

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

October/November 2019

ISSUE 114

FREE

215-MILE ULTRA MARATHON PIT STOP IN DALRY

For the second year running, GBUltras have chosen Dalry Town Hall as one of the rest points for their longest race – the Ultra Great Britain.

This is a 215-mile ultra marathon from Portpatrick in the west to Cockburnspath in the east, following the Southern Upland Way (SUW). Competitors are allowed 100 hours for completion, with the men's record currently at just under 66 hours and ladies' at just under 84 hours.

The 2019 race passed through Dalry on the weekend of 17 to 18 August, in dreadful weather, with many runners passing through the village at night with the aid of head torches. The rest of us can only imagine what conditions would be like in the pitch dark, in pelting rain, plodding through boggy ground over, say, the stretch of the SUW between Dalry and Sanquhar.

The course is not waymarked by the organisers and so the runners must find their own way, and some do occasionally stray off course. However, each runner carries a GPS transmitter and runners in serious problems can be reached by the GBUltras recovery team. The GPS trackers also allow interested watchers to follow the progress of the race over the internet.

In the Town Hall the GBUltras support staff provided a rest point with hot food and a bag stop where competitors could have a change of gear – some reputedly use four or five pairs of running shoes to cover the distance.

Most, though not all, competitors have support teams in the form of friends and family who follow them from point to point. However, the GBUltras team do not feed supporters but only competitors. This caused some enterprising local ladies to set up a pop-up café in Jayne's hair salon half-way up Dalry's Main Street, providing teas and home baking for supporters. This operated through Saturday evening and from 7am on Sunday. A goodly number of supporters



Climbing Lowther Hill, Wanlockhead.

GB ULTRAS™

availed themselves of the service, and it is hoped that with better advertising on social media for the 2020 race (8 and 9 August next year) they can attract more customers and extend the provision to more substantial fare for race supporters.

Dalry has proven to be such a hit with ultra marathon organisers GBUltras that they plan to make the village the start point for two shorter races next year too, on 2 May 2020.

Jim Reid

LOCAL HISTORY GOES DIGITAL

After only six months of work Carsphairn Heritage Group (CHG) have completed Phase 1 of their ambitious

plan to digitise their entire archive of local photographs, documents and artefacts, finishing well ahead of schedule.



Carsphairn Heritage & Craft Centre welcomed visitors for Worldwide Spin in Public Day.

But now they need more hands on deck to move forward with the project and to allow the group to step into the bright new future which awaits.

Work began in February 2019 to quantify the collection and, to date, over 1,500 items have been uploaded and are available to view at www.carsphairn.org/CarsphairnArchive

Karen Hall, chair of CHG, said: "Carsphairn Heritage Group has been

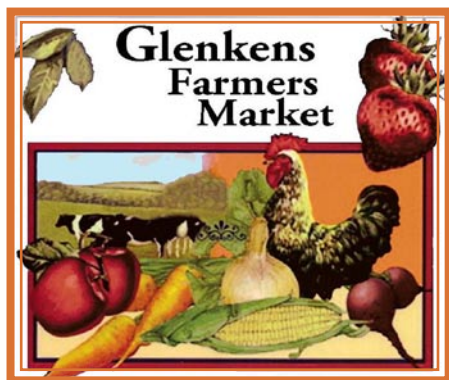
running for over 30 years, which is a fantastic achievement. Looking to the future and the next 30 years, we felt it had come to a point where it needed to evolve to stay alive."

The group held their first DigiDay in March 2019, which saw nine volunteers scanning their way through over 600 photographs before being treated to a delicious lunch supplied by Carsphairn Tearooms. Phase 2 of the project is due to start this autumn, recording the remainder of the archive, and CHG will be hosting another DigiDay on Wednesday 30 October. If you would like to come along and help out, the event will run from 10am to 3pm at the Carsphairn Heritage & Craft Centre. Also, the group holds its AGM on Saturday 16 November at 3pm in Lagwyne Hall and is keen for anyone interested to come along, get involved and hear all about the proposed plans for the future.

For further info contact Karen Hall at carsphairnheritagegroup@gmail.com

Continued on p6...

LOCAL PRODUCE AT ITS BEST



The Glenkens Farmers Market takes place on the second Saturday each month from 10am to 12 noon, welcoming folk from far and wide.

The market has been running in Dalry Town Hall for over twelve years, and has a wide variety of local produce, both from within the Glenkens and further afield in Dumfries & Galloway.

One of the many regulars at the market is The Little Bakery from Dumfries, whose beautiful loaves of butter-yellow corn bread seem to drum-up regular buyers at a fair rate with people snapping up six to a dozen at a time! But you need to get there first thing when the doors open if you want some...

Aside from the illustrious corn bread there are beautifully crafted cakes by Liz Brannock from the Kenmure Arms Hotel in New Galloway, a variety of meats and pies from Carson's butchers, which are also available to buy cooked up there and

then in a freshly baked Little Bakery roll.

The Solway Smokehouse provides a range of delicious smoked products from fish to meats, cheeses to garlic.

Mouth-watering artisan cheeses can be purchased from Cows & Co, ranging from mature to mild including blue cheese, cheddar and ripe brie in pots ready for baking.

Other stalls offer fine homemade pickles and jams, free range eggs, local honey and fresh locally grown vegetables straight from the garden.

A staple of a good farmers market is, of course, the samples so you can browse the wares, tasting them all before you choose your favourites to buy and take home with you.

There is a plant stall offering a display of pot-grown plants and flowers in prime condition to take home for the garden, and a custom-made card stall where cards can be created to order for any occasion. For those with a sweet tooth there is a chocolate stall with tempting treats crafted by In-House of Castle Douglas, and for those in need of a good book there is plenty of time to browse the secondhand book stall, which also

offers DVDs.

Perhaps the key feature which is especially appealing to visitors at the Glenkens Farmers Market is the opportunity to sit down in an unhurried atmosphere and enjoy a cuppa and some home baking while deliberating your purchases. Many locals and not-so-locals make a point of meeting here to catch up on news once a month.



Some of the tables at the farmers' market.



At the time of going to press Glenkens Food Month has got off to a flying start.

The Pot Luck Suppers at New Galloway and Dalry town halls were great and the food was excellent. Those who went to the BBQ at The Clachan on Saturday 7 September were treated to the additional bonus of the Tour of Britain flying past – front row seats and a burger, it doesn't get better than that!

Eight intrepid junior anglers joined the New Galloway Angling Association for some top-class coaching in coarse

fishing and were then treated to a loch-side cook-up of home made fishfingers by local food business Love To Eat. The end of a busy weekend was marked by apple-pressing up at the Garroch walled gardens, run by the Galloway

Glens Love Our Fruit & Nuts project.

The busy programme culminates with a Ceilidh at Balmaclellan Village Hall on 28 September - tickets are £7 from the CatStrand, and include supper from local-produce specialist Braising Jack's and music is by the fantastic Shore Road Band; a great evening for all the family. Galloway Community Transport to Balmaclellan from around the area may be available – check in at the CatStrand for details.

Thanks to our sponsors, ConnectLocal and Galloway Glens, for their support in allowing us to offer

most of these events for free. Thanks also to the many local businesses and organisations from all around the Glenkens who have joined in with us to make it such a success. The whole month has been an opportunity to showcase the amazing food and drink producers and businesses that exist in our region, and we do hope you enjoyed it!

Sam Rushton, Community Engagement Worker, New Galloway Community Shop & Enterprises



Apple pressing at the Garroch.

NEW GALLOWAY FIRE STATION

New Galloway fire station is situated at Mill Isle, on the outer edge of the village heading along the Queen's Way towards Newton Stewart.

The original fire station was built in the 1930s on Duke Street, but was relocated in 1996.

The current station has an operational capacity for 10 firefighters and the personnel operate an 'on call' system which is also known as the 'retained duty system' (RDS) on behalf of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS). With this system crew members respond via pager from their home or place of work, and manage their on-call hours to suit their lifestyle.

Over the years the role of the firefighter has changed significantly. In the early days a firefighter would

attend a weekly training session, check the equipment and see to any fires in the locality. The role of the firefighter today is very different. One of the key elements provided by the SFRS now is a proactive rather than reactive stance towards fire safety. We focus on preventive interaction and working with other partners such as the NHS, social services, care call, and community-based care groups; keeping people safe in their own homes is very much the ethos of what the service aims to achieve.

Crew members at New Galloway regularly carry out home fire safety visits, and through these visits we get



Firefighters at work on the roof of the severely damaged Killisnoe Hotel



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to know our community and are able, when necessary, to make referrals to other agency partners to meet a need for an individual through our internal referral system. For example, we can liaise with our partners to arrange for hearing or visual aids for people within their home to improve the safety and quality of their lifestyle, or to assist with replacing their old open chip pan or out of date electric blanket with more up to date items.

Nowadays the modern firefighter will not only deal with fires but also attend road traffic collisions, flooding, water rescues, animal rescues, wildfire incidents, medical responses, gain entry for ambulance crews, CPR training to community groups, and attend schools to deliver safety campaigns.

The Tale o' the Twa Jakes



JAKE MCGAW: Jake McGaw is the current officer in charge of New Galloway fire station, and has worked at the station for 41 years.

Also a local postman for many years, Jake is a real pillar of the community who goes above and beyond in all his duties, always with a cheerful smile and a joke to hand.

When asked how he was recruited, Jake says it was very informal. He was on Duke Street, where the fire station was then located, when he was 'collared' one day by the fire station sub-officer at that time who asked him to pop along to the station on their next training night to have a look at the equipment. By the following week he was sitting down for an interview, and started with immediate effect. Training was given on the job and a 'breathing apparatus' course followed.

Jake gets enormous pride from knowing the New Galloway crew are an integral part of the community in Glenkens, and what a difference they have made and continue to make to people's lives.

When asking Jake about advice he would offer to anyone interested in joining the Scottish Fire Rescue Service, his answer is to just pop along

any Tuesday to meet the crew and ask questions, as well as have a look round the fire station - like Jake, perhaps you'll find yourself still there 41 years later!

Jake says: "The job never gets boring and that's what makes it worthwhile, knowing you're helping someone in your community. Although some of the incidents we respond to can be serious, the appreciation we receive from the public makes it all worthwhile."

"Working with a team of people who are passionate about helping others is a fantastic experience. We all like to have a laugh together; overall it's a really rewarding job."

JAKE McMILLAN: Jake McMillan is New Galloway's most recent recruit, and has been with the service now for five months.

Young Jake, as he has become known, knew some of the crew and always had an interest in joining the fire service. Jake feels the training given has been great, with a huge focus on teamwork and how everyone helps each other.

Jake says: "It was amazing to pull on the fire kit and get hands-on learning new skills. I can't wait to extend my knowledge and expertise in this new role. SFRS is all about teamwork, and the firefighters at the station are fantastic and make you feel right at home, and are helpful when learning something you haven't done before. The crew are among the best people I have ever met, and I know I can rely on them under any circumstances."

Jake feels a great sense of pride when he pulls on the uniform knowing he is part of a crew putting something back into his own community.

Despite the difference in years in the job, both Jakes say they would recommend it to anyone, and both agree that the job is an excellent way to learn new skills and positively impact on the lives of the people in your community.

New Galloway fire station are currently looking for more members of the local community to join the crew and become SFRS On Call Firefighters. With more folk on board, the vital role New Galloway fire station plays in protecting and supporting the Glenkens communities will be ensured into the future.

You can pop along any Tuesday night from 7pm to find out more, or contact Stuart Dalrymple on 07971 138 154 or stuart.dalrymple@firescotland.gov.uk

And you don't have to be called Jake to apply...!

Stuart Dalrymple, Rural RDS Support Watch Manager for the Stewartry



Glenkens Freecycle sponsored by natural power

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

FREE

Trampoline. Contact: 01644 430 380.

