EcoArt

TRUSTEE'S ANNUAL REPORT

30 January 2025 to 1 February 2026



Shirley Prahms, volunteer, sorting buttons



Nithraid procession along Dumfries High Street.

EcoArt SCIO A Scottish Registered Charity No. SC049905

OUR CONTACT DETAILS

EcoArt
1 Castle Street
Kirkcudbright DG6 4JA
Scotland
07526 605 022
info@ecoartcharity.org
www.ecoartcharity.org

Charity Trustees

The following trustees were appointed for the entire report period.
Some details on each trustee is given on our website.

1. Robbie Coleman
2. Mark Zygadlo
3. Jo Hodges (Chair)
4. Rose Petal Hall (Secretary & Chief Executive)
5. Stuart Hall (Treasurer)



Participants at Nithraid River Festival, Dumfries



Repair Cafe in action

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITIES

EcoArt was constituted on the 30th of January 2020 with these stated purposes:
Environmental protection for public benefit by
a) advancing reductions in: consumption; waste; plastic use; demand for virgin resources; greenhouse gas emissions; and energy use.
b) the promotion of sustainable development including raising awareness of environmental sustainability and creating action on climate change.
All to be achieved by connecting people with art and creative pursuits
that encourage a more environmentally conscious and sustainable lifestyle.



Nithraid River Festival, image K.Kirk

Furthermore, EcoArt is able to promote, establish, operate and/or support other similar schemes, organisations, individuals and initiatives which are in furtherance of the charitable purposes. In order to achieve its objectives EcoArt is pursuing three principle threads:

1. Educational and practical workshops on specific changes that participants can make to their lives.
2. The commissioning of environmental-based art or art-based projects.
3. Residencies for environmental artists in inspiring locations.

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT



Rowings participating in Nithraid Dumfries

Type of governing document

EcoArt is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation governed by our constitution.

Trustee recruitment and appointment

The board of trustees has remained constant throughout the year.

The board contains an excellent balance of skills to allow EcoArt to achieve its objectives.

We have a mixture of environmental artists, project administrators, educators, public communicators, entrepreneurs and successful realisers of art project funding.

More information on the trustees is available on our website at

www.ecoartcharity.org/about-us

OVERVIEW

A Year of Flourishing





Daily Record 6 March report on the Repair Cafe's birthday

The Repair Café is 1 Year old:
Since launching on March 2nd, 2024, our Repair Café has become more than just a place to fix things—it's a community hub where people connect, share skills, and keep valuable items out of landfill. It is sucessfully nudging culture from throw-away to repair.
It is immensely popular with usually 40+ monthly visitors bringing in 30+ items. Our amazing Fixers have repaired 82% of items, this is incredibly high and underscores their skill and dedication. We are committed to a circular economy and reducing waste within the community.



Nithraid headquarters in Dumfries

The Board of Trustees is delighted to present this report on another great year for EcoArt. We continue to deliver our strategic objectives, grow our presence and expand our impact within the local community of Dumfries & Galloway. Our environmental projects benefit the community by improving resilience, lowering carbon footprints, and providing educational green spaces.

Organisational Development & Community Integration: We are flourishing within the Kirkcudbright community having developed new collaborations with organisations and the local schools. There remains a solid base of volunteers and regular event attendees. In the second year of producing Nithraid, a dynamic River Festival in Dumfries we hosted even more partners from across the region and consider there has been a successful transition into an environmental arts festival advocating a sense of place, river rights, sustainability and a platform for ecological voices. It was even recognised in the Scottish parliament!
The Repair Cafe remains popular and has become enbedded in the community, celebrating its first birthday.
Twice this year we featured in D&G Life magazine; with our workshop appearance on the BBC with Robson Green and Nithraid River Festival with its boat race that follows the high tide up into the town centre.

Programme Expansion & Community Response: Our diverse programme of groups and meetups has continued to flourish and expand, directly responding to identified local demand. These new initiatives include a Community Garden, Sewing Machine Maintenance classes and weekly surplus food redistribution; Free Food Fridays. We have had to drop 2 wellbeing sessions, the Climate Cafe & Art for the Soul due to lack of demand.
We would like to acknowledge the invaluable contribution of our 28 dedicated volunteers, whose tireless efforts and generous donation of time are fundamental to our operations and success. Their commitment is deeply appreciated by the Board and the communities we serve.

OVERVIEW

A Year of Flourishing

Happy First Birthday to the Repair Cafe





Huge thanks to Nups for co-ordinating and to our amazing fixers, Ken, Erwin, Pippa, Karen, Emma, Bob, Damien, Marcus, Barbara, Rita, Margaret & the whole team for their enthusiams, keeping the tools turning and the spirits high.











82% Repair Rate!

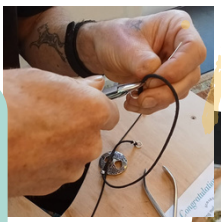
One year, 403 visitors, 310 broken items, and 254 successful repairs—what an incredible journey!
42 unrepairable
14 signposted

Since launching on March 2nd, 2024, our Repair Café has become more than just a place to fix things—it's a community hub where people connect, share skills, and keep valuable items out of landfill.
toast to another year of mending, learning, and sustainability!

"Pleased to have my necklace repaired (new fastening) - brings back happy memories of a holiday with Mum in the Carebeaan. Thank you so much".
Marion Gardner







"Infinite gratitude to you all
Bless Adam who repaired the backrest of my walker. He,ll probably never know how important that was for me.
It really is a special place, saving waste, tears and heartbreak as special things become usable. "Shirley











Lets toast to another year of mending, learning, and sustainability!

