



A' the Airts

Autumn/Winter
2012/13

A' the Airts

Your Seasonal Update from Upper Nithsdale's
Community Arts Centre



Drive along the Nith Valley, through the Burns Corridor, soak up the stunning scenery then take a break in Sanquhar. You'll find us on the High Street, next to the Tolbooth Museum.

- major retail outlet for arts, crafts, music and books from Upper Nithsdale.
- exhibitions of artwork and various crafts throughout the year.
- programme of arts and crafts workshops and classes.
- many lively performances in our theatre - drama, music, poetry.
- screenings of popular films in our community cinema.

A' the Airts is the hub for the Upper Nithsdale Arts and Crafts Community Initiative, currently funded by the Big Lottery and Dumfries & Galloway Council.



A' the Airts
8 - 12 High Street
SANQUHAR
DG4 6BL

T: 01659 50514
E: contact@all-the-airts.com



A' the Airts

Manager's Welcome

Just a brief update from me this time, because I hope that the contents of our newsletter will cover most things. In this issue we have tried to include something for everyone. For our wider audience, we have given some general updates about what we have been doing and what we have planned in the next few months, but since we are, first and foremost, Upper Nithsdale's Community Arts Centre, we have also given more focus on our own community by including things of particular local interest. I hope you find it informative and enjoy reading it.

If you haven't visited us before, please pop in and try the excellent coffee or a snack in Café Airtisans and have a look around our shop, upstairs gallery and other facilities. Everyone is welcome.

Once again, I would like to thank all our staff, Board of Trustees, volunteers, funders, members, regular customers, suppliers, performers and the local community for their continuing commitment to our Arts Centre (the list is endless, so apologies if I have forgotten to acknowledge anyone). Please continue to support us.

Anne Foley, Manager, A' the Airts

*** Stop Press ***

As we go to press, Rab Wilson has confirmed that Liz Lohead has agreed to appear at A' the Airts on St Andrew's Night - 30th November. A great coup for A' the Airts!



Blackaddie

COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL



15% OFF EVERYTHING!!

Yes!

For readers of the 'A' the Airts Magazine Blackaddie House Hotel is offering you



15% OFF EVERYTHING!!

to come and try us out



That's 15% off Accommodation, Dinner, Bar, Wine – everything!!

Offer available from 1st October to the 31st of January 2013, Booking is essential and tell us you have this advert at the time of booking and you must bring this advert with you to qualify

Not valid in conjunction with any other offers, not valid between

22nd December & 3rd January

01659 50270

www.blackaddiehotel.co.uk

email: ian@blackaddiehotel.co.uk

A' the Airts

Our Arts and Crafts Groups

Our Arts and Crafts Groups, which were launched in January this year have gone from strength to strength. A range of interest groups, including art, photography, pottery, knitting, creative writing and poetry meet weekly or once or twice a month in the centre. Each member

The Pottery and Art Groups currently take place in the afternoons, but if anyone is interested in attending evening classes please let us know. If there are enough people interested we try to organise these and also look into the possibility about bringing in professional tutors.



Happy potters and crafty knitters (who also indulge in cakes during the meeting)



only has to contribute £2 per visit to A' the Airts and there is no commitment to attend every time. The groups are attracting a wide range of ages and abilities and are a great way to socialise. Everyone is welcome. Please contact us for more details.

Samples of some of the work produced by these groups are on display in A' the Airts, including a rolling exhibition by the Photography Group on the first floor.

A' the Airts Drama Group Seeks a Leader!

We are still keen to resurrect our Drama Group, which now, unfortunately, lacks someone to lead it. Quite a few young people had started to attend this on a regular basis before the summer break and we would love to see a group of local “thespians” working towards a small production here. Please let us know if you are aware of anyone who might be willing to take on this role.

Guitar Tuition

Lance Stewart, an experienced guitar tutor is hoping to offer a series of workshops at A' the Airts starting this Autumn. These will not be your conventional guitar classes, but will use Lance's tried and tested methods and innovative techniques to develop guitarists' skills. His approach is all about making good music, building confidence and developing creativity. The aim is to give you excellent control over your fingers so that you can play to the very best of your ability. Suitable for those who already have some experience of guitar playing and who would like to hone their skills and would like to play as a group. Classes for complete beginners can also be arranged if there is enough interest. If you are interested, please contact us for more information.