2 X Sky+ HD remotes; as new **Quad LNB for satellite dish** (not Sky Q); **Freesat box** with remote and manual – can also be used as recorder; working **Sky+ box** (not HD) – no remote (£7.99 on eBay). Contact: Paul on 01644 430 062

Artificial Christmas tree, 6'5" tall

slimline, with some decorations, 4/5 years old. Contact: 460518

Two large shopping bags of **knitting magazines,** lots of Alan Dart patterns in them. Free to good home. Contact: 01644 420 642

FOR SALE

Amplifier, spider line 6, vgc £60. Contact: 07799 791 509

400 or so Vellum 'SecureSeal'

DL envelopes, 110mm x 220mm, £10. Contact: Ruth on 01644 460 516

Bitesse inversion cable (reduces back pain), good condition, **R930 proform tread mill, rowing machine,** any reasonable offer. Can be seen at the Scout Hall, New Galloway. Contact: Heather on 01644 420 375

Small wooden rocking horse, vgc £60. Contact: 07799 791 509

Dalry Community Choir



Wednesdays 3.30—4.30

Dalry Secondary School

(Starting Weds 4th September 2019)

For further info contact

Sue St. Joseph gw08stjosephsue@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

School Office 01644 430259

gw08officedalry@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Community Spirit

Dear Gazette,

I was surprised and warmed recently to see a young man cleaning the moss out of the cobbles at the fountain in Dalry. The flowers freely provided by Jane Trueman are a truly magnificent display, but the hard standing itself is not as well looked after by DGC.

I stopped to speak to him, wondering if he was on some Community Payback Order or similar, but no, he was just doing it because he thought it needed doing.

Such selfless action needs recognising and promoting in my opinion. I only wish I had been that thoughtful and community minded when I was his age, perhaps there is hope for the future?

Andi Holmes



Some of the entries for the **Industrial Section** at the 2019 Carsphairn Show. Photograph contributed by Louise McClure, Dalmellington.

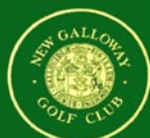
* SAVE THE DATE *

Sunday 1st December

Once again the New Galloway Celebratory Events committee are planning a community Christmas concert in New Galloway Town Hall.

The concert will be followed by a piper leading us all down to the CatStrand for mulled wine and the switch on of the Christmas lights.

Watch out for details nearer the time.



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Impacts of Acidification on Brown Trout Populations in SW Scotland

A paper has just been published in the leading peer-reviewed *Journal of Fish Biology* looking at the current numbers and genetic diversity of brown trout populations in Southwest Scotland.

The study was carried out by a team from the School of Biological Sciences, Queen's University, Belfast, led by professor Paulo Prodöhl and professor emeritus Andy Ferguson, who now lives in the area. It also involved renowned local fish artist Robin Ade and many expert anglers, especially Colin and Margaret Roberts. Marine Scotland, Freshwater Laboratory, provided reference material from the detailed surveys that they carried out in the area in the 1980s and 1990s. The study examined more than 2400 brown trout specimens

from 23 lochs and six of the larger river systems, mainly in the Galloway Forest Park and adjacent Forrest Estate. Trout fin clips were taken for detailed DNA analyses, with the resultant data being analysed by modern statistical methods.

Southwest Scotland was one of the areas worst affected by acidification in the latter part of the 20th Century. By the 1970s five brown trout populations were thought to have become extinct as no trout were caught in netting surveys, and numbers were shown to be considerably reduced in many others.

Following reductions in sulphur and nitrogen industrial emissions in the 1980s the pH increased again suggesting that the lochs might once more be capable of supporting trout populations. Restoration stocking was carried out in

these lochs since natural recolonisation could not occur due to impassable waterfalls. One of the lochs, Loch Fleet, was the subject of major international investigations of the feasibility of reducing acidity through liming prior to restoration stocking.

All five lochs, although still chronically acidic, now have substantial self-sustaining populations. All other



lochs examined in the area also now have flourishing brown trout populations with angler catch rates ranging from 1 to 20 trout per hour, with, as expected, size being inversely proportional to catch rate.

Specific details of the key findings and conclusions can be accessed at www.qub.ac.uk/Research/GRI/TheInstituteForGlobalFoodSecurity/institute-for-global-security-news/Trackingthegenesofbrown-troutpopulations.html

Photographs: Left - Robin Ade fishing Loch Dungeon. Top - Robin Ade's illustration of Galloway brown trout variability.



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Funding Process Update

Our communities have been busy over the summer preparing applications to the Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund.

The closing date for applications was 23 August and we are pleased to report that a large number of applications have been received for a range of different purposes.

There is around £213,000 available for distribution in this first round and the applications total up to substantially more than that.

There is now work to be done to assess the applications and then for the Glenkens & District Trust (GDT) to make decisions on how the money is used.

Foundation Scotland is administering the fund and the first step is for them to ensure that each application is eligible. Once they are satisfied on that, their team of assessors will review the applications and produce a report on each and every one. During this process they will contact the named applicant for further detail or clarification to ensure that when the application is presented to GDT it has the fullest information necessary to

inform their decision-making.

GDT will consider each of the reports and, in a series of meetings in October, decide on how the money should be allocated to best meet the priorities of the fund as set out in the fund strategy.

As previously reported, our wider community has waited a number of years for these monies to be available and there is considerable pent-up demand for awards. Therefore, the fact that there are a large number of applications is not a surprise but it will mean that difficult decisions will need to be made by GDT. In addition, this is the first round of awards that GDT has done so it has no previous history to draw on. However, the trustees have agreed that the funds should be allocated based on the merits of the applications and aligned with the published fund strategy.

It is inevitable, in view of the number of applications, that some applicants will be delighted while some will be very disappointed. The trustees are committed to being fair and transparent around the decisions they make and are currently working together and with Foundation Scotland to ensure that they do the best job possible. They will also ensure that feedback is given on the reason for their decisions and will publish a full list of awards in due course.

Fiona Smith, chairman, GDT

David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

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LING

Local Initiatives in New Galloway (LING) has just received the final report from the Creetown Initiative.

The report is on the viability of taking over the ownership of New Galloway Town Hall or a long term lease. We will be looking carefully at this over the next few weeks to decide on the next stages.

More Hands on Deck for Carsphairn Heritage Group

Continued from front page...

Karen Hall, chair of the heritage group, said: "We are very grateful to the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership for their support, to Carsphairn Community Council who host the website where you can find the archive, and to Carsphairn Renewable Energy Fund Ltd (CREFL) for funding the running costs of the heritage centre during this process. I'd also like to thank our dedicated team of volunteers for all their efforts to date. We'd also be delighted to hear from new volunteers."

The group is keen to let people

know they would love to have new members on board, and anyone with an interest in local history is very welcome to get in touch or attend the AGM on 16 November - annual membership is only £1. More members are very much needed in order for the group to be able to continue, and there are exciting times ahead - a key issue for discussion at the meeting is whether the group should purchase the building, which was purpose-built for the Carsphairn Heritage Group 30 years ago. This would mean that necessary modernisation could be

undertaken to allow the building to offer visitors and users a more attractive and versatile setting, hopefully ensuring it will continue to be an asset to the community over the next 30 years. The building is currently owned by the regional council who don't have the resources to put into non-essential improvements.

To be involved in these discussions, to join the group, or to find out more visit www.carsphairn.org/heritagegroup or email carsphairnheritagegroup@gmail.com or go along to the AGM.

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My First Year of Retirement...

I thought I knew exactly what I would do when I came to retire.

Sort the garden, jobs around the house, travel more, that sort of thing; but it didn't turn out that way.

Being well aware of the disproportionate number of men who die within a year or so of retiring, often on the golf course, I had no intention of joining them. So I decided that I needed to keep fit(ish!) and, more importantly, to gain a new role or purpose in life. Before I knew it new jobs, opportunities and responsibilities started arriving. A few of the things

which have fallen on my plate so are are:

- Joining the University of the Third Age (U3A) and attending monthly meetings, plus local history and family history groups.

- Joining a writing group and beginning to write short stories, poetry and more articles.

- Driving the Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) minibuses, and driving for the Patient Transport Scheme.

- Undertaking various reading, research and studying.

I know some people participate in local groups such as the Men's Shed, or take up gardening, painting or playing a

musical instrument in retirement. Many others volunteer for all sorts of things; helping in local schools, charity shops, CatStrand and many other areas that most would never think about such as cutting grass around benches, helping neighbours and picking up litter around the village.

I never fancied calling myself a retired army officer or retired ICT consultant, that seems just to look backwards at something that has ended. Instead, if I meet someone and they ask what I do, I reply... "I'm a writer, local historian and grandfather!" Who will you be when you retire..?

Paul Goodwin



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1-2pm – Parton/Loch Ken Holiday Park

2-4pm – Balmaclellan area

4-5.30pm – The Hidden Road

Fridays:

8-10.30am – Dalry

10.30-11am – Glenlee Area

11am – New Galloway

12noon – New Galloway Shop

2pm – Mossdale area

3-4pm – Laurieston to Gatehouse

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Return of the MUGA



Dalry Community Properties Trust (DCPT) has applied to take possession from D&G Council of the Multiple Use Games Area (MUGA) adjacent to Dalry School.

Unused for a number of years, the plan is to secure funding and refurbish the facility so that it can reopen by the end of 2020. The facility will be made available to individuals and groups from the Glenkens area throughout the year, and the school will make use of it during term time.

A range of sporting and social activities will be on offer, including netball, basketball, five-a-side football, tennis, hockey and volleyball.

Floodlights mean that the space can be used up to 10pm in the evenings and throughout those dark winter afternoons.

It is hoped that the relaunch will coincide with a five-a side football tournament open to all age groups.

Any individuals or groups who wish to make further enquiries or be kept in the loop should contact Gary Blissett on 01644 430 521 or garylissett51@gmail.com

As part of the acquisition process, community feedback is very important as well as being helpful in long-term planning. With this in mind, I would encourage anyone with an interest in this project to get in touch and leave comments and suggestions.

It is worth noting that there other sporting facilities currently available in the village include outdoor bowls at Spalding Bowling Club, badminton, table tennis and martial arts at the Community Centre (also owned by the DCPT) and snooker at the Serviceman's Hut (wee wooden hut on the corner of Kirkland St). So dust off those old trainers, dig out the rackets and be prepared to give it a go!

Our slogan for 2020 is: *Our MUGA Makes Us Get Active*

Gary Blissett, Vice Chairman, DCPT



This year's Tour of Britain cycle race passing through Dalry.

In this photograph, taken by Andrew Mellor, cyclists are powering down the Main Street. Can you spot something odd about the cyclist second from the front?



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CatStrand Highlights

Autumn arrives in the Glenkens bringing with it darker nights and blustery weather - an invitation to settle in and gather together.

Our Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) arts programme offers plenty of opportunity to come in from the cold and brighten up these long evenings ahead of us.

Warming up with laughs from comedian Patrick Monahan (Friday 5 October), the return of our lunchtime theatre events (Thurs 10 Oct & Thurs 16 Oct) and a chance to catch the R&B, electronic, folk melding of local lads VanIves (Fri 11 Oct) following success on BBC Radio Scotland and Celtic Connections this year.

Climate change takes centre stage with a series of events running throughout our autumn/winter season. In a new partnership with the Stewartry Climate Group, we aim to make environmental conversations accessible and hopeful with some fantastic international film on offer

(*Cloudforest* 12 Nov & *Woman at War* 9 Jan) teamed with local panel discussions.

Acts from Nordic and British folk scenes bring an eclectic range of contemporary folk music to CatStrand. From the Swedish polska and Norwegian heavy metal inspired Elmøe & Hoffman (Thur 14 Nov) to the pairing together of celebrated folk musicians in new duos Nancy Kerr & Luke Daniels (Sun 17 Nov) and Rankin & Robertson (Sat 23 Nov). All individually revered for their musical talents.

