

# GATEHOUSE of FLEET GALA

30 July — 6 August 2023



**EIGHT DAYS of ACTIVITIES  
& FUN-FILLED EVENTS**

**PROGRAMME** — includes free entry  
to prize draw. See back cover.





MESSAGE from GALA CHAIRMAN, Sara-leigh Cain



I am delighted, on behalf of our Gala committee, to welcome you all to Gatehouse-of-Fleet Gala 2023.

We are all excited to once again bring an extensive programme of events for you to enjoy throughout the week. Gatehouse gala is something we are all extremely proud to be part of. Now running for over 70 years, it really is a highlight of the Gatehouse calendar. It is always fantastic to see so many locals and visitors come out to support and enjoy the various events on offer. This year we have some extra events for children on gala day itself and a super addition to

our gala parade.

It would be impossible to provide such an extensive programme of events without the commitment, hard work and dedication of my committee and so I would like to express my sincere thanks to each and every one of them. There is so much preparation that goes into the gala and their continued support throughout the year is what ensures the continuance of our gala.

Of course, the success of our gala every year is also due to you, the wider community, sponsors, tourists and residents alike. Each year, so many of you turn out, offering your time, financial support and expertise to ensure each gala is as memorable as the one before it.

I hope you all have an amazing gala week filled with fun, laughter and of course good weather, and I very much look forward to seeing you at some point over the course of the eight days!

Sara-leigh Cain, Chairperson.

*We remind everyone to please keep checking the Gala website [www.gatehousegala.co.uk](http://www.gatehousegala.co.uk) and/or our Facebook page before and during the week for up-to-date details and information. Some facilities and services included in the programme may be subject to last-minute change or may not even be available at all due to circumstances beyond our control. For any such situations, we can only apologise.*

*Raffle prize-winner results will also be posted on the website at the earliest opportunity after the Grand Raffle is drawn on Gala Day afternoon.*

Our GALA QUEEN (Miss Gatehouse)  
and her entourage 2023



Our Queen for 2023/24 is **Cara Knox**,  
her Consort is **Ronan Veitch-Tait**, her Page is **Parker Chisholm**  
and her Attendant is **Charlotte Hannah**.

... and last year's Office Bearers ...



For 2022/23 (left), our Gala Queen was **Isabella Du Rose Nelson** and is seen here with her Consort, **Ramsay Wilson**, her Attendant, **Rowan Dodds** and her Page, **Liam McKie**.





We'd like to thank you, the people of Gatehouse of Fleet for making The Gralloch bike race such a success. We've received many messages from riders saying how much they enjoyed the warm welcome they received in your beautiful town, and we echo those sentiments. We'll be back at the end of the summer for Raiders Gravel, see you then!

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

## SUNDAY 30th JULY

SUNDAY 1

- 1 pm: 'Table top' sales and refreshments are available in one of the marquees in Garries park for the duration of the afternoon.
- 1.50pm: The **Gala Queen Parade** starts at the Murray Arms Hotel in Ann Street (at the clock tower), and you're most welcome to join the queen and her entourage on their walk to **Garries Park**. This year's Queen is Cara Knox and she is supported by her Consort, Ronan Veitch-Tait, Attendant Charlotte Hannah and Page Parker Chisholm. Our Piper will lead the procession.
- 2 pm: **Official opening of Gala 2023**, plus Crowning of the Gala Queen. For your convenience, you should bring your own table and chairs to the park for the afternoon (but tables may still be available to hire. Contact 07857 361995 for details and bookings).
- From 2 pm: **Afternoon of entertainment in Garries Park.**
- 3-5pm: '**Jesse Garron** entertains' – a real rebel-rousing rock and roller! - back by popular demand!
- 6pm: Ecumenical **Songs of Praise** with Creetown Silver Band in the Garden adjacent to the Episcopal Church / Ship Inn. *If the weather is wet, we will be in the Community Centre across the road.*
- 7pm: '**Scottish Night**': an evening of **traditional Scottish entertainment** with songs, dances and poems in the Faed Gallery at the Mill on the Fleet. Entry £5, payable at the door (cash only for this event please).





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## MONDAY 31st JULY

MONDAY

9.45am for 10.00am start:

**Junior tennis singles** (16 and under) at the tennis court next to the golf course. Entrants must be able to serve. Entry £1.