Some repaired items, fixers & press

OVERVIEW

Nithraid River Festival



Sunshine and Celebration as Nithraid Festival Draws Record Crowds

Hundreds gathered on the banks of the River Nith on Saturday 23 August as Nithraid 2025 returned in glorious sunshine, celebrating Dumfries' tidal river through sport, environmental art, performance and family activities.
The festival welcomed its largest-ever number of competitors for the signature boat race, with kayaks, sailing dinghies, coastal rowing skiffs and racing boats travelling upstream from Glencaple. Meanwhile, the spectacular Progress, carrying the symbolic Salty Coo, paraded through Dumfries, accompanied by colourful costumes, music and choreography by performance artist Alex Rigg of Oceanallover. Communities from across the region contributed imaginative costumes, banners and mythical river creatures.
Mill Green hosted a lively programme of talks, workshops and installations, including presentations on local maritime history, river photography and renewable energy. Visitors explored handmade boats, created river-inspired artworks and model boats, and took part in wildlife activities, environmental film screenings and a bat walk. Music, food stalls and family activities added to the festive atmosphere.



Community made banner


Mill Green Activities '25
Nithraid, the annual celebration of the River Nith on Saturday 23th August, ran a range of creative family friendly activities on Mill Green from 11am – 5pm. Keeping at its heart the spectacu...
Nithraid RIVER FESTIVAL · Jul 30, 2025

Link to Activities

The day culminated in Nithraid's much-loved Salty Coo ritual, where fresh and salty water meet. Mark Zygadlo's WhiteMill artwork provided purified river water for drinking, while actress Liz Kettle led a declaration celebrating the river's health and future. The Coo was ceremonially dunked to cheers, laughter and showers of salt and water.
Produced by EcoArt for the second consecutive year, Nithraid continues to grow as a distinctive highlight of Dumfries' cultural calendar. Combining sporting spectacle, community participation and environmental creativity, the festival celebrates the River Nith as a vital natural asset while encouraging reflection on its future. Nithraid 2025 was a joyful celebration of place, people and the living river at the heart of Dumfries. We worked with community groups along the source of the River Nith to create special and unique garments, banners and totems for the Salty Coo procession .
An estimated 1300 attendees, 36 race boats, 12 activities plus cinema in a caravan and films at the Burns Centre.




River celebration
Nithraid Festival, Dumfries.

Local press

OVERVIEW

Nithraid River Festival imges





















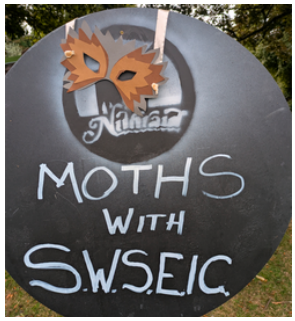






Thank you to our Funders

The Holywood Trust	7000
National Lottery Community Fund	4950
EcoArt SCIO	12,800
Peacock Salt (Blackthorn)	2000
ANCBC (Kingholm Quay)	500
Vodafone	100
Jardine Funeral Directors	1000
Total	**£28,350**









OVERVIEW

A Year of Flourishing

Our CEO, Rose Petal Hall, featured on the BBC's Robson Greens Weekend Escapes on the14th Feb, showcasing our Eco Printing with Botanicals workshop on an open fire. It was a long time coming after filming 9 months previously.

This was followed by increased bookings for the workshop and exposure.

There were also articles in the Galloway New and the D&G Life magazine.



Extract from D&G Life magazine



Rose Petal and her fire pot



Robson Green & friend Mark Benton



Robson Green finished piece









After their night in Mable Forest, Robson and Mark met Rose Petal from D&G-based charity EcoArt, to try printmaking from foraged materials including leaves and berries, discovering their "inner artists" in the great outdoors.

Rose said of the workshop at Marthrown of Mabie: "The banter was hilarious and the unwrapping of their final works of art, joyful and astounding."

THE PROACTIVE "CLIMATE KITCHEN" IS FOR SHARING CLIMATE ACTION STRATEGIES

OVERVIEW

Climate Kitchen

Over 50 folk registered!

This year we welcomed

From A to Sea - where does it come from? Nic Coombey from Solway Firth Partnership Nic organises beach cleans around D&G and is fascinated with the sea journey of waste. We explored beach finds weird and wonderful / natural and plastic and shared our usual vegan soup supper made from local surplus food. Enlightening.

More than human kinship and Collective survival with Artist Ami Robb, University of Shetland

"The Nettle Dress" Movie night.

We presented The Nettle Dress. A testament to slow fashion and slow everything and nature emersion and craft for healing.

Climate Cafe online A much needed safe, confidential space for voicing how you're really feeling at this challenging time. Based on the Climate Psychology Alliance Model. Initially sessions started in person and then online. We only ran 3 sessions this year before closing due to low numbers

Good Food Conversations with Abi Morden of Propagate

A discussion evening focused on fair and healthy food systems
How fair is our food system?
Where is the power and how can we shift it?
How can food production be more environmentally friendly?
How nutritious and healthy is the food we eat?
Help to come up with local actions for making a healthier, more resilient and fair food system.

