

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

August/September 2018

ISSUE 107

FREE

VOSCARS AWARD FOR GLENKENS CHILDCARE

Glenkens Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) is celebrating after winning an award.

The group, which is based at Glenkens Community Centre in Dalry, was named Stewartry Community Group of the Year 2018 at Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway's Voscars (the voluntary sector's version of the Oscars) ceremony in Dumfries.

"We're absolutely over the moon," said group chair Danielle Wilson-Smith. "This award represents years of hard work and dedication by parents and volunteers, and acknowledges

how important and highly valued this early years childcare resource is within the communities of the Glenkens.

Pictured: Children and parents enjoying the Glenkens ELC summer programme at a Forest School session.

Continued on p7...



Energy Minister Welcomes Natural Power Expansion

Scotland's Energy Minister, Paul Wheelhouse MSP, has visited Natural Power's global headquarters in the Glenkens to mark the launch of a new £540K 'ControlCentre'

and open the Fred Olsen Renewables Brockloch Rig Wind Farm.

The control centre is the largest independently operated 24/7 control room in the UK, managing more than 175 renewable energy assets located across the UK, Ireland, France and the US, and employing 19 staff.

Stephen Trotter, Managing Director at Natural Power, said: "To ensure Natural Power remains at the forefront of asset management, real time data provision and security requirements, this investment is designed to deliver the next decade of services. So we embarked on a market-leading programme that included the design and build of a new control services facility at our global headquarters."

Continued on p4...



The new ControlCentre at The Green House, Forrest Estate, Dalry.

Uniting Glenkens Communities

I attended a recent meeting at Dalry Town Hall titled Glenkens Forum.

Despite its remit of 'challenges of an ageing population and lack of opportunities for young people' (important local issues), the discussion focused predominantly on wind farms, community benefit and the new Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) pylons.

As has been the case in many such meetings I have attended over the last seven years, opinion was often divided. However, the one thing that we seemed to agree upon was that the Glenkens people and groups need to work more closely together if we are to have any influence over outside organisations (eg wind farm

companies and SPEN).

Being united, even if we have our disagreements (which is perfectly normal), will help us better negotiate with external agencies and look after our collective interests.

One participant suggested that 'The Glenkens' should become one community council area, pooling our resources, an idea I have loosely favoured for several years. However, the concept was not warmly received.

Whilst I was chair of Dalry Community Council I tried to initiate a Community Council Forum to better work together on local issues, but again it attracted little support.

The national picture seems to be one of wanting separation from unions that are not working as well as they could. Any 'relationship'

needs to be fair and open for all the parties involved, otherwise it is doomed to failure.

However that should not poison us to the benefits of co-operating. The Glenkens has experienced many years of division and I don't see it has served us well. Perhaps it is now time to buck the trend and examine ways we can work together, through mediums like regular Community Forums on important local issues.

We can carry on as we are, but as the popular expression goes 'If you do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got'.

My suggestion is that we put our collective heads together to find new ways to collaborate in the Glenkens for all our good. Our collective future may well depend on it!

Andi Holmes

COMMUNITY BENEFITS CLARIFICATION

I have heard a lot recently about the Blackcraig wind farm community fund, but nothing that answered my basic questions about it.

One of the reasons I attended the initial Glenkens Sustainability Forum meeting was in the hope of making sense of it all.

While I gained a clear sense that I was not alone in my confusion, and of the frustration present in the area about the seeming inability of the Glenkens to work together on issues that matter, I came away more befuddled about the community fund than ever. It is certainly difficult to contribute to an effective debate when you don't have a clear understanding of the situation as it stands.

Beginning to doubt my cognitive abilities, I phoned Angus Robertson, director of Blue Energy Sustainable Community Initiatives (BESCI) – a social enterprise set up to manage Blue Energy

community funds - for clarification. Here is what he told me: BESCI will manage the community fund from Blackcraig wind farm. This fund is at the current industry standard of £5,000 per megawatt installed – which translates as an annual fund of around £254,000 minus expenses and administration costs. This is intended for the lifetime of the project – likely to be 25 years - and will continue with any transfer of ownership. There is no contract that he is aware of, but it

community council members. Applications can be made at any point over the lifetime of the funding, and they will be looking for good, high-quality, sustainable projects. There will be no local Trust or other body needed to hold or distribute the fund.

Angus Robertson says he has no plans to hold a public meeting but has already met with members of the community individually at their request and will be back in the area towards the end of August.

If you would like to meet or have any questions you can get in touch with him at angus.robertson@besci.org.uk or go to www.besci.org.uk for further info.

Hopefully this will be useful to anyone else in my position and encourage direct contact for further

queries. As for working together, going on this information now is certainly the time – not to be distracted, confused and divided by rumours, solo agendas or personal grievances, but to concentrate, as many already do, on building healthy, forward-thinking community councils and a culture of cooperation towards shared goals across the Glenkens.

Mary Smith

...building healthy, forward-thinking community councils and a culture of cooperation towards shared goals across the Glenkens.

is agreed standard practice across the industry and there is no reason to think it will be any different in this case.

The fund will open to applications from May 2019, with the application process available online. Applications are made direct by community projects within a still-to-be-defined area and will be assessed in partnership with a local panel which will include

IT'S ALL GO FOR CONNECTING IN COMMUNITIES

The Glenkens will be rocking again this October with another Rocktober gig even bigger and better than last year's.

The gig will feature a top local rock band, disco, bar and music quiz. The organisers may hire an up-and-coming rock/blues band as support so if you're band is ready for exposure, give Chris. Ring on 420 374. Look out for posters with details of the venue, times, artists and the free shuttle bus - it's all systems go for Saturday 20 October, and tickets will only be a fiver.

It's not all just rock and roll though; our volunteers here at CatStrand were nominated in the Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway VOSCARS in the Culture & Heritage section for the Stewartry, coming a close second.

We also ran our own volunteers 'Thank You' night supporting Volunteers Week; a splendid night was had by

all as we joined the Umbrella Party to celebrate completion of CatStrand's latest flood defences.

Looking ahead, plans and fundraising for developing the Old Smiddy in Balmaclellan as a heritage hub are close to completion, and hopefully work will commence in the early autumn. This will provide an additional multi-use venue, space for young people, modern IT facilities, library and potentially film making recording facilities.

Our Volunteers BBQ is on Friday 31 August and will feature a presentation of the *Flames* collaborative performance starring some unlikely, but well-known, faces.

Our regular fitness sessions are now well established on a Tues/Sat in New Galloway Town Hall, but there will now also be a Kettlebell Plus class starting on Thursday 6 September in Balmaclellan Village Hall from 7.30-8.30pm. Also look out for the Let's Motivate training course, open to all, on 16 Aug at 1.30pm.



Chris Jowsey (left) and Brian Jones with their Voscars certificates.

Want to know more or get involved? Brian and Chris can be contacted on 01644 420 374 or brian@catstrand.com or chris@catstrand.com

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

Chris Jowsey,
Volunteer & Participation Officer

BALMACLELLAN NEEDS ITS SHOP!

How would Balmaclellan survive if the shop at its heart closed?

My family and I have lived here for four years and, from the very beginning, we've been fed and watered by Balmaclellan Stores. They have an amazing variety of stock, happily getting items in on request, and we have been aided and protected by products as wide-ranging as logs, bottled gas, and tick removers, as well as being kept informed of how the local community works - including where to get particular things done, who would know about niche areas, and whether the cat that was living in our garden when we moved in belonged to anyone...

Debbie and her parents, who own the shop, have always been so helpful; if we have ever asked for something the chances are that Debbie has it in, but if not she is always willing to get it if possible. To save us space and travelling, Debbie suggested and now bulk-buys our dried dog food and wild bird feed, which she stores and lets us buy one bag at a time. The shop has always been a great support to our holiday cottage business, also in Balmaclellan, including providing

their marvellous and highly acclaimed home-made cakes and pies. In fact, our guests have regularly commented about what an amazing shop it is.

I realise the shop is at the heart of the village. It would be terrible to lose it.

Direct and indirect communication happens through the shop - it gives company to many people, and provides a valuable target and resting place for a pleasant walk. Debbie gives many free services including delivering goods to people who for various reasons cannot get to the shop; holds post if people are unable to receive it due to being away, working, etc; operate a free cash machine; witnesses forms; provides friendship and support to anyone who needs it, and much more besides. On more than one occasion, they have literally taken cash from their own pocket to give to customers when the cash machine has been empty, or said "take what you need and pay when you're next passing". Try getting service like that at one of the supermarkets!

I am hoping to remind people about what an invaluable community resource this is, and that we need to repay the support it gives us. The incredible variety of goods and services - at very competitive prices (often cheaper than competitors near

and far) - are provided by a business with all its accompanying overheads, with Debbie only taking a small salary once these have been settled.

Unlike other shops in the Glenkens, it has no other income; for instance others have community funding, a supporting income from the Post Office, and room to be able to diversify to provide a lovely cafe and bistro, etc.

Therefore I am not only asking people to shop as much as possible in Balmaclellan, but I am also calling on the community to find ways of helping to fund some of the shop (in consultation with Debbie, of course).

If the shop were ever to close, Balmaclellan would lose its last public facility - what will there be for locals, or to encourage visitors or newcomers? Unlike the other villages, we have no cafes, Post Offices, pubs, or visitor centres to support and encourage a sense of community and enhance village life. I know of many people who come from outside of the village to use the shop, and I hope they will join with us to continue to support the shop to help sustain its future.

Balmaclellan would be a very hungry, thirsty, lonely, unsupported and quiet place if it didn't have the shop. So please, support Balmaclellan Village Stores. Denise MacDonald-Kiernan

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

Chairs in need of re-upholstery:

reproduction Queen Anne style (1 mouse-nibbled) x 2. Parker Knoll style (needs new cushioning) x 1. Rocker x 1. Can be delivered. Contact: Ros on 01644 420 632

Burley Bee/Minnow bike trailer, collection only. Contact 01644 420 462

Little multi-fuel Wenlock cast iron stove with stainless

steel flue pipe mark 1 with back boiler, needs some attention. Contact: 01644 430 529

70 hardback A4 envelopes.

1 Epson black ink cartridge, for Epson Stylus Colour printer 800/850/850Ne/1520. Contact: 01644 460 516

WANTED

1/2 lb honey/jam/chutney jars. With or without lids. Can collect. 07941 126 323

Used postage stamps for horse charity. Drop off at 3 Midtown, Dalry, or call 07563 718 011. Thanks to everyone who donated them over Christmas.

Stainless steel kitchen utensils/pots, etc and **wooden trays/boxes with compartments** for sorting. Contact Dalry ELC/Nursery at gw08devlinjenna01@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

New Natural Power 'ControlCentre'

Continued from front page...

