

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

April/May 2019

ISSUE 111

FREE

NEW SIGNS POINT THE WAY FOR DALRY

New road signs as you enter Dalry announce that the village is a proud supporter of the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere – an area that unites the three local authorities of East Ayrshire, South Ayrshire and Dumfries & Galloway.

A Biosphere is a special designation awarded by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organisation) to areas renowned for their special environments which are valued by local people. The idea is to

demonstrate ways in which rural communities can become more successful through sustainable, environmental, social and economic growth. The ethos behind the Biosphere encourages co-operation and collaboration to show that a sustainable way of living is not only possible but already happening.

Dalry Community Council member, Andrew Bielinski, proposed the village join the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire



Andrew Bielinski beside the sign at the top of the village.

Biosphere over two years ago, but it has taken some time to achieve the new signage with funding for the project coming from the Biosphere, Dalry Town Hall and Dalry Community Council with Dumfries & Galloway Council taking responsibility for erecting the new signs.

Youth Players' Trophy Success

The CatStrand Youth Players enjoyed one of their most successful Scottish Community Drama Association (SCDA) festivals to date, bringing home five of the six trophies which were awarded after the four-night competition at The Fullarton Theatre in February.

Castle Douglas High School Drama Club took first place with their excellent production of 'Rom & Julite', an ingenious and incredibly fast-paced gallop through the Romeo and Juliet story. They will progress to

represent Stewartry District at the Western Divisional Final this year.

However, all the other awards headed back to CatStrand – 2nd place and Audience Choice were awarded to 'Bar & Ger' while 3rd place, Best Stage Presentation and Best Moment of Theatre went to 'Dust of the Street'.

The adjudicator, Dave Bennet, was very impressed with the general high standard of the eight plays in the Youth Festival this year and said that he wished he was able to put more than



Cast of Dust of the Street: Left to right are Anna Irving, James Wallace, Henry Harfield, James Jones, Annabelle McAdam, Laura Edington.

the one play through to the next round.

Continued on p11...

BIG LOTTERY VIEWS NEW GALLOWAY RESULT

When New Galloway Community Enterprises secured Big Lottery funding in March 2017 it was committed to launching three projects.

The community shop moved into its refurbished premises last August, the community engagement programme has been up and running with a host of activities for over a year, and now the two self-catering units, Stroan and Skerrow, have been completed and are welcoming their first guests. Less than two years after the grant was awarded, all three strands of the project are in business.

Marking this landmark, senior figures from the Big Lottery visited New Galloway at the end of February to see what has been achieved. Mark Hilton, Capital Manager, and Rachael McQueen, Funding Officer, were given a tour of the completed facilities and met Board members as well as General Retail Manager, Lynsey Hogg, and Community Engagement Worker, Sam Rushton. Our visitors showed great interest in what had been achieved and were impressed by the thriving shop, the ambitious range of engagement work and with the quality of the finished building. Mark Hilton had been well aware of the difficult days in



The Big Lottery's visitors viewing the refurbished shop. From left, Andy Normansell, former Big Lottery funding officer, Jean Marsden, vice chair of NGCE, Rachael McQueen and Mark Hilton of the Big Lottery, Project Manager Helen Keron, and General Retail Manager Lynsey Hogg.

the construction phase when we wrestled with the problems of old field drains and collapsing roof beams, now consigned to history.

We were delighted that our visitors had brought their former colleague Andy Normansell with them. Andy, now retired, had been our Funding Officer throughout the application process. He had managed both to challenge and stretch us as we prepared our bid while also being positive and encouraging as we negotiated numerous hurdles and successfully launched our community share offer. It obviously gave him pleasure to see our collaboration bear fruit.

After their visit Rachael McQueen wrote to say: "We thoroughly enjoyed our visit

to sunny New Galloway and appreciated the warm welcome from the NGCE committee and staff. It was great to see the positive impact of National Lottery funding in the area and we were impressed by the transformation of the community shop and the newly converted residential accommodation units. It was excellent to see a range of local and sustainable produce on offer at the shop and learn more about the breadth of activities provided by the community engagement worker, from community co-operative fuel buying initiatives to social gatherings and wellbeing activities."

Mike Brown, Chair, NGCE Ltd

NEW GALLOWAY GOLF CLUB

New Galloway Golf Club is looking forward to its new season.

The club is pleased to report that we have several new members who have joined up to date this year. It is especially pleasing that a number of these new members are ladies and are also from within the community of New Galloway.

Club members have been busy preparing the course, organising competitions and coaching. In particular the ladies are in the process of arranging coaching for both beginners and those more experienced players. This coaching will start in early April and any ladies in the community who would like to give the game a try are welcome. If you would like to come along

you can contact Linda Brown on 07754066484.

Our junior coaching is also set to commence again in early April and anyone interested in coming along can obtain details from David Aitken on 01644 460556.

*Ian Brown, Secretary
New Galloway Golf Club*

SPECIAL FINALE AFTER 21 YEARS OF SERVICE

Sunday 25 November marked the last service at St Margaret's Episcopal Church, New Galloway, taken by the Reverend John Repath who has retired as Rector after 21 years.

As well as the usual congregation many other friends attended making it an extra special finale. Drinks and canapés provided by the St Margaret's Ladies Guild followed the service with

a presentation on behalf of the congregation by long-standing member Richard Agnew.

John and his wife Jenny have moved to Herefordshire to be nearer family and take with them the good wishes of all.

John Repath said afterwards: "We will both always remember the many years we have enjoyed here and the people who have made us welcome both at St Margaret's and in their homes. It has been a privilege to have served here with such a loyal and faithful congregation."

For further information, please contact Nicolette Wise on 07748 631820.



The Reverend John Repath

Carsphairn Scottish Women's Institute

Carsphairn Scottish Women's Institute (SWI) is a small, social and active group of women who enjoy meeting regularly to share experiences and skills while learning new ones.

Membership of the SWI is available to all women in Scotland. There is an emphasis on friendship and inclusiveness. Within the SWI, preserving traditional skills remains important. However, these are added to by the introduction of new experiences and ideas with a view to moving with the times.

There is a varied programme of themes at meetings throughout the year which include baking, local heritage, crafts, fun and games and making the most of food. Members may get involved in competitions, but this is totally up to them. One of the benefits of being a member is the opportunity to come together to just talk and share a laugh.

Carsphairn SWI meets monthly in Lagwyne Hall on the third Thursday of each month unless there is a reason to change the date. Carsphairn SWI is extending a warm welcome to new members. If you would like to know more,

please contact Christine on 01644 460577.

In January this year the group met to celebrate Scottish dancing, led by Lavinia and Ken Morris. Great fun was had by all whether taking part or watching - the accompanying poem reflects the evening.

In February, Anna Campbell took members and visitors into the past. She described how a walk along the village street would have differed significantly from today. Shops, pubs, police station and fuel station to name a few. It became clear that many characters of many talents have hailed from the Carsphairn area making an impact far afield and closer to home. Members really enjoyed hearing about them all and a fair few of Anna's stories of the past raised a smile or a laugh. Much food for thought was shared and members plan to dig a bit

deeper and find out more about the heritage of the area. Christine Whipp

*The story of Strictly Scottish
Dancing SWI-style...
...but to o'or tale that Thursday
night,
They came fae glens o' dark and
licht
And frae the village o' Carsphairn
They'd women, man and even wean
Lavinia and Ken loomed large
To gie them dancing was their
charge
the music box was fast and furious
and a' the folk were keen and
curious
they jigged they jumped they
laughed they tried
an' a that watched fell doon an cried
an' oft the question came to pass
who's the lad an who's the lass?*



The ladies of Carsphairn SWI.

Glenkens Freecycle

sponsored by



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*

OFFERED

Gunnera plants - ready to dig and divide asap; 7 x 5 litre **glass fermentation jars**; 2 rolls of **blue water piping** 250 mm diameter. - can be cut up and used as hoops to make clothes in the garden; **strap locker gun** suitable for attaching

things to fences etc - unused and complete with instructions and all accessories; **pull-out washing line** - 5 lines extend to up to 4 metres and gives 20 m drying space - unused; unused and used **timber of all sorts** and sizes. Contact: Rhoda on 01644 430 031

WANTED

Paving slabs for repairing steps and footpaths in Golf Course wood. Contact: Gerry on 01644 420 852

GAZETTE 'FOR SALE' ADS

We thought we'd try out a For Sale section in the Gazette, where anyone within the Glenkens can advertise items they wish to sell, or post a Wanted ad for items they would like to buy. Below are our first few items to get things started - get in touch with yours!

Folding massage table. White faux-leather, good quality, hardly used. £30 ono. Contact: Sarah on 07727 127 997

Mens shoes, brand new and unworn, top quality Anatomic brand, black leather formal style, selection of sizes from 6 to 11, old stock in original wrapping and boxes, these cost £129 a pair on anatomicshoes.com - will sell for £20 a pair. Contact: bcaenterprise@hotmail.co.uk

DVD boxsets: Penny Dreadful, seasons 1,2 and 3. 10 discs, as new condition. Supernatural drama starring Timothy Dalton, Eva

Green, Josh Hartnett and Billie Piper. £10. Contact: bcaenterprises@hotmail.co.uk

DVDs: Fear the Walking Dead, seasons 1,2 and 3. 11 discs, as new condition. Apocalyptic drama series. £10. Contact: bcaenterprises@hotmail.co.uk

DVD boxsets: Deadwood, seasons 1, 2 and 3. 12 discs, as new condition. Western drama series. £10. Contact: bcaenterprises@hotmail.co.uk

Very rare pine trees, Pinus Coulteri or Coulter Pine. Healthy 1 year old saplings in pots. Decorative evergreens, very long

blueish/green needles. These trees produce the largest pinecones in the world, once established. Large quantity available, £8 each. Contact: bcaenterprises@hotmail.co.uk

Native willow tree cuttings, very fast growing, great for hedging or firewood cultivation. Produce reddish/purple long whips, very desirable for weaving and basket work. Simply put these in a jar of water to root, then plant in desired locations. Cut fresh from healthy trees, £5 per bundle of 10. Contact: bcaenterprises@hotmail.co.uk




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Biosphere Minibus Tours

The Galloway & Southern Ayrshire Biosphere has teamed up with Solway Tours to offer some single day tours in the Galloway Glens area.

