

# KKK NEWS

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The local newspaper serving the people of Kelloholm, Kirkconnel and Sanquhar.

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## ‘WHEELIE’ HANDY SERVICE



CONTINUED INSIDE...

# David Mundell MP



Member of Parliament for  
Dumfriesshire, Clydesdale & Tweeddale

David Mundell holds local advice surgeries throughout the year. Details of his upcoming advice surgeries can be found at:

[www.davidmundell.com](http://www.davidmundell.com)

David can be contacted on:

**01683 222746**

or by email at:

[david.mundell.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.mundell.mp@parliament.uk)

Working hard for  
Upper Nithsdale,  
all year round

This publication has been financed through allowances available to the Member of Parliament.

# Oliver Mundell MSP



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Member of the Scottish Parliament  
for Dumfriesshire Constituency

**3** ways to get in  
touch with Oliver

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✉ **oliver.mundell.msp  
@parliament.scot**

A strong voice  
for local people

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## Kirkconnel Community Transport

### Door-To-Door, Free Transport Service To Go Grocery Shopping

**Tuesday 29th April**

Leaving Sanquhar at 10am  
Leaving Kirkconnel at 10.30am

Visiting Tesco Auchinleck, Aldi and  
Farmfoods Cumnock

To book a seat call Kym on 01659  
66002

This service is intended for those who struggle to  
access public transport

## Upper Nithsdale Group Practice

### Sanquhar Health Centre

Station Road, Sanquhar, DG4 6BT

01659 50221

### Mill Hill Centre

Corsrig Crescent, Kelloholm, DG4 6ET

01659 67376



## We are hiring

### Receptionist – 20.5 hours per week

The position involves working in a busy team environment undertaking telephone work and carrying out various administrative duties. Duties will include dealing with patients over the telephone and face to face, liaising with GP's and other healthcare professionals and undertaking a wide variety of daily administrative tasks in order to ensure the smooth running of all departments across the Practice. A commitment to adhering to strict confidentiality protocols is essential.

#### **Person Specification**

The ideal candidate will have the proven ability to undertake multiple tasks under pressure

and possess an excellent telephone manner. Good communication skills and an ability to record detail accurately are also essential.

#### **Prospective candidates will need to demonstrate the following:**

- Good organisation and ability to prioritise effectively
- Self-motivation and commitment to a busy role
- A can-do attitude
- A calm and professional manner and adaptable approach to work
- Ability to deal with a wide range of people in sometimes demanding and emotionally difficult situations
- Ability to listen carefully, understand patient requirements quickly and record accurately
- Adherence to strict codes of confidentiality at all times

Please forward a CV via email – [dg.gpclin.y18324@nhs.scot](mailto:dg.gpclin.y18324@nhs.scot) or alternatively hand it into the surgery for the attention of Mrs Christy Kyle. Closing date Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March

# COMMUNITY TRANSPORT NEW INITIATIVE WELL RECEIVED

In an effort to make grocery shopping more accessible and convenient for local residents, Kirkconnel Community Transport has launched a new initiative providing free transportation to and from local supermarkets. This service aims to support individuals who may struggle with heavy shopping or lack reliable transport.

The service focuses primarily on seniors, people with mobility issues, and families without cars. With free door-to-door transport, the initiative helps people who might otherwise face difficulties purchasing their weekly groceries, particularly heavy or bulkier items. Support is also available from a volunteer to help people take the shopping to and from the bus.

So far, the trips have visited supermarkets at Auchinleck and Cumnock with the option of stopping at shops in Kirkconnel, Kelloholm and Sanquhar as well.

Kirkconnel Community Transport also now supply wheeled shopping bags. The bags are heavy-duty and can therefore hold numerous heavy items. It is hoped that the bags promote independence as they are easy to manoeuvre, as well as being durable and lightweight. Kirkconnel Community Transport would like to thank Nith Valley Embroidery for making labels for the bags.

The grocery shopping service will run monthly, with March's bus already fully booked. If you, or someone you know, could benefit from the service please contact Kym at Kirkconnel Parish Heritage Society on 01659 66002.

April's service will run on Tuesday 29th April from 10am.



*Margaret Harvey modelling the new KCT shopping trolleys*

# AMAZING MAISIE DONATES HAIR TO CHARITY

Maisie Haddow, aged 6, from Kelloholm recently donated over ten inches of her hair to the Little Princess Trust and raised £955 for the charity as well. It costs £700 to provide one wig, so not only has Maisie raised enough funds she has also donated her hair for a wig as well. This will make a real difference to a young person who has lost their hair as a result of cancer treatment and other medical conditions. For a tiny person, Maisie has the biggest heart and all of her family and friends are extremely proud of her, especially her Mum and Dad! Well Done Maisie!

