

Darvel & Area Regeneration Team

DART

Bringing the Valley to Life Through Events and Art

In 2024/25, DART secured funding from ARIA to deliver two ambitious community projects: the Loudoun Valley Festival and a striking mural at The Corner, celebrating Darvel's most famous son, Sir Alexander Fleming. These projects are revitalising the Irvine Valley through music, arts, and a renewed sense of place.



The Loudoun Valley Festival is a vibrant new summer event bringing live music, local talent, and community pride to Darvel, Galston, and Newmilns. Building on 2023's "Press Pause" initiative, it offers something for all ages. ARIA grant funding supported the purchase of professional portable event equipment—sound system, stage, lighting, projector, and screen—enabling valley groups to host high-quality, accessible events throughout the year.



"There's a huge appetite for live music and cultural events here. This project helps us turn that demand into a valley-wide tourism offer while nurturing the next generation of young performers." – Darvel Music Company volunteer

On the eastern gable of Darvel's popular new community space, The Corner, a powerful new mural now watches over the town. Funded in part by ARIA, the full-height mural celebrates Sir Alexander Fleming, discoverer of penicillin, and brings world-class street art to the Irvine Valley.

Darvel Corner Mural

Designed by Glasgow street artist Rogue One, the mural is part of a wider community effort to celebrate Darvel's heritage ahead of the 100th anniversary of Fleming's discovery in 2028. The mural has already attracted national and international attention, boosting Darvel's reputation as a visitor destination and putting culture and creativity at the heart of local regeneration.



"It's more than just art—it's about reclaiming our local identity. This mural says that Darvel is proud of its history and excited about its future."

– Colin Allan, DART

Building on assets like The Corner, the Darvel Music Festival, Darvélo, and Walkfest, this mural is helping shape a pan-valley identity, with DART laying strong foundations for a vibrant future of festivals, heritage projects, and community-led growth.

For more information about the DART and ARIA, click the following logos:

