Galoshans Festival

16 - 31 OCTOBER 2026

A celebration of creativity with community at its heart

Image by Tim Davies
Arachnobot by Tim Davies

Festival Lead Partners

RIG ARTS

FERAL

beacon arts centre

Galoshans Festival

Prepare to be enchanted as Inverclyde's cherished Galoshans Festival returns for 2026! This year, our festival brings a spellbinding blend of art, culture, and Halloween fun to the community. Join us for an unforgettable experience designed to entertain locals and visitors alike, all while showcasing the rich heritage and vibrant spirit of Inverclyde.

Returning for its twelfth year, the festival will take place from 16th October - 31st October. Deeply intertwined with traditional local Halloween customs. The festival is proudly led by RIG Arts and supported by lead partners FERAL, and the Beacon Arts Centre.

The creative programme is made possible through dedicated collaboration with partners including Inverclyde Libraries, The Wyllieum, Magic Torch Comics, CVS Inverclyde, Kayos - Inverclyde Youth Theatre, Where's The One/Oi Musica, and the Inverclyde YMI Street Band (facilitated by Inverclyde Council), alongside the Theatre School of Scotland, The Travelling Gallery, and GFS Properties.

Generously supported by Creative Scotland's Multi-Year Funding, the Scottish Government's Youth Music Initiative through Creative Scotland, the National Lottery Community Fund, and the Scottish Government Investing in Communities Fund.

This year's festival guarantees an accessible, high-quality showcase featuring street spectacles, live music, dance, and theatre crafted to entertain audiences of all ages alongside the Theatre School of Scotland, The Travelling Gallery, and many more.

The celebrations will culminate with the return of our iconic Galoshans Street Party, a true festival highlight showcasing the very best of street bands, live performances, and captivating street theatre!

ACCESS INFORMATION + KEY

Our aim is to make the festival as welcoming and easy to engage with as possible. If there is anything we can do to make your experience more enjoyable, please don't hesitate to get in touch at info@rigarts.org, and we will try our best to help. Detailed access information for each event can be viewed on our website

https://galoshansfestival.co.uk

All events in our programme are marked with a clear Access Key, which identifies any access provisions that are in place:

AD: **Audio Described**
SB: **Sound Based**
BSL: **British Sign Language Interpreted/Integrated**
C: **Captioned**
T: **Transcript**
V: **Highly Visual / No or Little Text**
R: **Relaxed Performance**
TT: **Touch Tour**
SP: **Sub Pacs**

*Please refer to the website for full access terms.
** Details for events marked as TBC will be announced soon. Please check back for updates.

Image Credit Osian Meilir

QWERIN (BACH) BY OSIAN MEILIR

Saturday 17th October
First Performance: 1pm - 1:25pm
Second Performance: 3pm - 3:25pm
Newark Castle, Port Glasgow

Free and Unticketed

Charged with joy and a wonder to behold! Qwerin is a folkloric celebration of culture, identity and community fused with the pulsating energy of queer nightlife! Qwerin is a Welsh folk dance… with a twist!

Access: V, R

Image Credit Groupwork

WHEN PROPHECY FAILS BY GROUPWORK

Friday 23rd October | 7:30pm - 8:40pm
Beacon Arts Centre

Paid and Ticketed

Hypnotic physical theatre and dazzling production design combine to tell the tale of a doomsday cult, and what happens when belief is shattered.

In a small town in the American Midwest, the disciples of a suburban housewife are convinced that the world is ending. Discover the true story of the world's first UFO doomsday cult, which led to a groundbreaking 1950s study into the concept of cognitive dissonance.

Access: C

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FERAL FAMILY DAY

Saturday 24th October, Greenock

A day of free, family-friendly pop-up performances across Greenock Town Centre. The programme has been scheduled so audiences can move between the different performances and see all the events across the day.

