

Kilmarnock & Surrounding Area: Current & Upcoming Events, News, Business, Community and Sport (as of 17 Feb 2026)

This newsletter gathers notable events and developments within roughly **15–20 miles of Kilmarnock** (towns like Ayr, Prestwick, Troon, Irvine, Mauchline, Auchinleck, Cumnock, Ardrossan, Stevenston, Kilwinning, Kilmaurs, Stewarton, Hurlford, Galston, Newmilns & Darvel). Information is up-to-date as of **17 Feb 2026** and is drawn from official council sources, event organisers and trusted listings.

1. Cultural & Entertainment Events

1.1 Exhibitions, Tours & Family Activities (East Ayrshire Leisure)

Event/Exhibition	Dates & Times	Venue	Notes
Dean Castle Tour	Running through 23 Feb 2025 – 20 Mar 2026 , daily at 12:00	Dean Castle , Kilmarnock	Guided tours of the restored castle. Tickets around £6 per person ¹ .
Killie-catures!	13 Dec 2025 – 15 Mar 2026 during museum opening hours	Dick Institute , Kilmarnock	Exhibition celebrating football-inspired caricatures by local artists; suitable for all ages ² .
Discovering Malky McCormick	15 Apr 2025 – 30 Apr 2026	Dick Institute , Kilmarnock	Retrospective of Scottish cartoonist Malky McCormick featuring his satirical drawings; free admission ³ .
The Wee Man and The Big Yin – Billy Connolly & Malky McCormick	5 Feb – 16 May 2026	Baird Institute , Cumnock	Joint exhibition exploring McCormick's collaborations with comedian Billy Connolly; free ⁴ .

Event/Exhibition	Dates & Times	Venue	Notes
Time Travel Trails in Museums	Feb–Mar 2026	Various East Ayrshire museums	Interactive trails encouraging children to explore local history through puzzles and stories (dates from East Ayrshire Leisure calendar ⁵).
Learn How to Draw Cartoons (fully booked)	Late Feb 2026	Dick Institute	Workshop teaching cartoon-drawing skills (over-subscribed per leisure calendar ⁵).
Malky McCormick: A Life in Colour (coming soon)	Early 2026 (exact date TBC)	Dick Institute	Previewed within the “Discovering Malky McCormick” exhibit; will become a large retrospective of the artist’s colourful illustrations ⁶ .

1.2 Theatre & Live Performances

Show/Event	Dates & Times	Venue	Details
Guys and Dolls – CentreStage S4-6 Musical Theatre	19–21 Feb 2026 (Thu & Fri 19:00; Sat 14:00 & 19:00)	CentreStage, Kilmarnock	Senior students perform the Broadway classic; tickets about £8–£10 ⁷ .
Boots, Boybands & Belters – Night of 80s/90s nostalgia	7 Mar 2026 19:00	CentreStage, Kilmarnock	Live band RockitMen recreate hits from 80s & 90s; tickets £10–£12 ⁸ .
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat (Kilmarnock Amateur Operatic Society)	10–14 Mar 2026 (Tues–Thu 19:30; Fri 17:00 & 20:00; Sat 14:30 & 19:30)	CentreStage, Kilmarnock	Full-scale amateur production of the Tim Rice/ Andrew Lloyd Webber musical. Matinee performances on 13–14 Mar. Tickets around £23 ⁹ .
Tom Stade – Comedy Show	7 Mar 2026 19:30 – 21:30 (doors 19:00)	Park Hotel, Kilmarnock	Stand-up comedian returns with new show; 2-hour show, 7-day refund policy ¹⁰ .