Our community venues continue their live event programmes with a Wee Book Hoose event in Crossmichael church featuring a winter concert from Cairn Chorus (Sat 21 Dec) with tea and mince pies in the church hall. Dalry have programmed a night of folk bluegrass and old time americana with banjo, fiddle and stepdance duo Newberry & Verch (Fri 31 Jan) followed by a step dance workshop the next morning.

A new range of arts programme workshops offer an affordable chance to learn a new craft or skill working with local artists and crafters. Try your hand at jewellery making with



Patrick Monahan

Emerge artist Sarah Rogers (Sat 16 Nov) or find out more about the music industry in rural Scotland with Robert Shields (ONR) as part of a Holywood Trust funded workshop running across D&G (Wed 2 Oct).

For tickets or further information visit www.catstrand.com or call 01644 420 374.

Youth Players Panto

This year's CatStrand Youth Players pantomime is the latest script from their favourite panto author Paul Reakes, and *Beau Jest* is certainly a script with a difference.

The story is loosely based (as the spelling would suggest) on the famous book 'Beau Geste' by PC Wren and the classic film starring Gary Cooper; a thrilling adventure yarn with plenty of laughter and interesting characters along the way.

The panto will be on stage on Friday 6 and Saturday 7 December at 7.30pm, with a matinee on Sunday 8 at 3pm. Please book your tickets early as the panto always sells out.

Eaten at the CatStrand

Eaten by Mamoru Iriguchi was a theatre performance aimed at children which came to the CatStrand.

Below Mamoru tells us a bit about it...

What inspired you to create this show? "When I studied zoology, I was always curious how animals accept to be eaten within the food chain. I am also concerned that we (humans) often do not know ingredients of our food."

What is the message of the show? "It is a fun show but there are a few messages too. The most important one is 'know what you are eating'. Sometimes we don't even know the ingredients in our meals!"

Young attendees at the CatStrand performance, Laya and Finn, said: "It made me think whatever you dream may come true - Lionel the Lion dreamed about being a vegetarian, and he found out he does have nice things inside him. And he dreamed about being eaten, and he was eaten. It also made me think that we're made up of our food," and; "You are what you eat!"

Helen, a parent from the audience, commented: "The show was entertaining, unexpected and at times surreal. There was a clear (and accurate) scientific message wrapped up in the poo and digestion-based story-line, so while the children may have come away boggled, they were certainly entertained and may well have also learned something useful about how their bodies work!"

If you would like to feed back your comments on the show, or find out more, you can visit Lionel Mc Lion on Facebook or Twitter.



Audience members Laya and Finn with Lionel the Lion and Mamoru from Eaten.

Dalry Film Club's Winter Season

Last year the Film Club at Dalry Town Hall improved its offering to customers by introducing personal headsets to improve sound perception.

These sets take a stereo feed transmitted by radio signal taken from the DVD player and so cut out extraneous noise, and can be provided on request at the pay desk.

For this year we are able to announce that we have installed a hearing loop into the hall for film goers who have a hearing aid with a "T" setting. Again, this takes its feed from the DVD player. The installation has been generously financed by Film Hub Scotland through Driftwood Cinema and installed by South West Audio. Driftwood has been instrumental in assisting the spread of community cinema through southwest Scotland and has supported Dalry Film Club since the start.

Up till now the film shows provided by Dalry Film Club have been fully open to the public on payment at the door. We have recently taken out a licence that allows what are effectively private film events on a membership basis, to show films from the licence provider's distribution list. So you can show one of your favourite films to a group of friends on the big screen or organise a party in the hall with a film as the feature. For further information on this facility contact Jim Reid on 01644 430 231.

Having opened the season in September with *Bohemian Rhapsody* and *Stan and Ollie*, Dalry Film Club has an equally strong programme for the rest of the season. October opens with *Wild Rose* on 9 October. This tells the story of Glaswegian Rose-Lynn who is just out of prison and with two young children she hardly knows. She longs for fame as a country singer in Nashville. We finish the month with *Fisherman's Friends* on 23 October, a comedy about a group of sea-shanty singers finding unexpected fame.

In November we mark the Armistice

by showing *Journey's End* on 13 November. This is in no sense a glorification of combat, but largely confines itself to the inter-personal tensions and claustrophobia of the officers' dugout as they await the final German push in March 1918.

On 11 December we show *Green Book*, the winner of a number of awards including Best Picture at this year's Oscars. This tells the tale of two very different people confronting their differences of race and character during a tour of the American South in the 1960s.

As part of the Catstrand Midwinter Festival we present *The Man Who Wanted to Fly* on 11 January. This is a heart-warming documentary about an elderly Irishman who so wants to take off that he buys his own microlight and builds his runway to suit.

The British Film Institute supports community cinemas with a programme of films around a topic. This year the topic is Musicals. We are showing *Cabaret* on 26 January as a glamorous (if a little seedy) finale to the Autumn/Winter season at the Town Hall.

Jim Reid

THE GARDEN SPOT

The swallows have long flown south for the winter, and now is the time that I think is the end of one gardening year and the beginning of the next.

No two years are ever the same and the season now finished certainly had its challenges: blight on potatoes, late frost which spoiled early plantings, crows destroying my apple crops and those pesky rabbits! After losing the first two plantings, my first runner beans weren't available until after the Glenkens show. Of course, there were successes: salad potatoes cropped well and survived the blight, many of the ornamentals (especially dahlias and fuchsias) are the best they have ever been and the garlic crop was superb... speaking of which...

Now is the perfect time to plant garlic for next season. Blackbirds have a habit of pulling them up so either net them against birds or

plant them a little deeper so the birds don't see them until their roots are established. Not much else to do in the veg plot except continue to pick and preserve the late crops. When the leaves fall from the fruit trees, clear them away and burn or take to the recycling centre (don't add to the compost heap as you will just be saving infected material), likewise potato shaws and tomato plants, the dead material will all have blight so burn or get rid.

If you want to make life a little more pleasant, keep an eye out for the first frost and get into the garden a day or two before, cut your dahlias and hostas to the ground and add it all to the compost heap. Much easier this way than trying to deal with the mush that the frost will make of it. Now, while the memory is fresh, be honest. Isn't there the odd plant that has not done well for a couple of years?

Perhaps an apple tree with bad canker, a shrub that doesn't flower well or a dahlia that has overgrown the space. Be ruthless and have them out now, you will be grateful next year as you will have space for new introductions.

Finally, if you haven't already done so, get your pots and tubs sorted for winter and spring, get the bulbs planted straight away – except for tulips, leave planting those until November as it helps prevent tulip fire. New bulbs will always perform better than ones you saved, so go on, splash out.

The Intrepid Gardener



Some of this season's successes.



Connecting in Communities

An initiative of the Glenkens Community & Arts Trust

Connecting in Communities is a three year project funded by LEADER and the Big Lottery Fund, aimed at enriching the lives of Glenkens' residents. Managed by Brian Jones and Chris Jowsey the project is an integral part of CatStrand's portfolio and offers a wide variety of groups and activities to meet the social, cultural, physical and mental wellbeing needs of the Glenkens community. There's something for everyone from IT to Tai Chi, the Men's Shed to Yoga and Adult Dance to Zumba, come along and join in, you're very welcome.

Weekly Events

Mondays

Exercise to Music 0930-1030
Men's Shed 0930-1300*
Beginners Ukes 1130-1230
Adult Dance 1430-1530
Pilates 1740-1840

Tuesdays

Yoga with Amy 1830-1930
Fitness Class 1730 -1830**

Wednesdays

Men's Shed 0930-1300*
Gentle Tai Chi 1030-1130
Wendletrap Tai Chi 1400-1500
Woodcarving 1400-1600*

Thursdays

Yoga with Kirstin 0915-1045
Singing Group 1100-1200
Kettlebell Class 1800-1900*

Fridays

Zumba Gold 0930-1030
Men's Shed 0930-1300*
IT Drop-In 0930-1230
6 weeks from 1 Nov to 6 Dec

Saturdays

Circuit Training 0800-0900**

Monthly Events

1st Tuesday

Digital Photography 1000-1300

1st Wednesday

Glenkens Writers 1515-1715

1st and 3rd Thursdays

CatStrand Ukulele Band Practice
Sessions 1300-1530

Last Friday of Month

Afternoon Tea Club 1330

Other Events

Community Appliance Testing

Thursday 26 Sep 1330-1600

Community Cooking

Kirkcudbright Tue 22 Oct 0900

Men's Shed Christmas Sale

CatStrand Sat 23 Nov 1000

Ukulele Spring Party

Tue 10 Dec 1900

Learn The Whistle (Adults)

8 Weeks - Dates TBC

Yoga Workshops

Oct - Nov - Dec

Contact and Additional Information

Times and locations can vary and booking may be required, please check before attending. For information contact Brian/Chris at CatStrand on 01644 420374 or email brianecatstrand.com or chrisecatstrand.com (*Based in Balmaclellan **At New Galloway Town Hall)

Connecting in Communities have teamed up with "Sleeping Giants" to conduct an impartial review of the project, look out for their surveys and consultations during October and November, have your say!



The European Agricultural Fund
For Rural Development
Europe investing in rural areas



Crossmichael Heritage Centre

September saw the formal launch of the Crossmichael Heritage Centre & Living History project. This community-led project sought to highlight the amazing history of Crossmichael parish using interpretation in the Church Hall and recently acquired Hearse House.

More than 50 people were there to witness local history experts Professor Ted Cowan and Dr Lizanne Henderson cut the ribbons to commemorate the formal opening of the facilities. As well as getting a tour round the buildings, activities available included rope tying and graveyard tours.

The project was jointly funded by the Galloway Glens Scheme and LEADER. The Hearse House is now



Dr Lizanne Henderson cuts Hearse House ribbon.

open every day during daylight hours and is located next to the church.

Nick Chisholm, Galloway Glens Project Officer, in attendance at the event, said: "This remarkable project is as a result of the hard work of a number of individuals, but particular mention needs to go to John Nelson, Richard Middleton and Lindsey Smith who have worked tirelessly

to get everything ready. There is a huge amount of hidden history in all our communities, but it takes the dedication of key individuals to bring it to life. On the opening day we were also reminded that this local history is an important part of the cultural tourism offer that Dumfries and Galloway can be proud of. Well done Crossmichael!"

The 51st Annual Carsphairn Burns Supper Celebration



Friday 17th January 2020
Lagwyne Hall Carsphairn
7pm for 7.30pm

Price £15, seats must be reserved in advance by emailing lindsayduncan23@hotmail.co.uk or phoning Davey on 07710 124255

Speakers & artists to be announced

Catering by Ayrshire Catering

Early booking is recommended as 2019 event was over subscribed



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Crossing Words



Deugh – Ken – Dee

In the previous issue we featured the crossing point over the Ken at the Ken Bridge Hotel. This inspired some varied pieces of writing:



Haiku

three graceful arches
spanning over the river
can't resist the view

by Jack Howard

The first time I saw the bridge over the Ken we were on holiday from Essex nearly 30 years ago. Myself, Roy and the kids with the trailer tent on the back of the car on our way to Glen Trool.

We came down from Balmaclellan and I saw it and I caught my breath. It was beautiful, but why was it familiar? Its elegant arches, the sweeping curve of the parapet. Gradually I made the link to stately homes where bridges such as this grace the grounds over ornamental waterways. And there it was, crossing the Ken for us all to enjoy.

