

# FESTIVAL PROGRAMME



FESTIVAL OF  
*Folklore*

**21st - 25th September 2022**

**PRESENTED BY MOSTLY GHOSTLY**



WELCOME TO THE  
**FESTIVAL  
OF FOLKLORE**

A Scottish festival celebrating the world  
of folklore and set in the mythical  
landscapes of Upper Nithsdale,  
Dumfries and Galloway.

Wednesday 21st | 1pm

## Our Graveyard Project

Presented by Kelloholm Primary

In springtime of this year, Primary 4 pupils from Kelloholm Primary, accompanied by volunteer helpers, visited St Conal's Parish Churchyard on four consecutive Wednesday mornings to learn more about local people of the past.

Local history enthusiast Kathleen Cronie, from Mostly Ghostly, joined the class for each visit, providing

historical information that included learning about graveyard symbolism.

They investigated lines of particular interest that they had and will share some of this at the Festival of Folklore.

### Venue:

A' the Airts, St Brides Church Hall

### Free Event

Donations Welcome



Wednesday 21st | 2.15pm

## Sanquhar Knitting: A Stitch by Stitch Yarn!

Presented by Fiona Nadjer

Learn the history behind the world-famous Sanquhar gloves, and what makes them unique.

Learn about the knitters, and the stories behind the patterns, which include an aristocratic intervention, a budding banking entrepreneur, the birth of a princess and Scotland's most voracious predator, the dreaded midgie!

All this and more in this engrossing presentation by local glove knitter Fiona Nadjer.



### Venue:

A' the Airts,  
St Brides Church Hall

### Tickets:

£5.00



## Wednesday 21st | 7pm

### Dark Tales of Old Sanquhar (Guided Walk) Presented by Mostly Ghostly

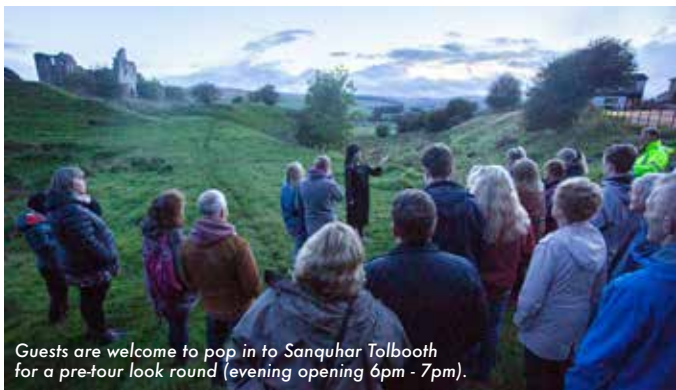
Featuring Sanquhar's most iconic landmarks coupled with strange and thought-provoking tales, award-winning storytellers Mostly Ghostly will explore a darker, more curious side to this historically important town.

As we meander through ancient streets and eerie closes, you'll discover dark deeds, colourful characters, tales of heartbreak and mysterious encounters...

A must-do for lovers of history, legends and lore.

**Meeting Place:**  
Sanquhar Tolbooth

**Tickets:** £12/£10  
£34 (special family ticket)



Guests are welcome to pop in to Sanquhar Tolbooth for a pre-tour look round (evening opening 6pm - 7pm).

## Thursday 22nd | 11am - 1pm

### Intangible Culture in Sanquhar's Tolbooth Museum: Have Your Say

Museums house the physical, tangible remains of the past but can they do more to explore local folklore and connect with living culture?

How can Sanquhar Tolbooth Museum best represent these intangible histories and practices? We'd like to invite you to explore the current displays with Museums Curator, Judith Hewitt to consider new ideas and ways forward for this wonderful museum. This event has been organised in partnership with Museums Galleries Scotland as part of the Year of Scotland's Stories.

**Venue:**  
Nithsdale Hotel, Sanquhar

**Please note:** This will involve a visit to the Museum, which is accessed via steps.





## Thursday 22nd | 6pm

### Festival of Folklore Live!

Presented by Alive & Local at Alive 107.3

Join presenters D.J. Kenny Murray and Festival of Folklore founder, Kathleen Cronie, as they bring their weekly Alive & Local showcase to Upper Nithsdale, for a live broadcast from the Nithsdale Hotel in Sanquhar.

