



WHAT'S HAPPENING IN NORTH AYRSHIRE

MAY - AUGUST 2026

EXHIBITIONS | MUSIC | COMMUNITY DIARY
PERFORMANCES | OUTDOORS
CLASSES AND WORKSHOPS



The Harbour Arts
Centre is one of
North Ayrshire's
main venues for
arts and cultural
services.

Our box office is open
Wednesdays to Saturdays
9.30am - 4.30pm

Contact:

01294 274059

harbourarts@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Ticketing:

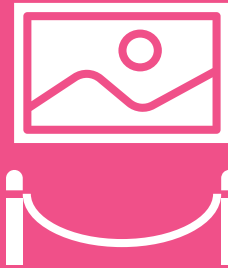
www.ticketsource.co.uk/harbour-arts-centre

115

capacity theatre



Situated in Irvine's Harbourside, the centre has a large main gallery space, two studios and a 115-capacity theatre (with 2 dressing rooms).



We have an innovative and wide-ranging programme that includes exhibitions, classes, workshops and performances.



The HAC studio spaces are multi-functional and can be configured in various layouts.



We know the arts we share
are just the beginning. The
experience you have
before, during and after,
the stories you tell and
the memories you make
are everything!

What's
happening
MAY

Freckfest Presents: wojtek the bear

Saturday 2 May
7.30pm - £17

wojtek the bear were formed in Glasgow in early 2016 and are touring in support of their new album "i don't think you want to hear this" which is released on Last Night From Glasgow in May 2026.

The album was recorded with renowned indie producer Bill Ryder-Jones. They have been featured by Lauren Laverne, Amy Lamé, Tom Robinson (BBC 6Music), Huw Stephens (BBC Radio 1), Vic Galloway, Roddy Hart, The Afternoon Show (BBC Radio Scotland), John Kennedy (Radio X), alongside being playlisted on KEXP.





They have featured at numerous festivals across the UK and Europe and appeared at Belle & Sebastian's Booty Weekender festival in Barcelona in 2019 alongside the likes of Teenage Fanclub, Mogwai, Yo La Tengo & Camera Obscura.

St. Matthew's Academy Pupil Art Exhibition

Friday 8 May - Saturday 6 June
Free Entry

Our annual S1-S3 Art Exhibition is returning this May to celebrate the creativity and talent of our junior pupils.

Each year the exhibition showcases a vibrant and diverse collection of work produced across the art department, highlighting the imagination and developing skills of our young artists.





Visitors can enjoy an exciting range of both 2D and 3D pieces, including expressive portraits, detailed still life studies, striking repeat pattern designs and innovative sculptures.

The exhibition continues to be a great success, offering pupils the opportunity to proudly display their achievements while sharing their creativity with the wider school community.

Please note that due to classes and workshops, access to the studio can be limited. We recommend calling the box office on 10294 274059 to check access before visiting.

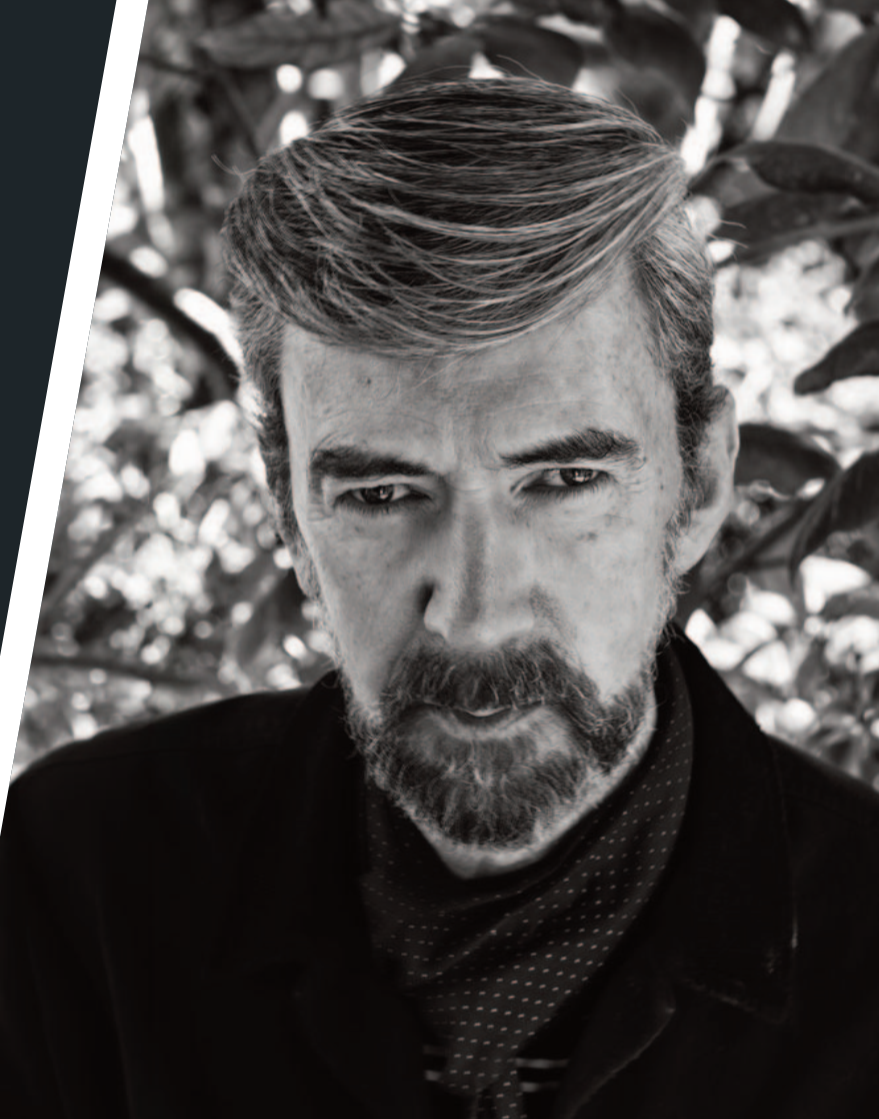
Freckfest Presents: James Grant

Friday 8 and Saturday 9 May
7.30pm - £22

James Grant is one of the most renowned and respected performers Scotland has ever produced.

