

GLENKENS GAZETTE

News from Balmaclellan, Carsphairn, Mossdale, New Galloway and St John's Town of Dalry

June/July 2018

ISSUE 106

FREE

CLACHAN INN WINS PUB OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Clachan Inn continues to scoop awards, being named best pub in the region.

It was no easy task as the competition was strong.

The Clachan Inn was voted Overall Dumfries & Stewartry Winner and Stewartry Area Winner Campaign for Real Ale at the CAMRA Pub of the Year Awards 2018.

The Clachan isn't a stranger to recognition, having received CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale) awards in 2014 and 2016. As a result of the hard work and dedication of owners Laura Burnie and Phil Papworth, along with a committed team of staff, they have now accomplished the overall award.

Laura said: "We're thrilled; really delighted. We're just trying to make the place a fun and relaxing community hub by serving great food and craft



Clachan Inn owners Phil Papworth and Laura Burnie at the front with Trevor Hayward from CAMRA © Phil Robinson.

beers. Our gin range also goes down well too!"

I can vouch for this as I write

and dine there - may their success continue. Congratulations Laura and Phil!

Ian Patrick

GLENKENS TAXI SERVICE

The Glenkens is set to get better connected with a new taxi service coming into operation.

T&C Taxis of Dalmellington is proposing to operate a Glenkens taxi service. From 1 July, a taxi will be dedicated to the Glenkens, available for journeys from contracted school taxi services to fast food delivery or running you and your mates home from the pub.

Company owner Jim Ireland says: "I've been considering a taxi service

in this area for a while. I now have a car free, and as I already have the relevant licencing to operate in the area, it seems like a good time to try it out."

To get in touch with T&C Taxis, either to find out more about the Glenkens service or to book the taxi, call 01292 550 100.

T&C Taxis have vehicles and drivers licensed to operate in East Ayrshire (Sub Zone South) and Dumfries and Galloway (Sub Zone Stewartry Area). They are currently looking for

drivers for both areas - please get in touch with Jim Ireland by text for further details - 07747 466 835.



Connecting in Communities Celebrates

The Connecting in Communities (CiC) project celebrated its first birthday in May.

The project, which is funded by LEADER and the Big Lottery is a three-year community enhancement programme aimed at the Glenkens. Run by Brian Jones and Chris Jowsey, based at CatStrand, CiC has something for everyone and offers a wide ranging variety of events and activities.

To answer the time-honoured question of "what have the Romans ever done for us" here is a synopsis of what we have achieved in the last year: The Men's Shed and Uke Band go from strength to strength, with growing membership and around £1000 raised for various charities from our frequent gigs. We've run 1st Aid, Food Safety and Tablets courses and on the health and wellbeing front we've added bi-weekly Fitness Training and evening Yoga to the existing Pilates, Yoga, Zumba and Tai Chi sessions. On the music front the Singing group continues to thrive, Beginners Ukles are strumming nicely, Rocktober blew the top off the auditorium and everyone had a hoot at the Day-Time and Fancy Dress Discos. For the creative amongst us, there are now two writing groups and a monthly writer's café, plus the artistic Rekindling Creativity sessions, Margaret Morris

Movement, Knit and Blether and the quarterly Afternoon Tea Club film shows.

On a more serious note though, CiC has also been building partnerships with a number of local and national organisations.

We're working with Sam Rushton from New Galloway Community Enterprise, Grace and Debz from Sleeping Giants and supporting LING (Local Initiatives in New Galloway) by outsourcing activities to the Town Hall. CiC works with Third Sector D&G and on a number of projects and D&G Council on various Health and Wellbeing initiatives. We also work with Age Scotland, various D&G Day Centres and Friendship Groups and the Crichton Campus Care Project is using CiC as a potential model for wider roll-out. More recently we are working with Better Lives Partnerships to explore possibilities for young adults on the Autistic Spectrum and we must say thanks to the Music for All Charity and John Douglas music who have provided the Beginners Ukles instruments and equipment.

Looking to the future, CiC is working with Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership on developing the Old Smiddy in Balmaclellan as a heritage hub and CatStrand annex. This will provide



an additional multi-use venue, space for young people, modern IT facilities, library and potentially a small recording studio. Waiting in the wings we have the Volunteers Night and Umbrella Party, Art Classes, Grease 40th Birthday showing, Line dancing, Community Cooking (in Dalry), Games Afternoons, the Tricky Hat "Flames" and another Rock Night.

Want to know more or get involved? Brian and Chris can be contacted on 01644 420374 or by email brian@catstrand.com or chris@catstrand.com

CiC and CatStrand rely heavily on volunteers to support the plethora of events and activities that go on, if you have time to spare and something to offer please get in touch, we'd love to have you on-board.

Do you have an idea, comment or complaint? Look out for our Wishing Trees which will be appearing during June at various locations for you to give us your thoughts and feedback, we'd really like to hear from you!

Chris Jowsey, Volunteer & Participation Officer, GCAT

MIDSUMMER POETRY

Acclaimed poet Stuart Paterson will lead a Midsummer Poetry Walk starting from Balmaghie on Saturday 23 June from 11.30am to 3pm.

The walk begins in the area where the Galloway Viking Hoard was found. Along the way, Stuart will encourage participants to make a poetic response to the landscape and its story.

This event follows on from last year's Poetry Walk from Dalry to Waterside, led by Tom Pow. He cites that walk in his afterword to Allan Wright's recent book of Galloway photographs, saying

how he considers "Galloway to be a participatory landscape rather than one of spectacle." He also talks about the sense of adventure he finds in the landscape and the poignancy of its history:

*this land too is rucked
with the bones and blood
guide books never chart*

History will, no doubt, be much in the minds of this year's writer-walkers. Dr David Bartholomew, who was present when the Galloway Viking Hoard was discovered and has some interesting theories about its origins, hopes to join the folk enjoying the midsummer richness of Balmaghie on this gentle two-mile walk.

Just 15 places are available - book now at www.catstrand.com or call 01644 420 374.



Balmaghie Kirk yard

One Hundred Years a Hero

The Carsphairn Heritage and Craft Centre celebrates the centenary year since the end of the First World War with an exhibition entitled **One Hundred Years a Hero**.

Featuring William Hew Clark Kennedy who, 100 years ago, was one of 627 soldiers who were awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest military decoration, the exhibition tells how he received the medal for valour whilst leading the 24th battalion of the Canadian Expeditionary Forces in late August and early September 1918.

William fought in France during the war and it was only after he was severely wounded following his action at the Battle of Arras that he returned to England. His VC citation details his bravery and leadership in leading his troops in a successful advance.

The Clark Kennedy family and the local community are delighted that a Government-sponsored centenary memorial stone will be erected at Carsphairn war memorial on Monday 27 August. The stone laying ceremony will be followed by a service in the village church and a reception in Lagwyne Hall.

After a successful and well-received pilot scheme last November

and December, the centre is now displaying the work of local crafts people. There's a wide range of contemporary and heritage crafts for sale, all of which are handmade in the Glenkens area.

The Heritage and Craft Centre is open until Sunday 30 September between 10am and 4pm every Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holiday Monday. From Thursday 5 July to Monday 27 August inclusive, the centre will be open every day apart from Tuesday and Wednesday.

Visit www.carsphairn.org/heritagecentre for further details.



Top: William Hew Clark Kennedy VC. Above: Karen Hall, who chairs the Carsphairn Heritage Group, casts an eye over the One Hundred Years a Hero exhibition.

ARNDARROCH OPEN GARDEN

The garden at Arndarroch will be opened to the public on **Sunday 29 July**.

Organising the event are the Dumfries & Galloway Canine Rescue, who will receive 60% of the proceeds, with the remainder going to the Carsphairn Church Fabric Account which funds repairs and maintenance to the church.

The garden at Arndarroch has been developed from the hillside over the last 27 years. The whole garden is wildlife friendly including the numerous rabbits. Many birds find nesting places in the trees and shrubs whilst others are helped by unusual nest 'boxes'.

Garden waste material is used in the woodlands to provide homes for many mammals and countless

smaller creatures.

There is a good collection of herbaceous perennials, trees and shrubs - some rare - and seats are available so that one can sit and savour the magnificent views.

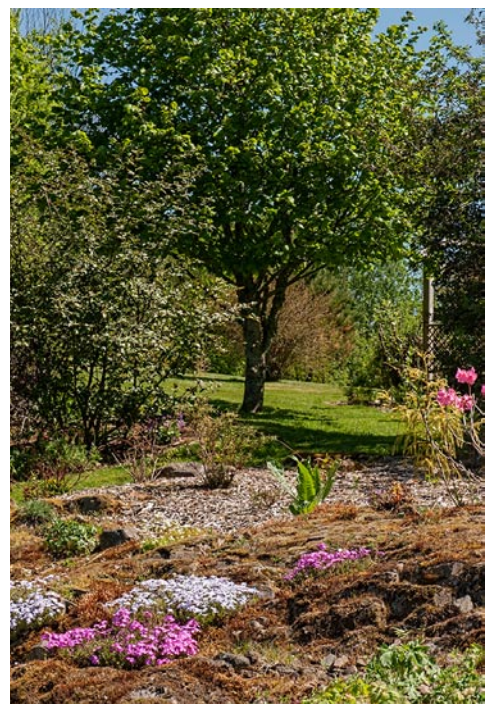
Entrance to the gardens is £3.50 for adults and free for children aged 16 and under.

Children enjoy the space and the intriguing corners of the garden, and there will be a puzzle for them to do with a prize if they find all the answers.

Teas (and home baking) are £2.50 and there will be the usual excellent plant stall and, for the first time, colourful, decorative and useful patchwork items for sale.

The garden is open from 2 to 5pm. Dogs on leads are welcome.

Arndarroch is on the B7000 five miles from Carsphairn and Dalry.



Glenkens Freecycle

sponsored by natural power



EVERYTHING listed in the Glenkens Freecycle section is FREE - you just need to contact the owner and go and pick it up! If you would like to list something on this page, please get in touch with Sarah on 07727 127 997 or glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

VARIOUS

Microwave, Morphy Richards. Good working order. Contact: Davie on 430446

2 children's wooden beds with mattresses, size 2ft 6inches by 5ft 6inches, good condition. Contact: 01644 450 265

Lovely girl's four-poster single bed, white painted wood, one post

needs mending. Also mattress if wanted. Contact: 01644 430218

Single bed and mattress with two pull-out drawers underneath. Contact: 01644 430218

Lovely old piano. A beautiful sounding piano in its day and could be again. Free and ready for collection now. Contact: Dave on 01644 420 211

WANTED

Wardrobe/chest of drawers and any old lawn mowers/garden machinery (any condition). Contact: Steve on 07845 562 217

We are looking for someone who has the patience and skill to **paint an egg and dart frieze** in the entrance hall as the final step in our long and arduous house renovation. Contact: Dave on 01644 420 211

FOLLOW THE WATER, FEEL THE BURN...

In this issue I will mostly be following burns and looking for waterfalls.

