

COS WEEKEND NEWS

A CLOSE UP ON COS, BY [ROB WILKINSON](#).



COWAL OPEN STUDIOS WEEKEND HITS THE MARK.

The bunting was out, the signs were up and the studios were opened to the public as over 50 artists from across the Cowal peninsula showcased their creative talents.

This year's Cowal Open Studios weekend once again proved to be a great success with early indications that it could well have been the best on record in terms of visitor numbers.

The 2023 COS art trail was divided into four distinct routes covering the north, south, east and west of Cowal.

"It's been a fantastic weekend and we even had some blue skies!" commented Jenny Phillips of Cowal Open Studios. "We've yet to receive all of the statistics but figures received to date suggest that both local people and visitors to Cowal have embraced the open studios initiative once again."

Toward-based fibre artist Mhairi Scott declared: "There was a mix of visitors who had been before and came back to see different artists this time around and others for whom it was their first time going around the studios.

"Some had moved into the area and wanted to get to know what was going on creatively here. Others came from as far as Dailly in South Ayrshire, Irvine in North Ayrshire and quite a few from Glasgow. All loved the variety of artists in the mix and found it really interesting to see where they lived and worked.

"The location where I have my studio in Toward was often commented on as being so beautiful and inspirational, so the Cowal peninsula is most definitely a star in itself!

"

I've had some fantastic comments in my visitor book over the weekend which suggests that the Cowal Open Studios weekend really is loved by many," added Mhairi.

Kerry Nixon, who masterminded the COS Instagram campaign, commented: "I was lucky enough to visit many of the studios over the weekend taking in artists and makers from across the board.

"From the amazing words and ceramic creations of Michaela and Chris Goan at the Seatree Argyle studio in Innellan to the beautiful evocative photography of Richard Harvey from Ardmore Art Studio, we are so blessed in this part of the world with creative talent and it's been encouraging to see so many people engaged with the processes of our community of artists," she added.