The excursions are part of a Galloway Glens and D&G Leader funded project which aims to boost tourism in the area by creating a range of experiential activities.

The initial day trips will take place in April with more dates to follow throughout the rest of the year. The first tour is scheduled

on Tuesday 2 April, and will feature some of the key castles and towers in the area. The second is on Thursday 11 April and will take guests on a trail around some of the most interesting and picturesque spots on Loch Ken.

The project is working on a number of other experiences which will be advertised soon. Follow the Facebook page @ExperienceGalloway or visit



www.gsabiosphere.co.uk to keep up to date with the latest events.

For further information contact laura@sup.org.uk or 07741 669181.

THE GARDEN SPOT

In Victorian times, it is said that farmers and gardeners would drop their trousers and sit bare-cheeked on the soil to see if it was warm enough for planting.

Now I am not suggesting that you follow suit...really you could just check to see if the annual weeds have started to germinate. If they have, then it should be warm enough to start planting many of the hardy veggies such as carrot, radish and spinach, along with the hardy annual flowers (and your tatties of course). Don't forget that any parts of the garden that are shaded for part or all of the day (by a wall or trees) will take a couple of weeks longer to warm up than beds which get a better dose of the sun. Our warm February and colder March has certainly meant a confused start to spring, but nature has a way of sorting itself out.

If you grow brassicas (cabbage,

cauliflower, broccoli, etc, and also including wallflowers!) then you will need to add garden lime to the soil as the Glenkens is generally too acid for these alkaline lovers. Stone fruit (cherries, plums, etc) will also need lime around the trees as they need calcium to form the stones. I also find that my apple and pear trees do much better with a handful of lime around each in the spring every couple of years or so. On the subject of trees, if you have any which are staked, check the ties now and slacken off if necessary, to make sure that they have a little room to grow in the coming season without being choked.

If you have a greenhouse but didn't get around to planting your own tomatoes or chillis, it's not too late (even in April) to plant tomato seeds – smaller cherry varieties will produce crops quickest – 'sungold' does well for me. Otherwise buy as plants from your favourite garden centre.

I have planted a few lily bulbs in pots – I can then

move these around to fill in any gaps in the borders that appear when the daffodils and tulips die down.

A great tip for this time of year (up to mid-summer) is never to water greenhouse or tender plants with water straight from the tap or water butt – most of the plants will not like the cold shock; who would?! If you have a greenhouse then fill the watering can and leave it in the greenhouse for 24 hours to warm up before using it, otherwise add just a little warm to the cold water to just take the chill off.

Now I am off to check that the lawnmower is in good working order before I need to make the first cut of the season...

The Intrepid Gardener



Rocket, onions and broad beans ready for planting out.

RENOWNED FOLK STARS PERFORM GALLOWAY POEM IN CARSPHAIRN

As part of D&G Arts Festival, an intimate musical performance of work inspired by Oran Bagraidh, an ancient song believed to be the only remnant of Galloway Gaelic, will be held at Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, on Tuesday 28 May.

To find out more, or buy tickets for the Oran Bagraidh performance, contact CatStrand on 01644 420 374 or visit www.catstrand.com

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



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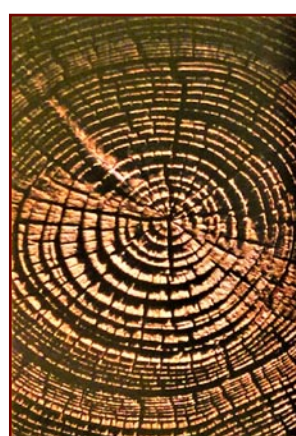
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2pm - Castle Douglas Town Hall

4pm - Constituency Office, Dumfries

FRIDAY 17TH MAY 2019

1:15pm - Kirkcudbright Library

2:30pm - Dalbeattie Town Hall

4pm - Constituency Office, Dumfries

FRIDAY 21ST JUNE 2019

2pm - Castle Douglas Town Hall

4pm - Constituency Office, Dumfries

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

Pupils Learn Gaelic Song

Through the Oran Bagraidh project (see article on opposite page), a children's version of an ancient Gaelic song will be taught in Glenkens primary schools.

The children's song lyrics were written by poet Rody Gorman and local musician and tutor Kate Howard has put the poem to music.

The song includes the names of several Galloway place names, which firmly places it in the region and raises awareness of the historical prominence of the Gaelic language across the area.

The children will have the opportunity to work with professional musicians to learn the Gaelic song in the current school year, facilitated by the organisation Fèis Rois.

Pupils will give a rendition of the song to parents and members of the community in the near future.

How Far Does the Gazette Go

We would like to find out how far afield the Glenkens Gazette travels...

Do you send copies out to relatives or friends in far-flung places?

We are keen to find out how far the Gazette goes... Do you perhaps even have a photo of someone reading the Gazette in an interesting location?

We'd love to hear from you - get in touch at glenkensgazette.co.uk or message us on Facebook



GALLOWAY GLENS

Landscape Partnership

From the Desk of the Galloway Glens Scheme: Jonathan Barrett, Galloway Glens Land Management & Access Officer

The 'Accessing the Galloway Glens' programme theme involves connecting, and in some cases re-connecting, communities with the natural, cultural and man-made elements of their heritage and surroundings.

Pathways and recreational routes which bring people into face-to-face contact with the stunning landscapes of the Ken/Dee valley often need improvement and information to help bring them to their full potential. Sometimes paths need improvement in order to open them up to a wider range of users, and often additional links are needed to provide connections between key routes and settlements. Working on these projects brings its own challenges such as weather, terrain, light, and even volumes of water moving down the valley, especially at this time of year!

Projects in development include the Glenkens Way, which is a programme of improvements to the Pack Road/pilgrims route from Carsphairn to New Galloway. The first phase from Carsphairn to Polmaddy is currently being designed for implementation this year and takes in some fascinating upland archaeology and should tie in nicely with our Can You Dig It Community Archaeology initiative.

Another popular route to be improved this year is the Blackpark to Threave path from Castle Douglas to Lamb Island on the River Dee. This route follows the old Castle Douglas to Kirkcudbright rail line and will include a new link section of path to Bridge of Dee which removes the need to risk life and limb crossing the A75.

The Mossdale to Gatehouse Station core path route improvements are now completed, including re-surfacing and a new bridge at Loch Skerrow which offers an eight-mile route across open moorland and through forestry, giving improved access for a wider range of users along part of the old Port Road railway line.

For the longer-term, the development of a long-distance canoe trail along 25 miles of river and loch from Dalry to Tongland will give all-abilities canoeing access to a stunning waterway.

New ideas for access improvement projects, big and small, on routes old and new are always welcome, so keep the ideas coming - send them to jonathan.barrett@dumgal.gov.uk



Youth Player Comes Home

Local actor Dylan Blore starred on the CatStrand stage once again this March.

Having last appeared in New Galloway with our own Youth Players in June 2012, he made his much anticipated return as a professional actor in Rapture Theatre's touring production of *The Browning Version* by Terence Rattigan. The play was the second of Rapture's successful 'Classic Plays @ Lunchtime' series and played to a packed house. Dylan was brilliant in his portrayal of Taplow and together with the six other cast members he certainly played his part in a memorable production.

Dylan graduated from Motherwell College in 2017 with a 1st Class Honours in Acting. His professional debut came in the same year, playing Lucius in *Timon of Athens* with the Bard in the Botanics theatre company. He has since returned to them to play the title role in *Romeo and Juliet* and Claudio in *Much Ado About Nothing*. His other credits so

far include Hopscotch Theatre's tour of *Aladdin*, BBC's *Armchair Detectives* and the hugely popular STARZ series *Outlander* which of course features another Glenkens actor, Sam Heughan.

Brian Edgar, CatStrand Youth Players Director, said: "It was great to welcome Dylan back to CatStrand for the first time as a professional actor. I sat in the audience with a sense of pride and watched him play his role to perfection in an excellent production. Dylan appeared in the first ever Youth Players Festival production ten years ago and went on to be a stalwart member for several years until he left for drama college. He was always totally at home on a stage and there was never any doubt that he had the ability and determination to forge a successful career as an actor. He is a fine example to all young people, that whatever your goal, if you are focussed and work hard enough you can achieve your dream career."

We look forward to seeing Dylan



Dylan (right) with CatStrand Youth Players Director Brian Edgar.

at CatStrand again soon but in the meantime look out for a full interview with him in the next issue of the Glenkens Gazette.

FINLAY CARSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for Galloway and West Dumfries



If you would like an appointment, please get in touch

Write to:

107 King Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1LZ

Email: Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot

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CatStrand Highlights

From the folk stylings of two of Scotland's most revered multi-instrumentalists **Mairearad & Anna** (Sun 7 April) to the more heavy set **Sticky Fingers** for Rock in the Glenkens (Sat 13 April) April and May promise an eclectic line up of musical genres.

Love and Money singer songwriter **James Grant** (Sat 11 May) tours his new album, itself a mix of genres from Al Green-inflected soul to radio-friendly rock and big ballads. **Dark Sky Jazz** also returns with the Fergus McCreadie Trio (Fri 10 May). Fergus is twice winner of Scottish Jazz Musician of the year and wowed the audience at our last Dark Sky Jazz night as part of Graham Costello's line up.

As the weather warms up, it's time to venture out and about with programming in community venues. We've got a great programme of events popping up in the Glenkens villages, towns and even further afield - woodland poetry walk anyone?

Scotland's **Puppet Animation Festival** takes place during April. Come and see Dalry Town Hall transformed for a performance of Ladder to the Stars, suitable for ages 3+ - it's a story told through a magical mix of music, light and imagination- and puppets of course (Tue 9 April).

The Galloway Glens community writing project **Ken Words** encourages us to take inspiration from a poetry walk with **Alan McClure** before a hands on writing workshop at Barhill Wood Outside Classroom, Kirkcudbright (Sun 28 April).

Grammy-winning bluegrass comes to the Crossmichael Memorial Hall with a toe

tapping concert from Canadian band **John Reischman & the Jaybirds** (Sat 4 May) in partnership with the Wee Book House. Proceeds from the bar and profits from the event will be going towards the Crossmichael Gala.

