



## SUNDAY 9th MAY 2010

### WALK 8 – “The Big Power Walk” led by Paul Davie and Stewart McDonalds “NEW WALK”

Joe Fitzgerald and Lodge St Peter 331 Galston are organising this walk and would welcome donations to Hillhead School, Kilmarnock, their chosen charity.

**8.30 – 9.00am** Start and finish at Barr Castle Social Club. (15 miles/5 hours) Graded **STRENUOUS**

Walkers will be bussed from Galston to the Whitelee Windfarm Visitor Centre (on Eaglesham Moor) where there will be a chance to find out more about the largest wind farm in Europe. The walk commences from the Visitor Centre at 10.00 am and passes the wind turbines to reach the old Weavers Trail, then through forest to High Overmuir Farm. The remainder of the walk is on country road, passing north of Darvel towards Loudoun Mains, Woodhead Farm before returning to Galston. **Part of the route will be over moorland so it is essential to wear proper footwear and clothing.**

### WALK 9 “The Grougar Circular” led by Isabel Miller and Lilian Aitken “NEW WALK”

**10.00am** Start and finish at Barr Castle Social Club, Galston (8mls/4hrs) Graded **EASY**

The Chris Hoy Cycle Path from Galston to Hurlford starts this easy walk. From Hurlford, a gentle stroll along the riverside meets the Grougar Road and the Ladyton Loch Nature Trail. Take the opportunity here to look out for the local bird life. Pass by Loudoun Kirk on the return trail to Galston.

### WALK 10 – “Loudoun Castle Walk” led by Ivor Clark

**11.00am** Start and finish in front of the Castle. (3mls/1½ hrs) Graded **MODERATE**

Enjoy a walk around one of Ayrshire’s oldest family estates passing Loudoun Castle ruins, Mine & Langley plantations, East Belvedere and Auld Place Strip, returning via the Hinderrybank plantation entrance to the family theme park.

### WALK 11 – “Lanfine House from Newmilns” led by John and Kath Sharp

**2.00pm** Start from Newmilns Senior Citizens Cabin. Graded **EASY** This leisurely 2 mile walk through Lanfine Estate leads to Lanfine

House, built by James Armour, father-in-law of Robert Burns. Enjoy a relaxing afternoon in the wonderful surroundings of the country estate and listen to some informal recitations of Burns’ works by Kilmarnock No 0 Club. The Sasse family will provide a barbecue and refreshments for sale and all funds will be donated to a local charity. Our thanks again to Mr and Mrs Sasse for allowing this walk to take place at Lanfine House.

### WALK 12 – “Highways and Byways” led by The Loudoun Runners “NEW WALK”

**10.00am** Start and finish at Darvel Church Hall (10mls/4½ hrs) Graded **MODERATE**

Trek through woodland, along riverside paths, country road and forest track – this walk will showcase the landscape around Darvel. There are several steep uphill stretches on this walk, starting with the “Bankers” heading towards the Bransfield woodland and riverside path. The Changue Road offers great views of the Whitelee Windfarm before heading towards Dyke woodland and the Bonnierton forestry plantation. Return via Parkerston Farm and Lanfine to Darvel.

### WALK 13 – “Cross the Border” led by Nathan & Morag Balls, Bill McGuffie and Anne Keohone

**10.30am** Start and finish at Darvel Church Hall (10mls/5 hrs) Graded **STRENUOUS**

Minibus will take walkers across the county border to Lanarkshire for walk over moorland, forest & farm track with opportunity to spot wildlife including hen harrier & deer. Route continues through Burnhead Farm and via the Long Cairn back into Darvel.

### WALK 14 – “Lanfine House from Darvel”

**2.00pm** Start from Darvel Church Hall led by Frank and Ruby Donnelly  
Details as for Walk 11.

## OTHER EVENTS DURING THE WEEKEND

**Galston Primary School is taking part in this year’s outdoor event with Howie Pitman, EA Countryside Ranger for Whitelee and the Irvine Valley**

### FRIDAY 7 MAY 2010 - SKI TASTER SESSION

**7-9 pm** Newmilns Snow & Sports Complex, High Street Newmilns. Free sessions available. Limited places, prior booking essential. Call 01560 322320. Info at [www.skinewmilns.co.uk](http://www.skinewmilns.co.uk)

### SUNDAY 9 MAY 2010 - EXTREME VALLEY RIDERS @ N.S.A.S.C.

**EVR Open Day with barbecue and various club events at the downhill track beside Newmilns dry ski slope. Contact [CAZZBA32@aol.com](mailto:CAZZBA32@aol.com) for info.**

### SUNDAY 9 MAY 2010 – THE FESTIVAL BIKE RIDE

**10.00 am** Meet at Newmilns Ski Slope for a 25 mile circular run. Surfaced road, forest/farm track and ½ mile off road. (route subject to availability). No need to book – any queries, phone Robert Pollock on 01560 321151. Please observe the following instructions. Ensure tyres are at correct pressure and brakes are working. Under 16s must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Wear suitable clothing and a helmet, bring a waterproof jacket and water and an energy bar/banana.

