

FREE

THE LOOP

North Ayrshire's Cultural Magazine

NINETEEN: Summer 2007

RADIO CITY



NORTH AYRSHIRE
COUNCIL

Alasdair Taylor

Selected works by Alasdair Taylor

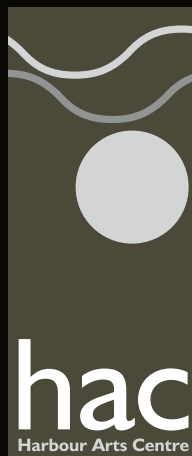


29 June until
9 September 2007

For exhibition opening hours contact:

Harbour Arts Centre, 114-116 Harbour Street, Irvine KA12 8EE.

Telephone - 01294 274059 Web - www.harbourarts.org.uk Email - harbourarts@north-ayrshire.gov.uk



WELCOME & INTRODUCTION



THANKS to those of you who took time to give us favourable comments on the new look Loop. We are glad you like it and hope you enjoy this season's issue which brings you exciting news for North Ayrshire, as the arts breathe new life into the already well established Radio City Healthy Living Centre in Kilbirnie. Over the coming months, a programme of drama, new media, music and visual art will be developed within the centre for the whole community to enjoy. Look out for details on Summer in the City in this issue.

Commotion Youth Theatre have opportunities for 5 to 25 year olds across North Ayrshire to join in on their many drama and theatre activities. Read about a year in the life of Commotion Senior Youth Theatre who have enjoyed a successful 12 months, with many collaborations including the National Theatre of Scotland.

Did you know that your local library doesn't just lend you books, CDs and videos - they programme a whole range of activities for the whole family to enjoy? Read all about it in this issue.

Community groups across North Ayrshire are busy finalising their plans for the many gala and fun day events that are scheduled to take place throughout the summer months. These groups work tirelessly to provide fun events for the whole community to enjoy. The guide to Festivals and Events in your area is out now. If you wish a copy, contact 01294 324488.

Enjoy the Summer.



Summer Activities

for children & young people across North Ayrshire



Information Line: 0845 603 0596 or www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

THE LOOP

THE LOOP is published by North Ayrshire Council Cultural Services to highlight the exciting and diverse range of art activities in North Ayrshire. We are interested in hearing details of your projects for possible use within The Loop and welcome new contributors and article proposals. If you are interested, please contact us. Cultural Services, North Ayrshire Council, Educational Services, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE. Telephone: 01294 324481 Fax: 01294 324210 Email: arts@north-ayrshire.gov.uk Web: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Front Cover: Radio City, Kilbirnie

Top things to do this Summer

1. Visit Radio City for a look around, a light refreshment and see what is happening in our new programme of arts activities.
2. Pay a visit to your local library to find out all it has to offer.
3. Have a fun family day out at one of the many Gala Days taking place across North Ayrshire. Telephone 01294 324488
4. Look out for North Ayrshire's programme of Summer Activities that will feature in NOW magazine, coming through your door mid June. For the full programme, visit the Summer Activities website at: www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

TUNE-IN TO THE NEW ARTS PROGRAMMES AT RADIO CITY

RADIO CITY, in the heart of Kilbirnie, is delighted to team up with Cultural Services to offer a new programme of arts activities for the whole community to enjoy throughout the year.

The launch event is Summer in the City where you can let your children enjoy lively practical art activities - making music, cartoons, arts & crafts and drama while you indulge in a coffee and cake in the pleasant City café or get healthy in the state of the art fitness studio. Just quote Summer in the City to take advantage of specially arranged rates.

Telephone Radio City on 01505 685700 for more details.

Event: Children's Arts & Crafts

Date: 2 July - 13 July

Times: 10.30am - 12.30pm, age 5-12 years

1.30pm - 3.00pm, age 5-12 years

Monday to Thursday

Must be booked in advance or by telephone

Cost: FREE!

Event: Youth Drama

Date: 2 July - 13 July

Times: 10.30am - 12.30pm, age 8-11 years

1.30pm - 3.00pm, age 12-14 years

Monday to Thursday

Must be booked in advance or on 1st day

Cost: £1.50 per session

Event: Young Media

Date: 16 July - 27 July

Times: 10.30am - 12.30pm, age 8-11 years

1.30pm - 3.00pm, age 12-14 years

Monday to Thursday

Must be booked in advance or on 1st day

Cost: £1.50 per session

Event: Youth Music - Guitar, Keyboard and Vocals

Date: 16 July - 27 July

Taster sessions are also available. These are free but must be arranged at least a day in advance.