After a rather cold and dismal start to the year the sun is finally shining on this corner of the world. The bright green leaves and flowers of spring have cheered the place up considerably; the blackthorn and gorse have put on a particularly good display this year. There are plenty more still to come: the ash has barely begun to put its leaves out while the hawthorn and crab apple trees have yet to flower. All things considered it is an excellent time to get your boots on and get out into the hills. The tricky bit is always deciding where to start and where to head.

The Glenkens are blessed with a large number of beautiful burns that feed into Loch Ken and following them either up to or down from their source can make for a very pleasant journey of discovery. Some burns tumble

steeply down from the high hills, whilst others meander slowly through rolling moors or along the marshy glen floors. The longer ones tend to flow through a variety of scenery so you never know what is around the bend.

Burns tend to be situated away from the roads, which makes for peace and quiet, although there are many places where you can see them from your car and stop to admire them. Often you will find that you can't see any houses or other manmade structures, nor hear any traffic noise, just the birds. At the moment that means especially the skylark which is busily advertising its presence.

In areas that have been cleared for pasture trees tend to survive by the sides of the burns, for where the water has cut down into the rock and left steep banks it is harder for the sheep and cattle to graze the tasty young saplings. Farmers also tend to build fences and dykes away from the water's edge to stop their beasts from falling into the water. This means



that following the burn gives you the best chance of the shade that trees cast, should the sun continue to shine. The cool damp atmosphere also encourages luxuriant growth of mosses, lichens and ferns that give some burns a truly magical feel.

For me though, the best reason to follow burns is to find rocks and waterfalls and pools. There are quite a number of waterfalls in the Glenkens; some are fairly well-known, such as the Holy Linn near Dalry. Others can be found on the Ordnance Survey maps. But many remain to be discovered while out wandering, overlooked for whatever reason by the mapmakers. Where there are waterfalls there are normally pools, so if the sun continues to shine and you're feeling brave, don't forget your swimmers! Happy hunting...

The Galloway Hermit



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Saturday: 8am – 6pm

Sunday: 8.30am – 4pm

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Eco Feature

sponsored by natural power



NUTS ABOUT CRAB APPLES

Dear Galloway Hermit,

I share your love of ancient crab apples. And we are not alone. Back in autumn 2017, I received a request from Rick Worrell, a Perthshire researcher - did we have any crab apple trees in Galloway? My answer, of course, was YES, there are lots here. Say more? Rick is hugely enthusiastic about wild crab apple trees, and realised that because they occur sporadically rather than being a dominant woodland tree, they tend to get forgotten by UK forest policy. So he set out to survey Scotland's maligned native forest apples, and prove that they are not just a recent garden escapee.

Rick was looking for leaf samples - just one leaf from each tree, in a plastic bag, with silica crystals. DNA analysis would indicate their genetics... are they cross-bred with sweet orchard apples, or are they the genuine wild apples, long-lived trees with scented blossom and small tart fruit?

Was this a wild goose chase, or more of a bear hunt (after all, didn't bears, wild boar and wild cattle originally eat the fallen fruit and spread apple seeds)?

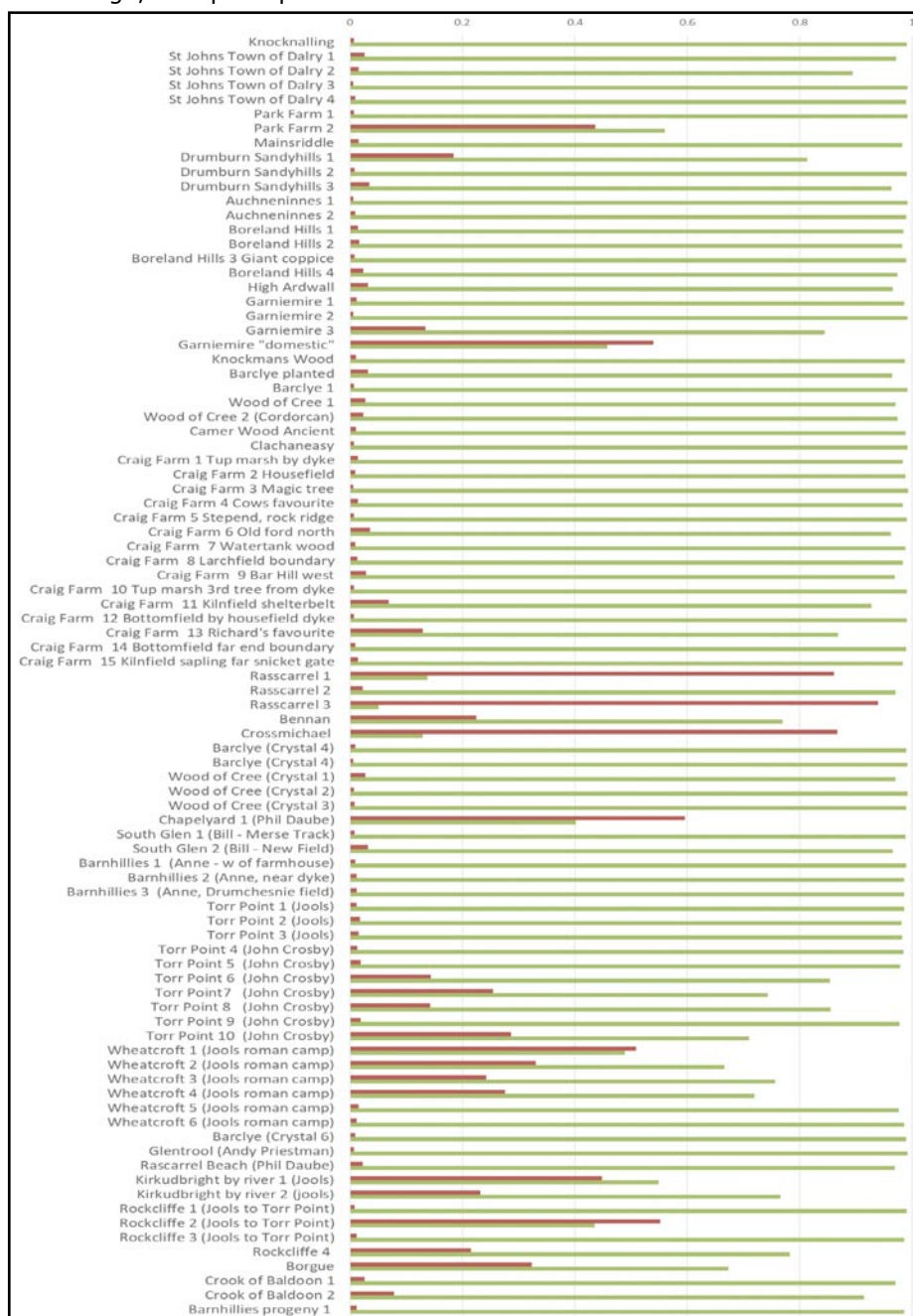
I emailed a few friends locally to ask could they help - could they send me some crab apple leaves - so I could give them to Rick and his colleague James Renny during their flying visit to Galloway. To my surprise, my request went viral and I received more than 60 leaves from people who had gathered a leaf from trees across the region (luckily, just before the first frost). It turns out that many, many folk in Galloway are nuts about crab apples.

Then, in February 2018, Rick returned to Galloway with the results. How exciting. The DNA analysis (by Marcus Ruhsum at Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh) showed that most (more than 75%) of the Galloway crab apple samples are native Scottish forest apples. The graph shows just how native - the length of the green line shows how wild the DNA is (anything that is half-and-half is a recent hybrid). Galloway is truly at the core of our crab apple universe. It's one of the most crab-apple places in the UK (there are lots in the Lakes, too).

If you want to find out more, visit www.reforestingscotland.org/wordpress1/wordpress1/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Worrell-Crab-Apple.pdf for the article Rick Worrell wrote last year for Reforesting Scotland; he'll write another this autumn which will include the results of the Galloway research.

We're hoping, that as a result of the interest shown in the talk at the Ken Bridge, that perhaps someone

will start a native crab apple nursery in the region, stocked with regional crab apples. And it'd be interesting to learn more about cows-and-apples - are many of the crab apple trees in old cow-pastures? Don't the apple seeds germinate perfectly in cowpats? Is 'apple wooded pasture' (cattle-grazed open woodlands and scraggy parks) part of the story, an old Galloway tradition? *Mas, SWANC*



How native are the crab apple trees of Galloway? The length of the green line illustrates how 'wild' (sylvestris) the crab apple DNA is. This research was carried out by Rick Worrell and James Renny using DNA science by Marcus Ruhsum (Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh) on samples gathered during autumn 2017.

Glenkens Transport Initiative

www.glenkenstransport.org

email gti@catstrand.com phone 01644 420374 mobile 07841 512449



Regular Services

Wednesday Evenings Dalry to Castle Douglas (Tesco)

Return

(Registered Route)

Outward Journey	
1900	Depart Dalry (Underhill)
1905	New Galloway (CatStrand)
1915	Mossdale
1925	Lauriston
1930	Townhead of Greenlaw
1937	Castle Douglas (Market Street)
1940	Castle Douglas (Tesco)

Return Journey	
2035	Depart Castle Douglas (Tesco)
2037	Castle Douglas (Market Street)
2047	Townhead of Greenlaw
2050	Lauriston
2100	Mossdale
2110	New Galloway (CatStrand)
2115	Dalry (Underhill)

Booking not required.

Thursdays

Glenkens to Castle Douglas Day Centre Return

Passengers not attending the day centre may also use this service.

Outbound pickups:

Dalry (Underhill) 1015; New Galloway (CatStrand) 1030

Pickups can also be arranged from Balmaclellan, Parton and Crossmichael bus stops or from passengers' homes.

Return service will leave Castle Douglas Community Centre at 1430.

Return Fare £3.00

Booking required.

Fridays

Dalry to Newton Stewart

(Swimming and Shopping)

Outward Pickups

Dalry (Underhill) 0930;

New Galloway (Town Hall) 0940, (CatStrand) 0942

Return Pickups

Newton Stewart (Aldi Car Park) 1130; (Merrick Centre) 1140

Return Fare £3.00. Booking required.

MONTHLY

Glenkens to Ayr Return - Saturdays

Usually the last Saturday of each month

see www.glenkenstransport.org for dates

Pickups

New Galloway (CatStrand) 0930,

Dalry (Underhill) 0940, Carsphairn (1000)

Leaves Ayr 1500

Fare (each way) £3.50/ Concessions £3.00

Booking required.

Minibus Hire

GTI has 8, 15 and 16 seat minibuses for hire

Information and Bookings email gti@catstrand.com or call 01644 420374.

EXCURSIONS

See the GTI website for full details of summer 2018 excursions

June 7 Charles Rennie Macintosh: Making the Glasgow Style Exhibition

(and House for an Art Lover)

Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum

Pickups: New Galloway (CatStrand) 0900; Dalry (Underhill) 0910; Carsphairn 0930.

Fare £7. Concessions £6. (Does not include admissions.)

June 23 Woolfest 2018

Cockermoth, Cumbria

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900; New Galloway

(CatStrand) 0910; Crossmichael (Shop) 0920; Castle Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill) 0930.

