

Allan Taylor: Reigning Bothy Ballad World Champion and one of Scotland's top MCs.

Angus Folk: 20 strong singing group based in toon, making a welcome return to The Thistle Club.

Andrew Farquharson (Fri only) Super young Angus fiddle player (from a farm at Fern) and regular prizewinner here at Kirrie Festival.

Donald Smith: Founding Director of the Scottish Storytelling Centre who recently retired as Grieve at The Scottish International Storytelling Festival, clearing the way for his Kirrie debut :)

Forfar Instrumental Band: Saturday in Square.

Joyce Cocker & Alana Gowans: Favourite box and fiddle duo who have appeared several times at Kirrie in different musical lineups.

John Dickson: Great singer of traditional songs and bothy ballads, originally from mining country in Midlothian, now bothy country in Buchan.

Natalie Chalmers: A top Scottish singer and storyteller now biding in Glasgow, where she helps run TMSA "House of Song" at Celtic Connections every year in January.

Paul Anderson (Sat & Sun) Considered by many to be Scotland's greatest fiddle player, with a north-east style firmly rooted in his native Deeside.

Pauline Cordiner: Favourite storyteller and singer, leading a session for bairns on Saturday morning.

Sara Reith: Superb whistle player who grew up in Aberdeenshire, but now bides in The Netherlands. Thanks to the fast boat from Rotterdam to Auchmithie, she's making a rare but welcome Scottish festival appearance here at Kirrie.

Shona Donaldson (Sat & Sun) Another of Scotland's finest singers of traditional songs and bothy ballads, and a great favourite here in Angus.

Festival Office: Lesser Kirk Hall, Bank Street.
Opening hours: Friday 4th, 2pm - 8pm
Saturday 5th, 9:30am - 8pm

Kirrie Venue Map: Get this on our website, or pick one up from the festival office.

Tickets can be reserved from the start of August:

By emailing bothyscott@hotmail.com
By phoning Geordie Rennie: 07938 246 859

To find out more about the festival:

Email: bothyscott@hotmail.com
www.tmsa.scot/kirriemuir-festival
www.facebook.com/kirriemuirfestival

The Festival has been made possible by the following sponsors (complete at time of printing):

Joseph Aitken and Sons
Kerymor Tavern
Three Bellies Brae
Alex Gray & Sons
Angela Findhorn
And other anonymous donations

We'd also like to thank all the performers, stewards, chair movers, judges, clerks and other helpers who give their time so generously to the festival. Kirrie Festival is a real labour of love for all concerned, and it's your support and the support of the audiences which make it possible.

If you'd like to become more involved with the festival or have any suggestions then please get in touch.

Finally, if you'd like to join or find out more about the TMSA (Traditional Music and Song Association of Scotland) which has branches across Scotland and of which Kirrie Festival is part) - their website is www.tmsa.scot



43rd Kirriemuir Festival of Music and Song

Friday 4th, Saturday 5th, Sunday 6th
September 2026

Concerts, Competitions,
Singarounds, Storytelling and Sessions



Performers include:

Andrew Farquharson
Allan Taylor
Angus Folk
Donald Smith
Forfar Instrumental Band
Joyce Cocker & Alana
Gowans

John Dickson
Natalie Chalmers
Paul Anderson
Pauline Cordiner
Sara Reith
Shona Donaldson



Friday 4th September

Opening Concert Kirk Hall, Bank Street
Andrew Farquharson, Donald Smith, Joyce Cocker
& Alana Gowans, John Dickson, Sara Reith.
MCs: Allan Taylor & Natalie Chalmers. BYOB.
Starts 8pm. £10 (accompanied under-18s free)

Sessions Three Bellies Brae: 5pm - 8pm
Kerymor Tavern: from 9pm

Saturday 5th September

Competitions Happen throughout Saturday daytime
in the Kirk, Kirk Hall and Guide Hall. Rules and entry
details on website.