The new facility has been designed for Natural Power's next decade of growth, with the flexibility to add new services where required, to upgrade software that will improve service delivery and to accommodate work with specialist suppliers whenever necessary – vitally important in an ever-changing industry.

Paul Wheelhouse, Energy Minister, said: "I am delighted to open this new facility and welcome the significant investment by Natural Power and the Fred Olsen Group in the Scottish energy sector and, of course, it is

tremendous to see investment in such a facility in a rural region such as Dumfries and Galloway."

One of the assets being managed through the ControlCentre is Brockloch Rig Wind Farm, located 8km north east of Carsphairn. It consists of 30 2.05MW turbines with a total installed capacity of 61.5MW.

Fred Olsen said: "The investment in Brockloch Rig creates two new milestones for Fred Olsen Renewables. Firstly it takes us past 500MW of operating capacity in Scotland, and secondly it brings the total invested in

Scotland to almost three quarters of a billion pounds. The new investment in Brockloch Rig produces more output from 10 turbines than the original 36 turbines achieved in 1996.

"Instead of the traditional five year operations contract with the turbine supplier, we are engaging Natural Power to run this project after just two years. This approach is being rolled out across our fleet where the original turbine manufacturer's warranties expire, creating over 40 jobs within the Natural Power servicing team in Scotland."

Grand Tours of the Glenkens

Paul Murton was in the Glenkens filming for his *Grand Tours of Scotland* with Tern TV.

Filming began with Paul pike-fishing on Loch Ken alongside local fish and wildlife experts Robin Ade and Tim Ewing. He then went on to the Ken Bridge Hotel to take a look at a replica of a legendary pike which had been produced by Robin for hotel owner Dave Paterson.

The story of the monster pike is that John Murray, gamekeeper to Viscount Kenmure in the late 18th century, had presented his master with a 72lb pike caught after the latter had grumbled that there was "no fish bigger than a minnow" in the loch!

Viscount Kenmure held a

competition to write an epitaph for his gamekeeper's gravestone and the competition was won by one of the local ministers.

Paul was filmed reading the poem in Kells churchyard, alongside the gravestone of John Murray.

After visiting Kells churchyard the film crew drove down to Mossdale to film the old New Galloway station, and then finished the day up at Clatteringshaws. The BBC will air the programme in September or October, so make a note in your diaries.



Paul Murton (right) with Robin Ade in front of Robin's reproduction of the monster pike, situated by the bar in the Ken Bridge Hotel.

Eco Feature

sponsored by



Footpaths and the Local Economy

The link between footpaths and the local economy may not seem obvious, but our extensive network of local footpaths could be one of our most valuable assets.

Improving access, mapping and sign posting paths would encourage greater use by residents and tempt visitors to stay a while, thus helping the local economy. The Glenkens could become an established walking area.

With these thoughts in mind, a number of applications were made to the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP) by Local initiatives in New Galloway (LING), and those successful were the

restoration of the footpath in the New Galloway Golf Course wood, clearing and maintaining footpaths and the partial restoration of the walled garden on the Garroch Estate.

Work has already started on these projects, which rely totally on volunteer expertise and labour with the grant for materials restricted to 40% of the total cost. This is a five-year project for GGLP, but the intention is that future generations will continue to preserve this local heritage.

The more volunteers we have the quicker improvements can be made, so please contact Ros Hill on 01644 420 632 or Gerry Cinderby on 01644 420 852 or email cinderbyg@gmail.com to volunteer.

Assistance has also been given to the GGLP and D&G Council in helping two other projects forward. The Core Path which presently ends

at Cairn Edward means walking along the A762 into New Galloway. With the help of a local landowner, an off-road route has been identified through old mixed woodland, linking into the Golf Course woodland path. Another project we have cooperated on is the concept of a long-distance path from Carsphairn to New Galloway, and linking to the Core Path described above. This will mainly use existing forest tracks operated by the Forestry Commission and Forrest Estate, but also some private landowners who have been supportive. Applications for funds to work on these improvements have been made by D&G Council to the Improving Public Access Fund which is managed by Scottish Natural Heritage.

We hope to see you with hoes and spades one day and will keep you informed of progress.

Gerry Cinderby

Not So Bonnie Galloway?

Plastic rubbish clogging up our beaches and oceans has received a lot of publicity recently.

But littering is a perennial problem everywhere and with a reduced DGC litter collection service the problem appears to have multiplied in the Glenkens with many of our roadsides chock-a-block with rubbish. Dalry Community Council receives constant complaints about roadside litter with much discussion about what to do about it.

Dumfries & Galloway Council is not alone in having their funding cut and having to make drastic cuts to our public services. Putting up council taxes does not come close to balancing the books and inevitably the repair of potholes, roadside grass cutting and litter collection is not up to the same standard as in the past.

What can we do to help? A cursory analysis of the problem indicates that the bulk of the litter on the roadsides appears to be thrown from passing vehicles but some is local – on an Easter spring-clean one family collected 19 bags of dog

poo that had been left in the hedges between Moss Roddock quarry and St John's Way, despite there being a designated dog-poo bin just down the road at St John's Seat. Perhaps our local families could start a trend for a different type of Easter egg hunt every spring – for every bag of litter collected a chocolate reward!

Many folk who walk round our villages regularly pick up rubbish and dispose of it – this seems a sensible and public-spirited way of keeping our Glenkens villages looking nice.

Perhaps all walkers could keep a bag in their pocket to pop any rubbish in and take back to a bin. And we can all be vigilant and ask people nicely to take their rubbish home if we see someone littering. Also, the DGC Community Safety Team are able to issue Fixed Penalty Notices of £80 to anyone found littering. They can be contacted by telephone on 030 3333 3000, or by email at communitysafetyteam@dumgal.gov.uk

Another idea would be to have a



Litter collected on the verges on the A702 just east of Dalry.

local group, such as the Scouts, take responsibility for a particular stretch of road by having regular clean-ups. In the States, where I have seen this idea in operation, they have a sign on the roadside saying 'This stretch of the A123 is cared for by Anytown Scout Group'.

Please, everyone – have a think and come up with some more ideas. The days of assuming someone else will deal with the problem are over; it is down to us now.

*Nicolette Wise, Chair,
Dalry Community Council*

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 (return)

(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

Gardens of Excellence Excursions

August 5 Sunday

The Grand Estate Gardens

Penrith, Cumbria

Dalemain House & Garden

An artist plantswoman's garden with knot garden, historic orchard, herbaceous borders, terraces and semi-wild flower gardens. Woodland walks.

Café. Wheelchair accessible. Admission £8.75

AND/OR

Hutton-in-the-Forest House & Garden

A garden with great visual appeal containing herbaceous borders, walled garden, trained fruit trees, lake, yew hedges and fine views.

Café. Wheelchair accessible. Admission £6.50.

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900; New Galloway

(CatStrand) 0910; Crossmichael (Shop) 0925, Castle

Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill) 0935

Fare £7. Concessions £6.

September 16 Sunday.

The Lakeland Garden

Holehird Garden Garlieston, D&G

This 20-acre hillside garden overlooks Lake Windermere and is maintained to a very high standard. Famous for its trial gardens, national collections and wide range of plants. This excursion will include a scenic drive beside Lake Ullswater and over Kirkstone Pass with refreshment stops in the Lake District.

Partially wheelchair accessible. Admission £5.00.

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0830; New Galloway

(CatStrand) 0840; Crossmichael (Shop) 0855, Castle

Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill) 0905

Fare £8. Concessions £7.

October 6 Saturday

The Botanic Garden

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

This 75-acre garden is one of the finest botanic gardens in the world and contains Britain's tallest palm house. The range of plants is impressive and the glasshouses take the visitor on a tour of discovery through the temperate and tropical regions of the world.

Garden centre & café. Wheelchair accessible. Admission: gardens free; glasshouses £6.50/ RBGE free.

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0830; New Galloway

(CatStrand) 0840; Crossmichael (Shop) 0855, Castle

Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill) 0905

Fare £8. Concessions £7.

Seats must be booked in advance online at www.catstrand.com or by phone 01644 420374

CHILDCARE IN THE GLENKENS

Continued from front page...

"The group has wonderful volunteers, dedicated staff and amazing local support – thank you so much to everyone who has been involved in the group since its inception right through to today."

The **Glenkens Holiday Club** is well underway for 2018 - Glenkens Out of Summer - and the events are thriving. Still to come is 'Holiday Club meets Youth Arts' and the end of summer 'Garden Party featuring Molly Mixtures'.

Follow our Facebook page @GlenkensBabyToddler to keep an eye out on dates and events.

On Tuesday 21 August **Bright Stars Glenkens Community Nursery** will open its doors for the new term. Offering 9am-3pm childcare provision children aged 2-5 on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday. Funded as well as private places are available - get in touch now to secure your place as only a small number are available. There is also a **pick-up service available from Dalry School Nursery**, allowing children to have the morning at the school nursery and afternoon at Bright Stars. Follow our Facebook page

@BrightStarsGlenkens to find out more or get in touch.

Glenkens Baby and Toddler Group will be offering two sessions a month for 'Stay & Play' activities for 0-5 year-olds from September. We will be welcoming a new ELC practitioner into the group who will help to organise the sessions and activities alongside parents/carers. For one of the monthly sessions, Bright Stars will host and groups will be able to enjoy activities together.

Follow our Facebook page @GlenkensBabyToddler for dates and times.

New for 2018/19 is **Glenkens After School Club**, a service offering after-school activities from 3-6pm for P1-7s. Currently this service is being planned with the help of the community, so please join the Facebook group - Glenkens After School Club - to keep up to date and help shape the service. Grab an enrolment form as soon as they are available as spaces will go fast. After School Club aims to launch on 20 August.

Also under review is a **Breakfast Club** for 2018/19, a service offering pre-school breakfast from 7.30am-9am. If you may be interested

in this service and feel there is a need, please get in touch at glenkenselc@gmail.com - further information on this will follow throughout 2018/19.

Coming up on 10 August at 11am in Glenkens Community Centre will be Glenkens ELC AGM. Please come along and support the group, whether it's through volunteering, taking on a committee member role or just letting us know your thoughts, please pop along.

Over the past 12 months great change and growth has taken place amongst our childcare groups and we are, as always, very grateful to our local and national supporters - Natural Power Ltd, GCAT, Glenkens Charity Shop, Cash for Kids and the Big Lottery Fund.

Fundraising is a large focus for the groups to keep them affordable and accessible for all the community. If you have any ideas for fundraising or grant opportunities please let us know.

