

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

October/November 2018

ISSUE 108

FREE

Future Secured for Glenkens Charity Shop

The Glenkens Charity Shop can breathe a sigh of relief as its future is now secure due to the purchase of the property by the Pamela Young Trust.

During the six years the Glenkens Charity Shop has been running, it has become a vital part of the community in many ways.

The shop offers grants to people and organisations within the

community, as well as a place to volunteer your time, get to know your neighbours, and a space to pop into and have a chat.

Charity shop founder and manager, Shirley McNaught, said:

"To date we have managed to put over £45,200 back into the community, and we honestly would never have done it



Left to right: volunteer Ann, manager Shirley, volunteer Betty and Pat, a valued customer.

without the support of everyone in the Glenkens."

Continued on p23...

BALMACLELLAN OLD SMIDDY PROJECT GETS GREEN LIGHT

Glenkens Community and Arts Trust Ltd (GCAT) are delighted to announce that their project for development of The Old Smiddy in Balmaclellan is now fully funded.

Works commenced in late September, and are anticipated to be complete with the building ready for opening next summer.

This project has only been possible through the generous support of the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme, LEADER and private individuals. It is anticipated that the project will build on the success of the existing Balmaclellan Men's Shed which operates to the rear of the site.

The intention is to create a cultural and heritage centre which

will be a major asset not only to the Glenkens but to the wider Dumfries and Galloway area. As well as the core community and heritage slants the aim is to create

a true multi-use building which can adapt to the needs of regular users as well as attracting new visitors to the area. There will be a gallery space which will permanently house a changing display of paintings by the highly acclaimed ornithological artist Donald Watson who lived in St John's Town of Dalry.

GCAT's main asset, the CatStrand in New Galloway, has become a victim of its own success and is regularly bursting at the seams.

The Old Smiddy will be able to relieve this pressure both via additional office accommodation and space for activities and events.

Continued on p11...



CatStrand Hosts First Ever Galloway Gaelic Conference - See Story on p23...

Pictured: left to right - Prof Roibeard O Maolalaigh, Prof Ted Cowan, Ronnie Black, Alistair Livingston, Dr Aonghas Maccoinnich, Prof Richard Oram, Prof Thomas Clancy, Dr Fiona Edmands and Michael Ansell.

ONE HUNDRED YEARS IN DALRY EXHIBITION WEEKEND

Dalry Heritage Group's *One Hundred Years in St John's Town of Dalry* exhibition will run from Friday 5 to Sunday 7 October in Dalry Town Hall.

Our exhibition this year envelops change, continuation and celebration within our village. The dates encompass the end of World War I, examining the effects the war had in the local community.

Other aspects of the village are also explored. Photographs, articles and exhibits, including a costume display, help to tell the story of the last hundred years in Dalry.

All events take place in the Town

Hall, opening with a concert on Friday 5 October at 7.30pm. The following day the exhibition is open from 2-6pm, and on Sunday

from 2-5pm. All are welcome, and entry is free except for the concert on Friday evening which is £3.

Annie Hill, Dalry Heritage Group



Dalry around 100 years ago © Dalry Heritage Group

New Galloway Community Shop Returns to 'New' Premises

New Galloway's community shop has now moved back into its refurbished premises on the High Street.

Shop manager, Lynsey Hogg, said: "Well, here we are, just over a year after taking over the shop in New Galloway. The shop temporarily existed for seven months in the original premises and then for five months in Kitty's Tearoom before returning to our 'new' shop in August after refurbishment."

After consulting with customers and the community, the initial priority was to build up the stock of the shop to offer a wide range of everyday products, including low cost essentials. Lynsey feels that, judging by an increase in turnover and many favourable

comments, the shop has succeeded in these aims.

Lynsey goes on to say: "The magnificently refurbished shop with improved product displays now allows us to expand our butchery and bakery selection, and also to work with new local suppliers."

During this initial period the management structure has been

the NGCE Board, representing 260 shareholders and providing overall direction, project manager Helen Keron overseeing and implementing developments, and Lynsey as full-time shop manager along with four part-time shop assistants running the shop.

Sam Rushton, NGCE's community engagement worker, has now moved into her office

at the shop where she offers community and wellbeing support to local residents. The next step is to complete the fitting out of the adjoining house, which will operate as two self-catering holiday properties.

If you haven't had a look at the new shop yet, why not call in and have a browse. Lynsey and the rest of the New Galloway Community Shop staff would like to thank the shop's regular customers for their ongoing support.



New Galloway's newly refurbished community shop.

SHOP LOCAL IN THE GLENKENS

Here in the Glenkens we're incredibly lucky to have so many wonderful local amenities.

We have a library, fire station, farmer's market, fuel station/garage with sandwich bar, two Post Offices, three village shops and a fourth with a cafe/bistro, a charity shop, a cafe, a fresh fish & veg van, five hotels offering food and some of whom are award-winning, a whole host of self-catering accommodation of which a number are also award-winning, an arts and community venue hosting world-class events and activities, an international music festival, numerous craft fairs throughout the year...in fact, the more I think about it, the more things spring to mind, so I'll just stop there. We have a huge amount on offer, and a wonderful sense of community which is often noted by visitors and newcomers to the area.

However, the real reason for

writing this article is that the thought crossed my mind recently, when someone I was talking to was bemoaning the cost of a pint of milk in the local shop, that we won't continue to have the amazing diversity of shops and venues, activities and events in the Glenkens if people don't use them. Things may be a little more expensive sometimes locally - not always, I hasten to add - but it seems it's worth paying a little extra for the convenience of having the availability close to home, both now and into the future.

The cost of transport alone to travel anywhere else to buy things means that, economically, it is probably still a sensible choice. But even if it's a little dearer, I am happy to pay a bit extra to support our local businesses. And of



course, supporting local business supports our community, making us all healthier and happier.

How about you? With Christmas fast approaching, it's a great time to think local, shop local and support our local Glenkens businesses...

The Editor

CatStrand

Christmas Shopping Day

**SAT 24th NOV
11am-4pm**

Find that perfect gift in our shop or check out the many stalls selling crafts and festive fare. Mulled Wine and Mince Pies.

If you wish to have a stall at our Shopping Day please contact Wendy Leach on 01644420374 or info@catstrand.com

Glenkens Farmers Market

2nd Saturday Monthly
13th October
10th November
10am-12.30pm

For further information or to book a stall ring 01644 430 454 or visit www.dalrytownhall.co.uk

Entrance by donation - proceeds towards Dalry Town Hall Refurbishment Fund
 North of Castle Douglas, A713 Ayr Road

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

Encyclopedia of Gardening, 22 Volumes, good condition. Contact: 01644 430 539.
3 x Edimax wifi range extenders, 2 x TP link and 2 x Nanostation line of sight transmitters. All working when removed. Contact: 07769 680 938.

Galloway Cattle Society Herd Books 1954 to 1970 inclusive. Contact: 07769 680 938.
Upright piano in good working order. Steel frame. All notes & pedals work but would benefit from re-tuning after moving & re-varnishing

the front. It will take several people to lift it into a van or similar. From smoke and pet free home. Collection from Mochrum near Knockvennie. Contact: 01644 440 683 or trevprocter@aol.co.uk

HOW GLENKENS BUSINESSES CAN BENEFIT FROM THE BIOSPHERE

The Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Tourism, Fiona Hyslop, officially launched the new Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere Certification Mark.

The certification will be awarded to businesses that can demonstrate high standards in delivering environmental and sustainable development benefits.

Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere has been recognised internationally as a world class environment for people and nature. The Biosphere offers a fantastic array of landscapes, wildlife, cultural heritage and learning opportunities for communities,

businesses and visitors.

The launch of the certification mark was an opportunity to highlight the global value of the UNESCO designations and the potential of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere to support sustainability, economic development and tourism in South West Scotland.

Fiona Hyslop said: "This certification award...is a significant development which aligns with our priority to further promote the south of Scotland and Ayrshire as a tourism destination."

Dr Beth Taylor, Chair of the UK National Commission for UNESCO, said: "UNESCO's Biosphere Reserves are the world's only globally recognised designation for demonstrating excellence in sustainable development. Biospheres bring value to their communities by leveraging the powerful UNESCO brand and



collaborating with the global UNESCO network."

Over recent months a successful pilot scheme has taken place with local businesses from the accommodation, food & drink and outdoor activity sectors taking part.

To find out more about the new certification mark and how it could benefit your local business visit www.gsabiosphere.org.uk or email marie@gsabiosphere.org.uk

ALISTER JACK MP VISITS CATSTRAND

Alister Jack, recently elected MP for Dumfries & Galloway, visited CatStrand along with his wife Ann.

They met with GCAT Board Chairman Alan Smith, General Manager Brian Edgar and CatStrand staff.

Although Alister was already aware of many of the projects and activities based at CatStrand, he was keen to hear more about them and also about

plans for the future.

Earlier in the day he had visited the Men's Shed at Balmaclellan and had also been shown the plans for the development of the Old Smiddy building.



Left to right: Alan Smith, Ann Jack, Alister Jack, Brian Edgar.

Eco Feature

sponsored by



STUDY PUBLISHED ON LOCH KEN FISH POPULATION

During 2016 and 2017, the Galloway Fisheries Trust (GFT) undertook a study of the fish, fisheries and anglers of Loch Ken.

The study's aims were to assess the fish populations in the Loch and the extent to which angling around the loch assists the local economy, as well as seeking to better understand the impact of the North American signal crayfish on the fish populations and identify recommendations for the future management of the coarse fishery.

The study was commissioned by the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme (GGLP) as part of the Partnership's development phase and was managed and funded by Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and GGLP.

The key finds of the study were:

- Loch Ken continues to be a popular fishery particularly for visiting anglers from outwith Dumfries & Galloway, with most anglers stating they are 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with their angling experience on the loch. The loch provides good overall catches during much of the year. Many match anglers feel that if more suitable fishing sites were available, then more matches would be held.

- The presence of signal crayfish is felt to negatively impact on the angling, particularly through interference with baits. At present, however, it appears that the coarse fish population in Loch Ken can support the fishery in spite of this presence.

- The main fish species being targeted by anglers on the loch are bream, roach, pike, perch and to a lesser extent dace and ruffe. Consideration of the overall health of these fish populations, including growth rates, suggested all were

healthy.

- The population of large perch in Loch Ken is felt by anglers to have increased in recent years due to these fish feeding on juvenile crayfish.

Examination of perch growth rates did find a large increase in growth rates in perch over four years old.

- Some degree of biosecurity is undertaken by over half of anglers on the loch to help reduce the risk of transfer of invasive non-native species (signal crayfish).

Information and data was collected via stake holder events, the distribution of an angler questionnaire, interviews with anglers fishing (creel surveys), seine netting and through angling matches.

A number of recommendations are provided regarding understanding the fish populations



Loch Ken angler with his catch.

Management Group, production of a five-year fishery management plan, improved enforcement).

Nick Chisholm, GGLP project officer who will be leading on activities around the loch in coming years, said: "Loch Ken is one of coarse angling's best kept secrets. ... The presence of crayfish is not ideal, but this report illustrates a healthy and self-sustaining fishery. On the mainland of the British Isles there are very few wild stillwater fisheries of this magnitude; an angler could spend weeks exploring by bank and boat and find something new on every visit. There are some key

recommendations on this report that need to be taken forward so that Loch Ken can re-establish its rightful place as the UK's best large wild stillwater."

Jamie Ribbens, Senior Fisheries Biologist from Galloway Fisheries Trust

who undertook the report, said: "This was an interesting piece of work to be involved in delivering and it was encouraging to see how healthy the coarse fish population of Loch Ken is. GFT would like to thank the many anglers and angling clubs who assisted us during this study. There are many opportunities to develop this fishery further for the benefit of the local community and anglers from around the UK and we look forward to working further with GGLP in the future."

