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A WELCOME FROM RON COLEMAN AND THE TEAM AT DEEPNESS

Welcome, to the Scottish Dementia Arts Festival 2025 here at the MacRoberts Centre at Stirling University. It's a real privilege to gather with so many passionate, creative souls family members, care partners, artists, and of course artists living with dementia, all united by a belief in the transformative power of the arts. This festival is not just an event; it's a testament to the possibilities that open up when we put creativity and connection at the heart of dementia care.

Over the next few days, you'll have the chance to engage with an inspiring range of performances, exhibitions, and workshops, each one shaped by the stories and talents of people whose voices matter deeply. Whether you're here to share your own work, learn from others, or simply soak up the atmosphere, I hope you'll find yourself moved, challenged, and — above all — welcomed. We're here to celebrate ability, not just diagnosis; to listen, not just speak; and to build a community that values every experience.

Thank you for being here, for bringing your open minds and generous hearts. Let's make this a festival where everyone feels seen, heard, and inspired. Enjoy every moment.

THURSDAY

Area: Arthouse

5:00pm – Open House for some tea and nibbles

5:45pm – Guests led from the Arthouse to the Playhouse

Area: The Playhouse

6:00pm – Welcome to the Dementia Arts Festival

Opening address by the Dementia Choir and Drumming
by Alistair Snow

Alzheimer's Society Advert Response Piece
(Film and Dance) followed by Q&A

10min Short Film: "This is what day care should look like"
Megan Bradbury & Natalie Dobson, Rainbow Care group.

Poetry & Storytelling
Performed by individuals living with dementia

Play: "A Conversation with God"
Written by Ronald Coleman

8:00pm - Closing speech by the DEEPNESS TEAM

END OF DAY 1

FRIDAY

Please note that workshops
are to be signed up for
on the day!

Area: Treehouse

10:30am- 11:15am- A Hello and Magic From Jim The Magician and Deepness

11:30am-1:00pm- WOW Factor Disco

1:00pm-2:00pm - Lunch

(The Workhouse and Treehouse will split into two rooms after lunch)

2pm-3:45pm Elderflowers Clowning Workshop

4pm-5:15pm Dementia & Magic workshop

Area: Workhouse

10:30am- 11:15am- A Hello and Magic From Jim The Magician and Deepness

11:30am-1:00pm- WOW Factor Disco

1:00pm-2:00pm - Lunch

(The Workhouse and Treehouse will split into two rooms after lunch)

2pm-3:45pm- Ronald Amanze's Box of Smiles workshop

4pm-5pm Karen Taylor's Workshop for supporting your loved one in the arts

Area: Playhouse

10:15am-12:15pm 'The Arches' The Radio Play performed live

2pm-3:15pm Our Connected Content by Artlink Central

3:15pm-3:30pm Break

3.30pm-5pm Our Connected Neighbourhoods:
Public Art and Design by Artlink Central

FRIDAY

evening

AREA: THE MAINHOUSE

6:30pm-7:00pm- Arrive for the evening

7:00pm-8:15pm- The future of film and Dementia talk by Ian bustard and Ronald Coleman

Includes three films called Caught in this moment of time, second is called Demented Poets and third is Trailer for Dementia Feature Films

8:45pm-9:35pm 'yesteryear' the beautiful dance done to the music of 'Dementia the Symphony'

9:35pm-9:55pm Q&A from the Dancers

**10pm
End of Day 2**

SATURDAY

Please note that workshops are to be signed up for on the day!

Area: Treehouse

10:15am-12:15pm 'A Bitesize' of Bold Workshop

1-2pm Lunch

2pm-3:30pm- Sizzling Bacon (Looking at Dementia through the lenses of young people) Workshop

3:15pm-5pm Ronald Amanze's box of smiles workshop

Area: Workhouse

10:15am-12:15pm Nina Doherty and Joanna Young's Sensory Workshop

1-2pm Lunch

2pm-3:30pm Ronald Coleman's Creative Writing workshop with Dementia

3:15PM-5:00PM – Deepness's telling our story through the arts workshop

Area: Playhouse

10:15am-11:45am – Round 1 of our movie hour where we feature different films from different organisations about Dementia through the lense of support and those with lived experience

12pm-1pm Deepness movie hour and A Special movie from Sheffield

1pm-2pm LUNCH

2pm-4pm Round 2 of our Dementia movie hour

SATURDAY

evening

AREA: THE MAINHOUSE

6pm- Arrive for the last night

6:15-pm- 6:45pm- A thank you from Deepness

6:45pm-7:45pm The Demented Warriors poetry slam

8:15pm-9:00pm Roddy Gordon Band

**9:15-10pm- Open mic night with a Goodbye from Deepness
Dementia Radio**

**10pm
End of Festival**

Going into Detail

Who are our Artists/Organisations?