Glenkens ELC is under the umbrella of the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT), charity number SC032050.

*Danielle Wilson-Smith,
Chair, Glenkens ELC*



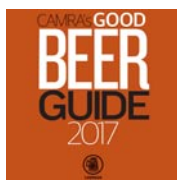
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GALLOWAY GLENS

Landscape Partnership

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newsletter - see website
for details...***

www.gallowayglens.org

SPALDING BOWLING CLUB

Spalding Bowling Club held its open triples, sponsored by the Clachan Inn.

It was won by a Home Club triple of Ian Cullen, Ray Heard, and Paul Nicolson. Beaten finalists were Stewart Crossan, Joe Caldow and John McGarrie, from Auchencairn. Gordon McAdam is also pictured,

along with daughter Annabelle, and Steve Papworth who presented the trophy on behalf of the Clachan Inn.

A great day was had by all. *Valerie Russell*



NEW GALLOWAY GOLF CLUB

With all this brilliant weather New Galloway Golf Club has been extremely busy.

The club held its Captain's Day



Captain's Day prize winners with club Captain, Ian Brown.

in June and a superb day was had by all. The day started with Dave's Fledglings playing for the Les Burton Trophy. Some excellent scores were returned with the winner turning out to be the Captain's own granddaughter, Chloe Aitken. Later

in the day there was a putting competition in which the parents and grandparents partnered the juniors. The winners were Hector McCulloch and his granddad, Ian. The main competition was for the Jack McQueen Quaich. The winner of the Junior prize was Jack's granddaughter, Fiona McQueen; the Gents' winner was Anthony

Graham and the Ladies' winner, and overall winner, was Janette Davidson. The picture shows all the prize winners on the day together with the captain. Following the golf, members were treated to a fantastic buffet.

June was also the Club's Seniors Open, and this had one of the biggest entries in many years. The overall winner was the Club's own Jeff Sutcliffe, with the winner of the scratch prize being Dumfries & County's Ian Brotherston.

Now that the school holidays are here our junior coaching programme continues on Saturday mornings at 10-11:30am. We are only too happy to see any new juniors looking to give golf a go...

Ian Brown

FINLAY CARSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for
Galloway and West Dumfries



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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

Facebook: [FinlayCarsonMSP](https://www.facebook.com/FinlayCarsonMSP)

Twitter: [fincarson](https://twitter.com/fincarson)



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All legal advice

*Offices in Castle Douglas, Dalbeattie
Kirkcudbright and Dumfries*

CatStrand Highlights

Summer has been wonderful so far! Searing temperatures, the World Cup, Wimbledon and of course the 39th Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival which we loved here at CatStrand.

If July was quiet events-wise, August is the start of the crescendo and we're delighted to welcome back the American old-time livewires **The Hot Seats** (Sat 4 Aug) on the eve of the world-famous **Scottish Alternative Games** (Sun 5 Aug). This is their 10th anniversary tour so it seemed fitting to bring them back to 10-year-old CatStrand five years after their first sell-out show here. We expect another sell-out too and an absolute blazer of a concert.

For something more esoteric, head to Sulwath Brewery for the brand new **Enigma Sessions** (Fri 10 Aug), a new night of live music in intimate surroundings curated by our young intern Ruari Barber-Fleming. Indeed, Ruari is also featuring with his new music project **Frozen Shores**. A unique evening is in store also featuring Stornoway's own **Mother Night**.

The following weekend we have our annual **Movie in the Park** which is the quirky, funny, and intelligent story about awkward teens **The Perks of Being a Wallflower** [12] featuring Emma Watson (Harry Potter) and rising star Logan Lerman. If wartime history is more your thing, come and watch the Oscar-winning Gary Oldman in **Darkest Hour** [PG] (Wed 22 Aug) which many have said is the actor's finest hour on celluloid. Staying with

films, the **Dalry Film Club** movie in September is the multi-Oscar scooping **Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri** [15] (Wed 5 Sept) which the *Telegraph* called a "gut-twisting comedy to make you stand up and hoot".

We're delighted to be hosting the first **Galloway Gaelic Conference** (Sat 8 Aug) featuring top academics and experts from all over the country. Entitled **Galloway: Gaelic's Lost Province** the conference is already close to sold out so please get your tickets soon. On the eve of the Conference there will be a very special concert by legendary BBC Radio 3 presenter and Gaelic singer **Mary Ann Kennedy** (Fri 7 Sept). Tickets are available separately.

Dalry Town Hall is the venue for one of the greatest country Americana bands on the live circuit **Amanda Anne Platt and the Honeycutters** (Fri 14 Sept). The sensational five-piece band are touring all the way from North Carolina, USA. Lauded as "remarkable" (*Rock 'n' Reel Magazine*) this will be another great night in the village.

Finally, we welcome back the **Dark Sky Jazz Club** with a brand new series of artists fresh from the blossoming Scottish contemporary jazz scene. One of the finest of this current crop, described by BBC Radio 3 as "classy and well-crafted", are the **Brian Molloy Quartet** (Fri 28 Sept) who play their debut at CatStrand and I can guarantee this sax quartet will blow you away with a combination



21 MAK

of gorgeous tone and astonishing dexterity.

Looking ahead **Kiki Dee** (Fri 16 Nov) is understandably close to sell out, and **Kris Drever & Boo Hewerdine** (Sat 13 Oct) are not far behind. Look out for Canadian comedy sensation and TV regular **Glenn Wool** in February 2019 and a quick note to say that for the first time ever, CatStrand will host its legendary **Burns Supper** on Burns Night itself (Fri 25 Jan). Tickets are available for all these shows now.

Look out for our winter brochure at the start of September.

The CatStrand Team

Local surgeries with
Alister Jack MP
Dumfries and Galloway



FRIDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2018

2pm - Castle Douglas Town Hall

4pm - Constituency Office, Dumfries

FRIDAY 19TH OCTOBER 2018

1:15pm - Kirkcudbright Library

2:30pm - Dalbeattie Town Hall

4pm - Constituency Office, Dumfries

FRIDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2018

2pm - Castle Douglas Town Hall

4pm - Constituency Office, Dumfries

To book an appointment please get in touch by calling 01387 216109 or emailing Alister.Jack.MP@parliament.uk

Calling Crafters!

Dalry Town Hall Management Committee will be holding another craft fair on Saturday 3 November.

Anyone who would like to book a table please contact Noreen on 07759 494 952 or 01644 420 730 or at noreenbell46@gmail.com

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 'Summer'. *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 glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

by 5 September 2018. The judge's decision is final and no late entries will be accepted.



The winner of the April/May Flash Fiction Competition is Sue Wiseman with The Day That Time Stood Still (printed below). Competition judge Ian says: "Congratulations Sue, an entertaining and original story."

About the Author: Many years ago I lived near London just yards away from the Greenwich Meridian. On New Years Eve we'd all stand astride 0 degree Longitude singing Auld Lang Syne, waiting for the stroke of midnight when we'd have one foot in the old year and one in the new.

THE DAY THAT TIME STOOD STILL

32 Acacia Avenue

Mavis, placing a pie on the oven, looked up as her husband came in, hot and dishevelled from the garden.

"Finished the lawn, Jim?"

"No. Bit of trouble with the mower. I'll sort it out tomorrow morning when our Alan comes round."

"Ok. Dinner in about half an hour."

Broadcasting House London

This is John Humphries and Sarah Montague in the 'Today' studio bringing you up to date on the catastrophic events following the sudden disappearance of the Greenwich Meridian yesterday. You'll note we don't have any time signals today. It is still unclear whether this is terrorist related. Brexit negotiations have been halted while emergency meetings are held to discuss the Meridian crisis.

Sky News

Stock markets around the world have ceased trading as most computers are out of action. International flights

are grounded and ocean going vessels are experiencing unprecedented difficulties.

BBC Radio 198 Longwave

We regret we are unable to issue the shipping forecast due to the loss of GMT.

32 Acacia Avenue

"All this hoo-hah about Greenwich Meridian, funny really what with it passing right through our back garden and through the Nicholson's place in Tredegar Drive, right through their carp pond." Jim added. A car door slammed.

"I think that's our Alan. I'll put the kettle on."

Channel 5 News

Network Rail say some trains are still running albeit without timetables. Passengers report they have not noticed any difference.

ITN

The Kremlin has denied any involvement with the disappearance of the Greenwich Meridian.

32 Acacia Avenue

"So what's wrong with this mower, dad?"

"I was doing the lawn

yesterday and something got snagged around the blade. I don't know what it is, I can't really describe it."

Jim unlocked the shed door.

"I tried to cut it with a Stanley knife but I couldn't, it's too tough, so I thought if I could pull it and find the end I could just unwind it – except that there was no end. I kept pulling and pulling, nearly two hours I was at it."

He opened the shed door to reveal it full, base to apex, with a strange kind of filament, knotted, tangled, clumped into solid masses or strung out like spiders' web at first glistening then almost transparent. Some of it started to avalanche onto the path. Alan looked aghast.

"There's miles of it," said Jim, "hundreds of miles..Thousands.."

"You know what this is?" said Alan.

"Err, yes son, I think I might do. I suppose I'll have to own up and get something done about it."

Alan took out his phone and keyed in 999.

"Yes dad, I think you will."

A National Park for All

Proposals for Galloway National Park rightly focus on protecting our landscape and environment.

But, what if we're missing the chance to put people at the centre too? I'm concerned the social and economic challenges we face aren't being given enough attention, nor the potential of ground-breaking Land Reform and Community Empowerment legislation. Can a national park care for our communities as much as our countryside?

While visitors to our beautiful region may think life here is idyllic, it's a sad fact that for many in Galloway and the Glenkens, life can be a struggle. Since I was elected, I've seen this first hand. Higher heating, transport and food costs, the lowest average wages in Scotland and brutal welfare reforms all contribute to rural poverty, with people increasingly reliant on foodbanks right here among us.

Our local economy is fragile: Brexit-induced uncertainties over farming and fishing; a higher than average ageing population; poor transport links and insufficient career opportunities and affordable housing, especially for young people. Of course, these are matters for local and national government to address - it's something I and my colleagues do daily - but we need wide-ranging partnership working too - and that's where I believe a national park could be key.

Cairngorms is one of two existing national parks in Scotland, and I'd like to see their approach shape Galloway's national park campaign, with a built-in commitment to

shared priorities with public bodies, including community organisations, local authorities and the Scottish Government.

In their Partnership Plan, Cairngorms recognise that planning policies might stifle much-needed business development, or the construction of affordable homes. We need to ensure from the outset that creating a Galloway National Park doesn't mean a moratorium on growth, or potential conflict with the desires of local people.