Drawing from a broad palette of pop, folk, soul, country and blues influences, and interweaving his solo compositions with Love and Money favourites, James twins darkly literate, melodically lush songcraft with his richly potent vocals and virtuoso guitar work, leavening his performances with dashes of wickedly acerbic humour.

Music to stir the heart and soothe the soul.





Classes and Workshops

Lesley Herd Workshop

Saturday 9 May
1.15pm - 4pm - £40

An introduction to abstract collage and mixed media work. Create a painting using collage, layering techniques and acrylic paint on paper.

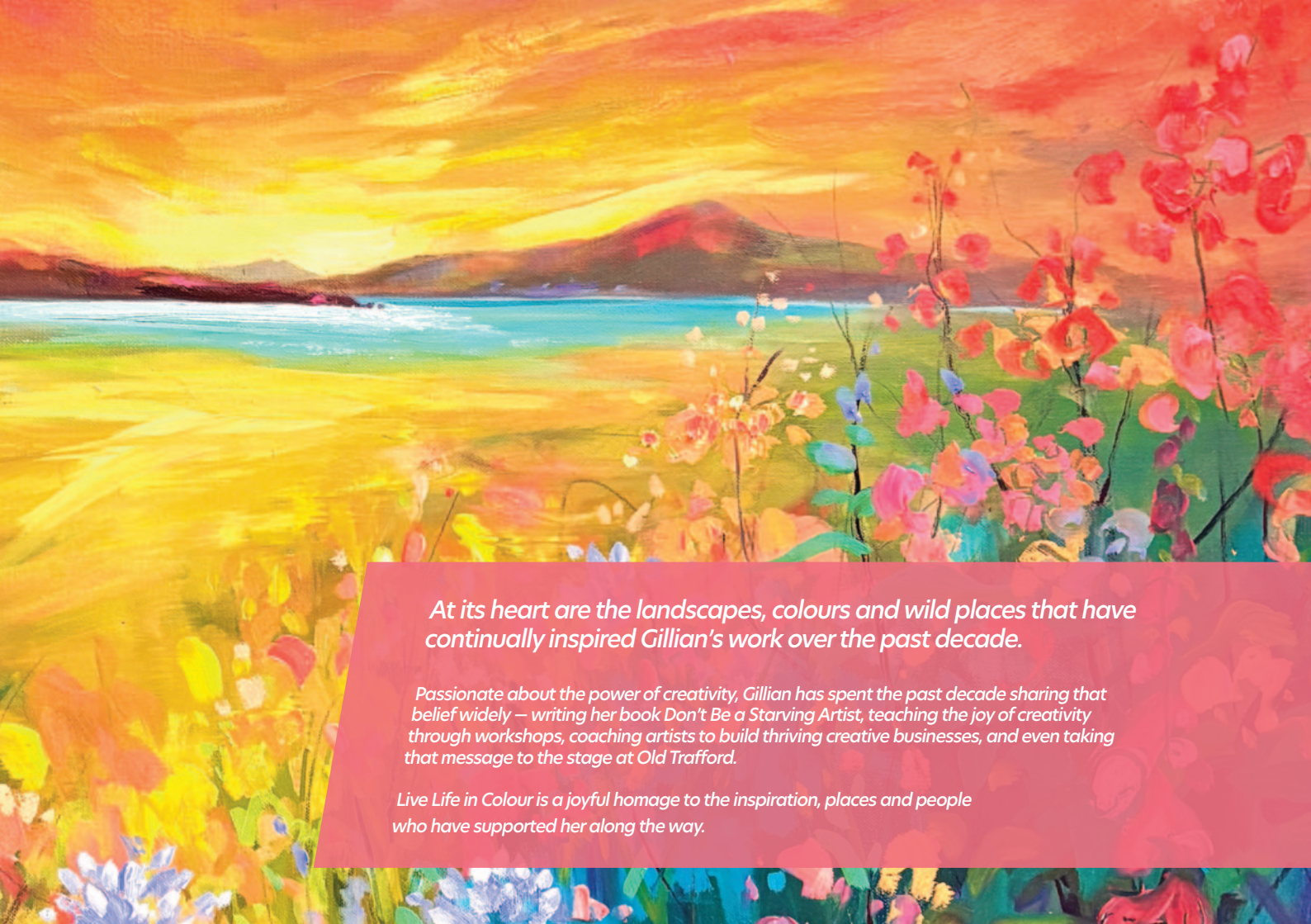
Live Life in Colour: An Exhibition of work by Gillian Park

Thursday 14 May - Saturday 27 June
Free Entry

This exhibition marks ten years since Gillian Park took the leap to become a full-time artist – self-taught and beginning at the tender age of forty.

Live Life in Colour is both a celebration and a reflection: a wander back to where it all began, through into a joyful celebration of colour in a new collection of landscape paintings, and off into her other creative world of textile design, fabric, lampshades and furniture – where art meets everyday life.





At its heart are the landscapes, colours and wild places that have continually inspired Gillian's work over the past decade.

*Passionate about the power of creativity, Gillian has spent the past decade sharing that belief widely – writing her book *Don't Be a Starving Artist*, teaching the joy of creativity through workshops, coaching artists to build thriving creative businesses, and even taking that message to the stage at Old Trafford.*

Live Life in Colour is a joyful homage to the inspiration, places and people who have supported her along the way.

Freckfest Presents: Sulidae

Friday 15 May
7.30pm - £15

From sold-out shows to standing ovations, Sulidae has captivated audiences across Scotland with a spellbinding blend of music, poetry, and storytelling.

Led by the evocative voice and verse of Bobby Motherwell, and previously joined by musical luminaries like Lyle Watt, Paul Harrison, Fraser Speirs, and Carol Laula, Sulidae delivers performances that are heartfelt, humorous, and profoundly human.

Whether it's the "pure west of Scotland Zen wisdom" of their spoken word, the "life-affirming" power of their songs, or the "tremendous Celtic soul" that closes every show, Sulidae is more than a band—it's an experience.





Brookfield Knights: "Over the Moon"

Fresh from their sold-out show at this year's Celtic Connections festival, where many felt they were one of the outstanding acts of the event, Over The Moon return to these shores for their most extensive UK tour to date.

Saturday 16 May
7.30pm - £15

Already well established as one of the most popular touring acts on this side of the Atlantic, when they take the stage, you'll feel, hear and breathe real rugged cowboy country of Alberta's Rocky Mountains.

