

Dalry after Bird Town status

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by Doug Archibald, [Galloway News](#)

DALRY is preparing to take off as Dumfries and Galloway's Bird Town.

A steering group has been set up to help launch what is being seen as a sister project to Kirkcudbright Artist's Town, Wigtown Book town and Castle Douglas Food Town.

And they aim to buy the Mace Shop in Main Street which would be turned into a visitor and orientation centre.

The move is basically an extension of the Watson Bird Centre project which celebrates Dalry's connection with world renowned ornithologist and wildlife artists Donald Watson who settled in the town.

The aim is to develop his former home at Barone in Main Street into a centre.

The objectives of the Bird Town are to celebrating the "outstanding and unique" contributions made to bird study, literature and art by Donald Watson and his son Jeff; raise the profile of Dalry; increase economic opportunities and develop community pride.

Roger Crofts of the Bird Town Steering Group explained: "We hope that we shall be as successful as the other projects in due time and give Dalry added momentum and make it a must visit destination for all bird and arts lovers."

On Saturday, October 16, there will be a special event in Dalry Town Hall to launch Donald Watson's book In Search of Harriers.