“In a world where you can be anything, be kind.”



Little Princess Trust | 20th Anniversary 2004-2024

# Thank you!

Maisie Haddow

for kindly donating your hair

Your wonderful donation makes a real difference to children affected by hair loss

February 2025

Little Princess Trust

littleprincesses.org.uk | www.littleprincesses.org.uk | 01432 352559

The Little Princess Trust, 22 St. Margaret's Road, Harlow, Essex, UK. Registered Charity No. 1147680

# KIRKCONNEL BURNS CLUB'S SUCCESSFUL SUPPER



This year the supper was, once again, a well-attended event. With over 100 members and guests in attendance. This year's top table was made up entirely of club members, John Watson, John Syme, Roy Stitt and George Park.

Chairman Alan Daubney opened proceedings by introducing our guests. This was followed by Murray Pagan delivering his rousing and flawless 'Address To The Haggis'. The haggis being piped in by the able Euan Patterson. This then led to Mr Harry Gallagher and his Knockenhair catering staff purveying an excellent meal to all the cronies.

After the meal, Shane Clark played a couple of Burns favourites for the cronies to tap and sing along to. Ian Blackwood then delivered the annual Secretary and Treasurer's report.

Our guest speaker, John Watson, then delivered an excellent Immortal Memory to our Bard. John touched on a brief history of our Bard before delving deeper into Burns love of championship, not only with his cronies but also from the fairer sex. The Chairman thanked John and presented him with a gift and, as is tradition with the club, a Burns book which all the cronies signed on the night.

George Park then toasted Kirkconnel Burns Club followed by an emotional rendition of 'Tam O' Shanter'. It was really great to see George back on stage after a few years away.

Troy Barbour had the unenviable task of following on from George but Troy delivered a fantastic rendition of 'Death and Dr. Hornbrook'. Troy is growing in confidence year after year with his delivery, thanks again Troy.

Ex-Chairman, John Syme, then gave his usual humorous take on things with his 'Toast to the Lassies'. A stalwart of standing in front of the cronies, he had the members in fits of laughter with his toast.

The 'Toast to the Cronies' was delivered by another ex-office bearer of the club, Mr Roy Stitt. Roy gave an excellent and funny toast, citing some very amusing (and true) local stories and some hilarious takes on some (maybe not so true) ones.

Chairman Alan then thanked all the contributors for their efforts on the night. A special thank you was given to the raffle ticket sellers Wullie Brown, Jimmy Black and Davie Black who, after 30 years, have passed the baton on to somebody else. Thanks again lads for all your efforts over the years.

The evening was brought to a close with a rousing rendition of 'The Star of Robbie Burns'.

Next year's supper is Friday 6th February 2026.

# KIRKCONNEL BURNS CLUB'S SUCCESSFUL SUPPER



# INNOVATIVE PROJECT 'AIMS' VISITS HILLVIEW

AIMS (Advancing Innovative Manufacturing in the south of Scotland) Project ran their first outreach session of 2025 at Hillview Leisure Centre. Local individuals, businesses and pupils from Sanquhar Academy attended the session, which was held on Monday 3rd February.

After a quick introduction and some tea and scones, the team ran sessions on 3D printing, 3D modelling, 3D laser scanning, collaborative robots and augmented reality welding.



AIMS supports businesses to introduce new products and services as well as training employees on the latest engineering technologies. Michael Anderson, a tufting engineer at Shaws said of the session, “It has been very informative. Many of the parts we use in Building B are becoming obsolete and coming here today has shown me that using 3D printers will help with the cost and availability of these parts.”

The AIMS Project also helps adults and young people uplevel their skills and mentors local people into employment or further education. Sanquhar Academy pupil Blake Robertson said it was a “great opportunity for students to learn about AI and the kind of technology we may be expected to use in the workplace.”

The pupils of Sanquhar Academy also took part in a welding competition using the ‘Soldamatic Official Augmented Reality Welder’. Those who took part were very competitive but the overall winner was



Aaron Milligan.

AIMS Project would like to thank Kirsty Beattie, Key Worker at D&G Council,

Michelle Scott from D&G Council, Rita Pagan for the catering, Sanquhar Academy S4 and S5 students - they were an absolute delight to work with and are a credit to the school - KKS News and Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Development Trust for all their help and support.



*Left: Aaron receiving his trophy for winning the welding competition*



# GIRLS GUIDES EARN NEW BADGE

The Guides have been working hard to complete the 'Food Train' badge, learning about the fantastic charity which supports older people to eat well, age well, and live well at home.

Two of the challenges the Guides particularly enjoyed were creating a fantastic collage of their logo and learning a craft from Betty Cotts, who kindly gave up her time to help the girls create beautiful flower cards.