This is particularly important now Community Empowerment legislation allows communities to control assets like unused council properties, to deliver services locally - a good example being Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING). What would Galloway National Park's relationship be with communities seeking more autonomy over decisions that affect them? Similarly, Land Reform rights enable communities to buy land for affordable housing and sustainable infrastructure projects. Will this transformational legislation be at the forefront of any national park thinking here?

It's hard for people to travel between isolated areas if they don't have access to transport. There's a pledge in the Cairngorms Partnership Plan to support community transport. We already have Glenkens Transport Initiative delivering an excellent service here, but there's potential to expand significantly - so could this be another partnership priority for our national park?

Like Galloway, tourism is vital to the Cairngorms. However, their plan also prioritises supporting diverse employment, including forestry, agriculture, food and



New Galloway Town Hall, now run as a community hub by LING © Les Bell

drink, aiming to increase education and training opportunities too. So, could Galloway National Park capitalise on our amazing local produce by promoting our existing Council Food and Drink Strategy? National parks need foresters, instructors, rangers, managers - might we include a commitment to providing the Living Wage and apprenticeships for our young folk?

This is the future I want for Galloway. Vibrant, diverse, inclusive and people-centred. Sharing partnership priorities, taking advantage of land reform and community empowerment rights, growing our economy and capitalising on our wealth of resources and people - these have to flourish in any proposals for Galloway National Park, alongside our precious natural environment.

Let's expand the debate to include us all.

Milton Park Mystery

Dear Glenkens Gazette,

I was just wondering how long your paper been in publication? The thing is, years ago - around 1963 - I stayed with my parents at the Milton Park Hotel, near the Village of Dalry.

One day we spoke with this

elderly local man, who told us that three maids had died in the hotel under mysterious circumstances (I think it had happened at some time in the 1950s). This is something which has constantly been on my mind, and something that I have never been able to confirm, and I was wondering if any of your readers may

have heard of this? If so, I would be very grateful to learn more of the story...

*Sincerely, Alan Robertson,
North Vancouver*

Can any Gazette readers help Alan to figure out the Milton Park mystery...?

BUSINESS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Galloway Flowers

This new section in the Gazette will showcase a different local business each issue, giving readers a taste of the diverse and flourishing entrepreneurial world of the Glenkens.

If you would like to feature your business, please email an article of up to 500 words with a photograph to glenkengazette@hotmail.co.uk

Along the Hidden Road at Balmaclellan is a hidden business – Galloway Flowers, an artisan flower grower and florist.

Perhaps you're surprised anybody would (or could) grow flowers in Galloway? Certainly the weather presents challenges, but we've done just that for three years.

The flowers are cut, arranged and delivered locally as bouquets, as well as for weddings and funeral tributes with a difference. I often add interesting foliage, grasses, seed heads and herbs to make informal 'just picked from the garden' style bouquets. In winter, we make seasonal wreaths and last year enjoyed a fun afternoon making Christmas wreaths at the CatStrand too.

I love growing scented flowers and foliage as this quality has disappeared from so many flowers. To me, it's so disappointing to pick up a rose or sweet



Rosie Gray working in her hidden garden.

pea expecting a delicious perfume, only to discover none.

From seed-sowing to planting to arranging, these flowers travel a distance counted in steps.

My partner, Ken Leslie, has worked tirelessly to create raised beds essential to raise flowers productively. He's keen to ensure this becomes an even richer haven for wildlife and wild flowers too. By encouraging a healthy population of birds, hedgehogs, frogs and toads, pests are naturally balanced without harmful pesticides, etc.

chefs and farmers have embraced the 'field to fork' concept, valuing the quality and diversity of locally grown produce, more are discovering the delights of locally-grown, scented and seasonal flowers.

Growing in Galloway does present challenges of course – last winter's cold, the late spring and low rainfall this summer. But keen gardeners all our lives, we aren't afraid of experimenting to find best varieties and methods. Most of our flowers grow outside, with a greenhouse and polytunnels used for blooms early

...encouraging a healthy population of birds, hedgehogs, frogs and toads, pests are naturally balanced without harmful pesticides...

A small artisan business like this is unusual. The UK cut flower business is huge, but few are now grown here – around 90% of flowers sold are grown abroad, mainly in Holland, Africa and South America. While this has made flowers available with a supermarket shop, choice is limited to those tough enough to stand the long journey. Few are fragrant, and many traditional cut flowers are rarely available to buy.

But interest in these flowers is growing, particularly for weddings. Just as top

and late in the season. In 2017, the last chrysanthemums were cut at Christmas, despite the snow!

Flowers are cut fresh to order by telephone or online for local delivery and collection. I've been selling flowers at Kirkcudbright farmers market and Loch Arthur farm shop since 2016 too.

The flower field isn't open to visitors, but please get in touch if you would like to order or to find out more - www.gallowayflowers.co.uk or 01644 420 407.

Rosie Gray

DEE & GLENKENS WARD

Councillor **Dougie Campbell** is holding surgeries on **Wednesday 26 September:**
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



We are hiring!

For more information on the following roles email: work@naturalpower.com

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- Energy Data Coordinator
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Carers Wanted for holiday/sick cover

To work as part of a team, caring for disabled lady in Dalry.

Experience desired but not essential as training can be given. PVG can be discussed. Pay above minimum wage.

01644 430 135

DALRY LIBRARY NOTICE BOARD

Librarian Angela Miller is delighted with her new notice board, provided by Dalry Community Council for displaying public information.

Following recent refurbishment by D & G Council the Gourlay Memorial Library is much improved and can now be hired for groups and meetings. It is currently used for local Gaelic Classes on Monday evenings, Young Writers after school on Thursdays (monthly) and Bookbug on a Tuesday morning (also currently monthly).

It is hoped that D & G Council's more flexible

approach to the building will lead to increased usage both inside and in the garden.

To find out more, please contact Angela in the Library (phone: 01644 430 234) during opening hours, or email her at: angela.miller@dumgal.gov.uk



Librarian Angela Miller beside Dalry Library's new community notice board.

Thank You

The leaders and youngsters of the Glenkens Cubs and Beavers would like to thank supporters of their annual Jumble Sale.

Gratitude goes to all those who donated goods and those who came along and purchased at our recent jumble sale - the final total raised was £993.

A huge thank you also goes to the group committee, parents and helpers who were amazing - we couldn't do it without you.

Cub Pack meetings restart on Wednesday 5 September, 6.45-8pm. If you are between eight and 10½, boys or girls, and would like to come along and give Scouting a try you will be very welcome.

In the meantime, thank you again for your support, it is much appreciated.

Heather, Hannah and Doug (Cub Leaders) and Diana, Tim and Chrissie (Beaver Leaders)



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RHINNS O' KELLS CHALLENGE CUP

The Rhinns o'Kells Challenge Cup will be held on Saturday 8 September.

Anyone wishing to take part is invited to meet at The Thistle in Dalmellington Square (Snug Bar) for registration at 8am, after which a bus will be provided to take entrants to the start of the walk - the bus leaves at 8.30am.

The walk starts at the Forest Lodge

near St Johns Town of Dalry, and is a strenuous walk over nine tops, back to Loch Doon and finishing at Drumjohn (approximately 20 miles).

Transport back to Dalmellington will then be provided, and there will be food and presentation of the Cup to the winner, and medals for the walkers. The total cost to participate is £14.

For further information on the Dalmellington Walking Weekend please contact Drew Filson on 07772 871 946.



Left to right: Sheila McLean, Sharon & David Scott and Kenneth Filson leaving Carlins Cairn with Views of Loch Doon in the background.

New Galloway Exhibition

The exhibition of paintings, photographs and artefacts from New Galloway was enjoyed by locals and visitors alike.

As well as showcasing past social life, the event, organised by Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING), allowed former pupils of Kells School (the building which is now the CatStrand) to re-live memories of their childhood, aided by the digital display of photographs and postcards. Former classmates from as far apart as Bath and Turriff attended the event.

The upper town hall served as a gallery, with over 50 works of art in various genres featuring New Galloway and the surrounding area.

In the lower hall were records of local ancestry in a Voters Roll dated 1909-1910.

The fact that some people stayed for hours and others even returned the second day indicated the success of the weekend. Thanks to all who supported it.

Raymond Bridgeman

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1-2pm – Parton/Loch Ken Holiday Park

2-4pm – Balmaclellan area

4-5.30pm – The Hidden Road

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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Affordable housing for people living or working in the Glenkens whose circumstances would benefit from the provision of reduced rent.

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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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Laurieston's Handmade Beach

Roland Chaplain has been working for the last 30 years on creating a beach on the banks of Woodhall Loch. Recently, the Scottish Daily Mail ran a feature on Roland and his handmade beach. The Gazette hears from Roland first-hand how it all came about...

Once upon a time there was no beach. Well, that's not strictly true – there's always been a shoreline since the melting glaciers of the last ice age left lots of drumlins around the Laurieston area.

People have swum in Woodhall Loch for a very long time. The water flowing out of Lochnabreck was believed to have healing powers. Once it was a popular spa. Laurieston Hall was a tuberculosis (TB) hospital until shortly before becoming what has evolved into its present day community. Taking the air and water was an important part of the healing process. My own connection from that era is that my son John Henry's grandfather, Dr Cairns, was a TB specialist who used to send his patients there.

My first recollections of the shoreline are from when Jeannie (my late wife), myself and a very small John Henry used to come on visits to Laurieston Hall.

I remember visiting the loch one day with our friend Margaret, and looking up to see a kingfisher sitting on a branch just above us. Somehow that moment cemented my bond with the loch, making me want to always have it as a part of my life. By this time John Henry had grown old enough to be coming down from the village to the Hall whenever he got the chance, to play snooker and table tennis and make liberal use of its other facilities. Mutterings began: "Roland what are you going to do in return?"

Well, the rest is history. I managed to convince both Hall residents and the Forestry Conservator that a wee beach at the boundary of the Hall's land was needed and that this would be possible with no more than a trowel.

The forces of nature will always win, so best to work with them wherever

possible. The small burn coming off the hill was depositing its sand and gravel into swampy undergrowth – the wrong place to be of any use. The answer: dig out a shallow channel to divert the water through 90 degrees so that it would flow southwards to the spot where it now merges with the loch.

Once done, winter deluges (and the odd summer one) did much of the rest of the job so long as one kept the channel of the burn cleared out.

The beach is not just somewhere with enough sand to ensure space to sunbathe and to wade into deep water comfortably. It is the point at which waves break and produce a myriad of different sounds as water gurgles up into crannies between the boulders.