A very few years later we were living up the road in New Galloway and I was so pleased we were close to this beautiful bridge.

by Sally Hooker

Dear Buddie,

I was very interested to read of your walk in the previous Gazette. I myself have had many a romp across the Ken Bridge. I especially like venturing down to the river and sniffing all the long grass at the water's edge – although I keep well back, I'm not as adventurous as I once was. Jasmine, who holds my lead, tells me that there used to be cows crossing the river here, but I don't believe this – I have never seen a cow wearing flippers, have you?

by a wee white dog called Olive



NEXT ISSUE...

we are seeking writing inspired by the bridge over the Dee at Kirkcudbright (*thanks to John Smith for this atmospheric portrait, left*). Described (a wee bit unfairly?) as a '[f]ive-span bow-truss concrete bridge with no pretension to prettiness' (J. Gifford, 1996). The current bridge was completed in 1926, replacing the earlier bridge which had been in place since 1868.

Prior to the bridge, the river was crossed via ferry. There was also a ford a little further down-river (as can be seen on the map).



Your writing (max. 200 words) can be imaginative or prompted by real events or experiences. Please send your writing to me, Laura, by email: laura.kenwords@gmail.com or post c/o CatStrand by 27 October. A selection of responses will be printed in the next issue and all submissions will be kept for possible future publication.

Ken Words is a community writing project supported by Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership, Creative Scotland, and GCAT. If you would like to find out more about Ken Words' activities, please contact Jane McBeth on jane.kenwords@gmail.com or 01644 420374.

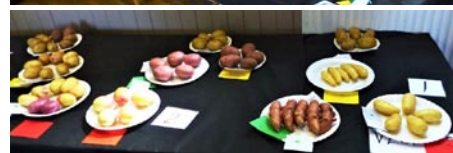
GLENKENS FLOWER SHOW

This year's Glenkens Flower Show was well attended by all ages.

A late season meant that many potential exhibits such as runner beans and sweet corn were not ready on the day and a wet season caused potato blight to spoil others. There were a number of queries regarding was grown and how to exhibit, so hopefully we will

have a few new faces competing in next year's show.

Special mention must be made of Hilda McAdam who was given a presentation on retiring as the show co-ordinator. She has been doing this job for a remarkable sixty years! Mention was also made of several other roles she has held around the village over the years. At the time of writing, we are yet to hear who will take up the baton for next year's show. *Paul*



Show Entries Doubled for 2019

This year's show was held at Newfield Farm, Dalry, by kind permission of the Maxwell Family.

The wet weather in the days leading up to show day looked set to cancel it, but credit to the committee who worked hard to get it up and running. Entries were almost double last year's, and a highlight of the day was the

Bluefaced Leicester sheep section - there were 70 animals forward making it one of Scotland's largest shows for blues.

Once all the sections were judged it came down to the Champion of Champions. This year's judge was James Edgar who knew his surroundings very well having farmed Newfield until recently. He found

his champion in the Galloway in calf Heifer exhibited by local breeders John

and Anne Finlay, Blackcraig, Corsock. Blackcraig Blondchen was female champion at this year's Royal Highland Show and also won her class at the Stewartry and Dumfries shows. This concludes a very successful year for the family who have also won three consecutive breed championships with three different animals.

Taking the reserve ticket was the Clydesdale filly exhibited by Colleen Marshall. Fresh from her win at last week's Bute Show and adding to her success at Dumfries, Wigtown and Biggar Shows.

The Glenkens Show committee would like to thank everyone involved for all their hard work in preparation for this year's show.



Sheep judging at the Glenkens Show © Andrew Best.



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Dumfries and Galloway Council is determined to make our region the best location in rural Scotland in which to plan, manage and visit great events.

If you would like to discuss events funding or receive a copy of the Council's Events Toolkit please email Ian.barr@dumgal.gov.uk

Dumfries & Galloway COUNCIL

Concert Raises Brass for Church Funds

The rafters in Carsphairn Church rang out to the sound of music when Kilmarnock Concert Brass performed a summer concert at the end of August in aid of church funds.

The band, which was near extinction five years ago, is now, once again, a thriving musical ensemble under the baton of Scott Walker.

Kilmarnock Concert Brass, which has collected silverware at its last four contests, gave a varied and entertaining concert programme which enthralled the near-capacity audience.

Donations from the concert-goers on their way out raised over £350 for church funds.



Trio of trombones to the fore for a musical feature © Karen Hall.

Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel

This issue's winner is Margaret Scott's photograph taken at Underhill, Dalry, humorously titled *Lunch Pad*.

Margaret wins an evening meal for two up to the value of £30 at the Ken Bridge Hotel. Competition judges Dave and Sue said: "We had the usual brilliant selection of high quality photographs entered this issue, but the colour and crispness of Margaret's shot made it our choice for this issue's winner."

How to Enter: any photos taken in the Glenkens can be entered - landscapes, wildlife, portraits, action shots... Email them to glenkengazette@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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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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As the nights draw in, the Galloway Glens team are turning their attention to a programme of events and talks throughout the darker months. Many of them are run by our partners, both in headline projects and Small Grants projects, and we're delighted to see so many interesting and informative events on offer. Thank you to all our volunteers and partners who are showing just how many ways there are to connect with our heritage. From poetry to trout genetics and pretty much everything in between, we hope you'll find something of interest to you here.

All events are free unless explicitly stated. For more information or to book your place, contact the Galloway Glens Education and Communications Officer on helen.keron@dumgal.gov.uk.

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram @GallowayGlens or see www.gallowayglens.org.

- Invasive Plant Species: Identification and Management**
1 Oct. 10am - 3pm
Threave Garden & Estate

Come and learn how you can help to control the spread of Invasive Plants with the Galloway Fisheries Trust.

- Royal Observation Corp Posts - Guided Tour**
3 Oct. 10am - 3pm
Meet at the Red Kite layby just north of Parton
Join our professional archaeologists for a self-driven tour to find out more about the area's military history.

- Writers Café and Pop-Up Poetry Reading**
3 Oct. 7pm / 8:30pm
Selkirk Arms, Kirkcudbright
Come for the regular Ken Words Writers' Café and stay on for an evening of Pop Up Poetry to mark National Poetry Day.

- SCAPE Coastal Archaeology**
4 - 7 Oct.
Kirkcudbright
A series of events with archaeologists from The SCAPE Trust to reveal and record the history of Kirkcudbright Bay. For more information contact Helen or the Solway Firth Partnership.

- Great Pumpkin Weigh In**
6 Oct. 2pm - 4pm
Garroch Walled Garden, Glenlee
Bring your prize pumpkin along and see how it measures up with the LING volunteers.

- Annual DAMP Evening: Hill-Farming and Maps**
6 Oct. 6:30pm - 9:30pm. £23
Includes membership and light supper.
Catstrand, New Galloway

4 expert speakers (including from Liverpool University and Callendar House) will talk on the evolution of hill-farming through the years, after a short AGM.

- Apple Pressing**
12 Oct. 11am - 2pm
Earth's Crust Bakery, Castle Douglas
Bring some apples and a clean container and make your own juice with the Love Fruit & Nuts project.

- Maps & Mines, Hopes & Fears**
16 Oct. 7:30pm - 9pm
Gordon Memorial Hall, Castle Douglas.
Expert geologist, Dr Alan Gibbs, will talk about the area's rich mining history and what we can learn about it from historical maps. A DAMP presentation with the Carsphairn Heritage Group.

- Rock Art - Guided Tour**
19 Oct. 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Kirkcudbright, DG7 4XE
Come and see one of Galloway's best examples of pre-historic rock art, learn about Scotland's Rock Art Project and then get hands on with some survey work.

- Apple Pressing**
20 Oct. 11am - 2pm
Castle Douglas Producers Market
Bring some apples and a clean container and make your own juice! 1 pint milk containers work well.



GALLOWAY GLENS

Landscape Partnership

- Web-based Heritage Workshop**
22 Oct. 10am - 3pm
Gordon Memorial Hall,
Castle Douglas
Join our professional archaeologists to learn what resources are available for your archaeological investigations from the comfort of your computer!
- Karen Campbell: In Conversation**
20 Nov. 7pm - 9pm. £5
Catstrand, New Galloway
D&G writer Karen Campbell is the author of seven novels, most recently 'The Sound of the Hours', 'Rise' and 'This is Where I Am'. Join her for discussion as part of Book Week Scotland. A Ken Words project.
- Finds Handling workshop**
21 Nov. 10am - 3pm
Kirkcudbright Galleries
Come and see some of the Finds from our summer programme and learn how to handle, clean and categorise them.
- 'Singing the Galloway Glens' launch event**
21 Nov. 11am - 12:30pm
Catstrand, New Galloway
The CatStrand Singers are a friendly bunch who always welcome new members. Come along to find out about their 'Singing the Galloway Glens' project and maybe even join in!
- Peatlands in the future: Looking beyond the trees**
21 Nov. 7pm-9pm
Parton Village Hall
Established peatlands are a special habitat of huge importance. Crichton Carbon Centre, Galloway Fisheries Trust and RSPB discuss how we can optimise their management.
- Moths at Home – A window into secret lives of moths in the Galloway Glens**
4 Dec. 7:30pm-9pm
Dalry Town Hall
A presentation from Peter Norman of the SWS Environmental Information Centre about the mysterious world of moths in the Galloway Glens and the results of moth trapping carried out during 2019.
- The fall and rise of Galloway Trout: Impacts of acidification, barriers and stocking**
12 Dec. 7pm-9pm
New Galloway Town Hall
Barriers to fish movements can affect the diversity and behaviour of trout. Professor Andy Ferguson (Queens University) and Jamie Ribbons (Galloway Fisheries Trust) discuss the impact of barriers on trout genetics in the River Dee.
- Loch Ken Alive! - Project Update**
16 Jan. 7:30pm-9pm
Parton Village Hall
There's big plans afoot for Loch Ken - come along to hear progress and give us your views.
- Birds and Maps in Glenkens**
29 Jan. 7pm-9pm
Catstrand, New Galloway
The soundscape and the landscape are linked, and so changing land use has created a changing auditory sensation over the years. DAMP has teamed up with Bird Song to create an immersive sensory experience - not to be missed!
- CYDI Summary Presentation**
5 Feb. 7:30pm-9pm
Dalry Town Hall
6 Feb. 7:30pm-9pm
Kirkcudbright Parish Church Hall
It was a busy summer for Can You Dig It - come and hear Rathmell Archaeology speak on the outcomes and finds of our Community Archaeology programme.
- Drop-in event to mark the end of CYDI**
26 Feb. 2pm - 6pm
Gordon Memorial Hall,
Castle Douglas
Open to all, but particularly our CYDI volunteers - come and meet the Rathmell team again and see what we achieved in 2019!

Partner event CYDI CYDI fringe

LING: Local Initiatives in New Galloway
DAMP: Dumfries Archival Mapping Project
CYDI: Can You Dig It - Community Archaeology Project



River Ken at Dalry

In far off times the shadowing alders cast flickering light over your dark pools
as wandering hunters probed your banks.

In time a castle motte was raised to guard the crossing.
With what dread did early travellers walk beneath its mound as they passed
this way?

The day came when its sentinel tower decayed and fell.
Yet its church still stood as a refuge for pilgrims, as a haven for weary
travellers.

A place to rest weary feet in the cool calm of its sanctuary, or seek brief respite
from wind and rain that had buffeted and soaked them through.

Later travellers reached your grassy banks and lay down with relief to watch
cattle and horses splash through the ford.

Or on colder, wetter days when the river was high to watch black cattle swim
the river and the ferry offer safe passage to horse and rider.

On wilder days of raging flood to wait for a better day.

Today the crossing is easy.

A gentle walk across the swaying planks of a bridge to make forays into far-
flung fields.

