**Remembering Together D&G – Phase 2 Press Release DRAFT from tsB/KA (to be amended by DGU)**

Four hundred trees will be planted across Dumfries and Galloway as part of a project to mark the impact of the COVID pandemic, and honour those lost to COVID in the region. The planting of a **Dispersed Memorial Forest** is part of a planned Community Covid Memorial for D&G, funded by the Scottish Government and led by **DG Unlimited, D&G Council,** and **greenspace Scotland**.

Artists t s Beall and Katie Anderson will be working with communities across D&G to collaboratively design and plant the **Dispersed Memorial Forest** across five sites: **Castle Douglas, Dumfries, Moffat, Sanquhar, and Stranraer**. The forest comprises the central part of the Covid Memorial for the Dumfries and Galloway, which will also include **community events** in all five locations, and a permanent archive **sharing stories.**

Plans for the memorial have been developed as part of **Remembering Together D&G,** part of a Scotland-wide project to co-create memorials that will honour those we have lost, mark what has changed in our lives, and preserve the best of what we learned and created together during the COVID pandemic. Artists and creative organisations have been commissioned in each of Scotland’s 32 local authority areas, and the memorials created in each area will be locally co-designed and unique to each place.

[[QUOTE FROM COUNCIL / DGU HERE]]

Artists t s Beall and Katie Anderson began working in Dumfries & Galloway in summer 2022, (Phase 1) exploring how communities and individuals might want to remember and honour those impacted by COVID. Between July-December 2022, the artists spoke to approximately 835 people across Dumfries and Galloway – from Kirkcudbright to Annan, Stranraer to Sanquhar and many others. Through conversations and using bespoke engagement tools, they identified key ideas and themes for D&G’s memorial.

One of the most prominent ideas that emerged from these discussions was the importance of spending time outdoors during the different lockdowns – a focus on connecting with nature and a renewed appreciation for our local green spaces. Artists t s Beall and Katie Anderson explain that *“We want to plant one tree for each person we lost to COVID in the region, and additional trees to represent other types of loss or resilience – to highlight the different ways that communities ‘grew together’ over the pandemic.”*

Members of the public are warmly invited to connect with the project, comment on the works and ideas in development, and get involved in co-designing specific aspects of the Community Covid Memorial for D&G. Over the next several months (through Spring 2024) there will be opportunities to plant trees, attend creative workshops, and contribute to community events which will open or launch the Dispersed Memorial Forest sites. The project will be completed in June 2024.

Those interested are encouraged to get in touch and help shape the Community Covid Memorial for D&G:

rememberingtogetherdg@gmail.com

[Linktr.ee/rememberingtogetherdg](https://linktr.ee/rememberingtogetherdg)

fb & insta [@rememberingtogetherdg](https://www.facebook.com/rememberingtogetherdg)

twitterX [@covidmemorialdg](https://twitter.com/covidmemorialdg)

**Remembering Together D&G** is commissioned by greenspace Scotland, DGU, and Dumfries & Galloway Council with funding from the Scottish Government.

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**INFORMATION FOR EDITORS**

More information on the Scotland-wide Remembering Together project is available at: <https://www.rememberingtogether.scot/>

Information on the Dumfries and Galloway portion of the project can be found at: <https://www.rememberingtogether.scot/dumfries-galloway>

As part of Remembering Together D&G, the artists warmly invite anyone interested in contributing to the process of co-creating a Community Memorial for D&G, helping to plant trees, or working to create community events in each of the five sites (Castle Douglas, Dumfries, Moffat, Sanquhar, and Stranraer) to get in touch through links listed via [Linktr.ee/rememberingtogetherdg](https://linktr.ee/rememberingtogetherdg), or by emailing [rememberingtogetherdg@gmail.com](mailto:rememberingtogetherdg@gmail.com).

Updates on Remembering Together D&G are available on the project’s social media:

FB [@rememberingtogetherdg](https://www.facebook.com/rememberingtogetherdg)

insta [@rememberingtogetherdg](https://www.instagram.com/rememberingtogetherdg/)

twitter [@covidmemorialdg](https://twitter.com/covidmemorialdg)

**Remembering Together D&G** is commissioned by [greenspace scotland](https://www.greenspacescotland.org.uk/remembering-together), [DGU](https://www.dgunlimited.com/remembering-together.html), and Dumfries & Galloway Council with funding from the Scottish Government.

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