On stage, they take us on a wild ride that ambles in styles from 40's Western Swing and Appalachian Old-Time, to cowboy blues.

My Darling Clementine

Thursday 21 May
7.30pm - £18

For what began as a side project for Michael Weston King & Lou Dalglish, a simple labour of love, a homage to the classic country duets of the 60's and 70's, My Darling Clementine has grown and grown and now rivals the solo careers of it's two main protagonists.





Outstanding songwriters and singers individually, who between them have worked with such diverse artists as Nick Cave, Bryan Ferry, The Brodsky Quartet, Steve Earle, Nils Lofgren, Ron Sexsmith, & Graham Parker, together they create harmonious magic and are a formidable musical force.

As well as showcasing brand new songs, the current live show is a deep dive into their extensive and revered back catalogue. Michael and Lou's songs have been covered by over 40 different artists and featured in various films and TV shows.

Lou's song No Matter What Tammy Said was placed in the top 25 country songs of the 21st Century by Country Music People magazine, while Michael's song Riding The Range was covered by the late, great Townes Van Zandt. Given their mutual love of other songwriters, expect a tastefully chosen cover version or two, including something written by Elvis Costello.

Bring it On Events Presents: Christopher Macarthur Boyd

Friday 22 May

8pm - £16

One of the hottest tickets at the Fringe in 2025, *Howling At The Moon* is CMB's new show of nocturnal stand-up about neurodivergence, sexuality and lunacy.

Host of the *Here Comes The Guillotine* podcast alongside Frankie Boyle and Susie McCabe. Star of the comedy specials *Oh No* and *Scary Times*. Host of the BBC New Comedy Award and star of *Scotland Stands Up*, with appearances on Frankie Boyle's *New World Order*.

Christopher has previously opened for comedians such as Kevin Bridges, Shane Gillis, Kerry Godliman, Jason Manford and David Cross.



Showworks Presents: Bull

Thursday 28 and Friday 29 May
8pm - £12

Three employees.
Two will stay. One will go.

A razor-sharp play about the fine line between office politics and playground bullying, 'Bull' offers ringside seats as three employees fight to keep their jobs.

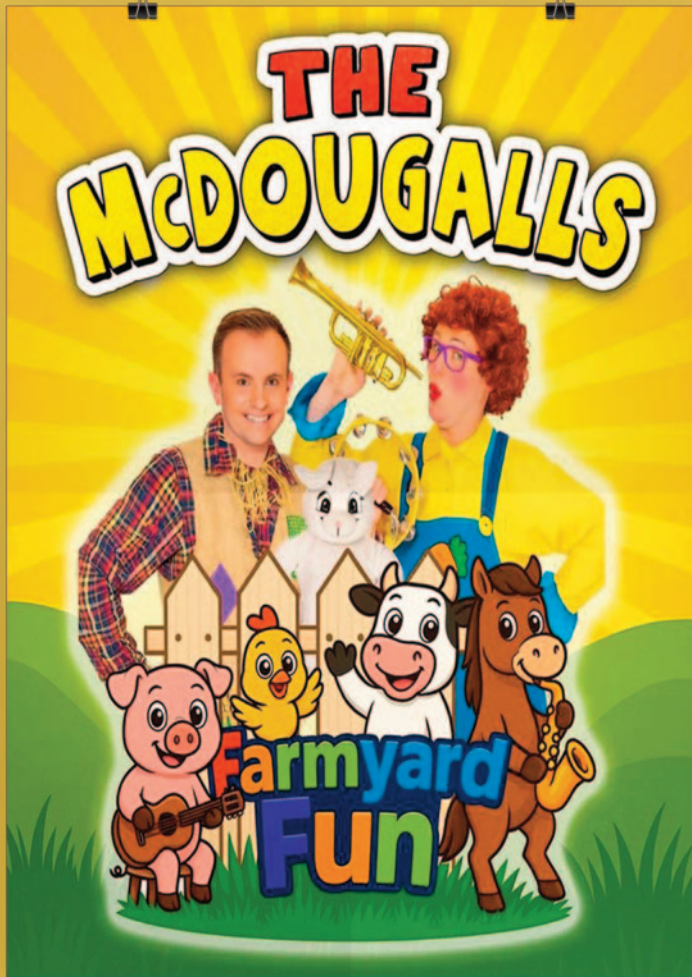
Written by Mike Bartlett, the multi-award-winning playwright behind the hit BBC drama 'Doctor Foster', 'Bull' is an acid-tongued dark comedy drama filled with manipulation and mind-games.

The play won the UK Theatre Award for Best New Play in 2013 and an Olivier Award in 2015, and it remains as shockingly relevant as ever. Includes strong language and adult themes. (Recommended Age 15+)



THE McDOUGALLS





The McDougalls: Farmyard Fun

Sunday 31 May

1pm and 3pm - £12/£45 for a family of four

**A Singalong Adventure for all
the Family - Live on Stage!**

E-I-E-I-O! It's time to join everyone's favourite children's theatre company on a brand new farm-tastic musical adventure! Auntie Aggie, Max and Morag the Rabbit are trotting down to the farm for the Big Barn Dance! But before the dancing begins, the animals need YOUR help!

Sing along with farmyard favourites like Old MacDonald Had a Farm, Hey Diddle Diddle and Five Little Ducks in this moo-sical show that will have you singing 'til the cows come home!

Don't be sheepish! Come dressed as your favourite farmyard animal for a quacking good time!

The McDougalls have become the country's biggest stars of family entertainment - the perfect introduction to live theatre for your little ones. Find out more by following The McDougalls on social media, and subscribe to their YouTube channel for FREE singalong songs.

Babies under 12 months may sit on an adult's knee free of charge.

Geez a Break Productions



Cinderella



Treat yourself to a night
of live entertainment at
the Harbour Arts
Centre, Irvine.

What's happening
JUNE



side splitters

COMEDY

**Bring It On
Events Presents:
Sidesplitters Comedy
with Micky Bartlett**

**Saturday 6 June
8pm - £15**

**Headlined by the brilliantly sharp and
endlessly funny Micky Bartlett, this is
stand-up at its very best.**

Expect big laughs, quick wit and a packed room of comedy fans for a feel-good night out on the Ayrshire coast. Grab your tickets early - these shows always sell fast!