Until that bridge becomes like a pier jutting into the sea, powerless against
nature's flood.

by David Bartholomew



The Day the Internet Sprung a Leak

(apologies to Robb Wilton)

The day the internet sprung a leak
There was chaos in Dalry
With data and icons all over the
place
The broadband went awry

The fibre cabinet in midtown
Spewed files from deep underneath
The Openreach man arrived
Drank tea and sucked his teeth

The heavy stuff flowed downhill
Some right down to the Ken
Pictures of Rhinos and mountains
Wagner and three wise men

Lighter stuff drifted away
To Glenlee and on to the Rhinns
Fairies, pop music, clean jokes
Balloons and cartoon violins

When they finally plugged the leak
Google numpties were on cloud
nine
Oh, what a joy, they all said
Now that we're back online

by The Rhyming Reporter

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DUMFRIES-STRANRAER RAILWAY

The Dumfries to Stranraer railway line is on a strategic European route, effectively linking northern Ireland, southwest Scotland and northern England.

The potential for local and through passenger traffic, freight and tourist traffic on a reopened railway is considerable.

Local trains would bring back rail connections to Newton Stewart, Castle Douglas and Dalbeattie and each of these would act as railheads for the surrounding areas. Potential freight traffic would include supermarket traffic en route to northern Ireland and timber harvested in Galloway. Timber trains already operate from Carlisle to Chirk in north Wales, and Dumfries & Galloway is, by percentage, the most heavily forested area in Scotland.

As short haul air travel lessens due to environmental concerns, the potential to regain through passenger traffic from northern Ireland to the

north of England and further afield increases. Overhead electrification would be cost prohibitive due to the length of the line, but advancements in hydrogen fuel cell technology provide a green alternative. Hydrogen powered trains already operate in Germany, and recent trials have taken place of a hydrogen powered train in England which will begin mainline testing soon.

The Lake District takes in approximately four times as much from tourism as Dumfries & Galloway, despite being geographically close and similar in nature. One reason for this is that the Lake District has three railways passing through; The West Coast Main Line, the Windermere branch and the Cumbrian Coast Line.

Were Dumfries & Galloway to experience a significant increase in tourism, few local people would want to contend with the increase in traffic on the roads, parking problems and extra pollution.

There is also great potential in the charter train market. Charter trains typically have around a two hour layover at their destinations, with passengers spending significant amounts in local retailers.

Dumfries & Galloway is the lowest wage economy of 32 local authority areas in Scotland, and suffers from

rural depopulation as young people leave the region to go to Scotland's Central Belt and elsewhere. A railway would help people live in the area without the expense of a car - 24% of the region's population do not own or have access to a car. Current bus services are infrequent in the evenings and on Sundays, and bus journey times are very slow when compared to rail.

A reopened railway would encourage working age people to move to the area, and with a campaign ongoing for Galloway to become a National Park it would seem essential in the 21st century to have a green transport corridor through the area.

*Sandy Rogerson,
Reopen the Dumfries-Stranraer Railway*



**- Closed Mondays -
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The Carlingwark Canal

Below is an excerpt from *Lost Canals and Waterways of Britain* by Ronald Russell, contributed by Jill Russell.

One of the earliest Scottish canal undertakings to be completed was the Carlingwark Canal on the lower reaches of the River Dee near Kirkcudbright. In 1765 a 1.5 mile cut was made from Carlingwark Loch to the river near Threave Castle. This was the work of Sir Alexander Gordon of Culvennan and was known, rather confusingly, as Carlingwark Lane. It reduced the level of the loch by several feet and enabled marl to be dug out of the loch and transported by canal and river to farms in the neighbourhood. The river navigation was improved in or about 1780 by the construction of a second cut, half a mile long, near Culvennan House on the Dee above Threave Castle. This cut bypassed a swift-running stretch of river and had a lock – possibly two – close to the back of Culvennan House. Then a few years later a much more ambitious scheme was proposed for a 26-mile canal with several locks from Dalry alongside the Ken and Dee to the estuary near Kirkcudbright. This

was to be known as the Glenkens Canal and it was authorised by an act of 1802. John Rennie surveyed the route and estimated the cost at rather over £33,000. Sufficient support was not forthcoming, however, and the idea was dropped.

Marl-carrying boats used the Carlingwark Canal until about 1840. As it was a private undertaking there was no official abandonment and it is not possible to say whether it was used at all after that date. Both lengths are still extant and can be explored, although permission and wellington boots are required for certain stretches.

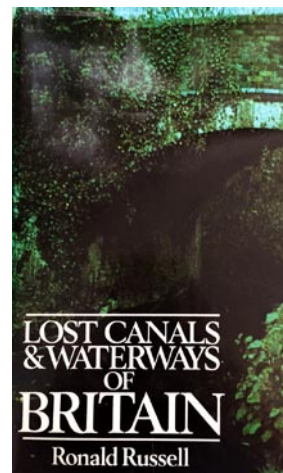
The short northern section can be approached from Glenlochar Bridge, where the B795 crosses the Dee. Above the bridge is the Glenlochar Barrage, part of the Galloway Hydro-electric Scheme.

Below the bridge is the entrance to the canal, on the left-hand side by an embankment. The site of the lock or locks is near the top of the cut and a line of trees at the back of Culvennan House indicates the course of the canal. This is a marshy area with many drainage channels and several pumping stations to control the levels. The southern entrance to this stretch is near a pumping station and there are

indications of an area widened out into a basin.

For Carlingwark Lane take the A75 south-west from Castle Douglas, which crosses the waterway at Buchan. It is possible to battle your way alongside the Lane by swinging from the saplings and leaping the drainagle channels. The Castle Douglas-Kirkcudbright Railway crossed the Lane midway; north of the site of the railway bridge the walking becomes easier. You come to a pumping station but may not be able to reach the river because of a wide drainage channel.

The Carlingwark Canal brought a measure of prosperity to the area, especially to Castle Douglas which developed out of a little village called Carlingwark, and, before that, Causewayend. It also has its own personal tragedy: from the parapet of Glenlochar Bridge Sir Alexander Gordon's son fell to an untimely death while still a young man.



Carsphairn Community Trust

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

SUNDAY 8 DECEMBER 2019

11am - 3pm

Lagwyne Hall, Carsphairn

Free Admission



In aid of
Dumfries & Galloway
Blood Bikes



CatStrand

Christmas Shopping Day

Saturday 23rd November
11am - 4pm

*A lovely day of amazing local arts and crafts,
mince pies and mulled wine...*

*Come and be spoilt for choice - stocking
fillers and luxury gifts for
Christmas morning!*

The Story of the White Snake

The story of the White Snake is one of the Glenkens most compelling folk myths.

We don't know how far it dates back, but we know it was old in Robert deBruce Trotter's time and that raises the interesting possibility of it first being told in Gaelic rather than Scots. With that in mind, the Gaelic Class in Dalry had a crack at a translation. Here is Dr DeBruce's version side by side with ours as a comparison, so you can imagine how it might have sounded when it was first told!

If you are interested in learning more about Gaelic, you are welcome to join us at Dalry library on a Monday night, 6.30 pm to 8.30pm. Class costs £15 per block of 5, tea and coffee provided. Contact Mike Ansell for more information.

The White Snake Scots dialect

They say yt in the aul' auncient times there was a oak forrest a' roon't the Moat at Dalry, an a maist desperate muckle White Snake had possession o' the ditch, an lay in't an its tail waggle't amang the water at the fit o' the scar at the yae en o' the ditch, an it's heid whiles floatit in the Boat-Weil at the ither, an whiles rase up on the tap o' the Moat lookin oot for something tae eat.

The natives hads tae deed it wi milk every mornin, an if they forget it, it didna forget them, but joost took a dauner up the Clachan, an ett a dizzen or twa o' them, or a wheen kye; an sae they gat tae be kin' o' careful aboot the feedin o't.

It's no joost certain yt it wus a Snake, for some acoonts ca's 't a Beast some ca's 't a Dragon, an some ca's 't a Worm; but whutever it wuss, it had a serious appetite, an the natives gat tae be rather serious aboot it, an offer't great rewards tae onybuddy yt wud kill't. Plenty try't, but it joost cransh't them up like as mony carrots, an that wus the end o' them. Efter a while it tire't eatin them an took tae swalla'in the haill, an wudna chow ocht weer nor a stot.

Weel, there wus a smith in the Clachan they ca't Michael Fleming, an the Snake had hookit his wife oot o' the Kirkyaird an made a brekfast o' her, an the man wus mad aboot

it, an thocht nae yin had a richt tae ill-use her but hisselt; sae he sets his wuts tae work tae fin some wey o' murderin the puir innocent Snake; an he made hisselt a coat o' airmour, a' cover't wi knife blades, an they lay close tae the airmour as lang as he keepit quait, but whunever he begood tae warsel they stuck oot a' ower him like the proggie o' a hurcheon.

Yae mornin whun he thocht the brute wud be hungry, he gaed his wa's doon tae the Moat, a close't up in his airmour, an a weel-sherpen't gully in every han, tae try an get the Snake tae swalla him.

Hooever it wus sleepin whun he gaed doon, an he had tae jag it atween the scales wi a gully tae wauken't. The minute it saw whut wus kittlin't, it loot an awfu gulder, an made a dab at him, an afore he ken't whuten en o' him wus up, he wus sprauchlin in its inside, half chokit for want o' breath.

Than he thraw't hisselt every wey he could think o', an gart the knives stick oot, an slash't at it wi the gullies, till at last he kill't it, an cut a wey oot for hisselt, an raise't the natives, an they cut it up in bits, an sent it doon the water in a spate; an than he gaed an claim't the reward. They say there's some o' its banes about Loch Ken yet.

An Nathair Gheal Gaelic

Aon latha, o chionn fhada, ann an baile beag d'am b'anim Dail Righ, thacair rud eagalach. Dhuig muinntir a'bhaile agus chunnaic iad nathair hor, gheal 'na suaineadh tri tursan timcheall air a' mhotte re taobh Abhainn Chinn. Bha an nathair cho mor is gun robh a ceann a' laighe air mullach a' mhotte agus gun robh a h-earball anns an abhainn. Nuair a laigh an suilean oirre, ghabh iad eagal mor.

Bha acras mor air an nathair gheal.

Acras mor, uamhasach. Cho clis ris an dealanach, shleamhaich i air a broinn a-steach dhan bhaile. Theich muinntir a' bhaile, ach cha robh a h-uile duine luath gu leor, agus bha feisd aid an nathair gheal. An deidh sin, shleamhaich i air broinn air ais dhan mhotte. Chaidil i fad laithachean.

Fad moran mhiosan, chuir an nathair gheal eagal am beatha air muinntir a' bhaile, gus an do dh'ionnsaich iad a biadhachadh. A h-uile madainn, dh'fhosgladh i a beul agus bhiodh cuideigin a' dortadh de bhainne sios a h-amhach. An deidh sin, bhiodh muinntir a' bhaile a' torit dhi caoraich is crodh. Dh'fhosgladh i a beul ana'mhor agus dh'itheadh i slan iad.

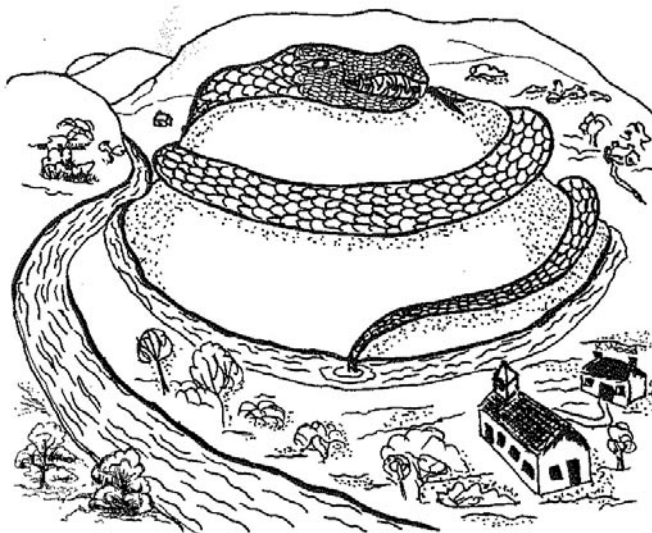
Ach bha cuid de lathaichean ann air nach biodh i air a sasachadh idir. Air cuid de lathaichean, shleamhaicheadh i air a broinn air ais a-steach dhan bhaile a-rishid agus dh'itheadh i cuid dhen fheadhainn mhi-shealbhach. B'e am uamhasach dorch a bh'ann do mhuinntir a' bhaile ann an Dail-Righ.