The presence of crayfish is not ideal, but this report illustrates a healthy and self-sustaining fishery.

in the loch and the future development of Loch Ken as an important coarse fishery. These include:

- a) better promotion/increased accessibility (improving access at angling areas, creation of new fishing pegs for angling matches)

- b) future monitoring of fish populations (collection of data from matches, seine netting, creel surveys)

- c) management of the fishery (improved governance through formation of Loch Ken Fisheries

Glenkens Transport Initiative

www.glenkenstransport.org

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



OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2018

REGULAR SERVICES

NEW Tuesdays

Glenkens – Newton Stewart - Shopping

Outward Pickups
Dalry (Underhill) 1000;
New Galloway (Town Hall) 1010, (CatStrand) 1012
Return Pickups
Newton Stewart (Aldi Car Park) 1200
Return Fare £3.00. Booking required.

Wednesday Evenings

Glenkens - Castle Douglas (Tesco)

(Registered Route)

Out		Return
1900	Dalry (Underhill)	2115
1905	New Galloway (CatStrand)	2110
1915	Mossdale	2100
1925	Lauriston	2050
1930	Townhead of Greenlaw	2047
1937	Castle Douglas (Market Street)	2037
1940	Castle Douglas (Tesco)	2035

Booking not required

Thursdays

Glenkens - Castle Douglas Day Centre

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.

NEW Fridays

Glenkens - Kirkcudbright Swimming Pool

Outward Pickups

Dalry (Underhill) 0930;

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

Return Pickups

Kirkcudbright Swimming Pool 1115

Return Fare £3.00. Booking required.

MONTHLY

Glenkens - Ayr - 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

8, 15 and 16 seat minibuses for hire
information and bookings
email gti@catstrand.com
or call 01644 420374

EXCURSIONS

October 6 Saturday

The Botanic Garden (Gardens of Excellence)

Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

One of the finest botanic gardens in the world with Britain's tallest palm house. Impressive range of plants. Glasshouses take the visitor on a tour of 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.

October 27, Saturday

Creative Crafts Show & Crafts for Christmas SECC Glasgow

<http://www.stitchandhobby.co.uk/glasgow/spring/>

A haven for knitting, cross stitch, paper crafting, jewellery, dressmaking and stitching enthusiasts, offering all the very latest supplies, ideas and innovations in the hobby world plus opportunities to glean advice from industry experts.

Pickups: Kirkcudbright (Harbour Square Bus Stop) 0800, Castle Douglas (British Legion Market Hill) 0825, New Galloway (CatStrand (0900), Dalry (Bank Bus Stop) 0910.
Fare £8. Concessions £7.

December 1, Saturday

Gretna Gateway & Carlisle - Christmas Shopping

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940; Crossmichael (Shop) 0950, Castle Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill) 1000. Fare £7. Concessions £6.

December 15, Saturday

Hetland Garden Centre and Moffat

Christmas Lights and Shopping

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930; New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940; Crossmichael (Shop) 0950, Castle Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill) 1000. Fare £7. Concessions £6.

Seats must be booked in advance online at

www.catstrand.com or by phone 01644 420374



DRIVERS WANTED

GTI requires volunteer and paid drivers.

MIDAS training provided.

Interested? – Please phone or email.

THE GARDEN SPOT

New to the Glenkens, or new to gardening? Then step forward...

All of us gardeners have our own way of doing things. However, there may be gardeners out there who are incomers to the Glenkens or others who are taking up gardening for the first time and you might welcome a few tips relating to local growing conditions. TV programmes like Gardeners World and Beechgrove Garden (also Gardeners Question Time on Radio 4) are all very well, but local knowledge always helps. Look around to see what grows well in other people's gardens.

Generally, the soil in the Glenkens is acid and very free draining, but adding well-rotted garden compost, horse manure or farmyard manure will always put life and body into the soil. Being acid, you must add garden lime if you are growing plants that need alkali conditions – such as brassicas (cabbage, sprouts, etc).



On the other hand, you will find that acid lovers such as rhododendrons, azaleas, Himalayan (blue) poppies and even blueberries can be grown more easily than in other areas.

The mild(ish) wet winters and free-draining soil mean you can get away with things that wouldn't work elsewhere; for example, I will be leaving my dahlia tubers in the ground and not lifting them – but I will probably put a double handful of old compost around the top of each plant in November for added protection.

Well, the sun is out, so I am off to plant my garlic bulbs for next year...



GALLOWAY GLENS Landscape Partnership

From the Desk of the Galloway Glens Scheme

This regular column will give a snapshot, aside from the headline project stories, of what we are learning about our heritage and the day-to-day life of working on a scheme like this.

This issue's column, to kick things off, features McNabb Laurie, Team Leader:

I have been involved in the scheme since April 2016. The development phase culminated in the submission of the stage 2 application to the Heritage Lottery Fund. I thought I knew the Ken/Dee valley beforehand, but it has been fascinating to really get under the skin of the area over the last couple of years.



Now that the scheme is in its five year 'delivery' phase, we are able to start spending money on a number of projects. The biggest positive step of the last couple of months has undoubtedly been the recruitment of other members of the Galloway Glens team - to assist in delivery but also to share the experience with. Recruiting in D&G is different to my experience down South, but we were fortunate to have competitive processes with some really good candidates. It is horrible not to be able to employ all of the good people we met but it has been great to have Nick Chisholm join us as Project Officer. At the same time we were delighted to welcome Jude Crooks onto the team as Administrator. Jude, a Laurieston resident, is well able to keep the team in order. We will be joined by two new staff members shortly.

We have been lucky to have such a range of supporters. Dumfries & Galloway Council's Environment Team saw the potential for the scheme back in 2015. Our Board and Working Groups have been a great asset, providing advice, counsel and strategic direction.

Foremost amongst this support, we were so very lucky to have the chairmanship of Sir Alex Fergusson who guided us through the challenges of the development phase. I am in no position to add the clamour of goodwill and wishes from the great and the good over the last couple of months but on a personal level I am proud to have known him and very thankful for his guidance.

I have talked about this scheme pretty solidly for the last couple of years (apologies to anyone seated next to me at social events) but the employment of staff and now expenditure on projects has started to make the potential of the scheme seem real. We aim to explore and better understand the heritage of the area, giving a genuine boost to the local economy as a result.

Please sign up for our newsletter and follow us on facebook and twitter. If you think there is an opportunity to shout about our heritage, please let us know. www.gallowayglens.org



Meet the Stewartry Birdwatchers

Interested in birds and other branches of natural history?

If 'yes', why not come along to the Stewartry birdwatchers indoor meetings which have been held in Kells School, New Galloway, since 1976. Each year we have eight talks from September to April which we hope will appeal to all those who enjoy the countryside.

This session started off in September with a very interesting talk by our chairman, Jeremy Brock, on a six-week overland journey he and his wife made through Northern Turkey to Georgia in 2015 entitled *Overland to the Caucasus for Birds*. He gave a portrait of the relatively unknown country of Georgia and its birds, including mention of some of its flora and history.

Our next talk on 11 October is *Forty Years on the Farne Islands* by Graham Wren, who has spent several summers over many years on these islands studying the breeding birds and also monitoring the grey seals. He will compare the breeding bird populations of the 1970s with

the quadrupled breeding seabird population of the present day which has resulted in problems of severely reduced vegetation. Now there is a threat to the already fragile puffin nesting habitats from the expanding population of grey seals.

We welcome Hayley Anne Douglas on 15 November with a talk titled *Tag-n-Track: Lesser Black-backed Gulls* for a look at these birds as you have never seen them before. Not everybody's favourite bird in seaside towns but through satellite tracking we can follow their daily lives and show there is more to this species than stealing chips.

Our final talk before Christmas on 13 December is by Ian Bainbridge on *The Shorebirds of the Solway*. With such a long coastline in the south of this region this talk should be of special interest. Ian will explain the identification, distribution, abundance, migration and other wonders of these wading birds and also answer the intriguing question 'which wader nests in two different countries in the same year?'

Officially we are called the Stewartry Branch of the Scottish Ornithologists' Club (SOC). All are welcome - although we have the word 'ornithologist' in our title we are not a scientific body with



Lesser black-backed gull.

dry-as-dust speakers; rather should the emphasis be on the word CLUB with friendly and informal meetings. Throughout the year, the more active members also go on excursions to interesting locations on the coast as well as inland...weather permitting of course.

If birds and all aspects of the countryside interest you please come along to our meetings - and bring your friends along too! Non-members are always welcome.

Contacts: chairman - Jeremy Brock on 01557 815 098, vice-chairman - Peter Swan on 01556 502 144, secretary - Joan Howie on 01644 420 280.

Joan Howie



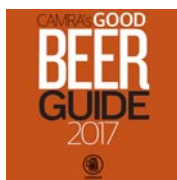
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CatStrand Highlights

New Era Beckons for CatStrand

JM Barrie, the enigmatic author of *Peter Pan*, is often credited with the saying "Nothing is really work unless you would rather be doing something else."

As I look back on my five wonderful years at CatStrand – two as youth arts officer and three as creative director – I can only agree. For much of my time here, it never felt like 'work' – I simply loved both roles. When I took on the youth arts role in 2013, originally to cover a six-month sabbatical from marine archaeology, I had no idea that I would go on to become creative director. Evidently CatStrand gets into your veins! The subsequent years have seen many highs, from the young film makers scooping a prestigious award at the Edinburgh Film Festival up to CatStrand's 10th Anniversary Festival. There have been lows too, and a 10th birthday certainly looked in doubt after the flood of 2015 closed the venue for nine months. However, even when morale was at its lowest I never thought for a minute that we'd actually close down. Why? Quite simply because the people of the Glenkens wouldn't let it. CatStrand is the manifestation of our will to have culture, art, entertainment – call it whatever you like – thriving on our doorstep, and as long as we want this, it will exist.

So why have I given up 'the best

job in the world'? Well, for those of you who haven't yet heard, I am taking on the role of centre director of Moat Brae House in Dumfries. It's a new challenge, a fantastic project, and an incredible opportunity to further my own aspirations to help regenerate Dumfries & Galloway. The garden at Moat Brae is of course internationally renowned for being JM Barrie's inspiration for *Peter Pan*, but the primary reason behind the 10-year restoration project is to create a national Centre for Children's Literature and Storytelling. Some of you will know that my journey into the arts began with youth projects designed to nurture interest and develop skills in young people across the region, and my first CatStrand role gave me a wealth of experience of youth music, film-making and ultimately literature. In many ways the Moat Brae role is the culmination of all my aims and ambitions, it was an opportunity that I couldn't pass up.

I'll be really sad to leave CatStrand. It was always more than a job, it became part of me, and as I

...there really was never a dull moment!

often said to my wife Zoe, I was never really off-duty. The board, staff and volunteers have all been absolutely wonderful and I can't thank them enough for their energy and dedication. The people who use CatStrand with all their colourful



Simon Davidson

characters helped make every day different – there really was never a dull moment! Of course there was the odd occasion when it DID feel like work, but I have to say the vast majority of the time it didn't. It was a pleasure and a joy to work in such a place and I feel privileged to have contributed what I imagine will be a very small segment of what will become CatStrand's long history.

So it's not 'goodbye' from me – indeed I'll be attending CatStrand shows in the future; it's my local theatre! And who knows, if time allows, I may even offer my services as a volunteer. Whatever happens, I wish CatStrand and all who sail in her a long and prosperous future.

NOTE: Applications for the Creative Director post at CatStrand close on Fri 28 September at 12pm.

YOUTH PLAYERS' CHRISTMAS PANTO

The much anticipated Youth Players annual panto will be staged on Friday 7, Saturday 8 and Sunday 9 December.

This year's story is one of the best known of all – *Cinderella*. Tickets are on sale now so be sure to book yours early as they are sure to sell out.

The script is by our favourite panto author Paul Reakes who has written many of our past

pantomimes and this one is true to his style with a few twists to the original story and some great characters contributing to a laugh-a-minute show for the young and young at heart.

Whilst there are a few new characters and unexpected deviations along the way, the traditional storyline still underpins the plot as poor Cinders is forced to carry out every wish of her cruel stepmother and ugly stepsisters. Since Prince Charming left to travel the world, the King

has died and the country is being governed in the Prince's absence by the selfish Duke of Verruca. However, Prince Charming learns of his Father's death and returns to take up his duties but the devious Duke does not want to relinquish his position and tries everything with the help of his hapless henchmen Nip and Tuck to hold on to power. Luckily, the faithful Buttons, his friends and of course the Fairy Godmother manage to achieve the happy ending – don't miss it!!