WOW DISCO: Friday 10:30am-11:30am in the treehouse and workhouse

Weekday WOW Factor (WOW)

Weekday WOW Factor is a vibrant social enterprise dedicated to improving the lives of adults aged 50+ through inclusive, high-spirited activities across Glasgow and beyond. Weekday Wow Factor Social Enterprise Scotland



What Makes WOW Sparkle

Fun: From their iconic Daytime Discos and Minibus Adventures to lively Zoom Discos and Tai Chi sessions, WOW invites you to tap your toes, share a laugh, and let the music move you—whether you're out and about or dancing from the comfort of your living room.

Friendship: WOW gatherings are more than activities—they're warm communities. As one attendee puts it: "It's been a support... the highlight of my week."

Fitness: Move at your own pace and feel the difference. Whether through dancing or outdoor fun, participants energise their bodies and spirits—often without even realising how active they're being. Weekday Wow Factor

For More information:

<https://www.weekdaywowfactor.com/>



Box of Smiles

For more information: <https://ronaldamanze.co.uk/>



Ronald Amanze is a London-born music producer turned creative visionary, now based in Luton. After surviving a stroke in 2013 and being diagnosed with vascular dementia in 2015, Ronald transformed personal adversity into meaningful creativity and community impact.

The Box of Smiles Workshop is a workshop that is guaranteed to make you smile, using art to create beautiful moments that bring you joy

The Box of smiles workshop is on friday 2:00pm- 3:45pm in the Workhouse and Saturday 3:15pm-5:00pm in the Workhouse



Jim Campbell



Jim works as a full-time professional magician. Prior to becoming a magician Jim worked for over 20 years in healthcare, education and research, training and working as a mental health nurse. For over 5 years, Jim has been a board member of Deepness Ltd, providing support for many of the behind the scene aspects of the organisation.

Following some friends being given a diagnosis of dementia, Jim has become passionate about challenging stigmatising perceptions and promoting that a diagnosis of dementia is not the end, but simply a change. For many the change is for the better.

Dementia and Magic workshop takes place at 4pm-5:15pm in the Treehouse.

This workshop is a work in progress. Inspired by the negative and stigmatising perceptions experienced around dementia, this workshop focuses on the questions what is real and not real, how do we know, and who decides? Jim invites the audience to delve into these questions, whilst he illustrates his musings with magic tricks.

For more information
: <https://www.beyondbeliefmagic.co.uk/>



Nina Doherty & Joanna Young



With core values of presence and connection, this workshop is about creating a real-time experience, working with what is in front of us, and the opportunity for connection. Using your body and working with dried plants, bark, and leaves, you will discover ways to dance, create, and relax together in an inspired environment.

The workshop will take place Saturday 10:15-12:15PM in the workhouse



Nina Doherty, producer and coordinator of IAP's Culture Collective, is thrilled to pair up with Joanna Young and visual artist Hannah Imlach for this beautiful new sensory workshop. With Doherty's passion for promoting disabled voices and Young's enthusiastic approach to creating inclusive ways to celebrate our bodies, this workshop is a culmination of their shared ideals and Young's time in the Sensory Collective with IAP. With multiple other sensory projects under their belt, as well as the book 'Among the Trees', which was born from one of their workshops, Doherty and Young are successfully carving out a new space for those living with dementia.

For more information:

<https://www.independentartsprojects.com/nina-doherty-joins-iap-as-producer-sensory-arts/>

The Roddy Gordon Band



The Roddy Gordon Band are a blues-country band fronted by vocalist Roddy Gordon, with a career spanning six decades across the globe, as well as backing vocalist and bassist Jane Gordon. Hailing from Aberdeen, Roddy Gordon has played in London's Hard Rock Café, The Speakeasy, The Marquee and – in Sydney, Australia – played a four-year residency at The Fortune of War Hotel. Since then, Gordon has gigged across Scotland and England and has since settled in South Australia.

For more information: <https://roddygordonband.com/>

In South Australia, The Roddy Gordon Band released two albums, 'Love and Blues' in 2008, and 'C'est La Vie' in 2016. Now working on their third album, you can hear the band's electrifying discography at the Scottish Dementia Arts Festival in all of its blues-country glory. The Roddy Gordon band will be playing in the mainhouse at Saturday 8:15-9:00PM





BOLD (Bringing Out Leaders in Dementia) is a national self-development initiative based in Scotland, delivered as a Community Interest Company spun out from the University of Edinburgh and Queen Margaret University. It supports individuals living with dementia, their unpaid carers, and dementia practitioners by fostering creativity, leadership, confidence, and stronger community connections.