For an evening exploring Galloway's heritage through music Carsphairn plays host to a performance of **Oran Bagraidh** (Tue 28 May). This newly created musical performance was composed during a residency at Barscobe House in 2018. It is inspired by the ancient song of the same name believed to be the only remnant of Galloway Gaelic and featuring several well-known place names in the Glenkens. Featuring an array of first class musicians the performance will take place at Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, with a pre event supper at Carsphairn Tea Rooms available when booking in advance.

Dalry Town Hall finishes off a month of potential venue hopping with what promises to be a beautiful and powerful performance from the **Cairn Chorus** joined by the **Galloway Agreement** for their Spring tour which captures the essence of Dumfries & Galloway's wild and rugged landscapes (Fri 31 May).

Meanwhile at CatStrand, the Easter holidays see the return of Dundee-based dance theatre company **Shaper Caper**, who performed Within this Dust to a rapt audience here in February. This time with an exciting and immersive performance for ages 3-10 - The Adventures of Isabel (Tue 16 April). The show will be followed by an interactive workshop for all the family.

Our **Easter Monday movie**, The Big Bad Fox and Other Tales (U) is afternoon viewing for all the family, a charming witty and wonderfully silly animated film featuring watercolour sketch animation techniques, it's little-one friendly but not too sappy (Mon 22 Apr).

To finish up our Spring season D&G Arts Festival is back at the end of May with a programme of live arts events around the region - this year CatStrand plays host to the UK premiere of theatre show **Guitar Man** (Sun 26 May). The show traces the delicate balance between loneliness and longing, loss and salvation through the eyes of a busker. Just the thing for a Sunday afternoon.

Our full spring brochures are available now from CatStrand, or take a look online at www.catstrand.com



Shaper Caper - The Adventures of Isabel Josh Hawkins.

Garroch Walled Garden Project: Allotment Plots Available

Springtime is here!

It's time to get to work in the garden...

If you're interested in growing vegetables on a plot in the walled garden, please get in touch soon.

Pumpkin Challenge

We're holding a pumpkin growing competition at Garroch Garden - do you think you could be the 2019 champion? Some spaces for growing pumpkins are available in the garden (first come, first served).

There will be a grand pumpkin weigh-in in the autumn, with a small prize (and great glory) for the grower of the heaviest pumpkin.

There will also be an additional prize for under 12s.

(Hint: now is the time to start by sowing your pumpkin seed in a pot at home.)

If you are interested in either having an allotment plot or growing your pumpkin at the Garroch, please contact us at teriandjon@tiscali.co.uk or on 01644 420 247.

Many thanks to the people who responded to the piece in the last issue of the Gazette by donating gardening tools; they are greatly appreciated.

Picture: Jon Nimmo celebrating a pumpkin victory at Harborne Hill allotments, Birmingham, in 2001. His winning pumpkin, competing with around 60 other allotment holders, weighed in at a whopping 99lb.



Visit the Gardens of Excellence

It's official, spring has arrived and it's time to get out and enjoy our beautiful gardens and landscape.

Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) is offering a new series of garden visits this year, commencing on Sunday 7 April with a visit to the 'Gardens of the Southwest'. This excursion will visit Logan Botanic Garden, which is an exotic paradise, followed by a visit to Castle Kennedy with its romantically situated landscaped gardens. In May the destination is Holehird Garden, the home of Lakeland Horticultural Society. The tour will include a scenic drive through the Lake District. In June a visit to Craichlaw Garden and

Woodfall Garden will demonstrate different styles of gardening in the Machars. Each of these gardens has a different story to tell and provides inspiration to the visitor.

The GTI team take a pride in offering these enjoyable excursions for the communities within which we live. Local pick-up points are available and a low-floor bus is used to provide easy access. To book your ticket please either contact the CatStrand in New



Riverside walk, Kailzie Garden, one of the gardens on the GTI summer programme.

Galloway, call 01644 420 374, and visit www.glenkenstransport.org for further information.

As one passenger has said: "An excellent day out, good company, excellent gardens, tea and cake, what's not to like!"

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TRACKS OF LIFE

by Miriam Stevenson

"You poke the needle through the front loop, yarn over and pull it through. See, there you are. First stitch made!"

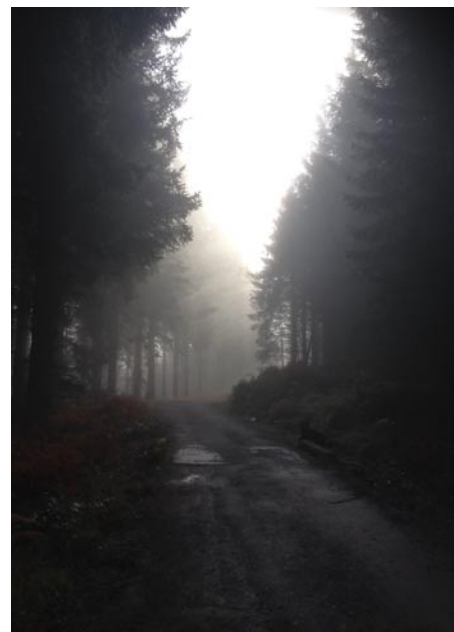
Fibres from the wool rose up and eddied lazily in the breeze, glinting in the summer sun, as did the knitting needles and the stray strands of your golden hair falling in front of those bright sea blue eyes. I remember you so well. How we danced together as children and shared hobbies. My first stirrings of affection. A childhood fondness that could so easily have become more in a few short years had I not moved away.

My hands running along the rough texture of your coat as I reached for your hands. Woven textures of tweed flecked yarn picked out by the unbelievably bright sunlight that only late autumn days can bring. Crisp air pumped through my lungs and rushed through my hair as we climbed up the hill, hardly caring for the faraway vista before us. I was happy and carefree, waiting to see what the future would bring. Possibilities hung in the air. Oh boy, was my life about to be shifted on its axis. Suddenly slipping on the wet

grass I reached for your strong hands to steady me. Unexperienced flutters in my innocent heart. You reached to straighten my soft scarf and pull me towards you. The changes to resonate loudly in my future life were about to begin.

Snow and ice all around. It twinkled in the moonlight and dulled all sounds. My dreadful Christmas jumper - complete with light-up reindeer - offered a vain attempt to warm a body that swore it would rather never feel warmth again. I almost craved the insistent and persisting cold's inexorable climb from my frozen hands towards my heart as I clasped at the handrail on the iron cold bridge. So easy to let the barely flowing water, crystallising into a thick unyielding layer, smother my pain. Saved by the eternity of constellations, weaving their seeming infinite pattern across the sky, reminding my heartbroken soul that somewhere the ever-longed-for you could equally be wishing on the same stars.

Scooping up the discarded mitten from the rain-soaked pavement, noting how its woollen intricately patterned design had become a rather sodden, dripping and sad looking affair. "So apt!" he felt in



Forest track near Burnfoot, New Galloway, by Miriam Stevenson.

empathy as he looked up without much held hope of reuniting it with its partner. Turning suddenly to the unexpected sound of her relieved exclamation, endless summer sea blue eyes beheld never forgotten deep brown ones. A ready smile, so spontaneous - unbetraying of previous hurts, chased Spring showers forever away.

Miriam says: "...I was thinking how emotions can match the changing of nature's seasons...the seasons of our lives reflecting the world around us."

Youth Players Trophy Wins

Continued from front page...

Bar & Ger by Geraldine Aron is a well-known two-hander telling the touching story of a brother and sister as they grow up. Arthur Harfield and Eilidh Thomson, in the title roles, were praised by Mr Bennet for their assured acting skills and interaction with the audience. He said: "Both actors were very natural and believable in their delivery of dialogue and carrying out directions." The play is very challenging for both the actors and the director and whilst he didn't necessarily agree with all of the directorial choices, he commended the team for going with their convictions and producing such a high quality and engaging piece of theatre.

Dust of the Street by Harry Glass is another challenging piece, placing great demands on the cast, director and the stage presentation. The adjudicator praised the immediate impact of the opening music, the set and the costumes which "left him in no doubt that he was in a Warsaw ghetto in 1942". Similarly,

he commended the very dramatic ending describing it as perfect. The courage to use periods of silence and the clever layering of the lighting and sound effects as the play drew to a close led to him commenting that "the moving ending would live with him for a long time." He was also impressed with the acting and the teamwork of the cast of James Wallace, Annabelle McAdam, James Jones, Laura Edington, Henry Harfield and Anna Irving. In summary the adjudicator said: "All the production elements in this piece added together to give an authentic atmosphere with a very creative and strong ending. It was an engaging piece of storytelling."

The Tick of the Clock by American playwright Ron Dune was being performed for the first time outside the USA. The cast included several members making their festival debut and was very well received by the audience. The main characters were played by Fergus McClure, Huw Hodson, Hope Rowley, Ruby Harfield and Fiona Edgar with the

non-speaking, but very active, street people ably led by Dante Newbery and Megan Oliver. "The piece mainly relies on Don, the central character played by Fergus McClure, to be a strong performer and indeed he was. I was impressed with this performer's change in character from one with low self-esteem to one with confidence" the adjudicator remarked: "Also, the movement and freezing of all the characters was very well executed." Summing up, he said: "This was an engaging piece of theatre which kept our interest sustained throughout."

The plays were directed by Brian Edgar and Zoe Kirkpatrick who were both delighted with all three performances and also the high marks, constructive feedback and encouragement received from the adjudicator. The icing on the cake was perhaps the positive reaction of the audience shown to all three plays culminating in them voting *Bar & Ger* as their favourite play of the week.

All three plays were performed again at CatStrand in March to a very appreciative full house.

GRAHAM COSTELLO'S STRATA

a review by Liam Russell

Jazz is an opportunity for gifted musicians to showcase their abilities, and for music lovers to immerse themselves in an emotive musical environment for a short period of time.

In February we were fortunate enough to have Scottish Jazz Awards Best Band nominees *Graham Costello's Strata* perform an intimate show at Catstrand.

Strata are a band consisting of some of the most exceptional and respected players in Scotland. The group comprises six members: Graham Costello on drums and composition, Liam Shortall on trombone, Fergus McCreadie on piano, Joe Williamson on guitar, Mark Hendry on bass and Harry Weir on tenor saxophone.