Times: 10.30am - 12.30pm, age 8-11 years

1.30pm - 3.00pm, age 12-14 years

Monday to Thursday

Max number of 45 per session

Must be booked in advance or on 1st day

Cost: £1.50 per session

WHAT IS RADIO CITY?

Radio City was set up in 1998 to provide both much needed local facilities and a use for a disused former Cinema which occupies a prime site in Kilbirnie Town Centre. The facilities within the centre are fantastic - top of the range fitness suite, healthy eating café, recording studio, computer suite, games hall and conference suite.

If you have never visited before, then why not pop in today?

Contact Radio City for up to date details.

Telephone: 01505 685700

Email: reception@radiocity.org.uk

Web: www.radiocity.org.uk

COMMOTION SENIORS GET IN ON THE ACT

COMMOTION Youth Theatre's Senior branch, which was formed by North Ayrshire Council's Cultural Services for young people aged 16-25 who have an interest in drama and theatre, has enjoyed a very successful year.

The group worked in partnership with the National Theatre of Scotland (NTS) for 6 months on an Exchange project. Commotion was twinned with Dundee Rep Senior Youth Theatre and both groups were given access to two established Artistic Directors - Daljinder Singh and Matthew Lenton - to help with the development of a performance piece.

Both groups were given a play called Big Country by Tim Primrose either to perform or to use as inspiration towards a performance. Commotion chose to use the themes from the script to devise their own performance, entitled Mistakes which explored how our behaviour affects others and how the decisions we have to make are important and impact on others.

The group enjoyed two successful performances at the Valley ARC in Kilbirnie and then joined Dundee Rep Senior Youth Theatre to take part in the NTS Exchange Festival in Perth. The group also performed at Perth Theatre.

The cast were Stuart Hodge, Emilie Reid, Melissa Reid, Steven McMenemy, Carly MacKinnon, James Breadner, Astrid Anderson, Lauren Cahill and Mark Thomson.

The Seniors worked with NTS again on Project MacBeth, which culminated in a performance at the Harbour Arts Centre, followed by a devised piece when all Commotion branches came together to showcase their talents.

All agreed that the project has been a great success and Commotion Seniors are eagerly awaiting news of their next fantastic project.

WANT TO KNOW MORE...

Commotion Youth Theatre provides drama workshops for children and young people aged 5-25 years in venues around North Ayrshire.

If you would like further information about Commotion Youth Theatre, or about their support group, Friends of Commotion, please contact the Harbour Arts Centre 01294 274059.



KEEPING IT IN THE FAMILY

STUART HODGE, from Commotion Senior Youth Theatre tells us about his experiences as a member of the group.

"I have been interested in acting from a very young age. My mother said I was the in-home entertainment ever since I could walk and talk but it wasn't until we moved back to Scotland in 2000 that I got involved with Commotion Youth Theatre and have never looked back."

Stuart was lucky enough to be involved in a short film by Media Mob which won a Reel 2 Reel award for Best Community Film.

Then, while involved in the NTS Exchange Project, BBC director Neil Scott spotted him and was so impressed that he made contact with Stuart to audition for a couple of roles for an internet project. He was successful and worked professionally for the BBC for 2 weeks.

Stuart takes his acting skills from his mother, Margaret, who is a part-time drama tutor for Commotion Youth Theatre.

Margaret has been involved in many amateur productions and retrained in drama after her children started school. She has worked both in a voluntary capacity and as a freelance with other companies.

Speaking about her work with Commotion, Margaret said "Drama is a fantastic medium for children and young people to express their opinions in a non threatening manner and a great way to improve their communication skills as well as having fun".

ROBERT MCLELLAN FESTIVAL

Celebrations after Award from the Heritage Lottery Fund

AS reported in the last issue, the life and works of Robert McLellan will be celebrated throughout 2007, with a full programme of exciting and diverse events to mark this acclaimed Scottish playwright and poet's centenary year.

The organisers of the Festival - the Arran Festival Theatre and Arts Trust - are now delighted to announce a grant of £44,500 from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). This will enable the group to further expand the programme of activities and provide a lasting legacy of McLellan's work.

Colin McLean, Heritage Lottery Fund Manager for Scotland, said: "This project will be a great chance for people to explore the life and works of this important Scottish playwright, demonstrating our commitment to giving everyone the opportunity to enjoy their heritage".

The main Festival programme takes place on Arran from 6 to 22 September 2007 with exhibitions, film premieres, concerts, new music and premiere performances of new plays from contemporary Scottish playwrights. In addition, the funding will enable three volumes of work to be published including some previously unpublished material, the launch of a heritage trail and development of an educational pack.