Image Credit Bruno Gallagher

EUROPE, MEINE LIEBE, MON AMOUR BY BRUNO GALLAGHER

Supported by The Wylliem and Greenock Cruise Ports

Saturday 24th October
First performance: 1pm - 1:25pm
Second performance: 3pm - 3:25pm
The Wyllieum

Free and Unticketed
"Europe, Meine Liebe, Mon Amour" is a new piece of visual theatre by Bruno Gallagher that takes the form of a series of four absurdist, physical-performance vignettes fusing together elements of object manipulation, mask play, costume-dictated restricted and altered movement and dance.

Access: V, R

Image Credit Vince Virr Dance Company

THEN WHAT BY VINCE VIRR DANCE COMPANY

Supported by The Oak Mall
Funded by Creative Scotland's Touring Fund for Theatre and Dance

Saturday 24th October
First Performance: 12pm - 12:15pm
Second Performance: 2pm - 2:15pm
Outside Oak Mall at Westburn St
West Blackhall St Entrance, Greenock

Free and Unticketed
'Then What' explores the tense moment two people meet for the very first time. This high-energy dance duet between two men brings the collision of two worlds together through daring lifts and thrilling choreography, with audiences surrounding the performers up close.

Access: V, R

Image Credit Tim Davies

ARACHNOBOT BY TIM DAVIS

Wednesday 28th October | 6pm - 8pm
(As part of the Galoshans Street Party)
Custom House Quay, Greenock

Free and Unticketed
Arachnobot, the giant spider puppet, is a world-first - an impressive walkabout act roaming streets, festivals and spectacular events looking for prey, or anyone brave enough to say hello!

This unique puppet combines a giant inflatable skin with a complex cable skeleton controlling eight independently articulated legs. The mechanism allows a single puppeteer to create precise, lifelike movements.Terrifying and enchanting in equal measure, Arachnobot interacts with audiences as it navigates its way through the crowds, indoors and outdoors.

Access: V, R

Image Credit RIG Arts

GALOSHANS FESTIVAL MINI PARADE & STREET PARTY BY RIG ARTS

Wednesday 28th October | 5:45pm – 6pm
Gathering Point: Custom House Way, between West College Scotland and the Waterfront Leisure Centre, Greenock

Free and Unticketed

Wednesday 28th October | 6pm – 8pm
Custom House Quay, Greenock

Free and Unticketed
Inverclyde's Galoshans Mini Parade and Street Party returns for another spectacular celebration of Halloween, creativity and community. Join the Galoshans Giants and enjoy live music, street theatre, arts activities and family-friendly fun as Greenock's waterfront comes alive with Galoshans magic.

Access: V, R

Image Credit Where's The One?

INVERCLYDE YMI STREET BAND BY WHERE'S THE ONE & OI MUSICA

Wednesday 28th October
5:45pm - 6:15pm
(As part of the Galoshans Street Party)
Custom House Quay, Greenock

Free and Unticketed
The Galoshans Street Band will provide a spooky musical soundtrack to the opening of the annual Street Party, featuring drums and brass playing from Gourock primary school pupils

Access: V, R

Image Credit Theatre School of Scotland

'GALOSHANS THEATRE SCHOOL OF SCOTLAND'

Wednesday 28th October
7:05pm - 7:20pm
(As part of the Galoshans Street Party)
Custom House Quay, Greenock

Free and Unticketed
The project will secure a well-known celebrity performer to appear alongside local young people during the Street Party Performance on 28 October 2026. This collaboration will inspire participants, and create a memorable, high-quality performance celebrating young people's creativity and talent.

Access: AD, T, V, R

Image Credit Kim McClelland and Ailie Rutherford

KIM MCCLELLAND AND AILIE RUTHERFORD 'MASSELL'

Wednesday 28th October | 6pm - 8pm
(As part of the Galoshans Street Party)
Custom House Quay, Greenock

Free and Unticketed
Kim McClelland & Ailie Rutherford, co-designed with the Best Friends Group, Inverclyde, will create a new monster to appear on the streets of Inverclyde for this year's Galoshans inspired by comics created via the Inverclyde Sharing Stories project with Magic Torch Comics CIC.