Alongside the nomination mentioned previously, they have also been noted as one of *Jazzwise Magazine's* "Ones to Watch in 2019" and run a monthly residency in Glasgow's Bloc. The band describe their music as blending "stylistic elements of

jazz, minimalism, and celebrated progressive/noise bands together with a strong DIY ethic, winning over audiences with towering dynamics and a raw and genuine enthusiasm". Having witnessed their staggering performance in the flesh, I can assure you that this interpretation is a modest one.

Being a personal fan of minimalist artists such as Steve Reich and Phillip Glass, it was inspiring to see the same principals put across by a group of young jazz musicians. The band are also well known for the improvisational nature of their pieces, which was subject to a stunning execution on the night as each member sank back into the groove, each becoming a cornerstone of the overall composition. The "noise music" element to the music was nothing like I had ever heard before, with the saxophone resonating animalistic cries around the room and the keys creating an atonal platform for the band to play off. Dynamically, the contrast between movements was astounding, while transitions remained smooth. Some of my personal favourite moments were when we were

invited to listen intently to parts of the performance that were solely piano. These were the moments where it was apparent that the audience were completely transfixed.

In fact, one of the things I found most remarkable was this profound effect the music had on audience members. The fluidity of the music, paired with the dimly lit auditorium and the technical ability of the group resulted in what I can only describe as an entrancing experience. This was met with respectful silence as eyes followed the movements of the group as they proved their place within Scottish jazz.

Graham Costello's Strata released their debut album *OBELISK* in February which is available on major streaming platforms. I recommend that you feed your hunger for new music with this work and do your utmost to catch this six-piece wonder whenever you can. I'll be back for more at the next *Dark Sky Jazz* night at CatStrand where Fergus McCreadie, the pianist with the group, returns with his trio on Friday 10 May.



Graham Costello's Strata performing at CatStrand © Ian Biggar

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What's Been Happening with LING

A sparkling night

Those attending the LING AGM on 28 February were in good spirits, partly because of the glass of something sparkling, but also because of the good news about the LING finances.

The year's surplus was 50% more than the previous year and the New Galloway Town Hall's bookings are on the up and up. In addition, the Board reported lots of activity taking place in the renovation of the walled garden in the Garroch Estate and the restoration of pathways for walkers in the Golf Course woodlands and the Garroch Estate.

These are partnership projects with Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership under the heading of 'Exploring New Galloway'.

Exciting times

The principal news was that LING has 'won' grants worth nearly £20,000. Most of this is devoted to a viability study to examine the implications if LING were to take over the ownership of the Town Hall from Dumfries & Galloway Council. We are very grateful indeed to our sponsors who, strangely, all made the decision on exactly the same day just before Christmas and all awarded us the full asking amount. Grants were received from National Lottery Awards for All, who have given us £4000, Architectural Heritage, who have granted £5000, and National Lottery Heritage Fund who have awarded £6000.

There will be four strands to this viability testing process, starting with a community consultation to see what support there is for the Town Hall amongst the local residents. An architectural survey and options

study will explore what needs to be done to keep the building structurally sound and what could be done to adapt it to meet our needs, in particular how to make it fully accessible. A feasibility study will assess what kind of income stream could be generated and what personnel structures and support would be needed. Finally, a five-year Business Plan would be drawn up as a guide for future developments and a support document for the more substantive grant bids that would then be needed to support the renovation work on the building.

LING Trustees are delighted to announce the appointment of Creetown Initiative Ltd, in conjunction with ARPL Architects, to conduct the viability testing on our behalf. We look forward very much to working with them. Exciting times indeed!

Celebrating heritage

The icing on the cake was the award of another grant of £4,480

for 'The New Galloway Story' from the Galloway Glens Landscape partnership. This is a heritage project, which we hope will become a collaborative venture involving the many interested parties in and around New Galloway. It will build on several projects LING and others have already been developing,

culminating in the creation of externally mounted display boards with a specially produced heritage map of the smallest Royal Burgh, highlighting places of interest and their history, and a related website called 'The New Galloway Story', which can offer a great deal more information and provide a framework for hosting a range of potential future contributions.

Another lucky winner

And finally, on the night of the AGM, another winner was announced - Tom Carlyle was presented with £50 from the Friends of the Town Hall draw. There are two draws a year for a £50 prize for Friends of the Town Hall. The next will take place at the Cheese and Wine Fundraiser in September. If you'd like to be in the draw next time round, you can become a 'Friend' for £5 a month in support of the Town Hall. Just contact our Treasurer, Bob Glaister, at rtdglaister@aol.com

The LING Committee



Lucky winner, Tom Carlyle, receives his £50 note.

New Galloway Events Committee

To date the events committee, a sub-committee of Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING), has held a Christmas Concert in 2017, a Picnic in the Park in May 2018 and a St Andrews Concert in December 2018.

Donations have been made to

Kells school, the Cubs & Beavers, and towards the commemorative bench sited near the war memorial. Money raised from the raffle and donations at the St Andrews Concert enabled £200 to be given towards lighting for the floodlit activities for children in the park.

We will continue with just two events a year, always with free entry but with any donations going towards community causes.

In 2019 we are planning another Picnic in the Park (even though there is no Royal Wedding to celebrate this time!) on Sunday 9 June. It is

hoped that this event can be the combined with Kells School's 55th anniversary celebrations and that the pupils can take an active part. Any suggestions for this event would be most welcome, as well as ideas of where you would like any profits to be donated - always local.

The now traditional event at Christmas will be a community concert in New Galloway Town Hall on Sunday 1 December, followed by a piper leading us to the CatStrand where there will be mulled wine and the Christmas light switch-on.

Joan Walker

EXCITING TIMES FOR THE

As we approach the end of our first year of the 5-year delivery phase of the Galloway Glens scheme, many of our projects are really ramping up.

Thanks to all our partners and volunteers who are working so hard on connecting people with their heritage or on supporting sustainable communities. Hopefully you've started to see some projects happening near you, and you can see a beautiful video overview of the Scheme on YouTube now – search for Galloway Glens.

Thanks are due as ever to our main funder, the Heritage Lottery, to Dumfries and Galloway Council, to the Biosphere and to all our many other project partners.

On this page is a snapshot of some of the Galloway Glens projects that have particular relevance to the Glenkens – for more details of all 35 projects, see our website www.gallowayglens.org

Our Heritage Grants Awarded

We've given our first award of funding through the Our Heritage Small Grants Scheme, with four new projects supported this time. These are:

- Helping 'Butterfly Conservation' run moth-trapping nights undertaken by residents around the area and purchase moth traps and equipment.
- Supporting Local Initiatives in New Galloway to install information boards and create a website recognising New Galloway's history as the smallest Royal Burgh in Scotland.
- Assisting the volunteers at the Carsphairn Heritage Group to digitise and publish historical records.
- Helping the South West Community Woodlands Trust plant and raise awareness of local heritage fruit & nut trees, run pruning & grafting courses and host an 'Apple Festival' in the summer.

The next deadline for Small Grant (up to £5,000) applications is 12 April. If you have a project that might fit, do visit our website at www.gallowayglens.org to see our criteria and the application process.

The Biosphere Experience

This Southern Upland Partnership-led project is exploring the positive impact that experiential tourism could have on the area. The first tours are available to book now through their Facebook page 'Galloway', or if you are a tourism business in the area like to know more about working in partnership on the contact Laura Davidson at laura@sup.org.uk.

Mossdale Railway line

Work has been completed on improvement of an 8 mile stretch of the old railway line between the Mossdale and Gatehouse stations. The walking / cycling path is now much more accessible and includes a replacement bridge at Loch Skerrow and improved surfacing. The work has been done in partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Council and is match-funded by the IPA scheme.

Loch Ken Bar

We have been the New Galloway Association in the area to better manage the fishing pitches on the side of Loch Ken and improve access for users.

Business Gateway

Our 2019 Business Gateway programme (in partnership with the Business Gateway) was a great start, with attending the first Creative Business event. Accommodation Providers and Creative Businesses have commented on the relevance of the specific information. The free event is aimed at food and drink producers in Castle Douglas in the area. Helen on helen.kennedy@sup.org.uk for more information. If you missed an event, was relevant to you, please see presenters' notes available on www.gallowayglens.org resources.



Biosphere Explorers at Dalry High School

Dalry High School John Muir Award students had a chilly but enjoyable day in the Ayrshire Biosphere in January, with two workshops organised by the Shalla Gray, from the Chrichton Carbon Centre. They first went to the Bellymack Farm in Laurieston to learn about the successful reintroduction of RSPB and other conservation groups. The following week (after more workshops) took the students around Dalry and told them some of the many projects



This page is sponsored by the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership
For further details contact McNabb Laurie, Galloway Glens

GALLOWAY GLENS SCHEME



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High School

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(e snow!), local storyteller Tony Bonning
ths and legends associated with Dalry.

