

SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL MAGAZINE

2025 WINTER EDITION



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COUNCIL
Comhairle Storrachd Àir a Deas
Making a Difference Every Day

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Exterior façade works completed at Citadel Leisure Centre

The Citadel Leisure Centre in Ayr has received a major facelift as part of its exciting refurbishment programme, with the completion of the centre’s brand-new entrance façade.

Our Sport and Leisure team worked with delivery partners Alliance Leisure and Robertson Construction Central West to deliver a modern, visually striking exterior at the busy facility.

Works included curtain walling glazing, a new roof overlay above the entrance and cladding.

A series of critical infrastructure upgrades are also being carried out to modernise the facility.



These include roofing repairs; essential pool plantroom works; a major electrical upgrade and other enabling works.

With the façade now complete, focus will now shift to the internal fit out of the new entrance area.



Girvan Academy Unveils New Theatre

Girvan Academy’s theatre has had a complete renovation, and improvements include a new auditorium which holds 140 seated guests; new flooring and stage curtains; plus, an accessible viewing area.

A new state-of-the-art audio visual and lighting system has also been installed, with a new control room; LED lighting rig; speakers and transmitters; projector; and a 4.8-meter projection screen with two new 65” LCD displays mounted on either side of the stage.

The transformed theatre is the only events space of its size in the Girvan area and will greatly benefit the school, allowing them to host school shows; concerts; prize giving; and a range of extra-curricular activities. The theatre will also strengthen community cohesion, allowing local residents to let the space for a range of events such as community meetings; film showings; touring theatrical performances; and keep fit classes.

The renovations were made possible thanks to part funding from our Ward Capital Projects programme and the Carrick Futures Community Benefit Fund, secured by Girvan Academy Parent Council and SURF – Scotland’s Regeneration Forum.

Follow us on social media

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

Refurbished Prestwick Leisure Centre celebrates early success



The newly refurbished Prestwick Leisure Centre is already proving to be an outstanding success for the community.

Recent figures show the positive impact of the upgraded facilities, with memberships and attendance increasing beyond pre-refurbishment levels. Active fitness memberships have increased by 18% since the closure of the facility, and total attendance for this October 2025 has increased by 8% in comparison to October 2023.

The centre's refurbishment has also delivered significant sustainability benefits. A comparison of energy use between 2023 and 2025 shows a 38% reduction in gas consumption and a 60% reduction in electricity use. Taken together, these efficiencies are projected to save the council approximately £45,000 annually in avoided energy costs.

Feedback about the upgraded centre has been overwhelmingly positive. Customers have praised the new Changing Village for its spacious, modern design. Visitors to the centre have also commented on the bright and accessible poolside area, welcoming reception layout, comfortable gym environment, and thoughtfully designed vanity spaces with improved lighting and amenities.

Our Sport and Leisure staff have echoed this enthusiasm, describing the centre as a pleasure to work in, with clean, modern facilities and improved office space that creates a lovely working environment.

Gym usage has risen by an impressive **61%** during the first month of operation



Participation in classes, including Evolve Aqua Fit, and GP Referral sessions have grown by **83%**

WHO OR WHAT IS FROOGLESPROT?



Barassie Primary team up with local author to publish brand new children's picture book

Barassie Primary School recently announced the launch of their brand-new picture book, created with the support of local children's author Lorraine Johnston.

Lorraine collaborated with the school's staff and pupils to create and launch the book named 'Who or What is Frooglesprot?'

The book has been thoughtfully illustrated by the school's Primary 7 pupils who were given illustration notes from the author to create unique artwork that would help bring the story to life.

'Who or What is Frooglesprot?' is aimed at younger children and takes readers on an imaginative journey through playful scenarios, while gently exploring the school's five core values: Ambition, Creativity, Honesty, Kindness, and Respect.

The book can be purchased from the school directly, or by scanning the QR code below. All funds raised will be used to support pupils within the school.



SCAN ME





Carrick Academy Buries New Time Capsule for Future Generations

Pupils at Carrick Academy have buried a time capsule in the grounds of the new Maybole Community Campus for future generations to open.

In 2024, during the demolition of the former Carrick Academy building in Maybole, a time capsule dating back to 1925 was discovered.

The contents of the time capsule were carefully inspected and preserved by the Ayrshire Archives.*

During the course of the 2025/26 academic year, pupils and staff from Carrick Academy, in addition to Culzean and St Cuthbert's Primary Schools are commemorating the move to the new facility, which officially opened in November 2024.