Permaculture with Lucy Alderslowe

An evening on permaculture principles and sustainable living
At this hands-on event we learnt how to create sustainable and climate-friendly solutions for your kitchen and garden. Seasoned gardeners and those just starting out came, All about living more sustainably. Permaculture is a holistic design system for sustainable living.

Natural Art Materials - Medieval Star Painting with Ed and Lucy from Old Mill Arts . The dark night air was full of frankincense and medieval tunes as we peacefully lost ourselves capturing stars. Thank you to Ed and Lucy for their passion and sharing, such a memorable evening celebrating our first anniversary.

Big shout out to D&G Climate Hub for their help putting this months offering together, thanks to Sarah Thomas



The Climate Kitchen is a place for cooking up action on climate change. We host different topics and activities for discussion and share a vegan soup made from surplus food and home baked bread. Although well attended, usually around 20 folk, it has become increasing challenging to come up with ideas monthly, hence this year, we reduced this to every 2 months. We are grateful to the DG Climate Hub for funding our December event. The group would greatly benefit from being run by a core group but despite the efforts of our CEO, volunteers are not forthcoming, this crucial and popular offering is under threat.





OVERVIEW

A Year of Flourishing

Emma Harper MSP - Motion to Parliament recognising Nithraid River Festival





SNP Party MSP, Emma Harper

Motion S6M-18669 2 Sept 2025 Extract

That the Parliament congratulates all those involved in organising and participating in the Nithraid Festival in Dumfries, a festival that has been running for over 10 years to use cultural community activity to reconnect local people to their river; notes that Nithraid took place on 23 August 2025; recognises the festival's celebration of the history, heritage, and culture surrounding the River Nith, a tidal river of significant environmental and historical importance to the town in the South Scotland Region:

Thank you Emma & 16 other SMP's for your support

Free Food Fridays

Food Waste Reduction: Free Food Fridays continues to demonstrate EcoArt's commitment to sustainability, reducing food waste and supporting community wellbeing. This weekly initiative redistributes surplus food collected from two local bakeries, the fish and vegetable shop, and the Co-op. Thanks to the outstanding dedication of our volunteers, the initiative has operated EVERY Friday throughout the year. It has also become a valued community gathering, with a regular group of locals coming together to collect food, share refreshments and enjoy each other's company. Participants frequently contribute their own garden produce and homemade jams, fostering a spirit of generosity, mutual support and resource sharing within the community.







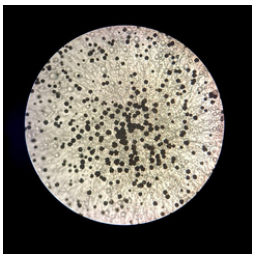
The Board - In conclusion

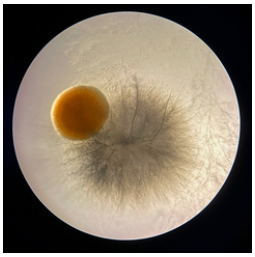
The Board of Trustees is pleased to report that EcoArt has successfully achieved its objectives this year and continues to strengthen its presence across Kirkcudbright and Dumfries & Galloway. Community engagement has grown, sustainability projects have responded to local needs and demand, and our artistic programme has continued to develop. These achievements provide a strong foundation for further growth, enabling EcoArt to build on its successes and extend its impact in the year ahead. The Board would like to express its sincere gratitude to all volunteers, partners and members of the wider community for their ongoing commitment, collaboration and invaluable support.

RESIDENCIES

Project Update: Curious Conversations

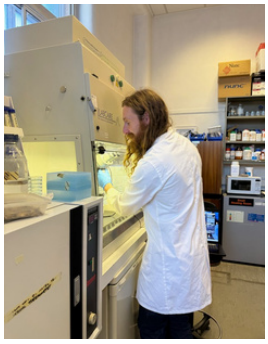
Artist Morag Paterson received funding for a one-year self-directed residency, exploring forest ecology and commercial forest management through a curious and responsive artistic approach working from multiple perspectives - including human, and more than human. We all liked her work so much we agreed to additional funding in May 2026 for phase 2






Artist Morag & Forester Andrew



Artist report: Curious Conversations began as an exploratory, conversation led investigation into forest ecology, management, folklore, policy and economics.Times pent in the forest with forester Andrew Macqueen led to an aerobiome study exploring airborne microbial life across eleven sites. With support from ASCUS Labs, samples were analysed, revealing microbial diversity across different woodland types.
The research generated significant interest, resulting in a co-authored article featured on the cover of the Royal Scottish Forestry Society Journal and photographs selected for the Earth Photo Awards exhibition. Collaborators Gill Higgins and Dr Christine Peters expanded the project's interdisciplinary connections between forestry, human microbiology, music and health. A public event at Crofthead brought these themes together through microscopy, music and informal discussion, attracting enthusiastic participation despite challenging weather. Feedback highlighted the project's capacity to shift perspectives and make invisible natural processes tangible. Future plans include further outreach, collaboration and funding to develop participatory research connecting forests, microbiology, art and human health.



Event Nov 3 Moffat

This immersive, interactive walk in Crofthead Forest, blending forestry, science, and the arts was well attended by 30 folk, despite the rainy weather. Led by forester Andrew Macqueen, artist Morag Paterson, musician/doctor Gill Higgins, and clinical microbiologist Christine Peters, the event engaged participants in a walking conversation about the deep interconnectedness of human and forest biomes. Through sensory exploration, music and microscopy, the group lightheartedly explored forest pathology, hidden microbial worlds, and the physical and psychological health benefits of nature. The event successfully fostered community curiosity and deepened public understanding of forest biodiversity and human wellbeing.