Heritage Hubs

Work continues at Dalry Town Hall, Crossmichael Church Hall and the Old Smiddy in Balmaclellan to create a series of Heritage Hubs across the area. They will all have a different theme and aim, but are all led by teams of local volunteers looking to make the most of their village, and their heritage. If you'd like to get involved with these, contact the teams directly or through Nick on nick.chisholm@dumgal.gov.uk



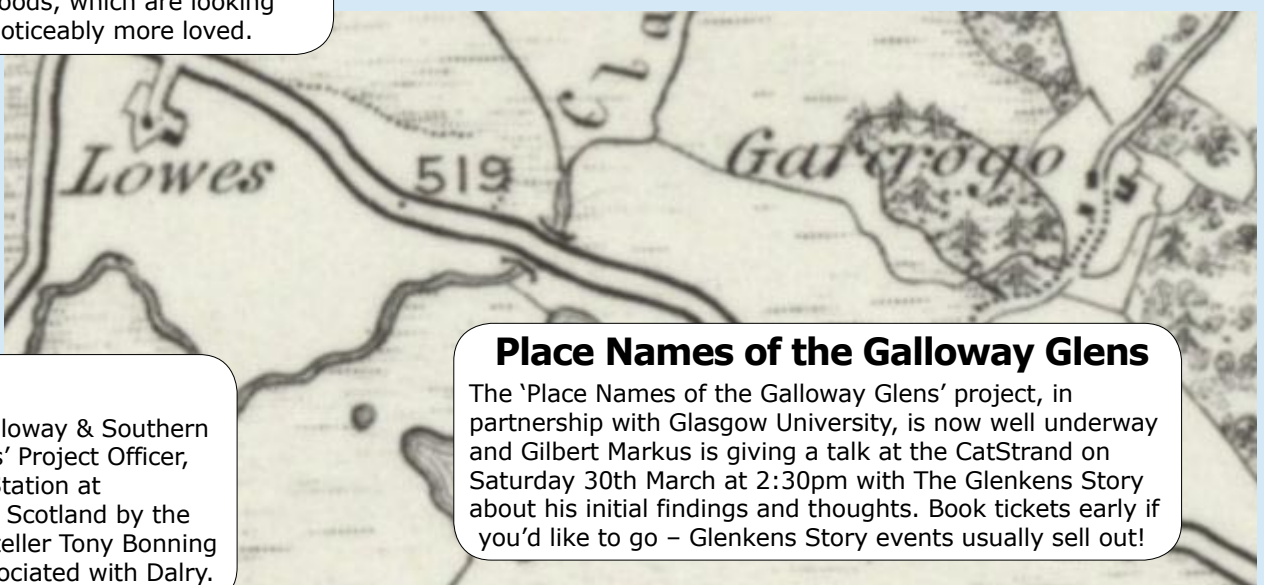
Ken Words Writing Project

The Ken Words writing project, in partnership with GCAT, is now well underway with a new Writers' Café having started up in Kirkcudbright on the first Thursday of the month. The established Glenkens Writers' Café at CatStrand continues to open its doors on the second Thursday of the month, 7-9pm. Both cafés are free to drop-in to and welcome anyone interested in developing their writing and meeting like-minded people in an informal, friendly setting.

Ken Words are also becoming known for their 'Poetry Walks' - the next of which is in Barhill Wood, Kirkcudbright, on Sunday 28 April. Please contact Jane McBeth on jane.kenwords@gmail.com for more details.

Can You Dig It?

Our Community Archaeology programme 'Can You Dig It' has got off to a great start, with workshops, surveys and digs starting in March. All events are free and open to all, whether you're already an enthusiast or just want to find out more. Glenkens sites are hoped to include work at Polmaddy and the Raiders Road. To keep up to date, follow Can You Dig It (@GGLPArchaeology) on Facebook or Twitter or sign up to the email newsletter via Helen.keron@dumgal.gov.uk. Thanks to Historic Environment Scotland for their matched funding of this fantastic project.



Place Names of the Galloway Glens

The 'Place Names of the Galloway Glens' project, in partnership with Glasgow University, is now well underway and Gilbert Markus is giving a talk at the CatStrand on Saturday 30th March at 2:30pm with The Glenkens Story about his initial findings and thoughts. Book tickets early if you'd like to go - Glenkens Story events usually sell out!

Scheme, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Dumfries & Galloway Council.
Galloway Glens Team Leader, on mcnabb.laurie@dumgal.gov.uk

GIVING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE

World Book Day 2019

In March it was World Book Day.

Caeden & Daniel, Kells Primary:

In the morning we had breakfast. There was Nutella, croissants, pain au chocolate, oranges, bananas, apple juice, orange juice, water and crunchy bread. We did paired reading for forty five minutes. Afterwards we did a catwalk so we could see everybody's costumes and try and guess who they were dressed up as. There were a couple of Hermione Grangers and some Matildas and one Boy In The Dress. After lunch we did a quiz about books. Then we designed either a bookmark or book themed bunting I did some bunting. Daniel did some bunting. He coloured in his in. Then it was home time. Next year we

would like to play some games in the hall.

Christie & Charlie, Dalry Primary:

Everyone from Dalry Primary School dressed up as their favourite book character. Christy and Jamie went round each class and took photographs of the children dressed up. Some people dressed up as Where's Wally, Cat in the Hat, Dumbledore and Harry Potter.

Each class got split up and sent into different classrooms to read their favourite book to someone else. Some people's favourite books were *Horrid Henry*, *Harry Potter* and *Minecraft*. After that we came back into class and did an activity from the board. Some of the activities were making a poster and making a survey on our favourite book. In



Pupils enjoying a book on World Book Day.

the afternoon we all made some bookmarks.

To finish off our day we made a Harry Potter-themed poem and that was the end of World Book Day.

Devil's Porridge Trip

Glenkens Cluster p4-7s went on a visit to the Devil's Porridge Museum.

Courtney and Jamie (Dalry Primary) report: We went to the museum because we were learning about WWII. When we arrived we were greeted by a lady and a man. Then we went upstairs to have a talk about rationing. We learned that ladies painted their legs with gravy so it looked like they were wearing stockings. After an interesting talk we had a break then went into another room. In the other room another lady talked about where bombs fell in Gretna. Lunch was straight after. Once we had lunch the P6 and P7 split up. The P6s went upstairs to dress up. While the P7s tasted some carrot

cookies, lemonade and a roll. The P7s also went into a pretend Anderson shelter outside. It was cosy but not spacious. The P6s went into a house displayed in the museum. She showed us an old bath tub, and how they used to live. Then we rotated. Overall we really enjoyed this trip and fully recommend it to all.

Sam and Hannah (Kells Primary)

report: We went to the museum because of our new topic World War 2. When we got on the bus I sat next to Alex. On the way there, we got on the first bus with some people from Dalry and Carsphairn. When we got there we split into a P4-5

group and a P6-7 group and we learnt about WW2 stuff.

Then we got to try carrot cookies, carrot lemonade, carrot rolls and carrot cupcakes. Then we learnt about rationing and tried on World War clothes.

We went outside to see an Anderson shelter. Next time we would like to learn more about rationing.



Some pupils trying out WW2-style clothing and equipment.

Getting Active at Dalry Primary School

Every Monday at lunchtime, we have a dance club at Dalry Primary School.

Coach Mairi and coach Sophie from 'Let's Get Sporty', teach us different dances. We practice the dances and then we get to add our own moves to them. This makes

it fun because we get to make our own routines. We also get to choose the music to go with the routines. We have learned new dance moves, practiced them each week and know we are all really good at them.

Football Club: Football club is on every Tuesday, after school, at Dalry Primary. Children from Dalry, Kells and Carsphairn all come along

to have fun and play football. The coaches are Mrs Houston from Dalry and Mrs Welsh from Kells Primary. At training we learn how to get into a space so that the ball isn't crowded, how to dribble and play lots of fun matches. All these skills have helped us to get better at playing football.

Dalry p4/5 class

GIVING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE A VOICE

Kells Recorder Win at the Galloway Music Festival

Fiona, Reahanne, Megan and Sophie all went on a very long, tiring journey all the way to Newton Stewart to play their recorders at the Galloway Music Festival!

Eventually we arrived at the Galloway Music Festival. In we went,

ready to compete against groups from other schools.

We were the only group that weren't playing in unison as all four of us were playing different parts. We were also the only group who were playing different types of recorders unlike the others who all played descant recorders. Fiona and Reahanne played tenor (which more than a few passers-by were staring at because of the immense size of them. Megan played descant and Sophie played treble.

We hope you might be pleased

to hear that we won! Not only one trophy, not even two trophies but three gleaming trophies came back to Kells on the bus. Megan and Sophie played an amazing duet and Sophie played a solo - wow Sophie you must have been tired!

We were immensely happy with our success and also enjoyed listening to everyone else perform so well done to everyone else who took part! Thank you to all the teachers and adults who helped us.

Fiona and Reahanne, P7

Forest Fun at Kells Primary

Each week Kells Primary pupils spend some time outside doing Forest Schools activities.

Rosie, Megan & Evie, p4-7 class, Kells Primary: Every Friday the Primary 4-7 go and do a thing called Forest Friday.

The site is near the fire station and we made a bridge out of fallen branches that we walk across to get over the river. We call the site the Savannah because when we went there in summer the grass had turned a dark shade of yellow and it reminded us of a Savannah like place.

We have a fire and we sometimes cook hot chocolate and bananas with chocolate. We are planning to make a proper shelter so when it rains we can go inside and be nice and warm. A few weeks ago we went exploring on an expedition and since our topic is World War Two we pretended that some of us were German spies and the rest of

us had to find out who those spies were. Near the end we got to have a small game of tag but it was the Battle of Britain so we were all in imaginary spitfires.

Sometimes if it's warm enough, like that week in February we got to play in the river but when we get cold we sit by the fire. Another game of tag we play is called Chita tag where you hide and when "Chita" finds you, you have five seconds to run away.

To Heyes, p1-3 class, Kells Primary: Last Tuesday it was Forest School Day when we made bricks. First we put some ingredients in the mould to make the bricks. The first ingredients in the mould were clay and water. Then we put some straw in the mould. Next we put some mud in the mould.



Above left: Pupils enjoying outdoor cooking at their Forest School sessions. Above right: Brick making by Oscar Hudson.

Carsphairn Primary School

Carsphairn's two current pupils report on what they have been doing over the last couple of months...

Crawford: We have had Tag Rugby this term with John Muir every Friday at Dalry school. Primary 6/7 took part. I liked it because this time I didn't sprain my ankle like I did in the past. We also go every week to do ball skills with Let's Get Sporty. We have learned about netball, football, rugby and I really enjoyed the basketball skills because I like shooting and defending. I am good at blocking the ball and marking others. I liked going to the sporting activities because I also get to see my friends at Dalry.

Naomi: We went to Deep Sea World in Edinburgh and it took approximately three hours to get there. Mrs Welsh and I got really scared when we went over the new Forth Road Bridge. My favourite part of the day was going to see the seals being fed because the man was making them do tricks and it was hilarious to watch. For lunch I had pizza, Mrs Welsh had mac'n'cheese and Crawford had a burger - it was scrumptious! We were sure that everyone looked at us and thought we were Mrs Welsh's own children! The day was a really fun experience and I would love to go again some time.

Dalry Secondary School Update

Dalry First Aiders

Mrs Acheson (Modern Languages) and Mrs Stockwell (English) have completed a First Aid At Work training course. They learned how to provide treatment for a wide range of situations and had practical experience assessing injuries, bandaging wounds, and performing CPR.

