

GATEHOUSE of FLEET GALA

28 July — 4 August 2024



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

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

£1

Our GALA KING and QUEEN and their entourage 2024



Our King and Queen for 2024/25 are **Martin Swan and Olivia Dickie**.
Their Page is **Alexander Redden**
and Attendant is **Lexa Baty**.

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



For 2023/24 (left), our Gala Queen was **Cara Knox**, and is seen here with her Consort, **Ronan Veitch-Tait**, her Attendant, **Charlotte Hannah** and her Page, **Parker Chisholm**.

MESSAGE from GALA CHAIRPERSON, Sara-leigh Cain



On behalf of our Gala committee, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Gatehouse of Fleet Gala 2024.

With a full packed programme of events, I am sure you will greatly enjoy all that gala has to offer.

We are very fortunate, as a small community, to be able to continue with the week-long gala which has been running for over 70 years.

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.

The gala is something of which we are all very proud to be part. It's always fantastic to see so many locals and visitors come out to support and enjoy the various events throughout the week.

Of course, the success of our gala every year is also due to you, the wider community, sponsors, those who donate items for events, 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 the most 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 **Facebook** page and/or website **www.gatehousegala.co.uk** 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.

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SUNDAY 28th 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 **Royal Parade** starts at the Murray Arms Hotel in Ann Street (at the clock tower), and you're most welcome to join the King and Queen on their walk to **Garries Park**. This year's King is Martin Swan and the Queen is Olivia Dickie. They are attended by Page Alexander Redden and Attendant Lexa Baty. Our Piper will lead the procession.
- 2 pm: **Official opening of Gala 2024, plus Crowning of the Gala King and 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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Road Closures:

During the course of Gala Week, we are able—having received permission from both D&G Council and the police to do so— to close sections of the town's public roads to all vehicles, in order that we may hold specific gala events and, obviously, to ensure public safety.

We ask you to please note and respect these closures and make alternative arrangements if you would normally need access by car during these times. We have kept such closures to a minimum, and we ask for your support with this.

Roads will be **closed to vehicle access** on these dates and times:

Sunday 28th July: 13:45 to 14:15: Crowning of Gala Queen Parade route: Ann Street (full length).

Tuesday 30th July: 18:30 – 21:00 Fun Run route: Garden Street, B796, U13s, U24s, C13s, Laurieston Road, High Street, Garden Street.

Wednesday 31st July: 21:30 to 22:15 Torchlight Procession route: Garden Street, B796, High Street, Ann Street.

Saturday 3rd August: 12:15 to 13:30: Gala Day Parade route: Garden Street, B796, High Street, Ann Street.

Sunday 4th August: 17:45 to 19:30: Riding of the Marches: Start at Town Clock via Church Street, Catherine Street, Victoria Street, High Street, Ann Street, private lane, Cally Avenue to Cally Palace Hotel. Return via Cally Avenue, private lane, Ann Street, High Street, Fleet Street, Garden Street, Riverbank, Fleetside, Old Military Road, High Street, Church Street, Castramont Road, Cape Road, Laurieston Road, High Street, finish at Town Clock.

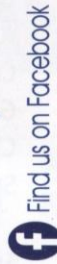
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MONDAY 29th JULY

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 Williamson & Henry 'chalet' in the main car park. If wet, please meet at the main entrance to the Mill on the Fleet, **opposite the big wheel**. The walk lasts just over one hour.

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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Some Gala venues in Gatehouse of Fleet 2024

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.

The small circular **Car Park Shelter**, as its name suggests, is located in the main car park close to Spar and adjacent to the pavement.

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

TUESDAY 30th JULY

- 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 Concert** at St Mary's Episcopal Church in Dromore Road. All welcome.
- 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. 1st male & 1st 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!

Torchlight Safety

It goes without saying that we hope our gala week as a whole is an enjoyable—and safe—time for all concerned. That particularly applies to the use of the torches during the procession from the Community Centre in Dromore Road, along the High Street and then Ann Street and into Garries Park on **Wednesday evening, 31st July**.