FOOTBALL FILM

THURSDAY

11 JUNE

7PM



In honour of the World Cup, we're getting you in the mood with this Free film with a football theme. Suitable for 15 years and over.

FREE BUT BOOKABLE - 15 +



From the Appalachian Mountains - Laura Boosinger and Mike Compton

A Brookfield-Knights presentation. In the world of Bluegrass and Appalachian Old-Time Laura Boosinger and Mike Compton are two of the most respected on the circuit.

Friday 12 June
8pm - £15

They appear as The Knackered Ramblers, a light-hearted poke at the length of their tenure. Mentored by Bluegrass legend, Bill Monroe, Mike is a Grammy and IBMA Award-winning musician/composer and has worked with big names such as Sting, Elvis Costello and Doc Watson. He contributed to the "O Brother Where Art Thou?" soundtrack.

Laura Boosinger has toured the UK on many occasions, and appeared at prestigious events such as Celtic Connections. She played with the Luke Smathers Band, David Holt and the Lightning Bolts and the Midnight Plowboys. Laura has been instrumental in maintaining the tradition of shaped note singing in workshops at major events like MerleFest. The pair have a brand new album just released.

YOU ASKED - AND WE'VE ARRANGED AN ADDITIONAL SHOW FOLLOWING THE SELL OUT

MURDER A SEARCH FOR THE THE TRUTH

THE MURDER DETECTIVE DAVID SWINDLE

THE TRIAL BARRISTER THOMAS LEONARD ROSS KC

HARBOUR ARTS CENTRE IRVINE

2.30PM SATURDAY 13TH JUNE 2026

www.scottishdetective.com



A GREAT WAY TO SPEND A SATURDAY AFTERNOON LISTENING TO

TWO VERY WELL KNOWN CRIME AND LEGAL EXPERTS TALKING ALL THINGS

CRIME, MURDER, JUSTICE, TRUTH, VICTIMS AND LOTS MORE

IT'S RAW IT'S REAL AND BRUTALLY HONEST

It would be a crime to miss this trailblazing stage combination.

More Information on Harbour Arts and Scottish Detective websites

Murder, A Search for the Truth: The Murder Detective and the Trial Barrister

Saturday 13 June

2.30pm & 7.30pm - £19.50

Good news, by popular demand following the sell-out evening show, we now have an afternoon of the trailblazing exciting "Murder a Search for The Truth" on stage collaboration of David Swindle (no stranger to Harbour Arts Centre) and Lawyer and Trial Barrister Thomas Leonard Ross KC who many of you will know from his work on high profile murder cases and TV documentaries.

This isn't fiction. It's raw, real and brutally honest. Swindle and Ross break down high-profile murders, not so well-known murders and cold cases that still haunt families today all with a big focus on victims and their loved ones.

Something different for a Saturday trip to the Ayrshire seaside close to the train station - an afternoon of all thing's crime, murder, justice, victims and loads more.

La Dolce Vita Swing Collective

Saturday 20 June
7.30pm - £16/£14 concession

La Dolce Vita Swing Collective return wrapped in the late-night glamour of vintage Las Vegas, kissed with true dolce vita spirit – lyrical piano, velvet sax, warm bass lines, skipping drums and smooth vocals, with martini's always close by.

Shaped by the Great American Songbook and the effortless Rat Pack cool of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and their sharp-suited circle, the band weave mid-century American swing with a touch of Italian romance – think moonlit piazzas, slow smiles and that irresistible amore per la musica – creating a sound that feels warm, elegant and made for centre stage.

Pop favourites float through the set in sumptuous swing-jazz style – The Beatles, The Jersey Boys, Queen and Michael Jackson – reimagined with polish, charm and a whisper of bella notte magic. It's the kind of evening you plan your week around: intimate, uplifting and impossible to leave without a smile.

Harbour Arts Centre

116 Harbour Street. Irvine. KA12 8PZ

Saturday 20th June 2026 @ 7.30pm (Doors - 7pm)



Ticket price: £16 & £14 concessions
Available from: www.dolcevitaswing.com

Geez a Break Productions



Cinderella

Geez A Break Presents: Cinderella

Sunday 28 June
2pm - £14/£12 concession


You SHALL go to the ball!

Join Cinderella for our magical summer filled with dazzling costumes, horrid ugly sisters, fairy magic, sing-along tunes and heaps of audience participation.

This classic fairy tale gets the full Geez a Break treatment - loud, hilarious and bursting with fun for all ages!







We all come to the arts
from different places, at
different times and in
different ways. We're
here to inspire you to
new experiences,
maybe for the first time.

What's happening
JULY

Tidelines Presents: Christopher Brookmyre

Friday 3 July
7.30pm - £10

Crime scenes revisited with Christopher Brookmyre - a Tidelines Book Festival taster event

We're thrilled to welcome back award-winning author Chris Brookmyre to celebrate the release of his new novel *Quite Ugly One Evening*. Together we'll celebrate the return of fan-favourite journalist Jack Parlabane, 30 years after his first appearance in *Quite Ugly One Morning*.

A chance to set sail with Brookmyre, aboard a cruise ship where blood is thicker than water! We'll reunite with the legendary character who 'cheerfully wanders into enormously dangerous situations and effortlessly makes them much worse'. This evening promises to be full of sharp wit, humour and surprises. Join us to hear more about this page-turning investigation.

What could possibly go wrong?





Side Splitters

COMEDY

Bring It On
Events Presents:
Sidesplitter's Comedy
with Billy Kirkwood

Saturday 4 July
8pm - £15

Get ready for another huge night of laughs
as Sidesplitters Comedy Club returns to
The Harbour Arts Centre, Irvine!

Headlined by the brilliantly sharp and endlessly funny Billy Kirkwood,
this is stand-up at its very best.

Expect big laughs, quick wit and a packed room of comedy fans for a
feel-good night out on the Ayrshire coast. Grab your tickets early -
these shows always sell fast!



Formation
by Margaret Carslaw

Thursday 9 July - Saturday 22 August

A graduate of Glasgow School of Art and an artist based at the Wasps Courtyard Studios in Irvine, Margaret Carslaw's exhibition Formation is an immersive journey into her creative process: where ideas begin, how they evolve and why a finished painting never ends.