“A Bitesize of BOLD,” is a hands-on workshop where participants can try things like poetry, collage, clay work, printmaking, and drawing. The focus is on sharing ideas, collaborating across the festival, and encouraging everyone to create their own take-home pieces. The Bold team aims to provide a space for practical support, experience sharing, and creative self-expression, with everything rooted in the belief that people living with dementia can lead, create, and flourish through the arts

“A Bitesize of Bold’ workshop will be at the treehouse on saturday at 10:15am-12:15pm



Playlist for Life is a charity and lifeline for people living with dementia and their families. At its heart, the project is simple: everyone has a unique soundtrack that can unlock memories, spark joy, and bring people back to themselves. The Playlist for Life team knows just how powerful a carefully chosen song can be.

That’s why they’ll be at the festival this year, ready to help anyone start or finish their own playlist of personally meaningful music. Whether you’re looking to create something special for a loved one or finally pull together those songs that always take you back, they’re on hand with advice, resources, and genuine warmth. You don’t need to know where to start — just bring your stories, your curiosity, or your half-finished lists. The team can help you dig out forgotten tunes, fill in gaps, and build a playlist that’s truly yours.

Drop by their stand for a chat, some inspiration, or even a bit of nostalgia. You’ll leave with more than a list of songs — you’ll have a powerful tool that can help connect you or someone you love to the moments and memories that matter most.

The Elderflowers



The Elderflowers- A family of Healthcare Clowns

Friday 26th September, 2pm – 3:45pm

Join us for a relaxed and playful workshop exploring how the Elderflowers – a unique family of healthcare clowns – connect with people living with dementia through music, creativity, and imagination.

What to expect:

- A welcoming, informal session open to people living with dementia, their families, and friends
- A chance to see how Elderflowers co-create meaningful moments of joy and connection
 - Practical ideas and playful approaches you can take away and use in daily life
 - An opportunity to ask questions and learn more about the Elderflowers programme

Facilitated by:

Lucy McGreal, Co-Artistic Director of Hearts & Minds, alongside Elderflowers performers Dippsy (Sheila MacDougall) and Buddy (Colin Moncrieff).

About the Elderflowers:

The Elderflowers are an extended family of healthcare clowns who visit hospitals and care homes across Scotland. Carrying suitcases filled with music, objects, and treasured stories, they bring laughter, curiosity, and moments of genuine connection with the people they meet.

About Hearts & Minds

Elderflowers is a performing-arts in health programme delivered by Edinburgh based award-winning charity Hearts & Minds. We have been working in healthcare for over 25 years. Our other programmes are Clowndoctors (for children's hospitals and hospices) and Clowndoctors in the Classroom (for ASN and mainstream schools). We are members of the European Federation of Healthcare Clown Organisations.



The future of film in Dementia

At the heart of this year's Scottish Dementia Arts Festival Films are three films that refuse to sideline the voices of people living with dementia.

The festival's flagship documentary, "The Dementia Poets," follows a group of artists from Meeting Centres as they prepare for the inaugural Scottish Dementia Arts Festival. The film isn't just about poetry or painting; it's about the messy, brilliant process of making art and carving out space for self-expression in a world that too often wants to write you off. The camera lingers on moments of uncertainty, determination, and laughter, showing a group not defined by diagnosis but by their creativity, humour, and deep mutual support. Their journey—individually and together—becomes a powerful argument that art can be an act of resistance, a way of insisting on presence and voice.



"Caught in This Moment of Time," the second film with an original script by Ron Coleman and a screenplay by Simon Murray and Ron Coleman, is the second film in the lineup. This film breaks away from the usual documentary form of capturing the dementia experience. The narrative loops, fragments, and doubles back, capturing the shifting textures of recollection and reality. The film is grounded by the lived experience of its main character played by Ron Coleman the film lets the audience feel what dementia is like from the inside.

The third film, "A Human Rights Advert," is a bold, provocative short that confronts how people with dementia are regularly denied basic rights—often in subtle, everyday ways that go unnoticed. Framed as a hard-hitting public service announcement, the film uses real individuals with dementia as its protagonists.

After the screenings, the conversation turns to "The Future of Film in Dementia," a panel featuring filmmaker Ian Bustard, screenwriter Simon Murray, and Ron Coleman, who brings both lived experience and creative expertise. Expect questions about ethics, creative process, and the very real power of film to change public perception and policy.

These films are more than festival programming—they're a statement. When people with dementia are given the opportunity to create and lead, the result isn't just better art. It's truer stories, told by the people who know them best

‘yesteryear’

On Friday at the main house at 8:45pm is Yesteryear a brilliant and moving dance piece. What happens when you can recall what happened years ago, but the memory of yesterday has slipped away? Set to the tones of ‘Dementia the symphony’ created by Emily Frances Ippolito, yesteryear explores the journey of dementia symptoms, diagnosis and aftermath through movement.



