

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL MAGAZINE

2026 SPRING EDITION



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COUNCIL
Comhairle Siorrachd Àir a Deas
Making a Difference Every Day

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Latest News

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY MARKS BEGINNING OF CONSTRUCTION FOR NEW GIRVAN PRIMARY SCHOOL CAMPUS

A groundbreaking ceremony was recently held to mark the commencement of works on the new Girvan Primary School and Early Years Centre.

Pupils and school staff were joined at the site by representatives from Kier, and guests to celebrate the milestone in the delivery of this project.

The new campus, which is now under construction on the existing school site, will accommodate a brand-new Primary School building as well as a standalone single-storey Early Years Centre with its own entrance and reception.

The Primary School building will have classrooms over two levels and a dedicated Additional Support Needs (ASN) base. Upon its completion, which is on track for 2027, pupils will move into the new building and demolition of the existing school will begin, ensuring a smooth transition and minimal disruption to learning.



The Quay Zone Officially Re-opens its Doors

The Quay Zone (TQZ) leisure facility in Girvan recently re-opened following its closure in 2024 due to major storm damage.

The facility has since undergone a complete overhaul culminating in a phase 1 reopening of the swimming pool, fitness suite and gym.

TQZ will be operating 7 days a week. Customers will be able use the gym's brand-new Pulse Fitness cardio, resistance and free weight equipment. The fitness studio has also been improved with a new beechwood sprung floor.

South Ayrshire Council will continue to work with facility operators, South Carrick Community Leisure (SCCL). Contractors are rolling out a major upgrade to the kitchen and café — expanding onto the first floor and introducing a new terrace that's designed to maximise the stunning views. This phase will also see the much-loved soft-play reinstated, with works scheduled for completion in the first half of 2026.

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- Instagram - @southayrshirecouncil
- LinkedIn - @south-ayrshire-council
- Youtube - @southayrshirecouncil
- Nextdoor - @SouthAyrshireCouncil



Council Staff Choose New Employee Charity Partner



South Ayrshire Council staff have chosen Ayrshire Cancer Support as their new Employee Charity Partner for 2026.

The partnership was chosen following a nomination and voting process, reflecting employees' shared commitment to making a meaningful impact in the communities where they live and work.

Ayrshire Cancer Support is a local charity providing free practical and emotional support to people living with cancer, their families, carers and bereaved across Ayrshire for nearly 45 years. Its services include drop-in centres, professional counselling, complementary therapies, support groups, patient transport to hospital appointments, tailored help for children and young people and informational resources to help everyone affected by cancer throughout Ayrshire.



Scan me

COLOUR DASH IS BACK!



Ayrshire Cancer Support is thrilled to announce the return of their much-loved Colour Dash, in partnership with Ayrshire Hospice.

Mark your calendars for Saturday 13 June, when Eglinton Park will come alive with colour, laughter and community spirit.

This summer's vibrant 5k promises fun for everyone, whether you choose to run, jog or walk the route. Along the way, you'll burst through five vibrant colour stations, guaranteed to leave you smiling (and wonderfully colourful!) from head to toe. It's the perfect day out for friends, families and anyone looking to enjoy some feel-good fun while supporting an incredible cause.

Registration is now open, you don't want to miss this one! Sign up via their website

www.ayrshirecs.org/fundraising

THE SOUTH AYRSHIRE Gift Card

south-ayrshire.gov.uk

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NEW AND IMPROVED SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL 'MYBINS' APP

South Ayrshire Council's 'SAC MyBins' App will be replaced by a new UK-wide version, ensuring optimal service for users.

Following the success of the 'SAC MyBins' App, the Council's Waste Management team, in partnership with Albion Environmental Ltd., has introduced a new version of the App, which aims to make it even easier to recycle at home.

The new App remains free of charge and users can expect all of the same functions, including personalised collection calendars and reminders. However, the system has been upgraded to include a modern, user-friendly design, quick access to Council services, recycling guides and local information and detailed guidance on what materials can be placed in each bin.

Users can find the App by searching 'MyBins' on the App Store or Google Play and once set up, should delete the old 'SAC MyBins' App from their device.

MyBins App New Version Out Now!

With improved features, a fresh design, and support across all councils, it's the easiest way to stay on top of waste and recycling.

Download Now

SAVE THE DATE

Communities Fun Day 2026!

