

Dumfries & Galloway

AMAZING SUMMER

GET INTO SUMMER

Day/Date	START TIME	ACTIVITY/ VENUE	FOOD!	ACTIVITY/ VENUE	FINISH!
Tuesday 4th August	DROP OFF 10:00am Gladstone Hall	TRIP	Picnic Lunch 12:30 -1:30	TRIP	Pick Up 3:30pm Gladstone Hall
Friday 7th August	DROP OFF 10:30am Gladstone Hall	HayjaVu Crafts	Packed Lunch 12:30 -1:30	Vintage Village Games The Gladstone Park	Pick Up 3:30pm Gladstone Hall
WEEKEND!					
Tuesday 11th August	DROP OFF 10:30am Gladstone Hall	Campfire Cookery at Bridgend Community Garden	Campfire Lunch 12:30 -1:30	HayjaVu Crafts	Pick Up 3:30pm Gladstone Hall
Friday 14th August	DROP OFF 10:30am Gladstone Hall	HayjaVu Crafts	Packed Lunch 12:30 -1:30	HayjaVu Crafts	Pick Up 3:30pm Gladstone Hall
Friday 15th August	Arrive 6:00pm Gladstone Hall	Community Disco (Themed) Gladstone Hall	BUFFET	Community Disco (Themed) at The Gladstone Hall	End 8:00pm Gladstone Hall
WEEKEND!					

Supported by

Dumfries and Galloway COUNCIL

We are always striving to improve our services year on year to ensure we can forward-plan effectively and secure ample resources for all our participants. To help us achieve this, we introduced a streamlined registration and booking process this year via JotForm. Taking just a few moments to complete this form ensures that each family's place is secured and helps us prepare exactly what was needed for each session. Our families could easily access and complete the registration by visiting our website at www.kptdevelopmenttrust.org.



Dumfries & Galloway AMAZING SUMMER GET INTO SUMMER BULLETIN

LIMITED EDITION

 **WELCOME TO YOUR
AMAZING SUMMER 2026 SPECIAL EDITION BULLETIN!**

TRUST OFFICE HOURS:

Monday: 10:00 - 4:00
Tuesday: 10:00 - 4:00
Wednesday: 3:30 - 5:00
Thursday: Bulletin Day
Friday: 10:00 - 4:00

Wellbeing Wednesdays

11:00 am - Stroll in the Park
12:00 - Special £5 Lunch
1:00 pm - KPT Craft Circle

Thursday

2-4pm Gentle Garden Group
4-6pm Thursday Night Tea
Time - Meals starting at £2.50

KPT COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND

**(COMMUNITY HYDRO
DIVIDEND)**

APPLY NOW!

**For more information and how
to apply,
please contact using the
details below.**

Welcome to this special, limited edition of the KPT Bulletin, where we are celebrating the incredible success of our Summer of Play Programme! Following our successful funding award from the Dumfries and Galloway Council's Summer of Play Fund, we have had an absolute blast bringing our three villages together. From a brilliantly varied programme of activities for our children, young people, and families to our heartwarming community food-sharing initiatives, this summer truly had something for everyone.




AMAZING SUMMER GET INTO SUMMER



Day/Date	START TIME	ACTIVITY/ VENUE	FOOD!	ACTIVITY/ VENUE	FINISH!
Saturday 18th July	Arrive 2:00pm Glebe Field	The Wild West & Shelter Building	BBO Party	The Wild West & Rounders	End 8:00pm Glebe Field
WEEKEND!					
Tuesday 21st July	DROP OFF 10:00am Gladstone Hall	TRIP	Picnic Lunch 12:30 - 1:30	TRIP	Pick Up 3:30pm Gladstone Hall
Friday 24th July	DROP OFF 10:00am Gladstone Hall	HayjaVu	Packed Lunch 12:30 - 1:30	driftwood	Pick Up 3:00pm Gladstone Hall
Sunday 26th July	Brigden Community Garden 1:00pm - 3:00pm	Garden Safari & Activities	In Season Garden Delights	Old School Thornhill 3:00pm - 5:00pm	Old School Thornhill 5:00pm
Tuesday 28th July	DROP OFF 10:00am Gladstone Hall	A down in the garden with Propagate	Packed Lunch 12:30 - 1:30	A down in the garden with Propagate	Pick Up 3:30pm Gladstone Hall
Friday 31st July	DROP OFF 10:00am Gladstone Hall	HayjaVu	Packed Lunch 12:30 - 1:30	Vintage Village Games The Gladstone Park	Pick Up 3:30pm Gladstone Hall
WEEKEND!					

Supported by



Dumfries and Galloway

Don't forget to Register & Book Your Place for any of our activities!



Telephone: 01848 331435



Email: info.kptdt@gmail.com



Website: www.kptdevelopmenttrust.org

Our Amazing Summer of Play 2026 – Activities (Day/Date/Time/Venue)

Saturday 18th July: Join us in celebration as we head Way Out into the Wild West. Help us to design and build shelters, play rounders, enjoy an outdoor fire and community BBQ – cowgirls and boys of all ages welcome!