Margaret invites you to step into her beautiful ordinary, the abstract natural world, seen through her powerful large-scale oil paintings accompanied by original source material, drawings, sketches and the written word.

**Jungle Book Craft Workshop:
Paper collages,
Paper Squishies
& Foam Clay**

Friday 10 July

1pm - 2pm (Ages 5 - 7)

2.30pm - 3.30pm (Ages 8 - 11) - £7

Step into the world of The Jungle Book and get creative! In this fun hands-on workshop, children will make their own paper collages, paper squishies and foam clay sculptures inspired by jungle characters and animals like tigers, bears, monkeys, and snakes.





Kids will explore colour, texture, and imagination while creating soft squishy toys and mini jungle creatures to take home. All materials provided.

Freckfest presents: Xan Tyler

Saturday 11 July
7.30pm - £17.00

Xan is a formidable songwriter with impeccable vocal talents. Her work covers such wide subject areas and musical landscapes, she is acknowledged as 'genre agnostic'

Since her beginnings as a teenage backing singer for South London's risqué cult band Death Bang Party, Xan has had an eclectic musical journey. Her big break was with Creation Records when she was signed to front electro pop duo Technique, produced by heavyweights Stephen Hague (New Order) and Owen Morris (Oasis).

After touring the world with Creation she was signed to legendary dance label Positiva where Xan paired up with German electronic titans Timo Maas and Martin Buttrich for Orinoko.



Artie's Singing Kettle "LIVE"

Sunday 12 July
11am and 1pm - £13

DRESS UP in your SPARKLES to come to the "LIVE" show...Artie takes you on a trip through Kettle favourites.

Buy me a Banana, Bunny Fou Fou, Shove Yer Granny Aff a Bus...Fun for Kids, Nostalgia for Adults. Featuring the original Singing Kettles - packed with clues for songs.

(Adults and Children same price. Babies under 12 months may sit on an adult's knee free of charge)



Under the Sea Art Workshop

Thursday 16 July

1pm - 2pm (Ages 5 - 7)

2.30pm - 3.30pm (Ages 8 - 11) - £7

Dive into a creative ocean adventure inspired by *The Little Mermaid*, *Finding Nemo*, and *Titanic*!

In this fun children's workshop, young artists will use recycled plastics and materials to create colourful under-the-sea sculptures and artworks. From sea creatures to imaginative ocean scenes, kids will explore creativity while learning how everyday materials can be transformed into art.



A vibrant illustration of a circus scene at night. At the top, a red and white striped awning with yellow and red tassels hangs over a dark blue sky filled with colorful confetti and fireworks. In the center, a large, ornate sign with a red border and yellow dots contains the text 'BIG TOP CIRCUS EVENT' in bold red letters, flanked by three yellow stars. Below the sign, three red and white striped tents with yellow and red awnings are set up on a red and white striped stage. A string of red and white triangular bunting hangs across the scene.

BIG TOP CIRCUS EVENT

Circus Themed Event

Friday 17 July
10.30am - 12.30pm (Ages 5 - 10)

Join us for a fun filled Circus themed workshop with games, music, glitter tattoos and crafts!

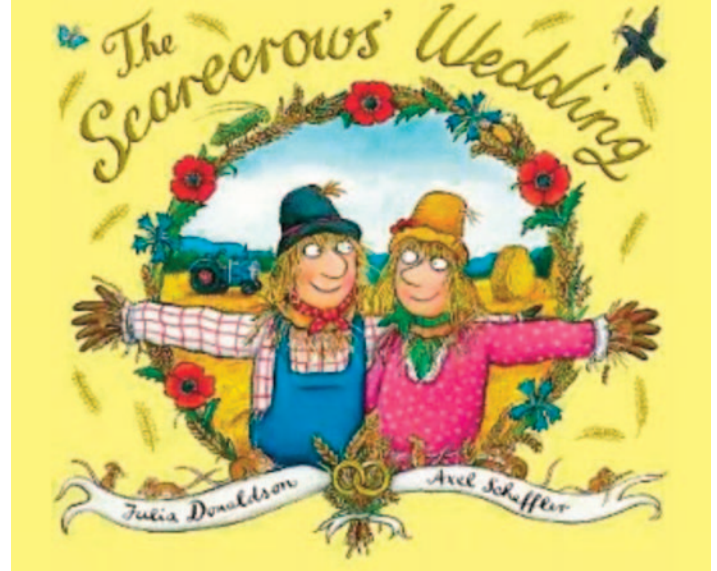


Saturday 18 July
1pm - 4pm - £48

Palette Knife Boats Workshop

A fun workshop for adults using acrylic paints to create your own palette knife masterpiece! Suitable for beginners and the more experienced this is a great exercise in colour mixing and loosening up. Follow a series of talks and demonstrations by art school trained artist Alison Thomas who has 28 years teaching experience.

All materials are supplied although you are welcome to bring along any palette knives that you have and would like to try.



Saturday 18 July
10am - 11am (Ages 1 - 3)
11.30am - 12.30pm (Ages 4 - 5) - £5

Scarecrow's Wedding: Early Years Storytelling and Drama Workshop

Interactive Storytelling with dance, music & drama!



Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 July
11am - 12pm both days - £7

Children's 5 - 7 Years Paper Mache Ladybird Workshop (over 2 days)

A messy and fun activity for younger children who will love making their own ladybird that can be hung on the wall. The ladybird is a nod to the National Year of Reading and the wonderful Ladybird children's books we all know and love so well! We will use paper and glue to make the body shape on the first day and paint our ladybirds the following day.

Experienced artist and teacher Alison Thomas will lead this enjoyable workshop; all materials are supplied.



Wednesday 22 and Thursday 23 July
1pm - 2.30pm both days - £7

Children's 8 - 12 Years Paper Mache Fox Head Workshop (over 2 days)

To celebrate this year's National Year of Reading we will be making our very own Fabulous Mr Fox! We will create our own wall mounted fox head using the fun art of paper mache. We will create our creatures on the first day and paint them the second when they are dry.

We will use plastic eyes, make whiskers from wire and bring them to life with acrylic paints. Make yours a wolf if you prefer!



Wednesday 22 July
10am - 4pm: (Ages 7 - 12) - £20

Musical Madness: Traitors the Musical

Are you a faithful? Sing, dance and act your heart out at our traitors themed Musical Theatre Event.