Workshop in the woods



Display of work at Spring Fling, art event in May 2025

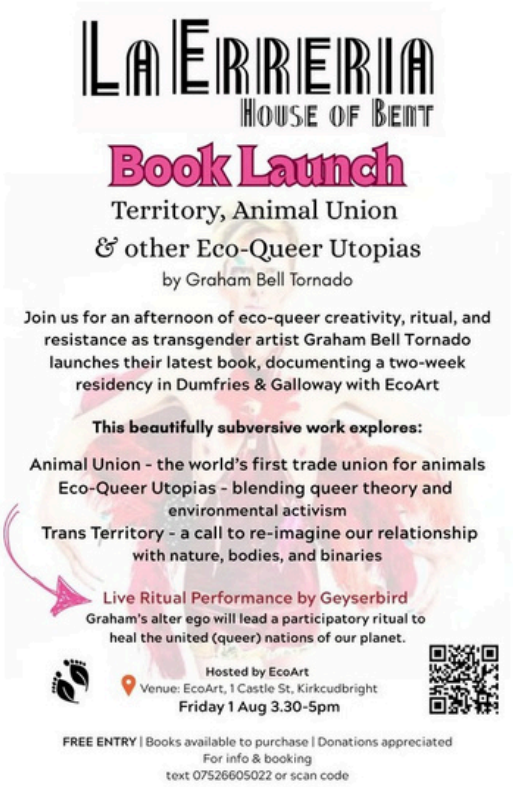
RESIDENCIES

Project Update: Animal Union

Graham Bell Tornado is a bisexual transgender performance artist born in Scotland and currently living and working in Spain. Their performances mix popular culture and traditions with social criticism and take place in diverse contexts They started doing punk style drag in the 90's as Jackie Derrida, transforming over the years into their current manifestation as Geyserbird- a human animal hybrid - who carries out ecoqueer participatory rituals.



Geyserbird performance ritual on Moat Brae, Kirkcudbright





Graham reading from their book

Art Residencies and Graham Tornado Bell's "Animal Union": We were privileged to host the exceptionally talented trans artist, Graham Tornado Bell, who launched his profound "Animal Union" project last year, his residency fostered significant community engagement through collaborative banner-making workshops, public interaction at a film event, the creation of a "Queer Parc," and active participation in the Nithraid festival. This year saw him return to Kirkcudbright to launch his book detailing his experience of his residency and perform a community ritual in the town centre.



Happy participants



The ritual begins



Graham addressing their audience

COMMISSION

Creetown Audio Tour update

Louis Ward & Fiona Prior

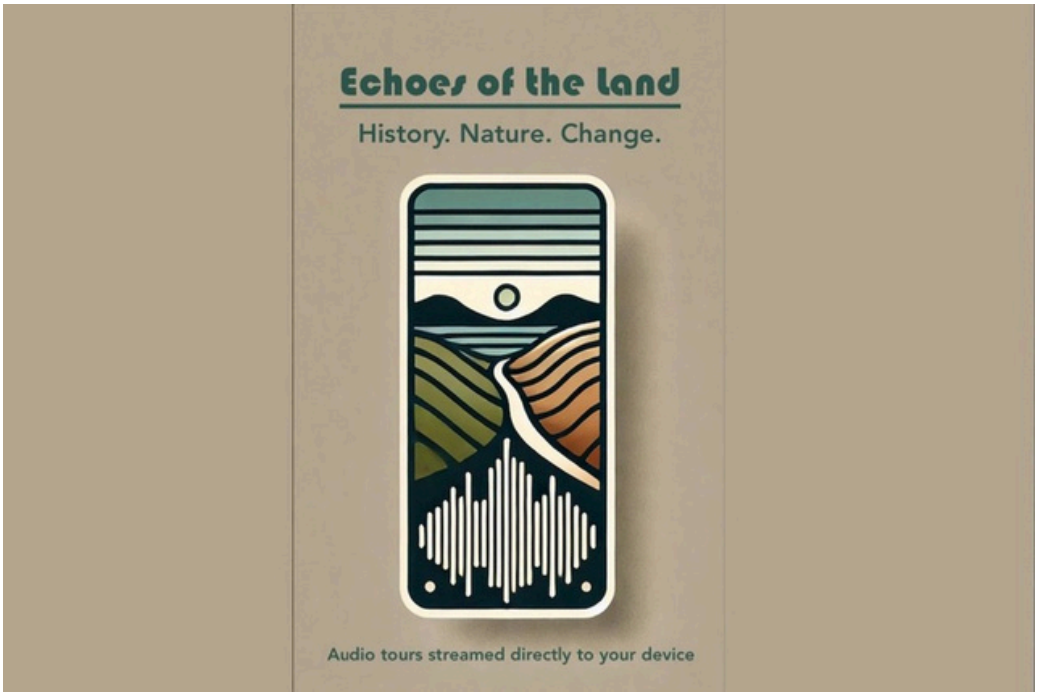
The Creetown audio tour project has experienced some delivery challenges beyond the artists' control, resulting in delays. However, the content has been recorded and is largely complete. We aim to release the tour when the original route is fully accessible, ensuring the project reaches its audience at the most appropriate time.

The tour route and listening stops have been designed, and workshops with Creetown Primary School pupils in P6 and P7 have supported the creation of original Scots poetry inspired by sensory walks, local landscapes and climate change. The children's poetry and reflections have been recorded for inclusion in the tour.

