

# Community

#SupportDG 

EDITION 1  
Tuesday 7 April 2020

Callum's Shed, Old Minnigaff, Newton Stewart



Be Kind



Connect



Take  
Notice



Support



Give

[www.dumgal.gov.uk/supportdg](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/supportdg)

Tel 030 33 33 3000

## What's Inside

A message from your  
Council Leaders

Key COVID-19 Updates

A focus on our  
Council's frontline  
services

Spotlight on what  
is happening in your  
community

Where Am I?



Dumfries  
& Galloway

# Welcome to Community

## Your Dumfries and Galloway Community Bulletin

**Welcome to the first edition of Community, your new Dumfries and Galloway community bulletin - providing local information during COVID-19.**

We find ourselves in unprecedented times. The COVID-19 pandemic has shaken the world. It is impacting on our daily lives. We are acutely aware how it will affect the health and wellbeing of our children and families, our communities, our businesses, and our local economy, however, please be assured that you remain our top priority.

We have become familiar with the terms social-distancing and self-isolation, and we must continue to listen to the medical and scientific advice, the advice of government and civic leaders to stay home to save lives and protect our NHS. We know that more people will become unwell, some with mild symptoms, and some more serious symptoms. We also know that, sadly, some will lose their lives.

But we can be very proud that, despite this, over 1,200 citizens and around 200 community organisations have put their names forward to provide community resilience and basic needs support, to help our key workers to deliver key local services, support our NHS, and much, much more. Thank you so much.



**Cllr Elaine Murray**  
Council Leader



**Cllr Rob Davidson**  
Depute Leader

Our Council and partners are responding, and responding quickly, to the emerging situation. We are a rural region, but we know from experience that our communities are strong and resilient, and we will support you to help each other. It's what we all do best.

Our Council is committed to providing this bulletin throughout COVID-19.

We hope you find this first edition of Community useful, as we all work together to promote community spirit and share community support across Dumfries and Galloway.

**with best wishes**  
**Elaine and Rob**

Your community bulletin is published on Tuesdays and Fridays.

You can read a copy online or download from  
[dumgal.gov.uk/communitybulletin](http://dumgal.gov.uk/communitybulletin)

**#SupportDG**  
[www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG)

Working to keep our citizens and communities safe

**#StayHome**

**#StaySafe**

**#SaveLives**

**APPROVED**

**161**

Business grants awarded  
with a value of

**£1.99M**



**1.27M**

Facebook reach



**1.9M**

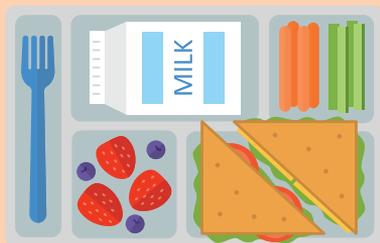
Twitter reach

**1,250**



Volunteers registered

**8,441**



Free school meals  
produced and delivered

**#SupportDG**

**807**

#SupportDG  
emails handled



**Wash Your  
Hands Regularly  
with Soap and  
Water for  
20 Seconds**

**189**



Community groups and  
hubs assisting in  
COVID-19 response

# Communities responding to COVID-19

## Langholm Co-op Cares

Going above and beyond, the Co-op store in Langholm has now introduced their own flexible delivery service to help vulnerable people in the surrounding area.

With the country in effective lockdown, and a forty-mile round trip from Langholm to shop at any of the major supermarkets, the Co-op has become critical to Langholm residents. This is especially true now, with so many people unable to book a home delivery slot with major retailers, and with requests for help from those self-isolating or classed as at risk coming from as far afield as Eskdalemuir – over thirteen miles away.



With no system in place for online shopping, the resourcefulness and willingness of staff to support the vulnerable has been outstanding – as it has with other suppliers in the town. Staff have been taking telephone and online messages to receive orders and are working on flexible methods of payment, with orders being delivered the same day or following day if possible.

Delivery is provided free of charge by the store, and the Co-Op have also recruited local volunteers to help. In addition, anyone wishing to leave donations for this service will see their donation used for care packages for the most vulnerable. The number for delivery in the Langholm area, or to offer a donation is 013873 81345

Langholm Co-op has also added additional support services, and put safety procedures in place, with priority shopping times for vulnerable people and for key workers doing essential work in the response to COVID-19.

Store manager Gary Collins said,

*“We feel we have a duty of care to our community. I want to reassure the public that we’ll do everything in our power to provide the best service we can. I have been both impressed and proud of my team with their positive attitude, hard work and commitment to helping as many people as possible. The staff, along with the incredible volunteers, have shown an amazing community spirit. We are sure the public will support these efforts in the best interests of us all and we will come through this together.”*



## Open For All

It’s important to keep enjoying our one-hour daily exercise – bearing in mind the rules of course: to keep two metres apart from other people, to exercise locally, and to exercise alone or with members of our own household. While Threave Gardens in Castle Douglas have been closed to the public, along with the visitor centre and toilet block on Threave Nature Reserve, many walks on the nature reserve remain fully open.