Access: V, R

Image Credit Neve Pearce

NEVE PEARCE 'HAUNTED HOME'

Wednesday 28th October | 6pm - 8pm
(As part of the Galoshans Street Party)
Custom House Quay, Greenock

Free and Unticketed
Haunted Home is a large walkabout house character designed and built in reference to the architectural and social history of the Inverclyde area. Look out for this mischievous character at the Galoshans Festival Street Party.

Access: V, R, TT

Image Credit David Powell

DAVID POWELL 'DORUS SITH (THE FAIRY GATE)'

Wednesday 28th October | 6pm - 8pm
(As part of the Galoshans Street Party)
Custom House Quay, Greenock

Free and Unticketed
Artist David Powell uses language, light, sound, willow, and steel to create a liminal space that pays homage to standing stone and jetty, people and place with a gateway for Galoshans. Connecting past and the present, our world and the otherworld, with the spoken word, woven willow, welded steel and light.

Access: SB, T, V, R, TT

Image Credit Travelling Gallery

TRAVELLING GALLERY 'USER INTERFACE: CODED CRAFT'

Wednesday 28th October | 6pm - 8pm
(As part of the Galoshans Street Party)
Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock

Free and Unticketed
Travelling Gallery, a contemporary art gallery in a bus, will be parked in Greenock with its latest exhibition User Interface: Coded Craft, a group exhibition featuring contemporary craft artists : Jeni Allison, Naomi Mcintosh, Lynne MacLachlan, Liu Qiwei, Aymeric Renoud, Soorin Shin, Sanne Visser, Silvia Weidenbach & Sandra Wilson.

Access: V, R

Image Credit Beacon Arts Centre

BEACON ARTS CENTRE 'FRIGHTFUL FACES OF INVERCLYDE'

Wednesday 28th October | 6pm - 8pm
(As part of the Galoshans Street Party)
Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock

Free and Unticketed
Working with local schools, a collection of original artworks will be created and brought to life through projection, featuring modern Galoshans characters, local legends, dockside monsters, pirates, merpeople and imagined future spirits of Greenock. Celebrate Inverclyde's rich folklore and maritime heritage as these local stories and characters appeal to a new generation.

Access: V

beacon arts centre

Image Credit Beacon Arts Centre

BEACON ARTS CENTRE 'PERFORMING PIRATES'

Wednesday 28th October | 6pm - 8pm
(As part of the Galoshans Street Party)
Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock

Free and Unticketed
Join Captain Kidd's crew at the Beacon for a thrilling pirate-themed circus experience! Enjoy spectacular fire performances, including fire spinning and fire breathing by professional circus artists. Then try your hand at circus skills such as juggling, balancing, poi spinning and plate spinning. Fun, excitement and adventure for all ages!

Access: V

beacon arts centre ORIG ARTS

Image Credit Beacon Arts Centre

BEACON ARTS CENTRE 'THE HIDDEN BEACON'

Wednesday 28th October
(As part of the Galoshans Street Party)
Tour 1: 4pm - 4:45pm
Tour 2: 5pm - 5:45pm
Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock

Free and Ticketed
Survive Captain Kidd's fiery welcome and join him on a guided journey into The Beacon's hidden spaces. In partnership with The Walking Theatre Company, explore backstage and beneath-stage areas closed to the public, uncovering ghostly tales of smugglers, dock workers, lost sailors and shipwrecked spirits. Accessible, immersive and unforgettable.

Access: SB, V

Image Credit Jane McInally

MEMENTO VIVERE BY JANE MCINALLY

Wednesday 28th October | 6pm - 8pm
(As part of the Galoshans Street Party)
Custom House Quay, Greenock

Free and Unticketed
Upon Death, it turned out the whole of life had been a dream. Artist Jane McInally presents a new sculptural work, commissioned for Galoshans, in the spirit of Samhain.