Tuesday 21st July: Wanlockhead Lead Mining Museum and Gold Panning! Bus leaving at 10:00am outside The Gladstone Hall

Friday 24th July: HayjaVu Crafts and Driftwood Cinema in the Gladstone Hall –

Sunday 26th July: – Garden Safari Celebrating locally grown food;

1 – 3pm Penpont Community Garden (Savoury) Safari Parade along Active Travel Path

1 – 5pm Old School Thornhill (Sweet)

Tuesday 28th July: Join Propagate for a day down in Bridgend community Garden.

Friday 31st July: Morning with Hayjavu Crafts and KPT Vintage Village Games in The Gladstone Park an afternoon of good old fashioned fun.

Tuesday 4th August: Closeburn Castle Escape Room – a live puzzle experience where you and your team work together to solve a series of puzzles in order to reach the end of a story within 60 minutes. Mostly Ghostly at Closeburn Castle – join us if you dare!

Friday 7th August: Hayjavu Crafts at The Gladstone Hall Afternoon Session Vintage Village Games at The Gladstone Park

Tuesday 11th August: Campfire Cookery at Bridgend Community Garden then Hayjavu Crafts at The Gladstone Hall.

Friday 14th August: A day with Hayjavu Crafts at the Gladstone Hall

Welcome to our grand finale – Way Out 'Wild' West Themed Disco!

Friday 14th August: 6:00pm – 8:00pm in the Gladstone Hall

Time to Dress Up for our Community Party

FREE – ALL WELCOME (Buffet provided)

Introducing our providers, activities and events!

Meet our Providers:

KPT Craft Circle – will be on hand to help with the 'Party' workshop upcycling and recycling to create those perfect wild west party outfits. If you need disco drama let Craft Circle add the glamour...

Linda Hay – aka Hayjavu loves putting together creations from unwanted & unused items, **UPCYCLING & RECYCLING**.

In our craft sessions we will be creating a variety of different items – including nature based crafting, designing and making clay pots, creating our blazing bug trail, and helping all of us and the Gladstone Hall get glitzed and glammed for our Old School Friday Night Disco!

Maureen Halkett – is our chairperson and café manager and will help us learn about how to respect fire whilst safely cooking on a campfire.

Michelle Johnston – is our Development Officer. She will be on hand to help the activity providers and the participants making sure that everybody is safe and well. Michelle will be helping to provide outdoor learning and nature-based activities.

Natasha Tollett – We are thrilled to introduce Natasha, our lead Amazing Summer volunteer! Natasha brings extensive experience in childcare, and she will be on hand to support all of our activities and ensure a fun, safe environment for everyone.



THE WILD WEST

Saturday, 18th July
2 - 8pm

**Glebe Field Games,
Pony Rides, Outdoor
Fire and BBQ!**

FREE

ALL WELCOME!

🌵 **WANTED: Frontier Adventurers!** 🌵

Join us for our first Amazing Summer community celebration!

When: Saturday 18th July

Where: The Glebe Field (Pringleton Road), Penpont

The Adventure:

We are building Western Frontier shelters, playing field games, and hosting a Wild West campfire and cookout.

Your Mission:

Hunt out your wildest Western gear and grab your picnic blankets. See you there, partner!

AMAZING SUMMER

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**THE WILD WILD WEST!
SATURDAY 18, JULY**

A massive thank you to everyone who joined us on Saturday 18th July for our Wild West themed Amazing Summer opening event! It was an extra special day as we also celebrated The Glebe Field officially coming into community ownership.

Events like this are only ever as good as the people who come together to make them happen, and we are so grateful to everyone who came along and brought so much laughter, energy, and fun. Thank you to every single person for gathering on the Glebe Field and taking part in such an awesome event!

Our budding pioneers truly embraced the spirit of the wild frontier, working together to build a brand-new settlement using whatever resources they could find. The creativity on display was incredible, from the brilliant eco-houses built with Hayjavu crafts to the fantastic creations at the Lego building station. The frontier came alive with fantastic face painting, sparkly glitter tattoos, and plenty of action at our shooting range, horseshoe pitch and toss, and bow and arrow range. Our inner cowboys and cowgirls were kept well-fed thanks to the spectacular Wild West BBQ cooked up by the Three Villages Cafe.

We wrapped up the perfect day by gathering around the communal fire to toast some delicious sweet and savoury s'mores. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Camplebridge riding school for their wonderful support, and a huge shoutout to our special surprise guests: Jessica and Grant Fergusson, alongside Tennessee and Thor, who made the day truly unforgettable.

Finally, this incredible celebration was made possible thanks to generous funding and support. Many thanks to Ross McWhirter, Dean Foster, Caroline Buck, Team Tollett and others for helping with the cutting of the grass and setting up of the event. Massive thanks go to Dumfries and Galloway Council's Summer of Play Fund, Keir Community Council, Penpont Community Council, and the KPT Development Trust Community Benefit Fund for making this day a reality for our community.