Fare £7. Concessions £6. Admission £10

2018 Gardens of Excellence Excursions

June and July

June 3 The Victorian Garden

Capenoch Garden Penpont, D&G

Refreshments. Partly wheelchair accessible. Adm £4.00.

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 1330; New Galloway

(CatStrand) 1340. Fare £5. Concessions £4.

June 10 The Romantic Gardens

Glenwhan Gardens Dunragit, D&G

Café. Partly wheelchair accessible. Admission £6.00.

Castle Kennedy Gardens Stranraer, D&G

Café. Wheelchair accessible. Admission £5.50.

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900; New Galloway

(CatStrand) 0910; Crossmichael (Shop) 0925, Castle Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill) 0935

Fare £7. Concessions £6.

July 8 The Natural Gardens

Galloway House Garlieston, D&G

Wheelchair accessible. Admission £3.00.

Woodfall Gardens Glasserton, D&G

Wheelchair accessible. Plants for sale. Refreshments available. Admission £5.00.

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900; New Galloway

(CatStrand) 0910; Crossmichael (Shop) 0925, Castle Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill) 0935

Fare £7. Concessions £6.

July 24 The Gulf Stream Gardens

Logan Botanic Garden Port Logan, D&G

Wheelchair accessible. Café and garden centre. Admission £6.50.

Logan House Gardens Port Logan, D&G

Wheelchair accessible. Admission £4.00.

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900; New Galloway

(CatStrand) 0910; Crossmichael (Shop) 0925, Castle Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill) 0935

Fare £7. Concessions £6.

For certain excursions pickups can also be arranged for Dalbeattie and Kirkcudbright. Enquire when booking.

NEW GALLOWAY GOLF CLUB

With the change of the clocks, New Galloway Golf Club swung into its summer season.

The course is in superb condition and ready to receive all visitors who wish to play.

The club is offering golf coaching to the local community and anyone who would like to try the game can telephone the club or come along to the course on Saturday mornings when arrangements will be made to suit individual circumstances.

The club's coaches are now also busy coaching junior golfers, both in the schools during the week and at the course on Saturday mornings. The Saturday junior coaching is from 10 to 11:30am.

The club is grateful to the Glenkens Charity Shop for their generous grant to purchase sets of junior golf clubs, which enables them to provide the equipment to those who come along without clubs.

Ian Brown



Coaches with some of the junior golfers, sporting the new clubs purchased with funding from the Glenkens Charity Shop, prior to the first session of the season.



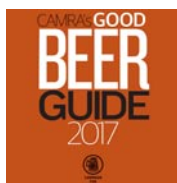
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BALMACLELLAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS

On 26 April the remaining elected members of Balmaclellan Community Council informed co-opted members and local residents that the Community Council had been dissolved.

This was due to the number of elected members falling below the threshold of five as a result of recent resignations.

The ex-Community Councillors were keen to re-establish quickly and 20 signatures have already been collected and submitted

to D&G Council with a view to starting this process.

Joann Scott has confirmed the intention to put a notice in the Galloway News on Thursday 31 May announcing the Balmaclellan Community Council election.

The date of the poll will be Thursday 19 July and the nomination period will be open from 31 May to 21 June.

There are nine council vacancies to be filled and members of Balmaclellan parish are encouraged to put themselves forward for what could be a very exciting time in the parish's development.

A good cross-section of the community will ensure healthy debate over a variety of issues surrounding the future role of community councils.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWS

In the next few months D&G Council are expected to approve a new Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils and all community councils will be expected to sign up to this.

Community councils are likely to have new responsibilities as 'Participatory Budgeting' increasingly gives local people a real say over how budgets are spent. Sanquhar Academy has led the way with giving young people the chance to determine how windfarm benefit monies are spent locally.

Another exciting reason for people to stand is to ensure that young people and those on low incomes can help shape new and more effective ways of involving all sectors of local communities.

FINLAY CARSON MSP Member of the Scottish Parliament for Galloway and West Dumfries



If you would like an appointment,
please get in touch

Write to:

107 King Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1LZ

Email: Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot

Phone: 01556 504991

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CatStrand Highlights

It is summer season and CatStrand is branching out over the coming months to bring more events right into your village.

Summer is arguably our busiest time of year in terms of tourists and visitors, and this means loads of festivals, shows and activities all over the region. Rather than compete with these fantastic events, we tend to ease off over July and August and take time to fix those shingles and recharge those batteries for the busy autumn and winter to come. HOWEVER...we still have a packed summer brochure and loads of amazing shows over June and July in particular.

June sees the 39th **Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival** getting under way and, as usual, CatStrand has a wide mixture of shows from raucous Scots trad band **Elephant Sessions** (Sat 26 May) through to conceptual dance from **Sixfold** (Fri 1 Jun) which also features the sublime talents of our **Choreo Skills Lab** youth dance group. **Redbridge Arts** bring us the interactive musicological play **Turntable** (Sat 2 Jun) and then we have performance and improvised poetry from **Hannah Lavery & Jenny Lindsay** (Sun 3 Jun).

We're delighted to be sponsoring

Dalry Film Club for their next season of films which starts with **The Greatest Showman** (PG) on Wed 6 Jun (note the change of date from our brochure) with more to follow in the autumn.

Young Scottish multi-instrumentalist and singer **Kirsty Law** brings her highly acclaimed **Young Night Thought** concert to CatStrand on Thu 22 Jun, lauded by the likes of Karine Polwart and the Scotsman. Kirsty is ably supported by pedal harpist **Esther Swift** (Twelfth Day) and drummer **Owen Curtis** (Pictish Trail). Before we have time to catch breath, the hugely talented **Kinny Gardner** will be rolling into CatStrand for his innovative puppet theatre show **Cinder-ella** which is FREE (Fri 22 Jun, 10.30am) and suitable for ages 4-8.

For a change of scene, why not join **BBC Poet in Residence Stuart Paterson** on the rearranged **Ken Words Poetry Walk & Picnic** to Balmaghie (Sat 23 Jun). We're delighted to be continuing our **Exhibition on Screen** films over the summer and what better for June than **Painting the Modern Garden: Monet to Matisse** [U] (Tue 26 Jun). If classical music is more to your taste, then the virtuosic **Tee Trio** are performing a vibrant programme of **Smetana, Tailleferre, Mendelssohn and Schubert** (Fri 29 Jun).

July veers course once again



Markus K

with the enigmatic American blues fusionist **Markus K** (Fri 13 July) doing his now world renowned one-man band show. Of course, summer wouldn't be summer without a comedy show and if you liked Mark Nelson you'll LOVE the new toast of Scottish comedy **Ashley Storrie** who brings her **Adulting** show here on Sat 21 July. Loved by Dawn French and a regular on Breaking the News, she won The Sun's Best Scottish Performance of 2017. Don't miss it.

Looking ahead, we're delighted to have the likes of **Kiki Dee** (Fri 16 Nov), **Kris Drever & Boo Hewerdine** (Sat 13 Oct), **Miles Hunt** (Thu 29 Nov), and **Mary Ann Kennedy** (Fri 7 Sept) on the eve of our first ever **Galloway Gaelic Conference** (Sat 8 Sep). Tickets are available for all these shows now...

OUR NEW SUMMER BROCHURE IS OUT NOW! So make sure to grab yourself a copy...

The CatStrand Team

Community Engagement News

Well, it's certainly been a busy and exciting time in New Galloway over the last few months.

There has been so much going on and Community Engagement projects are really beginning to take shape. A drop-in session was held in New Galloway Town Hall offering advice on topics such as 'How will the introduction of Universal Credit affect me?' and 'How can I use my digital device to access housing?'.

We also had the Citizens Advice Bureau offering consultations. The information was greatly appreciated by those who attended and people commented that they now feel better prepared to manage the changes that are being made to the benefit system very soon.

We aim to have more opportunities like this in the future, so do let me know what subjects you would like to learn more about. During the month of June 'Wishing Trees' will appear around the New Galloway and Kells parish. These are beautiful trees on which you are invited to write your 'wish' for our community. We need your help to make them blossom! We hope this joint initiative between Connecting in Communities, Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) and the Community Engagement Worker will help us really understand what people want to see happening in New Galloway and Kells.

In other news, we held our second Glenkens Business Network meeting at The Smithy Tearooms in April.

This fantastic event has provided local businesses with the opportunity to get together and find ways to support

each other. A Facebook group has been created - Glenkens Business Network - to keep us in touch and maintain support beyond the meetings. Any local businesses (large or small) from around the Glenkens are welcome to join us at our next meeting on **Thursday 7 June** 6pm at The Smithy or request to join the Facebook group.

Finally, I am launching a series of women's activity sessions at the Galloway Activity Centre, where we have been given the chance to try some of the activities on offer, have some fun and meet other people. We are hoping to arrange a monthly session between June and September.

To find out more or make suggestions, please contact me on 07741 656 601.

*Sam Rushton,
Community Engagement Worker,
New Galloway*

FLASH FICTION COMPETITION

Are you a writer? Do you enjoy flash fiction? Well get writing!

Each issue the Glenkens Gazette will run a flash fiction competition for short stories (under 450 words), with a different subject each time.

This issue's subject is 'Time'. Rules: It must be your own work. It must be no more than 450 words. It must be Fiction. Minimum age of entry 12 years with no maximum age limit. It must include a separate 50 words about yourself and what inspired your story. The winning entry will be published in the next issue of the Glenkens Gazette, including an online presence on the Gazette website, Facebook and Twitter.

Entries will be judged by local author Ian Patrick, and the winner will receive a **£10 Amazon voucher** to spend on a book of their choice. What have you got to lose?

Email entries to glenkens_gazette@hotmail.co.uk by the 5 July 2018. The judge's decision is final and no late entries will be accepted.



The winner of the April/May Flash Fiction Competition is Paul Goodwin with The Flitting Cart (printed below).

About the Author: I am now exceedingly close to drawing my state pension and in my fiftieth year in paid employment. I have done book-keeping, accounting and worked with computers – now it is time for my artistic side to escape...

THE FLITTING CART

I started life in 1914 in Edinburgh – my master who built me would 'flit' families from place to place in the dead of night leaving the rent owing; but I would carry all their worldly goods to their new (secret) home.

Then my master went off to the war in France. His wife (my mistress) would look after me and do the odd 'flit' but fewer after the rent strikes because this meant that the new law in the winter of 1915 froze the rents to make them affordable.

Then came the day of the telegram, my mistress screamed, then beat me, then ignored me for a whole year, my

master would not be coming home. I waited in the yard, in the rain.

My second life began when my mistress's son (young master) dragged me out of the yard, cleaned me up and painted his name proudly on the side. I had never had a name. Instead of skulking around in the dead of night, I now paraded proudly from the market to the theatre area to sell fruit to the theatre goers.

Eventually war came again, the young master went off to war, and I was taken from Edinburgh to Glasgow at the time of the blitz to be a fire cart. I was not badly damaged like many of the other carts I saw, but not well cared for either.

After the war I returned to Edinburgh with faded paint and was relieved to see that the young master had returned safe from the war. I was kept in a shed as the young master (now older) had bought a war surplus van to continue

his trade with fruit and veg.