What of the future? The beach is a living entity constantly interacting with all who use it. It is a statement of our relationship with the natural world. It is a place of surprises – the mother otter playing with two of her young off the rocks at the end of the breakwater, the sudden visitation of a kingfisher streaking across the loch, the red squirrel looking for nuts dropped into the Loch and washed up onto the beach.

The beach is somewhere to be creative – the materials are all there. They don't have to stay in their present configuration. So, here are a few tips on how to ensure future generations can share in what is best of what is there at present:

- If you see an interesting-looking boulder bring it to the beach.

- Avoid throwing boulders into the water on the sandy bit (people have now got used to not breaking their toes when they race in for a swim).

- If you're feeling agile and energetic, explore up the burn and clear out any vegetable debris (that might occasionally include fallen trees).

- Autumn storms can throw up large amounts of leaves, twigs and branches. If left they will provide nutrition for midges and flies and eventually a migration of other vegetation across the beach.

- Strip off at any time of year; low-angle winter sun is particularly good for you, and the beach is

designed as a sun trap.

- Break the ice and go in for a dip; they do it regularly in Scandinavia and Russia and live to tell the tale.

Teilhard de Chardin coined the word 'conscientisation' when speaking of the phenomenon of matter being able to organise itself over immense periods of time gradually to achieve higher and higher levels of 'complexity consciousness'. For him the purpose of life and the universe was this endless striving over billions of years by the matter/energy that are you and me, and countless generations to come, to reach the ultimate point of an unimaginable consciousness which today's religions speak of as 'God'.

That all brings me back to where we started – the ice ages which provided the materials and for me the inspiration to build a beach, experiment with a bit of living land art, get grounded, practice mindfulness – call it what you will. What matters is that it's just one more pointer towards our understanding of that extraordinary process we have been born into.

The beach is something dynamic and, above all, it's a wonderful place to reflect on what life's all about and to recharge one's batteries in order to be more creative and adventurous in our quest towards self-determination for our own, and the natural world's futures.

Roland Chaplain, Balmaclellan



Roland Chaplain and his beach, as featured in the Scottish Daily Mail.

Farewells and Achievements at Dalry

Dalry Secondary School would like to pay tribute to some long serving members of staff who are retiring.

Mrs Mary Nurse, Mr Tom Carmichael and Mrs Ros Henry have taught English, Physical Education and Music respectively for many years at Dalry. I am sure that, as a community, we wish them well as they depart and enter a new phase of their life in retirement. Mrs Susan Farquhar will also leave us at the end of the session to take up a position at Dumfries High School.

Newly appointed in these positions after the summer will be Mrs Emma Stockwell as teacher of English, Mr Liam Fleming as teacher of Physical Education, Mrs Susan St Joseph as teacher of Music and Miss Rachel Crossan as trainee teacher of Home Economics.

We will also miss Mr Paul Goodwin who is retiring from his position as network administrator. Paul has been a fantastic ambassador for the school and has ensured that the Information Technology available in Dalry has consistently been fit for purpose and serving the young people in their learning. Paul has many other strings to his bow that he has regularly made use of to provide opportunities for Dalry's students (see Paul's article on p24).

House System: During this term we have taken the first steps to introducing a house system involving all pupils, led by elected house captains to encourage recognition of sporting and academic achievements as well as positive behaviour and citizenship achievements and contributions. The houses established are Goodwin House and Mulloch House, and congratulations go to the chosen house captains, Florrie Newbery and Jake Finlay.

Sports Day: The re-introduction of a competitive sports day at Dalry Secondary School was a tremendous



Dalry Secondary Sports Day, showcasing the breathtaking scenery which is the backdrop to the school playing field.

success. The day consisted of a range of races, both individual and team relays, as well as very competitive egg and spoon and three-legged races and a fun inter-house pupils and staff game of rounders.

Poppy Pledge: Dalry Secondary and Cluster Primaries have jointly taken on the challenge of raising £1918 during the year to help ex-servicemen and women and their families impacted by conflict.

Music Achievements: Dalry Secondary pupils have surpassed even their own high standards with some exceptional musical achievements this term. Rory Newbery, Hardie Walker and James Wallace all performed in the Castle Douglas Rotary Young Musician of the Year Competition, all three were a credit to the school and James won the vocal award as well as the silverware as overall winner.

At the Galloway Music Festival Hardie Walker won first place on electric guitar, James was first in two classes, including with distinction in Scots solo singing and the S1 group performance also took first place with distinction.

James also sang at the Big Burns Supper in January along with pupils from P7, Jessica Nash from S1 and Sarah McCreath and Grace Jeffery Temple from S2 who played flute. Dalry is truly a hotbed of musical talent out and about across the region and we thank Mrs Henry for her commitment to supporting the talents of the young people.

Pupil Parliament: Next session it is planned to raise the profile of the young people's voice by holding monthly consultation sessions, when Mrs Gillies will meet elected representatives of each year group. It is hoped this will provide the opportunity for young people to make suggestions, raise concerns and to be consulted on all appropriate aspects of school life. Elections will be held early in the new term and we hope you will encourage your young people to consider participating and experiencing the democratic process.

Lorraine Gillies, Dalry Secondary School

School Blog: Keep up to date with what's been happening in school via <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/dalrysecondary/>

Headteacher/Depute Headteacher availability in Dalry School:

From the new school term (Tuesday 21 August) times during which senior managers will be based on site at Dalry School will be: Mr Smith Friday mornings; Mrs Gillies Monday & Tuesday mornings and all day Thursdays; Mrs Cook Thursday mornings; Mr Cathro Tuesday late morning/afternoon. At all other times Mr Bannister and Mrs Acheson (Principal Teachers) will be fulfilling management roles.

For further information contact
01644 430 259 or
gw08officedalry@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

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Licensed convenience store and newsagent stocking a range of local suppliers including Corsons and Irvings Bakers, Ballards and Dalmellington Country Butchers and Mitchells Fruit and Veg.

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Saturday: 8am – 6pm

Sunday: 8.30am – 4pm

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DEE & GLENKENS WARD

Councillor Patsy Gilroy

is available for consultation on any Council/Public Service matter.

Please phone 07825 633153 or email patsy.gilroy@dumgal.gov.uk for an appointment.

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries & Galloway Council

HEALTH AND WELLBEING WEEK

Dalry Primary and Nursery/Early Learning Centre (ELC) took part in their Health and Wellbeing (HWB) Week organised by teachers Miss Joss and Mrs Devlin.

All pupils from Nursery to P7 were given the opportunity to plan and personalise their own week by signing up to a range of workshops. Topics focused on developing skills, knowledge and understanding about physical and mental health, nutrition, and sports science, and ranged from orienteering to baby care to ninja warriors!

The activities were facilitated by class teachers, ELC staff and volunteers who kindly offered their skills and expertise. As part of our close partnership working within the Cluster, Kells and Carsphairn Primaries also joined Dalry pupils for workshops on the Wednesday. Feedback from all three schools was that pupils and staff really enjoyed being able to play and learn together. A few of the pupils' favourites were Lego 'n' Chill, Megan's Gymtastic Gymnastics, Art Therapy, River Walk and Nature Hunt and Play Cafe...

HWB Week culminated in the

rescheduled and much anticipated Children in Need Ramble. Pupils and staff from Kells and Dalry Primaries completed a six kilometre hill walk up and over the Mulloch Hill, with the ELC joining in for part of the walk. Everyone met back at Dalry school for a community picnic and some well-earned ice pops. It was a wonderful, and challenging, event during which pupils raised over £550 for Children in Need. Well done and thank you to everyone who took part.

A huge thank you to all Dalry staff for their support, input and enthusiasm, and for Kells staff and pupils for getting involved too. Also a special thank you to our volunteers who kindly gave their time to support and enhance our HWB week: Kirstie and Blair Templeton

(Nutrition, Gardening and Sports Massage); David Steward (Football Coach); Stewart Gibson (Mountain Rescue); Anne McEwan (Baby Care); Angela Orro (Tesco Community Champion for sponsoring the Play Cafe food); and to staff members - Mrs Banner, Miss Andrew, Mr Carmichael and Mrs Henry - for offering their specialist input across the week.

HWB Week was such a success that pupils are already planning next year's event. "It was brilliant - I learned so much and did lots of really fun things. My favourite activities were definitely art therapy and gymnastics. I can't wait for next year!" Esme P3, Dalry... well, watch this space!

Jenna Devlin



Pupils, teachers and parents at the top of the Mulloch Hill on the fundraising Children in Need Ramble.

Farewell to Stronord Outdoor Centre

We live in a time of constant change, throwing out the old and bringing in the new.

But some changes are harder than others, and it is with great sadness that I report on the passing of Stronord Outdoor Centre, nee Stronord School.

I have many connections with this place; as a former pupil of Minnigaff Primary School, several of my classmates moved from Stronord School, which closed in the 1960s. As a teenager, I would cycle from our farm at Low Blackcraig on warm summer evenings to play volleyball at Stronord with the other youngsters from nearby. I have used the centre as a Cub Leader with Minnigaff Pack.

However, the biggest connection I have with Stronord is as a teacher at Dalry Secondary School. For all of the time I have been here, and many years before, p7 pupils of the Glenkens have gone on a two-day residential stay at Stronord. It has

become a kind of rite-of-passage and, come cloud, sun, wind, midges or rain - or all of them - has always been a huge success. So many pupils have climbed the rock faces and cycled the trails of the Galloway Forest, enjoyed the fun of the playparks and the slopes of Cairnsmore; and at the heart of those trips was Stronord - two dorms, a kitchen and a social area. Not fancy, not bang-up-to-date, noticeably connected with its history as a country school. I know that so many pupils of my school and many others across the region will have happy memories of this place. Mine consist of ridiculous football matches with pupils in the grounds until darkness or midges drove us indoors.

Evenings of entertaining youngsters with card tricks, charades, magic and general nonsense with not a hint of technology in sight. And so it was that Ruben, Olivia, Sandy, Isobel, Reece, Codie, Campbell, Sophie and Izak joined Mrs Acheson and me for our final trip. With perfect weather, we had a fantastic time, provided for by our instructors Mike, Alex and Ed. Self-catering for the first time



Conquering Cairnsmore - 2018 P7 students, the last group of Glenkens students to visit Stronord Outdoor Centre.

ever, as Carol our stalwart cook was not available, we tucked into pizza instead of roast chicken...for the first and last time at Stronord. The food tasted great, but with a bitter taste of sadness for me in knowing that we were the last group that would ever pass through those doors.

RIP Stronord: Cause of death unknown, mourned by many hundreds of your sons and daughters.