Interviews with local resident and Heritage Museum chair Robbie McQuinstan, and Creetown curling team member Douglas McDavid, capture local heritage, the history of curling and the Chalybeate red well. The Creetown Silver Band has also been recorded, alongside a fully written and narrated script, original music, sound effects and bespoke sound design.

A first draft of the tour has been created using izi.TRAVEL. Initial promotional materials have been designed, and discussions have taken place with Creetown Heritage Museum regarding leaflet distribution.

We remain in contact with Balloch Woods Community Woodland Group regarding access. The project is ready for final preparation, with release planned for spring 2026, subject to route accessibility.



The project has been delayed due to wind blown trees that were felled obstructing the pathways.

COMMISSION

Conversation with our Ocean

Elizabeth Ogilvie - Robert Page - Katie Fowlie

A 5 day immersive exhibition & making bioplastics workshop



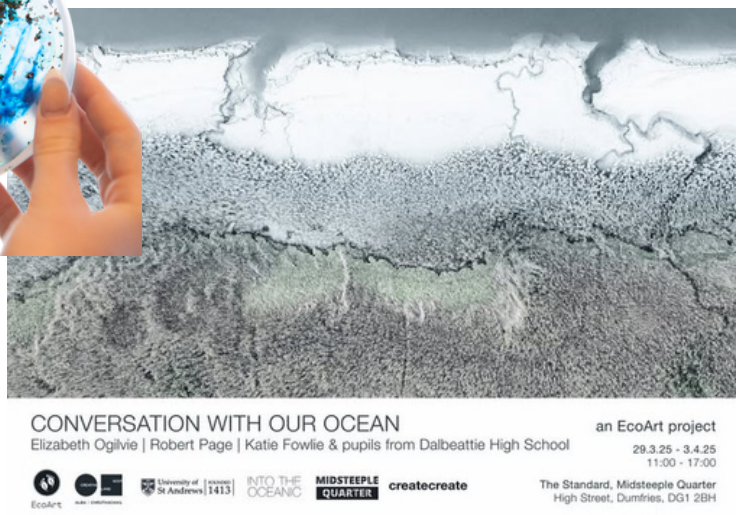


Artists, funders & hosts

A Project of Hope

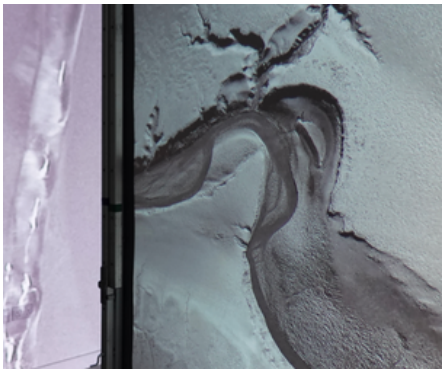
Ocean health is vital to our own survival, yet it is in crisis. The oceans generate around half the oxygen we breathe, while offering powerful solutions to the climate emergency. Kelp forests and plankton produce approximately half of Earth's oxygen, seagrass can store carbon up to 35 times faster than rainforests, and salt marshes store around 50 times more carbon than terrestrial forests.





Art specialist Katie Fowlie delivered **From Sea to Sustainability: Ocean-Friendly Bioplastics,** a hands-on workshop for Dalbeattie High School pupils combining art and science. Participants explored the environmental impact of conventional plastics and created biodegradable alternatives, drawing inspiration from coastal habitats and ocean ecosystems. The workshop highlighted the role of creative collaboration in developing sustainable responses to climate change.











This event was added to last years TAR in error

COMMISSION

Speed Seeds Dating - Emily Tough

A speed dating event held in The Crichton community garden in Dumfries.
This outdoor speed dating event invited people into a growing space, giving them a chance to get soily, visit growing spaces, learn new growing techniques, connect with others, and hopefully make a new partner/friend all the while getting the big endorphin boost which comes with outdoor land work.
The event was open for anyone to apply!
There is a match making process behind the scenes to put a rough demographic together for people that are more likely to romantically connect. Held on 17th February





There were 22 submissions for the event with 14 people invited to participate, 10 people came. 3 people matched and asked to be put in contact after the event.
There were 4 cherubs (volunteer stewards) who's role it is to look after the romancers (participants) while in the gardening space. The event wasnt open to the general public on the day.





Whilst getting to know each other, romancers learnt about plants and growing techniques in the garden. This came from peer-to-peer learning from each other, as well as from the cherubs, head gardener, and our garden signs.
We included conversational prompts, some of these were guided to talk about the environment and other important forms of justice. For example, 'what has been your favourite piece of activism?'.
This event also gives me a chance to educate about different types of LGBTQ+. For example, asking people to include their pronouns and sexual/romantic orientation and why this is important. Some people had never considered what this had meant.