Join us on Saturday 16 May for a free action-packed day out! This hugely popular and award-winning event runs from 11am-4pm at both Ayr Academy and the nearby Riverside Sports Arena in Ayr.

As well as being a great free day out for all the family, the Communities Fun Day is a fantastic opportunity for anyone living or working in South Ayrshire to speak with various Council services; community groups; service providers; and external agencies within the information zone.

The Fun Zone is an unmissable hotspot, bursting with excitement and non-stop action for all ages! Dive into thrilling funfair rides, try your hand at canoeing taster sessions, catch live stage performances and bounce your way through giant inflatables.

Ready for a challenge? Conquer the adrenaline-pumping Nerf Battle Arena! And don't forget to explore an incredible showcase of classic cars, powerful trucks, and impressive military and emergency service vehicles. There's adventure around every corner!

All tickets, activities and attractions on the day are free and can be booked in advance from Monday 13 April.

For event updates or to reserve tickets, scan the QR code or follow South Ayrshire Council Housing Services on Facebook.



EVERY LEARNER EVERY DAY

90%
attendance is
still 4 weeks lost



**Going to school has
lots of benefits!**

south-ayrshire.gov.uk/ELED

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Award Winning
**COMMUNITIES
FUN DAY**

Save
the
date!

Saturday 16th May 2026
Ayr Academy /
Riverside Sports Arena, Ayr

Watch this space for more information coming soon!



Marr College Receives International School Award from British Council

Marr College has been awarded intermediate level of the British Council's prestigious International School Award in recognition of its work to bring the world into the classroom.

The International School Award celebrates the achievements of schools that do exceptional work in international education to support our young people in gaining a wider cultural understanding.

To achieve this award Marr College undertook various international projects including the exchange of letters and videos with students from three French schools, an interdisciplinary project with the school's music department focusing on foreign influences on current French music and participation in the 'La Fiesta du foot' project where pupils produced football drills in both French and Spanish. The pupils also took part in a water sport trip to Spain and led an assembly and workshop to celebrate European Day of Languages.



Prestwick Academy proudly launched a brand new National 5 Creative Industries course at an event held recently as part of their wider construction skills programme.

The initiative, delivered in partnership with South Ayrshire Council, DYW Ayrshire and the KRB Group, also works closely with the National Federation of Roofing Contractors, Historic Environment Scotland and the Scottish Traditional Building Forum. Together, these organisations provide young people with the opportunity to engage in a hands-on, practical course that develops valuable skills and experience.



The brand-new school-based roofing programme supports young people by preparing pupils for real-world of work opportunities and helps to address industry skills shortages. It also helps fill a critical gap making vocational training more accessible, reducing travel barriers, and encouraging more young people to pursue apprenticeships in the roofing and construction industries.

The initiative, which was initially piloted elsewhere in Scotland, highlights the growing national efforts to create accessible training routes for young people into skilled trades. The roofing course forms a key part of Prestwick Academy's wider construction skills programme which has earned recognition at national level and has consisted of various events focussing on masonry, roof slating, demolition, and health and safety.

The programme has helped pupils access essential qualifications such as the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) card which proves an individual has the necessary training, qualifications and health and safety knowledge to access or work on construction sites. In addition to this, pupils will also achieve working at height awareness, manual handling awareness, abrasive wheels and asbestos awareness.

As part of the wider roofing project, pupils have also been able to gain real, hands-on experience out with the classroom across a variety of roofing tasks at River Garden Auchincruive. Working closely with KRB Group, participants of the programme have gained exposure to real roofing practice across buildings that have been carefully restored over the past several years. This collaboration allows pupils to see how their developing trade skills can contribute to projects that have a profound positive impact on the community.



Health & Wellbeing



Walking for Health in South Ayrshire

A wide range of free health walks designed for all ages, abilities and confidence levels are available across South Ayrshire.

Health Walks are short, low-level, accessible group walks - completely free - and led by trained Walk Leaders. Each route is risk-assessed to ensure everyone can take part with confidence.

These walks are ideal for anyone who would benefit from gentle activity and social connection including:

- people returning to exercise after a break
- those recovering from ill health or managing a long-term condition
- or anyone advised by a healthcare professional to become more active

Whether you're taking your first steps back into activity or simply looking to meet new people, our Health Walks offer a supportive, welcoming way to start.