One day a neighbour needed to move house but could not afford to hire a van. I was pressed into service for an old-fashioned moonlight flit. The young girl of the house made a sign 'flitting cart' and pinned it over the faded 'fruit seller' and 'fire cart' signs. Afterwards, word got around and I was often borrowed for moonlight flits (silent you see - no engine).

One day, when I could not fit down a close, I was abandoned on a 'midden'. After moldering there for many a year, I was found by a young conservation student and brought back to life in evenings whilst he studied at university. Just before he graduated, he gave me to his professor and asked her to make good use of me.

This is how I came to be serving out my days, sitting here in this museum. It's been an interesting life!

DEE & GLENKENS WARD

Councillor **Dougie Campbell** is holding surgeries on **Monday 9 April**.

2pm - 3pm Catstrand, High Street, New Galloway DG7 3RN

3.30pm - 4.30pm Dalry Town Hall, Main St, St John's Town of Dalry DG7 3UW

Please come along to the surgery to discuss any issues, or he can be contacted as follows:

Tel 07388 956558

Email: dougie.campbell@dumgal.gov.uk

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries
& Galloway



YOUR LOCAL MP Alister Jack

Alister Jack, MP for Dumfries and Galloway, holds regular surgeries around the constituency.

If you would like to arrange an appointment to discuss an issue of concern to you, please e-mail Alister at:

Alister.Jack.MP@parliament.uk
or telephone **01387 216109**

www.alisterjack.co.uk

Produced by Alister Jack MP House of Commons, London SE19 6DA





Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel

This issue's winner is Vikki Dempster with a seasonal shot of a Balmaclellan robin gathering food for its young.

Vikki wins a meal for two at the Ken Bridge Hotel's Sunday carvery.

Competition judges Dave and Sue said: *"There were, as always, some lovely photos submitted this issue, but the winner this time is the Robin with a beak full of insects to feed its young - indicative of summer and the nesting season."*



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KNOCKENGORROCH COMES TO CATSTRAND

Knockengorroch visited the Catstrand in April with fantastic performances from Josie Young and Pablo Lafuente, winners of the BBC 2 Young Folk Awards 2017.

They brought guest players Signy Jacobsdottir (percussion) and Innes White (guitar). Also playing were Morag Brown and Lewis Powell-Reid.

A wine and nibbles reception started the evening with a brief history of the festival and its importance to the local area. A short film backed up the speech and then it was the turn of the music.

The unsurpassed musical talent of all the singers and musicians entertained an eager crowd, and showed how folk music is very much alive and well in the region and throughout Scotland.

With Knockengorroch World Ceilidh festival happening 24-27 May at Knockengorroch Farm, Carsphairn, this evening of music and song went down a treat to whet the appetites of many who will be attending. Thanks to the CatStrand for hosting and Dumfries & Galloway Regional Arts fund.



Josie Young & Pablo Lafuente © I Patrick Photography

From Glenkens to Down Under

From 4 to 40 degrees, midgie bites to snake bites, sand to snow... and back again... Scotland vs Australia; not rugby but a change of life.

Rolling green landscape, Corbetts and lochs, whisky and snow-covered landscapes versus a flat, barren, red dusty oven with animals that will kill you at every turn... Why were we going back?! Within hours of landing at Perth (Western Australia not Perthshire) I had seen the azure blue sea lapping white sandy beaches in numerous small coves on the way to Geraldton and our friend's bath temperature swimming pool with floating chair and an ice cold beer! The penny had dropped, I had forgotten what everyday life was all about.

We emigrated to Australia back in 2008. Melbourne was our first port of call followed by a campervan tour of the east coast. Being avid scuba divers we were in and out of the ocean throughout our trip. Sydney, too busy. Cairns, too hot. Brisbane, too Brisbane, but we did listen to humpback whale songs whilst diving which was very cool. Melbourne, we decided, was the place to be.

Three years in Melbourne, home of Neighbours, saw us become advanced cave divers and owners of Mackenzie the dog, who you may see in New Galloway (now adopted, thank you Paul - we are forever in your debt). With itchy feet again, we hooked up the camper trailer and headed west across the Nullabor desert via Esperance, Fremantle (for six months) to our final destination of Geraldton, 500 kilometres north of Perth and the last city (large town) until Darwin some 3740 kilometres away.

Three years in Geraldton, (you may notice

a pattern here) saw the arrival of Thomas William Pardoe to our family and the purchase of our new house by the beach. Itchy feet again or was it the fact that Mark wanted to wear a jumper and coat again? We decided to move to Scotland.

Overton Cottage, New Galloway became our home for ... you guessed it, three years!

Glorious Scotland, beautiful New Galloway. Castles and Corbetts, snow and clear, crisp Winter skies; Spring bringing its beautiful flowers strolling through the bluebell woods and making dens. Summer bringing occasional blue skies, lots of midgies and rain but long holidays for visits abroad to Cyprus and France. Amazing Autumn with the stunning colour changes and crisp leaves for stomping in. We had missed these changes in seasons and opportunities for spending time with family and friends.

We found work and made friends, being welcomed into the local community. Thomas started playgroup and nursery and transitioned to school. We tried to throw a stuffed sack over a raised bar with a pitchfork and chased a round metal thing around the park. Even raced snails! Diversity at its best! Hedgerow brewing became a happy pastime with cider being a speciality (we hope Mark didn't poison anyone). Walks around beautiful lochs, mountain biking that sometimes ended at the pub, golf, pilates and the Otter Pool. We even managed to pursue our scuba diving in the Isle of Whithorn. Visits to CatStrand, The Smithy and beyond the Glenkens to Cream of Galloway, Cally Palace and further afield to Ayrshire and Glasgow, along with a few trips up and down the M6.

Above all else, wonderful new friends to share it all with. But the three-year hourglass was running out of sand and the sun, beach and warm sea was calling us back. After much deliberation and weighing up the pros and cons, we decided to pack



Heather, Mark and Thomas

up Overton Cottage and put it up for sale (on the market through Hewats if anyone is interested...).

Our house, here in Geraldton, has won the day. 400 meters from the beach and a 20-minute cycle along the shore of the Indian Ocean to the centre of town. Everything within a 10 minute car ride. Weekends away to Monkey Mia feeding wild dolphins and kayaking trips along the coast to see turtles, eagle rays and baby sharks. Emus walking about and baby kangaroos chasing their mothers across the road. Playing golf in shorts. Camping on the beach, scuba diving in the warm water and surf life-saving for Thomas.

We loved our time in the Glenkens but warm weather wins the day! For the time being anyway - who knows where we might be three years from now ...

Thank you New Galloway for having us and making us feel so welcome. Our door is always open for any intrepid Glenkens travellers who feel the call of distant shores and sunny climes...take a look, a world away, at www.visitgeraldton.com.au

Mark, Heather and Thomas Pardoe

Local Organisations in the Glenkens

Over the next few issues of the Glenkens Gazette we will look at some of the many community groups and organisations in the Glenkens. In this issue, let's find out a little more about the Dalry Community Properties Trust (DCPT).

DCPT was formed in September 2015 to take over the Glenkens Community Centre from Dumfries & Galloway Council. We are a registered Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO).

Our purpose is to look after the Community Centre building in Dalry for its users (eg the Children's Playgroup), and any other properties the trust may later own.

We are looking to acquire the former council depot for the benefit of the Town Hall and the people of Dalry, and have now formed a working group to take this community project forward.

There is also the possibility of obtaining the rough ground between Underhill and the B7000 for a community-lead development - we are interested to hear the communities views on potential uses.

There are currently six DCPT Trustees; however, we would welcome those interested to come and join us.

Please contact DCPT chair, Andi Holmes, on andiholmes@hotmail.com

Dalry Town Hall Song Sharing Sessions

The Town Hall's lovely space and acoustics have made it a very enjoyable venue for the first of what will hopefully become regular (monthly or bi-monthly) gatherings.

Bringing together folks from the Glenkens, Moniaive and Laurieston keen to share a song or a tune without forcing their voices against background noise, the event was a resounding success.

Around twenty singers and 'sing-alongers' sat around in a friendly circle, some with musical instruments (from egg shakers to double bass).

Refreshments could be brought, or obtained from the Clachan, and hot drinks could be made in the kitchen.

More such sessions have been warmly requested, and two forthcoming Song Sharing evenings will take place in Dalry Town Hall from 8-11pm on Friday 20 July and Friday 17 August. More info phone or text Anne (07846 252 848), Blue (07934 361 526) or David (07999 871 001).

Anne Chaurand



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Elephant in the Room Ignored by the Big Battalions

an opinion piece by Stuart Littlewood, New Galloway

The scheme to upgrade the Glenlee-Tongland power line continues to infuriate local people and trample their wishes.

At a packed meeting in Laurieston SPEN were told again, in no uncertain terms, that switching the pylon route from the east side of Loch Ken to the west was wrong-headed and indefensible.

Following earlier public concerns the Scottish Government has insisted SPEN considers undergrounding. SPEN is reported saying it will "investigate all alternative options" and instruct an independent consultant "to fully scope out" opportunities for undergrounding stretches of the line where appropriate.

The main stakeholders (that's us who live and work here) seem agreed that SPEN should stick to the present pylon route down the

east side of the loch where it has been for the last 80 years. That would conform with Holford Rules and cause least damage, disruption and distress. A frequently mentioned objection to upgrading this route is its proximity to the SSSI at Livingstone, but that could easily be resolved by undergrounding.

I therefore asked SPEN's Stephen Jack after the meeting whether SPEN had instructed its undergrounding consultant to look into burying the existing line for the short distance where it crosses Loch Ken near the SSSI. The answer was "No".

So much for promises to scope all undergrounding options. SPEN doesn't see ScotGov's directive as including a re-examination of the existing eastern route, which local people have made clear time and again is their preference. Whatever is said to SPEN goes in one ear and out the other.

Scottish Power is in business to maximise profit and minimise cost for its owner, the Spanish energy

giant Iberdrola. They care little about Galloway's glorious landscape, heritage and tourism prospects.

We can see what they've done to nearby South Ayrshire and Carsphairn, and they'll continue their vandalism all the way to Tongland if ScotGov allows it. No wonder the long-winded consultation process is seen as a sham.

The elephant in the room is the long-delayed Galloway National Park. This precious area, which includes Glenkens, needs protection from ugly industrialisation before it's too late.

Any talk of power lines must go hand-in-hand with the strict safeguards applicable to national parks, otherwise tourism will be compromised and D&G's economic decline never ending.

Glenkens community councils still haven't got together to strengthen their hand, making themselves irrelevant and leaving their communities powerless against the big battalions.



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Fridays:
 8-10.30am – Dalry
 10.30-11am – Glenlee Area
 11am – New Galloway
 12noon – New Galloway Shop
 2pm – Mossdale area
 3-4pm – Laurieston to Gatehouse

Please note that all times are approximate.

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For more information or to download an application form, please go to www.pamelayoungtrust.co.uk, or telephone Peter Matthews of A B & A Matthews on 01671 404100.

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POSTCARDS FROM ETHIOPIA

Gazette founder and former Dalry resident Matthew Newton has been travelling the globe on his bicycle. Here are a few anecdotes from his travels in Ethiopia...