World Book Day: Dalry Primary and Secondary celebrated World Book Day – it was fabulous to see Gandalf and Professor McGonagall wandering the hallways! Thanks to Mrs Newbury, who made the library into a bookworm's paradise for the day.

Story Writing Competition: Pupils are taking part in a short story writing competition on the theme of 'contamination'! Grim, dystopian fictions have been created thus far by S2 pupils, with the added challenge that the story must be no longer than 100 words. Closing date is early April and the prizes are great. Good luck to all entrants.

Star Skater! S3 pupil Grace Jeffery-Temple travelled all the way to Valenciennes in northern France with a team of synchronised skaters to participate in an international competition. The team, Solway Eclipse, performed to the Addams Family theme, wearing Gothic costumes which included spiders in their hair. Their long journey by bus and on the Eurostar was well worth it and they came a very respectable fourth place against stiff competition. Well done, Grace!

BEING A SCHOOL VOLUNTEER

There are lots of ways that parents and others help out at Kells.

We thought we would like to ask some of them a bit about it, so we're going to interview a few people who are involved with Kells Primary School. In this issue of the Gazette we spoke to Sam Cartwright, a dad who does the weekly Forest Tuesdays and Fridays. Sam is a joiner and helps us with making everything from bridges to brick moulds, amongst lots of other things. Sometimes he can't come because of work, but he always tries to be there as much as possible.

We asked Sam what he likes most about helping out at the Forest Friday/Tuesdays. He said: "I enjoy getting outside with the children, having fun and going on adventures. It's a great feeling when the children look up to you and I also enjoy having the extra time with my own children. I wasn't able to do anything like this before due to work commitments, and the size of the school where we lived before just didn't allow it to do anything like this. I think it helps the children get a better understanding of the outdoors and realise there's more to do than just playing X-Box... I wish I had this when I was at school."

A huge thank you to all the mums and dads, grans and grandads, school staff and everyone in the community who supports us by coming to our events, making cakes, doing sports and outdoor activities with us, coming on outings, helping us with our reading, helping out the teachers and joining in parent council meetings... and lots more, at home and at school!

At the moment we especially need help with DIY, planting in the garden and setting up our polytunnel, and are always looking for extra help in the classroom or admin - it can be one-off help or longer term, and you don't have to be related to a child in the school. Please give the school office a call on 01644 420 374 between 9am and 1pm for more info.

Kells Primary School



Moulding bricks.

FLEET FISH

FRESH FISH, FRUIT & VEG

GLENKENS ROUTE

Thursdays:

12noon-1pm – Crossmichael
1-2pm – Parton/Loch Ken Holiday Park
2-4pm – Balmaclellan area
4-5.30pm – The Hidden Road

Fridays:

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

Please note that all times are approximate.

07966 103 912 charliecoid@hotmail.com

Fleet Fish aims to provide top quality produce which is sourced as locally as possible. We take pride in offering friendly door-to-door service tailored to our customers' needs.

OOPS!

Thank you very much to everyone who got in touch about the 50-year anniversary of the Kells Primary School building - it turns out we got our dates wrong and it's 55 this year...!

But we're still excited and working on a celebration of Kells School past and present in the summer term. So please keep your memories of the school coming!

Mary Smith

Messy Times at Bright Stars

Glenkens Community Nursery or, as it is better known, Bright Stars, has been getting rather messier than usual!

The Nursery, based at the Glenkens Community centre, has been holding a 'Messy Play' morning on the first Wednesday of each month for under 2s (and their adults) to come along to join in with the session.

Each session has a theme. So far we have had fireworks, Christmas, boxes, winter and rainbow colours. Each session has a variety of different sensory experiences for the

of the world and to develop their communication and language playing with and alongside their peers. The children all have a snack together beforehand and parents and carers get a chance to have a coffee and chat. All are welcome!"

The sessions have proved popular and the Nursery is considering running an afternoon session as well.

The Nursery has recently been inspected by the Care Inspectorate who gave it an unanimously positive review with Grades of 4 in every category and no requirements or recommendations for the service.

"We are delighted at this report,"



groups like this and we need the engagement from the parents to support and keep the Nursery going."

Messy Play runs on the first Wednesday of each month 10-11.30 and is only £3 per child (siblings £1 extra) and this includes a healthy snack for the children and a tea/coffee for parent/carer

Bright Stars sessions are open to children from their 2nd birthday and run 9-12 & 12-3 with the option of back-to-back sessions and pick-up from Dalry ELC. You can enrol at any point in the year but early enrolment is advised as some of our sessions are currently oversubscribed.

Find us on facebook @BrightStarsGlenkens

Bright Stars is a Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) project.

The Nursery has recently been inspected by the Care inspectorate who gave it an unanimously positive review with Grades of 4 in every category...

babies and children to explore - ice, paint, foam, rice, water and jelly to name a few.

Nursery Manager, Rachel Hudson, explains the benefits: "Messy Play allows young children to be creative, to aid their understanding

said Helen Keron, GCAT board representative. "It is a testament to the huge amount of work put in by Rachel and her team, plus the massive support that the parent volunteers give to them. Parent support is vital to community

DANIEL'S CLOSE SHAVE

Seven-year-old Daniel Roberts from Mossdale will be shaving his head to raise money for charity.

He has decided to book in at Dalry's *Hair by Jayne* on Tuesday 9 April to raise money for the Beatson Cancer Charity.

Daniel's mum Chrissy said: "Daniel has seen a number of people in his circle of family and friends being afflicted by cancer, and this has inspired him." Daniel is determined that he wants to do something to



support people in a situation where they need help the most, and has decided that doing a sponsored head shave is the way he wants to raise money. If you would like to support Daniel in his fundraising efforts, there are sponsor forms and collection boxes in Hair by Jayne, Wright's Shop in Dalry and New Galloway Community Shop.



Daniel Roberts wearing his Kells Primary school uniform, raring to go...

Missing Rolls of Honour Appeal

Some sources state that, in 1914, the Church of Scotland issued advice/guidance that all churches should create and maintain a Roll of Honour of all men who were serving in the war (The Great War or World War One).

Probably without exception, the churches did this and, by custom, the names of those who were killed came to be marked with a cross or similar.

The Rolls of Honour (ROH) were on paper, and ecclesiastical suppliers of the time produced suitable printed forms. Many of these have survived but many have not. As well as the Church

of Scotland, most other churches seem to have done the same. From time-to-time these ROH turn up having been forgotten for decades; the Southwick ROH was discovered amongst old papers in 2012, and two WW1 ROH for congregational churches were found in Dumfries in February of this year.

It seems likely that the same procedure was followed in WW2 but, in the Glenkens, none of these paper Rolls of Honour are known to survive for either war. This is particularly sad because these ROH are often the only record of service of those who survived, a significant number of WW1 records having been destroyed in the Blitz in WW2. They are therefore valuable to those carrying out local history or family history research and for future generations.

The following memorials (to soldiers who served and survived) do exist and were probably created from the

information on the original rolls: Dalry Town Hall WW1 and WW2, Balmaclellan WW2 Book, Kells (New Galloway) WW2 memorial in the Town Hall and the Carsphairn United Free Church WW1 plaque (now in the parish church). This, unfortunately, still leaves very large gaps in the records and all the original ROH missing.

If you know of the existence of any of these ROH or even evidence of their previous existence (photos, newspaper cuttings, etc) then please get in touch.

It is not my intention to initiate relocating any that can be found but rather to record them online for the Scottish Military Research Group, the War Memorials Trust and the Imperial War Museum so that the information is freely available to all.

*Thank you,
Paul Goodwin,
memorials@paulgoodwin.me.uk*



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*Offices in Castle Douglas, Dalbeattie
Kirkcudbright and Dumfries*

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

A Minister Of Agriculture

Samuel Smith, the son of a farmer at Craigmue, Balmaclellan, was born in 1757.

He studied at Edinburgh University serving for a time as tutor to the family of David Blair of Borgue before he was ordained as minister to Carsphairn in 1783. Nine years later he translated to Borgue where he died in 1816. It was said of him that "he took a deep interest in agricultural improvement, and had considerable experience as a practical farmer. He was tall, of slender figure, with a slight bend in his gait, of slow deliberate speech, acute observation, independent thinking, extensive education and liberal sentiments". His first known publication was the entry for Carsphairn in the pioneering *Statistical Account of Scotland* (1792), followed a year later by that for Borgue. His son, also Samuel, wrote the Borgue entry, somewhat derivative of his father's earlier contribution, for the *New Statistical Account* (1843). Sam Senior deserves to

be remembered for his book *General View of the Agriculture of Galloway* published in 1810 at a moment of epochal transition in Galloway farming. As a minister he was well placed in each of the kirks that he served in to collect information on a daily basis as he went about his business, whether the informants were landowners, farmers, agricultural servants, cottars or the poor, not forgetting their wives.

In *Statistical Account* he states that woods had abounded in Carsphairn until about 150 years earlier. "Formerly iron mines were wrought" until the wood

for charcoal was exhausted. Modern opinion has doubted the accuracy of his information. However, at the very least he may be remarking on exploration for iron in the vicinity in the mid-seventeenth century, a period which coincides with the request made by local residents to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland for the establishment of a church, following the creation of the new parish of Carsphairn, carved out of the parishes of Kells and Dalry. Gold mines were in operation in the Lowther Hills in the reign of James VI; prospecting for lead and iron followed. At the date suggested, however vaguely, by Smith, metal extraction was taking place not that far away from Carsphairn. It is also likely that in a place such as Upper Glenkens, where there was very little change, unusual events such as testing for metals would be long remembered and

Life in the countryside was never easy. Smith was a humane individual who regretted that the poor cottagers were often denied milk, while even beer was beyond their reach...

the promise of future wealth longingly anticipated.

Smith, of course, mainly discussed agriculture but he submitted a separate paper apparently complaining that folk had objected to various omissions in his text which, he claimed, were due to the editorial incompetence of the series editors in Edinburgh who had removed sections of his manuscript. Incidentally one such functionary was Robert Heron of New Galloway; though there is no evidence that he was responsible for the Carsphairn entry he might have been, since he worked as an

assistant to Sir John Sinclair

who was the inspiration behind the entire project.