Show/Event	Dates & Times	Venue	Details
Hello from Heaven – Psychic Medium	25 Mar 2026 19:30 – 21:30	Park Hotel, Kilmarnock	Northern Irish medium Fiona Stewart Williams offers messages “from the spirit world”; tickets ~£20 ¹¹ .
Gary Meikle: Yer Maw	7 Mar 2026 18:30	Troon Concert Hall, Troon	Comedy show; tickets about £27.50 ¹² .
Absolute Elvis (Johnny Lee Memphis)	21 Mar 2026 20:00	Troon Concert Hall	Elvis tribute featuring award-winning performer; tickets £20 ¹³ .
Friday Street 2026 Troon Mod Rally	2 May 2026 19:30 – 00:30	Troon Concert Hall & South Beach Hotel, Troon	Annual mod rally with guest DJs Bill Kealy & Bob Gordon spinning Northern Soul, R&B and ska vinyl; price TBD ¹⁴ .
Dance Fest 2026	9 & 11 Mar 2026 (16:00 & 19:00)	The Gaiety Theatre, Ayr	Ayrshire’s largest dance showcase featuring over 900 dancers from 40 groups, including East Ayrshire Youth Dance Company ¹⁵ .
AyrBiza – Spring Session	21 Mar 2026 18:00 – 00:00	Printhouse Ayr, Ayr	House-music club night promising long DJ sets and a relaxed atmosphere; tickets via Skiddle approx. £8 ¹⁶ .
24k Magic Men	20 Mar 2026	Buzz Bingo, Irvine	Male revue show promising high-energy routines and cheeky crowd moments; event promoted on regional listings (details via The Coig events list ¹⁷).
STREETrave – The Legends Return 2026	7 Mar 2026 13:00 – 00:00	Ayr Pavilion, Ayr	Revival of the legendary 90s rave brand; lineup of DJs; tickets £30–£45 ¹⁸ .

Show/Event	Dates & Times	Venue	Details
Booze Bingo – Stewarton	14 Mar 2026	Saya Centre, Stewarton	Adult bingo night with drinks and entertainment; details on Skiddle (ticket info not accessible).

1.3 Festivals, Markets & Fairs

Event	Dates	Location	Highlights
Kilmarnock Farmers Market	Third Saturday each month (21 Feb, 21 Mar, 18 Apr 2026)	The Cross, Kilmarnock	Up to 30 producers selling Aberdeen-Angus beef, lamb, fish, vegetables, pies, cheeses, baking, award-winning cheeses, local beers and handmade crafts ¹⁹ .
Kilmarnock Beer Festival (Killie Beer Festival)	30 May 2026 12:00 – 19:00	Rugby Park, Kilmarnock	Showcases beers from Scottish brewers, local food vendors and artists; over-18s only; tickets first available to locals on 26 Feb ²⁰ .
Troon Wedding Fayre	8 Mar 2026 11:30 – 15:00	Troon Concert Hall	Free admission; features local wedding vendors, fashion inspiration, food and freebies ²¹ .
Monster Truck MotorFest Scotland	21–22 Mar 2026 (Sat 10:00–22:30; Sun 10:00–19:30)	Ayr Racecourse	Family motor show with monster truck “Slingshot” shows, motorbike stunt displays, funfair, food village and character meet-and-greets ²² .
Bounce in the Park – Inflatable Theme Park	1–4 May 2026	Eglinton Country Park, Kilwinning	Touring inflatable theme park for children 3–14; tickets approx. £10 per child; unlimited play sessions, slides and assault courses ²³ .

Event	Dates	Location	Highlights
Arran Rock 'N' Blues Festival	1-3 May 2026	Ormidale Park, Brodick (Isle of Arran)	Line-up of rock and blues bands with guitar masterclasses and local food/drink ²⁴ (note: beyond 20 mile radius but of interest to some readers).
Spring Glass Workshops - Scottish Maritime Museum	4 Mar - 11 Apr 2026 (Wednesdays & Saturdays)	Lighthouse Building, Harbour Road, Irvine	Hands-on glassblowing workshops (2-hour sessions on Wednesdays 14:00; 4-hour sessions on Saturdays 10:00-14:00) where participants create decorative pieces; sessions limited to two participants; led by glassblower Robert McLeod ²⁵ .
Tides of Time Exhibition - Scottish Maritime Museum	9 Feb 2026 onwards (daily 10:00)	Lighthouse Building, Irvine	Exhibition celebrating the Royal Scottish Academy's 200th anniversary; showcases artworks by nine Royal Scottish Academicians exploring Scotland's maritime heritage ²⁶ .
Millport Ten Miler	10 May 2026 12:00	Garrison House, Millport	Family-friendly run/walk raising funds for Parkinson's and Alzheimer's charities ²⁷ (takes place on Great Cumbrae, slightly outside 20 miles).
Kelburn Jazz Weekend	2 May 2026	Kelburn Estate, near Largs	Celebration of jazz and nu-soul with acts like Corto Alto and DJ Gilles Peterson ²⁸ .