We also provide more challenging walks for anyone keen to push themselves a little further or explore more of what South Ayrshire has to offer.

Scan the QR code to access the full weekly walking programme or email ActiveCommunities@south-ayrshire.gov.uk for more information.



Enjoy Exploring with South Ayrshire's Spring Health Calendars

Spring has officially sprung; the days are getting warmer and the nights are light. This means it's the perfect time to begin exploring the great outdoors and the breathtaking spaces we have right here on our doorstep in South Ayrshire.

Our 'Green Health' and 'Blue Health' calendars serve as a monthly guide offering a range of suggestions to embrace nature either by exploring our spectacular green spaces or interacting with water and our impressive blue spaces.



There is something for everyone, from easy simple things to do on your doorstep, family activities and mindfulness to more involved adventures to explore new places in South Ayrshire.

These seasonal calendars support health and wellbeing by supporting individuals to connect with nature either in person or from the comfort of your own home.

View our Spring Health Calendars online by scanning the QR codes.



AYR GOLF FESTIVAL 2026

Wednesday 3 - Sunday 7 June 2026

Belleisle and Seafield Golf Courses

AYR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP

Wed 3 – Sun 7 June

Entry £55/£75

Belleisle/Seafield

GUARANTEED 4 ROUNDS

LADIES & GENTS SENIOR

STABLEFORD OPEN

Fri 5 June

Entry £10/£15, Seafield

DAVID GEMMELL MEMORIAL

STROKEPLAY OPEN

Wed 3 June Gents Strokeplay

Entry £15/£20 Belleisle

LADIES & GENTS

STROKEPLAY OPEN

Saturday 6 June 2026

Entry £10/£15, Belleisle

LADIES GREENSOMES OPEN

Wed 3 June

Entry £15/£20 per team, Seafield

3 PERSON TEXAS SCRAMBLE

Sat 6 June

Entry £24/£30, Seafield

LADIES & GENTS SENIOR

STROKEPLAY OPEN

Thursday 4 June 2026

Entry £10/£15, Belleisle

GOLF SOUTH AYRSHIRE

STROKEPLAY JUNIOR OPEN

Sat 6 June,

Belleisle, Entry FREE

(Girls and Boys under the age of 18 on 1st Jan 2026)

LADIES TRI-AM OPEN

Friday 5 June 2026

Entry £24/£30, Seafield

MIXED FOURSOMES OPEN

Sun 7 June

Entry £15/£20 per team, Seafield

SCAN ME



Enter via the QR code or www.golfgenius.com/ggid/hs9aqn

01292 612 398 | golfsouthayrshire.com

PROVIDED BY



Sport & Leisure

2026

Sport & Leisure
South Ayrshire

School Holiday Programme

Throughout the Easter and summer school holidays, we will be delivering a wide range of activities throughout South Ayrshire. Our holiday programme gives young people the chance to try new sports, have fun, and make new friends in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Activities include swimming crash courses and clinics, gymnastics and sports camps, as well as bounce and play sessions.

For more information on our holiday programme, including an updated pool programme, scan the QR code.



HOLIDAY PROGRAMME

SWIM CLINICS

SPORTS CAMPS

GYMNASTICS CAMPS

SWIMMING CRASH COURSES

BOUNCE AND PLAY

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR INFORMATION ON OUR UPCOMING ACTIVITIES.

Sport & Leisure South Ayrshire

Full Fitness Membership – Only £31 Per Month!

Take advantage of our Full Fitness Membership, including no joining fees and no contract, for only £31 per month!

This membership gives access to all leisure sites* and includes:

- Unlimited Gym Access
- Unlimited Fitness Classes (standard and premium classes)
- Unlimited Swimming (general and lane swimming)
- Indoor and Outdoor Track Hire
- 50% off Court Hire

Scan the QR code to join online or speak to a member of staff at one of our facilities for more information.



Scan me

*Sites include Citadel Leisure Centre, Maybole Leisure Club, Prestwick Leisure Club, Riverside Sports Arena, Community Fitness Hubs at Muirhead Activity Centre, Whittleys Activity Centre, Coylton Activity Centre and Dundonald Activity Centre.



LIFEGUARD Courses Now Available!

The Royal Life Saving Society UK's (RLSS UK) NPLQ is the most awarded lifeguard qualification in the UK and Ireland and is also internationally recognised.