10.30am: **Historical Walk** round Gatehouse with Ms Margaret Wright. Meet at the bench (seat) by the bridge over the River Fleet. If wet, please meet at the main entrance to the Mill on the Fleet, opposite the big wheel.

1.30-3.30pm:  
**Family cycle ride and (bring your own) picnic** to Sandgreen. Meet at Wheels of Fleet for pre-ride cycle check at 1.00pm.

12noon-4pm:  
**Open Garden Afternoon** at 16 High Street in aid of Gala funds, courtesy of Mary Clear. A musical afternoon with plants and jams for sale.

5pm for 5.30pm start:  
**Adults' doubles tennis tournament** at the tennis court adjacent to the golf course. Draw for partners at 5.15pm. 5.30pm start. Entry £2.

7pm:  
**Kirsty's Car treasure hunt** for the 'Bobby Caig Trophy' This starts at the Community Centre Car Park in Dromore Road. £5 entry per car. Refreshments will be available at this event, provided by the volunteers of Macmillan Cancer Research.





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**Gala week opening hours (Sun 30th Jul to Sun 6th Aug):**  
Mon to Sat: 07.00-18.00 Sun: 08.00-17.00

Post office and banking service available when shop is open.



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## Some Gala venues in Gatehouse of Fleet 2023

Our Gala is one of the highlights of our community's year. It is an opportunity for both locals and visitors to participate in a variety of events and activities and to enjoy the lovely surroundings with which we are blessed.

We particularly hope that the Gala is an opportunity in which visitors can feel welcome and, in particular, welcome to participate.

For those not familiar with the local area, the following descriptions of key venues and locations may help:

**Garries Park** is located behind the houses on the south side of the High Street (the car park side). There are three entrances to the park from the High Street; through the main car park, via the top of Ann Street, turning sharp right at the bowling green; or through the arch mid-way up the High Street (directly opposite Digby Street).

The **Community Centre** is located in Dromore Road, about 150 metres beyond (north from) the Ship Inn;

The **tennis court** is about 200 metres along the (Laurieston) road north from the war memorial;

Entrance to the **golf course** is adjacent to the tennis court, as above;

The **Cally Gardens** are located approximately a half-mile down Cally Drive which is itself entered through the stone driveway entrance posts to the east of the town (beyond the war memorial). Turn first right as you climb the hill out of the town and enter the long, straight Drive.

The **Mill on the Fleet**, as the name suggests, is adjacent to the river, between it and (behind) the High Street. Access to the Mill is clearly displayed directly opposite the main car park entrance.

**Wheels of Fleet** is located directly opposite the entrance to the Mill on the Fleet building.





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TUESDAY

### TUESDAY 1st AUGUST

- 10.30am: **Historical Walk** round Gatehouse with Margaret Wright (see yesterday for details).
- 12.30pm: **Family Picnic** in Garries Park – children's **entertainment** with **Road Runner** 1.00 – 3.00pm. **Bring your own picnic** – but sorry, NO unaccompanied children please.
- 3pm: **Afternoon Tea and musical entertainment** at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Dromore Road.
- 6.30pm: **Children's Fun Run** Starting at the Community Centre, the route is up the High street **to the War Memorial** and back. Two entry groups  
 a): Primary School-age pupils, and  
 b): Secondary School **up to 16th birthday**.  
 Entry is FREE and it's for FUN only! Every runner receives a medal.
- 7pm: **'ROON THE WATTER' FUN RUN**. A 6-mile **FUN RUN**, starting and finishing at the Community centre. Entry is FREE (although donations—£5 suggested—to defray expenses will be much appreciated). The run will again have no registration, no numbers, and no recorded times.  
 All runners will receive a medal. 1<sup>st</sup> male & 1<sup>st</sup> female will also receive a trophy.
- 9.30pm: **Quiz Night** in the Masonic Arms in Ann Street. Come along and flex your general knowledge to win a super cash prize!

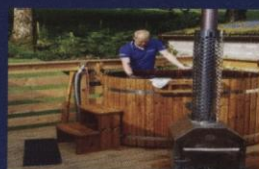


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## WEDNESDAY 2nd AUGUST

10.30am: **Historical Walk** round Gatehouse with Margaret Wright (see Monday for details).

