

# The Doune and Dunblane Fling

The Doune and Dunblane Fling is an annual music event attracting visitors from across Europe. The event takes place on the last weekend in May. For details of this year's event go to the event website: [www.dunblanefling.com](http://www.dunblanefling.com).

Past activities include a traditional ceilidh, music concert, folk sessions, workshops, crafts, drama, fashion and charity events. Past performers include Dougie McLean, Skerryvore and Malinky. A sample of last year's events includes: Jazz Night, Salsa Night, Fling by the River, the main concert with Skerryvore and music sessions in local pubs as well as the Fling Festival Club.

The very first Fling was held in 1993. The first ceilidh, held in the Victoria Hall, saw a packed crowd dancing to music by the Tattie Howkers. The Saturday concert featured Setanta, supported by local band Talisker, and was a great success. On Sunday the first fun day was held at Doune Castle (famous for its long history but more famous for its role in Monty Python's Holy Grail). The fun day had everything from lace-making to storytelling, music, dance, jesters and a ceilidh in the Great Hall with the Skelpit Lugs Band.

Since those early days the Fling has gone from strength to strength supported by local volunteers and sponsors. Somewhere along the line the first 'Fling by the River' began. Held each Fling Saturday on Dunblane's historic Drying Green, its activities have ranged from an open stage for local young musicians, fire engines, space-hopper races and fire-eating jugglers, to the annual Rotary Club race for 4,000 plastic ducks down the Allan Water. Gradually a 'Fringe Fling' has developed, featuring over the years everything from ghost walks, pub quizzes, plays from the local Drama Group, master classes in everything from fiddling or mandolins to harmony singing or bodhran, and the now-annual Thursday Jazz Night.

The event has now become a well-rooted local community weekend, and yet attracts visitors from far and wide. Find out more at [www.dunblanefling.com](http://www.dunblanefling.com).