In light of the discovery of the time capsule and to continue the special tradition, a time capsule ceremony was held where artefacts related to the official opening were sealed and buried for pupils to rediscover in another 100 years' time.

What was buried in the 2025 time capsule?

- A letter from current Carrick Academy School Captains;
- Messages from pupils at Culzean and St Cuthbert's Primary Schools;
- Head Teacher's speech from the time capsule burial ceremony;
- A copy of Carrick Academy Code of Conduct;
- Official Opening Ceremony Programme;
- A copy of the senior phase subject options form;
- A copy of the Standards and Quality Report from 2024/25;
- Collection of sterling coins;
- Copies of local newspapers



SCAN ME



*Ayrshire Archives is the local authority archive service for South, East and North Ayrshire Councils. You can find out more about them by visiting www.ayrshirearchives.org.uk

Read more about the 1925 time capsule discovered during the demolition of the former Carrick Academy by scanning the QR Code.



Girvan Library Lend and Mend Hub Wins at the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) Awards

The initiative won the 'Project Excellence 2025' category at the prestigious awards.

The SLIC Awards shine a light on library teams and projects which help to transform communities across the country by providing opportunities to increase community impact, learning and inclusion.

The aim of the Lend and Mend initiative is to help local communities engage in more sustainable practices. Girvan Library's Hub now offers local residents' provision to use sewing machines, wallpaper strippers, power washers and more to support with home maintenance and DIY projects. The facilities are free of charge, which helps to build empowerment and strengthens community resilience.

You can book your Winter Brown Bin collection for December, January and February via our online booking system now from 17 November 2025. A VALID WASTE SUBSCRIPTION IS REQUIRED.

Don't forget to book your Winter Brown Bin collection

south-ayrshire.gov.uk/garden-waste

South Ayrshire Council MyBins

GET IT ON Google Play | Download on the App Store

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Festive Waste Collections

There will be no collection of any waste on Thursday 25 December or Thursday 1 January. Residents should check the website or social media to find out when their waste will be collected.

Remembrance Lest We Forget



Provost Iain Campbell and Depute Provost Mary Kilpatrick attended a number of services to mark Remembrance Day 2025.



On Sunday 9 November, Provost Campbell visited Maybole Cenotaph where he took part in the Act of Remembrance, laying a wreath at the monument.

Provost Campbell then visited Fisherton Cemetery with South Ayrshire Council's Director of Communities and Transformation, Jane Bradley, for a special service where he also laid a wreath and gave a speech. Canadian Armed Forces personnel attended

the service to carry out an Act of Remembrance for the 14 Canadian airmen from World War II who are laid to rest in the cemetery. The Royal Canadian Air Force also commemorated the service by carrying out a 'fly-past' in the CC-130J Hercules aircraft.



Depute Provost Mary Kilpatrick attended a service at Ayr's Auld Kirk on Sunday 9 November where she read a lesson and then joined the parade to the Cenotaph in Wellington Square where she laid a wreath. Depute Provost then rejoined the parade to the Scots Guard Memorial in St Germain-En-Laye Gardens for the Act of Remembrance and laid a wreath at the War Memorial.

Both Provost and Depute Provost also attended the Remembrance Day service on Tuesday 11 November at Wellington Square and observed a two-minute silence at 11am in remembrance of those who lost their lives in service.



90%
attendance is
still 4 weeks lost

**EVERY LEARNER
EVERY DAY**

Going to school has
lots of benefits!

south-ayrshire.gov.uk/ELED

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How the RAF Benevolent Fund can support veterans in west Scotland

We spoke to Caroline Belch, Welfare Support Executive at the RAF Benevolent Fund for Central and South Scotland, about the practical, financial and emotional support available to RAF veterans and their families in Ayrshire and across Scotland.



What does your role as a Welfare Support Executive at the Fund entail?

My role involves supporting RAF veterans who have reached out to the Fund for help, guiding them through the application process, and ensuring they receive the support they need.

Once I've contacted a veteran, we discuss their situation and how we can best assist them. From there, I arrange a time to complete a holistic assessment, which looks at all aspects of their life to ensure the support we provide is tailored to their unique circumstances.

Many of the veterans we work with face multiple challenges, and it's important that we address as many of these as possible. We might provide a grant for a new fridge, offer benefits advice, and refer them to our Community Engagement Team, etc. These holistic assessments allow us to get to the root of the issues and can help us to truly transform someone's life.