Keba is nine years old. Every morning before school she fetches water for her family. It's 5km each way but she never complains. Schooling is free in Ethiopia. It's 8 km each way but she never complains. Her two sisters stay at home helping their mother prepare food and make baskets to sell.

One day they hope to have shoes and perhaps

a cow. But they know it's unlikely and they never complain. She asked how I fetched water to my house. I explained I had several taps. "Inside your house?" she asked incredulously. I told her that folk in my country with taps in their houses drive miles to buy water in bottles. She smiled and told me not to joke with her.

Malola works at the Chanco Hotel. She's been there since leaving school four years ago. She's 18 and enjoys her job. It's hard work and long hours. I asked her what she did. She thought for a minute, smiled and then said "everything". She asked me what I did. I thought for a minute, smiled and then said "nothing". "But you must do something..." she said. I answered that I travel, meet people and take their pictures. "That's cool" she said. I think she's right.

Bakery girls. Top class bread and confectionery served with a smile. They work six days a week from 5am to 9pm. I asked if they enjoyed their jobs.

They thought that was a strange question from a strange guy. They're probably right.

The orange sellers. Nothing else. No bananas. No apples. No strawberries. Just oranges. I asked why. Oranges are good, they said. And to prove it, they gave me one. They were right as

well. Oranges are good.

Lellita has a shop by the roadside in Bahir Dar. She opens whenever she wants. I bought some peanuts. There wasn't much else to eat. We had to hold up fingers to agree a price.

She looked at the colour of my arm and asked if I was ok. I looked at the colour of her arm and asked if she was ok. After a moment she laughed and called her sister over. They agreed my skin wasn't a good colour. "Do you have shops in your country?" they asked. I answered "yes". "Do they sell peanuts?" they continued. "Some", I replied. "Some..." they pondered... "Our peanuts are the best. Maybe they will help your skin?" After a moment I laughed. As I rode off I realised that I'll never see them again but I'll always remember them. And their peanuts.

The honey seller in Addis Ababa.

He is 15 and walks around town selling honey from a bucket. His family keep hives to the north of the city. You are welcome to try before you buy. If you do buy he fills a plastic bag with a ladle. If you don't buy he smiles and waves goodbye.



Keba carrying water; the orange sellers; the honey seller; Malola (right, wearing pink); bakery girls; Lellita in her shop.

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Dumfries
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DALRY PRIMARY'S NEW POLYTUNNEL

Dalry Primary Gardening Club are very excited to show off their wonderful new polytunnel that has been built in the school garden.

The polytunnel is already in full use, with a huge variety of seeds and seedlings growing well in their new surroundings.

The Gardening Club is looking to develop skills in permaculture this term, with Lorraine Ishak from the Hidden Mill helping members to build their knowledge of 'no dig' and edible perennial gardening.

They are very excited and hope to grow lots of yummy produce for the Home Economics class in the Secondary to use, as well as enjoy themselves!

A huge thank you to Mr Harvie for building the poly tunnel and to former Glenkens Cluster Head Teacher, Mrs Smith, for securing funding for the purchase of the poly tunnel. It will certainly be a cherished and well used legacy.



Pupils in the polytunnel with Jenny Smith, former Glenkens Cluster Head Teacher.

May the Fourth Be With You...

A long time ago in a galaxy not too far away, P2-4 were enjoying a Lego Star Wars Challenge in the P4/5 class.

The pupils were given the challenge to plan and build a vehicle that would safely transport a passenger to Earth. To inspire the pupils further they watched a Lego Star Wars video clip, looking closely at the shapes and designs of different Star Wars vehicles. They then

planned their design, thinking carefully about the best way to develop a working parachute - physics in action! We then tested them by releasing our builds from a height. Some creations were definitely more successful than others, with some crashing to Earth with a bump! However, all pupils gave each other very sensible advice on how to improve their designs for next time.

The Star Wars theme then continued through into Friday Fun Time, with a selection of activities for the pupils to choose from...Yoda been silly to miss it!

Jenna Devlin



Pupils working on the Lego Star Wars Challenge

SCHOOLS ENJOY OUR DARK SKIES

We are very lucky within the Glenkens to be a part of the Galloway Dark Skies Park and local schools have been celebrating having this resource on our doorstep.

Last year boys and girls from across the partnership travelled to the Dark Sky Observatory at Loch Doon.

This year we have built upon that by having the 'Pop-Up Planetarium' visit Dalry School Hall, with all primary children across the Glenkens Cluster getting the chance to experience the planetarium and watch a presentation



Pop-up planetarium in Dalry School Hall

about the universe.

This event was made possible through funding from the Edina Trust which helps to fund science-based learning in schools. Other recent projects funded by the Edina Trust across the Glenkens include the construction of a polytunnel in the school garden at Dalry, and an observatory/bird hide at Kells Primary.

Walker McKenna

Friends of Dalry School (FoDS) would like to thank David Bartholomew and everyone who kindly sponsored him for his 'Beard Shave'.

The money raised, just short of £300, will go to towards replacing four digital cameras for Dalry Primary and Secondary School.

FoDS are in the process of purchasing the cameras for school use this term.

Glenkens Cluster Visit Edinburgh

Primary school children from the Glenkens Cluster have visited Edinburgh.

The purpose of the trip was for the pupils to grow independence, learn more about the capital city of Scotland and get used to being away from home.

They first started their journey at eight o'clock on Wednesday morning and travelled to BT Murrayfield where they got a guided tour of the stadium by an Argentinian tour guide. They even got to see the Scotland international players train! Then it was off to Holyrood where they met our local MSP Finlay Carson. After the exciting time at parliament the pupils had a quick walk to Dynamic Earth just across the road. One of the children called Christy said that she loved Dynamic Earth because of the 3D films. Another child called William said he liked the man on the television who could talk to you and you could talk to him and try to make him dance! Then at eight o'clock the pupils had a ghost walk which was very entertaining. At the start they told stories about the market and the crimes which took place. Then they were taken under the South Bridge and saw the vaults that were found not that long ago. Then it was back to the hotel for bed though not all the children went to bed when they were told to!

Thursday was an early start to some pupils as they had to be up and dressed by eight o'clock. It was a good thing too because then the pupils went to Camera Obscura where they had so much fun trying all the optical illusions. Then they walked up to the magnificent Edinburgh Castle where some of the pupils played hide and seek. Then they walked around the grounds until one o'clock where they met up with the other pupils and witnessed the cannon going off. They were then off to Greyfriars Bobby which is a memorial for a dog that sat at its owner's grave until the dog sadly died. The pupils even got to see the grave of the owner and then some of the children got to see Tom Riddle's grave which is where JK Rowling got the name for one of her characters. At 7 o'clock the children had a disco. They had so much fun, they even had a proper DJ! Most of the children had so much fun dancing, others were doing cartwheels and hand stands at the bottom of the dance floor. Isobel, one of the children, said she loved the disco because all the children danced for 2 hours straight and it was so much fun.

Friday was a fun and sad day. Mostly



Glenkens Cluster pupils outside Edinburgh Castle

the children were sad that their trip was nearly over but happy because some of the children were missing home. After breakfast the children were told to pack their bags and put them on the bus. Then everyone went a quick walk up Arthur's Seat to get rid of some of the children's energy. This didn't work very well because the children were still hyper on the bus home! After this they walked to the bus. The Falkirk Wheel was the next stop before home. The children got to see the small kelpies and the big ones, they were spectacular! Then it was home time. Some of the children said they wanted to stay for the weekend. Best trip ever! *Isobel Stevenson, P7*

SCIENCE FESTIVAL K'NEX CHALLENGE

Children from across the Glenkens met at Carsphairn Primary School to compete in the Cluster K'Nex Challenge 2018.

The competition, which is organised through the Glasgow Science Festival, is an engineering challenge which requires pupils to work in pairs using K'Nex to design and construct a surprise structure. The winners would go on to the next round, the Dumfries and Galloway Regional Final at the Crichton Campus in Dumfries.

This year, the Cluster challenge was to design a Ferris wheel, with at least six hang down seats and a handle to help it turn. This was no easy task considering the children had no idea beforehand what they would be

building. With only one hour to draw out their design and then construct their Ferris wheel, the boys and girls from Kells, Dalry and Carsphairn all had a great time working in teams to beat the clock. All of the children had a good time and there were several strong designs to be judged. In the end, the winners of the Cluster Challenge were Lola Jordan (Dalry Primary) and Courtney Smith (Carsphairn Primary) with a brilliant design.

The regional final saw young engineers from across Dumfries and Galloway face a new challenge of designing a helicopter. Due to a scheduling clash, the Glenkens were represented by the runner-up team of Dante Newbury (Kells Primary) and Crawford King (Carsphairn Primary), who stepped in admirably and designed a brilliant helicopter. Although they didn't quite make



Alice and Reece hard at work

it through to the next round, they certainly did experience how much fun engineering and design can be.

The K'Nex Challenge is a great way for the young people of the Glenkens to work across the partnership, build social ties and engage with their learning in a fun way. Great work from all our P5s and P6s, and keep on engineering! *Walker McKenna*

Pupils' Update on Kells Primary School

If you read this article you will find out about our K'Nex BMX bike – built by the P4 boys!

K'Nex is a construction toy a bit like Lego or Meccano.

We worked really hard to build a life size replica of a BMX. It was so annoying sometimes!! But we did it! We have been learning to work hard and persevere in class. We found working together a bit frustrating at times because there are four of us and we had different ideas about how it should work.

We realised if we split into pairs and brought our ideas together it would help us solve problems.

Now, let me tell you how we built it. Let's begin... We found it hard to clip together, some parts were complicated to make and it was difficult to get the measurements correct. We used tape to hold parts in place, we even used a bulldog clip at a crucial moment to stop it falling to pieces. Some bits were really easy and went smoothly. Sam was our 'Go To Man' when we needed extra help because he uses Lego loads and we know he is good at this kind of problem solving. Noah was preparing smaller pieces to help keep the construction together. Alex worked out how to measure the circumference of the bicycle wheel and actually made the K'Nex pedals and wheel turn. Stanley from our class thinks we should cycle to Australia and become world famous. We didn't!!

Instead, the real BMX in class (which we call the BMXercise bike) has helped us keep fit and learn our decimals and distances. The bike was designed by Danny (a pupil who is now at Dalry Secondary). It was built

from blueprints he drew by a friendly guy called Uula at the Hidden Mill.

We have 'cycled' to Thurso so far! Maybe one day we will reach Australia – but we do need a giant bridge on the sea (we have built a brilliant bridge before from K'Nex, perhaps it will help us ride to Australia after all!).

Alex, Noah, Sam and Stanley

Kells Spells; building our own school shop.

We have been fashioning a shop from material we have recycled and bits that have been donated. We have an amazing opportunity ahead of us! We have spent time developing our ideas, teamworking and learning and trying different skills. We are all working together and making new and different friendships along the way! We now know how to saw, drill and measure wood. We have done some angles too. We were careful

and safe, even though we may have bashed Mister Thompson's hand with a rather large hammer (like Thor's hammer)! Our shop is a square based structure (of 2.43 metres). We worked out different proportions to make it look smart. We did this after looking at the Vitruvian Man by Leonardo da Vinci – based on the ideas of Vitruvius who was an ancient Roman architect.