Air aonan dhe na lathaichean seo, dh'ith an nathair gheal bean Mhicheil Fleming an gobha. Ghabh Mhicheal fearg mhor. Thuit e ri mhuinntir a' bhaile, 'Gu leor! Tha an t-am ann rudeigin a dheanamh mu'n nathair!' Bha muinntir a' bhaile leis an eagal a-rithid, agus chaidh iad am falach anns na taighean aca.

Ach cha robh an t-eagal air Mhicheal Fleming a-nis. Chidh e dhan bhuth-obrach aige agus rinn e deise-armachd. Chuir e sgianan air an deise-armachd a bhiodh a' laighe comhnardach a sheasadh suas nuair a tharraingeadh e air sreang a bha na * broinn. Chuir e air an deise-armachd, thog e sgian mhor anns gach laimh, agus dh'fhalbh e dhan mhotte.

Bha i na cadal, an nathair gheal, mar sin bhreab e i gus a dusgadh. Dhuig i le siosarnaich mhor agus thog i i-fhein suas gu h-ard. Ach sheash Mhicheal rithe, eadhon mar a dhuin i a beul timcheall air.

Bha e dorch a, blath is fluich na broinn. Tharraing Mhicheal air an t-sreang agus thug an nathair siosarnaich mhor a-rithid agus thoinn i le pian. Tharraing Mhicheal a-mach na sgianan mhor aige agus ghearr e an nathair. Ghearr e i gus an do dh'fhosgail a bru. Thuit e a-mach anns a' ghrein agus bha an nathair gheal marbh. Thainig muinntir a' bhaile a-mach as na taighean aca agus bha iad gle shona.



An illustration by Kirkcudbright Academy pupils from the 1970s created for Alan Temperley's book Tales of Galloway.

A Special Nicht at the Ken Bridge

'In Galloway the Nicht...' was quite a special evening at the Ken Bridge Hotel.



In the photograph to the left, which opened the exhibition of his writings, Logan turns towards us as if to say, "O, it's you,

where have you been? What have you been up to? Yeah, I'm still here. Come in. Come in..." And so, in the packed-full carvery room of the Ken Bridge Hotel on Friday 5 September, the evening began.

In conversation with well-loved traditional musician Jo Miller, Logan's brother Dave Paterson (top right) and James Edgar entertained the gathered company with tales of the man who in his lifetime chronicled many a tale of life in the Glenkens – the old ways, folk, animals and places that found their way into his songs and poems. A selection of these was read by Dave, James, Ted Cowan, Brian Edgar, Harry Nodwell and Susan Currie whose performances

in Logan's native tongue of Galloway Scots drew out the variously humorous, tender and wistful notes of his writing.

The room resounded with both laughter and silence and, when Jo's fiddle started up, foot-tapping, followed by singing along with the chorus in her rendition of *The Furmiston Clip*:

*Gie's some tar, gie's some tar!
Yon bit an that bit an a wee bit
ower there!*

And with the CatStrand Singers' performance of the beautiful *Galloway Lullaby*:

*Clouds are girdled roon the moon,
sit on Millyea like a croon.
My wee bairnies coorie doon, in
Galloway the nicht.*

The ceilidh continued with chat, songs and poems from all corners of the room as folk reminisced and shared pieces that resonated with the spirit of Logan's work – the work of a man we might call our local 'village bard'.

It was with his own words, read in his brother's voice, that this quite special evening closed:

*O the greatest o' pleasure that ere
man could hae
Is to stay in the Glenkens at the end
of the day
The wealth o' its beauty it sets
the soul free*



*The high circlin buzzard o'er
Park of Glenlee*

*And behind the sun is resting on
Meikle Millyea
Oer the Rhinns o the Kells slowly she
masks her way*

*Tae sleep on Millfire, rollin
over Milldoon*

And coories doon ayont Corserine

If the evening instilled in you the desire to write about Galloway, whether in Galloway Scots or any other speak, you might be interested in meeting other local people who enjoy writing. Ken Words, who organised "In Galloway the nicht..." is a small community-based writing project that provides opportunities to develop your writing and share it with others. If you'd like to find out more please contact me, Jane McBeth on 01644 420374 or email janeemcbeth@gmail.com

THE SPEAK OF GALLOWAY

Following last year's conference on the Gaelic heritage of Galloway, this year's 'Speak of Galloway' event focused on the distinctive variety of the Scots language spoken in the region.

A large and enthusiastic CatStrand audience heard a range of language experts discussing the origin, nature and future of Gallovidian Scots. Professor Jeremy Smith set the language in the context of language development in these parts, Margie Ferguson with "Haud yir tongue and mind yir language" reviewed her research on the changing sound and usage of spoken Scots across the region,

and Derrick McClure traced early efforts to record the leid, or language, and its meanings, most notably in "John Mactaggart's Gallovidian Encyclopaedia". Margie's research confirmed the language was very much alive and distinctive, changing as all living languages should, and being used alongside standard English by all generations, including the young.

Chris Rollie and Rab Wilson, both with roots in "Greater Galloway", made fluent use of the leid itself to speak on the survival of bird names and lore in Dumfries and Galloway and evoke poetic memories of the lost Tynron village of Cormilligan.

A highlight of the day was a lively discussion, conducted in Gallovidian Scots, on the culture in which the leid still thrives. Robin Jardine and John 'Cubby' McCubbing, drawing on lifetime



Gallovidian Scots speakers Robin Jardine and John McCubbing, centre, lead a lively discussion flanked by conference organisers Ted Cowan and Michael Ansell.

experiences, enthralled the audience with tales of farming, forestry and fishing in the Glenkens and spoke passionately and frankly on the threats and challenges this world and its language are facing.

The organisers gratefully acknowledge the sponsorship from Beltie Books of Wigtown and the Saltire Society and the support of CatStrand.

LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

The Phantoms of Halloween

Currently not a day passes without some reference to 31 October – Halloween – because this year, that is the date on which our country is supposed to leave the European Union.

For many of us the symbolism is perfect – the 'day of the dead' when bad folk are carried off to the Deil's lair which, we might imagine, will be fuller than usual, because of the cantrips, lies, dishonesty and faithlessness of devious and deviant politicians. 'Cantrips' is an old Scottish word for a witch's trick or a sham. All of this is not the stuff of celebration. Dooking for apples, scones dripping with treacle, or guising will not save us. The ignorance that permitted belief in such matters in the past has not disappeared. Today the great and the good, who allegedly know better than we do about what is good for us, are still chasing

phantoms.

On a cheerier note a project which has occupied some of us for the last decade, and longer, has now come to fruition. *Dumfries and*

Galloway: People and Place c.1700 to 1914 has now been published. The book is about the folk of the region and aspects of their experience such as work, recreation, food, living conditions, communication and transport, music and song, population and emigration with specialised research on Kirkcudbright, the growth of towns and villages, smuggling, metal miners and farming. In his chapter John Burnett, formerly a National Museums of Scotland principal curator, finds that there is almost no 18th century information about Halloween before John Mayne of Dumfries published his poem with that title in 1783, inspiring Burns' more famous production.

Lizanne Henderson (University of Glasgow) contributes a chapter on folklore, a paragraph of which I borrow since it is of Glenkens interest, specifically on the subject of ghosts. Post-Reformation Scots of Protestant persuasion should not have been troubled by ghosts, notably numerous around Halloween, and thought, in earlier times, to have been the souls of the dead awaiting respite or purgatory. Medieval authorities debated whether the dead had to wait for the Last Judgement before they could be admitted to Heaven or whether they gained their berth there immediately after death. There were many elaborate variations on these ideas, largely junked by the reformers.

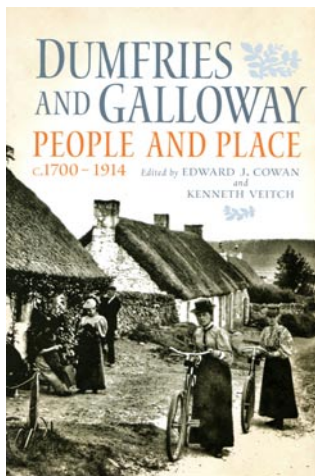
Thomas Miller (1717-1789) inherited the Glenlee estate in Kells parish from his father and it duly passed on in turn to his own son, William, (1755-1846) Lord President of the College of Justice. Thomas's brother was Patrick Miller of Dalswinton, the patron of Robert Burns. There were numerous stories about the

haunting of Glenlee Park.

A female ghost was seen by Captain Clark Kennedy and the local butler who heard the rustle of her dress as she passed by, to disappear through a rusty locked door. Another guest recognised a photograph of a deceased individual who borrowed his brush and comb. A visitor attested that a woman had been tending the fire in his room when she turned around and approached his bed, "she glared at him with such a distorted countenance which might have once been beautiful but hideous now with the expression of all the evil passions it personified". It was believed the apparition was that of Lady Ashburton who walked about Glenlee wearing a grey silk dress. She was said to have poisoned her husband. There was a further elaboration that her butler, in turn, poisoned the lady, stealing some of her valuables.

Ghost stories are fairly common. Pipers were forever playing as they marched into caves, often to be heard subsequently, but never to be seen again. Enlightenment historian Robert Heron (1764-1807) of New Galloway, refers briefly to ghosts in his *History of Scotland* as representations of those in purgatory who had been denied last rites, an interpretation rejected by the Protestant reformers like much else that was, as he put it, "absurd and fanciful in the opinions of the vulgar". We will have to tolerate the absurd and fanciful views of our vulgarian politicians for some time to come. Through time 31 October may become known as 'the day of the dead-heads'.

Ted Cowan



The Kells Cotton Kings

The amazing story linking four local families with the rise of the Manchester cotton industry is the subject of the next Glenkens Story lecture on Saturday 2 November.

From the mid eighteenth century the Lancashire cotton industry began to grow at a spectacular rate to meet expanding international demand. Four men from the Glenkens parish of Kells

found themselves at the centre of this dash for growth. Each had received a sound grounding during their education in Kells and went on to build businesses in the Manchester area.

Through time they and their families came to dominate the fine spinning industry of Manchester and gain international reputations. Latterly, members of all the families, broadened by wealth and marriage, returned to Galloway and played a leading part in promoting the development of the Glenkens.

William Kennedy, the great great



Glenkens initiative helped Manchester achieve industrial fame.

grandson of one of these pioneers has researched their story for his book, *To Grasp an Opportunity*, and will speak on the subject at 2.30pm on Saturday 2 November at CatStrand.

Tickets, priced £5, are available from www.catsand.com and 01644 420 374.

The Scottish Alternative Games

Now in its 43rd year, the enduring appeal of the Games once again attracted a large crowd to New Galloway.

This year's Gird 'n' Cleek World Champion was a New Galloway local once again, with Arthur Harfield taking the title. The Tractor Pull attracted plenty of entrants with this year's men's competition winner being Ralph Spernagel, and taking gold for the ladies' event was Carolyn Godfrey.

The Quad Bike Pull for the juniors attracted the biggest queue of the day, with youngsters showing their strength.

The Mungo Bryson Memorial Trophy for the men's Tossin' the Sheaf competition was won by George Dempster, who also won the Hurlin' the Curlin' Stane event.