Assessments can be carried out either in person or remotely, depending on what works best for the veteran.

What areas does your role cover?

I cover Central and Southern Scotland, which is everywhere from the Scottish Borders and Dumfries and Galloway, right up to Dundee.

What type of support is available to the RAF veteran community?

At the Fund, we provide practical, financial, and emotional support to those who have served, both past and present, as well as their partners and families.

We consider requests for financial assistance for a wide range of needs, from emergency support and everyday living costs, to grants for home repairs. We can also help by providing essential mobility equipment, such as riser recliner chairs and mobility scooters.

We also offer emotional wellbeing support through our Listening and Counselling Service, and a 24/7 emotional support helpline.

We have also expanded our Community Engagement team in Scotland, who work directly with RAF veterans who may be experiencing loneliness or isolation, helping them connect with meaningful activities in their local communities.



The RAF Benevolent Fund has supported Robert since he met the team at the 2024 International Ayr Show - Festival of Flight



SCAN ME



What types of challenges are faced by RAF veterans in Scotland?

As with many households across Scotland, veteran households are increasingly affected by the rising cost of living, with requests for financial assistance making up a significant part of my caseload.

Most of these requests require benefit checks to be carried out, as the benefits system can be confusing to navigate without prior knowledge. Our goal is to ensure that no veteran misses out on any support they may be entitled to.

We've also seen a growing demand for mental health support. Our Listening and Counselling Service continues to play a vital role in helping veterans through particularly challenging times.

What is a highlight of your role?

The most rewarding part of my job is knowing that the support I provide can genuinely change someone's life. Seeing the positive transformation in the veterans I've worked with, often at some of their lowest points, is a powerful reminder of why our work at the Fund matters.

How can someone reach out for support?

If you feel you could benefit from our support, please reach out to us by calling 0300 102 1919 or visit our website rafbf.org for more information about our services and to apply online.

About the RAF Benevolent Fund

The Royal Air Force Benevolent Fund supports current and former members of the RAF, their partners and families, providing practical, emotional and financial support, whenever it is needed.

The Fund is committed to getting members of the RAF Family through the toughest times, whatever life may send their way. From the youngest child to the oldest veteran, the RAF Benevolent Fund will consider any request for assistance, however big or small, providing a tailor-made approach to each individual situation.



Provost Marks Gandhi's Birthday at Special Event in Ayr Town Hall

Provost Iain Campbell took part in a special garlanding event at Ayr Town Hall to mark the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.

Joining Provost Campbell at the special ceremony were Mr Siddharth Malik, Consul General of India in Edinburgh and Dilip Mishra of Ayrshire Bharatiya Association.

Provost Campbell and the Consul General placed a celebratory flower garland in front of the statue in Ayr Town Hall's main foyer.

The statue was gifted to South Ayrshire by the Indian Government in September 2019 and is one of only 10 in the world.



Cambusdoon Path Upgrades

Our Grounds Maintenance team recently started works to upgrade the path network at Cambusdoon in Ayr.

The team has been busy cutting back overgrown vegetation, removing invasive bamboo and undertaking tree works. The path is also having a new surface laid, drainage installed and fencing erected to ensure public safety.

The upgrades are part of our Ward Capital Projects programme, where improvements are being made to each ward in South Ayrshire.



Know Your Consumer Rights This Christmas: Returning Goods Safely and Legally

As the festive season approaches, it's important to know your rights when it comes to returns.

In-store Purchases

The Consumer Rights Act 2015 says goods must be as described, fit for purpose and of satisfactory quality. During the lifespan of your product, you're entitled to the following:

Up to 30 days

If your goods are faulty, you can get an immediate refund.

Up to 6 months

If the goods can't be repaired or replaced, then you're entitled to a full refund in most cases.

Up to 6 years

If the goods do not last a reasonable length of time you may be entitled to some money back.

Distance Sales: Online, Mail and Phone Orders

If you've bought something without seeing it first - such as online or by phone - in most instances, you're protected.

You may have a 14-day "cooling-off" period from the day you receive the goods to notify the retailer of your intention to cancel. You then have another 14 days to return the item.

There are exceptions such as bespoke goods, goods liable to deteriorate, or if you unseal goods that were sealed on delivery.

Up to 14 days

After receiving your goods, in most cases, you can change your mind and get a full refund.