When we have completed our project we aim to make and sell items to raise money for our charities. Presently this will all be based on our fashion topic – The Greatest Show – it will be super fun. We have also made two outdoor blackboards so that the younger children have a chance to do some outdoor writing. The older class are hoping to use them to give updates to our parents so they can see what we've been up to!

Fiona and Reahanne



Above - Stanley, Alex, Sam and Noah with their bicycles. Below - pupils and teachers creating Kells Spells

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEASON FOR CATSTRAND YOUTH PLAYERS

The fourth performance of the Festival-winning play *Exit Stage Left* brought the curtain down on another successful Youth Players season.

The play was staged again as part of the first of The Fullarton's new regular drama evenings called *The Drama*. There are various dates earmarked in the calendar throughout the year when local groups and performers will have the opportunity to book a slot and perform their one act play. The inaugural bill also included the other winning play from the Stewartry Festival, *The Beach Hut* performed by Crossmichael Drama Club.

Both plays treated the appreciative audience to a hilarious evening of comedy and showed why they won their respective categories at the Stewartry Drama Festival and then went on to each win creditable third places in the West of Scotland Finals. *The Drama* series was certainly launched in fine style and the Youth Players hope to take part again on a

regular basis in the future.

In the run-up to the summer break, the Youth Players will meet occasionally to read scripts and plan for next season's panto and Festival. Then during the summer holidays, the Fresh Face Theatre Festival takes place from 26-28 July.

Based at CatStrand, this will give local members the opportunity to meet up with other youth theatres. Regular Youth Players rehearsals will start again in early September.

Congratulations go to everyone who has helped

to make this one of the busiest and most successful seasons so far.



The Exit Stage Left Team.

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War Updates: December 1917 to March 1918

The Great War (continued)

Robert Corrie enlisted into the 15th (Tramways) Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry in June 1916 and was wounded at St Quentin. He was the son of Thomas Corrie and Janet (Haugh) Corrie of Balmaclellan. Robert married Barbara McKnight of Barnbarroch, Colvend, in 1902. He was promoted to Lance Corporal and was reported missing in action on 2 December 1917 at the age of 37. He is commemorated on the war memorials at Balmaclellan, Dalbeattie and Colvend.

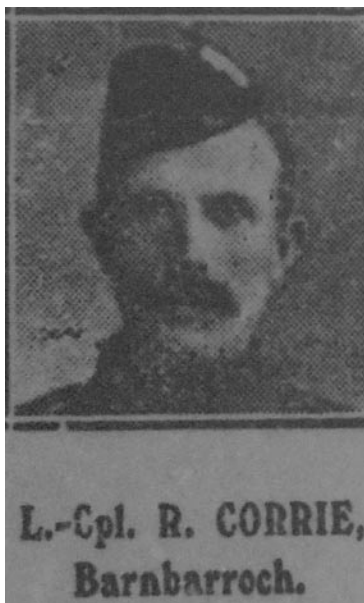
30 December 1917 would see a tragedy that took the lives of two Glenkens men. John Wright of Balmaclellan and George Ferguson of Dalry were both onboard the Troopship 'Aragon', which had sailed from Marseilles and was waiting to enter Alexandria harbour, when she was torpedoed and sunk by the German submarine UC-34. Over 600 of the 2,700 passengers were lost.

John Wright was born in Sorbie, Wigtownshire, the son of John and Matilda (Adams) Wright of Killochy, Balmaclellan. He was working as a cheesemaker on his father's farm when he enlisted in 1/5th Battalion, Royal Scots Fusiliers in May 1917 but was suffered a head injury in a train crash at Catterick Camp in September 1917 and spent some time in hospital before being posted to Palestine. His body was not recovered; he is commemorated on the Balmaclellan War Memorial. He was 33 years old.

George Ferguson was born in Dalry, the second youngest son of Oswald and Elizabeth (McLauchlan) Ferguson of Kirkland Street, Dalry. George was a postman and the greenkeeper at Dalry golf and bowling clubs before he enlisted into the Royal Engineers June 1917. George had three brothers in the Army, a fourth

discharged with wounds and a fifth rejected by the Army but working in a munitions factory. George's body was one of those recovered and he was buried in the Alexandria (Hadra) War Memorial Cemetery at the age of 22 leaving a widow and young child. George is commemorated on his parents' gravestone in Dalry churchyard and on the Dalry War Memorial.

We have reported on the McCheyne family before in previous articles and have seen that three sons of James and Mary (Mulholland) McCheyne of High Street, New Galloway, had already been killed in the war. Francis Wallace McCheyne would be the fourth brother to die. From Francis's obituary in the Kirkcudbrightshire Advertiser, we know that the father (James) had also lost two nephews in the war and a daughter who died in France. A further two sons also served in the army but survived. Francis's mother (Mary) had died in 1904 and his father (James) left Scotland for Canada in November 1919 at the age of 63. Francis was a motor driver at Penman's Motor Works in Dumfries and at Gretna when he enlisted into the Royal Navy in December 1916. He served on the destroyer HMS Marvel until December 1917 when he was transferred to HMS Narborough. Francis was lost at



Robert Corrie and George Ferguson

sea on 12 January 1918 at the age of just 19. During a snowstorm the destroyers Narborough and Opal ran aground on South Ronaldsay, Orkney. Only one sailor survived the wrecks. Francis's body was not recovered and he is named on the Plymouth Naval Memorial as well as on the Kells Parish War Memorial in New Galloway.

Samuel Thomas McKie was born in Balmaclellan, the son of Agnes Jane McKie. He was a farm servant when he enlisted in the KOSB in June 1915. He transferred to the machine gun corps and was posted to France in March 1916. On 25 March 1918 he was killed in action at the age of just 19, and is buried in Bancourt British Cemetery, France. Samuel is commemorated on the Balmaclellan War Memorial. The minimum age to serve overseas was 19 at the time. As Samuel was 19 when he was killed in 1918, he must have lied about his age to have served at the front since 1916.

Paul Goodwin

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Dumfries & Galloway



LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

EVOKING GLENKENS



David M'Clamroch (1772-1854) bore an old Galloway name which, like many of his kindred, he changed to Landsborough.

He was born in Dalry where he attended the Free School, moving on to Dumfries Academy and Edinburgh University studying to become a minister. He earned some funds to aid his learning by working as a tutor to the family of Sir William Miller, Lord Glenlee whose estate is just across the river from Dalry.

Miller was influential in Landsborough's appointment as assistant at the old church of Ayr. Later he became minister at Stevenston, proving a popular appointment. He supported the Kilsyth Revival but lost some of his following, as well as much of his income when he joined the Free Church at the Disruption of 1843.

However his lasting contribution was in natural history. He made a detailed study of the island of Arran which he could view daily, weather permitting, from the mainland, eventually publishing *Excursions to Arran* which reported on much of his scientific study. He was greatly honoured when a seaweed, a zoophyte (invertebrate

animal) a shell and a New Zealand plant were named after him. He was the friend and correspondent many of the top scientists of the day, continuing with his own researches until he died.

One of his much appreciated efforts for his native glen was his assistance in setting up the Free Church at Bogue Toll, preaching at its opening service in 1845. Many of the Glenkensians that day truly believed that they were the inheritors and the defendants of the seventeenth-century covenanters many of whom had suffered so painfully for their faith.



David Landsborough in Old Age © North Ayrshire Heritage Trails

The following verses are embedded in David Landsborough's much longer poem, *Arran A Poem* in six cantos, 1828, dedicated to Sir William Miller Baronet. In it he recalls his childhood in Dalry and his feelings as he ponders the cruel fate of some local covenanters.

Ted Cowan

On hallowed ground I stood, and silver Ken,
In gliding near my feet, still seemed to sob
As in remembrance of those days of blood;

* * *

Well might these early feelings be recalled,
For even the scenery some resemblance bore:
And though of scenery in childish years
I took no note, unconsciously, perchance,
I felt even then its influence on my mind.

Daily I saw the rich and fertile vale,
Through which irriguous flowed the silver Ken;
And rural Grennan Bank and Molloch Hill,
And lovely Glen of Holm, where Garpel pours
'Twixt wooded cliffs her almost hidden stream.

Daily I saw Glenlee's romantic glades
With oaks bestudded, which have bravely stood
Innumerable brumal blasts; while, like the leaves
Which autumn strews, the fleeting sons of men,
Race after race have quickly passed away. –
Daily I saw dark Lowran's high-peaked hill,
And Kenmure's noble towers, near which the Ken
As if to shew her grandeur and her strength
Ere she her name surrenders to the Dee.

Daily I saw the circling range of hills,
Of every size and shade, around the vale:
But little thought I in those early years
How much of beauty all I saw contained.
I wist not that in hills of various shade—
In glens, and winding stream and fertile plain,
In coppice-skirted lake—there was so much
To fill the heart with exquisite delight.

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Who Do We Think We Were?

This issue features Barry Bryan Dixon, remembering his days as a soldier in Northern Ireland.

Messing About on the Lough

"Corporal, you are seconded to the 15/19 Royal Hussars on Operation Banner for a tour of four months. You will be notified of your flight details."

5th of April flight to Northern Ireland from Dusseldorf. My first detachment was at Cookstown then with Alpha Squadron at the Beleek Police Station with the Royal Ulster Constabulary on the bank of the River Erne.

Because the river flowed into Lough Erne we were responsible for patrolling the lough, which we did in a sixteen-foot landing craft. There would be four or five of us in the craft. The men were armed with 7.62 self loading rifles.

I was issued with a 9mm Browning Pistol, and a Sterling sub-machine gun. Sometimes the Unit puppy would decide it was a good idea to jump into the craft with us, so we would have to take it back to the station.

1000 hours one sunny morning we fuelled up and loaded our weapons. We were ready to patrol Lough Erne to win hearts and minds. Once out in the lough we became more alert. The plan was to talk to locals, who were mostly friendly. We visited hot spots

to search. This was always a bit tense because we never knew if we would be welcomed by incoming enemy fire. We had just left one of these hot spots when we heard shouting. We could see a yacht. Someone was waving to us.

Weapons at the ready and the adrenaline flowing we approached. As we got closer we noticed the man who was shouting to us was holding a bottle in one hand. We ordered him to put it down and move away from it which he did. "Come on lads, it's only a bottle of whiskey!"

He was about five feet ten, stripped to the waist, very tanned with a mass of ginger hair, and a Scottish accent. "Come on lads, come aboard!"

Once we established that the bottle had whiskey in it we told him to follow us into Lusty Beg Island harbour. We berthed and went aboard his yacht, stowing our weapons in the bow. Being the medic I was usually last on or off the vessel, so I stood aft of the main mast. There I noticed a brass bar with lines and figures marked on it, like a protractor. I asked what it was for.

He stood over me, hands on hips.

"Are you alright laddy?"

"Fine thanks," I whimpered. "Show me what angle the yacht is leaning at." "40 degrees."