Paul Bannister, Teacher of Maths, Physics and many visitors to Stronord

The Best Job in the World

by Paul Goodwin

Well I thought that I had retired back in 2007; aged 54 and recovering from a heart procedure which included three stents.

I cannot remember who delivered the message that "the school needs someone to look after their computers. You know about computers, don't you?" Well, previous jobs including programmer, business/systems analyst and project manager hardly fitted me for the role of fixing PCs and printers; besides I was not looking for a full-time job. Well, it was only part time and less than a three-minute walk from home... it would be rude to refuse - so I gave it a shot. I must have done something right at the interview because I got the job.

Although I ended my formal education at age fifteen and am not a teacher, I have always enjoyed the learning environment and have been an advocate of life-long learning for very many years, often being a trainer and even teaching Accounting for four years in the '70s.

Apart from learning the job, I soon discovered that there was a gap in after school activities, so with the Head Teacher's encouragement I ran the Technology Club for nine years (ably assisted by pupil Emily Biggar in later years). I remain a STEM ambassador (Science,

Technology, Engineering & Maths) and look forward to helping out with Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in the Glenkens schools in the future if it falls within my experience.

I feel honoured to have been permitted to contribute to a number of school activities such as Remembrance assemblies, history projects, Golden Time activities such as stamp collecting or rocks and minerals and just about anything to do with plants or gardening along with taking photographs and videos of school events. I don't suppose that they will miss my awful jokes though.

Perhaps the most amazing thing that happened in my ten and a half years was when they re-introduced the house system for sports in the Secondary school recently. The pupils were asked to suggest and then vote on names for the two houses. They chose Mulloch (for the nearby hill) and Goodwin (after me)! Even though I was awarded the British Empire Medal in the Queen's birthday honours list in 1983, nothing in my life has prepared me for the



Paul Goodwin presenting the Goodwin Trophy to the team captain of the winning Goodwin House at the 2018 sports day.

honour of having a house named after me. I was able to donate a plaque for the house competition, which suits my personal vision where everyone has the opportunity to contribute to the team's success regardless of their abilities.

Now that I have retired, I would like to thank those members of staff (you know who you are) who have encouraged me in developing new skills in creative writing, others who have put up with my ineptitude when it comes to anything artistic or skilful (I can be downright dangerous with a tool in my hands) and who overall have helped to make this the best job I ever had (and just about the worst paid!). Truth be told, I would have done much of this stuff for free and I look forward to contributing to life in the Glenkens schools for some years to come.

Abbas Rest Coffee Morning

29 September, Dalry Town Hall

10am-12noon

Help towards raffle, bottle stall and baking for both stall and teas would be gratefully appreciated.

Please contact Avril Brown on 01644 430 526

From Glenkens to Down Under Correction

In the last issue of the Gazette, it mistakenly stated in the article 'From Glenkens to Down Under' that Overton Cottage would be for sale through Hewats. This is not the case - the cottage will be available through Helen Steele at Williamson & Henry, New Galloway.

Galloway Glens Scheme is Underway

The Galloway Glens Scheme will be supporting more than 35 exciting and varied projects up and down the Ken/Dee valley in the coming five years, all looking to showcase our unique heritage and put the area 'on the map'.

The last two years have been spent planning and developing the scheme and five years of activity has now kicked off, a couple of projects are getting underway immediately and others will be starting soon.

The scheme has six headline aims:

- To better record and understand the Natural and Cultural Heritage of the area

- To support sustainable communities through education and heritage skills training

- To encourage people to visit the area and engage with the heritage

- To improve access to the Natural Heritage of the area
- To increase use and therefore sustainability of the community buildings in the area
- To support the habitats and species of the area and mitigate negative environmental impacts.

A series of launch events were held through July and, with additional staff shortly joining the Galloway Glens Team, levels of activity are increasing. One of the first recipients of funding was the Glenkens Red Squirrel Group. Another Glenkens-based activity also now underway is the LING project to make improvements to Garroch Estate walks & walled garden and the footpaths at New Galloway Golf Club.

McNabb Laurie, Galloway Glens Team Leader, said: "The principle of a 'landscape partnership' scheme is that by undertaking a range of projects in a co-ordinated manner, you end up with real momentum which can lead to landscape-



GALLOWAY GLENS
Landscape Partnership

scale benefits. We have a range of projects that have derived from speaking to people and communities over the last couple of years and are excited to now be able to start getting things underway. Our thanks, as always, go to the Heritage Lottery Fund for their generous award and Dumfries & Galloway Council for their support."

Nick Chisholm, Galloway Glens Project Officer, added: "Please keep an eye on our social media pages and the scheme website for details of what is taking place, and how you can get involved. We are confident the Scheme will be a great boost for the area, both for residents and visitors."

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READING SIGNS OF OUR GAELIC PAST

The first conference on Galloway's Gaelic heritage is being staged in September, bringing together many of the leading experts in the field.

"Galloway: Gaelic's Lost Province" is a one-day event at the CatStrand, New Galloway, which will explore the contribution of Gaelic to the region's heritage. The historical record is scant and there are many questions on how Gaelic came to be spoken in the area and how and when it died out, but the evidence on the ground is abundant. The names of farms and villages as well as natural features on the landscape are a rich legacy though the original Gaelic has often been overlaid and distorted by subsequent generations of Scots and English speakers.

Michael Ansell, one of the conference organisers, has researched this place name heritage and the illustrations above are from his collection. He has identified the probable Gaelic origins of some of the farm names familiar on our roadsides - clockwise, from top left, : Achadh an teine (field of the fire) , Cnocan Liath (grey hillock), An Grianan (the sunny spot), Doire sheilich (willow wood), Carn iarach (lower cairn), Druim rais (shrubby ridge).

Co-organiser, Professor Ted Cowan, who will chair the conference says:



"This is an important event in the study of Galloway's history. For many Scots, and others, Gaelic is associated with the Highlands and Islands while the place of Gaelic in the South West has long been overlooked, although the early Lords of Galloway were Gaelic speakers. We hope that this conference will start to redress the balance and reveal a clearer picture of the part Gaelic culture played in our past.

Among the ten speakers are Dr Aonghas MacCoinnich of Glasgow University and Castle Douglas-based historian Alistair Livingstone. Dr MacCoinnich, who will describe what the historical record tells us about Gaelic culture in Galloway, says: "This is an important conference which will at last bring together the latest research on the extent of Gaelic in south west Scotland. I will be discussing the status of the Gaelic language and

attitudes toward the language in Scotland during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and why this might illuminate the comparative lack of evidence for the south west".

Alistair Livingston will explore how Gaelic gave way to Scots and English. "There was no 'death of Gaelic' moment," he argues. "The languages co-existed for two centuries but when Gaelic faded from use we lost a legacy of legend, poetry and folk history."

The full programme, which can be found at www.catstrand.com is attracting widespread interest and more than two thirds of the places have been taken up. Tickets for the day-long event (£30, students £20, including finger buffet lunch) can be purchased on the website or from 01644 420 374.

The conference is sponsored by Gàidhlig Dumgal and Beltie Books.

The Glenkens Men's Shed

A successful time has been enjoyed by the Glenkens Men Shed at the Shed Fest in Dalbeattie where Tom Plummer's model boat won the best artefact award - well done Tom.

Furthermore, the Shed received nominations at the VOSCARS (volunteer Oscars) ceremony, held at the Learning Campus in Dalbeattie, in the Health, Wellbeing and Sport in the Stewartry section. The sale of

work at the CatStrand Craft Fair helped boost coffers to the tune of just over £100. Well done to everyone who helped out on the day!

The Shed members would like to thank all those people who supported our bid from Bags of Help scheme organised by Tesco. It looks as though we came top in the public voting and as a result hope to be in receipt of a grant to further many of the improvements we have planned for the shed.

Unfortunately it is with great sadness that we have to announce the loss of one of our founder members . Rob

McLaughlin sadly passed away after falling ill at the shed.

Our thoughts are with his wife Ann and his family at this sad time. Rob and his enthusiasm will be sorely missed by all the members.

On a more positive note Stuart Rhodes is fully fit and back at the Shed as well as playing golf. Welcome back Stuart.

Don't forget if you want to be part of this exciting period in the Shed's development new members are very welcome. Please contact Brian or Chris at the Catstrand 420374 or Tom Leach on 420 895.

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

Multicultural Scotland



As the date of our Gaelic Galloway conference at the Catstrand approaches on 9 September, it is perhaps time to stress that Gaelic is not the only language and culture that played a significant part in our history.

Robert Louis Stevenson once observed that it is the mark of the Scot of all classes "that he remembers and cherishes the memory of his forebears, good or bad, and there burns alive in him a sense of identity with the dead even to the twentieth generation".

Three hundred years earlier, George Buchanan asserted that the purpose of writing Scottish History was "to restore us to our own ancestors and our own ancestors to us". Certain names, unmistakably Scottish, can be solemnly intoned in the nation's proud role call of heroes and achievers — such as Stewart, Bruce, Wallace, Lindsay, Hay, Sinclair, Ramsay, Grant, Fraser, Gourlay, Menzies, Boswell, Barclay, MacLeod, Gunn, Lamont, MacLachlan, to name but a few. Yet every single name on this list indicates that the original founder of the family originated somewhere else, that the revered ancestors were not Scottish at all, but rather incomers. In strictly genealogical terms a surprisingly high proportion of us have come from 'away'. Indeed, although historians have perhaps expended a disproportionate amount of ink upon clans and families, one of the main dynamos driving Scottish historiography since medieval times, has been the fortunes of 'New Scots' — those who were, and those who wished to be.

It was a national conceit, as well as a total fabrication, that the Scots had originated in the vicinity of the Black Sea, travelling through the Mediterranean to settle in their land of choice, having driven out the

Britons and destroying the Picts. Resisting attacks by Norwegians, Danes and English they supposedly lived free under 113 kings, "the line unbroken by a single foreigner", until the death of Alexander III in 1286 and the outbreak of the Wars of Independence ten years later. In legend at least, the Scots, the people who gave their name to the country, were themselves incomers.

The earliest inhabitants of Britain recorded in sources that can properly be distinguished as historical were the Britons. Like the Scots at Dunadd they favoured the occupation of naturally defensible outcrops and hills as at Dumbarton, Stirling, Edinburgh, Traprain Law in East Lothian and Trusty's Hill at Gatehouse. These were the people who claimed St Patrick, St Mungo, and King Arthur as their own. They were Welsh-speakers known to their kinsfolk in the south as 'The Men of the North'.

...the Scots... who gave their name to the country, were themselves incomers.

The Angles were a Germanic tribal people forced to migrate to a declining Roman Britain because, due to global warming, rising sea-water was inundating their settlements; some settled in the river valleys of the eastern Borders where they transformed the Brittonic place name Dineden into the more familiar Edwinstown. Surnames begin to be used about 1300.