Access: V, R

PERFORMANCE

JORDAN & SKINNER 'DO NOT PASS GO'

Friday 30th October | 7:30pm - 8:45pm
Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock

Paid and Ticketed
We LOVE Lizzie Magie! - the feminist, economist, disruptor, and games designer who wanted to show the world there was an alternative to capitalist greed. But her beautiful brainchild was stolen, repurposed, and made a man a millionaire. A true story of women, games and money, told through irreverent physical theatre and comedy.

Access: BSL, V

JORDAN & SKINNER 'DO NOT PASS GO' STREET THEATRE PERFORMANCE

Friday 30th October | 1:30pm - 2:30pm
Beacon Arts Centre, Greenock |

Free and Unticketed
A special outdoor accompaniment to Jordan & Skinner's new show. Look out for the Do Not Pass Go cast on the streets of Greenock and see if you can beat them at their own game. All performances include integrated BSL.

Access: BSL, V

Image Credit Brian Hartley Design

Image Credit Theatre School of Scotland

‘GALOSHANS THEATRE SCHOOL OF SCOTLAND’

Saturday 24th October

Wyllieum, Greenock | 12:45pm - 1pm

Oak Mall, Greenock | 1:45pm - 2pm

Free and Unticketed

The Project will secure a well-known celebrity performer to appear alongside local young people. This collaboration will inspire participants, and create a memorable, high quality performance celebrating young people’s creativity and talent.

Access: AD, T, V, R

PERFORMANCE

Image Credit Alyson Orr Ltd

ALYSON ORR LTD 'WITCH HUNT'

Saturday 31st October | 7:30pm - 9pm
Beacon Arts Centre

Paid and Ticketed
A thrilling new musical inspired by the Scottish witch trials. Driven by a high-energy electronic dance score, Witch Hunt is a powerful story of persecution, rebellion, and unity featuring soaring vocals, explosive choreography and defiant female strength.

Access: V, R

beacon arts centre

Image Credit RIG Arts

GIG@RIG

Friday 30th October | 7pm - 9pm
Old West Kirk, Esplanade
Greenock PA16 7XH

Free and Ticketed
Celebrate Galoshans Festival with an evening of live music at 'GIG @ RIG'. Rock School's talented young musicians and bands will perform a series of energetic sets in the atmospheric surroundings of the Old West Kirk, bringing spooky festival vibes and showcasing the incredible local musical talent Inverclyde has to offer.

Access: SB, V, R

RIG ARTS

WORKSHOPS & PARTICIPATION

Image Credit Neve Pearce

NEVE PEARCE 'HAUNTED HOME'

Monday 12th October | 5pm - 7pm
Pirrie Hall 2-1 Campbell St, Greenock PA16 8AN
Free and Ticketed

Sunday 18th October | 2:30pm - 4:30pm
Pirrie Hall 2-1 Campbell St, Greenock PA16 8AN
Free and Ticketed

Haunted Home is a large walkabout house character designed and built in reference to the architectural and social history of the Inverclyde area. Join a Puppet Maker's workshop to create the folkloric creatures that adorn the Haunted Home. Look out for this mischievous character at the Galoshans Festival Street Party.

Access: V, R, TT

Image Credit Paul Bristow

MAGIC TORCH COMICS CIC & INVERCLYDE LIBRARIES 'ARACHNOBOT COMIC WORKSHOP'

Tuesday 22nd September and
Tuesday 29th September | 3:30pm - 4:30pm
South West Library, Greenock

Free and Ticketed
The Arachnobot is coming to the Galoshans Festival – but is it friend or foe? Your ideas, stories and artwork will help tell the tale of this terrifying techno tarantula in a tremendous comic which will be shared during Galoshans Festival.

Access: V, R

Image Credit Inverclyde Libraries

INVERCLYDE LIBRARIES 'NOT TOO SPOOKY BOOKBUG'

All Library branches as per schedule- Bookbug - Inverclyde Council

All Bookbug sessions taking place W/C 19th October

Free and Unticketed
Join Inverclyde Libraries for a Not Too Spooky Bookbug session at one of our scheduled Bookbug sessions during Galoshans week.

