



LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

I don't know where the months go! It seems like just yesterday that I was wishing everyone a nice summer and now we are back to winter weather and festive plans!

The last three months have been very busy for Rural House. Firstly, the Day of the Region event took place across 5 communities over the first weekend in October. Overall it was a great success, with residents in D&G giving the event the thumbs up. Two thirds of residents stated in an on-street-survey that they were more encouraged to explore the region, 69% felt more connected to their community and 83% stated that they were more aware of what was happening on their doorstep. There were more than 150 events in the final programme including singing, painting, walking, crafts and cooking. There really was something for everyone and it was good to see such community spirit evident in each location, despite one of the most miserable wet weekends of the year!

The last few months has also seen the start of the C4C (Capacity for Change) initiative. Claudia Stuerck started with Rural House in September and has really managed to push things along in a very short timescale. Firstly, research has been undertaken in the villages of Kirkpatrick Durham and Ae by researchers from SAC to ascertain a base-line of activity and perception. This will be used to help develop a model for measuring community resilience across rural areas. Following a presentation of this research, Kirkpatrick Durham is now signed up to become a member of C4C and Claudia has started work on developing a new action plan for the village. Ae are at an earlier stage in the process and will make its decision in the New Year.

With so many community projects underway and the C4C initiative, there is enough to keep all of the staff busy, however our attentions are starting to turn towards the next programme period 2013-2020. Over the coming months, there will be many debates about the shape of the next Rural Development Programme. I shall endeavour to bring you up-dates on developments as we progress throughout the year.

If you think your community should be considered for involvement in any of our initiatives please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime I wish you all the best for the year ahead!

*Ros Halley,
Rural Development Manager
Ros.halley@dumgal.gov.uk*



LATEST NEWS

Please note that due to extreme weather conditions our December Local Action Group meeting could not take place on the 8th of December 2011. This meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday the 12th of January 2012. Decisions will be taken on the applications submitted to the December round of applications at this rescheduled meeting and the successful projects will be announced in our Spring 2012 edition of the Rural House News.

If you would like more details about anything in the newsletter please contact Nicola Hill on Tel: 01387 850228 or Email: Nicola.hill@dumgal.gov.uk

DAY OF THE REGION – PROGRAMME OF EVENTS LAUNCHED!

Communities in Dumfries and Galloway recently delivered the first ever Day of the Region celebration to be in the UK on 1st and 2nd October 2011 with an investment of over £32,000 from LEADER.

The programme of events and activities featured over 150 events and activities that aimed to encourage people to connect, be active, take notice, keep learning and give within the participating communities by taking part, enjoying and even organising special events from music, art and exhibitions to cooking demonstrations, workshops and even belly dancing!

Castle Douglas, Creetown, Crocketford, Gatehouse of Fleet and The Glenkens showcased all that is good in these Day of the Region locations in a bid to increase general well-being and to encourage everyone in the communities to feel better connected and more aware of what is available to them.

Events included group promotions, demonstrations in cooking, fishing, archery, painting, filming, curling, cycle routes, wlaiks, exhibitions, talks, pipe band, ceilidh, wood

turning, making bird boxes, musical performances, business open days and even belly dancing displays!

An evaluation of the project was very encouraging and revealed that 95% of people surveyed had considered Day of the Region to be successful, scoring it more than 5 out of 10 and 83% of respondents felt better connected in their community.

The website, www.dayoftheregion.co.uk had received over 2,000 visits with over 12,000 page views!

The project was delivered quite differently in each of the participating locations and this has allowed D&G LEADER to assess what elements worked well and to establish a framework for any future celebration.

An application has been submitted to the Local Action Group for consideration of support and any communities wishing to register their interest in being part of any future programme should contact:

dayoftheregion@dumgal.gov.uk



ALREADY WONDERED ABOUT C4C?

'C4C' stands for 'Capacity for Change', the name of a new and exciting initiative set up by Dumfries and Galloway LEADER Programme. 'Capacity for Change (C4C)' is challenging small rural communities across the region to pledge to work together, developing targeted ideas to make a real difference to life in their community.

Since September, the 'Capacity for Change (C4C)' team has already been working with the first village, Kirkpatrick Durham, set to join the programme.



C4C community meeting in KPD

The village has become one of the ten pilot communities, ultimately forming a network of small communities. The project continues throughout the next year, with 'Capacity for Change' now heading out towards Ae. The village has recently taken its first steps into the programme.

Local Action Group Member – Jenny Wilson

I've been involved with LEADER as a member of the committee on two separate occasions. My own personal interests lie in cultural and heritage areas, and in the sustainable development of rural areas. I've found the experience both educative, and fascinating.

I've learned that there's almost no end to the inventiveness that can benefit communities, from projects involving children, new environmental and business ideas, pilot projects to explore ideas, and capital projects that reinstate a hall or shop as an important hub of a community.

I know that LEADER encourages both its staff and committee to continue to learn - either through



The 'Capacity for Change (C4C)' team has been working with Kirkpatrick Durham, facilitating meetings and encouraging constructive discussions within the community to develop initial ideas to address the previously identified need in the community, an informal meeting place. We have been impressed by the enthusiasm shown by residents in Kirkpatrick Durham, pledging their time and a wide spectrum of skills to make their vision become a reality.

Based on those ideas, next January, representatives from Kirkpatrick Durham will be visiting other community projects working towards similar goals to their community. These visits will allow them to share ideas, experiences and knowledge with other people. Capacity for Change (C4C) Project Officer, Claudia Stuerck, said: "Other people's journeys can be incredibly inspiring." The project visit will be an opportunity for people to see what happened in other communities across Scotland as well as to discuss issues, experiences and ideas with each other.