Emily Frances Ippolito, Composer

Emily Frances Ippolito, Composer Emily Frances Ippolito is a composer with a passion for creating emotional ly resonant music for film. She scored the award-winning short film Sonya, earning Best Original Score at the Gothamite Film Awards in 2022. Her oth er projects include the feature film The Difference Between Us and several shorts like The Fuscus, Curiosity, and One Way. Emily holds a master’s in Mu sic Composition for Screen from the University of Edinburgh. She’s also an author, with her children’s series Teyla Kai’s Adventures available on Amazon. Originally from Oregon, she now lives in Edinburgh, Scotland.



Evelina Tiger, Choreographer/Dancer

Evelina Tiger, Choreographer Evelina Tiger is a Swedish choreographer, dance artist, and teacher based in Scotland. She holds a First Class BA Hons from The Scottish School of Contemporary Dance (2023). Her recent projects include work with Dancebase for the Edinburgh International Festival, involvement in Scotland’s contact improvisation community, and creating for Deepness Dementia Media at Scot tish Dementia Arts Festivals. Passionate about inclusive dance, Evelina draws on her love of music and literature to foster connections through movement, working with people of all abilities. As an autistic artist, she integrates her lived experience into her practice and her role as a support worker for autistic adults with learning disabilities. Evelina is also a member of Collective Avoidance.



Deanna Canny-Armitt, Dancer

Deanna Canny-Armitt, Dancer Deanna, 22, is a 2023 graduate of The Scottish School of Contemporary Dance with a First Class degree. Since graduating, she has toured with Na tional Youth Dance Scotland across the UK and Estonia, concluding at Edinburgh’s Assembly Festival. She also attended a residency in Wales, working with choreographers Mario Bermudez and Daisy Howell, performing at the Riverfront Theatre in Newport. With a background in acrobatic gymnastics, Deanna is interested in incorporating these elements into her movement practice while exploring the physical qualities of the human body.



Gu Fangzhou, Dancer

Gu Fangzhou, Dancer Gu Fangzhou is a contemporary dancer, trainee counsellor, and doctoral student whose work blends movement, therapy, and social change. Specialising in improvisational dance, she believes that “emotion is in motion,” using movement to foster self-understanding and transformation. Fangzhou’s research explores embodied narratives—how our bodies carry and express personal and collective stories. She advocates for emotional expression and challenges societal norms by connecting people to their bodies and stories. Through her interdisciplinary approach, Fangzhou uses movement as a tool for personal and social activism, empowering others to embrace change within themselves and the world around them.



Neve Renwick, Dancer

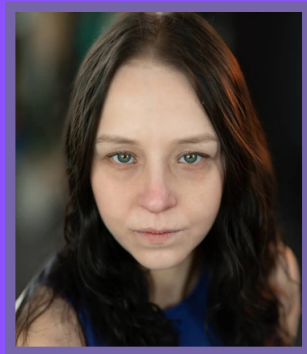
Neve is a partially deaf contemporary dance artist from Crieff, Scotland. A graduate with first-class honours from the Scottish School of Contemporary Dance, she has worked in diverse areas, from coaching individuals with disabilities to performing in New York City with the Scottish Ballet’s Youth Exchange Company. Neve’s performances aim to connect with audiences through expressive storytelling, while her choreography immerses deeply in music, memorizing every note to synchronize mind and body. Inspired by dancers with disabilities, Neve’s creative process is driven by their artistry. Her upcoming projects will merge her love of dance and fashion into visually striking creations.



Sky Su, Dancer

Sky Su, Dancer Sky Su (he/they) hails from Lenapehoking, the unceded land of the Lenape people, now known as New Jersey, from a Han Taiwanese family. They began dancing in Edinburgh, supported by the Scottish dance community, and practiced Contact Improvisation since 2016. Sky has performed with Curious Seed in FIELD and Chalk About. Their work is relational, improvised and experimental, often collaborating with musicians, filmmakers, dancers, and photographers. They studied Sculpture at Edinburgh College of Art and continue exploring lovelifedance, guided by Body-Mind Centering, Feldenkrais, and social, racial, and queer justice movements. Sky is also a member of Collective Avoidance and other creative collectives.