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 'Seasons'. *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 November 2018.



The winner of the August/September Flash Fiction Competition is Ian Knox with *In the Beginning* (printed below). Competition judge Ian says: "Congratulations Ian, a thought provoking piece."

About the Author - Ian says: "In my youth I travelled widely, then settled in Dalry where I live and work. I travel more in my mind now, though still love being out in nature."

IN THE BEGINNING

At the beginning of time God had a thought and part of that thought crystalised into the earth.

Out of that fiery ball I was born, forming part of the mountain range people call the Rhinns of Kells.

As the earth cooled we were covered in early plants as God willed life and light into the world. Then huge tropical forests sprang up and the first forms of life slithered over me. Huge dinosaurs thundered past and the air was thick with scent. The

world was filled with struggling life. Raptors screamed across the skies.

Time ticked on. Bang! The earth was shaken by a meteor. The skies darkened, the sun was blocked out, life retreated, and we were covered in tonnes of snow and ice. In that murky world we slept, until gradually the skies cleared. I was torn from my mother rock in the big melt, carried down the mountain slopes by a glacier and finally spat out on a wee mound at the foot of Millyea. I'm there to this day. Watching!

Time tocked and cavemen camped around me hunting mammoth, temperate forests sprang up filled with new creatures. Millions of years

passed and slowly humans, developed, became conscious. God came briefly amongst us to show us a path to the light.

Centuries past hillwalkers stopped by me to take in the view and marvel at the beauty and contemplate the universe. A sculptor put a couple of eyes on me. I look out!

Time ticked. BOSH! suddenly the world was filled with light and realisation. In this new world matter didn't matter. Time was timeless, stretching infinitely back and infinitely forward. We were all connected. We shone for each other. We shone with each other. We all shine together; we are all part of the light... I see!

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Milton Park Mystery Solved

Last issue included a request from Alan Robertson from North Vancouver as to whether Gazette readers could help him solve a mystery that had been puzzling him for over 50 years...

Alan had stayed with his parents in the Milton Park Hotel in the 1960s and heard a story about three maids dying at the hotel. Over the years, he had wondered what happened to those girls, until he finally contacted the Gazette last issue to ask whether any readers may know the answer.

We had a good response to the piece, and a number of local folk got in touch to give the Gazette the facts. Below is an account of the sad incident that led to the deaths of three local girls.

The girls who died were called Adeline Hunter, Linda Carruthers and Cathy Johnstone. They would all have been school-leaving age (around 15) and were staying in the staff quarters of the Milton Park Hotel. Their room was upstairs,



Class photo submitted by Hilda McAdam: Cathy Johnstone is in the middle row, fourth in from the right in a white blouse. Linda Carruthers is one of the two girls in front of Cathy, not in a row, and she is the one on the left. Adeline Hunter is in the front row, third from the right.

above the boiler room. The heating system was faulty, leading to a leak of carbon monoxide gas. The gas made its way up from the boiler room into the girls bedroom, causing their tragic and untimely deaths.

Many thanks to Hilda McAdam Joyce Thacker, Jean Galloway and Gordon McQueen for getting in touch with details of the incident.

OLD SMIDDY PROJECT GETS GOING

Continued from front page...

The Old Smiddy will be one of the early beneficiaries in the Galloway Glens Scheme suite of projects and GCAT are really looking forward to working with other Galloway Glens Scheme participants.

Alan Smith, Chairman of GCAT, said: "This development will be a great addition to what we are already doing at the CatStrand and to our other projects such as Bright Stars Glenkens Community Nursery, Glenkens Transport Initiative, Glenkens Gazette and the Men's Shed. Whilst the new building will have a major impact on Balmaclellan village centre the aim is to provide an asset which will benefit a much wider audience of locals and visitors."

McNabb Laurie, Galloway Glens Team Leader, said: "The Galloway Glens Scheme has secured more than £2.7million from the Heritage Lottery Fund to support

projects that 'connect people to their heritage' and this ambitious proposal ticks all boxes from our point of view. The CatStrand has been such a successful venue over the last ten years and this Old Smiddy Project will massively increase the facilities available to the people of Dumfries & Galloway, and visitors to the region. We will be working with GCAT in the construction phase to highlight traditional Galloway building methods and explore training opportunities. When the building is complete, it will be ideal to host a range of other projects we will be undertaking over the next five years.

"The Galloway Glens Scheme derived from efforts by the Council's Economic Development department, as well as a range of partners, and it is clear this building will be a great economic boost for the Stewartry and

beyond. Our partnership board were delighted to be able to support this project and it is great news that it is now fully funded and able to get underway."

Ed Forrest, Coordinator for Galloway and Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere and member of the Galloway Glens Partnership Board, welcomed the news that GCAT have now secured full funding for the Old Smiddy saying:

"GCAT and its approach to developing dynamic community-based initiatives embodies the whole ethos of UNESCO Biospheres. They are the envy of many of our international Biosphere visitors who come to see examples of best practice that they can then aspire to emulate back in their own countries. The Old Smiddy promises to be yet another example to add to that growing portfolio of excellence."

BUSINESS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Precise Heating Solutions

This section showcases 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 glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

In the late nineteen seventies, after several visits, my wife and I vowed to someday make our home in the Glenkens.

It took us another thirty years to get here but, in 2005, we finally made it.

We spent twelve blissful years in this most beautiful part of the world, which sadly came to an end when my wife died in early 2017.

After spending many months staring at four walls, I decided I had to do something - but what? Coincidentally, my central heating system was on its last legs. Having spent some time working in the central heating industry in the 1990s, I had a good knowledge of the marketplace. I spent some considerable time investigating what had changed over the last twenty years. I found that, apart from some efficiency improvements to boilers, almost everything was as I remembered.

There was one very notable exception to this. A few years ago, while on a trip down south, I saw a range of thermodynamic, electric radiators, so advanced, and of such a high build quality, that they left a lasting impression on me. They were manufactured by Intelliheat.

I checked the company's website to discover that they have continued with their cutting edge, eco-design, technological advancements. On the way, they have picked up numerous awards and accreditations, including the NF+++ , Europe's highest efficiency and quality accreditation, the only heating company to achieve this.

I was convinced that Intelliheat was the company to entrust with my heating requirements. It also occurred to me, that if they were right for me, then they would surely be right for many people in the Glenkens.

I contacted Intelliheat and had what was to be the first of many discussions and meetings. My initial idea of being able to supply their products locally blossomed into an exclusive contract covering all of Scotland!

In July, the Intelliheat Cali Sense Eco system was installed at my home. Now that the temperatures are falling, the system is proving to be simply incredible. Every room is its own 'zone', so I can program each room individually. They even know if you are in or out, and adjust accordingly! This has a huge effect on running costs, which are proving to be even less than I had anticipated.

Theoretically, electricity should be the best form of heating as it is pure energy at the point of supply, and therefore 100% efficient. The problem has been in what we connected to it, eg boxes of bricks, etc, all of which

competed for the total inefficiency award.

Intelliheat have spent many years researching, developing and improving their products.

Intelliheat were the first electric heating suppliers to offer Wi-Fi connectivity.

Indeed, the latest Cali I-Sense not only has built-in Wi-Fi in every unit, but will also scan your whole system and send energy saving recommendations to your phone or laptop.

So - no maintenance, no pipes, no pumps, no bricks, no disruption, with standard installation taking less than a day, and all at less cost than a normal wet system - this is surely the future of heating.

Precise Heating Solutions Ltd are the exclusive suppliers of the Intelliheat range in Scotland, and have the full product and technical support of Intelliheat Ltd.

If you would like to know more about what the systems do, and how they do it, please give us a call on 07383 017 959, or visit www.precisehs.co.uk

We would be delighted to have a chat or answer any questions you may have.

Ian Lundy, Dalry



An example of an Intelliheat radiator in Ian Lundy's home, Dalry.

Glenkens Community Survey

A consultation on last year's Glenkens Community Survey was held in Dalry Town Hall, ably facilitated by Karen Lewis and her team from The Hub in Dumfries.

The survey results for Dalry were presented followed by a workshop

for Dalry residents to discuss and prioritise the ideas that came out of the survey. It was interesting to note that most of the ideas were ones that would work for the whole of the Glenkens, reinforcing the view that the Glenkens communities are best working together.

The Glenkens District Trust (GDT) commissioned the survey and after the workshop many questions and concerns about the GDT were raised with Alan Rumble, the Acting Chair.

The atmosphere became heated and Nicolette Wise, Dalry Community Council Chair, ruled that as this was not a constituted Community Council meeting, with no agenda or minute taker, it was not therefore the right time for such discussions. However, she asked Alan Rumble to take back to the GDT board the growing frustration felt by many people over the apparent lack of transparency and communication surrounding the GDT.

Getting Active and Giving it a Go...

It's been a fantastic summer full of activities in and around New Galloway.

Stewartry Active Sports kindly loaned the community a set of goal posts and nets, and so games of football and penalty shoot-outs have been enjoyed by both the young and not so young. It was suggested that a regular time was set, so that those wishing to have a game of football could pop along to the park and know that someone would be there to join them.

As a result, Wednesday evening Community Football and Fun in the park sessions from 7-9pm started, and what a success it has been! In fact, so much so, we don't want to lose it as the nights draw in, and so from November we are moving the session to a Sunday at 2.30pm. Everyone from the Glenkens is welcome and information will be posted on the 'Community Engagement Activities New Galloway and Kells' Facebook page.

As well as football, our Ladies Give it a Go! sessions have been a fantastic opportunity to get together and try something new. Once a month, different people each time, have been meeting up at the Galloway Activity Centre to try activities such as kayaking, paddleboarding and archery.

It was enjoyed so much, the ladies involved have suggested that we get together to plan regular, free or low-cost activities for ladies of all ages to enjoy together. Therefore, we are holding a 'Bring a Plate' supper at New Galloway Town Hall on Friday 2 November at



Some local ladies enjoying paddleboarding at one of the Ladies Give it a Go! sessions at the Galloway Activity Centre.

7.30pm to share ideas and plan a programme.

All ladies 16 years and over from the Glenkens are welcome to join us.

For further information contact Sam Rushton on samCEW@newgallowaycommunity.shop or 07741 656 601.



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JOINT OIL PURCHASING GROUP

As autumn sets in and the winter months approach, we begin to think about keeping warm, switching on our heating and lighting our fires.

At the beginning of this year many people within the community expressed an interest in finding out more about a proposed joint oil purchasing group within the community. Saving money and

doing our bit for the environment. Well good news, it's happening!

This project will be co-ordinated by the New Galloway Community Engagement Worker (CEW), Sam Rushton, and is a New Galloway Community Enterprises initiative.

After talking to other communities who successfully co-ordinate group oil purchasing, we are adopting the model that oil orders will be collated monthly and submitted to the oil company by the CEW. Order requests can be placed via telephone, email or through New Galloway community shop. Each customer will be billed and pay for

their oil directly to the oil company. The greater the collated order, the bigger discount we will receive per litre from the oil company.

As well as saving money, we are doing our bit for the environment by reducing the number of tankers coming into our community.

If you are interested in signing up for group purchasing or would like more information please contact Sam Rushton on samCEW@newgallowaycommunity.shop or 07741 656 601 or pop into the New Galloway Community Shop. *Sam Rushton, Community Engagement Worker, New Galloway*

Are You Prepared For Winter?

With autumn already here and winter just around the corner, some of the media are making 'shock' claims of an early October freeze and the World Meteorological Organisation is predicting a 70% chance of another El Niño event before the end of this year.

Whatever the reality, it is up to us to be ready to deal with what comes, whether as individuals or as communities. Everything will be fine, right up until the point that it isn't!

Dumfries and Galloway Council resilience staff have said that in a national or regional emergency we in the Glenkens would be on our own initially as the focus of their relief efforts would be on the bigger towns.

The electricity goes off, the roads are impassable (snow, flooding, fallen trees, take your pick) what are you going to do? Can you still keep warm (fire, bottled gas heater), what are you going to cook and eat, how many days supply of food and medicines do you keep?