We want to encourage as many communities as possible to take part in this ambitious initiative. For more information on the initiative, and to find out how your community could take part, please phone the 'Capacity for Change (C4C)' Project Officer, Claudia Stuerck, on 01387 850228 or email claudia.stuerck@dumgal.gov.uk.

explorations within the region itself, through exchange visits within Scotland and Europe with other LEADER areas, and through seminars and conferences where learning and networking are key activities.

I'm glad to report that LEADER also encourages us to retain a sense of fairness and proportion, relating both value for money and community benefits to projects under consideration. A sense of humour helps on occasion, but most of all, a sense of adventure, of willingness to try the new, to take an untried direction, and to take others along too. I've seen the benefits in many communities, and I hope to continue to do so.

I've had the greatest fun - from standing in a vast prehistoric landscape looking at lumps and bumps, to going to the inauguration of a new community facility, where the smiles on people's faces told you as much as the formal reports, accounts, and feedback.



Dumfries and Galloway
LEADER Programme

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - WINTER 2012

Wed 11th January 2012 7 - 9pm Free	LGBT Annandale & Eskdale Community Drop in Lockerbie Fire Station	Contact: JulieAnn Karayilan LGBT Youth Scotland Tel: 01387 255058 • Email: julieann.karayilan@lgbt.org.uk
Thurs 12th January 2012 7 - 9pm Free	LGBT Wigtownshire Community Drop in Stranraer Fire Station	Contact: JulieAnn Karayilan LGBT Youth Scotland Tel: 01387 255058 • Email: julieann.karayilan@lgbt.org.uk
Sat 4th February 2012 10am - 3pm Free • Minibus transport provided	Volunteer Tree Planting Corehead Farm, Moffat Meet at the Ram, Moffat High Street	Contact: Nicola Hunt Borders forest Trust • Tel: 01835 830750 or 07939177511 Email: nic@borderforesttrust.org
Sun 6th February 2012 2pm £10 • Ticket only	Whithorn Bravehearts Annual Boxing Show Whithorn Town Hall	Contact: Tom Jolly Whithorn Bravehearts Tel: 07711901089 • Email: tjolly@supanet.com
Wed 8th February 2012 7 - 9pm Free	LGBT Annandale & Eskdale Community Drop in Venue to be confirmed	Contact: JulieAnn Karayilan LGBT Youth Scotland Tel: 01387 255058 • Email: julieann.karayilan@lgbt.org.uk
Thurs 9th February 2012 7 - 9pm Free	LGBT Wigtownshire Community Drop in Venue to be confirmed	Contact: JulieAnn Karayilan LGBT Youth Scotland Tel: 01387 255058 • Email: julieann.karayilan@lgbt.org.uk
Mon 13th - Sun 19th February 2012 11am - 4pm Free	'Art Attack' Mersehead Nature Reserve Southwick	Contact: Becky Jones RSPB Tel: 01387780579 • Email: mersehead@rspb.org.uk
Fri 26th February 2012 7 - 8.30am • Members £1, Non members £2 Booking essential	'Dawn Flight' Crook of Baldoon Nature Reserve Wigtown	Contact: Paul Tarling, RSPB Tel: 01988402130 Email: Paul.tarling@rspb.org.uk
Sat 3rd March 2012 10am - 3pm Free • Minibus transport provided	Volunteer Tree Planting Corehead Farm, Moffat Meet at the Ram, Moffat High Street	Contact: Nicola Hunt Borders forest Trust • Tel: 01835 830750 or 07939177511 Email: nic@borderforesttrust.org
Wed 7th March 2012 5.30 - 7pm Free	LGBT Annandale & Eskdale Professional Forum Venue to be confirmed	Contact: JulieAnn Karayilan LGBT Youth Scotland Tel: 01387 255058 • Email: julieann.karayilan@lgbt.org.uk
Sun 11th March 2012 6-8am • Members £1, Non members £2 Booking essential	'Dawn Flight' Crook of Baldoon Nature Reserve Wigtown	Contact: Paul Tarling, RSPB Tel: 01988402130 Email: Paul.tarling@rspb.org.uk
Thurs 15th March 2012 5.30-7pm Free	LGBT Wigtownshire Professional Forum Venue to be confirmed	Contact: JulieAnn Karayilan LGBT Youth Scotland Tel: 01387 255058 • Email: julieann.karayilan@lgbt.org.uk
Fri 16th March 2012 10am-12 noon • Members £1, Non members £2 Booking essential	'Ken Your Geese' RSPB Ken Dee Marshes Nature Reserve	Contact: William Cranstoun, RSPB Tel: 01988402130 Email: william.cranstoun@rspb.org.uk
Sat 17th March 2012 10.30am - 1.30pm Free • Booking essential	'Wildfowl and Wader Wander' Sponsored walk Mersehead Nature Reserve, Southwick	Contact: Katherine Sellar RSPB Tel: 0131 3174178 • Email: Katherine.sellar@rspb.org.uk
FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY...		
Sun 25th March 2012 • 6.30-8.00am Members £1, Non members £2 Booking essential	'Dawn Flight' Crook of Baldoon Nature Reserve Wigtown	Contact: Paul Tarling, RSPB Tel: 01988402130 Email: Paul.tarling@rspb.org.uk
Sat 14th April 2012 6.00 - 8.30am Free • Booking essential	'Moorland Dawn Walk' Langholm Breakfast provided	Contact: Cat Barlow Langholm Initiative Tel: 013873 80914 • Email: cat@langholminitiative.co.uk
Sun 15th April 2012 10am - 3pm Free • Booking essential	'Wild Food Forage' Meet at Langholm Golf Club	Contact: Cat Barlow Langholm Initiative Tel: 013873 80914 • Email: cat@langholminitiative.co.uk

