

GLENKENS GAZETTE

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

February/March 2020

ISSUE 116

FREE

FILM STAR COMES TO DALRY

Dalry is in for a feast of cinema and music on Saturday 8 February when accordionist Neil Sutcliffe, star of *Dirt Road to Lafayette*, will be present at a local showing of the film.



The film will be shown in Dalry Town Hall followed by a ceilidh where he will be performing with his mother, Jo Miller, who grew up in Dalry, and his father, Steve Sutcliffe.

Dirt Road to Lafayette also stars Scottish actor David Hayman and was scripted by Booker Prize winner James Kelman. After his mother's death teenager Murdo (played by Neil) travels to Alabama with his grieving dad. Though an accomplished accordion player, Murdo

has rejected music since the death while his father is buried in grief and has turned away from his son. However, a chance encounter by Murdo with a new form of music eventually heals the family's wounds.

Andrew Mellor, who has seen Neil perform recently, said: "I was astounded...if I hadn't seen his fingers moving with my own eyes I would have

thought that there was some sort of trick photography involved!"

Neil (20) is already an accomplished musician and studies at the Glasgow Conservatoire. Jo says that they will be playing some traditional Scottish tunes at the ceilidh and there will also be an American influence, reflecting the film's setting. Jo will guide dancers through the intricacies of the Cajun Two Step.

Jim Reid of the the Dalry Film Club adds that this is an evening not to be missed: "We are enormously pleased to have been selected by Cinema For All to show this film, particularly with the local connection of its lead actor and family. Neil will also be available to answer audience questions about his film-making experiences.

"The ceilidh afterwards will bring together three of the stars of the Dalry Hogmanay Ceilidh for an encore performance which will set the Town Hall ablaze with dance once again".

Film Screening & Ceilidh, Dalry Town Hall, Saturday 8 February, 7pm - teas, coffees, cakes and BYOB, £5 at the door or you can book through CatStrand on 01644 420 374.

Life Membership for Brass Bandsman

Carsphairn resident Nigel Martin has been awarded a Life Membership medal by the Scottish Brass Band Association (SBBA) for almost 60 years of service to banding.

Nigel, who plays cornet and flugelhorn with Kilmarnock Concert Brass, first picked up a cornet at the age of 11 at school in Bury, Lancashire. He joined the Besses o' th' Barn Boys Band in Whitefield, Manchester, in 1964 before returning to join his hometown band, Irwell Forge, three years later where he progressed to become the band's principal cornet.

In 1987 Nigel relinquished the 'top man' position to take up flugelhorn, an instrument with which he has since had a long association.

Moving house to the Rossendale Valley in 1992, he joined the Goodshaw Band and then the Haslingden and Helmshore Band, helping it to move up from Fourth to First Section in the contesting ranks.

Nigel and his wife Kath frequently holidayed in the south-west of Scotland and often went along to Dumfries Town Band rehearsals and engagements. Eventually the lure became too strong and they moved to Carsphairn, soon becoming involved at Dunaskin Doon Band in Ayr.

Following a short illness in 2018, Nigel moved to Kilmarnock Concert Brass and he continues to help bands all over the country, offering his time and expertise.

Nigel said: "The medal means so much to me and I shall wear it with pride at every brass event I attend in the future. I acknowledge that most of my banding career has been in England but since my arrival in Scotland 11 years ago, my enjoyment of banding has

been heightened by the friendliness and camaraderie of the Scottish brass community.

"I still thoroughly relish putting my experience to good use in helping and encouraging younger and less able players to achieve their potential."



Nigel proudly shows off his long service medal

New Galloway Community Concert

A community concert was held on 1 December in New Galloway Town Hall.

This was the third year the Celebratory Events Committee (a sub-committee of LING, Local Initiatives in New Galloway) have held the event and it was once again very well supported.



The varied programme included items from Kells School, Glenkens Beavers and Cubs, The Wyrdy Women and a number of individual performers of all ages. The concert concluded with everyone joining in Christmas carols and songs. The piper then led everyone down to the CatStrand, where many more people joined in for mulled wine. The CatStrand singers performed and the Christmas lights were switched on in the High Street.

The committee would like to thank all who supported and helped with the event.

Please keep the date of Sunday 10 May free as we are planning a Tea in the Park to celebrate the 75th anniversary of VE day. This is to be



a bank holiday weekend (despite what your calendar may say, the Government has moved the bank holiday this year) and everyone in the parish of New Galloway & Kells will be invited. We hope to re-invent the type of street party that was popular in 1945 with tea and entertainment.

The LING Committee

Pictured: Left - Andrew Frew and Brian Jones. Above - Cubs and Beavers.

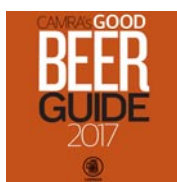


THE
CLACHAN
INN

**- Closed Mondays -
Open Tuesday to Sunday**

- three changing cask ales & cider -
- fresh, seasonal & local food -
- award-winning food, beer & atmosphere -
- en-suite accommodation -
- 20% off takeaway discount -
- country sport & walkers facilities -

01644 430 241
www.theclachaninn.co.uk



Wright's Shop & Post Office



Dalry's local convenience store

- licensed grocers ●
- newsagents ●

stocking a range of local suppliers

- Express Bakery bread ●
- Irvings biscuits & cakes ●
- Ballards & Dalmellington Country Butchers meat & pies ●
- Mitchells fruit & veg ●

Shop & Post Office open 7 days

Monday to Friday 7am-6pm
Saturday 8am-6pm Sunday 8.30am-4pm

Tel 01644 430 225

IN MEMORY OF BRIAN FISHWICK

Brian was born on 26 January 1956 and sadly passed away on 7 January 2020.

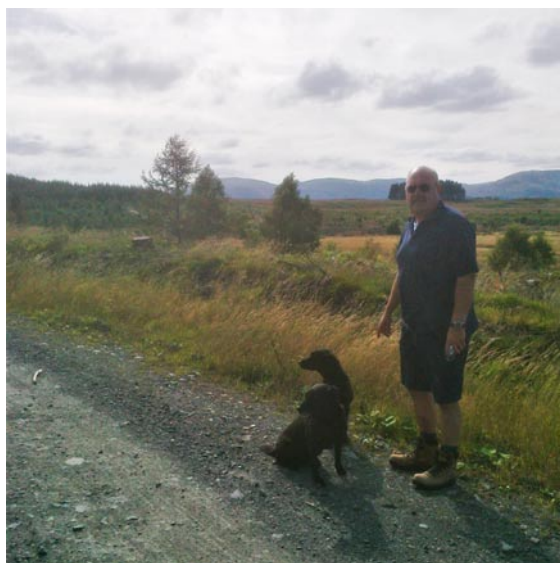
He had a variety of interests throughout his life but, in the Glenkens, Brian was best known as 'The Squirrel Man'. He was a man with a passion, on a mission, and his mission was to rid the Glenkens of the pesky invasive grey squirrel and help the area return to being a stronghold for the iconic red squirrel.

Brian was a founder member of the Glenkens Red Squirrel Group and volunteer for Saving Scotland's Red

Squirrels.

A strong-willed man, Brian at times was described as "as dry as sticks", and he was always straight talking, quick with a witty remark, and prepared to say his piece on issues close to his heart, and also write it, with his opinions being published in various formats over the years.

Sharon, Brian's wife, said: "I think he is looking down at us with his usual smile saying 'Forge ahead -make the best of life and keep looking after those pesky red squirrels'".



New Gazette Poetry Competition

The Gazette is hosting a brand new competition, for all you budding poets out there.

Wright's Shop in Dalry approached the Gazette to see if we would consider running a poetry competition, since it seems there are quite a lot of poets out there in the Glenkens and it would be a great way to inspire new and aspiring poets to have a go.

So, Wright's has agreed to sponsor the new section, and Lyndsay, Susan and Jane will work together to judge competition entries. The prize for the winner each issue is a

£10 voucher to spend in the shop.

A theme of some kind will be given each issue, and the winning entry will be printed in the following issue. So, this issue's theme is to submit a poem in the form of a limerick. Good luck!

Pictured: Jane, Lyndsay and Susan of Wright's Shop, our competition judges.



Dalry Community Council Microgrants

Last year the Blackcraig Wind Farm Community Fund paid out discretionary grants to each community council in the catchment area, to be used towards charitable projects that benefit the community.

Dalry Community Council asked for applications for these micro grants from interested groups and following several meetings are now in the happy position of being able to help seven local groups through this fund.

It is expected that later this year there will be a similar grant award for 2020/2021 - please keep a look out for posters outlining how to apply.

New Galloway Shop AGM

The Annual General Meeting of New Galloway Community Enterprises Ltd will be held at 7.30pm on Thursday 5 March in New Galloway Town Hall.

We hope that as many of our Members as possible will attend as well as anyone else who is interested in the progress of our shop and other enterprises.

Refreshments will be available and we are extending a special invitation to those who have recently settled in the area.

We look forward to welcoming everyone.

Glenkens Freecycle sponsored by natural power

If you would like to list something on this page, please get in touch on 07727 127 997 or glenkengazette@hotmail.co.uk

FREE

Aluminium patio table

- large round glass topped table; slightly bashed, but very useable. Approx 1.2m diameter. No longer needed. Contact: 07787 406 187

Strong plastic 500ml jars

with wide neck x 5. Would suit nails and screws, but not food.

90ml plastic measuring scoops x 6. Contact: Sue on 07563 718 011

Alchemilla plant (ladies mantle). Might need help to dig them up. Contact: Sue on

07563 718 011

Kodak ink for printers ESP and Hero series. Code 30 & 30cl. 1 sealed colour cartridge and 1 sealed black cartridge plus 2 part used cartridges. Contact: 01644 420 434 or 07974 026 380

WANTED

Plastic CD case to replace one that broke. Contact: Sue on 07563 718 011

Cool bags – can be old and tatty but large enough to store 5 litre lime wash cans over winter. Contact: Sue on 07563

718 011

Used postage stamps from your Christmas cards for horse charity. Drop them in the letterbox at 3 Midtown, Dalry, or phone and I'll come and collect them. Contact: Sue on 07563 718 011

FOR SALE

ION Air LP Bluetooth Turntable. Unwanted gift £45. Contact: 01644 430 373

Nest of 3 mahogany tables, fully restored £25. Contact: John on 01644 430 539

CatStrand Youth Players Spring Programme

The Youth Players will once again be entering the Scottish Community Drama Association 'One Act Festival', this year with *Selfie* by Canadian playwright Bradley Hayward.