Full day event, please bring snack, lunch and plenty of water.



Saturday 18 July
10am - 11am (Ages 5 - 7)
11.30am - 12.30pm (Ages 8 - 11) - £7

Kids Art: Design Your Own Football Top

In honour of this years' World Cup, come and get creative and design your very own football top with our tutor Lynn.



CREATIVE Portfolio

Portfolio Building Class (Ages 16 plus)

Monday 27 - Friday 31 July
10am - 4pm each day - £70

This week-long course focuses on the practical creation of visual art portfolio pieces. Participants will spend most of the week in hands-on studio sessions developing new artworks through guided exercises, creative prompts, and experimentation with materials and techniques.

Students will produce several portfolio-ready pieces while receiving feedback and support to refine their ideas and skills. The course will also include brief guidance on selecting, documenting, and presenting artwork effectively for a visual art portfolio.

By the end of the week, participants will have a small collection of new work and a stronger foundation for building a visual art portfolio.

The workshop will be led by qualified artist and teacher Michelle Winslow B.A. (Hons) Fine art sculpture, MPhil Art and design in organisational contexts, Glasgow school of art. PGCE secondary education. Michelle is an experienced secondary school art teacher who now works as an art tutor for the Harbour Art centre and KALeisure.

Students should bring a packed lunch with them each day.




JACK



10

EMMA





Every audience is different, even within the same venue. You just have to make that audience your audience.

What's happening
August

side splitters

COMEDY

Bring It On
Events Presents:
Sidesplitters Comedy
with Eshaan Akbar



Saturday 1 August
8pm - £15

Get ready for another huge night of laughs as Sidesplitters Comedy Club returns to The Harbour Arts Centre, Irvine!

Headlined by the brilliantly sharp and endlessly funny Eshaan Akbar, this is stand-up at its very best.

Expect big laughs, quick wit and a packed room of comedy fans for a feel-good night out on the Ayrshire coast. Grab your tickets early - these shows always sell fast!

DOG MAN

The Musical



Tuesday 4 August
10am - 4pm (Ages 7 - 12) - £20

Musical Madness: Dogman the Musical

Sing your heart out, dance your socks off and fight crime with Dogman. Full day event, please bring snack, lunch and plenty of water.

NATIONAL PLAY SPORTS DAY

Themed workshop with
games, crafts & tattoos

Wednesday 5 August
10am - 11.30am (Ages 5 - 10)
12pm - 1.30pm (Ages 5 - 10)
Free (Booking essential)

National Play Day: Sports Day Fun

Join us for an action-packed Sports Day themed workshop with games, music, glitter tattoos and crafts.



Thursday 6 August
10am - 11am (Ages 5 - 7)
11.30am - 12.30pm (Ages 8 - 11) - £7

Kids Art: Design Your Own Sports Bag

Inspired by the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow?
Come and get creative and design your very own sports bag!

A swashbuckling singalong show from Scotland's leading children's theatre company!

THE McDOUGALLS



A swashbuckling singalong show from Scotland's leading children's theatre company!

THE McDOUGALLS



The McDougalls: Pirate Adventure

Thursday 6 August

1pm and 3pm

£12/£45 for a family of four

**A Singalong Adventure for all
the Family - Live on Stage!**

Join Auntie Aggie, Max and Morag the Rabbit as they set sail on a musical treasure hunt, filled with songs and sea shanties such as Row Row Your Boat and A Sailor Went to Sea. The McDougalls need YOU to join the crew!



Friday 7 August
10am - 11.30am (Ages 9+) - £8

Kids Art: Design your Own Silk Painted Journal

Get creative and hand paint your very own journal to take home.

Freckfest presents Alan John Frew Band, Mellow Party and Damien McFly

Friday 7 August
£17.50

A Scottish indie folk act known for rich vocals, expressive fiddle, and rhythmic acoustic guitar with subtle Latin influences.

Led by acclaimed songwriter Alan John Frew, the band blends emotional storytelling with warm, atmospheric arrangements.





With performances across the UK and Europe—including Belladrum, Arran Folk Festival, and the Royal Concert Hall—Alan has built a reputation as an authentic and compelling voice. The band will perform new material alongside favourites from Songs From The Sea, including the debut of “Go Easy.”

Needle Felted Highland Cow Workshop

Saturday 8 August
1pm - 4pm - £45.00

Make your own hanging highland cow character with 3D horns and eyes by following instruction from art school trained full-time artist Alison Thomas. Alison has over 27 years teaching experience and will explain the art of needle felting through a series of demonstrations and talks.

A really fun workshop suitable for adult beginners and the more experienced. Children over age 12 are welcome if accompanied by an adult.

All materials supplied although a pair of sharp scissors and some sewing needles may come in handy if you have them.



Monkey Puzzle

**Monkey Puzzle: Early Years
Storytelling and Drama Workshop**

Interactive Storytelling with dance, music & drama!

**Saturday
15 August**

**10am - 11am
(Ages 1 - 3)**

**11.30am - 12.30pm
(Ages 4 - 5) - £5**

JJ Gilmour

Saturday 22 August
7.30pm - £25

Former frontman of Scottish band The Silencers returns to the HAC with music taken from his international gold selling discs and his well-crafted stories.

JJ will also feature songs from his new album he'll be recording in Nashville at secret sound studios with distinguished producer Chas Sandford whose previous credits boast (Stevie Nicks, Willie Nelson and John Waite).





It'll be JJ's sixth solo album since leaving The Silencers. His set will also include songs from his 40 years as recording artist which has seen him work with some of the worlds best musicians and producers. Expect an evening of sentimental music coupled with humorous tales.

Visit jgilmour.co.uk



What's happening at

eglinton countrypark



Volunteering

Monday 9.30am until 12.30pm

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills and keep active. We have various groups running throughout the week and opportunities for independent activities within Eglinton Country Park and Community Gardens. If you would like more information or to get involved, please contact: eglingtoncountrypark@north-ayrshire.gov.uk or call 01294 551776

For more information please contact:
eglingtoncountrypark@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
or call 01294 551776.

Corporate Volunteering

If your business is looking for a way to boost team morale, give back to the community and improve employee wellbeing, Corporate Volunteering with us does all that and more!