Following the 14 day "cooling-off" period, The Consumer Rights Act 2015 and product lifespan outlined above would then apply to any 'Distance Sales'.

Did you know?

You don't need to give a reason for returning

Retailers must refund you within 14 days of receiving the returned goods

You may need to cover return postage unless the item is faulty







Faulty Gifts

What if you didn't buy it?

If you receive a faulty gift, the person who bought it holds the legal rights and should be the one to initiate the return.

However, many retailers will accept returns with a gift receipt or other proof of purchase. Follow these tips for hassle-free returns:

-  Keep receipts and packaging – they help to prove purchase and condition
-  Check return policies – especially for sale items, personalised goods, or perishables
-  Act promptly – especially if the item is faulty, your rights are strongest within the first 30 days
-  Use credit cards for online purchases – this gives added protection under Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act

DO YOU HIDE OR COVER UP HOW YOUR PARTNER TREATS YOU?

IF YOU ARE LIVING WITH ABUSE WE CAN HELP YOU



SCAN HERE TO FIND OUT MORE

www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk

end violence against women & children
south ayrshire multi agency partnership



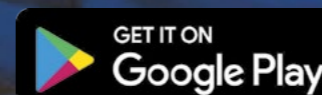
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Destination South Ayrshire

This winter discover what's on your doorstep

The Destination South Ayrshire website and app are packed full of things to do, places to go and sights to see all across our local area, from Barassie to Ballantrae and everywhere in between.

Search for **Destination South Ayrshire** in your app store.



River Ayr, South Ayrshire



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destinationsouthayrshire.co.uk

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Stay Connected

with South Ayrshire Libraries

Our libraries regularly host a variety of events including drop-in sessions, tea and talk events, Bookbug for children aged 0-5, wellbeing and language classes, craft groups and much more!

Check out some of the fantastic events coming up below or to view our full list of events online please visit www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/libraries

Upcoming events:

Every Monday 2:00pm – 4:00pm	Scrabble Club at Troon Library Free event, suitable for adults.
Every Tuesday 10:30am – 11:30am	Community Spanish Class at Girvan Library Free weekly Community Spanish Lessons. Drop in - no need to book.
Every Tuesday 1:00pm – 5:00pm	Zero Waste at Tarbolton Library Bring a bag and help yourself to surplus food and help tackle food waste!
Every Wednesday 2:00pm – 3:30pm	Tea and Talk at Girvan Library Drop-in to unwind, catch-up and share stories.
Times and dates vary – please visit: www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/libraries for full details	Community Hearing Support Hub at Various Locations Pick up hearing aid batteries, receive free servicing for your NHS hearing aids or get practical help and advice. Drop-in. Visit our website to find a location near you.
	Digital Drop-in Sessions for Press Reader and Libby at Various Library Locations Find out how to access free ebooks, audiobooks, magazines and newspapers on your phone and tablet using your South Ayrshire Library card. Drop-in.
	Connect South Ayrshire at Various Library Locations Drop in for information on local groups, activities and help services.
	Lego Club at Various Library Locations Free drop-in event for families. Visit our website to find a location near you.
	Bookbug Sessions at Various Library Locations Free session. Booking Required. Visit our website to find a location near you.
	Knitting and Nattering at Various Library Locations Drop-in – no need to book. Visit our website to find a location near you.

@salibraries @salibraries



Experience More with South Ayrshire's Museums and Galleries

This winter, we've got lots of exciting new and unseen exhibitions at venues including Rozelle House in Ayr and The McKechnie Institute in Girvan.

FREE ENTRY

Rozelle House Museum and Galleries
Rozelle Park, Monument Road, Ayr, KA7 4NQ
Opening hours: Monday to Saturday: 10am - 5pm
Sunday: 12noon – 5pm

Gallery 1

Runs until Sunday 1 March 2026

Sean McGlashan

Exciting new exhibition of works by local artist Sean McGlashan. Originally from Pennsylvania, but living in South Ayrshire for over 25 years, Sean has had an impressive career as both an artist and curator. The exhibition shows a collection of works that span his career and includes vibrant and colourful still life, landscape, figurative and abstract works.