Access: V

Image Credit Inverclyde Libraries

INVERCLYDE LIBRARIES 'LEGO GALOSHANS CHALLENGE'

Greenock Central Library & Kilmacolm Library
Thursday 22nd October | 5pm - 6pm
Free and Unticketed

Greenock South West Library
Thursday 22nd October | 3:30pm - 4:30pm
Free and Unticketed

Greenock Central Library, Gourock Library, Port Glasgow Library, Inverkip Library and Wemyss Bay Library
Saturday 24th October | 11am - 12pm
Free and Unticketed

**Lego Club at Inverkip and Wemyss Bay is split into two sessions – 10am-11am Lego for 5 years + , 11am-12pm Duplo for 18m+
Take part in spooky challenges at all Inverclyde Libraries Lego Clubs during Galoshans. Build a haunted house or zombie playground. Lego for 5 years+ and Duplo from 18m+. No need to book just drop-in.

Access: V

MAGIC TORCH COMICS CIC & PROFESSOR SQUOZZ 'A GALOSHANS ADVENTURE'

Inverkip Community Hub
Friday 23rd October

Session 1: 10am - 11am
Session 2: 12pm - 1pm

Free and Ticketed
Calling all Young Adventurers! Answer Professor Squozz's call to help stop Auld Dunrod and his mischief! Be a part of the story through puppets, music and play.

Access: SB, V

INSTALLATION & EVENTS

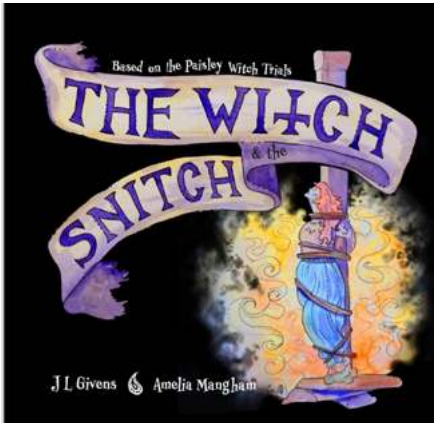

Image Credit Inverclyde Libraries

INVERCLYDE LIBRARIES: 'J.L. GIVENS: THE WITCH & THE SNITCH'

Saturday 17th October | 11am - 12:30pm
Port Glasgow Library

Free and Ticketed
Join author J.L. Givens as she explores the true story of the Paisley Witch Trials in her children's book "The Witch & the Snitch".

Image Credit Inverclyde Libraries

INVERCLYDE LIBRARIES: 'NOW SHE IS WITCH' WITH KIRSTY LOGAN

Thursday 22nd October | 5:45pm - 6:45pm
Greenock Central Library

Free and Ticketed
Join Kirsty Logan and Inverclyde Libraries for a celebration and examination of Kirsty's work.

Access: SB, SP

Image Credit Inverclyde Libraries

INVERCLYDE LIBRARIES 'MONSTER MASH SILENT DISCO'

Friday 23rd October | 3:30pm - 4:30pm
Greenock Central Library

Free and Unticketed
Dance the monster mash (and any other dance you like!) at Greenock Central Library's Galoshans-themed silent disco

Access: V

Image credit Alex Fox

'GATHER ROUND THE COMET'

Saturday 17th October | 2pm - 3pm
Comet Replica, Argylls Parade, Port Glasgow

Free and Unticketed
Take a trip along the Clyde with storyteller Betty Skelton, hear tales of the boats and beasts that inhabit Inverclyde's waters in the shadow of the new Comet Replica.

Access: V, R

Inverclyde council

Image Credit Rig Arts

GOUROCK GALOSHANS

Saturday 24th October & Sunday 25th October
10am - 5pm
Medinellis Pop Up Shop, Gourock

Free and Unticketed
RIG Arts at the Medinellis Pop-Up Shop will offer participatory arts activities that bring people together through creativity, heritage and shared experiences. Adults and children will explore Galoshans traditions side by side while discovering opportunities to get involved.