Most of us will probably cope (grumpily) for a day or two, though it would be much harder for the elderly or infirm. How about a week with no power, no heating, no shopping, no telephone or internet, maybe even no water (private

supplies often rely on electric pumps)? Could you manage? Do you have local family or friends with resources you could stay with?

Community Councils also have a part to play in helping their residents through extreme weather. They have been encouraged and supported by Dumfries and Galloway Council to have pavement gritters, shovels, torches and other emergency equipment, but they also need volunteers to help them deliver, particularly to the vulnerable. Why not contact your local Community Council and ask about their Winter Resilience plans and if they need any assistance?

It may only be autumn, but this is the time to check your supplies and stock up on what you may need in an emergency whilst you can. Hopefully disaster won't strike this winter, but if it does, a little preparation now could save bigger problems later.

WINTER RESILIENCE CHECKLIST

Heat and Light:

Do you have a means to keep warm that is not dependant on electricity? eg a fire or bottled gas heater.

Do you have an alternative source of light for when it gets dark? eg torches, lanterns, candles.

Food and Water:

Do you have one weeks supply of food for everyone in your household? (That is not dependant on refrigeration or freezing for storage) eg tinned, dried and 'long life' food (including eggs, biscuits, chocolate).

Do you have a means to cook the above food (if required) without electricity? eg on the fire, camping gas stove or spirit burner.

Do you have an alternative source of drinking water if your normal supply stops? eg bottled water, nearby river/spring, rain water collector and water filters.

Health Care:

Do you keep at least one weeks supply of medicines on hand?

Do you require regular/daily assistance for a medical condition? If your carer cannot get through, can a nearby friend or neighbour help?

Communication and Transport:

Do you have a landline telephone with a non-wireless hand set? (Wireless handsets require electricity to work). If not, do you have a nearby friend or neighbour with one?

If you live in a remote location, are you able to get into your nearest village for supplies, help or the doctors?

Glenkens Wood Fuel Buying Club

Are you interested in becoming part of a Glenkens Wood Fuel Buying Club?

What is it?

It is a group of individuals who use wood fuels like wood chip, briquettes, wood boiler pellets and kiln dried logs. Together they bulk purchase these items (usually by the pallet load) to get a better rate and share the savings. (There is a local Wood Fuel Cooperative in Dumfries that can deliver).

The problem for some wood fuel users is storing a big

purchase, but in Dalry we now have a large shed the Club could use for this purpose.

Bulk buying would mean you only pay around 60% of the individual pack price, eg £3 instead of £5. Over a winter that could save you £100+!

If you're interested, get in touch with Andi Holmes on 07729 292126 or andiholmes@hotmail.com



Compressed sawdust briquettes.

Dalry Film Club Bags Some Help

Dalry Film Club has been successful in obtaining financial support through the Bags of Help scheme run through the Castle Douglas Tesco store.

Chair of the Club, Jim Reid, said: "The support has allowed us to purchase new loudspeakers for the front of the hall to improve sound quality and also to complete

our blackout system with further blinds. The blackouts will allow us to extend our season from the start of September into early June without a problem with ambient light.

"We are also grateful for support from the the CatStrand who are helping us with licensing, with publicity through their brochure and with ticket sales. Our patrons can now obtain tickets for our shows through the CatStrand website and ticket desk as well as at the door."

The autumn season opened in September with the brilliant *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*

and continues with *Their Finest* on 10 October, *The Shape of Water* on 27 October, *Some Like it Hot* on 14 November (this is a fundraising show with a performance from the CatStrand Ukulele Band), *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society* on 28 November, *Hugo* on 14 December and *Lost In Paris* on 28 December.

Meanwhile, the committee is working towards an exciting spring season. The Club is also available for celebration shows such as birthday or wedding anniversary shows - get in touch on jamescreid@hotmail.co.uk



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Glenkens Cluster Staff Shuffle

There have been some changes to staffing over the summer in the Glenkens Primary schools.

In larger primary schools there are many opportunities for professional development and teachers can change stage and year group in order to learn and enhance their skills. In small schools this is severely restricted. However, having a partnership of schools can provide opportunities for a change. Two of our Principal teachers, Mrs Muir and Mrs Turner, have taken this opportunity to develop their careers and have essentially swapped bases. Mrs Muir is now based in Dalry and Mrs Turner has moved over to Kells, in New Galloway. Mrs Devlin and Mrs Haynes have also taken advantage of a change to enhance their skills as teachers. Mrs Devlin has moved to Nursery and Mrs Haynes is focussing on Art and Music across the partnership.

Cluster Head, Paul Scrimshaw, said: "Children benefit greatly when teachers are afforded the opportunity to develop their skills. Teachers become revitalised, as do we all, when undertaking new opportunities. This transfers to their daily teaching and learning. Also, children in our small schools can have the same teacher for a number of years. Different teachers have different interests, qualities and skills. It is important for children to have a range of experiences with teachers, teaching styles and interests. I am sure most people will have one stand out teacher who was an inspiration. Their personal interests and enthusiasms can influence children in many ways. My own interest in art was sparked by a primary teacher when I reached my last year of junior school. His enthusiasm for drawing and painting was infectious."

We also have some new teachers in the partnership. Mrs Houston, Miss Sey and Mrs Welsh have joined us this session. In order to get to know our Glenkens teachers a little better each teacher (except two who are off on sick leave) were asked three questions - 1) Where were you and what did you teach before you came to the Glenkens Partnership; 2) What is your favourite hobby/pastime; 3) What did you like best about school when you were a child. Here are their responses.

Miss Sey (P6/7 teacher, Dalry):

1) I was in Aberdeen working as a nursery practitioner

and studying primary teaching at University.

2) My favourite hobbies are going for walks and cooking. I am finding lots of new walks in Dumfries and Galloway, and entertaining friends and family at weekends.

3) My favourite part of primary school was being creative with the art materials in golden time.

Mrs Houston (P4/5 teacher, Dalry):

1) I previously taught Primary 1/2 at Hardgate Primary school.

2) I enjoy spending time with my daughter. I also enjoy playing/watching football.

3) As a child I enjoyed learning about geography, in particular the environmental aspects. I loved taking part in sports activities too.

It is important for children to have a range of experiences with teachers, teaching styles and interests.

Mrs Welsh (P4/5 teacher, Dalry):

1) I taught P6/7 at Lochside Primary School before coming to work in the Glenkens.

2) My favourite hobby is music. I enjoy playing the piano and saxophone.

3) I liked progressing my learning through trips the best when I was a child.

Mrs Muir (P1/2/3 teacher, Dalry):

1) I taught at Kells Primary for the past 10 years. Previous to that I taught in Stranraer, and I have also taught in the Highlands and in Australia.

2) I have two hobbies that take up most of my time out of school. The first is music. I play classical guitar, violin, all sizes of recorders, flute, piano and am currently learning how to play the alto saxophone. My second passion is dance. My husband and myself go to dance class up to three times a week, dancing ballroom, Latin and salsa.

3) When I was at school the subject I most liked was history. At university

did a degree in palaeoanthropology, and I worked as an archaeologist for some time. I was also very good at sport at school and enjoyed both athletics and gymnastics.

Mrs Turner (P1/2/3/4 teacher, Kells):

1) I taught at Dalry Primary for five years, and before that I worked at Twynholm and Kirkcudbright Primaries.

2) Out of school, I enjoy reading and cooking, and eating out with friends. One of the main reasons my husband and I moved to Dumfries and Galloway was because of the beautiful countryside, and we enjoy exploring both the local area and further afield in our camper van with our black Labrador, Hetty.

3) When I was at school the subjects I enjoyed most were French and drama. On reflection, I don't think I was particularly talented in either but the positivity and enthusiasm of my teachers meant that I participated with passion and this is something I try to emulate in my own teaching. In later years I became interested in social history and as a result decided to undertake a degree in history at Leeds University.

Mr Thompson (P5/6/7, Kells):

1) I have travelled and taught in diverse schools (primary and secondary), universities, orphanages and kindergartens. Including a range of both mainstream and special educational settings. Travelling and working from Zimbabwe to Spain via Poland, China and Honduras... then from Cambridge to Kells.

2) Adventuring and wandering with my two best friends; Laura and Bamba. Eating sandwiches and looking through binoculars (not at the same time).

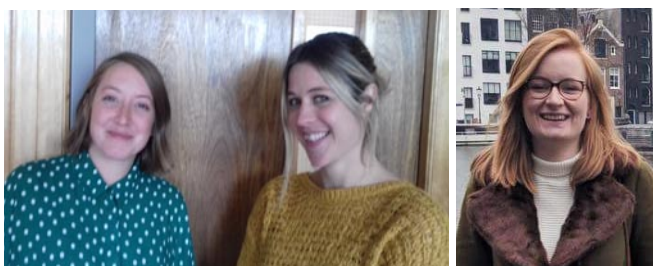
3) When we were given freedom and treated with respect - these moments are great memories.

Mr Haynes (Music & Art teacher across the Cluster):

1) After having my two boys, I taught the P4/5 class at Penpont, and then came to the Glenkens Cluster where I taught in the Nursery before changing to my current role.

2) I enjoy music and playing/singing with the family. My husband and my two boys play guitar and drums. I also enjoy baking and cake decorating and cross stitch embroidery.

3) When I was a girl at school, I loved music and played flute, recorder or piano at assemblies and sang in the choir. I also enjoyed acting and creative writing.



Left to right: New teachers Miss Sey, Mrs Houston and Mrs Welsh.

ALL NEW GLENKENS NURSERY

A new term brings a fresh start in Dalry ELC (formerly Dalry Nursery) with a change in nursery teacher and the development of two brand new learning environments.

Jenna Devlin, the new nursery teacher (previously Dalry's P4/5 class teacher), is a passionate believer and advocate of outdoor and open-ended play. Over the summer, alongside co-worker Julie Moore and a whole host of amazing volunteers, she has transformed both the indoor and outdoor learning spaces.

A natural, calming indoor space invites the children to explore, create and inquire, supported through carefully chosen resources. You will not find many traditional 'toys', however, as the children are encouraged to use their own imaginations to create their play. There has also been a 'cull' of plastic toys, with the ELC instead offering real-life objects such as bone china cups, items made from natural materials and, a firm favourite so far...lots and lots of coloured pebbles, beads and buttons. With these open-ended resources, the possibilities for children are expanded.

Outdoors, the space which was previously part of the primary school playground is now an exciting shared space where both primary and the ELC children can play. The children are immersed in an environment where they can build, using items such as wood, hammers, nails and screws. They can climb and jump and guzzle in as much mud, sand and water as their hearts desire.

Jenna said: "We want our children to become resilient, caring and confident individuals. Our outdoor area is designed with risky play in mind, where children are encouraged and supported to assess their own and other's safety, thinking carefully about the impact of their actions on the environment and people around them."

So far the ELC have found the children to be really thriving, engaged and immersed in a whole range of learning opportunities, and have received lots of positive feedback from parents and carers.

Jenna continues: "Our goal is to create as rich a learning environment

as possible, and to think outside the box in terms of resources, materials and play opportunities. When observing the children play each day, at any given moment, the smiles and engagement are obvious - so far we must be getting something right!"

As with all new projects, however, it is always evolving, and Jenna is keen to work closely with the new P1-3 teacher over the forthcoming year to really embed play in the Early Years learning experiences. At present there is a morning once a week when the P1s come and play with the ELC children in their outdoor area. "This is a really wonderful experience for both the nursery-age children and the P1s; straight away you see the younger children using the materials and resources differently, watching the 'big ones'. The older children bring different skills, ideas and interests, it's really magical to see them play so effectively together," says Jenna.

Mrs Devlin also has plans to use the wooded area at the far end of the playground once a week to develop a 'forest schools' approach, where the children will build fires, dens and investigate another 'wilder' environment.

Jenna concludes by saying: "In Dalry ELC our motto is 'Learning and Growing Together'. This illustrates close partnership working with families, and growing resilient, caring, happy and confident young people together. This is what we're all about - it really is the best job in the world!"

Dalry ELC would like to give special thanks to the Glenkens Charity Shop, Mr & Mrs Firth, Mrs & Mrs Elder, Mrs Davies, Angela Orro, Andy Holmes, Tony, Fergus, Jayde, William, Miriam and Chrissy for their help, effort and kindly donated resources. It is hugely appreciated by everyone at Dalry ELC and Primary.