The Angles had much in common with the Vikings, the dazzling sea-raiders, mostly Norwegian in Scotland's case, who were driven out through pressure of population in the homeland where, quite simply, the people outstripped the resources necessary to maintain them. They settled mainly in Northern Scotland, maintaining a presence in Scottish waters for half a millennium. Their heroic exploits were preserved in poetry and saga, arguably the greatest literary achievements of medieval Europe.

Some of the Vikings found their way from Orkney to Normandy from

where they returned as Normans

(Northmen) in the 11th century when the first of their number in Scotland fought alongside Macbeth as mercenaries at the battle of Dunsinnan. Later clans such as the MacQuarries, the MacKinnons and the MacMillans claimed the ancestry of Macbeth who, in their eyes, represented the last great Gaelic king of Scots, a challenge to the encroachment of centralising authority and a mirror of their own aspirations as supporters of the Lordship of the Isles in the 14th and 15th centuries.

In the 11th century English asylum seekers fled William the Conqueror's brutal conquest and, in particular, his devastation of the north of England.

A chronicler related that farm houses and cottages throughout the south of Scotland were over-run with English refugees, "both men and maidens",

including Princess Margaret, who would become the queen of Malcolm III and whose name would be enshrined in a chapel at Edinburgh Castle and a ferry across the Forth. David I granted lands to vassals from his English

estates acquired through marriage; one such was Robert Bruce who obtained Annandale, and another Walter who became Steward of David's household and received grants in Renfrew and Kyle. They continued to come in successive reigns.

I lived for 15 years in Canada and I consider Scotland cannot yet call itself a multicultural society. It is quite possible for Scots to live and die in our glen without encountering folk from different ethnic, racial or religious backgrounds. However, a beginning has been made. We in the south-west have depressing predictions about declining population and insufficient young to take care of the old. Scotland welcomes immigrants from the world and the rest of the UK, but the message is that those who wish to join us should leave their racist assumptions behind. Since we are all bairns of the World we have no time for them.

Ted Cowan

The Great War: April-July 1918

In general, I have only included in this series of articles those men who are recorded on the four main civic memorials of Balmaclellan, Carsphairn, Dalry and Kells.

However, I feel that I must make an exception in the case of Nathan Henry. Nathan Major Henry was the son of police Sergeant Herbert Henry and his wife Matilda, and lived at St John's Cottage, Dalry. He was born in Girthon (Gatehouse of Fleet) and was working as a gardener at Glenlee Park when he enlisted into the Kings Own Scottish Borderers in August 1917. Nathan was reported missing in action on 11 April 1918 and is buried at Pont-du-Hem Military Cemetery, La Gorgue, France. He was 20 years of age. His name does not appear on any Glenkens civic war memorial or in Gatehouse of Fleet, but he is recorded on the Dalry Town Hall Roll of Honour with a cross against his name denoting that he died. He also appears on the Dalbeattie school memorial and the Dalbeattie Town memorial.

David McMillan was born in Carsphairn where his parents (Robert and Mary) were married. We know that in 1901 he was living in Cleurie, Carsphairn, but his parents later moved to Twomerkland Farm, Moniaive. David was working as a ploughman when he enlisted into the Cameron Highlanders in December 1915. He was declared missing in action on 18 April 1918 at the age of 31. He is listed on the

Carsphairn and Glencairn (Moniaive) war memorials.

James Hewitson was a steam engine road-roller driver when he enlisted in May 1915 in the Motor Transport section of the Army Service Corps. He was transferred to an Infantry Training Battalion in February 1917 and posted to the Loyal North Lancashire Regiment in France. He was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in 1917. James was born in Dalry, the son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Thomson) Hewitson of Darsalloch, Kells. David married Euphemia Middleton in 1916 in Kilmaronock and his widow later moved to Barre, Vermont, USA. James was reported missing in action on 25 April 1918 at the age of 30. He is listed on the Kells parish war memorial.

Matthew Maxwell Stewart (pictured) was born in New Galloway, the son of James and Janet (Smith) Stewart of Meadow View, New Galloway. He enlisted in February 1916 into the Kings Own Scottish Borderers and before that he worked in his father's carting business. At some time, he was transferred to the Army Service Corps and then later to the Kings Own Royal Lancashire Regiment. Matthew was reported missing in action on 26 April 1918 at the age of 24 and is named on the Kells parish war memorial. Matthew's brother William had died of his wounds in May 1915 and had been the first man from New Galloway to volunteer.

George Hunter Buck was born in Carsphairn, the only son of William and Isabella (Hunter) Buck of Woodpark, Balmaclellan. Before the war he had been a gardener at Troquhain Gardens. George enlisted into the Cameronians in November 1915 and served at the Somme,



Matthew Stewart

Arras and Ypres, rising to the rank of Lance Corporal. He was wounded three times and was awarded the Military Medal. George died of wounds in the second Australian Casualty Clearing Station near St Omer on 22 July 1918 at the age of 24, and is buried in Longuenesse (St Omer) Souvenir Cemetery, France. George Buck is unique in being the only man to appear on two of the Glenkens war memorials, those in Balmaclellan and Carsphairn.

Few photographs survive of those who died, and of those that do, many are poor, low-quality images from newspapers. For example, I have a photograph of George Buck but it is so poor that perhaps only his mother could recognise him.

If you have any images that I have not included (or better ones) then I would welcome them to make sure that those who died are remembered the best that we can - memorials@paulgoodwin.me.uk

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VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Crockett's Glimpses Of The Glenkens

This, the fourth in the Glimpses series, focuses on The Duchrae.

THE DUCHRAE

"The farm I know best is also the loveliest for situation. It lies nestled in green holm crofts."

Crockett was born at Little Duchrae in 1859, and loved it all his life. He writes about it extensively in many of his novels and stories. It features in Covenanted stories and throughout history right up to his contemporary day. Over this time he fictionalises it as Black Dornal and Drumquhat. The stories give us a good insight into Crockett's early life and the Glenkens as it was in the mid-19th century.

From his earliest personal memory he recalls: 'It was a warm harvest day—early September, most likely—all the family out at the oats, following the slow sweep of the scythe or the crisper crop of the reaping-hook. Silence in the little kitchen of the Duchrae! Only my grandmother padding softly about in her list slippers (or hoshens),

baking farles of cake on the 'girdle,' the round plate of iron described by Froissart. The door and windows were open, and without there spread that silence in comparison with which the hush of a kirkyard is almost company—the silence of a Scottish farmyard in the first burst of harvest.'

Beyond the gates of home we find Crae Hill where many of Crockett's characters came to life: 'Chiefly, however, I love the Crae Hill because from there you get the best view of the Duchrae.'

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

We also get a glimpse of the Crae Stepping Stones: 'at Dan's Ford, is the most practical and delightful set of stepping-stones in the world, just tall enough for one to slip off and splash unexpectedly into the coolness of the water.'

Crockett describes it in more detail: 'There are just ten stepping-stones big and little. You wade chin deep in the creamy spray of meadow sweet to get to them. Gowans tickle your chin as you turn up your trousers.

The trout spurt this way and that as your shadow falls on the water. With what a pleasant sound the wavelets ripple about your legs as you mount Auld Cairnsmore, the big granite boulder in the middle. On rushes the Crae water with a little silvery water-break and a smooth glide over a stone which it has worn away till its head is beneath the surface. Then with three strides and half a jump you are on the pine-needles, and the resinous smell of the firs stings your nostrils. Verily it is good to be young and to taste these things. They are good to taste even if one is old.'

Of the range of stories to be found, my favourites are the 19th century Drumquhat tales. They show us the lives of the rural working class, not rose tinted, but with a definite rustic charm. They allow us to glimpse back at times long gone. The Duchrae features in stories in many of Crockett's Galloway stories including *The Men of the Moss Hags*, *Kit Kennedy*, *Love Idylls*, *Lads' Love*, *A Galloway Herd* and others.

Cally Phillips

For further information and insight into Crockett's Galloway writing visit

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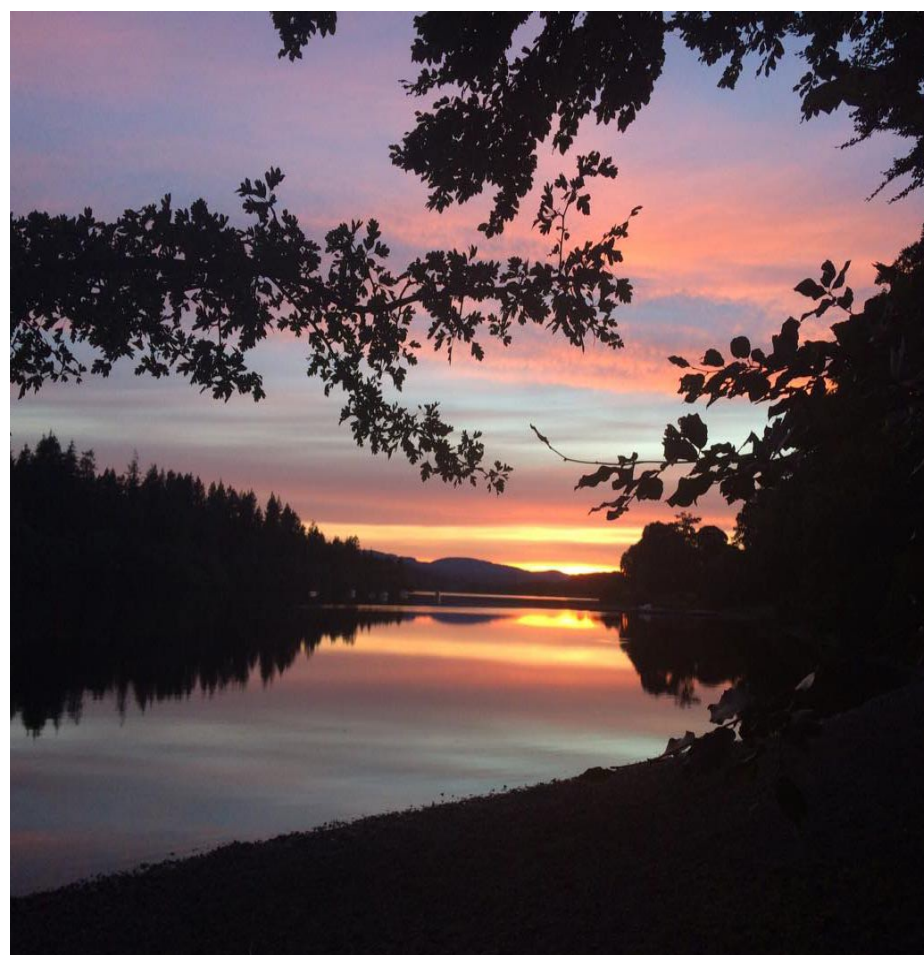


Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel

This issue's winner is Georgina Smith with a gorgeous Glenkens sunset titled *The Heart of Dumfries & Galloway*.