In the ladies' Tossin' the Sheaf, for the second year running Dawn Spernagel took the gold, beating last year's height by a foot. Dawn's daughter Charlotte was keeping up the family tradition by coming second with an impressive height of 17ft 6in.

The Snail Racing attracted big crowds as always with curious punters rolling up to support, encourage and even bribe the snails in each of the three races during

the afternoon. The Classic Car Show was well supported and attracted an impressive line-up of vehicles. The show was organised by Rex Dressler with the winner being voted for by the crowd throughout the afternoon. This year's winner was the Alvis 12/50 owned by Mr Derek Smith.

The ever-popular Archery event, run by Threave Bowmen Archery Club, gave folk the chance to try their hand at the ancient skill and was very busy all afternoon. The other sideshows and stalls surrounding the arena provided something for everyone throughout the day with the opportunity to try out some of our wonderful local produce, particularly beer from Sulwath Brewery, ice cream from Glen Urr and cheese from The Damn Fine Cheese Co.

Lockerbie Pipe Band set the scene perfectly as always and opened the Games in their usual fine style, and there were also music sessions featuring local musicians outside CatStrand during the day.

The Alternative Games, originally started in Parton in 1977, now look forward to the 20th year in New Galloway



Top: Gird 'n' Cleek race in action by Louise McClure. Above: New Gird 'n' Cleek World Champion Arthur Harfield, centre, with runner-up and former champion Alexander McKenna and bronze medallist Fiona McQueen. Picture by Ian Biggar.

in 2020. The organisers would like to thank the many people who helped to make the Games a success once again and a big thank you to everyone who came along to spectate and compete on the day.


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The Big Blether is back!

We're gathering opinions & suggestions to inform the next stage of our Connecting In Communities activities, as well as your ideas for our new venue in Balmaclellan, The Smiddy.

We want to know what YOU think!

- Maybe you are a regular at the Men's Shed, the Ukulele group, Tai Chi or Zumba class,
- You might have been once,
- Or you may not have been at all.

We are keen to speak to as many people in the Glenkens as possible.

We will be running focus groups, stalls, interviews, surveys & other activities to help you shape the future of The Smiddy & Connecting In Communities.

Join us for a chat over the next couple of months. Find out how to get more involved:
catstrand.com/big-blether

Please take our online survey:
surveymonkey.com/r/connecting-in-communities

If you have any questions, queries or comments please contact:
brian@catstrand.com / chris@catstrand.com

CATSTRAND YOUTH

CatStrand Youth had a fantastic summer with over twenty different

events taking place and lots of new faces.

Thanks to everyone who took part. We're back running regular term-time groups and planning some exciting projects for the next few months. For updates, have a look at our website or facebook pages at www.catstrandyouth.co.uk or www.facebook.com/catstrandyouth

Katy Billington,

CatStrand Youth Arts Coordinator

Photographs: Left - litter picking for our Eco Art Beach Day.



Above - trip to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Sat 23 Nov, 2019 at 7-11 PM **EVERYBODY DIGS..**

Battle of the Competition Bands

Castle Douglas Town Hall

Prizes

A chance to perform at Knockengoroch and Eden festivals + Recording Studio Session at Circa16

To Enter

Be a band or solo performer and live in D&G and be under 18. Apply by 25th Oct. email dgbandsbattle@gmail.com for info/application form

Tickets U18 £3/Adults £5, Performers free



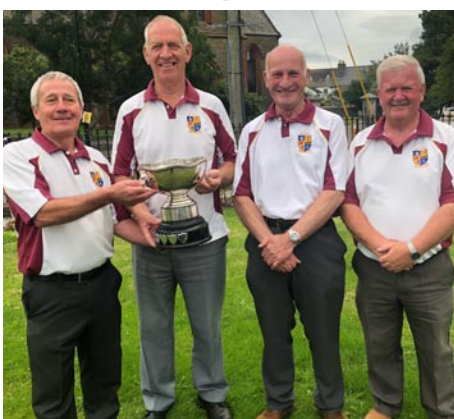
Mossdale's Robin Hood sets off on his latest fundraising journey.

Spalding Bowling Club



Above left: Spalding bowling club held their open pairs - left to right are runners-up Graeme Penrose and Alastair McMillan, president Elizabeth Peacock, Valerie Russell who presented the prizes to the winners who were Isa-Jane Rogerson and David Bark, on behalf of sponsors GTR Contractors, Dumfries; Lochinvar Hotel, Dalry; and Natural Power Ltd.

Above right: An excellent win for Spalding Bowling Club's Peter Hamilton, Ian Murray, John Peacock and John McNally in winning the Stewartry Bowling Association's county senior rinks competition.



Sean Has a Talent for Art

Young local artist, Sean Watson, recently exhibited his work in Castle Douglas Town Hall.

Sean, who is 22 was born with a considerable hearing loss, used to use his drawing to assist him to communicate, it can be very frustrating not having the words. It soon became evident that he had a talent for art. Sean went to main stream school, starting at Crossmichael Primary, and then on to Castle Douglas High School. His art, however, is very much self taught. He takes great pleasure in



being asked to paint for anyone. Sean already has some paintings on display, thanks to the kindness



of Mark Gilmour, of A Step Forward in Castle Douglas.

New Gates for St Margaret's

New oak gates have been installed in the Lychgate at St Margaret's Episcopal Church, New Galloway in memory of John Maxwell (1931-2017).

This is in recognition of his enormous contribution and commitment to St Margaret's for over 50 years. A dedication ceremony took place on 25 August at which the extended Maxwell family joined the regular congregation.

The original Lychgate was installed in 1911 in memory of Mr A F M Spalding who had been instrumental in the building of the church in 1904. In medieval times lychgates were made entirely of timber, perhaps with a thatched roof, but the St Margaret's one is timber with a red tiled roof to match

the church. The new oak gates have been made to match the original ones and have utilised the existing iron hinges.

The Glenkens Agricultural Show also owes a debt of gratitude to John Maxwell who offered the Mains of Kenmure when the original site no longer provided enough space. It has been held on Maxwell lands ever since, apart from cancellations due to flooding and during the foot and mouth outbreak. The quiet generosity to the community was typical and he was proud to be made an Honorary President for Life of the Glenkens Agricultural Society.

John Maxwell was also an independent councillor for the Glenkens, firstly in the Stewartry District Council, where he was chairman of the housing committee for over ten years, and later in the amalgamated Dumfries & Galloway Council. After retiring from the Council he joined the newly formed Pamela Young Trust which



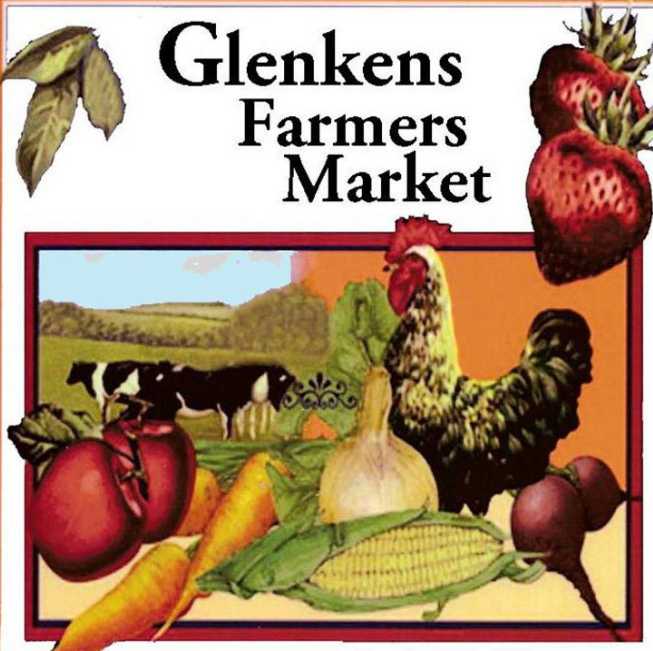
Revd Canon Barry Gilbert and 12 members of the Maxwell family following the dedication of the oak gates on 25 August.

provides affordable housing to those in need in the Glenkens. After Pam Young died in 2008 he was elected chairman, a role he undertook with diligence until stepping down a few months before he died.

CATSTRAND SINGERS LOOK FOR STORIES

On Saturday 2 November the Catstrand Singers invite you to afternoon tea to launch and celebrate our new exciting project.

We would like to hear your stories about life in Galloway. Our musical director Nicola Black would draw on this material to produce songs. This project, funded by the Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership, will culminate in a CD and booklet of these songs.



Glenkens Farmers Market

2nd Saturday Monthly

**12th October
9th November**

10am-12.30pm

*For further information or to book a stall
ring 01644 430 454 or visit*

www.dalrytownhall.co.uk

Entrance by donation - proceeds towards Dalry Town Hall
Refurbishment Fund



Glenkens Children's Christmas Party

**Sunday 15th December at 3pm
in Balmaclellan Village Hall**

All primary and pre-school children from the Glenkens welcome. All
children must be accompanied by an adult.
Food will be provided, but donations towards that and our raffle will be
gratefully received.



**Special Guests:
Magic Monty
Santa**

To make sure Santa brings enough presents, we'd really appreciate a quick email to lochbank@mail.com to let us know if you're attending.



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GLOBAL STRIKE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE



On Friday 20 September there was a Global Strike for Climate Change, led by young people.

Schools across the region joined the strike with pupils raising their voices

in a plea that those in power look at the facts and take action in order to safeguard their futures.

Kirkcudbright Academy pupils were one of the groups to organise a local strike, with school students and young people from all over the region in attendance, including Glenkens cluster pupils. Can you spot anyone you recognise in the above photograph?

Glenkens Primaries

Welcome to a new school year in the Glenkens Primaries.

This term we welcomed a new teacher, Ruaridh Andrew, into our Primary 1/2 class at Dalry - Ruaridh will be with us for the whole session and we hope he enjoys his time here.

We are looking to find more ways of working with members of our wonderful local communities and engaging more with community groups, and have a number of plans in the making. We would love to hear about any ideas, skills or interests anyone in the community has and could possibly share with us. For example, recently we had some fascinating workshops on how the respiratory system works complete with children

making working models using balloons to demonstrate how our lungs inflate and deflate, all thanks to a generous member of the community donating a little of their time and a lot of their enthusiasm to support our young people's learning.

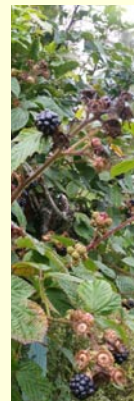
We are also thinking about our outdoor environments this year, particularly play areas and quiet meditative places. As the year progresses we may ask to see if anyone has anything they would be willing to donate to the schools to help us with these. We will let you know as our projects progress...watch this space!

If you would like to get involved or have any ideas for engaging with the community, please contact the school office on 01644 430 105 or gw17officedalry@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

*Paul Scrimshaw,
Glenkens Cluster Head Teacher*

Conservation with John Muir Awards

This term Dalry Secondary School is running a John Muir award scheme which focuses on local conservation issues.



The pupils have been learning about the importance of wild food in autumn to both the local animals and humans.

As part of our conservation work we are planning to restore our school pond, which has become very overgrown. Part of this task involves removing some brambles and the pupils decided to make good use of the berries by harvesting them and turning them into jam. We will post updates on our progress on the blog as we go.

Pupils are planning a range of activities and events over the coming academic year. There will be a coffee morning on 27 September, a pantomime performance on 27 November, and the community choir which runs in the school and is open to everyone is on again from 3.30-4.30pm on a Wednesday. For information on any of these activities you can contact the school office on 01644 430 259 or email gw08officedalry@ea.dumgal.sch.uk

Lots more community events will pop up over the term, so please take a look at our blog to keep up to date of what's happening at Dalry Secondary:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/dg/dalrysecondary/>



Pupils enjoy Roald Dahl Day fun at Dalry (left) and Kells (right) primary schools.