Top: Jenna and Julie. Above: Happy children playing at Dalry ELC.



PAMELA YOUNG TRUST
help with housing in the Glenkens

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NEW TEACHERS JOIN DALRY SECONDARY SCHOOL

Pupils and staff of Dalry Secondary School have returned refreshed and ready to benefit from the opportunities of the new school year.

For staff this comes with a sense of pride and achievement on behalf of our previous S4 pupils who performed very well, and were rewarded with good results in their SQA examinations.

We are delighted to welcome new staff in some departments: Mr Fleming in PE who is busy extending the curricular experiences

able to be offered and will make available extra-curricular ones too in the near future; Miss Crossan and Mrs Porteous who are offering a range of courses across home economics and hospitality, with Miss Crossan leading a group of enthusiastic students aiming to excel in the upcoming Future Chef competition, and we look forward to Mrs Stockwell joining us soon in the English department. Our thanks go to Mrs Nurse for agreeing to continue for a period to ensure pupils have continuity.

New teachers were asked for a few words of introduction - here is a 'hello' from Mr Fleming:

Hi! My name is Mr Fleming and I am the new Physical Education teacher at Dalry Secondary. I would



New PE teacher, Mr Fleming.

like to thank everyone - pupils, parents and staff - for their kind welcome, and I'm looking forward to a happy and active future at the school :)

Pupils' Poppy Pledge

Dalry Secondary School have signed up to Poppy Scotland's 1918 Poppy Pledge to commemorate the centenary of the armistice and the end of World War One.

The 1918 Poppy Pledge aims to raise money for honouring the many men and women who fought in the First World War and in the many conflicts since. The Poppy Pledge will also raise vital

funds to help continue to support the armed forces community in Scotland today. Poppy Scotland has asked organisations around Scotland to each try to raise £1,918 to help improve the lives of ex-servicemen.

The young people of Dalry Secondary have already raised several hundred pounds through themed fund-raising activities.

Watch out for the following events, and let's see if we can reach the grand total of £1,918:

- Thursday 11 October – Coffee Morning in Dalry School, 10am-12noon; come along for a selection of delicious baking,

teas and coffees, as well as bric-a-brac, toys and a chance to win prizes. Any contributions of cakes, traybakes, bric-a-brac and raffle prizes would be greatly appreciated, and can be handed into the school.

- Wednesday 7 November; Dalry Secondary School presents *Archie Dobson's War*, a BBC play set in 1914 featuring drama, music and dance. During the interval refreshments will be served. All proceeds from the evening will go towards the Poppy Pledge.

Closer to Christmas, keep your eyes peeled for details of our popular lunchtime Pop-up Café, which will again be open to the community, with proceeds going to Poppy Scotland.

S3 PUPILS GIVE GOLF A GO

Pupil Report - Golf at Dalry Secondary

As part of our S3 sport and fitness preference, we are having an 8-week trial golf session at New Galloway golf club.

The professional golf coach is called Ross Murdoch from Dumfries driving range. So far he has taught us how to putt, chip and pitch the ball.

He has also taught us all the parts of the golf club, how to properly grip the different golf clubs, and Ross also taught us a basic posture drill.

Ross has been building up how far we can hit the golf ball, up to 100 yards.



Pupils learn new skills at New Galloway Golf course with professional golf coach, Ross Murdoch.

CatStrand Youth Booth Launch

CatStrand Youth Volunteers were proud to unveil their Youth Booth to the public in a culmination of six months of work by the team of 12 to 16 year-olds.

After successfully applying for funding through the D&G Council Year of Young People Youth Choices funding programme, the youth volunteer team started working with local glass artist Lorrie Kyle to transform the disused phone box in New Galloway into an art installation and youth information centre.

The group cleaned the phone box, painted an undercoat and gave it two coats of their chosen dark blue top coat paint, inspired by Doctor Who, over several evenings over the summer where they were seen clad in forensic suits, gloves and masks.

The panels were created over the course of design workshops at the CatStrand and sessions at Lorrie Kyle's glass studio outside Dumfries, where the designs were turned into

fused glass panels.

The Booth contains information posters and leaflets on youth issues from mental health to LGBT support, online safety to youth funding opportunities, as well as a local bus timetable and posters for local events and activities which will be regularly updated. A light box, gumball machine, phone charging unit and light-up mirror are also in the process of being installed as part of their design.

At the unveiling, CatStrand youth board member and youth volunteer Aiden Taylor, 16, gave a speech, which was followed by a launch event at the CatStrand where the volunteers served mocktails and laid on a buffet. In attendance were Council youth services representatives for the Stewartry, youth programmers from Young Promoters Group (YPG) in Dumfries, members of Dumfries-based creative collective The Stove, GCAT board chairperson Alan Smith, deputy head teacher for Dalry Secondary School Lorraine Gillies, and a wide variety of community members both young and old



Proud CatStrand Youth Volunteers standing outside the Youth Booth.

who had seen the youth booth progressing or been involved in the design and making of the glass.

Youth volunteer Kaelan Johnston, 13, said: "It was fun designing the glass and seeing how it turned out, and it was really fun to help organise the project which I feel it will be a good help to young people in the community."

The Booth will continue to develop, and it is hoped the project can continue to expand and will be there for years to come as a centre-piece for the great contribution young people are making to their community.

'GET ON IT' YOUTH TRANSPORT FORUM

Young people in the Glenkens have called for the Council and local transport providers to 'get on it' when it comes to their transport needs.

CatStrand Youth, under the Glenkens, Community & Arts Trust (GCAT), has secured an award from the Year of Young People National Lottery Fund towards a transport forum project.

The project will run in partnership with Kirkcudbright Youth Project, D&G Youth Services and Aberdeenshire's Work With Young People project as a follow-up to their recent youth consultation which surveyed young people across the Glenkens aged 12-25 about their needs living in this area.

In the consultation, 55% of young people asked said transport links were an issue and respondents voted it as their top priority for change to enable them to lead successful lives in the area. It was voted as the major issue preventing access to and participation in social activity, limiting

job opportunities and contributing to feelings of isolation and loneliness amongst young people.

Starting in September 2018, recruitment for Youth Transport Forum groups in the Glenkens, Castle Douglas and Kirkcudbright will take place through schools and youth service partners. These young people will then be given the opportunity to look at transport in their area of the Stewartry in-depth before putting forward two young people from each group to form a cross-Stewartry forum. This forum will travel to Aberdeenshire to meet other young people working with their councils on local transport initiatives, before designing a pilot scheme based on their findings. Schemes could incorporate new bus routes, Uber-style taxi services, bike hire or any other models they think could work for young people in the area. Pilots will be tendered out to local providers and trialled and monitored over 10 weeks next year. Advocacy and presentation skills training will be delivered to the young people participating in the project by the organisation Sleeping Giants, and Dumfries & Galloway Youth Services, to enable them to best



Some of the CatStrand Youth members who spearheaded the Youth Transport Forum initiative.

present their findings to a range of stakeholders.

The end result is hoped to be an evidenced report on a service that would make a difference to local young people, which will be presented by young people to the Council and service providers locally to seek continuation of the service or a service which incorporates learning from the year-long project.

Any young people aged 12-25 interested in participating in the Glenkens, Kirkcudbright or Castle Douglas forums can get in touch with aidan@catstrand.com for info on how to get involved.

Volunteer Barbecue with Flames

Connecting in Communities (CiC) is a project aimed at improving the lives of those living and working in the Glenkens.

Volunteers form a huge part of the CiC programme, especially here at the CatStrand where CiC is based. In order to show our gratitude, a 'thank you' barbecue was hosted at the CatStrand. Very many thanks to all our volunteers - we hope you enjoyed the night; your efforts really are appreciated. The night also included the *Flames*, a Tricky Hat Theatre Company performance utilising local,

untapped talent. The show featured music, singing and some thought-provoking memories in a unique audio-visual display.

Balmaclellan is currently featuring heavily in the CiC calendar; keep-fit fans are delighted with the new kettlebell sessions, every Thursday night from 7.30-8.30pm in the village hall. The Men's Shed is booming and the Smiddy Project is officially off the ground (see front page).

The line-up for this year's *Rocktober* has been confirmed; as well as the rock disco, music quiz, bar, free buses to and from the event, top local rockers *Voodoo Sun* will be headlining the show. Expect a heady mix of classic rock and blues, and feel free to dress up for the event - it's all free, but booking is recommended for

the gig and essential if you want a seat on the buses. Watch out for our posters with all the details.

Our local MP, Alister Jack, took time out from his busy schedule to visit both the Glenkens Men's Shed and CiC at CatStrand this summer - for details of his visit see separate articles in this issue.

CiC and CatStrand rely heavily on volunteers to support the numerous 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. To find out more, or get involved, contact Brian or Chris on 01644 420374 or brian@catstrand.com or chris@catstrand.com

Chris Jowsey, Volunteer & Participation Officer, CatStrand

NEW GALLOWAY MEMORIAL BENCH

The New Galloway Celebratory Events Committee (NGCEC) have decided that funds raised at the Picnic in the Park should go towards a memorial bench.

The 'Lest we Forget' galvanised steel bench will commemorate 100 years since the end of the first world war, in line with events being held later this year, and the bench should be in position for the Remembrance Service on 11 November. It is planned that the bench be sited beside the path leading up to the New Galloway war memorial. NGCEC, a sub-committee of Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING),

would like to thank Balmaclellan, Kells and Dalry Churches, St Margaret's Church, Loreburn Housing Association and the Alternative Games for their generous support for this project. Our next event will be a Scottish-themed concert and Christmas lights switch-on planned for 2 December. Any proceeds from donations will be used for the benefit of the whole community.



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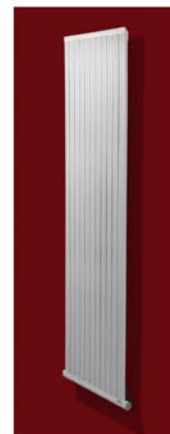
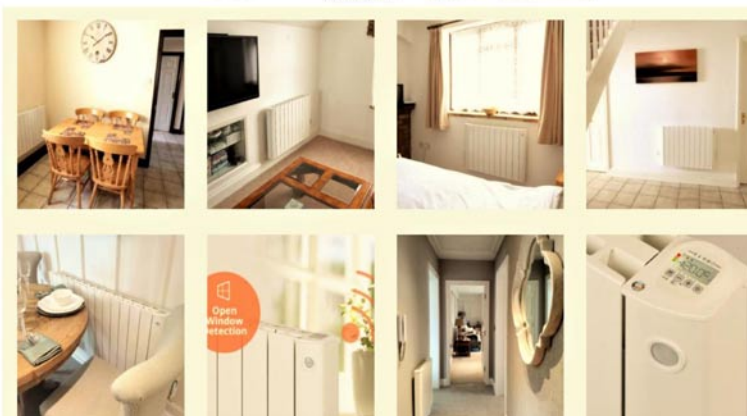
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Scottish Alternative Games 2018

There was no threat of rain and the sun even shone for a while – was it the right day?

Yes it was! The Games had suffered a few wet and windy days in the last few years but this time conditions were perfect for this annual day of unique entertainment.

All qualifiers for the Gird 'n' Cleek World Championship were in fine form and a great race was had, with the crowd enjoying one of the best finals for many years. The lead changed several times throughout the two laps, but in the end Alexander McKenna prevailed and reclaimed his crown after a nine-year gap. Close behind and claiming the silver medal was Arthur Harfield with Alice McIntosh in the bronze medal position.

The Tractor Pull attracted plenty of entrants but the Men's competition produced a familiar winner with Ralph Spornagel, and Alexander McKenna had enough energy left from his ongoing Gird 'n' Cleek efforts to secure the silver medal. The Ladies event was a bit of a

family affair with Cairan Murdoch once again taking gold, with her sister Tracey Nicholson as runner-up.

The Quad Bike Pull for the juniors attracted the biggest queue of the day in the arena as the youngsters showed off their strength! Some impressive times were recorded here too with once again the Murdoch family emerging victorious with Holly Murdoch taking gold, Yvie Murdoch silver and their cousin Carla Nicholson winning bronze.