The group staged the play before in 2014 at CatStrand soon after it was written. As it was the first time it had been staged outside Canada - that performance was the official UK Premiere of the play! This time around, the current senior group will perform the play at The Fullarton in Castle Douglas as part of the Stewartry District Youth Festival and will be competing against five other entries to earn the right to represent the Stewartry District at the West of Scotland Youth Final in Dunoon in April.

Selfie is a contemporary play, very relevant to teenage life today. It is senior year for the eight characters featured and problems are mounting for them as they prepare for the future. As they document their year, one click at a time, they come to realise that life is not about what other people see - it is about the pictures they have of themselves.

Zoe Kirkpatrick and Eilidh Thomson are our longest serving and most experienced members, having been taking part in our plays and pantomimes since they were both 10 years old! They no longer qualify as 'youths' and this time will enter the Open Festival, competing against three other adult teams all hoping to secure a place at the next round in Greenock. They will star in a two-hander called *Henna Night* by Amy Rosenthal. A cleverly written dark comedy, it tells the story of Judith who has left her ex-boyfriend a desperate message on his answerphone saying that she is not coping with their break-up.

She has bought some razor blades and some henna to either slash her wrists or dye her hair...However, it is the new girlfriend, Ros, who hears the message and rushes to Judith's bedsit.

Both of these plays will be on stage at The Fullarton on Friday 6 March and they will be performed again at CatStrand on the evening of Friday 20 March.

On the same bill at CatStrand will be a third play from the younger Youth Players group. *Ernie's Incredible Illusions* is a bright comedy by the famous playwright Alan Ayckbourn. Ernie is a dreamer with a vivid imagination and extraordinary powers, his thoughts have the disconcerting habit of turning into reality with hilarious and unlikely consequences.

Tickets for the festival performances will be available direct from The Fullarton from 16 February at www.thefullarton.co.uk

The CatStrand show is booking now - please phone the box office on 01644 420374 for tickets, or book online at www.catstrand.com

Eco Feature

sponsored by



South West Association of Nature Conservationists (SWANC) is a wonderful local group which hosts interesting discussions on nature, wildlife and the environment.

Talks are held at the Ken Bridge Hotel with the option of a relaxed pre-talk dinner. Speakers are excellent, and it's well worth popping along if you spot a topic of interest to you.

On Thursday 20 February the discussion will be titled *What Can I Do About the Climate Emergency?* Garry Charnock will be there to talk about how a village in Cheshire set out to become England's first carbon-neutral village. Still on that journey after ten years, Ashton Hayes now connects like-minded communities around the world. Residents saved an average of 24% on their energy use, with some saving 50%. Emissions from air travel and car use reduced by at least 35%. And in addition to the carbon savings, the community started a woodland, a

community shop, a playground and a community energy company that makes the primary school carbon-negative in summer. Sounds like some really valid potentials for the Glenkens in there... Also, Garry will discuss how best to heat your house without using fossil fuel, with an audience discussion on what techniques have worked for different people.

Next, on Thursday 19 March, the topic will be *Wonderful Places for Wildlife*. Lee Schofield from RSPB's Haweswater Reserve will show us that it's not just far-away places - Knepp estate (Sussex) and Glen Feshie (Perthshire) - who are pioneering new ways to care for the land, but there are some interesting examples right on our doorstep. There are a lot of conservation terms banded about at the moment - 'wilding', 'rewilding', 'ecosystem service provision', 'saltus' (letting land lie fallow for a generation)... we hear lots of talk about public goods and how farming might change, but here's a chance to hear from landholders who have prioritised public water supplies, flooding and wildlife alongside (or ahead) of livestock production. Lee will



explain how the RSPB has altered their management at Haweswater, and what has happened since.

Talks start 7.30pm, followed by discussion and debate, at the Ken Bridge Hotel - everyone is welcome, and the entry cost is £2. Or why not come along at 6pm and join members of SWANC, other audience members and the speaker for a pub supper?

SWANC (South West Association of Nature Conservationists) was once part of the British ANC, but is now a less organised, informal rural network. There is no formal membership, but if you want to join the e-group, please send email addresses to mas@craigfarm.co.uk. New talk organisers/suggestions always welcome.



The Loch Ken Trust is working to improve the lives of communities and businesses around the Loch - we have some exciting plans in coming years. An important part of this is a review of signage and interpretation - what is and isn't there at the moment?!

We are looking for a volunteer to travel round the loch, identify stopping places and record the signage there, compiling this into a single document to allow the Trust to start planning the next steps.

Any volunteer would be supported by members of the Loch Ken Trust in this task and all expenses would be paid.

If you are interested in plans around Loch Ken or are able to volunteer on this project, please contact Barnaby.Fryer@lochkenalive.co.uk.



PAMELA YOUNG TRUST
help with housing in the Glenkens

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

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



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

© Copyright 2016 - The Pamela Young Trust. Registered Scottish Charity (SC019903)

Salmon Study on the River Dee

Covering an area of 1050 km², the River Dee is one of the largest river systems in the Solway and has a rich variety of habitats and species including some of Scotland's best known.

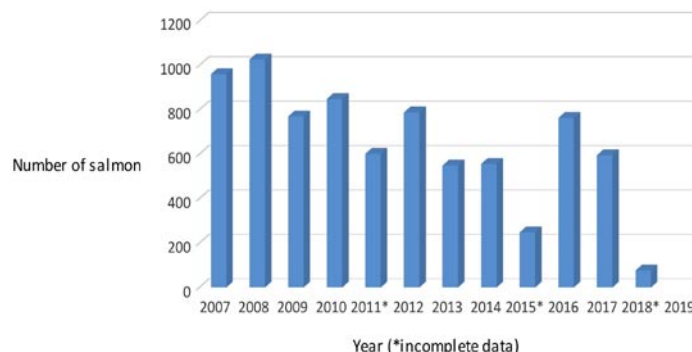


Under water, there cannot be a more iconic species than the Atlantic salmon, a colonising fish that will have entered the river during the start of the current inter glacial period. Atlantic salmon, *salmo salar*, (and sea trout, *salmo trutta*) colonised all northern Europe, taking advantage of the relative safety of freshwater for rearing their young before taking the gamble of descending into the food-rich but predator abundant sea. The abundance of these fish was truly amazing with millions of fish arriving at British coasts year after year. This abundance did not go without notice and early human settlers will have harvested the fish in huge numbers, an annual bonanza that was probably enjoyed by brown bear, wolf and other long-gone British wildlife. As we settled into farming this bonanza continued to remain important and on the Dee, like any other watercourse on these islands, the now pastoral community will have fished the river with traps and nets to get a harvest of fish, probably salted and smoked for use after the salmon run had passed. Salmon were and are an

incredibly resilient species but when we industrialised, they were unable to cope with the resultant pollution and barriers in many rivers and soon disappeared.

Salmon remained abundant on the River Dee until the arrival of the Galloway hydro scheme. Planning and regulation for such structures was often very poor, the drive for industry was all important and we did not realise what we were losing. Fish passage was provided but with little understanding of how this worked

Vaki Riverwatcher Annual Salmon Up Counts



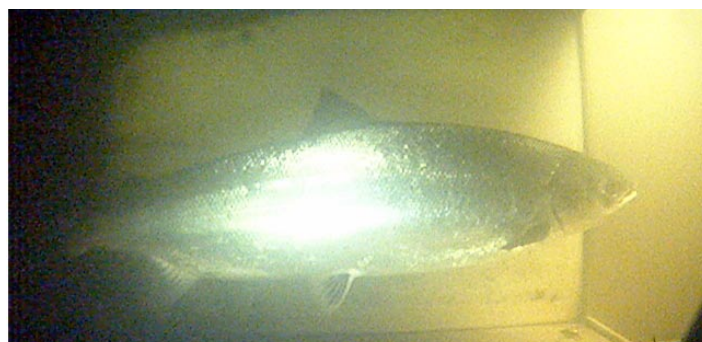
often it provided poor performance. Over time it has been recognised that the hydro-scheme needs to change some of its practices and a very good working relationship has been created with local fishery interests. Initiatives have been put in place to help salmon over the last few years with significant investment from the power companies. Counters on the river indicated that we had a reasonably stable population and work was apace to find ways of increasing the population over time.

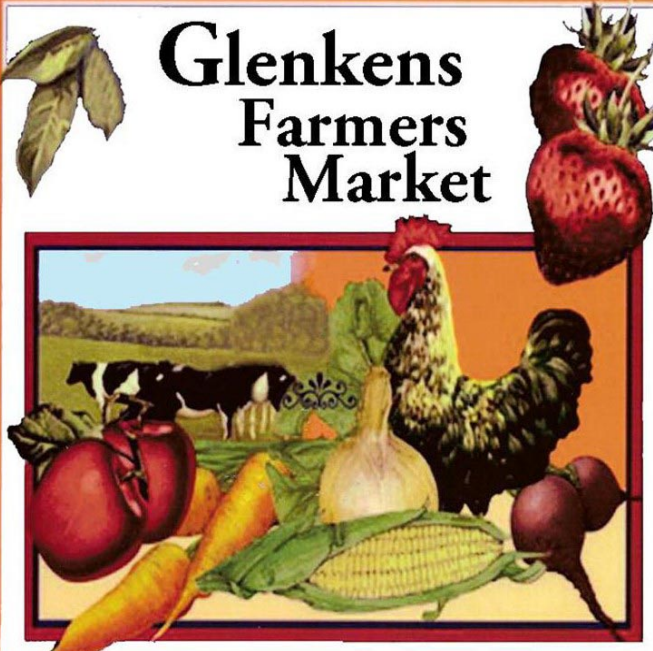
Despite this good work other factors around the whole of the country have put even more pressure on this population. Around Scotland, salmon numbers are so low in many areas that fisheries are no longer either viable or desirable. The annual run of fish into the Dee has collapsed from around a thousand fish to less than one hundred. This puts the species on a collision course for extinction.

