



A' the Airts

About the Project

A' the Airts is a community organisation and a charity that is a local hub for the community and visitors. The aim of the organisation is to give the local community of Upper Nithsdale a place where they can congregate, converse, and create. Based in Sanquhar, on the main High Street opposite the Tolbooth Museum, the Centre has been operational since 2010.

The Centre is fully accessible with a ramp, a lift, and a hearing loop. The Centre was developed by the community and promotes the arts, crafts, and well-being with daily classes, activities, and events. It has a board of trustees, all local to Sanquhar, a full-time Centre Manager, fifteen part-time staff, and twenty-two volunteers.

In 2023, a 1.2-million-pound extension and refurbishment was completed, doubling the size of the Centre. This beautiful facility is well used by local people and guests. Funding for the extension came from the Holywood Trust, Scottish Government and Dumfries and Galloway Council.

Cake, Chat & Create

There is much to see at A' the Airts, every month a local artist has an exhibition in the gallery, there is a café with home

baked goods and fresh food, a craft shop where local crafters sell their wares, and it is home to Sanquhar Pattern Designs who produce the knitwear.

A Cinema/theatre space is on the top floor, films, performances, and plays can be seen there. Classes for local children are available all year round and many adults take part in arts, crafts, and well-being sessions.

Professional Facilities

There is a hireable digital editing suite with professional film making, music making and graphics software, just as it would be in a professional setting. Local filmmakers use the suite to edit their films.

The organisation won the DG Life Community project of the year in November 2022 and the Centre Manager was one of the top one hundred women in tourism in Scotland, also in 2022.

“A visit is well worth a visit, not only for the Centre but for other local attractions such as Crawick Multiverse, the Tolbooth Museum and Clark’s Little Ark.”

**Yvonne Barber,
Centre Manager
A' the Airts**



Location: Dumfries & Galloway

Type: Enjoy / Eat / Buy

When Set Up: 2010

How Funded: Holywood Trust, Scottish Government, Dumfries & Galloway Council

Beneficiaries: Locals and visitors have a fully accessible community building offering events, a place to eat, and a gift shop. The centre also promotes and preserves the historic Sanquhar knitting pattern for future generations while providing professional facilities for local artists and businesses.

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Social Media: [Facebook](#) [Instagram](#) [X\(Twitter\)](#)