Whether you opt for a full day of activities or a half day we aim to:

Strengthen team bonds through meaningful shared experiences

Boost employee physical, mental and emotional wellbeing

Contribute towards improving the park for nature and the local community

Develop leadership, collaboration and communication skills

Get in touch to start planning a corporate volunteer day with us!

Park In Motion - inclusive outdoor activities for all

NORTH AYRSHIRE RANGER SERVICE
Friday 22 May & Friday 14 August
10.30am - 2.30pm - Free (Drop-in session)

**Come join us for some fun,
accessible outdoor activities
and adventures!**

From mountain bike rides and ability bike taster sessions to Nordic walking, family orienteering, and even rickshaw rides - there's something for everyone. Free Dr Bike checks, security marking, recycled bike giveaways, bike-themed crafts, and health support from the KA Activator Team.

Open to all and especially welcoming to disability groups. A chance to discover new activities in a safe and supportive environment.

So come join us in community spirit for some outdoor, healthy fun and meet all our lovely partners ready and willing to help you have a go!





Big Balsam Bash

NORTH AYRSHIRE RANGER SERVICE

Saturday 4 July

10am - 12pm & 1pm - 3pm

Join North Ayrshire Council Ranger Service as we tackle Himalayan Balsam in Eglinton Country Park.

Balsam is a pretty but invasive plant that leads to riverbank erosion, so let's help protect our river habitats! We have 2 times to choose from (or you can join us for the day if you're feeling up to it!).

This is an easy-going conservation activity, but some of the terrain is quite uneven and wet in places. Balsam is easy to pull though... and it's really satisfying!

Wellies are highly recommended but strong, waterproof footwear is required. Remember to dress for weather.

Free (Booking required) 6+ only, under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.



Wednesday 15 July
10am - 11.30am - Free (Drop-in session)

Courtyard Encounters: Marvellous Moths

North Ayrshire Ranger Service will be set up in the Courtyard with an exciting and fascinating topic around the magic of moths.



13 July & 17 August
1.30pm - 2.30pm
Free (Booking required, RSVP www.gruvibeatz.co.uk)

Drum In The Park

Come and find your groove while enjoying the joy of spontaneous music-making.

Join us for a drum circle hosted in the beautiful surroundings of Eglinton Country Park. Everyone is welcome, whether you're a regular or trying it for the first time.

Drum in the Park is for ages 16 and over.
Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult.

NORTH AYRSHIRE OPEN ART EXHIBITION

30TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Eglinton Country Park, Kilwinning

4th July - 18th July 2026

Saturday 4 July - Saturday 18 July
Free

North Ayrshire Open Art

This year will be the 30th year that the North Ayrshire Open Art Exhibition will be held in the Racquet Hall at Eglinton Country Park in North Ayrshire.

Over the years thousands of people have exhibited work or visited the exhibitions, participated in associated events and voted for their favourite artwork, so get ready to get involved!

FAMILY FILMS

AT EGLINTON COUNTRY
PARK

SIT BACK, RELAX AND ENTERTAIN THE KIDS
FOR AN HOUR OR TWO WITH OUR FAMILY
FILMS. FILMS SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN AND
THEIR FAMILIES IN A RELAXED
ENVIRONMENT.

FREE
(BOOKING
REQUIRED)

13 July & 17 August
10am - Free (Booking required)

Family Film Club

Sit back, relax and entertain the kids for an hour or two with our family films. Films suitable for children and their families in a relaxed environment.

What's happening at The Heritage Centre

Home to North Ayrshire Council's museum collection and features a varied programme of temporary exhibitions

North Ayrshire Heritage Centre

Kirkgate
Saltcoats
KA21 5HB
Tel: 01294 464174

Email: naheritage@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Website: www.naheritage.co.uk

Facebook: North Ayrshire Heritage
and Cultural Services

Open: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and last
Saturday of the month: 9.30am - 1.00pm,
2.00pm - 4.30pm - Free entry



Bound by the Three Towns and the Merch



Bound by the Sea

Three Towns and the Merchant Navy

Bound by the Sea: Three Towns and the Merchant Navy


Starts 1 June 2026

For generations, families from this Ayrshire coastline dedicated their lives to the sea. This exhibition tells their stories through remarkable objects from the collections of the Scottish Maritime Museum and North Ayrshire Heritage Centre, including uniforms, ship models, photographs, voyage diaries, and personal items that bring maritime history to life.

Discover how shipping companies like the Baron Line and Allan Line grew from humble beginnings in Ardrossan and Saltcoats to become major forces in Atlantic trade. Learn about the Braes family's seafaring legacy, spanning Captain Andrew G. Braes's 596 voyages and 1,100 Atlantic crossings to his grandson Russell's service as a Master Mariner. Explore acts of extraordinary bravery, like Captain Peter Sharp's 1878 rescue through burning petroleum, which earned him Lloyd's Life Saving at Sea Medal.

"Bound to the Sea" reveals how these seemingly modest towns launched shipping empires, pioneered communications technology, and produced generations of brave Merchant Navy sailors whose courage sustained Britain through peace and war.





What's happening at
**Museum of
the Cumbraes**

Alongside our permanent Museum of the Cumbraes display, our foyer display shows some different aspects of Cumbrae's rich history. Until may 2026.

The small display packs in a lot of history including the Glasgow-Cumbrae Benevolent Society, who helped so many people in their times of need, lots of different types of maps relating to the island, some artefacts from the Women's Lifeboat Guild and the fascinating military history of the 1st Argyll & Bute Volunteers.

Garrison House, Millport

Open 7 days 10am to 4pm

Tel 01294 464174 Email: naheritage@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Website <https://naheritage.co.uk/>

Titanic Honour and Glory

June to August 2026

The Heritage Team is delighted to be hosting Titanic Honour and Glory at the Museum of the Cumbraes. This wonderful exhibition preserves the history of the Titanic, Olympic and Britannic, sister ships that sailed under the swallow tailed flag of the White Star Line.

When visiting the exhibition, you will personally come face to face with history as you discover the story of Titanic through real artefacts and personal stories. Experience Olympic and the grandeur of the gilded age of transatlantic travel as you view awe inspiring examples of her luxurious interior fittings. Discover Britannic, the forgotten sister of Olympic and Titanic, witness the elegance that once was and view stunning objects recovered from her wreck.