At the Galloway Glens Scheme, we are committed to helping our partners at the Galloway Fishery Trust find where the remaining fish are and to introduce programmes to help bolster their numbers. It is true that many of the issues may well be out of local control but by identifying where the best habitat is, where the habitat can be improved, and what that improvement is we will try and reverse this trend. It will be a long time before we have a viable salmon fishery in the river but we must try everything to make sure we do not lose the king of fish from our waters.

Nick Chisholm

Pictured: Above left - Tongland fish counter. Above - Annual count of salmon from River Dee (Tongland counter). Below - salmon in Tongland fish counter.





Glenkens Farmers Market

2nd Saturday Monthly
8th February
14th March
10am-12.30pm

*For further information or to book a stall
ring 01644 430 454 or visit*
[**www.dalrytownhall.co.uk**](http://www.dalrytownhall.co.uk)

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

DALRY COMMUNITY CHOIR

A reminder that Dalry Community Choir rehearsals have started up again for the term.

Come along and join the us for a community sing-song; experience the buzz of singing in harmony, and sing for the sheer joy of singing.

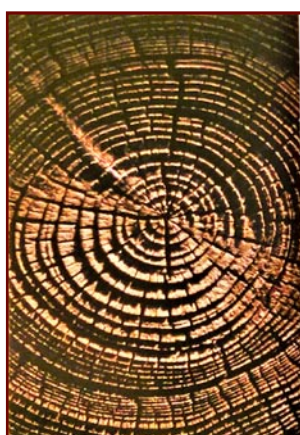
There are no auditions, and you don't have to be able to

read music - all you have to do is to enjoy singing and to want to do this as part of a group; everyone is welcome.

We meet on Wednesdays from 3.30-4.30pm in the music room at Dalry Secondary.

For further details contact Sue St Joseph at gw08stjosephsue@ea.dumgal.sch.uk or the school office on 01644

430259 or at gw08officedalry@ea.dumgal.sch.uk



CALDOW FIREWOOD

Free delivery in the Glenkens area

Ewan Walker
Fire wood

07904 908572

Hard and soft Wood available all fully seasoned
Can also be cut to any length required

Tote Bag or Trailer load
Kindling available



Free Press commercial print brings high quality, low cost colour printing within the reach of businesses large and small.

From start to finish we are fully equipped to carry out any of your colour printing requirements.



About FP Commercial Print

FP commercial print is a service offered by one of south west Scotland's most prestigious and oldest media publishers, Stranraer & Wigtownshire Free Press established in 1843.

We understand the need for a modern business to promote itself and its products accurately, imaginatively and above all successfully. We offer a bespoke service catering to the individual needs of each client and we believe each client to be an individual, not a number in a process. Our methods and technologies may have changed over the years, but we do have a few 'old fashioned' values, which we believe make the difference...

Honesty • Reliability • Service • Value for Money

For competitive quotes and a quality professional service, give us a call on:

01776 702551

www.commercial-print.com

FLEET FISH

FRESH FISH, FRUIT & VEG



GLENKENS ROUTE

Thursdays:

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

Fridays:

8-10.30am – Dalry
10.30-11am – Glenlee Area
11am – New Galloway
12noon – New Galloway Shop
2pm – Mossdale area
3-4pm – Laurieston to Gatehouse
Please note that all times are approximate.

07966 103 912 charliecoid@hotmail.com

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

THE GARDEN SPOT

Pears are normally thought of as being from warmer climes but there are a few tried and tested Scottish varieties.

Why not plant a couple of trees? You will need two compatible varieties for pollination so how about 'Green Pear of Yair' and 'Fair Maid'? An old gardener I once knew (long since gone to a larger garden) once said to me that "optimists plant pears, you plant them for the next generation". You may have heard a version of this "Walnuts and pears, you plant for your heirs".

In contrast, how about a much faster maturing crop. I am thinking of shallots. A more subtle taste than onions, easier to grow and they preserve well as pickled onions. March is the perfect time to plant sets (small bulbs) but April is not too late. Then do nothing to them except keep them free of weeds and perhaps water them if we have a drought (what? - in the Glenkens!). They will be ready to harvest in July or possibly early August, whenever the top growth turns yellow and falls over.

But, back to the present, apart from the usual tidying in the garden, make sure that your Wisteria is pruned back to two or three buds on all of last year's growth, don't prune them back to the main stem because those 2 or 3 buds are where your flowers come from. And if you have any restorative pruning to be done to hedges etc, now is the perfect time - before the birds start to nest; cut back one side of the hedge (and the top) as hard as you like, but leave the other side until next year.

If your garden is lacking colour, at any time of year, then - at the time it needs colour, go around to nearby private or public gardens, see what looks good, find out what it is and vow to add that to your own garden for next year. As a starting point, try Daffodil 'February Gold' to have daffs in flower before anyone else or, Japanese Anemone or Chrysanthemum if you need something in flower in October. To get earlier flowers than usual, plant in a sheltered spot - for example, I have snowdrops under a hedge that were showing white buds on

11 January, much earlier than others nearby.

And what am I doing in the garden at the moment? Well, the weather is foul so I am sowing chilli seeds in the warm to grow on the kitchen windowsill and ordering bedding plants for a summer display.

A final tip? If you grow fruit or vegetables and have limited space - don't waste time growing things that you can buy in the supermarket but instead grow varieties that money just can't buy, such as: potatoes 'pink fir apple', any variety of fresh runner bean, cos lettuce, strawberry 'Cambridge Favourite' and any thin skinned variety of tomato such as 'Sungold'.

The Intrepid Gardener



Plant catalogues and chilli seeds for planting.



ULTRASOUND PREGNANCY SCANNING



Dairy & Sucklers;
Ageing, Twin & Barren Detection.



Trailer system includes triplets,
marking and shedding.



Pregnancy and number of pups.

For bookings and info:

Duncan Kennedy

07860 474001

dk@passcan.co.uk

www.passcan.co.uk

FINLAY CARSON MSP

Member of the Scottish Parliament for
Galloway and West Dumfries



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

**If you would like an appointment,
please get in touch**

Write to:

107 King Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1LZ

Email: Finlay.Carson.MSP@parliament.scot

Phone: 01556 504991

**Facebook: FinlayCarsonMSP
Twitter: fincarson**

CatStrand Highlights

Spring blooms at CatStrand with a lively line up of acts to celebrate the unfurling of a new season and a new year for GCAT in the Glenkens.

Our community event programmes continue to flourish with **Wee Book House +** events in Crossmichael presenting multi-award-winning folk singer **Siobhan Miller** on Friday 27 March. **Aidan O'Rourke** and **Kit Downes** bring their 365 project with writer **James Robertson** to Dalry Town Hall Events programme on Thursday 2 April. James Robertson is hosting a writing workshop with Ken Words in the session house in Dalry before the show (see our brochure for more details). **Lagwyne Events** in Carsphairn host an afternoon of **Scottish harp** and **classical Spanish guitar** for a different Sunday afternoon on the 15 March.

At CatStrand big name folk acts grace our auditorium - Indian folk jazz fusion trio **Yorkston, Thorne, Khan** bring their bravely original sound to the Glenkens on Sat 21 March and stars of the English folk scene **The Unthanks** return in May, get your tickets quick!

Theatre features more prominently in our Spring season with the return of our popular **Play & A Piece** lunchtime theatre events including a performance from **Rapture Theatre** as well as **One Mississippi** - a play featuring as part of the **Scottish Mental Health Arts Festival**. These events offer a piece lunch along with the show and have been

very popular - so advanced booking is recommended. Newly established Wigtown theatre company **Townsend Theatre Productions** presents their production **Ragged Trousered Philanthropists** on Wednesday 27 May as an evening performance. We have family theatre/dance performances for the under 5s, **Paper Moon** from the fantastic Dundee based **Shaper Caper** comes to CatStrand on Wed 15 April along with a variety of family events in the Easter holidays and throughout **D&G Arts Festival**.

Support from **Filmhub Scotland** has allowed us to continue our film discussion events with a focus on environmental conversations this Spring including a screening of British-made documentary **In Our Hands** with representatives from **National Farmers Union of Scotland** speaking about the future of farming in our region.

There are new partnerships beginning this season too with Newcastle University's established folk and traditional music degree showcasing final year students at CatStrand as well as the launch of a new social prescription referral scheme this February. Look out for more information coming soon.

We are offering a new **Free Family Film Club** on the last Friday afternoon of the month from



Stars on the English folk scene, The Unthanks

4pm, screening films for children and young people after school in a relaxed, sensory friendly environment that is accessible to all.

If you've enjoyed the current exhibition at CatStrand from Mossdale artist **Patti Lean** you can join her for an **informal artists talk** on Sat 8 February at 2pm to find out more about her ecologically based practice and residencies in Iceland and Finland.

Here's to a new year, new season, new ideas and continued growth for all the communities of the Glenkens in 2020.

Hopefully there are at least one or two events in our programme that will put a spring in your step...

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

T: 01644 460 670  Real Dog Training Scotland



Dog Training & Dog Training Courses at Dalry Town Hall

- Eric Broadhurst (NDOA Advanced Instructor)
- One of the country's leading dog trainers
- Trainer to the TV & film industry

For more information visit our web site www.realdogtrainingscotland.co.uk

THE STEWARTRY VETERINARY CENTRE

CASTLE DOUGLAS SURGERY HOURS
Mon-Fri 2.00-2.30 pm & 5-6 pm
Sat 2-2.30 pm

DALBEATTIE SURGERY HOURS
Mon, Wed, Fri 3-3.30 pm
Tues & Thurs 6-6.30 pm

FOR APPOINTMENTS AT BOTH SURGERIES
OR IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

01556 502263

VETERINARY SURGERY
OAKWELL ROAD
CASTLE DOUGLAS

BALMACLELLAN VILLAGE SHOP

We stock a wide range of fresh and frozen goods, as well as many other items, in our friendly, family-run shop...pop in sometime!

- cash machine - winter fuel (peat, logs) - Flo Gas - Dalmellington Butcher pies/meat - Marchbank Bakers delivery every Friday -

01644 420 321

The Wrong Nativity

For this year's Christmas show we did a play called *The Wrong Nativity* where we took the Nativity and added narrators.