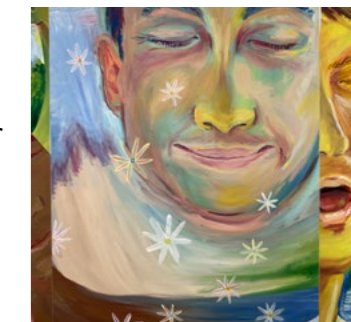


Photo credit: Sean McGlashan

Gallery 2

Runs until Sunday 1 March 2026

Hold Utopia - Paintings by Chris Hugh MacKenzie

Ayrshire artist and college lecturer Chris Hugh MacKenzie is displaying his collection of recent paintings. The exhibition brings together a series of works exploring themes of architecture, memory, voyage and change.

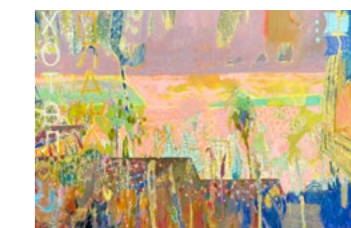


Photo credit: Chris Hugh MacKenzie

Gallery 3

Runs until Sunday 1 March 2026

South Ayrshire Council's Collection

Co-selected and curated by the exhibiting artists mentioned above.

The McKechnie Institute

Dalrymple Street, Girvan, KA26 9AE

Opening hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 1pm – 4pm,
Wednesday: 1.30pm – 4.30pm, Saturday: 10am – 4pm

Runs until Saturday 17 January 2026

'Our Freedom Now'

This exhibition is part of a UK-wide project led by Future Arts Centres, reflecting on what Freedom means 80 years after the end of World War 2. Following a series of workshops, it features visual, written, and recorded responses to the question 'What does freedom mean to you?'. It includes a brand-new piece of music led by Simon Lamb, performed and composed by Primary 6-7 pupils from Sacred Heart Primary School, and informed by collaboration with The Girvan & District Great War Project.

destinationsouthayrshire.co.uk/galleries/ @samuseums



Shop Local at The Grain Exchange and The Cutty-Sark Centre







The Cutty-Sark Centre will see the return of the Coastal Artisan Market and the Ayrshire Farmers Market in the New Year where you can pick up one-of-a-kind products and a range of delicious, fresh local produce.

Saturday 7th Feb 2026
10:00am – 4:30pm

The Cutty-Sark Centre Coastal Artisans Market
40 High Street, Ayr, KA7 1PA

Saturday 7th Feb 2026
9:00am – 2:00pm

The Cutty-Sark Centre Ayrshire Farmers Market
40 High Street, Ayr, KA7 1PA

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

Opening hours for both venues (unless otherwise stated):

Monday: Closed
 Tuesday - Friday: 12.30pm - 4pm
 Saturday and Sunday: 10.30am - 4.30pm

Thinking about New Years resolutions?

Why don't you try volunteering?

It provides you the chance to make new friends and gain experience while also helping out in your local community!

Start making a difference today by going to **volunteer.scot** to find a volunteer role to suit you and give back in 2026!

If you are between 11-25, sign up to The Saltire Awards at **saltireawards.scot** and get recognised for your volunteering hours!

If you need any assistance finding an opportunity, VASA is here to help:
 Email **volunteer@vasa.scot** or phone **01292 432661**



HAPPY
NEW
YEAR





Provost Raises Flag for Merchant Navy Day

Provost Iain Campbell raised the flag at this year's Merchant Navy Day ceremony which was held outside County Buildings.

The annual ceremony recognises the contributions of the Merchant Navy and remembers those who lost their lives while serving. Provost Campbell delivered an opening speech and was joined by Deputy Lieutenant Nigel Martin who read a message from the Duke of Edinburgh and Reverend David Gemmell who presented a reading to mark the event.

Provost Attends Memorial Service to Mark Battle of Britain 85th Anniversary



Provost Iain Campbell attended the Battle of Britain 85th Anniversary Memorial Service.

Provost Campbell attended a service at the Royal Air Forces Association (RAFA) in Prestwick and laid a wreath to remember those who fought in the skies over Britain in the summer of 1940.