The dynamic duo will be chatting to Festival performers and contributors, giving you all the latest Festival news and highlighting some of Upper Nithsdale's intriguing folklore, all set to a soundtrack of sublime local sounds...



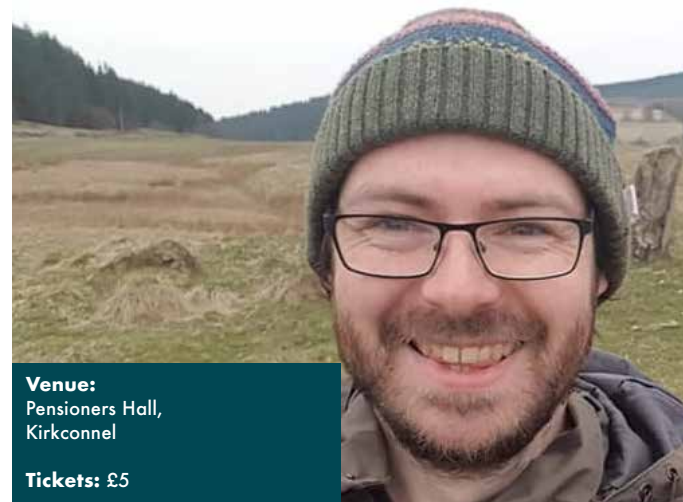
## Thursday 22nd | 7.30pm

### Tales from Upper Nithsdale's Place Names

Presented by Dr Colin Mackenzie

Where can you find witches, fairies and deils in Upper Nithsdale? Why did people hunt for gold under the Piper's Tree? How did the Smuring Hags get their name? Discover the answers to these questions and more with Dr Colin Mackenzie, who is a local place-names researcher. Colin runs the dgplacenames Twitter account and website where he posts old tales and new discoveries about Dumfries and Galloway place-names.

His talk will share the stories behind how familiar (and not-so familiar) places in Upper Nithsdale got their names, what they mean, and why they matter.





## Thursday 22nd 9pm

### An Evening of Stories and Song

Presented by Dave Gibb

The hugely talented Dave Gibb, who hails from Scotland's highest village in Wanlockhead, describes himself as a 'singer of songs and a teller of tales from the hills of Dumfries & Galloway.'

Dave will present a fantastic set including two amazing songs for the Festival of Folklore. The first, entitled 'The Black Lady' is Dave's interpretation of the famous and tragic story of the Black Lady of Broomhill. Her spirit is said to haunt the Avon Gorge in Larkhall...

The Sanquhar Witch is a true tale of the night Dave met the legendary dancing witch of Sanquhar at Sanquhar Castle... Enjoy!

#### Venue:

The Crown Inn,  
Sanquhar

#### Free Event

Donations Welcome

## Friday 23rd | 12pm & 2pm

### The Musical Stewarts

Presented by The Galloway Consort

Enjoy an enchanting, light-hearted performance of music from the courts of James IV, James V, Mary, Queen of Scots and James VI and 1st.

Accomplished musicians, Richard and Vivien Jones will enthral you with historical anecdotes, humorous insights and a magnificent musical performance on handcrafted instruments.



#### Venue:

Pensioners Hall,  
Sanquhar

Tickets: £5

**Friday 23rd | 4pm**

## Children's Storytelling

with Old Mother Mary

Join Old Mother Mary for an enchanting children's storytelling session, inspired by Upper Nithsdale's rich folklore. Young guests will be encouraged to help bring her stories to life using a variety of props.

Mostly Ghostly have written a collection of children's stories especially for the Festival, and aim to create a magical atmosphere where young people can experience the joy of interactive storytelling.



**Venue:**  
Duck Pond, Sanquhar

**Free Event**  
Donations Welcome

Suitable for all ages - children must be accompanied.