We changed Mary and Joseph's names to Maggie and Joe and we also had a talking donkey. Instead of the three wise men we changed them to the three un-wise old men.

All the P7s were the narrators, while practicing the show it was hard and

fun at the same time. It was quite tricky learning the songs but very enjoyable, our favourite song was 'Last Christmas'.

The P1s sang a bit of *Santa*

Claus is Coming to Town all by themselves. The P7s wore a white shirt and black trousers with a Santa hat. It was very busy both in the afternoon and the evening. Everyone did extremely well!

By Sophie & Charlie S, P7



KELLS SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PLAY

Pupils at Kells Primary took part in their Christmas performance during the last week of term.

To a packed audience in the Town Hall and also the School Hall, the children performed their show *Christmas Past, Present and Future* to an appreciative audience.

All the concepts for the different roles and scenes were thought up and developed by the children who based their ideas on conversations they thought different characters might have had, from the very first Christmas, a Victorian Christmas, Christmas Day in their own homes, this year and what Christmas might be like in the future!



Dalry School Fayre Raises £500



Members of the community enjoying the Christmas Fayre.

At our Christmas Fayre we decorated jars with glitter and fake snow.

We used ribbon for the outside and pine cones. We decorated pine cones to make them into

decorations by covering them in PVA glue and glitter.

In the HE room we made gingerbread men from scratch. Once all the ingredients were mixed into a dough we flattened them out into different shapes with a cookie cutter. We had to move all the tables from all the class rooms to the hall. Then set up all the stalls and tables exactly.

We also worked at the stalls. Overall, the whole school made over £500 pounds!

By Joe & Eleanor, P7

KELLS PUPILS STUDY THE WEATHER

Last term, Primary 1-4 children at Kells Primary decided they wanted to learn about how they could record different types of weather.

They researched how meteorologists did this and made their own measuring tools to observe and work out how the direction and speed the wind was blowing and how much rain fell over a period of time in their own community.

Looking at rain, lots of the children asked questions about where the rain came from. They looked at clouds and

made links between them and rainfall and then related this knowledge when making careful observations of ice and how it changed from a solid, to a liquid and finally, a gas. In the hall, the children used drama to deepen their understanding of how water particles changed.

Pictured: Bottom Left - Io, P2, says "If I move around, the wind blows the

windmill the opposite way". Bottom Middle - Millie, P2, says "Tomorrow I will check the ruler on my rain gauge to see how much rain has come down". Bottom Right - Jae, P3, says "The faster I run, the more the bag moves". Top Left - experiments with the properties of water. Top Right - wind-catchers made by Kells pupils.



Enterprising Young Chocolatiers

Last term P3/4/5 at Dalry Primary did an enterprise project called 'Choco-Lattée'.

We sold all our products at the Christmas Fayre. P3/4/5 baked cookies, cake pops and chocolate lolly pops.

Before we could bake anything, we had to look up recipes and then worked out the cost of all the ingredients. Once we had finished everything and we had got all the ingredients we started baking in the HE Room. We then put the baking in bags and tied them with ribbons.

After the Fayre we had to use maths to work out the profit or loss. We made £61 profit which made the enterprise a great success. We all had a ball doing the enterprise project.

By Eleanor & Oliver



NEWS FROM DALRY SECONDARY

Happy new year and welcome back to our pupils for a busy (and long) term!

The S4 pupils have been revising for, and sitting, their prelim exams. These are full length exams and will give them a taste of the real thing in May.

A few of the things we got up to last term are the S4 biology/geography trip to Millport Field Studies Council (formerly the University Marine Biological Station Millport) the S1 trip to Dumfries learning about Robert Burns, a Christmas jumper day which raised £40 for charity, and the epic production of yet another incredible school panto.

Another achievement has been a group working towards the John

Muir Awards. The group has been working very hard over the last few months to create a new pond in the school garden, and they managed to finish it before the Christmas holidays. Pupils carried out lots of research into different designs and what was required to make the pond wildlife friendly. They looked at changing depths, and different plants they could add in the spring. They even began creating a fence from woven branches.

Pupils are very much looking forward to seeing all sorts of wildlife arrive in the spring, and the Primary School children are currently enjoying the pond for pond dipping, so their hard work is already being appreciated.

Pictured: Top right and right - school Christmas disco. Bottom right - school panto. Bottom left - new school pond.



Youth Transport Initiative

'Get On It' is a transport initiative project designed to look at potential solutions for the youth of the area to be more mobile.

Young people have said that this is the biggest aspect of living here that they wish they could change, adding to isolation & mental health issues, impacting employment, learning and socialising and preventing young people in the area from feeling like they can make a success of their lives in the area.

Funded by Big Lottery Year of Young People funding & The Holyrood Trust for young people in the Stewartry area of D&G, the initiative has

brought together young people from the Glenkens, Kirkcudbright, Castle Douglas and Gatehouse of Fleet to dig deeper into the issues around transport for them and to design a pilot service that aims to address some of these issues.

After numerous consultations and lots of planning, they have decided to run two return bus routes on a Sunday, since there is a lack of public provision on this day. The first bus goes from Dalry to Kirkcudbright via New Galloway, Crossmichael, Clarebrand and Castle Douglas. The second route is a loop from Castle Douglas which stops at Gelston, Rhonehouse, Bridge of Dee, Twynholm, Gatehouse of Fleet, Borgue and Kirkcudbright. Both buses will run until 23 February, after which we will break and evaluate

the services before launching our second pilot a few weeks later. At the end of this project, young people will report their findings to local council representatives and transport providers in order to impact decision making.

The buses offer a free route for young people aged 12+. More information on using the bus and booking seats can be found on www.catstrandyouth.co.uk/getonit.

We are always looking for support workers to help run these buses as paid, short term positions.

Anyone who would like more information or is interested in driving the bus please contact Katy Billington, Youth Arts Coordinator at CatStrand, at 01644 420 374 or katy@catstrand.com

Youth Players Panto Takes to the Desert

Once again the annual CatStrand Youth Players' panto played to a full house at each of its three performances.

The script was not one of the traditional pantomime stories but one with a difference and none the worse for that! *Beau Jest*, by our favourite author Paul Reakes, was loosely based on the famous book and film of the same name (almost) – *Beau Geste*.

The action swung from a sweetie factory to the desert and back again via a foreign legion fort and the baddies' hide-out. With lots of suspense and laughter along the way, of course it all ended up "happy ever after", mainly due to the real heroine of the plot – Camilla the dancing camel!

The main roles were very ably filled by some of the more experienced members with Hope Rowley leading the way as Trudy Trundle. In only her second pantomime, Hope took on the challenging role of pantomime

dame with great enthusiasm and skilfully led much of the comedy and audience participation to great effect. Her on-stage 'family' were her sons Timmy and Toby Trundle. Timmy was the principal boy role played very confidently and in traditional style by Fiona Edgar showing excellent rapport and teamwork particularly with Timmy's romantic interest and principal girl, Honey Sweet, beautifully played by Ruby Harfield. Their romantic duet was one of the highlights of the show. Toby Trundle was not quite so bright as his brother Timmy and was responsible for many of the comedy moments. James Jones made this character his own and cleverly brought every possible moment of humour to life.

The 'baddies' were ably led by Sarah McCreath as Silas Slimy and Kay Black as Bac-Ali, both Sarah and Kay were taking part in their first pantomime but they soon had the audience 'booing and hissing' on demand, as is required by their roles. They were assisted in the darker side of the plot by the scheming 'comedy baddie' Sergeant Scar played by Huw Hodson. Huw didn't let his pre-panto broken ankle stop him playing the loud Sergeant to great effect, with his crutches used as extra weapons at times! A fetching collection of different moustaches for every scene added to the amusement of the audience too!

Trying to make sense of it all and keep some order was the dashing Captain Dubonnet of the Foreign Legion expertly played by Dante Newbery. The audience were in



stitches every time Dante appeared with his deliberately bad French accent in true 'Allo, Allo' style. Dante also played the smaller role of Mr. Sweet in the first scene.

The eccentric explorers, Professor Seymour Tombs and his wacky daughter Tabitha were played by Ben Hodson and Megan Oliver. Both young actors rose to the occasion and excelled in their first major panto roles.

Other roles of chorus, factory workers, legionnaires, robbers and mummies were played by Tayler Black, Lorne Johnston and Sophie Roberts. The young dancers who opened the second half in fine style were Imogen Bell, Jennifer Freeman, Io Heyes and Bea Howat Mercer.

As already mentioned, the camel was the key to solving the case and bringing the baddies to justice – responsible for bringing the hilarious camel to life were Arthur and Henry Harfield.

Beau Jest was directed by Brian Edgar and Katy Billington with sound and lighting by Jim Ranyard. Dance choreography was by Sara Lockwood. Costumes, props and backstage/front of house support by Sue Lindsay, Sky Barratt, Jimmy McKenna, Naomi McCreath, Steve Davie and Marie Davie.

The show was a great success with glowing reviews from the audiences, thanks to everyone who came along to support us once again.

Brian Edgar



Pictured: Top - Honey (Ruby Harfield) and Trudy (Hope Rowley) with Camilla the Camel. Left above - Sgt. Scar (Huw Hodson) & Toby (James Jones). Left below: Trudy Trundle (Hope Rowley).



GALLOWAY GLENS

Landscape Partnership

As the days start to lengthen, our thoughts turn to Galloway Glens plans for 2020. Many of our projects are well underway now, and hopefully you've had chance to join in some of them and make some new connections with our amazing local heritage.

We're approaching the end of Year 2 of Delivery, so there's just over 3 years to go, and already some of our projects have made a very real difference to the Glenkens area. The GCAT Smiddy in Balmaclellan opened its doors last year, as did the Crossmichael Heritage Hub – both great new additions to our community infrastructure. The Carsphairn Heritage Group have made amazing progress in archiving their records, and the archive is already being accessed by people from as far afield as Canada. You can access it here: carsphairn.org/CarsphairnArchive – hop over and have a browse!

The Glenkens Mens' Shed in Balmaclellan has a fantastic new cold-metal working department – there's so much to do and see there, it's well worth a visit too. Coming along this year will be the upgrades to the Dalry Town Hall, allowing some of their wonderful heritage to be put on display and explained.