Transforming The Citadel and Troon Leisure Club

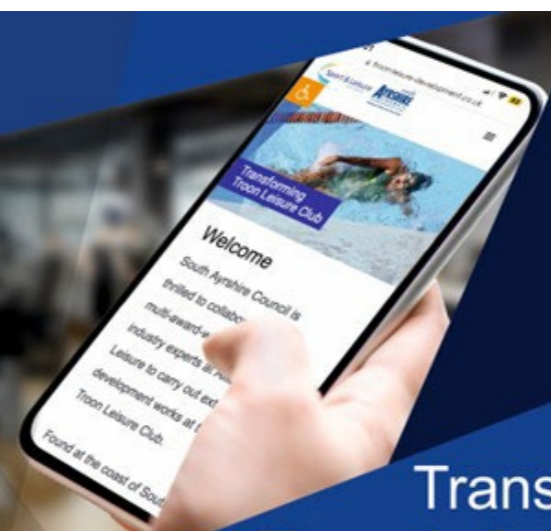
You can stay up to date with all the latest information, updates and developments on the refurbishment works taking place at the Citadel Leisure Centre and Troon Leisure Club by visiting our microsites.

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.

Access Free Personalised Digital Health and Habit Coaching!

Our Sport and Leisure team has partnered with Holly Health to bring you 12 months of free personalised digital health and habit coaching to help with sleep, exercise, eating and mental wellbeing.

Sign up to Holly Health today by scanning the QR code!

We're now live with **Holly Health**, the healthy habit coaching app!



Holly HEALTH

Scan Here

For:

- Stress & anxiety reduction
- Rebuilding a better relationship with food
- Increasing exercise
- Getting better sleep

Or type this weblink into your searchbar

<https://hly.app/ayrshire-leis-s>

Featured in **BBC METRO**

New ASN Recreational Gymnastics sessions available at Mossblown Activity Centre

These inclusive sessions are designed to provide a safe, supportive, and enjoyable environment for participants to develop their skills, build confidence, and have fun through movement.

To find out more or to book a space, please scan the QR code.



South Ayrshire Council's Ambition Programme supports Girvan Manufacturing Business

Land Energy is the UK's leading biomass energy company, specialising in the production of wood pellets, briquettes and natural living soils.

With a 10-acre production site in Girvan, the company has developed six main brands including Woodlets briquettes, Kittilitt cat litter, Sorbeo horse bedding and Re-Gen natural soil fertiliser.

Land Energy first engaged with Business Gateway - a publicly funded service that provides free business support for anyone in Scotland - in 2024 and received grant funding via our AMBITION programme for a digitisation project to support its stock management and control system.

More recently, the company was supported through our AMBITION to Grow programme in the purchase and installation of a collaborative robot, known as COBOT, on the briquette production line to boost efficiency and innovation.

Reg Stewart, Land Energy's Business Excellence Lead, said: "The COBOT is a superb example of how adoption of advanced manufacturing technology can enable company growth. Programmed to undertake a specific

packaging requirement which we had previously been unable to fulfil within our current process, COBOT presented us with the opportunity to bid for and secure a major order.

He added: "Its integration in our production line has been a significant addition to our process capability, one which we could not have achieved without the support of the AMBITION programme.

South Ayrshire Council's Business Team has been excellent to deal with throughout, taking time to understand our growth strategy and how this investment would both facilitate growth and help us achieve our sustainability goals. We have built a solid working relationship with the Advisors which we look forward to developing in the future. We could not recommend them highly enough."



Funded by UK Government

AMBITION

STARTING OR GROWING A BUSINESS? WE CAN HELP.

Achievement starts with AMBITION

ambitionprogramme.co.uk
01292 616 349



The AMBITION programme is part-funded by the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund



South Ayrshire's lifelong learners recognised at Adult and Family Learning Awards 2025

Our Thriving Communities team recently celebrated the achievements of local learners, volunteers and community groups at the Adult and Family Learning Awards 2025 at Ayr Town Hall.

The event brought together learners, tutors, partners and third sector organisations from across South Ayrshire to recognise progress made through community-based adult and family learning. Awards were presented across a range of categories, including Learner of the Year, Family Learning Award, Digital Skills and Literacy Learner.

Congratulations to the 2025 award winners:

- **Environmental Award – The Micah Project**
- **Digital Skills – Jess Leng**
- **Arts and Culture Award – Ayr North Time Team**
- **Literacy Learner – Laura Logan**
- **ESOL Learner – Anastasiia Skipalska**
- **Mental Health and Wellbeing – Dionne Barr**
- **Skills and Development – Wilma Steele**
- **Partnership Award – Friends of Dundonald Castle**
- **Volunteer Award – Jamie Anthony Lane**
- **Learner of the Year – Sharon Munro**
- **Family Learning Award – North Carrick Parent and Child Cluster Group**
- **Group of the Year – EmpowerHer Women's Group**



Council Hosts Youth Voice Event During National Youth Work Week 2025

Our Education and Thriving Communities teams hosted the 2025 Louder Together - Youth Voice Event at Lochside Community Centre, Ayr during National Youth Work Week.

