

Newsletter September 2024



Welcome to Autumn!

As always we will be providing an update on our projects in the newsletter and sharing info/news.

New Member of the Team

We have a new addition to our team, Matthew Robinson has joined us as a Youth Work Coordinator. We received two year funding to further develop youth work and intergenerational work from the Young Start Fund. You can read more about that [here](#).

Local Place Plan

It has taken a while but the Local Place Plan has now been approved by committee at D&G Council. It is a great document that can help support funding applications, new projects, grassroots organisations and anyone looking for evidence of a need in our town. Full of statistics and documents that are relevant for the town. It is a working document so can be updated at any time and will feed into the Local Development Plan that D&G Council create. You can find it [here](#)

Changing Places Toilet

Work on the toilet is now complete-hurray! It has been another long project which has taken a lot of funding and time. More details on how to access and what exactly it is coming soon.

Happy Daze

Happy Daze has continued to provide reminiscence sessions offering music, a slide show of photos, both local and national, and of course a quiz, to local residential care homes. All were very well received.

Monthly sessions in Vibe 75 will recommence from Sept 26th, full details to follow.

Grapes Hotel

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete a survey or attend a drop in session for the feasibility studies they are now complete and can be found [here](#). We have put in an application to the Scottish Land Fund stage two to purchase the Grapes. The outcome is expected in November 2024. Until then it may appear as if nothing is happening, but it is. We are working behind the scenes to secure as much funding as possible to continue with the redevelopment of the Grapes.

Vibe 75

We will be holding a table top sale in Vibe 75 on 14th September between 10-2pm with coffees and teas available, pop along, grab a cuppa and a bargain.

Vibe 75 is available to hire for any local groups and organisations. Please email info@newtonstewartinitiative.net for more information.

Events

We received funding to create another events flyer so today is your last chance to let us know about any events you are running from middle of October- March 2025. The flyer will be sent to every household in the DG8 postcode. Drop us an email infor@newtonstewartinitiative.net if interested.

Here to Help Fayre

Our Here to Help Fayre is nearly fully booked! This fayre is a chance for a variety of organisations to come together who are of service to residents in town, whether support for health issues, loneliness, befriending. There will also be refreshments on offer provided by A Listening Ear so pop along to Vibe 75 on Monday 28th October between 10-2 for a cuppa and find out which services are out there.

Winter Fayre

It is that time of year again where we are taking bookings for our annual Winter Fayre. A chance for stallholders to sell their wares they have made over the year and to pick up some handmade Christmas items. 16th November 10=4pm at McMillan Hall

Community Shop

Our community shop on Dashwood Square is full of bargains, be it books, clothes, kitchen items or crafts. Every Friday there is a freebie table outside that you can help yourself and we also do free school uniforms. We are always looking for volunteers to help out so drop us an email info@newtonstewartinitiative.net

Youthwork



Our youthwork team were busy last month with a family fun day and a trip to Braehead. We took 39 young people, who took part in trampolining, laser quest, dodgem cars, arcade games and then enjoyed a meal at Frankie and Benny's before we set off to come home! Our youthwork side has grown considerably since last year. Working closely in partnership with Youthwork DG we are building the offerings. This month we received funding from Young Start, part of the National Lottery Group, which has allowed us to employ a part time youthwork coordinator and continue the work we do for young people for the next two years. With weekly drop in events and a darts club, keep an eye on the Facebook page for up to date activities and information.

Cycling in Newton Stewart

For anyone interested in learning to ride a bike, gaining confidence, Annick runs classes occasionally in Newton Stewart on a Friday. You can read her newsletter [here](#)

That's it for this month, if you have any feedback, comments or questions feel free to drop us an email