Kirk in the morning

Fiddle Junior, Senior, Local, J.F. Dickie Cup

Accordion Junior, Senior, Local

Ceilidh Band

Instrumental Pairs

Kirk Hall in the morning/afternoon

Men's Singing Junior, Senior & Newcomer

Women's Singing Junior, Senior & Newcomer

Bothy Ballad Open & Newcomer

Local Singer

Novice Singer

Kirk in the afternoon

Mixed Instrument

Oral Whistle

Diddling

Guide Hall

Storytelling Junior, Senior

Doric Verse under 8, 9 - 12, 13 -15, Senior

Starts 10:30am

Starts 12 noon

follows accordion

follows ceilidh band

Starts 11am

Starts 1pm

follows mixed instr.

follows oral whistle

Starts 2:00pm

follows storytelling

Stories at Barrie's 13 Brechin Road
Pauline Cordiner with a lively storytelling session
for children at the birthplace of Kirrie's greatest
storyteller, J.M. Barrie. Children must be
accompanied by an adult at all times.
11am - 12 noonish. Admission Free

Open Air Music In The Square

Forfar Instrumental Band: **Starts 1pm**

Session: Roddy Johnstone & Friends: **Starts 3:30pm**

Saturday 5th September continued

Sessions Pathhead Café: 10am - 11:30am
Three Bellies Brae: 1pm
Thrums: ~ 2:30pm
Airlie Arms Lounge: 3pm (singaround)
Square: 3:30pm

Concert Bowling Club, Brechin Road
Donald Smith, Joyce Cocker & Alana Gowans, John
Dickson, Paul Anderson, Shona Donaldson and Sara
Reith. Plus prizewinners from some of the day's
competitions. MC: Allan Taylor.
8 - 10:30pm. £10 (accompanied under-18s free)

Concert Kirk Hall, Bank Street
Donald Smith, Joyce Cocker & Alana Gowans, John
Dickson, Paul Anderson, Shona Donaldson and Sara
Reith. Plus prizewinners from some of the day's
competitions. MC: Natalie Chalmers. BYOB.
8 - 10:30pm. £10 (accompanied under-18s free)

Singaround Guide Hall, Roods
Big singing session, includes Chorus Cup.
Starts 11pm.

Sunday 6th September

Shape Note Singing Workshop Guide Hall, Roods
Four-part hymn singing led by Saoirse McIntee. All
voices welcome, books and instructions provided.
Fishwives encouraged :)
11am - 12 noon. Admission Free

Festival Talk Thrums Hotel, Bank Street
Donald Smith (the driving force behind Scotland's
storytelling revival) interviewed by Erin Farley, though
we suspect not much interviewing will be required :)
12:15pm - 1:15pm. Admission Free

Sessions Three Bellies Brae: Afternoon into eve
Thrums: Afternoon

Sunday 6th continued

Thistle Club Concert Kirrie Thistle, Westview Park
Performers include Allan Taylor, Angus Folk,
Donald Smith, Joyce Cocker & Alana Gowans,
John Dickson, Natalie Chalmers, Paul Anderson,
Sara Reith, Scott Gardiner, Shona Donaldson and
many mair singers and musicians.
2 - 5:30pm. £10 (accompanied under-18s free)

Closing Concert Kirk Hall, Bank Street
Featuring surviving guests and others.
**Starts 8pm. Admission free. But with a fair bit
raffle ticket buying pressure :) BYOB.**

Music and Song Sessions

Regular venues include Kerymor Tavern (up from
the campsite on Glamis Road) Café at Pathhead
Farm (top of Forfar Road) Three Bellies Brae, Airlie
Arms (lounge doonstairs) and Thrums Hotel.

The list below is a rough guide (not a guarantee) of
where musicians and singers tend to gather over
the weekend, but visiting musicians and singers
are welcome to start an impromptu session
wherever appropriate.

Friday	Three Bellies Brae 5pm - 8pm Kerymor Tavern: 9pm
Saturday	Pathhead Café 10am - 11:30am Three Bellies Brae: 1pm Thrums Hotel: ~2:30pm Airlie Arms Singaround: 3pm Ootside in Square: 3:30pm Guide Hall Singaround: 11pm
Sunday	Three Bellies Brae: Afternoon/eve Thrums Hotel: Afternoon

**Next Kirrie Festival:
3rd - 5th September, 2027**