Commenting on the award, Heather Gough from the McLellan Steering Group said: "All of us on the Steering Group are absolutely delighted. It is a real privilege to be able to honour Robert McLellan and his contribution to Scottish culture and bring him to the attention of a much wider audience. It's very exciting!".

Opportunities: McLellan Awards

The McLellan Award for Poetry 2007

For poems in Scots and English

1st Prize £1000

2nd Prize £350

3rd Prize £150

The McLellan Award Play Competition 2007

For plays in Scots and Scots dialect

Contact Heather Gough on 01770 302670 or email:

gough.carlo@virgin.net for more information.

Prize Money £1,000

Winning play to be performed in September 2007

Further information can be found on:

www.mclellanfestival.com



EXHIBITION

A lifetime of work by Alasdair Taylor





Alasdair Taylor

YOU can tell a man by the company he kept and Alasdair Taylor, whose work is being exhibited at the Harbour Arts Centre this summer, kept some formidable company. Long term friends and advocates of his work, Alasdair Gray and James Kelman, have been campaigning for a number of years to gain recognition for the work of their friend which has led to this major retrospective of Taylor's work.

Taylor, a graduate of Glasgow School of Art and originally from Ross-shire, lived in Denmark and Glasgow, played football at junior level for his country and played drums in a jazz band. He moved to Portencross, on the Ayrshire coast, in 1967 where he lived with his wife Annelise and daughters Anna and Jean for almost forty years, producing art influenced by that constantly changing environment. His working life there was spent in hermit-like seclusion, so his work is known to only a few.



His art is exciting and bold and in the words of James Kelman, is 'abstract and difficult to reach in a superficial way. But, as with any great art you have to pay attention'. Alasdair Gray has said 'It is joyfully and mysteriously Abstract Expressionist... His figure drawings and portraits are also beautiful and vigorous...'

To some extent, his studio in Portencross became the exhibition space and the work was integral to the location it was created in. His approach was frenetic - he painted, sketched and wrote continuously, or so it would seem from those who knew him best, and the residue of the greater whole would certainly corroborate that. Andrew Brown, writing in the catalogue to the show in 1986 which included a staggering 82 works by Taylor wrote:

"Washed up on the beach there [Portencross] he found old baker's boards and discarded planks which he cut into panels on which he obsessively painted mystical landscapes and 'mood' portraits. The irregular weathered surfaces and the use of collage encouraged him to experiment with a variety of paint materials. These synthesised with the emotions of his subject matter to create pictures of an almost musical sensibility."

This is a unique opportunity to view paintings, sculptures and other material of an artist of quality and influence in an environment close to his home. The work at the Harbour Arts Centre, Irvine, covers 5 decades, and runs from the 30th June until the 9th September 2007.

The preview will take place on Thursday 28 June at 6.30pm where we will be delighted to welcome Alasdair Gray as guest speaker. If you wish to attend please contact the Harbour Arts Centre on 01294 274059.



EXHIBITIONS



24 Hours? Drawn from Life

19 July - 18 August 2007

IN 2006 Ayrshire artist Barry McDonald set out to draw one picture per day, each one taking an hour to complete, for 24 days. His aim was to capture the essence of modern life in a consumerist society. The resulting 'electronic sketchbook' can be viewed at the Harbour Arts Centre. Contact centre for times.



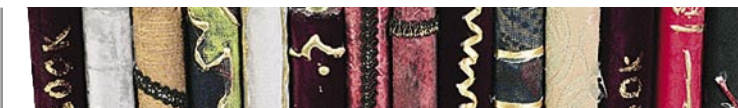
Darkspace

19 July - 18 August 2007

DARKSPACE is a series of 14 fine art films which highlight the quality and breadth of work being produced by emerging artists in Scotland today. The films have been selected as part of a Royal Scottish Academy initiative which enables emerging artists, curators and administrators to broaden their experience. The series of films, lasting just over an hour, will be shown at selected times. Contact the Harbour Arts Centre for show times on 01294 274059.

READ ALL ABOUT LIBRARIES

LIBRARIES don't just lend books and CDs - your local library has so much more offer. Why not call in to your local library today and see what's on.



Count Me In

COUNT Me In 1,2,3 is an initiative between North Ayrshire Council and Clydesdale Bank to help develop mathematical ideas and concepts with young children through stories, games, toys and rhymes. There are three different Count Me In bags for ages 1 to 3. Each bag contains a picture book and related activities with guidance notes to allow parents and carers to enjoy learning with their young children. The bags are available to borrow FREE from all North Ayrshire Libraries. Look out for Count Me In sessions taking place in your local library.