The Snail Racing attracted big crowds as the punters rolled up to support each of the three races during the afternoon which were kindly sponsored by Forrest Estate, Natural Power and WH McWilliam Ltd. The specially trained racing snails were in fine form and were encouraged to the finishing line with



Spectators enjoying this year's Games in the sunshine.

the usual bribery of Guinness and lettuce leaves.

The Alternative Games, now in its fifth decade, has certainly stood the test of time as the quirky events and unique atmosphere continue to encourage many families to return year after year from all over Britain to enjoy the day with the locals. Many first time visitors this year have vowed to return again too - put the 4th of August 2019 in your diary now!

Brian Edgar

GLENKENS MEN'S SHED NEWS

It's all systems go up at the Glenkens Men's Shed...

The new tearoom nears completion, electrical improvements are underway, the mezzanine floor is in use, the new double glazed window looks great and we have a brilliant new sign. All thanks to Tesco's Bags of Help scheme; a heartfelt thankyou to everyone who voted for us in the Castle Douglas store, where we won the June competition, receiving £4000. We would also like to thank Angela Orro, Tesco's Community Champion for the Bags of Help; Jim Clubb for the new sign, made from recycled metal and tools from the shed; John, Gill and Michelle for refurbishing the doors; local builder Raymond Wilkie, for the expertise in fitting the new window; and to all the Shedders for their help in building the new tea room, especially Stuart, Martin, Tam and Ali - cheers everybody!

There's loads more going on too - we're hosting the Men's Shed Electronics Team from Hamilton soon, so look out for bangs and

flashes as the boys and girls build electronic gadgets from scratch. On a different note, hopefully there'll be no bangs or flashes whilst local electrician Derek McCrone upgrades the shed wiring, a pre-cursor to getting our metal working facility up and running...

Men's Shed work will be for sale at the CatStrand on their Christmas Shopping day - see ad on p3.

The shed, located behind the Old Smiddy in Balmaclellan, is a great place to relax, unwind, do stuff, learn new skills or just drink coffee and chat. Some members are dab hands at baking too, so there's often cake to be had!

Local MP Alister Jack visited this summer and was impressed by the range of activities available to our members and the valuable service the shed provides to our community.

Our AGM is coming up on 6 November, 10am at the CatStrand.



Left to right: Alan Smith (GCAT Chair), Martin and Gill Warnock (Shedders), Chris Jowsey (Volunteer Participation Officer), Tom Leach (Shed Chairman) and Alister Jack (MP).

Glenkens Men's Shed is supported by Connecting in Communities, a LEADER and Big Lottery funded project. If you want to join the shed, or find out more, either call in at the shed or contact Brian/Chris on 420 374 or Tom on 420 895.

Normal Shed opening times are: Monday 9.30am-4pm & 6.30-8.30pm, Wed 9.30am-1pm & woodcarving from 2-4pm, and Fri 9.30am-12noon.

*Chris Jowsey,
Glenkens Men's Shed Treasurer*

GLENKENS WITHOUT PYLONS?

Kendoon to Tongland 132kV Reinforcement (KTR) Project

A great deal of progress has been made in the past couple of months in our efforts to persuade Scottish Power Energy Networks (SPEN) and the Scottish Government to underground the entire project to protect the Galloway environment.

Galloway Without Pylons now has a website - www.gallowaywithoutpylons.org - to which content is being added on a daily basis as information comes to light and support is gathered.

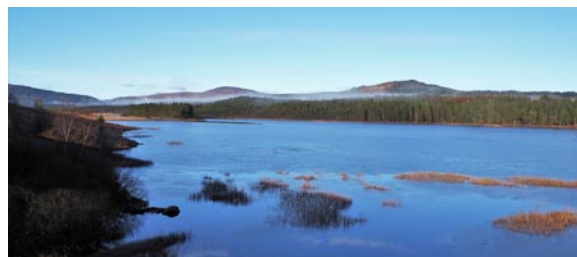
I will outline the latest position with the Project, and in order to be 100% accurate have included verbatim part of an email received from SPEN on 6 August: "In regards to the cable studies, as intimated previously, we will be working on this assessment over the coming months (likely into early 2019). As you will note, the requirements of the scoping only require SPEN to consider undergrounding at the 'pinch points' identified on the proposed OHL routes. However, following consideration of the third round consultation feedback, including that received from yourself, SPEN have also committed to consider potential cable options for a continuous cable route between Glenlee and Tongland based on a 'blank sheet' approach.

"Going forward, the next opportunity for stakeholders and communities to get involved in the project will be at the application stage. The key thing to

note about this consultation is that, unlike the last three rounds of consultation undertaken on KTR, this is a formal process and will be undertaken by the Scottish Ministers. Therefore all comments and views (informed by the EIAR, undergrounding report, etc) will be made direct to the Scottish Ministers, not SPEN."

It is therefore imperative that those in the community who want the KTR Project underground become active now so that we can launch an effective campaign.

Two relevant pieces of information have come to light: Firstly, that SPEN have targeted Dumfries & Galloway for a revolutionary, wide scale 'integrated network management zone' across the area, which involves increasing the distribution of electricity from 90MW to 290MW. I have asked SPEN if the extra 200MW is coming from wind turbines already built, but to date I haven't received an answer. I believe this policy has huge implications for the whole of D&G, and that everyone who lives, works and invests here should understand what is happening. This strategy has not been shared by SPEN at either public or private meetings that I have attended, and one has to wonder why. Secondly, that the electricity and gas markets regulator (Ofgem) is



The photograph (by Stuart Littlewood) shows Stroan Loch. The pylons would run to the east of the loch with the closest pylon less than 250m away.

responsible for administering a £500m fund for GB electricity transmission owners to mitigate the impact of existing electricity infrastructure on the visual amenity of nationally designated landscapes. The primary objective of VISTA (Visual Impact of Scottish Transmission Assets) is to use the Ofgem funding to deliver the maximum benefit for nationally designated landscapes in the north of Scotland.

So, in the north of Scotland, some pylons will be removed and the line under-grounded to avoid unwanted economic and environmental impacts. Ofgem recognise the fact that undergrounding both desirable and practical, so why not protect Galloway now and put the KTR Project underground from the start.

To join Galloway Without Pylons (charitable status applied for), please email info@gallowaywithoutpylons.org or call Paul Swift on 01644 450 352 - membership is free.

Paul Swift

NEW GALLOWAY PROJECTS UPDATE

Galloway Glens Exploring New Galloway

The work on the Golf Course Paths has been completed for the time being with a new boardwalk, better drainage of boggy bits and other areas cleared back.

Following surveys of people interested in the Garroch Walled Garden a plan is coming together on how to go ahead with this project. The general consensus is to proceed carefully taking consideration of the peace and quiet of the place and what is already there. Although the overgrown walls looked quaint, we were aware that the climbers could lead to damage so they have been weeded out. The pigs who found the garden a bit hot in the summer are now back rooting around an area which, if there is interest, may become either individual or communal allotments.

A steering group is being set up to help guide activities which will include planting up the pergola with new roses and other climbers and daffodils and other spring bulbs between the posts.

Enquiries are being made with local producers about the possibility of local production of cider or apple juice.

The entrance gate from the car park has been repaired complete with netting to keep the rabbits out. We have acquired the redundant tables from The Smithy and these will be in place soon.

Information about the project and current plans has been put up in the bothy by the walled garden. If you missed the beginning set up but would like to be involved please get in touch.

New Galloway Town Hall

With all this out of door excitement the Town Hall has not been forgotten. During the summer with support from Loreburn, three sessions were run by Let's Get Sporty with active activities in the Main Hall and board games in the Lesser Hall. Another two sessions will take place during half term.

The twice weekly Circuit Training Sessions started earlier in the year continue to be well attended. Table Tennis continued during the summer and Carpet Bowling re-started in September.

Following funding from the Glenkens Charity Shop, LING's New Galloway Story is progressing with its plan of developing a story of its many shops and businesses. With agreement from

current owners this could lead to informative window displays of their property's previous roles.

Also liaison with CatStrand Youth is enabling interesting individual stories of the past to be recorded through interviews.

We would love to hear from you if you have any memories of your own or of others which could contribute to our knowledge of the past life of New Galloway.

Another grant to LING from the Charity Shop will be put towards a commercial dishwasher.

A Town Hall car park space has been purchased with grant funding from the D&G Area Committee. With space for two cars, this will particularly benefit those who find difficulty walking up from the main car park.

Access the Town Hall Fast Broadband with your own laptop between 11am and 2pm on Tuesdays when the hall is open for Elevenses and LING Lunches. Other times and arrangements are being investigated. Let us know what you need.

Ros Hill,

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING)

OLDEST FLOWER SHOW IN SCOTLAND

This year's Glenkens Flower and Vegetable Show was a resounding success.

Entries numbered over 100, a significant increase on last year's participants.

The Glenkens Horticultural Society was established in 1831 and is the longest-running flower show in Scotland, and perhaps the whole of the UK – research is currently ongoing to find this out.



Various entries, prize winners and happy visitors to the Glenkens Horticultural Society Annual Flower & Vegetable Show 2018.

First Ever Galloway Gaelic Conference

The CatStrand was filled to capacity for *Galloway, Gaelic's Lost Province*, the first ever conference on the history of

the Gaelic language spoken in Galloway.

The event, organised by Professor Ted Cowan and Michael Ansell, attracted leading academics in the field. Evidence of Galloway's Gaelic-speaking past, its origin and decline, was

examined through place names and names of people, and in public, private and religious records.

Audience feedback reported a widespread demand for further events on the subject.

GLENKENS CHARITY SHOP SECURED

Continued from front page...

"This is what our team had always hoped to be able to achieve within our small community and it still surprises us every day how successful it has been, not just as a shop but as a meeting place."

This year has been a challenge as the owners of the shop premises, Larry and Moira, decided to sell the shop. Shirley said: "We wish them both well as they move on to new adventures. The future of our enterprise being unknown has been stressful, worrying whether the new buyers would let us continue or if they

had they own plans. There were various options being offered, but it is with a massive thank you to the Pamela Young Trust that we are now secure, and can breathe a sigh of relief. The Pamela Young Trust has bought our little shop and will be refurbishing throughout the winter. Sadly, this means that we shall be closed for most of the winter months, but we are planning on having a few 'sale days' in Dalry Town Hall and we will keep people informed via notice boards and our Facebook page.

"Due to the shop temporarily

closing, if you have anything you would like to donate there is no time like the present."

The shop's grant allocation meeting will take place in November as usual, and application forms will be available to pick up in the shop from 22 October, to be returned by 10 November for consideration at the meeting on 15 November.

If anyone would like to find out more, or perhaps volunteer their time in the shop, you can contact the Glenkens Charity Shop via their Facebook page, or call the shop on 07895494746.

Lieutenant Colonel Clark Kennedy

Colonel William Hew Clark Kennedy is one of Carsphairn's most famous sons, certainly from the perspective of the military.

Being an ex-serviceman myself, it was an honour to attend the unveiling of a commemorative paving stone at Carsphairn War Memorial. These stones are being provided by the UK government to commemorate the awarding of the Victoria Cross (VC) - the nation's highest award for bravery - and are being unveiled at an appropriate place of memorial for each VC recipient on or around the centenary of the award.

It is worth mentioning here that the Carsphairn War Memorial was unveiled by the same Colonel Clark Kennedy, on land donated by the Clark Kennedy family of Knockgray.

Wreaths were laid by Mrs Anna

Campbell (Deputy Lord Lieutenant), Mr A Hugh Clark Kennedy (complete with Colonel Clark Kennedy's medals, including VC, proudly worn in remembrance), Colonel Andrew Lussier - Canadian Army (Colonel Clark Kennedy had served with the Canadians), Councillor Dougie Campbell (D&G Council), Mrs Elizabeth Holmes (Carsphairn Community Council), Lt Col Alan Murray MBE (Legion Scotland) and Carsphairn Primary School.

All due pomp and ceremony was included with an excellent piper and bugler. Reverend David Bartholomew did his usual sterling work and the Lord Lieutenant, Sir Malcolm Ross and Lady Ross were also in attendance in one of Sir Malcolm's final engagements before retiring. I know that I have missed recognising and recording many of the others who attended, for which I apologise.