"What's the maximum before we capsize?"

"50 degrees, son."

I don't drink whiskey straight. I have to put coke or lemonade in it. I know, I know, sacrilege. To my amazement this man came out with a bottle of



June 1975, St Angelo base, Inniskillin, Northern Ireland

coke for me, ice cold at that. We sailed with him for about half an hour. We all had a drink or two. We all shook hands, and then returned to our own landing craft to complete our patrol.

"If we come across each other again, let's do the same."

We were lucky to get away with it once without pushing our luck a second time. Whoever you were, thank you for sharing your whiskey with us and leaving us with very pleasant memories of that day 33 years ago. Even though we patrolled the lough regularly, we never saw him again.

'Who Do You Think You Were?' has now run for fourteen issues. We have had a great variety of stories, from people who have led very different lives. Some have focussed on childhood memories, others on more recent times.

What they all have in common is that they are connected to the Glenkens, either by living here today, or by close association over many years. Feedback from readers has been very encouraging, confirming that it has been a popular feature.

The series is taking a break but it is hoped that it will return at a later date. There are many more stories out there which we haven't yet heard, and yours could be one of them...

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VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Crockett's Glimpses Of The Glenkens

This, the third in the Glimpses series, focuses on Woodhall Loch.

WOODHALL LOCH

"Woodhall Loch is like many another. Half its beauty is in the seeing eye. Yet not only the educated or the intellectual may see."

The loch runs alongside the four mile stretch from the Duchrae to Laurieson. Crockett describes one small part of it as follows:

"I know a bank, where the wild thyme grows—with an infinitude of other things. You will find it past Blates Mill, past the Bogle Thorn, just where the loch opens out, and when, standing on tiptoe at the side of the road, you can see far away, set on the selvage of the northern moorland, the chimneys of the Duchrae."

"Now look down. Between you and the rippling water what a blaze of colour! You will hardly find such a wealth of flowers anywhere else in Galloway. The loch, alternate white and blue according as the sunlight or the breeze catches it, stretches away for all its length of three miles, cloud and firwood mirroring themselves upon it."

These days it is all too easy to ignore nature, especially that with which we have a familiarity. I suggest that Woodhall Loch is one such place. Crockett observes: "for others who think more of themselves than did Ebie

Farrish the ploughman, the art of admiring nature is chiefly a matter of habit and leisure. The scytheman, the ploughman, the lowland hind, even the ordinary farmer, see little of the mysteries of that Nature in the midst of which they work, dull-eyed as the browsing bullocks."

Crockett knows the beauty and also the history of the place:

"A certain name-changing fiend brought into our Erse and Keltic Galloway a number of mongrel names, probably some Laird Laurie with a bad education and a plentiful lack of taste, who, among other iniquities, called the ancient Clachan-of-Pluck after himself - Laurieston. His mansion-house he changed from the ancient and honourable 'Grenoch,' by

"I know a bank, where the wild thyme grows—with an infinitude of other things..."

which name it stands in Pont's map of (about) 1611, to the commonplace Woodhall. Later the loch had a like fortune. Loch Grenoch became Woodhall Loch (or in the folk speech of the parish, Wudha' Loch)."

Crockett walked this way every day to school and was perhaps led astray like his character Kit Kennedy, by his dog:

"The tempter gambolled in front, barking joyously. He said as plain as print, 'Now then, we're off! Hurrah for the water!'

But for awhile - for at least as much as a quarter of an hour—Kit

manfully resisted. By that time a considerable distance had been put between the cottage and the wayfarers. The loch was very blue beneath. The little waves sparkled distractingly. The wind waved the yellow broom in a way it really ought not to. The universe was ill-arranged for a small boy attending school that day."

Like Ebie Farish, we might also find something special in this most ordinary of places. If we look through Crockett's eyes:

"He saw the stars, which were perfectly reflected a hundred yards away on the smooth expanse, first waver, then tremble, and lastly break into a myriad delicate shafts of light, as the water quickened and gathered. He spat in the water, and thought of trout for breakfast. But the long roar of the rapids of the Dee came to him over the hill, and brought a feeling of stillness with it, weird and remote. Uncertain lights shot hither and

thither under the bridge, in strange gleams and reflections. The ploughman was awed."

Crockett's writing reveals that it is a place of many possibilities - in fact and fiction. There are more descriptions of Woodhall (Grenoch) Loch in *Men of the Moss Hags*, *The Dark o' the Moon*, *The Lilac Sunbonnet*, *Kit Kennedy*, *Sweethearts at Home*, and *Raiderland*.

Cally Phillips

For further information and insight into Crockett's Galloway writing visit
www.gallowayraiders.co.uk

DALRY HERITAGE GROUP EXHIBITION WEEKEND

Entitled *One Hundred Years in Dalry*, the exhibition and related activities will run from Friday 5 to Sunday 7 October.

The weekend will start with an 'old time music hall' event in Dalry Town Hall on Friday 5 October.

If anyone has any old memorabilia, photos, clothes or literature from the last 100 years that could form part of our exhibition, please contact Hilda McAdam at 10 Throughgate, Dalry, or phone 01644430 383.

THE STEWARTRY VETERINARY CENTRE CASTLE DOUGLAS SURGERY HOURS Mon-Fri 2.00-2.30 pm & 5-6 pm Sat 2-2.30 pm DALBEATTIE SURGERY HOURS Mon, Wed, Fri 3-3.30 pm Tues & Thurs 6-6.30 pm FOR APPOINTMENTS AT BOTH SURGERIES OR IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY 01556 502263 VETERINARY SURGERY OAKWELL ROAD CASTLE DOUGLAS

Listening to the Gaelic Silences

Castle Douglas historian Alistair Livingstone is one of the contributors to the first ever conference on Gaelic in Galloway which is being held at the CatStrand in September. He has been telling Mike Brown how silence in the historical record reveals much of the story.

The dog which didn't bark provided Sherlock Holmes with a vital clue in Conan Doyle's story, *Silver Blaze*. Alistair Livingstone, more accustomed to delving into topics well-supplied with written sources, is resorting to similar measures as he prepares his contribution.

Place name evidence of a Gaelic past abounds on our local maps, either in plain sight, such as the numerous "Airies" - hill pastures for cattle - or well disguised by the erosion of time and other tongues. However the shift

from Gaelic, and the manner and time of its disappearance, is harder to discern. For that, Alistair turns to the silences.

Andrew Symson's 'A Large Description of Galloway' written in the late 17th century provides a wealth of detail on Galloway life but makes no mention of Gaelic being used. Two centuries earlier and there is a record of a Galloway parish petitioning the Pope because they have not been provided with a Gaelic-speaking priest.

Alistair does not believe there was a dramatic 'death of Gaelic' moment nor a change driven by migration. Rather there was a gradual shift in the way languages were used. Both Gaelic and Scots would have co-existed for several centuries. Many people would have been bi-lingual, intuitively using the appropriate language - a process known as 'diglossia' - depending on whether speaking to family and neighbours or dealing with authority or trading with outsiders.

During the Wars of Independence there was also a civil war going on between the Bruces and the Balliols, the latter supported by Gaelic speaking 'kindreds' such as the MacDowalls and McCullochs. But as allegiances and people flowed north and south

the Gaelic speakers would already have to be bi-lingual. Subsequently the Lordship of Galloway was revived but with a Scots-speaking Douglas, Archibald the Grim. Later, burgh records reveal the universal adoption of Scots for administration.

Alistair however does cite one significant date: 1513, the Battle of Flodden. In the disastrous defeat of James IV, the last Gaelic-speaking

King of Scots, Galloway like all of Scotland lost much of its leadership. And there was cultural loss too. Local magnates for instance had had their clarsach players, the Gaelic speaking McBratney bards, closely tied to the Western Isles, a tradition that vanishes after Flodden.

As a historian, Alistair is not only concerned with the loss of Gaelic, but also with the history lost along the way. There is a rich tradition relating to the Bruces for instance, but where is the legacy of legend, poetry and ballads recounting the story of the early Lords of Galloway. Is this another casualty of the loss of Gaelic and its culture?

Galloway: Gaelic's Lost Province is being held on Saturday 8 September at CatStrand, New Galloway.

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Supplier Day

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Element Power would like to invite businesses to attend a 'Meet the Buyer' event, to learn more about contract opportunities that will be available from construction of the Twenty Shilling Hill and Windy Rig wind farms and to get an update on progress of the schemes since the first round of business meetings in 2016.

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To register for the event please email us at Scotlandinfo@elpower.com or alternatively pop in on the day and meet the team.

To register, email: Scotlandinfo@elpower.com

Thanks to Good Neighbours

Please could I acknowledge the kindness and support offered to myself and my husband Ron when I was recovering from an operation.

I would like to thank Brian and Erica Portous, who looked after my wee dog, and also Charlotte McClellan for the personal care given, and to her son Shawn who painted a lovely picture of my dog (right).

Bridie Corrie



Marie Curie Daffodil Appeal 2018

Thanks to the generosity of everyone in the Glenkens, and the help of participating outlets, £155.44 was raised for Marie Curie Cancer Care during this year's Daffodil Appeal.

On top of this, the countertop cans raised a further £151.60 throughout the year.

Our donations go towards much needed practical nursing care for terminally ill people in our area. Marie Curie nursing services are totally free to patients and their families, and the Daffodil Campaign is a vital part of fundraising for the charity.

Please keep adding your loose change to the distinctive Marie Curie yellow cans when you see them as every penny will help.

Natalie Vardey

Glenkens Charity Shop Grants Now Open

Application forms for Glenkens Charity Shop grants will be available in the shop from Saturday 23 June for the next round of funding.

The deadline for applications is Saturday 14 July.

The shop are always keen for new volunteers - please stop by and pick up an application form and have a chat any time; even a couple of hours a week would be a great help.

GLENKENS & DISTRICT TRUST SURVEY

A big thank you to the many people who last autumn completed the survey that the Trust had commissioned from Stewartry CVS.

The good news is, that many more households than expected completed and returned the surveys, and expressed their thoughts and ideas fully where there was space to do so.

Because of the volume of replies and comments received from the seven communities that were surveyed it has taken much longer than anticipated for the data to be input and collated. By the time the June/July edition of the Glenkens Gazette is published the input stage will have been completed and the process of consultation with the seven communities begun.