Reading Groups

FOUR reading groups meet in Saltcoats, Ardrossan, Beith and Kilbirnie libraries, with approximately 20 members. They meet every month to talk about a book they have read, and enjoy some refreshments and social interaction. There is a collection of books specifically for the book groups, and members receive one each month. There are also author visits, film nights and other social activities where book groups from different areas can meet.

The book group collection has recently been expanded to include titles specifically for teenage and young adult readers. There are several spaces available and children who are interested in attending the groups should enquire at their local library.

Look out for details of these in your local library or visit www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk

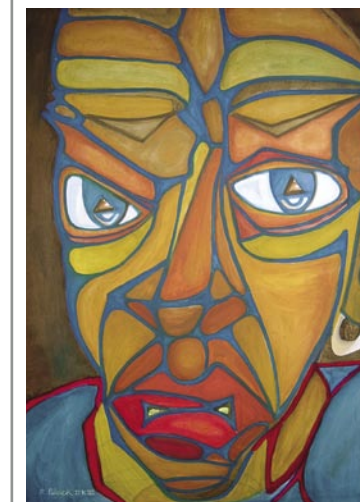
New Exhibition Space at Irvine Library Every Picture Tells A Story

IF a picture paints a thousand words then the combination of art and books at the new Irvine Library must be one incredible story.

Since the opening of the new library there has been an ever changing series of exhibitions featuring local artists and photographers, giving them the opportunity to display their work, many for the first time.

Exhibitions have included work from the Townend Camera Club, David Croft-Smith and most recently Ruari Black. During the summer months there will be a display of works from the recent commission at the Harbour Arts Centre featuring portraits of local people by Irvine artist David Reid.

Images show the recent exhibition featuring the work of Ruari Black, who says of his work that it gives him a purpose in life and a positive way of expressing himself.



GIANT - It's a Shore Thing!

NORTH Ayrshire have enjoyed a number of successful partnership projects with Giant over the years and were delighted to welcome them back recently for a collaborative interactive installation - It's a Shore Thing! - funded by the Scottish Arts Council and the Trusthouse Charitable Foundation.

Children aged 3 to 12 years from the HAC's successful children's drama and art groups, and pupils from Stanecastle School in Irvine worked with professional artists on visual arts, music, storytelling and drama to create a sea-themed installation within the Harbour Arts Centre.

Visitors to the installation were enthralled as they made their way through a world of seaweed, shells, mermaids and sand to witness animations, live performances, stories, sounds and surprises.

Giant is a professional children's art development organisation based in Glasgow. It was founded in 1989 to deliver the Children and Young People's events as part of Glasgow 1990 City of Culture. Over time, the company has developed its work to make sure that it is inclusive, ensuring all children can take part and have a great time together. Giant's four main programme areas are: professional touring theatre, visual arts workshops and exhibitions, family events and training opportunities.



For more information on Giant, contact:

Giant, Centre for Inclusive Arts,
100 Beith Street, Glasgow G11 6DQ

Telephone: 0141 334 2000

Email: info@giantproductions.org

Web: www.giantproductions.org



ASK THE EXPERT

I am new to the area and am looking for a musical club to attend.

Can you help?

Two well established groups to try are the West Kilbride Musical Society who hold monthly concerts in West Kilbride Public Hall (Telephone: 01294 823392) and Beith Arts Guild who hold monthly concerts on Sundays in Beith Community Centre (Telephone: 01505 502663).

Visit www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk for community groups in the area.

Where can I find out about Festivals & Events in North Ayrshire during 2007?

Educational Services has just published a comprehensive guide to all events in the area. For your free copy telephone 01294 324488 or visit www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk.



How do I join a North Ayrshire library?

Go along to your local library with two proofs of identity (one including your name and address) where you will be given a membership card which can be used in any of our libraries.

If you have a question for the expert, email arts@north-ayrshire.gov.uk or write to Cultural Services.

COMPETITION TIME

For your chance to win two tickets to a performance of your choice from the HACs summer programme, answer this question: In which town is Radio City?

Send your answers with your name, address and phone number by email: arts@north-ayrshire.gov.uk or post: The Loop Competition, Educational Services, North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE. Entries close by 31 July 2007.

