

WELCOME TO THE IRVINE VALLEY

Welcome to the 9th Irvine Valley Walking Festival. More information is available in "The Irvine Valley Trail" pack available from IVRP, on www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/ivrp or www.ayrshirepaths.org.

Registration/start points for most walks are either:

- Fenwick Parish Church Hall, off Kirkton Rd, Fenwick, KA3 6DJ
- Parish Church Hall, Ranoldcupp Road, Darvel, KA17 OJU
- Newmilns Senior Citizens Cabin, Browns Road, nr Greenside Car Park, KA16 9AS
- Barr Castle Social Club, Henrietta Street, Galston, KA4 8HQ

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 events if necessary.

LUNCH STOP means that we have included a 20/30 min. planned stop- however lunch is not provided- please bring your own packed lunch!

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

FRIDAY 13 MAY 2011

FRIDAY EVENING OPENING EVENT *NEW VENUE*

NEWMILNS SNOW & SPORTS COMPLEX (NSASC) High Street,
Newmilns, KA16 9EB

BBQ - Burgers & drinks will be on sale for Junior Ski Club funds.

6-8pm Children's Free Ski taster sessions Must be booked in advance by phoning 01560 322320. Further info at www.skinewmilns.co.uk

6-8pm Mountain Biking Skills Loop - Jamie Cooper & Carol Bowie of EVR offer coaching and timed runs. Just come along on your bike. More details from Jamie on 07792 921103

6.30pm Crinan Walk - Led by Sandra Morton & Isobel Miller "from the chemist". Meet at the Ski Slope gates for a circular 3ml/1¼hr walk on country roads, climbing up High Street towards Cronan and returning via Alstonpapple.

7.00pm Newmilns Town Walk - Join Ian Aird at the Town House, Main Street Newmilns on a short walk around Newmilns and find out about the town's historic past, finishing at the ski slope around 7.45pm.

8.00pm Junior Ski Club Demo
Come and see the talented young people.

8.30pm Twilight Bat Walk
Meet East Ayrshire Countryside Rangers at Newmilns Snow & Sports Complex for a Bat Walk along the Browns Road, Newmilns. Registration necessary - Phone 01560 322966 to confirm your place. Bring a torch and wear warm clothing.

SATURDAY 14 MAY 2011

WALK 1 – "Covenanters and Castles" led by Provost Stephanie Young, Rev Geoff Redmayne and Alex Craufurd
10.00 am Start and finish at Fenwick Parish Church Hall, off Kirkton Road (8½mils/4 hrs) Graded MODERATE. LUNCH STOP
Fenwick's past links with the Covenanting era will be explained in a short tour around the Covenanters' headstones at Fenwick Parish Church. The walk follows the country road to 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 Houson-Craufurds) and Simon Craufurd will be on hand to chat about the castle's history and current developments for the surrounding policies.



WALK 2 - "Ladyton Loch" led by East Ayrshire Countryside Rangers

10.30am Start and finish at Barr Castle Social Club (3½mils/2hrs)

Graded EASY

Join East Ayrshire Countryside Rangers for a leisurely nature walk around Ladyton Loch near Loudoun Kirk in Galston. Take this opportunity to learn about the birds and wildlife that are regularly spotted in this area.

WALK 3 – "Historical Walk through Burnhouse Brae and Cessnock Woods" led by Jeanette McClelland and John Connell

1.00pm Start at Barr Castle Social Club (3 mls/2 hrs) Graded EASY/MODERATE.

Find out about the rich mining & covenanting history associated with the area from local history enthusiast, John Connell, on this excellent woodland walk, ending with a visit to Cessnock Castle Grounds, courtesy of Mr and Mrs Cogley. There are a couple of short steep slopes within the woodland.

WALK 4 - "Allseasons"

1.00pm - Meet at Allseasons at the Meadows, Galston, KA4 8LB. (1hr walk) Graded EASY Bring along your binoculars to get the best out of your visit to view the birds and wildlife at the lochan. There will also be the opportunity to hear about the current progress on this development.

WALK 5 - "Sorn to Darvel" led by Billy Scade, Stevie Borland and Morag Balls "NEW WALK"

9.00am Start and finish from Darvel Church Hall (12mils/5hrs) Graded STRENUOUS Route is over moorland with no defined paths. Proper footwear, clothing & gaiters are essential. LUNCH STOP

Walkers will be bussed from Darvel to Sorn, then climbing up Backsidend and following the ridge past MidRig & the crashed plane site to Distinkhorn, returning to Darvel. Spaces strictly limited. E-mail ivrp@btconnect.com to secure a place.

WALK 6 – "Darvel Music Festival Walk- Kay Park to Darvel" led by Sheila McKenna & Hugh Morton "NEW WALK"

10.30am Start Darvel Church Hall or 11.00am at Burns Monument Centre, KA3 7RU. Finish at the Black Bull, Darvel (15mils/5hrs) Graded STRENUOUS AT A FAST PACE- an ideal training walk for MoonWalkers!