Amongst all their hard work for this badge, the Guides also managed a five mile night hike on a beautiful clear night and decorated shortbread biscuits for Valentines Day.

The Guides are now celebrating World Thinking Day which fell on the 22nd February, a very important date in the Girl Guiding calendar.



Pippa trots down the path each day,  
A little dog with a heart full of play.  
Her tail wags high, her nose in the breeze,  
But there's one thing that never does please.

Bottles and wrappers scattered around,  
Crinkling papers all over the ground.  
She sniffs and she pauses, her eyes they do flash,  
Humans, she thinks, are misplacing their trash.

She picks up a cup with a paw so neat,  
Her gentle mouth clasping the trash in the street.  
With each little piece, she feels a small sigh,  
"Why don't they see the bins close by?"

Pippa's not angry, she's just feeling sad,  
For the world is so lovely, yet so badly clad.  
She dreams of a world where the trash goes away,  
Where each human helps, in their own little way.

So every day on her joyful stroll,  
She picks up the litter that takes its toll.  
A dog with a mission, a heart full of cheer,  
Hoping one day, the message is clear.

"Please, dear humans, take care of this earth,  
It's our home, our life, and it's filled with great worth."  
With one final sniff, Pippa trots on ahead,  
Hoping tomorrow the rubbish will be dead.

## **TOP TABLE IS ‘CROWN INN GLORY’ OF BURNS SUPPER**

On Friday 14th February, Norman & Libby Clark welcomed everyone to the Crown Inn as they held its fourth annual Burns Supper. Chairman Darren Shaw welcomed everyone along to what proved to be another fantastic night. Grace was given by Gilbert Herries before an excellent and hearty meal was provided by Libby Clark and her team. The haggis was piped in by Finlay Baillie and “humphed” by Norman Clark before being addressed in an excellent fashion by young Keegan Shaw. He would later recite an extract from Death and Doctor Hornbook. Keegan was performing at the Dumfries and Galloway Burns Association Schools Competition the following day and he left everyone sure it would be another successful day for this talented young boy. The entire company wished him well. He has a great future ahead of him.

The Principal Speaker for the evening was local boy Stephen Hastie. He provided an intelligent, thought-provoking Immortal Memory, straight from the heart. This was well received by the company and fully deserved the standing ovation given.

The Toast to the Lasses was provided by Archie Gilbert from Carluke. This was an excellent toast, full of witty stories coupled with appropriate Burns quotes, poking fun at everyone, including himself! Archie even took time to recognise the fact that it was Valentines Day, presenting Libby Clark with a red rose. However, as Libby was giving the reply to his speech, everyone knew he was sweetening her up to go easy on him...it didn't work! Libby Clark delivered a hilarious Reply to the Lasses, poking gentle fun at all the men. More than a match for Archie!

The music for the evening was provided by Jim & Tom Gold along with Andrew Gibb. The choice of songs and performance was sublime and left everyone wanting more. Shelley Gold performed the songs for the evening. Her outstanding talent was a joy to hear, leaving everyone in rapture. I think her dad, Norman, ran out of hankies! Shane Clark then made his debut at the supper, reciting Tam O'Shanter. This was his first time reciting it in public and most certainly won't be his last! Word perfect and delivered in his own style, he left everyone in rapture.

The final performer for the evening was Victoria Hastie, providing the Toast to the Contributors. Her toast was laced with humour and she comprehensively thanked everyone who had contributed to another excellent night.

Special mention should be given to the Chairman, Darren Shaw. He'd big shoes to fill, but he kept the night running, laced his introductions with humour and made a great job of ensuring another excellent night was had by all. He might just have made the job his own!

The evening came to a close in the traditional manner joining in singing Auld Lang Syne. Another superb evening was had by all, and they are already looking forward to next years' supper.



*Left: A superb 'top table' for The Crown's annual Burns Supper*

## **BUSY BEAVERS DRESS UP FOR STORYTELLING WEEK**

Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Beavers recently celebrated the start of storytelling week by sharing our favourite stories and dressing up as our favourite characters!



## **DEFIBRILLATORS GET NEW DOORS**

Three defibrillator cabinet doors have now been replaced in Kirkconnel and Kelloholm.

The new doors were kindly donated by David Campbell Painter and Decorator.

A big thanks to David for the very generous donation. A special thanks also to Andy Harvey for fitting them.

The defibrillators are located outside Hillview Leisure Centre, Nisa Scott Street and Kirkconnel Parish Heritage Society.



# CABIN BEETLE DRIVE RAISES FUNDS

The Cabin in Kirkconnel held a fundraising beetle drive on the evening of Thursday, 20th February. The event was well attended and enjoyed by all there.

Teas and coffees were also being sold by the committee in order to raise funds for the upkeep of the building.