2pm (Tee-off)

**'Fox and Rabbit' fun Golf** at the course on Laurieston Road (adjacent to the tennis court). Tel 01557 814566 for details. Entrants need to be in pairs, one a 'novice' player (the 'rabbit'), and the other, more experienced player, the 'fox', gives 'chase' round the course.

6pm **Arron and his team** will have delicious burgers and hot dogs available at the **Gala Barbecue** in the open marquee in **Garries Park** all evening.

6pm: **Children's pet show** registration in **Garries Park**. Let's see all those pets! There are 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes for each class. Age groups of animals.

6.30pm: The **Amazing Talent Show** in **Garries Park**. Come along and show what you can do!

8pm: **Pre-Torchlight Entertainment** in **Garries Park** with the **Kay Alexander Highland Dancers** and **Kirkcudbright Pipe band**.



9.45pm: **Grand Torchlight Procession** from Community Centre in Dromore Road via High Street to **Garries Park** (torches for sale during week in participating shops, price £3.50 or 3 for £10). The procession includes two pipe bands. **Please take great care when holding a lit torch.**

10.15pm: We know you will enjoy our **Spectacular Fireworks Display** and **bonfire** in the park.



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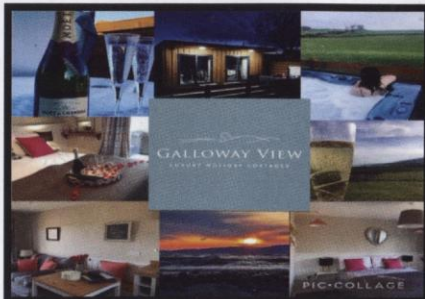
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Gatehouse of Fleet YMCA is committed to creating opportunities for the emotional, physical, spiritual and social development of local young people of all faiths, and of none.

Welcoming from 51 up to 25 years of age the Drop-In has a wide diverse programme every Monday, Wednesday, and the occasional excursion at the weekends.

We get involved with Cycling, Tennis, Walking, Games, Camping, Movies, Football, Cooking, Eating, Volunteering for Saltire Awards, Mural Paintings, Mountain Biking, BBQs, and chilling out with friends.



## THURSDAY 3rd AUGUST

THURSDAY

10.30am: **Historical Walk** round Gatehouse with Margaret Wright. See Monday's entry for details.

11am-2pm: **Community Centre Open Day:** Dromore Road/Garden Street. This event is organised by the Community Centre Management Committee. Lots of Children's Activities, stalls, plant sales and much more!

2pm: **Magical Woodland Walk with Susi Sweet Pea Fairy storyteller.** Come along for a wee enchanted adventure into the woods and listen to Susi Sweet Pea Fairy Storyteller! Meet at the entrance to Garries Park at the Car Park. Bring a blanket to sit on! All welcome!

2pm: **"Sense of Place" Workshop** in St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Dromore Road. This is run by Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere.

6pm: **Guided hill walk** for approx. 2.5 hours. See posters for information. Meet at town car park at 5.45pm. Hill-walking attire essential. (Donations to gala funds will be very welcome). **Suitable footwear essential.**

6pm: **5-a-side football** for anyone **16 years and under** (i.e. up to 17th birthday) in Garries Park. Teams register 6.00pm. **Kick-off: 6.30pm.**

7pm: **Prize Bingo** with Dave and James in the Community Centre (Eyes down: 7.30pm)

9.30pm: **Local musicians in session** in the Masonic Arms in Ann Street.





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## FRIDAY 4th AUGUST

10am-4pm:

**Open Day at Cally Gardens** by courtesy once again of Kevin Hughes. Entrance fee in aid of gala funds. Entrance down the Cally Drive—just follow the signs.

10.30am: **Historical Walk** round Gatehouse with Margaret Wright. Check Monday's listing for details.

6pm: Allison's **Walking treasure hunt** starting from the Community Centre Car Park: 50p per person.

6pm: **Walk to Cally Woods Motte & Bathhouse** with Dave McNicol. Meet at the central car park.



FRIDAY

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SATURDAY 5th AUGUST

GALA DAY

SATURDAY

10am: Open pairs Bowling Competition, Bowling Green, Ann Street. Non-members welcome.