1.4 Sports Fixtures

Football – Kilmarnock FC (SPFL Premiership)

Fixture	Date & Time	Venue	Notes
Dundee United vs Kilmarnock FC	21 Feb 2026 15:00	Tannadice Park, Dundee	Away match ²⁹ .
Falkirk vs Kilmarnock FC	28 Feb 2026 15:00	Falkirk Stadium	Away match ²⁹ .
Kilmarnock FC vs Heart of Midlothian	14 Mar 2026 20:00	Rugby Park, Kilmarnock	Home fixture ²⁹ .

Rugby – Kilmarnock RFC Fixtures

Competition & Opponent	Date	Venue	Notes
Boys U14 Cup Round 4 vs Biggar	22 Feb 2026 14:00	Bellsland, Kilmarnock	Youth cup fixture ³⁰ .
Girls U17 Cup Round 4 vs Oban Lorne	22 Feb 2026 14:00	Bellsland, Kilmarnock	Youth match ³⁰ .
National League Div 4 vs Dunfermline RFC	28 Feb 2026 15:00	Bellsland, Kilmarnock	Senior league fixture ³⁰ .
Reserve/3rd XV vs Dumfries Saints 2nd XV	28 Feb 2026	Bellsland, Kilmarnock	Reserve league game ³⁰ .
League Match vs Stewartry RFC	21 Mar 2026	Away	Fixture for first XV ³⁰ .
Home match vs West of Scotland	4 Apr 2026	Bellsland, Kilmarnock	National League fixture ³⁰ .

Horse Racing – Ayr Racecourse

Event	Date & Times	Details
Spring Saturday Raceday	7 Mar 2026 – gates open 11:50 ; first race 13:50 ; last race 17:20	Jump-racing card including the Ayrshire Premier Handicap Steeple Chase . Ticket prices: Single Enclosure £29 (full price), £24 advance group, £24 concession; students £10; under-18s free ³¹ .

2. Business & Economic Development News

Topic	Date	Summary
Coalfield Communities Landscape Partnership (CCLP) Success	16 Feb 2026	East Ayrshire Council celebrated the CCLP project's successes, highlighting peatland restoration, creation of wildflower meadows and hedgerows, improved paths and heritage restoration. The £6 million project has been extended to May 2026 to finish the Doon Valley Railway heritage shed ³² .
International Women's Day "Give to Gain" events	10–12 Mar 2026	East Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership and partners will host free family-friendly events celebrating women and girls – 10 Mar in Cumnock, 11 Mar at The Howard Centre, Kilmarnock, and 12 Mar in Stewarton – featuring mocktail masterclasses, health checks and information markets ³³ .
Former Kirkstyle Primary School Redevelopment	11 Feb 2026	East Ayrshire Council agreed to sell the former school to the Lowland Reserve Forces and Cadets' Association to become the West Lowland Battalion Army Cadets HQ. The project will also provide community facilities and "state-of-the-art" training space ³⁴ .
Wallace Court Assisted Living Opening	11 Feb 2026	A net-zero assisted living development at Kilmarnock Road, Mauchline (Wallace Court) opened, providing 17 flats and three accessible bungalows built to Passivhaus standards ³⁵ .
Barnweil Drive Supported Housing (Hurlford)	9 Jan 2026	Four properties were renovated to create supported accommodation for adults with complex needs; part of the council's Innovation Fund ³⁶ .
Demolition in Darvel	21 Jan 2026	Work began to demolish a derelict fabric factory on Jamieson Road due to asbestos issues. The site will be transferred to Darvel Community Trust for redevelopment, possibly including a cycling track and community facilities ³⁷ .
North & East Ayrshire Shared Economic Development Service	11 Feb 2026	North and East Ayrshire councils approved a shared economic development service to start 1 Jun 2026 , bringing together tourism, business support and digital functions to deliver regional growth. A Regional Economic Director will lead the service ³⁸ .
Bowie Park Training Ground Progress	Feb 2026	Kilmarnock FC reported that construction of the Bowie Park training complex (investment £7 million+) is on schedule. The facility will include full-size artificial pitches, a nine-a-side pitch and a 250-seat stand for the academy and women's team, and will serve community groups ³⁹ .