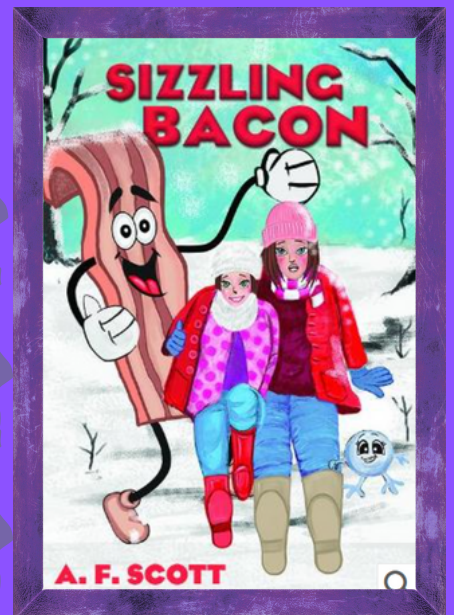
Sizzling Bacon and young people in dementia



Spiorad Saor Theatre Company members Shona Smith, Stuart Gallacher, and Francesca Taylor-Coleman bring personal insight and creative expertise to a workshop exploring the experiences of young people in the world of dementia. Drawing on Stuart's experience of his grandmother, Francesca's journey supporting her father from the age of fourteen, and Shona's background in dementia care, the team will lead an engaging and thoughtful session.

The workshop will also feature a read-through of *Sizzling Bacon* by Anne Scott, a children's book written to help young people understand and talk about dementia. Anne was diagnosed while raising her two daughters, and her story offers families a sensitive and imaginative way to explore dementia together.

Shona, Francesca and Stuart will also be supporting throughout the festival, so if you have any questions please feel free to come up and chat to them!



Artlink Central



Our Connected Content is in the playhouse at 2:00pm-3:15pm

Our Connected Content was a series of digital workshops that took place over the last year in care homes with people suffering with dementia. The main emphasis of the workshops was to include photography, film and video to tell the stories of the residents. All the participants interacted with the programme in their own individual way and a series of films are the product of the time we spent with them. The films include Donald a former farmer who discusses his life on the farm and his love of horses, Bunty who reminisces about her time growing up in Scottish coastal town of Mallaig as well as a look at David's work who picked up one of our cameras and began to film the gardens and the surrounding area. With Andy Sherlow and Zephyra Durkin from Artlink Central.

For more information:

<https://www.artlinkcentral.org/>

Our Connected Neighbourhoods: Public Art and Design in the playhouse at 3:30pm-5:00pm

Join sculptor Ken Elliot and Our Connected Neighbourhoods team with a hands on opportunity to inform the final design of a dementia inclusive project to create a public art work for Stirling. The sculpture brief was created with people affected by dementia working at the Smith Art Gallery and Museum and the Art Collection at the University of Stirling and celebrates Stirling's history and the legend of the Stirling wolf as well as the importance of place to people living with dementia. It's an opportunity to see some of the creative work that has gone into putting people living with dementia at the heart of making small design changes in the city and wider area, and to add your own ideas to inform the final sculpture to be installed in the City in early 2026.



Deepness

Deepness Ltd is a not-for-profit membership organization based in the Isle of Lewis, Scotland, with a mission run by and for people living with dementia and cognitive impairment – designed to support living well with dementia through media and the arts

Deepness Dementia Radio will be running a stall, maned by Deepness Dementia Radio's very own Howard Gordon. Please come along and say hello and learn more about Deepness Dementia Radio!

The team at deepness will also be bringing you a workshop on telling our stories through the arts. Learn all about how you can express your story, through the different art expressions. The Workshop will be at the workhouse at 3:45-5pm on the Saturday.

For more information:<https://www.deepnessdementiamedia.com>



Karen Taylor and Ron Coleman

Karen Taylor and Ron Coleman have been married for over 25 years and are widely recognised as passionate advocates for dementia awareness and creativity. Ron, diagnosed with vascular dementia eight years ago, is the trailblazer and driving force behind the Dementia Arts Festival. His vision and determination have helped shape the festival into a space where lived experience, creativity, and community come together.

Drawing on their shared journey, Karen and Ron offer unique perspectives on love, resilience, and the power of the arts in dementia care. On Friday (4-5pm, The Workhouse), Karen will lead a workshop on supporting loved ones through the arts, sharing practical insights into how creativity can strengthen relationships and enhance wellbeing. On Saturday (2-3:30pm, The Workhouse), Ron will host a creative writing workshop, inviting participants to explore storytelling as a way of expression, connection, and joy in the face of dementia.



Creep

In this powerful response piece, Ron Coleman reimagines Creep by Radiohead, performed as part of an Alzheimer's Society advert. The work combines film and live dance to offer a chilling yet deeply honest reflection on living with dementia. The dance is choreographed by the acclaimed Donna Bustard, whose sensitive and striking movement brings Ron's words to life. The performance will be followed by a Q&A, offering audiences the chance to engage directly with the creative process and its themes of identity, vulnerability, and resilience.

The piece will be performed on the opening night of the festival within the playhouse!