This event was added to last years TAR in error

OUR HOME

A COMMUNITY SPACE FOR FRIENDSHIP, REPAIR, REUSE, UPCYCLING, SKILL SHARING AND WELLBEING



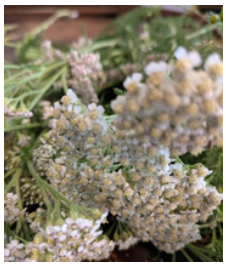








Upcycled envelope flag workshops for the Grand Parade, Kirkcudbright











Monthly Plant Connections peer led group to share our passion for wild plants as food, art & medicine





Mercedes' popular skin care workshop



New workshop, Sewing machine maintenance with Pippa & Ann







Woolly Spinners Gaither n share your learnings n laughter as we rejoice having fun with sheep fleece





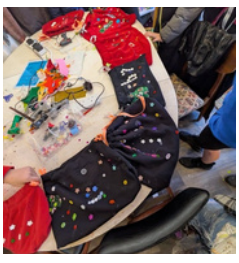
Climate Kitchen







The Clothes Swap have become social as folk hang around for more items to arrive. Plenty of tea & cake



Very busy upcycling sessions with P5/P6



Slow Stitching Social meets 3-4 times a month. Part of our wellbeing offering using scraps for upcycling

OUR HOME

A COMMUNITY SPACE FOR FRIENDSHIP, REPAIR, REUSE, UPCYCLING, SKILL SHARING AND WELLBEING









Eco Printed Lampshade & bottle lamp class with Jenny Gardner

Festive wreath making





Pinny made at sewing support

Repair Cafe is 1. Happy Birthday







Drop in community knit





There's FREE FOOD for everyone. Yes, it's really FREE!

Pop by and help yourself to food you can use or drop off your extra food to share with others. The collection tables will be outside EcoArt, weather permitting, otherwise they'll be inside.

On Fridays you can take a small climate action by sharing in unsold food from your local shops and eateries. Not only does this save you money, it also helps cut your carbon footprint by reducing the use of energy; fuel; water; fertiliser; land and people power, all needed to deliver food to us. It reduces food going to landfill where it decomposes and releases dangerous methane gas into the atmosphere.

- Top 5 most wasted foods in UK are potatoes, bread, milk, bananas and salad
- A third of all food produced globally is thrown away
- Only 7% of food surplus from retail and manufacturing sectors is redistributed





The community wall hanging. Folk can drop in & try their hand on a loom



OUR HOME

ECO MAKERS

A crafty meet-up to learn new skills & make friends

We meet twice a month to play, upcycle & divert items from landfill



Unsold books rescued from a local charity shop destined for shredding are upcycled into hedgehog letter holders. An easy workshop.



A donated and upcycled piece





Decoupaged shells from the local fishing fleet





Bicycle inner tubing gifted by locals and shops made into jewellery





Yes, you can make shells look like mushrooms!



Jenny popped in and fell in love with this hand painted stool now off on a new adventure in Dalbeattie

It's always a special moment when one of our handcrafted pieces finds its perfect match!





Cable tidies made from bicycle inner tube



We always love crafting with nature, Cute cone people



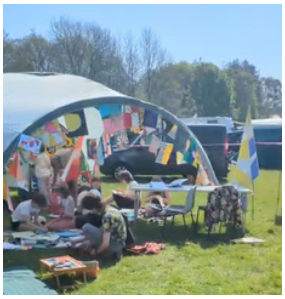
Eco Makers in action



Brooch made from scraps

OUTWITH OUR HOME

WORKSHOPS & EVENTS DELIVERED ACROSS THE REGION



MONIAIVE FOLK FESTIVAL

Signaling flag design & Inner Tube upcycling workshops

Family Field Events Programme

Saturday 10th
Spinning Jenny 10am-4pm
Swift watch with Antoine LeMaire 10am - 2pm
Copper Bracelets with Wordsmiths Crafts 10am - 4pm
Raku with Anthea Summers 10am-4pm
Moving Images Caravan 10am-4pm
EcoArt Land signalling flags 10am-1.30pm
Cath Campbell's Singing Workshop 11am-1pm Riverside Room, The George Hotel
Samba Drumming with Matt Clements 1-3pm in School playground

Sunday 11th
Spinning Jenny 10am-4pm
Copper Bracelets with Wordsmiths Crafts 10am-2pm
Raku with Anthea Summers 10am-4pm
EcoArt upcycled jewellery 10am - 1.30pm
Willow Dragonflies with Way of the Wild 11am-3pm
Kate Howard family singing 12 midday
Felt Fairies with Cara Breslin 1pm-3pm
Leather crafting with Wordsmiths Crafts *(pre-booking required on the Saturday)* 2-4pm







River Union Banner Making as part of Nithraid outreach



EDEN WOOL GATHERING
2025
WHITHORN ROUNDHOUSE
DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

Eco Printing on Wool
4 workshops in 2 days!





Kirkcudbright Summer Festivities
Upcycled flag workshop part 2







Inner Tube workshop
with Steampunk festival



Apple pressing with Stewartry Community Garden

Collaborating with Crichton Carbon Centre, Argrennan House & Kirkcudbright P5/6 we foraged plants & hammered prints onto fabric then made banners.







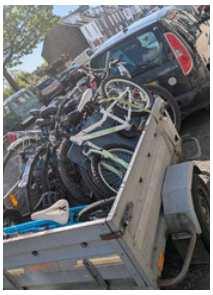




Parade with EcoArts
'LAND' flags, Moniaive

SURPRISES & STORIES





Making Connections That Matter

As a result of intoducing William Laws of Kirkcudbright, Bicycle Hire & Repair shop with Massive Outpouring Of Love - D&G Refugee Action 10 donated bicycles have been refurbished and gifted to refugee families across the region— helping them travel, connect, and settle into their new community. This is what local action, sharing and kindness look like

Bicycles loaded and heading off for servicing.