The total raised on the night was £192.

The next beetle drive will take place on Thursday, 20th March at 7pm. Everyone welcome to come along.



Calling all military Veterans

New breakfast club starting March 15  
09:30 – 12:00

Nithsdale Hotel  
1 High Street  
Sanquhar  
DG4 6DJ

Open to the tri-forces Veterans and family.

Come along for banter, blether and a breakfast meal with other ex forces in the area.

\*All meetings going forward will be 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month.

## Free School Meals

Is your child in  
Primary 6 or 7?

Do you receive the  
Scottish Child Payment?



Scan Me

You can apply for  
free school meals

search for Dumfries and  
Galloway School Meals or  
scan the QR code

## **BIKERS' BRILLIANT BURNS BASH**

On Saturday 22nd February, Wanlockhead-based motorcycle club 1531 MCC held their very first 'Evening o' Burns'. The night, dedicated to the Bard and all things Scottish, was held at the Wanlockhead Inn and featured performances from Dave Gibb, Molly McTeir, Chris McTeir and Kym Clements.

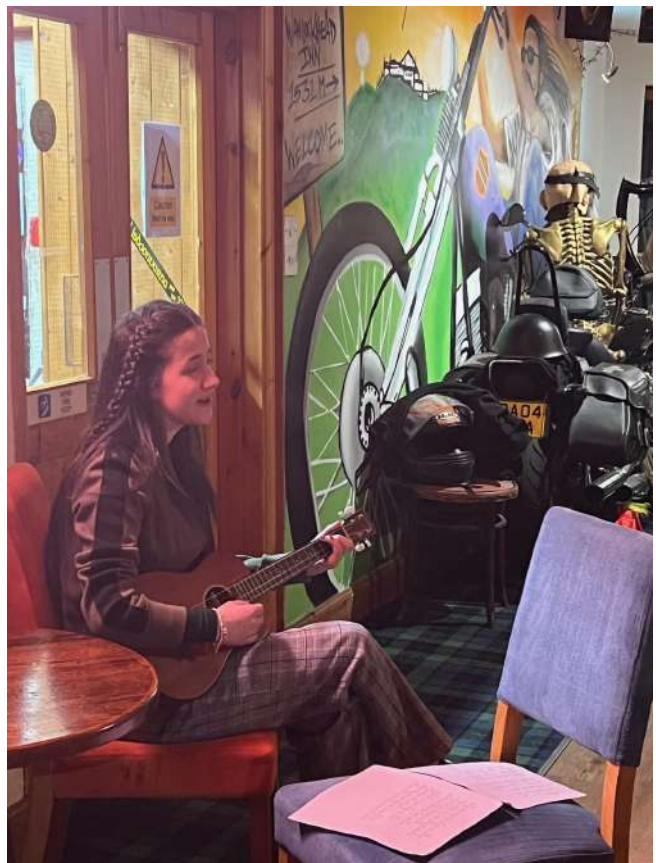
Legendary folk singer Dave kicked off the night with the song 'Green Grow the Rashes O', with audience participation actively encouraged. Dave was followed by singer Molly, whose beautiful voice ensured there wasn't a dry eye in the house. After a short interval, Chris commenced the second half by expertly addressing the haggis. More songs and poetry followed with Kym ending the night with the Burns poem 'Pegasus at Wanlockhead'.

The night was a great success and very well attended by both villagers and visitors to the area.

1531 MCC would like to thank Wanlockhead Community Council for helping fund the evening and the Wanlockhead Inn for providing the venue.



*Above: Dave Gibb entertaining guests*



*Above: Molly singing one of her emotive pieces*

### KKS NEWS

Note from the Editor:

If you would like to contribute an article, photograph, letter or advert to the KKS News then please email us at [kksnews@hotmail.com](mailto:kksnews@hotmail.com)

The KKS News is YOUR paper so any contributions are welcome.

The deadline for contributions is the last Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise stated).

We cover the whole of Upper Nithsdale.

## **ENTERTAINING EVENING FOR WOMEN'S RURAL INSTITUTE**

Kirkconnel Women's Institute welcomed David Branton to their meeting on the 12th of February.

David was invited to attend as a guest speaker, where he spoke about Scottish hero William Wallace and legendary poet Robert Burns. David then recited some poetry and spoke a little about his own life.

This was followed by a cuppa and some delicious home baking.

The Kirkconnel WRI meet on the second Wednesday of each month in The Cabin at 6pm.

All women aged over 18 are welcome to attend and can pop along to a meeting to find out more.



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## **FEBRUARY'S FLOODING**

Once again this month, Upper Nithsdale was battered by howling winds and driving rain.

Although the damage was not quite as severe as January's storm event, the rain still caused issues with the River Nith flooding and blocked drains overflowing, as the photographs below show.