Over 40,000 lifeguards qualify with the RLSS UK pool lifeguard course every year, and there are currently more than 75,000 lifeguards qualified in the NPLQ.

Lifeguards benefit from varied working hours, the experience of working within a team, and the opportunity to progress within the leisure industry.

Looking to gain this qualification and potential employment opportunities? Scan the QR code to view the full list of 2026 available course dates.

SCAN ME!



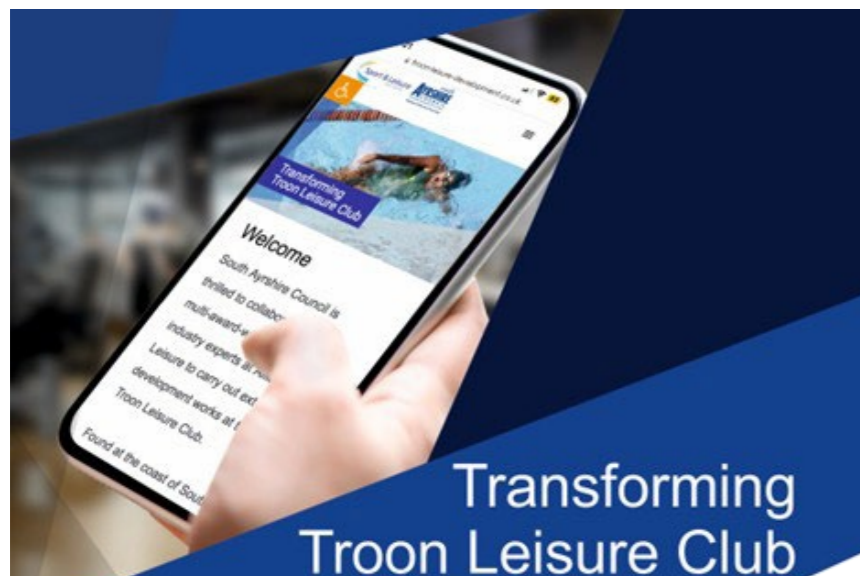
Transforming the Citadel and Troon Leisure Club

You can stay up to date with all the latest information, updates and developments on the refurbishment works taking place at Citadel Leisure Centre and Troon Leisure Club by visiting our microsites.

Transforming the Citadel
VISIT OUR MICROSITE!

citadel-leisure-redevelopment.co.uk

Scan this QR code for more details



Transforming Troon Leisure Club

VISIT OUR MICROSITE!
troon-leisure-redevelopment.co.uk

Scan this QR code for more details



Simply scan the QR codes to access.



South Ayrshire Libraries

Explore the Heart of Your Community:

South Ayrshire's libraries are vibrant community hubs offering connection, creativity, and countless opportunities to learn and unwind. With 11 welcoming branches, a mobile library reaching rural communities, and a home delivery service for those unable to visit in person, the library service ensures everyone can enjoy what's on offer.

Membership is completely free and opens the door to an incredible digital collection where members can enjoy free access to:

- Libby for e-books and audiobooks
- PressReader for newspapers, magazines, comics and puzzles

All our libraries also offer free public Wi-Fi and PC access, along with affordable printing services.

Pop into your nearest branch today to sign up!



A Space for Community, Creativity, and Wellbeing

South Ayrshire Libraries host a lively programme of events and activities throughout the year, including:

- Drop in sessions with local organisations
- Tea and Talk gatherings
- Bookbug sessions for little ones aged 0–5
- Craft groups and creative workshops
- Language classes
- Activities for all ages

There's always something happening, whether you're looking to learn a new skill, meet new people, or simply enjoy a relaxed community space.

To explore our busy calendar of events and activities scan the QR code or follow @salibraries on Facebook.



The Grain Exchange and Cutty Sark Centre

What's On This Spring

Spring at The Grain Exchange will feature an exhibition of the history of Ayr Town Hall and our annual Charities Market Week. We will also be joined by the popular Ayrshire Farmers' Market and Coastal Artisan Creative Markets on the first Saturday of each month at The Cutty Sark Centre.



The Grain Exchange

The History of Ayr Town Hall Exhibition

Tuesday 28 April – Sunday 10 May

Free, drop-in event | Suitable for families

Dating from 1828, Ayr's iconic Town Hall building has seen many changes. Find out more about how it was built and the history it holds as it approaches its 200th anniversary.