Visit Lance's website: www.guitartunes.co.uk

A' the Airts

2013 CALENDAR PHOTO COMPETITION:

Following the success of our 2012 calendar, we are running another competition this year to showcase Upper Nithsdale. The competition is open to all amateur photographers. Photos will be chosen not only for their merit but also for their suitability for a calendar. We're hoping for representation of the seasons and also the diverse areas of Upper Nithsdale. Please contact us for more information and an application form, which can also be downloaded from the News page on our website: www.all-the-airts.com.



the winning entry for the 2012 calendar
'Glenairlie Autumn' by Chris Burton.

Closing date for entries is **Saturday, 27th October**

Shop Bulletin



Despite the awful weather, sales of crafts, artwork, cards and books have been buoyant over the summer months and sales are up on last year. We have extended our range of items for sale in the shop and we have more local arts and crafts producers than ever, supplying artwork, prints, beautiful jewellery, wooden crafts, knitwear, soft toys, novelty items and much more, all at very affordable prices. Sanquhar knitwear and local souvenirs featuring the Sanquhar pattern have been, as ever our best sellers. Orders can also be taken for customised one-off items of Sanquhar pattern knitwear, including gloves and non-standard sizes.

We also have an extensive stock of local hand-made cards, including many with local themes, so if you're looking for something unique for that special person, A' the Airts is the place to look.

Most of the items we stock are on a sale or return basis, so if you or anyone you know has hand-crafted items they would

like us to sell in the shop, please contact Anne or Catriona.

With Christmas in mind, we would also like to encourage our usual suppliers and anyone else who is interested to provide us with seasonal gifts, decorations and hand-crafted cards.

SHOP REFURBISHMENT

Our retail and reception space on the ground floor is in the process of being refurbished. Over the summer, air conditioning has been installed in the café and shop area to provide a more comfortable environment for customers, staff and volunteers, particularly in the hot weather (how much of that have we had this year?!). A new reception desk has been installed to provide a better working space for our helpers in the shop and reception area and improved display shelving arrangements are planned to showcase our local arts and crafts more effectively and enhance customers' shopping experience.

A' the Airts

Spotlight on our Volunteers

In this issue: An interview with Ann Waugh

When did you come to this area?

I was actually born in Sanquhar but moved away with my family at a young age and returned in 1968 when I married Willie and enjoyed being a housewife. Originally trained as a nurse, I returned to nursing as a District Nurse in 1981 and in my 23 years saw a lot of changes both in the NHS and in Sanquhar itself. At that time the area had a lot of industry, mainly mining. I am also a board member of Crossroads Carers here in Sanquhar.

How did you get involved with A' the Airts?

Just after the centre opened, my husband Willie got involved and I started volunteering. It was a project I believed in. Since then I've enjoyed the great variety of 'happenings' such as plays, events, concerts and working in the shop. I've also enjoyed the poetry sessions, especially local poets such as Raymond Kerr and others. The general mix in the programme is very good and encompasses a wide variety of tastes and age groups.

What benefit do you gain from your involvement?

I enjoy working in the shop and helping behind the bar at events. Having worked in the community I already know a lot of people here and in fact am seeing second and third generations coming through. Meeting people and seeing new faces is important as well as keeping me active.

How do you see this develop?

I feel that the role of any volunteer could



well be expanded. For myself perhaps learning more computer skills to help when I'm on duty. However the centre is still less than two years old and is still evolving as are the volunteers' skills in this environment. A main aim is to continue to build on the numbers coming through the door. Everyone is always delighted at the superb facility we have here in Sanquhar.

What message would you like to give our readers?

Mainly to come and try A'

the Airts for yourself. There's always a warm welcome and you can indulge yourself with a cup of coffee in Airtisans cafe'. The programme of events is varied and always increasing. The shop itself stocks work from over 60 crafters and artists - many local - and there is always something new to consider purchasing in all price ranges.

And finally....

I'm involved with the knitting group. Quite a few attend each Monday afternoon and learn from each other. Currently there is a sock project ongoing. I also go to the photography group, mainly to learn how to use my camera but it's also a great opportunity to meet a different group of people. It's been a really good experience volunteering at A' the Airts, especially among friends in my own community. A' the Airts is right in the centre of things here and it is really good to be involved with this exciting venture in my own 'backyard'.