The unveiling ceremony was followed by a well thought out and inclusive church service where mention was

made of the origin of the poppy as a symbol of remembrance and its connection to Carsphairn (also via Canada). The great-great grandfather of the author of 'In Flanders Fields', one Marmaduke McCrae, is buried in Carsphairn churchyard. What the members of Carsphairn school lacked in numbers, they made up for in confidence



Lieutenant Colonel William Hew Clark Kennedy, VC, CMG, DSO & Bar, ED

and enthusiasm as they led the congregation in a rendition of Pack Up Your Troubles and It's a Long Way to Tipperary.

The church service was followed by a reception and buffet at a packed Lagwyne Hall, where VIPs mingled freely and the pupils of Carsphairn School particularly enjoyed speaking to Col Lussier of the Canadian Army and having their photograph taken with him.

Readers will have noted that I have made little mention of the brave Colonel Clark Kennedy's military service or the acts which led to the award of the Victoria Cross or his Distinguished Service Order and bar. I could not do justice to the facts in the space available in this publication but I would urge the reader to look up the facts online using your favourite search engine. Sadly, the Carsphairn Heritage and Craft Centre where Colonel Clark Kennedy is the subject of this year's exhibition will be closed for the season by the time this issue of the Glenkens Gazette is published.

Paul Goodwin



March down the main street in Carsphairn for the VC stone unveiling ceremony for Colonel Clark Kennedy.

CENTENARY OF THE ARMISTICE: COMMEMORATIONS IN THE GLENKENS

The Glenkens has four civic war memorials and fifteen other memorials commemorating the dead of the Great War.

To mark the centenary of the Armistice, at 2.30pm on Saturday 3 November Paul Goodwin will give an illustrated talk at the CatStrand. Paul is a resident of Dalry and has been identifying, recording and researching the War Memorials of Dumfries and Galloway since 2006 - readers

may be familiar with Paul's series of articles on Great War casualties published in the Glenkens Gazette since 2014.

The talk will explain how the memorials came to be created and will recall the stories of some of the men and women whose names appear on them. It complements a CatStrand exhibition on the story of the memorials and the legacy of the Great War which will be on display for the month of November. The display, in words and pictures, will illustrate the raising of the war memorials and contain a tribute to those who died.

There will also be contributions from local schools about the coming of the peace. The hope is that those attending Remembrance Services on 11 November will do so with a greater understanding of the memorials and the men, and women, named on them.

This event will be of particular interest to relatives of those commemorated on the Glenkens memorials. If you are attending and have a connection with a name on a local memorial please let Paul know in advance if possible at memorials@paulgoodwin.me.uk

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

When Gypsies Were Kings



At one time Galloway was known for its population, admittedly quite small, of folk variously known as the Gypsies, the Tinkers, the Travellers, or the Tinkler Gypsies.

These 'Lords of Little Egypt' are thought to have arrived in Scotland around 1500. One authority on these people was Andrew McCormick, sometime provost of Newton Stewart who interviewed and photographed the travellers in their camps whenever he could, as well as learning their secret cant or language, studying their customs and collecting their stories and folklore.

He preserved many Romany superstitions. Galloway tinklers would turn back if they met a 'gley-eyed' woman, one with a strabismus. At New Year the most desired 'first foot' was a donkey, which failing that a sheep. All believed in witches; many asserted they had heard pipers playing in caves or underground.

The tinklers travelled in gangs usually designated by the family name of their leader, a name which all did not necessarily share. There were gangs of Baillies, Millers, Kennedys, MacMillans, Marshalls, Watsons, Wilsons and O'Neills. Some claimed descent from members of the broken clans after Culloden. Most traced their origins to India and Spain. By the time McCormick interviewed them the

Romany bloodlines, if they had ever existed, must have been very thin indeed.

They often fell foul of the law; women as well as men were accused of theft, vagrancy, riot and murder and were punished by branding on the cheek, whippings and hangings. Otherwise the travellers made cans and knives as well as horned spoons, mended pots and pans, or found casual work. They also were dealers in horses, practising horse whispering and doctoring when required. There is ample evidence that they enjoyed their way of life, difficult though it could be. One man testified that "I canna sleep in a hoose an the door lockit", but many feared that their way of life was under serious threat, a woman telling the provost that "we

that it is now almost impossible

to recover the actual individual. The King of the Gypsies of the Western Lowlands and last King of the Picts was allegedly born around 1671 and died at Kirkcudbright in 1792 at the age of 120 years. He claimed to have fought at the Battle of the Boyne. He became King of the Galloway gypsies, having, it was rumoured, murdered his predecessor. He was married seventeen times, fathering four children after he passed the hundred-year mark. He joined the army several times to acquire the bounty and then quit. He was a murderer, a wife beater, a thief and a smuggler though many sang his praises finding him honest, trustworthy and well-

intentioned. One farmer who was asked if Marshall and his gang ever stole while working for him, replied "Not they; they were like the craws - they aye gaed awa frae their nests to steal". John MacTaggart in his Gallovidian Encyclopedia brilliantly captured Billy's evasive qualities both

good and bad. "He was kind, yet he was a murderer - an honest soul, yet a thief - at times a generous savage - at other times a wild pagan. He knew both civil and uncivilized life - the dark and fair side of human nature. In short, he understood much of the world - had no fear - a happy constitution - was seldom sick - could sleep on a moor as soundly as in a feather-bed - took whisky to excess - died in Kirkcudbright at the age of 120 years".

McCormick thought that there was no dwelling in Galloway that did not know the name, Billy Marshall. Though many of his deeds were shameful he, like his people, represented a certain freedom of action that was beyond the reach of most folk. The travellers who existed in the open air in all weathers, sleeping on the ground, living on their wits, in touch with nature, inhabited a lost world increasingly the envy of the average worker. Tradition turned Billy and his people into phantoms that merged the uncertainties, unpredictabilities, quirks, viciousness, tragedies and sheer joy of nature itself.

Ted Cowan

... [they] inhabited a lost world increasingly the envy of the average worker.

get the name o being a bad lot, and God kens we're far frae gude; but they're no a tinklers that wield the budget" which was to suggest that there was social and governmental responsibility for their plight.

There are at least two versions of the Tinker's Loup or Linn story, an episode on the Ken at the Earlstoun estate north of Dalry. A linn is a waterfall or torrent. One concerns a man who jumped for his life, when chased by dragoons, but McCormick collected an alternative verbal account at the 'exact' spot on Earlstoun Linn. According to this version a tinkler had been mending pans at Nether Carminnow. When his dinner was delayed he was so hungry that he seized a pan full of puddings and took off with the cottars in hot pursuit. He 'lowpit' the linn, "wi' the pan o puddins in his teeth, sat doon and ate them, and then threw the pan back to the owner and went his way". McCormick's informant pointed out the exact rock on which the fugitive sat!

The most famous of the Galloway gypsies was William or Billy Marshall about whom there was so much tradition, story and general confusion

DEE & GLENKENS WARD

Councillor Dougie Campbell is holding surgeries ...

Please get in touch for October/November
Glenkens dates and locations.

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



The Great War: Aug-Sept 1918

With the benefit of hindsight, we now know that, one hundred years ago the Great War was approaching its end.

Germany was simply running out of men to send to the front as were the allies, including the British Empire, and it was the increasing numbers of Americans being sent to France and Flanders that was tipping the balance in our favour.

Gilbert Anderson was a gamekeeper at Milton Park, Dalry, when he enlisted in June 1916 into the Kings Own Scottish Borderers. He was gassed near Arras in August 1917 and evacuated to hospital in Newcastle, eventually returning to France. Gilbert was born at Glenlee, the son of George and Janet (Houston) Anderson. He was the husband of Maggie Jane (Dickson) Anderson of High St, New Galloway, who he married in 1913 and was father to two children. Gilbert was killed in action on 1 August 1918 at the age of 32. He is listed on the Kells parish memorial.

William Kerr was born in Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire, the son of Thomas and Agnes (Henderson) Kerr of Holmhead, in the Dalry parish

towards Moniaive. He had been employed by Major McCall of Caitloch, Moniaive, and was a shepherd at Barbuie, Moniaive, when he enlisted in November 1915. William died on 26 August 1918 at the age of 24, and is listed on the Dalry war memorial and is also named on the Glencairn Parish War Memorials in Moniaive.

Captain Archibald Douglas Hewitt Clark Kennedy was born in London, the son of the late Captain Alexander William Maxwell Clark Kennedy of Knockgray, Carsphairn, a family with a long history of military service. His mother was The Honourable Lettice Lucy, third daughter of the fourth Viscount Lifford. Archibald had pre-war service with the 4th Royal Scots volunteers, and with the Bombay Light Horse. He had worked for the Standard Life Insurance Company in Edinburgh and India, and then the Law, Union and Rock Insurance Company in London before volunteering at the outbreak of war and joining the Royal Scots Fusiliers. He served in Gallipoli, Egypt and Palestine before transferring to France as a Captain and was mentioned in dispatches in January 1918 for distinguished service. He died on 18 September 1918 during the advance on Cambrai at the age of 30. His brother Alexander had

been killed in April 1917 and his other brother, William, was awarded the Victoria Cross for bravery just the month before Archibald was killed. Archibald is listed on the Carsphairn war memorial which was unveiled by his brother William and stands on land donated by the Clark Kennedy family.

Samuel Dalziel was born at Rosebank, Parton, the son of Samuel and Jane Todd (Wallace) Dalziel of Ewanstone, Balmaclellan and had at one time worked at Cubbox prior to enlistment into the Kings Own Scottish Borderers. Sam had been wounded three times and we know that his second wound was to the thigh (in March 1918) and he was admitted to the Red Cross hospital in Dundee. He was living in Argrennan Mains, Tongland, when he enlisted into the Kings Own Scottish Borderers in June 1916. Sam had been promoted to Corporal before he was killed in action on 30 September 1918 at the age of 21. Sam is listed on the war memorials in Balmaclellan and Tongland.

Unfortunately I have been unable to obtain photographs of any of the men named in this article so if you have any, then please get in touch - memorials@paulgoodwin.me.uk

Paul Goodwin

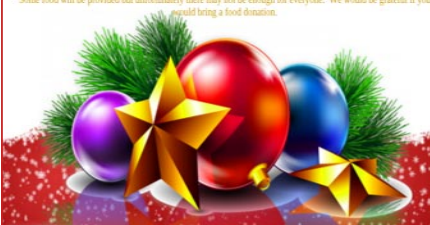
Glenkens Children's Christmas PARTY

Sunday 16th December
at 3pm in Balmaclellan Village Hall

With special guests Santa & Magic Monty

Raffle - donations for which are very welcome

All Primary and pre-school children from the Glenkens welcome. We would appreciate if all children were accompanied by an adult.
Some food will be provided but unfortunately there may not be enough for everyone. We would be grateful if you could bring a food donation.



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CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR

Sat 3 Nov
10am-3pm
Dalry Town Hall

A great opportunity to do some Christmas shopping - all items are hand crafted.

- pottery - felt hats -
crotched tea cosies - painted
glass - scrap sculpture
- tweed pictures - aprons
- cushions - toys - clocks
- knitted garments - home-
made cakes - jams/jellies
- local photos - and more!

There will also be tea/coffee, homebaking and soup for sale throughout the day.

Crockett's Glimpses Of The Glenkens

This, the fifth in the Glimpses series, focuses on Castle Douglas.

CASTLE DOUGLAS

"Little town, once built at the foot of a hill and ever since running a race up it—I do not know whether you are very proud of me, but at any rate I am proud of you."

The Crockett family moved from Duchrae to Castle Douglas in 1867. Samuel Rutherford lived there until 1876, winning the Galloway Bursary to Edinburgh University. He wrote extensively about Castle Douglas in his fiction, but renamed it Cairn Edward, perhaps to spare the blushes of the locals.

The Railway, the Market, the Cotton Mill, The Kirk on the Hill, Cowper's school, various local hotels, hostelries and shops, the Mechanics Institute and the Cross are all treated to Crockett's evocative powers of description. Carlingwark Loch, Little Dublin and Threave get a mention too. Banks feature frequently and the 'characters' of Castle Douglas (good and bad) are given full credit.