Walkers will be bussed from Darvel to Kilmarnock then meet in the Burns Monument Centre courtyard. The route, through Kay Park & Kilmarnock Cemetery, passes Templetonburn, Ladyton Loch, and Loudoun Kirk, then stops for a short lunch break at Alton. John McGill, local historian, was born in the old hamlet of Alton which housed Loudoun Castle staff before the great fire. John will give a brief history of life 70 years ago while walkers enjoy a bite of lunch. The walk will continue uphill with panoramic views over the Irvine Valley before dropping down into Darvel. The walk ends with a well deserved rest in the Black Bull Lounge Bar with music from Alex McAllister & David Paterson of Darvel Music Company.

10th Anniversary DARVEL MUSIC FESTIVAL

Fri 13 May - The Coal Porters Sat 14 May - Justin Currie

Info on other gigs throughout May at:

www.DarvelMusicFestival.org

WALK 7 – "Dyke Walk" by Elaine Hamilton, Alison Houston and Beth McGuffie

2.00pm Start and finish at Darvel Church Hall(5mils/2hrs) Graded MODERATE

This popular walk climbs through farm & woodland and offers panoramic views to Loudoun Hill & Arran - a welcome return to the WalkFest programme.

OTHER EVENTS DURING THE WEEKEND

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

SUNDAY 15 MAY 2011 – THE FESTIVAL BIKE RIDE

10.00am Meet at Newmilns Snow & Sports Complex 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.

SUNDAY 15 MAY 2011

WALK 8 – “Threepwood to the Covenanters Cairn” led by Brenda Lawson, Lillian Aitken, Isabel Miller and Bill Murray.
10.00am Start and finish at Barr Castle Social Club (10mils/4½hrs)
 Graded **STRENUOUS**. **Good walking boots needed for moorland terrain.** **LUNCH STOP**

The walk takes in the Cessnock and Burnhouse Brae Woods, Burnawn Historical Trail at Threepwood (the Burnawn Trail Interpretation Boards on local history and wildlife are an added bonus), the Muirhead Woodland Trail and the Gallowlaw Cairn.

WALK 9 – “The Big Power Walk” led by Howie Pitman (EA Countryside Ranger for Whitelee) and Derek Shannan (Forestry Commission Community Ranger for Whitelee), Les Pittams and Alex Milligan

8.30 – 9.00am Start and finish at Newmilns Senior Citizens Cabin (15mils/5hrs) Graded **STRENUOUS**. **Part of the route will be over moorland so it is essential to wear proper footwear and clothing** **LUNCH STOP**

Walkers will be bussed from Newmilns 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 to return to Newmilns. Walkers from Eaglesham, Glasgow or beyond can meet at the Whitelee Visitor Centre for 10.00 am and be bussed back there from Newmilns to collect cars at the end of the walk. Just let us know when registering on the day.

WALK 10 – “Lady Flora Walk” led by Vera and Reid Houston and Maureen Ross

10.30am Start and finish from Newmilns Senior Citizens Cabin (7½mils/3½hrs) Graded **EASY**. **LUNCH STOP**
 Walk along the riverside Strath path from Newmilns to Galston leading to Loudoun Kirk where John Alexander from Friends of Loudoun Kirk will share its fascinating history. Return following the grassy footpath towards the A71 and continue along country roads past Piersland Farm on the return to Newmilns.



WALK 11 – “Lanfine House from Newmilns” led by Cllr Alan Brown and Brian Keown from Lanfine Estate.

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.

Loudoun Academy Band will be an added attraction this year. The Sasse family will provide a barbecue and refreshments for sale and all funds will be donated to a local charity. Thanks again to Mr and Mrs Sasse for their hospitality.

WALK 12 – “Cross the Border” led by Nathan and Morag Balls, Anne Keohone and Bobby Findlay

10.30am Start and finish at Darvel Church Hall (10mils/5 hrs) Graded **STRENUOUS**. **LUNCH STOP**
 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 13 – “Sir Alexander Fleming Walk” led by The Loudoun Runners

11.00am Start and finish at Darvel Church Hall (8mils/4hrs). Graded **MODERATE**. **LUNCH STOP**
 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. Mr and Mrs Scott will again welcome walkers to the Farm and provide a wealth of information about Darvel’s most famous son.

WALK 14 – “Lanfine House from Darvel”

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

WALKS AT A GLANCE

SATURDAY

Darvel	9.00	Sorn to Darvel
Fenwick	10.00	Covenanters and Castles
Darvel	10.30	Music Festival Walk
Galston	10.30	Ladyton Loch
Galston	13.00	Burnhouse & Cessnock
Galston	13.00	Allseasons
Darvel	14.00	Dyke Walk

SUNDAY

Newmilns	8.30/9.00	The Big Power Walk
Galston	10.00	Threepwood to Gallowlaw Cairn
Newmilns	10.30	Lady Flora Walk
Darvel	10.30	X the Border
Darvel	11.00	Sir Alexander Fleming Walk
Newmilns	14.00	Lanfine
Darvel	14.00	Lanfine



IVRP would like to thank our sponsors – **Scottish Power Renewables, Community Windfarms, Loudoun Valley Trust, East Ayrshire Council, The Co-op and McConnell Pharmacy**. Thanks also to **Cessnock Castle, Lanfine House, 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.



9th Irvine Valley Walking Festival 13th, 14th, 15th May 2011



Enquiries to: 01560 322966

Email: ivrp@btconnect.com