A' the Airts

Golden Oldies Newsreel:

Our new annual membership for our "Golden Oldies" social club has proved to be very popular. Our members have enjoyed some great free films recently - including War Horse, The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel, The Iron Lady and Casablanca - and you get a chance to socialise in Café Airtisans afterwards. Films are shown every two weeks on a Tuesday afternoon at 1.45pm.

Annual membership is only £25 per year (or £13 for a six month subscription) and members can bring along a friend occasionally for the price of a guest ticket. We're always looking for ideas for social events for members - please contact us with suggestions.

We are also investigating the use of a community minibus to transport members to Golden Oldies' social events or films. There may be a very small charge for this, but it would open up opportunities for people who have travel or mobility problems. Please let us know if you would be interested in using this service.

Young Airtisans

We also show films suitable for children aged 4 to 12 years of age every Sunday afternoon - a mix of Disney, Pixar and other family classics. Annual membership is only £12 a year per child or £20 for a family membership of up to three children. One adult can accompany the children free of charge. This a great deal! Please ask at reception for an application form and a list of films that we are planning to show.

Advertising in our Newsletter

We hope to continue to publish more newsletters in the future and will be offering advertising space to local businesses and organisations at very reasonable rates. Please email advertising@all-the-airts.com or telephone 01659 50514 if you are interested in placing an ad in our **next issue - Spring/Summer 2013** which is due out at the end of next March.

Restitch & Restore
Traditional Upholsterers
& Restorers

1a St Mary's Street
Sanquhar DG4 6BW

01659 58713
07825 663031

A' the Airts

Fundraising News

Most of our core funding, which helps us to cover our day to day running costs, is provided by the Big Lottery Fund and Dumfries & Galloway Council Area Committee. However, we have been busy fundraising to provide us with the additional resources we need to improve our services to the community.

We are very happy to say that we have recently received a grant from the **Scottish Hydro Clyde Community Fund**, which is managed by the **Scottish Community Foundation**. This will be used to part-fund an additional part-time project assistant post for A' the Airts, initially for one year. (See back page for more information.)

Our arts and crafts classes and groups currently rely heavily on volunteer support and self-help. Whilst they have proved to be very popular, lack of regular professional input does limit our ability to fully develop people's skills. Being able to pay for professional tutors would make a huge difference and we have been busy applying for funding to provide this support. So far we have received two grants (from the **Gannochy Trust** and **Hugh Fraser Foundation**) towards a programme of arts and crafts classes. We are hopeful that we will be able to roll this out soon.

We have also secured a generous grant from the **Voluntary Action Fund**, to help us recruit, train and support more volunteers to undertake jobs like publicity, talking to people, supporting craft groups and looking after the shop. This means we will be able to do more, encourage more people to visit, and have more local people from the community involved in A' the Airts.

Room Hire and Conferencing Facilities at A' the Airts

We are constantly trying to improve conferencing facilities in A' the Airts.

Facilities in our 50 seat theatre have been enhanced recently by installing a new pull-down screen for our digital projector, full surround sound cinema style speakers, accessible HDMI sockets to link laptops to our AV equipment and a new laptop which is dedicated to the use of visiting groups to the Centre.

Our two craft rooms can also be used a break-out or meeting rooms (subject to availability) and catering can be arranged.

All our facilities are available at very competitive rates, and we are ideally located for small conferences, being centrally situated in the South of Scotland on the A76 and on the main Glasgow to Dumfries railway line. Contact us for more details.

A' the Airts

8 - 12 High Street

SANQUHAR

DG4 6BL

T: 01659 50514

E: contact@all-the-airts.com

Our Staff:

Anne Foley, Manager

Catriona Dickie, Administrator/Receptionist

Heather Anderson, Cleaner

Our Board:

Iain Baker, Chair

Brian Johnson, Vice Chair

Julienne Dickey, Treasurer

Gary Bonn

Sheila Crompton

Elizabeth Griggs

Willie Waugh

Margaret Wilson

A' the Airts

What's On in our Theatre

We are constantly updating our programme, so please keep an eye on the What's On pages in our website (www.all-the-airts.com) or keep popping into the Centre to find out what's going on. In the meantime, here are a few of the events we have scheduled for the next few months:

Mary Smith – “Thousands Pass Here Every Day”

7.00 pm, Friday 12th October £3.50 (includes refreshments)

Mary will be reading from her new collection of poems, which explore wide ranging themes of homeland, identity and family. A strong sense of place is evoked whether that place is Scotland or Afghanistan, where people live with war as a constant backdrop to their lives.