Topic	Date	Summary
CoRE Project Retrofit in Cumnock	9 Feb 2026	The Community Renewable Energy (CoRE) project launched its first demonstrator in Cumnock. Three blocks of flats at Meagher Court are being retrofitted with insulation, internal upgrades, solar PV and ground-source heat pumps to create energy-efficient homes; the project is funded by £17 million from the UK Government and £7.5 million from East Ayrshire Council. Work is phased through 2027 and aims to reduce fuel poverty and create net-zero homes ⁴⁰ .
Planned Roadworks at Ayrshire Innovation Park (Crosshouse)	18 Dec 2025	Roadworks near Crosshouse Hospital began 5 Jan 2026 to support construction of the Ayrshire Innovation Park; single-lane closures and temporary traffic lights will operate for ~10 weeks ⁴¹ .
Education & Business Integration	Dec 2025	East Ayrshire Council reorganised employability services under one directorate (Education & Skills) to improve job training. New local hubs (SL66 in Cumnock, SL99 in Doon Valley and upcoming hub in Galston Town Hall) provide holistic support. Initiatives include an EV/Hydrogen Automotive Sector Skills programme to tackle skills shortages ⁴² .

3. Community & Business Events

Event	Date & Time	Venue	Description
Contractor Engagement Evening – Community Pharmacy Scotland	24 Mar 2026 19:00 – 21:30	Park Hotel, Kilmarnock	CPS's first engagement evening of 2026; members can meet the CPS board to discuss national negotiations, the CPS manifesto and upcoming Scottish elections; tea/coffee and a finger buffet provided ⁴³ .

Event	Date & Time	Venue	Description
Give to Gain – Celebrating Women & Girls	11 Mar 2026 11:00 – 13:00	The Howard Centre, Kilmarnock	Part of the International Women's Day celebrations; includes mocktail masterclass, health checks, information market and refreshments; free but requires registration ⁴⁴ .
Killie Beer Festival	30 May 2026 12:00 – 19:00	Rugby Park, Kilmarnock	Beer festival showcasing craft brewers, local food and live music; tickets initially sold at the Park Hotel on 26 Feb before online release ²⁰ .
Bounce in the Park	1–4 May 2026	Eglinton Country Park, Kilwinning	Children's inflatable theme park with slides, assault courses and unlimited play; tickets around £10 per child ²³ .

4. Miscellaneous Cultural Activities & Film Screenings

The Coig's event calendar lists additional arts events within 20 miles that may interest readers:

- **Tides of Time at the Scottish Maritime Museum** – See Section 1.3 (running daily from 9 Feb 2026) ²⁶.
- **Spring Glass Workshops** – Running Wed/Sat until 11 Apr 2026; participants craft glass pieces in a controlled workshop environment ²⁵.
- **Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile** (9 Apr 2026), **Pictish Trail** (24 Apr 2026) and **Hotel California – The Eagles Tribute** (24 Apr 2026) – screenings/concerts listed on The Coig website with venue details and ticketing (locations vary in Ayrshire).