Smith's book is clearly written and rich in detail. Under a section on rural economy he reports that women servants are paid around £8 per year, men between £14 and £20 but marriage is encouraged because couples receive a 'benefit' of a cottage, garden and fuel, and also as much corn or meal and potatoes as are needed for their families and sometimes a cow or a pig. Coal is expensive. Peat is mixed with water and baked into loaves, a method thought to be unique to Galloway. A revolution in roadmaking was underway. Roads were no longer, if they ever had been, fit for purpose. In the old days horses or folk on foot were expected to take hills in their stride but such roads, often

designed to avoid low-lying marshes, were no use when wheeled carts became the norm. Smith belabours the point that roads must be as level as possible, as must bridges. Lord Daer and the Earl of Selkirk showed the way and many

copied their example, some Galloway landowners considering expenditure of large sums on roadbuilding a worthwhile investment.

Life in the countryside was never easy. Smith was a humane individual who regretted that the poor cottagers were often denied milk, while even beer was beyond their reach due to the high duty on malt. "Hence they are driven to substitute tea, a useless and enervating liquor, though the only thing like luxury, which they can afford". We will return to *General View* in a future issue.

Ted Cowan





PAMELA YOUNG TRUST

help with housing in the Glenkens

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

Tenancy applications welcome from anyone, young or old, single or with a family, who qualifies under the terms of the Trust.



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

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Mind Yir Language

“Mind yir language” is the message at a conference titled The Speak of Galloway being held in the Glenkens this autumn.

Key speakers have now been announced and booking has opened for the day-long gathering on 7 September at the CatStrand.

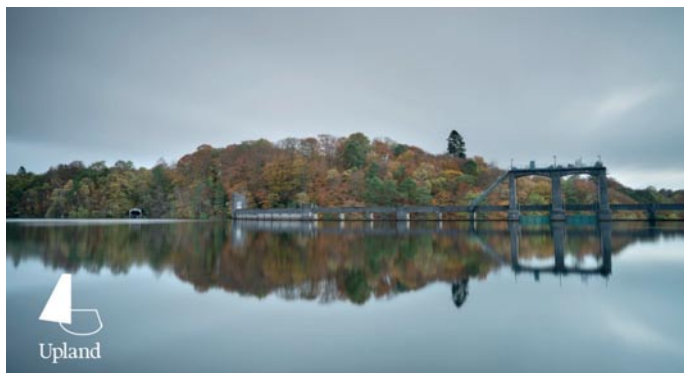
The conference will examine the Scots leid - or tongue - as spoken in Galloway, with speakers exploring the origins of Gallovidian Scots, its present usage and prospects of survival. Professor Jeremy Smith of Glasgow University, a specialist in the history of the English and Scots languages, will give the keynote address and Professor J Derrick McLure will delve into *John Mactaggart's Scottish Gallovidian Encyclopaedia*.

Haud Yir Tongue and Mind Yir Language is the arresting title of Margaret Fergusson's talk. She has recently completed a study of Scots as spoken in the South West and the attitudes to its use.

Chris Rollie, well-known local ornithologist and language enthusiast, will speak on *Bird Names in Dumfries and Galloway* while self-professed poet and lad o' pairts Rab Wilson will address *The Scots Language and Cormilligan: Today and Tomorrow*.

This is the second conference on Galloway's linguistic heritage and is organised by the same team - Ted Cowan, Michael Ansell and Mike Brown - that produced last year's event on the Gaelic legacy in the southwest.

Tickets are available from the CatStrand. Priced £30 (full-time students £20) tickets include coffee and tea on arrival and mid-morning and a buffet lunch.



Upland

Energise is a creative project delivered by Upland CIC giving artists the opportunity to research and creatively explore the subject of climate change in relation to the unique landscape of Dumfries & Galloway.

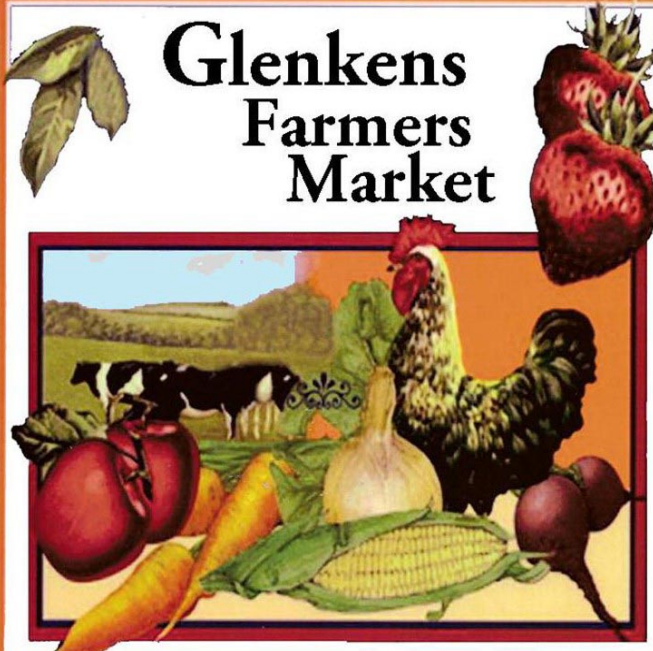
Join the *Energise* artists-in-residence for a day long event that celebrates the history and legacy of the Galloway hydro scheme. Including a tour of the Tongland Power Station and artist talks.

Saturday 27th April, Catstrand, New Galloway. (Lunch is provided and there will be bus transport from the Catstrand to Tongland.)

For full details and to book please visit: www.weareupland.com/events

Image: Ted Leeming





Glenkens Farmers Market

2nd Saturday Monthly
13th April
11th May
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

Photo of the Issue *Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel*



This issue's winner is Susan Currie with a lovely photo of two Clydesdale horses by Dalry.

Susan wins a meal for two at the Ken Bridge Hotel's Sunday carvery. Competition judges Dave and Sue said: "As always, all the entries were great, but the picture of 'bookend' horses does it for us!"

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

If you are a winner the Gazette will send you out a voucher - please call the Ken Bridge to book your meal, and make sure to take your winner's voucher along with you.



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APRIL - MAY 2019

REGULAR SERVICES

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 St)	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 leaves Castle Douglas Community Centre 1430.

Return Fare £3.00 Booking required.

Fridays

Glenkens to Newton Stewart

Outward Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 1130;

New Galloway (Town Hall) 1140, (CatStrand) 1142

Return Pickup Newton Stewart (Aldi Car Park) 1330

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

www.glenkenstransport.org/hire

email gti@catstrand.com

or call 01644 420374

EXCURSIONS

April 7, Sunday

Gardens of Excellence - Gardens of the Southwest
Logan Botanic Garden Port Logan

Walled garden filled with early spring flowers and shrubs.
Striking trees, bamboos and ferns flourish in woods.

Café. Garden centre. Accessible. Admission £6.30.

Castle Kennedy Garden nr Stranraer

Romantically situated 75 acres of landscape gardens
incorporating two lochs, a ruined castle, herbaceous
borders, a walled garden, rare trees and exotic shrubs

Café. Plants for sale. Accessible. Admission £5.50.

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900; New Galloway
(CatStrand) 0910; Crossmichael (Shop) 0925, Castle
Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill) 0935

Fare £7. Concessions £6.

May 18, Saturday

Gardens of Excellence – The Lakeland Garden

Holehird Gardens (Lakeland Horticultural Society)

A 20-acre hillside garden overlooking Lake Windermere.

Trial gardens, national collections and wide range of
plants. Partially accessible. Plants for sale. Admission £5.

Includes a scenic drive by Ullswater and over Kirkstone
Pass with refreshment stops in the Lake District.

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0830; New Galloway
(CatStrand) 0840; Crossmichael (Shop) 0855, Castle
Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill) 0905

Fare £10. Concessions £9.

June 16, Sunday

Gardens of Excellence – The Machars Gardens

Craichaw Garden, Kirkcowan

A formal garden with herbaceous borders, water garden,
newly-planted arboretum, walks round the loch. Meet the
owners. Partly accessible. Admission £4

Woodfall Garden, Glasserton

A lovely, 3 acre, 18th century walled garden. Meet the
owners and discover its history. Plants for sale.

Refreshments available. Accessible. Admission £5.

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900; New Galloway
(CatStrand) 0910; Crossmichael (Shop) 0925, Castle
Douglas (British Legion, Market Hill) 0935.

Fare £7. Concessions £6.

June 29, Saturday

Woolfest 2019 Cockermouth, Cumbria

Celebrating the best of wool and wool crafts. Meet makers
and designers, learn about British wool and rare native
breeds. Stalls and demos. Admission £10.

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900, New Galloway
(CatStrand) 0910, Crossmichael (Shop) 0920, Castle
Douglas (Market Hill) 0930.

Fare £7. Concessions £6

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

FOUND OBJECT MYSTERY SOLVED

In the last issue a photograph of a mystery object was printed, along with a request for any knowledge of what it might be.

Chris got in touch and solved

the mystery. He said: "The object is a solid link used by electric distribution companies for switching on high voltage overhead lines.

"The round end sits in a insulator and allows the whole unit to be swung up by

insulated rods from ground level so the bladed end clicks into another insulator above. This makes the circuit or if removed breaks the circuit. The item is probably no more that thirty years old."

Thanks Chris!



Carlos the Carrot has been resident in Wright's Shop lately, perking customers up with his humour and cheery disposition.

Pictured: Susan Currie, who works at Wright's, with Carlos.

Local Police Update

I have been up and about the Glenkens as much as possible lately, with a couple of things that have been going on.

Firstly, can I just say the Drop In for Dalry Police Station is on 1 April from 3-4.30pm, so anyone wishing to speak with the police can pop in and I or one of my colleagues will be there.

From a policing point of view last month we were carrying out patrols of Dalry and came across numerous youths hanging about the street. Some of these youths were found in possession of a quantity of

herbal cannabis, which has been reported. A lot of the information in relation to this came from residents of the town and I thank them for their assistance. I would like to remind you to keep reporting anything you think is untoward or if you have any concerns, please contact us, in confidence if you wish.

Dalry is a super wee town, as are the other Glenkens villages, and we want to keep it that way so we should all work together.

If anyone would like to get in touch I can be contacted through 101 and will happily speak with anyone who has any issues.

*Tom Dingwall,
Community Police Officer*

SUPPORT THE RNLI

The Glenkens fundraising committee of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) will be holding its annual fundraising Coffee Evening on Thursday 23 May in Dalry Town Hall at 7pm.