We have been working hard on upgrading The Pack Road from Carsphairn to Polmaddy and we will be finishing this and adding some fascinating interpretation of the route's history this year, including an explanation of the place names that are found along its route. When the weather improves, why not plan a walking day out?!

After the great success of our Outdoor Education weeks last summer, Go Wild will be back for 2020 – P6 and P7 pupils should look out for that in the spring.

We are also extending this through a pilot scheme of Outdoor Learning in Kells School, New Galloway, where the children will get to experience more of our amazing natural and cultural heritage. LING has been a great partner in this, from sessions on local history in New Galloway Town Hall to monthly visits to the walled garden at Garroch.

Business Academy is also continuing, but with a different focus this year – the 2020 programme will offer 5-session training courses to small and medium-sized local businesses who are interested in growing their social media presence. Contact us if you'd like more information about this free opportunity for your business.

Ken Words also continues to go from strength to strength – you'll have seen their Crossing Words section in here, and the regular Writers Café in The Smiddy in Balmaclellan is booming. More poetry walks and author events are also on the horizon – contact Jane McBeth or see the CatStrand website for more details.

Barnaby Fryer and the Loch Ken Trust have got great plans for Loch Ken this year, including an 'Autumn of Endurance' month-long event in September to celebrate the Year of Coasts and Waters. Hop over to the 'Loch Ken Alive' Facebook page to keep in touch, or look out for Barney as he travels round the Loch Ken communities.





GALLOWAY GLENS LOOKS FORWARD

Can You Dig It, our community archaeology project, had a great 2019 investigating local sites and sharing new skills. We will show off all our findings on a free bus tour of the Galloway Glens in April, which should be a great day out – contact us if you'd like to book a seat. And then in 2020, the programme continues with more digs and explorations, and an extra focus on transferring technical archaeological skills to volunteers so that they feel able to continue their research and practical work on their own into the future.

We have made great strides in understanding and improving our natural heritage during 2019, and during 2020 the program will accelerate further. Our partnership work with RSPB will continue with black grouse surveys, habitat creation, goose monitoring and tracking and investigations into the habitats of our elusive willow tit population. Goose News! was a social media phenomenon in 2019 that will only be boosted by the Wetlands and Wildlife Trust's plans to put satellite collars on a further four geese this year.

We are working closely with Galloway Fisheries Trust on a number of projects around the Glenkens, including understanding and improving the dynamics of the Loch Ken fishery and looking for the hidden salmon populations in the Upper Ken. They are also looking at the prevalence of invasive plant species in the catchment and there will be a training session for all at the Smiddy in late Spring with a focus on American skunk cabbage. Contact us to book your free place.

NTS Threave Garden and Estate has been a great partner in 2019 and our involvement with them is going to step up hugely in 2020 with the start of one of the most ambitious conservation projects the south of Scotland has ever seen - the restoration of the Threave Estate into a wild place, part of a 100 year plan.

Our Small Grants scheme continues in 2020 – we have given away £35,000 in 3 rounds so far, but there are still grants of up to £5,000 available for community groups who have heritage-related projects. Round 4 closed in November and the applications are currently being assessed; Round 5 will open again in the Spring, so look out for that!

You can find details of these and all our projects, plus how to contact us on www.gallowayglens.org. We will be at the Summer Shows again this year, and hope to meet many of you there, if not before.

Thanks to all our volunteers and external staff who deliver these projects with us – we couldn't do it without you. So here's to an excellent 2020!

The Galloway Glens Team:

McNabb Laurie (Team Leader)

Helen Keron, Nick Chisholm and Jonathan Barrett
(Project Officers)

Jude Crooks (Senior Administrator)



Crossing Words

Deugh – Ken – Dee



Photo: Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership

The above image shows the bridge over the Ken at Glenlochar. Thanks to our contributors for these responses...

Crossing the imagination

by Roland Parker

Between writing poems
and being a poet lies
a dark strong current
too wide to bridge,
you'll need to ford.

Cut a strong staff,
wade out carefully,
less deep than you
feared but more powerful
than you thought.

Step by step you inch,
seeking a crumb of sense.
Letting meaning flow
around you. The burden
you carried falls away.

Before you know it
you are a poet,
you know it yourself,
you have arrived,
the bank is yours

Hoc ipsum coxerunt militum

by Andrew Mellor

That's it. Enough. No more.

Agricola, or even Flavian his imperial bloody self, can flay me alive but there's no way I'm going back in that sodding river. Tuscany calls.

For Jupiter's sake! Today is the ruddy Ides of March. All poor old Julius had to put up with was a quick death among friends on a warm marble floor but I've been up to my oxters (as the local chookters say) in freezing water for days now rebuilding a bridge that those idiots in the Fourth Legion made such a testiculi of last year.

Bring it on Brutus I say. I don't care.

And, as if the cold wasn't bad enough, we have to put up with the stupid peasants making fun of us from the river bank. "Be nice to them - don't damage the Pax Romana," says Suetonius our smarmy centurion. But he's not the one that has to put up with them mooning at us and jeering in cod Latin.

Well, sod this for a game of soldiers. I've had enough of being laughed at in this gods-forsaken frigidarium.

Ego sum iens domum meam. Or, translated for the benefit of those blue-arsed idiots over there, "am awa hame."

Castrum Glenlochar
15.3.84

NEXT ISSUE – ALLANGIBBON

The bridge across the Ken at Allangibbon on the A713 forms the boundary between the parishes of Dalry and Kells. Built in the Victorian era and reinforced as part of the hydro scheme, this bridge spans the near-island in the river here. It must have some tales to tell – do you have any? Or does it inspire you in a more metaphorical sense?



Photos: Jane McBeth

Please send your writing (max. 250 words) to me, Laura, by email: laura.kenwords@gmail.com or post c/o CatStrand by Fri 28 February. 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.

Coffee and Cakes at the Gallery

Did you know there was a lovely little cafe in Laurieston serving freshly ground coffee and local cakes and goodies?

Well, I didn't... I'm sure it's my own fault for not paying proper attention, but I knew The Gallery at Laurieston was there, and I'd heard it offered coffees. But when I popped by last December to drop off some Gazettes, I was amazed to find a bright, spacious cafe space with couches as well as

tables. Plus of course the gallery space which is made up of two main areas showcasing a variety of local artists' work, ranging from glass to jewellery, textiles to Phil's own stunning photographs.

It's amazing how these things can pass us by when they're right on our doorstep... I have no idea but I'll certainly be stopping in again for coffee and cake at the Gallery in Laurieston.

The gallery is open on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 3.30pm, and on Sundays from 10am to 5pm.

To find out more about artists, current exhibitions, etc, or to enquire about hiring the space, you can get in touch with owner Phil McMenemy on 01644 450 235 or visit their Fb page @GalleryAtLaurieston

Sarah Ade



Heathhall BUSINESS CENTRE

**Commercial, Workspace
& Office Units**

TO RENT

All units with Free Wi-Fi



01387 259074



Gillespie Gifford & Brown LLP



**Gillespie Gifford & Brown LLP
Solicitors and Estate Agents**

Dumfries & Galloway

01556 503744

www.ggblaw.co.uk

All legal advice

*Offices in Castle Douglas, Dalbeattie
Kirkcudbright and Dumfries*

Photo of the Issue

Sponsored by the Ken Bridge Hotel

This issue's winner is Kathryn Martin from Carsphairn with a beautiful photograph of her Highland pony, Cormack, on a ride up to the iron age fort at Stroanfreggan.

Kathryn wins an evening meal for two up to the value of £30 at the Ken Bridge Hotel. Competition judges Dave and Sue said:

"This photograph is so lovely, such a beautiful pony and he looks like he's really enjoying being out for a ride in the hills."

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

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



THE NEXT PHASE FOR WINDY RIG WIND FARM



Statkraft has announced that it has reached the next phase on Windy Rig wind farm, with a view to becoming operational in 2021.

Statkraft, Europe's largest producer of renewable energy, acquired the Windy Rig wind farm from Element Power in September 2018. It will be Statkraft's first project to operate subsidy-free.

The Statkraft construction team will be onsite and will provide regular updates to the community through The Glenkens Gazette as well as on www.statkraft.co.uk. The

team will continue to meet with the Community Councils that are members of the Community Liaison Group to maintain communication during construction. The most recent meeting was held in mid-January.

Doug Wilson, Project Communications at Statkraft said: "After six years in the pipeline, it's great to get the project underway. We commit to working with local communities to achieve a smooth construction process and will be keeping everyone updated with progress through The Glenkens Gazette."

The project will deliver a fund of approximately £216,000 per year for community groups and initiatives, and discussions around how this will be managed are also underway.

For more information, see www.statkraft.co.uk/power-generation

The Glenkens & District Trust

Following on from the first round of awards for Blackcraig Wind Farm, the trustees have been looking to the future and taking steps to arrange the next round of grant-making and to finalise a Community Action Plan for the area.

Some of us met Sebastian Watson of Blackcraig Wind Farm (Scotland) Ltd in early December, for a review meeting, which went well. The company are happy with the approach we took to the awards and are pleased that money had now been released to community groups. They are planning to organise an Open Day at Blackcraig in late spring to allow local people to visit the site and we will let you know as soon as a date has been confirmed.

Sebastian Watson also confirmed that payment of the next tranche of community benefit funds would be made in May. The Community Councils in our area will receive the same lump sum as in the previous round, with the majority of the balance going into the main fund for distribution.

As reported in the last Glenkens Gazette we are developing a Community Action Plan (CAP). We have commissioned independent consultants, Community Enterprise, to carry out this work and they held a workshop with representatives of community groups and other service providers in early December which was well supported with over 35 people in attendance.

Two community engagement events are scheduled for 6 February at The Smiddy in Balmaclellan, at 3-5pm and then 7-9pm. The objective of this work is to produce a concise document that sets out a clear vision for the wider area with priorities, either projects or service provision, that are supported by local people and a timeline for achieving them. This document will be backed up by a detailed report giving the underlying data and evidence for these priorities, which should be aspirational but also deliverable.