This fantastic historic collection of Titanic and White Star Line artefacts has been built by Titanic Honour and Glory over twenty years and also has magnificent movie props and costumes from the 1997 James Cameron movie, Titanic.





Exhibition by Stephen Jordan Art

27 March - 22 May

A love letter to Millport

Sue and I first discovered Millport in September 2024. We promised ourselves we would come back and did so in June 2025. We loved Millport's nostalgic seaside charm with its "doon the watter", lovely coastal scenery, easy cycling, pub quizzes and relaxed pace of life. We were lucky to stay at Maura's place for that month. Some days we could just sit and watch the weather come in and I could paint every day and if the weather turned to rain could easily get back indoors to finish off a painting. So this is a collection of paintings from that time with a couple added that I finished over the winter.

This is the first time I have exhibited in Scotland, and I am grateful to the Garrison for letting me do so. I've developed my circular style of painting in the last 10 years. The idea I had was to use the edges of the painting to try and capture the changes to the light or weather.

I'd like you to envisage this collection of paintings as my love letter to Millport, to the great time we had and the lovely people we met.





A brief explanation about the title of some of the paintings:
The plastic chair brigade is dedicated to the people we saw gathering together, to chat and catch up on the chairs outside the old telephone box by the harbour.



The secret secret beach is an imagined homage to the secret beach, that there might be another even more secret beach, just over the rocks and out of sight, hidden by the tide and only magically appearing to people who love Millport.



What's happening in The Community



WASPS Month - Courtyard Studios Open weekend 2026 - Irvine Harbourside

Saturday 10 - 5 pm

Sunday 12 - 5 pm

FREE ENTRY

Fancy a bit of something different over the summer holidays? The Courtyard studios welcome you to visit our 18 resident artists and makers again this summer.

Come along and wander around the various studios where creatives are producing all kinds of arts, crafts, jewellery, painting, leatherwork, textiles, photography, ceramics and more!

Hopefully we will have another beautiful weekend as we did last year so why not take a trip to Irvine Harbourside on the weekend of the 1st & 2nd August, we would love to see you!

Courtyard Studios, 128 Harbour Street, Irvine, KA12 8PZ
www.facebook.com/CourtyardStudios

Ayrshire Art Classes Specialist Workshops

Learn all about oil painting and wet felting this spring/summer - ideal for beginners!

Find out more at:
www.alisonthomasartist.co.uk/classes



Scottish Maritime Museum Unveils Spring Season of Popular Glassblowing Workshop

Experience the art of shaping molten glass at the Scottish Maritime Museum this spring.

Choose from two-hour introductory sessions (Wednesdays, 2pm-4pm, £60) or four-hour hands-on workshops (Saturdays, 10am-2pm) running March through May in the stunning glass-roofed Linthouse building. Suitable for complete beginners and experienced glass artists alike. Take home your own creations.

Places can be booked on Eventbrite - www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/spring-glassblowing-workshops-tickets



2026 SCOTTISH MARITIME MUSEUM CREATIVES SPRING MARKET

Discover beautifully one of a kind handcrafted treasures, artisan creations, delicious treats, and perfect seasonal gifts all made by talented unique local creatives. Share your love for all things handmade and bring your family and friends, there is something for all ages.

TIDES OF TIME- EXHIBITION

This carefully curated exhibition will feature works by seven distinguished artists, each with deep connections to Scotland's maritime heritage.

SCOTTISH MARITIME IMPRESSIONS BY MARIUSZ BARTOSIK -EXHIBITION AND SHANTY CONCERT

This event combines a photography exhibition of Scottish seascapes by acclaimed Polish photographer Mariusz Bartosik with a live sea shanty concert by the Waldek Mieczkowski Band from Poland.

BEACH TODAY- A YEAR OF SEA, SKY AND STONE BY CHRISTINA RILEY- EXHIBITION

The Beach Today' began as a daily photography project developed during lockdown walks along the Ayrshire coast. Daily collections of beachcombed marine objects were shared on social media between March-July 2020.

BOUND BY THE SEA- THREE TOWNS AND THE MERCHANT NAVY- SMM FIRST TOURING EXHIBITION

This touring exhibition celebrates the rich maritime heritage of North Ayrshire's Three Towns and their deep connections to the Merchant Navy.

For generations, families from this Ayrshire coastline dedicated their lives to the sea. The exhibition tells their stories through remarkable objects from the collections of the Scottish Maritime Museum and North Ayrshire Heritage Centre. The exhibition will be host by the North Ayrshire Heritage Centre, Saltcoats.

Wellwood Burns Centre & Museum

Irvine Burns Club marks its 200th Anniversary in 2026. Founded on 2 June 1826, the Club continues to honour the legacy of Robert Burns at the heart of the town where he once lived and worked.

Visit the Wellwood Burns Centre & Museum to explore a special exhibition celebrating two centuries of history, friendship, and cultural tradition. Open Friday 7th August, Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th August, 11am-4pm. Admission is free and no booking is required.

Come enjoy a unique visitor experience. For guided tours of Wellwood throughout the year, visit: www.irvineburnsclub.org

28 Eglinton Street, Irvine KA12 8AS



Booking & Venue information:

Buy your tickets:

Online:
www.ticketsource.co.uk/harbour-arts-centre
In person: at Harbour Arts Centre Box Office

Phone: 01294 274059
Email: harbourarts@north-ayrshire.gov.uk
Website: thehac.co.uk
Box Office Opening Hours:
Wed - Sat 9.30am - 4pm

Booking and Transaction Fees:

Tickets bought online incur a booking fee of 0.75%, if bought in person a booking fee does not apply.

Methods of Payment:

We accept Visa, Mastercard and Cash.

Accessibility Advice:

Our centre is fully accessible. We have floor access seating, and one disabled access toilet. Please contact the venue if you require accessible seating at the time of booking.

Carers Appreciation Card:

North Ayrshire Carers Appreciation card entitles unpaid carers of all ages to offers and concessions. Proof of carer eligibility required for ticketing benefits.

Contact:
North Ayrshire Carers Centre,
174 High Street,
Irvine KA12 8AN, call 01294 311333
(Mon-Fri, 9am-4pm) or
emailnorthayrshire.carers@unity-enterprise.com