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UNCOVERING SCOTLAND'S SECRET GOLD: A JOURNEY BACK IN TIME AT WANLOCKHEAD



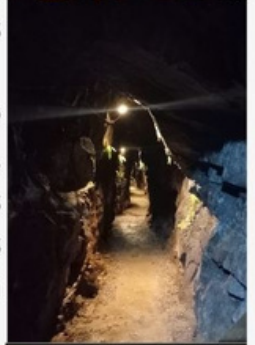
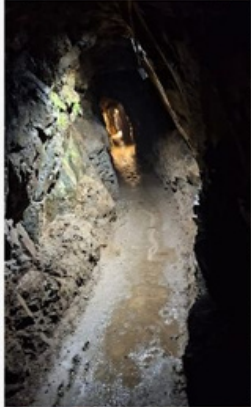
Nestled high in the Lowther Hills sits Wanlockhead, Scotland's highest village. For our first amazing summer trip, Tuesday 21 July was not just a day out, but a tangible journey back through time into the heart of our country's social history. Thanks to our generous funders, we were able to provide this incredible experience to our children, none of whom had ever visited this remarkable historic site before.

From the moment we arrived at the Lead Mining Museum, the staff made us feel like truly honoured guests. Our tour guide, Stuart, was the absolute best, instantly capturing everyone's imagination. He brought to life the gruelling working conditions once endured by lead miners, movingly explaining that children as young as six years old were once put to work in these hills.

Stuart guided us underground into the deep chill of the real mine, where we experienced the cramped, dark conditions of life beneath the earth. We learned about the 'miners' bargain'—a system where close-knit family groups or neighbours would contract together for a section of the mine—and how later advances in technology and hard-won health and safety improvements slowly changed the industry. The children were especially fascinated to hear about the vital roles played by the hardy pit ponies.

Back on the surface, we explored the beautifully preserved workers' cottages, gaining a real sense of domestic life in centuries past, and visited the spectacular miners' library, which stands proud as the second oldest subscription library in Europe. The absolute highlight for many was the opportunity to try our hands at gold panning. A fair few of our group actually struck it lucky, spotting glints of real gold in their pans! However, KPTDT need not worry about losing staff and volunteers. As it is safe to say, no one will be retiring on a fortune any time soon.

We left Wanlockhead with full hearts, a deep gratitude to our funders, and an unforgettable connection to the past. It was an educational, thrilling day that our young people will talk about for a very long time, and we cannot recommend the visit enough. A big thank you to Tony Francis our driver for the day and to Thornhill & District Community Transport.



KEEPING IT LOCAL: THE ETHICS AND IMPACT OF A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Every pound spent within a community holds a choice. When managing community funding, that choice becomes an ethical responsibility. Thanks to our Amazing Summer Funding—generously supported by Dumfries and Galloway Council, Keir Community Council, Penpont Community Council, and the KPT Community Benefit Fund—we have deliberately anchored our spending within a circular economic model.

Why a Circular Economy Matters

A circular economy keeps money, opportunities, and resources flowing locally. Rather than letting funds leak out to distant corporations, we reinvested directly back into our own neighbourhood. We committed to sourcing:

Local activity providers to champion regional talent.

Nearby venues to keep community spaces alive.

Community transport to reduce environmental impact.

Local resources to support independent regional businesses.

By doing this, the funding provided for our community comes right back to support the very people, families, and infrastructure that make our region thrive.

High-Quality Culture on Our Doorstep

Our partnership with Matt from Driftwood Cinema perfectly reflects this philosophy. Instead of outsourcing entertainment to a commercial city chain, we collaborated with a regional provider. Matt brought a fully authentic, high-quality setup that transformed The Gladstone Hall into a true cinematic experience. This collaboration proved that choosing local never means compromising on quality. It kept funding within the regional creative economy while giving our young people a top-tier event right in their own neighbourhood.

Autonomy, Democracy, and Secret Screenings

The ethics of this model go beyond financial transactions; it is also about investing in the agency of our young people. You might notice that we never advertise the film titles ahead of time. This is a deliberate, built-in feature of our programming.

Instead of imposing a pre-selected film, we hand the power over to the audience. Children and young people participate in a democratic poll to vote on what they want to watch. This simple act builds:

Autonomy: Giving youth the freedom to shape their own experiences.

Decision-Making: Encouraging active critical thinking over passive consumption.

Democracy: Teaching the value of voting, voice, and collective choice.



A Model for the Future

By pairing the financial principles of the circular economy with youth democracy, we ensure that our Amazing Summer leaves a lasting, positive footprint. We are deeply grateful to our funders, schools, and neighbours for helping us prove that sustainable, ethical, and community-first models truly work.

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OUR Friday SESSION
24 JULY 2026

A Huge Thank You to Hayjavu Crafts!

We want to send a massive thank you to the wonderful Linda Hay from Hayjavu Crafts for leading our brilliant Tuesday morning workshop as part of our Amazing Summer Programme of activities!

