

Sparkling Dunbar Harbour Festival 2024

The [Dunbar Harbour Trust](#) would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who contributed,



participated, volunteered, supported and performed at Sparkling Dunbar Harbour Festival 2024.



Sparkling 2024 was such an incredibly successful event. Perhaps our best yet! Visitors from France, China and Canada told us it was a great event and that we have a wonderful community.

A special thanks to all the [volunteers](#), who went above and beyond to support the event. Without this committed team the event would quite simply not happen!



Our thanks also to [Kate Brunton](#) for a splendid promotional poster and assistance with the event programme.

Local Community Projects, Charities & Clubs

We were joined by [Groundswell Scotland](#), [RNLI](#), [RSPB](#), the [Black Agnes Society](#), [MCSUK](#) and [Dunbar Christmas Lights](#). All seeking support and new members or volunteers to aid the cause. They were busy; they were fabulous!



Also joining us, [Dunbar Archery Club](#), [Dunbar Coastal Rowing Club](#), and [Coast to Coast Surf School](#). All providing that added extra to the event with tasters and lessons. Dunbar Sailing Club invited visiting boats. They and local sailors dressed their boats with colourful flags, all adding to the Sparkling glamour.



Entertainment for Little 'Uns and big 'Uns too!



Photo: Mike Till

Once again, much fun was had with the Face Hole Boards painted by local artist, [Mike Till](#). Visitors giggled and tittered as they popped their head through the hole and took those memorable selfies.

[Dominique Oldham](#), face-painter returned to Sparkling to paint the many little faces of excited young festival visitors with sparkle and colour to match the event, and children enjoyed finding the hidden pirate-themed stones, painted by local artist, [Gail Wallace](#).



Kids had great fun with [Captain Kate \(Brunton\)](#) playing Port & Starboard. Aye, Aye Captain, 'climb the rigging', 'man the lifeboats', 'rats' - they got it!

Marvellous fun was to be had in the Battery as visitors enthusiastically joined in the audience Zumba with [Laura Ross](#), Fit Form UK. A test for most, left, right? Yay, eventually they got it too!



Our Pirate and Sea Theme

Our dress-up theme continues to be popular, with many making a huge effort to take part. Some people are experts as this and enjoy the competitive nature of things - Arrrgghhh mateys we love it! The event coordinator also had so much fun with the captain's fluffy, squeaking pirate, the kids were in awe!



Magical musical sounds!

Festival fans were entertained for hours on end with a genre to suit everyone.



Cardiac Arrest - A local Dunbar youth band, with a promising future, kicked-off the event. Playing their second live gig, they were confident and simply superb!

Skelpt followed, a reasonably new trio of experienced musicians, who had the audience singing, clapping and jigging, as they performed a grand set of lively numbers on acoustic guitar, bodhran and fiddle.



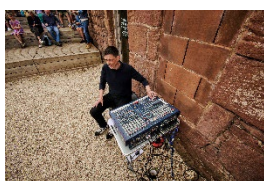
Next up, East Lothian band **Auld Hat** took the stage with an excellent performance of classic rock numbers that had the audience on their feet for the full set.

Also East Lothian based **Echo Zoo** then entertained the crowd with some classic rock and incredible americana beats. Truly talented musicians with a wonderful melodic sound.



Nama Kuma took the stage providing something special with their unique take on whatever they play. A truly amazing band with a grounded group of musicians who are modest about their outstanding musical ability.

Our headliners, **Just Jovi**. These guys have been entertaining audiences far & wide with their Bon Jovi cover versions for a great number of years. They sure got everyone on their feet and singing along. Incredible performance!



A huge thank you to **Adrian Girling**, Sound Engineer. Assisted by **George Neill** (Echo Zoo) they worked like trojans to make sure all the bands and performers sounded tip top. A harder task than you might think with 15-minute changeovers - Phew!

The [Armstrong Ceilidh Band](#) took us to twilight, with people whooping and jigging to the Eightsome Reel, Gay Gordons and the Dashing White Sergeant. Well not all people, some preferred to observe and take the opportunity to sit in the sinking sun whilst enjoying a wee refreshment from [Winton Brewery's Rosie van](#).



Spectacular Dancing from Little People!

[Dance Discovery](#) yet again entertained the audience with an expertly-executed set of dance routines. The kids; nursey, pre-school and early year primary, expertly executed their performances with a little help from [Claire Bungay Conafray](#), Dance Discovery Director. They are so cute and so brave. It's a huge audience for little people!