**Friday 23rd | 5 - 6pm**

## Art Exhibition Launch

Mythical Landscape: Secrets of the Vale

Inspired by William Wilson's 1904 book, Folk Lore and Genealogies of Uppermost Nithsdale, "Mythical Landscape: Secrets of the Vale" is an exhibition by an international group of artists, all of whom travelled to Sanquhar to investigate a sense of place and make artwork that speaks to the rich history and folklore of the region.

Artworks reference stories from the past (true or otherwise), consider the history of the region, and speculate on future myths and legends. An evolving exhibition at MERZ Gallery will culminate with the Festival of Folklore. The outdoor artwork, My Own Best Ghost, by EveNSteve will be displayed until the end of September on the exterior wall of MERZ.



**Venue:**  
MERZ, Queens Road, Sanquhar

**Free Event**  
Donations Welcome

**Weekend Visiting Hours:**  
Sat. 24th - Sun. 25th, 11am-4pm

Will be displayed until the end of September on the exterior wall at Merz.

**Friday 23rd | 7.30pm**

## **The Mermaid of Barnhourie**

Presented by Heather Kate Molloy

'A mermaid has not an immortal soul, nor can she obtain one unless she wins the love of a human being. On the power of another hangs her eternal destiny.'  
Hans Christian Anderson.

Join Storyteller, Heather Kate Molloy, as she shares the story of a local mermaid and her love for a Kippford Sailor...

**Free online event via Facebook**



**Saturday 24th | 10am - 4pm**

## **Folklore of Protecting the Home**

Presented by Tom Hughes

Explore some of the curious ways people tried to protect their homes, families and livestock from witchcraft, fire, lightning strikes and fairies. You can discover the thoughts behind these practices, hear about some local examples, and handle a range of artefacts such as concealed shoes, holed stones, witch bottles and more.

Visitors are encouraged to bring in folklore-related finds to the Museum to help us record how people in Upper Nithsdale, and beyond, protected their homes.



**Venue:**  
Sanquhar Tolbooth Museum  
Access is up a flight of stairs  
Open:  
10 - 1pm, 1:30pm - 4pm

**Free Drop-in Event**



**Saturday 24th | 10am - 4pm**

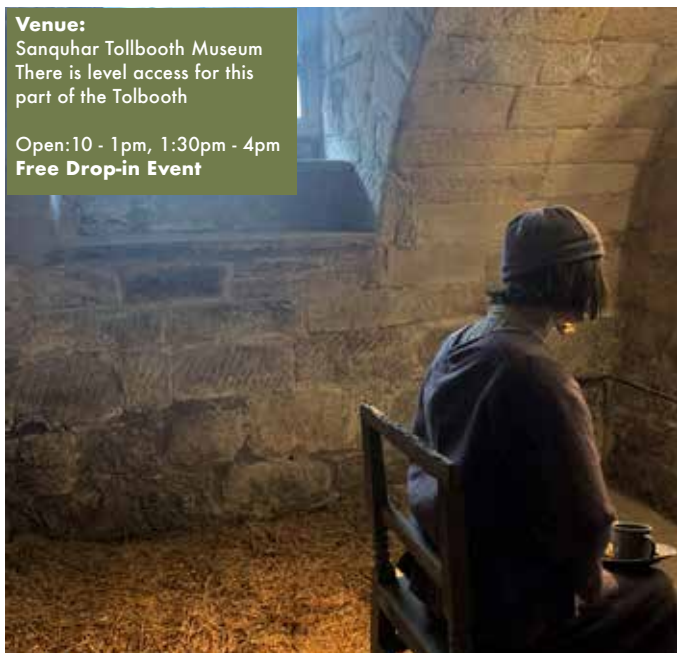
## Stories in the Cells

Presented by Sanquhar Tolbooth Museum

### Venue:

Sanquhar Tollbooth Museum  
There is level access for this part of the Tolbooth

Open: 10 - 1pm, 1:30pm - 4pm  
**Free Drop-in Event**



Take an opportunity to step inside one of the gaol cells of the old Tolbooth, experience its atmosphere, and discover the conditions the prisoners would have endured many years ago.

You'll be able to see historic graffiti etched into the stone walls by past inmates, and hear tales of people who were imprisoned there, along with stories of crimes and troubles in the local area in past centuries.

