



# Allan Dorans

MP for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock

October 2023 Newsletter



## Foreword

As reported in the Cumnock Chronicle I remain opposed to the closure of the last remaining bank in the town. This is an issue affecting constituents across many areas of Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock and indeed across the whole country. A further 17 Bank of Scotland branches are earmarked for closure, including Girvan. Together with parliamentary colleagues, I have requested a meeting with the Bank of Scotland to discuss the closures. I have also signed an Early Day Motion in Parliament calling on the

Secretary of State to work with the Scottish Government in protecting communities' access to in-person banking facilities. The removal of such facilities has an adverse effect on communities, particularly the elderly, those without internet access and small businesses, in addition to the job losses within branches themselves. I will continue to pursue this issue on behalf of constituents.



## Go Purple Day

I am always happy to support local causes and was delighted to support 'Go Purple' day. This campaign aims to raise awareness and funds to continue the fantastic work being carried out by the Ayrshire Hospice in the community. The Hospice provides a wide range of quality care services for individuals and their families affected by life limiting illnesses. If you are interested in obtaining further information on this outstanding organisation please visit [www.ayrshirehospice.org](http://www.ayrshirehospice.org) Ayrshire Hospice

## Ayrshire Railway Preservation Group

It was a pleasure to be invited by the Ayrshire Railway Preservation Group, to visit the Doon Valley Railway at Dunaskin, Patna yesterday and hear of their exciting development plans for the future. The Charity, which is run entirely by volunteers, are an amazing organisation committed to preserving the legacy of local railways, trains, carriages and memorabilia from past generations in order that they be enjoyed today and into the future. I was able to participate in a comprehensive tour of the workshops and current museum's fascinating memorabilia by Luke Skilton and Andy Smith (volunteer Directors), Colin MacDonald and Carolann McPhillimy of the Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership Any donations to the outstanding organisation, with great plans for future expansion would be very welcome. For further information please visit [www.doonvalleyrailway.co.uk](http://www.doonvalleyrailway.co.uk) Doon Valley Railway



*With some of the volunteers at Dunaskin*

## Pinwherry Windmill Farm



*In Pinwherry with Nicky and Steve*

High above Pinwherry I travelled to meet constituents Nicky and Steve and listen to their concerns regarding the proposed Knockodhar windfarm development. Their home, in the valley behind them, is already overlooked by Mark Farm Windfarm and further proposed developments to construct a further 16 wind turbines over 200 metres high on the side of the valley above the tree line in photo, will have a significant negative impact on their property and lives. I will be supporting their and other neighbour's objections to this development.



# Cumnock Tryst

The work of the Cumnock Tryst is a hugely enriching part of the local community and I was very pleased to be able to attend the second event of BIG Saturday! A Musical Celebration of the Coalfields performed at Barony Hall, Cumnock. The BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra masterfully conducted by the world renowned Sir James MacMillan, Founder and Artistic Director of the Cumnock Tryst, accompanied five community groups inspired by their environment, coal mining heritage and local community in the performance of a fabulous afternoon of first class musical entertainment.



These outstanding performances were only made possible by the commitment and dedication of the Cumnock Tryst, Workshop Leaders, Composers, volunteers and those taking part all of whom are a tribute to the local community. Thanks also to the sponsors of the event including the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership. For further information please visit The Cumnock Tryst, [www.thecumnocktryst.com](http://www.thecumnocktryst.com)



Photos show a very small selection of the fantastic performers on the day.



## CAMRA

The Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA), CAMRA, Ayrshire and Wigtownshire Branch, were recently kind enough to invite me to be a Judge in the heat for the Champion Beer of Britain held on 6th October, at the Ayrshire Real Ale Festival in the Troon Concert Hall.

My thanks to Lindsay Grant, Chair of the Branch for his thoughtful invitation. Photo shows Lindsay (centre) fellow judge, Alan Brown MP and the fantastic volunteers involved in the judging of the competition. The Real Ale Festival in Troon is a well-attended, annual event. thanks to the many volunteers who make this event such a huge success.

If you are interested in finding out more about this, and many other activities of CAMRA further information please visit [www.ayrshirebeerfestival.co.uk](http://www.ayrshirebeerfestival.co.uk) or <https://awcamra.org.uk/>



## Cumnock Leisure Centre



I recently met with just some of the (volunteer) Directors of Visions Leisure Centre in Cumnock.