12.30pm: **Assembly and judging** by a visiting holidaymaker of decorated floats and cars (Classes 1 and 2 assemble on Dromore Road, and all entries in Classes 3-6 in the adjacent school car park). ALL vehicle Floats receive £50 for entry.  
Class 1: Decorated Floats (adults);  
Class 2: Decorated Floats (children);  
Class 3: Adults' Fancy Dress (walking);  
Class 4: Children's Fancy Dress (walking);  
Class 5: Decorated bicycles and prams (adults), and  
Class 6: Decorated bicycles and prams (children).

1.15pm: The **Grand Gala Parade** moves off towards Garries Park via Garden Street, High Street and Ann Street—lead by the Gala Queen and her entourage. The parade includes a variety of vehicles, entertainers and general participants.



2pm: **Afternoon of entertainment** in Garries Park, starting off with the Parade Competition Results, and during the afternoon, entertainment from the 'Lutras', Circus workshops, bike agility with the Galloway Hillbillies, stalls, side-shows, refreshments, games and of course, the legendary Tug of War! (as always, get your teams organised beforehand—cash prizes to be won!). Licensed bar promoted by Sulwath Brewery—and much more!

4pm: The **Grand Raffle Prize Draw** in the park (*list of all prize-winners will be posted subsequently on the gala website—[www.gatehousegala.co.uk](http://www.gatehousegala.co.uk) later in the evening*).

9pm: Music at the Bank of Fleet Hotel. Free admission. Finishes at midnight.





Everyone at Gatehouse Community Church and TGB Gatehouse wishes you a great and successful Gala Week. You can find out lots more about us on our websites:  
[gatehousecommunitychurch.co.uk](http://gatehousecommunitychurch.co.uk) and [tgbgatehouse.com](http://tgbgatehouse.com).  
 We are also on Facebook. Why not pay a visit to TGB's 'Wee Shop' at No.1 High Street during Gala Week and visit our stand in Garries Park on Gala Day.



With thanks to the Gala Committee for all their hard work.

## David Proudlock JOINER

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**Mr & Mrs Jolly (Matthew &  
 Lesley) and all the staff at  
 Jollys Funfair would like to  
 wish all residents and visitors  
 to Gatehouse a very happy  
 Gala 2023.**

**Jollys Funfair will be open  
 daily at Garries Park for  
 Gala Week 10am – 6pm**

## SUNDAY 6th AUGUST

SUNDAY 2

**12 noon: Cross-County Ride-out** for Riding of the Marches (experienced riders only). Assemble at Garries Park. Phone 07721 646517 for information.

From 12 noon:

**Duck Race & afternoon of musical entertainment** in the Gardens opposite the Ship Inn. See website, Facebook and local posters for more information

**5.45pm: Riding of the Marches Evening ride-out.**

Assemble at the Clock Tower.

The Provost hands the Town Banner to the Riders who then take it on a tour of the town boundaries. A flag-waving ceremony takes place in Ann Street to mark the Banner's safe return at the end of the tour.

Phone 07721 646517 for further information.

Food is available in Ann Street at this event.

### ALL-WEEK ACTIVITIES

- **Hidden Object Competition: Entry forms from Gatehouse Store.**
- **Children's Colouring Competition for ages 5-12years – collect entry picture from Gatehouse Store.**
- **Gatehouse Bowling Club, Ann Street. Bowling on Monday, Wednesday & Saturday at 6.30pm. All welcome. Come and Have a go!**
- **Grand Prize Draw Raffle (fantastic prizes, the best yet for Gala week) tickets £1 each for sale in participating shops -and look out for the 'pop-up' sales table outside Spar.**

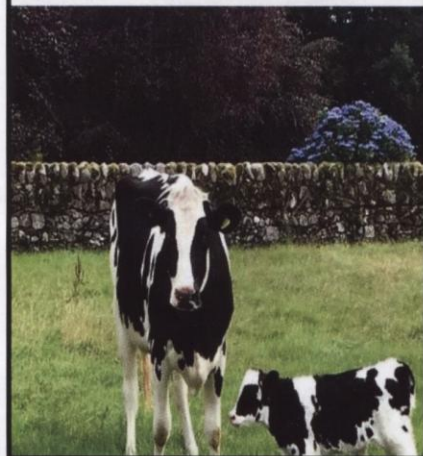




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The team at Gatehouse Community Centre are pleased to support the Gala which always brings pleasure to locals and visitors alike.

Once again we're part of the Gala Week programme  
so please join us on

**Thursday 3 August from 11 am to 2 pm**  
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