - 2.30pm

22 April, 6 May, 3, 17 June, 1, 22 July, 5, 19 August

Cumnock Town Hall 10 - 11am

23 April, 21 May, 23 July, 20 August

Garven Court 10.30 - 11.30am

24 April, 8, 22 May, 5, 19 June, 3, 17, 31 July, 28 August

Humble Table Newmilns 12 Noon - 1pm

6 May, 5 August

Dalmellington Hub 9 - 11am

11, 27 May, 10, 24 June, 8, 22 July, 5, 19 August

Ross Court Galston 11.30am - 12.30pm

3 June

Galston Library 12 Noon - 1pm

7 July

Newmilns Library 2.30 - 3.30pm

7 July

Darvel Library 2.45 - 3.45pm

9 July

Mens Shed Newmilns 2.45 - 3.24pm

7 August

Wellbeing - Older People



DUMFRIES HOUSE TEA DANCES

Special Occasion for Older Adults to attend a Tea Dance at Dumfries House Pavilion. The purpose of this is to reduce isolation and loneliness and promote health and wellbeing for older adults.

Cost of this is free but a place must be booked for this with: john.reid@eastayrshireleisure.co.uk

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

The Forum is for support and campaigning of raising awareness of the interests and needs of our older Communities. Membership of this forum is for all adults in East Ayrshire who have an interest in or deliver Older Peoples services.

Register your interest with patricia.harkness@eastayrshireleisure.co.uk



OLDER PEOPLES ACTIVITIES

Lots of activities available in our Sheltered Housing for Older Adults from Bingo, entertainment, trips and Chair based exercise. Get fit and more connected with people in your community. Membership £5 a month.

Locations:

- Afton Court, New Cumnock
- Rowantree Court, Drongan
- Ellisland Court, Mauchline
- Ross Court, Galston
- Garven Court, Kilmarnock
- St Maurs Gardens, Kilmaurs
- Hamilton Gardens, Stewarton

For information on date and times contact john.reid@eastayrshireleisure.co.uk

Community Learning



FAMILY LITERACIES LEARNING

10:30am - 12:30pm •
Dick Institute Event Space •
Drop In Sessions
14th April 2026
22nd April 2026

Fun family literacies learning workshop and games for the full family to take part in. Opportunity to have fun and learn together.

ESOL FAMILY LITERACIES LEARNING

Closed group activity for registered ESOL learners • Free • Families • Workshops/classes to take place through the school holiday period.

Fun family learning workshops and games for the full family to take part in. Opportunity to have fun and learn together.



ADULT LITERACIES AND COMMUNITY BASED ADULT LEARNING

By appointment only. Support for reading, writing, numbers & digital skills for adults 16+ • Free • Classes running weekly across East Ayrshire.

To make an appointment contact: communitylearning@ayrshire360.com or directly to the worker at each hub.

BTTC Dalmellington Monday 1-4pm

Dick Institute Digital Suite Tuesday 1 - 4pm

Shortlees Community Learning Centre Thursday 1 - 4pm

Galston Community Centre Friday 9:30am - 12:30pm

Contact: fiona.starrs@eastayrshireleisure.com or call 07765 354800

Bonnyton Community Centre Wednesday 9am - 4pm

NWKLEUS - Onthank Community Centre

Thursday 1 - 4pm

Contact: kirsten.gallacher@eastayrshireleisure.com or call 07880 297134

Boswell Community Centre Auchinleck

Monday 9:30am - 2pm

Netherthird Community Centre Wednesday 10am - 1pm

Contact: stephanie.rose@eastayrshireleisure.com or call 07350 425716



ESOL LITERACIES LEARNING

Closed group activity for registered ESOL learners • Free • Adults 16+
Please contact communitylearning@ayshire360.com to register your interest. English classes for speakers of other languages - Preparation for Literacies, Beginners Literacies 1, Beginners Literacies 2 and SCQF National 2 class groups. Classes running weekly across East Ayrshire.