Katie-Louise Pritchett - "The Great Big Sing-Along"

2.30 pm, Sunday 21st October £9.00

A collection of nostalgic music to sing along to. Sounds from the musicals old and new and hits from the 1940s. Refreshments and cake included!

“Papa” Paul Thomas – Blues and More...

7.30 pm, Friday 26th October £7.50

“Papa” Paul Thomas, lead singer with the “Wiseguys”, will be giving a powerful solo performance of great songs by great songwriters! Blues classics and an eclectic mix of covers of popular singer songwriters.

“O Joys an Tears” – film screening

7.30 pm, Friday, 2nd November

Our first screening of this film about the history of Sanquhar, made in 2001. Followed by a Q&A session with the film makers and Rab Wilson reading his poem which was specially written for the film (See separate news item - page 14!)

Steve Tilston, supported by Zoe Bestel

7.30 pm, Wednesday 14th November

After 40 years as a professional musician, Steve Tilston has become one of our most celebrated song-smiths, widely recognised within the world of folk and contemporary music - the words, arrangements and subtle, quite superb guitar playing could be no one else!

Steve will be supported by local sensation, 15 year old Zoe Bestel, who will be singing for us and showcasing her ukulele skills.

Liz Lochhead

7.30 pm, Friday 30th November

Liz Lochhead, Scots Makar, Scotland's leading poet and national treasure, will be making a very special appearance at A' the Airts to help us celebrate St Andrew's Day! Musical support will be provided by Margaret and Rab Wilson. A must for lovers of Scottish poetry and music!

Robin Laing

7.30, Friday 7th December

His one man show, "The Angels' Share", has been devised by Robin as a light-hearted examination of the cultural side of Scotch whisky. Most of the songs are traditional, but not all! The Angels' Share is the name given to the whisky lost through evaporation as the spirit matures for years in oak casks. Best listened to with a wee dram, but that is not compulsory!

A' the Airts

What's On in our Theatre cont:

Mistletoe & Wine - Kris Haddow and Victoria Hastie with her band of local children Saturday 22nd December (time to be confirmed).

We are absolutely delighted that Kris and Victoria have agreed to present another special Christmas Concert, similar to the enchanting "Home for Christmas" which many of you enjoyed last year. A great winter warmer on the lead up to the festive season!

Bruce McKenzie 7.30 pm, 8th February 2013

Local musician, DJ and music columnist Bruce has agreed to join us for an evening's entertainment in February. Details of his show will be publicised later.

Kris Haddow and Clare McTeir: Songs from the Shows February or March 2012 - date and time to be confirmed.

Kris is teaming up with Claire McTeir this time round to bring you an entertaining evening of well-loved songs from popular musicals.

Yet to be confirmed, but hopefully coming soon.....

We're always trying to bring our audiences a varied and interesting programme and we are currently in discussions with a range of people to firm up on additional entertaining events over the next few months, including **Murray the Magician** (something different for us – he is an escapologist and mind reader), who we hope will also appeal to younger audiences. We are also taking to Lanarkshire based folklorist Alison Galbraith and other story tellers to put together a programme of events for families and young people. Alison recently visited A' the Airts as part of Dumfries and Galloway Council's Rediscover literacy weekend and delighted a small audience to a spooky take about the "Broonie of Sanquhar Castle". What a shame more people didn't make it along.

And further ahead....

Gren Bartley

7.30 pm, Friday 26th April 2013

Gren sits on the edge of the ever growing link between English and American folk music. He is a songwriter who explores a wide range of styles from traditional English songs to the darkest American blues ballads. Add to this his impressive song writing, which has "a depth and insight of someone twice his age", and you will find an artist who is being very highly praised and has become a much sought after musician.