Still here, Still Creating

The Exhibition will run from 25th of September to October the 12th

'This year's exhibition at the Macrobert Arts Centre feels like something truly special. For myself, being welcomed into this gallery space isn't just a chance to show art—it's a statement that our voices, our stories, and our creativity matter. For so long, those living with dementia have been pushed to the sidelines, but here, for these two weeks, we're right at the heart of the community.

These artworks—many being shown for the very first time—carry so much more than paint or clay. They hold memories, hopes, frustrations, laughter, and, above all, a stubborn refusal to be defined by a diagnosis. Every piece is a window into a world too often overlooked, and standing in this space, surrounded by so much courage and imagination, is genuinely moving.

Some of these works are for sale, and if one speaks to you, please talk to the festival team or the Macrobert staff. Don't just wander past—take a moment. Let yourself be surprised, challenged, and maybe even changed. This exhibition means the world to us. We hope it stirs something in you too.

I wanted to share my own feelings about this Gallery Exhibition and decided the best way to do this was as Ron Coleman the Demented Poet so here are my feelings in a poem called the gallery of hope' - Ron Coleman

The Gallery of Hope

Paint on the canvas, soft stories take flight,
Crowds gather gently from morning to night.
Textures and colours, memories seen,
Moments remembered in each vivid scene.

Gentle hands crafting what words cannot say,
Photographs capturing minds far away.
Artists and dreamers together arrive
Dementia Arts Festival keeping hope alive.

Laughter and whispers from canvas and clay,
Sculptures recall what time steals away.
Fragments of memory, fragile and bright,
Brushed into being with patient delight.

Families and carers, creators and friends,
Beauty and comfort around every bend.
Spirit and wonder drift up and survive
In Scottish hearts, these stories revive.

So step through the gallery, witness the grace
Fragments of memory, colour, and place.
Each brushstroke a tribute, each canvas a sign
That art holds the stories we struggle to find.

In Scotland together, we gather and see
How creativity kindles identity.
Let's honour the vision, the courage, the drive
At the Scottish Dementia Arts Festival 2025.

By Ron Coleman



Meet our Artists

Euan Murray

Euan discovered a passion for painting after retiring from a long career as a long-distance lorry driver. As a resident of the countryside, Euan has a keen eye for detail and an undeniable talent for capturing the landscapes, wildlife, and farm animals surrounding his home in Eassie, nestled in the Strathmore Valley.

Euan predominantly works with oil paints and often brings his pieces to Kirrie Connections to share with fellow club members. Recently, Euan has faced challenges with his mobility, which has made it difficult for him to maintain his once-pristine garden. Painting has become his way of staying connected to the outdoors, offering him joy and inspiration from the view through his conservatory, which overlooks both his garden and the surrounding farmland.

A proud Scot, Euan also enjoys travelling around the country with his daughter in their camper van. While on these trips, he captures landscapes digitally and spends his evenings painting scenes inspired by their travels.



Kirrie Connections

Kirrie Connections Meeting Centre is thrilled to submit a dynamic art installation showcasing the incredible work of our members. Inspired by the bold, vibrant colour palettes and repetitive display techniques of Andy Warhol, our members will create a visually captivating installation using simple yet impactful art-making methods. Warhol's use of repetition and colour will serve as the perfect backdrop for expressing the creative talents within our group.

At Kirrie Connections, we understand that many of our members may not have previously felt confident as artists, often shying away from traditional art forms like painting or sketching. To encourage participation, we focus on alternative, accessible art techniques that produce beautiful and meaningful works. These methods empower our members to explore their creative potential in a low-pressure environment, gradually building confidence in their abilities. As a result, they are more inclined to engage with future projects and expand their artistic skills.



Ron Coleman

Ron Coleman is a Scottish poet and dementia advocate whose raw, unfiltered writing has given voice to the lived experience of cognitive change. Diagnosed with dementia, Ron has channelled his journey into poetry and public speaking, often weaving humour and honesty into his reflections on memory, identity, and the healthcare system.

Now, with "The Medication Express," Ron presents his first-ever installation—a bold, immersive exploration of what it means to navigate daily life and medical routines while living with dementia. This new work blends poetry, found objects, and sensory elements to invite audiences into the strange, sometimes chaotic world of medication management. As with his poetry, Ron's installation refuses to sanitise or sentimentalise the realities of illness, instead offering viewers a space to confront, question, and empathise. Ron is also one of the creative forces behind "Dementia the Musical," described by The Scotsman as "a quietly tremendous celebration of activism." The production has been praised for its approach to activism and its moving portrayal of people living with dementia, marking another powerful chapter in Ron Coleman's creative journey (The Scotsman).