Galloway Community Transport

(formerly Glenkens Transport Initiative)

www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org

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



OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2019

REGULAR SERVICES

Tuesdays Glenkens to Newton Stewart

Outward Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930;
New Galloway (Town Hall) 0940, (CatStrand) 0942
Return Pickup Newton Stewart (Aldi Car Park) 1330
Return Fare £3.00 Booking required.
This schedule may be subject to change in January 2019

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.

Glenkens to Ayr Return

Saturdays: Oct 26, Dec 21

Pickups: New Galloway (CatStrand) 0930, Dalry (Underhill)
0940, Carsphairn (1000).
Return leaves Ayr 1500
Return fare £6.00. Booking required

Glenkens to Carlisle Return

Saturdays: Nov 30

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930, New Galloway (CatStrand)
0940, Crossmichael (Shop) 1000, Castle Douglas (Market
Hill British Legion) 1010. Return leaves Ayr 1600
Return fare £8.00. Booking required.

MINIBUS HIRE

8, 15 and 16 seat minibuses for hire
information and bookings
www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org/hire
email gct@catstrand.com
or call 01644 420374

LOCAL COMMUNITY TRANSPORT PROVIDER GETS A MAKEOVER

**Glenkens Transport Initiative (GTI) is now
Galloway Community Transport (GCT).**

The new name reflects the fact that we're no longer an 'initiative' but a well-established operation with a wider area of activity and a substantially increased range of services.

All the things you've come to rely on from GTI will still be available from GCT - and more!

Look out for the new livery appearing on the vehicles very soon and for information about new services in the near future.

EXCURSIONS

Seats must be booked in advance online at www.catstrand.com
or by phone 01644 420374
See GCT website for more details

October 13, Sunday

Gardens of Excellence - The Autumn Garden, Tweeddale

Dawyck Botanic Garden, Stobo

See the spectacular autumn woodland colours in this 65 acre arboretum, containing trees and shrubs from around the world, all set in the beautiful Tweed Valley.
Garden centre and café available. Partially wheelchair accessible.

Admission £6.30 (RBGE members free)

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0900, New Galloway (CatStrand) 0910, Crossmichael (Shop) 0925, Castle Douglas (Market Hill) 0935, Kirkcudbright (Harbour Square Bus Stop) 1000.

Fare £10. Concessions £9

October 26, Saturday

Creative Crafts Show, Glasgow

Includes entry to Crafts for Christmas.

Pickups: Kirkcudbright (Harbour Square Bus Stop) 0800, Castle Douglas (British Legion Market Hill) 0825, New Galloway (CatStrand) 0900, Dalry (Underhill) 0910, Carsphairn (Shop) 0925.

Fare £9. Concessions £8.

(Entrance to Craft Show Standard £11/Senior £10)

December 14, Saturday

Carlisle & Gretna Gateway Christmas Shopping

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

Return journey time around 1600 - by agreement with driver.
Fare £7. Concessions £6.

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

OCTOBER

Thu 3, Community Council Elections
Thu 3, Macmillan Coffee Afternoon, 1-4.30pm, Hair by Jayne, Main St, Dalry
Fri 4, Quiz Night, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall
Sat 5, Family Bingo, 4-6pm, New Galloway Town Hall
Fri 5, Patrick Monahan, 7.30pm, Catstrand
Sat 5 & Sun 6, Exhibition Of Photographs: Dalry Then And Now By Dalry Heritage Group, Dalry Town Hall
Sun 6, Ken Words: Wigtown Book Festival Trip, 10am-5pm, Catstrand
Wed 9, Dalry Film Club: Wild Rose (15), 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall
Thur 10, Play & A Piece: My Friend Selma, 1pm, Catstrand
Fri 11, Talk: The Galloway Hoard - Everything That You Should Know, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall
Fri 11, Vanives, 7.30pm, Catstrand
Sat 12, Glenkens Farmers Market, 10am-12.30pm, Dalry Town Hall
Wed 16, Theatre: The Man Who Planted Trees, 1pm, Catstrand
Sat 19, Anne Chaurand: A Musical Journey Through Pieces Inspired By Scottish, Celtic & Latin Landscapes (Classical Guitar), 7.30pm, Balmaghie Church, Glenlochar. To book tickets call

01644 430 052

Wed 23, Dalry Film Club: Fisherman's Friends (12a), 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Fri 25, Dark Sky Jazz: Tommy Smith & Brian Kellock, 7.30pm, Catstrand

Sat 26, Vikings In D&G, An Event For All The Family, 2.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Sun 27, Climate Change Conversation With Dougie Campbell, 2.30pm, Catstrand

Tue 29, Eos: Leonardo The Works, 7.30pm, Catstrand

NOVEMBER

Sat 2, Glenkens Story: Cotton Kings Of Kells, 2.30pm, Catstrand, See P21

Sat 2, Singing the Galloway Glens, 3pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sat 9, Family Bingo, 4-6pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Sat 9, Glenkens Farmers Market, 10am-12.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Sun 10, Film: Cloudforest (Pg), Followed By Discussion, In Partnership With Stewartry Climate Group, 2.30pm, Catstrand

Wed 13, Dalry Film Club: Journeys End (12a), 7.30pm, Dalry Town Hall

Thurs 14, Elmøe & Hoffman, 7.30pm, Catstrand

Sat 16, Carsphairn Heritage Group Agm, 3pm, Lagwyne Hall

Sun 17, Nancy Kerr & Luke Daniels, 2.30pm, Catstrand

Wed 20, Ken Words: Karen Campbell, 7pm, Catstrand

Sat 23, Battle Of The Bands, Castle Douglas Town Hall, See P26

Sat 23, Catstrand Christmas Shopping Day, 11am-4pm, Catstrand, New Galloway

Sat 23, Rankin & Robertson, 7.30pm, Catstrand

Sun 24, Community Beetle Drive, Balmaclellan Village Hall, time tbc

Sun 24, Climate Cafe, 2-4pm, Catstrand

Wed 27, Dalry Secondary School Pantomime, See P28

DECEMBER

Sun 1, Community Christmas Concert, New Galloway Town Hall, time tbc

Fri 6 & Sat 7, Catstrand Youth Players Christmas Panto, 7.30pm, Catstrand

Sat 7, Christmas Craft Fair, 11am-4pm, Mossdale Village Hall

p14-15: Galloway Glens Diary

p11: Connecting in Communities Events & Activities

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 Dalry Primary on 01644 430 105 (for Nursery/ELC too), Dalry Secondary on 01644 430 259 or Kells on 01644 420 340

Carsphairn Heritage Group: carsphairnheritagegroup@gmail.com

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

Dumfries & Galloway

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

MMM Adult Colours & Dance: 2.30pm-3.30pm

MMM Health, Play & Creative Movement: 3-7yrs, Mon (term-time) 3.45-4.30pm

MMM Children's Grades & Youth Dance: 8-16yrs, Mon (term-time) 4.30-5.30pm

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 Ukes, 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:

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:

Glenkens Art Workshop, Mon 2-4pm during term-time

LING Elevenses & Lunches, Tues 11am-2pm

Fast Broadband Access, Tues 11am-2pm

Skills for Life, get up to speed on current technology, Tues 2-4pm, for info call CD IT centre on 01556 503167

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, Wed 1.15-3pm, 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

Chat, Cuppa & a Cake, Wed 10am-2.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Community Choir, Wed 3.30-4.30pm, Dalry Secondary School

Gentle Dru Yoga, Wed 7.30-9pm & Thu 12.30-2pm, Laurieston Village Hall, contact 450269

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

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

Yoga and Meditation Evening, every 3rd Sunday of the month, 7p-9pm, Drumwhill, Mossdale. Contact Rachael 01644 450269 to book.

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 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 10am: 1st. Carsphairn 11.15am: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th. Dalry 10am: 2nd, 4th. Kells 10am: 3rd. Kells 10am: 3rd. **Special Services/Events**: Family Service, 13 Oct, 10am, Dalry Church. Quiz Night,

Fri 8 Nov, 7.30 pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall. **Communion Service**: 27 Oct, 10am, Dalry Church. 17 Nov, 11.15am, Carsphairn Church.

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH: St Margaret's, New Galloway: Holy Communion, 10.30am every Sun & Wed. **CATHOLIC CHURCH SERVICES**: Kirkcudbright: Sun Mass, 9.30am. Dalbeattie: Sat Mass, 5pm.

Dalry Library

Tuesdays 10.30am-2pm

Fridays 11am-4.30pm

For further information contact Castle Douglas library on 01556 502 643

USEFUL NUMBERS:

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

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE OLD SMIDDY?

Anyone passing through Balmaclellan will have noticed some changes happening to The Smiddy in the centre of the village.

The building is now nearing completion and has been transformed into a light and airy venue with facilities for meetings, small events and community activities. The design draws on the history of the building as a public house and then a smiddy, with a great many of the original features being retained whilst transforming the interior into a warm and welcoming space fit for the 21st century. Robert Paterson, known best as Old Mortality, of Covenanting times, would surely have approved; he and his family reputedly lived in the building and his wife set up the first school in Balmaclellan.

The intention is that the new building will complement the Men's Shed at the rear, the success of which gave Glenkens Community & Arts Trust (GCAT) the confidence to progress with the development of the rest of the site. It was the first Men's Shed in the region and now has a membership of nearly forty people, over 20% of whom are women. It has well-equipped woodworking and metalworking rooms, and even a bike maintenance facility and is open three days a week.

The renovation works at The Smiddy have only been possible with the support of LEADER, Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership (GGLP) and private donors to whom we are extremely grateful. GCAT is now working to raise additional

funds to enable the building to be used to its full potential. It will be a true multi-use space and will complement the other facilities available in the village and the wider Glenkens.

The intention is to have a focus on young people and we are actively looking at the potential for modern apprentice training with a slant towards traditional skills.

An exciting development is that the main meeting room, which will be designated the Watson room, will host a permanent display of Donald Watson's paintings. Additionally, the key exhibit from the recent Energise exhibition at Gracefield, titled Watershed, will be on permanent loan at The Smiddy thanks to the generosity of the purchaser.

Whilst embryonic at this stage, we see The Smiddy as an appropriate venue to host an exhibition of the Balmaclellan mirror which is currently housed in the National Museum of Scotland. This local treasure is a very early Bronze Age mirror which has been on national tour but never been back to its original home.

There will be broadband installed as this is required to maximise the potential of the building. We see there being opportunities to run training courses and potential distance learning from colleges, etc. One of the rooms has also been constructed with added sound insulation so that it can be used for recording, music, gaming, filming, and these kinds of things as these activities



are in high demand at CatStrand and having additional space to facilitate them will enable more people to participate.

In the early stages, The Smiddy will primarily accommodate activities displaced from CatStrand as the latter is bursting at the seams, but it is very much the intention that The Smiddy becomes a parallel facility which will have its own personality and add to the facilities of the Glenkens as a whole.

There will initially be a series of 'soft' openings to test the venue, but in the not too distant future we plan to have a grand opening party, so keep a look out for further updates.

Alan Smith

ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE

(price per issue incl VAT)

SMALL: 6cm x 6cm, £37.80 (+ 10% off with series discount)

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1/2 PAGE: 18cm w x 13cm h, £151.20 (+ 25% off with series discount)

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Dog friendly - Private Parking
Secluded Garden

An ideal base for exploring Galloway...

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GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

General Medical & Dispensing Services

The Surgery
High Street
New Galloway

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

01644 420234

Self-Service Public Laundry



NOW OPEN!

Mon-Sat 8-5
Last wash 4pm
Sun 9-4
Last wash 3pm

9kg wash £5
14kg wash £8
8kg drier £5
10kg drier £8

Community Shop, New Galloway
01644 420620

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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

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