As well as coffees and teas there will be a tombola stall, home baking, plants, books and RNLI souvenirs. And the usual wonderful array of raffle prizes. There will also be a special surprise presentation so do not miss this event!

Cakes, Plants and Books

The annual Cake and Plant Sale at St Margaret's Church, New Galloway, will be held on Saturday 27 April from 10am to 12noon.

Teas and coffees will be available and this year there will also be a book stall so

definitely something for everyone!

All the baking is homemade by members of the congregation and friends, and the plants include vegetable and flower annuals, perennials, shrubs and houseplants - all from local gardens.

This year all profits from the sale will be split between guild funds and the Alexandra Unit in Dumfries.

"We used the chimney sweep who advertised in the Gazette, and were very pleased... We did tell him we found him because he advertised in the Gazette!"

Fiona

APRIL & MAY

APRIL

Mon 1, Dalry Police Station Drop-in, 3-4.30pm with PC Dingwall

Tue 2, Biosphere Tour: Castles & Towers, see p5

Sun 7, Mairearad & Anna, 2.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 7, GTI Bus Trip: Gardens of Excellence - Gardens of the Southwest, see p24

Tue 9, Puppet Animation Festival: Ladder to the Stars, 2.30pm, Dalry Town Hall, (age 3+)

Thu 11, Biosphere Tour: Loch Ken, see p5

Sat 13, Sticky Fingers + Pure Silver, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 13, Glenkens Farmers Market, 10am-12.30pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p22

Mon 22, Easter Monday Movie: The Big Bad Fox & Other Tales (U), 2pm, CatStrand

Tue 16, Shaper Caper: The Adventures of Isabel (followed by a workshop), 2pm, CatStrand, (ages 3-10)

Wed 17, Open Stage, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 27, Energise Tour of Tongland Power Station & Artist Talks, see p22

Sat 27, Cake & Plant Sale, 10am-12noon, St Margaret's Church, New Galloway, see p25

Sun 28, Ken Words: Woodland Poetry Walk, 2-4.30pm, Barhill Wood, Kirkcudbright

Tue 30, Exhibition On Screen: Rembrandt, 7.30pm, CatStrand

MAY

Wed 1, Dalry Police Station Drop-in, 10-11.30am with PC Dingwall

Sat 4, John Reischman & the Jaybirds, 7.30pm, Crossmichael Memorial Hall

Fri 10, Dark Sky Jazz: Fergus McCreadie Trio, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sat 11, Glenkens Farmers Market, 10am-12.30pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p22

Sat 11, James Grant, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 16, John Dean: A Scream In

The Night + Film: Brighton Rock (PG), 7pm, CatStrand

Sat 18, GTI Bus Trip: Gardens of Excellence - The Lakeland Garden, see p24

Tue 21, Connecting In Communities Spring Ukulele, 7pm, CatStrand

Sun 26, Guitar Man, 2.30pm, CatStrand

Thu 23, RNLI Coffee Evening, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p25

Tue 28, Oran Bagraidh, 7.30pm, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn (pre-event supper at Carsphairn Tea Rooms available when booking in advance), see p6

Wed 29, Dalry Film Club: Isle Of Dogs (PG), 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Fri 31, Cairn Chorus joined by the Galloway Agreement, 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

JUNE

Sat 1, Coig, 7.30pm, CatStrand

Sun 2, David Scheel, CatStrand: **CANCELLED**

LOCAL COMMUNITY GROUPS

Glenkens Community Shop: Contact Shirley McNaught on 07955 743 022 or drop by the charity shop on Main Street, Dalry

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING): Contact Ros Hill on ros.hill@rathanhouse.co.uk

Dalry Communities Properties Trust (DCPT): Contact Andi Holmes on andiholmes@hotmail.com or 07729 292 126
Dalry Town Hall: Contact Jim Reid on 01644 430231

New Galloway Community Enterprises (NGCE): Contact Sam Rushton on 07741 656601 or samCEW@newgallowaycommunity.shop or pop into New Galloway Community Shop

Balmaclellan Community Trust: Contact Julia Higgins

on julia.higgins55@outlook.com

CatStrand: Contact Chris Jowsey at chris@catstrand.com 01644 420 374 or pop in to the CatStrand

Schools: Pop into the school office or call Carsphairn on 01644 460 269, Dalry on 01644 430 105 (for Nursery, Primary & Secondary) or Kells on 01644 420 340

Bright Stars - Glenkens Community Nursery: Contact glenkenscommunitynursery@gmail.com

Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP): Contact McNabb Laurie on mcnabb.laurie@dumgal.gov.uk

If you would like to add your community organisation to this list please get in touch with the Gazette - contact details are on the back page.

DEE & GLENKENS WARD

Councillor Dougie Campbell

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

Please phone 07388 956558 or email dougie.campbell@dumgal.gov.uk for an appointment.

www.dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries & Galloway

DEE & GLENKENS WARD

Councillor Pauline Drysdale

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

Please phone 07825 633153 or email pauline.drysdale@dumgal.gov.uk for an appointment

www.dumgal.gov.uk

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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

REGULAR EVENTS

CatStrand, New Galloway:

Film Makers' Club, Mon 7-8.30pm
Exercise to Music: Mon 9.30-10.30am
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, 1st Tues of the month, 6-8pm, FREE PIZZA
Choreographic Skills Lab, Mon (term-time) 7-8.30pm, ages 12-18
Animation Club, Tues 4-6pm (starts 12 Feb then fortnightly)
Gentle Tai Chi: Wed 10am
Wendletrap Tai Chi, Wed 2-3.30pm
Game Tech, last Wed each month, 6-8pm
Writers' Cafe, 2nd Thurs each month 7-9pm
Sing it Out, Thurs 11am-12pm
CatStrand Ukles, 1st & 3rd Thurs each month, 1-3.30pm
Yoga, Tues 6.30-7.30pm & Thurs 9.15-10.45am
Learn the Whistle, (starts 28 Feb; 8-week block. Ages 4-12 - 3.45-4.30pm; Age 12+ & Adults - 5-6.30pm). Contact chris@catstrand.com to find out more
Zumba Gold, Fri (term-time) 9.30-10.30am, CatStrand, 16+

Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry:

Paint & Art, Mon 2-4pm (*moving to NG Town Hall from end April*)
GCC Playgroup, Tues, Wed & Thurs 9.15-11.45am
Guides, Tues 6-8pm
Yoga, Wed 7.30-8.45pm, for info call Carylann on 07817 400 287
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:

Paint & Art Group, Mon 2-4pm (*moving from Glenkens Community Centre to NG Town Hall at end April*)
LING Elevenses & Lunches, Tues 11am-2pm
Fast Broadband Access, Tues 11am-2pm
Table Tennis & Carpet Bowls, Tues 7-9pm
Circuits, Tues 5.30-6.30pm
Zumba, Wed 7.30-8.30pm, 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, 1st Thurs each month (during term time) 3.30-5pm, ages 10-15, Dalry Library
Kettlebells, Balmaclellan Village Hall, Thurs 6-7pm
Carsphairn SWI, 3rd Thurs of the month, Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn, for further info call Christine on 01644 460 577
Coffee & Craft, Fri 9am-12noon, Lagwyne Hall
Folk Music Session, 4th Fri each month 7.30/8pm till closing, Ken Bridge Hotel
Scouts, Thu 7-8.30pm, New Galloway Scout Hut

Dru Yoga, Thu 12.30-2pm, Laurieston Village Hall

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, New Galloway Golf Course, 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.

GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

General Medical & Dispensing Services

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High Street
New Galloway*

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

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Fridays 11am-4.30pm

For further information contact Castle Douglas library on 01556 502 643

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- Police, non-emergency: 101
- Doctor: 01644 420 234
- NHS 24: 08454 24 24 24
- D&G Council: 030 33 33 3000

Glenkens Community Councils

Balmaclellan Community Council Meetings: Last Monday each month, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

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

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

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

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

CHURCH TIMES

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND: Sunday Services: Balmaclellan 9.45am: 1st. Carsphairn 11.15am: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th. Dalry 9.45am: 2nd, 4th. Kells 9.45am: 3rd. **Special Services/Events**: Stewartry Guilds Spring Fellowship, Kells Church, 10 Apr, 2.30pm. Good Friday Service, Balmaclellan Church, 19 Apr, 7.30pm. Guild Spring Teas, Dalry Town Hall, 20 Apr, 2-4pm. Easter Dawn Service,

Carsphairn Church, 21 Apr, 7am. Quiz Night, Dalry Town Hall, 26 Apr, 7.30pm. Holy Communion, Dalry Church, 12 May, 9.45am. Conventicle, Kirkconnel monument, 12 May, 3pm. Plant Sale, Balmaclellan Hall, 25 May, 2-4pm.

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.

DECISION NEEDED ON DALRY COMMUNITY PLOT

Villagers have until early summer to make a final decision on whether they wish to take over a plot of land at Underhill in Dalry.

The original site, acquired by the then District Council in the 1930s, has partly been developed into housing but the other half was left untouched, reserved as a potential burial ground.

Dumfries & Galloway Council (DGC) recently determined the area was no longer required and was set to sell it off at auction until intervention by councillor Dougie Campbell. Dalry community is now to be given the opportunity to take over the plot if it has a viable use for it.

Various ideas have already been floated, from community garden and play area to light industrial units, with other options including recycling/composting and allotments. It is up to the community to decide the use. However, if no viable decision is reached, DGC will auction the land and the community will have no say in any subsequent development.

A community survey on the subject will be carried out during the spring to gauge local opinion and Underhill resident Nikki Finch is already discussing the matter with her neighbours.

If you have any ideas for the land at Underhill, or wish to get involved



The potential plot available for community purchase at Underhill, Dalry.

in this community project, please contact Nikki on 01644 430 595.



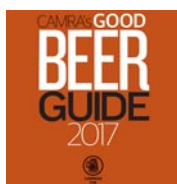
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Submit events, activities, news stories, cartoons, reviews, tips & techniques, fiction, photos, ads or ideas... Contact Sarah Ade on 07727 127 997 or glenkengazette@hotmail.co.uk

JUNE/JULY COPY DEADLINE: 5 MAY



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