Bob Fox has now confirmed a date for early June 2013! We were so looking forward to having Bob, North East England's acclaimed folk singer/songwriter, here at A' the Airts this autumn, but, fortunately for Bob (and unfortunately for us), he was asked to "take over the reins" as "Songman" in the West End production of Michael Murphy's "War Horse".

Gerry Creen: We have also provisionally booked a return visit from Belfast-based singer/songwriter for the 22nd June. We hope to confirm this soon. Gerry must have been one of the most engaging and entertaining acts we have had at A' the Airts this year, so please come again and if you didn't make it last time, don't miss your chance to see him.



Claude Bourbon, who recently performed at A' the Airts on his way up to the Festival Fringe and delighted the audience with his varied range of exquisite classical guitar pieces and soulful blues has come back to us and confirmed a date for a return visit next August. We're really looking forward to it! Keep an eye out for further details.

What's On in our Galleries

Exhibitions

Our gallery on the second floor of A' the Airts continues to host rolling exhibitions of artwork, embroidery and photography by single professional artists, art groups and talented local amateurs. We try to vary the exhibitions throughout the year to ensure that visitors to the centre can view and experience a wide range of genres. Most of the artwork displayed is for sale, some at very affordable prices – definitely worth a look!

Throughout the rest of the building we also have artwork from local schools on permanent display and examples of work from A' the Airts Arts & Crafts Groups. We are proud to be able to showcase the artistic talent growing in the local community.

Forthcoming exhibitions include:

“Creative Sanquhar”:

An exhibition of artwork, crafts and photographs by Sanquharians of all ages, both amateur and professional. It will include work from local schools and contributions from our own arts and crafts groups. The exhibition has been designed to celebrate Sanquhar's talent as part of the Day of the Region weekend on 6th and 7th of October, but will run until the 24th October.

“Influences”: Exhibition of paintings by Irene Gall. 27th October – 21st November

In this exhibition popular local artist Irene Gall interprets the main influences on her work, from Cézanne and the Colourists to Picasso and the Futurists. This Irene's second solo exhibition since A' the Airts opened.



Embroidery Exhibition: “Fabric Jewels” 24th November – 4th January

Margot McIntyre and Shirley McKeand - both well-known embroiderers and designers from Dumfries - will be showcasing a variety of their work from the recent past. Everything from exquisite goldwork pictures to large embroidered panels, jackets, bags and more!
This is a great opportunity to buy exquisite one-off designs for Christmas!



A' the Airts

Wee Snippets:

Listening to What You Think

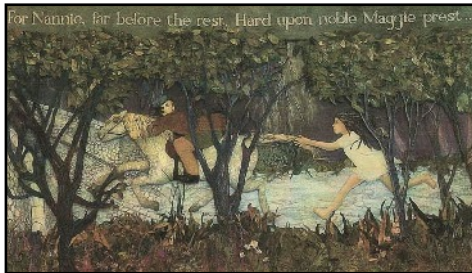
We are currently undertaking a community consultation exercise, talking to local people, finding out what they think about A' the Airts and what they would like to see going on here. This will help us to plan our future activities and attract more people to the Centre.

Iain A Rogers

Subsequent to his recent exhibition at A' the Airts "A Keek up the Close", Iain is still working on pen and ink drawings and watercolours of local buildings and environment. We are still stocking prints of his original works at very affordable prices.

Tam's Ride

Some of you may remember the item in our last newsletter about the beautiful wall-hanging by the late Nita Richmond which was donated to A' the Airts. We have now heard that another of Nita's embroideries, "Tam's Ride", which depicts the famous scene of Tam o' Shanter and his



Tam's Ride

greymare Maggie being chased by the comely witch Nannie, is to be hung in the Council Chamber in Ayr Town Hall.

"A' the Airts" for A' the Airts

Following our recent exhibition by the Ayr Art Circle's ARC Group, Adrian Ford, one of the contributors, donated a new watercolour of our building. It really is quite lovely, and can be seen hanging in our shop. Members of our own Art Group were so inspired by it that they are now having a go at painting it too! Thanks Adrian.



C & M BROWN

Newsagent

17 High St, Sanquhar

01659 58170

Global connections

A' the Airts is currently displaying and selling original paintings by Ugandan Julius Katende from Uganda. Julius' artwork is part of an artistic and cultural exchange which began when Dumfriesshire artist Anthea Summers met him building kilns in Uganda. The collective theme of Julius' work celebrates love, motherhood and Uganda and is summed up by the title "Mama Ubuntu".