Linda guided our eager participants through various creative tie-dyeing techniques. By using simple tools like stones and rubber bands, everyone learned how to manipulate fabric to create beautifully unique, colourful patterned bags.

The session was an absolute blast, with everyone having great fun getting hands-on and unleashing their inner artists. The results were spectacular, and we were all really proud of our vibrant, multi-coloured finished masterpieces! Thank you, Linda, for sharing your fantastic crafting skills with us and making our summer programme so memorable.



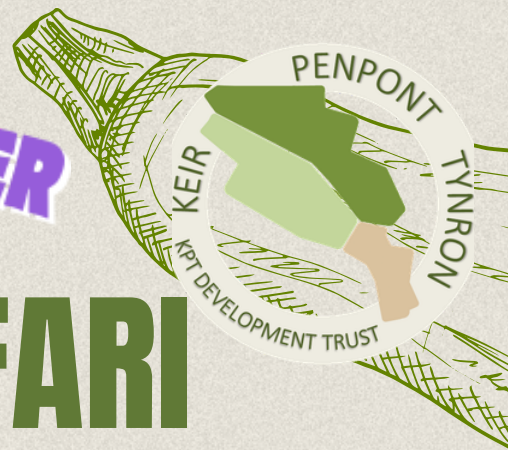
A BIG THANK YOU TO DRIFTWOOD CINEMA!



The KPT Development Trust would also like to say a very big thank you to Matt at Driftwood Cinema for bringing our afternoon matinee experience right to our doorstep here in Penpont! The Gladstone Hall drew their blinds closed and switched off the lights to create that authentic cinematic experience. We all settled down to watch Rango, which proved to be a massive hit! The audience laughed and gasped with each plot twist. The film choice, of course, matched this year's Amazing Summer Wild West theme perfectly.



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OST-

GARDEN SAFARI

SUNDAY 26 JULY



FREE



BRIDGEND COMMUNITY GARDEN, PENPONT 1 - 3

OLD SCHOOL THORNHILL, 3 - 5

EMBARK ON A GARDEN SAFARI! 

**GRAB YOUR "PASSPORT" VIA WWW.KPTDEVELOPMENTTRUST.ORG AND
COMPLETE THE JOTFORM TO JOIN US FOR A DELICIOUS EXPEDITION THROUGH
OUR COMMUNITY GARDENS. AS PART OF OUR AMAZING SUMMER
CELEBRATIONS, WE'RE TREKKING BETWEEN PENPONT AND THORNHILL TO
DISCOVER THE BEST OF WHAT'S IN SEASON.**

**SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE BETWEEN OST AND BRIDGEND COMMUNITY
GARDEN AND E-BIKES FROM PENPONT**

FOLLOW THE TRAIL TO:

EXPLORE: SEE WHERE YOUR FOOD GROWS.

**TASTE: STOP AT OUR "WATERING HOLES" TO SAMPLE FRESH, SEASONAL RECIPES
MADE RIGHT FROM OUR PLOTS.**

CELEBRATE: MEET LOCAL GROWERS AND GRAB RECIPE CARDS TO TRY AT HOME!



www.kptdevelopmenttrust.org | JotForm

AN UNFORGETTABLE SUMMER SAFFARI: COMMUNITY COLLABORATION AT ITS BEST!!

Our intrepid Garden Safarists had a wonderful afternoon exploring local terrain on Sunday 26th July! This "Amazing Summer" adventure was made possible thanks to our incredible expedition funders: Dumfries and Galloway Council, Keir Community Council, Penpont Community Council, and the KPTDT Community Benefit Fund.

First Stop: Base Camp Bridgend

The journey kicked off at Bridgend Community Garden, where trackers fuelled up on superb savoury dishes. Visitors from the Old School Thornhill territory arrived just in time to join our very first "watering hole" activity—foraging for creativity by making brilliant safari animal masks with Hayjavu Crafts.

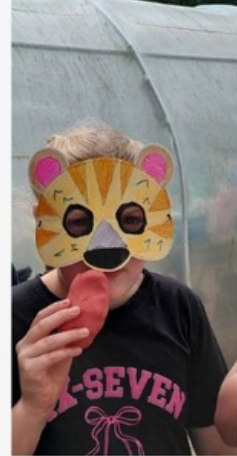
Transporting the Herd

When it was time to migrate, huge thanks went to Thornhill and District Community Transport, who safely whisked our herd across the plains to Old School Thornhill. A few of our most active, adventurous adult explorers even chose to cycle their way across the entire safari trail aka the Active Travel Path!

Final Destination: Old School Thornhill

At our final outpost, Old School Thornhill's dedicated youth worker Lia, guided everyone through fantastic nature-based crafts. Explorers were treated to divine sweet delicacies while tracking the progress of other community gardens and the Thornhill Food Initiative.

It was a brilliant afternoon of discovering new habitats, learning together, and forging new friendships—community collaboration at its absolute wildest!





Gumfries & Galloway
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**OUR DAY DOWN IN THE GARDEN
WITH PROPAGATE
TUESDAY 28 JULY**

Permaculture and Fun at Bridgend Community Garden!