The event, supported through funding from South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, highlighted the importance of youth voice and offered a fun and interactive way for young people to come together to discuss important matters.

South Ayrshire's Youth Council voted on decisions regarding the organisation of the event including which workshops should take place, preferred lunch options and décor.

The official launch of the South Ayrshire Louder Together - Youth Voice Pledge also took place during the event. This encourages local partners to sign up to make a commitment to have youth voice

at the heart of what they do, including meeting the needs of young people and ensuring their rights are upheld.

Around 70 young people from secondary schools, virtual schools and schools for young people with additional support needs attended the event. They took part in a variety of workshops including a quiz based around topical issues, interactive games to open conversations about school meal choices, meeting with local businesses to engage in meaningful discussions and creating South Ayrshire Online Youth Voice Platform to document new ideas.





Your community information service

Freephone: **0800 432 0510**

Lines open Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm

Visit us in Ayr:

53 Sandgate, Ayr, KA7 18A

Open Monday to Friday 9am-12.30pm & 1pm-4pm

Visit us 24/7 at:

www.connectsouthayrshire.org

Whatever you are looking for in South Ayrshire, the Connect South Ayrshire team are here to help find you an answer.

- ▶ Public Services
- ▶ Advice and support
- ▶ Groups and activities
- ▶ Free hearing aid batteries
- ▶ Volunteering
- ▶ Crisis numbers
- ▶ Digital support

Start Well
Live Well
Age Well



Provost Campbell Attends Annual Technology Tournament at Belmont Academy



Provost Iain Campbell attended the annual Technology Tournament hosted by Ayr Rotary Club at Belmont Academy.

The Rotary's Technology Tournaments sees teams from various South Ayrshire secondary schools come together to solve challenges relating to Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

The competition is an enjoyable way for pupils to develop their learning and gain key skills such as teamwork, communication, and time keeping.

Pictured from L-R: Rotary Club of Ayr President Howard Stevenson; South Ayrshire Provost Iain Campbell; and South Ayrshire Council's Director of Education Scott Mulholland

HELP US
RECLAIM THE NIGHT



As part of the 16 Days of Action, this year's Reclaim the Night Walk took a new route through Ayr Town Centre, starting at The Cutty Sark Centre on Ayr High Street.

Around 250 people walked together to help raise awareness of violence against women and girls. Participants got to hear from key speakers, visit information stalls, link with agencies and learn about the support available locally.



Lowland Reserve Forces and Cadets Association Awards

Provost Iain Campbell and South Ayrshire Council's Director of Communities and Transformation, Jane Bradley, attended an awards ceremony at Edinburgh Castle for the Lowland Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association Employer Recognition Scheme.

The Council was awarded the Defence Employer Recognition Scheme (ERS) Gold Award.

The ERS recognises employer organisations that pledge, demonstrate, or advocate support to Defence and the Armed Forces community, and who have signed the Armed Forces Covenant, a commitment to supporting Defence through services, policy, and projects.

The Gold Award is the highest accolade available to organisations that employ and support Reservists, service leavers, Cadet Force Adult Volunteers, and their families.



Pictured from L-R: Lord Lieutenant Iona McDonald, Provost Iain Campbell and South Ayrshire Council's Director of Communities and Transformation, Jane Bradley.

Depute Provost Attends Special Naming Ceremony for New Troon Lifeboat

Depute Provost Mary Kilpatrick attended the RNLI naming ceremony which welcomed the brand-new Shannon class lifeboat RNLB Roy Barker VI into service.

The new vessel was funded thanks to the generous legacy of Mr Frederick Roy Barker, known as Roy, who left his entire estate to the RNLI and the kind legacy of Mr Alan Lionel Aspinall, who also contributed towards the completion of the new lifeboat.

The lifeboat was handed into the care of the RNLI by Pamela Mottershaw, who was representing the donor Roy Barker before being accepted on behalf of Troon lifeboat station by Lifeboat Operations Manager, Jim Redmond.

In line with tradition, the vessel was christened with whisky poured from a quaich over the bow.

The Shannon class replaces the station's Trent class lifeboat RNLB Jim Moffat which served in Troon from 2004.



