

# KIRKCUDBRIGHT STEAMPUNK WEEKEND

29<sup>TH</sup> - 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE '24



A Steampunk Extravaganza and Vintage Fair with stalls in the Soaperie Gardens, Live Music and Dancing .

A parade of Steampunk finery.

Victorian Tearoom serving cakes and coffee, Prosecco and Mocktails.

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# WHAT IS STEAMPUNK

Get Creative & Be Splendid

The term "Steampunk" was coined in 1987 by author KW Jeter in relation to fantasy/science fiction with Victorian technology especially that powered by steam. But it has been around much longer than that if you think of HG Wells The Time Machine and War of the Worlds, writing in the late nineteenth century and Jules Verne 20,00 Leagues Under the Sea.

Steampunk is a design style inspired by Victorian era industrialism with retrofuturistic technology and aesthetics. But it has come to embrace music, literature, fashion and art, celebrating creativity in all its forms.

Think of steam driven artefacts, airships, space outfits, lots and lots of cogs, top hats, goggles, kilts and pith helmets.

Though the setting is often pseudo historical harking back to the Victorian period, the Steampunk movement does not promote any of the inequalities of the past. It is deliberately an all inclusive, friendly community embracing all ages, sizes, genders, abilities and ethnic backgrounds and we come from all walks of life.

## **Why the Goggles?**

They serve many purposes such as keeping the wind out of your eyes on an airship, protection from dangerous chemicals for the mad scientists, protection from sparks and hot steam in the lab or boiler room or even from solar flares.

## **Why the Punk?**

In the seventies Punk represented rebellion against contemporary society. But in this context, the Steampunk movement instead rebels against the throwaway society, poor manners and antisocial behaviour and promotes courtesy, care about the environment and the past.

Creativity and DIY is very strong in steampunk alongside sustainability with the clothing and accessories often upcycled and repurposed.

## **Aims and Aspirations of the Movement**

Perhaps this can be summed up by a question. Who doesn't love dressing up? Creating and Promenading in wonderful sometimes weird and wacky outfits is part of the fun. The aspiration and motto of the steampunk community is

**Be Splendid!**