

COMMUNITY PAYBACK SERVICE

NEWSLETTER

Building brighter futures . . .

Welcome to the Spring/Summer edition of the Community Payback Team's newsletter. As warmer days inspire renewal and growth, we are proud to share how our dedicated efforts in Justice Services have sparked meaningful change within our communities.

In this edition, you'll discover an overview of our completed tasks; including innovative projects that not only meet community needs but also rejuvenate local spaces. Our success stories shine a spotlight on transformative journeys and restorative outcomes that underpin the power of 'Community Payback'. We've included a selection of photographs that capture the real moments of teamwork, resilience, and the vibrancy of our collective achievements. Finally, the heartfelt beneficiary feedback stands testament to the lasting impact of our work. Every story, image, and testimonial in our newsletter highlights our commitment and the pivotal role our team plays in building bridges within the community.



Challenging 'stigma' and providing second chances . . .

By educating ourselves, sharing uplifting narratives, partnering with trusted community figures and communicating transparently, we can dismantle the stigma associated with Community Payback. In doing so, we embrace a justice framework that values human potential and fosters unity, paving the way for a future where every individual has a genuine chance to rebuild and contribute positively. Ultimately, stigma fades when people see the person, not just the circumstance. Building understanding, celebrating positive contributions, and fostering pathways for reintegration, our community can embrace Community Payback as a force for good - where redemption isn't just possible but encouraged.



Each person can take a step in promoting acceptance and inclusion and by doing so, help communities to thrive as the potential in every individual is recognised offering meaningful ways to contribute and rebuild. It means shifting our focus from punishment to transformation; a path that not only benefits the individual but strengthens our community as a whole.

Garden Maintenance & Grass Cutting Service

The Community Payback Team is pleased to commence the garden maintenance and grass-cutting season, which operates on a rotational basis from April to September. This initiative provides essential support to residents who do not qualify for the Council's Garden Maintenance Scheme but require assistance in managing their outdoor space. Eligible individuals receive help with grass cutting, strimming, weeding, and hedge trimming, ensuring their gardens remain well-kept and accessible. The service primarily benefits elderly and disabled residents on low incomes, who may otherwise struggle with the upkeep of their garden due to age or physical health challenges. Each year, the Community Payback Team maintain around 90 gardens every fortnight across East Ayrshire, delivering a vital service that enhances outdoor living spaces and contributes to the well-being of vulnerable members of our community.



"I have been in and out of hospital with chronic pain. The service provided by the Community Payback Team has helped me a great deal and I am so happy with the results"

Resident – New Cumnock

"The one joy we have sitting out in a nice tidy garden, we couldn't do it without the Community Payback Team. They do a great job and are very conscientious workers"

Resident – Cumnock

Fisher Memorial, Crosshouse

The Fisher Memorial Cairn stands as a tribute to Andrew Fisher, born in Crosshouse who rose from humble beginnings as a miner to serve three terms as Prime Minister of Australia. This historical landmark holds significant meaning, reflecting Fisher's enduring legacy and contributions.

In a dedicated effort to preserve and enhance the site, the Community Payback Team have undertaken important maintenance work, including weeding and repainting the area. Their efforts ensure that the cairn remains a well-kept and respectful space for visitors and the local community to appreciate.

This initiative is part of a broader commitment to maintain historical sites and foster civic pride. The restoration not only improves the visual appeal of the monument but also reinforces the value of preserving local heritage for future generations.



"Huge thanks to the Community Payback Team for an excellent job"

Elected Member

Community Gardens

The Community Payback Team play a vital role in maintaining and enhancing local green spaces, encouraging environmental sustainability and strengthening community ties. By engaging individuals in meaningful work such as garden maintenance, these tasks provide tangible benefits to both service users and the wider community. Maintaining community gardens helps preserve biodiversity, supports pollinators and promotes sustainable practices. The efforts of the team contribute to cleaner, greener neighbourhoods while offering a restorative space for communities to connect with nature. Service users gain valuable skills in horticulture, teamwork and responsibility, promoting personal growth and increasing opportunities for employment.