We had a fabulous day down at Bridgend Community Garden with Lusi Alderslowe from Propagate, author of the Engaging Children in Permaculture course!

Our session started by learning the core Permaculture ethics: Earth Care, People Care, and Fair Share. Our children and young people really expressed themselves, openly sharing their own brilliant ideas on what these values look like in everyday practice.

The day was packed with a diverse range of hands-on activities, including:

Green Woodworking: Crafting unique name badges and plant labels from "wood cookies." (Even Linda Hay learned how to saw wood—we think her husband Ian will be very impressed!).

Plant Studies: Investigating a variety of plants, drawing them, identifying species, and uncovering fun botanical facts.

Nature Exploration: Learning a poem, embarking on an exciting bug hunt, playing group games, and brewing fresh mint tea straight from the garden.

It was truly the best day ever, filled with learning, laughter, and community spirit!



Dunmurry & Galloway
AMAZING SUMMER
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FRIDAY, 31st JULY

**CLAY, CREATIVITY, AND A SURPRISE SNAIL ARMY AS
YOUNG CRAFTERS SHINE WITH HAYJAVU CRAFTS**

Our children and young people enjoyed a fantastic, creative morning on Friday 31st July during an exciting crafting session with Hayjavu Crafts. The workshop was filled with laughter, imagination, and plenty of clay modeling.

The creative session kicked off with a big challenge: making large clay snails designed to brighten up our gardens. The young artists were given a wonderful selection of vibrant coloured globes to choose from, including vivid greens, deep reds, rich purples, bright blues, and even silver glittery ones. Everyone spent time shaping and moulding their creations, carefully smoothing out the details until they were perfectly happy with their final pieces. To top it off, these large garden snails decorated with lovely, shimmering bubble globes will look just like real snails with their own shell like homes.

After perfecting the large models, the group moved on to making smaller companion snails. For these, the crafters selected beautiful marbles to serve as the snails' shell-like homes, adding a glassy, colourful touch to the clay bodies.

While the initial plan for the workshop was to create a traditional "snail trail," the young people's enthusiasm took over. We are not entirely sure how it happened, but the group somehow ended up creating a mini snail army instead! Every single snail in the army is completely unique, beautiful, and packed with individual personality.

The fun isn't over yet. The young crafters are really looking forward to the next stage of the project tomorrow, Friday 7th August, when everyone will gather again to paint and add the final finishing touches to their brilliant clay army.





Dumfries & Galloway
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TUESDAY, 4th August

**AMAZING SUMMER ADVENTURE UNLEASHED:
CASTLE TALES AND ESCAPE ROOM TRIUMPH!**



Our second Amazing Summer Trip was a thrilling success as our children, young people, and adult helpers journeyed to the historic Closeburn Castle for a day packed with history, mystery, and mind-boggling puzzles.

Furtive Felines and Dungeon Discoveries: The adventure split our brave explorers into two groups for a double dose of excitement.

The Escape Room: Teams tackled the "Crazy Cat Lady" room, working together to track down furtive felines and successfully break out before time ran out.

The Castle Tour: Renowned storyteller Kathleen Cronie from Mostly Ghostly led a captivating tour through the castle's ancient halls.

The children completely embraced the spirit of adventure. They marvelled at historic paintings, looked in awe at the butterflies in the dungeon, and listened intently to tales of Robert Burns, Robert the Bruce, and the dark legend of the Closeburn Swan. A few spine-tingling, strange experiences during the tour even had everyone talking long after the event!

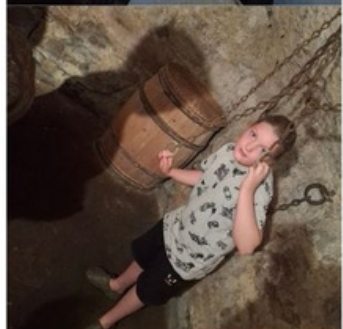
Our heartfelt thanks: as this unforgettable day was made possible thanks to a wonderful community collaboration:

Maria Navarro de Sepulveda: Huge thanks to our host at Closeburn Castle & Escape Rooms for welcoming us so warmly.

Kathleen Cronie: Gratitude to Mostly Ghostly for bringing the castle's history and ghost stories to life.

Thornhill and District Community Transport: A massive shoutout to our fantastic transport team for getting us there and back safely in one piece—and ensuring no one was left trapped in the dungeon or with the cats! Many thanks to our generous funders: Dumfries and Galloway Council, Keir Community Council, Keir Community Council and KPTDT Community Benefit Fund.

Thank you to all of our incredible young people and adult helpers who made this summer trip so special.





Dumfries & Galloway
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FRIDAY, 7th AUGUST

🐌 **SNAIL PAINTING, SUPERHERO SHELLS, AND SUMMER FUN!**

Our Amazing Summer morning session on Friday 7th August was a total blast of pure creativity as the children brought our giant clay snails to life! We were blown away by their incredible imaginations, featuring everything from a vibrant Yellow Submarine and Papa Smurf to a spooky ghost snail and a web-slinging Spider-Man. After refuelling with some delicious, packed lunches, we headed out to the park to burn off some energy with a magical bubble-blowing session and a brilliant, highly competitive game of rounders!