## 'SUPER K' FAMOUS THE WORLD OVER

A little while ago, the KKS News ran a story about a gent by the name of Albert Kello who was visiting Scotland from his home in Australia. Albert was keen to catch the famous Kello Rovers and spent the afternoon with them watching a match.

During his visit, Albert purchased several Kello Rovers tops for himself and family members. Albert has been back in touch with the club with a photo of himself and his nieces wearing their Kello Rovers Kit.



Albert keeps in regular touch and we are chuffed to know that the 'Super K' are followed all over the world.

In the photo are Albert Kello, Ryhana Kello and Miranda Kello-Crosby.

The photo was taken in Nundah, Brisbane which Albert tells me is 16,345km from Nithside Park!

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*Local lady May Rennie has kindly sent us an update on old school friend Mary Fraser nee. Hiddleston:*

This is an up-to-date photograph of Mary Fraser (Hiddleston) from Cape Town, South Africa.

Her eldest son Alistair and family have been staying with her in the Cape during her illness. Thankfully, she is very much better and would like to thank ex-school friends for being in touch.

God Bless



## A RAMBLE ABOUT MENNOCK - NOTES, OBSERVATIONS AND HISTORY FROM THE LITTLE GREEN HOUSE, FEBRUARY 2025



*All photos taken by us using a Canon SX50*

Red squirrels are our native species and have lived in the UK for around 10,000 years and, here in Mennock, we're incredibly lucky to have them visit the bird feeders in our garden and have been able to identify at least twelve different individuals. Two years ago, we were also treated to a dray being built and two kits being born just outside our kitchen window. We do get greys too however, the 'reds' seem to be holding their own.

Other 'red' visitors are our numerous robins and great spotted woodpeckers. The males sport a red patch to the back of the head and the juveniles have a red patch to the crown of their head, until they have their first moult. Young females are a slightly duller red than the males. Upon reaching adulthood, the females have no red on their heads at all.

This winter- and for the first time for us - we have had the amazing fortune of redpolls visiting our niger seed feeder, with both males and females stopping by every day. Across from us are some very hardy hawthorn and rowan trees, which every year see huge flocks of redwings in a feeding frenzy as they strip the berries...and don't forget the red kites circling and drifting overhead.

Next time in 'A Ramble About Mennock' - Bridges of Mennock.





# CLARK'S LITTLE ARK



## CLEAN BILL OF HEALTH

The vet came out last month as Billy bullock wasn't feeling himself but thankfully he seems better now. While the vet was here, he vaccinated the sheep and the goats and dosed them for nasties such as fluke and worms. The goats also had their nails trimmed too, so now Marble, Amber and Opal feel like they've been to the beauty parlour!



*"Now what colour nail polish should I have?"*



*Thankfully, Billy is starting to feel like his usual self again*

## VOLUNTEERS

We recently had three members of staff from Pets At Home Dumfries volunteer with us. They mucked out and cleaned up, secured a shelter, cleared away mud from a gateway and raked the track. We really appreciate all the hard work our volunteers do and their help is invaluable.

## MEMORIAL WALL

On the subject of volunteers, ours have kindly extended our memorial wall, which was rather full with plaques. The extension means the plaques stick much easier and we have more room for those who'd like a special place here at the Ark.



## FINAL THOUGHT

*"You'll never find a rainbow if you're looking down."*

# KIRKCONNEL AND KELLOHOLM COMMUNITY COUNCIL

## SNIPPETS

### D&G Council Planning Applications

**25/0229/FUL** - Erection of Single Storey Extension to south elevation of dwellinghouse at Glenimburnfoot, Sanquhar, DG4 6HX on 06/02/25

The following planning decisions have been made by Dumfries and Galloway Council:

**24/1887/FUL** - Siting of a static caravan for use as short term holiday let at Newark Farm, Sanquhar, DG4 6HN - Granted Conditionally on 06/02/25

**24/2247/FUL** - Change of use of shop to form additional residential accommodation for existing dwellinghouse at **38-40 High Street, Sanquhar, DG4 6BL** - Granted Conditionally on 04/02/25

**25/0148/NMV** - Non material variation to planning permission 24/1108/FUL to change external cladding to extension and add an additional window opening to the south east elevation at **Connellbush, Sanquhar DG4 6JY** - Raise No Objections on 05/02/25

**24/2081/OBL** - Discharge of conditions 39 of Sanquhar 2 Wind Farm deemed planning permission at **Sanquhar II Community Wind Farm Site** - Raise No Objections on 10/02/25

**Kirkconnel and Kelloholm Community Council Next Meeting:** Monday 17 March, 7pm, The Cabin, Main Street, Kirkconnel

KKCC Chair contact details: Matt Lammie, Phone: 01659 67693 or 07710717768  
Email: [mblammie@outlook.com](mailto:mblammie@outlook.com)



costofliving.dumgal.gov.uk

## THIS WINTER

Help is here, with bills, debt, benefits, grants and more.