Catrine



Cumnock



Dalmellington



Gatehead



Kilmarnock Fire Station



Kilmaurs



Logan



Muirkirk



North West Kilmarnock

Ellisland Day Care Centre, Mauchline

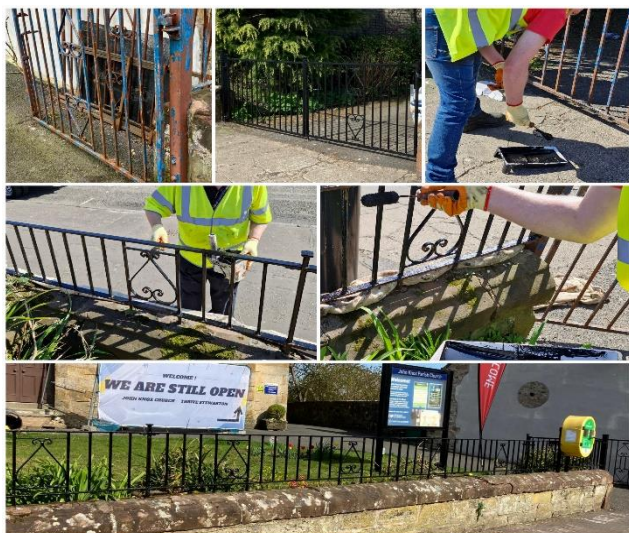
Ellisland Day Care Centre provides essential support for older individuals with diverse needs, including physical disabilities, mental health conditions, and dementia-related illnesses. The centre ensures vulnerable people receive supervision, care, and stimulation to maintain their independence in a safe and supportive environment. Recognising the importance of accessible outdoor spaces, the Community Payback Team took action to improve the centre's garden patio area. Their hard work involved removing moss and debris, which had become a hazardous trip risk. Through their dedication, the outdoor space is now safer and more inviting, allowing residents to enjoy fresh air and social interactions in a comfortable setting.



"Please thank the team on behalf of myself, the staff and especially the service users who attend the centre. The team have carried out a brilliant job. Before the team carried out the work, the garden area was not used due to it being unkempt. Having this garden area tidied up will be a great benefit to all. It means that people using the service can sit outside when the weather permits and enjoy the sunshine and fresh air. This will lift the spirits of all. It also means that people who use the service can plant up flower pots and make the area more appealing for everyone to enjoy"

Connie Sykes – Day Care Coordinator

Thrive, Stewarton



Based at John Knox Church on High Street, Thrive is dedicated to supporting individuals in their 20s to 40s across Stewarton through a range of activities that promote physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being. With funding from the Church of Scotland, Thrive extends practical support beyond the church walls, welcoming all regardless of faith. Current community initiatives include 'Walk & Talk sessions', a Wellbeing Café, Baby and Toddler groups, the 'Roots and Shoots' Gardening Club and Men's Woodworking Shed.

Thrive has benefitted from the invaluable assistance of Community Payback, whose contributions have ranged from hedge cutting and external painting and most recently, the renovation of the front railings.

"Just a note to say a massive thanks to the guys. Really great job!"

Pete Anderson – Project Worker

Leaflet Distribution for 'Roon The Toon' 10K Event



Organising a large-scale event like **'Roon the Toon'** 10K race requires extensive coordination, with approximately 1,800 runners and numerous spectators. The race aims to welcome visitors to the area and inspire East Ayrshire residents to stay active whilst highlighting Kilmarnock as a prime destination for outdoor activity. Given the race takes place on closed or partially closed roads, some disruption to local residents is unavoidable. To mitigate this, the Community Payback Team played a crucial role by distributing road closure notices in advance to homes across the affected areas. Their efforts helped to keep the community prepared and informed, ensuring the event run smoothly; maintaining positive engagement and communication with local residents.

Residential & Community Fence Painting



The Community Payback Team continues to make a lasting impact across residential areas, cemeteries, and local resource centres through their dedicated fence painting work. This initiative not only revitalises community spaces but also fosters a sense of pride and care within neighborhoods. Fence painting is more than just a fresh coat of color; it enhances the durability of outdoor structures, protects wood from weather damage and improves the aesthetic appeal of shared spaces. Beyond the visible improvements, fence painting allows participants to develop practical skills in preparation, painting techniques and teamwork. Precision, patience and attention to detail are developed through this process, contributing to valuable work experience that can support future employment opportunities. Through their ongoing dedication, the Community Payback Team continue to demonstrate the positive impact of their collective efforts in maintaining and improving our local environments.



Mauchline Holy Fair 2025

The return of Mauchline Holy Fair brought a week of exciting activities to the village. As the community immersed themselves in the festivities from Murder Mystery Nights and folk performances to authentic football matches and lively dances, the event was a celebration of culture, history and all things Burns. With over 14,000 visitors from across Ayrshire and beyond, the Holy Fair is a cornerstone of community life, offering something for all ages to enjoy. Behind the scenes, the Community Payback Team played a vital role, dedicating their time and efforts to keeping the public areas clean, tidy and litter-free. Their support year on year ensures that Mauchline remains welcoming and well-presented for residents and visitors alike and the recognition and appreciation the team's contributions make to maintaining the town's charm and heritage.

