

Newton Stewart Walking Festival 2022

Participant Information Pack

Please read through this information pack as it contains helpful information designed to ensure your safety and enjoyment during our festival.

Before the event

Booking

Advance booking is usually essential for our walks and our welcome dinner. Our preferred method is that you book and pay online (using your credit or debit card, or Paypal account) via our website www.walkfestnewtonstewart.com. Spaces for our two evening talks will be available on the night.

Cancellation

If you are unable to attend a walk or evening event that you have booked, please e-mail us on info@walkfestnewtonstewart.com so that your space can be offered to another walker. We will not normally issue refunds for cancellations made after 21st April 2022, but you are free to transfer the full value of your payment to other walks and events during the festival if there are spaces available (see special cancellation rules below if you have a positive Covid infection).

Testing positive for Covid

If you test positive for Covid-19 immediately prior to, or on the day you are due to attend an event, please do not attend and instead contact us by e-mail at info@walkfestnewtonstewart.com so that we can process a full refund for you and allow us to offer your space to another participant.

Changes to the festival programme

The organisers retain the right to alter walk routes and/or withdraw routes from the programme without notice. Wherever possible, changes will be advised to you and via our website, Facebook page or via our newsletter.

Dogs

Please note that dogs are **not** allowed on any WalkFest walks.

Preparing for your walk

Weather

Our walks will proceed in both rain and shine, unless it is unsafe to do so. For a detailed weather forecast for the uplands, visit the Mountain Weather Information Service at www.mwis.org.uk and select the Southern Uplands weather forecast.

Clothing and footwear

On the hill walks you must wear proper walking boots and clothing and carry your own waterproofs and sufficient food for the duration of the walk. On other walks you are advised to wear walking boots and be prepared for all kinds of weather. All walks will include a lunch stop and/or other breaks so please bring a supply of food and drink with you.

Walk leader discretion

In the interests of safety, walk leaders reserve the right to decline to take walkers whom they consider to be inadequately equipped or who they have reason to believe may not be able to complete the route. Walkers' safety is our priority at all times. If you are unsure about your suitability for a particular walk, do not hesitate to contact us and one of our experienced guides will contact you to discuss.

Walkers aged under 16

Walkers under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.

On the day

Registration

You must register before joining your walk. The table at the end of this pack shows the registration times and places for each walk and evening event. Registration for each walk opens around 30 minutes before the walk is due to depart. Please ensure you arrive in good time to complete the registration process. A copy of the form you will be asked to complete can be viewed [here](#), but it is not necessary to complete this in advance – there will be a plentiful supply at the registration point.

Registration for walks on Saturday 7th May will take place at The Belted Galloway Visitor Centre, Riverside View, Newton Stewart, DG8 6NQ . Registration for walks on all other days (including Sunday 8th May) will take place at McMillan Hall, Dashwood Square, Newton Stewart, DG8 6EQ.

Coach transfers

All walks include coach transfer from the Riverside View Car Park outside the Belted Galloway Visitor Centre (Saturday 7th May only) or from Dashwood Square outside McMillan Hall (all other days) to the walk start point. All walkers will be returned to Newton Stewart after completing their walk. Our registration staff will guide you to the correct bus.

Buses will leave promptly and for the enjoyment of others we can't wait for those arriving late. To ensure the smooth running of the festival, we cannot normally accommodate requests by walkers to join the walk at the starting point of the route.

To protect your fellow participants and our volunteers from the spread of Covid-19 we ask that you wear a face mask while travelling on our buses.

Walk leaders

All walks will be led by experienced leaders. On the more demanding walks, the walk leaders will be members of the Galloway Mountain Rescue Team. On some of the shorter walks the guides may include local historians, wildlife rangers or enthusiasts who will discuss the history, wildlife etc of the area as you walk.

Following the Country Code

When you are out walking, please observe the Country Code and respect the life and work of the countryside.

Liability

Whilst Newton Stewart Walking Festival has public liability insurance it will not be responsible for any injury, illness, death or claim of any description whatsoever which results from any of the following:

1. The act(s) and/or omission(s) of any walker
2. The act(s) and/or omission(s) of a third party not connected with Newton Stewart Walking Festival and which were unforeseeable or unavoidable

All walkers are strongly advised to obtain adequate medical insurance to cover them in the event of an accident or illness.

Version dated: 1st May 2022



Walk registration and evening event times

The following table provides times for our walks and other events. Please note that there may have been some changes to timings to those originally advised on our website and/or at the time of your booking. The times shown below should be treated as the up to date times.