5. Looking Ahead – May & Summer 2026

- **Kelburn Jazz Weekend** (Kelburn Estate, near Largs) – 2 May 2026 – features cutting-edge jazz and nu-soul acts ²⁸.
- **Friday Street Troon Mod Rally** (Mod culture event with DJs spinning northern soul, ska and R&B) – 2 May 2026 ¹⁴.
- **Arran Rock 'N' Blues Festival** – 1–3 May 2026 – worth a mention for those willing to travel slightly beyond the 20-mile radius ²⁴.

6. Conclusion

The Kilmarnock area offers a rich mix of cultural exhibits, theatre productions, community gatherings and sporting fixtures in early 2026. Large-scale projects like the CoRE housing retrofit and the Bowie Park training facility illustrate ongoing investment in sustainable infrastructure and sport. Residents can enjoy a diverse calendar – from craft markets and beer festivals to monster truck shows and dance extravaganzas – while keeping informed about council initiatives affecting housing, transport and economic development.

¹ **Dean Castle Tour | East Ayrshire Leisure Trust**

<https://eastayrshireleisure.com/events/dean-castle-tour/>

² **Killie-catures! | East Ayrshire Leisure Trust**

<https://eastayrshireleisure.com/events/killie-catures/>

³ **Discovering Malky McCormick | East Ayrshire Leisure Trust**

<https://eastayrshireleisure.com/events/discovering-malky-mccormick/>

⁴ **The Wee Man and The Big Yin | East Ayrshire Leisure Trust**

<https://eastayrshireleisure.com/events/the-wee-man-and-the-big-yin/>

⁵ **What's On in East Ayrshire | East Ayrshire Leisure Trust**

<https://eastayrshireleisure.com/whats-on/>

⁶ **Current Exhibits | East Ayrshire Leisure Trust**

<https://eastayrshireleisure.com/culture/the-dick-institute/current-exhibits/>

⁷ ⁸ **CentreStage (15 Elmbank Drive, Kilmarnock)**

<https://www.datathistle.com/place/131940-centrestage-kilmarnock/>

⁹ **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat - NODA**

<https://www.noda.org.uk/whats-on/joseph-and-the-amazing-technicolor-dreamcoat-1764688416>

¹⁰ **Tom Stade Tickets, Sat, 7 Mar 2026 at 19:30 | Eventbrite**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/tom-stade-tickets-1555699070799>

¹¹ **Hello from Heaven Kilmarnock Tickets, Wed, 25 Mar 2026 at 19:30 | Eventbrite**

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hello-from-heaven-kilmarnock-tickets-1769610706259>