TUESDAY, 11th AUGUST

🔥 **HARVESTING, FORAGING, IMMERSED IN NATURE, AND CAMPFIRE COOKERY:
A MAGICAL GARDEN DELIGHT DAY!**

Tuesday 11th August turned into an unforgettable "Garden Delight Day" when our young pioneers took the lead, choosing to slow down and fully immerse themselves in the magic of nature. The day kicked off with a spectacular, unplanned treat as three magnificent Red Kites put on a thrilling aerodynamic flight display right above us! To add to the pure joy, a passing tractor driver cutting the grass played right along, beeping his horn to the absolute delight of our shouting, waving crowd.

Our young gardeners took great care of our growing spaces by weeding the pathways between the vegetable beds and learning exactly how to tend, prune, and care for our flourishing tomato plants to ensure a great harvest. Our young explorers became true stewards of the land as they weeded the beds, cuddled our friendly chickens, gathered fresh eggs, harvested potatoes, brambles, blue berries and examined the hidden world inside our compost heap.

Turning our attention to freshwater ecology, we headed down for some river dipping and uncovered a bustling underwater world filled with tiny fish fry and freshwater shrimps. We then enjoyed a beautiful, peaceful riverside walk along the Penpont-to-Keir path, where imagination took over. The children crafted miniature boats out of leaves to launch in the current and finished the journey with a lively, competitive game of Pooh sticks from the bridge, all while spotting earthworms, fluttering butterflies, and a fascinating mix of summer insects. To top off a perfect day of exploration, we identified our food, harvested and prepared it, and used our freshly found garden treasures to cook up an absolute outdoor fire feast!





Dumfries & Galloway
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FRIDAY, 14th AUGUST

**CULTIVATING COMMUNITY:
A MAGICAL FINALE TO OUR**

FINAL AMAZING SUMMER 2026, MORNING SESSION



What an extraordinary way to wrap up our Amazing Summer 2026 season! Our final morning session was an absolute triumph of community spirit, creativity, and green-fingered fun. We were thrilled to welcome the incredibly talented Linda Hay from HayjaVu Crafts for a hands-on workshop that perfectly embodied our core permaculture ethics and growing horticultural skills.

True to the heart of permaculture, our session was built on collaboration. Everyone worked beautifully together, sharing resources, swapping creative ideas, and lending a helping hand to construct our very own mini nature gardens.

Crafting the Backdrop:

The afternoon kicked off with a wonderful test of focus and patience. To set the stage for our mini ecosystems, everyone had to very carefully colour in a charming paper backdrop. We brought tiny houses, cheerful sunshines, and friendly scarecrows to life with vibrant bursts of colour, creating the perfect scenery for our tiny plots.

Building the Landscape:

Next came the engineering challenge! Precision was key as we meticulously constructed miniature picket fences to border our plots. The steady hands and determination on display were truly inspiring. Once the structures were safely secured, it was time to get our hands dirty.

Planting the Future:

Participants helped themselves to rich, real compost to fill their miniature beds. Applying our horticultural knowledge, we then sowed a blend of real grass seed and a vibrant wildflower mix—perfectly designed to replicate a thriving, biodiverse ecosystem in miniature form.

Share Your Progress!

Now, the real magic begins as we wait for the first green shoots to emerge! We would love for all of our Amazing Summer families who took a mini garden home to share photographs of your garden's progress with us. Let's keep the community spirit alive by tracking our little ecosystems together.

If you are passing by the KPT Office, make sure to look at the window display! Michelle J. has set up a few of the mini gardens right there, and she will be using them to help keep us all updated on the growing transformation.

Now, all that is left to do is sit back, water carefully, and watch nature do its thing. Thank you to Linda Hay, and to everyone who made this summer so unforgettable!



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FRIDAY, 14th AUGUST

FROM TRASH TO TRAILBLAZERS:

UPCYCLED WILD WEST FASHION CAPS OFF OUR AMAZING SUMMER

What a spectacular, creative showdown to close out our final afternoon session of Amazing Summer 2026! For our grand finale, our children and young people stepped directly into the wild frontier, looking absolutely incredible and appropriately dressed in authentic Wild West fashion.

The secret to our success? Pure creativity, resourcefulness, and a heavy dose of sustainable upcycling!

The Power of Upcycling:

In keeping with our community values, this session was all about learning new skills, reusing materials, and reimagining old items. It was absolutely amazing to see what just a few clever tweaks here and there could achieve. With a bit of "this and that," participants transformed everyday materials into rugged cowboy vests, lawman badges, and frontier flair.

A Winning Format:

We didn't have to look far for inspiration for this event. Last year, we were so inspired by the massive success of our 1980s-themed disco and the incredible support from our very own KPT Craft Circle. Knowing how well that team effort worked, we followed pretty much the same collaborative format this year—and it paid off beautifully!