OPPORTUNITIES

North Ayrshire Open Art Exhibition

This highly popular annual Art Exhibition takes place in the Racquet Hall in the grounds of the picturesque Eglinton Country Park in Kilwinning. For an entry form, send an A5 SAE to Exhibition Coordinator, c/o Educational Services, North Ayrshire Council, Cunninghame House, Irvine KA12 8EE or download forms - www.northaopenart.co.uk.

The exhibition takes place from 7 to 21 July 2007.

New Cunninghame Open Art Exhibition

This art exhibition is open to artists resident in North Ayrshire. The exhibition is now in its sixth year and highlights the talents of local artists. It runs from 13 to 20 July 2007 in Saltcoats Town Hall.

Entry forms are available from local libraries and museums or contact Norma McDougall on 01294 823342.

...CULTURE IS ON SCOTLAND'S AGENDA

THE Scottish Government believes that “culture is a vital ingredient in Scotland’s success, both here and overseas. Culture is also central to the well being of Scotland’s citizens”. Following the Scottish Executive’s cultural policy statement, Scotland’s Culture, a draft culture bill was drawn up with an extensive consultation period which has recently ended. The Bill proposes:

- A reform of the law about the local provision of culture, which will be used to encourage local authorities to develop ‘local cultural entitlements’, as part of cultural planning;
- The establishment of a new public body, Creative Scotland, to be Scotland’s national cultural development body;
- Changes to the governing legislation of the National Collections, updating their functions and making it easier for them to work together;
- Changes to the law in relation to dealing in ‘tainted’ cultural objects like parts of foreign monuments that have been stolen; and
- Remedying an anomaly in local authorities’ powers to broadcast, as well as publish, information about their functions.

It is hoped this new legislation will result in the following benefits:

- Greater involvement of local communities in cultural and community planning;
- Better promotion of cultural activity, attuned to audiences, with the potential to increase participation;
- A flexible delivery mechanism, which is responsive to local needs;
- Creation of a platform to raise the profile of culture in local authorities; and
- Potential to map cultural provision across Scottish local authorities and to link to outcomes.

To keep informed of developments with The Draft Culture (Scotland) Bill visit: www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/ArtsCulture/CulturalPolicy

COMMUNITY ARTS DIARY

Date	Event	Time	Venue	Contact
16 June	Kilwinning Carnival & Crowning of Segdoune Queen	11.30am	Kilwinning	Promoting Kilwinning 01294 552284
16 June	Party in the Park	12noon	Dalry Public Park	Myra Sim 01294 833772
24 June	Whitlees Gala	12noon	Whitlees Centre, Ardrossan	Margaret Massie 01294 461700
30 June - 7 July	Largs Brisbane Queen Festival	Various	Various venues throughout Largs	Laura Currie 01475 686804
7 - 21 July	North Ayrshire Open Art Exhibition	10.30am	Racquet Hall, Eglinton Country Park	Jim Collins 01294 218136
12-14 July	Saltcoats Queen of the Sea Festival	Various	Various venues, Saltcoats	Isabella Salvona 07778 975698
13 - 21 July	New Cunninghame Open Art Exhibition	10.00am	Saltcoats Town Hall	Norma McDougall 01294 823342
28 July - 4 August	Scotland's Scarecrow Festival	Various	Various venues, West Kilbride	Elizabeth McLardy 01294 822636

For more information on events and community groups in your area visit www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

If you wish to advertise your event for free on this page or feature in the Loop, please email arts@north-ayrshire.gov.uk.

SaltcoatsROCK

14 & 15 July 2007 - Promenade, Saltcoats - FREE ADMISSION

Saturday: 12noon - 6.00pm & Sunday: 1.00pm-6.00pm - Infoline 01294 324488

OBJECT OF THE SEASON

Saltcoats Queen of the Sea

THE Museums Service was delighted to receive this photograph dating from 1929 which was donated by Mrs A McLean. The fascinating picture features participants from the annual Queen of the Sea Festival and seated on the front row are twin brothers William and Wallace McLean.

The Queen of the Sea Festival was resurrected in 2000 by an enthusiastic group of volunteers and is once again an annual event in Saltcoats. This year's festival takes place from 12 to 14 July 2007. For more information contact Isabella Salvona on 07778 975698.

ARTWORK OF THE SEASON



IN this issue we feature Irvine artist, Colin Traynor who combines working full time as a Youth Worker at Irvine Royal Academy with painting.

Colin also works as a freelance Graphic Designer and combines photography with illustration in various mediums.

He has quality high resolution canvas prints of his own original artwork for sale and is also available for private commissions

He has recently exhibited at Irvine Library.

Contact Colin on: cstraynor@hotmail.co.uk