¹² **Gary Meikle: Yer Maw - 2026 tour dates & tickets**

<https://www.datathistle.com/event/2161350-gary-meikle-yer-maw/>

¹³ **Absolute Elvis - 2026 UK tour dates & tickets**

<https://www.datathistle.com/event/221622-absolute-elvis/>

¹⁴ **Friday Street 2026 Troon Mod Rally at Troon Concert Hall**

<https://www.datathistle.com/event/2782990-friday-street-2026-troon-mod-rally/>

¹⁵ **Dance Fest 2026! - The Gaiety Theatre Ayr**

<https://thegaiety.co.uk/events/dance-fest-2026/>

¹⁶ **AyrBiza - Spring Session Tickets - Printhouse Ayr, Ayr | Ticket24/7**

<https://ticket247.co.uk/Event/ayrbiza-spring-session-at-printhouse-ayr-494720>

¹⁷ ²⁸ **The Coig Events - Ayrshire and Arran**

<https://ayrshireandarran.com/events/>

- 18 **STREETrave - The Legends Return 2026 Tickets - Pavilion Ayr, Ayr | Ticket24/7**
<https://ticket247.co.uk/Event/streetrave-the-legends-return-2026-at-pavilion-ayr-459937>
- 19 **Kilmarnock Farmers Market, Kilmarnock | What's On Renfrewshire**
<https://www.whatsonrenfrewshire.co.uk/listings/kilmarnock-farmers-market/>
- 20 **Kilmarnock beer fest is coming back for a refill - Glasgow Standard**
<https://glasgowstandard.com/2026/01/30/kilmarnock-beer-fest-is-coming-back-for-a-refill/>
- 21 **Troon Wedding Fayre - A fantastic local wedding show Tickets, Sun, 8 Mar 2026 at 11:30 | Eventbrite**
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/troon-wedding-fayre-a-fantastic-local-wedding-show-tickets-1786285149969>
- 22 **Monster Truck MotorFest at Ayr Racecourse - Free £5 Voucher**
<https://www.lovetovisit.com/uk-attractions/monster-truck-motorfest-at-ayr-racecourse>
- 23 **Home**
<https://www.bounceinthepark.co.uk/>
- 24 27 **What's on in North Ayrshire**
<https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/whats-on-in-north-ayrshire>
- 25 **Spring Glass Workshops At The Scottish Maritime Museum - Ayrshire and Arran**
<https://ayrshireandarran.com/event/spring-glass-workshops-at-the-scottish-maritime-museum/>
- 26 **Tides of Time at the Scottish Maritime Museum - Ayrshire and Arran**
<https://ayrshireandarran.com/event/tides-of-time-at-the-scottish-maritime-museum/>
- 29 **Kilmarnock Football Club Fixtures | SPFL**
<https://spfl.co.uk/clubs/kilmarnock/fixtures>
- 30 **Scottish Rugby Fixtures & Results**
<https://fixtures.scottishrugby.org/club/fixtures/377>
- 31 **Spring Saturday Raceday - Ayr Racecourse**
<https://www.ayr-racecourse.co.uk/event/spring-saturday-raceday/>
- 32 **Coalfield Communities success celebrated as 22nd project nears completion | East Ayrshire Council News**
<https://newsroom.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/news/coalfield-communities-success-celebrated-as-22nd-project-nears-completion>
- 33 **Wellbeing partners hosting free events to celebrate women and girls | East Ayrshire Council News**
<https://newsroom.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/news/wellbeing-partners-hosting-free-events-to-celebrate-women-and-girls>
- 34 **New lease of life for former Kirkstyle Primary School | East Ayrshire Council News**
<https://newsroom.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/news/new-lease-of-life-for-former-kirkstyle-primary-school>
- 35 **New housing development in Mauchline officially opened | East Ayrshire Council News**
<https://newsroom.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/news/new-housing-development-in-mauchline-officially-opened>
- 36 **Social care housing completed at Barnweil Drive, Hurlford | East Ayrshire Council News**
<https://newsroom.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/news/social-care-housing-completed-at-barnweil-drive-hurlford>
- 37 **Demolition underway in Darvel | East Ayrshire Council News**
<https://newsroom.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/news/demolition-underway-in-darvel>
- 38 **Council to build stronger economic ties across Ayrshire**
<https://www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk/news/council-to-build-stronger-economic-ties-across-ayrshire>
- 39 **Progress update: Bowie Park - Kilmarnock FC**
<https://kilmarnockfc.co.uk/news/progress-update-bowie-park/>

40 CoRE project gets underway in Cumnock | East Ayrshire Council News

<https://newsroom.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/news/core-project-gets-underway-in-cumnock>

41 Planned roadworks at Ayrshire Innovation Park, Crosshouse | East Ayrshire Council News

<https://newsroom.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/news/planned-roadworks-at-ayrshire-innovation-park-crosshouse>

42 East Ayrshire brings Education and Business together to develop jobs and training opportunities for all | East Ayrshire Council News

<https://newsroom.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/news/east-ayrshire-brings-education-and-business-together-to-develop-jobs-and-training-opportunities-for-all>

43 Contractor Engagement Evening: Kilmarnock | Community Pharmacy Scotland

<https://www.cps.scot/contractor-engagement-evenings/kilmarnock>

44 Give to Gain, Kilmarnock: empowering women and creating safer communities Tickets, Wed, 11 Mar 2026 at 11:00 | Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/give-to-gain-kilmarnock-empowering-women-and-creating-safer-communities-tickets-1982427069731>