Georgina wins a meal for two at the Ken Bridge Hotel's Sunday carvery. Competition judges Dave and Sue said: *"The photograph is just gorgeous, and captures perfectly the beauty of a summer evening in the Glenkens."*

How to Enter: any photos taken in the Glenkens can be entered - landscapes, wildlife, portraits, action shots... Email them to glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk



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COMMERCIAL CLIENT

Stagecoach, Ayr

'Ross advised me on the best type of heating source for our needs, which are quite unique – a busy bus station. The installation, a new high efficiency gas boiler, was tailored to suit our needs, and carried out within the given time frame. It had to be done in stages due to our work needs, and this all went as planned.'



DOMESTIC CLIENT

John Dobson, Newton Stewart

'RJ McCulloch fitted a new air source heat pump in our home, swapping from an LPG boiler and using our existing underfloor heating system. The team were very clean workers, removing all the old bits without being asked, and they had all the right tools to hand. More to the point, when Ross came across problems in blending in the new system with the elements already there he was very helpful in finding economic solutions quickly. My background is engineering so I was pleasantly surprised that he really knew what he was doing'



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M SCHOFIELD DESIGN

Walled Garden Requires Friends

Many local people will be familiar with Garroch Walled Garden, set within the Garroch Estate near Glenlee, Dalry.

Work on the walled garden as part a community gardening project is part of the bigger 'Exploring New Galloway' project facilitated by Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING), which has received funding of £21,000 over a period of 5 years from the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP), with a further private donation of £2,000 also having been received.

The GGLP funding can only be drawn down if there is match funding but this can be in kind, and can take account of volunteer time. So, the more volunteer hours put into the garden, the more money can be released from the funding. The project includes work at Garroch Estate, as well as at New Galloway golf course woods to improve, map and signpost footpaths.

A fun morning was had at the walled garden when we had our first community gardening working group meet. A combination of basic tasks such as cleaning the bothy, weeding plants and bushes from the walls and strimming long grass in the car park were tackled.

Volunteer Mick was disappointed that his strimmer was broken, and vowed to buy another as soon as possible, but he used the hand-trimmers to tidy round the bothy.

Meanwhile, placement student Lizzie did some 'bracken bashing' which apparently gets rid of bracken, an invasive species, more effectively than cutting it. The task also happens to be quite therapeutic.

Pigs have now been released in a section of the garden, guarded by electric fencing, to root out and fertilise an area for vegetable patches. This could take several

months; certainly in the time we were there working the pigs spent most of their time lazing around, keeping out of the heat in the shade of their shelter.

The enthusiastic group of local volunteers interested in providing some TLC to the Walled Garden on the Garroch Estate has evolved following the public meeting at New Galloway Town Hall on 21 June. Details and plans of how the Walled Garden should be looked after are being discussed. If you would like to be part of this please contact us.

The footpaths group had already been set up by Gerry Cinderby, who is involved with both the footpaths and the garden. He highlighted the economic benefits the projects could bring to the area by attracting tourists and long-distance walkers, and said: "We have a grant for materials, and landowner support, but need your help to make it happen – why not join us and have some fun in the process!"

The broad remit of GGLP is to connect communities to their natural and cultural heritage.

Having always welcomed visitors walking within the Estate, land-owner Nick Roper-Caldbeck is

fully supportive of the garden being adopted as a 'community garden', and he is keen to see it used for food production again.

He remembers a time when three full-time gardeners were employed to tend it, and the produce was sent to be sold in Covent Garden via New Galloway Station at Mossdale.

The walls of the garden have been standing for

approximately 100 years; the plans weren't put down for building them until 1912.

We are interested in finding out anything we can about its history. Do you have any memories, pictures, anecdotes, or documents relating to the Garroch walled garden which you would be willing to share?

Contact has been made with various local horticulturalists and gardeners who are willing to offer advice and help with planning the garden. But we always need more hands on deck so please get in touch if you would like to get involved. Working groups currently meet at:

Restoring Footpaths; golf course on Saturdays 10am-1pm and Gardening at Garroch; walled garden or New Galloway Town Hall on Sundays 2.30-4.30pm, or Wednesdays 10am-1pm (phone or email to check).

To get involved with either project, or if you have any redundant garden tools you would like to donate, please contact Ros Hill on 420 632 or ros.hill@rathanhouse.me.uk

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Weeding the wall at the Garroch Estate walled garden.

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

JULY

Sun 29, Bring a Picnic, Garroch Walled Garden, 2.30-5pm. All welcome. Contact Ros 01644 420632 for directions or lifts.

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

AUGUST

Sat 4, The Hot Seats, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 5, GTI Bus Trip: The Grand Estate Gardens, Penrith. See p6

Sun 5, Scottish Alternative Games, see ad below

Fri 10, Glenkens ELC AGM, 11am, Glenkens Community Centre, see p7

Fri 10, Enigma Sessions with Frozen Shores + Mother Night, 8pm, Sulwath Breweries, Castle Douglas

Thu 16, Let's Motivate training course, open to all, 1.30pm, Cat-

Strand, see p3

Fri 17, Song Sharing Sessions, 8-11pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 18, Movie In The Park: The Perks of Being a Wallflower, 9.30pm, New Galloway Park

Wed 22, FILM: Darkest Hour, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Tue 28, EoS: The Impressionists, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 31, CatStrand Volunteers BBQ, see p3

Fri 31, Tricky Hat presents The Flames, 7.30pm, CatStrand

SEPTEMBER

Wed 5, FILM: Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Fri 7, Mary Ann Kennedy, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 8, Rhinns o' Kells Challenge Cup, meet at The Thistle, Dalmellington Square, for registration, 8am, see p14

Sat 8, Galloway Gaelic Conference: Gaelic's Lost Province, CatStrand

Fri 14, Amanda Anne Platt & the Honeycutters, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 16, GTI Bus Trip: The Lakeland Garden, Garlieston. See p6

Wed 19, FILM: Arcadia, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Tue 25, FILM: EoS: Vermeer, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Wed 26, Dougie Campbell Councillor Surgeries, 2-3pm, CatStrand; 3.30-4.30pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p12

Fri 28, Brian Molloy Quartet, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 29, Abbas Rest Coffee Morning, 10am-12noon, Dalry Town Hall, see p18

OCTOBER

Sun 6, GTI Bus Trip: The Botanic Garden, Edinburgh. See p6



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

Clatteringshaws Visitor Centre

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Archery - Snail Racing - The Alternative Run
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SUNDAY 5th AUGUST
2pm

THE PARK, NEW GALLOWAY
Admission £4 Adult/£1 Child

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Profits support local charities and good causes.

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 Elevenses & Lunches, Tues, 11am-2pm

Indoor Sports, Tues, 7-9pm

Saturday Circuits, 5.30-6.30pm

Zumba, Wed, 7.30-8.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall, 11+

Saturday Circuits, 8-9am

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

Balmaclellan Village Hall, Kettlebell Plus, Thurs, 7.30-8.30pm, starts 6 Sept

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

Golf Junior Coaching, Sat, 10-11:30am, New Galloway Golf Course, see p8

Restoring Footpaths, Sat 10am-1pm, phone 420 632 to confirm

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

Gardening at Garroch, Sun 2.30-4.30pm or Wed 10am-1pm, phone 420 632 to confirm



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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

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- 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.

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

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.

CHURCH TIMES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND: Sunday Services: Balmaclellan 9.45am: 1st. Balmaclellan 10.30am: 5th. Carsphairn 11.15am: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th. Dalry 9.45am: 2nd, 4th. Kells 9.45am: 3rd.
Special Services/Events: Hew Clark-Kennedy VC Commemoration Service 27 Aug, 12noon, Carsphairn war memorial. United Family Service, Kells Church, 9 Sept, 10.30am followed by

bbq at Kells House. United Service with Choir, Balmaclellan Church, 30 Sept, 10.30am **Communion Services**: 2 Sept, 9.45am, Balmaclellan 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

SUPPORT POSTIE'S FUNDRAISING RUN

On Sunday 30 September, local postman Ian Oliver will be taking part in the Great Scottish Run, a 13.1 mile half marathon through Glasgow.

Having previously raised money for Macmillan, RNIB, MIND, Paul O'Gorman Leukemia Research, Make a Wish Foundation and Together for Short Lives, this time Ian is raising money for the Beatson Cancer Charity based at the Gartnavel Hospital in Glasgow.

Ian says: "As many of you know my wife Fiona was diagnosed with two forms of leukaemia at Easter, and has been a resident of the Beatson since then, undergoing chemotherapy in preparation for a bone marrow transplant sometime

towards the end of July. Unfortunately many residents of the Glenkens have had firsthand experience, either as a patient or as a visitor, of the Beatson. The care and understanding they provide not only to all those battling various types of cancer, but also to friends and family of those there for treatment, is not only amazing but also very welcome.

"The aim of the run is to help continue the provision of this extra care and support for the families affected. I will be putting out sponsor/donation forms and change boxes in local shops, and there will be a Just Giving page online - anything you can spare will be gratefully received.

"I would also like to take this opportunity to urge everyone to consider not only giving blood, but also to be a bone marrow donor. If you are under 30, Anthony Nolan provide a register, and for those



Ian Oliver next to his post van.

over 30 DKMS provide a similar service. All relevant information can be found online - by donating either, you would potentially be saving someone's life."

If you would like to donate, visit www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Ian-Oliver5

Bright Stars Glenkens Community Nursery St John's Town of Dalry

Morning - 9am to 12pm, **Afternoon** - 12pm to 3pm or **Full Day** - 9am to 3pm
Term-time only

We also offer a **pick-up** service from Dalry School Nursery at 11:55am
Lunch option available, please ask for details

Early learning and childcare for private and funded places for children aged 2 to 5 years of age.

Third Sector D&G 2018 Community Group - Stewartry Winner

Glenkens Community Centre (Opposite Dalry Primary School)

Call 07511 549 413

Email glenkenscommunitynursery@gmail.com

Facebook @BrightStarsGlenkens

Many Thanks to our supporters!

Glenkens Community Arts Trust (GCAT), Big Lottery Fund, Natural Power, Cash for Kids, and Glenkens Community Shop. Partner provider with Dumfries & Galloway Council

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