The Leisure Centre provides excellent health and fitness facilities for the community including a 25-metre swimming pool, a gym, fitness studio, sauna, steam room and weight room.

We discussed how the Centre has been particularly adversely affected by having to close during the Covid pandemic, rising repairs and maintenance costs and huge increases in the cost of energy.

I have undertaken to make representations on their behalf to East Ayrshire Council. The photo above shows (left to right) Fiona, Ann and Jean. (Directors) with me.

# Girvan Town Centre Regeneration

A pleasure to meet with political and volunteer representatives in Girvan to hear of the impressive and ambitious plans to regenerate the Town Centre made possible by securing funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund.

The initiative proposes investment in Stumpy Tower, the McKechnie Institute, Knockcushan House, Harbour area and other projects across the conservation area and sea front. These plans are to be commended and further details will be provided in due course.

My thanks to South Ayrshire Council Live for hosting the event, Girvan Town Team and the voluntary organisations including Girvan Youth Trust, Adventure Centre for Education - ACE and many dedicated local volunteers. They are doing so much to bring back the vibrancy and attractiveness of this great town.

The commitment and enthusiasm of all involved in regenerating Girvan is truly outstanding.




*Some of the many dedicated participants involved in Girvan Town Centre Regeneration*



## Lost Mining Villages

Great to be able to attend a hugely interesting presentation of the outcome of the Lost (Mining) Villages of East Ayrshire Project at Dalmellington Community Centre.

Over the last two years or so, the Project has carried out research and spoken to many former coal miners and their families to capture an oral and pictorial record of what life was like in the miners' rows of six villages, lost due to the decline of coal mining and deindustrialisation in East Ayrshire. Project outcomes presented by Arthur McIvor who led the research and complemented by outstanding entertainment provided by Sean Gray and the well-known local Scots poet and singer, Rab Wilson. This type of initiative is essential to preserve our heritage for ourselves and perhaps even more importantly, for future generations. For further information about the project please visit: [www.thelostvillages.co.uk](http://www.thelostvillages.co.uk)



**LOST VILLAGES**  
AN ORAL HISTORY OF MINERS' ROWS & DEINDUSTRIALISATION OF EAST AYRSHIRE

We are looking to recover the history of East Ayrshire's Lost Mining Villages by collecting the stories of the families who lived in the miners' rows in the villages of Benquhat, Commodityke, Burnfoothill, Glenbuck, Lethanhill and Darnconner.

If you would like record your stories with us, provide information or get involved as a volunteer (training provided), please contact us via our website.  
[www.thelostvillages.co.uk](http://www.thelostvillages.co.uk)

HERITAGE FUND | COALFIELD | Scottish Oral History Centre | HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT SCOTLAND | ANANNAICHO ENDEANACH ALBA



*The well attended meeting in Dalmellington*

## RSPCA Reception



Whilst in Parliament, I was pleased to be able to drop in on an event hosted by the RSPCA (England & Wales) highlighting the valuable work they undertake to prevent cruelty to animals. In Scotland, we have the Scottish Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals SSPCA, which carries out similar work, and I was delighted to hear of the co-operation between the two organisations in promoting animal welfare and the prevention of cruelty to all animals. For further information on both organisations please visit [www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk) and [www.scottishspca.org](http://www.scottishspca.org)

# Maybole Regeneration & Town Hall Refurbishment



*The splendid exterior of Maybole Town Hall*

I was delighted to be invited to attend the reopening of the newly refurbished Maybole Town Hall. This project has transformed the Town Hall inside and out and is the culmination of the hard work of many different organisations. The project was realised thanks to funding of £1.2 million, including nearly £580,000 from the Scottish Government. Other key funders include South Ayrshire Council, Historic Environment Scotland and Heritage Lottery. I was particularly pleased to see that the original Tolbooth bell, cast in Maybole in 1696, is in pride of place in the refurbished council chamber.

The Maybole Regeneration Project is ongoing.

Maybole is a historic town with much to offer and I am pleased to see it flourish once more.

More information available at: <https://www.regeneratingmaybole.scot/>



*With Sir David Kennedy, who officially reopened the Town Hall*

While in Maybole I took the chance to pop into the new shop/exhibition space in the town. I met Sally from Icecream Architecture and was most interested to hear about the **Maybole Memories** initiative which is preserving our local heritage for future generations through oral storytelling and art projects.