"So, exactly at four of the old-fashioned gold-faced watch which had ticked all night by his bedstead in the house of Tibby Allen, spinster, gossip, and householder in Queen Street, Cairn Edward, Mr Christopher Kennedy stepped out into the little white street of the burgh, clean swept of people,

and with the sunshine flooding it silently and emptily from end to end just as if it were a fine summer Sabbath day during the morning diet of worship."

From high to low, no resident of CD is excluded: "In a town like Cairn Edward a local Do-Nothing is apt to attach himself to a livery stable, and there to acquire a fine coppery nose and a permanent 'dither' about the knees. He is spoken of curtly and even disrespectfully as 'that waister Jock Bell.' In cities he becomes a mere matter for the police, and the facetious reporter chronicles his two-hundredth appearance before the magistrate."

There were surely a plethora of interesting folk to pick from: "For in Galloway, at least as between the male sex, sympathy is with the strong man who leaves his mark. And the fame of Pin McMyn, who dabbled his wooden leg into the soil

baker."

There are plenty of familiar places described as well as those now long gone: "The museum had long become the manège of a cycle agency, and that in turn had lately been swept away to provide for the needs of extra 'siding' accommodation at Cairn Edward Station."

Crockett's keen observation offers a social history from an individual perspective: "They drove up the street of the little town - then scarce more than a village. All was in darkness. To the moon had been left the task of lighting the burgesses home. Country visitors, except on market days, were not looked for - certainly not welcomed. Man, woman, and child in Cairn Edward - all were expected to know the way to their own doors in the dark. For the moon, though a party to the contract, not infrequently did not come

up to time, owing to stress of weather, temper, and feminine whimsies."

You can find Crockett's Castle Douglas in more than ten of his Galloway novels and stories including *Rose of the*

Wilderness, The Stickit Minister, The Stickit Minister's Wooing, Kit Kennedy, The Smugglers, Rogues' Island, Strong Mac, Lads' Love, Cinderella and Bog Myrtle and Peat. Unlock the Cairn Edward key and a whole new old world is your oyster.

Cally Phillips

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

He wrote extensively about Castle Douglas in his fiction, but renamed it Cairn Edward, perhaps to spare the blushes of the locals.

at the butt end of Cairn Edward Railway Station and fought six Irish drovers, hath not yet passed away."

Crockett also treats us to the sights, sounds, smells and tastes of the town he loved: "He would call to mind the extended satisfaction of a penny Cairn Edward loaf, a production of human skill which gave as much crust in proportion to as little bread as has ever yet been compassed by merely human

DEE & GLENKENS WARD

Councillor Jane Maitland

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

Please phone 07825 633155 or email jane.maitland@dumgal.gov.uk for an appointment.

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries & Galloway



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Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel

This issue's winner is John McBeth with his photograph of the bridge at Loch Stroan.

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

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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COMMUNITY OFFICER: TAM DINGWALL

Thomas, or Tam, Dingwall is our new Community Officer here in the Glenkens.

Tam says: Some folk may remember me from previously being in the Stewartry Community Team about four years ago.

Basically, I have been a Police Officer for 13 years and spent a lot of my service as a detective in the

CID. I have worked in Stranraer, Newton Stewart and the Stewartry previously.

I married a girl local to Castle Douglas, hence the move through here. I am married with four children and reside in Castle Douglas.

I am excited to be the new Glenkens Community Officer and think it is a beautiful and safe part of the region which is how I would like it to stay.



If anyone wants to contact me they can email me on stewartryCPT@scotland.pnn.police.uk or phone 101 and ask to speak with me. Get in touch if you have any issues at all, or even just for a craic.

Cheers, Tam

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Clatteringshaws Visitor Centre

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OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

SEPTEMBER

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

OCTOBER

Mon 1, Drop-in, 1-2.30pm, Dalry police station

Thurs 4, Macmillan Fundraiser, 2pm, Hair by Jayne, Dalry, see p26

Fri 5, One Hundred Years in Dalry exhibition: Concert, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p2

Sat 6, GTI Bus Trip: Royal Botanic Garden, see p6

Sat 6-Sun 7, Dalry Heritage Group's One Hundred Years in Dalry Exhibition, Sat 2-6pm & Sun 2-5pm, see p2

Wed 10, Dalry Film Club: Their Finest, Dalry Town Hall, see p15

Thu 11, Poppy Pledge Coffee Morning, 10am-12noon, Dalry Secondary School, see p18

Thu 11, Stewartry Birdwatchers Talk: Forty Years on the Farne Islands, 7.30pm, Kells School, New Galloway, see p8

Sat 13, Glenkens Farmers' Market,

10am-12.30pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p3

Mon 15 & 22, Forest School (6yrs and under), 10am-12.30pm, The Hidden Mill, Balmaclellan, see p32

Wed 17 & 24, Forest School (12+ yrs), 10am-12.30pm, The Hidden Mill, Balmaclellan, see p32

Fri 19, Balmaclellan War Memorial - First in Scotland: Talk by Paul Goodwin, 6.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Mon 22, Charity Shop Grants, application available 22 Oct from shop, to be returned by 10 Nov, see p23

Sat 27, GTI Bus Trip: Creative & Christmas Crafts Show, see p6

Sat 27, Dalry Film Club: The Shape of Water, Dalry Town Hall, see p15

NOVEMBER

Thu 1, Drop-in, 3-4.30pm, Dalry police station

Fri 2, Ladies Give it a Go! 'Bring a Plate' Supper, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall, see p13

Sat 3, Centenary of the Armistice Talk: Paul Goodwin, 2.30pm, CatStrand, see p24

Sat 3, Craft Fair, 10am-3pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p26

Tue 6, Men's Shed AGM, 10am, CatStrand, see p21

Wed 7, Dalry Secondary School Presents: Archie Dobson's War (fundraiser for Poppy Scotland), Dalry Secondary School, see p18

Sat 10, Glenkens Farmers' Market, 10am-12.30pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p3

Wed 14, Dalry Film Club: Some Like it Hot (fundraiser with CatStrand Ukulele Band), Dalry Town Hall, see p15

Thu 15, Stewartry Birdwatchers Talk: Tag-n-Track: Lesser Black-backed Gulls, 7.30pm, Kells School, New Galloway, see p8

Sat 24 Nov, CatStrand Xmas Shopping Day, 11am-4pm, CatStrand, see p3

Wed 28, Dalry Film Club: The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society, Dalry Town Hall, see p15

DECEMBER

Sat 1, GTI Bus Trip: Gretna Gateway & Carlisle, see p6

Fri 7, Sat 8 Sun 9, Youth Players Panto, CatStrand, see p9

elementpower

Underground Grid Connection

Public Exhibitions

Monday 1st October 2018, 2 pm - 6 pm
Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, DG7 3TQ

Tuesday 2nd October 2018, 10 am - 2 pm
New Cumnock Town Hall, 17 Castle, New Cumnock KA18 4AN

Element Power Limited invites local residents to view proposals for an underground electricity cable between the consented Windy Rig Wind Farm located approximately 8 km north east of Carsphairn, and the existing Black Hill Substation.

The exhibition will give you the opportunity to find out about the proposal and to meet members of the project team.

For further information or to make a comment please contact Doug Wilson at doug.wilson@elpower.com. Or by post: c/o Element Power Scotland Ltd, Westpoint, 4 Redheughs Rigg, South Gyle, Edinburgh, EH12 9DQ.

Persons submitting comments in response to the Pre-Application Consultation are advised that comments submitted to Element Power at this time are not representations to the planning authority (Dumfries and Galloway Council and East Ayrshire Council). There will be an opportunity to submit representations to the planning authorities should a planning application be made.

This consultation is undertaken in accordance with Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) Scotland Regulations 2013, Pre-Applications Consultation 7(2) and (3).

For more information please visit: www.elpower.com

Windy Rig Wind Farm

Wind Farm Business and Contract Opportunities

Carsphairn Supplier Day

Tuesday 2nd October 2018
4 pm - 7 pm

Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, DG7 3TQ

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

The event will provide an opportunity for local businesses to meet Element Power Construction Team.

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

To register, email: Scotlandinfo@elpower.com

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, 1st & 2nd Thurs of the month, 1-3.30pm

Yoga, Thurs 6.30pm

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

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

Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry:

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 Elevenes & Lunches, Tues 11am-2pm

Fat Broadband Access, Tues 11am-2pm

Table Tennis & Carpet Bowls, Tues 7-9pm

Circuits, Tues 5.30-6.30pm

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

Circuits, Sat 8-9am

Various Locations:

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

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

Kettleball, Balmaclellan Village Hall, Thurs 7.30-8.30pm

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

Men's Shed, Old Smiddy, Balmaclellan. Opening times: Mon 9.30am-4pm & 6.30-8.30pm; Wed 9.30am-1pm & woodcarving from 2-4pm; Fri 9.30am-12noon.

Family and friends coming to stay?

Short of space?

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www.covenanters-holidaycottagescotland.co.uk

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

Dalry Library

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

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Glenkens Community Councils

Balmaclellan Community Council Meetings: POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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

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

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

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

CHURCH TIMES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND: Sunday Services: Balmaclellan 9.45am: 1st. Carsphairn 11.15am: 1st, 2nd (Oct), 3rd, 4th. Dalry 9.45am: 2nd (Oct), 4th. Kells 9.45am: 3rd. **Special Services/Events**: Family Service, Dalry Church, 14 Oct, 9.45am. Quiz Night, Balmaclellan Village Hall, 2 Nov, 7.30pm. Remembrance Sunday Services: 11 Nov, Carsphairn Church,

10.30am; Kells Church, 11am; Dalry Church, 12noon.

Communion Services: 28 Oct, 9.45am, Dalry Church. 18 Nov, 11.15am, Carsphairn Church.

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

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

CELTIC HARMONIES BORN IN A STORM

Ten musical artists came together to create Gaelic-inspired sounds at Barscobe House, Balmaclellan.

Focussing on the mysterious Galloway Gaelic song *Oran Bagraidh*, the artists have been working together to create compositions inspired by the song, the landscape and each other. Taking the theme of multiple identities, they have been exploring commonalities and differences between languages, regional histories and musical sensibilities, dipping into traditional, experimental and electronic sounds.

Despite storm Ali causing a power cut in the middle of recording sessions, the artists have created material which will be used to create an album of poetry and music inspired by past peoples and languages of Galloway.

The residency has involved a selection of highly acclaimed musicians and poets. Renowned poet Roddy Gorman said: "This has been an extraordinarily productive collaboration with, as its origins, an enigmatic element of the corpus of Gaelic tradition in Scotland and Ireland as well as other traditions... A particularly pleasing element of the enterprise has been that newly created material has emphasised the specifically local as exemplified in the song *Oran Bagraidh*."

Oran Bagraidh 'Song of Defiance' is allegedly the only surviving example of the extinct dialect of Galloway Gaelic, spoken across the region from the 5th to 18th century, alongside English, early Welsh and Scots.

The *Oran Bagraidh* Residency is produced by Katch Holmes for Knockengoroch as part of the organisation's 'Off Site' programme. The recorded work will be released in



From the back, left to right: Mary Anne (Bragod), Lorcan Mac Mathuna, Josie Duncan, Roddy Gorman, Bob Evans (Bragod), Barnaby Brown, Gwyneth Glyn, Doimnic MacGiolla Bhrìde, Conor Caldwell, Katch Holmes, Ben Seal and MacGillivray.

February 2019, produced by Ben Seal. It will be followed by a tour of the UK and Ireland.

The project is funded by Creative Scotland, Arts Council Ireland and PRS Foundation and supported by Barscobe Heritage Trust.

Thanks go to W Bone for saving the sessions through supplying a generator during the power cut.



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Friday 18 January 2019

Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

7:00pm for 7:30pm

Special ticket price £10 pp

Tickets must be reserved in advance by contacting:
hallkaren@btinternet.com or Davie on 07710124255

This year's Speakers & Artists include:

Grierson Dunlop - The Immortal Memory

Andrew Hunter Blair - Toast to the Lassies

Helen Campbell - Reply from the Lassies

Bruce McKenzie - Music

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

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