Successful Screening Event at Girvan Community Hospital

More than **230** people were screened for heart conditions at an event hosted by the South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership, NHS Ayrshire & Arran and the Pumping Marvellous Foundation.

A team of experienced medical and nursing staff provided free screening from 10am until 3pm at Girvan Community Hospital. Staff from Pumping Marvellous, the largest patient-led heart failure charity in the UK, were also on hand for information and advice.

Throughout the day the team performed: 238 heart rhythm checks and provided reassurance; 45 NT-proBNP (heart hormone) tests to assess for heart failure; carried out a functional MOT for 51 people; gave 52 people their flu vaccine and provided CPR training for 28 people.



Ayrshire Hospice
Making today matter

The Ayrshire Hospice provides exceptional palliative and end-of-life care to people aged 16 and over with life-shortening and limiting illnesses across Ayrshire and Arran.

The organisation's holistic approach to care involves the whole family and aspires to have patients lead their care and make their own choices.

The Hospice offers a variety of services designed to support patients and their loved ones at all stages of their illness. This includes symptom management with medical, pharmacy and nursing support; emotional and spiritual care; pre and post bereavement services; complementary therapies; a range of therapeutic activities; and end of life care. Care is delivered in hospitals, care homes, individual's homes, and staff can care for people in their In-Patient Unit and Living Well Hubs across the community - wherever it's needed most.

For more information about The Ayrshire Hospice, please visit www.ayrshirehospice.org/



Milestone Celebrations!

60 Years of Marriage

Congratulations to William and Helen Taylor and David and Maureen McMath who both recently celebrated their Diamond Wedding anniversaries.

William and Helen Taylor, pictured top right, met on holiday in Ostend, Belgium in August 1964. The couple then married in October 1965 at Colston Church in Glasgow and have two children, three grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

The pair now live happily in Coylton where they were visited by Depute Provost Mary Kilpatrick who congratulated them on their anniversary and presented them with an engraved glass paperweight to mark the occasion.

David and Maureen McMath met while on the bus travelling to Ayr. The couple then married at Ayr Registry Office and have four children, seven grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

They were visited by Provost Iain Campbell and Deputy Lieutenant Nigel Martin at their home in Ayr, who presented the couple with a bouquet of flowers to celebrate this milestone anniversary.



Celebrating a Century!

Congratulations to Beryl Panton who recently celebrated her 100th birthday.

Depute Provost Mary Kilpatrick visited Beryl at her home in Alloway to present her with a bouquet of flowers and congratulate her on her milestone birthday.



Provost Meets with Barga Mayor

Provost Iain Campbell recently met Caterina Campani, Mayor of Barga, to celebrate the strong connection between the Italian town and South Ayrshire.

A Friendship Agreement between South Ayrshire and The City of Barga, Italy was signed in April, 2024. Regular exchanges are held to celebrate the rich heritage of South Ayrshire's Scottish-Italian community with Barga often being referred to as the "most Scottish town in Italy". Many Scottish-Italian families hail from the small Tuscan town, and now up to 40% of present-day residents have Scottish relatives.



Small-Scale Tree Planting Programme offers grants up to £1,000 in South and East Ayrshire



The Ayrshire Small Scale Tree Planting Programme is continuing through 2025/26, with grants of up to £1,000 available for planting native trees in South and East Ayrshire within the UNESCO Biosphere region.

Hosted by the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere Partnership, and backed by funding from South Ayrshire Council, Scottish Forestry, the Woodland Trust and Land Energy, the scheme is now in its third season and has seen the planting of over 2700 trees since its launch in 2023.

Individuals, businesses, organisations and community groups are all eligible to apply for grants which cover young trees, tree guards, stakes, fencing, and more, with non-profits also able to claim up to 100% of costs for labour and site preparation. Areas to be planted must measure less than 0.6 acres (0.25ha) and be located within the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere, a designation which extends over 9,720km² of southwest Scotland's land and sea, and recognises the region's world class natural and cultural heritage.

Projects carried out in the first two years of the tree planting scheme have included

small copses, treelines, field boundary trees, parkland trees and orchards. The scheme aims to expand native broadleaf woodland, which currently represents less than 1% of land coverage in Ayrshire. As well as supporting biodiversity, the newly planted areas are intended to boost public wellness by creating spaces for recreation and green health.

Autumn and winter months are the optimum time to get trees in the ground, and the GSA Biosphere Partnership is making the scheme as accessible as possible, with a short and simple online application form.



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