One thing you might notice is, to help us stay safe, all gates that can be left open have been tied back by the National Trust for Scotland rangers. Keeping the gates open like this prevents us from touching them, while keeping access open for all. That way, we can still enjoy some of the beautiful scenery on our doorstep.

**#SupportDG**  
[www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG)



## THIRD SECTOR Dumfries and Galloway

### Help At Your Fingertips

To pinpoint what help is available from local organisations during the COVID-19 pandemic, our partners at Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway (TSDG) have been working with the council to create a new website to co-ordinate services.

The map-based site can be found online at

[dgresilience.org.uk](https://dgresilience.org.uk)

and allows you to search for groups offering support in your local area. The map can zoom into a location, town or village with a pin for each organisation, giving contact details and a brief description of what is available or required. It also allows organisations to make appeals for support and resources. The website is based on technology being adapted by TSDG for a future website detailing third sector services across Dumfries and Galloway.

TSDG Chief Executive Officer Norma Austin Hart said:

*"We knew the technology we were already adapting could be a vital addition to the resilience efforts happening across the region. This will give the public a quick way to find out what's in their area to help those in need but also to see where they can help through requests for assistance."*

# Letter to a stranger

## Dear Stranger,

This virus has made us stay inside.  
And we don't know how it ends.  
It's took away our structure.  
Our family and our friends.

Hope is mighty when crisis strikes  
It keeps us from giving up  
When times get really hard  
When trouble spins the cup

So if today your reading this  
And your feeling kinda blue.  
There are other people out there.  
In the same situation as you.

Even though I am a stranger  
I just want you to know  
Even in a time of crisis  
Your body and mind will grow

And even though I am a child.  
And can't know how you are.  
Just know that very night.  
There is always a shining star.

And if your feeling lonely  
And an inch from despair  
Just lose yourself in old photographs  
To get a break from this nightmare

So every time you can't sleep  
And your heart is full of sorrow.  
Just try and remember that.  
There's a new day tomorrow.

Even though I am younger  
I still wanted to write for you  
Cause I'd want someone to do this  
If I had nothing else to do

Even though times are bleak.  
And we don't know how to cope.  
Just know that there is one thing  
And that is a word called hope.

I could've wrote a letter but  
I'm really bad with conversations  
So instead I wrote this poem  
To suit any generation.

I hope you have enjoyed my poem and I hope I've added a smile to your day and every day is one closer to the world going back to normal.

## Love, a stranger.

This poem was written by a 16 year old girl from Wigtownshire, who is a member of Dumfries and Galloway Champions' Board, a project for care experienced young people



## Mr Binmen

Waste workers in Dumfries were delighted to receive this note that had been left on a bin that was due for collection. Thank you to everyone who is providing small messages of support for our key workers across the region.

[#SupportDG](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG)  
[www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG](https://www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG)

# New Roles for Old

Always committed to serving our region, many of our Council workers have now volunteered to have their duties redirected, in order to support front-line services during the on-going battle with Coronavirus (COVID-19).

The call went out to all council employees categorised as not at-risk to come forward to change roles, so we could help fill frontline positions in a range of settings across the community – for example, working in Health and Social Care, potentially within care homes performing a variety of duties. However, many employees have also been redirected to other essential frontline services, such as waste collection, working to keep our communities clean and safe. One example is Ian Hall from Annan, a member of the fitness team at DGOne. With leisure facilities closed under government guidance, Ian is now supporting waste collection in the region. We caught up with Ian and asked him about his change in roles...

## Why did you agree to have your job redirected to support other services in the council?

As we're all well aware of the pandemic, I felt people would start to self-isolate and essential services of the council would be affected. So, I offered my skills to be used wherever they are needed most.

## Were you asked to take on any other roles?

Being one of the Duty Officers at DGOne and following the government announcement to close all leisure facilities, it meant my building was closed for the foreseeable future. The decision was made to deploy staff to essential positions where possible, and I was initially assigned to support the community hub in Annan. However, there was a greater need for me to work in waste collection, and I was happy to help.



Ian Hall and David Gillan

## What precautions are you taking in your new role to reduce any risk?

We're following government guidelines for social distancing and using hand sanitiser and sanitiser wipes on all equipment that we use. We're also supplied with PPE (Personal Protective Equipment).

## How have you enjoyed the new role and working with other council colleagues?

Yes, is the short answer. The people I've been working with have been showing me the ropes and keeping me right, but there's no time to dilly dally as the job needs to be done. I tell you, I have a new respect for the people that come and empty our bins daily, as the majority of bins are full and weigh a lot. It's surprising how much people can squeeze into a wheelie bin. While being out on the refuse wagon I've seen a lot of people still not following the correct social distancing measure to keep two metres apart from others, and I would please urge everyone to try their best to follow the advice, so we can help stop the spread of this virus, and get back to normality a little bit quicker.