Alistair Snow

Alistair Snow is a contemporary Scottish artist and musician based in Edinburgh. Known for his vivid landscapes and expressive use of colour, Snow draws on the rugged beauty of the Highlands and the shifting Scottish skies. His work, which spans oils, watercolours, and mixed media, has been shown in galleries across the UK and at major festivals, earning him a loyal following among collectors and critics.

Beyond painting, Snow is also recognized as a drummer and has performed in live art and performance projects, blending his visual sensibilities with a strong sense of rhythm and collaboration. He works as an arts consultant and serves as an Artistic Assessor with Arts Council England, contributing to the visual arts community both in Scotland and nationwide. Whether behind a canvas or a drum kit, Snow brings an unmistakable energy and vision to everything he does.



Willy Gilder

Willy Gilder is a British artist whose work has gained recognition for its honest, moving exploration of life with dementia. After being diagnosed with early-onset Alzheimer's, Gilder turned to painting and drawing as both a form of self-expression and a way to process his changing reality. His art is marked by bold colors, raw emotion, and a willingness to confront memory loss head-on.

Gilder's pieces have resonated with audiences and the dementia community alike, offering a rare and powerful glimpse into the lived experience of Alzheimer's. He often paints scenes from his daily life, memories, and the shifting boundaries between past and present, using his art to communicate what words sometimes can't. Through exhibitions, talks, and advocacy, Willy Gilder has helped challenge stereotypes about dementia, showing that creativity and meaning can flourish even in the face of memory loss.



Anne Scott

Anne Scott is a writer, advocate, and active voice in the dementia community based in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Diagnosed with vascular dementia at the age of 46, she has dedicated herself to raising awareness about dementia, especially the impact it has on younger people and families.

Anne is the mother of five and has openly shared her experiences in interviews and writing, including as a member and contributor to Dementia NI and Deepness Dementia Media, where she serves as newsletter editor. She is also the author of "Sizzling Bacon," a book aimed at helping children understand dementia, drawing on her own journey and experiences with chronic illness (including multiple sclerosis and small vessel ischaemia). Anne frequently uses writing and advocacy to break stigma and encourage understanding about living with dementia.



Natalie Ives

Natalie Ives is an emerging Australian painter based in Melbourne. Known for her powerful advocacy in the dementia community, Natalie was diagnosed with young-onset dementia and has since become a voice for awareness and support, presenting at national forums and sharing her lived experience.

Turning to painting as a new form of expression, Natalie channels her journey through colour, texture, and bold imagery. This exhibition marks her public debut as a visual artist, adding a creative new dimension to her ongoing work in challenging stigma and building understanding around dementia. Natalie's art invites viewers into her world, offering a unique perspective shaped by resilience, vulnerability, and hope.





CrossReach

Heart for art

CrossReach Heart for Art provides community and care home-based art classes all over Scotland, enabling and empowering people with dementia to find their voice through art. Our creative service celebrates the individual behind the diagnosis and seeks to reduce the stigma often associated with dementia.

This exhibition is a selection of just some of the art produced through our groups. It represents the breadth of skills and experience, energy and character of our artists. We are immensely proud and delighted to bring you this national exhibition- "Mindful journey". We hope you enjoy it.

Please make sure to keep an eye out for the amazing pieces of art work done by their artists and members!



Mike Jeffries

"Three little birds"
Acrylic on canvas

Vera Cameron

"Le cottage de Véronique"
Acrylic on canvas

Alister Fraser

"Mindful journey"
Acrylic on canvas

Alwyn Andrews

"Irises"
Acrylic on canvas

Willie Waitt

"Foxy"
Acrylic on canvas

John Greig

"Winter Triptych"
Acrylic on canvas

Richard Mclatchie

"Playing with butterflies"
Acrylic on Canvas

Carol Topper

"Hydrangeas"
Acrylic on Canvas

John Gilmour

"Wildness"
Acrylic on canvas

Elvira Willard

"Summer Landscape"
Acrylic on Canvas

Jean Fisher

"Sweet song"
Mixed media

Nancy McDougall

"Sunset"
Acrylic on canvas

Gordon McKean

"Western Isles"
Acrylic on Canvas

Terry Thomson

"City Chamber"
Acrylic on canvas

Jim Thomson

"Lonely sailor"
Acrylic on canvas

Mike White

"By the seaside"
Oil on canvas

Joan Madden

"Still Life"
Acrylic on Canvas

Tom Palmer

"West Coast Landscape"
Acrylic on Canvas

Ronald Beattie

"Sunset"
Acrylic on Canvas

Bob Hamilton

"Playtime"
Acrylic on canvas

Catherine Baillie

"Looking out, North Kessock"
Watercolour

Eleanor Miller

"When a robin appears..."
Acrylic on canvas

Mary Renfrew

"When I was a little girl"
Acrylic on canvas

The MacRobert Arts Centre

This year, we are pleased to be working in association with the MacRobert Arts Centre. Since opening its doors in 1971, Macrobert has been at the heart of Stirling's creative life. Originally built as Scotland's first purpose-built arts centre on a university campus, it was a bold experiment: could a modern arts hub thrive in a small Scottish city, serving both students and the wider community? Macrobert quickly proved it could. Over the decades, it's brought everything from experimental theatre to mainstream cinema to the people of Stirling. The building itself has had several facelifts, but its mission hasn't changed. Today, Macrobert offers a packed programme of live performances, films, workshops, and community projects, making it a cultural anchor for the region.