*Alan Rumble, Acting Chair,
Glenkens & District Trust (SC042489)*

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JUNE & JULY

MAY

Thu 31, Alan Bissett presents: Stand Up for Sustainability, 2pm, CatStrand

Thu 31, Alan Bissett presents: More Moira Monologues, 7.30pm, CatStrand

JUNE

Open until Sun 30 Sept, Carsphairn Heritage & Craft Centre, 10am-4pm, Fri-Sun, see p3

Fri 1, Sixfold: A Nexus, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 2, Michael J McCarthy & Redbridge Arts present: Turntable, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 2, Carsphairn Tearoom Bistro, 4-8pm

Sun 3, Drop-in: Dalry Police Station, 3-4.30pm

Sun 3, GTI Bus Trip, The Victorian Garden, see p6

Sun 3, Jenny Lindsay & Hannah Lavery present: This Script & Other

Drafts, 2.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 6, FILM: The Greatest Showman (PG), 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thu 7, Glenkens Business Network, 6pm, The Smithy, New Galloway, see p9

Thurs 7, GTI Bus Trip: Charles Rennie Macintosh exhibition, see p6

Sun 10, GTI Bus Trip, The Romantic Gardens, see p6

Tues 19, Element Power: Supplier Day Event, Thurnhill Community Centre, see p24

Thu 21, Kirsty Law: Young Night Thought, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 22, Krazy Kat Theatre Co presents: Cinder-ella, 10.30am, CatStrand

Sat 23, Midsummer Poetry Walk, 11.30am-3pm, starts Balmaghie, see p2

Sat 23, GTI Bus Trip, Woodfest, see p6

Tue 26, Exhibition on Screen: Painting the Modern Garden - Monet to Matisse, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 29, Tee Trio, 7.30pm, CatStrand

JULY

Mon 2, Drop-in: Dalry Police Station, 6-7.30pm

Sun 8, GTI Bus Trip, The Natural Gardens, see p6

Fri 13, Markus K, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 19, Balmaclellan CC Elections (nomination period will be open from 31 May to 21 June), see p8

Fri 20, Song Sharing Sessions, 8-11pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 21, Ashley Storrie: Adulting, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Tue 24, GTI Bus Trip, The Gulf Stream Gardens, see p6

Sun 29, Ardarroch Open Garden, 2-5pm, see p3

Tue 31, EoS: David Hockney, 7.30pm, CatStrand

AUGUST

Sat 4, The Hot Seats, 7.30pm, CatStrand



Churchill Catering Limited are delighted to have added the **Clatteringshaws Visitor Centre** to our Galloway Forest Park portfolio which already includes the **Kirroughtree** and **Glentool** Visitor Centres.

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SUMMER PROGRAMME

Friday's 10 am to 12 noon
Glenkens Community Centre (opposite Dalry School)

2018 theme is...the

Garden

Glenkens out for Summer

Fri 6th July Picnic in the park - Outdoor and Woodland Fun

Fri 13th July Let's Get Sporty with the Glenkens

Fri 20th July Garden magic and wizardry with our enchanting woodland friends - bring along Fairy wings and Elf hats if you wish.

Fri 27th July Glenkens Secret Garden Games

Fri 3rd August Holiday Club meets Youth Arts - Venue CatStrand

Fri 10th August Arts & Crafts - let's get creative with bubble paint

Fri 17th August Garden Party featuring Molly Mixtures

Children aged 0 to 12 years welcome, must be supervised by an adult.
£2 for first child, £1 for subsequent children.

Babies under 6 months free, £1 for age 6 months to 1 year.

£5 for special events per child and £1 for additional children (see Facebook for details)
A healthy snack for the kids is included. Tea and coffee for adults.

Please check our Facebook for further details on each event

Email us: GlenkensELC@gmail.com OR... Find us on Facebook: Glenkens Baby and Toddler Group



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EVERY FRIDAY May, June, July and August
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Early learning and childcare for all 2 to 5 year olds
Full day, morning and afternoon sessions available
from 9am to 3pm (please contact for availability)

REGULAR EVENTS

CatStrand, New Galloway:

Film Makers' Club, Mon, 7-8.30pm

Exercise to Music, Mon, 9.30-10am

Margaret Morris dance 1: 3-7yrs, Mon (term-time), 3.45-4.30pm

Margaret Morris Dance 2: 8-16yrs, Mon (term-time), 4.30-5.15pm

Youth Volunteer Meet-up, Mon, 6-8pm, FREE PIZZA

Choreographic Skills Lab, Mon (term-time), 7-8.30pm, ages 12-18

Start to Write, 1st Tues each month, 3-5pm (*no Feb meeting*)

Animation Club, Tues, 4.30-6.30pm

Gentle Tai Chi, Wed, 10am

Wendletrap Tai Chi, Wed, 2-3.30pm

Continue to Write, 1st Wed each month, 3.15-5.15pm

Music/Jam Youth Drop-in, Wed, 6-7pm & rehearsal/recording space available for booking from 7-9pm

Writers' Cafe, 2nd Thurs each month, 7-9pm

Sing it Out, Thurs, 11am-12pm

CatStrand Ukes, Thurs, 1-3.30pm

Yoga, Thurs, 6.30pm

Zumba Gold, Fri (term-time), 9.30-10.30am, CatStrand, 16+

Saturday Art Club, 2nd & 4th Sat of the month, 10am-12noon

Glenkens Acoustic Sessions, last Sun of the month, 2-4pm

Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry, (contact Kath on 430 281):

Paint & Art, Mon, 2-4pm

GCC Playgroup, Tues, Wed & Thurs, 9.15-11.45am

Guides, Tues, 6-8pm

Brownies, Thurs 6-7.30pm

Kickback Martial Arts, Thurs, 7-9pm

Thursday Craft Group, Thurs, 2-4pm

Glenkens Children's Club, Fri, 10am-12noon

New Galloway Town Hall:

LING Lunches, Tues, 11am-2pm

Indoor Sports, Tues, 7-9pm

Zumba, Wed, 7.30-8.30pm, New

Galloway Town Hall, 11+

Saturday Circuits, 8-9am with John Fagan

Various Locations:

Hatha Yoga, Mon, 10-11.15am, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Mens Shed Mondays, 6.30pm, Balmaclellan

Carsphairn Post Office, Tues, 1-3pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Dalry WI, 3rd Tues each month, 2pm, Dalry Town Hall (except Jun, Jul & Aug)

Beavers, Tues, 6-7.15pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Dog Training, Tues & Thurs, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall. Contact: Eric 460 670

Mossdale Painters, Wed, 9.30am, Mossdale Village Hall

Cub Scouts, Wed, 6.45-8pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Youth Writing, Thurs (during term time), 3.30-5pm, ages 10-15, Dalry School

Coffee & Craft, Fri, 9am-12noon, Lagwyne Hall

Folk Music Session, 4th Fri each month, 7.30/8pm till closing, Ken

Bridge Hotel

Scouts, Thurs, 7-8.30pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Gentle Tai Chi, Fri 10-11am, Dalry Town Hall

Junior Golf & Come-and-Try for all ages, Sat, 10am, see p7



Family and friends coming to stay?
Short of space?
Cosy country cottage available (sleeps 4)
Call Fiona on 01644 420 227

www.covenanters-holidaycottagescotland.co.uk

To hire the MUGA (Multi Use Games Area) behind Dalry School call Sonja Tranter on 430 244 or Nicolette Wise on 430 218.

Dalry Library

Tuesdays 12noon-3.30pm
Fridays 10am-12noon & 1-4.30pm
For further library van stops and information contact Castle Douglas library on 01556 502 643

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- Pot-hole Hotline: 0845 276 0000
- Police, non-emergency: 101
- Doctor: 01644 420 234
- NHS 24: 08454 24 24 24
- D&G Council: 030 33 33 3000

Glenkens Community Councils

Balmaclellan Community Council
Meetings: POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Carsphairn Community Council
Meetings: Last Monday each month, 7pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn.

Dalry Community Council Meetings:
1st Monday each month, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall.

New Galloway & Kells Community Council Meetings: 2nd Monday each month, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall.

Full minutes of local Community Council meetings can be viewed at Dalry Library.

CHURCH TIMES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND: Sunday Services - June: Balmaclellan 12noon: 1st. Carsphairn 10.30am: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th. Dalry 12noon: 3rd, 4th. Kells 10.30am: 2nd, 4th. **July:** Balmaclellan 9.45am: 1st. Carsphairn 11.15am: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th. Carsphairn 10.30am: 5th. Dalry 9.45am: 2nd, 4th. Kells 9.45am: 3rd. **Special Services/Events:** United Family Service (Kells/Dalry): 11 June, 10.30am, Kells Church. Conventicle

Earlstoun Castle: 18 June, 3pm.
Service of Union & Linking: 27 June, 7pm, Dalry Church. United Service with Choir: 29 July, 10.30am, Carsphairn Church. **Communion Services:** 1 July, 11.15am, Carsphairn Church

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH:
St Margaret's, New Galloway: Holy Communion, 10.30am every Sun & Wed.

CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES:
Kirkcudbright: Sun Mass, 9.30am.
Dalbeattie: Sat Mass, 5pm

BALMACLELLAN MEN'S SHED WINS AT SHEDFEST

Glenkens Men's Shed took part in the inaugural Dumfries & Galloway Shedfest in Dalbeattie.

There were entries from sheds all over the county and more cake per capita than a bake-off final! The shedders covered themselves in glory with a well received and amusing presentation, and took the prestigious 1st prize in the 'Best Hand Made' competition. Tom Plummer's lovingly constructed scale model (it's six feet long) of a French fishing skiff seeing off all the competition, and generating envy and interest from all in attendance. Well done Tom, another seven years should see it completed!

Our hand-carved otter was

also much admired and we wish woodcarving wizard Bill Wiseman a speedy recovery after his recent fall - get well soon Bill.

The shed continues to grow and we have just donated a real boat to Kells school which, under the expert guidance of Mr Thompson, will soon become a pirate ship, "ahoy me hearties", enjoy the fun...

We are also one of the current options in the Tesco Bags of Help scheme in Castle Douglas

Tesco, so give us a helping hand and cast your tokens in our direction when you do the shopping - every little helps.

Chris Jowsey



Tom Plummer's winning model skiff.

Ted's Trek for Climate Change

Glenkens-based Ted Leeming, ex managing director at Natural Power Consultants and professional landscape photographer with his wife Morag Paterson, can't sit still for long

- literally - and has started a new exciting environmental initiative called *Zero Footprints*.

With this project he is seeking to bring together his two passions in the form of a website acting as "The Voice of Photographers Exploring Climate Change".

The idea is threefold, Ted explains:

"We want to raise awareness and educate on issues surrounding climate change by presenting exemplary photos on the subject on the website. The images are donated to the site free of charge by some of the world's leading photographers where they can be purchased, with all the profits going directly to charities offsetting climate change.

"We also help people to better understand how

much carbon they emit themselves, via a simple carbon calculator and how much it would cost to offset.

It's surprisingly cheap to offset your carbon footprint, with a return flight from Glasgow to New York costing less than £8".

To raise the profile for the project and money for their charity, Ted is trekking solo 260 miles across the stunning mountains of the Maritime Alps in northern Italy along the Alta Via Del Monte Liguri. With over 60,000 feet of ascent he will be camping most of the way and will be carrying his own food and drink. "If all goes well it should take about three weeks to complete and, whilst excited at the challenge, I am hoping I don't get too close to the local wild boar, wolves, snakes and scorpions. That said, blisters are of equal concern!"

If you would like to support Ted's walk please visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/edward-leeming

To find out more about *Zero Footprints* visit www.zerofootprints.org



Ted atop Monte Galero - Day 15

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Submit events, activities, news stories, cartoons, reviews, tips & techniques, fiction, photos, ads or ideas... Contact Sarah Ade on 07727 127 997 or glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

AUG/SEPT COPY DEADLINE: 5 JULY



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