Are you:

- Struggling to keep your lights or heating on?
- Off supply/self disconnected, or thinking about it?
- Getting hassle from companies to pay bills, perhaps bills that seem too high or don't seem right?
- Missing out on benefits you should be claiming?

## DON'T PANIC

If you'd like some support, or if you're in a crisis, please turn over to find out about local organisations who are there for you.



## THE ROYAL BURGH OF SANQUHAR HERITAGE SOCIETY

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held in the Pensioner's Hall, St. Mary's Street

7pm on Thursday 6th March 2025

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the future of the Society

All those with an interest in learning about, and preserving, the history of our Royal Burgh are very welcome



# **K&K COMMUNITY HUB**

**MONDAY, TUESDAY  
& FRIDAY 9AM-2PM**

**MEET WITH SERVICES TO  
HELP ENHANCE YOUR LIFE  
OR HELP WITH  
EMPLOYMENT!**

**NO NEED TO BOOK - JUST POP  
IN FOR A CHAT!**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT  
KELSIE ON**

**07774061079/kelsie@kkdt.org.uk**



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

# Haud the Bus

by Oor Kris

## Scunnert, Foonert n' Crabbit

A'm sittin on a nummer 9 wae a wee pettit lip oan, face trippin me, pure fed up. It's -12°C ootside, it's snawed fir fower days solid, the drifts are up by yer knees, cauld richt intae yer bones when yer walkin, and noo the novelty o it's worn aff, A realise A've niver been sae scunnert, foonert or crabbit in ma puff.

It's no the nummer 9 fae Glesga tae Paisley am oan, mind. A'm back in Poland, and A'm catchin the tram fae Gdańsk's Stare Miasto—or auld toon—tae a district cried Wrzeszcz (which A cannae pronounce waeoot soundin lik A'm lettin oot a durty big sneeze) tae meet ma pal.

A huv actually been huvin a guid trip believe it or no. A've juist got yon wiy ye get oan cauld short wintery days, when ye stert wunnerin why ye leave the comfort o a warrum duvet and central heatin on a daily basis tae ventue oot intae freezing grey bleakness.

A'm still daein research fir ma next book. A've no feenisht the first yin, like, but wu'll no talk aboot that richt noo. It's guid fir me tae be oot and aboot and seein the bits A'm writin aboot raither as stalkin thum oan Google Maps, so A make an effort tae wrap up and explore.

But still. The cauld. It disnae hauf get intae ye.

(Sumbdy mind me oan tae set ma next project sumwhaur hot and sunny—that's if onybdy's daft enough tae sign me up fir it, mind.)

So A'm oan the nummer 9, and it's a tram, no a bus, and A'm surroundit bi gey scunnert, foonert n' crabbit luckin Poles thit luck exactly how A feel.

It's only left hauf ten, and it's no been licht fir lang. It'll stert gettin dark again aboot hauf twae, three a'clock. The local weans'll still be et the school, nae sunshine fir them the day.

A'm sittin starin oot the windae in a wee dwam when A happen tae spot a fella gawkin et me oot the windae o a bus drivin parallel tae the tracks.

We lock een.

He's an auld luckin boy—mibbe in his seventies, mibbe eichties, though ye cannae ay tell when yer abroad; fir aa A ken he could be the same age as me but hud a much harder paper roon—and he seems tae realise wur baith stairin noo, and he lifts his bunnet, gies a wee doff o the cap and a nod o the heid.

A don't react et furst, but he points a finger and shoogles it et me.

A feel lik a dafty, but A gie him a wee wave lik A'm oan a Sunday school trip.

He screws his face up, his bushy moustache gettin yanked up lik a rug unner his doorknob o a beak.

Thir's a snort and a chuckle ahin me.

And A see her reflection in the windae then, the wummin staunin there ahin me—a lassie he clearly kens, whae wis wavin et him, and whae he wis acknowledgin back.

*Kris, ya diddy.* Whit a riddy.

Quarter ae an hour later, A jump aff the tram in Wrzeszcz (the literal translation o which is 'scream' in Polish, which A wid sinner dae as try to pronounce it), and ma pal is waitin fir me et the stop.

The sun is lower in the sky noo, and, randomly, it's brichter than it wis a wee while ago. This bit's closer tae the sea, the sky's cleart up a bit, and it feels nice tae be oot a dauner.

A had went oan and oan durin ma last research trip aboot the fact a wee vegan restaurant A fair liked the first year A came tae Gdańsk hud since shut doon, and ma pal's discovert they'd juist moved tae this district et the ither side o the city, up closer tae the university. And so that's whaur wur gaun.