Big thanks to Rhubarb for handing in their waste packaging for reuse. WOW, what stunning colours! We decided to brighten up the studio



Face Shields



Kindly brought in by Reg, from a local GP surgery, who struggled to find anyone who could use them

We managed to rehouse them at an animal sanctuary & upcycle the rest.



Beautifully restored at EcoArt, this swan found a new home with Gill MacLellan. Whilst visiting the castle she spotted him in our window. She couldn't have been happier as she'd been looking for one for years. Swantastic serendipidy

DG Climate Hub awarded us $500 for a learning exchange visit to Creation Mill in Langholm in March. 6 Volunteers had a fun and informative day out. Thank you.



A little love story

After learning book folding at Eco Makers, our volunteer Margaret made this stunning piece of book art, We're delighted to share that the lovely lady bougt it as a wedding present for her son. What a perfect symbol of love and new beginnings!









After being gifted 16 Texel fleece we shared 10 with the Eden Wool Gathering, cleaned the rest & spun yarn. Thanks to Woolly Spinners Gaither group



The Mens Shed in CD made us a peg loom!

COMMUNITY GARDEN

A SPACE WHERE HUMAN AND NON HUMAN CAN FLOURISH

This year saw the launch of our new project: Kirkcudbright Community Garden.
This is the first growing season of a new garden project situated on leased land at a residential care home.
It is managed by and for the local community.
After consulting with our membership of 55 and professionals we are developing the garden for multi use.
With a focus on accessibility, connection, well being, sharing and learning. Using principles of sustainability, inclusion, transparency and community. We envisaged a welcoming and inspiring social green space that is as much about cultivating relationships and neighborhood pride as it is about growing plants.
We have a high sensory bed in the making with plants that are fragrant, bright, attract pollinators, rustle and can be touched and tasted.
There is a dye bed for growing plants for creative use.
Some areas are for food growing, others for flowers and the 'more than human'.
We're responding to our soil, which is clay and making a bog area and plan to use the clay creatively too.
There are two social areas, one indoor; we are lucky to have a garage we are making water tight and the other outdoors.
We are looking for funds for materials to support the outdoor social area with seating, table, fire pit, lean-to and a simple outdoor kitchen.
We will use reclaimed wood and materials where ever possible to reduce our footprint.



Our main bed & greenhouse



Brave members at our initial meetup with Abi Morden from Propagate



Serious planning



Our soil is clay!

In Sept, after we have had a generous offer of help from the Co-op, we met with their representatives to discuss the work needed in the garden. They agreed to send their build team to make raised beds, lay a patio and effect repairs as needed. We look forward to this hugely. It will catapult us forward. Massive THANK YOU



Abi Morden in action

KIRKCUDBRIGHT COMMUNITY GARDEN



Thanks to the Co-op for offering their build crew for a day

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Workshops, Meetups & Groups

129 workshops with 852 people attending.

The most popular was the Slow Stitching Social which we ran on **29** occasions. Eco Makers group ran **20** times, Sewing Support/make do & Mend ran **18** times, Eco Printing with Botanicals ran **6** times, Mindful Dotty Art ran **8** times as did Plant Connections.
Some of the other workshops/groups include, Woolly Spinners Gaither, Faraging through the seasons, Upcycle Bicycle Inner Tubes, Climate Kitchen, Natural Cosmetics,
Sewing Machine Maintenance,
Climate Cafe and the sign language group which ran 4 times were stopped -due to low numbers
We had Furniture Upcycling advertised 10 times, running only **3**. This is our most expensive workshop and bookings were usually 1-2 so we decided to open it up for free for those who wanted to learn skills and paint one of our pieces to raise funds, this has proved successful.

More engagements

Approximately 2811 people at 96 events

The Repair Cafe ran on **10** ocassioons hosting **410** folk. For Kirkcudbright Summer Festvities we run 2 upcycled flags making workshops, approx **75** folk.
At the Steampunk festival we hosted bicycle inner tube upcycling for around **45** folk
Moniaive Initiative hosted Eco Printing for **10,** Moniaive Folk Festival Inner Tube Jewellery **52,** Morag Paterson Artist Residency 2 events **80.** At the Eden Wool Gathering we hosted 4 workshops for **34**, Community Garden membership **55** & garden planning **9** , Environmental Signalling Flag workshop at Nithraid **70** & Moniaive Folk Festival **48**
At the Arts and Craft Trail we ran upcycled hedgehog workshops hosting over **100** vixitors.
Collaborating with
Nithraid River Festival approx **1300**, Nithraid river race **38**, Repair Cafes **410** Graham Tornado Bell Art Residency book launch & events **23** folk. Conversations with the Ocean exhibition was attended by **160,** the School element **23** youngsters, Speed Seed dating **15, 4** Clothes Swaps hosted over **100** folk

Total of 225 events with approx 3660 participants, a 46% increase in engagement from last year

CONNECTIONS



Furniture upcycling class

Digital Presence

We have a social media presence of 2,600 followers. We are on Facebook and Instagram and use the hashtags #ecoartnews #flagsforclimatechange #signalstotheworld #ecoart #Nithraid