Burning torches can be dangerous and so we ask you to please observe the following in the interests of safety:

- It is not advisable to bring pets (both the torches and the subsequent firework display will cause them considerable distress),
- Please wait at the starting point for your torch to be lit by one of the 'designated torch lighters' (i.e. please do not light each other's torch as accidents can easily happen particularly in such a crowded space),
- Please do NOT join the parade at any point other than the start,
- When in the parade, do not hold your torch near anyone else, even in fun,
- Do not point your torch to the ground, because if you do, the flame will rise up the torch body and there is a risk of serious-burns to your hand (and the torch will have a shorter life),
- Supervise children at all times,
- If there is any danger of fire risk at any time during the parade, large water buckets are located at regular intervals along the route and must be used if needed to extinguish your torch, and
- At the end of the parade in Garries park, please dispose of your torch on the bonfire as soon as you reach it.

Please take great care—AT ALL TIMES—and enjoy your evening!

Thank you.

All the team at Gatehouse Community Centre are pleased to support the Gala which always brings pleasure to visitors and local people alike.

It's a great opportunity to showcase the town and all the attractions it has to offer.

Throughout the year we at the Community Centre work hard to try and provide facilities for the whole community and to support the activities of the many groups in the town and the wider area.

Keep an eye on events and activities on our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/groups/370041393587994/



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WEDNESDAY

WEDNESDAY 31st JULY

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

10.30-12noon:

Mini-Forage in and around **St Mary's Church**, Dromore Road. Tamara, founder of Plant Listening, is a researcher of traditional foraging and tracking techniques. Join us for a brief introduction as to how these ancient skills can nourish mind, body and soul in the gardens at St Mary's. Refreshments provided. To register for a place, please contact: dianaproudlove@hotmail.com

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.

6.30pm: **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.

7pm: **'Pet Agility Trials'** event – open to children / youngsters

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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THURSDAY 1st AUGUST

THURSDAY

10.30am:

Historical Walk round Gatehouse with Margaret Wright. See Monday's entry for details.

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.

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:

Musical Concert in the Mill. Featured in BBC Music Magazine's "Rising Star" column, **Aileen Sweeney** is a multi-award winning composer, arranger, accordionist and podcaster from Glasgow, who studied at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Her music is rooted in the traditional folk music she grew up with playing the accordion and is often influenced by her interests in fields, in cosmology, nature and folklore alongside an admiration for many different genres of music. Aileen, will be joined by her sister, Fiona and husband, Ben for the concert and Aileen will talk about her compositions. The concert will extend into an open session with all invited to join in.

Free for under 25 year olds and carers providing support. Other tickets £10 on the door.

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.**

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

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FRIDAY 2nd AUGUST

FRIDAY

9am: **Cally Palace Gala Golf Competition**
Entry £30 per person, Runs throughout the day.
Prizes for best score front 9 and back 9 and best dressed.
Prizes include 4 golf ball vouchers, afternoon tea vouchers and overnight stay vouchers.

10am-4pm: **Open Day at Cally Biodiversity Gardens** by courtesy once again of Kevin Hughes. Entrance fee in aid of gala funds. Entrance down the Cally Drive—just follow the signs. Tea, coffee and cakes will be available for donations.

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.

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Gatehouse Community Church are proud sponsors of this year's Fun Run and hope all participants have a great time. Every blessing to everyone for a wonderful Gala Week. Special thanks to the Gala Committee for all they do.

We'd love to welcome you to our services any Sunday morning at 10:30 in the Community Centre.

For more information, visit our website at

www.gatehousecommunitychurch.co.uk



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Gala 2023.

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daily at Garries Park for
Gala Week 10am – 6pm

SATURDAY 3rd 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 in Classes 1 and 2 receive £50 towards costs.
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).
Class 7: Decorated Horses and riders.

1.15pm: The **Grand Gala Parade** moves off towards Garries Park via Garden Street, High Street and Ann Street—lead by the Gala King and Queen and their 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 a variety of performers, a bike agility course with the Galloway Hillbillies and Wheels of Fleet, 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—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 later in the evening).

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

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SUNDAY 4th 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 1pm: **Duck Race & afternoon of musical entertainment** in the Gardens opposite the Ship Inn. See website, Facebook and local posters for more information. *Please note that we have no control over tides so unfortunately we cannot give a specific race time.*

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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