A' the Airts

Doug Curran – A True Local “Airtisan” And Man of Many Talents!

I'm sitting in Doug and Wilma Curran's house in Crawick, listening to the exquisite sounds coming from his new, beautifully handcrafted autoharp. Doug stops playing and proceeds to enthusiastically describe the complexity of making this unique instrument, right down to the butterfly shaped sound hole that is his trademark.

I thought I'd find out a bit more about Doug's interest in musical instruments. Little did I realise that this was only the tip of the

iceberg. Doug's talents and interests extend far beyond that of his skills as a luthier.

Doug and Wilma moved to Crawick, on the outskirts of Sanquhar, 37 years ago. Doug was born and bred in Wigtownshire, then spent many years working in the Far East and England as an aircraft engineer before returning to Scotland to be near his parents. Over the years, Doug was exposed to many influences which inspired his diverse range of interests and talents. A poet of some renown, Doug has been a “makar” most of his life. One of his first memories was that he “...got belted at school for writing poetry”. Rab Wilson eventually took an interest in his poems and got them published (some can be read in the “Chuckies fur the Cairn” and “Sanquhar Pattern” collections) and his reputation as a poet took off from there. He made several broadcasts for BBC Ulster's Ulster/Scots language programme “A Kist of Words”. He has also recorded for the Scots Language Centre in Perth and participated in the “Poetry Doubles” initiative with the celebrated Irish poet Paul Durcan.



Some of you might be familiar with Doug's poignant poem “Ina”, which was featured in one of our earlier newsletters. The poem had such a profound effect on Dumfriesshire artist Sheila Mullen that she felt compelled to paint her interpretation of Ina. This original piece of artwork was on display in *A' the Airts* for a number of months, and attracted a lot of interest, but now proudly hangs in Doug and Wilma's dining room. The poem was inspired by a disturbed

young woman who lived close to Doug's family in Wigtownshire when he was young. Doug has also written several short stories about life in Galloway, including some about the hermit, Johnny Logie, who lived on the shore adjacent to farm where Doug's father worked.

Doug specialises in making stringed instruments and has been doing so for half a century. He made his first guitar in the 1960s out of a broken piano and an old wardrobe. Much of his inspiration stemmed from an old family friend, Jack Brown, a Gallipoli war veteran who lived in Sanquhar and who made guitars and fiddles all his life. Over the years he has also hand-built mandolins, dulcimers, hummels and autoharps. Each piece is beautifully crafted, with woods sourced nowadays from specialist suppliers. His instruments are in much demand and he sells all over the UK and Ireland, but has never had to advertise. Orders come through personal recommendations.

Cont. On page 13

A' the Airts

Doug Curran – A True Local “Airtisan” And Man of Many Talents!

Cont. from page 12

He doesn't claim to be a great musician (although I would dispute this claim) but says he plays all the instruments he makes – he had to learn to play the dulcimer when he started making them because no one else could play them locally! His wood-working skills extend beyond musical instruments – he also makes and repairs clocks, combining his fine craftsmanship with the technical skill which came from his engineering background.

Despite all this, Doug's real passion is for racing motorbikes, a hobby which has distracted him from his poetry and instrument making. His hand-built racing bikes have been ridden by former world champions and he even built a three-wheeled sports car, which won the best Kit Car Award at the Culzean Castle Classic Car Show ten years later. But this was no kit car - it was hand built from scratch in the workshops at Sanquhar Tile Services, where Doug was Engineering Director. Doug still has the car stored in his garage.

Doug is, indeed, a man of many talents. A' the Airts is hoping to have a small exhibition of his work throughout October. Please pop in and have a look.

AF

Volunteering with A' the Airts

We already rely on a committed team of volunteers but we would like to involve as many local residents in the day to day running of the Centre as we can. We are always looking for local volunteers of all ages and offer a range of different opportunities, including:

- Looking after the shop for a few hours a week (no regular commitment required)
- Helping out at occasional evening events
- Assisting less advantaged people at our arts and crafts groups
- Helping to promote A' the Airts throughout the community, which might include distributing leaflets or assisting with the design of marketing materials
- IT and website maintenance
- Practical help - we particularly need volunteers to help out occasionally with DIY/maintenance
- Volunteer instructors for arts and crafts workshops and help with our drama group.