**Saturday 24th | 11am**

## Twisted Tales

Presented by L.M. Owens

Join local young author L.M Owens for her debut recital of a 'Twisted Tales' duo. Written during lockdown and published in the Nithsdale Times, as well as in Lily's personal blog, 'Shot' revives the legendary Crawick witchcraft - embellishing William Wilson's original work from Folk Lore and Genealogies of Uppermost Nithsdale, 1904.

'The Soldier's Pool' tale incorporates historical fiction around the beloved local beauty spot, where Lily has created her own element of historical fiction with a nod to the Napoleonic War era.

**11.30am**

## Hector's Magical Harp

Presented by Hector McQuarrie-Parkes

The music of Hector McQuarrie-Parkes is quite simply, magical. Hector's skill and passion comes across with every note plucked on his harp.

Sit back, relax and let Hector's enchanting performance take you away to a happy place...



### Venue:

A' the Airts,  
St Brides Church Hall

### Free Event

Donations Welcome



### Venue:

A' the Airts,  
St Brides Church Hall

### Free Event

Donations Welcome

**Saturday 24th | 1pm**

## **'Up the Middle Road': Stories from the Crichton Royal Asylum**

Presented by Dr Valentina Bold

Based on an oral history project that spanned the pandemic, this June a series of performances were held in the Crichton estate, Dumfries. Based on the memories of former patients and staff, they combined touring with new songs and stories inspired by lived experiences.

There was a learning picnic for schools, combining storytelling and artistic interpretation, and an exhibition with quotations from the almost forty people recorded as part of the project. All of this was part of 2022 Scotland's Year of Stories. This session will discuss the creative processes involved in generating new stories and songs, in traditional styles, from real life experiences, remaining respectful to what we had been told.

'Up the Middle Road' was developed collaboratively by Dr. Bold, Kathleen Cronie, Emily Smith, Jamie McClellan Amanda Edmiston, Julie Stephen and Apprentices Zephyra Durkin and Daniel Heinrich.

With thanks to funding from Scotland's Year of Stories Community Fund, Creative Scotland, the Crichton Foundation, Archie Sutter Watt Trust and Crichton Trust.

Valentina is Vice-Chair of Literature Alliance Scotland, and Convenor of the Scots Language Centre.



**Venue:**  
Pensioners Hall, Sanquhar

**Tickets:** £5

**Saturday 24th | 6pm**

## **Mining, Ghosts & Curious Tales!**

Presented by Mostly Ghostly & The Museum of Lead Mining

The evocative Lead Mining Museum at Wanlockhead joins forces with Mostly Ghostly for a feast of history and curiosities. David Mason, a living encyclopedia of local history, will provide a wealth of mining-related insights, while the Mostly Ghostly team take guests on a journey through spooky tales and mining customs. Tragic spirits, cannibal sheep and the tradition of the witch ball will feature in their curious collection!



**Venue:** Museum of Lead Mining,  
Wanlockhead

**Tickets:** £15

Age guide: 12 and above  
Footwear/clothing for the mine  
environment will be provided.



**Sunday 25th | 11am - 3pm**

## Multisensory Mischief at the Multiverse!

Presented by PAMIS (Promoting A More Inclusive Society)  
and Mostly Ghostly



**Venue:** Crawick Multiverse

**Free Event:**

Donations Welcome  
Performance Times: 11am, 12pm,  
1pm and 2pm

Facilities: Changing Places  
accessible toilet on site

All Crawick events take place  
outdoors: please wrap up warmly  
and wear practical footwear

Multisensory Mischief at the Multiverse! is an exciting new accessible performance as part of this year's Festival of Folklore! PAMIS are teaming up with our friends at Mostly Ghostly to create this fun, interactive, multisensory tour around the Crawick Multiverse and we'd love to see you there!

We will be merging the Multiverse's links to cosmology and science with the local legend of the Crawick Witches, whilst showing you around the beautiful sights of our amazing venue. You won't want to miss it!

This tour is fully accessible and PMLD friendly, with a Pamiloo on site. It is an outdoor walking tour, however it is wheelchair accessible. We have 4 shows on the day, one every hour beginning at 11am. Make sure to come along ready to hear some stories and interact with the performers in this exciting promenade performance!