### GEOCACHING IN THE IRVINE VALLEY

**Geocaching is a high tech treasure hunt, using the internet and satellite co-ordinates to find hidden containers (caches) of various sizes in a wide range of locations. To find the location, you need a GPS device or a navigation system such as a TomTom. In the Irvine Valley, there are 45 caches hidden throughout the Irvine Valley Paths Network and in town locations. For more details log on to [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com) - happy searching!**

## WALKS AT A GLANCE!

### SATURDAY

Fenwick	10.00	Covenanters and Castles
Hurlford	10.00	Music Festival Walk
Galston	10.00	Threepwood to Gallowlaw Cairn
Galston	13.30	Cessnock Castle and Naturewalk
Newmilns	10.30	Bluebell Planting
Darvel	10.00	The Two Hills
Darvel	10.30	Sir Alexander Fleming Walk

### SUNDAY

Galston	9.00	The Big Power Walk
Galston	10.00	The Grougar Circular
Galston	11.00	Loudoun Castle Park
Newmilns	14.00	Lanfine
Darvel	10.00	Highways and Byways
Darvel	10.30	Cross the Border
Darvel	14.00	Lanfine

**IVRP would like to thank our sponsors – Scottish Power Renewables, Community Windfarms, East Ayrshire Council, Loudoun Valley Trust, The Co-op and McConnell Pharmacy. Thanks also to Cessnock Castle, Lanfine House, Loudoun Castle Theme Park and Newmilns Snow & Sports Complex for their continued support. A VERY BIG THANK YOU to all the individuals and community groups for their ongoing commitment to the Walking Festival.**



# 8th Irvine Valley Walking & Outdoor Festival

7th, 8th, 9th May 2010



**Enquiries to: 01560 322966**





## WELCOME TO THE IRVINE VALLEY

Welcome to the 8th Irvine Valley Walking & Outdoor Festival. More information is available in "Discovering the Irvine Valley"; on [www.ayrshirepaths.org.uk](http://www.ayrshirepaths.org.uk), [www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/ivrp](http://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/ivrp) and [www.picasaweb.google.com/valleywalkingfestival](http://www.picasaweb.google.com/valleywalkingfestival)

**Registration/start points** for most walks are:

- Fenwick Parish Church Hall, off Kirkton Rd, Fenwick KA3 6DJ
- Parish Church Hall, Ranoldcupp Road, Darvel KA17 0JU
- Newmilns Senior Citizens Cabin, Browns Road, nr Greenside Car Park KA16 9AS
- Barr Castle Social Club, Henrietta Street, Galston KA4 8HQ
- Hurlford Community Centre, Cessnock Rd, Hurlford KA1 5DD

**Tea/coffee** and toilet facilities are available in each of the halls ½ hr prior to the walk start time. There is a regular bus service every 15 mins on Saturday/hourly on Sundays.

**Walks** have been categorised according to difficulty. **Please choose carefully according to your ability/fitness level.** Wear stout walking boots for all walks and bring waterproof clothing and a snack/water. We do not charge for walks but donations will be welcomed to help cover costs. The organisers reserve the right to cancel/amend walks if necessary.

**Observe** the Country Code in respect of cattle, sheep and all wildlife and out of regard for local landowners. All walks are taken at your own risk – please check your own personal accident insurance and read carefully the safety notes issued to all walkers at registration.

**IN LINE WITH OTHER WALKING FESTIVALS, DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON THE FESTIVAL WALKS.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION contact:**

**May Anderson,**  
Irvine Valley Regeneration Partnership,  
The Town House 48-50 Main Street, Newmilns,  
KA16 9DE

Phone - 01560 322966  
Email - [ivrp@btconnect.com](mailto:ivrp@btconnect.com)

## FRIDAY 7th MAY 2010

### FUN NIGHT AT LOUDOUN CASTLE PARK

**Barr Castle, Galston** will be open for a visit from 5.30pm to 6.30pm.

**6.30pm Meet at Barr Castle and join in a walk to Loudoun Castle** Piper will start from the LC Car Park to the Castle Ruins for the official Opening of the Walking Festival. Children can take part in a Treasure Hunt and adults can enjoy a burger, snack and refreshment in the Castle Restaurant and listen to music from the piper. There's also the chance to visit Loudoun Castle Park's Wedding Exhibition Centre. EAC Rangers and Neil Gregory will be on hand to talk about the local bat and moth population.

### 8.15-8.45 pm Watch the spectacular "Walk the Plank Dive Show!"

There is no need to register for the Fun Night, just turn up! If you can't manage the Walk, park at Loudoun Castle Car Park and join in the fun anyway. All children taking part must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

**Special Offer: Loudoun Castle Park are offering each child under 12 yrs attending the Fun Night one free day ticket to the Park for the weekend of 15/16 May. Each child must be accompanied by a paying adult.**

### 9.00 pm TWILIGHT BAT AND MOTH WALK AT LOUDOUN CASTLE PARK

Join East Ayrshire Countryside Rangers and Neil Gregory at Loudoun Castle Park. Registration necessary phone 01563 522702 to confirm your place. Bring a torch and wear warm clothing.