Our creative crafters!



A splendid display of diverse and beautiful crafts. All handmade and unique. Visitors browsed, admired and purchased goodies galore.

We were joined by [Mussel Memories](#), Princess Helena's Designs, [Stormy Seas Scotland](#), Anamcara Naturals, [Love from Nepal](#), Beaus Beach Finds, [Why Knot by Lottie](#), HcChippy, [Sleepy Sheep](#), Ally Elly, [Making Waves 4 U](#), Hoth Creations, [All Ears](#), Handpict, [Roisin Harper Creations](#), Cocomania and [Scottish Whisky Barrels](#).

A selection of our happy, smiling traders!



Food, Drink and all Things Tasty!

A festival is not a festival without tasty grub and a 'guid beer!

Our thanks go to the [Kittiwake Café](#), East Coast Langoustines, [Bankhouse Catering](#), Love Ice Cream, [Denny's Cookies](#) and Winton Brewery.

Providing delicious filled rolls, sweet treats and cool beers to name but a few.

Well fed and watered visitors for sure!



Our Volunteers

A huge thanks to our volunteer team who worked endlessly from the Thursday evening through to Sunday afternoon; [Eric Robertson](#), Paul Ingram, [Kenny Maule](#), Andy Pringle, [Ian Combe](#), Alasdair Swan, [Pippa Swan](#), Mike Till, [Morven Macbeth](#), Harry Blackely, [Alasdair Macdonald](#), Tim Greene, [Diana Greene](#), Kate Brunton, [Gavin Tulloch](#), Lee Porter, [Thomas Mullender](#), Rena Keller, [Karell Sime](#), Graeme Darkes, [Ian Dickson](#), Louise Dickson, [Robin Hamilton](#), Ken Duncan, [Mike Shaw](#), Jay Kirkland, [Fiona Lacey](#) and Margot Morton. Superstars!

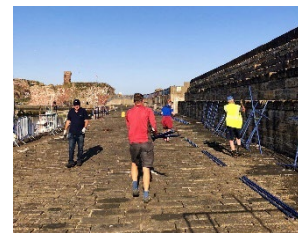


Photo: Lee Porter

We thank you enormously for your help & support to erect and derig equipment before and after the event, and during the event for managing traffic, making sure that the event ran smoothly and, most importantly, ensuring our visitors were kept safe throughout.

Thank you to our Harbour Staff; [Fiona Kibby](#) (Harbourmaster) and [Denholm Horsburgh](#) (Deputy Harbourmaster), for providing helpful advice and general hands-on assistance wherever needed. All at the same time as managing the daily activity of the Harbour, no mean feat.

An enormous thanks to [Liam \(Elmo\) Morrison](#) and [The Bridge Centre](#), Haddington for the PA system and gig gear.

Our thanks also go to [Lothian Printers](#), Rapid Reaction (First Aid Response), [Dunbar Christmas Lights Committee](#), David Brady (Electrician), [East Lothian Council](#) (Event Management Team & SAG, Waste Management, Environmental

Services & Licencing) [Rayvan](#) and, of course, [Fraser Stewart](#), Photographer who is responsible for most of the wonderful photographs in this blog!

Thanks to our **sponsors** [Community Windpower](#), East Lothian Community Rail Partnership and [Taylor Wimpey](#).



**Taylor
Wimpey**



For their promotional support we are grateful to, [East Coast FM](#), East Lothian Courier and [Social Media admins](#) (for approvals of copious posts).

Sparkling simply could not happen, nor would be as well-attended, without the commitment of the dedicated team or the financial and promotional support from you all!

Comments and Feedback

"We thoroughly enjoyed the festival. What a great community you have here." ; Canadian Visitors.

"Love this festival. Child friendly and feels safe." ; Visitors from Fife

"Superb setting, people and weather. What is not to like." ; Owen, Auld Hat

"Fabulous event, so well organised. My 1st visit but will be back next year!" ; Lyndsay, Dunbar Online.

"We had a smashing day and signed-up with the RNLI." ; Mary, Dunbar Online

"The absolute highlight was going in a boat round the harbour courtesy of the Rowing Club, where they (grandchildren) were both allowed to have a go at rowing the boat." - Allison, East Linton

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on behalf of the Dunbar Harbour Trust.



Photo: Tina Pollock



Photographs by Fraser Stewart

<https://stewartfc/myportfolio.com/work>

"Events in our Community, For our Community!"