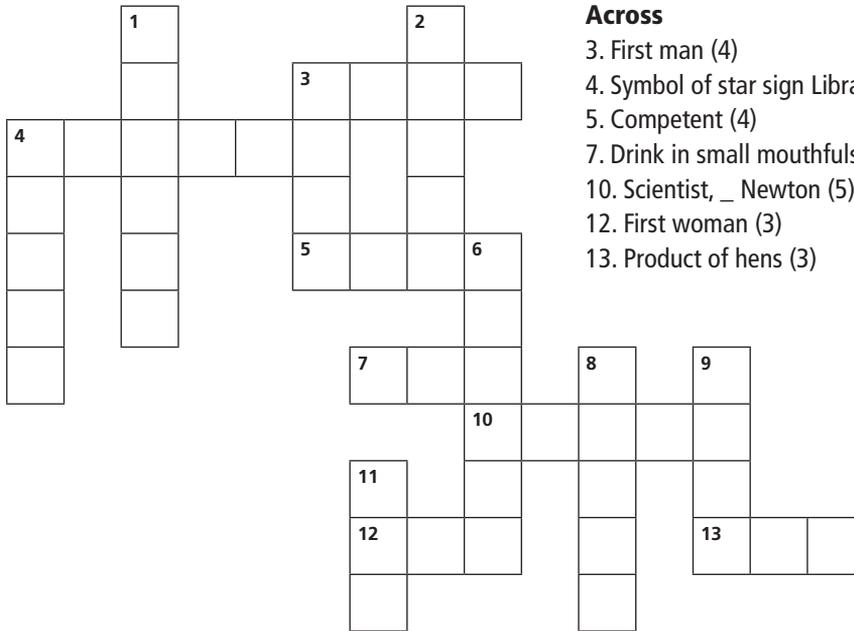
**#SupportDG**  
[www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG)

"Sometimes the questions are complicated and the answers are simple." – Dr. Seuss

# Activities Page

## Crossword

Answers on back page



### Across

- 3. First man (4)
- 4. Symbol of star sign Libra (6)
- 5. Competent (4)
- 7. Drink in small mouthfuls (3)
- 10. Scientist, \_ Newton (5)
- 12. First woman (3)
- 13. Product of hens (3)

### Down

- 1. Mythical animal on Wales' flag (6)
- 2. Herb often used in Italian cooking (5)
- 3. Japan's continent (4)
- 4. Burn with hot liquid (5)
- 6. \_ State Building, in NYC (6)
- 8. Capital of France (5)
- 9. Dull pain (4)
- 11. Nectar drinking insect (3)

## Where Am I?

### Southernness Lighthouse

Southernness lighthouse is located at the village of Southernness in South West Scotland. It is the second oldest lighthouse in Scotland and was commissioned by the Town Council of Dumfries in 1748 to assist in the safe passage through the Solway Firth of ships heading to the Nith Estuary. At that time roads in South West Scotland were quite sparse so



the bulk of trade even between local villages, was carried out by sea. Dumfries was a major port and there were regular connections with Liverpool and, especially, Ireland. Construction was completed in 1749. In 1805 the lighthouse was greatly improved under the guidance of the famous lighthouse engineer Robert Stevenson. The lighthouse was first lit around 1800 and was decommissioned in 1936. The light was extinguished due to financial reasons between 1867 and 1894.

Source - Wikipedia

## Emoji Quiz

Can you guess the Band /Artist? Answers on back page

1 🌴👤👤👤👤👤

2 🇬🇧 🍌

3 🐝 Gs

4 👤👤👤👤👤🗣️

5 🏰 + 💧

6 A 🖥️

7 ❄️ 🎵 🎵

8 🚗 d 🐝

9 💪💪 n 🌹🌹

10 🏠 👂 a



# Key Contacts

<b>NHS24</b>	111 www.nhsinform.scot
<b>Emergency</b>	999
<b>Doctor Out of Hours</b>	111
<b>Dumfries and Galloway Council</b>	030 33 33 3000 www.dumgal.gov.uk/SupportDG
<b>Business Support Helpline</b>	01387 260280 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
<b>Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub</b>	030 33 33 3001
<b>Social Work Out of Hours</b>	01387 273660
<b>Third Sector Dumfries and Galloway</b>	0300 303 8558
<b>Samaritans</b>	116 123
<b>SHOUT</b>	Text SHOUT to 85258 for free
<b>Domestic Violence Helpline</b>	0808 2000 247
<b>Age Scotland</b>	0800 12 44 222 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
<b>Shelter Scotland</b>	0808 800 444 Mon-Fri 9am-5pm
<b>LGBT Helpline Scotland</b>	0300 123 2523
<b>Childline</b>	0800 1111



If you have any positive stories about things that are happening in your community and would like to see them featured in Community – please email us at [communitybulletin@dumgal.gov.uk](mailto:communitybulletin@dumgal.gov.uk) and one of our reporters will get back to you.



Be Kind



Connect



Take Notice



Support



Give