This report will be available for community groups across the area to use to support funding applications, either to the Blackcraig fund or to other funding bodies. In addition, we in the Glenkens & District Trust will also use the output of the CAP to enable us to review our fund strategy and identify priorities to enable us to allocate money as effectively as possible in the long-term interests of the community and to meet identified community needs.

The emerging themes so far are:

- isolated groups need to work together more effectively
- Developing community assets and spaces, and our wider environment
- Economic regeneration, jobs, tourism and local wealth creation

- Addressing climate change
- Sustainability, local energy and improving transport and housing

We want to discuss these themes and agree specific fundable projects which could potentially address them.

It would be great if you could attend the event. Places are limited and can be booked ahead at www.glenkens-cap.eventbrite.co.uk

We appreciate that attendance may not be possible for some of you so please get in touch for further information or to contribute ideas - douglas@communityenterprise.co.uk

Glenkens Community Action Plan

The Smiddy Balmaclellan
Thursday 6 February 2020
3-5 pm
7-9 pm

Community Enterprise
Email: douglas@communityenterprise.co.uk

Come and give your views

The Glenkens and District Trust are looking to the future. We have commissioned independent consultants to build on the previous research and to produce an action plan for the area.

A big vision and key themes are emerging but we need you to come to a workshop and have your say about specific ideas for what should be happening here.

Attendance is free but places are limited to 45 for each session. Please use the link below to confirm your place or call 01506 862227

<https://glenkens-cap.eventbrite.co.uk>

 community enterprise




New Galloway Golf Club

Founded 1902
www.nggc.co.uk
- 01644 420737 -

Buggies now available for hire

VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS WELCOME

Gordon McAdam Plumbing & Heating

22 Kirkland Street
St John's Town of Dalry

01644 430 393
07834 321 789

HOUSE REPAIRS JOINERY



Semi-retired Furniture Maker & Builder in GLENKENS AREA

...special rates for inclusion of tea, cake and friendly banter...

Call Pete on 07970 462 088

TECHNOLOGY EXPLAINED: TELEVISION

For this article, I thought that I would tackle the subject of Television (or TV).

Years ago, when things were still analogue, this was very simple; you had a TV set and an aerial on the roof and that was it. Then it all went digital.

Nowadays, to get basic free-to-view TV service (conveniently called 'Freeview') you either need a newer TV with its own digital tuner or, if you still have one of the older TVs, you will need a digital decoder (aka set-top-box) but in both cases you will need to connect to a rooftop TV aerial. Freeview generally provides about 70 channels but unfortunately, in the Glenkens, we have a limited service from a relay transmitter so you may only get about 20 channels.

Cable TV is not available in the area so I won't cover that further.

Satellite TV is the next obvious alternative. You will need a satellite dish and in the centre of it is the LNB (I'll come back to that later). There are two main flavours of satellite TV, Freesat or Sky. With Freesat you will need to buy a set top decoder (unless your TV has one built-in). Decoder boxes come with or without a built-in recorder – but they can all be a bit fiddly. With Sky you will also need one of their decoders (these are simpler) and, generally speaking, you will need to pay a subscription but you will be able to record programmes as well and, of course,

you get far more channels. There is also a non-subscription (ie free) service from Sky, confusingly called 'Freesat from Sky'; you will need to provide your own Sky box (you can buy these cheaply on eBay) but Sky disables the recorder if you don't pay a subscription so you will only be able to watch live programs.

The latest generation of Sky boxes is called Sky Q (subscription only) and this is far more capable, you can record up to six programs at the same time and there is a multi-room option where you can connect several TVs in your house to watch different programs at the same time. Sky Q uses a completely different type of LNB which is not compatible with previous Sky boxes or Freesat. If you already have Freesat or any version of Sky before Sky Q, check your LNB. If you have one with only one or two outputs, a quick cheap upgrade is to swap it for a quad LNB (four sockets), you can then run additional cables from the other sockets to an additional Freesat or Freesat from Sky box to connect to a second TV with no additional subscription to pay.

Finally, there are a whole host of internet-based TV services, some are free but most are subscription; they include Netflix, Amazon Prime, Now TV, BBC iPlayer and YouTube. You can watch these directly on your computer or tablet but modern smart TVs can often run the App you need,

or you may be able to connect to any one of the available devices such as a Roku box, Google Chromecast or PlayStation 4. If you have a computer or tablet with an HDMI socket and your TV also has such a socket, you can connect the two via a cable, select what you want to watch on your device and watch it on the big screen. For any of these internet services you will need a minimum 3MB of available broadband to watch in Standard Definition, 5MB to watch in HD and 25MB for the latest 4K sets. See previous article for info on Broadband.

Finally, please remember, that if you watch live TV, however you receive it, you will need a TV licence.

Paul Goodwin



Laptop computer running BBC iPlayer, showing on TV via HDMI cable

Financial advice of true family value



We provide a comprehensive wealth management service, offering specialist face-to-face advice tailored to you. Our services include:

- Investment Planning
- Retirement Planning
- Protection Planning
- Intergenerational Planning

For further details please contact **Philip Lancaster** on:

Lancaster Wealth & Investment Management

Mobile: 07983 700844

Email: philip.lancaster@sjpp.co.uk

www.sjpp.co.uk/philiplancaster

First Ever Kirkcudbright Book Week

The programme has been announced for the first ever Kirkcudbright Book Week, which will run from Monday 2 to Friday 6 March.

The week is designed to celebrate the developing literary scene in Kirkcudbright and the wider Dumfries & Galloway area and includes a series of mainly free events featuring authors from the area.

Writers appearing over the week include children's author Alan McClure, poet Chrys Salt, crime writers Jackie Baldwin, Ian Patrick and John Dean, who is also a children's author, novelist Jessie M Page and The Gallery Writers, plus art historian Dr Jo Chapman Campbell, who will examine The Glasgow Boys in an event at Broughton House.

The week includes a celebration of World Book Day at Kirkcudbright Library on Thursday 5 March for younger writers and readers and at Broughton House the day before.

Also, an event held on Tuesday 3 March at 11am at The Galleries in St Mary Street will see extracts read from a new book. Kirkcudbright-based Gallery Writers have been inspired by the creative possibilities offered by the history of Crossmichael. Funded by the Board of the newly-established Crossmichael Heritage Centre, they

have come together to create a collection of prose and poetry currently being compiled and will read extracts.

Kirkcudbright Book Week has been organised by a number of organisations and venues, which are featured in the programme.

Chris Walker, from the Selkirk Arms, one of the venues hosting events, said: "This is another string to the bow of Kirkcudbright, a marvellous itinerary which should bring book enthusiasts from all over the region and wider. We're lucky to have so many talented authors living and working in Dumfries and Galloway."

Another organisation supporting the book week is Dumfries and Galloway Council and Councillor Andy Ferguson, Chair of the Council's Communities Committee, said: "We're delighted to support the Kirkcudbright Book Week by providing facilities to allow it to take place. This sort of community event is exactly the type of inclusive event that our council looks to support communities in our region to run and is a fantastic example of community empowerment in action."

Councillor John Martin, Vice Chair of the Communities Committee, said: "The Kirkcudbright Book Week is something else for the community of Kirkcudbright to get their teeth into. We have seen through the Festival of Light, the Tour of Britain and other community events that the town of Kirkcudbright is a fabulous host of such events. I wish the organisers all



Local crime writer Ian Patrick.

the very best and would encourage all our locals, and visitors to check out the book week for themselves."

Author John Dean, who lives in the area and is one of the organisers, said: "Kirkcudbright and the surrounding area is home to some talented writers and the book week is designed to celebrate their work. It should be exciting."

Find out more at www.kirkcudbrightbookweek.org or contact John Dean on 07889 554931 or deangriss@btinternet.com

SCOTLAND'S WORDS OF FREEDOM

One of the most famous documents in Scottish history, *The Declaration of Arbroath*, will be the subject of the next Glenkens Story lecture.

The Declaration of Arbroath: 700 Years On will be the title of a lecture by Professor Ted Cowan during which he will describe how this document, dating from the Scottish Wars of Independence, has influenced the history of many nations. He says: "This famous text of 1320 has been called the *Scottish Declaration of Independence* but is surely much more. It continues to radiate universal ideas about freedom and constitutionalism shared in countries worldwide which revere democracy. It is as profound as it is unique."

Many Americans, for example, believe

their *Declaration of Independence* was based upon that of Arbroath. Both the US and Canada now annually commemorate 'Tartan Day' on 6 April, the date of the document.

The lecture will address how such sophisticated ideas, for example, the sovereignty of the people, were confidently articulated so early in such an allegedly remote and apparently insignificant little country as Scotland.

Ted Cowan has lectured on the Declaration in New Zealand, Australia, Canada and the United States. He is the author of *For Freedom Alone*, a fourth

edition of which will appear in 2020 published by Birlinn.

The Glenkens Story lecture will be delivered at 2.30pm on Saturday 7 March at the CatStrand. Tickets priced £5 are available from www.catstrand.com and 01644 420374.



Bruce's Statue, photograph © Stirling Council

GLENKENS PLACE NAMES: PART TWO

This is the second instalment of a Gazette series by Michael Ansell, from New Galloway, looking at Glenkens place-names and their history.

As mentioned in the first article on Glenkens place-names, I will use the restricted definition of the Glenkens, the parishes of Carsphairn, Dalry, Kells and Balmacellan.

This edition will focus on what the parish names and that of the Glenkens overall might signify.

Let's take the name of the valley, 'The Glenkens' first. In early records it appears as Glenken, the terminal 's' representing a later Scots plural, probably reflecting that the area is made up of several parishes. This would stand for Gaelic Gleann a' Chead, valley of the river Ken, a river name that potentially pre-dates the arrival of Gaelic to the district. River names tend to be very conservative and can survive several language changes relatively unscathed. If so what might 'Ken' mean? Gilbert Márkus (Galloway Glens place-names project) suggests a Brittonic origin from can, 'bright, shining, white' or cant, 'boundary, border, edge'. Alternatively Alan James has suggested that it might be connected with Gaelic ceann, 'head,

end' as in Ceann Mòr, 'big head', perhaps referring to the prominent mound the castle is built on.