## SATURDAY 8th MAY 2010

### WALK 1 – "Covenanters and Castles" led by Provost Stephanie Young, Rev Geoff Redmayne, Maggie Atkinson and Alex Craufurd "NEW WALK"

**10.00 am** Start and finish at Fenwick Parish Church Hall, off Kirkton Road (8½mils/4 hrs) Graded **MODERATE**

Fenwick's past links with the Covenanting era will be explained in a short tour around the Covenanters' headstones at Fenwick Parish Church. The Covenanters and Castles walk follows the country road towards Craufurdland Brig and detours over path and field, climbing a few stiles on the way, towards Bringham Ford and Dean Castle Park. At Dean Castle, walkers can take a break for a packed lunch or to view the fantastic 14C castle. The return journey will pass through the grounds of Craufurdland Castle and Fishery (courtesy of the Houison-Craufurds) and Alex Craufurd will be on hand to chat about the castle's history and current developments for the surrounding policies.



### WALK 2 – "Darvel Music Festival Walk" led by Sheila McKenna, Hugh Morton and Alex Milligan "NEW WALK"

**10.00am** Start Hurlford Community Centre/finish The Black Bull, Darvel (10mils/4 hrs) Graded **STRENUOUS** at a fast pace.

Follow the River Irvine to Loudoun Kirk then past Loudoun Castle and through the Bluebell Planting before heading uphill on country roads for panoramic views of the upper Irvine Valley. The walk ends at the Black Bull Lounge Bar with entertainment provided by the Darvel Music Company from 3pm till 5pm.

**DARVEL MUSIC FESTIVAL**  
Friday 7th THE BLUES BAND and guests  
Saturday 8th KASSIDY and support acts  
More info at [www.darvelmusicfestival.org](http://www.darvelmusicfestival.org)

### WALK 3 – "Threepwood to the Covenanters Cairn" led by Roy Mitchell, Brenda Lawson, Stevie Borland and Iain Allan "NEW WALK"

**10.00am** Start and finish at Barr Castle Social Club (10mils/4½hrs) Graded **STRENUOUS**. Good walking boots.

Start by walking through Cessnock and Burnhouse Brae Woods then continue uphill through the Burnawn Historical Trail at Threepwood to Target Wood. The Burnawn Trail has been recently improved with interpretation boards on local history and wildlife throughout. A short road walk meets the new Muirhead Woodland Trail to access the recently restored Gallowlaw Cairn, returning to Galston via Parkerston Plantation and the Strath.

### WALK 4 – "Cessnock Woods NatureWalk and visit to Cessnock Castle" led by Jeanette McClelland

**1.30pm** Start and finish at Barr Castle Social Club (3 mls/2 hrs) Graded **EASY/MODERATE**.

Learn some woodland folklore in Cessnock/Burnhouse Brae Woods with Fred Woodward before visiting Cessnock Castle Grounds, courtesy of Mr and Mrs Cogley. Two short steep slopes within the woodland.

### WALK 5 "The Bluebell Planting and Loudoun Kirk" led by Reid & Vera Houston and Janis Richmond

**10.30am** Start and finish at Newmilns Guide Hall (6½ mls/3hrs) Graded **MODERATE**

Start with the steep climb up 'Jacob's Ladder' (or up Borebrae), along country roads to Woodhead Farm and the Bluebell Planting Woodland, passing the remains of Arclowden Castle. Continue through Loudoun Castle to Loudoun Kirk where Friends of Loudoun Kirk will relate its fascinating history. Return to Newmilns via The Strath.

### WALK 6 – "The Two Hills - Cairnsaigh and Loudoun" led by Bobby Findlay, Billy Scade and Alan Morton

**10.00am** Start and finish at Darvel Church Hall (10mils/5hrs) Graded **STRENUOUS**

Walk along the Waterslip towards Priestland and the riverside Bransfield Trail. Follow uphill farm tracks past the Neolithic Long Cairn burial site to the Tulloch Burn bridge past Saughall to Burnhead and the top of Cairnsaigh (936ft). Descend to the A71 to reach the Spirit of Scotland sculpture before scrambling to Loudoun Hill summit (1034ft) and returning to Darvel along the old Railway Line.

### WALK 7 – "Sir Alexander Fleming Walk" led by Les Pittams and Maureen Ross "NEW WALK"

**10.30am** Start and finish at Darvel Church Hall (8mils/4hrs). Graded **MODERATE**

This walk is known locally as "The Five Miles" and is a fairly challenging road walk on the north side of Darvel. The walk commences up Manse Brae and passes by the Old Schoolhouse and Lochfield Farm, Fleming's childhood home. A visit to the Farm to view the recently regilded Memorial will be made, courtesy of Mr and Mrs Scott. This walk has been organised to coincide with the 80th anniversary of Fleming's discovery of penicillin.

**LOOK OUT FOR THE CHIP VAN ON SUNDAY**  
(Community Health Improvement Partnership)