By volunteering at A' the Airts, you will meet new people and acquire new skills. This is your community arts project - please support us.

Contact Anne Foley or Catriona Dickie for further information - pop in to see us or telephone 01659 50514

Townhead Garage

01659 50349

Prop: A Sloan

Servicing & Repairs

Accommodation needed for visitors?

2 adjoining farm cottages [sleep 5 & 6]

Short breaks Nov–end March [excl

Chr/NY/Easter]

Off road parking 1 mile outside Sanquhar

Peaceful location

Magnificent views



01659 50193 www.lochsidefarm.co.uk

A' the Airts

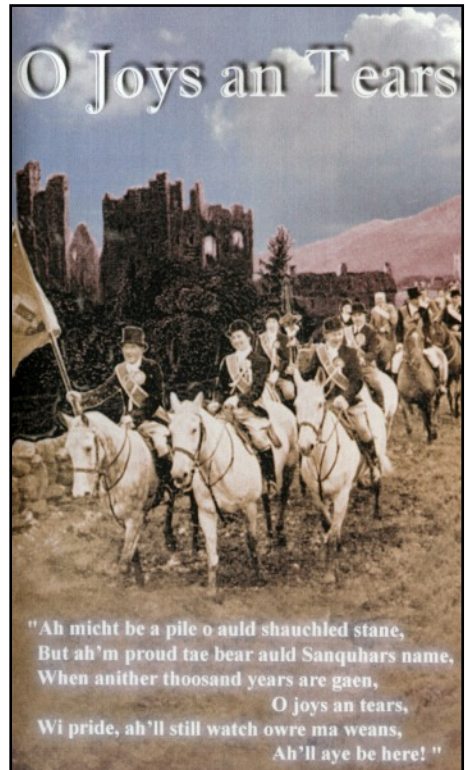
"O Joys an Tears" - Historic Sanquhar Film resurrected!

We are delighted to announce that we have just been given permission by the filmmakers (Being There Productions) to have a public screening of this ground-breaking film about the history of Sanquhar.

The film was made in 2001, the year of the terrible foot and mouth epidemic. This meant that for the first time, horses would not be involved in the annual Riding of the Marches. Rather than be disappointed about this, the film makers - Francis Lopez (writer, producer, director) and Kenneth Caldwell (camera, producer, editor) - saw it as an opportunity to record something very special in the history of the town - and the town did indeed rise to this very difficult challenge and delivered an occasion that was very memorable.

The story was told through the thread of the poem by Rab Wilson called 'O Joys an Tears' and is the history of the town as told by the events as witnessed by the castle. It details the agricultural changes, world wars, population shifts and so much more.

O Joys an Tears took a year to make and Francis Lopez says that he learned so much about the town from the research he did before-hand and also from the people who were interviewed.



Extract from the film's cover:

"..... a highly emotional documentary tracing the history of the district surrounding Sanquhar, a small picturesque town in Upper Nithsdale in south-west Scotland. For over a thousand years the castle's battered walls have witnessed the passing of time and the changing face of the town that sought its protection.

The journey begins with the discovery of a mysterious golden Lunula made 4000 years ago and ends with the problems faced by the town's annual Riding of the Marches caused by the disastrous foot and mouth outbreak in 2001.

Famous names such as William Wallace, James (Admirable) Crichton and Robert Burns all have their associations with Sanquhar.

As the local coal industry crumbled in the 1960's, the 'job for life' became a relic of the past. People whose roots in the area span generations, are forced to leave and seek work and those that remain learn to adapt through the Joys an Tears."

The film will be shown at **7.30 pm on Friday, 2nd November**. Either Francis Lopez or Kenneth Caldwell (or both) will be there to answer questions about the making of the film and Rab Wilson will be there to read his specially commissioned poem "O Joys and Tears". Signed copies of the poem will be given to members of the audience as a souvenir. We hope you can all make it. Please Phone us to reserve your tickets. This is likely to be a very popular event and seats are limited. (Contact details on front cover).

A' the Airts

Note from A' the Airts:

Mention of the discovery of the mysterious golden Lunula in the film reminds us that some of you may not know that the Lunula was the inspiration for our own logo:



A' the Airts

.... And our name??