For Stirling and the surrounding areas, Macrobert is much more than just a venue. It's the kind of place where local kids take their first drama class, where families catch a panto every Christmas, and where artists and audiences meet on equal footing. The centre's outreach work means the arts aren't just something that happens on stage—they're woven into the fabric of everyday life here. In a region that sometimes gets overlooked in national conversations about culture, Macrobert gives Stirling a voice. It makes the arts accessible, relevant, and genuinely local.

That's why this partnership means so much. Working with Macrobert isn't just about putting on shows; it's about supporting a space where creativity belongs to everyone.

For more information:

<https://www.macrobertartscentre.org/>



IMPORTANT INFORMATION: Please note lunch is not provided with the festival. However, within the MacRoberts centre there is a Café called the Backstage Bar & Kitchen that will be open as well as the MacRoberts Kiosk will be open serving hot beverages, we highly recommend you go whilst you are the festival!

Please join our WATTSAAPP Group that will send reminders and information out whilst the festival is running and before!



Important and helpful resources

Luminate

Luminate is Scotland's creative ageing organisation. They run arts projects and events with, for, and by older people, including those living with dementia. Their work includes dementia-inclusive singing, creative workshops, and artist training to support inclusive practice.

🌐 luminatescotland.org



About Dementia

About Dementia is a partnership between Age Scotland and the Scottish Government. It focuses on improving policy and practice around dementia, shaped directly by people with lived experience and unpaid carers. The programme amplifies the voices of those affected and supports community-based solutions.

🌐 age.scot/aboutdementia



Meeting Centres Scotland

Meeting Centres are community-based hubs that provide social, emotional, and practical support for people living with mild to moderate dementia and their families. They are part of an international network and now operate across several Scottish communities.

🌐 meetingcentres.scot



STAND (Striving Towards A New Day)

STAND is a peer support group in Fife led by people with a diagnosis of dementia. They offer advocacy, raise awareness, and create opportunities for people with dementia to connect, learn, and participate in creative projects.

🌐 standinfife.org



Playlist for Life

Playlist for Life is a UK-wide charity that helps people with dementia and their families use personally meaningful music to spark memories, strengthen relationships, and improve wellbeing. They provide resources, training, and support through a network of community Help Points.

🌐 playlistforlife.org.uk



BOLD (Bringing Out Leaders in Dementia)

BOLD is a leadership programme in Scotland supporting people with dementia, unpaid carers, and professionals. It uses creative practice and personal development to empower participants to lead positive change in dementia policy, culture, and services.

🌐 bold-scotland.org



Lorenzo's House

Lorenzo's House is a global, virtual organisation dedicated to supporting families impacted by younger-onset dementia (diagnosed before age 65). They offer a wide range of free programmes, including peer-to-peer matches (MATCH), group support spaces (Light Club and Shine On), a Youth Summit, and the NextGen Youth Dementia Justice Alliance. All programmes are accessible online and focus strongly on empowering youth and carers.

🌐 lorenzoshouse.org



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Deepness Ltd in Association with The Macrobert Arts Centre would like to extend heartfelt thanks to everyone who has made this project possible. We are deeply grateful to Kainde Manji from Stirling Voluntary Enterprise for her guidance and encouragement, and to Kevin Harrison at Artlink Central for his creative partnership.

Special appreciation goes to Anne Gallagher of Luminate for her expertise, as well as to The Age Scotland Dementia Team for their ongoing support. Our thanks also to Rebecca Kennedy from Playlist for Life, Graham Galloway of Meeting Centres Scotland, The Weekday Wow Factor, and The Dementia Services Development Centre for sharing their knowledge, inspiration, and resources.

We are indebted to all of our Artists for bringing passion and vision to every stage, and to the Deepness Support team and Deepness Dementia Radio for their unwavering belief in the power of community and creativity. This brochure is a testament to the collective effort, kindness, and imagination of everyone involved. Thank you for helping us make a difference.

Ron Coleman (The Demented Poet)

Francesca Taylor-Coleman (The Demented Poet's Daughter)



DEEPNESS DEMENTIA