Design your own Town Coat of Arms | colouring activity | available daily.



The Cutty Sark Centre

Ayrshire Farmers Market

First Saturday of the month

Join us for the Ayrshire Farmers' Market at the Cutty Sark Centre on Ayr High Street on the first Saturday of the month. There will be a fantastic selection of stalls to browse offering a delicious range of fresh local produce for sale.

Coastal Artisans Creative Market

First Saturday of the month

Coastal Artisans will be showcasing a selection of unique and handcrafted items at The Cutty Sark Centre on the first Saturday of each month.

The artisan markets showcase a wide array of handmade and one-of-a-kind products that you won't find in mainstream stores. From beautifully crafted jewellery to hand-sewn clothing, pottery, artwork and more you'll discover unique treasures.

Opening hours for both venues (Unless otherwise stated)

Monday	Closed
Tuesday - Friday	12:30pm - 4pm
Saturday	10:00am - 4:30pm
Sunday	12:30pm - 4pm

Where to find us:

The Grain Exchange, 77- 81 High Street, Ayr KA7 1LU The Cutty-Sark Centre, 40 High Street, Ayr KA7 1PA

For our busy calendar of markets and events, or to keep up to date with what's on visit us online:

-  @thegrainexchange
-  @thegrainexchangeayr
-  @grain_exchange
-  thegrainexchange.co.uk
destinationssouthayrshire.co.uk/cutty-sark-centre



In partnership with South Ayrshire Council Museums & Galleries

February-April 2026 at The McKechnie Institute

Feral and South Ayrshire Council are collaborating on an outdoor arts residency aimed at Scotland based artists interested in developing outdoor or site-specific performance projects responding to landscape. This project is supported through a programme of work delivered by Feral and funded by Creative Scotland.

Residency recipient Claudia Zeiske's research for this residency centers on Girvan's pioneering geologist and fossil collector Elizabeth Anderson Gray (1831-1924), whose meticulous fieldwork still underpins scientific understanding of the South Ayrshire coastline.

Her extraordinary contributions to Scottish geology were historically under-recognised: much of the credit for her discoveries was attributed to her husband, Robert Gray.

Claudia is drawn to the question of how women in the past managed challenging walk-based fieldwork in restrictive clothing. Photographs of Gray navigating the rocky coastline in full Victorian dress reveal a striking image of resilience, constraint and embodied scientific labour, making her an inspiring figure through which to explore the societal contributions of women. An important aspect of this project is the way social and environmental urgencies meet on this coastline.

Today, we would not extract fossils; instead, the shore is scattered with "modern fossils" - plastics, rope, bottle tops, nylon and other remnants of fossil-fuel industries. Claudia plans to gather these materials in the spirit of Gray's fieldwork, not to classify them scientifically but to work them creatively into a textile.

Claudia hopes to shape a performance-led walking project along the UNESCO-recognised Carrick coastline (Dunure-Ballantrae-Girvan), bringing these threads together. The culmination of this residency will be presented in The McKechnie Institute, Girvan, from mid-April, with dates to be announced shortly.

The culmination of this residency will be presented in The McKechnie Institute, Girvan on the 17th and 18th of April. For more event details please visit destinationsouthayrshire.co.uk



Image Credit: Paul Campbell

DISCOVER MORE WITH SOUTH AYRSHIRE'S MUSEUM AND GALLERY SERVICE



McKechnie Institute Dalrymple Street, Girvan KA26 9AE

Opening Hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 1pm - 4pm, Wednesday: 1.30pm - 4.30pm, Saturday: 10.30am - 4pm

Lighthouses: Keepers of the Craig

Saturday 21 February - Saturday 16 May 2026

This exhibition at The McKechnie Institute features unique objects and records relating to lighthouses, lighthouse keepers and Ailsa Craig, from the McKechnie Collection. It will also feature a short film commissioned by the Northern Lighthouse Heritage Trust, and artworks by Frances Law and Alex Cubie.



Fun and Free for Families

Fun and free self-led activities available during opening hours, in our museum engagement space. Try to crack morse code messages just like a lighthouse keeper and make your own lighthouse images in our lighthouse themed craft space.



Rozelle House Museum and Galleries, Rozelle Park, Monument Road Ayr KA7 4NQ

Opening Hours: Monday to Saturday: 10am - 5pm Sunday: 12noon - 5pm

Ayrshire Quilters

This Spring at Rozelle House, come and see work from 8 of Ayrshire's local crafting quilting groups. This exhibition will feature some of South Ayrshire's Collection including vintage sewing machines and newly acquired, never seen before, whitework.