**Sunday 25th | 10am - 4pm**

## Ghostly Images Workshop

Presented by Sanquhar Tolbooth Museum

A creepy craft activity for all ages. Through the ages, people have tried to capture pictures of the supernatural in paintings or photography. We'll explore some famous examples, then with cyanotype paper, (a simple form of photography using sunlight to capture images), you can create your own spooky pictures.



**Venue:** Sanquhar Tolbooth Museum

Access is up a flight of stairs

Open: 10 - 1pm, 1:30pm - 4pm

**Free Drop-in Event**

**Sunday 25th | From 4pm**

## Medieval Sanquhar. A Herbal History

Presented by Sue Hughes

Sue Hughes, herbal historian, invites you to join her, to travel back in time to Medieval Sanquhar, for a glimpse of how herbs and spices were once used. This four-part event reveals some of the fascinating stories and beliefs associated with herbs.



**Free Online Event  
Via Facebook**

**Sunday | 7pm**

## **Concealed Objects: 'Magical Artefacts' from Dumfries & Galloway & Beyond**

Presented by Dr Peter Hewitt

From ancient times to the present day, people have hidden potent objects in the landscape, buildings, and grave sites. Often these objects were endowed with a 'spirit essence' that served some supernatural belief or concern, a desire to contact the dead, protect property, appease local political/religious concerns, or reveal malefic witchcraft. This talk will consider hoards, talismans and more specifically, highlighting collections from Dumfries & Galloway.

**Free Online Event via Zoom  
Tickets from Eventbrite**



## **Throughout the Festival**

### **Museum Folklore Trail**

Presented by Sanquhar Tolbooth

**Venue:** Sanquhar Tolbooth Museum

**Open throughout the Festival:**  
10 - 1pm, 1:30pm - 4pm

**Free admission**



Sanquhar Tolbooth Museum is a treasure house of Upper Nithsdale history. Built in 1735, incorporating some of the stones from the old castle, this imposing building has been a witness to many great happenings in the town through the centuries. The Tolbooth has a link to some of the darker tales too, and the old prison cells can still be seen there today.

Visit the Tolbooth during the Festival to see its fascinating collection. Special additions running for the Festival of Folklore include a Mostly Ghostly film featuring tales from Sanquhar's past, and a free activity trail, exploring the folklore and curiosities within this fascinating building.



# Nightly | 10pm

## Before you Sleep

Presented by Mostly Ghostly

Let Mostly Ghostly lull you into an unsettled slumber, with a dark tale for bedtime. Pour a warming drink, pull up the covers and enjoy!

Free Online Event  
via Facebook



## Venues

A' the Airts  
at St Brides Church Hall  
St Marys Street  
Sanquhar,  
DG4 6BW  
t. 01659 50514  
www.atheairts.org.uk

Crawick Multiverse  
B740, Sanquhar,  
DG4 6ET  
t. 01659 50242  
www.crawickmultiverse.co.uk

Crown Inn  
58 High Street  
Sanquhar  
DG4 6BL  
t. 01659 50267

MERZ Gallery  
Queen's Road  
Sanquhar  
DG4 6DH  
t. 07906 692 506  
www.merz.gallery

Museum of Lead Mining  
Visitor Centre  
Wanlockhead,  
ML12 6UT  
t. 01659 74387  
www.leadminingmuseum.co.uk

Nithsdale Hotel  
1 High Street  
Sanquhar  
DG4 6DJ  
t. 01659 50133

Tolbooth Museum  
High Street,  
Sanquhar,  
DG4 6BN  
t. 01659 50186

Pensioners Hall  
St Marys Street  
Sanquhar  
DG4 6BW





## Festival Funders

We are very grateful to our Festival of Folklore funders:  
Dumfries & Galloway Council and Community Windpower  
(via Upper Nithsdale Community Trust)



## Tickets

Tickets available from:

A' the Airs, Sanquhar

Midsteeple Box Office, Dumfries

Online at [Ticketsource](#)

## Contact

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e. [festivaloffolklore@gmail.com](mailto:festivaloffolklore@gmail.com)

