

# Annan Harbour Action Group

## AHAG AGM

At the recent AGM Richard Brodie was re-elected as Chair. Malcolm Willacy is the new Vice-chair and Alan Savage and Christine Matthews retained their positions as Secretary and Treasurer respectively. Alistair Vera and Frances Mackay were appointed as new Trustees

## Solstice Walk 21st December 4.00-7.30pm

To secure your place on this free family event simply fill out the form you will find on [www.annanharbouractiongroup.btck.co.uk](http://www.annanharbouractiongroup.btck.co.uk) We need you to do this so that we have sufficient catering for everyone. A bus will take walkers to the Annandale Way

Cairn at Newbie Barns, from where they will proceed down to the bonfire at Barnkirk Point for hot chocolate, before heading back along the riverside with flaming torches for hot food and music .

The first Solstice Walk in 2016



## Santa Arrives by Boat

AHAG were very pleased to help Santa with his travel arrangements last weekend and ensure that he arrived on time to light up Annan. Congratulations to the hard working Christmas Lights Committee and their volunteers who have done a marvellous job.



## Annan Harbour Trust

The governing body for Annan Harbour was declared moribund by Dumfries and Galloway Council in 1996 and since that time development and regeneration have been hampered by lack of clear management.

Annan Harbour Action Group have suggested that the Council should take on the role of Statutory Harbour Authority, as they have done elsewhere across the Region, but so far this has been resisted on

grounds of cost. However, Alistair Speedie, Director of Economic, Environment and Infrastructure, has now been tasked by the elected members of his committee to resolve this long standing issue.

'After years of knocking on doors we are at last having a productive discussion with the Council on harbour governance'

## Contact Us

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Dear Greenknowe Resident,  
Thank you for reading this first edition of our newsletter. AHAG are an ambitious local charity working to see our harbour restored as the jewel in the crown of Annan, as an integral part of the economic, leisure and environmental life of the town and our community.

We have already made some improvements to the harbour and are making plans for bigger regeneration projects. Alongside this we have resurrected traditional boat building and began to introduce more people to water sports and boating. We also run community events and offer workshop sessions from our Silverlaw premises.

If you have an interest in local heritage or would like to see more opportunities for young people why not get in touch via the contact details on this page.

Richard Brodie, AHAG Chair

## Opening up the Boatshed

With financial support from Annandale and Eskdale Area Committee and the Holywood and Robertson Trusts AHAG have expanded activities at our Silverlaw Workshop with the addition of a Men's Shed and sessions for young people to work on construction projects alongside instructors. Please contact the Harbour Development Officer if you know of anyone who would like to participate in these activities.



## Rowers Wanted

Our rowers continue to practice throughout the winter whenever time, tide and weather allows. If you would like to come out for a taster session give us a call. All ages and abilities are welcome. You can get very close to nature on the river in a skiff, in recent weeks we have encountered egrets, kingfishers and bank-to-bank herons.

Start now and you could be rowing in the St Ayles Skiff World Championships in Stranraer next summer

## A Way Forward

AHAG, working with Michael Leybourne of Savills and a team of consultants, has produced a document which outlines a strategy to take forward the group's aspiration to acquire property in the harbour area. To move this forward as part of our business plan it would be really useful to hear your views.

What do you think we should be doing to regenerate Port Street? We need to understand specific needs within the community before we can work out how we might address such demands. So please come for a chat.