Access: V

RIG ARTS

Image Credit Picturehoose

GOUROCK GALOSHANS

Saturday 24 October - 5pm-7pm
Picturehoose Gourock
Short Films rated 15+
Spirit of Galoshans (2024), dir. Bircan Birol

Dying Light (2013), RIG Arts Film School

Sunday 25 October - 5pm-7pm
Short films rated PG
Spirit of Galoshans (2024), dir. Bircan Birol

The Sticks (2016), dir. Russell Davidson & Jamie Delaney

Heartache Souvenirs (2023), RIG Arts Film School

Free and Ticketed

Access: V

RIG ARTS

Image Credit David Powell

DAVID POWELL 'DORUS SITH' (THE FAIRY GATE)

Wednesday 21st October - Monday 26th October | 9am - 5pm

Old West Kirk, Greenock Esplanade

Free and Unticketed

Artist David Powell uses language, light, sound, willow, and steel to create a liminal space that pays homage to standing stone and jetty, people and place with a gateway for Galoshans. Connecting past and the present, our world and the otherworld, with the spoken word, woven willow, welded steel and light.

Access: SB, T, V, R, TT

Image Credit Alicia Matthews

ALICIA MATTHEWS 'THE MILK IT POURS' EXHIBITION

Date and Time TBC
The Old West Kirk, Greenock Esplanade

Free and Unticketed

Alicia Matthews is an artist from Wemyss Bay and Greenock, now living on the Isle of Lewis. As a Rig Arts/Galoshans 2026 Artist in Residence, her research centres on the Inverclyde witch trials, using them as a lens to examine maternal mental health, women's labour, ageing and the persistence of folklore & ghost stories.

Access: SB, T, V, R

RIG ARTS

GALOSHANS BURSARIES

Newark Enterprises ICDT: The Galoshans 2026 Thank You Gift Project

The Galoshans 2026 Thank You Gift Project will provide employment trainees with the opportunity to design and produce 300 locally inspired wooden Thaumatropes as special gifts for Galoshans volunteers and participants.

Each laser-engraved keepsake will celebrate the festival's connections to local folklore, film and Inverclyde's wider cultural heritage. An accompanying information tag will explore the links between Sleepy Hollow, author Washington Irving and Greenock, helping to share and celebrate this fascinating local story.

The project will give trainees a meaningful opportunity to develop practical and creative skills while contributing to the Galoshans festival. The finished gifts will provide a unique, locally made keepsake that recognises and celebrates the invaluable contribution of the Galoshans community.

Craigend Resource Centre - Halloween Events

Craigend Resource Centre's Halloween events will bring the local community together in the run-up to Halloween, connecting families and residents with the Galoshans tradition through a series of fun, creative activities. The programme will include interactive workshops, a Halloween crafts day featuring pumpkin carving, games, dressing up and party bags, creating opportunities for the community to celebrate, learn and enjoy Halloween together

Daniella Hathaway's Singing for Wellbeing

Singing for Wellbeing is an intergenerational music project and community walkabout, bringing together people living with dementia, parents and toddlers, teenage musicians, and volunteers from a health and wellbeing choir. Through music, singing and shared experiences, the project creates opportunities for connection, participation and positive wellbeing across generations.

Galoshans Festival

@galoshansfest

Galoshans Festival

galoshansfestival.co.uk

Get ready for a spook-tacular celebration!

The Galoshans Festival is returning this October, bringing a wave of creativity and excitement to Inverclyde. Re-imagine the magic of Halloween through a fusion of live music, dance and spellbinding theatre, plus the return of our highly anticipated street party!

Scan the QR code for more information.

Other Partners

Creative Scotland – Alba | Chruthachail

Community Fund

The Scottish Government – Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Inverclyde Council

Kayos

travellinggallery

Our Library – Inverclyde Libraries

Wyllieum

Youth Music Initiative

Oak Mall Shopping Centre

Magic Torch Comics

gfs.

Greenock Cruise Port

Theatre School of Scotland

CVS Inverclyde

Historic Environment Scotland

Where's One?

Oi Musica

Greater Renfrewshire & Inverclyde Local Action Group

16 - 31 OCTOBER 2026