There will also be some workshops available so you can have a go at some quilting techniques, demonstrated by local experts.

Visit destinationsouthayrshire.co.uk for more information.



SAVE THE DATE:

Summer fAYRe with Armed Forces and Pipes in the Park

This annual event returns to Ayr's Low Green on Saturday 20 June 2026 with an afternoon full of exciting and engaging attractions and entertainment with something for everyone.

Children, young people and families can enjoy a wide range of activities including – two arenas full of entertainment, Face-Painting, Balloon Modelling, Children's Zone, Crazy Golf, Military Village, Highland Dance Contest, Food and Drink Village, Funfair, Market Stalls and even a Children's Fun Dog Show with more still to be announced.

This fantastic event is an opportunity to support our Armed Forces as well as service families, veterans, and cadets.

Further details will be announced soon.



Discretionary Housing Payment

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For more information about eligibility criteria and how to apply, visit our website

www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk



south-ayrshire.gov.uk

If you're on a low income, you could be eligible for help from the Scottish Welfare Fund.

The Scottish Welfare Fund is a discretionary scheme that provides two types of grant: Crisis Grants and Community Care Grants.

You can find out more and apply to the Scottish Welfare Fund by visiting our website by scanning the QR code.



 Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Crisis Grants can provide short term financial help in a disaster or emergency.

Find out more at:
www.mygov.scot/scottish-welfare-fund





“The Fund has given me my independence and my marriage back”

Following a sudden, life-changing illness that left her with severe mobility challenges, RAF spouse Mandy Cole, from Dundee, turned to the RAF Benevolent Fund for support. Through the provision of an electric wheelchair and ongoing practical and social assistance, Mandy has regained her independence, rebuilt her confidence, and is once again able to enjoy a full and connected life.

Before her health issues, Mandy led a very active life. She held various jobs, including supporting children with behavioural difficulties in schools. Everything changed, however, after a hysterectomy caused complications that led to muscle damage and the need for a stoma. A few years later, Mandy collapsed while out shopping and woke up in intensive care.

Mandy said: “A virus had attacked my muscles and my nerve endings. The doctors said I probably wouldn’t walk again, but with intensive help from the physiotherapists, I did. Still, I had to use crutches and other aids, and I couldn’t leave the house because all I had was a manual wheelchair. My legs were like jelly, and I was basically housebound.”

Several years on, Mandy suffered sepsis and spent another three months in hospital, with her condition worsening further.

It was at this point that a care manager told her about the RAF Benevolent Fund – a charity that Mandy and her husband, Martin, had never heard of, despite Martin’s 12-year RAF career as an Airframe Technician from 1984 to 1996.

Mandy said: “My social worker mentioned the Fund about ten years ago and contacted them on my behalf. An occupational therapist came out, assessed me and agreed I needed an electric wheelchair. That’s when everything started to change.”

The RAF Benevolent Fund provided Mandy with an electric wheelchair, and later, a second, upgraded chair as her needs changed.

She said: “It has totally transformed my life. I can go out on my own now and I’m not relying on Martin to push me everywhere. People walk beside me now, not behind me. Before, people would speak to him and look right over me in my

manual wheelchair. Now they speak to both of us. It has made a huge difference to my dignity.”

With her independence restored, Mandy has been able to take part in groups and classes at community centres, make new friends, go shopping independently and re-engage with the world around her.

The Fund’s support has extended far beyond mobility equipment, including financial grants towards a new bed for Martin so they could sleep next to each-other, as well as £300 towards a new dishwasher and essential bedding. The Fund also provided a £500 social inclusion grant to help the couple enjoy a social life again.

Mandy said: “These are things you’d normally have to save up for, and when you’re disabled, life is already so expensive. Even the smaller things made a massive difference to us.”

The emotional impact of the support has been profound – both for Mandy and her husband. She said: “It’s helped us tenfold. It has honestly given our marriage back. We’re not stuck at home anymore. We can go out, laugh, have fun and spend proper quality time together. I feel like the old Mandy again.”

For Martin, it has brought reassurance too. Mandy explained: “It’s made him feel that the career he once had is still looking after him. That you’re not forgotten.”