His English is pretty guid, but we dae hae the occasional language barrier.

*Is this fashion statement?* he asks me oot o naewhaur et yin point as we're stoatin doon the road bletherin awae and catchin up. *Whit? A ask him. The shoes.*

A luck doon.

A've left the hotel wae a hikin boot on yin fit and a gym trainer on the ither. *Ab.*

Ken, a thoct A'd bin walkin funny the hale wiy through the auld toon.

Suffice tae sae, ma heid'd been aa ower the bit that efternin, and A'd endit

up in a bit o a rush tae get oot the door, and hudnae even noticed.

A try tae laugh it aff and say *Aye, A didnae ken if we'd be gaun a long walk or a big hike, so A went 50/50.*

(Ma Polish pals ken A write and hink A'm a comedian, but A suspect they also hink A'm a bit waunert.)

Lunch is nice. The food is juist as guid as a remembert it fae the ither year et the ither location, so A'm fair happy and stufft tae the gunnies when we stert wur long walk tae the beach et Gdynia, still wae a guid stride oan, but me wae a wee bit limp aff ma mismatched gutties.

We walk richt tae the end and climb the fitpath uptae Klif Orłowski, facin oot tae the Baltic Sea—allegedly the highest cliff in Poland, though it barely feels much bigger than the Mill Hill. Fir perspective, much ae Poland's giy flat, ye rarely see a hill or mountain, so it widnae be that hard, A suppose.

The cliff's a bit dangerous. Some o it collapsed intae the sea a couple o year ago, thir's trees aa hingin aff the edges and stuff, so we stick tight tae the trail till we get tae the perfect spot tae see the sky turn purple and the fu moon rise.

We dinnae linger though. Sicht seen, we heid back doon oantae the streetlit boardwalk tae walk tae the station afore the dark really draws in. The last hing A'm wantin is tae risk an accident. Imagine the afront o gettin wheect oot the Baltic efter faain aff a cliff and yer shin no even matchin.

Back in Gdańsk later, A decide tae go tae the pictures. There's a new Marvel film oot, and while thuv no been as blockbustin recently, A still want tae see it, so A luck up the multikino, check fir a timeslot wae subtitles, and heid aff.

A get there, ma QR code is scanned, A fin the screen and ma seat, and sit doon. It's toasty warrum in here. Guid.

The trailers huv juist feenisht, the screen goes black, then the title rolls up: *Kapitan Ameryka: Nowy wspaniały świat.*

Aw naw.

It's subtitled aa richt, but in Polish: and it's been dubbed intae Polish tae. A huvnae got a scoobie whit's gaun oan.

Ah well. Et least ma popcorn's guid.

# Kirkconnel Community Transport

## DAYHOPPERS

2025

£12 per person per trip

**17**  
APRIL

**Riverside Transport Museum,  
Glasgow** (departing at 10am)

**22**  
MAY

**Keswick**  
(departing at 9am)

**07**  
JUNE

**Skipton**  
(departing 8am,  
leaving Skipton at 4pm)

**17**  
JULY

**Peebles/Biggar**  
(departing at 10am)

**28**  
AUG

**Mystery Tour**  
(departing at 10am)

**20**  
NOV

**Livingston Outlet**  
(departing at 10am)

**08**  
DEC

**Haughton Hall, Carlisle**  
(departing at 9am)

Pick-up locations:

Kirkconnel Chemist - Nith Buildings - Hyslop Street  
Queensberry Sq. - Middle Bus Stop - Spar Bus Stop  
(A Wanlockhead pick-up is available for the Peebles/Biggar trip)

FOR MORE INFORMATION  
call Kym on 01659 66002

# KKS KIDS KORNER

## Roger the Mole's First Day at School - Part Two

The children gathered around Roger; they weren't sure what he was or why he was there. Although they were much bigger than he was, Roger wasn't scared. He cleared his throat and stuck out a paw.

"Good afternoon, my name is Roger. Pleased to meet you all."

The children giggled excitedly as they rushed to shake Roger's little paw. One girl then stepped forward and introduced herself.

"Hello Roger, my name is Millie, welcome to our school."

She scooped Roger up just as the bell rang.

"Would you like to see what school is like?" she asked.

"Oh, yes please!" squeaked Roger.

Millie headed into the building with Roger on her shoulder. He was dazzled by the bright lights and colourful walls and had to keep rubbing his eyes.

"You'll be ok soon," Millie soothed, "my first class is Geography and we're watching a film so the lights will be off."

"Phew!" said Roger, who couldn't wait to be back in the dark.

They walked up some stairs and then down a long corridor before reaching the door of the classroom. Roger thought the school felt very much like the tunnels he dug - long and winding but missing one thing...fat, juicy worms!