Dalry (in 1276, Dalri) is most likely derived from Gaelic Dail Righ, 'king's field or holm' This would presumably refer originally to what is now called the Holm of Dalry. When I was growing up in the Glenkens, Dalry was frequently simply referred to as The Clachan, from Gaelic clachan, 'kirktoon'. It might be interesting to speculate as to who the 'king' was that gave rise to the name Dail Righ.

It is intriguing that there are possible elements of a 'royal' inaugural assemblage in and around Dalry which tends to support the place-name derivation mentioned above. Firstly there is Dalry Motte which may have been the seat of a native Gaelic chieftan, following the architectural style of the Norman motte. Then there is the font or possible bullaun stone in the kirkyard and possibly the most interesting component, the rough seat known as St John's Chair. This seat, which looks like it is composed of waterwashed stone from the River Ken is somewhat similar in appearance to royal inaugural seats in Ireland such as that of the Ó Neill at Castlereagh in Ulster. These inauguration seats were normally situated on small mounds and perhaps the Dalry one originally sat on Knockensee, Gaelic Cnocan suidhe, 'small seat-mound' just across the river on Waterside farm. Is this the Glenkens' own Lia Fáil, or Stone of Destiny?

Balmacellan is on record from 1380 and is derived from Gaelic Baile Mhic Gill' Fhaolain, 'settlement of the son of the devotee of St. Fillan'. MacGill' Fhaolain gave rise to the surname MacLellan, common in Galloway. The saint's name itself means 'wolf-cub' and cults relating to Faolan existed in several parts of Scotland as well as Galloway,



St John's Chair, which sits at the top of Dalry, at the junction where the road towards Moniaive leaves the village.

notably Glen Dochart.

The parish name Kells is a tricky one but perhaps the most likely derivation is from Gaelic Coille, 'woodland' plus as suffix, meaning 'place of', thus 'place of woods'.

Carsphairn is from Gaelic Cars Feàrna, 'alder haugh'. Cars is an element borrowed into Galloway Gaelic from Scots carse and is the generic place-name element in many local place-names such as Carsfad or 'long haugh'. For the avoidance of doubt, Carsphairn has nothing at all to do with the place-name Keresban recorded in the Melrose Charters in the 12th Century. This matter has confused numerous academics over the years including Professor Geoffrey Barrow. Keresban was near Polnessan, near present day Patna in East Ayrshire. Carsphairn is of course mentioned (as was Dalry and other Glenkens places) in the Gaelic song Òran Bagraidh, 'a song of defiance' supposedly the only surviving piece of Galloway Gaelic literature. The jury is still very much out on its authenticity however.

Information, thoughts and ideas from a number of experts in the field of language and history have been used in this article - please get in touch if you would like further information on these background resources at glenkensgazette@hotmail.co.uk

David Tallontire CHIMNEY SWEEP

Covering the Glenkens & further afield

07709 144 299

- wood burners - multi-fuel stoves -
- open fires - Agas - Rayburns -
- birds nest removal with CCTV inspection -
- certificates issued - feel free to call for advice -

Find me on Facebook



LOCAL HISTORY with TED COWAN

Loch Doon Castle

The importance of the route through Glenkens in medieval times is highlighted by the presence of Threave Castle to the south and Loch Doon Castle just over the Ayrshire border.

Thus the glen was protected by formidable defensive structures at each end. It is thought that it was

built by Robert Bruce or his father in the thirteenth century when it was known as Balloch Castle, an interesting name since in Gaelic a balloch is a pass, often where the waters of a loch flow into a river or stream as in Balloch Loch Lomond and Balloch Loch Tay.

Loch Doon came to mind recently when a newspaper cutting fell out of one of my books. It was from The Evening Times, Saturday 29 July, 1939, written by someone who called himself 'Wayfarer', which means one who travels on foot. He failed to mention that the Countess of Carrick is said to have abducted Bruce Senior, forcing him to marry her, an interesting reversal of the more familiar tales concerning male kidnappers.

One of their sons was King Robert,

about whom we will be hearing a great deal this year as it marks the seven-hundredth anniversary of a document known as *The Declaration of Arbroath*, dated 6 April 1320, an emotive appeal to freedom and independence which is now admired worldwide. It also introduced the idea of the sovereignty of the people with the full support of the king. From Doon, King Robert could easily reach the main Bruce headquarters at Turnberry while preserving access to the Clyde, Stirling and beyond. The castle was subsequently in the hands of Gille Brighde of Carrick, the

"...this year...marks the seven-hundredth anniversary of a document known as The Declaration of Arbroath...an emotive appeal to freedom and independence which is now admired worldwide."

Kennedies, the MacLellans and the Douglasses but it was suppressed by James V.

In 1935, ahead of the raising of the loch level 27 feet for hydro storage purposes, the structure on Castle Island was moved to the lochside. Wayfarer was rather taken with a camper's information that the result was two castles – the re-erected structure that is the one now accessible to the public and the sadly diminished ruins on the island, but it was an enlightened initiative for its time.

The new scheme was duly completed so that the waters of

Doon now run in two directions, north

down picturesque Ness Glen and south towards Carsphairn. The scenery around the loch is stunning, especially towards the Galloway Hills. The burns in this part of Scotland are called 'lanes', Gala Lane, Carrick Lane and Elgin Lane. Places with such names as 'Wee Hill of Craigmulloch' demand to be conquered! The Hydro introduced elaborate salmon ladders on Doon, based on a system of ascending spirals like those on

the Dee at Tongland. Another attraction is provided by the Ospreys. When Wayfarer wrote in 1939 he was fully aware that

a number of military installations were introduced to the loch during the First World War but it also experienced activity when the Second War broke out. Roswell MacTavish of the Royal Canadian Airforce was killed when he crashed in the woods near the loch. In 1941 Frantisek Heki of 312 (Czechoslovak) Squadron RAF was killed on a training flight when his Spitfire hit the loch. The plane was not recovered until 1982; it was restored and is on display at Dumfries and Galloway Aviation Museum, Heathhall. A welcome addition is the Scottish Dark Sky Observatory.

Ted Cowan

Family
and friends
coming to stay?

Short of space?

Cosy country cottage
available (sleeps 4)

Call Fiona on
01644 420 227

www.covenanters-holidaycottagescotland.co.uk



Loch Doon Castle © 2019 www.CastlesFortsBattles.co.uk



World Day of Prayer

World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical movement of Christian women which is celebrated every year on the first Friday in March.

Over 170 countries round the world take part, bringing together people from different races, cultures and traditions. Each year, the service is prepared by a different country which means that people from all over the world learn about the culture, and problems that women face, in that country.

Here in the Glenkens, World Day of Prayer has been jointly organised for many years now by the Church

of Scotland Guilds of Balmaclellan, Carsphairn, Dalry and Kells, and St Margaret's Ladies Guild in New Galloway. This year it will be held at St Margaret's on Friday 6 March at 2pm in the afternoon. Please see posters nearer the time for more details.

This year World Day of Prayer has been prepared by the women of Zimbabwe under the theme 'Rise! Take your mat and walk'. It is always a moving and interesting service and all are welcome, men as well as women!

WANTED House to Rent

Three-bedroom house urgently needed to rent in the Dalry, New Galloway, Balmaclellan area.

**Contact:
07388 540505**

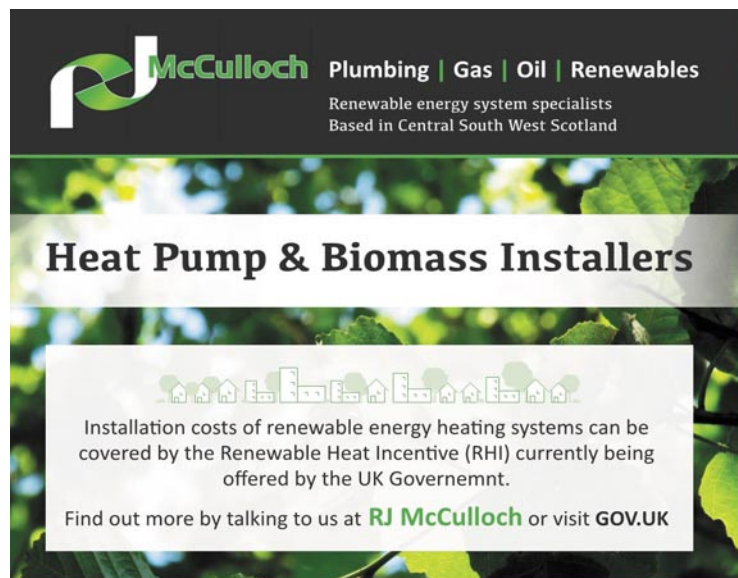
FUNDS FOR WATERAID

The congregation of St Margaret's, New Galloway, always choose an international charity to support through their Christmas collections and this time it was WaterAid.

This UK based international charity works to make clean water, decent toilets and good hygiene normal for everyone, everywhere.

Since it started in 1981, WaterAid has changed lives across the world by providing clean water and toilets to over 27 million people.

The Treasurer of St Margaret's, Cathy Agnew, says: "I'm delighted to report that due to the generosity of our Christmas congregations we have been able to send a cheque for £892 to WaterAid".



McCulloch Plumbing | Gas | Oil | Renewables
Renewable energy system specialists
Based in Central South West Scotland

Heat Pump & Biomass Installers

Installation costs of renewable energy heating systems can be covered by the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) currently being offered by the UK Government.

Find out more by talking to us at **RJ McCulloch** or visit **GOV.UK**



Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI)

Maintenance, Repair and Installation of;
PLUMBING, GAS, OIL and RENEWABLE ENERGY heating systems.



PLUMBING



GAS



OIL



RENEWABLES

WWW.RJMCCULLOCH.CO.UK

01292 550 954

07766 978 568

rj.mcculloch@aol.co.uk

M SCHOFIELD DESIGN

*"You could get money towards
renewable heating costs in your home"* (GOV.UK)

Available to both domestic and commercial properties the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) is a long-term financial support programme designed to encourage people to install green energy heating systems. Payments are made over a 7 year period.

You can claim for; Biomass boilers, Solar Water Heating and certain Heat pumps.