Supported Accommodation, New Cumnock

Afton Court is a supported accommodation unit with 21 flats, providing a welcoming environment for individuals over 60 who require support or simply companionship. The organisation offers a wide range of activities, including bingo, bowling, craft classes and Dancercise - an energetic and enjoyable way to stay active. Additionally, Afton Court has its own social club, organising monthly social evenings with food and entertainment. Open to tenants and the wider community it helps develop community connections and engagement. Recently, the Community Payback Team contributed to maintaining their outdoor space. Their efforts included clearing access paths, weeding, strimming and ensuring the grounds remain litter and debris free. Their work has helped to create a clean, accessible and inviting environment for residents, family and visitors alike.

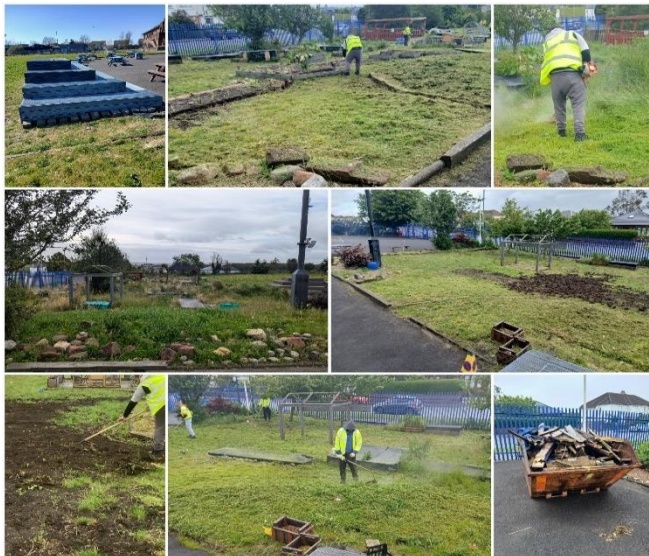


"I just wanted to say how grateful we all are and what a brilliant job the Community Payback Team are doing here at Afton Court. It's very much appreciated and noted by all tenants, workers and visitors to our premises. The comments have been amazing"

Catherine Muir - Wellbeing & Development Officer

Hillhead Primary School

The Community Payback Team are committed to enhancing educational environments by restoring outdoor learning spaces, ensuring that children and young people can engage with nature for education and play. At Hillhead Primary School, Kilmarnock, a once-loved garden had fallen into disrepair, becoming overwhelming to maintain. Through dedicated support, the team has transformed the space by dismantling broken planters, clearing skips full of accumulated waste, levelling soil to reduce trip hazards and strimming, tidying and weeding the garden grounds. To complete the restoration, decked seating and picnic benches have been revamped with a fresh coat of anti-slip paint; creating an inviting and well-maintained area for the staff and young people to enjoy.



"Thank you so much to the team from Justice Services for the work completed at Hillhead Primary, we are absolutely thrilled with it. The garden is a huge benefit to the school and the community and much loved by all the pupils and staff. As a school it is difficult for us to keep on top of the maintenance tasks and we are indebted to you for helping us with this. We now have a usable space for the children to learn about nature and take a moment to reflect on their day in school."

Thank you from the whole Hillhead community and we hope to work with you again in the future"

Emma Fraser - Depute Head Teacher, Hillhead Primary School

The **Main Objectives** of an unpaid work requirement as part of a Community Payback Order are:

- To provide courts with a community based penalty which has the potential to achieve a positive outcome in respect of the individual's likelihood of reoffending.
- To ensure the courts have access at all times to a community sentence for use as a first response which requires the individual to undertake unpaid work for a specified number of hours in the community (from 20 hours to 300 hours).
- To provide a high quality community based intervention which balances pay back to the community with opportunities to address offending behavior whilst supporting individuals towards positive change; and
- To provide individuals with an opportunity to gain the skills and to access the supports required to lead positive lives and desist from offending.

When considering a project for Unpaid Work it must meet the following criteria ...

- It must benefit the local community.
- It must not deprive others of employment opportunities.
- It must be worthwhile and constructive for the individual/team.
- There cannot be funding available for the task.
- No individual can profit from the work.

Every project will be individually assessed for its suitability and health & safety implications. If you have a project you would like to be considered, please contact the Unpaid Work Co-Ordinator.

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Responsible for the Provision, Co-Ordination & Delivery of Unpaid Work Placements across East Ayrshire

Justice Services

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