A Few Borrowed Details:

Community spirit truly dressed our young trailblazers. Alongside their own upcycled creations, a few borrowed accessories helped complete the historical looks. Everyone shared, collaborated, and styled each other to perfection.

We are absolutely delighted with the final results and immensely proud of the talent, imagination, and new skills our young people displayed. They didn't just dress up; they learned the valuable art of giving old materials a brand-new life.

Thank you to everyone who contributed materials, time, and enthusiasm to make this grand finale a wild success!



WE HAVE REACHED OUR LAST FEW SESSIONS!

We can barely believe that we have reached our final session. This summer has been an absolute whirlwind of discovery, and we hope our children and families have had an unforgettable experience exploring, learning, and growing together. Here is a look back at how just some of our Wild West adventures connected directly to Scotland's Curriculum for Excellence (CfE).

Settlement, Structures, and Community Ownership.

Our overarching Wild West theme was deeply rooted in real-world local context: our community ownership of the Glebe Field and our affordable housing project. What we did: We explored the ideas of community, settlement, structures, and raw materials. Children became eco-architects, designing sustainable homes by reusing and recycling household items. We also enjoyed thrilling pony rides and Western-style riding displays. CfE Link (Social Studies / Technologies): By examining how settlements are formed and building eco-homes, participants developed an understanding of human environments and sustainability. Designing structures using recycled materials fostered creativity and problem-solving in engineering.

Shelter Building and Wilderness Crafts:

We tapped into our inner frontiersmen and pioneers by building our very own outdoor camps right on our frontier. What we did: We worked together to build impressive Tee-pee structures using natural hazel poles, large sheets, and camouflage netting. CfE Link (Technologies / Expressive Arts): Constructing these Tee-pee shelters allowed children to explore structural stability, practice problem-solving, and use raw materials to create functional outdoor shelters. Dressing the structures with netting and sheets also tapped into their spatial design skills and creative expression.

From Seed to Supper:

Living Off the Land. True pioneers need to know how to survive and thrive using natural resources. What we did: We explored where our food comes from and how to grow it. We mastered seed-sowing techniques, including the historic art of broadcasting seed. Families harvested, prepared, cooked, and ate food they had either grown themselves or foraged from the wild. CfE Link (Health and Wellbeing / Sciences): Discovering the journey of food from patch to plate allowed children to apply culinary skills and understand the value of a healthy diet. Learning about plant growth and seed dispersal directly aligned with biodiversity and planet earth concepts. Food, Fellowship, and Foraging. Our frontier community grew closest around the campfire and the dining table, sharing meals and kindness. What we did: We embraced true community spirit through shared BBQs, picnics, packed lunches, and community food sharing events. We looked out for one another by making each other drinks, and we connected with nature by harvesting fresh mint to brew our own natural herbal infusions. CfE Link (Health and Wellbeing): Preparing food and crafting natural mint infusions allowed children to practice safe, hygienic food preparation skills. Sharing meals and making drinks for peers directly put the Permaculture Ethics of "People Care" and "Fair Share" into action, strengthening social bonds, hospitality, and emotional well-being.

Nature, Ecology, and Permaculture Ethics:

We immersed ourselves fully in the beautiful natural world around us, discovering how everything is interconnected. What we did: We embraced Permaculture Ethics (Earth Care, People Care, and Fair Share). Our young explorers dove into freshwater ecology through river dipping, by cuddling chickens, and gathered fresh eggs.

We also became citizen scientists by bird watching, butterfly counting, and minibeast hunting. CfE Link (Sciences): Through river dipping and insect counts, children sampled local ecosystems, identifying living things and discussing how to protect their habitats and biodiversity.

Mindful Trails and Active Living:

Moving our bodies and caring for our mental health went hand-in-hand this summer. What we did: We sculpted clay snails as part of an ongoing project to create a mindful snail trail along the Active Travel Path. This pathway promotes being active, healthy, and moving more. CfE Link (Health and Wellbeing / Expressive Arts): Clay sculpting developed fine motor skills and creative expression through art and design. The active travel trail encourages daily physical activity and helps children understand the positive impact of movement on their bodies and minds.

Uncovering Our Social History:

We took a step back in time to discover the rugged history of our own local frontiers. What we did: We explored the social history of Wanlockhead, learning about the tough lives and work of historical families and children. We panned for gold, visited the historic Closeburn Castle, and learned about Robert Burns and Robert the Bruce. We even listened to spooky tales from Mostly Ghostly and uncovered the history of the Kirkpatrick family. CfE Link (Social Studies): By comparing their lives to children of the past and exploring local heritage sites, participants enhanced their understanding of people, past events, and societies.

Connection, Expression, and Play:

At the heart of everything was simple, joyful connection. What we did: We played classic outdoor games like rounders, giant snakes and ladders, and connect four, where we practiced taking turns. We also created safe spaces to explore and express our feelings using a talking stick and tapped into our endless imaginations. We laughed, we ran, and we grew closer. CfE Link (Health and Wellbeing / Literacy and English): Using the talking stick allowed children to develop vital skills in communication, turn-taking, listening, and expressing emotions safely. Collaborative outdoor play built resilience, teamwork, and social physical well-being.