To Be Continued...

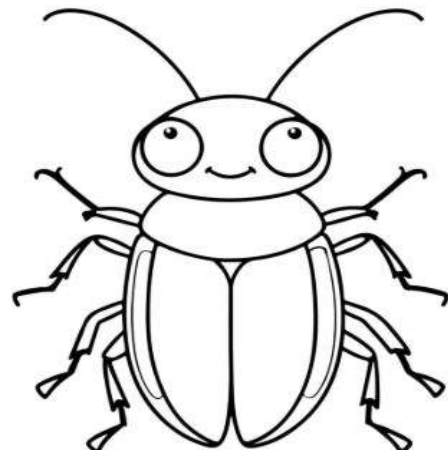
### FUN FACTS!

1. THERE IS ONLY ONE LETTER THAT DOES NOT APPEAR IN ANY US STATE NAME AND THAT'S THE LETTER 'Q'.
2. THE REAL WORD FOR THE # SYMBOL IS NOT 'HASHTAG' IT'S 'OCTOTHORPE'.
3. THE 100 FOLDS IN A CHEF'S HAT STAND FOR 100 WAYS TO COOK AN EGG.
4. BROWN IS THE MOST COMMON EYE COLOUR.
5. CHOCOLATE-COVERED ANTS ARE EATEN AS A TREAT IN MEXICO.

### **Colour in the bug and give it a name.**

**My bug is called**

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# KKS NEWS PUZZLE PAGE

H U L S L G H A E S I F D C R  
 G E N S G L J I D E I L D O N  
 R G Y I B M E O U L A C E I B  
 U M E E C B O Z E C T C O Q Z  
 B J Z J M W M L D C T F B N A  
 N P Z Q E O V Z E E Y R D G S  
 I G J L K A U Y C C H P F P X  
 D U D P N T R T Z X R Q Y L V  
 E D X F E E L L H J O E R R K  
 E T O H V X Q O X I V H V F E  
 E O O B H F V N O W F G T X V  
 T L S N A H C E F E L C C E I  
 P N L R D F D N R W D U R C T  
 T O W O L B S T Y I Y L D E E  
 C R L X N C W E X O S T D T P  
 D D U P A F B R Y Q E K W Q C  
 N U W H N V R K H U S H A T R  
 Y A B R E V E I S C W Q B Y P  
 Y U E L P H I N S T O N E E S  
 Y D F J N F P F D T D N J M X  
 N Y C I X Y H O T C P S E B J  
 Z U G K H I J O D D Z K G O U  
 V L B Z S L D T L F H Z X D W  
 E M W E S K D A L E M U I R W  
 R W Y E S H S L V P E F N Z W

ECCLEFECHAN	ECCLES	EDDLEWOOD
EDINBURGH	EDZELL	EIGG
EILDON	ELGIN	ELLON
ELPHINSTONE	ELVANFOOT	EMBO
ENOCH	ENTERKINFOOT	ERISKAY
ESKDALEMUIR	ETIVE	EVERBAY
EYEMOUTH	EYRE	

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6	8				3	9	
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				1		7	4 9
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8						9						
10								11				
		12		13						14		
15												16
17		18				19		20				
21								22				
23								24				

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>DOWN</b>
1. Crush flat (6)	1. Weighing machine (6)
4. Prose compositions (6)	2. Falsehood (7)
8. Subsequently (5)	3. Bush (5)
9. Offspring (7)	5. The entertainment business (7)
10. Not easily disturbed or angered (7)	6. Representative (5)
11. Conductor's stick (5)	7. Espionage (6)
12. Six (4,5)	9. Assumed name (9)
17. Additional (5)	13. Having more foliage (7)
19. Eminent (7)	14. Nine iron, in golf (7)
21. Sports arena (7)	15. Sumptuous meals (6)
22. Item of cutlery (4)	16. Crunchy salad vegetable (6)
23. Vast desert of North Africa (6)	18. Garbage (5)
24. Team game (6)	20. Capital of Japan (5)

**Last Edition's Crossword Solutions**

ACROSS: PROSPECTOR, FLAUTIST, EARN, ABEL, ORGANIC, RETRENCHING, ALTERED, TALL, OSLO, EMOTIONS, PESTILENCE  
 DOWN: POLKA, OPULENT, PAIL, CUTPRICE, OPERA, TRYING, REVERENT, RELISH, ITALIAN, ERODE, LANCE, TOOL

# KIRKCONNEL PARISH HERITAGE SOCIETY



Kirkconnel Parish Heritage Society  
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Kirkconnel  
Dumfriesshire  
DG4 6NB  
Tel: 01659 66002  
Email: kksnews@hotmail.com

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