Mandy is full of praise for the Fund’s Welfare team, who she describes as warm, respectful and understanding: “They never judge. They’re so empathetic. When they call or come to visit, it’s like you’ve known them for years.

“For anyone who may be struggling in silence like I did, please reach out. The Fund has given me my independence back. It’s totally changed my life for the better.”



We’re here to support you

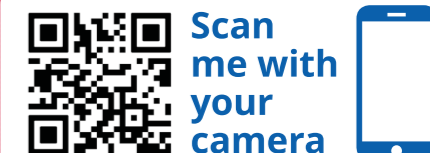


Whether you’ve served for a day or decades, as a Regular or Reserve, we’re here for you and your family with:

- Financial assistance
- Emotional wellbeing support
- Family and relationship support
- Mobility and home adaptations
- Welfare breaks

Find out more:
rafbf.org/ayrshire

Call our helpline:
0300 102 1919



Taking charge of the future through food recycling



Every year, households across Scotland throw away thousands of tonnes of food that could be recycled. When food waste goes into the general waste bin it is sent to an 'energy from waste' facility for incineration. Transporting food waste for incineration is five times more expensive and less environmentally friendly than recycling it. By using their food recycling caddies, residents can ensure that this waste is processed and turned into renewable energy and nutrient-rich fertiliser.

In partnership with Zero Waste Scotland, our Waste Management team conducted an engagement exercise which aimed to increase the rate of food waste recycling within three areas of Ayr.

The trial implemented three low-cost measures - placing 'no food waste' bin stickers on residual bins; providing food caddy liners to households within the targeted areas; and issuing guidance to householders regarding food waste recycling. Using compositional analysis, the impact of these measures found an increase in food recycling rates across all areas, with households using the bin stickers performing best, reporting a 42% rise in food collected; and users of food caddy liners found an increase of 14.4%.

Following the trial's success, we are now calling on residents across South Ayrshire to make full use of their food recycling caddies to help reduce waste, boost recycling rates and protect the environment.

The campaign will be rolled out in phases over the next two years, individually targeting each area of South Ayrshire. As part of the initiative, every household will receive free food caddy liners along with an easy-to-follow information leaflet.

Residents who need a free replacement indoor or outdoor food recycling caddy can request this online using the QR code below or by using our dedicated 'Food Recycling Caddy Request' phone number 01292 294360.

To help residents recycle effectively, here's a summary of the food waste that can be placed in food caddies:

- ✓ All cooked and uncooked food, including meat and fish (bones included)
- ✓ Dairy products, fruit and vegetables — including peelings
- ✓ Bread, cakes, rice and pasta
- ✓ Tea bags and coffee grounds
- ✓ Eggs and eggshells
- ✓ Leftovers and pet food

What not to put in your food caddy:

- × Metal, plastic or glass packaging
- × Liquids and oils (these should go to designated recycling points)
- × Polystyrene and non-compostable food containers



An Update from Trading Standards and Environmental Health

Protecting Vulnerable Adults from Scam Phone Calls

If you know someone who may become a victim of a telephone scam, South Ayrshire Trading Standards team might be able to help.

Having installed 174 call blockers so far, this 'TrueCall' call blocking technology has successfully blocked more than 139,000 calls, and an estimated 226 scams have been prevented.

This technology is designed to protect older and vulnerable people from nuisance and scam phone calls and can be installed free of charge.

To find out more, contact the Trading Standards team today on 0300 123 0900.



Tumble Dryers: Urgent Safety Repair

The Office of Product Safety and Standards are advising households to check to see if their tumble dryers need an urgent safety repair because of the risk of fire.

Affected brands include Baumatic, Candy, Caple, Haier, Hoover, Lamona, Iberna and Montpellier. Owners should check their model number and serial number online to see if their appliance is affected and contact the manufacturer to arrange a repair.

For more information and links to the online portal to check your tumble drier please scan the QR Code.

SCAN ME!



Avian Bird Flu

Ayrshire is currently experiencing an outbreak of Avian Flu (bird flu) in the wild bird population.

Avian Flu poses a low risk to humans, however we ask that you:

- × Don't touch any dead or sick birds
- × Don't touch wild bird feathers or surfaces contaminated with wild bird droppings
- Keep children away from dead or sick birds
- Keep dogs and other animals away from the birds
- Wash your hands, use sanitiser and clean and disinfect your footwear if you come in contact with wild birds
- If you come in contact with wild dead birds and develop flu like symptoms, then contact your GP or call 111.