To find out more and see if you are eligible talk to us at **RJ McCulloch** or visit **GOV.UK**

Galloway Community Transport

(formerly Glenkens Transport Initiative)

www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org

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



FEBRUARY-MARCH 2020

REGULAR SERVICES

Tuesdays Glenkens to Newton Stewart

Outward Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930;
New Galloway (Town Hall) 0935, (CatStrand) 0937
Return Pickup Newton Stewart (Aldi Car Park) 1130
Return Fare £3.50 Booking required.

Wednesday Evenings Glenkens - Castle Douglas (Tesco)

(Registered Route)

Out		Return
1900	Dalry (Underhill)	2115
1905	New Galloway	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: Feb 29, Apr 25, Jun 27

Pickups: New Galloway (CatStrand) 0930, Dalry (Underhill) 0940, Carsphairn (Shop) 1000.

Return leaves Ayr 1500

Return fare £6.00. Booking required

Glenkens to Carlisle Return

Saturdays: Mar 28, May 30, Jul 25

Pickups: Dalry (Underhill) 0930, New Galloway (CatStrand) 0940, Crossmichael (Shop) 1000, Castle Douglas (Market Hill British Legion) 1010. Return leaves Carlisle 1600

Return fare £8.00. Booking required.

What services would **YOU** like?

We'd love to hear your ideas for regular services or excursions you'd like GCT to run.



We'll be putting a suggestion box in CatStrand reception soon. So next time you're in, why not let us know where you'd like us to take you!
Or you can email us at gct@catstrand.com

EXCURSIONS

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

March 7, Saturday

Creative Craft Show & Glasgow Excursion

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

Return journey time around 1600 - by agreement with driver.
Fare £9. Concessions £8.

Look out for the ever-popular Gardens of Excellence excursions – details coming soon!



2019 Author's Garden excursion:
Glass house designed by Sir Walter Scott

MINIBUS HIRE

8, 15 and 16 seat minibuses for hire (with or without driver). For more information and bookings:
www.gallowaycommunitytransport.org/hire
email gct@catstrand.com
or call 01644 420374

FEBRUARY & MARCH

FEBRUARY

Sat 1, Ceilidh, 7.30pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall, tickets from Balmaclellan Store or ailsmaolone@aol.com

Sat 1, Ken Words: Donald Watson Writing Workshop, 2-4pm, The Smiddy, Balmaclellan

Sun 2, Dalry Police Station Drop-in, 6-7.30pm

Tue 4, Exhibition on Screen: Lucien Freud - A Self Portrait, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 8, Film Screening & Ceilidh, 7pm, Dalry Town Hall, see front page

Sat 8, Glenkens Farmers Market, 10am-12.30pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p6

Sun 9, RANT, 2.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Thu 13, Stewartry Birdwatchers Talk: *Shiant Isles: Increase in Birds After Removal of Rats* by Tom Churchyard, 7.30pm, Kells School, New Galloway

Thu 20, SWANC Talk: *What Can I Do About the Climate Emergency?* 7.30pm, Ken Bridge Hotel, see p5

Sat 22, Dark Sky Jazz: Julian Arguelles Quartet, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 23, FILM: Plastic China, 2pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Thu 27, LING AGM, 7pm, New Galloway Town Hall

Thu 27, Our Kind: Once Upon a Planet,

7pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 29, Family-friendly Bingo Session, 4-6pm, New Galloway Town Hall

MARCH

Mon 2-Fri 6, Kirkcudbright Book Week, see p21

Tue 3, Dalry Police Station Drop-in, 10-11.30am

Thu 5, NGCE Ltd AGM, 7.30pm, New Galloway Town Hall, see p3

Sat 7, GCT Bus Trip: Glasgow, see p25

Sat 7, Jumble Sale, 2-5pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall

Sat 7, Glenkens Story: *The Declaration of Arbroath*, 2.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 8, Confluence the World: Visions, Stories & Music for International Women's Day, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Wed 11, Dalry Film Club: Mary Queen of Scots, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Thu 12, Stewartry Birdwatchers Talk:

Birding in the Balearics by Norman Elkins, 7.30pm, Kells School, New Galloway

Fri 13, Croft and Pearce, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 14, Glenkens Farmers Market, 10am-12.30pm, Dalry Town Hall, see p6

Sun 15, Duo 53: Sophie Rocks and Sam Rodwell, 2.30pm, CatStrand, New

Galloway

Thu 19, SWANC Talk: *Wonderful Places for Wildlife*, 7.30pm, Ken Bridge Hotel, see p5

Fri 20, CatStrand Youth Players: Festival Plays, 7pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 21, Ken Words Poetry Walk: Poll Madaidh on the Pack Road – arriving and departing CatStrand, 1-5pm, call 01644 420374 to book (12 places available)

Sat 21, Yorkston Thorne Khan, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Fri 27, Siobhan Miller, 7.30pm, Crossmichael Hall

Sat 28, Feast of Fools, 2pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sat 28, GCT Bus Trip: Carlisle, see p25

Sat 28, Newcastle University Showcase: Janice Burns and Jon Doran, 7.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

Sun 29, Clare Hammond, 2.30pm, CatStrand, New Galloway

APRIL

Thu 2, Dalry Police Station Drop-in, 10-11.30am

Thu 2, Stewartry Birdwatchers Members' Night on the theme of Scottish Islands, 7.30pm, Kells School, New Galloway

Fri 3, Children's Quiz Night, 6pm, Balmaclellan Village Hall, (may be subject to change, please look out for posters locally)

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 or jamescreid@hotmail.co.uk

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

Zumba Gold, Fri (term-time) 9.30-

Family Film Club, 10.30am, CatStrand, 16+

Family Film Club, sensory friendly film screenings, 4pm, last Friday of the month

Glenkens Community Centre, Dalry:

Badminton, Mon 4-9pm & Sat 9am-12noon, for info contact Kath on 07811 957 576

Bright Stars Nursery, Tues, Wed & Thurs 9am-3pm

Brownies & Guides, Tues, Brownies

6-7.30pm & Guides 6-8.15pm

Yoga, Wed 5.50-6.45pm, for info call Carylann on 07817 400 287

Brownies, Thurs 6-7.30pm

Kickback Martial Arts, Thurs 6-7pm for children, 7-9pm for adults

New Galloway Town Hall:

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

LING Elevenes & Lunches, Tues 11am-2pm

Fast Broadband Access, Tues 11am-2pm

Help is at Hand, Tues 2-4.30pm, drop-in session for IT support with benefit/job applications, etc

The World is at Your Fingertips, Tues 4.30-6.30pm, build confidence with laptop, tablet or phone - all ages - drop-in or book a half-hour session (07895 457923).

Extra IT Sessions, 4.30-6.30pm through Jan & Feb

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, music room, Dalry Secondary School

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

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

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.

Clatteringshaws Lochside Cafe, 11am-3pm, 7 days a week

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 10.30am: 5th (Mar). **Special Services/Events**: Fellowship Dinner, Kenbridge Hotel, 3 Feb, 7.15pm. Speaker from Mission Aviation Fellowship. Holy Communion, Kells Church, 16 Feb, 10am. Beetle Drive, Dalry Town Hall, Fri 28 Feb, 7pm. World

Day of Prayer Service, St Margaret's Church, New Galloway, Fri 6 Mar, 2.30pm. Holy Communion, Carsphairn Church, 15 Mar, 11.15am. Fellowship Dinner, Kenbridge Hotel, 30 Mar, 7.15pm; Gary Brough on Malawi.

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

Dalry Secondary School Parent Council Prospectus

Dalry School Parent Council (PC) are so thrilled with their wee school that they have produced their very own prospectus for the Secondary School.

With cuts to the regional education budget being what we mostly hear about at the moment, as well as new larger schools being built and a bigger-is-better approach to the general feel of UK education today, Dalry parents felt it was time to shout about the amazing and unique benefits of the small rural high school.

With small class sizes, enthusiastic teachers, rolling green vistas stretching as far as the eye can see from classroom windows, good subject choices and an all-round nurturing family feel to the school, what more could you really ask for as an academic setting for your child?

PC Chair, Dr Ian Johnston, said: "Dalry Secondary school occupies a very special place in the hearts of people from Dalry itself, New Galloway, Balmaclellan and the wider Glenkens. Pupils benefit from the family feel of a small school with a full curriculum while links with Castle Douglas High School ensure that they have access to a larger community as well. Unfortunately the school is not as well known as it could be, despite being only twenty minutes from Castle Douglas, so the Parent Council has produced our prospectus in hope of drawing in more pupils, from both the local area and further afield. It really is too good a school to keep to ourselves."

You can view the prospectus online at www.dalryschoolparentcouncil.wordpress.com or please drop us an email if you would like a hard copy sent out to you - dalryschoolpc@outlook.com. There are also copies available in shops around the Glenkens.



St John's Town of Dalry Secondary School

PROSPECTUS



For over 50 years Dalry Secondary has been providing a holistic environment where young people are nurtured and supported as they grow into their full potential as well-rounded, well-educated individuals.

Dalry offers something unique, with the small school rural setting allowing students to feel secure in a family-like environment while they reach their full academic and personal potential.

ROWAN HOLIDAY COTTAGE



4 Star Rated - Sleeps Six
Dog friendly - Private Parking
Secluded Garden
An ideal base for exploring Galloway...
07503 958 710

GLENKENS MEDICAL PRACTICE

General Medical & Dispensing Services

*The Surgery
 High Street
 New Galloway*

FOR APPOINTMENTS CALL

01644 420234

ADVERTISE IN THE GAZETTE

(price per issue incl VAT)

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

1/4 PAGE: 9cm w x 13cm h, £81.90 (+ 25% off with series discount)

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

FULL PAGE: 18cm w x 27cm h, £252 (+ 25% off with series discount)

Call 07727 127 997

VAT Reg. No. 882 8361 87

marr financial services

61 VICTORIA STREET, NEWTON STEWART DG8 6NL.

Telephone: 01671 40 30 80 Fax: 01671 40 25 49

E-mail: advice@marrfinancial.co.uk Web: www.marrfinancial.co.uk

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

APR/MAY COPY DEADLINE: 5 MAR



Design & co-ordination:

Sarah Ade
sarah.ade@gmail.com

Printing: Stranraer & Wigtownshire Free Press
www.stranraer-freepress.co.uk