- Registration for walks on Saturday 7th May will take place at
The Belted Galloway Visitor Centre, Riverside View, Newton Stewart, DG8 6NQ
- Registration for walks on all other days (including Sunday 8th May) will take place at
McMillan Hall, Dashwood Square, Newton Stewart, DG8 6EQ

| Name of walk / event | Registration point | Registration open from | Bus departs at | Return time * |
|---------------------------------------|--|------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Friday 6th May 2022 | | | | |
| 1-1 Glenkens Pilgrims Way | McMillan Hall | 08:30 | 09:00 | 16:00 |
| 1-2 Millfore | McMillan Hall | 09:30 | 10:00 | 17:00 |
| 1-3 War Memories: Baldoon-Wigtown | McMillan Hall | 11:30 | 12:00 | 17:00 |
| Welcome Dinner | Served at 19:30 in Belted Galloway Visitor Centre | | | |
| Saturday 7th May 2022 | | | | |
| 2-1 Walkfest Challenge: 3 Corbetts | Belted Galloway | 06:30 | 07:00 | 18:30 |
| 2-2 Fell O' Fleet | Belted Galloway | 07:30 | 08:00 | 15:30 |
| 2-3 The Drover's Road | Belted Galloway | 08:30 | 09:00 | 16:30 |
| 2-4 Rhins Coastal Path: Part 1 | Belted Galloway | 08:30 | 09:00 | 15:45 |
| 2-5 Newton Stewart by the Back Door | Belted Galloway | 09:30 | 10:00 | 14:15 |
| 2-6 Knockfell | Belted Galloway | 10:15 | 10:45 | 17:15 |
| 2-7 Waters of Tool/Minnoch/Black Burn | Belted Galloway | 11:15 | 11:45 | 16:45 |
| Galloway Hoard talk | Talk starts at 19:30 in Belted Galloway Visitor Centre | | | |
| Sunday 8th May 2022 | | | | |
| 3-1 Mochrum Fell and Barwhillanty | McMillan Hall | 07:30 | 08:00 | 17:00 |
| 3-2 Rhins Coastal Path: Part 2 | McMillan Hall | 07:30 | 08:00 | 16:15 |
| 3-3 Crossing the Border | McMillan Hall | 08:00 | 08:30 | 17:00 |
| 3-4 The Merrick | McMillan Hall | 09:30 | 10:00 | 18:15 |
| 3-5 Salmon Conservation on Penkiln | McMillan Hall | 10:15 | 10:45 | 15:00 |
| 3-6 Kirkdale to Balloch Wood | McMillan Hall | 10:15 | 10:45 | 16:45 |
| 3-7 The Romany Bridge | McMillan Hall | 12:00 | 12:30 | 18:00 |
| Monday 9th May 2022 | | | | |
| 4-1 The Ridge of Cairnsmore of Fleet | McMillan Hall | 07:30 | 08:00 | 15:50 |
| 4-2 Walking the River Dee | McMillan Hall | 08:00 | 08:30 | 15:15 |
| 4-3 The Geology of Balcary Cliffs | McMillan Hall | 10:30 | 11:00 | 17:15 |
| Tuesday 10th May 2022 | | | | |
| 5-1 Striding over Benbrack | McMillan Hall | 07:30 | 08:00 | 18:30 |
| 5-2 The Jewel of the South | McMillan Hall | 07:30 | 08:00 | 15:30 |
| 5-3 A Tale of Two Rivers | McMillan Hall | 10:00 | 10:30 | 17:20 |
| River Cree Talk | Talk starts at 19:30 in Belted Galloway Visitor Centre | | | |
| Wednesday 11th May 2022 | | | | |
| 6-1 Cairnsmore of Carsphairn | McMillan Hall | 08:30 | 09:00 | 18:00 |
| 6-2 A Cree Valley Conga | McMillan Hall | 09:00 | 09:30 | 16:30 |
| 6-3 Supper Walk (Moderate) | McMillan Hall | 13:00 | 13:30 | 20:00 |
| 6-4 Supper Walk (Easy) | McMillan Hall | 13:00 | 13:30 | 20:00 |
| Thursday 12th May 2022 | | | | |
| 7-1 Beneraird | McMillan Hall | 08:00 | 08:30 | 17:00 |
| 7-2 Cairnsmore of Fleet | McMillan Hall | 08:30 | 09:00 | 17:00 |
| 7-3 Changing face of Galloway Uplands | McMillan Hall | 09:30 | 10:00 | 15:00 |

* Return time shown is meant as a guide only and may vary depending on conditions on the day and the group