Please report any sightings to our Waste Management team on 0300 123 0900.

SCAN ME





Red Squirrel Recovery Network

Spring is perhaps the most exciting time of the year in the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire (GSA) UNESCO Biosphere as our wild spaces come alive, and the GSA Biosphere Partnership is working hard to create new and exciting opportunities for local people to connect with nature.

The charity is part of a new Red Squirrel Recovery Network (RSRN), which launched near the end of 2025, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Network members include the northern England Wildlife Trusts, the UK Squirrel Accord, and organisations working in conservation across Dumfries & Galloway and the Scottish Borders.

The GSA Biosphere Partnership has responsibility for Ayrshire where there are known to be some of the UK's last strongholds of red squirrel populations. RSRN aims to gather more thorough and reliable data on this iconic native species, which has declined by close to 90% in Britain over the last hundred years due to habitat loss, human activity and competition from the non-native greys.

The network specifically aims to empower local volunteer groups for squirrel monitoring and, eventually, actioning bespoke interventions which will boost red squirrel numbers in the long term.

The GSA Biosphere Partnership has kickstarted this programme in South and East Ayrshire with a popular programme of outdoor learning workshops and nature discovery walks which ran right through winter and will continue through 2026.

Nature Recovery Officer Antoine Lemaire led adventures through Barr Trails, Daljarrock Wood at Pinwherry, and the scenic Balbeg Estate, usually in daylight hours in search of wildlife tracks and signs but also after dark, using UV torches to spot the stunning biofluorescence emitted by fungi, molluscs, and more.

Participation is one of the charity's values and the Biosphere team strives to strengthen people's connections with our great outdoors, widening understanding of species and habitats and inspiring an enduring love for nature. These immersive, hyper local experiences also catalyse better stewardship of green spaces and action on related issues such as carbon emissions, water and waste management, energy saving and the production of fibre and food.

The GSA Biosphere Partnership is a registered Scottish charity (SC044137) which receives core funding from South of Scotland Enterprise and three local authorities including South Ayrshire Council.

More information about current projects and upcoming events is available by visiting www.gsabiosphere.org.uk.



Destination South Ayrshire

Discover, explore and enjoy South Ayrshire with ideas delivered direct to your inbox

Image credit: Colin Hyslop

- ✓ Free quarterly **Newsletter** packed full of inspiration and insider knowledge to enjoy our beautiful region all year round
- ✓ Free monthly **What's On** bulletin highlighting entertainment and events across South Ayrshire



Sign up for the latest news and events from South Ayrshire Council's Tourism Team destinationsouthayrshire.co.uk/mailling-list



This information can be made available, on request, in braille, large print or audio formats and can be translated into a range of languages. Contact details are provided below.

درخواست کرنے پر یہ معلومات نابینا افراد کے لئے ابھرے حروف، بڑے حروف یا آڈیو میں مہیا کی جاسکتی ہے اور اسکا مختلف زبانوں میں ترجمہ بھی کیا جاسکتا ہے۔ رابطہ کی تفصیلات نیچے فراہم کی گئی ہیں۔

本信息可应要求提供盲文，大字印刷或音频格式，以及可翻译成多种语言。以下是详细联系方式。

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ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਮੰਗ ਕੇ ਬੋਲ, ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਸਣਨ ਵਾਲੇ ਰਪ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਲਈ ਜਾ ਸਕਦੀ ਹੈ, ਅਤੇ ਇਹਦਾ ਤਰਜਮਾ ਹੋਰ ਬੋਲੀਆਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਕਰਵਾਇਆ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ। ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੀ ਗਈ ਹੈ।

Niniejsze informacje mogą zostać udostępnione na życzenie, w alfabecie Braille'a, w druku powiększonym lub w formacie audio oraz mogą zostać przetłumaczone na wiele języków obcych. Dane kontaktowe znajdują się poniżej.

Faodar am fiosrachadh seo fhaighinn, le iarrtas, ann am braille, clò mòr no clàr fuaim agus tha e comasach eadar-theangachadh gu grunn chànanan. Tha fiosrachadh gu h-ìosal mu bhith a' cur fios a-steach.

South Ayrshire Council
Contact Centre
0300123 0900