Happy ritual participant

Collaborators

During the year we have worked with, Eden Wool Festival, Kirkcudbright Steampunk Agency, Kirkcudbright Arts & Craft Trail, BBC, The Biosphere, Antoine Lemaire, Kirkcudbright Summer Festivities, Kirkcudbright Academy, Kirkcudbright Primary School, Moniaive Folk Festival, Abi Morden-Propagate, Cample Line-Thornhill, Moniaive Initiative, Jenny Gardner-Artist, Emily Tough-Artist, Morag Paterson-Artist, CAFF-Fiona Prior-clothes swap, Lucy Alderslow-Permacullture Educator, Ami Robb-Artist, Graham Tornado Bell-Artist, Lincluden Community Centre, Crichton Carbon Centre, Oceanallover, SWSEIC, Cate Ross-Artist, The Little Bakerey, SW Sea Products, Co-op, Paul Jones Bakery, Tamara of Plant Listening, The Old Mill Studio, Guild of Weavers & Dyers, Solway Firth Partnership, Mens Shed Castle Douglas, Moving Images, Kirstin McEwan Photography, Martin Clarkson Artist, Midsteeple Quarter, Jasmin Robertson Artist and DG Climate Hub



Caption please

A gigantic thank you to our volunteers without whom we could not have achieved what we have

CONNECTIONS

Memberships

A Big Thank You to our Funders

The Holywood Trust, The National Lottery Community Fund,
Blackthorn Salt, Kingholm Quay Community,
Jardine Funeral Directors, Vodafone

FINANCIAL REVIEW

Statement of the charity's policy on reserves

EcoArt was founded with a donation of £500,000 to meet all the overhead costs of the organisation for at least ten years as well as enabling us to fund multiple projects that support our charitable purposes. This aligns with our plan to operate EcoArt for a minimum of ten years - until at least 2030. To achieve this we require our net annual expenditure to be approximately £50,000. With this in mind we are comfortably on target to achieve this aim, as in our sixth year, the income generated was almost £29,700 and we spent almost £77,300 our net expenditure (expenditure less income received) has been £47,600

Total Funds Carried Forward are £285,000



Decoupage on waste wood made at Eco Makers

Details of any deficit

There are no deficits to report

Donated facilities and services

Time was donated by Trustees as well as multiple volunteers.

FUTURE PLANS

2026-2027

In the coming year, we look forward to deepening our roots in the Dumfries and Galloway community, strengthening existing partnerships and collaborations, and welcoming new connections and volunteers

There will be further streamlining of The Nithraid River Festival and building on the community engagement workshops held prior to the event. These will take the form of banner making, costume and art focucing on the Nith and its tribvtaries. More artist commissions to include one giving voice to the River Nith. The hiring of a fundraiser for Nithraid to relieve the immense work the Trustees do to produce the event.

The Repair cafe has inspired other communities and we hope it continues to do so, every town needs one!

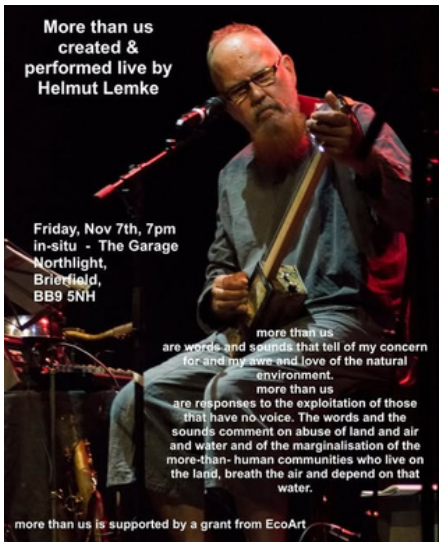
We are hoping to establish a core group to co-ordinate the Climate Kitchen sessions.

We are looking forward to hearing where Morag Paterson, commissoned artist's research leads her and more on forest biomes.

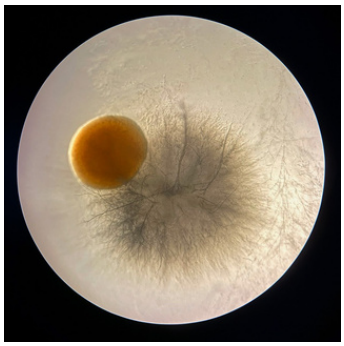
We are looking forward to our first growing season and event at the Kirkcudbright Community Garden and to the help the Co-op build team will bring.

We continue to look for new hosts for The Solway Hoard exhibition, a display of found plastic objects set 1000 years in the future, The Era of Plastic.

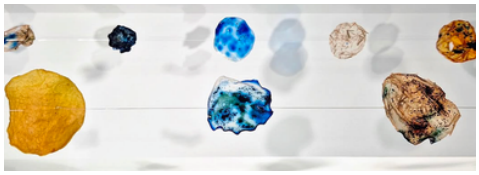
We look forward to responding to community needs and aspirations by expanding our programme of workshops and social groups, creating more opportunities for connection, creativity and shared learning.



Helmut, commissioned artist performing



Bioplastic examples & settle plate from the forest

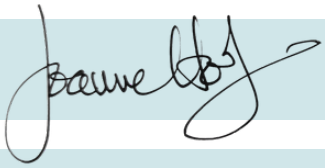


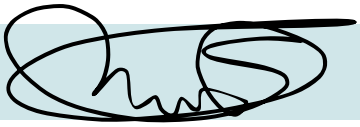


River race trophies, Nithraid

DECLARATION

2025-2026

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE CHARITY:	
PRINT NAME:	JO HODGES
DESIGNATION:	CHAIRPERSON
DATE:	28 OCT 2026

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE CHARITY:	
PRINT NAME:	STUART HALL
DESIGNATION:	TREASURER
DATE:	28 OCT 2026