Some of you may wonder why we're called **A' the Airts**. The name comes from a Burns poem composed as he rode down the Nith Valley to Dumfries to see his beloved wife Jean:

*Of a' the airts the wind can blaw
I dearly love the west
For there the bonnie lassie lives
The lass I love the best
There wild woods grow and rivers row
And many a hill between
Both day and night my fancy's flight
Is ever with my Jean*

As an arts and crafts centre we have taken the name to indicate that we are about arts in all its many forms – popular, amateur, professional, literature, creative arts, films and performances.

In fact "airts" is actually a Scottish word for "places". This is fitting too. Although the centre is based in Sanquhar it brings together all the communities of Upper Nithsdale, including Kirkconnel, Kelloholm, Wanlockhead and surrounding rural areas – and we welcome people from places further afield to visit!

Praise Indeed!

Ross Muir, Ayrshire-based freelance writer and music critic, who attended Ivan Drever's gig at A' the Airts on 19th September, posted a lovely review on his music website. We thought you would like to read an extract of the review, which also highlights local troubador's warm up:

"...This was the Orcadian singer songwriter's second appearance in Sanquhar in as many years and A' the Airts – a lovely arts, crafts and coffee shop that hosts many an artistic or musical activity – is a perfect fit for the musician. For although Ivan Drever is no stranger to theatres of thousands or festival stages he is in his musical element at smaller venues and thrives in intimate settings.....

.....Support was again provided by local musician Dave Anderson, whose twenty-five minute set featured some of his favourite country-folk numbers and a few self-penned tunes.

Anderson loves country-rooted music and most of his own songs carry a countrified vibe, but there

were some interesting changes of pace and musical style. 'Hills of Shilo' for example was an emotive tale of the American Civil War while his charming but cheeky gardening song was a musical rebuttal to those who champion wildlife gardens.

'Stand Sure,' an unofficial anthem for Scotland if ever I heard one, closed Anderson's set, complete with an impromptu but perfectly placed backing from Ivan Drever on additional guitar. If First Minister of Scotland Alex Salmond is looking for a song to support his charge towards a 2014 Independence (or glorious failure – this is Scotland after all) he could do a lot worse than adopt 'Stand Sure' (with appropriate lyrical tweaking)..."

The whole review, including details of Ivan's set, can be seen on Ross's website:

<http://www.fabricationshq.com/ivan-drever---sanquhar.html>



Left: Ivan Drever



Right: Dave Anderson

A' the Airts

Social Networking

We now have well over 200 "friends" on Facebook - a good mix of local people, performers, artists and people involved in the wider "arts" community. It's another good way of keeping in touch with what we're doing and getting messages to us. If you are a Facebook user, why not send us a friend invitation. You can access our account by clicking on the link on our website Home Page. You can also follow us on Twitter. Why not try out our QR code (below) if you have a smart phone!

Email news:

We send out regular emails to all our friends, letting them know what's going on here at A' the Airts and highlighting our forthcoming events. If you would like to be added to our email list, please contact us with your details:
contact@all-the-airts.com or telephone 01659 50514.

www.all-the-airts.com



A' the Airts

Job Vacancy

PROJECT ASSISTANT

15 - 20 hours per week (flexible hours)

£8.50 per hour

An exciting opportunity has arisen for an enthusiastic individual to assist the Manager in the day to day running of A' the Airts, Upper Nithsdale's Community Arts Centre.

The post will be initially funded for one year. Applications from those with good administrative and design skills and a knowledge of using social media would be particularly welcome.

Please contact us for an information pack and application form:

Tel: 01659 50514

Part-funded by:

Email: contact@all-the-airts.com

Web: www.all-the-airts.com



Closing date 26th October 2012

CAFE



Airtisans

...the art of good coffee

Cafe Airtisans offers, exclusively, fresh ground espresso coffee from 'PURO' fairtrade, tasty deli snacks, delicious soups and mouthwatering cakes and bakery items at very affordable prices.

Find us within A' the Airts, 8 -12 High Street, Sanquhar, where you'll be greeted by our friendly staff. Pop in, or book a table.
Telephone 01659 50514 and ask for the café.

Open 7 days, 10.00 am to 4.00 pm (Sun 11am - 4pm)