

# GATEHOUSE of FLEET GALA

27TH JULY—3RD AUGUST 2025



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

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





## Our GALA KING and QUEEN and their entourage 2025



Our King and Queen for 2025/26 are

**Max Dickie and Iona Swan**

their Page is Tommi Chisholm  
and Attendant is Charlotte McWhir

## Gatehouse Of Fleet Riding of the Marches Principles



Fleet Lass 2025  
**CLAIRE MCNAY**



Fleet Lad 2025  
**GORDON NICOL**



Standard Bearer 2025  
**SARAH CABLE**

## 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 2025.

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](http://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 27th 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. In aid of Macmillan cancer support.
- 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 Max Dickie and the Queen is Iona Swan. They are attended by Page Tommi Chisholm and Attendant Charlotte McWhir. Our Piper will lead the procession.
- 2 pm: **Official opening of Gala 2025, 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 27th July: 13:45 to 14:15:** Crowning of Gala Queen Parade route: Ann Street (full length).

**Tuesday 29th July: 18:30 – 21:00** Fun Run route: Garden Street, B796, U13s, U24s, C13s, Laurieston Road, High Street, Garden Street.

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

**Saturday 2nd August: 12:15 to 13:30:** Gala Day Parade route: Garden Street, B796, High Street, Ann Street.

**Sunday 3rd 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 28th JULY

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.

10.30am: **Mini Forage** St Marys Church

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.

2pm- 5pm

**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:

**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 Support.

MONDAY





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### Some Gala venues in Gatehouse of Fleet 2025

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 29th 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: **Music Afternoon** 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. 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!

## 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, 30th July**.

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

- No 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, or your torches will be removed.
- 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.





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WEDNESDAY

## WEDNESDAY 30th JULY

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

11.30—3pm  
White Elephant Stall at St Marys Church

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.

2pm—5pm **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.

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. 1st and runner up prizes for each class. Age groups of animals.

7pm: **TGB Gatehouse's pet agility 'Pet Agility Trials'** event – open to children / youngsters

7.30pm **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.** See Torchlight Safety page.

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



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## THURSDAY 31st July

10.30am:

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

6pm: **Guided hill walk** 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 in the Community Centre (Eyes down: 7.30pm)

THURSDAY

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## FRIDAY 1st AUGUST

- 10.30 am – 4pm Visit Cally biodiversity gardens starting at 10.30am with a talk from Kevin about the range of planting that has encouraged such an increase in and diversity of wildlife. Refreshments available throughout the day. Donations to Gala.
- 10.30am: **Historical Walk** round Gatehouse with Margaret Wright. Check Monday's listing for details.
- 6pm: **Walking treasure hunt** starting from the Community Centre Car Park: 50p per person.

FRIDAY

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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 & Refill Station' at No.1 High Street, it will be open Mon – Fri, 10-4 during Gala Week (closed Saturday).

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



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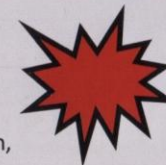
Mr & Mrs Jolly (Matthew & Lesley) and all the staff at Jollys Funfair would like to wish all residents and visitors to Gatehouse a very happy Gala 2025.

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

SATURDAY 2nd 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.

**PLEASE ENSURE NO SWEETIES OR OBJECTS ARE THROWN FROM LORRIES IN THE PARADE**

- 2pm: **Afternoon of entertainment** in Garries Park, starting off with the Parade Competition Results, and during the afternoon, entertainment from a variety of performers, 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](http://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 3rd 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 07000826820 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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For ride notices and updates:

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[www.facebook.com/IBikeCommunities](http://www.facebook.com/IBikeCommunities)

And on the Community Centre Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/groups/370041393587994](http://www.facebook.com/groups/370041393587994)



**Wheels of Fleet**

Wheels of Fleet, a charity of the Gatehouse  
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life in Southwest Scotland. We transform  
donated bikes into affordable rides and  
offer repairs, making cycling accessible to  
all. Your donations are vital! They support  
bikes, tools, and programs that build  
cycling skills and confidence within the  
community. By supporting Wheels of Fleet,  
you're helping create a healthier, more  
sustainable future for Everyone.

Come and hire our new bikes & E bikes.

Email us at [wheelsoffleet@gmail.com](mailto:wheelsoffleet@gmail.com)

**Phone us:**

**07939 894 272**

## GATEHOUSE TAXIS

**6-SEATER  
AVAILABLE**



**TEL: 07821 649 853**

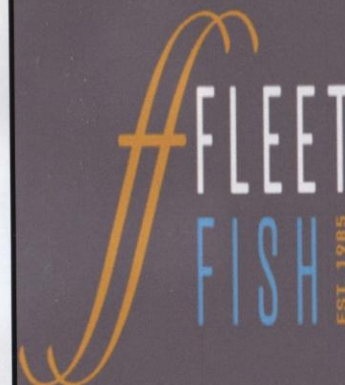
[gatehousetaxi@gmail.com](mailto:gatehousetaxi@gmail.com)

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 31 July from 11 am to 2 pm**  
for our free pop up cafe, free fun activities for children  
E-bike taster, live music and more

Catch up with all our latest news on our  
Facebook page

[www.facebook.com/groups/370041393587994/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/370041393587994/)



**Stance in Gatehouse  
Car Park  
Tuesday 9am - 1pm**

FISH – FRUIT – VEG – MEAT



# THE MURRAY ARMS HOTEL



Laggan



Dinner menu served from 5pm till 8.30pm Wednesday –  
Saturday & Sunday lunch menu served 12pm – 7pm

Bar & lounge open • Dog friendly • Private hire available

BOOK NOW  
01557 840 206

[hello@themurrayarmsgatehouse.co.uk](mailto:hello@themurrayarmsgatehouse.co.uk)

The Murray Arms, Gatehouse of Fleet, Castle Douglas, DG7 2HY

[www.themurrayarmsgatehouse.co.uk](http://www.themurrayarmsgatehouse.co.uk)





## WITH THANKS TO LAST YEAR'S ROYAL PARTY!



For 2024/25 (left), our  
Gala King was **Martin  
Swan** , Gala Queen was  
**Olivia Dickie** and their  
Attendant, **Lexa Baty**  
and her Page,  
**Parker Chisholm**.