Online classes

6 - 8pm
English classes for speakers of other languages - Beginners Literacies 1 and Beginners Literacies 2 class groups.

CHILD WELLBEING AND PROTECTION IN SPORT (OFFICER & LEADER TRAINING)

27 April 2026 • 6:30 - 9:30pm • Ayrshire Athletics Arena • 16+ years

Advanced safeguarding training for those leading child protection in sport. Mandatory for Club Safeguarding & Protection Officers. CWPS required. Pre-booking essential. £20 per person / Free for EASC-affiliated clubs.

CHILD WELLBEING & PROTECTION IN SPORT (CWPS)

18 May / 29 June 2026 • 6:30 - 9:30pm • 16+ years • Mandatory child-protection training delivered through e-learning and a practical session at Ayrshire Athletics Arena. Pre-booking required for sportscotland certification. £20 per person / FREE for EASC-affiliated clubs. Who Should Attend: Adults 16+ in regulated roles, including coaches, leaders, and volunteers.

Contact: EASC@eastayrshireleisure.com

COACHING CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

8 Jun 2026 • 6:30 - 9:30pm
• Ayrshire Athletics Arena • 16+ years

The course educates coaches to create safe, positive, and effective sports environments by focusing on children's developmental needs, fostering fun, and building life skills, covering topics from session planning, communication, and safeguarding to understanding physical/emotional growth and adapting coaching for different ages. These courses equip coaches to support participation, build confidence, and make sport enjoyable, emphasising a child-first approach with person-centred care.

£20 per person / East Ayrshire Sports Council affiliated clubs members can attend for FREE.

Contact: EASC@eastayrshireleisure.com

Additional Support Needs



CHAMPS CLUB

6 - 7.30pm • Ages 5-15 • Free • William McIlvanney LC • Gary.Seymour@eastayrshireleisure.co.uk

Opportunity to participate in a varied range of sports, activities and games in a relaxed and supportive environment.

April: 6, 13, 20, 27

May: 4, 11, 18, 25

June: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

July: 6, 13, 20, 27

August: 3, 10

SENSORY STORYTELLING

Dick Institute • Monday & Thursdays, Fortnightly, term-time • Free • By appointment only

Multi-sensory stories for children with additional support needs. For children aged 0-10 along with their parents/carers. Spaces for up to 8 children.



SOFA CLUB

6 - 7.30pm • Ages 5-15 • Free • Barony Sports Village • Gary.Seymour@eastayrshireleisure.co.uk

A varied range of sports, activities and games in a relaxed and supportive environment.

April: 7, 14, 21, 28

May: 5, 12, 19, 26

June: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

July: 7, 14, 21, 28

August: 4, 11

JETS ASN SWIMMING

7/8, 14/15 April 2026 • Loudoun Leisure Centre
1-2-1 support, beginners, stroke improvement or fun family swims. 45-minute sessions for ages 5-16.
Book: kilmarnockjetsswimteam@hotmail.co.uk



ALL ABILITY BIKES

Age 12+ • Free • Ayrshire Athletics Arena

The club offers all individuals the opportunity to fully participate in cycling with reduced barriers within a fun and supportive environment. There are various types of accessible cycles available to meet the needs of a wide variety of individuals.

1 - 4pm

April: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

May: 6, 13, 20, 27

June: 3, 10, 17, 24

July: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

August: 5, 12

4 - 5.30pm

April: 3, 10, 17, 24

May: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

June: 5, 12, 19, 26

July: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

August: 7, 14

BEAUTY AND THE BEASTIE



FRI 27 NOV - SUN 27 DEC 2026

The Galleon Auditorium, Kilmarnock
01563 554900 / ayrshire360.com





**LIVE@
DEAN
CASTLE**

**GET READY
KILMARNOCK!**

**THE BIG TOP IS BACK
FOR MAY & JUNE**

KEEP AN EYE ON OUR WEBSITE
AND SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS
FOR MORE INFORMATION