Thank you to every single child, young person, to our families volunteers, staff member and to our funders who made Summer 2026 so magical.

See you at the Grand Finale BBQ—let's close this chapter with a bang!

Our Amazing Summer was brought to you by
funding awarded by:

Dumfries and Galloway Council Summer of Play Fund
Keir Community Council
Penpont Community Council
KPTDT Community Benefit Fund

Supported by





Dumfries & Galloway
AMAZING SUMMER
GET INTO SUMMER



Friday, 14th August

6 - 8pm

**Wild West Disco
and Buffet!**

**The Gladstone Hall,
Penpont**



FREE
ALL WELCOME!



Dumfries & Galloway **AMAZING SUMMER** GET INTO SUMMER

FRIDAY, 14th AUGUST
THE ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN:



WILD WEST DISCO AS AN UNFORGETTABLE AMAZING SUMMER 2026!

What a spectacular, high-energy sundown to our Amazing Summer 2026 season! Our Grand Finale Wild West themed disco, party games, and buffet was an absolute triumph. We were delighted in equal measures by the incredible turnout and the wonderful support from our amazing summer families. Our fantastic children and young people lived and breathed the Wild West theme, keeping the energy high and the frontier spirit alive right up until the very last minute!

A Roundup of Heartfelt Thanks

An ultimate summer holiday experience like this takes a whole community to build. KPT Development Trust would like to extend a massive, heartfelt final thank you to:

Our Amazing Summer children and young people for bringing boundless energy and creativity to every session.

Our wonderful families and local volunteers for their unwavering support, helping hands, and community spirit.

Our dedicated activity providers and supporters for inspiring us with new skills and memories.

Our fantastic funders whose generosity made this entire experience possible for everyone.

A Legendary Frontier Feast

Of course, a summer spent with KPT Development Trust also means that we have been incredibly well-fed! We have thoroughly enjoyed our packed lunches, picnics, and BBQs all season long.

For our Grand Finale event, Maureen Halkett (Chair) and our most awesome Three Villages Café crew truly excelled themselves. They provided us with an absolute culinary sensation, serving up:

Hearty beef stew

Flavourful burritos

Delicious stuffed mushrooms

Gorgeous chocolate cakes and other delicious tasty treats!

Blazing Trails Ahead: Save the Date!

While the summer sun might be setting on this programme, the fun never stops. We hope all of our amazing summer children and young people will come back and see us very soon!

Make sure to mark your calendars for our upcoming **Wheels, Walking and Wellbeing Weekend:**

Dates: Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th September 2026

Location: To be confirmed.

We will be sharing more details about the weekend's activities very soon. Thank you all for a legendary summer—we cannot wait to see you at the park in September!





SADDLE UP FOR SCHOOL: CELEBRATING AN AMAZING SUMMER

As another unforgettable summer comes to a close, we look back with immense pride at the incredible journey of our Summer 2026 programme. Over the past few weeks, our community came alive with laughter, learning, and lasting friendships. We officially wrapped up the festivities on Friday night, 14th August, with our spectacular Wild West themed disco, buffet and closing presentation ceremony.

The energy in the room was electric as our young people played wild frontier party games and danced away. The highlight of the evening was celebrating the achievements of every single young person who joined us this year. Each participant stepped up to receive their well-deserved certificate of participation, a testament to their energy, creativity, and community spirit throughout the summer. Certificates will be handed into schools for those who were unable to attend our grand finale.

Today marks a big milestone as our schools reopen across the region. We want to wish every single one of our "Amazing Summer" participants the very best of luck for the new term. Whether you are returning to your respective primary schools or taking that exciting big step up to Wallace Hall Academy, we know you are going to do great things.

May you each take your favourite summer memories into the classroom with you, keep hold of the friendships you made, and share your fantastic experiences with your classmates and teachers. You made our summer truly amazing, and we cannot wait to see what you achieve next!

Celebrating Success!

Our Amazing Summer participants were proudly presented with a Certificate of Participation as a token of our deepest gratitude for their incredible dedication this season. Throughout the program, they consistently demonstrated outstanding behaviour, sportsmanship, citizenship, and a wonderful spirit of caring and sharing, alongside moments of sheer perseverance. As a special legacy item to keep these memories alive, we are also gifting customized water bottles to the pupils at Penpont Primary School to remind them of our Amazing Summer 2026 journey.



We also want to extend a massive thank you to our incredible collaborators, venues, specialist activity providers, and supporters. Your shared expertise, welcoming spaces, and dedication provided our participants with safe, enriching, and unforgettable experiences. This collaborative effort truly brought the community together and brought our program to life.

OST
Wanlockhead
Lead Mining
Museum
Closeburn Castle
Escape Rooms



Thornhill & District
Community Transport



MOSTLY GHOSTLY



Finally, we extend our heartfelt thanks to our funders, whose essential financial support makes the Amazing Summer program possible each year.